



SOUTH CHESHIRE

South Cheshire CAMRA Invite you to...

Tuesday 9 Mar; 8pm, The Crown Hotel, Nantwich. [Bus 84 or by rail]

Saturday 24 April; 1pm, **Lower Chequer**, Sandbach. [Bus 37/38].

This is our **AGM**

Tuesday 18 May; 8pm, **Queens Arms**, Winsford.

Saturday 19 June; 1pm, **Rising Sun**, Station Road, Scholar Green.

[Weather permitting, this will also be a *SCRAP** outing

Contact Ian Bray for itinerary details nearer the date.] * *South Cheshire Real Ale Pedallers*

All our events are open to any CAMRA member, anyone who likes beer or pubs,
and anyone who is just curious to see what is going on!



A mostly rural area, but including the towns of Crewe, Middlewich, Nantwich, Sandbach and Winsford.

Branch Contacts:

Mark Jeffries 01270 524549

markgill@globalnet.co.uk

Derek Davey 01270 761039

d.davey45@btinternet.com

Ian Bray 01270 252045

maltosefalcon@tiscali.co.uk

Paul Hext 0784 6657833 (m)

h3xtyp@hotmail.com



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**GOOD
BEER
GUIDE**

Sandbach Area news

Good news continues to flow through locally, with confirmation in the local press that the historic but dilapidated **Old Hall Hotel** has been sold to the Brunning and Price group. The 17th century black and white fronted hotel, a stunning wedding venue with accommodation, was sold by the British Virgin Islands –based Qualitar company, and is destined for an eight month roof and branch renovation. Brunning and Price, who have similarly renovated the **Dysart Arms**, Bunbury, the **Combermere Arms**, Burleydam, aim to transform the place back to the classic English pub. Much credit for the transformation goes to the local Save the Old Hall Action Group. The building had been placed on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register in 2007.

Another prominent venue, the *Glass House* (formerly *Sandino's*) has also re-opened, although we gather not with any real ale as yet.

Close by, the **Lower Chequer** has also been rejuvenated and now boasts six beers from micro-breweries (see the full article on Page 38). Coupled with the five beers available at the **Cricketers** on Crewe Road (*pictured*) (Hyde's Owd Oak and Bitter, Moorhouse's Blonde Witch, plus two guests), the town is beginning to become a place to visit for real ale. **The Limes** now offers Thwaites bitter plus Well's Bombardier, having dropped Spitting Feathers, but has seen cask sales increase and a third beer may follow.

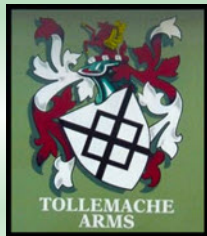


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The Lion has increased its range, now selling a house beer as well as Bombardier, both at competitive prices, and the **Wheatsheaf** has maintained its two beers from the Banks/ Marstons/ Jennings range.

The only pub in town to close in the last few months is the *George* – also the only one not selling any cask ale. We'll leave you to reach your own conclusions.

Bottle conditioned real ale, however, continued its upsurge, with the Beer Emporium opening extra weekend hours in December to meet the seasonal demand. In fact, there were concerns that the bottle-conditioned stock wouldn't last out until Christmas, such was demand, but fortunately some still remained on the shelves.



Paul, Val and Emma and all the staff welcome old and new customers to the newly refurbished

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Relax and dine in our dining room or while away an hour looking through our in house library all recommended and read by the landlord!

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Further afield, the *Coach House* in Elworth has been demolished with the site for sale for redevelopment. The levelled area does now mean an unobstructed view from the station of the excellent Robinson's house the **Midland**, which might hopefully encourage some extra trade there.

Finally, visits to the **White Lion**, Barthomley, the classic timbered pub listed in CAMRAs National Inventory of Protected Pub Interiors, revealed the aftermath of the Cumbrian floods. The Jennings beers (normally Cock a Hoop and Snecklifter) are temporarily being brewed at Marston's other breweries in the Midlands.

To our tastes, a worthwhile effort but not a patch on the originals, which should re-appear in the Spring.

DD



Wilbraham Arms, Welsh Row, Nantwich

The new publicans at this pub are giving cask ale a real push. They always have J W Lees Bitter and Sharpe's Doom Bar on hand pump and they're hoping to get a third. I've had the Doom Bar a couple of times and it's very acceptable.

