



Solihull



BORO BANTER



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GRAFFITI CORNER

All of us amateur doodlers dedicated to the above will be delighted to learn that the enterprising landlord of Balsall Common's White Horse Steak House has installed a blackboard in the Gents toilet for our further education on the subject. He is also offering a free pint for the best graffiti of the week, so sup up your beer and put some ink in your pens.

P.S.: No reports if there's one in the Ladies Loo! Similarly, the branch will offer 4 pints free for the best beer related graffiti sent to the below address during August. Here's one to start the ball rolling: - "Blessed are the weak in gravity for they shall be reviled by CAMRA".

Brian Queenborough
11, Ufton Close,
Shirley,
Solihull.

PUB NEWS

The Swan House Hotel at Wilmcote, near Stratford has a new choice of beers. The current Good Beer Guide lists Ruddles County, Hook Norton and Davenports but now it sells Everards Tiger, Old Original and Beacon Bitter. The beers are served on handpump and it is the only Everards for miles. The hotel is fairly smart and definitely worth the visit. (the food in the restaurant is as good as the beer), Tiger is also served on keg, so make sure you get the right one.

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

This September, the Great British Beer Festival will be staged for the first time in Birmingham at the Bingley Hall. It should be a marvellous occasion for all concerned. About 100 breweries will be represented supplying around 200 beers! Many will never have been on sale in Birmingham before especially beers from the new wave of small breweries that are appearing all over the country. Even the Midlands breweries will be sending beer that has hardly ever been seen before such as Aston Manor Festival and Draught Top Brew De-Luxe. The festival will be opened on the evening of Tuesday 6 September by England cricket captain Bob Willis, who himself is a big real-ale fan. For the following 4 days it will be open for lunchtime and evening sessions with midnight closing on Friday and hopefully all day opening on Saturday.

This is one of CAMRA's most important events of the year, both in financial and campaigning terms, hopefully the Campaign will gain new members.

The festival had been held in Leeds for the past 2 years and was very successful on both occasions. Some people up

North feel that it will not be as successful at this venue so it is up to us Brummies (and Silhillians) to prove them wrong, so be there!

Apart from the ale, real cider will be available and there will be live music in the shape of jazz, folk and brass bands. Some of the more unusual pub games from across the country can be played too.

On top of all that, for the first time at a GBBF a mini Great British Food Festival is being set up featuring a range of traditional British delicacies.

There should be something for everyone, so why not come along to Britain's biggest 'pub'. Birmingham probably will never see such a wide range of beers again, at least not till next year! Drinks are sold at normal pub prices and admission will be 80p in the evenings and all day Saturday. All other lunch-times are free.

LITTLE NIP

It brought a whole new meaning to the phrase 'I'll just have a little nip,' when a drinker in Brighton poured himself a bottle of Merrydown vintage cider - and found three dead earwigs in his glass!

THINK OF A PUB with a choice of 19 beers on draught

THINK OF A STORE with a selection of 150-plus bottle and canned beers

THINK OF AN OFF-LICENCE that sells spirits, sherry, port and cider on draught

THINK OF AN OUTDOOR that stocks 60 varieties of wine.

YOU CAN'T ????

BERNIES

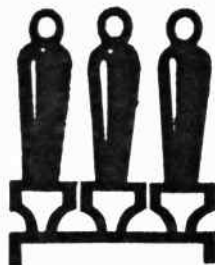
BIRMINGHAM'S No. 1

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*We have got the lot, all to enjoy in the comfort of your own home
Containers supplied from pints to gallons.*

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HARBORNE, TEL: 021-427 5796

266, CRANMORE BOULEVARD,
SHIRLEY, TEL: 021-744 2827



SCRUMPY from
39p PER PINT
Bridge Bitter
Moorhouse Pendlewhitch
Aston Manor Bitter
Adams Hawthorn
"Stunner 75"

Golden Lion

WARWICK ROAD, SOLIHULL.

