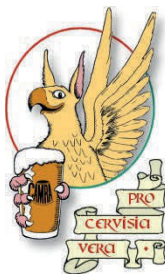




# Solihull Drinker



Issue No 94  
Summer 2022

*Free*  
*Please take one*

## Solihull branch West Midlands pub of the year 2022



They are definitely doing something right, as they also won in 2018 and 2019. There was a good turnout by branch members and locals for the award and it was standing room only for a while.

This micro-pub is very much worth a visit, so why not get down there. They have an ever changing range of real ales, often featuring Framework Brewery, with whom they have close links.

Pictured is branch chair Martin Buck presenting the award to manager Damon Buck (left). And, yes, they are related, but Martin only gets one vote, just like the rest of us !

Congratulations to Mark Caldicott, Damon Buck and all the staff at the Ale Rooms in Knowle, for being voted our branch West Midlands pub of the year for 2022.

Our branch is Solihull and District, with the latter covering local parts of Warwickshire. Our branch Warwickshire pub of the year 2022 will feature in our next edition.



### Liquor Cellar

755 Old Lode Lane, Solihull B92 8JE  
Tel: 0121 722 3700

A warm & welcoming off-licence, specialising in bottled and craft ales, with an ever-changing range, including beers not often seen locally. Award winning scratchings & snacks

#### Opening Hours

Mon – Thurs 1 – 9.15pm; Fri – Sat 12 – 9.30pm  
Sunday 12pm – 8pm



@liquorcellar



@LiquorCellar

# ALE HUB

• MICRO PUB •

Both our micropubs have 4 rotating cask ales and 2 craft beers as well as a range of other drinks. We are dog friendly and under 18's are welcome until 6pm.

## LOCATIONS:



### Ale Hub Shirley

Opening Hours:

Sunday - Wednesday: 09:00 - 22:00

Thursday - Saturday: 09:00 - 23:00

Coffee Served from: 09:00 - 14:00

Ale Hub Shirley, 277 Longmore Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3ER



### Ale Hub Dickens Heath

Opening Hours:

Sunday - Wednesday: 12:00 - 22:00

Thursday - Saturday: 12:00 - 23:00

Ale Hub Dickens Heath, 73 Main Street, Dickens Heath, Solihull, B90 1UB



**Dogs Are Welcome!**



## Brian Queenborough

We have been made aware of the sad passing of long time CAMRA member, Brian Queenborough.

Brian was a major player in the formation of our branch, undertaking a number of different committee roles, and with his son David produced the first ever Solihull Drinker. He was better known to most for many years, as mine host at Bernies Off Licence. Dave and

Brian also produced our first guide to Solihull pubs

I recall Bernies used to be closed on Monday each week and that Brian and Dave used that day to travel and visit breweries and pubs to try out / research beers. Well, I suppose someone had to do it.....

Our thoughts go out to Brian's family and friends.

## Dates for your diary

### Branch Meetings

(Branch meetings start at 8.30pm except where noted otherwise)

Monday 4 July

Monday 1 August

Monday 5 September

Knowle & Dorridge cricket club

White Swan, Solihull

Rowington Club

For more details and contacts for the above, please call Secretary Allan Duffy on 01564 200431 or visit our website [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk)

### Committee Meetings

(8.30 start. Members may attend but only participate if invited to do so)

Wednesday 20 July

Platform 3

### Socials

Fri 10 June

24 or 25 June

8 July

Fri 12 August

Derby crawl

Stratford beer festival

Wolverhampton beer festival

Nottingham crawl

For more details of socials please call Paul Wigley on 07402 312457 – for Derby & Nottingham trips contact [steve\\_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk)

Most, though not all, of our local pubs have disabled access. If you wish to attend a meeting and require assistance please contact us beforehand and we will do our best to help

## Features in this issue include:

Upcoming Beer Festivals	4
Northampton day out	4
Pubs Matter Campaign	8
Solihull CAMRA beer festival is back	8
PubCo's (who they are & what they do)	11
Return to Pompey Pt2	13
Useful contacts	17
CAMRA Discount Vouchers	17
Hail to the Ale	18
Membership Matters	19



## Upcoming Midlands Area Beer Festivals and Events

FOR NATIONAL BEER FESTIVALS PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:

[www.camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/](http://www.camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/)

9 - 11 June (Thurs – Sat)

Shifnal beer festival  
The Plough Inn  
Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 8AZ

24 - 25 June (Fri - Sat)

Stratford beer festival  
Stratford racecourse  
Stratford CV37 9SE

29 June - 2 July (Thurs - Sat)

Bromsgrove beer festival  
Bromsgrove rugby club  
Bromsgrove B60 3DH

7 - 9 July (Thurs - Sat)

Wolverhampton beer festival  
Newhampton Arts Centre  
Wolverhampton WV1 4AN

8 - 10 July (Fri - Sun)

Beer on the Wye festival  
Hereford rowing club  
Hereford HR4 0BE

2 - 6 August (Tues- Sat)

