

Solihull



Drinker

Issue No 105
Summer 2025

Free
Please take one

Solihull CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Festival 2025



**Our 2025 festival will run over the
weekend Friday 25 – Sunday 27 July.**

at

**Oliver Bird Hall
Church Hill Road
Solihull, B91 3RQ.**



Not long to wait for the 23rd Solihull Beer and Cider Festival – new venue, new date, bigger and better than ever! As well as 40 real ales, we'll also have five craft beers on KeyKeg and ten ciders/perries – plus gin, wine and soft drinks.



session than Friday and Saturday, so please do come along.

For businesses, we're offering the opportunity to sponsor casks at our festival; the sponsor's name/logo will be on the cask sheet during the festival, sponsors will be name-checked in the programme and on

The Oliver Bird Hall is easily accessible by public transport, with bus stops only a couple of hundred metres away and only a 15-minute walk from Solihull station. There's free on-site parking too.

our social media feeds – and you get two free tickets to the festival! If you're interested, get in touch with the festival organiser (our branch chair) Martin Buck at chair@solihullcamra.org.uk as soon as possible.

We're still working on the list of beers, but we're confident we'll have a wide range on offer. And for the first time, we'll be open on a Sunday; we're expecting that to be a more relaxed

See our website for opening times
www.solihull.camra.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.



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Dates for your diary

Branch Meetings

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

Monday 7 July	Red Lion, Earlswood
Monday 4 August	Fleur de Lys
Monday 1 September	Shaking Hand (tbc)

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

Committee Meetings

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

Monday 21 July	Woodman's Rest
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Socials

Fri 13 June	Burton on Trent trip
Fri 25 – Sun 27 July	Solihull CAMRA beer festival
Sat 16 August	Real Ale ramble

For more details of socials please email 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/

6 - 7 June (Fri – Sat)

Stratford beer & cider festival
Stratford racecourse
Luddington Rd
Stratford on Avon CV37 9SE

7 June (Sat)

Holy Souls beer festival (non CAMRA)
1157 Warwick Rd
Acocks Green
Birmingham B27 6RG

(Cont pg 4)

Features in this issue include:

Upcoming Beer Festivals	3
Liverpool trip	4
Support independent brewers	7
GBBF	8
Case is Altered – a little history	9
Three Tuns POTY	12
Spirits	13
Advertise with us	15
Hail to the Ale	17
Membership Matters	19

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Contributions, comments and advertising enquiries should be sent to

editor@solihull.camra.org.uk

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Leeds



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

3 - 5 July (Thurs – Sat)

Bromsgrove beer & cider festival
Bromsgrove rugby club
Finstall Road
Bromsgrove
B60 3DH

25 - 27 July (Fri - Sun)

Solihull CAMRA beer & cider festival
Oliver Bird Hall
Church Hill Road
Solihull
B91 3RQ

29 - 30 Aug (Fri - Sat)

Harbury beer & cider festival
Harbury village hall
South Parade
Harbury CV33 9JE

4 - 6 July (Fri - Sat)

Chasewater Railway beer festival
Chasewater Country Park
Pool Lane
Brownhills
WS8 7NL (non CAMRA)

5 - 9 Aug (Tues - Sat)

GBBF (Great British Beer Festival)
NEC
Birmingham
B40 1NT

12 - 13 Sept (Fri - Sat)

Lions beer & cider festival
Shirley British Legion
Stratford Rd
Shirley
B90 3BQ (non CAMRA)

Liverpool (pubs, real ale and heritage)

The centre of Liverpool rates as one of my favourite cities for good pubs and excellent real ale. That's saying something as there is fierce competition out there, with the likes of Norwich, Sheffield and York all running it close. However, before I retired, I used to visit Liverpool as part of work two or three times a year. Our office was in Bootle so suffice to say, I always stayed in central Liverpool, and I was never disappointed when looking for somewhere to have a pint (or two) in the evening.

