





## EDITOR'S ROUND

Christmas is almost upon us and we've just been able to creep in this 50th. edition and sharp eyed readers will have noticed that the front page is a copy from an early edition. It is in fact from the first *Banter* that would be regularly distributed to pubs in the Solihull area.

We had hoped by now that we would have been celebrating our 2nd Knowle beer festival, but the venue could not be confirmed in time. We've been looking for other places and if anyone of you know of a place that can hold 500 odd and wont cost an arm and a leg, give me a call.



I trust that by now you've all got your 1995 Good Beer Guides. If you haven't then pop along to your favourite book shop and give yourself a treat. This 22nd edition, apart from listing 5,000 or so pubs, gives information on breweries, beers, (who brews Stocking Filler?) turn to page 461 and you'll find out! If you find that the shops have sold out, then give me a call I'll be happy to sell you one.

Did you read that beer duty wont be going up for the present? Well, before you put the flags out read on. How does England 29 France 4 sound? a bit like a rugby score? it is, more or less the amount in pence of duty paid in each country on a pint of 5% A.B.V. beer. The chart on page 13 shows how our other E.C.C. brothers fair. We should not be thankful for a duty freeze but should be looking for a reduction in duty to offset the growing flood of cheap beer that daily makes it way across the channel. Every pound's worth of beer that those insidious bootleggers bring into the Country to make their quick profit is a pound lost by our breweries. A sensible drop in U.K. beer duty may well render their illegal trade unprofitable.



On the positive side, things are going well for Sunday hours opening. The first phase and landlords are upset about it and quite right too! Is to allow Off Licenses to open during Sunday afternoon and it will be some time later that pubs will have to option should they wish to open all day Sunday. As it is now, not every pub opens all day during the week, but they could, should they wish to, they have that right. It may not be economical for every pub to open all day on Sunday but maybe soon you will not see the sight of a bemused foreigner rattling the door of a closed pub on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Well, just in case your after a Good Beer Guide, know a good place where we can hold our festival or just want some information about CAMRA here's my address. Malcolm Field 34, Harwood Grove, Shirley, SOLIHULL B90 4AS.



cheers !

I may not receive sacks full of letters through my letter box each day but those I do I hope I'm able to help with my replies. Among the recent letters I have received was one which raised a point which will be of interest for families in the new year.

I find myself increasing frustrated that unless we intend to eat at a pub our children are banished with ourselves into the garden area, should the pub have one and not allowed into the pub proper. During the summer months this while tolerable when the weather is good leaves much to be desired. I understand that in the new year that children will be allowed into the pubs. Is this in fact the case and will there be any restrictions?

As of February children will be allowed into the pubs up to 9 o'clock but this will not mean that every pub will accept children. In the first place they have to apply for this 'childrens licence' and prove they are able to supply food and soft drinks till 9 o'clock at night.

Not all pubs may be suitable or indeed want to apply for this licence. Those pubs that do will no doubt advertise the fact. As yet I have no list of pubs in the Solihull area who will be taking on this 'licence'. At the moment we are working on a new local pub guide and you will find information such as this in it.

This one should be of interest as well!

I've bought the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for the past couple of years and found it very useful in finding decent pubs when on holiday and while I was in Blackpool I bought a local guide which gave a lot more detail on pubs in the area. Can you tell me how many other areas have these local guides and is there one for Birmingham or Solihull?

There are some 40 odd local guides available at the present. The Solihull guide is in the planning stage at the moment and will cover all the pubs in the area. Rugby, The Black Country and Derby guides are all available and others cover from Cornwall through to Scotland. Anyone wanting details about these guides has only to contact me and I will be glad to give them details.

Happy Xmas and a happy new year.

