



# Solihull



# Drinker

Issue No 100  
Winter 2023

*Free*  
*Please take one*

**HAPPY 100TH EDITION SOLIHULL DRINKER**

# 100

Welcome to the 100<sup>th</sup> Issue of the Solihull Drinker. Given everything that's happened over the last few years there was some doubt we'd ever reach this stage but it's very satisfying to have done so.

Though this is our 100<sup>th</sup> edition, it is not our 100<sup>th</sup> newsletter as we had an earlier

version of this magazine in the form of the Boro Banter. Steve Dyson, one of our earliest branch members, provides a fascinating insight into the history of both magazines and indeed of our branch in the 4-page centre-page spread in this edition.

# ALE HUB

• MICROPUB •

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



**Dogs Are Welcome!**

## Dates for your diary

### Branch Meetings

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

Monday 8 January

Monday 5 February (AGM)

Monday 4 March

Wharf Tavern, Hockley Heath

Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club

Municipal Club

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 17 January

Wednesday 20 March

Vaults

Ale Hub, Dickens Heath

### Socials

Saturday 9 December

Saturday 13 January (tbc)

Fri 9 February

Saturday 16 March

Christmas crawl, Birmingham

Mini bus campaigning trip

Kelham Island trip

Codsall crawl

For more details of socials please email [steve\\_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto: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/](http://www.camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/)

**1 - 3 Feb 2024 (Thurs – Sat)**

Tewkesbury winter ale festival

65 Barton Street

Tewkesbury

GL20 5PX

**15 - 17 Feb 2024 (Thurs - Sat)**

GBBF Winter

Burton Town Hall

Burton on Trent

DE14 2EB

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

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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

## Congratulations to the Three Tuns, Henley in Arden



Congratulations go to Eliza Sedgwick and her team at the Three Tuns, Henley in Arden who are the winners of our 2023 pub of the year for the part of Warwickshire that we cover [our Solihull & District branch of CAMRA covers a local part of Warwickshire as well as most of the Solihull area]. Our competition to be voted as pub of the year is always tight, so well done all round.

The Three Tuns came a very close second to our winner in the overall competition, the Pup & Duckling, Hatchford Brook Road in Solihull. Nonetheless, Eliza and her team are building on last year's success when they were the overall winner and that very much reflects the consistency and quality of the real ales on offer.

Pictured is branch chair, Martin Buck, presenting the award to landlady Eliza, with Martin commenting that "I'm delighted to make this award in recognition that this is a great, lively little pub, with friendly staff offering real ales to a consistently high standard and in great condition. They thoroughly deserve this award."

Landlady Eliza was very happy to receive the award and was keen to point out that "The staff, which include my family, must take a lot of the credit, as should our regulars for giving the pub such a great atmosphere."

The Three Tuns is located at 103 High Street, Henley in Arden and really is well worth a visit.



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[www.thelyndonpub.co.uk](http://www.thelyndonpub.co.uk)

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**Opening Hours:**

Sun – Wed: 12.00pm – 11:00pm

Thu – Sat: 12.00pm – 12.00am



The Lyndon Pub Solihull

*Solihull*  
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**6 Real Ales  
&  
3 Craft Beers**

**Opening Hours**

09.00 - 23.00 Sun - Thur

09.00 - 24.00 Fri - Sat

## Notice of Branch Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Solihull & District CAMRA AGM, which will take place at the Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club, on Monday 5th February 2024, starting at **8.30pm**.

If any current Committee member wishes to stand down, or anyone wishes to apply to take up a Committee post (all Committee posts are open to any Solihull & District branch member), in both instances it would be appreciated if you could please email your intentions at least two weeks before the meeting to the Chairman Martin Buck at [martin@durlston.com](mailto:martin@durlston.com).

The AGM will be preceded by a short Branch Meeting starting at **8.00pm**.

There will be the usual beery raffle to go towards the cost of the AGM buffet, for which beer related prize donations would be gratefully received on the night.

## CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference



### About the Weekend

CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference is held annually in April and is open to all CAMRA members. While the primary purpose is to debate motions to steer the Campaign and to elect the Campaign's new board of directors, it is also a chance for our members to socialise in the onsite bar and explore the beer scene of different cities around the UK.