Great British Beer Festival  
Olympia  
London

### *Solihull* **THE FLUTE & FLAGON**

*....serving up delicious  
food, great drinks, &  
unforgettable experiences*

**28-30 Station Parade**

**Solihull B91 3SB**

**Tel: 0121 711 3630**

[www.fluteandflagonsolihull.co.uk](http://www.fluteandflagonsolihull.co.uk)



The Flute & Flagon



**sky sports**

**BT Sport**



6 hand pumps with  
5 Real Ales &  
a Traditional  
Cider  
3 Craft Beers

**Opening Hours**

09.00 - 23.00 Sun - Thur

09.00 - 24.00 Friday

09.00 - 01.00 Saturday

### Day trip to Northampton

It felt like (and was) a long time since I'd been able to organise a midweek crawl. However, to call them midweek is a misnomer. I have found since lockdown that many pubs are closed in the afternoon Monday to Thursday. Afternoon opening is confined to Friday and the weekend. (hopefully this will change as post-COVID

confidence builds) Furthermore, most pubs have reduced the number of beers they have due to a decrease in footfall. Our crawl therefore took place on a Friday and will do so from now on. Enough, let's get a drink in!

Arriving in Northampton 10 of us headed for our first stop, the Malt Shovel in Bridge Street





The furthest pub on our itinerary, the Lamplighter, a traditional street corner local in Overstone Road is another GBG entry but is some way out of town. Nene Valley Big Bang Theory, Simple Pleasures and Plumptonness were accompanied by 4 ciders from Saxby's. Nene valley beers are all gluten free and quite frankly I could not tell.

Our last port of call was the Phipps Brewery tap, The Albion Brewery Bar in Kingswell Street where 7 beers from their range and Nene Valley's Celebrated Stout were on tap. Phipps is an old Northampton brewery which was resurrected in 2014 and has been in the GBG for some time. It is one large open space where there is plenty of room but alas we could not stay longer as we had a train to catch. Indeed it was time to go home after a fine afternoon imbibing

Steve Dyson

(pictured above). A constant GBG entry, it is nestled under Carlsberg's towering fermenters cocking a snoop at the keg plant opposite and is arguably the best pub in Northampton. 2 Oakham's, 2 Phipps's, Leighton Buzzard Bavarian Dragon, Woodfords Volt, Roosters Three French Hens and three ciders complimented the bar... what a start to the day. Bishops Farewell went down well with me. Can it get any better?

From here we passed the Phipps brewery tap which did not open till 4pm unfortunately and headed to the Weatherspoon's Cordwainer for a bite to eat. Not a bad range of beers having 11 beers on, 8 of which were true guests. I enjoyed Oakham JHB. A short walk took us to the Saint Giles Ale House (pictured right) on St Giles Street, the only micro in Northampton. We just about squeezed into the small bar! Part of the same chain as our own Ale Rooms in Knowle, the barman knew his beer and was serving Potbelly's Piggin Saint and Pigs Do Fly, Salopian Kashmir, Framework's Semper and Five Leaves and Thornbridge Market Porter and real ciders. I was impressed with the Semper despite it being a cloudy beer.



Moving on we next hit the Black Prince in Abingdon Square. When I first visited this large pub some 3 years ago it had 19 handpumps with a fantastic range of beers. Not as good now as all the beers except 1 from Phipps come from the Marston's range and the number of handpumps has been reduced. There is however, a good range of ciders. It is a pub worth visiting though for its rich diversity of folk there including the staff. The garden is unbelievable but I will not spoil it for you... go and see for yourself.



# Warwickshire Country Pub & Dining Rooms



THE  
**BULLS HEAD**  
COUNTRY PUB, DINING & ROOMS

The quintessential public house serving traditional British food and drink in the stunning Warwickshire village of Barston.



- Open daily 12:00pm - 23:00pm
- 5 real ales & 1 real cider
- Food served daily
- Ales £3.90 a pint
- Summer beer garden, terrace & children's playing field



The Bulls Head, Barston Lane, Barston, Solihull B92 0JU.  
Tel: 01675 442830.





# It's what we do best...

Consistently, for your enjoyment!

Come and join us  
for an award  
winning pint in  
fabulous  
surroundings.

- 7 real ales &  
1 real cider
- Ales from  
£3.90 a pint
- Open daily  
12.00pm to  
11.30pm



West Midlands County  
**PUB OF  
THE YEAR**



**WINNER  
2022**



Ale Rooms, 1592 High Street, Knowle, Solihull, B93 0LF.

Tel: 01564 400040





## Pubs Matter Campaign

Pubs Matter is a campaign, involving CAMRA, to get everyone talking about why pubs and social clubs across the UK are a force for good. It's about three key things - community; mental health; and local economies and we want to shout from the rooftops about why pubs matter to people and communities.

