

# leicestershire drinker

The magazine of the five Leicestershire branches of CAMRA

**SUMMER 2024 PUB NEWS - GOSSIP - FESTIVALS AND MUCH MORE**

**Edition no.9**



**THE 'WOODIES' ROTHLEY - LEICESTER CAMRA RURAL PUB OF THE YEAR**

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FOR  
REAL ALE**

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## **WELCOME**



Welcome to this latest edition of the Drinker.

I hope you are enjoying the return of beer garden weather and are helping publicans to keep their bank manager and the tax man happy.

The industry is still suffering and I am pleased we can help a little. By bringing production in-house we will be able to progressively reduce the cost of advertising with us. If we get more adverts it can come down further.

**Roy Denney, Editor 0116 233 8604**

## **PUB AND BREWERY NEWS**

Q brewery announced they are ceasing brewing, and by now may well have done so, yet another casualty.

Branches are starting to give out their various awards. They will have an overall Pub of the Year (POTY) but branches also offer other awards.

For the first time this year Leicester are naming their Rural pub of the year, their Suburban choice and their Urban one

The first requisite is of course good beer but beyond that members made nominations and then a short list was drawn up bearing in mind cleanliness, service, atmosphere and knowledge / promotion of real ale and sympathy for CAMRA's aims.

The next step was nine judges independently visiting each pub and scoring them on these points. The short listed pubs were:

Plough(Ratby) Kings Head (Smeeton Westerby) Woodman's Stroke aka Woodies (Rothley)  
Mill Hill (Enderby) Pharmacie Arms (Syston) & Stamford (Groby)  
Salmon, Ale Wagon & Blue Boar (all Leicester)

The winners were Woodies, Mill Hill & Pharmacie (joint) and the Blue Boar (the overall winner).

The Melton CAMRA POTY is the Stilton Cheese once again and Loughborough CAMRA had their usual comprehensive set of awards.

They were presented at the Annual Beer Festival held at the Polish Club in Loughborough.

### **Cider Pub of the Year:**

1. Swan in the Rushes, Loughborough.
2. Moonface Brewery and Tap, Loughborough.
3. Needle and Pin, Loughborough.

### **Micro-Pub of the Year:**

1. Moonface Brewery and Tap,.
- 2= Rock Café and Bar, Coalville.
- 2=. Tap at No. 76, Ashby de la Zouch.

### **Traditional Pub of the Year.**

1. Organ Grinder, Loughborough.
2. Anchor Inn, Walton on the Wolds.
3. Swan Inn, Mountsorrel.

### **Overall Pub of the Year:**

1. Organ Grinder, Loughborough.
2. Moonface Brewery and Tap
3. Anchor Inn, Walton on the Wolds.

At the end of the celebration of Mild in May they also awarded their Mild POTY to the Needle & Pin (*right*)

Awards are a thank you and acknowledgement of a good pub. They must have good beer of course but good beer alone does not make a good pub.

We must accept that some pubs offer little choice in perhaps not the best of surroundings but can and do still offer a really good pint. Its a common thread amongst real ale enthusiasts that the number of beers on sale should match demand to maintain quality. Too many beers not turning over is not good. Choice is great but only if demand is there.

What then, when we see a pub with just one hand pump in action? Token gesture (quality not great ) or a beer that turns over and is a local's favourite?

Just recently, Shawn Collier of Leicester Branch visited a few pubs that fall into the latter category and mentions the Fairfield ,Wigston with an excellent Everards Tiger. The Plough also Wigston, just has Pedigree but in top condition on two visits just over a year apart. Bass is the offer at the Cherry Tree in Leicester. . Finally a return to a regular cask offering from the Midland Railway, Syston. Proper Job has been sampled here on a couple of occasions to date and was most enjoyable.

Views will differ and the single pump pub isn't for everyone. What is important though is to continue to shout out about good quality pints wherever they are served. Any more worth a mention in our area? Let the editor know!



CAMRA amongst many organisations and many of us individually have been bending MPs ears and through them Government's ear to help our pubs. They have been listening and have helped but less so than we had hoped for. With demands on our tax take for defence, schooling, policing and the NHS we must be grateful for anything.

They have frozen alcohol duty again and still match fund communities buying their own pub.

We have successfully campaigned for real ale and CAMRA continue to fight to protect it and our pubs and perhaps should re badge ourselves to reflect this wider role.. Care is needed with acronyms though.

