



Solihull drinker

free

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT
BRANCH OF CAMRA, THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Issue No: 34

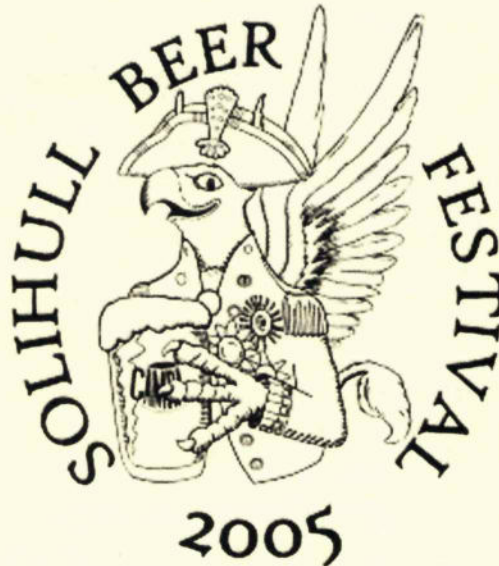
website: www.solihullcamra.org

Autumn, 2005

Solihull's Seventh Beer Festival...

Solihull CAMRA's 7th Beer Festival takes place over the weekend Friday 30th September and Saturday 1st October at its usual venue at the British Legion, Union Road, Solihull.

30 plus beers, including brews from Salamander, Woodforde and Durham with local beers from Toll End, St. Georges and a festival special from Weatheroak are on order. Cider and Perry will also be available. Live entertainment on Saturday night will feature traditional Irish folk band De Kelten.



Friday night will be given over to drinking with no music. Food will be available at every session. There is limited space at the Legion so arrive early to ensure getting in. Julia Hammonds, Festival Organiser also adds the reminder that CAMRA members can get in at a reduced rate so bring along your membership cards. Opening times are Friday 5.30-11 and Saturday 12-4 and 6-11. Visit the branch website for uptodate information.

Old Solihull Pub Names (Part Three)

HILLFIELD HALL Hillfield, Solihull

The Borough's oldest Tudor hall (built in 1574), it became a restaurant in 1974. The old stables became a pub (called unsurprisingly The STABLES) until 1999, when it was converted to kitchens, and the main hall became a restaurant/pub. It was closed in 2002 for conversion to flats.



Historic Hillfield Hall, now converted to luxury apartments

HOCKLEY HOUSE Hockley Heath

This was a large Georgian coaching inn on the Stratford Road.

HOOTERS Solihull

Opened in 1993 as a short-lived pub called OLIVERS REAL ALE BAR on Station Road until being renamed HOOTERS in 1994. It became a restaurant in 1995.

JACK BARROWS BAR & GRILL Solihull

A former shop which became a bar in 1996. Became the PITCHER & PIANO in 1999, it has been the METRO BAR & GRILL since 2004.

KING'S ARMS Heronfield

Originally the BLUE BOAR, it was renamed the KING'S ARMS, then officially called the CAT IN THE WINDOW in 1959, although this had been its nickname for some time. Later renamed the BRIDGEWATER HOTEL, and then the HERONS NEST in 1998. Observant road users will know that the bridge over the canal is still called the King's Arms Bridge.

LIMERICK CASTLE Solihull

Former name of the BARLEY MOW

LION Claverdon

Now called the RED LION.

LION ROCK Chadwick End

Once the TOM O' BEDLAM, it became an Ansells training centre before opening as a bar called CUDDLES in 1985. After a short spell as GREGORY'S RESTAURANT & BAR, it became the LION ROCK before being demolished for housing in the 1990's.

Steve Wood

Greene King marches on....

Following the acquisition of Ridley's, Greene King has been on the takeover march again having snapped up the Scottish brewer Belhaven. Is there nothing that will stop the spread of this brewers insipid beers. One can only surmise their popularity is due to their cheapness and thus are a good deal for Pub Co's and money making free house publicans who put the profit motive above that of providing their customers with quality beers.

