



# Solihull



# Drinker

Issue No 102  
Summer 2024

*Free*  
*Please take one*

## Handpump Hijack !



a commitment to offering the best of UK brewing.

Cask ale is unique as it doesn't leave the brewery as a finished product, with the live yeast continuing its conditioning in the barrel at the pub. This completes the process by continuing to develop its flavour and complexity.

Now, Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company has resorted to misleading consumers by hijacking the handpump to serve its "Fresh Ale" product.

'Fresh Ale' like many lagers and keg beers, is ready to drink straight from the brewery. That does not mean it is tasteless but, as it is being served via a handpump, you as the drinker are likely to be misled as to what you are buying - and it reduces the number of actual real ales being dispensed.

**That handpump has effectively been hijacked!**

CAMRA is campaigning to pressure any brewers supplying 'Fresh Ale' to market them accordingly so as not to mislead customers, to serve via a keg font and not to take up valuable handpump space.

### ASK, "IS IT CASK?"

The launch of 'Fresh Ale' by Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) is a handpump hijack, which misleads consumers into thinking they will be served a cask-conditioned beer - which is far from the case.

Serving so-called 'Fresh Ale' though a handpump also boots a genuine cask beer off the bar, depriving consumers of choice.

CMBC claim to champion cask beer but have instead closed breweries and removed cask lines from bars.

For generations, a handpump on the bar has been both a symbol for cask ale and a mark of assurance. Where cask is well kept, consumers can be sure of a spotless cellar, well-trained bar staff and

# ALE HUB

★ MICROPUB ★

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!

## Dates for your diary

### Branch Meetings

(Branch meetings start at 8.00pm except where noted otherwise)

Monday 1 July	The Station, Henley in Arden
Monday 5 August	Bull's Head, Earlswood
Monday 2 September	Colebrook

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

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

Monday 15 July	Fleur de Lys
Wednesday 18 September	Grenville Club

### Socials

Friday 28 June	Warwick GBG crawl
Friday 26 July	Derby trip
Friday 16 August	Banbury trip
Wed 4 Sept	London heritage pub trip

For more details of socials please email [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**

## 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/)

**21 - 22 June 2024 (Fri – Sat)**  
16<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare beer & cider festival  
Stratford Racecourse  
Luddington Road  
Stratford upon Avon  
CV37 9SE

**27 - 29 June 2024 (Thurs - Sat)**  
Bromsgrove beer & cider festival  
Bromsgrove Rugby Club  
Finstall Road  
Bromsgrove  
B60 3DH (Cont pg 4)

### Features in this issue include:

Upcoming Beer Festivals	3
Winners, one & all	4
Warwick's fabulous 5 landlord's walk	7
Useful contacts	12
Advertise with us	13
Hail to the Ale	14
Membership Matters	15

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 2024 ©

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



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

4 - 6 July 2024 (Thurs – Sat)

Leicester Beer festival  
Abbey Pumping Station  
Corporation Road  
Leicester  
LE4 6NS

25 - 27 July 2024 (Thurs – Sat)

Summer Festival of Beer & Cider  
Newhampton Arts Centre  
Dunkley Street  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 4AN

30 - 31 August 2024 (Fri – Sat)

Harbury Beer & Cider festival  
Harbury Village Hall  
South Parade  
Harbury  
CV33 9JE

6 - 7 September 2024 (Fri – Sat)

Three Lions Beer & Cider festival  
Shirley British Legion  
186 Stratford Road  
Shirley  
B90 3BQ

## Winners, one and all !

It's that time of year again, where we recognise all the hard work put in by the pubs and clubs in our patch (the majority of the Solihull area and adjacent parts of Warwickshire). However, despite all the sterling work put in by everyone we can only have 3 winners, for Club of the Year (overall), Pub of the Year for our bit of Warwickshire and Pub of the Year for our Solihull area, with our overall winner being one of these two. Our competition to win these accolades is always tight, so well done all round.

It is with great pleasure we can announce that Pub of the Year for Solihull and our overall winner, goes to the Pup and Duckling, Hatchford Brook Road, Solihull; our Pub of the Year for our bit of Warwickshire goes to the Three Tuns, Henley in Arden; and Club of the Year is the Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club.

This is the fourth time the Pup & Duckling has won our Solihull & District overall title in its 8-year life and if you visit you will see (and taste) why. They have an ever-changing range (often up to 50 different a month) of real ales and ciders, and our members have consistently found these to be in great condition. You always receive a warm welcome and staff are happy to help with advice on beer choice.