The 2024 weekend will be held in Dundee, celebrating 50 years of CAMRA in Scotland, and will take place at Caird Hall, City Square, Dundee DD1 3BB from 26-28 April.

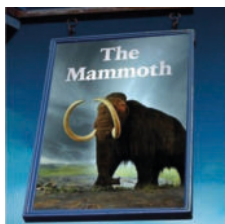
For more information see: [www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference](http://www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference)

Or call 01727 798456 or contact: [membersweekend@camra.org.uk](mailto:membersweekend@camra.org.uk)

# CAMRA campaigning – taking action

Pubs are facing extinction. Under the Take Action part of the CAMRA website ([www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)) you can see what needs to change, how we're taking the CAMRA cause to government, and find the latest ways to make your voice heard.

Here's some examples



## Beer tax

Our pubs face one of the highest rates of beer duty in Europe, and this high level of tax is one of the key

factors squeezing publicans and forcing them to either put up prices for consumers or close their doors forever.

The good news is that CAMRA's campaigning has won a landmark change in the way beer is taxed, persuading the Government to create a new, lower rate of duty for beer sold in pubs. This step will begin to level the playing field between the price of beer sold in social, community settings and cheap supermarket alcohol consumed at home.

So what's next? The legislation that creates the new, lower rate of tax for beer and cider sold on draught needs improving. At the moment, a draught container that has the lower rate of tax paid can't be 'decanted' for consumption off the premises as a measure to prevent fraud. However, this prevents any sales of takeaway pints, unless the higher rate of tax has been paid on the whole container. [It also means we cannot let our beer festival volunteers decant beer to take home with them when we dismantle the festival.]

## Business rates

Businesses in England are required to pay a tax to their

local council based on the value of the property that they occupy – these are called business rates. In 2017 40% of pubs were handed an increase in their business rates bill – the result of which is that many have had to put up their prices for consumers to cover their rates increases, or in some cases close for good.

Until 2022, installing technologies like solar panels, heat recovery systems, or certain types of battery bank were counted as improvements that increased the value of a property – meaning businesses would face a tax hike for their use.

A simple change to business rates legislation, called for by CAMRA, was all that was needed to allow licensees and producers to adopt these solutions without the burden of a higher tax bill. This type of technology is now exempt from business rates calculations, making it more financially accessible for pubs, social clubs, brewers, and cider makers to invest in clean energy.



## Labelling

Labelling for beer, cider and perry isn't always transparent, making it hard to know what a product contains, where it's come

from, and what kind of quality consumers can expect. As consumers, we should be able to make an informed choice about the drinks we buy and the businesses we support.

CAMRA believes that drinks labelling should provide more information, but action from the Government is needed to end the confusing mix of standards currently used by the industry. This has already been done for food, but doesn't apply to beer, cider and perry.





# KNOWLE & DORRIDGE CRICKET CLUB



**SOLIHULL & DISTRICT CAMRA CLUB OF THE YEAR 2016 - 2019**  
**CASK MARQUE ACCREDITATION 2021**  
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#TAKE ME HOME

## CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2024




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 10.00 - 23.00 Sun**

**Hot & cold meals served all week from  
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**6 Real Ales on at all times – eg  
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**CAMRA members**  
 (membership cards must be shown)

*20p off pint of cask ale all other days*



## Solihull Drinker - 100

Yes, Solihull Drinker is 100 issues old this month, but the branch has in fact issued 157 newsletters since its formation in mid-1982. Preceding the Drinker was the Boro Banter which ran for 57 issues before it was renamed the Solihull Drinker.