To coincide with the Battle of Nantwich weekend they put on a mini beer festival with five extra beers, all served on gravity. They chose sensibly and went for five Cheshire-brewed "LocAles", comprising Bollington Best and Oat Mill Stout (recently voted first and second in the Champion Beer of Cheshire competition), Weetwood Mad Hatter (which under its original name, Move Over Darling came third at Champion Beer of Cheshire) and Storm Bosley Cloud and Silk of Amnesia. The extra stillage at the back of the main room created quite a focus and it seems to have been a successful first venture into the world of beer festivals. I'm told more are planned.

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Every weekend evening, the pub has live music on Saturday and on Sunday it's "open mic" hosted by Hayley ("H") who many will remember from the Friday evening session at the Nantwich Beer Festival last year. There's a free drink for all performers!

MJ

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Bottle Conditioned Beer Tastings: someone has to do it!

We recently had a couple of unusual and very strong Bottle Conditioned Ales kindly donated to us by the **Beer Emporium, Sandbach**, to taste, and thought that Out Inn Cheshire readers might be interested in what we thought of them:

St Austell Smugglers Vintage Ale (6% abv)

First up was a new beer from the well-known Cornish regional brewer, whose Tribute beer is widely travelled on draught. Their 'Proper Job' and 'Tinnars' beers can also be found in draught form and bottled. Our hastily assembled panel consisted of two of us CAMRA members, plus two non-real ale drinkers to balance it up. The label decreed the beer to be a 'unique blend of dark ale and oak aged barley wine, racked into oak whisky casks and stored'. Quite a departure for St. Austell, as we didn't realise that they had the wherewithal to create such a beer. The ale itself was agreed to have an aroma of black treacle, with barley wine and a hint of spice mixed in. In colour it was a clear mahogany hue. Finally, the most important part, the taste: generally thought to be malty and not pronouncedly bitter with chocolatey treacle overtones. It was compared to a Barley wine without the sweetness, short on the palate with a spicy aftertaste (possibly the coriander listed in the ingredients). It was warming, well-rounded, and very drinkable. Recommended!

Baz's Bonce Blower (12% abv)

Top of the shop (quite literally as this is the Beer Emporium's biggest seller) is the outrageously strong brew from **Parish**, made in a 400 year old converted stable in Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire. Baz Parrish's monster beer is labelled as 'possibly the strongest traditionally brewed beer in a bottle in Britain'. We wouldn't argue! Not surprisingly the bottle label urges the drinker that it is 'recommended to treat it with the greatest respect'. The aroma certainly hit you as soon as you got near the beer, variously described as a stout/barley wine type smell, with traces of figs, whisky, aniseed, liquorice, and vanilla all detected, plus medicinal undertones. Testament to the complex nature of the brew no doubt. Dark red/amber in colour, the taste was equally open to interpretation, although all agreed that it was predominately bitter, not sweet, with liquorice and barley wine coming to the fore. Some of the less experienced drinkers found it somewhat overpowering, and it wouldn't be

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everyone's cup of tea. It certainly imparts a warm glow, which increased as you went down the glass (as you might expect) and there was a long, surprisingly bitter, aftertaste. It wasn't cloying like some very strong ales can be, and was dangerously drinkable when sipped. Some vestige of coal tar and medicinal tastes were detected by some of the panel, and the liquorice flavour seemed to increase as you went down the glass. I would recommend trying it to see what you think – you certainly won't come across it's like often. It was certainly to my taste, and I drank most of the bottle. Being accused of talking rubbish by the end of the evening was merely an occupational hazard!

Both beers (and many others) are available at the Beer Emporium, Welles Street, Sandbach. See their advert in this issue for further information

DD (thanks to WB, CG and JD for tasting)

North for Christmas!

I knew that this meant complete strangers talking to me, catching up with family, watching Crewe Alex play on Boxing Day and drinking beer that *isn't* Shepherd Neame Bishops Finger!

Well done the Alex ...it was a great game but I also needed to watch my Champions, Man Utd, play. I last got to watch them live at Ole Gunnar's testimonial match, but I do pay a fortune to Virgin Media to watch them on TV, at home in Kent.

I went into the **Kings Arms**, Crewe, on the Sunday after Christmas and was greeted with a cheery smile, (must be north of London) and the offer of watching the match in the snug, as the main bar was pretty full. The TV was set up specially and soon I was joined by others. Sitting in a very festively decorated room, which was much larger than the name suggested, I was made to feel really welcome.

I love the fact that the bell-pushes, which used to be used for calling for a drink, were still there; what a lovely touch, since most pubs have lost these little reminders of the past.

