



ISSUE No. 21



# Solihull BORO BANTER



NOVEMBER, 1984



## MORE CHOICE COMES TO SOLIHULL

The Orange Tree in Chadwick End is taking guest beers on a monthly basis, but only ones brewed by Whitbread. This pub which is in the GOOD BEER GUIDE for the first time next year, already sells Flowers IPA and Original. However, between September and February six beers, unusual to this area will be on sale, one for each month. They are Castle Eden (Durham), Wethereds Bitter (Marlow), Strong Country Bitter (Cheltenham), Fremlins Tusker (Faversham), Winter Royal (Marlow) and Chesters (Salford) in that monthly order.

Whilst these beers are a welcome change from Flowers, it is a shame Whitbread couldn't have been more adventurous and taken occasional brews from independent breweries. I have seen Timothy Taylors, Marstons, Hook Norton, Hartleys, Wadworths and Thwaites in other tied Whitbread houses, so this request doesn't seem to be asking too much. Another complaint is that these guest beers are expensive. For example, Wethereds Bitter is the same strength as Ansells Mild but will cost about 20p a pint more. I know distribution costs will be far more but look at the Strong Country Bitter. This is from the very same brewery as Flowers IPA, yet is 9 pence dearer than IPA and only marginally stronger. Having said that I suppose the fact that the guest beers are so unique to the area justifies the pricing in Whitbread's eyes.

STOP PRESS. THE WINGED SPUR in ULLENHALL is also taking guest beers on a similar basis.

## The new Lodge

Yardley Wood Road,  
Solihull Lodge.



ENJOY TRADITIONAL  
BEER AT IT'S BEST.

**BURTONALE**

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

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This important event was held on Tuesday, 16th October at The Golden Lion in Solihull. The meeting was very well attended and enjoyable. Our dedicated committee all agreed to stand again so the business was over quickly and the meeting became more like a social. We were also able to look back on a year that saw both our membership and bank balance grow considerably. We are now looking forward to some more positive campaigning events such as another local real ale guide and hopefully our first beer festival.

### "AND THE LORD GAVE ME STRENGTH!"

**QUOTE** From religious type of Mormon factory workmate about a certain non-alcoholic beer....."That Barbican beer in Gloucester is stronger than it is around Nun-eaton, it gave me quite a head and I felt a little unsteady on my feet!"

### SOLIHULL'S MYSTERY MAN IN A MASK

Who was that man in a mask lurking in the Gent's toilets of The Golden Lion and who later appeared at the Solihull Branch's A.G.M. - in fact - was it even a mask!?

**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

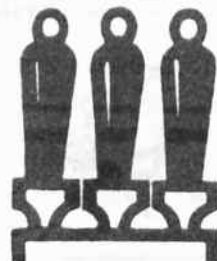
BIRMINGHAM'S No. 1

### The Real Ale Off Licence

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR XMAS  
POLYPINS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

EARLSCOURT ROAD,  
HARBORNE TEL: 021-427 5796

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



**OPEN XMAS DAY**  
12 — 2pm.  
Bathams Bitter & Old  
Woods Old  
Bridge Old  
Pendlewitch  
Severn Bore

**SCRUMPY** from  
39p PER PINT

# THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



fine traditional ales.

Selection of light bar snacks available

Attractive Canalside Garden

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

## EXPEDITION TO CANADA AND U.S.A. 1984

Although the two North American countries used to have a famed tradition of brewing, largely due to the influx of European immigrants, prohibition and mergers have meant that the present day "beer scene" is pretty dismal. Ask a typical Canadian lumberjack or American trucker for his views on beer and he will reply that he prefers a light coloured lager, drunk ice cold from the fridge. Budweiser and Miller Life are household names, they are national beers, brewed to a high quality but pretty bland and uninspiring.

However, the British Real-Ale revolution is spreading and has made its way across the Atlantic, regional micro-breweries and brewpubs are being successfully established.

My first port of call was eleven hours west of Heathrow airport - Vancouver, British Columbia a beautiful city surrounded by lakes and forests. The three-month old bus strike didn't

help my travel plans, but thankfully this is a walking city. The area is a pioneer of Canadian micro-brewing. I came across the Granville Island Brewing Co. completely by chance, a brewery visit only lasted ten minutes but the Island lager was clean and fresh tasting. The company is only six months old, but have already established itself in the local market. Having been made most wel-

small brewing companies over the last three years, British Style ales being a popular product. The Central Tavern located in historic Pioneer Square is situated about five minutes away from the Kingdome, home of the Seahawks Football team. It has a fine selection of draught and bottled beers. I sampled George Gillians Irish Red Ale, brewed by Coors of Colorado in the worlds biggest brewery, as well as Red Hook Ale, and similar brews from Smith and Reilly, Ballards and Hales all established within fifty miles or so of Seattle. The city is famous for its space needle and Ranier Ale, known locally as the "Green Death" because of the colour of its label and its high strength.