Local County CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards, 2005

West Midlands

- 1st Church End Brewery Tap, Ridge Lane
- 2nd Lloyds, Nuneaton
- 3rd Old Fourpenny Shop, Warwick

Warwickshire

- 1st Jolly Crispin, Upper Gornal
- 2nd Barton Arms, Aston
- 3rd Hawne Tavern, Halesowen

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale



Join CAMRA Today...

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) or for Three Months Free membership (for those renewing or joining by Direct Debit) complete the Direct Debit Form. All forms should be addressed to membership secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4JW. Alternatively you can join online at www.camra.org.uk. Rates for single membership are £18 and joint £21. Concession rates are available on request.

.....
 Title Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

.....
 Partner Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

.....
 Address Postcode

.....
 Tel. no.(s)

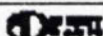
I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for..... Signed..... Date.....

Applications will be processed within 21 days



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4JW
 Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Account Name
 Account Number

Name (if different holder(s))

Bank or Building Society account number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

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FOR CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY
 This Direct Debit is authorised on your Bank or Building Society
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I authorise my Bank or Building Society to pay CAMRA Direct Debit from the account stated on the information provided on the request form submitted by the British Order Customers Unit (BUC) and I will be notified should it vary in any way from the information provided.

Signature
 Date

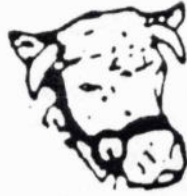
Bank and Building Societies may now accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts



This Guarantee should be described and retained for the paper

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- The Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and reliability of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid of the payment does change, CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited of all such changes.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your Bank or Building Society.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



THE BULL'S HEAD

Barston Lane, Barston

TEL: 01675 442830



VISIT OUR 15th CENTURY VILLAGE INN
WITH A SELECTION OF REAL ALES AND
REGULAR GUEST BEERS

Listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004

Solihull CAMRA Pub of the Year 2000 and 2002

HOME COOKED MEALS ARE AVAILABLE
LUNCHTIMES AND EVENINGS MONDAY TO SATURDAY
IN THE PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS OF THE PUB,
OR IN OUR SEPARATE NON SMOKING RESTAURANT
(Sundays 12 to 3pm only, no evening meals)
TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WELCOME

COOL EVENINGS BECKON WINTER. BANISH IT AROUND OUR ROARING
LOG FIRES IN OUR COMFORTABLE BAR AND LOUNGE , SUPPING OUR
GOOD BEER!

A Worcestershire Wander...

Six pubs within fifteen miles of one another with over 30 different beers, including two breweries... what more could a drinker ask for. Indeed this June saw the Solihull Branch enjoy such an excursion to the Worcestershire countryside to the north of Malvern.



Our first port of call. The Fruitiers Arms at Uphampton

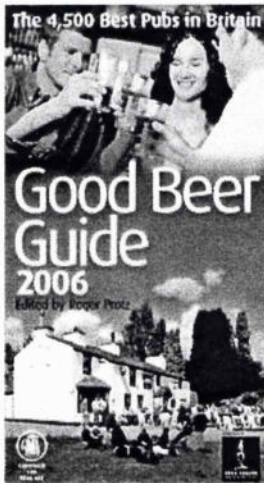
The Fruiterers Arms at Uphampton, our first stop off is the home of Canon Royale Brewery where, in hot sunshine we sat outside this gem of a pub and imbibed excellent Mild, Arrowhead and Muzzle Loader. We missed out the John Smith's and the Saddlers Bitter. Then onto the Bell at Pensax a past West Midlands Pub of the Year where five beers and three ciders awaited us in another gem of a pub. Holden's, Slaters, Hook Norton and Timothy Taylor's were enjoyed here. I don't think anyone tried the Herefordshire Scrumpy Cider or the two offerings from Weston's. Moving on to the the Fox at Monkwood Green we supped more Canon Royale including Ricochet in the idyllic unspoilt pub overlooking the a large green with magnificent views of the Malvern Hills. For cider lovers Barker's was on tap. No time to tarry we set off for the more upmarket Admiral Rodney at Berrow Green where a short but sweet visit saw us sample some Wickwar Sunny Daze, Archer's Spring Blonde as well as Wadworth and Wye Valley beers. Keeping to our