Mine Hosts : Chris and Caron Goodwin

INVITE YOU TO ENJOY TRADITIONAL BEER AT IT'S BEST, IN THE PUBLIC BAR, THE COSY SNUG OR THE PLUSH SURROUNDINGS OF THE GILDERS LOUNGE.

DIRECTORS BITTER ON HANDPUMP

GOOD FOOD AVAILABLE EACH LUNCHTIME AND EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY.



COURAGE



COURAGE



COURAGE

HILLS AND ALES AROUND KINVER

On the 26th of June the branch had our first Sunday afternoon social in Kinver, Staffordshire. This is a small attractive town just to the North of Kidderminster with many pubs and an excellent selection of good beers. Bearing this in mind it goes without saying, that we had a very enjoyable day out indeed.

We met at The Plough which is a characterful Simphiss pub with a massive brass collection and beer which was tasty. Simphiss beer can be rather bland at times.

After closing time we spent about 3 hours walking very leisurely over Kinver Edge which overlooks the town. It was a lovely walk, along the lofty crest of the Edge one way, and through pleasant woodland along the foot of the hills on the way back. We passed several interesting sandstone outcrops with caves cut into them, some of these being used as dwellings only 20 years ago.

On returning to the car we had our tea and then made our way back towards the pubs for the evening session. Right on opening time we were in The Vine drinking Highgate Mild and Springfield Bitter. From there we walked down the High Street to the Plough and Harrow although we did stop briefly for some Hansons at The Cross on the way. After trying some beautiful Bathams at The Plough we finished off with some Pedigree at the Whittington Inn which seemed as good a way as any to end the day.

BRANCH DIARY

Skittles evening Gay Dog, Lower Quinton
Wednesday 24 August ALL Welcome

OPEN comm. meeting Bulls Head
Earlwood. Monday 5 September, very pleasant pub, Ansells Mild, Bitter and Burton Ale. Pro CAMRA Landlord

Great British Beer Festival, Bingley Hall, Birmingham. 6 - 10 September.
DO NOT miss this Festival. It may stay in Birmingham for another year if the Festival is a great success!

If anyone wants to know anything about CAMRA (Solihull) phone Steve Dyson (021-705 1168) OR David Queenborough (021-744 3113)

SKITTLES EVENING

On Wednesday 24 August, the Solihull CAMRA branch will be joining the Stratford Branch, by kind invitation, for a skittles night. Our Branch was looking for a venue for such an event for ourselves and couldn't find anywhere locally so many thanks Stratford. The match will be held at the Gay Dog in Lower Quinton which is 6 miles south west of Stratford, just off the Broadway road (A46).

It is a pleasant country pub catering for all tastes. The skittles room is separate from the main pub but has its own bar-selling Hook Norton Best Bitter and bar snacks are also available. In the main pub draught Bulmers cider is also available.

The Gay dog is a free house with 5 hand-pumps yet sadly only sells Hookie, which replaced Davenports some time ago. It is rather a rambling pub with several interesting rooms, a room set aside for diners, a comfortable lounge and a traditional country locals bar. There may be a team joining us from Redditch Branch and also Worcester, and there may also be a team of Stratford doctors so it should be a great night. We have not got many experienced skittle players within our ranks so anyone who can play (or any one who just wants to come along for the fun of it) is most welcome.

COURAGE'S BROKEN PROMISE

A few months ago a Courage Regional Director, Mr. Cahillane came to one of our meetings at the Golden Lion in Solihull. He definitely promised that Traditional Best Bitter would be available by now at that pub. However the beer has not appeared and apparently will not in the near future. This is a great pity because although Directors Bitter, which is on sale, is a good pint it is very strong and if you are driving or want to drink several pints Best Bitter would be ideal, and its taste is not unpleasant. This type of unfulfilled promise is typical of the larger breweries.

Unfortunately Mr. Cahillane has moved to Devon so we are back to square one.