### It's about community

The pub has long been a mainstay of British high streets and communities. However, in recent years, the local has adapted to become much more than just that. There are hundreds of examples of local pubs that have opened as a post office, greengrocer or library, and in doing so have transformed the lives of thousands of local residents at a time. Moreover, pubs raise more than £100m for hundreds of charities and worthy causes, and provide a further £40m in funding or in-kind support for grassroots sport.

All of this is at stake with so many pubs on the brink of failure as a result of months of enforced closure or unreasonably tight restrictions.

### It's about mental health

For some people, the loss of a local pub isn't just the loss of a local small business, it means the loss of their social network. Loneliness is a scourge that blights many communities up and down the country, but this is also something that pubs have helped to fix. Countless locals have started social clubs for isolated or traditionally hard-to-reach groups of people across the UK. The ongoing closure of pubs means that for these groups the pandemic has been especially

hard to cope with.

### It's about local economies

The social cohesion that pubs provide for society is absolutely vital, but so is the economic contribution they make. Pubs, and the brewers that supply them, provide £23bn in value added to the UK economy each year, supporting 900,000 jobs – over 40% of which are occupied by people under the age of 25. This is at risk if we don't act now to start enabling publicans to get back to what they do best.

Anyone who loves their local is encouraged to share why **#PubsMatter** to them on social media and contact their MP, using resources at **whypubsmatter.org.uk**

The organisations behind Pubs Matter represent people who love pubs – the people who run them, the people who brew beer for them and, most importantly, the people and communities who use them.

Partner organisations: CAMRA, British Beer and Pub Association, British Institute of Innkeeping, The Independent Family Brewers of Great Britain, Society of Independent Brewers and UKHospitality. **#PubsMatter**

And remember, it doesn't just need to be your own local that you support. All our pubs and social clubs still need our full support post-COVID and into the future. So please get out there and pay them a visit.