I drank really good beer, Beartown Black Bear and Bearly Literate, and was made to feel at home. Thank you King's Arms. Next time I'm in Crewe I'll be visiting you again; even if there isn't a match on TV.

Anne-Marie McEvoy

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The Globe Inn

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New beer garden now open



The Lower Chequer, Sandbach

New life has been breathed into one of Sandbach's best loved pubs, the **Lower Chequer** on Crown Bank. It is now being run by Liz Cooke and Jim Mason, formerly of the Beartown Tap, Congleton and prior to that the Star at Acton, where they won several CAMRA awards after taking it from a single beer Bass house to offering a range of six ever changing ales with excellent throughput .



Since first viewing The Lower Chequer, they have been negotiating with the Landlord, London Town Taverns eventually agreeing a tenancy for five years free of tie on cask beers, wines and spirits. After taking the keys, several days of frantic cleaning and decorating followed with the assistance of friends, family and old customers alike before re-opening just before Christmas.

New hand pumps were fitted an hour before opening and those lines were being cleaned as the doors opened for business. Beers from Beartown, Storm, Bollington, Townhouse and Copper Dragon were available on the opening night and all very well received and the evening was declared a success when beers were selling out within hours .

38 The Lower Chequer is a quaint traditional pub dating back to Queen Elizabeth the First (1570) making it the oldest in Sandbach. There are two rooms to the pub either side of the small bar, one to the rear closest to the kitchen and rear yard and the public bar at the front. The pub is family and dog friendly and Rosie, Tilly and Dan-dog, the three residents, love to be fussed by customers but are not intrusive. There is a lovely friendly atmosphere with an amazing following of staunchly loyal locals and regulars. Since the re-opening some of the regulars occasionally jest about bringing back *'the good old days, when the beer was crap but at least you could get a seat and you didn't have to wait for a beer'*.

Having caught the wave of Christmas trade, beers have been selling swiftly some firkins (9 gallons/72 pint) selling out in a matter of hours. The locals don't like to go thirsty and when they hit a cask, they hit it hard! The bias is towards local beers and Jim supports the **LocAle** campaign, with additional beers coming from nearby Manchester, Shropshire and Staffordshire. Thirty five different beers had been on sale at the time of writing [at the end of January], including Kodiak Gold, Santas Claws, Bearskinful, Bear Ass, Black Bear and Polar Eclipse from Beartown, Oak Beauty and Midnight Stout from Woodlands, Best and Oatmill Stout from Bollington, Bosley Cloud, PGA and Silk of Amnesia from Storm, Blue Bullet and Pacific from Bazens, Flowerdew from Town House, Manchester Bitter and Brew No.14 from Marble.

At the time of writing Liz is looking forward to putting the kitchen back into use. No more Chicken Dings though, Liz will be serving home cooked favourites such as casseroles, stews, chillis, curries, steak and real ale pie, along with other traditional pub favourites.

Don't expect a menu though, it's all freshly cooked and will all be on a daily blackboard but 'when it's gone it's gone!'

Jim regularly entices *Guinness, lager and smooth-flow* fans to try a pint of the real stuff, be it a stout such as Beartown Polar Eclipse, Storm Bosley Cloud or any one of the fabulous bitters on sale. Many have delighted in their new discovery of tasty real beers.

We wish them continued success in their new venture.

PAH



South Cheshire Pub News

Chetwood Arms Crewe, reunion weekend, 23-25th April 2010.

[For those who missed our last issue, the Chetwood was demolished 30 years ago, but the memory of the place lingers on].

Entertainments will take place in the following Crewe Pubs- **Crown, Borough Arms, Kings Arms, Hops and Gaffer's Row** [JDW]. Included are; Live Music at the Crown and Kings; Arms, Pool, Darts, Dominoes and Shove Ha'Penny knockout competitions and a Chetwood Arms Reunion Ale specially brewed at Townhouse and available in Hops. Detailed information will be available in all five pubs nearer the date. The event is sponsored By A1 Trophies and Abbey Taxis. Please remember that this is an all ticket event. Tickets can be had from Steve Willett [07857 371167].

Hops, Crewe. (pictured)

Plans are afoot to increase the number of hand pumps from 3 to 5. More good news for lovers of good beer and an indicator of the growth in demand for a quality product.

The Old Hall, Sandbach

The Hall is on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register as Priority A. This is the highest grading. Unoccupied for some years now, it dates back to 1656. The building has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years due to a lack of maintenance. Thankfully, it has now been acquired by the excellent Brunning and Price pub company so we hope in due course, it will re-open having been tastefully refurbished.

