



ISSUE No. 32

# “Solihull BORO BANTED”



JUNE 1986

## SOLIHULL CARNIVAL EDITION

### The new Lodge

**Yardley Wood Road,  
Solihull Lodge.**



### Ansell's

**ENJOY TRADITIONAL  
BEER AT IT'S BEST.**



TRADITIONAL  
TETLEY'S  
BITTER

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

### THE 1986 RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

For several years the number of CAMRA members was falling slightly, mainly because people were not renewing their membership. However, at the end of 1983 things started to level out slightly and at the present time the figures are showing encouraging growth.

Unfortunately CAMRA made a loss last year and to try and offset this, the annual subscription has risen to £9.00, the first increase for FIVE years. This is not extortionate, considering the rate of inflation over that time. On top of this, couples can have joint membership for only £9.00 and O.A.P's only have to pay £6.00. Life Membership is also available for £90 and is proving very popular. In the year to last Christmas the figures rose by over 400%.

Because of subscription rises, a recruitment campaign is

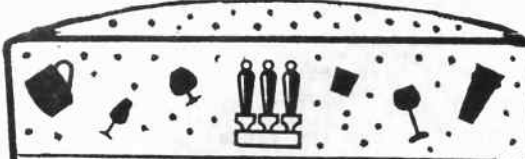
most important. We don't want the upturn in membership halted. Remember CAMRA is the ONLY body who represents the pub goer in general, and tries to protect him/her from the big powerful anti-consumer minded breweries who are concerned only with their profit at the expense of others. We oppose takeovers, price rises, monopolies, restrictive opening hours, the tied house system, poorly kept real ale, insensitive modernisation of traditional pubs, short measure etc. as well as processed keg beers.

As part of the membership drive, special deals are often available at CAMRA events. At our CARNIVAL STALL people who join will be given bar towels, badges, beer mats etc. At beer festivals free beer, guides or refunded admissions is not unusual. This would be a good time to join. Often you can get a lot of your money back with such deals if your're worried about the cost.

Remember you are able to buy the GOOD BEER GUIDE cheaper than non-members and get into beer festivals free. Members are also entitled to vote for their favourite pubs for G B G inclusion, attend local social events, go on brewery visits (usually free admission and beer!) On top of all that you would get a monthly edition of our newspaper "WHAT'S BREWING" through your door, meet many new friends who would have similar interest and be part of a worthwhile consumer group who are protecting a unique product that is part of Britain's heritage. A few battles have been won but we are losing the war, especially with so many independents being lost and lager taking a bigger share of the market. People who think CAMRA has won are acting like the proverbial ostrich with his head in the sand.

### THE REGENCY

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries continue expanding with the opening of The Regency on Stratford Road, just south of Shirley. It is due to be a large hotel in time but much work remains to be done regarding this. However, a large plush lounge called The Pavilion is open and it sells traditional Banks's Mild & Bitter, plus Hansons Black Country Bitter (which is brewed by Banks's). On my only visit the beer was in reasonable condition and this is the only pub in the area that sells Banks's beers.



## BERNIES

### The Real Ale Off Licence

Can offer you  
**A WIDE SELECTION OF  
TRADITIONAL BEER ON DRAUGHT**  
including :-  
Pedigree, Hook Norton, Bathams,  
Everards, Hoskins, Moorhouse's  
Burton Bridge, Wadworths 6X  
Robinsons etc.

**ALSO ON DRAUGHT**  
Whisky, Brandy, Gin, Sherry, Port, Wine  
& Somerset Scrumpy Cider.

**IMPORTED BEERS FROM COUNTRIES  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS IN  
ANY QUANTITY FOR ALL  
PRIVATE OR PARTY FUNCTIONS  
AVAILABLE  
**FREE GLASS HIRE AVAILABLE**  
if required

*Why not call on us and  
feast your eyes on the  
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SHIRLEY. TEL: 021-744 2827**

**SEE YOU THERE**

## Bluebell Inn

Colin & Ann  
Squires

93 HIGH STREET HENLEY IN ARDEN  
WARWICKSHIRE

Telephone 05642-2646



**BERNIES**

The real ale off licence

THE PLACE FOR GOOD BEER

trips around the brewery! Some local CAMRA members have volunteered to act as guides. Having said that it is not completely open yet although there are various open days, when the general public and members of the Trust can go and have a look around.

The whole scheme is backed by CAMRA and other national organisations including The Victoria Society, Save Britain's Heritage, The Brewing History Society and The Association for Industrial Archaeology.