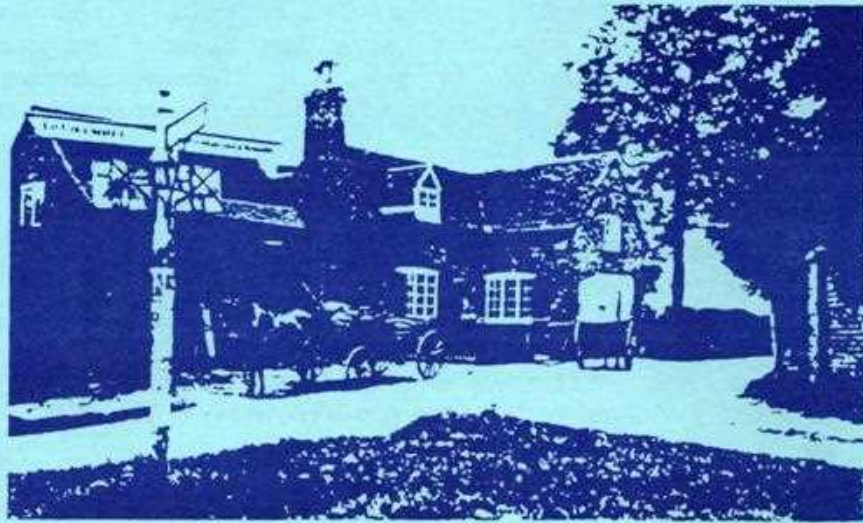
*Michael Field*

# The Griffin Inn

## Shustoke

*A very traditional Inn  
serving a wide variety  
of well kept ales.*

Excellent homemade food available  
12.00 - 2.00 Monday - Saturday



Calling at the Griffin Inn, Shustoke, 1897, when William Ancott, who was the farmer - publican, advertised good trout fishing from a nearby stream.

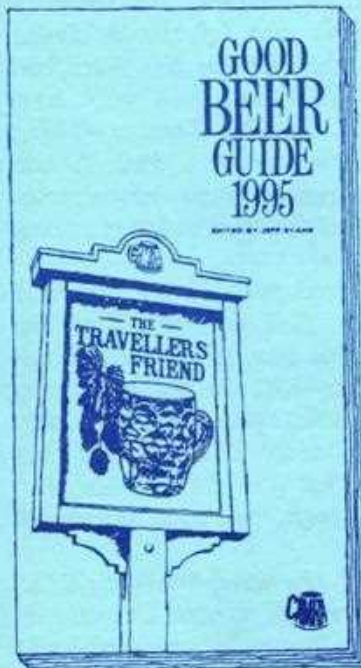
Home of the... **Church End Brewery**

Head brewer: Stuart Elliott Tel: 01675 481567



# GOOD BEER GUIDE 1995

*The 1995 Good Beer Guide is packed full with information on pubs and the breweries, it is the perfect drinking companion. The Campaign for Real Ale's flagship publication, now in its 22nd edition is firmly established as Britain's number one beer and pubs book.*



*Can any other guide offer so much? Details of 5,000 pubs, fully mapped, county by county and listing all the real ales on sale and other facilities on offer, from accommodation and meals to family rooms and no-smoking areas.*

*The facts on all Britain's breweries, from the tiniest micro to the biggest national, with all the real ales they produce and tasting notes to help you find a favourite.*

*All the latest news from the ever-changing world of brewing, with special features on you, the pub and the law and on matching beer to food, plus the Bad Beer Guide, Beers of the Year, brew pubs, pub groups, the beer festival calendar, the beers index and much, much more.*

*With well over 1,000 real ales now available and so many new breweries to discover, the Good Beer Guide is, more than ever, the first choice for days in the country, night on the town and family holidays—the original and genuine Traveller's Friend.*

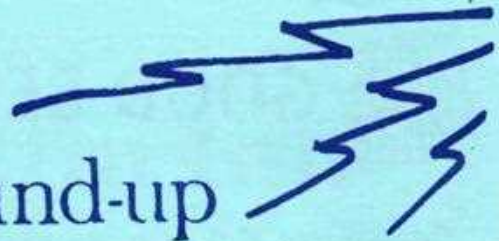
## ABOUT THE GOOD BEER GUIDE

*Local CAMRA branches decide upon pub entries for the annual Good Beer Guide. Only 5,000 pubs can get into the guide, out of over 40,000 eligible outlets.*

*We do not employ inspectors to visit pubs once or twice before making up their minds, nor do we rely simply on reader recommendation. Our surveyors are real enthusiasts who use the pub all year round and who will know how consistently good or bad the pubs are in their area.*

*The final list of entries for each area is drawn up at a selection meeting by the local CAMRA branch. No payment is even taken for entry to the guide.*