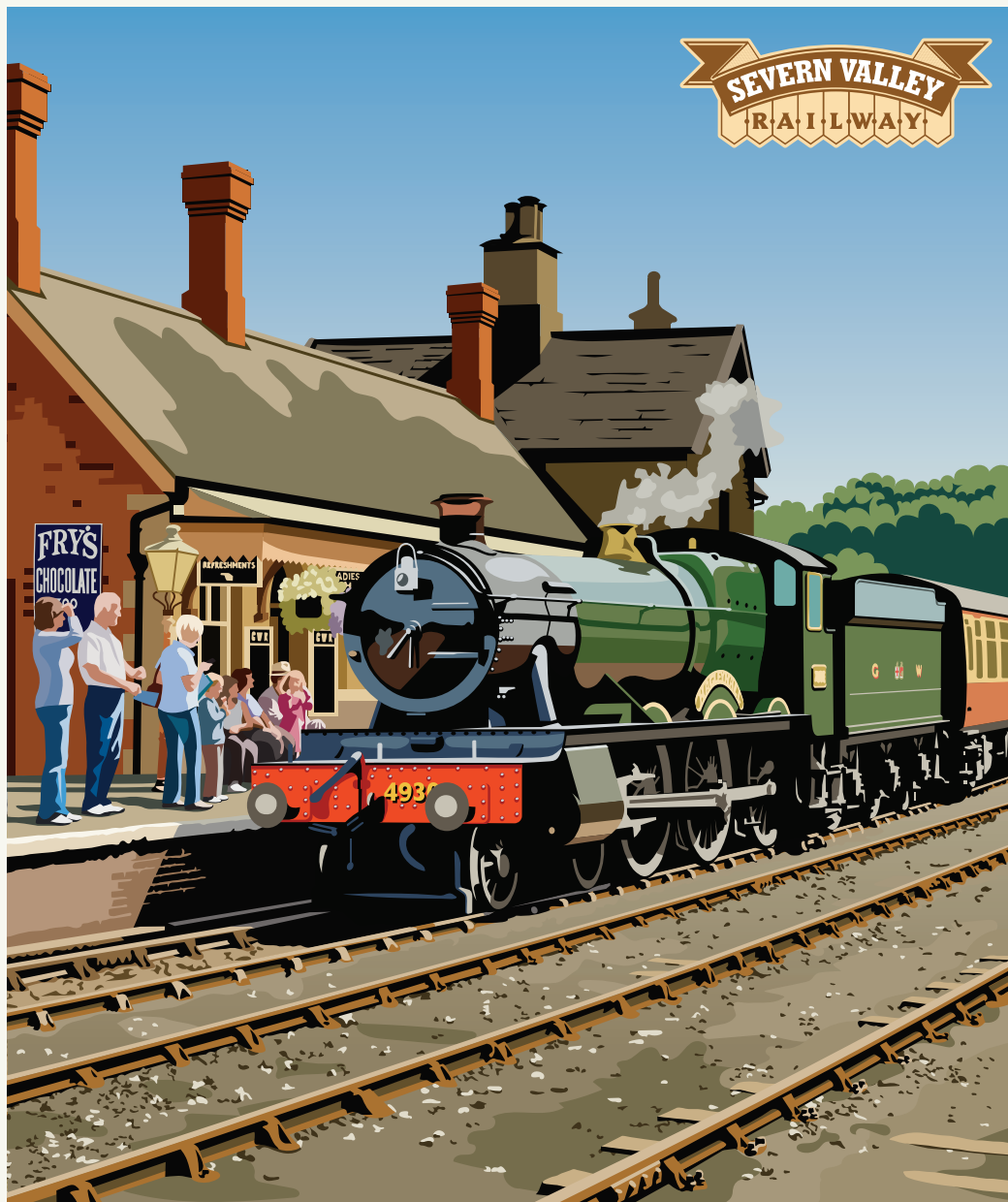
## Solihull CAMRA beer festival is back

We are pleased to be able to announce that, after a two-year hiatus (for very obvious reasons) that Solihull & District CAMRA will be holding its real ale & cider festival at the Royal British Legion in Union Road, Solihull from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 October.

We are still in the planning stages, but keep an eye out for more information in the next edition of the Solihull Drinker or on our website [solihull.camra.org.uk](http://solihull.camra.org.uk)







# STEP BACK IN TIME

Book your tickets now:

**SVR.CO.UK | 01562 757 900**



- Family Studios
- Balls & Proms
- Weddings & Parties
- Website, Marketing & PR
- Live Performances
- Awards, Presentations  
& Conferences

SEVEN STAR  
photography



www.sevenstarphotography.co.uk.  
0121 704 0564 / 07962 161263  
steve@sevenstarphotography.co.uk



## PUB COMPANIES – WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

*CAMRA Pub and Club Campaigns Committee feels that many members would find it helpful to have more information about the companies that control many of our pubs. This is the first in a series of articles that will provide the facts on pub company practices and operations, explaining in particular how their business models work and what this means for both licensees and, ultimately, us as customers. The aim is to let the facts speak for themselves so that members can make up their own minds about the positive or negative effects of these practices on our pubs and the folk who run them.*

### 1. A POTTED HISTORY OF THE PUBCO

Fifty years ago, when CAMRA was formed, the pub landscape looked very different. For a start, there were many more of them – some 75000 against around 47500 now. The majority of pubs (52000 or so) were owned by breweries. The 89 small and regional breweries had 13800 of them and the rest were in the hands of the 'Big Six' – Bass Charrington, Allied, Whitbread, Scottish & Newcastle, Watney/Grand Metropolitan and Courage/Imperial.

Most of the other 23000 pubs were free houses (in name anyway – many tied their beer supplies to a big brewer in return for loans and discounts). Companies that just owned pubs were few and far between – the likes of Sir John Fitzgerald in the north-east and Heavitree in the southwest (though they tied themselves to Bass).

Just about every pub-owning brewery rigorously imposed a supply tie on its own products. As late as the mid-1980s, I remember a Greene King Director recoiling in horror at my suggestion that they allow a few guest beers in their pubs. As a result, new breweries found outlets hard to come by and we customers were hardly spoilt for choice, as a glance at a Good Beer Guide of that era will reveal.

Then, in 1989, along came the Beer Orders. The story of this epochal legislation (for better or worse) is superbly told in Laura Hadland's recent *Fifty Years of CAMRA* book but, in essence, the government acknowledged the stranglehold on the industry exercised by the

Big Six and, among other things, capped their pub ownership at 2000.

By now, because of closures and sell-offs, the Big Six owned fewer pubs between them but the Orders still meant around 11000 pubs coming onto the market. We, of course, dreamed of a new golden age of multi-handpumped free houses galore, but the reality was sadly different. Companies were quickly established, usually with close links to the Big Six, to Hoover up these pubs in big batches then negotiate supply deals, invariably with the company who previously owned the place. Enterprise Inns, for instance, started off with the purchase of 368 pubs from Bass, and that's where they bought the beer from.

In the years that followed, wheeling and dealing saw companies variously grow, collapse, merge, acquire, dispose – it was very difficult to keep up with who owned what. Some companies concentrated on managed pubs, some on tenancies, a few on a mixed model. Behemoths emerged – by 2004, Punch Taverns and Enterprise each owned more than 8000 pubs, though both had accumulated so much debt that they ran into trouble come the financial crash and subsequently retrenched. We'll have a closer look at the current pub company scene in the next article.

A brief history of Punch Taverns illustrates the volatility surrounding pubcos from the 1990s onwards. Punch formed in 1997, purchasing a tranche of pubs from Bass. Two years later, they bought Inn Business (mostly former Whitbread pubs) and then the rump of the Allied estate. The managed pubs were spun off into a separate division called Spirit. In 2003, they acquired their 3100-strong rival Pubmaster plus a couple of smaller companies. Next, Scottish & Newcastle's managed pubs were snapped up and added to Spirit. By 2011 the impact of the crash was being felt, calling for a 'strategic review'. Spirit was demerged and, in 2015, sold to Greene King. Come 2016, a takeover bid totalling £403m (plus the taking on of a billion pounds of debt) was accepted; 1900 pubs went to Heineken with the remaining 1300 residing with Patron Capital, though the Punch brand has been retained.