'Camelot Restaurant'

THE NAG'S HEAD

Stratford Road
Hockley Heath
Solihull, West Midlands
Telephone: Lapworth 2095

George & Connie Powell



ASTON MANOR BREWERY

This is Birmingham's newest brewery and it has been set up in Aston by 4 men who used to work for Ansells. The brewery is situated on a 1.5 acre site in an old timber yard less than half a mile from the old Ansells brewery. To set the brewery up cost ½ million pounds and this was made available by Dennis Morgan, a Stourbridge businessman, who is now the brewery chairman.

After overcoming several problems such as a fire that damaged part of the buildings, Aston Manor started brewing a couple of months ago. Finding outlets for their beer was another problem, mainly because of the lack of free houses in Birmingham with the giant Bass and Allied groups having such a grip on the town. One way of getting round this was to put of the beer into PET plastic bottles (such as the ones used by Davenports) and supplying supermarkets and licences. The PET bitter has a 1034 O.G. and the mild is about 1032. Casks beers are supplied to off-licences and a few free houses but are not very easy to find in our area, although Tipplers Paradise and Bernies have occasionally sold the real bitter (1038) on draught.

The brewery employs 30 workers at the present time but hopes eventually to create about 100 jobs. One way of expanding would be to supply Ansells Pubs and this is a possibility for the future. Ansells have helped in a small way by supplying some of the brewing equipment which came from old Aston cross plant. Allied, already buy beer from outside their group, such as Gibbs Mew, Wiltshire Bitter, and have said if Aston Manor beers are competitively priced and of good quality, then they may consider taking their beers. Let us hope

Tipplers Paradise

128, Kineton Green Road,
Olton, Solihull. &
021-706 6070

21 Park Road,
Sutton Coldfield.
021-354 6768

Specialists
in
Traditional Ales from all over the Country.
Fine Wines
&
Foremost Authority on Foreign Beers.
Parties catered for — including
FREE GLASS HIRE

this comes about as it will then increase choice in Ansells pubs even further.

PUB NOTES

Royal Oak (Hockley Heath) selling a well kept Wiltshire Bitter

Forest Hotel (Dorridge) selling Banks Mild and Bitter but there is not an electric dispense for the Bitter in the bar so if you order a pint of Bitter it will be carried from the lounge; at lounge prices — you have been warned!

EX-PUB FOR SALE

The former manager's training school on the main Warwick road in Chadwick end is advertised for sale due to Allied Brewery cut-backs, years ago this used to be one of their pubs quaintly named Tom O'Bedlam; derived from the days when highway-men and footpads clashed with the law while trying to rob stage-coaches that sometimes called there resulting in fighting and bedlam.

SOLIHULL REAL ALE GUIDE

A Solihull Real Ale guide is being compiled at the moment and it is nearing completion. It will cost just 10p and will be on sale soon in local pubs and at the Great British Beer Festival. Due to lack of space it will not list all the pubs in the area. A comprehensive guide may be available in the more distant future when we are financially more secure, but this one lists about one third of the real ale outlets.

The 35 mentioned are not necessarily the best pubs and the ones omitted are certainly not the worst. The pubs were chosen to try to give a good cross section of the drinking houses and the best selection of beers in the area. They range from plush 2 star hotels to basic locals.

23 Pubs are given the "full treatment" with their name, location, details of beer available and a list of facilities. The rest are just mentioned saying where they are and what the beer is. On the back page will be a map showing the pubs locations.

The area covered from Olton and Bickenhill in the North Down to Henley and from Earlswood east to Berkswell.

Anyone who thought choice of beer is restricted around the Solihull area may be surprised to find around 14 breweries represented offering about 20 different beers.

Add to this the 100 or so beers available throughout the year at the 2 off-licences mentioned and you will see we have almost as good a selection as anyone.

