



CHESTER & SOUTH CLWYD

CAMRA DIARY

For the latest events,
please visit the branch web site at
www.myweb.tiscali.co.uk/hardpeg

Fri 9 - Sat 10 Sept;

Tattenhall Beer Festival; a return of this popular event at the Barbour Institute in the centre of the village.

Thu 15 Sept;

Bridge End Inn, Ruabon - Branch meeting plus presentation of our area Welsh Pub of the Year award.

Thu 13 Oct;

Branch Meeting: **Cross Keys**, Chester *Start: 8.15pm.*

Fri 21 - Sat 22 Oct;

Chester Autumn Beer Festival: The Guildhall, Chester
See Page 40 for details.

Thu 17 Nov;

Branch Meeting: venue to be advised *Start: 8.15pm.*



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: Brian Vardy

373298 chairman@chestercamra.co.uk

Socials: John Bowyer

680865 socials@chestercamra.co.uk

Secretary: Keith Porter

secretary@chestercamra.co.uk

Membership: Craig Papworth **313182**

membership@chestercamra.co.uk

Web editor: John Silloth

webmaster@chestercamra.co.uk



The *Morris Dancer* in Kelsall is scheduled to re-open soon. There's a new name to reflect a new look - now it will be called Lord Binning after one-time owner of the local manor.

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Rock the Kash Bar

The former Donato & Sandros Italian restaurant on Brook Street (near Hoole Bridge) has re-opened as bar-cum-restaurant **Kash**. Owned by Beer Republic based in Runcorn, it sells casks ales from their own micro-brewery, Blueball which have included Queenie's Best Bitter, Tropical IPA and their own hefeweizen Zeppelin. Unusual draught beers are one of the bar's big selling points so expect to see an equally impressive array of world-wide bottle beers on sale too. Besides their regular happy hours, watch out too for the occasional real ale night when ale is just £2 per pint!

In Brief

The former *Club Globe* on the canal-side near Old Harkers Arms has re-opened as **Artichoke**. Four ales, including Cheshire micros, are on the pumps with five Belgian beers on draught. More to follow.

The **Rake & Pikel** in Huntington, thanks to gaining access to the SIBA guest ale list, has joined CAMRA's LocAle scheme. Thus, recent pump clip neighbours to the regular Taylor's Landlord have been Liverpool One's Three Graces and Northern Hit & Run. The pub also held a well attended mini-beer festival in the summer.



Someone really ought to go and sign up the **Commercial** to the Locale scheme. This multi-room venue in St Peter's Churchyard at the back of Chester Cross more or less has Weetwood Cheshire Cat and Stonehouse Station Bitter on permanently while Brimstage Sandpiper has featured on the other hand pump.

Another bar where you can sup real ale whilst listening to a late night in-house DJ is the **Cellar Bar** on City Road. Sister pub to the Bridge Inn in Boughton; Liverpool Organic beers often feature here alongside other guest ales.

Real ale is back at the **Chester Hangman**. Bombardier and Courage Best on the pumps.

In Hoole the *Beehive* has closed. The **Peacock** in Boughton has been re-opened and re-branded as a Flaming Grill. Cask returns in the guise of Bombardier and Hobgoblin.

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PUB OF THE SEASON

Cottage Industry Pays Off

We're pleased to announce that the branch's **Summer Pub of the Season 2011** is the **Old Cottage** on Brook Street in Chester. This splendid locals' pub has three relatively unusual ales on the hand pumps - typically Cain's Bitter, Taylor's Golden Best and Hook Norton Old Hooky - and, at around £2.30 a pint, offers real value money. All in all, well worth calling in especially if you're planning on a curry in one of the many neighbouring Indian restaurants.



THE OLDE COTTAGE INN

CAMRA PUB OF THE SEASON
- SUMMER 2011

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Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd
OCTOBER 2011
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Evening (7-11pm)

Saturday 22nd £4
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Saturday 22nd £5
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FIFTH ANNUAL

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8 Ciders/Perries
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Soft drinks available

CHESTER BEER FESTIVAL

For further information or internet & postal sales go to
www.chestercamra.co.uk **2011**

Tickets also on sale at Harker's, Mill, Telford's & Carlton Tavern

The 5th Chester Real Ale Festival will once again take place in the splendour of the Grade II listed Guildhall on Watergate Street in the centre of the city. Following last year's sell-out we hope that the council will agree to increase the attendance limit this year so we can offer 50+ real ales, including the finalists in the Champion Beer of Cheshire competition, plus perries and ciders.