A little more detail is in our article on Sandbach news on page 34.



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2010



CHESTER & SOUTH CLWYD

CAMRA DIARY

For the latest events, please visit the branch web site at www.chestercamra.co.uk

Friday 12 - Saturday 13 March; Helsby Community Beer Festival

A new event on the social scene. To be held at Helsby Community Sports Club. It will feature local ales plus a new one from Frodsham Brewery named 'Iron Man'.

Thursday 18 March; Branch Meeting: Blue Bell, Tushingham *Start: 8.15pm.*

Thursday 15 April; Branch Meeting / AGM, Mill Hotel, Chester *Start: 8.15pm.*

Saturday 17 April; Llangollen Railway Real Ale Excursion: Zing into Spring Special



As well as Chester and its environs, this Branch covers an area stretching from Parkgate on the Wirral to Tushingham in the South.

Branch Contacts: (phone numbers, are 01244- unless otherwise noted)

Chair (acting): Brian Vardy **373298**

Socials: Craig Papworth **313182**

Secretary: Steve Carr

Membership: Chris Pilsbury

Web editor: John Silloth

chairman@chestercamra.co.uk

socials@chestercamra.co.uk

secretary@chestercamra.co.uk

membership@chestercamra.co.uk

webmaster@chestercamra.co.uk



40 The **Chimneys** at Hooton traffic lights has undergone a £130,000 refurbishment programme and re-opened its doors in January.

To coincide with the grand unveiling, Rob from Timothy Taylors brewery was there to perform a tasting night during which guests received a complimentary pint of Golden Best as well as learning about both the history of Timothy Taylor and the brewing process.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and even included the satisfactory spectacle of one local agreeing in future to abandon his regular lager tippie for Golden Best - a permanent feature on the hand pumps. Hold him to that !



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WEETWOOD V WEETWOOD

Today saw a battle between two of our Good Beer Guide pubs that both serve the Weetwood range of ales; the **Morris Dancer** in Kelsall and the **Pheasant** in Higher Buwardsley. Which one would come out top in this head-to-head? Would the Morris Dancer's close proximity to the brewery give it an advantage? Or would the Pheasant justify its higher prices with better quality beer?

First up was the Morris Dancer with three beers on the pumps; Best, Eastgate and Mad Hatter. The Hatter isn't to my taste but nevertheless was in excellent condition, as were the other two. As usual all the beers here were high quality, and the food was superb too!

Next we headed down to the Pheasant where we'll exclude the non-Weetwood (but very nice!) Mr Mullins from the judging. Eastgate and Best were on again for direct comparison but also on offer was the stronger Old Dog.

So, which came out winner between these two excellent pubs? Well, by far and away, we went for the Old Dog at the Pheasant as the beer of the day. Simply superb. Next came the Eastgate at the Pheasant, the Best at the Morris Dancer, Eastgate at the Morris Dancer, the Best at the Pheasant followed by Hatter at the Morris Dancer.

So there you have it, the Pheasant wins on this occasion, but you really can't go wrong with either pub to be honest!



The **Pied Bull** in Chester held a beer festival for twelve days in January and February. They had fifteen different ales including Conwy, Spitting Feathers, Northern and Peerless (formerly Betwixt). Also appearing was Cestrian Northgate Bitter. They also offered three third pints for the same price as a pint! Excellent news.

They've also agreed to sign-up to CAMRA's LocAle campaign which means at least one ale from the likes of Sandstone, Facers and Weetwood will feature on the pumps.



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Out-Inn Cheshire Deliveries

Part 1: Beeston / Tiverton / Huxley

With nothing worth watching on the box for the 3rd night running, a run in the car for the Beeston/Tiverton/Huxley OIC drop-off seemed a good way of passing the evening.

First stop was the **Beeston Castle** which was reasonably busy for mid-week although I suspect several of the punters were on Christmas nights out. The OICs were handed over and a half of Black Sheep ordered in preference to the Jennings Bitter and the Bombardier. The Black Sheep, although not one of my favourites, was in very good condition. As I was supping, the landlord came out from behind the bar for a chat and told me how hacked-off he is with his pub-co (Punch). Although he admitted to not being a real ale drinker himself, he told me of his aspirations to get himself a free house offering local real ales.

I wished him luck in his venture before moving on to the canal-side **Shady Oak** which I hadn't been in since I did the Sandstone Trail some years ago. Glad to say it has vastly improved since then when it was in quite a sorry state and badly in need of some TLC.