Put **CAMRA** in a search engine and it often tells you about cameras. On the subject of possible name changes we could campaign for real pubs **CARP** but would be accused of 'carping on about things' or being 'something fishy'.

Marstons/Carlsberg are introducing a form of dispense where an apparently normal hand pump is serving keg beer. There could be a case for Trading Standards to get involved for misleading advertising.

Perhaps given this we should start a 'campaign to save real ale pumps.'

Searching for **CRAP**, would be even more messy.

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■ Leicestershire, Rutland & Northants 2015

■ East Midlands 2019

■ 5 Real Ales, 2 Permanent, 3 Changing, 1 Changing Real Cider

and 2024

High Street, Somerby, Nr. Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2QB

01664 454394 – stiltoncheeseinn.co.uk

Hinckley Branch Cider Pub of the Year is the Pestle and Mortar, and their Pub of the Year - is the New Plough.

Publican Sue Summerville at the Pestle received the award for an unprecedented eighth year in succession and will now go forward to the East Midlands Regional competition. Sue, who previously ran the nearby Greyhound pub, regularly offers up to 15 real ciders plus a wide selection of real and craft ales Their sister pub, the Shilton Vaults, was runner up to the Pestle in the annual awards.

The New Plough on London Road won their award again for the third year in succession .Come on the rest of the pubs! Up your game.

The Vale of Belvoir Leicestershire POTY is the Anchor at Plungar

held one in March to celebrate the first anniversary of the new licencees.

The pub gives CAMRA members a discount and several supported the event.



Cask ale sales in British pubs, have fallen more than 30% , since pre-covid. To some extent changing tastes but also less pubs to drink in.

Supply is reducing as well as brewers switch to more profitable 'craft' beers.

Local MP Luke Evans presents the award to Louise, landlady of the New Plough

They say this is where the demand is but which came first egg or chicken.

Pubs also stage mini festivals, and the Kings Head Smeeton Westerby, runner up in the Leicesters CAMRA Rural POTY

Green King is closing its historic brewery and building a new one to supply that.

Loughborough held another very successful beer festival, this time back at the Polish Club, and after a gap of several years spent looking for a venue Leicester finally have a festival in early July and Hinckley are organising one shortly afterwards.

Festivals are a great way to try less available beers and also to meet and chat to like minded people. Festivals take place all over the country and if so minded you can get to them regularly. They all offer a discount on entry to CAMRA members in itself worth joining CAMRA for. More than that members get £20 of vouchers to use in many pubs, and other pubs give discounts on display of your membership card.;

There is no set formula for festivals although they have to conform to some basic rules.

Festivals vary from capacities running into thousands down to fairly small ones like Loughborough and the new Leicester one. In these smaller venues space is limited and providing tables and much seating reduces the capacity so less of these can be provided.

In Leicester's case in mid summer there is a grassy surround so **people can bring blankets or even camping chairs** to sit outside weather permitting/. There will be picnic tables out there as well and in case the weather does not cooperate, gazebos providing shelter.

All branches hold regular meetings in social circumstances, and many do day trips round more remote pubs.

If not a member, why not consider joining

[www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)

# 10 great reasons to join CAMRA

<b>1 CAMPAIGN</b> for great beer, cider and perry	<b>2 Become a BEER EXPERT</b>
<b>3 Enjoy CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS</b> in front of or behind the bar	<b>4 GET INVOLVED</b> and make new friends
<b>5 Save YOUR LOCAL</b>	<b>6 Find the BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN</b>
<b>7 Get great VALUE FOR MONEY</b>	<b>8 DISCOVER</b> pub heritage and the great outdoors
<b>9 Enjoy great HEALTH BENEFITS</b> (really!)	<b>10 HAVE YOUR SAY</b>

**LEICESTERSHIRE CAMRA BRANCHES**

**HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH**  
[HINCKLEYANDBOSWORTH.CAMRA.ORG.UK](http://HINCKLEYANDBOSWORTH.CAMRA.ORG.UK)

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**VALE OF BELVOIR**  
[VALEOFBELVOIR.CAMRA.ORG.UK](http://VALEOFBELVOIR.CAMRA.ORG.UK)

Next deadline for advertising or other content is August 15th

Publication Dates  
Mar 15<sup>th</sup> Jun 15<sup>th</sup>,  
Sep 15<sup>th</sup> , Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

## **SPOTLIGHT ON : GLENFIELD**

A town in all but name with nearly 12,000 inhabitants it still supports 4 pubs all wildly dissimilar. They also have interesting back stories.

