

# Solihull



# Drinker

Issue No 106  
Autumn 2025

*Free*  
*Please take one*

## **Solihull CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Festival 2025**

We ran this year's festival at a new location for us, the Oliver Bird Hall on Church Hill Road in Solihull. It's a great venue, with a large hall that easily accommodated our real ales, key keg beers and cider, plus a small outside seating area that was quickly filled given the good weather. Paul Wigley's choice of real ales and ciders was, as usual, excellent. A number of visitors who'd also been to the Wolverhampton beer festival (held over the same weekend) commented that our range of breweries and ales was better. Indeed, feedback from our customers was very positive on everything.



Dr Neil Shastri-Hurst, MP for Solihull West & Shirley, visited to support us on Friday afternoon (pictured above), recognising the vital role independent brewers play in the local economy and cultural life. He is running a campaign in support of our local pubs, and you can support his campaign by visiting [www.drneilshastri-hurst.co.uk/campaigns/saveourlocalpubs](http://www.drneilshastri-hurst.co.uk/campaigns/saveourlocalpubs).

Every festival we choose a charity to raise money for, and this year the choice was easy. One of our colleagues Roy

Summers, passed away in June, having spent some time in the Solihull Marie Curie hospice. I'm pleased to say we managed to raise £332.90 for them. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

This was particularly satisfying as our attendance numbers for the festival were down on last time. We'd love to hear from you on why you think that might be, so we can plan better next time.

You can do so by contacting us at [chair@solihullcamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@solihullcamra.org.uk).



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## Dates for your diary

### Branch Meetings

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

Monday 6 October	Orange Tree, Chadwick End
Monday 3 November	Red Lion, Knowle
Thursday 4 December	Fieldhouse

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)

Wednesday 20 August	Vaults
Thursday 23 October	Station, Henley
Monday 15 December	Forest

### Socials

Sat 20 September	Stirchley trip
Fri 31 October	Bewdley & Kidderminster crawl
Sat 13 December (tbc)	Xmas crawl

For more details of socials please contact us at [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.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/)

### 3 - 7 September (Wed – Sat)

Derby Heritage beer festival  
Museum of Making  
Sowter Lane  
Derby DE1 3AF

### 4 - 6 September (Thurs - Sat)

Tamworth beer festival  
Assembly Rooms  
Corporation Street  
Tamworth B79 7DN

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Contributions, comments and advertising enquiries should be sent to

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



12 - 13 September (Fri – Sat)

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

24 - 27 September (Fri - Sun)

Shrewsbury beer festival  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Shrewsbury SY1 1DX

27 - 29 November (Thurs - Sat)

Dudley winter ales fayre  
Dudley Town Hall  
St Jame's Road  
Dudley DY1 1HP

12 - 13 September (Fri - Sat)

Moreton in Marsh beer & cider festival  
Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club  
Moreton in Marsh  
Gloucestershire  
GL56 9QA

15 - 18 October (Wed - Sat)

Potteries beer & cider festival  
Kings Hall  
Stoke  
ST14 1JH

## The Municipal Club – a retraction and apology

In the Hail to the Ale section of our last edition of the Drinker we had been led to believe that Solihull Council were reported to be selling the clubhouse and car park for redevelopment.

The Municipal Club has since contacted us to say that this is not true. We have already amended the online version of our last Drinker but wish here to publicly correct the mistake and to apologise for the erroneous report.

## Liverpool (pubs, real ale and heritage) Day 2

This follows on from the article in our last edition (Issue 105, available on our website [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk))

Up bright and (relatively) early Thursday morning and down for a nice, cooked breakfast. The weather had been glorious on Wednesday and looked just as good again, so I had a wander around Albert Dock and over to Pier Head. The history of the docks in Liverpool is fascinating and my walk only gave a brief flavour of that.



We were going to visit the Eastern side of the city centre today, and reports from some of the others suggested we needed to include a couple of pubs not on my list, so we decided to start with one of those, the Monroe in Duke St (see photo above right). This only reopened in August 2024, which explained why it

wasn't in GBG 2025. That said, if it doesn't make it into the next GBG there's no justice in the world.