Although predominantly a restaurant now, two real ales were on offer, and I opted for a half of the Cheshire Cat, the alternative being another Black Sheep. The beer was again very good but the restaurant was, sadly, deserted and there were just a handful of customers in the small side-room. Made a note to revisit in the summer and try the restaurant.



- 42 The final port of call was the **Farmers Arms** in Huxley with its long, narrow bar and separate dining area. The bar was splendidly warmed by a real log fire – another one for the already oversubscribed list of branch pubs with real fires. Half of Ringwood Best was my choice here with the alternatives being Adnams Bitter and Black Sheep (again). The Ringwood did not disappoint and the landlord told me it had been so popular with the locals (who normally drink the Black Sheep) that he had kept it on as a guest for an extra month. He also bemoaned his pub-co (Admiral, this time) and is hoping that their current financial difficulties may provide an opportunity for him to break free of them.

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Out Inn CHESHIRE, Autumn 2005

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**GOOD
BEER
GUIDE**

Part 2: Waverton / Christleton

My original intention was to do the Waverton/Christleton drop-off by bike at the weekend, but with below-freezing temperatures forecast, I jibbed out and opted for another run in the car.

The **Black Dog** in Waverton was first on the list with H&H Rocking Rudolph and Tetleys on offer. I ordered half of the former which was on good form. Five tables of diners were scattered throughout the large bar area, one of which was a large family group including four kids who, for a pleasant change, were very well-behaved! A very festive feel to the bar which was bedecked with numerous Xmas decorations – nice to see them making an effort.



After a short drive, I arrived at the **Plough** where I clocked the locals eyeing up my (lack of) parking skills through the window! Good to see this one-time GBG pub open again and to walk into a wonderfully warm bar on this freezing cold evening. On the hand-pumps were Deuchars IPA, Adnam's Broadside, Old Speckled Hen and Bombardier - Deuchars for me this time which was surprisingly a touch on the warm side for such a cold evening. A small mix of diners and drinkers were spread around the three main areas of this lovely old former farmhouse.

Final drop-off before heading for the Bear and Billet for the CAMRA branch Xmas quiz was the **Ring O Bells** – a winner for me as I've never managed to get round to visiting this pub before. Once again, food was predominant but there was a lively atmosphere created by the drinkers and diners. A choice of Directors, Ruddles County and GK IPA would have more than impressed me when I first discovered real ale about 35 years ago but these beers don't do much for me these days. I opted for the fourth choice, Theakstons Masham which was too fruity for my tastes but nevertheless in good nick. As I drank, I perused the extensive menu and made another note of a pub to revisit to try the food (in spite of the fact that they couldn't resist putting at least one *jus* on the menu!)

In a festive conclusion:

6 splendid pubs

5 Tables dining

4 Well-behaved kids

3 Black Sheep

2 Peeved landlords

And a splendidly warm log fire!

The fire and the pig at the Plough. This is our cover photograph.



PS - Another OIC delivery run revealed the following good range of ales east of Chester:-

George & Dragon, Tarvin; Banks Bitter, Mauldon's Bah Humbug, Pedigree and Naylor's O Be Joyful.

Morris Dancer, Kelsall; Weetwood Best, Old Dog and Eastgate.

Farmers Arms, Kelsall; Hobgoblin, Weetwood Old Dog, Jennings Cumberland.

Golden Lion, Ashton; Exmoor Gold, Young's Bitter and Old Speckled Hen.

Goshawk, Mouldsworth; Deuchars IPA, Triple fff Moondance, Weetwood Old Dog and Keltek Golden Lance.

We're pleased to report that the rumoured cask conditioned ale at the newly extended **Joseph Benjamin** on Northgate Street in Chester has materialised.

The award-winning restaurant has moved into the neighbouring former Sayer's bakers shop and, besides increasing their seating capacity, have included space for a small front bar with stools which welcomes non-diners. The chosen ale for the opening night was Woodlands Bitter (£3.10 a pint); reward for a brewery which had been 'fantastic in offering advice and support'.

It's more or less opposite the Pied Bull so why not drop in?

Chester Pub Revivals

Two long shut Chester pubs re-opened in time for Yuletide and both have proper ale. **Club Globe**, part of the Steam Mill on the canal further on from Old Harkers Arms, is selling Spitting Feathers ales at £1.79. The Old Wavertonian Stout was in superb form while their Christmas Crackers went untried. The place markets itself as a sports bar but is rather bare at the moment bar a few pool tables at the rear. Good luck to them anyhow.