Glenfield itself has a long history. Evidence of Neolithic man in the area has been found probably dating from between 3000 and 2000 years BC. There is also evidence of continuing occupation during the Iron Age and traces have been found of a small Bronze-Age settlement dating to about 800 BC. There was certainly one and possibly two Roman roads going by what we now know as the village but the roots of the modern settlement in Glenfield are traceable back to the 8th century AD and it features in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was previously known as Clenefelde, Clanefelde or Clanfelde. Most evidence of the past has been to the south of the Village near the **Forge** pub, itself a long standing hostelry much altered and extended. It is a popular Everards eatery with a patio looking out over the trees in the Rothley Brook floodplain and the car park does flood from time to time. The pub was previously known as the Griffin.



Back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century only 15 families lived there but in more recent times Glenfield featured in the early development of the railways with the tunnel, opened in

1832, the then longest in the world at just over a mile in length It is occasionally opened up for visitors to see. The tunnel entrance is near the **Railway** pub once a railway hotel

The Ellis family after which Ellis Park is named had been very successful farmers who moved on into industry and commerce and became one of Leicestershire's most important families. They were Quakers and became highly respected philanthropists so quite what they would have thought about their former home becoming the **Gynsill's Farm** public house can only be guessed at.



Their involvement in mining of slate, coal and granite was boosted by joining up with their family friend, George Stephenson and his son Robert to construct this tunnel providing a link to the City of Leicester.

A spur from Groby saw quarry trains run down to Glenfield just powered by gravity with a brave and hopefully sober brake man on board.

The line of the main track is now a bridleway linking the **Railway** pub in Glenfield to the **Railway Inn** at Ratby.

Gynsills Farm is more family restaurant than pub. Its magnificent grounds include children's play areas.

The fourth pub in the village is the **Nags Head** again an Everards but with a very different customer profile. It has a lovely conservatory area and gardens. There has been a continuous licence on this spot for well over 100 years.



The Forge does have guest beers as well as the usual Everards offerings but for a wide choice of real ales the Railway is the pub to go to. It always has four real ales available and these constantly change. Draft Bass is often rotated in and Purity beers feature from time to time.

With summer here all four pubs in Glenfield have good outside areas

**A Warm Welcome at**

## THE RAILWAY INN



A recently refurbished, traditional village inn which serves up a delicious range of classic pub food as well as our soon-to-be-famous Sunday Roast.

You can also enjoy our range of 2-4-1 cocktails and our competitively priced beers in our bar, lounge and epic beer garden, whilst watching your favourite sports on our brand new big screens!

Come along and rediscover your local pub in Glenfield, Leicester.

Our opening times are Mon-  
Thu 11-11, Fri and Sat 11-12,  
Sun 11-11



152 Station Rd, Glenfield Leicester LE3 8BR

0116 216 1575 [www.greatukpubs.co.uk/railway-inn-glenfield](http://www.greatukpubs.co.uk/railway-inn-glenfield)

**The next few 'Spotlights' will be on Hinckley, Whitwick, Rothley, or Quorn and Mountsorrel. If you know any nuggets of history from these areas especially about the pubs please let the Editor know**

**If you have a pub there why not advertise**



A warm welcome to our customers, old and new!

We look forward to seeing you to enjoy fine ales, ciders and home cooked food including our Sunday carvery.

Traditional Pub  
and Restaurant



Supporting Local  
Microbreweries



198 London Rd, Leicester LE2 1NE

0116 2548384 [theoldhorse666@hotmail.com](mailto:theoldhorse666@hotmail.com)

# Save Our Inn Signs

Founded in 1990, the Inn Sign Society raises awareness of the nation's pub signs and compiles a record for the benefit of future generations. Many pub names have links with events from the past or personalities of national and local importance, and the Society provides a forum for members to research the history of inns and pub names.

It has an active web site and a quarterly full-colour journal to which members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures of pub signs and news from their areas.

As inns and pubs close at an alarming rate, much local heritage is in danger of being lost forever. Pubs are not just a place to enjoy a drink, they are often at the heart of the community and can reflect its history.