(cont. Pg 13)





# THE FINEST SPORTING BAR IN TOWN!



ALL DAY  
BREAKFAST  
AND STREET FOOD  
SERVED  
12.00PM TO  
8.00PM.



*The*  
**LION**  
SPORT & EAT



Open Mon to Sat 11:00am - midnight • Sunday 11:00am - 11:00pm

Our extensively refurbished Sports Bar offers a modern and friendly atmosphere to socialise and enjoy a drink and top quality food.

-  3 real ales & 1 real cider
-  Food served daily
-  Ales £3.90 a pint

-  Summer beer garden
-  Sky Sports and BT Sports throughout the day



The Lion Shirley, 171 Stratford Road, Shirley, B90 3AX  
Tel: 0121 4615305 • [www.thelionshirley.com](http://www.thelionshirley.com)







In the meantime, the treatment of their tenants by many of the Pubcos had become a major issue and, after years of campaigning, the Government was persuaded, in 2014, to announce a statutory Pubs Code aimed at regulating their practices and ensuring fair treatment for tenants. We'll return to the Code in a future article. In this context, though, it needs mentioning that the currently accepted definition of a pub company embraces breweries that own pubs – and nowadays most such companies have separate management structures for their pub and brewing operations.

Final comments. Pub companies are here to stay. There is nothing wrong with the basic

model and, indeed, there are some excellent companies (mostly smaller ones) who treat their licensees well and clearly see their pubs as more than just property assets. It would, though, be difficult to argue that the ways in which some companies operate raise many issues around their custodianship of what aren't just piles of bricks-and-mortar but, in most cases, precious and valued community assets. We'll examine those issues in due course.

precious and valued community assets. We'll examine those issues in due course.

## Return to Pompey, Part 2

In Issue 92 I covered the first part of our weekend in Portsmouth (back in February 2020). Apologies that it's taken so long to conclude the article but this picks up from our catching the Gosport ferry.

The idea was to go across to Gosport and walk to the Queen's Hotel in Queen's Road, the local branch pub of the year (POTY), but a bit of a walk. Perfectly decent pub (smallest hand basin I've ever seen in a gent's loo) with a good selection of ales and very friendly welcome. I personally thought we visited more deserving pubs for POTY. Then again, I sometimes think the same on our own patch. All a question of personal taste in the end, and another good reason to get involved in your local branch and vote when the time comes round.

They had a decent selection, including Fallen Angel IPA Expedition, Colchester Brewery Brazilian Coffee and Vanilla Porter, and Poynton Brewery Vulcan. The landlady asked if we were going to visit the Fallen Acorn Brewery (pictured right & formerly known as Oak Leaf Brewery) on the way back to the ferry. It's on a small industrial estate at Clarence Wharf. As we were unaware of it that made a very welcome stopping off point.

Fallen Acorn has been brewing here since 2016 and we sampled the Great Scot (at a healthy 6.0%), Pompey Royal, Hole Hearted and She Sings Sea Shanties - all tasty and in good condition. Aaron Tonson (assistant brewer) explained they were experimenting,



as most micro-breweries do, and currently had a Russian Imperial Stout with sour cherry maturing in Islay whisky barrels for around 12 months. Now, I'm no fan of sour cherry but this combination did sound rather good. Just a shame it wasn't ready yet.



Back to the Portsmouth ferry and catch the train to Fratton Station and then yet again another bit of walking, this time to the





intriguingly named Sir Loin of Beef in Highland Road, Eastney. We'd been promised bar billiards and photos of submarines, but the pub had changed hands, and changed focus accordingly (though I don't know if they've kept the klaxon used to call time). However, the range of ales was good including Gales HSB, Ringwood Old Thumper, Wainwright Golden Ale, Goddard Starboard, Langham Sundowner and Irving Frigate.

A shorter walk to the Southsea Brewery Brewer's Tap in Eastney Road (this at least made up a little for the brewery not being open when we visited in the morning). A fascinating, quirky micropub over a couple of floors, with quite a narrow set of stairs to the first floor. The blackboard (actually brown) had 14 offerings, including some ciders. There was also an Electric Bear (from Bath) tap takeover on during our visit, with 4 of their ales available, as well as 6 from Southsea. There was a bit of a mark-up on half pints though.

From here it was another walk, to the Artillery Arms in Hester Road and which seems to be a regular in the GBG. This is very much a local's local and community pub, with plenty of families as well as drinkers. They clearly like their Triple FFF beers here as they had Alton's Pride, Moondance, and Pressed Rat & Warthog, together with Ringwood FortyNiner, and Langham Hip Hop (very much a Locale pub).

Taxi next to the Merchant House in Highland Road. This was a busy pub with plenty of craft keg as well as real ales, and I think we were lucky to get a table. I suspect that's partly as it appears to have a reputation as somewhere for decent food. We didn't stay too long even though the choice of ales was good. When you start seeing Salopian Darwins' Origin (one of my favourite tipples) as being a bit ordinary it must be a good sign.