Ditto sentiments for the **Commercial** in the heart of Chester hidden down dark alleys at the back of the Victoria pub. Retaining its multi-roomed layout with original central servery it has a separate bar in the former offices next door. Very promising news on the ale front with Weetwood Cheshire Cat, Stonehouse Station Bitter and Wells Bombardier on opening night As with the Globe, it looked rather spartan except for the odd bit of decorative wallpaper. A work in progress no doubt and we'll watch with interest to see how it develops.

A big thumbs up for the **Red Lion** in Handbridge which reopened in December. Although the pub is still restricted by a brewery tie, four hand pumps were in use, serving Flowers IPA at £2.40 and Bombardier, Spitfire and Deuchars at £2.80. All were in good condition. The interior decoration has reverted to more like the original, before the failed *Bar & Courtyard* interlude. The wooden bar has been restored, covering up the garish chrome predecessor. The floor is a patchwork of tiles and wooden parquet typical of many of the older houses in Handbridge, with furniture to match. The walls are decorated by framed collections of cigarette cards, and assorted sporting trophies from an earlier period. A coal fire is an added attraction in the old lounge area.

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The landlords are experienced locals Darren Ecclestone and Andy Smythe, who have previously been successful at the Mount and Little Oak in Boughton, and we wish them luck in adding to the choice of pubs in Handbridge.

Wetherspoons Odyssey

Four 50p off Wetherspoons vouchers left, expiry date tonight. What to do? Why visit the four JDW outlets in our Cheshire area of course!

A FirstGroup No.1 bus from Chester dropped off at Overpool Road and then, following a brisk five minute walk, it was into the **Wheatsheaf**. An unusual setting for a 'Spoons pub - amongst housing estates; away from a town centre - but a pleasant enough place with plenty of seating and a separate eating area. Beers on the bar included, besides the Spoons usuals, Wadworths Fairport Five and Coteigh Long Eared Owl. The latter was selling at 99 p a pint and amazingly a) the 50p discount still applied and b) the beer was fine. 49 p. Bargain!

It was then across the road to Overpool station to board the 21.33 Merseyrail service to Ellesmere Port. The **Thomas Telford** can have a quite boisterous crowd in at times but evidently not on a Friday night as the place was no more than ticking over. Guest ales came from the Wetherspoons festive ale list. First tried was Springhead Crazy Cranberry (4.4%; 99p after discount) which, frankly, was stunning - a 5/5 on the CAMRA scoring system. On the barman's insistence I reluctantly moved on to try the Elgoods Snicklemas (5%) which, once more, was awesome. 5/5 no question and well worth the full whack £1.49.

There followed an anxious and depressing wait at the bus station amidst Subway wrappers, discarded chewing gum, LFC graffiti and abandoned supermarket trolleys before the relief of seeing the delayed last bus come into view.

Back in Chester and onto the **Square Bottle** where an unprecedented hat-trick of 5/5's was notched care of a delicious Sharps Nadelik (4.6%) albeit at an absurd £1.49 after using the penultimate voucher.

Finally, round the corner and into a throbbingly busy, disco pumping **Forest House**. Abandoning any attempt at service upstairs it was straight in at the downstairs bar for Grainstore Cooking Bitter (£1.49) which weighed in at about 3.5/5 - on a normal night a decent score. With vouchers used up it was time to walk home and contemplate the beer's stunning value and stunning conditioning. Don't knock 'Spoons without trying them.



TRAFFORD & HULME

CAMRA Diary

We cover the Borough of Trafford - that's places like Altrincham, Sale, Stretford and Urmston plus Hulme (west of Princess Road), a large chunk of Manchester City Centre and some bits of north east Cheshire.

All members, old and new are warmly welcomed. See our new web-site at www.thcamra.org.uk

Thurs 4th March; 8 pm, Branch meeting at The Town hall Tavern, Tib Street, Manchester.

Thurs 11th March; Ashton-on-Mersey survey. 8 pm Old Plough, 9.30 pm The Buck.

Thurs 18th March; Manchester survey. Start 8 pm Wetherspoons Moon Under the Water, 8.45 Corbiers, 9.30 Sawyers Arms, 10 pm Mr Thomas's Chop House, finish City Arms.

Thurs 1st April; 8 pm, Branch meeting Wetherspoons Waterhouse.

WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET SOME OF OUR LESS ACTIVE MEMBERS

YOU ARE WELCOME AT SOCIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

THERE ABOUT 400 MEMBERS IN THE BRANCH NOW — WHERE ARE YOU ? ?