Many members take a general interest in all signs, with some specialising in particular breweries, counties, aircraft or railways, to name but a few.

The local Midlands Group meets three or four times a year at the **Mare & Colt**, near Kidderminster, to enjoy a lunch followed by a slideshow of pub signs.

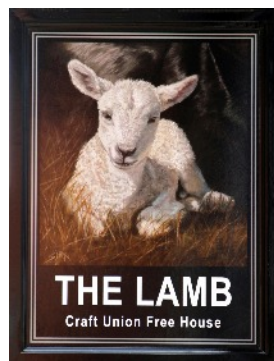
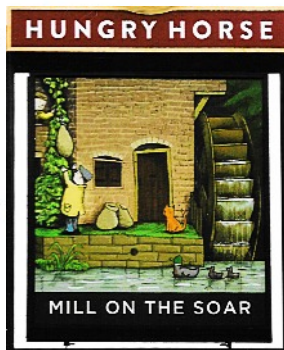
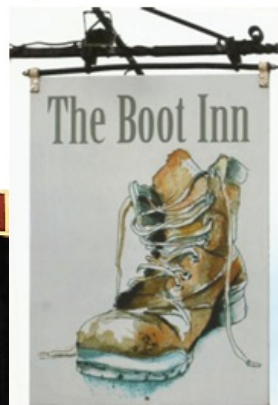
The Inn Sign Society is seeking to recruit more members and bring in new blood to

help continue the good work done over the last 32 years.

For more information, including on how to join, see the website at [innsignsociety.com](http://innsignsociety.com)

If the Inn Sign Society doesn't research, capture and save our pub sign heritage, perhaps no-one else will.

*Iain Perks, Membership Secretary Inn Sign Society*



*Editors note*

*This campaign closely mirrors the collection of pub names we have quoted in the recent editions.*

*Both names and signs often conjure up curious images. The Craven Heifer is not a cowering cow. Craven is a district of Yorkshire. Who knows the origin of the Railway and Naturalist?*



*One in particular which always puzzled me was the Long Arm and Short Arm. Apparently when the publican had to bring water from a well he always carried it in his right arm*

## **ODE TO REAL ALE**

Anonymous *(unless you like it, in which case it is by your editor)*

They walk to the pub just seeking good beer  
There's nowt quite like it for giving you cheer  
Some jump on a bus, go by coach or by car  
and set off to wander to look for a jar

They visit in winter, the weather quite dire  
an seek out that pub with the welcoming fire  
Beer gardens in summer when days are so long  
God's in His 'eaven so what could go wrong.

The problem these days when out for a beer  
that pub on the map is no longer the'er  
Find one what's open then beers bloody dear  
We yearn for the value of ales yesteryear

Wit' cash in yer pocket when I were a lad  
When money were gone no more could be 'ad  
Now its no problem; you just swipe your card  
bank's statement reading can 'it yer quite 'ard

Back in t'owd days draft beer were quite poor  
if you said out, gaffer'd show yer the door  
There were bitter and mild and maybe a porter  
but mild had the slops in, the bitter like water.

We turned tu't bottles if we had to drink owt  
Barley wine, brown ales and 'appen milk stout  
were mixed wit draft for somet' to quaff  
Worked pretty well less draft beer were off

We'd splits, brown n bitters, 'n black n tans  
Complaining, protesting and making us plans  
to fight them big brewers, all o'er the land  
Many determined to make a proud stand

In time CAMRA formed from that motley crew  
best public campaign as anyone knew  
That battle was won; real ale now abounds  
but all is not well, as good as it sounds

Pubs to drink ale in, face many attacks  
Those greedy pubcos and government tax  
Wit stock unsold near 'markets close' bell  
you make special offers your goods for to sell

Not so in a pub, price just goes up anew  
and further discourages the regular few  
Time to despair, a race to the bottom  
what drinkers want is often forgotten

Pubs are at risk as owners Stonegate  
to sort out their debts, are getting too late  
Many may close and others be sold  
Drinkers and staff will be last to be told

In towns we lament the loss of a pub  
but villagers lose their community hub  
No corner shop, post office, village school  
Church services monthly appen the rule

Pills cost too much; we oughter pay less  
Gi'n out fer elf issues, depression 'n stress  
They throws brass at it to sort NHS mess  
Tax the poor drinkers to cover the rest

A pint after work, wind down 'n relax  
will do more for stress than all of yer tax  
Chat wi yer mates and ask what they think  
Do yer more good 'n is cheaper than't shrink

Magical potion, real ale take a bow  
yer need to believe, an not bover 'ow.  
Think if you must o' benefits an price  
but end o' the day remember its nice.