timetable we arrived at the Talbot in Knightwick just in time to fill our glasses with Teme Valley's This, That or T'Other before a tour of Teme Valley Brewery. Chris gave us an excellent talk on brewing and the history of the brewery. After sampling more of their delights in the pub we made tracks toward Malvern Link and the Nags Head where we were greeted by some dozen handpumps with Shepherd Neame Goldings, Exmoor Gold, Sadlers's Worcestershire Sourcerer to name but a few. The beers were accompanied by an excellent menu to whet any appetite, if a little expensive. To round off the night we headed off home via the Coach and Horses at Weatheroak Hill. With about ten beers this was an excellent end to the day. The beer list here? At this stage of the day.... who cared! However it wound up a perfect day



Solihull Branch members at Teme Valley Brewery

Steve Dyson



"The Good Beer Guide 2006... the perfect book when you're Out" says Andrew Flintoff - England Cricket All-Rounder

The Good Beer Guide details 4,500 of Britain's best pubs. These pubs are regularly surveyed by the CAMRA members who visit them and you can therefore rely on this being the most up to date and well vetted of all pub guides. There are no fees charged for selection of pubs, just honest opinion from the people who know... your fellow beer drinkers! Find out the best pubs to visit in towns, cities, and the countryside throughout the UK. For each of the 4,500 pub entries you will find full details of beer food, entertainment, family facilities, history, and architecture.

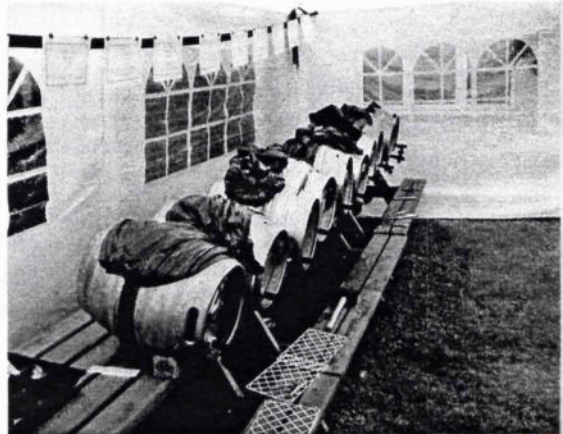
The guide contains an expanded Breweries Section which lists every brewery that produces cask beer. The majority of beers have tasting notes provided by trained CAMRA tasting panels. Keep up to date on the brewing scene, and find out who is in, and who is out this year.

Price: £14.99, but if you are a member contact the Solihull Branch contact for your copy at a discount.

A Summer of Beer Festivals...

The Drum and Monkey at Bentley Heath ventured out over the May Bank holiday with their first beer festival. Tying in nicely with the Cock Horse's annual festival, local CAMRA members visited both on the Sunday.

Our first port of call was the Cock Horse at Rowington where congratulations are in order to David and Wendy for hosting a very successful beer festival and fund raiser for the local St. Lawrence Church. St Lawrence is typical of many churches in rural communities and has been affected by dwindling numbers and is in need of funds to stay open. The Cock Horse being at the heart of the community, David and Wendy stepped in to help - a



The Drum and Monkey.... A fine row of barrels full of the amber nectar!



A carnival atmosphere at the Cock Horse



Another fine row of barrels

classic case of the pub is the hub. Teaming up with the Friends of Rowington and vicar Keith Mobberley, the Cock Horse hosted five bands, a tombola, raffles, barbecues, pig roasts and fifteen real ales. The beer list included Arundel Bullseye; Robinson's Old Stockport; Lees Googly; Bateman's Mrs Saucy; Hampshire Thunderstorm and the ever popular Deuchars IPA.

The new Bishop of Warwick 'arranged' good weather and attended on the Sunday. A grand total of £3,607 was raised over the two days. David and Wendy asked if we could pass on through the Drinker their thanks to all who came along to make the event so

successful and thoroughly enjoyable.