Please contact Bev with any ideas that you may have that you wish to be arranged.

We now have an account with the Manchester Community transport for minibus hire, with a driver.

chair@thcamra.org.uk (bevalitabev@yahoo.co.uk) or 07730550428

Branch Contact – John Ison 0161 962 7976. Or E-mail Jon Gobbett at membership@thcamra.org.uk

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80 YEARS YOUNG

Trafford & Hulme CAMRA had good reason to celebrate recently.

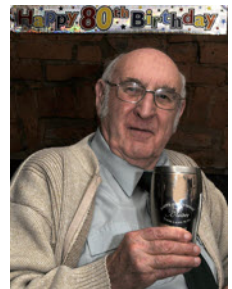
A large group of members met at the Old Market Tavern in Altrincham to celebrate the 80th birthday of Brian Taylor. He is probably our oldest branch member but he is definitely our oldest member still volunteering and enjoying a pint of his favourite tippie; Timothy Taylor's Landlord (*no relation*). Brian, and his wife Joan are well known to many CAMRA members from their involvement with beer festivals far and wide.

Brian originally joined the fledgling Campaign in 1974 (his membership number is in just three figures) as a Trafford member.

In 1986, Brian and Joan moved away and became members of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre branch where they volunteered to work at Fleetwood Beer Festival and they have been back to volunteer at every one since. They eventually moved back to Manchester and were instrumental in reviving the Trafford Branch in 2002, with Brian as Secretary and Joan as Treasurer. When asked how many beer festivals had he worked at Brian replied,

"So far I have volunteered for 17 Great British Beer Festivals in London, 22 Fleetwood festivals, all the Manchester Winter Ales Festivals numerous Stockport, Oldham and Bury festivals and they're the ones I can remember". Brian has no plans to retire just yet.

Happy Birthday Brian, 80 years young

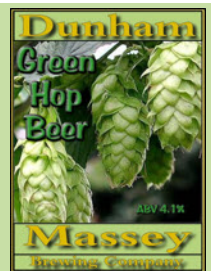


DUNHAM MASSEY GROWTH

John Costello of Dunham Massey Brewery has taken on an apprentice brewer to help cope with the increasing demand for his traditional beers.

A recent brew was Green Hop Beer (4.1%) from his own newly-planted Fuggles hop garden. It only yielded 5kg in this first year so it was a limited brew which was snapped up immediately and very well received.

Next year he hopes that, with a greater yield, he can devote a whole week to brewing just Green Hop at optimum harvesting time.



Acton, Nantwich	Star	01270 627296	Wednesday 8.30 pm
Acton Bridge	Hazel Pear	01606 853195	Hospice charity quiz. 1st Wednesdays .
Alderley Edge	de Trafford Arms	01625 583 881	Wednesday evening
Altrincham	Old Market Tavern	0161 927 7062	Wednesday 9.30 pm
Bollington	Poachers	01625 572086	Last Sunday of the month for charity
Buglawton	Robin Hood	01260 273616	Tuesday evening
Cheford	Egerton Arms	01625 831366	Alternate Thursdays (Lord Ted) 8.30
Chester	Pied Bull	01244 325829	Thursday evening
Chester	Ship Victory	01244 376453	Thursday evening
Comberbach	Spinner & Bergamot	01606 891307	Wednesday 8 pm
Congleton	Castle Inn	01260 277505	Tuesday evening
Crewe	Woodside	01270 569513	Tuesday 9 pm
Davenham	Bull's Head	01606 43725	Sunday & Tuesday evenings
Dean Row	Unicorn	01625 524379	Wednesday 9 pm
Handbridge	Carlton	01244 671070	Tuesday evening
Handforth	Railway	01625 523472	Thursday 8.30 pm (in aid of Mencap)
Hoole	Bromfield	01244 345037	Tuesday evening
Holt, Wrexham	Peal o'Bells	01829 270411	Monday 9 pm
Houghton Green	Plough	01925 815409	Thursday 9 pm
Kelsall	Farmer's Arms	01829 751784	Friday & Sunday evening
Kingsley	Red Bull	01928 788097	Tuesday evening
Knutsford	Lord Eldon	01565 652261	Monday 8.30 pm
Knutsford	Cross Keys	01565 750404	Wednesday 9 pm
Macclesfield	Hollins	07983 335501	Tuesday evening
Macclesfield	Railway View	01625 423657	Sunday evening
Marton	Davenport Arms	01260 224269	Thursday 9 pm
Middlewich	Big Lock	01606 833489	Wednesday 9 pm (free)
Middlewich	Boar's Head	01606 833191	Sunday evening
Mobberley	Bull's Head	01565 880105	Thursday evening
Mobberley	Church Inn	01565 872651	Alternate Thursdays (Lord Ted) 8.30
Nantwich	Black Lion	01270 628711	Monday 8.30 pm
Nantwich	Peacock	01270 624069	Wednesday 9 pm
Penketh	Ferry Tavern	01925 791117	Sunday 9.30 pm
Peover Heath	Dog Inn	01625 861421	Thursdays & Sundays
Pickmere	Elms	01565 733395	Thursday evening
Rainow	Rising Sun	01625 424235	Thursday evening
Sandbach	Limes	01270 763506	Tuesday 9.30 pm
Styal	Ship Inn	01625 523818	Wednesday evening
Warrington	Dog & Partridge	01925 813915	Tuesday evening
Warrington	Ring o' Bells	01925 634035	Wednesday 9.30 pm
Wilmslow	Coach & Four	01625 525046	Every Sunday evening
Wilmslow	King William	01625 524022	Every Sunday evening
Wilmslow	Rifleman's Arms	01625 537235	Thursdays & Sundays
Wrenbury	Cotton's Arms	01270 780 377	Friday 9 p.m.