Individuals are asked to help out by becoming members of the Brewery Museum Trust. For £15 you will become a Founder Member or for only £5, an ordinary member. The main difference being the fact that Founder Members get a special bottle conditioned beer called Foundation Ale. It is a strong beer, introduced as a very limited edition and I am very much looking forward to receiving mine!! If that doesn't appeal to you I think £5 for ordinary membership is very worthwhile. If you care about tradition beer and the preservation of our very special but diminishing brewing heritage, then please support THE NATIONAL BREWERY & MUSEUM TRUST.

Bernies Real Ale Off Licence has had much publicity in this newsletter before but in some respects this is even more deserved at the moment. Most of the staff are now CAMRA members and are genuinely interested in good real ale. Consequently the quality of the beer is better than ever and a wider range than of late is planned, including some that are unusual anywhere in the West Midlands. Almost all the beers sold are unavailable in Solihull CAMRA's area and others are hard to find anywhere in the country such as Berrow, Hoskins and Burton Bridge. Beers new to Bernies should appear soon such as Wells Bombadier and Ma Pardoes. This in particular would be appropriate bearing in mind CAMRA's strong involvement in the company. More Mild is a possibility too, probably from Marstons and Banks's.

Drinks on draught is Bernies speciality. In addition to cask and keg beer, there is also wine, port, sherry, spirits and scrumpy, which of course is traditional. Some of the foreign beer of which there is a wide variety, is also naturally conditioned, particularly the Belgium beer. Bernies Off Licence is in Cranmore Boulevard, Shirley, just off the A34 Stratford Road. You will find a visit very worthwhile especially if you are interested in good traditional beer and fancy a change from Brew XI! It is the beer that puts the shop above all other Off Licences and pubs in the area.

## Solihull Carnival

Saturday June 7

For the third year running we are pleased to report that the Solihull branch of CAMRA are having a stall at the SOLIHULL CARNIVAL which is on Saturday 7th June. It is a good opportunity to help local charities and have a pleasant day out at the same time. Several local members will be around the stall and are always pleased to meet new faces and talk about any beer related subjects. Any CAMRA members who have never been to a meeting will be particularly welcome.

We are not allowed to sell any beer, unfortunately (Solihull police oppose any application for a licence at the carnival because of bad behaviour in the past) but we will be selling and giving away many brewery and CAMRA related items. For example, 'T' shirts, badges, beer mats, bar towels, beer guides etc. As usual the Carnival will be held in Tudor Grange Park near the centre of Solihull. We look forward to meeting some of you there!

ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE

## ORANGE TREE INN

CHADWICK END Lapworth 2458

Your Hosts Bob & Ann Coppack

BARBECUE PARK

OPEN

Fri Evenings

Sat Evenings

Sunday Lunchtime



Attractive Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED



#### PUB PRESERVATION

Pub preservation is on a pretty even keel at the present time, the brewers seem to be making a concerted effort to preserve the basic fabric of pubs when they are renovated using genuine crafted materials rather than putting their efforts into the "theme" designs we encountered during the 1960's and 70's. Locally, Ansell's can be congratulated on its tasteful refurbishments and M. & B. too must be pleased with their efforts at the Masons Arms. However, there is a dark side to all of this, probably due to the close proximity of the NEC. We have seen a spate of pub conversions into "Carvery restaurants" such as the Wilsons Arms in Knowle and the Nags Head in Hockley Heath. Thankfully the "fun pub" idea seems to be dying a slow death, Toad Hall in Hall Green has reverted back to the Horse Shoes. Ansell's have seen the error of their ways. Unfortunately, this hasn't helped the vandalised, derelict George & Dragon on the A34 in Shirley. It was to be converted into a "fun pub" but financial problems have made its future uncertain. Along with the Royal Oak in Hockley Heath, which is being turned into a Greek "Taverna", the George & Dragon has been added to the CAMRA "Lost Locals List" of closed and demolished pubs. Local authorities can also be responsible for the demise of pubs in Birmingham. I have seen the demolition in recent months of the General Wolfe in Gosta Green. This is due to the gradual strangulation of the area by the Aston Science Park. Two other locals were also threatened. The popular Prince of Wales in Cambridge Street, famed for its Ansell's Mild, is overshadowed by the £106m Broad Street Convention Centre. The Council doesn't seem to realise that these facilities are engrained into the local fabric and should be retained at all costs.

