

Pint Taken

FREE

Summer 2007

www.pinttaken.org.uk



The Worcestershire County CAMRA Newsletter

Grade II listed Pershore pub saved from closure

Brandy Cask Rerieved?

An application to convert the long standing GBG listed pub and brewery at the **Brandy Cask** in Pershore into residential units was withdrawn at the eleventh hour.

FEATURED PUB

Members of Worcester CAMRA were ready to present their objections to the planning committee as to why they felt the application should be rejected when they were informed of the withdrawal.

The Brandy Cask has a long association with CAMRA having been featured in every edition of the Good Beer Guide since 1995. It was the

only Pershore pub listed in the guide for many years.

The application to turn the



The Brandy Cask in Pershore

grade two listed building into apartments for the over fifties was likely to have met with refusal for conversion.

CAMRA spokesman Owen Morris said: "The fact that the

Brandy Cask is to stay open for now is terrific news for the local community and for those who use the pub. At a time when more than 13,000 pubs across the country are under threat and many closing every day, it is nice to see a success story in Pershore."

ANOTHER APPLICATION?

The plans to close the pub brought 30 representations during the planning process, 25 of which were objections.

Apparently it does mean another application can be made without paying another fee, so watch out for more news in Pint Taken.

Sign CAMRA's Full Pints Petition to Prime Minister

Take it to the Top



SAY YES TO A FULL PINT

Pub customers were robbed of £481 million in 2006. Beer drinkers are being mugged of £1.3m a day! How and why are these crimes against beer

drinkers happening? The answer – short measure.

SURVEY RESULTS

Recent CAMRA surveys of

local authorities' trading standards departments have revealed that 26.6% of all pints are served over 5% short. And the worst *Continued on page 3*





300 year old Cider house back to being a pub after 10 year closure

Bringsty Pub nears completion

Just over the boundary into Herefordshire things are afoot at the **Live & Let Live** at Bringsty Common.

CHERISHED PUB

This cherished old pub last sold a pint of beer way back in 1996. Following four bitterly contested planning battles, it was eventually bought in 2002 by Sue Dovey and her family, who relished the opportunity of putting the pub back on the map. Since then, Sue has had a few serious set backs along the way, but Pint Taken is pleased to announce that the renovation is now making rapid progress, and the quality of workmanship is something to behold. Sue has had to replace many of the structural timbers, especially as the fabric of the 300-year old ex-cider house had been so badly neglected.

TRUE TO ITS PAST

In April a master thatcher was busy on the roof - the 'Live' is to get its thatch back! The pub that was once nick-named 'the thatch' by locals, lost its original thatched roof back in the early twentieth century: it will become the only thatched pub in Herefordshire.



Completing the thatching

Sue has put a painstaking effort into ensuring that the pub will be true to its past, and has used many old photographs to aid her research.

Some of these photographs appear on a website she has set up, so that people can follow the progress at this great old pub.

The website address is: www.liveandletlive-bringsty.co.uk

SECRET OPENING DATE

Many people have doubted that the famous ale house on Bringsty Common would ever re-open, but now Sue has set a target opening date. She said "We've promised to keep it a secret (for

the time being at least) as that would be just tempting fate - with all the problems one sometimes wonders if the place is jinxed!"

Watch out for the opening date on the Live & Let Live website or www.herefordshirecamra.org.



Sue viewing progress with Ian Steele of Shire Oak Construction

Redditch & Bromsgrove CAMRA win recruitment award

Doug does it again!

Local CAMRA member and membership secretary Doug Robinson has received an award for recruiting members to the Campaign for Real Ale.

For the second year running, Doug has spent the last twelve months informing people of the benefits of real ale across the Midlands, including local beer festivals and the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in November 2006.

The presentation was made at CAMRA's Member's Weekend and AGM by National Executive Member Colin Valentine, which was held in Wolverhampton last month.

Upon receiving the award, Doug said: "It was great to win

the award, and to win it for the second year running out of 175 branches is unbelievable. I'd like to say a big thank you to Doug Fitton and everyone at Redditch & Bromsgrove branch for all their support".

Doug can be seen in action at the upcoming Bromsgrove Beer Festival in July.



Doug Robinson receiving the award from Colin Valentine





SAY YES TO A FULL PINT

Continued from page 1
example found by officers was 13% short.

GOVERNMENT PROMISE

CAMRA is calling on the Government to stop this legalised robbery. 76% of pub goers want the Government to stick to its promise, made in 1997, to ensure that drinkers get a full pint. Since Labour made that promise beer drinkers have lost an estimated £4.5 billion.

CAMRA's chief executive Mike Benner said "It is a disgrace that up to a quarter of all pints served in the UK are less than 95% liquid when customers are paying for a full pint. The inaction of the Labour government in allowing this unfair practice to continue has cost beer drinkers billions of pounds".

CAMRA is launching a national petition calling on Government to define a pint of beer as a pint of beer and to require licensees to endeavour to serve a full pint everytime.

SIGN UP

Beer drinkers can sign up by clicking on the web site www.takeittothetop.co.uk. CAMRA has also produced eye catching posters and petition cards that drinkers can sign and return for the PM's attention. Credit card sized short measure cards are available so drinkers can get an immediate check by how much they are being short changed.

It is not just real ale drinkers that get regularly mugged at their local, lager and Guinness drinkers also suffer from short measure. Pub managers are often under pressure from their bosses to squeeze extra pints from their casks and kegs. The training manuals of some pub companies advise licensees to serve 95% pints.

CODE OF PRACTICE

The current code of practice issued by the trade body The British Beer and Pub Association recommends that its members serve a 95% pint to customers but advise that if they ask for a top up it should

be given and given with good grace.

When was the last time you shopped for a kilo of potatoes or a dozen eggs and had to ask the shop keeper to give you more because they had originally given you short measure?

Register your opinion by going to

"The Government allows drinkers to be cheated out of 208 million pints every year"



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North Worcestershire's only Real Ale Off Licence

Alan Grainger reports on the delights to be found in Derby

Derby Day

I had never been to Derby before, in fact I wasn't sure where it was (other than Derbyshire) but, fortunately, Keven Parker, the Worcester CAMRA Social Secretary knew it of old and claimed it as beer heaven. I admit I was sceptical but, on Kev's past record of terrific days out I thought it worth a try!

