



# Solihull BORO BANTER



ISSUE No. 25

APRIL , 1985



THE GREAT BRITISH  
BEER FESTIVAL, 1985

It was reported in an earlier "Boro Banter" that the GBBF was to be held at The Metropole in Brighton. However, since then a few more details have been finalised. The festival will be held in the Exhibition Halls behind the hotel which is situated on the sea front, in Kings Road.

Around 200 real beers should be available plus 20 traditional ciders. Other attractions include food and live music. There will also be a childrens' room.

The Festival opens on Tuesday, 13th August at 7.00 and runs until Saturday 17th August. Apart from the first day the opening hours will be 5.00 till 11.00. Lunchtime hours will be 11.00 till 2.30 (Wednesday onwards). It will cost you £1 admission for all evening sessions except Tuesday when it will be 50p. Lunchtimes will be free and so will children as long as they are with an adult, of course. Season tickets will be £2.50 but must be obtained in advance from CAMRA H.Q. (Alma Road, St. Albans) before July 31st.

Special products will be available for the Festival such as ties, sweat shirts, T shirts, and a souvenir glass.

One other interesting point is that a month after the GBBF closes, Alcoholics Anonymous are holding a conference, also in Brighton. I only hope all people visiting the beer festival enjoy themselves, but not to the extent that they have to wait around and attend the other event!!



## GOOD PUB IN SLOW PAINFUL DEATH!

Only a few years ago The Three Tuns in Henley was a thriving local but because of several rather complicated reasons, trade diminished so much that the owners, Ansells decided to close it. It is now up for sale for around £100,000 although much more money is needed for structural repairs. Its future is still very uncertain. It is debatable if it will reopen as a pub again because of so much local, established competition.

## The new Lodge



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## WEST MIDLANDS BEER FESTIVAL 1985

Plans are now well on the way regarding another beer festival at DIGBETH CIVIC HALL in Birmingham. Last year The Great British Beer Festival was cancelled due to the tragic fire at Bingley Hall but as a consolation a smaller festival was held at Digbeth. This proved to be a great success so the West Midlands CAMRA branches have decided to stage a similar event at the same venue in September. It will open on the evening of Thursday 5th September and continue with lunchtime and evening sessions on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th. CAMRA members are required to help at all the sessions (including setting up and dismantling) while we need as many customers as possible. It should be well worth the visit as many beers from near and far plus traditional ciders will be on sale in a very pleasant setting. Food and live entertainment will also be laid on, so make sure you are there. It is must for all drinkers who want a rest from M and B and Ansell's!

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**



### HILL AND PUMP CRAWLING IN BRECON

During April, a few of Solihull CAMRA branch members went down to Brecon in South Wales for a weekend and we found the choice and range of beers available to be particularly good. The Scenery wasn't bad either! The Brecon Beacons really are a range of very imposing mountains and we had a great walk over them on the one day while the next day was spent exploring the surrounding countryside. One valley full of waterfalls was really marvellous and parts of the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal were equally lovely.

On the pub scene the thing that made the area far more interesting than Solihull was the large number of free houses selling a wide variety of beers. In Brecon itself which isn't a very big town, there are about four pubs selling unusual beers but we only visited two of them. However, about 13 beers were available in those two including Simpkins, Brains, Sam Powells, Everards, Marstons and Robinsons to name but a few. Inevitably a few of the beers were not quite perfect, but I feel such beer exhibitions do help to stimulate the public's interest in real ale which is what CAMRA seeks to achieve. The other argument is that a pub selling a smaller number of beers can often keep better beer. We visited one pub in Llangorse on Sunday lunchtime which just sold Felinfoel Double Dragon and Robinsons Best. The Robbies was magnificent, I have tasted worse in Stockport!

Two other pubs worthy of mention were an excellent pub in a small village near Brecon which sold 10 beers from all over the country and a home brew hotel in Monmouth, The Queens Head, which was quite pleasant. On our way home we stopped at a pub near Hereford, The Green Dragon in Bishops Cleeve. This place was a real gem, a fitting way to end a good holiday. Several excellent beers are sold such as Hook Norton, Baileys, Robinson, Wadworths and Timothy Taylor and the building itself is a real old-fashioned country pub, unspoilt, full of character and a joy to be in. Its one fault is that it is too far away from Solihull for my liking!

## Jayne & Ray

welcome you to

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"THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY... AND DRINK"

## 'DOES WATER REACH PARTS OF THE BODY WHICH LAGER CANNOT?'

Young man enters Good Beer Guide  
pub in Coventry inner City area.

"Lager please, with water"...

Barmaid (taking it casually).

"Oh, tap water, soda water,

or Malvern water sir?".....

"Any will do, it doesn't matter."

We've heard of watering the beer  
down but this is ridiculous!!!

## 'LIVING UP TO ITS NAME'

In a quiet side street off the  
Parade in Leamington Spa lurks  
a pub few people know exists  
unless you happen to be searching  
for it. Formerly The Bedford, an  
Ansell's pub it had a brief  
flirtation with Aston Ale many  
years ago but due to slow sales  
failed dismally as did the  
bitter which went to keg for the  
same reason while the mild re-  
mained on hand-pump but on my  
only visit a few years back it  
was in poor condition.  
So what has become of the pub  
with few customers?

It has been revamped and renamed  
and is now....THE SELDOM INN,  
must be a fun pub I thought  
approaching, worth a look though  
but - pub shut and in darkness,  
not much fun and the landlord  
obviously living up to the pub's  
name!