This is an unpretentious pub, originally a micro-pub, but one that has literally grown over the years (and is continuing to grow as it's expanding upstairs), and its focus is definitely its real ales and ciders.

Pictured below is branch chair Martin Buck presenting the award to Landlords Jeff and Sue. Jeff was very clear they have only succeeded because of the teamwork of all their hard working staff, so congratulations to all concerned.



Our winner for our part of Warwickshire in 2024 is the Three Tuns at Henley in Arden. Though they may not serve the range of real ales the Pup & Duckling offer, this has other qualities, being a charming, proper 'old fashioned' style pub, popular with locals and visitors alike. Staff are friendly and real ales are consistently in good condition.



Pictured above is Martin Buck presenting the award to Eliza Sedgwick, landlady of this charming pub, and who was delighted to win this accolade again, reflecting that she couldn't have achieved this without the work of her staff (including her family) and her regulars who give the pub such great atmosphere.

Our Club of the Year award for 2024 goes to the Knowle and Dorridge Cricket

Club. Although this is a club, it is open to card carrying CAMRA members and regularly features interesting real ales and ciders, with these being selected between Jon Knibb (one of our local branch members) and Dan Cornes, the bar manager. Between them, they do a great job, resulting in real ales often not seen in the area. As with the pubs, the key to success here is keeping the ales in consistently great condition.

Pictured below is Martin presenting the award to Dan Cornes, bar manager, together with hard working staff and Jon Knibb on the right.



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)



6 Real Ales  
&  
3 Craft Beers

Opening Hours

09.00 - 23.00 Sun - Thur  
09.00 - 24.00 Fri - Sat

# KNOWLE & DORRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

SOLIHULL & DISTRICT CAMRA CLUB OF THE YEAR 2016 - 2019  
CASK MARQUE ACCREDITATION 2021  
- STATION ROAD, DORRIDGE, B93 8ET -

 @KNOWLE.ANDDORRIDGECC 
  @KNOWLEDORRIDGECC 
  @KANDDCC 
  FIND US!



**FEATURED  
BREWERIES  
SALOPIAN,  
OAKHAM,  
ABBEYDALE,  
MALLINSONS,  
THORNBRIDGE,  
CASTLE ROCK  
PLUS MANY  
MANY MORE**

OPEN MON TO THURS 4PM - 10:30PM FRIDAY 4PM - 11PM SATURDAY 12PM - 11PM SUNDAY 12PM - 10:30PM

KNOWLE & DORRIDGE CRICKET CLUB OFFERS A WARM & COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO ENJOY YOUR FAVOURITE ALES.



3 GUEST ALES & A REAL CIDER VARIETIES CHANGING ALL THE TIME 
 SKY SPORTS, BT SPORTS & MULTI-SCREEN 
 ALL CAMRA MEMBERS WELCOME 
 SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE FOR DISCOUNT ON DRINKS

#TMH

TEL: 01564 774338  
 WWW.KNOWLE.ANDDORRIDGECC.CO.UK

#TAKE ME HOME

## CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2024




Open 11.00 – 23.00 Mon – Thurs;  
 11.00 – 23.30 Fri; 10.00 – 24.00 Sat;  
 10.00 – 23.00 Sun

Hot & cold meals served all week  
 from 11.00 am to 9.00 pm  
 Brunch 10 am – 12 noon Sat & Sun

Live Music & Events  
 Quiz nights Tues & Sun from 8.45pm  
 Curry nights Wed from 5.0pm  
 Steak nights Thurs from 5.0pm

### 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)

6 Real Ales on at all times – eg  
 Oakham Citra, Adnams Ghost  
 Ship, Landlord plus regularly  
 changing guests.

CAMRA members (membership card required) 20p off pint of cask ale all other days, except Mon/Thurs

MON & THURS ALL DAY  
**CASK Ales**  
 £1 OFF ALL CASK

COCKTAIL & SHOTS  
 2 COCKTAILS ON ALL COCKTAILS £12  
 4 SHOTS £12 ON ALL SHOTS DAILY FROM 5PM

THURS & SUNDAY FROM 5PM  
**WINE Club**  
 Bottles from £12.00

FRIDAY & SAT FROM 5PM  
 APP DISCOUNT  
**FIZZ**  
 Weekend Bottles from £14



The Fieldhouse will be closed for refurbishment for 3 weeks from 6 October

## Warwick's Fabulous Five Landlord's walk

Warwick might be world-famous for its castle, but the town itself has many more accolades - including more than its fair share of treats for today's ale drinker. For a relatively small town, Warwick is blessed with no fewer than five pubs in the 2024 Good Beer Guide (GBG) and plenty more good ale pubs worth a visit. This means the big question when it comes to a pub walk isn't whether you have enough pubs - more whether you have enough time to get to them all.