It's set over three floors of an historic Grade II Georgian, former merchants house, built in 1746, though the décor is very much shabby chic with bits of

missing ceiling etc. A great selection of 14 real ales, and I started with Black Lodge Tick Followed Tock, an excellent black beer and one which I had at other pubs subsequently as it was so nice.

From here it was a very short walk to the Red Lion in Slater St, which was still just a terraced house until converted in 2022. There was a good selection of Black Lodge beers here and I opted for a half of Shake Hand Make Friend which was a peach flavoured beer. It was in good

condition, though certainly not to everyone's taste. I also had another half of Tick Followed Tock. Another short walk then to the fabulous structure that is St Peter's Tavern (another not in GBG 2025 but recommended by colleagues and which might gain a place in GBG 2026). Formally St Peter's Church and then Alma de Cuba night club, it was refurbished and renovated as St Peter's Tavern and opened in November 2024. This is a must visit for the architecture (see photo below left), and the beer's not bad either.



We had to undertake a little bit of a walk to reach our next destination, the Roscoe Head in Roscoe St. This is one of the 'famous five' pubs that has been in every edition of the GBG and it's easy to understand why. It's cosy and friendly, serves excellent ales and I had a superb pork and black pudding pork pie, washed down with a just as good Abbeydale Sheffield Stout. Another must visit while in Liverpool. Then a short walk uphill to the Philharmonic Dining

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Rooms in Hope St, a Nicholson's pub that serves a good range of ales (though it's not in GBG). It's probably one of the most magnificent pubs in the country and is Grade I listed. It used to be a gentleman's club and is subdivided into a series of ornate and fascinating rooms. It's another that is on my must visit whilst in Liverpool list. The marble gent's urinals and cisterns are likely the most photographed pub toilets in the UK!

Across the road is the Queen of Hope St, which wasn't on my list but on looking through the window appeared to have a decent choice of ales, so we popped in. Ossett White Rat for me, before wandering down Hope St to the White Hart which reopened in January 2024. The rear bar has a separate entrance signed 'The Engineer' but it's the same building and has common parts. Upstairs there are various cubby holes and seating areas to choose from. This wasn't on my list and was a definite turn up for the books.

Within spitting distance in Hope St is the Pen Factory which you go into down stairs, to a bistro type space with large tables and a pleasant walled garden. It's been in previous editions of the GBG, though not in 2025. To me this is more of an eating venue than drinking and I was a little underwhelmed.

Off then toward the other end of Hope St. Yes, there are plenty of good pubs in this area and it's a popular area for students (poor souls!). Our next venue was Ye Cracke in Rice St, another pub not in GBG but with an historic interior. The selection of ales wasn't great, though we might just have called in at a bad time! So, we didn't stay long, decamping to the nearby Belvedere (small but welcoming) in a Grade II building in Sugnall St. This is a two roomed pub with a tiny bar area but has a good choice of beers and I opted for a half of Salopian Torque.

Another short walk then to the Grapes in Roscoe St (one of Steve Dyson's recommendations) with 9 handpumps

and heaving with people, but we were able to find a table upstairs on a somewhat sheltered roof patio area. It used to be known as the Little Grapes, but the pub was extended in 2016 and the name changed.

We had a choice at this stage, to walk back in the general direction of the hotel or head in the opposite direction and take in Peter Kavanagh's in Egerton St (another Grade II listed building, with a fascinating historic interior). The consensus was to head toward the hotel, and one of the reasons was that we wanted to revisit the Monro and the Bridewell.

Earlier in the day the Monro was essentially empty. By this time of the evening, it was very full, but with those 14 handpumps a few people weren't going to put us off another drink here. And to top it off, I had the bonus of a



it had been going through a patchy time, but since then this Grade II listed pub has opened its upstairs and installed an extensive seating area outside at the back.

When you look this pub up on the CAMRA website it suggests that the existence of tunnels in the cellar has led to speculation that the pub's history may involve smuggling and press gangs (it is close to the older dock area after all). The latter partly because it originally had multiple doors to allow customers to escape when press gangs entered. As press gangs ended in 1815, it really comes down to how old the pub is as to whether that story is believable or not. Some web sites suggest the pub dates from the mid 1800s, which would rule out press gangs, though a further website suggests the oldest parts date from the 1780's, so perhaps the jury is out on this.



pork and black pudding sausage roll – very nice indeed. Then off to the Bridewell (see photo above), which was just as good as the day before. We sat in one of the cells this time, and you can close and bolt the doors from the outside.....!