San Francisco is a city everyone should get around to visiting, the hills are steep but the views are breathtaking. Anchor Steam Beer is regarded as a world classic,

ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE

## ORANGE TREE INN

CHADWICK END  
Lapworth 2458

FOR TRADITIONAL FOOD FROM THE

## Inn-Kitchen

GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

YOUR HOSTS

BOB AND ANN COPPACK

WILL GIVE YOU A  
WARM WELCOME



come on my visit, I wish them well. A Greyhound bus took me the hundred miles across the border to Seattle. The west coast of the U.S.A. has spawned over twenty

it is only brewed here, the indigenous American beer style. It goes down well with the Clam Chowder on Fishermans Wharf. Also worth trying is London Bitter brewed by an ex-Brit for the Palo Alto Brewery and available on hand pump which is unknown in these parts.



THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH REAL ALE  
if it wasn't for

## CAMRA MEMBERS



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.

Why not help to keep the CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE alive and join in with thousands of others who enjoy good real beer.

A year's membership subscription would make an ideal Christmas present for someone you know!

I'll make no excuses, I love getting away from the hassle of everyday life and taking to the hills and countryside around us. Given the slightest opportunity and I'm OFF! I might puff a bit, toiling up hills but the reward of attaining the summits always makes it well worth while.

Our reason for going this time was mainly to spend the last ever night at a lovely little farm house in the Duddon Valley of the Lake District which was to close after 20 years as a Youth Hostel.

On previous visits, Dave and I had always been given a warm welcome by Mrs. Temple, even on the coldest and wettest days, including snow-deep, crisp and not always even!

Dave had spent a week holidaying in the area and after a 200 mile non-stop trail up the M6, Keith, Steve and I met him in The Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel in Langdale. This magnificently situated climbers' bar has lots of atmosphere - not to mention Theakstons Bitter, Old Peculiar, McEwans 70/- and Youngers No. 3. The dust laid and parched throats moistened we set off and reached Duddon Y.H. about 9.30. A true traditional welcome greeted us and we had a great night that included a marvellous free buffet supper, plus the rare chance of some liquid refreshment.

After saying our final farewells to Mr. and Mrs. Temple, we left the next morning feeling sad with no prospects of visiting the hostel ever again. We drove to Seathwaite and cheered ourselves up immensely by climbing Great End at the northern end of the Scafell range. With overcast skies but dry, we had a most enjoyable day's walk.

That night we stayed at Longthwaite Hostel in Borrowdale. During the evening we sampled Old Peculiar in reasonable condition and Theakstons Mild which was rather thin. Later on we tried Jennings Bitter in a basic, lively climbers' bar, which was very full flavoured and hoppy - in fact - NECTAR!



In dubious conditions on Sunday morning we set off to climb Blencathra, hoping to traverse the narrow, exhilarating ridges of Halls Fell and Sharp Edge. Unfortunately the wind was roaring across at something like a force 10 plus gale and to make matters worse there was an almighty hail storm that almost shot holes in your face. Enough's enough, we considered it too dangerous to continue so we turned back and sought refuge in the Horse and Farrier in Threlkeld. In the warm cosy bar we sampled the excellent Jennings again.

Due to our morning's walk being cut short, we visited the waterfalls of Stockghyll and Aira Force - both were in full spate and dramatic to behold.

Unfortunately we had to set a course for home. Dave went into a period of great quietness and poured over his maps. At last he gathered them up, we presumed a suitable route had been planned. You might think the M6 is the most direct route home to Solihull, you would be right, except when Dave is directing. His first detour was to visit The Mort Arms in Tyldesley near Manchester for some Holts, surely one of the finest bitters in the land (or world?). The next detour was to The Fox at Marston. This is a super country

pub buried in the back of beyond to the S.W. of Stafford. Ruddles County was superb but other beers less so. At least they were unusual - Owd Rodger, Lloyds Country Bitter (from near Derby) and Five Towns Bursley Bitter (Potteries). The pub also has a separate Cider Bar where some unusual Westons prescriptions were available. Our final reflections on the way home on the weekend activities were a little sad about Duddon Youth Hostel, but it had been yet another great walking and beer sampling holiday.

