



Solihull Drinker

Issue No 95
Autumn 2022



Free
Please take one

Solihull CAMRA Beer Festival 2022



I'm delighted to open this edition with news that our beer festival is back. As with so many other activities, COVID meant we had to postpone in 2020 and 2021.

**Venue - Solihull Royal British Legion,
Union Road B91 3DH**

Thursday 6 – Saturday 8 October 2022

**Open 5.0 – 11.00pm Thursday, and
midday till 11.00pm on Friday and
Saturday**

40 real ales and 6 ciders/perries.

For anyone reading this who'd like to give their business a mention, it would be great to have you as a sponsor. That could be sponsoring a cask of beer or simply advertising in the programme. Anyone wishing to do so or who wants to discuss other possibilities should contact the festival manager (our branch chair) Martin Buck at chair@solihull.camra.org.uk as soon as possible.



Liquor Cellar

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Tel: 0121 722 3700

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Sunday 12pm – 8pm



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ALE HUB

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Both our micropubs have 4 rotating cask ales and 2 craft beers as well as a range of other drinks. We are dog friendly and under 18's are welcome until 6pm.

LOCATIONS:



Ale Hub Shirley

Opening Hours:

Sunday - Wednesday: 09:00 - 22:00

Thursday - Saturday: 09:00 - 23:00

Coffee Served from: 09:00 - 14:00

Ale Hub Shirley, 277 Longmore Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3ER



Ale Hub Dickens Heath

Opening Hours:

Sunday - Wednesday: 12:00 - 22:00

Thursday - Saturday: 12:00 - 23:00

Ale Hub Dickens Heath, 73 Main Street, Dickens Heath, Solihull, B90 1UB

A photograph of a German Shepherd dog sitting on a wooden chair in a pub setting. The dog is looking towards the camera with its mouth open, appearing happy. In the background, there is a brown leather tufted sofa and wooden tables.

Dogs Are Welcome!

The beer/cider list is still being decided but, going on those ordered by the bar manager in previous years, it will be an interesting and varied selection. And, as before the British Legion will be serving food so you shouldn't go hungry.

To anyone reading this who might still have concerns around COVID, we will be putting precautions in place as recommended in government guidance, including being able to pay by card rather than cash. Card payments are our preference but for those traditionalists who prefer cash, don't worry as we will still

accept that. I'd also like to point out that the venue is well ventilated, there will be plenty of hand sanitiser and regular cleaning of tables etc.

So do make sure you put this in your diary and tell your friends and family. No doubt we will recognise many of you but it's always nice to see new faces too.

We look forward to welcoming you all

Dates for your diary

Branch Meetings

(Branch meetings start at 8.30pm except where noted otherwise)

Monday 3 October

Tuesday 8 November

Monday 5 December

British Legion, Solihull

Vaults, Knowle

Lyndon

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

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

Wednesday 15 Sept

Monday 21 Nov

Platform 3

Boat

Socials

6 – 8 Oct

Fri 4 Nov

10 Dec

Solihull beer festival

Tamworth crawl

Xmas crawl, Wolverhampton

For more details of socials please call Paul Wigley on 07402 312457 – for Tamworth trip contact 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

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The Solihull Drinker is the quarterly newsletter of the Solihull & District branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale). Views expressed are not necessarily those of the branch or CAMRA. Contributions, comments and advertising enquiries should be sent to

editor@solihull.camra.org.uk

Printed by Thistle Print Ltd.,
Leeds

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The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten any items in the newsletter, but will always strive to honour the spirit & intention of the contribution



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Upcoming Midlands Area Beer Festivals and Events

FOR NATIONAL BEER FESTIVALS PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:

www.camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/

8 - 10 Sept (Thurs – Sat)

Tamworth beer festival
Tamworth Assembly Rooms
Tamworth B79 7DN

8 - 10 Sept (Thurs - Sat)

Bridgenorth beer festival
Severn Valley Railway
Bridgenorth WV16 4DT

23 - 24 Sept (Fri - Sat)