# Solihull Round-up



Congratulations to the WHITE LION in Hampton in Arden for recently winning the Birmingham Mail Country Pub of the Year award. One of only a few pubs in the Solihull area to offer accommodation, local CAMRA members have voted it into the new 1995 Good Beer Guide. Beefeater, which is part of the Whitbread group have opened a new training centre next to the BARN on the Stratford road in Hockley Heath. It is expected that some 2,000 employees will have courses during the first year. The GEORGE is still the GEORGE and according to Jarvis Hotels it never intended to change it in the first place. It was just a misunderstanding between themselves and the contractors. Only the new modern hotel was to be called Jarvis International while the older part was to remain the GEORGE.

A recent survey by trading standards officers of 16 pubs in the Solihull area found that 7 of them were serving less than a full pint and 6 of the pubs were serving measures less than the 95% guideline adopted by the Brewers Association, that is to say 19 ounces is as good as 20!. In one case they found a 11% discrepancy. A spokesman for the trading standards said they would welcome lined oversized glasses or beer meters which would ensure that the customer got what they paid for. If you feel that your pint is not what it should be then politely ask for a 'top up'. If though, you want that thick creamy white collar, drink on.

I've been told that Colin, who for some years was the manager of the BULLS HEAD in Earlswood has now left and gone on to another pub. I hope that all of you who are having a go on the National Lottery will still have some small change to spare for local pub run charities. A number of local pubs are now running their Christmas raffles and I have invested a couple of pounds at the RED LION in Shirley. This pub is one of nine that feature in the 1995 CAMRA Good Beer Guide in the Solihull area. I know, unofficial, so to speak that two pubs in the Solihull area are going to lose their 'bar' areas and have them replaced by 'restaurant' areas, where goes the dart board and the like?

Just in case you had not heard, CALENDERS has now been renamed the DALLAS EXCHANGE and OLIVERS is now going under the name of HOOTERS. Slowly, it may be, but surely new beers are appearing in the Solihull area. Usher's has been in the DRAWBRIDGE, Holt's Plant and Deakin mild at the RED LION in Shirley and we must not forget those stalwart's in promoting new beers into the Solihull area the NAVIGATION at Lapworth the Solihull CAMRA 1994 Pub of the Year and Bernies Off licence in Shirley who's range of beers have made it a perennial choice for the Good Beer Guide.



# Beer Tax.

Just before this Banter was going to be sent to the printers the Government suffered the defeat over V.A.T. and Mr. K.C. announced a mini-budget. Alcohol unlike the other easy targets like fags and fuel had been spared any in the last budget and with this new mini-budget looming up I thought it best to hold the presses and wait for the outcome.

As expected the duty was raised, by a 1p a pint and he had another go at the other two favourites. That extra duty will in some small way help to offset the increased fuel bill the bootleggers will face in their daily trips across the channel. Due to the rise in the cost of fuel our breweries will be forced to cover the higher cost of transport and the only way they can do this will be by raising the price of a pint. Further increasing the gap between what it costs here and what it can be bought over in France.

CAMRA and the breweries had been calling for a reduction in the duty of beer during the new year. It will not be until the gap between the levels of duty in Britain and those across the channel is closed down, will the government stop losing millions of pounds in unpaid duty and the bootleggers reduced rake-off see an end to their illicit undertakings.

If duty on beer in this country is not going to be reduced, what is the answer? Do we ask France, Germany and the other E.E.C. countries if they would not mind, but could they raise their duty on Alcohol by a few pence or so, because were trying to stop some of our people buying beer and the like in their country and selling it over here. If France doubled the duty paid in their country for a pint of beer (A.B.V.5%) it would still not be one third of the duty we pay in the U.K.

Would or could the Government dare to re-introduce restrictions on the amount alcohol any one person could bring into the country? I don't think so at the moment the only way to stop these 'imports' is to catch the people concerned. This takes time and costs money and far worse diverts the manpower of the customs away from detection and catching people who are importing far more deadly things.

# New Brewery opens in Warwickshire

"Sorry, we've got no beer!" shouted Stuart Elliott, head brewer at the new Church End brewery when I visited him the other week. "Things are going so well, there's never any in the brewery, it's all in the pubs" he continued.

