



Solihull

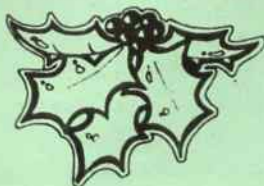


BORO BANTER



ISSUE No. 30

CHRISTMAS 1985



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The "BORO BANTER" is Solihull CAMRA's main source of income and with this being the season of good will, it seems a good time for me to thank everyone who has helped with the production of this newsletter. Top of the list must be Alan and his staff at PAPER AND PRINT who have done a very good job printing the Banters this year. We are very dependent upon their help and it is much appreciated. The Advertisers have remained loyal too and once again I must say we are grateful for their help. We wish them all good luck and good business in the future. Obviously our readers are very important. If none of the Banters were taken at pubs it would be a waste of time us printing them. I hope we have converted a few people and pubs to real ale, we are a campaign first and foremost after all! Next year the banter will come out about every two months. I hope you are able to find them, the circulation is gradually increasing. The branch wish all of you a Merry Christmas and hope you celebrate it with plenty of good real ale! However, do be careful with regard to drinking and driving.

The new Lodge

Yardley Wood Road,
Solihull Lodge.



Ansell's

ENJOY TRADITIONAL
BEER AT IT'S BEST.

BURTONALE

Wide range of Bar Meals
Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00

Ansell's

THE VIKING

The Viking in Ulleries Road, Hobs Moat has been mentioned frequently in the Banter recently regarding changing availability of certain beers. However, this time it is the landlord who is changing! Mr. Tony Bevington, and his wife Kath, are taking over a Samuel Smiths pub in the north east and we wish them well for the future. Tony has been very enthusiastic towards CAMRA and the newly installed real ale in the Viking, so we will be sorry to see him go.



The Burton Ale will remain available for the foreseeable future at least, in fact with the installation of a handpump in the public bar (in addition to the one in the lounge) turnover should increase considerably.

BERNIES



BIRMINGHAM'S No. 1

Real Ale Off Licence

**WE HAVE A SELECTION OF
BOTTLED AND CANNED
BEERS THAT'S SECOND TO
NONE!**

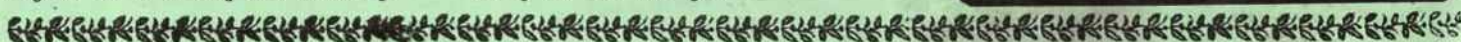
Our range of Imported Beers includes Kirin from Japan ... Molson Beer from Canada ... the famous Pelican from France ... and that's only to name a few

**A TERRIFIC SELECTION OF
GOOD OLD FASHIONED
TRADITIONAL BRITISH BEER ON
DRAUGHT —**

Containers Supplied

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OFF-LICENCE LIKE US ANY.
WHERE IN THE WORLD**

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SHIRLEY, TEL: 021-744 2827
SEE YOU THERE!!!



ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE

ORANGE TREE INN

CHADWICK END Lapworth 2458

*A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
from
Bob & Ann*

FOR TRADITIONAL FOOD FROM THE

Inn-Kitchen

Attractive Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED



A TRIP TO THE
OKTOBERFEST, 1985

The Munich Oktoberfest is the World's greatest beer-drinking celebration, held annually to honour Queen Theresia, wife of the Bavarian King Ludwig, and 1985 was its 175th anniversary. It is basically a gigantic fun fair which fills every hotel room in the area with visitors from all over the world. We arrived at 5 O'clock one evening and I was immediately stunned by the immense throng of people. I would estimate 200,000 attend on any night alone! The gigantic Ferris Wheel vies with other fairground machinery for rides which did seem nauseating to me just looking at them! The main attraction of course is the beer. Huge marquees, holding thousands of folk, represent the Seven Munich Breweries. Non-stop oompah

bands take the main stage playing music which by-passes international boundaries and gets everyone singing at the spartan wooden tables. The light Muncher lager is served by strapping waitresses who carry up to eight-litre steins at any one time. (I've struggled with eight empties after only drinking two litres at and 4 Schnapps!) The beer

You don't really need me to say we had a great time going around the Davenport Brewery recently. The sampling room was even better! All the beers were in excellent condition and it is a real novelty trying things like Continental Lager and Top Brew de Luxe in completely traditional form. Food was also provided by Davenports and for that we were most grateful.

Although the atmosphere of the brewery is somewhat different to smaller places like Hook Norton, all the canning and PET bottling plants were interesting and something else to look at. However, possibly the most interesting thing to come out of the trip was the news that Top Brew will be made available in cask form soon as well as the

THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



fine traditional ales.

Selection of light bar snacks available

Attractive Canalside Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

is accompanied by hendl (roast chicken) or haxen (pigs heels), wurst (sausages), gigantic pretzels and slices of salty white radish. The tents start to clear at 11.00 p.m., an end to an immensely satisfying evening. I must say, it was certainly worth the effort in getting there.

current bottles. It is only on a trial basis in selected pubs in their tied estate for the time being but you shouldn't have too much difficulty tracking it down! Let's hope it takes off.

HERB WATER, NOT SUGAR WATER?

A CAMRA member recently upset many people, including myself, by referring to Bathams Bitter as sugar water. However, on a recent impromptu visit to their brewery I was told that HOPS weren't a particularly important ingredient and not many people would notice the difference if they added HERBS instead. Heaven forbid!! Good job it wasn't the head brewer who said it, otherwise we might be mourning the loss of another great Black Country brew!.