TAKE THE TRAIN

On Friday 2nd March four of us got the train from Worcester and, after a painless change at Birmingham, arrived in Derby in the early afternoon. We didn't have far to go to our first stop, the **Brunswick**, which is listed as Derby's oldest brewpub and boasts 13 handpumps mainly microbrews including six of their own! I tried their Railway Porter which was excellent and complemented lunch which comprised of an enormous and delicious roast beef and onion bap.

At this point I was ready to settle in here for a serious session but Kev assured us there were other delights ahead and I reluctantly moved on.

CLASSIC PUBS

My scepticism was seriously dented when, after a 50 yard walk, we reached the **Alexandra** - another classic pub sporting half a dozen regional brews. I tried the Allgates Twisted Stout which, for me, was easily the beer of the day - magnificent!

Crossing the main road and the river we then came upon

the **Smithfield**, a riverside pub with another 10 handpumps. All the ales here were pale in colour but any pub selling three Oakham brews is fine by me.

The next stop was the **Olde Dolphin**, one of CAMRA's historic interior houses and it is a beauty, as well as being the oldest pub in Derby. The six beers were mainly from larger brewers but they did have Peakstones Rock Oblivion which, at 5.5%, I treated with caution and just had a half.

Not far away was our penultimate stop and I really could not believe the **Flowerpot**. It is a permanent beer festival and had on (wait for it) 23 real ales - again mostly microbrews from the local area. The pub is Tardis-like and just goes on



The Flowerpot stillage

and on - most of the beers are stillaged in a temperature controlled room with a glass front and racked three high. We tried brews from Abbeydale, Whim, York and Scattor Rock, all of which were in fine condition.

Time was getting on and Kev was keen for us to try the **Babington**, a Wetherspoon's house. (Wetherspoon's you



cry, with all those others nearby?) Ah, but this is no ordinary 'Spoon's - it is run by a CAMRA supporter and, as you might expect from the day so far, it is another beer exhibition with 17 handpumps. They even had 2 beers from Wyre Piddle including a Port Stout which I had never seen before!

RETURN JOURNEY

The train to Worcester beckoned but we were able to break the journey for an hour in Burton-on-Trent where we visited the **Cooper's**, a former Bass bottle store and now a free house. Not inspiring from outside, it has a superb interior with no bar as such and the beer served direct from the barrel. We tried the Thornbridge Jaipur and Hoskins Portly Postman's Porter as well as Magpie 2 4 Joy - all excellent.

A short stop in Birmingham to the **Wellington** rounded off a truly fantastic beer experience. If you get the chance to visit Derby then I cannot urge you enough to do so - it IS beer heaven.

All the above pubs are in the Good Beer Guide and within



The Flowerpot
Derby CAMRA's City Pub of the Year



CAMRA announces National Champion Cider & Perry 2007

Jungle Juice Swings to Victory



The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) announced the National Champion Cider and Perry following an exhaustive contest at the Reading Beer and Cider Festival over the first May bank holiday week-end.

SERIOUS SAMPLING

Judges sampled more than 140 ciders and perries over two days before arriving at the final winners of the National Champions awards 2007. Cider: West Croft Janet's Jungle Juice, Somerset
Perry: Hartlands, Gloucestershire

AWARD WINNERS

The Harris family of Brent

Knoll in Somerset have been producing cider since 1994 and source their fruit locally. In 1997 the Harris's planted an orchard which is maintained free from chemicals and it is the fruit from this orchard which is included in this award winning blend of Janet's Jungle Juice.

Hartland's of Tirley in Gloucestershire is a family run business which has been passed along three generations and previously won the National Gold Champion Perry Award in 2003.

FULL RESULTS

CIDER

GOLD - West Croft Janet's Jungle Juice (Brent Knoll,

Highbridge, Somerset) Tel: 01278 760762
SILVER - Cornish Orchards Dry (Liskeard, Cornwall) Tel: 01503 269007
BRONZE - Green Valley Cyder Vintage Farmhouse (Clyst St. George, Exeter, Devon) Tel: 01392 876658

PERRY

GOLD - Hartlands (Tirley, Gloucestershire) Tel: 01452 780480
SILVER - Newton Court (Newton, Leominster, Herefordshire) Tel: 01568 611721
BRONZE - Gwatkin Malvern Hills (Abbey Dore, Herefordshire) Tel: 01981 550258



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Brett Laniosh heads off to the countryside

Beer in Belbroughton

On a warm spring Saturday in May with glorious blue skies a small group of CAMRA members caught the 318 bus from Bromsgrove to check out the seven pubs of the smart commuter village of Belbroughton.

BELL, BELL END

First stop was the **Bell**. This is an unashamedly food oriented pub on the main Hagley to Fairfield road. The building dates from 1577 and the stone fireplace, stone floors and sprawling lounge make this an attractive place. The pub relies on the food trade and sensibly, rather than a large range of ales that don't turn over sufficiently, the licensee has decided to keep just one real ale – Wells Bombardier. It was well kept and served in lined glasses.

HOLLY BUSH

A ten minute walk along the A491 took us to the **Holly Bush**. A small, unspoilt roadside inn, the Holly Bush offers the best value of the pubs surveyed with the guest ale being £2.26. Three real ales were on offer. Belbroughton Ale (thought to be Tetley Bitter) and Boddington Cask were joined on the bar by the guest ale, Greene King Abbot ale.

FOUR WINDS

A careful crossing of the main road took us to the **Four Winds**. This former restaurant is now operating as a pub. A smart pub with dining area to the side and lounge areas for simply enjoying a pint. The

group was most impressed with the range and quality of the three beers on offer. It was also good to see beers from local breweries on sale which of course helps the local environment. Regular ale Wadsworth 6X was accompanied by



The Four Winds at Hollies Hill

Goffs Joustier and Sadlers Harey Ale, the latter being voted the outright beer of the day.