To celebrate their inclusion in the GBG, the landlords of the five pubs listed in the highly-respected publication joined Sally-Jane Downs from CAMRA and the official Warwick Court Leet Ale Taster – Simon Garwood, to test out a pub walk around the town, enjoying Warwick's ale offering firsthand.



From L-R; Chris Proudfoot, The Old Fourpenny Shop; Tom Buxton, The Cape of Good Hope; Sally-Jane Downes, Heart of Warwickshire CAMRA; Tim Maccabee, The Eagle & Old Post Office; Alex Ridgway, The Wild Boar; Rachel Silverthorne, The Eagle & Old Post Office.

Emerging from the train station (see map on page 9) and, thirsty for a drink, the Wild Boar, just a couple of minutes away, was the first port of call as it probably would be for any train-bound visitor to Warwick.

The Wild Boar is the home-base for Warwick's longest standing microbrewery, The Slaughterhouse Brewery (est 2003). Housed in a traditional Victorian pub, featuring wooden floors, real fires, comfortable snug, sun trapped beer garden and a large function room to the rear, the pub features 6 real ale hand pulls and 4 craft taps including their own and guest beers. I opted for a pint of Slaughterhouse "Can You Dig It" an English IPA at 6% ABV living up to the more traditional style of IPA but (far too) easy to drink and full of flavour.

Decently refreshed, the group took a walk directly towards the Grand Union Canal, joining that Victorian highway for a stroll towards the Cape of Good Hope.

Dating from 1798, the Cape of Good Hope is beautifully situated at Cape top Lock on the Grand Union Canal. With 2 bars and Warwick's only canal side beer garden, perfect to watch the boats go by. Six hand pulls feature here, with local ales from Hook Norton, Church Farm and others, the Cape has featured in the GBG every year for over 25 years. I sampled a pint of Wye Valley Butty Bach accompanied by their famous Scotch Egg which is available all day every day. Like the other pubs in the list, there's also a fine selection of Craft Ales and low/no alcohol alternatives to keep any designated driver happy. There is also a delightful canal side cottage next door which is available for accommodation.

Departing again, the group heading towards the town centre. There are several routes available, but we found our way alongside the edge of the renowned Warwick Racecourse. Not only a racecourse, there are also caravan camping facilities here for those wanting to make a longer visit, adding to Warwick's appeal as a weekend break spot as well as a day-trip destination.

# THE FABULOUS FIVE

## GOOD BEER GUIDE

### PUBS OF WARWICK

**THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**  
66 Lower Cape, CV34 5DP



**THE EAGLE**  
3 The Holloway, CV34 4SJ



**THE OLD FOURPENNY SHOP**  
27 Crompton St, CV34 6HJ



**THE OLD POST OFFICE**  
12 West Street, CV34 6AN



**THE WILD BOAR**  
27 Lakin Road, CV34 5BU



Featured in the CAMRA  
Good Beer Guide 2024







# THE GOOD BEER GUIDE PUBS OF WARWICK







CREATED BY DESIGN BY KATIE JONES









www.designbykatiejones.com

## THE WARWICK PUB WALK

-  Route
-  Pubs
-  Railway line
-  Warwick Train Station

-  Road
-  Parks
-  Canal / River
-  Hospital
-  Car park
-  Warwick Castle

-  View Point
-  East Gate
-  West Gate
-  The Lord Leycester
-  St Mary's Church
-  Market Square

Next call was The Old Fourpenny Shop Pub. Legend has it that when the Warwick section of The Grand Union Canal was being built in the early 1800s the Tavern on Crompton Street was charging a mere four pence for a cup of coffee and a tot of rum. Other inns were charging an “outrageous” six pence! Hence, The Fourpenny Shop. Still offering food and rooms, The 4Penny won the coveted Pub of the Year award for Heart of CAMRA 2024 following a lovely refit with possibly the best beer garden in the centre of Warwick. Again, six hand pulls feature with Hook Norton “Hooky” being the starting point for the regular beers. This time, the choice was Hobson’s Spring Break American Pale Ale which at 3.4% - a nice interlude from the stronger ales of the day.