# Red Lion Hotel



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SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS  
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**BURTON ALE**

**LUNCHTIMES** ★ **BAR SNACKS — HOT AND COLD**  
★ **3 DIFFERENT SELECTIONS OF HOT**  
★ **FOOD TO CHOOSE FROM MON-FRI.**

*We also have a great selection of  
Sandwiches.*

**WINE BAR** ★ **WINES, COCKTAILS ETC.**  
**FUNCTION ROOM** ★ **CATERS FOR-**  
★ **\* 21st BIRTHDAYS**  
★ **\* WEDDING RECEPTIONS**  
★ **\* PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**

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

★ **GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED** ★

THE NATIONAL BREWERY  
MUSEUM TRUST



The Trust was formed about a year ago to try and preserve the old Everards Brewery in Burton Upon Trent. Everards wanted to close the brewery and move all operations to Leicester, where they have been based for some years. The Tiger Brewery, although rather run down, is a classic example of the Victoria tower brewery design and it would have been catastrophic if the building had been demolished. A new company called Heritage Brewery Ltd., has been formed and they brew Mild and Tiger Bitter for Everards. (As a point of interest, Old Original

is brewed at a small new plant in Leicester and Beacon has been replaced by a new inferior Bitter which is brewed by Whitbread. The Trust are renovating the whole site and plan to turn it into a WORKING museum. It is hoped that many brewing related exhibits will ultimately be on display, such as working machinery, all kinds of memorabilia and brewery advertising material. Until this innovative museum was planned, there was no National Centre in the country for housing "the existing material and artifacts" relating to the brewing industry. This has now been put right! What makes a visit to the museum so appetising is the fact that it still brews beer in the traditional manner. You will be able to go on organised

## THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



**fine traditional ales.**

**Selection of light bar snacks available**  
**Attractive Canalside Garden**

**GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED**



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Squires

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OPEN

Fri Evenings

Sat Evenings

Sunday/Lunchtime



Attractive Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED



## THE WINGED SPUR

ULLENHALL · Nr. HENLEY-IN-ARDEN · WARWICKSHIRE

telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

ROGER & JACKIE WEATHERALL



Royal Oak



Wide range of Bar Meals available.

Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00 p.m.

### WHO'S FOR A LOUNGE IN THE BAR

Has your local pub still got a public bar these days? This institution is now under threat in some areas where several rooms are knocked through into a lounge room and with only one bar to staff, they charge higher prices; economical sense to brewery accountants.

So what is the loss involved with a public bar..... darts - some dartboards do find their way into obscure corners of dimly lit lounges - dominoes - too noisy!... pensioners don't spend enough money - drinks last too long.... workmen in overalls - banned from dirtying chairs and carpets with greasy clothes and shoes..... Most sports teams - crib, football etc. Added together all the old characters and bar regulars -

the backbone of most pubs' trade that make up a unique ATMOSPHERE. That has been destroyed!

Of over 70 pubs in the Solihull CAMRA area only 29 retain a Public Bar; Recent losses were M & B's Red Lion, Earlswood and Hampton in Arden's Engine. Others now have fancy names decorating them, becoming open plan areas and we the public have to pay the extra cost of the beer for the privilege of having no choice in which room we drink in - usually a pricey lounge bar often directed towards diners with little atmosphere and overbearing food smells. Evidence of this erosion of choice is the fact that only ONE pub in each of these towns has a public bar amongst their choice of pubs..... Solihull, Henley in Arden and to a lesser extent, Knowle. Think about it and find them out sometime!

## The Bulls Head

TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED ALE  
ANSALLS MILD AND BITTER, BURTON ALE,  
TRADITIONAL COATES CIDER

Wide range of Bar Meals available:

MON - SAT. 11.30 - 2.15, 5.30 - 8.30

HOUSE SPECIALITY  
BAKED POTATOES  
WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS

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Tel: 021-728 2335

FUN NIGHT  
EVERY  
OTHER FRIDAY

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the Campaign. Take up the fight. Only £7 a year. Send cheque or P.O. to Campaign for Real Ale Limited, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, AL1 3BW. Marked Membership. Name

Address



BRANCH DIARY

SUNDAY 1st JUNE Sunday lunchtime social at THE COACH AND HORSES, WEATHEROAK HILL (on the way to Alvechurch.) Pleasant pub with many beers such as Everards, Sam Smiths, Hook Norton and Holdens.

SATURDAY 7th JUNE CAMRA stall at SOLIHULL CARNIVAL. More details elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, we will be delighted to meet any new CAMRA members or enthusiasts!

TUESDAY 10th JUNE - Open Meeting at THE LYNDON, BARN LANE in OLTON (Ansells, GBG listed).

JUNE Joint social with Tamworth and Sutton Branch at THE MAID OF THE MILL, ATHERSTONE. A very pleasant Davenports pub where the two branches will be doing battle at darts and pool.

Date to be confirmed - see contact.

### 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 Ufton Close, Shirley, Solihull. (021 744 3113)



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