Anyway, a final half of Trappers Hat here and then a walk along the main road back to the hotel. An absolutely great couple of days in a city I love to visit for its character, its fantastic pubs and great real ales. I know I'll definitely be visiting again.

My final pub of the day was then a short walk away, to the Baltic Fleet in Wapping (see photo above right). I've been visiting Liverpool on and off for around 30 years now and this is one pub where I can see the changes. When I first visited

Ray Cooke

# A trip to Poznan and Wroclaw, Poland

Four Solihull CAMRA members pick a country to visit every year, usually in Eastern Europe, hence our choice of Poland. First, logistics. Wroclaw has more pubs but there are no direct flights from Birmingham. However, they do fly to Poznan, so we decided to visit both cities. It is a 1½ hour train journey from Poznan to Wroclaw, but at about £20 first class return, it's really good value.

We usually use the website Rate Beer to give us initial ideas as to which pubs to visit. Unfortunately, this site has been



closed down, so research is

now a little more difficult. In Poznan we went to Piwna Stopa (see photo of interior on left), a cracking pub with up to 16 taps; Ministerstwo Browaru;

Dom Piwa (photo below); Lot Chmiela; Wsciekly Chmiel (photo above right



shows us enjoying a drink outside), Na Piwek Pub and Amore Del Tropicico. This last one was not easy to find. We were standing right outside it and yes, it is that uninviting metal door in front of you. Not many taps here but a

good selection of bottles and very helpful



staff. The pub we most enjoyed was Piwna Stopa.

However, each of the pubs have their own qualities. Others we did not visit or were uncertain as to if they were open were Jabeerwocky Craft Beer

Pub; Van Goch Pub; Wapiarnia and the brewery tap of Ulan Brower.

Poznan is a lovely city and very clean. As a tourist it is well worth wondering around the cathedral and the town square.

Like Poznan, Wroclaw is also a beautiful city with a picturesque riverside area and an impressive cathedral and town square, where the town hall is likewise worth seeing.

The train station was about a 20 minute walk from the centre, but before heading



there, I recommend a walk from the station along Wojciecha Boguslawskiego where 5 of our pubs were in the railway arches; Lamus, U Augusta (photo below), Pub 12 Krok, FAM

# CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2025



Ember Inns Pub of the Year 2024

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(photo above) and Soul Train Klubokawiarnia. It is the type of area where new bars could pop up at any time. So do head for there... great vibes too.

All the other pubs we visited were fairly close in to the city centre and the main square and were within easy walking distance. In no particular order, these were: Szynkarnia; Kontynuacja; Bisto Stu Mostow; Targowa Craft Beer and Food, which is in the market Hall; Pinta; Graciarnia; Marynka (these last two are back to back with each other and can effectively be regarded as one

premises); AleBrowar; Pod Latarniami; Doctors' Bar; Browar Zloty Pies; Spiz; Sw Jan Pub Regionalny (the last 3 being on the town hall square). Yes, we visited quite a few!

What of the beer styles? Lagers, every type of IPA with a strong American showing, porters, stouts, wheat beers, weird fruit beers, indeed a plethora of styles.

To get around both cities the most detailed maps we acquired were the ExpressMap's of Poznan and Wroclaw. Available from Stanfords, London for £9.99 and £10.99. Google maps also proved to be very useful.

The CAMRA "Beer Breaks" guide also has a section on Wroclaw. Available from CAMRA HQ.

The Solihull CAMRA website has the full lists we devised from the Rate Beer website and our own research.