Three Lions (British Legion) beer festival
Shirley British Legion, Stratford Road
Solihull B90 3BQ

6 - 8 Oct (Thurs - Sat)

Solihull beer festival
British Legion club
Union Road, Solihull B91 3DH

7 - 10 Sept (Wed - Sat)

Shrewsbury beer festival
Church of St Mary the Virgin
Shrewsbury SY1 1DX

15 - 17 Sept (Thurs - Sat)

Cannock beer festival
Prince of Wales Theatre
Cannock WS11 1DE

3 - 5 Nov (Thurs - Sat)

Kidderminster beer festival
Kidderminster Town Hall
DY10 1DE

Solihull **THE FLUTE & FLAGON**

28-30 Station Parade

Solihull B91 3SB

Tel: 0121 711 3630

www.fluteandflagonsolihull.co.uk



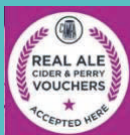
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sky sports

BT Sport



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5 Real Ales &
a Traditional
Cider
3 Craft Beers

Opening Hours

09.00 - 23.00 Sun - Thur

09.00 - 24.00 Friday

09.00 - 01.00 Saturday

Solihull & District CAMRA pub of the year 2022



Congratulations to the Three Tuns, Henley in Arden

As reported in our last issue, competition to be our overall branch pub of the year was very tight this year and our winner for the whole area we cover (Solihull and local parts of Warwickshire) was the Three Tuns at Henley in Arden. Indeed, competition was so tight to be pub of the year that the top three were only separated by 0.4 points.

The Ale Rooms in Knowle and the Pup & Duckling came in second and third respectively

The Three Tuns is a small, cosy and unpretentious 16th century, two roomed, traditional drinkers pub with a single bar serving both areas. It's popular with locals, many of whom frequent to play darts and cribbage. The pub is often busy and the atmosphere is always friendly. There are five real ales, in consistently good condition, and although there's no food the usual pub

snacks, plus home-made sausage rolls and cobs are usually available.

Pictured is branch chair Martin Buck presenting the award to landlady Eliza Sedgwick. Martin was clear that "For years the Three Tuns has been one of the best pubs in our branch, and I'm delighted that consistency has been recognised with the branch Pub of the Year award for 2022 . It's a great, unpretentious town centre boozer: always lively, real ales consistently in great condition, and friendly staff. It thoroughly deserves this accolade."

On receiving the award, a very happy Eliza responded with "I don't really know what to say, I find it hard to believe that my little pub has won branch Pub of the Year. Of course, the staff - which includes my family - must take a lot of the credit, as should the regulars for giving it such a good atmosphere. I really am over the moon!"

Many congratulations to Eliza and her hard-working team at the Three Tuns.

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West Midlands County
**PUB OF
THE YEAR**



**WINNER
2022**



Ale Rooms, 1592 High Street, Knowle, Solihull, B93 0LF.
Tel: 01564 400040



A tour of Derby's Best pubs

A misnomer for a title as there are plenty of great pubs in Derby, too many to do justice to in a single day. However, our usual Friday band of CAMRA members tried a few.



A 15 minute walk from the station brought us to one of my favourites, The Smithfield. Always with a great range of beers, it did not disappoint. Beers by Three Brothers, Vocation, Thornbridge, Brass Castle, Bingley, Ashover, Mallinsons Waimea and Marble Persephone, the latter 2 of which were my choice and scored an easy 4 out of 5. The pub has won many awards as Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and East Midlands Pub of the Year 2019. This is not one to miss.



Our next port of call was the Exeter Arms. A multi-roomed traditional pub which serves food, it is the tap for Dancing Duck Brewery. A Raspberry Ripple Cider from Snails Bank was passed over for beers from Dancing Duck, Thornbridge, Marstons and Whim. Whim's Flower Power earned another 4. Moving on we went to a Derby institution, The

Flowerpot. A top music venue in Derby it also has an extensive range of beers. Oakham, 2 Whim, Marstons, Little Critters, Brass Castle, Sharps and my selection, Lenton Lane Pale Moonlight and Vocation Chop and Change, both earning another 4 out of 5.