Admission is by advance ticket only. Hours and prices as aside; cost includes souvenir glass and programme. CAMRA members can claim a free half pint on production of their membership card. There will be live music at all sessions with Saturday afternoon being a quiet(ish) acoustic set. Food will be provided by the multi award winning Brewery Tap Ale House. Pub games will be on offer including the skittle alley.

For tickets see www.chestercamra.co.uk. Postal sales: John Bowyer, 8 Greensway, Chester CH4 8BE or email beerfestival@chestercamra.co.uk. Cheques payable to Chester CAMRA Festival Account; please enclose SAE.

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THE SHIP INN

EST. 1741



West Cheshire Brewers' Beer Festival - 16th July 2011

Tickets for the annual beer festival at the farm premises of the Spitting Feathers brewery in Waverton sold out for both sessions very quickly so must buy mine earlier next year!

I managed to obtain a ticket for the afternoon session and after a short ride on the 41 bus from Chester was rewarded with the sight of thirty (30) hand pumps lined up along the bar in the barn, dispensing beers from 5 local breweries, including Spitting Feathers of course, plus a variety of guest beers.

The weather was fine and sunny and contributed to the convivial atmosphere around the yard. I tried **Frodsham** Devil's Garden, **Northern** Casino & Stateside IPA, **Weetwood** Mad Hatter, **Hopstar** Lancashire Gold and **Spitting Feathers** Solstice. My particular favourites were the Lancashire Gold and the Stateside IPA.



Real food comprising Hog Roast baps, hot dogs and spare ribs was served from the BBQ hut and the constant queue served as a reminder not to leave it too late to eat! Tours of the farm and brewery were available and live music later in the afternoon rounded the day off nicely. The last bus back to Chester was just after 6pm but my friends and I decided to walk back – not too strenuous as we broke the journey a few times visiting pubs en-route. JB

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CITY CENTRE IMPROVEMENT

Speculation has it that pub chain Brunning & Price, owners of sundry splendid Good Beer Guide pubs across the land, including the Grosvenor Arms at Aldford and the Sutton Hall near Macclesfield, have acquired the derelict but Grade II listed St Martins Lodge, a 'simple and elegant piece of Regency architecture', near the Roodee racecourse. Is 'Harkers No 2' soon to surface in Chester?



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Cider Pub of the Year 2010

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**GOOD
BEER
GUIDE**

Cycling Down South

With no job to worry about I could think of no better way to spend a glorious sunny Friday than leisurely cycling down to the southern most recesses of our Cheshire branch area. Here lie three splendid GBG pubs and they were all ripe for a visit.

After a pleasant saunter down past Waverton, a Lucozade stop in Tattenhall to kill sometime before opening time, and a serious test for a nagging hamstring in the climb up Harthill, the first alcohol to pass lips was at the **Sandstone** on the A534 Wrexham - Nantwich Road near Broxton. Formerly known as both the Royal Oak and more recently the Coppermine, this pub likes to support local products; a policy applied to ale as well as food. Besides brews from Woodlands and Spitting Feathers, Weetwood Eastgate was also on the pumps and a very palatable half it was too.



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Onward, and after wending down numerous country lanes to avoid the frightening A41 (and wondering if it is possible to go more than 500 yards down any road anywhere in the UK and not find casually discarded McDonalds wrappers amongst the fescue and cow parsley) the bike was propped up against a trestle in the **Blue Bell** beer garden down at Tushingham. As expected the usual Salopian Shropshire Gold and Oakham JHB were on at the bar, and a pint of the former slipped down well whilst watching house martins

flitting in and out from under the eaves of this half-timbered classic.

The quickest route from the Blue Bell to the near-by **Willey Moor Lock Tavern** is a ten minute assault course down dirt-track, cattle grids, turnstiles and cow-patted pasture - not ideal for a racer but better than the four mile alternative of battling with *Eddie Stobart* down the 41 to the Whitchurch by-pass and then back up the 49. Great to find the Willey really ticking over with customers as a veritable flotilla of small craft negotiated the eponymous lock. Catching a few rays while supping a marvellous pint of Three Tuns Solstice made all the hard miles well worth it. Other ales incidentally included Woodland Drummer Boy and Odd Ball Red from the Offbeat Brewery in Crewe ("*brewed by a chick*").

A bumpy pedal along the canal tow path to Grindley Brook, followed by more country lanes through Higher Wych and Tallern Green, took me to the my final destination and another rural gem - the **Queens Head** at Sarn. Marston's Bitter here but also available is the magnificent Taylor's Golden Best. And magnificent it was.