QUEENS

The group then headed along the quiet Dark Lane enjoying the sights and sounds of the Worcestershire countryside for the village centre and onto the **Queens**. This is a very smart place to come to eat or drink so expect premium prices (guest ale £2.80). The pub dates from 1560 and is adjacent to a pretty brook. Beers enjoyed were from the Marstons portfolio - Marston Bitter, Pedigree, Bateman XXXB and Jennings Golden Host.

BELBROUGHTON CLUB

The group then retraced their steps back into the village and onto the **Club**. After signing in as guests we found a tidy u-shaped lounge area. There is also a large function room above and a magnificent bowl-



ing green to the rear. Real ales were Banks's Bitter and Original (electric pump) plus two guest beers on handpump – Enville Ale and Brakspear Bitter. Excellent value cobs provided sustenance.

OLDE HORSESHOE

A very short walk took us to the **Olde Horseshoe**. Over the years this pub has interchanged its two rooms between lounge, restaurant and bar at regular intervals. On our visit, the small room was the bar (more cobs and pork pies tempted some) with the larger room being the restaurant. It may change in a year or so! We sat in the garden and sampled, Banks's Bitter, Greene King IPA, Hook Norton Bitter plus Enville Ale.

TALBOT

The final pub on the tour was the **Talbot**. The open plan, light wood feel is in common with a number of Marstons/Banks's pubs. Cask beers were Banks's Original, Marstons Pedigree, Jennings Cumberland and Bateman XXXB which were sampled in the garden to the rear.

SUMMING UP

Well done to Belbroughton with all pubs serving cask ale.

The only downside to the day was the 318 bus ignoring the published timetable going 10 minutes early leaving us stranded. Bus operator Hanson's promised to ring us back after we complained but we are still waiting!



CAMRA survey on the English smoking ban

Prepare for July 1st

A new survey by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has revealed the public's attitudes to the forthcoming smoking ban in England and Wales later in 2007.

RETURN TO THE PUB

The sample survey's key findings indicated that: 6.2 million people (17% of all adults in England and Wales) who visit pubs regularly are likely to visit pubs more often. Of that group 97% were non-smokers. 840,000 people who currently never go to a pub said they will after the smoking ban.

DIFFICULT TRANSITION

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: "This survey

shows that non-smokers will be attracted to pubs after the ban comes into force, and many of them would like to find a real ale waiting for them when they get there. The smoking ban will be a difficult transition for licensees, but it is encouraging that only 3% of people surveyed by CAMRA said they would not visit pubs at all as a result of the ban."



Archers Brewery troubles

For Sale

Archers, based in the Great Western Railway locomotive works in Swindon, has been placed into administration.

CASH FLOW

The company, which brews around 10,000 barrels a year has been brewing award winning ales since 1979. Archers has run into difficulties due to cash flow problems.

David Bennett, director and joint administrator at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Reading, said: "Archers is a well-established business and currently employs 20 people. We are continuing to trade the business and are seeking to achieve a going concern sale within a short period of time."

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WEATHEROAK HILL ALVECHURCH (vertical text on left)
ONE MILE FROM JUNCTION 3 M42 (vertical text on right)

Ian Stevenson provides more details on RAIB

Bottled Beer - Where?

Following on from my piece in the last Pint Taken about the merits and delights of Real Ale in a Bottle, I have been reminded that I should give some indication of sourcing.

STARTING POINTS

Well – where do you start? The unhelpful answer is ‘anywhere’, but there is some truth in that. Firstly, RAIB, bottle conditioned beers, and some excellent pasteurised beers can all be found in the obvious and the most unlikely places.

Let’s start with the new, then the obvious, following through to the awkward. To begin with have a look at the new CAMRA Bottled Beer Club on <http://www.camrabeerclub.co.uk/> (See P11 for more details. Ed)

Obviously we have the local off-licence, shop, pub, supermarket, delicatessen, garden centre, craft centre, farmers market, farm food shops, specialist suppliers, on-line suppliers, breweries direct, and mail order.

Don’t write off supermarkets, as some of the larger chains are now supporting local craft brewers as well as the more widely known national and regional breweries. Look closely at the shelves in there. There are some delights.

SPECIALISTS

I am sure you know of places yourself, but I am going to mention a few that I know of with good selections. First is the Hop Pocket Wine Com-

pany within the HP craft centre near Bishops Frome. <http://www.hoppocketwine.co.uk>. This has many local breweries featured from Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire. In there Teme Valley, Spinning Dog, Corvedale, and Shoes brewery are just some from the extensive range that can be found along with local craft Ciders.

A little further away In Burford Garden Centre near Tenbury, a good range of ales from further away can be found, and some of the harder to find ones at that.

In the Worcester Wine Company shop, 118 Bromwich Road, St Johns, Worcester, a good range of ales including many international varieties is offered, and they can also obtain Purity UBU in 9 pint mini casks.

MAIL ORDER

The awkward, and I suppose I am being unfair here, is mail order. This is a good source when you know what you are looking for, and are clued up on what is available locally, and are clued up on prices. But sometimes, if it is a specific product you are looking for, then this may be the only way. There are many adverts in CAMRA publications for these. Choosing what you want – well this is quite difficult. Across the range you will find that some of the well known ales in bottled version are quite different from the draught version. This can be better, or worse, and in addi-




tion the ABV can vary by as much as 2% between the versions.

BE ADVENTUROUS

So – don’t discount a brewery’s bottled product just because you don’t like their draught, you may well be surprised. Also, be prepared for the reverse, it does work both ways!

In closing, I have just one more outlet to let you know about. It is much further away – it is the Scottish Real Ale Shop, The Lade Inn, Kilmahog, Callander FK17 8HD. Over 100

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Local News

TEME VALLEY BREWERY

Latest news from Teme Valley brewery shows life to be very busy for Chris Gooch at the moment. The brewery is looking to expand production and has been given planning permission to install a 15 barrel brewery in the old squash courts at The **Talbot**.

Bottles of 'This' are now available in Waitrose at Malvern, Droitwich and Stourbridge. In Malvern they are in a small display of local beers and ciders rather than the main beer section.

Finally, the brewery are exporting ale to foreign parts, having just despatched 20 casks of beer to **Charlie's Bar** in Denmark which looks set to be a regular order and will be sending 16 casks of beer to Holland in May.