SALTER STREET, EARLSWOOD

Mine Hosts: Dave and Margaret Weston

**TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED ALE
ANSSELLS EXCELLENT MILD AND BITTER
IND COOPES SUPERB BURTON ALE**

**HOT AND COLD FOOD
AVAILABLE 12 — 2 pm
EVERY LUNCHTIME**

**also THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
EVENINGS 6 — 8**

The Bulls Head

THE LODGE

of
YARDLEY WOOD ROAD
SOLIHULL LODGE

fine  ales
TRADITIONAL

mine hosts -
PETE AND JANE HORGATE

SEE YOU SOON!

SAMUEL ALSOPP'S
GOLD CROSS
lager
SOLD
HERE

Artois of Belgium also brew in Holland, producing 'Special Dutch' and also a pilsener type beer and a Trappiste strong ale in conjunction with some Trappist Fathers. Whilst Pilsener types are most common there are many other types: 'Oud Bruin' (old brown) which is sweet and low gravity and 'Bok' which is stronger and available in the colder months. Even Heineken brews these beer types.

Another Dutch beer available from our real-ale off-licences is 'Gulpen', which is also not pasteurized.

IS THIS THE REAL HEINEKEN ?

BEERS OF THE WORLD No. 2 HOLLAND

The most popular imported beer in parts of the world is Dutch. The brand in question is Heineken, which enjoys greater sales outside its local market than any other beer. Whether its customers are aware of its precise "nationality" is another matter (Whitbread's brewing British 'Heineken' in Luton), but its popularity is probably due to its Northern European name.

Beer is second only to Jenever — the forerunner to Dry Gin — as the national drink of the Netherlands. Heineken originates from Amsterdam and the company took over its home town rival 'Amstel' in 1968, yet brewing still continues. Take note Courage and Whitbread. Heineken is one of 2 giant brewing concerns and there is also 10 or so smaller breweries. The second giant brewery is Skol. No, that is not where our Skol comes from. Ours originates from similar Scandinavian/Germanic sounding towns such as Wrexham and Alloa! Skol is Anglo-Dutch and was conceived in 1964 as an 'international brand', with brewers in several countries including Britain, Canada and Sweden. It is 90% owned by Allied Breweries. It is brewed in the Orangeboom brewery in Rotterdam and at the Drie Hoefijzers (three horseshoes) brewery in Breda.

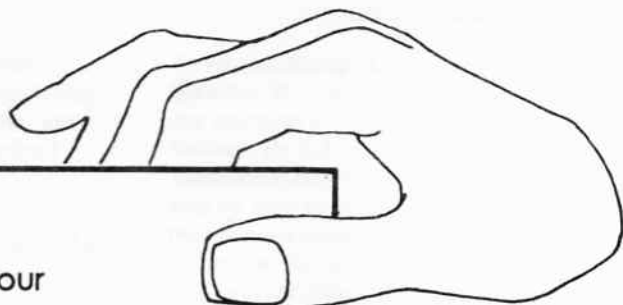
Both breweries enjoyed considerable international reputation before they were bought by Allied and the two above brands still continue but on a much smaller scale. Of the smaller breweries Grolsche is the most famous. It was customarily served in the White House when Gerald Ford was President. Grolsche (the brewery is spelt with an 'e' but the beer isn't), is the only beer from an independent brewer to have national distribution, and the brewery is very traditionalist to the point of using

old-fashioned ceramic pot-stoppers, but more importantly in its brewing process.

Unlike its rivals, Grolsch is not pasteurised. It uses the whole hop, not an extract and it uses fewer adjuncts than its rivals. The beer undergoes 12 days primary fermentation and no less than 13 weeks conditioning. The end result is a superb, light and clean tasting beer. This beer is available in Solihull from both Tiplers Paradise in Kineton Green Road and from Bernies in Cranmore Boulevard and is well worth sampling.

Talking of water, Whitbread have launched a new competition entitled "Is this the real Heineken?". The answer, of course, is no. The original is brewed in either Zoeterwoude, Amsterdam or s'Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands. The weaker British Heineken is manufactured over here.

But I don't think that is the answer Whitbread want. Their competition asks which samples of their posters are genuine. You know the campaign: "The beer that refreshes the prats, other beers cannot reach."



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