Others agree with my thoughts on Liverpool, so I volunteered to sort out a two-day visit (and Paul helpfully sorted out the accommodation). Interestingly, it was the first time we'd undertaken a midweek get away rather than our traditional long weekend ones, and we had a far higher turnout. Now, I'm not clear whether that was because it was midweek or whether it was the venue (might be a bit of both of course), and I'd like to hear thoughts from readers / our members on this. It could well influence what we do in future.

To ensure we made best use of time, the intention was to travel up in the morning and make it there in time for pubs

opening around noon on the Wednesday. Then to follow up with Thursday, before travelling home on the Friday morning. Train times from Birmingham mean this is very doable, and on this occasion most of us were able to take advantage of some very good advance ticket prices from Trainline (other ticketing companies are available!).

I made use of the local Liverpool CAMRA (www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk) pubs map of the city centre (a very useful document indeed, especially when coupled with the current GBG 2025 entries) plus some local intelligence, to pull together a list of pubs I thought worth visiting and put them on a map for participants to use as a guide.

All told there were around 18 of us, so we ended up splitting into smaller groups when we arrived. It would be hard work for any venue coping with a sudden influx of that size. So, this write up is very much a personal reflection of a very enjoyable couple of days.

On arrival at Liverpool Lime Street station, we ignored the very ornate looking Crown Hotel and walked down

Lime St to the Vines (see photo below), on the corner of Copperas Hill. It's a former Cains pub and has a nationally important historic pub interior and you really do need to visit to appreciate it. An excellent start to the day with Ossett Jet, a lovely tasting black ale. Indeed, a recurring theme of the two days was the number of dark beers we found and the excellent condition and flavour of them.



An awfully 'long' walk to the next pub, the Liverpool Brewing Co. Tap - literally just across the road. It may not be much to look at from the outside, but they had a good range of beers. I picked up a

copy of the Winter edition of the local CAMRA magazine, MerseyAle, whilst here and was a little perturbed to read that Liverpool Brewing Company were currently not brewing. No additional information. Just that.

Another short walk then to the Globe in Cases St. Although I was a little underwhelmed by the choice, this is a pub with CAMRA history as it was where the local branch held its inaugural meeting 51 years ago.

Very typical of our two days was that the distance between pubs is not that great, providing you choose a sensible route. It was therefore only a short walk to the Head of Steam in Hanover St.

As we were unable to check into our hotel until after 3.0pm we had time to fit in another drink on the way, and this was to the Bridewell in Campbell Square. This is a former police jail, hence its name, and it still has the original cells, which are now seating areas. I'd say this is one of the must visits, both for the

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building and its atmosphere, and the selection of well-kept real ales. Indeed, we paid it a further visit on Thursday.

depart and visit Ye Hole in Ye Wall a few doors away (see photo left). This is reportedly the oldest hostelry in the city, and it does look the part.



From here we went on to another of my favourites, the Lion Tavern in Moorfields, where I've had many an interesting beer (and pork pies). A fascinating corner pub, with a nationally important historic pub interior that needs to be seen, it's named after a railway engine (that worked the Liverpool to Manchester line) rather than the big cat. Then another short walk, to the Vernon Arms in Dale

After checking in at the Travelodge on the Strand, we set off for the pubs on the western side of my map, starting with the Denbigh Castle in Hackins Hey, which had some interesting ales. I also drink cider and sometimes like to ring the changes, so I opted for the Lilleys (yes, I know CAMRA do not class their ciders as real cider) pina colada cider. Couldn't taste any apple, only coconut. Won't be making that mistake again (well, at least until next time!!). I was therefore glad to



St, where I had a very nice half of Ossett White Rat.

My final pub of the evening was the Ship & Mitre, further along Dale St (the photo on the previous page doesn't do it justice). This place is a bit of an institution and is another that I've spent many happy hours in. It's a 1930's art deco building, though the bar areas downstairs have been remodelled with a nautical theme. It has an extensive array of real ales (15 handpulls) and even greater selection of bottled beers from around the world. Although I'd had something to eat earlier, I still ordered a bowl of scouse to help wash down my

excellent Conwy Telford Porter. Now, I thought scouse is supposed to be made with lamb, but this turned out to be beef. Nothing wrong with that, but I was disappointed.