HANSON'S MILD

Despite the presentation of a petition to Ralph Findlay of Marston's (formally known as Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries) at the recent members' weekend in Wolverhampton, it appears that the fate of Hanson's Mild is sealed. The **Red Lion** in Bromsgrove advertised the last cask of this fine local mild during May. Apparently it is all down to a question of demand, but if the brewery don't brew it - we can't drink it! There is a hope that Marston's

may reverse the decision. The latest news is that Hanson's mild may form part of their guest beer portfolio and be brewed for mild month in May.

DODFORD UPDATE

The **Dodford Inn** remains firmly closed, with a decision on the appeal due during May. County Estate Management are still offering a six month lease on the property, should anyone feel inclined to take it on.

HIGHGATE TEAMS UP WITH THRESHERS

The Walsall brewery has unveiled an agreement with Threshers that will see its range of bottled ales sold in Midlands branches of the stores. The beers will be accompanied by a leaflet offering tasting notes on the range.

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Editorial



Welcome to the summer festival edition of Pint Taken.

You will have noticed that we have put an extra four pages into this edition, changed the paper to a glossy finish and put more colour in. This is all to make the pleasure of relaxing with a pint on a warm summer's evening all the more enjoyable!

WORTH A VISIT

I was very fortunate recently to be invited to Norwich for the weekend. What a great place for pubs and real ale. We managed to visit 19 within the city centre over the two days and sampled some excellent beers. Norwich has a wide diversity of pubs, several with their own breweries attached, and I heartily recommend it to you.

FESTIVALS GALORE

The festival season is well underway, and the latest CAMRA branch to host one in this area was Shakespeare CAMRA. This now means that of the 22 CAMRA branches that make up the West Midlands region 21 now hold festivals at least once a year.

Situated at Stratford Racecourse a very enjoyable time was had by all. I hope the organising committee enjoyed it too, and will think about making it a regular event.

Have a fantastic summer!
Cheers

Charlie Ayres, Editor

The Great Malvern Hotel

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CAMRA launches new beer shopping experience

CAMRA's Beer Club

CAMRA has announced the launch of the CAMRA Beer Club, a new scheme that will deliver a case of 20 top quality bottled real ales direct to your door for just £39.99 a month plus postage and packing. This new initiative is a major step forward in the promotion of real ale in a bottle and in offering greater benefits to CAMRA members.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Members of the CAMRA Beer Club will discover and enjoy a whole range of specialist beers that are currently not widely available in supermarkets or pubs. Every British beer is bottle-conditioned and

some collections will feature authentic 'World Explorer' beers. It's a great way to expand your knowledge of beer!

EXPERT SELECTION

Every three months the CAMRA Beer Club will put together a collection of five different beers (four bottles of each). Members will also receive tasting notes written by CAMRA's experts.

All those chosen will be high-quality examples of their type, will have distinctive character, and will come from brewers who are committed to diversity and quality. Many of the beers selected will be pre-



vious CAMRA award-winners or champion beers.

OPEN TO ALL

Non CAMRA members can join the CAMRA Beer Club for £44.95 (plus p&p).

For more information on how the beer club works, to place an order, or view the current case selection, visit www.camrabeerclub.co.uk.



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The Anchor Inn Eckington

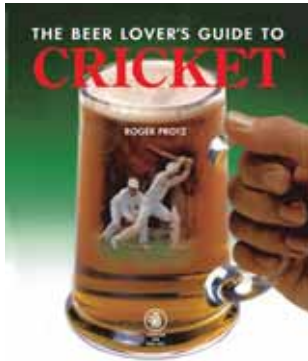


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CAMRA's latest offering

Howzat!



There are many books about cricket and many on beer, but this is the first book to bring the two subjects together.

Leading beer writer and cricket enthusiast Roger Proze visited the major grounds of all the First Class counties to prepare in-depth profiles of each club and their history.

GREAT DETAIL

Each visit is rounded off with a detailed description of the best pubs in the vicinities of the grounds and the real ales they sell. The book also traces the story of the birth of the modern game at the Broadhalfpenny ground in Hampshire opposite a pub, the **Bat & Ball**, and shows how the tradition of good beer and cricket is kept alive at many grounds.

LAUNCHED IN WORCESTERSHIRE

The book was launched at the **Cricketers** in Worcester on 20th April, with members from Worcester CAMRA appearing on Midlands Today.

Priced at £16.99 it is available direct from CAMRA and most bookshops.

The Admiral Rodney
Berrow Green, Martley

4 Superb Regular & Guest Real Ales, Cider & Perry

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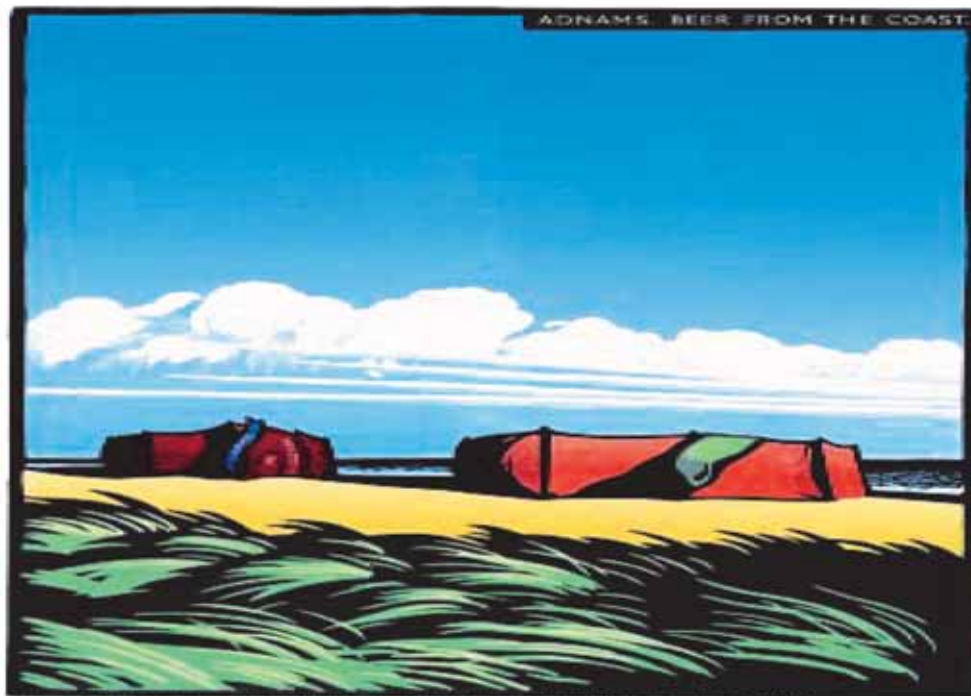
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Your local CAMRA branches prepare for their beer festivals

Summer Festival Time!