Just two minutes around the corner is the Old Post Office, which was in full swing with its regular Saturday afternoon music session. Runner up in Pub of the Year (together with The Eagle) The OPO is just coming up to its tenth anniversary and has been a firm local favourite for all of those years, winning pub of the year or runner up every eligible year. Just one regular beer here (Phipps IPA) shares the bar with four other ales. While North Cotswold and Church End are regular visitors, each of the four guest pumps changes ale every single barrel, with a good selection of craft and real cider also on offer. A top choice here is the excellently named 4.5% Shagweaver, from North Cotswold brewery.

From the Old Post Office, a walk through Warwick’s historic West Gate and past the medieval Lord Leycester Hospital takes you through the traditional Market Square to find the hidden gem that is The Eagle. The youngest and smallest of the pubs in Warwick, The Eagle is also possibly the oldest! It was established in a historic vaulted cellar back in 2018, undergoing a change of ownership, a complete refurb and a change of name in 2022. Here, the three hand pulls are made to work hard and in those two years, over 350 different ales have featured again

with a policy of constant rotation. With a capacity of just 34 people, summer drinkers make the most of the outside pavement space, which is shared with the Globe Hotel, just a couple of metres away. Music plays, background in the day but rising a little on a weekend evening.

This total tour of Warwick’s lauded Good Beer Guide pubs includes around an hour of walking time, making it more than manageable for most. It also passes near to some excellent other pubs amongst the 25-plus that Warwick has to offer, making it a great destination for ale-lovers from far and wide. On top of this, many of the hostelries in the town centre have rooms available, and the addition of independent shops, restaurants and bars, a Saturday market and a packed events calendar means there is plenty on offer to keep a visitor well satisfied on a short break.

Tim Maccabee



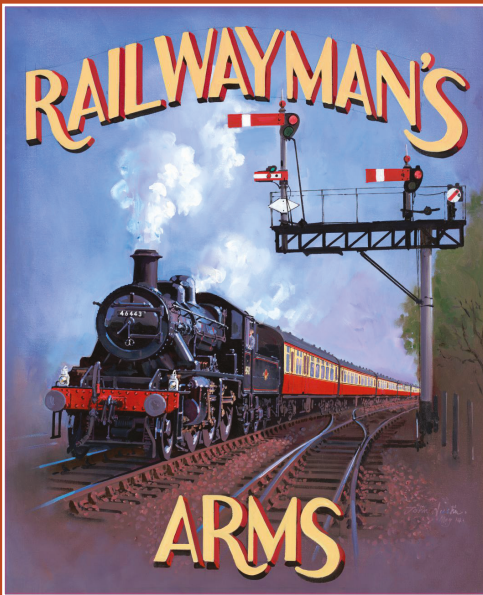
Outside the Cape of Good Hope



## TWO CAMRA Good Beer Guide Free Houses!

Travel by train between the two.

For details, see [SVR.CO.UK](http://SVR.CO.UK)



and

### THE KING & CASTLE

on the concourse at  
**KIDDERMINSTER TOWN Station**

8 real ales including:  
Batham's Best Bitter,  
Bewdley Brewery Worcestershire Way,  
Hobsons Best Bitter

also

Hobsons Oldfield Cider

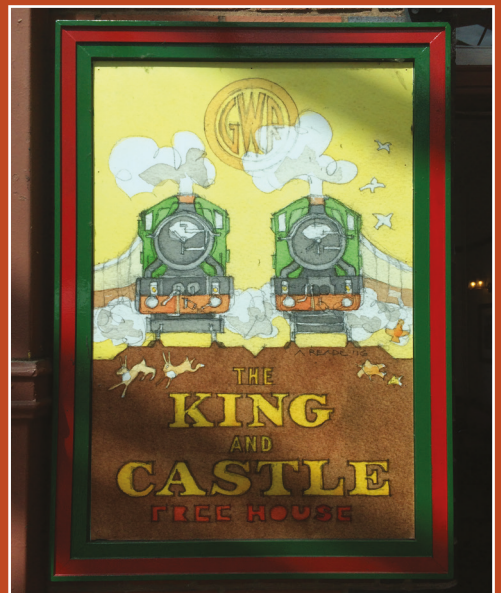
### THE RAILWAYMAN'S ARMS

on Platform 1 at  
**BRIDGNORTH Station**

Serving 9 Real Ales including:

Hobsons Town Crier,  
Hobsons Best Bitter,  
Bewdley Brewery's Station Porter &  
Worcestershire Way,  
Batham's Best Bitter

plus one Traditional Cider





The ales vary  
Abbeydale, Thornbridge,  
Salopian and Ossett  
regulars

£3.70 a pint

Last Friday of the month £3 a pint

Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club

Grove Road, Knowle B93 0PH

**Non members welcome**

The bar is open:  
Monday to Friday 6 - 10 p.m.  
Saturday 3:30 - 8 p.m.

<http://www.kdrc.info>



knowleanddorridgeracquets



barandsocial@kdrc.info

### Useful Contact Numbers

**Chair/Beer Festival Organiser**

Martin Buck. 01564 770708

**Secretary**

Allan Duffy 01564 200431

**Membership**

Dave Mckowen 01564 778955

**Social media**

Martin Robins 07771 842046

**Website**

Keith Whitehouse

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

**Pubs Campaigning / Cider & Perry**

Paul Wigley 07402 312457

**Treasurer**

Brenda Duffy 01564 200431

**Solihull Drinker Editor**

Ray Cooke 01564 777890

**Social co-ordinator**

Steve Dyson

[steve\\_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk)

**Young Members**

Iain Wells

07810 827043

**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

## Advertise Your Business Here With Us

We distribute around 2500 free copies to some 80 pubs (and some clubs, restaurants and off licences) around Solihull, and local parts of Warwickshire and Birmingham. This magazine also goes onto our website and onto our social media pages. This gives you the opportunity to put your business in front of people who are in the habit of visiting pubs and restaurants, etc.

You definitely 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, or to discuss any proposed advert, please contact [editor@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@solihull.camra.org.uk)

It might be possible for us to offer adverts for certain sectors on an exclusive basis, so if you run a taxi company (as an example) we might be able to agree that yours would be the only such advertiser benefitting from being in our magazine.

Our advertising is competitively priced, see rates set out below.

We offer a 10% discount for advertisements by CAMRA members (membership number required). We also offer a 10% discount for advertisers taking out an advert for 4 consecutive editions (the advert can be amended for each edition, if you needed to include time related offers for example). If both discounts are applied, it is 20% off the advertising rate quoted below.

SIZE	INNER PAGES	FRONT COVER
<b>Full (A5) page</b>	<b>£120.00</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>1 / 2 page</b>	<b>£90.00</b>	<b>£120 (landscape only)</b>
<b>1 / 3 page</b>	<b>£66.00</b>	<b>£90.00</b>
<b>1 / 4 page</b>	<b>£54.00</b>	<b>£72.00</b>
<b>1 / 6 page</b>	<b>£42.00</b>	<b>£56.00</b>

## 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 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.



## Hail to the Ale

The Durham Ox at Shrewley has increased the number of real ales it now serves to 4.

We were aware that Silhill Brewery intended to move and can confirm it is now only brewing at the Birmingham site. It also had a microbrewery (brewlab) at the rear of the Warwickshire Lad at Wood End. It is encouraging to report that Infinity Brewery have taken over that site and are now brewing. The Warwickshire Lad no longer appears to be stocking Silhill beers.

Stonegate had installed a manager at the Bell at Tanworth, but appear to have reverted to it being a tenanted pub.

The Station pub has opened at Henley in Arden railway station and is a real ale gain. As might be imagined, the pub was originally the old railway station building and it has been sympathetically refurbished (a substantial project) and, although not large, it is an attractive venue. It will regularly be serving Henley Mile Brewery ales (as well as guests), as the brewery is co-located at the Station and you can see its operation behind plate glass next to the bar.

One of the Henley Mile Brewery ales is also going to be a regular feature at the Three Tuns in the High Street, Henley in Arden. I understand the Stratford Alehouse may also be taking one of their ales on a regular basis.

The Knowle Royal British Legion is another confirmed real ale gain, though this may have happened a while ago. Indeed, our last report was they had 2 real ales on.

The Tom O' the Wood, at Rowington, has undergone refurbishment and is now open again. The Fieldhouse in Monkspath is due to close for refurbishment for 3 weeks from 6 October.