Reluctantly we left the Cock Horse to go onto the Drum and Monkey, where members of Solihull CAMRA had an excellent end to their day downing ten beers of which O'Hanlon's Firefly; Broughton Exclaimer and Nethergate Painted Lady were particularly enjoyable.

Not held at the same time but very welcome during this summer was the Vaults Knowle mini beer festival in July, which was anything but mini! Like the Cock Horse these festivals are a regular occurrence at the Vaults where Nick Worrall licensee squeezes some twenty beers over the week into this small but popular pub off Knowle High Street. Beers sampled were Kelham Island Golden Eagle; Black Dog Schooner; Phoenix Tennis Elbow Hambleton Stud; Tring Fanny Ebbs Summer Ale among many others.

All in all.... A most pleasant series of summer sessions on our own patch, long may they continue!

Vaults is Solihull CAMRA's Pub of the Year for 3rd year in succession...

Solihull Campaign for Real Ale members have voted The Vaults as their pub of the year 2005. This is the third year in a row that the pub has won the members vote, beating off stiff competition from seven other nominated hostelrys in the area.

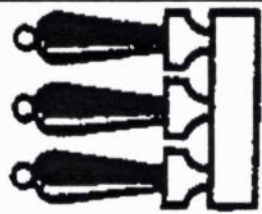
The Vaults has built up an enviable reputation amongst discerning drinkers who appreciate the choice of real ales on offer, including guest beers from many smaller independent breweries not usually available locally. The atmosphere in the pub is welcoming, and the staff are always friendly and helpful. Licensee Nick Worrall appreciates the recognition and said that his team would not be 'resting of their laurels'. Frequent beer festivals are held at the Vaults usually around Bank Holiday time when an astounding range of beers are on tap.

Local CAMRA survey all pubs in the district once a year to keep a watchful eye

on the quality and range of the beers available, along with many other considerations that go to make a good pub from which the branch produced a local pub guide in 2003 which quickly sold out. A small number of these pubs are nominated for inclusion in the National beer guide, which is available in most good book shops and direct from www.camra.org.uk



Nick from the Vaults receives the award from Solihull CAMRA Branch Chairman Ray Cooke



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***AN EVER CHANGING SCENE
OF EXCITING DRAUGHT
BEERS THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR**

*** 200 DIFFERENT BEERS
DURING A YEAR**

*** CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE
LISTED
CONTINUOUSLY
SINCE 1983**



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Come and browse our extensive choice of wines, beers and spirits

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Competitive prices ~ many special offers * Glass Hire

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Functions catered for * Sale or return for parties

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Opening Hours

Mon-Thurs 11.30 - 2.00 + 5.00 - 9.00; Fri 11.30 - 2.00 +

5.00 - 10.00; Sat 11.00 - 3.00 + 4.00 - 10.00; Sun 10.00 - 2.00



in brief...

Tom O' the Wood, Rowington

To celebrate the reopening of the Tom Mikron Theatre a touring company entertained drinkers to a history of cana through a musical tracing mainly Scottish canals. Beers were Hook Norton Old Hooky, Deuchars IPA and Draught Bass, all in good condition, accompanied by an outdoor bar b que

Local CAMRA news

Redditch and Bromsgrove CAMRA are looking into the possibility of running a small Winter Ales festival in the be desert of Redditch on 13-15th January 2006.

Greswolde, Knowle stocks real ale

Visitors to the Greswolde Arms Hotel in Knowle should persist in asking for real ale, even though the two handpump look unused. Despite the lack of advertising, they do serve cask Marstons Pedigree and Tetley Bitter. I wonder ho much they throw away because no-one realises it is there? Meanwhile, down the road in Dorridge at the Forest the must have had similar problems, because Hook Norton Bitter was served from an unlabelled hand-pump for age However the beer has changed to Bass, and now proudly displays a pump-clip.

Solihull CAMRA car sharing initiative

Committee members keen to increase attendance at meeting and socials have set up a car sharing scheme. So if you are CAMRA member and have transport problems which prevent you from attending the Branch's programme of even phone the co-ordinator Martin Collinge on 0121 688 4211 or mobile: 07941 607076 who may be able to help.