Perhaps Derby's most historic pub The Old Bell Hotel was next on our list. An old coaching Inn dating from the 18th century, it is well worth popping into the Tudor Bar, unfortunately closed when we visited. Sitting in the modern, sterile bar there were 5 handpumps of which only 4 were in use. Stancill, Bass and 2 Acorn. I tried Acorns Summer Pale, not to my taste as it was quite malty but I could not fault the quality, another 4! I resisted their other beer a Raspberry Porter, not my style.



Heading back towards the station we had just time to pop into the Alexandra Hotel, just next door from the Brunswick and another favourite of mine. Owned by Castle Rock it is very much a local's pub through and through, the bar supported 8 beers. Torrside, Burton Bridge, 3 Castle Rock, North Riding Brew Pub, Acorn and finally my choice, Bang the Elephant Chevy Chase and West Coast Trail a strong 5.9%. a hoppy, bitter, unfortunately cloudy but full of taste, 4 again

Just a short walk brought us to the station for our return to Solihull. What a great day, particularly with all my choices scoring a consistent 4 out of 5.

Steve Dyson

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Contact

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PUB COMPANIES – WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO (part 2)

In our previous edition (Issue 94, Summer 2022) we looked at a potted history of PubCos. This article, from HQ, follows on from that and covers the current situation. There are seven other articles that make up the complete set and, for any of you who are interested, these now feature on the [Learn & Discover](#) pages of CAMRA's website.

2. THE CURRENT PUB COMPANY SCENE

A pub company is simply a company that owns pubs and there are literally hundreds of them, many with only a handful or even just one pub. We'll concentrate here, though, on the bigger companies who, between them, own over half the country's pubs.

Stonegate

Founded in 2010 with the purchase of 333 pubs from Mitchells & Butlers, Stonegate grew quite slowly over the next ten years, making a series of acquisitions including brands like Slug & Lettuce, Walkabout and Be At One, until its pub numbers totalled 765. All the pubs were managed houses. A seismic change came in 2020 when Ei Group was bought for £1.27bn, making Stonegate the largest pub company in the UK with 1,270 managed pubs and, as a result of the Ei purchase, 3,200 leased and tenanted businesses.

Ei itself had been founded as Enterprise Inns, in 1991, initially with 333 pubs from Bass. The company built up its estate, gaining 2,200 pubs in batches by buying them from other companies or taking them over. In 2002, 1,864 pubs were bought from Whitbread and in 2004, 4,054 from Unique. By this time, it owned nearly 10,000 pubs and was in the FTSE 100 list of top companies. However, it was loaded with debt and the 2008 financial crash required a good deal of retrenchment. Ei also started building up its managed estate, including pubs on retail agreements under the Craft Union brand. By the time of the sale, it was down to fewer than 4,000 pubs.

Punch Taverns

The first article included a brief history of Punch to illustrate the volatility around pubco development. In summary, it grew quickly to around 8,000 pubs, suffered under the crash, sold a lot of pubs including its managed division and was taken over in 2016. 1,900 pubs went to Heineken and 1,300 to Patron Capital, who retain the Punch brand. At takeover time, all pubs were leased or tenanted but it's also now pushing retail agreements (which it calls Management Partnerships). Some pubs were sold but in

June 2021 it announced the purchase of Youngs' tenanted division, bringing the current total to 1,282.

Admiral Taverns

Admiral was founded in 2003 by two families and grew quickly to 2,300 pubs by 2007. Many of these were 'bottom end' houses disposed of by other pub companies. The financial crash had the usual consequences for over-extended businesses and numbers were down to 1,700 by 2011 and continued to fall. By 2017 it was in the hands of Cerberus Capital Management who sold up to a joint venture by Magners cider-makers C&C Group and estate investor Proprium Capital Partners, by which time there were 845 pubs. The acquisition trail was hit in 2019 with 137 pubs coming from Marstons and 150 from Heineken. The big one arrived in July 2021 when Admiral bought 674 Hawthorn pubs from property firm New River taking the estate to over 1,500.