NOT LONG NOW!

For many months three local CAMRA branches have been planning their beer festivals, and the wait is nearly over!

Marquees, equipment, and most importantly beer, cider and perry have been ordered and all that remains is for the good weather to arrive to herald in Summer Festival Time.

Details from the festival organisers have been obtained to whet your appetites, so get your diaries out and make a date with Hereford, Redditch & Bromsgrove and Worcester CAMRA branch festivals this summer.



BEER ON THE WYE III 6TH - 8TH JULY

Just over the border, the weekend of the 6th, 7th and 8th of July will see the hosting of Herefordshire CAMRA's third beer and cider festival in Hereford. Following on the success of last year's event, where over 2,000 people downed over 8,000 pints of

beer and cider in a weekend, this year's event promises to be bigger and better again.

STRONG SPECIAL

Accompanying over 100 draft ales, including a good number of one-off specials and new brews, will be the usual foreign and bottled beers. One unusual highlight will be locally based Shoes brewery brewing a 28% ABV brew for the festival - probably the strongest beer ever to be sold at a CAMRA beer festival. A must for cider lovers will be an enlarged a cider bar, which will be offering over 50 ciders and perries - every last one of them from the county of Herefordshire!

LOCATION

Located in a riverside marquee at the city's Rowing Club, its a great venue for a fine summer's day. Live music, entertainment and various displays means that there will be something of interest for everyone.

Food will be provided in a separate marquee, being based on Herefordshire produce. Entry is pay-on-the-day, and there is a £1.00 discount for anyone travelling to this event by train. For those wish-



On the Terrace at Hereford

14



ing to stay over, the site offers camping including the use of the Rowing Club's excellent toilet and shower facilities.

For more information including opening times and prices please go on line at: www.herefordcamra.org.uk, or ring Tony on (01432) 275497.



BROMSGROVE BEER FESTIVAL 12TH - 14TH JULY

Bromsgrove Beer festival has become an established part of the summer beer festival scene. This will be the fifth time that it has been hosted at Bromsgrove Rugby Club at Finstall Park.

In choosing a logo for the event the beer festival committee wanted something that was a good local icon, and after much debate the Rousler was decided upon.

BEER SELECTION

This year's festival will feature 96 real ales, a good range of ciders and perries and also a selection of fruit wines.

In honour of the logo this

year's festival beer will be called 'The Rousler', It will be brewed by a local brewery, and only available at the festival. As it is the fifth festival, this special brew is likely to be a 5% ale with a coppery red colour.

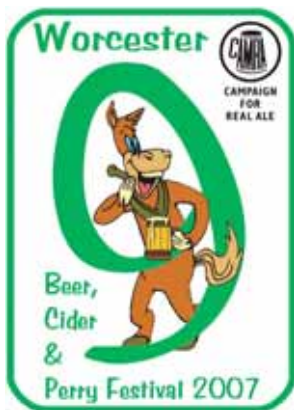
Last year's festival special was called 'Big Bertha' in memory of the banking engine that worked the Lickey Incline. It sold out in three hours!

OPENING TIMES

The festival opening times will be between 7pm and 11pm on Thursday 12th July for card carrying CAMRA members; and for everyone on Friday 13th July (6pm until 11pm) and Saturday 14th July (11am to 11pm).

There will also be food available and a CAMRA shop and membership stand.

For more information visit www.bromsgrovebeerfestival.org.uk



WORCESTER BEER, CIDER & PERRY FESTIVAL 16TH - 18TH AUGUST

The ninth Worcester CAMRA



Drinkers enjoying Bromsgrove festival

beer, cider and perry festival will be held on 16th -18th August 2007 on Pitchcroft race-course.

10,000 VISITORS EXPECTED

Since 1998 the festival has grown every year putting it firmly on the map of top festivals held around the country. This year's festival will again be offering over 200 real ales, over 100 ciders and perries and fruit and

grape wines but under a bigger marquee. There will be 3,500 square meters of canvas, and at 140m a longer bar than ever before to accommodate up to 10,000 people over the duration of the festival, which will for the first time open earlier at 5pm on the Thursday evening.

EXTRA SPACE FOR CIDER & PERRY

As well as local beers, ciders and perries there will be ales from the far corners of the country and cider and perry from the west. Due to the growing popularity this years cider and perry bar will be housed in its own 40m by 15m annex and those regulars out there may have noticed that

perry has been added to the festival title in recognition of the range of this rare brew that will be available.

The festival has become a popular event to bring the whole family to with a sizeable fenced off outside area, availability of soft drinks including specialised apple juices, and a variety of food concessions, Indian, paella, Cornish pasties and a burger bar.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment will be available on Thursday and Friday evenings and throughout the day



Making a choice at Worcester

on Saturday. Friday and Saturday nights will feature rock bands. Thursday night and through out the day on Saturday there will be a mixture of blues and folk bands.

BOOK IN ADVANCE

Opening times and admission prices: Thurs 5pm-11pm (£4); Fri 11am-11pm (£4 until 5.30pm, £6 after 5.30pm), Sat 11am-11pm (£4 all day). CAMRA members receive £2 of beer vouchers. Admission includes souvenir festival glass and programme. Tickets can be bought in advance, and are recommended for Friday evening from the Worcester Festival box office 01905 611427. Further information at www.worcesterbeerfest.org.uk

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- Curry night each Monday 5 - 8 pm

Local CAMRA chairman raises for Children in Need

Cyril's close shave!