Then, yes you guessed, another walk to the Northcote Hotel in Francis Avenue, a large back street local in Southsea, with Long Man American Pale Ale, Irving Invincible, Langham Arapaho, and Northcote Hotel Amber Ale (couldn't see who brewed this). Beers were in decent nick, but we didn't stay long as Martin and Paul W kept 'bigging' up the next pub as one of their favourites in the whole of Portsmouth.

So off to the Lawrence Arms in Lawrence Road, an 1887 Victorian corner pub and 2019

local POTY and cider POTY, with a large outside seating area. You can see from the building and the handpumps why it wins its accolades. Unfortunately, you could also tell as we approached it that we were not in for a quiet drink.

There was a full-blown party going on, with food and disco (showing my age) and a DJ (are they still called DJs?) playing music, very loud music. We tried various spots around the pub and outside in an attempt to find some quiet, but in vain. Still, at least they had a good selection including Langham XXX Mild (one of very few milds we saw over the weekend). Unfortunately, I didn't really clock what they had on with respect to ciders.

I can see why, if we'd visited at a quieter time, we might have stayed longer, but it wasn't so we didn't. I think we were all glad to head down the road to the Fawcett Arms Inn. Interestingly they had live music on and even with that it seemed a quiet respite from the Lawrence. The music was pretty much up our street (predominantly from the 80's - showing my age again!). I was able to top up my food for the day with a cheese and onion cob and wash it down with half a Three Sultan Sheiks Sheiken Ale (a tongue twister if there ever was one).

From here we decided to call it a night and again had quite a walk back to the centre and our hotel. Depending on whose step monitor you believed, we'd amassed somewhere around 29,500 for the day.

I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. There were some excellent pubs, with a wide range of beers, including many I'd never tried before, and I particularly liked the buildings in the old part of Portsmouth.

Such weekends away are definitely good fun and worth a go. You can find out what we have planned via branch emails or by checking the diary on our website,

If you are interested in joining us, or if you have any ideas for a great weekend away, then you will find contact details for us at [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk) so do get in touch.

Cheers

Ray Cooke





## Broomfields Hall Solihull British Legion club

Broomfields Hall  
Union Road,  
Solihull,  
B91 3DH  
0121 705 0742  
[clubsec@solihullrbclub.co.uk](mailto:clubsec@solihullrbclub.co.uk)

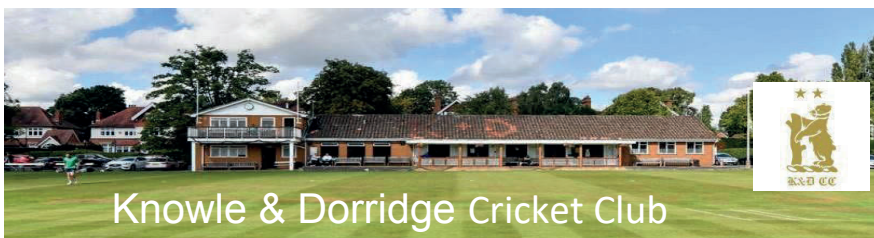


Snooker Room with 4 tables  
Darts Board  
Bowling Green  
Weekly Rotated Guest Ales  
Ample Parking  
Large selection of Beers  
Fresh food cooked daily

In the heart of Solihull  
New Members Welcome £30/year  
Function Room for Hire: 50–150 people  
Suitable for weddings, birthdays, funeral  
wakes or any occasion.

Available for business meetings or networking groups.  
2 Snooker Teams including a premier league team





## Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club

Solihull & District CAMRA Club of The Year 2016 – 2019

Awarded Cask Marque accreditation 2021

Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club offers a warm & comfortable environment in which to enjoy your favourite ales. 3 guest beers and a real cider on every week, with varieties changing all the time.

The bar is open every day, featuring Sky Sports and BT Sport events. In the summer you can relax with your favourite ale watching Birmingham Premier League Cricket with many past and present county players on view. Sponsorship opportunities are also available at K&D.

While the club is a private members club, and is popular on match days, there is no charge for admission, and guests who are CAMRA members are welcome on production of a CAMRA membership card. Social membership is also available which comes with a discount entitlement at the bar to make your favourite beers even better value.

Station Road

Dorridge

B93 8ET

Tel 01564 774338

Opening Hours:

Mon-Thurs 4.00pm - 10.30pm

Fridays: 4.00pm - 11.00pm

Saturdays 12.00noon - 11.00pm

Sundays 12.00 noon - 10.30pm

Website: [knowleanddorridgecc.co.uk](http://knowleanddorridgecc.co.uk)

Email: [knowledorridgecc@gmail.com](mailto:knowledorridgecc@gmail.com)

Instagram @knowledorridgecc



@knowleanddorridgecc



@kanddccc

CHANGING RANGE OF  
**4 REAL ALES**

EXTENSIVE RANGE OF  
**CRAFT BEER**  
ON TAP AND CAN!