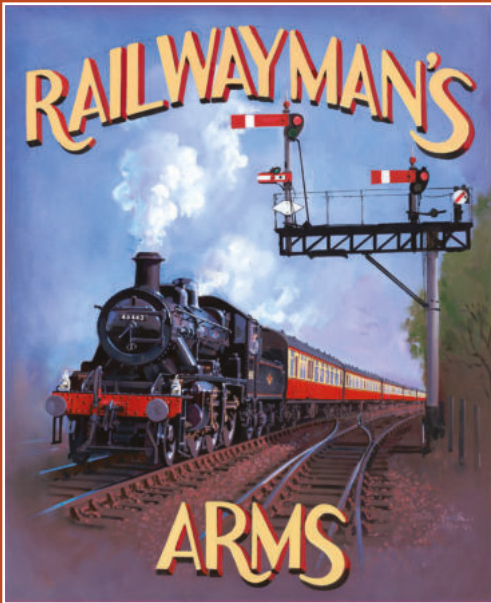
Steve Dyson



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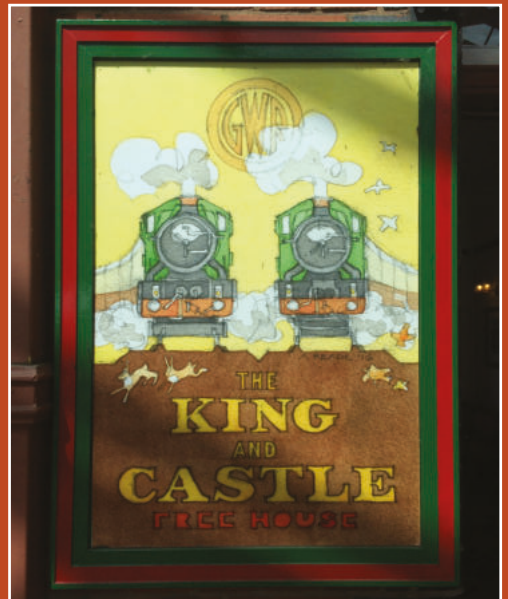
Hobsons Best Bitter,

Bewdley Brewery's Station Porter &

Worcestershire Way,

Batham's Best Bitter

plus one Traditional Cider



## Drum & Monkey (White Lion), Bentley Heath

The White Lion on the Henley Road (now Four Ashes Road) was originally a farmhouse with 12 acres of farmland. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the farmer diversified into brickmaking then beer retailing, although beer had been supplied to navvies (building the Great Western Railway through Dorridge) in the early 1850s. The first record of the building as a Public House was in the census of 1861, when John Lees was listed as the landlord of the White Lion; he died the following year at the age of 46.

In 1891, when an inquest was held at the White Lion Hotel into the death of a waggoner by the name of Charles Fatrell, the landlord was named as Walter Thomas Buckley. He is recorded in the 1891 census aged 27, along with his family, as the Licensed Victualler. In editions of the Stratford upon Avon Herald in 1916 and 1921, Mrs Evans of the White Lion advertised for general bar staff. The White Lion was described as a 'Well-known Public House' in an advertisement of 1918 in the Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser and to be

sold at auction, 'with paddock of old turf let on Lease to Mr Richard W Evans', who was the licensee. A court case involving Richard Evans, described as 'licensed victualler of the White Lion Inn', was heard at Leicester County Court in 1920 when he was attempting to recover £50 for negligence in selling his home.

In the Birmingham Daily Gazette for 14 September 1929 the White Lion Inn is advertised for sale by auction at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. It was described as a 'fully licensed property' comprising paddock and garden of about 4 acres with possession upon completion, suggesting that it might have been unoccupied at this time, unsurprising as this was the beginning of the Great Depression. By 1931 William Griffin was the landlord.

An article entitled 'More Inn Signs for the Collection' that appeared in the 10 January 1958 edition of the Coventry Evening Telegraph, delved into the unusual names of local pubs.



Apparently after the shield incorporating a white lion above the entrance became dilapidated it resembled a monkey with a drum, and this became the White Lion's nickname (so much for suggestions it might have been named after 'powder monkeys' during the building of the railway). Around 1935 the nickname became the official name of the pub. The shield can just be discerned in the postcard that accompanies this article.

During the 1970s and 80s the Drum & Monkey was a Davenport's pub with Matt Talbot as the licensee, but it is now part of the Chef & Brewer chain.

A sign on the tree outside the pub on the accompanying (undated) coloured postcard (see bottom of page 11) proclaims the pub to be the White Lion. However, a sign below on the white wall displays Drum & Monkey. Also of note are the bicycles propped up outside the pub and opposite on the verge: cycling to the countryside was a popular pastime from the late Victorian era onwards. Mind you, the lane is a lot, lot quieter looking than the current Four Ashes Road!