What do Salvador Dali, Lord Kitchener and Cyril Day have in common?



They have all famously sported a handlebar moustache. But notice the past tense. Cyril finally became acquainted with a razor when he shaved it off for Comic Relief in front of colleagues at his workplace, the Highways Agency's Birmingham office,

after dying it red for the day. "It was a big thing for me," explained Cyril, Redditch and Bromsgrove Chairman. "I've had a full beard on and off since 1974, and a handlebar since 1990. Life is now going to be very different."

While many see the handlebar as a facial faux pas, for Cyril it has been his pride and joy.

COMIC RELIEF


The main reason Cyril has shaved it off is to help disadvantaged children across Africa and the UK, and he raised more than £1000 for losing his pride and joy. Cyril said, "I have always said that if I shaved it off it would



have to be for charity. I was 19 when I first grew my moustache as part of a full beard. I'm 52 now, so I had it most of my life. The thought of losing it was somewhat scary! Comic Relief is a great charity and I'm proud to have taken part."

Does he feel a new man? "I did get a bit of a shock the first few times I looked in the mirror," he said. "I'm not sure if I'm going to keep my new look, but it was definitely worth it for the money."

SADLERS



First Established 1900
Brewing

JACK'S ALE - "A very pale, hoppy bitter with a crisp and zesty lemon undertone Brewed with English hops and malt, it's a refreshing quaffing ale." 3.8%

MILD - "Traditional Black Country Mild with hints of chocolate. A dry finish complements the aroma of the Goldings Hops." 4.3%

WORCESTER SORCERER - "A light golden bitter, light and refreshing, yet smooth and fruity with hints of mint and lemon. A floral aroma and crisp bitterness combining to give a balanced and clean tasting ale." 4.3%

1900 ORIGINAL BITTER - "A blend of malts and wheat form a soft, malty bitter, lifted by delicate, floral hop characters, and rounded by a good strength. An excellent traditional premium bitter." 4.4%

THIN ICE - "An extremely pale bitter, with a delicate pine lemon crispness, softly complemented with a satisfying spiced orange." 4.5%

IPA (First Prize Winner) - "A light tangy Indian Pale Ale. Strong and full of flavour, yet mellow and very drinkable". An award winning premium ale. 4.8%

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THE 'WAGGON' puts the REAL
ALES
into
HALESOWEN



Colin Scrivener reports on some local gems

A Cutnall Green day

It had been some time since the pubs of Cutnall Green had been surveyed so five Redditch and Bromsgrove members decided to rectify the matter.

STARTING POINT

Our first port of call was the **Live and Let Live**. The pub, which has a warm welcome and a very smart bright interior, has been non smoking for eighteen months. Although predominantly geared for food, the beers, Holden's Bitter and Greene King Speckled Hen were excellent. The Greene King beer changes regularly. We could easily have stayed

about what people want from a pub. The beer choice was Enville Ale, Taylor's Landlord and Wadworth 6X. We tried each of them and the quality was very good but expensive at £3.00 a pint .



GRUB UP

Our driver then took us to the **Hare and Hounds** at Shenstone. This pub seems to have something for everyone and we were welcomed by mine host. First to the beers, Sadler's Green Man and Wood's Shropshire Lad, both in excellent condition. Sadlers supply the regular



longer here but duty called and we headed just up the road to the **New Inn**. This was very different. With a lease for sale notice over the door, reflecting another pub being moved on in the never ending PubCo reshuffle. The interior was quite gloomy and not so welcoming. The only cask ale was Marston's Pedigree.

PRICEY PINT

Another short walk brought us to the **Chequers**. This is a food pub and the bar was crowded with people eating, even if the restaurant looked empty. Perhaps this says something

beer which changes frequently from their range. I am not always keen on Wood's beers



but I enjoyed this one. We ordered food from a good range of cobs, baguettes or jacket potatoes, there was also a full menu and daily specials, all reasonably priced. The hot



bacon and brie cob was delicious.

NATURAL STOP

As our route back passed by Chaddesley Corbett we did a detour into the High Street and the car seemed to naturally stop at the **Swan**. This is a real community pub with a public bar and very keenly priced Batham's beers, both the Mild and Bitter went down very well. Personally I think it will be

even better after July. Being Black Country based there were freshly made ham or cheese cobs and locally made pork pies on sale and I could not resist sampling one of the pies, which went superbly with the Batham's Mild.

LAST ONE

The **Fox**, just down the road, was much quieter until invaded by a party who were obviously celebrating St. Patrick by the colourful costumes and hats.

We did notice that most of them were enjoying the cask ales and they were well worth it. We enjoyed the Hobson's Best Bitter and the Exmoor Gold, the regular beer is Theakston's Bitter. This was our last stop as the afternoon was drawing on. We returned to

Bromsgrove feeling we had done a good job surveying, well, someone has to do it, and not a single pint of Guinness had been seen.



CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival celebrates 30 years

Happy Birthday GBBF!

The Great British Beer Festival will be hosted this year at Earls Court between Tuesday 7th and Saturday 11th August. Last year was the first time that the 'Showcase of British Beer' had been hosted at Earls Court following 14 successful years at London Olympia. Over 66,000 people attended the Great British Beer Festival in 2006, smashing record crowds by 18,000!

MORE BEER

Tony Jerome, CAMRA Marketing Manager said, "Nobody could have predicted the success of moving to Earls Court and we were amazed that more than 66,000 people visited the event in 2006. Earls Court offers a larger venue than London Olympia and gives us the opportunity to offer more variety of beer to our visitors. This success is a testament to how hard the 1000 volunteers work at the Great British Beer Festival." Over 700 tasty tipples from the smallest microbreweries and large regional brewers have been handpicked for visitors to try. More than ever before! These include wheat beers, ciders, golden ales, stouts, porters, bitters, milds, bottle-conditioned beers, perries and real lagers from all over the world.

NOT JUST BEER

The festival is not only about the ale! You will also be able to enjoy food, live music, en-



tertainment, games, tombolas, and quizzes in the comfort of a family friendly atmosphere. Why not catch up and socialise with friends, unwind after work, or just soak up the festival atmosphere!