Anyway, I headed back for the hotel, leaving the rest to head off to Dr Duncans, with a few visiting further establishments later on (you know who you are).

For day 2 of our sojourn in Liverpool you'll need to wait for our September Edition.

Ray Cooke

Support your Independent Brewer and cask ale

At the recent CAMRA AGM and conference Ash-Corbett Collins, the Chairman, made an impassioned speech about how the four large foreign owned brewing companies are misleading the consumer while providing an illusion of choice, and restricting access to the market for independent brewers.

Seven years ago, CAMRA went through a revitalisation process at a time when it was felt that CAMRA had won the battle for cask ale and needed a new focus.

However, we are now in a similar situation to when CAMRA was formed. Back in the 1970s the Big Six brewing companies controlled 70% of the beer market which precipitated the formation of CAMRA to protect real ale and consumer choice. Now 69% of the beer market is controlled by four big foreign owned companies who have no affinity with British real ale.

Since its formation in 2022 CMBC - Carlsberg Marstons Brewing Company (now Carlsberg Britvic) have closed breweries (Jennings, Ringwood, Wychwood and Banks's) and removed beers from their cask portfolio (Banks's Mild, Banks's Sunbeam, Eagle IPA, Jennings Cumberland Ale, Marston's Old Empire, Marston's 61 Deep, Ringwood Boondoggle and Ringwood Old Thumper).

CMBC said the closure of the regional breweries was due to a fall in demand for cask beer – a fall not seen by independent producers who say the category was recovering well from Covid and lockdowns.

Cask ale sales now amount to only around 4% of the overall beer market in the UK and of the top selling beers in the UK only three independent breweries get a look in. Molson Coors Doom Bar is again number one, but independent Timothy Taylor's Landlord is number two. St Austell Tribute is at number seven, while Black Sheep Best Bitter is number 10.

Meanwhile the large brewing companies have been buying up independent breweries to give an impression of choice, or to shut down competition. For example, Beavertown is now owned by Heineken, and Camden by AB InBev but many consumers still think they are independent brewers.

In 2024 a YouGov study found 75% of consumers feel duped into believing their craft beer is from a local company when it is owned by a corporation.

To help inform drinkers SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers and Associates) has launched the Indie Beer Checker to make it simple for people to see whether

the beer they're buying is brewed by a genuine independent brewer. Go to www.indiebeer.uk and type in the brewery to check.



Hopefully you will see pubs that only sell beers from independent brewers get behind the campaign.

In addition, CAMRA is supporting a push by the Craft Beer Channel to have cask ale recognized by UNESCO as a part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage scheme. UK government has responded

positively to the petition, you can still help protect cask beer by signing at www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/716686

If you care about quality beer and choice, please join CAMRA to support the fight. Using the new website www.camra.org.uk/pubs you can also find out about pubs throughout the UK and help choose the best for the Good Beer Guide by scoring the beer quality as you find it.

David Cove



Great British Beer Festival 2025

Last year, unfortunately, there was no Great British Beer Festival (GBBF). I'm pleased to say that this year, the GBBF is back, and it's being held in our own backyard.

So why not join thousands of fellow beer lovers in August at the NEC Birmingham, where you can sample hundreds of unique ales, ciders, perries and craft beers from around the world. Also available will be a range of no & low

alcohol beers, wines, cocktails and soft drinks.

Enjoy live music and experience the festival's vibrant atmosphere in a way like never before!

Opening times: Tuesday 5 August 12:00 - 17:00 (Trade Session) Tuesday 5 August 17:00 - 22:30 (Public Session) Wednesday 6 August 12:00 - 22:30 Thursday 7 August 12:00 - 22:30 Friday

8 August 12:00 - 22:30 Saturday 9
August 12:00 - 19:00

Last admission will be 40 minutes before
closing and all bars will shut 30 minutes
before closing.