Our branch was formed in mid-1982. Officers of the branch at the time were founder members Clive [Claude] Deacon, Malcolm Glass and Andy Lyndon. Clive was our acting chairman; a real character who saluted everyone as "Captain" and drove a classic car which had no heating and still used traffickers. I accompanied him on many cold nights visiting pubs in North

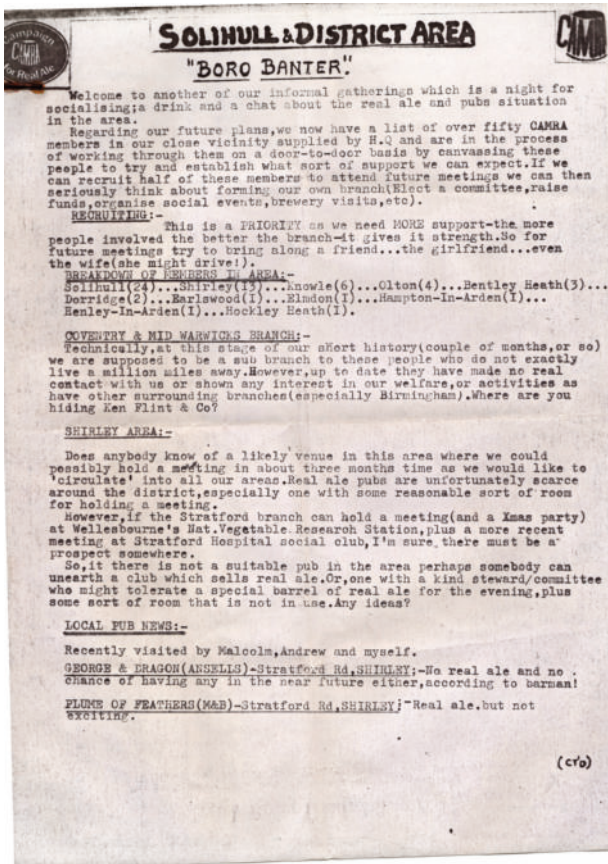
Oxfordshire, an area he loved. He is no longer with us, regrettably.

It was Clive who issued what can be termed our first newsletter. At a meeting at the Saddlers Arms in Solihull [now the Tap and Tandoor] in July 1982 an information sheet had been written by Clive called the Boro Banter. Our newsletter was born.

The second edition was given out at the August meeting at the Red Lion in Knowle. At this stage of the newsletter, it was numbered as Boro Banter No.2. Attendees of these early meetings who are still around today are John Knibb, Dave Queenborough and me. Dave's father Brian was also an active member of the branch. Sadly, Brian died last year. My first meeting was in September 1982 at the Golden Lion, Solihull [now the Beech House].

So, what did these early editions look like both visually and content wise (issue 1 is pictured left). Clive typed them up on an old fashioned typewriter at work where he also photocopied it for distribution within the branch (he cut and pasted CAMRA logos to form a heading). Usually consisting of 1 to 2 pages it followed a format recognisable to many CAMRA members today as Branch meeting agendas/minutes. In the first issue there were some 50 members in the Solihull area and Clive and Malcolm undertook a door-by-door recruitment drive. It was Clive who knocked on my door and 42 years later I'm still here!

Local pub news in the issue was the George and Dragon, Stratford Road [now demolished, the site now occupied by Porcelanosa]. No real ale was reported and a further visit to the Plume of



Feathers on the Stratford Road had real ale but as I quote from Clive "Real ale, but not exciting". It can be argued that it hasn't changed that much. Interesting too was an article on Solihull pubs where M&B and Ansell's dominated the handpumps. However, the Golden Lion, Solihull had Courage Directors.

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1982 a meeting was held at the Golden Lion, Solihull to test support for the formation of an independent branch with Birmingham branch in attendance. 4 members were present. On the 18<sup>th</sup> May a further meeting was held with the Birmingham branch, again at the Golden Lion, where 6 members attended. A social took place in Henley in Arden where 7 members attended. July saw a Solihull pub crawl with 11 members present.

The layout and presentation of the next newsletter [No.3] improved substantially. I have a feeling that round about this time Brian and Dave Queenborough got involved with production. The most important item in this edition was the announcement of the inaugural meeting of the branch to be held at the Red Lion, Knowle on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1982. At that meeting and in Boro Banter [No.4]. Clive gave a resume of the formation of the branch.

From there on the Boro Banter was issued. Issue 5 in November announced the new committee. Malcolm Glass [Chairman], Clive Deacon [Secretary], Brian Queenborough [Treasurer], Eric Mosely [Membership Secretary], Andy Lyndon [Social Secretary], Richard Adkins [Pub Surveys Officer] and Alan Machin [Publicity Officer]. The branch was now official.