Admiral's pubs are all tenanted or leased and tend to be wet-led community operations. It has a relatively good reputation in the trade though there's certainly no aversion to flogging off pubs as 'development opportunities'.

Star Pubs & Bars

In 1995, Scottish & Newcastle, one of the original 'Big Six' breweries, bought another of them, Courage, making the combined group Britain's biggest brewer. By 2011, the pub arm, then known as S&N Pub Co, had 1,500 tenanted pubs and 600 in management. Come 2008, Scottish Courage was gobbled up by international brewer Heineken and the pub business rebranded as Star Pubs & Bars. Many pubs were sold but then, in 2017, as previously mentioned, 1,900 were snapped up from Punch. Again, there were disposals and the estate currently stands at 2,500.

Star vigorously promote their retail agreement scheme, Just Add Talent. In 2020, it was fined £2m for breaches of the Pubs Code.

Greene King

In 1995, Greene King was a long-established family brewer with 900 pubs, nearly all in East Anglia and the South-East. It then embarked on a ferocious acquisition trail, swallowing up many breweries (the likes of Morlands, Belhaven, Morrells and Hardy & Hanson) and other pub (cont Pg 13)

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companies.

GK itself is now owned by a billionaire Hong Kong property developer. It has some 3,100 pubs, restaurants and hotels, of which 1,200 are tenanted or leased. Its strategy seems to be to move in the managed direction and the 'Pub Ready' retail agreements are pushed hard. GK was once renowned for not letting other people's beers in its pubs but now have a more enlightened attitude.

Marston's

The company was known as Wolverhampton & Dudley until 2007 when it rebranded as Marston's, one of the many breweries it had taken over in recent years. At that time, 2,500 pubs were owned but the total is now down to 1,400. The tenanted estate in particular has been reduced through sales such as 200 to New River in 2013 and 137 to Admiral in 2019. In late 2020, the company took on the running of 156 Brains pubs in Wales. Also that year, Marston's merged its brewing operations with Carlsberg but this does not directly affect the pub business.

Windsor & Eton brewery trip

During our weekend away to Reading in November 2021 we undertook a day trip to Windsor, with the key visit being to the Windsor & Eton Brewery, and its new taproom. It might look unprepossessing on the outside, but don't let that fool you (see photo).



Martin had booked us in for a brewery visit and our guide for this was Wildcat Willie, a very entertaining and informative host. For those of you who've been on brewery tours you will know that the guide can make or break the visit, and Willie very, very much made ours. Indeed, I can safely say this was one of the most entertaining and informative brewery trips I've ever been on.

Windsor and Eton are already famous for many things. The castle, school, river, racecourse and of course the Royal connections. There used to be 5 breweries in

Mitchells and Butlers

Formed originally out of the old Bass estate, M&B have 1,650 pubs and restaurants. The multitudinous brands include Ember Inns, Toby Carveries, Nicholson's and All Bar One – as can be seen, the emphasis is on food. Pubs are mostly managed though around 50 are on a lease arrangement.

J D Wetherspoon

Since opening its first pub in 1979, 'Spoons has expanded to 925 pubs and 50 hotels, all managed. Plans for 18 new pubs are in the pipeline,

Wellington

Owned by the billionaire Reuben Brothers, the company leases all its 850 pubs on a free of tie basis

Windsor but that all ended some 80 years ago with the closure of the last brewery in 1931. In 2009 the founders (Will, Paddy, Jim and Bob, who'd all spent their working lives in big corporate businesses) took on Unit 1, Vansittart Estate with a dream to bring brewing back to the heart of Windsor and on 23rd April 2010 their first beer Guardsman (a best bitter) went on sale, followed soon after by Knight of the Garter and Conqueror.