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2025



Ember Inns Pub of the Year 2024

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MONDAY – THURSDAY CASK Ales £1 OFF ALL DAY	Cocktails 2 FOR £13.50 SHOTS 4 FOR £14.50
THURSDAY – SUNDAY FROM 5.00PM WINE Club Bottles £13.49	FRIDAY – SATURDAY FROM 5.00PM FIZZ WEEKEND Bottles £15.00

Case Is Altered (Shrewley Arms), Five Ways



I never know when I start research into a local pub where it will take me. The Case Is Altered at Five Ways was no exception – it was known as the Shrewley Arms for the first 65

years of the 20th century, survived demolition in 1946 and remained a beer house until 1935 when it received a licence to sell wine and finally after the 2nd World War a spirits licence.

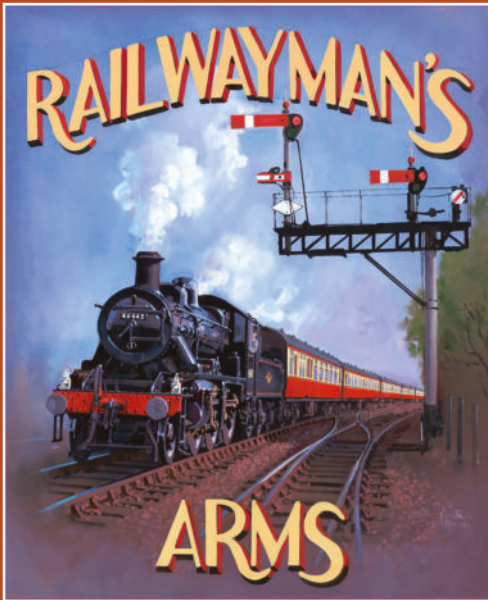
The earliest record of the Case Is Altered dates to 1870 when William Watts is stated to be the landlord in a newspaper advertisement. In 1874 the license was transferred to Mark Harvey and then in 1880 to Mark Mills, who continued as licensee until 1896. Mills was not only the licensee but the local baker. In 1896 the license was transferred to Mrs Harriet Barnacle. In a newspaper report of 21 May 1898, when two thieves on the run visited the pub it was referred to as the Shrewley Arms. It



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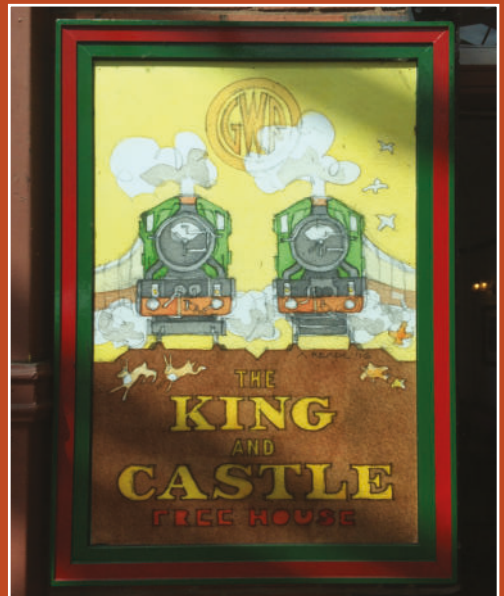
Hobsons Best Bitter,

Bewdley Brewery's Station Porter &

Worcestershire Way,

Batham's Best Bitter

plus one Traditional Cider



was during the tenure of Mrs Barnacle that the Case Is Altered became the Shrewley Arms.

At the dawn of the 20th century William Beale became the licensee of the Shrewley Arms until he died in 1941. During Beales tenure the Shrewley Arms is described as a Beer House and in 1935 he successfully applied to the Warwick General Annual Licensing Meeting to sell wine in addition to ale. This is the first occasion that the pub was granted a licence to sell intoxicating liquors other than ale. A previous application in 1882 by the licensee Mark Mills to extend the licence had been declined. Between the two world wars local Inquests were held at the Shrewley Arms.



From the late 19th century the pub was supplied by the Leamington brewery, Lucas (originally Lucas, Blackwell & Arkwright) until 1928 when it was purchased by Birmingham based brewery Ansells. The “Shrewley Arms and cottage adjoining” were listed as freehold properties owned by Lucas in an inventory at the time.