Old Royal Oak, Hockley Heath to change hands again?

We have it on good authority that Greene King are seeking a buyer for the Old Royal Oak. This pub has changed i colours more often than a chameleon. Graham and Tracy the publicans have worked hard as managers to turn this pu around, with little help or investment from Greene King. The pub won the coveted cask marque award for the quality of its beers and cellar management. Now they face an uncertain future. Will this pub remain or will it become yet anoth housing development???

Great British Beer Festival Champion Beer of Britain 2005

Essex brewer Crouch Vale's Brewers Gold won this coveted award at the GBBF. Ask for it at your local.

Wendy Owen and David Preston invite you
to

The Cock Horse

Country Pub and Restaurant
Old Warwick Road, Rowington,
Warwick, CV35 7AA



5 cask conditioned ales - Fuller's London Pride, Adnam's Broadside, Hook
Norton Bitter and 2 guests.

We are a small family run pub and restaurant and look forward to extending
you a warm welcome.

Special two course menu available Mon - Fri 12-2, and Mon-Thurs 6-7.
Blackboard specials and a la carte available lunchtimes and evenings.

Friday night is music night and the folk club is held on the 3rd Wednesday of
every month. Admission is free.

***CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004 listed**
*** Solihull CAMRA Most Improved Pub of the Year 2003**



Socials

Thursday 15th September - Annual Weekend Away to Hull. All places are nearly gone for this Branch highlight of the year including
Sunday 18th September three brewery tours.
Fri 30th September and Solihull Beer Festival. See lead article on front page.
Saturday October 1st
Saturday 12th November Rugby Crawl. Contact Steve Wood
Monday 12th December Christmas Social. [Details next issue]

Pub & Grub

Friday 23rd September	White Swan, Solihull	7.30pm for 8pm
Friday 28th October	Wellington, Birmingham	7.30pm for 8pm
Friday 25th November	Vaults, Knowle	7.30pm for 8pm

Branch Meetings

Monday 3rd October	Barn, Hockley Heath	8.30pm
Monday 7th November	Bulls Head, Barston. [AGM]	8.00pm
Note early start of AGM/Branch Meeting		
Monday 5th December	Red Lion, Shirley	8.30pm

For those meetings/socials as yet unconfirmed or where more details are needed please contact the Secretary Steve Wood on 0121 704 5258

The Solihull Drinker is the newsletter of the Solihull & District Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign of Real Ale.

All contributions, comments and enquiries should be sent to:

**The Editor, Solihull Drinker, c/o 79, Walsgrave Drive, Solihull B92 9PP
or e-mail steve_dy@yahoo.com**

The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten any contributions in the Solihull Drinker, but will always honour the spirit of the contribution.

Solihull CAMRA 2005 ©

Any complaints about short measure? Contact Solihull Trading Standards on 0121 704 6844.

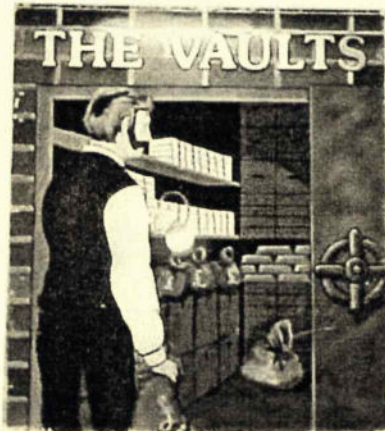
The 34th edition of *Solihull Drinker* will be published on Monday 5th December, 2005. Copy deadline for advertising and contributions will be Sunday 2nd November, 2005

Nick and Gwen welcome you to The Vaults, Knowle...

The Real Ale venue in Knowle with:

- ◆ Six handpumped beers including regulars, Ansell's Mild, Greene King IPA, Burton Ale, Tetley Bitter and two guest beers
- ◆ Real cider from Weston's
- ◆ Food available lunchtimes Monday - Saturday
- ◆ Occasional Beer Festivals

Solihull CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003, 2004 and 2005



CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed since 1993



The Vaults, St John's Close, Knowle.

Tel: 01564 773656