### OPENING TIMES

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY  
**2PM - 11PM**

SATURDAY **12PM - 11PM**

SUNDAY **1PM - 6PM**

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



@THESHAKINGHAND



@THESHAKINGHANDSHIRLEY



THESHAKINGHAND2018@GMAIL.COM



BT SPORT



**0121 733 1176**



**UNIT 24 PARKGATE, SHIRLEY, B90 3GG**  
NEXT TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO ASDA







## Useful Contact Numbers

### **Chair/Beer Festival**

Martin Buck. 01564 770708

### **Secretary**

Allan Duffy 01564 200431

### **Membership**

Dave Mckowen 01564 778955

### **Cider & Perry/Vice Chair**

Ray Cooke 01564 777890

### **Pubs Campaigning/Socials**

Paul Wigley 07402 312457

### **Treasurer**

Brenda Duffy 01564 200431

### **Solihull Drinker Editor**

Ray Cooke 01564 777890

### **Press & Publicity**

Vacant

### **Trading Standards contacts:**

For local consumer advice in our area please contact the following

Solihull – [www.solihull.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

Warwickshire – [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/contactustradingstandards](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/contactustradingstandards)

Citizens Advice Consumer Service – phone 03454 040506

## **A Special Thank You to Thistle Print Ltd**

On the cover of our last (Spring edition) of the Drinker we sent out a request for you all to think about how you might help us find more advertisers.

We did so as we have been short of advertising revenue and it is that which enables us to publish the Solihull Drinker.

We still need new advertisers, so the request for your help still stands.

And that's why Solihull CAMRA committee want to extend a special thank you to Thistle Print Ltd. They very generously gave us a one-off cost price to keep us going for the Spring edition.

If you want any printing undertaken, of whatever description, I'd definitely recommend you give them a call. Contact Steve on 0113 204 0600 or [sales@thistleprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@thistleprint.co.uk)

## **CAMRA Real Ale, Cider and Perry Vouchers**

The CAMRA Voucher scheme is a member benefit that entitles members to £30 (60 x 50p) vouchers off a pint of Real Ale, Cider or Perry. The vouchers in this CAMRA owned and operated scheme remain valid for the length of membership for added flexibility.

They are redeemable at over 1,550 pubs nationwide, including J D Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns managed pubs.

To get an up-to-date listing for pubs participating near you, enter your postcode at [www.camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/camra-voucher-scheme](http://www.camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/camra-voucher-scheme)

CAMRA promotes responsible drinking and thus encourages all vouchers to be used responsibly at all times.





## Advertise Your Business Here With Us

We distribute to around 80 pubs (and some clubs, restaurants and off licences) around Solihull, and parts of Warwickshire and Birmingham.

This gives you the opportunity to put your business in front of people who are in the habit of visiting pubs and restaurants.

You don't have to be a pub or restaurant to advertise. Any business seeking local reach (tradespeople, take aways, taxi companies etc) could benefit

For further details or information about advertising with us, or to discuss your proposed advert, please contact [editor@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@solihull.camra.org.uk)

## Advertising Rates

SIZE	INNER PAGES	FRONT COVER
<b>Full (A5) page</b>	<b>£100.00</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>1 / 2 page</b>	<b>£75.00</b>	<b>£100 (landscape only)</b>
<b>1 / 3 page</b>	<b>£55.00</b>	<b>£75.00</b>
<b>1 / 4 page</b>	<b>£45.00</b>	<b>£60.00</b>
<b>1 / 6 page</b>	<b>£35.00</b>	<b>£47.00</b>

## Hail to the Ale

This is the section where we update you on news related to any pub, club, off licence or brewery in our area.

We rely heavily on you, our readers, to keep us updated so, as always, if you hear of anything you feel we or others should know about then please do drop us a line at [pubs@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@solihull.camra.org.uk)

Congratulations to our 2 branch pubs of the year -

The Solihull Drinker is the quarterly newsletter of the Solihull & District branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale). Views expressed are not necessarily those of the branch or CAMRA.

Contributions, comments and advertising enquiries should be sent to

[editor@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@solihull.camra.org.uk)

Printed by Thistle Print Ltd.,  
Leeds

Solihull CAMRA 2022 ©



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten any items in the newsletter, but will always strive to honour the spirit & intention of the contribution

The Ale Rooms in Knowle came out on top in the West Midlands part of the branch (see front cover) while the top pub in Warwickshire and indeed the overall branch pub of the year for the very first time is the 3 Tuns in Henley in Arden.

Congratulations to both pubs, and please do visit them (and others of course).

A special mention to the Pup & Duckling which came in third. The top three establishments were separated by just 0.4 points.

If you feel we have the wrong pubs in our top 3, then do please get involved in next year's voting - keep an eye out for details on our website [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk) towards the end of the year.

We are sorry to hear of 2 pub closures in the branch. The Craft Inn in Shirley and Indian Brewery in Solihull town centre have both closed recently. The Craft Inn is ultimately an unfortunate victim of the COVID pandemic.