#### THE FLEUR DE LYSE

While some Whitbread houses are taking unusual beers monthly, the Fleur de Lyse in Lowsonford is selling STRONG COUNTRY BITTER (0 G.1037) permanently, alongside Flowers Original. Apparently its turnover is so good the landlord doesn't want to upset trade by selling lots of different beers. Country Bitter is a light, quite refreshing drink and is slightly more full-bodied than tap water. It will set you back SEVENTY EIGHT PENCE. This is presumably to maintain the select type of clientele who use the pub!



## NIGHT OUT IN LICHFIELD

On Saturday 6th October The West Midlands Bus Preservation Society offered Solihull Camra the chance of a lift to Lichfield in one of their old buses. This seemed a good opportunity to sample a few different beers and not have the worry of driving, so we eagerly accepted.

We all met in Solihull and were picked up by a 16 year old bus which was very well maintained. By the time we reached Lichfield it was about 8.15 which gave us 3 hours to walk round the pubs. By an amazing coincidence CAMRA's monthly newspaper "What's Brewing" included a feature on the pubs of Lichfield and this showed a map of all the real ale outlets near the town centre. This proved very useful as we were able to plan our pub crawl before setting out.

In the town we all split up and "did our own thing". The small party I went round with probably tried the most pubs. It was a busy but most enjoyable walkabout that included 8 pubs, between them selling 15 different beers. The first and last pubs were the best. We started at The Duke of York, a very well modernized Davenport's house and finished at The Queens Head, a good old fashioned local owned by Marstons. Amongst the other beers we tried were Banks's, Highgate DARK Mild and a welcome newcomer to Lichfield - "Home" from Nottingham who brew an excellent hoppy refreshing bitter.

There are now several "hard core" fun pubs in the town which we gave a miss! This town must be a mecca for young people who are very conscious of following the latest trends or fashions and also like paying extortionate prices. How the greedy brewery directors must wish we were all like that!

The weather was ideal for walking round and enjoying the town's character and Cathedral, which stood most impressively by a lake. The views of this were a great bonus and added considerably to the pleasure of the pub crawl. It was a very contented group of folk who headed home that night. That was when we really appreciated the lift, if you know what I mean!



## THE WINGED SPUR

ULLENHALL · Nr. HENLEY-IN-ARDEN · WARWICKSHIRE

telephone: Henley-in-Arden 2005

ROGER & JACKIE WEATHERALL



Wethereds Bitter



Wide range of Bar Meals available.

Mon. — Sat. 12.00 — 2.00 p.m.



### BRANCH DIARY

**MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER.** Open meeting at The Drawbridge, Majors Green near Shirley. Davenports Mild and Bitter plus Flowers Original and Westons Cider.

**SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER** - Trip around The Three Counties Brewery in Queugeley, near Gloucester. This is a new small brewery set up by Paul and Martin Soden from The Jolly Roger Brewery in Upton. We have already been around the Upton brewery and it was marvellous. I'm sure this trip will be equally interesting. Ring contact for details of times and lifts.

**SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER** - Trip on train down to Warwick for an evening pub crawl. Many good beers and pubs, meet Solihull Station, time from contact.

**MONDAY 10th DECEMBER** - Open meeting at Boat, Catherine de Barnes. Same beers as Drawbridge.

**SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER** - Christmas party with Shakespeare branch at the National Vegetable Research Station near Wellesbourne. Pub games, range of beers, buffet supper, plus lots more. £1.50 each. ring contact for tickets.

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)



### PUB NEWS

Ind Coope Burton Ale is no longer on sale at The Three Tuns in Henley because of poor sales. This move follows a change in landlord. However, the Ansell's Mild and Bitter remains in good condition and we wish the new manager, Jim, good luck for the future.

Talking of Burton Ale, it has been on sale at THE NEW LODGE in Solihull Lodge for a while now. Apologies must go to Pete, the Manager, for not mentioning it in earlier "Boro Banters".

Incidentally, other pubs where Burton is available are The Bulls Head in Earlswood, The Red Lion Knowle, The George Hotel in Solihull and The Clock at Bickenhill. The Clock also sells Wiltshire Bitter, one of the only pubs in our area still selling it.