After William Beale’s death the licence was transferred to Robert Hutchinson in 1941. In 1946 Hutchinson applied for a spirits licence but during the hearing [Ansells](#) proposed to demolish the pub, as the site was “too small for reconstruction”, and proposed to build “a new Shrewley Arms” nearer to Five Ways. Planning permission was granted

for its demolition and construction of a larger pub.

However, there are many references of the Shrewley Arms in local newspaper reports from 1946 onwards mainly relating to fox hunts and domino leagues as well as auctions held at the pub. Consequently the pub clearly escaped demolition as Ansells had intended, probably due to a shortage of building materials after the war.

In September 1959 the licensee, Mrs Kathleen Harrison aged 27, was fined £4 with 2 guineas costs following after hours drinking spotted through a window by Inspector J. W. Spencer and two officers who just so happened to drive past in the early hours of Sunday, August 16th!

By 1962 the licensee of the Shrewley Arms was Mrs Mercedes Griffith, who had been a licensee at several local pubs for the previous 33 years. The pub remained an Ansells tied house until 1965 when Mrs Griffith purchased the Shrewley Arms and the pub reverted to the Case Is Altered. Catering was an important sideline for Mrs Griffith, as she rustled up meals for her customers and catered for a plethora of outside events. Mrs Griffith remained the licensee until her death in 1974 when the pub was bequeathed to Gwen Jones and Bill Saltmarsh.

Gwen Jones remained the licensee, assisted by her granddaughter and husband, Jackie and Charlie Willacy, from 1978. Jackie became the licensee in 1998. It remains to this day a classic English country inn unsullied by jukeboxes, piped music and where mobile phones are banned. The traditional bar billiards table still takes old sixpences, which can be bought from the bar. Memorabilia includes a Victorian print of a former Leamington brewer, Lucas, Blackwell & Arkwright, a clock with hours spelling out Thornley’s Ale, another local brewer, and a propeller from a World War I Sopwith Pup.

The pub hosts regular, well attended beer festivals (some of our branch are pictured below enjoying themselves at one) and is more than worth a visit.



I have not been able to find out when the name changed from simply Case to



Case Is Altered but on the evidence it was before 1870. It certainly was not as a result of the addition of a wine or spirits licence (as suggested in some online material) as these were not granted until the mid-20th century. I am inclined to agree with licensee Mrs Griffith, who suggested in 1965 that the owners had originally brewed their own beer and applied for a licence to sell it but they were refused as the premises were too small. This was probably before the 1830 Beerhouse Act that entitled householders to retail beer without a police licence just paying 2 guineas for an Excise Licence.

(Dr) Iain Wells
02 May 2025

The Case is Altered
Five Ways, Hatton, Nr Warwick CV35 7JD

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Thu – Sat 12-2pm & 6pm – 11 pm
Sunday 12pm - 7pm

Three Tuns – Pub of the Year 2025

It's that time of the year where we recognise the hard work put in by our pubs and clubs that serve consistently good quality real ale. We do so by presenting a Pub of the Year award for our overall branch winner, plus one for our Solihull area and one for the small part of Warwickshire we cover, and a Club of the Year for our overall area.

The competition to win these coveted titles, and to go on as our branch representative into the overall CAMRA county competitions, is always tight. I am pleased to announce our overall Pub of the Year winner 2025 (and our Warwickshire winner for the 4th year running) goes to Eliza Sedgwick and her team at the Three Tuns, Henley in Arden.

Pictured opposite is branch chair Martin Buck presenting the award to Eliza, landlady at this charming pub, which dates from the 16th century. This is a very well supported (certainly judging by the award night), proper 'old fashioned' friendly local with a great atmosphere and feeling to the place (which includes its own ghost, Alan - a former licensee). It's popular too with visitors. It has a nice range of real ales, including a dark beer (Gravediggers from Church End) and Bathams best bitter (and Bathams will only supply to pubs that serve real ale in consistently good condition).

A good, well-run pub is always a reflection of the person who runs it, and this is no exception. Eliza is a great host, and the place has a lovely family atmosphere to it. Indeed, Eliza is very



she recognises that they also bring great atmosphere to the pub, and she wanted to thank all for their support.

Congratulations to Eliza and her team.