The brewery is situated adjacent to the Griffin freehouse at Shustoke on the B4114 Coleshill to Atherstone road. Stuart, a Nottingham lad, was previously in the construction industry, before landlord Mike Pugh at the Griffin recruited him to realise an ambition for a brewery at the pub. After almost a year of learning the trade at Judges brewery, Church Lawford and the Stonway brewery in Cheltenham, both he and his wife Rosemary are now employed full time in locating new outlets and of course, brewing the beer at Warwickshire's newest brewery.

The brewery building itself is cramped and used to be both a horses stable in the 17th century and a workshop for the manufacture of coffins (back in the days when landlords had more than one occupation) in the 19th century.

Apart from brewing, most time is spent in finding new pubs to sell their ale to. This is difficult as most pubs in the Solihull and Warwickshire area are tied to big breweries such as Ansells and M&B. However Stuart has received support from Andrew Kimber at the Navigation, Old Warwick Road in Lapworth who has already tried his brass and hopes others will do too.

## BEERS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT

### SUMMER ALE called 'M Reg' (4.1% A.B.V.)

Appropriately enough, this was the Church End's first official brew on the 1st August 1994. It's a very golden coloured bitter with a definite hop flavour and a strong bitter finish - a real bitter drinkers ale.

### GRAVEDIGGER'S ALE (4.0% A.B.V.)

This is a black hoppy beer with a mixture of chocolate and roast flavour and a soft dry finish.

### WHAT THE FOX'S HAT? (4.2% A.B.V.)

A fuller golden colour than the 'M Reg'. Soft hop flavour and finish. With an underlying sweet, malty edge. A quaffing ale.

### OLD PAL (5.5% A.B.V.)

The first of the winter brass. A rich copper coloured beer with malty mouthfeel combined with a complex mix of hops and a soft dry finish.

Also in the pipeline are FEWS PORTER (4.5% A.B.V.) and a rich winter ale called R.I.P. which at (7.0% A.B.V.) will have to be treated with some caution.

There's no Tesco's own brand here, Stuart is very strict - He uses only the best Hops and malt. (North Down's & Fuggles) to produce the distinctive colours and flavours he needs. Most of the names of the beers are on the 'church' theme with the notable exception of 'What the Fox's Hat?' whose name takes less explaining than you might think.

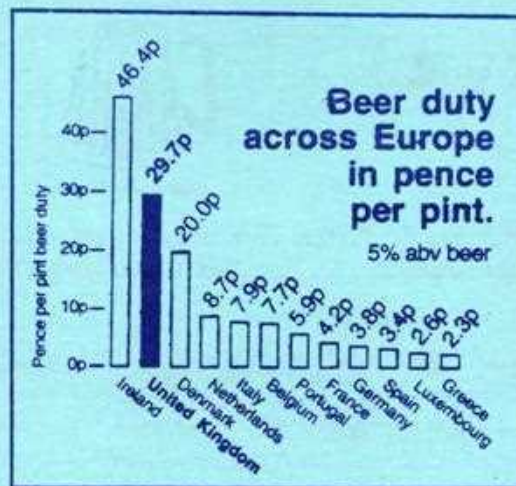
The only regular outlet at the present is the Griffin where there is normally at least one of the Stuart's beer on at any one time. I've tried the beers (for the sake of research, of course) and they're all excellent! So if your fed up with the usual unimaginative range of Brew XI and Ansells bitter in your local, why not ask the landlord if he can get his hands on some of the Stuart beers. If not, get over to the Griffin quick because it's selling fast!

Cheers!

Kevin Parker (Social Secretary Solihull CAMRA)

Enquiries re Church End brewery to Stuart Elliott, 'The Griffin Inn', Church Road, Shustoke. Tel: 01675 481567.

Did you know that as much as a million pints of duty paid beer is flooding into Britain from France? You may have bought a crate or two back yourself. As long as you don't attempt to re-sell it everything's fine but gangs are



bringing van load after van load into the Country for illegal resale. On a pint of beer at five per cent alcohol the British government charges 29.7p a pint. While just 20 miles from Dover the duty is a mere 4.2p a pint. That means that a bootlegger can pay £3 for a case of lager in Calais, charge £6 for it over here and still undercut legitimate traders. U.K. beer duty is unfair to our breweries and a reduction in the beer duty would be a positive step to stem the tide of this European attack on our brewing heritage.