**Contributions always welcome.  
Articles, snippets of news or  
gossip, photographs, ditties.**

**Anything which might  
interest readers which is not  
offensive or illegal**

# Chris Still Cruising

## This time round Chorley

Readers may not have known where Chorley was but as a fellow 'Lancashire Lad' I knew it quite well.

Lancashire itself is something of a tragedy. The County Palatine, the Duke of Lancashire is the Monarch. It used to be quite a large county when Chris and I were sprogs but them Roundheads keep nicking bits of it. Cheshire crept over the Mersey into Warrington and Widnes,.



Liverpool took the southwest and Manchester the south east leaving a northern rump. Then worse still Yorkshire crept over the Pennines and now is within 20 miles of the Irish sea.. Attacked on all flanks the Furness district of Lancashire became part of Cumbria. Our editor is surprised that the Isle of Man has not invaded from the west and finished us off

They are not done yet. They now want parts of Lancashire to be in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. All that's left is Lancaster, Morecambe, and Blackpool along the coast and a few scattered old cotton towns like Chorley and Rishton another you will have never heard of but where I hail from.

As Chris relates these last real communities still have some good boozers.

"I partly grew up in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale in Lancashire. My first pint of beer, Tetley Walkers Mild in the Windmill, was in Ormskirk. Some of my family still live in that area. I went up there to visit my sister and father. Whilst I was there, I went to Chorley for some beer.

My future brother in law, Billy, kindly drove me there, dropping me near the impressive town hall, which is very near The **Flat Iron** on Cleveland Street, my first port of call. The red brick, locals pub had sturdy wooden beams on the ceiling, pretty tiles around the bar and a sticky floor! There were five cask ales on offer, I chose the Osset White Rat, a flavoursome pale ale, with plenty of hop character and a long, bitter finish.

Just across the road, inside the market, is the **Bob Inn**, a tiny micropub, with a very small back room and seating outside. There were three beers on,

I had the Brightside Photophobic Stout at 4.8%. The beer was a smooth, dark ale, with roasted barley, coffee notes and a pleasing, bitter finish, a very good stout.

A very short walk, took me to Market Street, with a good view of the attractive parish church and my next venue, **Pearson's**.

This was a very long, comfortable modern pub, with a nice fireplace and two beers by Moorhouses brewery. I had the White Witch, which cost £1.25 a half. The beer was a pleasant balance of malt and hops, with a gentle, bitter ending.

Back to Market Place brought me to **Ben's Tap**, a basic micro, featuring six ales by Bens Brewery. The owner was chatty and friendly, as was the lady behind the bar, they remembered the **Leicester CAMRA trip drinkers** who visited there a while ago. The Ben's Arawak was a refreshing, very pale beer, with a fair amount of Citra and a gentle hoppy finish. The Cherry Porter did have a cherry nose, treacle notes and became a bit more cherry like as it went down the glass, with a very dry ending.

The centre of Chorley is very compact, so it didn't take long to get to the **Sir Henry Tate** on New Market Street. It's a spoon's pub, rammed at 1pm, with a good choice of guest beers. The Kirkby Lonsdale Monumental was an easy drinking bittersweet beer, with some citrus notes by the end.

Across town is the Shepherds' Hall and Victoria Rooms, on Chapel Street. There are two bars in this attractive red brick corner building. The staff were young and enthusiastic. The **Shepherds' Hall bar** had five wickets. I tried the Loweswater Gold, another bittersweet pale, with a good mix of malt and hops and citrus notes in the finish. The attractive Victoria Rooms had Vocation Bread and Butter, which was in good condition, having a citrousy mouth feel and a pleasing hoppy ending.



On the edge of town near the train station, on Friday Street, is the classic, back street boozier, the **Malt 'N' Hops**, with an impressive green and white facade. The friendly young woman behind the bar gave me a few tasters from the very good choice of nine beers. I had the Three Bs Doff Cocker, a sweetish start led to a hoppy mouth feel and a nice bitter, hoppy finish.

The Goose Eye Spring Wells was my favourite beer of the day. It had an enticing hoppy nose, grapefruit notes and a lovely citrusy finish. The toilet doors had really colourful stained glass.