In 2014 Uprising beers was launched, brewed by Paddy's son, Kieran (showing that brewing runs in the blood). Kieran's first ever beer Treason has won a number of gold medals.

A taproom was opened in 2014, but that was superseded in 2021 when the brewery extended into the end unit, Unit 4, which is the taproom we visited. It's a large taproom, with a mezzanine floor at one end and a bar with an extensive range of beers. Many are craft ales but there are also real ales on tap. The taproom serves hot food and shows sporting events on large screens, and it was pretty busy when we were there.

Indeed, it was very good to see so soon after the strictures of COVID. They had 60,000 pints when lockdown struck and ran a drive through to help sell these. They were also helped when Waitrose upped its order for bottles, but they still had 20,000 left. The

brewery has close ties with the Royal Farm Shop and those final 20,000 pints ended up being mixed in with the cattle feed of the herd that supplies the shop. Some very happy cattle I imagine. Any excess yeast, together with spent malt and hops from the brewing process, are also sent to the Royal Farm for feeding to the cattle there. This may well help explain why they are the only brewery to hold a Royal Warrant, which is displayed in the shop.



Our visit started with a pint in the taproom, which we took through with us to the brewery. Now, all brewery tours I've been on previously have involved explanation of the brewing process whilst we've been walking round. This one involved sitting at a table, surrounded by the brewery equipment (photo below), and having Wildcat Willie explain both the brewing process and how that affects the beers they produce. And to 'prove' his points we were 'educated' with jugs of the respective beers he was talking about.



One of the reasons they chose Windsor is its hard water quality. Yes, they still Burtonise it (treat it to make it as close as possible to the water at Burton on Trent), but the existing water is clearly very helpful. Willie also explained that for West Coast IPA or Irish Stout, they adjust the water accordingly. I think that's the first time I'd heard that on a brewery tour, as is the fact that hops are

members of the marijuana family! They use real hops rather than pellets and use some green hops at hop harvest time to make green hopped versions of some of their beers.



One thing Willie pointed out to us were some sherry and Irish whiskey barrels (photo above) on a high shelf. These contained (I think, as my notes are a little incomplete on this point) Wasteland (10%) in the sherry barrels and Scumbag Maggot (9% and named after the Pogues' Fairy Tale of New York) in the Irish whiskey barrels.

Definitely one of the best brewery tours I've ever done. Informative and entertaining, coupled with beers that taste great and from a brewery that's now producing some 2 million pints a year. They've an onsite shop that stocks a wide range of their bottled beers (I took the opportunity to buy a few whilst we were there) and I understand there are plans afoot for a canning line.



Oh, and you won't miss their delivery vans as it's very clear on their side what's inside

Well worth a visit.

Ray Cooke

Broomfields Hall Solihull British Legion club

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clubsec@solihullrblclub.co.uk



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The bar is open every day, featuring Sky Sports and BT Sport events. In the summer you can relax with your favourite ale watching Birmingham Premier League Cricket with many past and present county players on view. Sponsorship opportunities are also available at K&D.

While the club is a private members club, and is popular on match days, there is no charge for admission, and guests who are CAMRA members are welcome on production of a CAMRA membership card. Social membership is also available which comes with a discount entitlement at the bar to make your favourite beers even better value.

Station Road
Dorridge

B93 8ET

Tel 01564 774338

Opening Hours:

Mon-Thurs 4.00pm - 10.30pm

Fridays: 4.00pm - 11.00pm

Saturdays 12.00noon - 11.00pm

Sundays 12.00 noon - 10.30pm

Website: knowleanddorridgecc.co.uk

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Useful Contact Numbers

Chair/Beer Festival

Martin Buck. 01564 770708

Secretary

Allan Duffy 01564 200431

Membership

Dave Mckowen 01564 778955

Cider & Perry/Vice Chair

Ray Cooke 01564 777890

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Treasurer

Brenda Duffy 01564 200431

Solihull Drinker Editor

Ray Cooke 01564 777890

Press & Publicity

Vacant

Trading Standards contacts:

For local 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

Hail to the Ale

This is the section where we update you on news related to any pub, club, off licence or brewery 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

Silhill Brewery is to move its main production to Aston, but we understand they will still undertake test brews at Catherine de Barnes.