Bluebell Inn

93 HIGH STREET HENLEY IN ARDEN WARWICKSHIRE

Telephone 05642-2646

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

Colin & Ann Squires

FOOD AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES.





MORE TAKEOVER FEARS

After several weeks of speculation the Australian company, Elders IXL of Fosters fame, have made a formal bid for Allied Lyons worth £2 billion. Allied are an enormous company with eight breweries and about 7,000 pubs. They also own the food group Lyons and Tetley tea bags. If the takeover bid was successful the new owners would have a very strong foothold in the brewing market, second only to Bass.

Elders are about one quarter of the size of Allied but their chief executive John Elliott is confident that he can borrow enough money from the worlds' banks.

CAMRA believes the results of a successful takeover would be CATASTROPHIC. Mr. Elliott is only interested in expanding his power, whatever the consequences for the consumer. He openly states that Allied lacks behind Bass regarding rationalisation. Breweries not working at 100% capacity are threatened and so are uneconomic pubs. He has also said purchasing in raw materials would be cut. Does that mean wheat, rice, and potato substitutes instead of barley. Or less hops; or both? Mr. Elliott is also obsessed with national brands like Fosters. It would be like going back to the seventies and "Grotneys Red Revolution." CAMRA's praise of the large brewing groups is maybe justifiably sparse although it must be said that Allied's policies have often come closer to CAMRA's ideals. They have tried new brews and set up small breweries like Halls and Holt Plant and Deacon. Many traditional pubs have received sympathetic modernisation. Most importantly perhaps is Allied's policy of decentralization with is something else John Elliott is opposed to.

So you will see there could be

many dire consequences if we do not do everything possible to stop this bid. Allied rejected the initial offer but Elders are expected to increase their bid. Allied insist they are not for sale, but as we have seen from previous struggles, this alone is not good

enough to thwart a bid. If Elders were to get a foothold in the U.K. I can imagine many Australian type pubs being awash with weak, pale, thin, cold, fizzy Aussie lager. From a British beer drinker's point of view, far better Elders stay down under - six foot under?

Red Lion Hotel



HIGH STREET, KNOWLE,
SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS
Telephone KNOWLE (560) 2461



BURTON ALE

LUNCHTIMES ★

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Sandwiches.*

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FUNCTION ROOM ★ TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE £2.00 and
NEW YEARS EVE £3.00 inc. Buffet.

HOT FOOD ★ Now available between
7 pm-10 pm daily

★ GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED ★



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telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

ROGER & JACKIE WEATHERALL



Winter Royal



Wide range of Bar Meals available.
Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00 p.m.



BRANCH DIARY

FRIDAY, 20th DECEMBER - our Christmas social will be an informal pub crawl of Solihull town centre. We will start at the George at about 8.30 p.m. and move on to the Snooty Fox and Barley Mow before finishing off at the Golden Lion around 10.00. If you can't make all the pubs why not try and meet us in the middle somewhere?

TUESDAY 14th JANUARY, 1986
OPEN MEETING at THE GEORGE HOTEL in SOLIHULL. This smart hotel sells Tetley Bitter and Burton Ale, both on handpump. The management are allowing us to use an upstairs "landing-balcony room". Their hospitality is much appreciated.

January Sunday lunchtime social at THE RAILWAY, DORRIDGE (M & B)
Ring contact for actual date



THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE,
OH AND GOODBYE

The manager of the Fleur de Lyse at Lowsonford is being squeezed out after many years service! Whitbread Flowers have decided not to renew his lease and it will become a managed house. Changes to the pub's layout and decor are possible and more emphasis is expected to be placed on food.

A Superb Evening Entertainment with The Great Pub Band

Fiddlers Elbow

WIDE REPERTOIRE - FROM ELECTRIC FOLK TO POP TO ROCK

- LINE UP -

Wendy Lowry - Lead Vocals, Mandolin, Harmonica, Keyboards
John Lowry - Lead Guitar, Keyboards, Backing Vocals
Paul Mc Mullen - Lead Vocals, Acoustic Guitar
Paul Hayes - Lead Vocals, Bass Guitar
Simon Fitzgerald - Drums, Backing Vocals

For further details & bookings
contact:-
John Lowry on Earlswood 2305

I wish to become a member of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

I enclose £7 (£10 overseas) for full membership for a year. ☐

Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation. ☐

FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts.

CONTACTS

If you want any information regarding CAMRA nationally or locally contact Steve Dyson at 79 Walsgrave Drive, Damson Wood, Solihull (021 705 1168) or David Queenborough at 11 Upton Close, Shirley, Solihull. (021 744 3113)



The views expressed in the Boro Banter are intended to inform the general public, in and around Solihull of changes, or happenings, with the ever changing Real Ale and pub scene. They may not necessarily reflect the views of CAMRA nationally.

The Bulls Head

TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED ALE
ANSSELLS MILD AND BITTER, BURTON ALE.
TRADITIONAL COATES CIDER

Wide range of Bar Meals available:

MON - SAT. 11.30 - 2.15, 5.30 - 8.30

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BAKED POTATOES
WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS

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EARLSWOOD
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FUN NIGHT
EVERY
OTHER FRIDAY



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