## 'HIGH OPINIONS IN LYE (AND LOW)'

Two young male imbibers supping  
their ale in a Lye Town Banks pub.  
Quote:- "Yow can't beat Bonk's  
mild".....Mate:- "Well I don't  
loike Bathams mild. It's weak,  
got no taste, just loike M and B!"  
(Hope you didn't mean the  
Highgate, lads?).



## BREWERY VISIT HOLT, PLANT and DEAKIN

CAMRA branches partake of no  
greater enjoyment than of visiting  
a brewery. This is further com-  
pounded when the brewery agrees  
with CAMRA's aims and is run by  
enthusiastic and dedicated men.  
Such a brewery is Holt, Plant and  
Deakin of Oldbury.

Part of Allied it has an estate of  
fifteen houses in the Black  
Country with an emphasis on tradi-  
tion. Beers available are a Bitter  
and Mild brewed in Warrington, and  
Entire brewed at Oldbury.

The brewery tap, The Brewery Inn,  
Station Road, Oldbury saw Birming-  
ham and Solihull Branches gather to  
visit the brewery which is the old  
entertainments room now converted  
to a small brewery. Our guides,  
David Rawstone and Bob Smith  
entertained us to a lively talk on  
the brewing process. We were all  
surprised that the brewing plant  
fitted into such a small area.

Both branches enjoyed the hospita-  
lity that Bob and David offered and  
remained at the brewery tap long  
after the tour had finished to enjoy  
more of the Entire.

Mr. Pardoes, Simpkins, Bathams and  
Holdens are all Black Country brewers  
that are held in renown the country  
over. Allied can be justly proud  
that Holt, Plant and Deakin can now  
be added to the list.

## THE WHARF

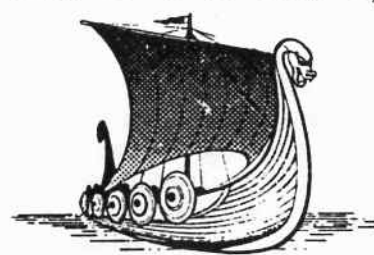
The Wharf in Hockley Heath has  
reopened after "Host Groupisation".  
This means it is now an identikit  
pub off a mass production line,  
with many other pubs across the  
country with exactly the same  
decorations. The Host Group are  
a subsidiary of Watneys and they  
are intent on classifying all  
their pubs into particular  
"themes" and then decorating each  
theme identically.  
The Wharf is riddled with bland,  
white "piney" sort of wood and  
certain "cheapo" fittings. Parts  
of the bar counter looked tatty  
and worn after about a week of  
trading. Traditional Cider has  
been replaced with keg and the  
Marstons Pedigree and Manns Bitter  
are rather unremarkable. One good  
point is that the old canalside  
garden is being much improved so  
the place should be good for families.

The world's largest pub?



13-17 August 1985

## the viking



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### LOCAL PUB SURVEY

The branch has just finished a survey of every pub in our area in an effort to keep track of the many changes that occur regarding range of beers, renovation work, landlords etc. Some pubs that had only been selling real beer for a short time had escaped our notice before the survey, so it was a very useful exercise. Out of nearly 80 pubs only about 2/3 serve traditional beer so there is obviously room for improvement. Between them they serve about 22 different real beers although these are not all available for the whole year. Before SOLIHULL CAMRA was formed (about 3 years ago) only about 13 beers were available so we have obviously made some progress there!

### REAL ALE PUBS ON THE INCREASE

The MOONRAKER in Gospel Lane, Olton sells traditional M and B Mild and Brew XI on electric pumps but it isn't a particularly marvellous pub.

The Greswold Hotel on the Warwick Road, Knowle has, rather surprisingly, installed cask Ansells Bitter on handpump in the last few weeks.

The Viking in Ulleries Road, Solihull (off Hobs Moat Road) is another Ansells pub that has recently installed one real ale, this time being Tetleys Bitter. The handpump is only in one room but the beer will be served in other rooms on request.

## THE NAVIGATION INN LAPWORTH

Andrew & Gerd Kimber



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GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED

### 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

Saturday 4th May - walk and drink around the Clent Hills. Probably meet there around 10.30 a.m., walk for a couple of hours, then find a pub or two. The Fountain (Hansons) and the Hill Tavern (multi-beer) are possibilities. Ring contacts for details of meeting place.

Monday 13th May OPEN MEETING at The WHITE LION, Hampton in Arden. (M and B and Bass)

Thursday 30th May - 1st June WOLVERHAMPTON BEER FESTIVAL, at Wulfrun Hall, Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton. Many unusual beers and ciders, some members of Solihull CAMRA will probably be going.

Saturday 8th June - Stand organised by Solihull CAMRA at Solihull Carnival which is held in Tudor Grange Park. We will be selling and giving away various Brewery and CAMRA related publications, plus T shirts, badges, beer mats, bar towels etc. Please come along and meet us, we will be delighted to meet you.

Monday 10th June - OPEN MEETING at THE BULLS HEAD, Brick Kiln Lane (just off Salter Street), Earlswood. Excellent country pub selling Ansells Mild and Bitter, Burton Ale, plus Coates traditional cider.

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

This Newsletter has been published by Solihull CAMRA branch and printed by

### Paper & Print

PHOTOCOPYING  
PLANPRINTING · INSTANT PRINT

387, STRATFORD ROAD, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL 021-745 3214.