Congratulations are also due to our Solihull Pub of the Year and our Club of the Year, the Pup and Duckling in Hatchford Brook Road, and the Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club in Station Road respectively. Both are previous winners so are clearly doing something right. Presentations are still to be made for these

clear that she regards her team as family and couldn't have won without their help and support, and though running a pub can be hard work her team makes it rewarding. So too, do her customers and

winners, and these should feature in an article in our September issue.

Spirits

Now, I'm a single malt man myself, though certainly not averse to a nice spot of Calvados or Slivovice. I think you get the picture.

But that's not the kind of spirit this article is about. No, I thought I'd have a look at some of the stories of pub ghosts we have on our patch. I'm sure I've only touched on a few of them and readers may well know of others, so if you'd like to contribute then please let me know about them at editor@solihull.camra.org.uk, and we may end up with a follow up article.

Fleur De Lys, Lowsonford

Originally a row of three 15th Century cottages and an adjacent barn (added around 1690). The barn acted as the village mortuary from 1877 until 1936.

The smell of lye soap, a substance used to prepare the bodies for burial at this time, can sometimes be smelled in the mortuary area, now the lower bar.

The present landlord's wife Gail has been asked "...who lights the candles during bright, hot summer days when it isn't necessary?" The answer may lie with the little girl (who they've named Abigail) who appears to haunt the upper back bedroom (above the old mortuary). She's been seen in the corner of the room, which is always cold, even on the hottest of days. One of the previous landlords had a daughter who became reluctant to leave her room from time to time. When asked "Why?" she replied that her friend in the corner would cry. The girl in question is about 8 or 9 years old from the 1800's and very frail

looking. She seems to have an aversion to women as she cowers when approached by adult females but not by children or men. Her thinness suggests lack of care. Perhaps she's the child reported to have fallen to her death down the staircase that used to rise where the passage between the two inglenook fireplaces is now.

Bull's Head, Earlswood

This place was built in 1740 for canal navvies constructing the Stratford upon Avon canal and evolved into a pub by 1832. It is rumoured to be haunted by the ghost of a 17th century lime kiln worker, whose name is unknown but is most visible during July & August.

Black Boy, Heronfield (Knowle)

There are two main suggestions for the pub being haunted. One is that many individuals have reported seeing or feeling the presence of a ghostly woman in the pub, perhaps the one who was allegedly murdered here.

And the other is reports of objects moving on their own, strange noises, and a general feeling of being watched. Is that the ghostly woman's doing or something separate? Who knows?

There are also reports of people seeing the ghost of a young man at the edge of the canal outside the pub, a canal worker who was crushed to death during its construction.

(Red) Lion, Shirley

This is a post-war shopping precinct pub, reputed to be haunted, though the suggestion is that it's a poltergeist, with some reports of local people witnessing objects falling off shelves. This appears mainly to stem from security camera footage of a vase apparently 'falling' from a shelf in 2021.

Three Tuns, Henley in Arden

Eliza, the licensee, told me that a former landlord, Alan, is a regular visitor, usually making his presence known when he disapproves of something or when change is happening.

Staff and visitors have felt him pass (usually a waft of cold or a feeling of being brushed past by something cold) and some have seen him. Eliza says he has tapped her on the shoulder, and he also interferes with the electrics, turning bar lights on and off.

Eliza has had a local medium in, who confirmed the name Alan but got no more than that. The medium also suggested there may be the ghost of a little girl where the ladies toilets now are.

White Swan, Henley in Arden

The White Swan Hotel (built around 1550) is on the site of an earlier Inn which dated from 1352. The Inn was used as the local Court from 1845 until 1903, with its courtyard utilised for public hangings. The ghost of a woman executed for murder is said to haunt here.

Perhaps of more interest is the pub's named ghost – Virginia Black. She is reputed to have been an 18-year-old 'lady of the night' who fell / was pushed down the stairs and died during a quarrel with a customer (described as a 'gentleman') in 1845. She was said to haunt the corridor outside bedroom 17.