It is of note that when the branch was inaugurated the Solihull area came under both Birmingham branch and Coventry branch. The Birmingham branch was supportive to the branch whereas

my impression and experience of the Coventry branch was sadly non supportive. Luckily the then Regional Director Andy Beaton was very supportive, so the branch came into existence.

The Boro Banter has proved invaluable as a source detailing the branches formation and its early months. Issue 6 [January 1983] saw more improvements of the Boro Banter, now renamed Solihull and South Birmingham Boro Banter. It included adverts, one from Bernie's Off License and the other from Tipplers Paradise on Kineton Green Road, Olton. Tipplers Paradise has long gone but Bernie's' is still going strong. Issue 6 was edited by Dave and Brian Queenborough who assiduously cut and pasted adverts, logos and spelling corrections as well as designing adverts... a long and tedious task. November 1984s edition experimented with printing in a different colour brown



and in February 1985 blue but from thereon it was mainly back to black and white with the occasional colour used particularly at Christmas.

After edition 38, April 1988, no copies appear to be in existence, but it did continue to edition 57 in December 1995 under both me and Malcolm Field who was Secretary during my tenure as Chairman. Malcolm was a member of the Norman H. Field family who ran the successful Hi-Fi store on Hurst Street just above the Hippodrome Theatre. Sadly, Malcolm is no longer with us having passed away within the last 10 years

There seems a lapse from 1996 as I can find no Banters for the period until summer 1997, when it was renamed The Solihull Drinker and was Numbered No.1 (apologies for the rather poor copy pictured left) and edited by Matt Bullock. Its lead article was The Harvester, Tanhouse Farm Road, Olton [now The Dingle] which won Solihull branches Pub of the Year 1997. Matt lived in Solihull Lodge and was a very active branch member not only editing the Drinker but a major contributor to our early beer festivals, particularly at the Golden Lion. Our loss was Oxford's gain when he moved to Charlbury and became active in that branch too.

Matt, I think changed the format to an A5 booklet but left Solihull after issue 6 and I took over as editor. I handed over editorship to Julia Hammond [now Wright] for edition 35 (Winter 2005).

Under Julia's direction the Drinker became a much more professional production. When she took over, the magazine was a mere 12 pages of photocopied text plus black and white photos. It increased to 20 pages and a glossy cover in 2007, then two years later, 24 pages with a colour cover, plus in 2009 a colour centrefold. From summer 2010 we began using the very reliable Thistle Print Ltd to print the magazine for us - a heartfelt thanks to Steve Thistleton and his colleagues for all the help and advice they have given

us since then. The Drinker became a full colour magazine from December 2011



Julia handed over editorship to David Cove for issue 76 (Summer 2016) and he held the post until issue 90 (Winter 2019). CAMRA magazines are judged annually within the West Midlands and in 2016 the Solihull Drinker was one of the regional finalists. Apparently according to Dave "In 2017 we had an issue with the logo used which meant it was disqualified, although it was no different to the year before". However, in 2018, at the annual presentation held at the Barton's Arms in Birmingham the Drinker achieved a highly commended award (pictured above). During Dave's editorship the Drinker achieved its maximum pages ever with 36 pages.

Late 2019 COVID hit, though we did manage to publish a Spring 2020 edition under the stop-gap editorship of our branch chair Martin Buck. However, like all CAMRA branches, we then had to suspend printing the Drinker, but it reappeared in September 2021 (Autumn issue) under the editorship of Ray Cooke, a long serving local member and who is a past branch Chair.



The Drinker in different forms is over 43 years old and in good hands. However, difficulties are ahead in sustaining advertising income which pays for its production [*if any reader would like to advertise and help support us then please see page 17, as there is still time to take advantage before we have to raise our prices next year*]. The recent cost of living crisis has brought this to a head.

Let us all hope the Drinker continues its valuable role as a conduit of information not only about our Solihull branch of CAMRA but also in providing information on the pubs, breweries and great beers that can be found in Solihull.

In compiling this article, I must extend thanks to those who have provided me with vital information. Dave

Queenborough for his superb collection of early Boro Banter together with his memories. To Steve Wood the branches unofficial historian, now retired from the branch and living in Shrewsbury. His extensive knowledge has been invaluable. To past and present editors, Julia Wright, David Cove and Ray Cooke for providing details of their tenure, many thanks.