They also seem to have linked up with the Warwickshire Lad and installed a small brewplant there

The Black Swan at Henley in Arden has been bought by The White Brasserie Company which runs 18 'White Brasserie' pubs and 14 Brasserie Blanc restaurants. It is hoped they will have real ale again in future.

Brunning and Price are still deciding what changes to make at the Crabmill in Preston Bagott, following the serious fire (cont Pg 18)

CAMRA Real Ale, Cider and Perry Vouchers

The CAMRA Voucher scheme is a member benefit that entitles members to £30 (60 x 50p) vouchers off a pint of Real Ale, Cider or Perry. The vouchers in this CAMRA owned and operated scheme remain valid for the length of membership for added flexibility.

They are redeemable at over 1,550 pubs nationwide, including J D Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns managed pubs.

To get an up-to-date listing for pubs participating near you, enter your postcode at www.camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/camra-voucher-scheme

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



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For further details or information about advertising with us, or to discuss your proposed advert, please contact editor@solihull.camra.org.uk

Advertising Rates

SIZE	INNER PAGES	FRONT COVER
Full (A5) page	£100.00	Not available
1 / 2 page	£75.00	£100 (landscape only)
1 / 3 page	£55.00	£75.00
1 / 4 page	£45.00	£60.00
1 / 6 page	£35.00	£47.00

in February. They have had to seek planning permission for changes and will not reopen in 2022.

Brunning and Price also received around 500 responses to their Survey Monkey for the Mallard at Tidbury Green. We await news from them on their planning application, and hope it is successful as a new real ale establishment in that area would be good to see.

On the subject of new establishments, and whilst not exactly new, it's great to report that No 1 Dovehouse Parade now has Silhill ales on its 3 handpumps

The Winged Spur in Ullenhall remains closed.

Though there have been intermittent signs of building/refurbishment activity, nothing seems to have come to fruition

The Bell at Tanworth in Arden is undergoing refurbishment and is likely to be closed till late October. Unfortunately the Post Office therein will not reopen

The Forest in Dorridge is now back to being the Forest rather than the Butcher's Social at the Forest

Paul Wigley
Pubs Officer

Membership Matters

Key CAMRA aims are to see good quality real ale, cider and perry in well run thriving pubs and clubs across every community. It does this by encouraging responsible beer drinking and pub going with beer festivals, good pub guides, awards, and by lobbying government for change to support the industry.

In CAMRA there's plenty for everyone, whether you are a dedicated campaigner, a beer or cider connoisseur looking to learn more, or you simply want to meet up with people who have the same love for a pint of

real ale or cider in a well-run local pub on a social day out.

CAMRA membership provides many benefits including:- £30 of Real Ale/Cider vouchers (redeemable at a variety of outlets, see foot of page 17 for details), a quarterly colour magazine "Beer" (packed with great articles by award winning writers, about pubs, real ale and breweries), and an online newspaper "Whats Brewing" that keeps you updated on all the latest beer and pub news as well as detailing events/beer festivals from around the country. You can download both

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2022



THE FIELDHOUSE

10 Knightcote Drive
Solihull B91 3JU
0121 703 9209



www.emberinns.co.uk/the-fieldhouse-solihull



*6 Real Ales on at all times
Landlord, UBU, Proper Job, plus 4
regularly changing guests.
All Cask Ales £2.89 a pint on Mondays
and Thursdays – Wine club Monday
& Thursday £10 per bottle*

Open from 11.00am - 11.30pm

Hot & cold meals served all week from
11.00 am to 9.00 pm
Brunch from 10 am weekends

Live Music & Events

Sat 10 September - Back to
Skool disco
Sat 24 September - Phil
Collins Tribute

Special Offers for CAMRA members. (membership cards must be shown)

- 20p discount off a pint of Cask Ale
- 10% off food

publications in different formats to read at your leisure using PC, laptop, tablet & smartphone.