If staying overnight might sound bad enough, there is one report of a couple who stayed in room 17, who experienced their quilt being tugged during the night. Each thought the other was to blame! When they woke, they looked to find shadows of about half a dozen people who quickly faded away. The man soon fell asleep, but his wife stayed awake and saw a grey lady - a young woman with a bulky body, which was a shapeless mass of dark grey. This spectre also faded away in seconds.

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, if you know of any other spectral presences in our pubs, do please let us know (editor@solihull.camra.org.uk).

Make mine a double please - cheers!

Ray Cooke

Solihull, Acocks Green & Shirley Lions Present

The Lions Beer & Cider Festival

Featuring 18 Real Ales & 10 Ciders

Ray's Open Mic Night playing both days

**Friday 12th September
& Saturday 13th September**

Open midday to late each day

Shirley British Legion

186, Stratford Rd, Shirley,
Solihull B90 3BQ



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

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webmaster@solihull.camra.org.uk

Pubs Campaigning / Cider & Perry

Paul Wigley 07402 312457

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Social co-ordinator

Steve Dyson
steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk

Young Members

Iain Wells
07810 827043

Trading Standards contacts:

For further consumer advice in our area please contact the following

Solihull – www.solihull.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Warwickshire – 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

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
Full (A5) page	£120.00	Not available
1 / 2 page	£90.00	£120 (landscape only)
1 / 3 page	£66.00	£90.00
1 / 4 page	£54.00	£72.00
1 / 6 page	£42.00	£56.00

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 Wetherspoon, Proper Pubs, and City Taverns. To get an up-to-date listing for pubs participating near you, enter your postcode at [https://camra.org.uk/membership/camra-discount-scheme?landing_style=discount_scheme&enefits\[0\]=MemberDiscountScheme&sort=nearest#pubs](https://camra.org.uk/membership/camra-discount-scheme?landing_style=discount_scheme&enefits[0]=MemberDiscountScheme&sort=nearest#pubs)

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



Crowdfunding the Drinker - Update

In the last issue we announced the introduction of a new initiative – a kind of ‘crowdfunding’ approach to help support the Drinker magazine. As we explained, the magazine needs to be self-funding; without businesses placing adverts (if you do want to advertise with us please see page 15 for details) there simply wouldn’t be a magazine, so many thanks to our advertisers, old and new.

To supplement that, and to allow businesses to support us without committing to advertising, we’re asking for contributions of a nominal £10 per quarter. I’m delighted that we have four businesses doing just that – **huge thanks to the Pup & Duckling, the**

Station (Henley-in-Arden), Tap & Tandoor and the White Lion.

As we explained in the previous issue, if you make this contribution for six issues, you’ll be entitled to a free ¼ page ad in the magazine – consider it micropayments towards your own ad.

Please do consider joining the scheme; the magazine is our main tool for campaigning for clubs, pubs and real ale, as well as informing people of local matters and events. If you’re interested, just get in touch.

Hail to the Ale

This is the section where we update you on news related to pubs, clubs, off licences or breweries 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.

Following voting for next year’s GBG entries and our pubs and clubs of the year, I am pleased to announce:-

The Three Tuns in Henley-in-Arden has won both Warwickshire Pub of the Year and our overall Pub of the Year (see article on page 11).

The Pup & Duckling is the branch West Midlands Pub of the Year.

And Knowle and Dorridge Cricket club has been announced as Solihull CAMRA’s branch club of the year

Congratulations to all 3 venues.

The Prince of Wales, Solihull Lodge has been demolished and is to be replaced by a care home.

Solihull Indoor Bowls Club now sells real ale (currently Speckled Hen). It is members only establishment, but non-members can pay £1 for temporary membership.

Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club now has 3 rotating guest ales including one from Church End.

The Bulls Head at Earlswood has recently been refurbished and improved.

The Drum & Monkey will be closed from 30th June to 28th July for a refurbishment.

The Bluebell Cider House is now operating under new management.

Paul Wigley
Pubs Officer

Join CAMRA today

Your support matters



Join with the direct debit form below, online at join.camra.org.uk or scan the QR code to get started.



Enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below for a £2 repeating annual discount and a re-occurring membership.

Alternatively you can join online at join.camra.org.uk or call **0330 153 9924**[†] (Weekdays 9am to 5pm).