Plans are in hand to make copies of Boro Banter and early Solihull Drinkers available on the branch website.

Steve Dyson

[Steve would appreciate being informed, via Ray Cooke as the Drinker editor [editor@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@solihull.camra.org.uk), of any mistakes in this article, so they can be rectified]

## Acorns – a huge thank you

For those who attended the Solihull real ale and cider festival this year, you will know that our chosen charity this time was Acorns. This is a fantastic local charity that

*In aid of*

**acorns**

*Your local children's hospice*

provides help and support to children (and their families) with a life limiting or life-threatening condition.

It appears that many of you agree, and we raised more for the charity this year than we have ever done before, bringing in a total of £386.13 post-festival, but which has subsequently increased due to a very generous individual donation to £636.13.

Many, many thanks to all who donated.

It is not too late to donate via the Just Giving page and you can do so by scanning the QR code or via this link [www.justgiving.com/page/raymond-cooke-1695035946620](http://www.justgiving.com/page/raymond-cooke-1695035946620)



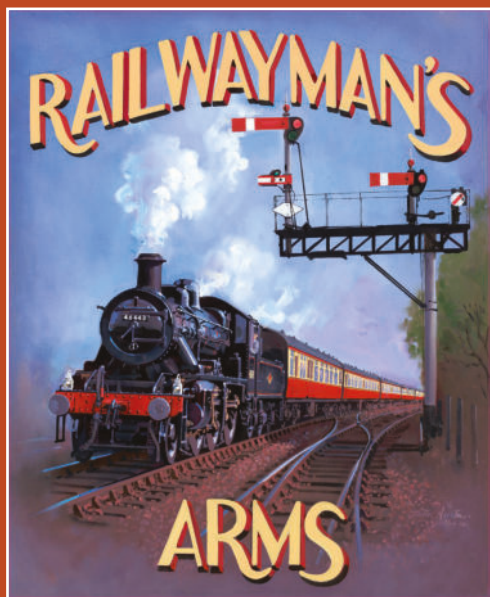




## TWO CAMRA Good Beer Guide Free Houses!

Travel by train between the two.

For details, see **SVR.CO.UK**



and

### THE KING & CASTLE

on the concourse at  
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Hobsons Best Bitter

also

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Serving 9 Real Ales including:

Hobsons Town Crier,

Hobsons Best Bitter,

Bewdley Brewery's Station Porter &

Worcestershire Way,

Batham's Best Bitter

plus one Traditional Cider



## Leamington Spa crawl

I don't know why but I've never associated Leamington with a good range of beers and pubs. How mistaken was I? A good day can be had there.

Late September, we caught the train from Solihull arriving just before 12 noon in time to catch the 67 on High Street to alight at St. Mary's church for the short walk to our first pub and some would suggest the best in Leamington. The New Inn, Leam Road (pictured below with we reprobates outside) is a delight even when approaching it. Bedecked in hanging baskets it's a truly locals pub with a welcoming façade. Once inside the beers too impress. 6 beers including Oakham JHB, Byatts Hop Genius IPA and Goff's White Knight starts the day off well for us. Not a good idea to start off with the Byatts at 5.5% but I and many others could not resist it. The pub does serve food and has two rooms a bar on one side of the entrance and on the

Georgian building, again serving food with a range of 3 ales and a handpulled cider. The beers were Purity's Jimbo [gluten free] and Verdant Argal Golden Ale. Whatpub suggests it has 5 beers, if so, we did not see them. Another thing to bear in mind that it is probably the most expensive pub in Leamington. [it is convenient for the theatre, so perhaps that's why!]

The pubs come thick and fast now. A short walk took us to the Royal Pug (handpulls pictured right), a modern open plan interior in a Victorian building. A garden at the back was inviting and the food looked good but the beers on the bar were a winner. 3 Purity beers; Black Sheep; Hanlon's Red Rose Ruby Red Ale; Church Farm Harry's Heiffer and 2 North Cotswold. A good session here with 8 beers to sample before moving on to the White Horse on Clarendon Avenue. This had a rather

disappointing range of beers on offer, with only 2 handpulls; London Pride and Dark Star Outer Haze. A quick half of the Haze was enough for me.