Chorley CAMRA have done a very good map / guide to the town, one pub that is missing is the **Mason's Arms** on Harpers Lane, about fifteen minutes walk from Malt 'N' Hops. It's a real locals' boozier, with a stone front, a tiny snug and a back room, with exposed stonework and old fireplaces. There were four beers, including two by Black Edge Brewery, who I'm a fan of, so I had halves of both. As in a few other pubs, the landlady had never been asked for a beer without the sparkler on it before. The Oregon had a slightly sulphurous start, with plenty of US hops to follow, with hints of gooseberry at the end. The Brewers Gold was crisp and clean, with a pleasing smack of hops and a long bitter finish.

As the Malt 'N' Hops was so good, I went there, on my way back into town. I had the Fyne Jarl, which had a generous amount of Citra and a long lasting citrusy finish.

Next up was the **Ale Station** on Chapel Street, another basic but comfortable micropub, with a relaxed atmosphere and five beers. The helpful young lad behind the bar gave me a few tasters. I drank the Settle Brewery Main Line, a full bodied, mid brown bitter, with a sweet, malty mouth feel and a little, balancing, bitterness by the end.



On the same street, is **Nelipots** in an old weaver's cottage. The first floor had two beers and a helpful young woman behind the bar.

I was the only male there. I started with a half of Strawberry Fields Kaleidoscope, which had a sweet start, developing into a mix of malt and hops and an astringent ending. Next up was the 6.2% Elland Dunt Muc Abaht, which had some sweetness, with a lot of pineapple in the mouth feel and finish and an alcoholic kick throughout.

Another short walk took me to Market Street and **Baaa 38**. Opened in 2023, this basic, long micropub was very busy, a lot of young people were there, eating the food.

There were two beers by the Bowland Brewery, I drank the Hoppy Christmas IPA, it wasn't an IPA, but, it was quite hoppy, with pear drop notes and a fruity finish.

On Fazackerley Street, is yet another micropub, the **Shed and Garden**. Lots of light coloured wood, a relaxed atmosphere, friendly owner and bar manager. There were three cask ales on. I drank the Hawkshead Rookie's Return, which was a very enjoyable IPA, with a good hop content and lemon notes in the finish. The Seven Brothers Sunset was another tasty IPA, with lots of Mosaic and pineapple notes in the finish. One negative thing about the place is the unreasonable mark up on halves!

It was soon time to go to the bus station for the regular service to Wigan. Wigan has some good pubs, but, that's another story. It wasn't long to wait for the Ormskirk bus, which takes an hour.

There's a good micropub in Ormskirk, **Tap Room 12**, on Burscough Street. It's a small, friendly place with three real ales. The young lad behind the bar was very helpful and patient, giving me a couple of tasters. There were two beers by the Lord's Brewing Company. The Malamute IPA was a good mix of Magnum, Bobek and Syrian Wolf, with a pleasant hoppy mouth feel and long dry, astringent ending. The Extra Stoned Crow Bitter was a mid brown ESB, with a balanced mix of malts and hops, with the hops winning out slightly at the end.

A half an hour walk brought me back to my sisters and a much needed sleep.

Cheers.

*Editors note.*

*My spell checker had never heard of Fazackerley, Ormskirk, Rishton, or Wigan. Welcome to the real world.*

*Regular supporters of Leicester CAMRA coach trip now know of Chorley. Watch out for future trips; they reach the places that others can't reach.*

*Quite apart from coach trips to more distant location other trips are organised along bus routes and some tour country pubs by vintage buses. Other branches do similar and you are not restricted to those organised by your own CAMRA branch.*

## **LEICESTER AWARD WINNERS**

The winners included 3 micro-pubs and all four were freehouses. Is there a message there for the big boys?



He just could not tear himself away from the Pharmacie Arms



We would all go shopping if all corner shops were like Mill Hill now is and there is nothing Boaring about this overall winner



# Leicester CAMRA awards



**Blue Boar**



**Woodman's Stroke**



**Salmon**



**Kings Head**



**Pharmacie**



**Cask & Coffee**

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

CAMRA is the campaign for real ale but we all drink beers by any definition. What is the difference you might ask. Nowadays very little but **ale** is a type of alcoholic drink originating in medieval England, brewed using a warm fermentation method. Historically, the term referred to a drink brewed without hops and when hops were added it became a beer.