Spurning the temptation to call in at the equally meritorious **Bull** at Shocklach, it was full steam northwards to get back home to Chester for din-dins. Summer cycling round pubs - magic!

John Silloth



West Cheshire Witterings

Some pubs are "restaurants with a bar", where lack of a suitable drinking area tends to inhibit the beer drinker. Other pubs are really bars, with dining tables intruding into the drinking space sometimes accompanied by the all-pervasive smell of food, usually chips. It is therefore pleasing to find a pub which has got the balance right. The **Sandstone**, on the A534 between Broxton and Bulkeley (*pictured left*), is such a place. Formerly known as the *Coppermine* and the *Royal Oak* before that, the Sandstone has a separate bar area for those wanting to enjoy a pint, and a very pleasant dining area, part of which is in a bright, airy conservatory. The varied menu is much better than what would normally be described as pub food, yet the prices are quite reasonable.

Most produce is sourced locally, and beers are usually from local micros, such as Weetwood, Woodlands and occasionally Sandstone (the brewery not the pub).

The setting is ideal exploring the Sandstone Trail, and even a gentle stroll will allow enjoyment of all that is good about Cheshire.



The opportunity to exchange the tight grip of a PubCo for a free house was ideal for the new licensees of the **Bull's Head** in Clotton which re-opened in July. This meant them moving from Punch's *Headless Woman* in Duddon so that pub is subsequently now closed. The Bull has been selling LocAles including Weetwood and Spitting Feathers.

There's been a tasteful and much needed face-lift at the re-opened **Greyhound** in Saughal. Changing cask ales so far have included Spitting Feathers, Black Sheep and Bombardier. The quirky split-level layout survives though it's a shame to see the loss of the traditional public bar. Saughallians must be delighted to have their local back in business.

Distressing news was the departure of Jon Cox and his staff from the award winning *Bull* at Shocklach not long after the pub had held a tremendous beer festival. We hear of a dispute with Admiral Taverns (or Badmiral as someone acerbically remarked) though to be fair we've not heard the PubCo's side. Whatever the reason, praise to those who turned an abandoned village local into a superb country pub – one that totally had CAMRA's ethos at heart. It's hoped a replacement licensee will be found to keep the pub up and running.

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Telford's Oktober Beer Festival

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7th & 8th October 2011

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ELLESMERE PORT PRATTLE

Real Ale at the Coliseum Leisure Park

News of some much need real ale E.Port irrigation arrived on the branch forum in the summer. We quote *Cheshirescooper's* post verbatim as it says it all really ...

*"Called in at **Miller and Carters** steak restaurant on Ellesmere Port Coliseum on the weekend as was greeted by a Purity Ubu pump clip; ordered it and had it poured into a dimpled pint jug for me. The barman who served me proudly stated that they were the only establishment on the Coliseum / Oaks to sell cask beer and their aim was eventually to use all three hand pulls and said that Lancaster Bomber would be added shortly. Beer quality was very good and an excellent companion to my rib eye."*

Stacks of Ale at Chimneys

The **Chimneys** in Hooton held its own mini-beer festival over the summer and judging by the excellent turn-out proved there are plenty of people in the Port who like a decent tipples of the proper stuff. About fifteen ales were on in all, served in the main bar and from stillaging in the rear beer garden. Ales included Rudgate Ruby Mild, (a mysterious) Mike Hall Wanderer, St. Peter's IPA, Freeminer Speculation, Vale Brewery Black Beauty, Tomos Watkin OSB and Harviestoun American IPA. We look forward to a follow up event.

In Brief

Another shut pub to report. The *Princes* on Princes Road in Ellesmere Port is on the market at £175,000. Also currently tinned up are the *Wing Half* and the *Sutton Way*. No doubt the local Bargain Booze stores continue to prosper.



At least Childer Thornton continues to prosper with the Thwaites-tied **White Lion** (pictured) remaining a truly great little pub while the nearby **Halfway House** is also not to be overlooked. This local on the A41, having previously been owned by Burtonwood and John Smiths, now serves up to three real ales from the Marstons stable.

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the cellar
↓

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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 www.thcamra.org.uk

Thu 8 Sept: Social; Whalley Range 8pm Hillary Step, 9pm Nip & Tipple, 9.30 Jam St Cafe

Thu 15 Sept: Social; Timperley 8pm Stonemason's Arms, 8.45 Quarrybank, 9.30 Moss Trooper, 10.15 Gardeners Arms, finish Timperley Taverners'.