It is pleasing to report that this year

marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of our micropubs, the Shaking Hand in Shirley, and as part of its celebrations they had a tap takeover by Bang the Elephant in March. Congratulations to all concerned.

Congratulations also go to our pubs and club of the year (see article on page 4). We had good turnouts for the presentations by regulars, locals and CAMRA members.

Pub of the year and overall winner  
Pup & Duckling, Hatchford Brook Road

Warwickshire pub of the year  
Three Tuns, Henley in Arden

Club of the year  
Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club

Pubs, by their very nature, need to be licensed premises and part of that licence is that you can enter the premises and buy a drink without having to buy anything else, such as food.

Where a pub changes its business model and decides to become a restaurant and begins to exclude those who only wish to purchase a drink, then they are required to change their licence to reflect that. It has been alleged that a pub in our area has done just this and without any change to the licence. We have therefore passed this matter on.

Should you ever find such an instance do please contact us with the details.

Paul Wigley - Pubs Officer

## Membership Matters

CAMRA was founded in 1971 by four real ale enthusiasts, and since that time CAMRA membership has grown substantially. Recently however, national membership has taken a bit of a downturn, likely as a bit of a COVID hangover and due to the cost-of-living crisis, but it still stands at just over a creditable 149,000.

Our local Solihull & District CAMRA branch membership has also suffered a little of the same fate but still stands at 546.

If you are reading this, you may be a real ale/cider fan and if so, why not consider joining CAMRA or renewing your membership. Part of the cost of your membership goes towards helping towards CAMRA's aims which are to see good quality real ale, cider and perry in well run, thriving pubs and clubs across every community.

It does this by encouraging responsible beer drinking and pub going with beer festivals (you will find local ones listed on pages 3 & 4), good pub guide's, awards and by lobbying government for change to best support the industry.

Within CAMRA there's plenty for everyone, whether you are a dedicated campaigner, a beer/cider connoisseur looking to learn more, or you want to meet up with like-minded people who have a love of real ale/cider in a good local pub.

We have recently seen a few new members attending their first branch meeting/social and taking advantage of our free pint incentive that we offer to all new members. However we would still like 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 (always held at a local pub serving decent real ale/cider), where you will be made most welcome and able to enjoy a free pint courtesy of Solihull & District CAMRA branch.

We are a friendly bunch, so if you don't fancy joining us for a branch meeting, why not come along on one of our organised social trips using either public transport or minibus. These range, amongst other things, 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 for your diary section in this publication (page 3) for a list of upcoming branch events.

Join CAMRA and you can enjoy a range of great benefits such as a monthly newsletter called "What's Brewing", an award winning quarterly magazine titled "Beer", free or reduced entry to beer festivals, £30 of Real Ale/Cider vouchers and numerous other benefits (it's quite a lengthy list) please see [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) for full details.

A year's membership will not break the bank & currently at £30.50 per year, using direct debit (concessions for Under-26), this roughly equals 58p per week. And with Father's Day on 16 June a year's membership could be the ideal gift. So why not take the plunge and join over 149,000 other like-minded people with a love of real ale/cider and good pubs and help the campaign thrive again.

Dave Mckowen

Membership Secretary

**Solihull Drinker Issue No. 102 Solihull CAMRA 2024 ©**

Printed by Thistle Print Ltd., Leeds

The 103<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published on Monday 2 September 2024. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contribution for this issue is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August**. Thank you in advance to all contributors.

Love  
beer?

Love  
pubs?



From  
as little as  
**£28.50\***  
a year. That's less  
than a pint a  
month!

Includes  
**£30+**  
Real Ale  
Cider & Perry  
Vouchers

## Join CAMRA today

Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.

Become part of the CAMRA community today - enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at [camra.org.uk/joinup](http://camra.org.uk/joinup)

\*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at 1 July 2021. Concessionary rates available. Please visit [camra.org.uk/membership-rates](http://camra.org.uk/membership-rates) †Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

Solihull, Acocks Green & Shirley Lions Present

# The Three Lions Beer & Cider Festival

Featuring 18 Real Ales & 10 Ciders

Ray's Open Mic Night playing both days

Friday 6th September  
& Saturday 7th September

Open midday to late each day

**Shirley British Legion**

186, Stratford Rd, Shirley,  
Solihull B90 3BQ