Heading next to Fizzy Moon, Leamington's first micro-brewery. Live music, craft beers, food, real ales... something to meet all tastes. Opened in 2016 it is very spacious, with a large garden. Previous visits have shown a lack of real ales but not so when



other side a lounge area.

We walked to our next pub. The Drawing Board was shrouded in scaffolding but was open. It is a modern bar in a listed

we visited. A surprisingly good range met us. London Pride; Purity Gold and the breweries own beers Sadhu Singh a session IPA and Ed the Hopster Pale Ale. I tried Ed the



Hopster, pleasant but nothing that hit the taste buds. We then moved on to the Cricketers Arms, a comfortable pub with hints of its traditional multi roomed interior. We settled in here to enjoy Landlord; Purity Ubu and Wolfpack Second Row Session IPA.

That concluded our crawl of Leamington... give it a try you won't be disappointed.

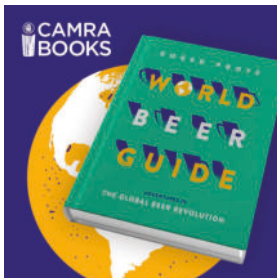
Steve Dyson

## CAMRA Christmas Presents?

If you are wondering what to buy your real ale/cider/perry drinking loved one/friend for Christmas, then why not consider something from CAMRA Books (see publications at [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)).

There's a wide range of options, including:-

### World Beer Guide



Beer is the world's favourite alcohol and it has changed out of all

recognition in the 21st century. The country-by-country sections will give more detail of the changes but the introduction will lead readers into the world beer revolution by describing the enormous power and stretch of global brewers – with AB InBev accounting for one-third of all beer made and consumed

– with the counter culture of the world-wide craft movement. From the US to Australasia, charting the beer scene in every country, the key players, and the styles available.

### Heritage Pub Guides

As well as existing guides there are three new heritage pub guides for the East of England, the South East of England, and



the South West of England. These showcase genuinely old pubs, unchanged pubs and those with specific unchanged heritage features, celebrating their individual architecture and historical importance.

Do please take time to have a look at CAMRA Books as there is something for every taste.



**The ales vary  
Abbeydale, Thornbridge,  
Salopian and Ossett  
regulars**

**£3.70 a pint**

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**Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club**

**Grove Road, Knowle B93 0PH**

**Non members welcome**

**The bar is open:  
Monday to Friday 6 - 10 p.m.  
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<http://www.kdrc.info>



[knowleanddorridgeracquets](https://www.facebook.com/knowleanddorridgeracquets)



[barandsocial@kdrc.info](mailto:barandsocial@kdrc.info)

## **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

### ***Pubs Campaigning***

**Paul Wigley** 07402 312457

### ***Treasurer***

**Brenda Duffy** 01564 200431

### ***Solihull Drinker Editor***

**Ray Cooke** 01564 777890

### ***Social co-ordinator***

**[steve\\_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:steve_dyson@solihull.camra.org.uk)**

### **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 to around 80 pubs (and some clubs, restaurants and off licences) around Solihull, and parts of Warwickshire and Birmingham.

This gives you the opportunity to put your business in front of people who are in the habit of visiting pubs and restaurants.

You 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)

We have managed to keep our advertising rates at the same level since 2016. Unfortunately, price rises have caught up with us as they have with everyone else and it is with regret we are forced to increase our rates.

The new rates are shown below and will apply from 1 January 2024, so why not get in before that and take advantage of the current prices, which can be found on our website at [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk). Anyone who has already agreed their advertising for four consecutive editions of the Drinker will have their existing rates honoured until the end of that agreement.

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 both discounts are applied, it is 20% off the advertising rate quoted below.

SIZE	INNER PAGES	FRONT COVER
<b>Full (A5) page</b>	<b>£120.00</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>1 / 2 page</b>	<b>£90.00</b>	<b>£120 (landscape only)</b>
<b>1 / 3 page</b>	<b>£66.00</b>	<b>£90.00</b>
<b>1 / 4 page</b>	<b>£54.00</b>	<b>£72.00</b>
<b>1 / 6 page</b>	<b>£42.00</b>	<b>£56.00</b>

### 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 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](http://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.