Fri 23 - Sat 24 Sept: NERDs weekend;

T&H branch hosts the National Executive and Regional Directors weekend at the Castlefield Hotel with a Saturday evening treasure hunt in the city centre.

Fri 23 - Sun 25 Sept: South West Manchester Cricket Club (SWMCC) beer festival
In association with Kro Bar. www.swmcc.org.uk/beerfestival

Thu 29 Sept: Social; city centre 8pm Sam's Chop House, 8.45 Thomas' Chop House, 9.30 Vine, finish City Arms/ Waterhouse

Thu 6 Oct: Trafford & Hulme CAMRA Annual General Meeting.
8pm Timperley Taverners, Park Land, Timperley. (TBC)

Sat 8 Oct: CAMRA Greater Manchester Regional meeting
Trafford & Hulme CAMRA's turn to host the regional meeting
- Waterhouse, Manchester, 1pm

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

PUB OF THE SEASON - COSTELLO'S BAR, ALTRINCHAM

This is a great accolade for a pub that has only been open since December but has become firmly established on the Altrincham real ale circuit and embraces the community with cycling clubs and vintage motor cyclists meeting there. Costello's is the brewery tap for the Dunham Massey Brewing Company and takes it's name from head brewer, John, and his two sons, Anthony & Jason, who own and run both the brewery and the pub. Costello's is a LocAle haven having six hand pumps on the bar with Big Tree Bitter a constant feature and a mild, either Dunham Dark or Dunham Light, always being available alongside an ever changing selection from the extensive brewery portfolio.



Worth Brewery, Poynton

At last the first brew, ironically called 'Bout Time!' in reference to its long awaited arrival has seen the light of day! This is a traditional English session bitter with an ABV of 4.1%. The dedicated pump clip shows a painting of the parish Church of St. George which is close to the Poynton British Legion (aka the brewery tap), on St. George's Road West.

All beers names have Poynton connections, and are made using locally sourced ingredients; pump clips designed by a local artist showcase the beer name. Head Brewer, Paul Hession has been busy adding to the beer range, which now includes:

Anson (3.6%), a light session bitter, Blithe Spirit (3.8%), a light fairly hoppy bitter, Wainwright's End (3.9%), a well hopped, dry bitter and Seam Cutter (4.2%), a rich black beer.

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Acton, Nantwich	Star	01270 627296	Wednesday 8.30 pm
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 295241	Tuesday evening
Chelford	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
Halkyn	Blue Bell	01352 70309	Wednesday 8.30 Winter Quiz (Oct - March)
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
Macclesfield	Treacle Tap	01625 615938	Sunday 8.30 pm
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
Willaston	Nag's Head	01270 650176	Thursday cash prize
Wilmslow	Coach & Four	01625 525046	Every Sunday evening
Wilmslow	King William	01625 524022	Every Sunday evening
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.

Advertising in Out Inn CHESHIRE

Out Inn Cheshire is a not for profit publication of the Campaign for Real Ale, which is itself a not for profit consumer group. Printing costs are funded entirely (and only just) by advertising income. We accept advertising from just about anybody, so long as it does not offend our campaigning or other sensibilities! Our readership is estimated at between 30,000 and 40,000 readers per quarter.

At the end of 2010, we were obliged to increase our advertising rates, for the first time in two and a half years. This was forced on us by the inexorable rise in printing costs. We kept the increase to a minimum and the new rates are in the blue box on the right.

Good Beer Guide 2012

The 2012 Good Beer Guide is fully revised and updated, with details of more than 4,500 pubs across the UK serving the best real ale.

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You should receive a **full pint**, not 90%. Well, the licensee expects to be paid in full! We always ask them politely to "*squeeze a drop more in*", or *top it up, please*".

If you have a **chipped glass, dirty cutlery, bad food or sour beer**, don't hesitate; let the staff know, politely. It is easy for things to be missed in a busy session: a little courtesy and understanding on both sides should resolve matters.

It is a legal requirement for representative **price lists** to be readily visible.

If the licensee won't put things right, then call Trading Standards or Environmental Health. (See a phone book, web site, public library or town hall.)



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

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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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Copy Deadline; 1 November

Publishing Date; 1 December (approx)



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Out Inn Cheshire

12/10

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- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

9 2 6 1 2 9

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Branch Sort Code

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Reference

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY
 This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number _____
 Name _____
 Postcode _____

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society
 Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____