(Dr) Iain Wells

## Awards for Pup & Duckling and Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club



In our last edition we highlighted our overall branch 2025 Pub of the Year, the Three Tuns in Henley in Arden. Our branch covers the majority of the Solihull area, plus a small part of Warwickshire and the overall winner is selected from that. As well as the overall winner, we have winners for the Solihull part of our patch and for the Warwickshire part. For

the latter, our winner was obviously the Three Tuns.

Our 2025 Pub of the Year winner for the Solihull part was the Pup & Duckling in Hatchford Brook Road and this award was presented to Jeff and Sue by our branch chair, Martin Buck, in July (see photo above). Martin congratulated them

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Solihull CAMRA Pub  
of the Year 2017, 2020,  
2023 and 2024

West Midlands County  
CAMRA Pub of the  
Year 2024

on their consistency, having won a number of previous awards, and Jeff was very clear that the recognition wasn't just about Sue and himself, saying "It's great to share the award with

their team as, without them it just wouldn't work". He emphasised that they like to support independent breweries and that so far this year they'd had 222 different real ales on.



We also presented our award for Club of the Year 2025, and that went again to the Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club, in Station Road, Dorridge. Pictured below left is branch vice chair, Ray Cooke, making the award to the club's bar manager Dan Cornes. Again, it's a team effort that makes this place tick, with the rest of the bar staff ensuring you get a great welcome and a good choice of well-kept real ale. Dan is ably supported in choosing what real ales to have on by one of our own, Jon Knibb.

Well done one and all.

## Roy Summers

Sadly, we lost one of our branch colleagues, Roy Summers, to cancer recently. Roy was a lovely chap, with a particularly individual sense of humour (I know as I've been on the receiving end of it), and a truly shocking sense of direction!

Many of us will have experienced both, but I think it's that sense of direction that frequently caused us most amusement. It was often the case that we had to mount some form of search party on our beery days out, to find where he'd got to. I'm definitely not committing to print as to



some of the reasons why he was missing.....

Roy and his partner Rosie were well supported by Marie Curie, with Roy spending some time in their Solihull Hospice. They also facilitated his

return home to allow him to pass peacefully there.

At his funeral Rosie had nominated Marie Curie as the charity she wished to support in his memory. We wanted to

carry that forward, so Marie Curie was our nominated charity at this year's beer and cider festival. I'm pleased to say that despite reduced attendance this year, we still managed to raise £332.90 for this very worthwhile charity.

## Champion Beer of Britain 2025

At the recent Great British Beer Festival (held at the NEC) the following winners were announced:

### Champion Beer of Britain:

Gold – Mild, Penzance brewery  
Silver – Snowflake, Sarah Hughes  
Bronze – Fallen Angel, Church End

Individual category winners were:

Champion Bottled Beer – Proper Job, St Austell

Mild – Mild, Penzance

Session bitter – Butcombe Original, Butcombe

Premium bitter – Wildcat, Cairngorm

IPA – Oregon Trail, Elusive

Session pale/blond/golden ale – Sonoma, Track

Premium pale/blond/golden ale – Fallen Angel, Church End

Brown, red & old ales, and strong milds – Caliburn, Tintagel

Session stouts & porters – Black Gold, Cairngorm

Strong stouts & porters - Slate, Grain

Speciality or differently flavoured – Broken Dream Breakfast Stout, Siren

Speciality or differently produced – Adder Lager, Allendale

Barley wines & strong old ales – Snowflake, Sarah Hughes

Congratulations to all the winning breweries

## Useful Contact Numbers

<b>Chair</b> Martin Buck.	01564 770708	<b>Pubs Campaigning / Cider &amp; Perry</b> Paul Wigley	07402 312457
<b>Secretary</b> Allan Duffy	01564 200431	<b>Treasurer</b> Brenda Duffy	01564 200431
<b>Membership</b> Dave Mckowen	01564 778955	<b>Solihull Drinker Editor</b> Ray Cooke	01564 777890
<b>Social media</b> Martin Robins	07771 842046	<b>Social co-ordinator</b> Steve Dyson <a href="mailto:steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk">steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk</a>	
<b>Website</b> Keith Whitehouse <a href="mailto:webmaster@solihull.camra.org.uk">webmaster@solihull.camra.org.uk</a>		<b>Young Members</b> 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
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 our January 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](mailto:pubs@solihull.camra.org.uk).