# "SAVE THE TRAPPIST"

*There are bottled beers and there are 'bottled' beers. In England a fine example would be Worthington's White Shield. This is not a dead, pasteurised beer, but has living yeast and will mature in the bottle.*

*In Europe, the most well known are the Trappist beers. These too are living beers, brewed by the monks at their abbeys. The only trouble is that there*

*Do you want  
**TRAPPIST BEER?***

*Ask for...*

**CHIMAY  
LA TRAPPE  
ORVAL  
ROCHEFORT  
WESTVLETEREN  
WESTMALLE**

*No others  
exist!*

**"TRAPPIST" is a protected name.  
Any abuse can be prosecuted.**

*are breweries who are trading on the good name of the Trappist beers. If you come across these abbey beers, Leffe, Postel, Enne, and the like don't be deceived into thinking that they are Trappist. In fact there are only six Trappist breweries. These names you can see on the left. Other breweries should not be allowed to use the name for back in 1982 the trade court in Gent decided that the name "Trappist" is legally protected.*

*Not only are breweries using the name of trappist but beer wholesalers like Ciney. Who knows where the beer comes from. The only way for you to be sure that you are getting one of the genuine brewed Trappist beers is to ask for Chimay, Orval, Rochefort, Westvleteren and West malle from Belgium and La Trappe which comes from the Netherlands.*

## BRANCH MEETINGS



*DEC 20 Tue. Birmingham City Xmas pub crawl. 7.00pm Prince of Wales. 7.45pm Keys Club. 8.30pm Old Contemptible. 9.15pm Naut & Cucumber. Then 10.00pm Atkinson Bar.*

*Dec 30 Fri. Beer & Balti. Spittlemore, Lower Ford Street, Coventry. 8.00pm.*

*JAN 9 Mon. Harvester, Tanhouse Farm Road. 8.30pm.*

*JAN 20 Fri. Stratford on Avon Pub crawl.*

## CAMRA Membership gives:

- Monthly copies of *What's Brewing*, CAMRA's entertaining and highly regarded newspaper.
- Generous discounts on CAMRA products and publications (including the best-selling *Good Beer Guide*).
- Advance warning of beer festivals throughout the U.K. and Europe – and discounts when you get there.
- An invitation to join CAMRA's activities such as brewery trips, meetings and socials.
- **ABOVE ALL**, you will belong to a flourishing and successful consumer movement which is acting as a champion for beer drinkers and pub users.

## APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Signature ..... Date .....

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£120 <input type="checkbox"/>	£140 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£160 <input type="checkbox"/>	£180 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this application form (or a photocopy) to:

The Membership Secretary,  
CAMRA Ltd., 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts., AL1 3BW





**BERNIES CAMRA** 12 YEARS GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

**ORDER NOW** FREE GLASS HIRE

**BERNIES (REAL) ALES**

**PARTY BARRELS** PARTY SERVICE

**FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS EVE** RING FOR DETAILS 0121-744 2827

266 CRAWFORD BLVD  
SHIRLEY SOLIHULL

LOCAL CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

BIRMINGHAM

Babs Ellgood. Tel: 0121 779 5730(h).

COVENTRY & NORTH WARWICKS

Paul Hamlett. Tel: 01203 417675(h). & 01203 221939(w).

HEART OF WARWICKSHIRE

John Crossing. Tel: 01926 613256(h). & 01926 412481(w).

REDDITCH & BROMSGROVE

John Moisy. Tel: 0121 476 5559(h).

SHAKESPEARE

Vaughan Hully. Tel: 01789 778726(h). & 0121 554 5050(w).

SOLIHULL

Malcolm Field. Tel: 0121 745 8981(h). & 0121 622 2323(w).

TAMWORTH & SUTTON COLDFIELD

John Kippax. Tel: 0121 354 2459(h).

*The Boro Banter is the newsletter of the Solihull branch of CAMRA. The views expressed are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily the views of the Solihull branch of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Advertising rates are available from the Editor Malcolm Field during the evening on 0121 745 8981.*

copyright CAMRA 1994.