Your details (*all fields compulsory)

Title* Surname*
Forename(s)*
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)*
Address*
.....
..... Postcode*
Email address*
Daytime Tel

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname
Forename(s)
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)
Email address

We will process your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found at camra.org.uk/privacy-policy.

We will only send you communications you have consented to, see above tick boxes, and service-based communications. To manage your full set of communication preferences, please visit your online member account at account.camra.org.uk.

Direct Debit Instruction

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW
Email: membership@camra.org.uk Telephone: 0330 153 9924[†]

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number

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Branch Sort Code

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Billing Address

Payments will show as CAMRA Membership on your bank statement.

I understand that CAMRA has partnered with Stripe, who collects Direct Debits on behalf of CAMRA and confirm that I am the account holder and the only person required to authorize debits from this account.

Signature _____

Join today

Single Membership (UK)

Under 26 Membership

Joint Membership

(At the same address)

Joint Under 26 Membership

Concessionary rates are available only for Under 26 Memberships

Direct Debit

£30.50

£22.00

£38.50

£30.00

Non DD

£32.50

£24.00

£40.50

£32.00

Please indicate whether you wish to receive our quarterly award winning magazine **BEER** by email OR post: Email Post

I wish to Opt-in to General Communications Branch Communications
We will ask for your consent in future communications and you can log-in to account.camra.org.uk and edit your membership preferences at any time.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association which can be found on our website.

Signed

Date Applications will be processed within 21 days



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Stripe will notify you 2 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Stripe to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Stripe or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Stripe asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us. Setup of Direct Debit Instruction with Stripe on behalf of CAMRA.



The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.
[†]Calls from landlines charged at standard national rates, cost may vary from mobile phones.

Please post this direct debit form to our main office address: 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

Membership Matters

CAMRA was founded in 1971 by four real ale enthusiasts, and since that time CAMRA membership has grown quite substantially. However recently the national membership has taken a bit of a downturn, and now stands at just over 144,000, down from 191,000 a couple of years ago.

The Solihull & District CAMRA branch membership has also suffered a similar fate and now stands at 552, down from a record high of 675 only a few years ago.

If you are reading this you may or may not be a real ale/cider fan. If you are then please consider joining CAMRA (or renewing your membership). Some of your membership subscription goes towards helping 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 drinking and pub going with beer festivals, good pub guide's, awards and by lobbying government for changes to beer, pubs & the brewing 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 local pub.

We have recently seen a few newcomers attending their first branch meeting/social and taking advantage of the free pint incentive 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 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, but 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 from pub crawls, brewery visits, and beer/curry nights. See our website www.solihull.camra.org.uk or the dates for your diary section on page 3 for a full list of upcoming branch events.

So why not join CAMRA and you can enjoy all the great benefits such as a monthly newsletter called "Whats 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 please see www.camra.org.uk for full details.

A year's membership will not break the bank at £30.50 per year, via direct debit (concessions for Under-26). This roughly equals to 58p per week, and with Father's Day on 15/06/25 a year's membership could be the ideal gift.

Why not take the plunge and join over 144,000 other like-minded people with a love of real ale/cider and good pubs and help the campaign thrive again.

And if you are already a member, then why not recruit a friend and persuade them to join.

Dave Mckowen
Membership Secretary

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The 106th edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published on Monday 1 September 2025. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contribution for this issue is **Friday 8th August**. Thank you in advance to all contributors.

THE THREE TUNS HENLEY IN ARDEN



CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2025

**Serving 5 real ales, including Batham's Best Bitter
Consistently good real ales**

in

16th century, family run pub

Solihull CAMRA branch overall Pub of the Year 2025

**Solihull CAMRA branch Warwickshire Pub of the Year
2022 - 2025**

Opening times:

Mon – Thurs: 3.30 – 10.00pm, Fri – Sat: 12.00 – 11.00pm

Sun: 12.00 - 10.00pm

**Come and visit Eliza
and her team at:
103 High Street
Henley in Arden
B95 5AT
01564 792723**



The three tuns



@thethreetunspub