FREE listings; tell us your music or quiz details.

Please phone the pub for confirmation before travelling.

The Editor accepts no responsibility for changing circumstances and lives in a state of perpetual ignorance.

Getting Quizzical Out *Inn* CHESHIRE; Hazel Pear, Acton Bridge

The Hazel Pear quiz takes place on the first Wednesday of every month, and unusually is a quiz run entirely for charity – in this case the local St Luke's Hospice.

Starting at around 9pm, this is a quiz with a lot of questions – 41 in all together with a picture round (on this occasion famous[?] faces). Questions tend to be clustered from current news, to geography, history and sport although there aren't any distinct breaks. Cost to enter is £1 per person, although as I say, all the proceeds go to charity.

Papers are swapped for marking and the winners get to select from one of four envelopes each containing prizes donated by the pub. Will you win a bottle of wine or just a bag of pork scratchings? Perhaps a free drink or maybe a meal for two?

Gary Chester

Good Beer Guide 2010

Now in its 37th year, the Good Beer Guide is fully revised and updated, with details of more than 4,500 pubs across the country serving the best real ale.

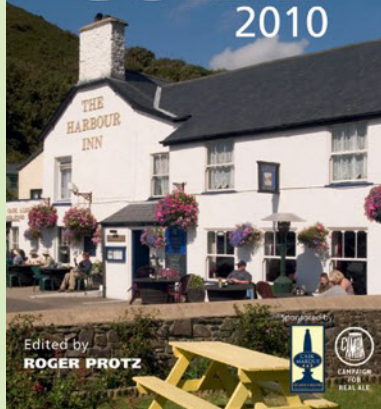
From country inns to urban style bars and back street boozers, all selected and reviewed by CAMRA's 100,000 members, this is your definitive guide to finding the perfect pint.

- ❖ Complete entries for over 4,500 urban and rural pubs, giving details of food, opening hours, beer gardens, accommodation, transport links, pub history, disabled access and facilities for families.
- ❖ Informative features section, with articles on pubs, beer and brewing, as well as beer festival listings from around the country.
- ❖ Fully revised and updated every year by 100,000 CAMRA members across the country.
- ❖ Unique brewery section listing all the breweries in the UK - micro, regional and national - that brew real ale, with tasting notes for hundreds of their beers written by a trained CAMRA tasting panel.
- ❖ £14.99 (£10 for members) Order on-line from www.camra.org.uk or from good book shops.

CAMRA has also launched two hi-tech services for beer lovers to complement the printed Guide. **Good Beer Guide Mobile** and **Good Beer Guide POI** file offer the perfect solution to pub-finding on the move!

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PUB GUIDE

GOOD BEER GUIDE 2010



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EDITORIAL ADDRESS

2 Garden Cottages, Tabley House, Chester Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0EZ 01565-653096 (H)

E-mail: editor@outinncheshire.co.uk

Website: www.outinncheshire.co.uk

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Press Deadline; 30 April
Publishing Date; 1 June (approx)

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Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



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Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

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Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

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Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>

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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

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108

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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

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People with **taste** are drinking **Real Ale**