WIN TICKETS TO GBBF

CAMRA is offering 25 lucky winners a pair of Great British Beer Festival tickets. All you need to do to enter this competition is email or post your answer to this simple question by Friday 6th July.

When does the 2007 Great British Beer Festival start?

Please title your email 'GBBF Competition 2007' and send your answers to tony.jerome@camra.org.uk or post to Tony Jerome, GBBF Competition 2007, Senior Marketing Manager, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Winners will be notified and sent their tickets before Friday 13th July. If you are not a CAMRA member and would like to be sent some more information on our organisation then please let us know on your email or posted entry.

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Quick Halves



- The **Bell** at Astwood Bank, Redditch is undergoing a major refurbishment and is opening in the next couple of weeks. They're hoping to serve a good range of real ales when they officially open, and are very keen on hosting a beer festival in the future.

- Redditch has a new pub. The **Academy** (formerly The **Pinnacle**) opened in May. Currently there is no real ale, but the manager is considering selling it. The Academy is part of the Smith & Jones group.

- The **Drum and Monkey**, Newbridge Green has a new landlord. There are four beers available on handpump, with Hobsons and Donningtons featured. Food is also available.


- The **Bridges**, Hindlip Lane, Worcester will be holding a beer festival on the 6th - 8th July with 12 beers and 2 ciders available. There will be live entertainment on the Friday and Saturday evenings, and discount on entry and beer for card carrying CAMRA members. For further details call 01905 757117.

- The **Bell**, Pensax will be holding its eighth annual beer festival from 29th June - 1st July. Offering over 65 real ales and local cider and perry this event is always enjoyable. There will be entertainment over the weekend, and for those that like the outdoor life

camping is available. Call 01299 896677 for more information.

- The **Holly Bush**, Alcester is hosting a beer and folk festival between 15th and 16th June. Approximately 30 beers will be on offer.

- The **Weighbridge**, Alvechurch is holding its summer beer festival on 8th - 9th June. There will be 15 real ales and also cider and perry available. Opening times 11am - 11pm, with food also being served. An autumn festival will be held from 22nd - 23rd September.



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Letters

Dear Editor,

I always enjoy reading Pint Taken and the Spring number certainly enhanced my lunch and beers at the **Plume of Feathers** at Castle Morton.

What has prompted me to write to you was Ian Stevenson's article on Real Ale in Bottles. Like him I am largely dependent upon bottled beers, so I hope that you will be encouraging him to write frequently, even regularly, upon this topic. There must be quite a few people, like me, for whom bottled beer has perforce become the most significant form of enjoying beer and ales.

Ian Stevenson is quite correct in asserting that many pasteurised bottled beers are not just interesting and palatable but equal to bottle-conditioned ones. The range is enormous, so I am hoping to hear more from him

What can be especially helpful of mention could be reliable sources of bottled beers. For the most part I use the excellent Edwin Tucker (Maltsters) of Newton Abbot, who offer a wide range of largely, (but not exclusively) West Country beers and ales.

Sadly too many brewers listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide as offering a mail order service simply do not bother to respond even to positive enquiry/orders. If suppliers could be encouraged to advertise in Pint Taken by some judicious plugs in articles, so much the better.

Anyway thank you for all that you do to keep an aged beer lover informed, interested and content.
Yours etc,

John Massingham
Pershore (by letter)

Dear Pint Taken,
I am indebted to your reader Tony Williams for putting me on to what appears a great pub in Kinnersley, Worcestershire. (Pint Taken Spring 2007)

Tony failed to mention that a complete smoking ban comes into force from July this year. His local is merely doing the sensible thing and moving in line with the rest of UK. (Some of us no longer want to drink with smokers).

As for his concern on banning children after 8pm, this is

another great idea, as children should be doing their homework at this time of night. Finally the playing of darts is an archaic activity and has no place in a modern pub.

Tony says that the above represents an incredible amount of damage to village life. He could not be further from the truth, as his new landlord seems to be a most welcome addition to his community.

I am now planning to visit this pub (it also sells excellent food which Tony appears not to be happy about) thanks to Tony bringing it to my attention.

Regards,

Adrian Dart
Bewdley (by email)

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First Midland Red route 420*



Paul Richards travels through Gloucestershire to Witney in Oxfordshire

Wychwood Brewery Magic



BEWITCHED

As winter turns into spring and bulbs turn into daffodils, it was time once again for Redditch and Bromsgrove CAMRA members to see how water is turned into beer. With everyone loaded into the minibus we headed south into Oxfordshire to visit Wychwood brewery.

COTSWOLD CRUISERS

On sighting the Cotswold hills we decided to call in at Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire and stretch our legs with a pint at The **Queen's Head**. Conveniently located in the town square, it's a traditional pub that offers Donnington ales. The favourite of the pair was SBA, a dark amber beer with a nice blend of malty hops; whilst its cousin BB was also refreshing.

After another hour on the road and a bit of red kite spotting, we had just enough time to call in at the **New Inn** in Witney. This pub has a log fire set in a cosy lounge/library setting. Whilst the more sensible of our group stuck to Brakspear Bitter 3.4%, some of us decided to dive straight in and tackle the Black Wych 5%, a dark stout with strong roasted malts. Hobgoblin and Black Sheep Best Bitter were also on offer here.

BREWERY BOOZERS

Following a short walk we found ourselves in the tasting room of Wychwood Brewery, Brakspear in hand, ready to begin our tour. The brewery is

named after the Royal Forest of Wychwood, which is also the inspiration for its beer names and mythical characters. As we entered the fermenting room, our tour guide Tim explained the brewing process and invited us to sample the barley used for the malts. We were also shown the Brakspear fermenting room, where we saw the double drop fermentation system, which gives Brakspear beers



their unique flavour.

Back in the tasting room it was time for some more free samples, and we were very fortunate to try Green Goblin 6%, a very fruity oak-matured cider. This was soon washed down with ample samplings of Wychcraft 4.5% (a golden hoppy beer with a dry finish) and the ever infamous Hobgoblin, all in the surroundings of an old mill. Finally, it was time to shop for T-shirts, souvenirs and cases of beer.