You will also be entitled to free or discounted admission at over 180 CAMRA organised beer festivals across the country, including the long-awaited return of the Solihull CAMRA Beer & Cider festival, to be held at the Royal British Legion, Solihull from the 6th - 8th October 2022 (see front cover for further details).

A great advantage of joining CAMRA at our festival is that you will get a voucher for 2 FREE PINTS to use during the festival. With membership prices starting from £28 per annum (54p per week) and including all these benefits, this represents great value for money in the current economic climate.

Having joined, then get involved with your local branch, including social events (such as

brewery visits, pub crawls in different areas, pub walks etc) meeting new friends, helping out at our beer festival or campaigning. Our branch meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at a local pub, where we also enjoy a pint or two of real ale.

Within a new member's branch welcome pack there is a voucher for a FREE PINT (in addition to your 2 free pints if you join at our beer festival) when attending your first Solihull CAMRA Branch meeting. All our activities are listed in this magazine and on www.solihull.camra.org.uk with contact details for each event. Or if you'd prefer to join online then visit www.camra.org.uk.

So come on, what are you waiting for? Join up, Join in, Join the Campaign.

Dave Mckowen
Membership Secretary

Solihull Drinker Issue No. 95 Solihull CAMRA 2022 ©

Printed by Thistle Print Ltd., Leeds

The 96th edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published on Monday 5 December 2022. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contributions for this issue is **Friday 18th November**. Thank you in advance to all contributors.

CAMRA MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971.

We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving a broad selection of quality ales and ciders.

Here's how CAMRA makes a difference

www.camra.org.uk/campaigns

Our Campaigns ▼

Promoting live beer, cider & perry

CAMRA promotes local, small and independent producers. Initiatives include *LocAle* (promoting locally brewed ale) and the *Real Cider Served Here* scheme.



Helping you save your local

Our in-depth pub-saving guides for England, Scotland and Wales, and advice on Assets of Community Value listing and Community Pub Ownership, provide campaigners with all the tools required to save your local, if it is under threat.



Lobbying Government at all levels

CAMRA members across the UK actively lobby their MPs, devolved elected representatives and councillors via email and social media. Our branches talk to politicians about a range of vital topics including taxation, regulation and consumer choice.



Pubs as a force for good

Pubs play a vital role in tackling loneliness and social isolation, foster community spirit and encourage social interaction. Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people with a local pub are happier, have more friends and are more engaged with their local communities.



Pub Company Reform

CAMRA campaigned for over ten years to introduce a Pubs Code and Adjudicator in England and Wales, to address the imbalance of power between pub companies and tenants. We continue to make sure tenants are treated fairly by pub companies, so they can thrive and run great pubs for us to enjoy, and are seeking a Pubs Code for Scotland too.



COVID Campaign Response ▼

Pulling Together

Our cross-industry campaign supports pubs, clubs, taprooms, breweries and cider makers through the COVID-19 crisis. They need your support now more than ever. We are campaigning on their behalf and providing resources to help them survive. This includes promoting *Cheers for Choice* to ensure beer stocks in reopened pubs, *Brew2You* and *Save our Pubs*.



Brew2You

This digital platform has been a vital tool in connecting beer lovers to local pubs, breweries and cider makers offering takeaway and delivery during lockdowns and beyond.



Speaking up for pubs, clubs, brewers and cider makers

CAMRA is at the forefront of lobbying for better support, and against unfair restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic. We support a cut in beer duty on draught beer served in pubs to ensure fair competition with supermarkets and changes to the Business Rates system to end the unfair burden on pubs.



For member benefits visit
www.camra.org.uk/benefits

If you love beer and pubs,
CAMRA membership is for you!

join.camra.org.uk