## 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 our wider branch should know about then please drop us a line at [pubs@solihull.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@solihull.camra.org.uk)

The refurbishment work at the Reservoir at Earlswood (to become a Hickory Smokehouse and part of Greene King group) is well underway and the pub is due to reopen at the end of January.

The Harvester on Stratford Road is due to close and be refurbished, set to become an Orleans Smokehouse, part of the M&B chain.

The Red Lion in Claverdon now regularly stocks 3 real ales. However, the Crown in Claverdon has closed following an

assault on the landlord and it is not at all clear whether this will reopen.

The Wilson Arms in Knowle has recently been refurbished. The Lion in Shirley has been closed but we've been told should reopen 1 December. The Damson in Rowood Drive is looking for new tenants.

The Malt Shovel in Barston has won the Gastro Pub of the Year in the Food Awards England (congratulations).

Platform 3 in Olton has revised its opening times (please check their website for details) and is now closed Monday & Tuesday; open Wed/Thurs 5-11pm; Fri/Sat 4-11pm; and Sun 1-8pm

Paul Wigley  
Pubs Officer



**Love beer?**

**Love pubs?**

**Join CAMRA today**

Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.

Become part of the CAMRA community today - enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at [camra.org.uk/joinup](https://camra.org.uk/joinup)

\*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at 1 July 2021. Concessionary rates available. Please visit [camra.org.uk/membership-rates](https://camra.org.uk/membership-rates) †Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.

From as little as **£28.50\*** a year. That's less than a pint a month!

Includes **£30†** Real Ale Cider & Perry Vouchers

  
Campaign for Real Ale

## Membership Matters

It's that time of year again, when you're struggling to find a Christmas present for a relative/friend/loved one who is also a real ale fan/drinker. Forget the hassle of traipsing up and down the high street, as I have the answer to your problem - a years' CAMRA membership.

Membership packages start from as little as £28.50 per annum (Direct Debit) which equates to about 55p per week. Plus, some of the Christmas gift memberships include a copy of the 2024 Good Beer Guide. Even in these constrained financial times this is great value for money.

What will they get from that Christmas present I hear you ask? It includes a monthly newsletter "What's Brewing", and a very nice quarterly informative magazine "Beer" which has many interesting articles with colour photographs covering a wide range of topics from breweries to bottled beers (both are available to download to your pc/tablet/smartphone).

They will also get free or reduced entry to the many beer festivals organised by local CAMRA branches all over the country, and they will get £30 pounds worth of Real Ale/Cider vouchers which can be used at numerous pub chains including Wetherspoons, and Amber Inns. There are many other great money saving deals, so visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) for full details.

It's not just about those benefits either. In CAMRA, we are not just about real ale even though the interest in real ale continues to grow which is reflected by an ever increasing choice of real ale in pubs. We also support the brewing industry, publicans, consumers rights

and community groups nationwide who are either trying to prevent their pub from being sold to developers or being closed for good. Some of the membership fee helps to provide funds for campaigning and for some of the groups indicated above.

We hold monthly meetings at a local pub with good real ale, but if you don't fancy that come along to one of our social event's as we are a friendly bunch and will make you more than welcome - someone might even buy you a pint!!!. Please see the Dates For Your Diary section on page 3 in this magazine or visit [www.solihull.camra.org.uk](http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk)

New Solihull members will receive a branch welcome pack and within that you will find a voucher for a free pint of real ale or cider, that you can redeem with us when attending your first branch meeting.

You can also help out with our own local Solihull Beer & Cider Festival, which we organise and run each October, joining like minded volunteers to help showcase real ale/cider to the general public. So, if you fancy a slightly more active social life CAMRA membership could be just the ticket.

Join up, Join in, Join the campaign.

Finally I would like to wish all of you reading this publication a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and enjoy whatever ale you try/buy over the festive season and beyond.

Dave Mckowen  
Membership Secretary

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**The 101<sup>st</sup> edition of the Solihull Drinker will be published on Monday 4 March 2024. Please note that the deadline for copy, advertising and any other contribution for this issue is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you in advance to all contributors.**

The Pub Snack Company

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