CELEBRITY SPOTTING

With stomachs rumbling, we decided to call in at a few more Cotswold pubs on the way back to Worcestershire, stopping at The **Baker's Arms** in Broad Campden. This Cotswold stone building has been converted from a bakery and

grain store that dates back to 1724. As well as a good food menu and Donnington ales, we also spotted Julian Lloyd Webber on a table behind us working on a score, no doubt inspired by the pint of Stanney Bitter in front of him.

Our final pub of the trip was The **Swan Inn** in Birlingham, a small thatched cottage pub with a conservatory for diners. The locals here were very friendly as we tried Hobsons Maudymaud and Worfield's Shropshire Pride. Overall, it was a cracking day out, we found some fantastic countryside pubs and we had plenty of Wychwood merchandise to prove it!

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Pubs worth seeking out

Little Gems

THE MARTLET
INN, LANGFORD BUD-
VILLE, SOMERSET

The **Martlet**, which was a 17th century farmhouse, has been run successfully by Vic and Paulette Bigg for four years. The pub is a quaint and traditional village inn with flagstones, beams and inglenook fireplaces in a variety of interesting rooms, one of which has a wood burning stove. These are decorated with a wonderful selection of plates, jugs, brasses, pictures and old photographs. There are three superb en-suite rooms, a patio and a garden with a pond.

A trio of accolades have recently gone the way of the

pub. It is Wellington in Bloom 'Best Public House', the accommodation has been awarded 4 stars and it is now in CAMRA's 2007 Good Beer Guide. This is a free house and there are usually four real ales available, sourced from local independents such as Cotleigh and Exmoor, with cider stocked during the summer months. An excellent and varied food menu is available to suit all ages and tastes.

In heraldry the martlet is an imaginary bird with no feet, but was used as a name for swifts and swallows. It indicated the fourth son of a nobleman.

The Martlet Inn is about 15 minutes driving time from the M5 and the phone number is 01823400262. Further details on page 413 of the 2007 GBG.

THE LADE INN,
KILMAHOG, CALLANDER,
SCOTLAND

A long way from Worcestershire but well worth seeking out if you are holidaying in the Trossachs. The **Lade Inn** is situated in a very scenic area just outside Callander and close to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The welcome you receive is as if you were a regular, and that is just for starters. The Lade Inn boasts a top chef and the meals are both stunningly tasty, and a good plateful.

There is an inglenook room, a garden room, a restaurant bar, but how do you quantify or describe an atmosphere. Abundant and warm is closest. With live folk music nights

every Saturday which can include a sing-along, one just feels very at-home with it all.

At one stage the Lade Inn had its own brewery, but the ales are now brewed off-site to the original recipes, and are named Way Lade, Lade Back, and Lade Out. They are also available in bottles from the Scottish Real Ale shop which is housed in what was the brewery.

More details can be found on www.theladeinn.com or by calling 01877330152



23

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And Finally...

Beer for cows

A farmer is giving each of his cows up to 40 pints of beer a day to produce better beef. Cornish farmer Daren Pluess believes the booze helps the flavour and texture of the beef and even offers his five Limousin cattle a massage to make the meat extra tender. The system has been cleared by his vet and Pluess said cows are perfect beer-drinking animals.

Beer is commonly used in cattle feed in Japan and Canada. The animals' complex digestive system breaks down the alcohol in beer, turning it into food energy, animal nutritionists said. Many small brew-

eries make their spent grain - which does not contain alcohol - available to farmers willing to haul it away after its used in the brewing process.

Signs to Inn-spire

Banbury museum is hosting an exhibition during the summer entitled 'Art & Inn-trique, the curious art & history of inn signs'

The exhibition runs from 16th July to mid September, and admission is free.

The museum invites you to explore the fascinating and humorous stories behind the imagery and strange names of Pub signs. Children and adults will enjoy the interactive activi-

ties. You will never see a pub sign in quite the same way.

This is a totally new exhibition, containing all new signs including three original Stanley Chews. (Stanley Chews painted more than 600 signs, mainly for Bass Brewery in the West of England).

The museum can be found at Spiceball Park Rd, Banbury, OX16 2PQ.

It takes all sorts of
campaign for real ale...



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Meetings & Events

Worcestershire branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

*You are most welcome to attend our meetings.
All meetings start at 8 pm unless stated.*

Kidderminster sub-branch (07818 401046)

See Website for details www.kidderminstercamra.org.uk

Redditch and Bromsgrove branch (01527 870522)

- Tue 12 Jun Branch meeting - Hop Pole, Droitwich (Member activation)
- Sat 16 Jun Social event - Mystery trip (inc. 2 breweries) Ring for details
- Tue 10 Jul Branch meeting - Bromsgrove Rugby Club 7pm (Bromsgrove Beer festival preparation)
- Thu 16 Aug Social event - Worcester Beer Festival

Worcester branch (01684 573018)

- Tue 12 Jun Branch meeting - The Dolphin, Bishampton
- Sat 16 Jun Walk over the Malvern Hills, meet Gt Malvern Hotel 2:00pm (bring your own lunch)
- Tue 10 Jul Branch meeting - The Fox, Hanley Broadheath
- Sat 14 Jul Coach trip to Cheshire/Shropshire – breweries/pubs visits. (Contact Keven 01905 426391)
- Sat 28 Jul Curry & crawl, meet at The Plough 7:30pm. (Contact Keven 01905 426391)
- Tue 11 Sept New members meeting - The Plough

Shakespeare branch (01789 778726)
Covering Evesham area

CAMRA Beer Festivals

Hereford Beer & Cider Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Hereford
July 6th - 8th

Bromsgrove Beer Festival

Bromsgrove Rugby Club, Bromsgrove
July 12th - 14th

Worcester Beer, Cider & Perry Festival

Worcester Racecourse, Worcester
August 16th - 18th

Harbury Beer Festival

Village Hall, Harbury
August 31st - September 1st

For more information on these events go to
www.pinttaken.org.uk

Items for publication should be sent by July 30th 2007

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www.pinttaken.org.uk

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Title Surname

Forename(s)

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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for

Signed Date

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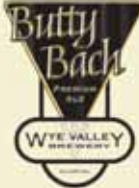


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