Paul Wigley, Pubs Officer





# CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2022



## THE FIELDHOUSE

10 Knightcote Drive  
Solihull B91 3JU  
0121 703 9209



[www.emberinns.co.uk/the-fieldhouse-solihull](http://www.emberinns.co.uk/the-fieldhouse-solihull)



Fieldhouse,  
Solihull

*6 Real Ales on at all times  
Landlord, UBU, Proper Job, plus 4  
regularly changing guests.  
All Cask Ales £2.89 a pint on Mondays  
and Thursdays – Wine club Monday  
& Thursday £10 per bottle*

Open from 11.00am - 11.30pm

Hot & cold meals served all week from  
11.00 am to 9.00 pm  
Brunch from 10 am weekends

### Live Music & Events

Sat 19 June - Father's Day  
lunch - 10% off food bookings  
with CAMRA card  
Fri 1 July - live music Will  
Inns on patio (7-9pm)  
Sat 6 August - Vinyl Revival -  
60s, 70s & 80s Party Night -  
10% off food with CAMRA card

*Special Offers for CAMRA members.  
(membership cards must be shown)*

- 20p discount off a pint of Cask Ale

## Membership Matters

We've recently seen a few new faces attending their first branch meetings or socials, taking advantage of the free pint we offer to all new members. However, we would love to see more new faces, so I'm calling on all new members who are reading this to come along to the next branch meeting. These are always held at a pub serving decent real ale, where you will be made most welcome, and can enjoy a free pint courtesy of Solihull branch. If you don't fancy joining us for a branch meeting, why not come along on one of our social trips. These range from pub crawls, brewery visits, and beer/curry nights. See our website [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk) or the dates in the diary section within this publication.

How about giving a years' membership as a Father's Day gift on the 19th June. Prices of membership start from £28.50 (excellent value at 55p per week). One benefit of joining is £30 worth of real ale/cider vouchers valid at numerous pub company outlets listed on the CAMRA website. You also get a monthly newsletter "Whats Brewing" and an award-winning magazine "Beer" which can be downloaded and read on your PC, Laptop or Tablet. Visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) for a full list of other benefits available.

So come on what are you waiting for, Join up, Join in Join the Campaign

Dave Mckowen, Membership Secretary

## Solihull Drinker Issue No. 94 Solihull CAMRA 2022 ©

Printed by Thistle Print Ltd., Leeds

The 95th edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published (pandemics permitting) on Monday 5 September 2022. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contributions for this issue is **Friday 19th August**. Thank you in advance to all contributors.



# CAMRA MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971.

We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving a broad selection of quality ales and ciders.

## Here's how CAMRA makes a difference

[www.camra.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.camra.org.uk/campaigns)

### Our Campaigns ▼

#### Promoting live beer, cider & perry

CAMRA promotes local, small and independent producers. Initiatives include *LocAle* (promoting locally brewed ale) and the *Real Cider Served Here* scheme.



#### Helping you save your local

Our in-depth pub-saving guides for England, Scotland and Wales, and advice on Assets of Community Value listing and Community Pub Ownership, provide campaigners with all the tools required to save your local, if it is under threat.



#### Lobbying Government at all levels

CAMRA members across the UK actively lobby their MPs, devolved elected representatives and councillors via email and social media. Our branches talk to politicians about a range of vital topics including taxation, regulation and consumer choice.



#### Pubs as a force for good

Pubs play a vital role in tackling loneliness and social isolation, foster community spirit and encourage social interaction. Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people with a local pub are happier, have more friends and are more engaged with their local communities.



#### Pub Company Reform

CAMRA campaigned for over ten years to introduce a Pubs Code and Adjudicator in England and Wales, to address the imbalance of power between pub companies and tenants. We continue to make sure tenants are treated fairly by pub companies, so they can thrive and run great pubs for us to enjoy, and are seeking a Pubs Code for Scotland too.



### COVID Campaign Response ▼

#### Pulling Together

Our cross-industry campaign supports pubs, clubs, taprooms, breweries and cider makers through the COVID-19 crisis. They need your support now more than ever. We are campaigning on their behalf and providing resources to help them survive. This includes promoting *Cheers for Choice* to ensure beer stocks in reopened pubs, *Brew2You* and *Save our Pubs*.



#### Brew2You

This digital platform has been a vital tool in connecting beer lovers to local pubs, breweries and cider makers offering takeaway and delivery during lockdowns and beyond.



#### Speaking up for pubs, clubs, brewers and cider makers

CAMRA is at the forefront of lobbying for better support, and against unfair restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic. We support a cut in beer duty on draught beer served in pubs to ensure fair competition with supermarkets and changes to the Business Rates system to end the unfair burden on pubs.



For member benefits visit  
[www.camra.org.uk/benefits](http://www.camra.org.uk/benefits)

If you love beer and pubs,  
CAMRA membership is for you!

[join.camra.org.uk](http://join.camra.org.uk)