Nowadays most people use both words as though the same, indeed they have taken on different meanings to those original definitions. The word 'Beers' has come to be used as a generic term for all ales, beers and lagers.

Ales are now beers that have hops to a greater or lesser extent and are top-fermented at warmer temperatures than lagers which are bottom-fermented. Top-fermenting yeasts give fruitier more complex flavours. Beyond that the more hop introduced the more bitter the output.

As with most beers, ale typically has such a bittering agent to balance the malt and act as a preservative.

The longstanding way to identify a true ale or beer as we mostly know it has been that it is dispensed through hand pumps and we have known it as real ale for many years

As previously mentioned the Marstons group are selling what they call 'fresh ale' which is actually a brewery conditioned beer masquerading as Real Ale (cask conditioned) by being hidden behind a hand pump

One of the factors that makes cask ale special is it leaves the brewery as an unfinished product finally finished off in the pub. The downside for brewers is that an unskilled barman can ruin the beer

On the other hand, lagers, some kegged beers, and this 'Fresh Ale' are ready to drink when they leave the brewery gates giving them a longer sell by date and a consistency a real ale cannot match. Consistently bland quite often.

They are entitled to produce it any way they want but we need to know what we are buying before we have paid for it and taste it.

With this plethora of names we need a drinkers'+ dictionary

**Cask beer or cask conditioned beer** - is normally a top fermented drink that has its final stage of fermentation/ conditioning, in the cask. Being still 'alive' it breaths out carbon dioxide which helps preserve it and keep it sound. It may be an ale or what we now understand as a beer.

**Real Ale** -traditionally brewed beer styles dispensed from a cask, as 'living' product Ales are at the hoppy end of the spectrum and beers more mellow.

**Keg Beer** – much-derided mass-produced brewery-finished often filtered

**Craft beer** Well-crafted and often tasty, produced by artisans brewers, it is still nevertheless a keg beer.

**Key kegs** These are single use bladders not reusable like other kegs and casks but can contain real ale

**Lager** - beers brewed at cooler temperatures using bottom-fermenting yeast and are cold-stored for an extended period of time.

**Porter** beers made with dark malts, providing a robust flavour

**Stout** Just means a strong beer but normally distinguished by its near black colour and its rich, complex flavour

**Pilsner** a style of lager usually light golden colour, highly carbonated, and with a distinct hoppy bitterness.

**Pins etc** \_ a pin is the size normally used at beer festivals but is only one of a hierarchy of cask or barrel sizes..

Hogshead = 54 gallons / 432 pints.,

Barrel = 36 gallons / 288 pints, .

Kilderkin = 18 gallons / 144 pints, .

Firkin = 9 gallons / 72 pints

Pin = 4.5 gallons / 36 pints.



## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

*Roy Denney*

James May is an inveterate mechanical tinkerer, journalist, author, TV presenter, astronomer, and serious musician playing flute, piano and saxophone very well.

Obviously a very knowledgeable man and currently co-owner of a pub.

That does not mean that he is all-knowing and his comments about the pub trade are to my mind ridiculous and I do think I know what I am talking about.

For many years as a lending banker, I had to judge pubs before deciding to support them; I have been Chairman of a licensing committee; have been a leading member of CAMRA for many years; I have my own pub guide and have spent 65 years enjoying being in them

His comments include: Britain is oversubscribed with pubs; the trade's so-called struggles are just a cull of bad pubs; pubs are not a central part of our heritage and the Government should not get involved in propping them up. He also said good pubs would always survive

First, I would contend there are very very few bad pubs. There are bad landlords but most pubs would do well with a good landlord who owned his own pub. When highly-g geared pub companies own the pub and seek extortionate rents they can make them non-viable. A case may possibly be made there are too many pubs and bars in town centres but great swathes of the country see villages with no pub. Try telling those residents there are too many pubs.

Quite sizeable communities have no shop, no post office, no school and a church building with a service every blue moon. Hard to call them communities with nowhere to meet. The village pub is the heart of a community which is why hundreds of communities are taking over their own pub and the Government is right to assist them.

May says pubs should and must provide good food to survive. Certainly, those that do have a fighting chance of doing okay because people will drive out for a meal. If, however, you want to spend an evening in the old-fashioned pastime of conversation these establishments are not for you.

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