The Flying Elephant (pka the Red House) in Hermitage Road, as a brand has left the pub. The pub has closed and its future remains uncertain.

The Drum & Monkey reopened recently, following extensive refurbishment (including the roof). There were only 2 beers on at the time of writing (Greene King IPA & St Austell Tribute). It’s understood there is a new manager as Rob was moving to the Bear at Berkswell (good luck Rob).

The Navigation in Lapworth has closed, after administrators were appointed for Oakman Inns. This is an excellently located, canalside pub and really ought to have been doing well, so let’s hope someone takes it on soon and makes a real go of it. Oakman also owned the Beech House in Solihull, though that is

believed to have been bought by Urban Inns and will continue trading.

The Station at Henley in Arden has unfortunately had to reduce its opening hours, which is a shame as it’s a lovely, converted railway building, very friendly and serves interesting and well-kept real ales.

Also in Henley in Arden, we welcome the Henley Mile Brewery Tap. It is due to open 22 August and is located in that part of the White Swan (in the High Street) on the other side of the alley. They are due to stock two of their own beers, two from other breweries within 20 miles, and one rotating beer from the Champion Beer of Britain medallists (see page 15 for likely candidates), plus two local craft beers on keg. We wish them well.

The Bulls Head in Barston is under new management.

The Blossomfield Club now has rotating ales and is open to CAMRA members. It may hold a beer festival later in the year.

Paul Wigley - Pubs Officer

Pubs, Pints, People.



# Death or Glory?

**Just a pint please, actually.**

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get **£30** of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, save on entry to 160+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.



Join and save on beer.  
[camra.org.uk/join](https://camra.org.uk/join)



## Membership Matters

The Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) at the NEC has just been and gone, with over 500 beers on offer in various different styles. And our own beer festival, recently held at the Oliver Bird Hall in Solihull, had over 40 real ales, as well as craft beers and ciders.

I couldn't help but reflect whilst looking at the festival programmes how far the choice of real ales available has changed since my early drinking days, when my local pubs could only offer me Flowers Original/Courage Directors.

Whilst working as a volunteer at the Solihull Beer Festival I had a conversation with some fellow drinkers who thought that maybe CAMRA had run its course with the number of beers on offer. But, as I pointed out to them, though some might see it like that, it's far from the case. CAMRA, with the help of the money it gets from the membership, has helped save over 1800 pubs, secured cuts in beer duty and pressured government to establish a Pubs Code.

CAMRA as an organisation is the beer drinkers' friend, and with a membership of around 140,000 (including over 560 members in the Solihull & District branch alone), we are one of the largest consumer groups ever.

People from all walks of life join CAMRA, brought together by a love of real ale/cider, the traditions of the great British pub, and a desire to protect them.

CAMRA membership starts from as little as £34 per year (direct debit), which works out at about 65p per week. You will become part of the large CAMRA

community and, as of 01/01/26, you as a CAMRA member will get free entry to all CAMRA run beer festivals.

There are many other exclusive member benefits too, go to the CAMRA website [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) for full details.

Our branch meetings are usually held on the first Monday of every month at a local pub where a certain amount of branch business takes place (see page 3 Dates for your diary section for forthcoming ones), but we do try to make them as friendly as possible, and we always make sure we enjoy a pint of real ale at the same time.

If you don't fancy coming to a meeting, then why not try one of our social events (again see page 3 for forthcoming socials). These are less formal and allow people to get to know each other easier.

And as a bonus all new members will get within their branch welcome pack a voucher for a FREE PINT which is redeemable in conjunction with a valid membership card upon attendance at their first Branch meeting, courtesy of Solihull & District CAMRA Branch.

So come on, what are you waiting for Join up, Join in, Join the Campaign. [www.camra.org.uk/joinup](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinup)

Dave Mckowen  
Membership Secretary

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The 107<sup>th</sup> edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published on Monday 1 December 2025. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contribution for this issue is **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**. 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**

**16<sup>th</sup> 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**