

This is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Lichfield, Sutton and Tamworth branch of CAMRA.

Contact us at

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or see

www.LST.Camra.org.uk

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LAST Orders

No 119 Oct/Nov 2026



**Inside: Eastern Promise
Bat-tastic Fest
Halloween Walkabout**

**Have Your Say
A Lotta POTY
Xmas Crawl**

**The free bi-monthly CAMRA newsletter
for Lichfield, Atherstone,
Sutton Coldfield & Tamworth**

**now also serving the
Nuneaton & Bedworth
CAMRA region**

CAMRA membership in Sept: 141,550

THE MARE POOL



2019 winner of Lichfield Sutton & Tamworth CAMRA Pub of the Year for the West Midlands

Three regular and four ever-changing cask ales

Ale & Craft Wednesdays

A wide range of craft beers

Large garden terrace



294 Lichfield Road, Mere Green, B74 2UG
0121 323 1070

8am-midnight
8am-1am Fri & Sat



LAST Orders

The magazine of the Lichfield, Sutton and Tamworth branch of CAMRA, also serving Nuneaton & Bedworth branch.

6 issues per year, issued at the beginning of the months of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec. The magazine is free and circulated widely through the branch areas and beyond.

Contributions are welcomed, pub news particularly. Contact the editor.

Issue 120 will be published on 1st Dec 2026. The copy deadline for inclusion is 19th Nov 2026.

PER-ISSUE ADVERTISING RATES:

Quarter page:	£30
Half page:	£45
Full page:	£80

You can provide your own artwork (around 300 dpi for the best results) or we provide a free design service. Contact the editor.

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The opinions expressed in Last Orders are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches



Lichfield, Sutton & Tamworth CAMRA:
www.LST.Camra.org.uk

Check out the website for pubs, maps, news & more!

Want to get in touch with the branch?
contact@LST.Camra.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook:



Lichfield Sutton Tamworth CAMRA



Find us on Instagram too:
LST CAMRA



Missing out?

Missing out on Last Orders? We distribute the magazine widely throughout the branch areas and beyond, but if you would like to sign up for email delivery (PDF format, approximately 3MB per issue) then please email us

LST.Camra@gmail.com



Nuneaton & Bedworth CAMRA:
www.nuneaton.camra.org.uk

NuneatonCamra
 NuneatonBedworthCAMRA

Get in touch:

Chair: John Harris – chair@nuneaton.camra.org.uk
Contact: TBA – info@nuneaton.camra.org.uk

Chair Chat

What a fantastic success our recent beer festival proved to be. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces, enjoying the tremendous range of ales and ciders. Thanks to the army of volunteers who made it happen, and to all who attended, helping to create such a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

I hope visitors and locals alike managed to stay cool during this memorable summer, while enjoying the impressive selection of ales available across our branch's pubs and clubs. Our licensees and their teams have worked incredibly hard through some very challenging conditions, and they deserve our continued support.

Autumn brings pleasures of its own, including more focus on traditional dark ale. Whether your preference is a rich stout, a smooth porter, a dark mild or a warming old ale, this is the perfect season to rediscover some of the darker styles our brewers produce so well.

There are plenty of important dates for your diary in this edition, with meetings, social events and other opportunities to support pubs and clubs throughout Lichfield, Sutton Coldfield, Atherstone and Tamworth. We'll also look for another narrowboat excursion opportunity, cancelled this summer because of water level problems.

As always, thanks for your support. I hope to see you at one of our branch jaunts or simply enjoying a great pint in your local.

George Greenaway, LST Chairman



Got yours yet?

Good Beer Guide 2027 is now available! Now in its 54th edition, the nation's definitive guide to real ale features 4,500 pubs plus details on 1,700 breweries and 5,000 ales. As ever, the guide is completely independent, with selections based entirely on evaluations by CAMRA members

Buy it at shop1.camra.org.uk



Care to join LST branch for this year's Halloween Walkabout in Tamworth on **Saturday 31st October**? You can join us for as long or as little as you wish, in fancy dress or not ...

Approximate timings are:

**HALLOWEEN
WALKABOUT**

from 2pm - **Moat House**
from 3pm - **Tamworth Tap**
from 4pm - **Old Bank House**
from 5pm - **Hop House**
from 6pm - **Sir Robert Peel**
from 7pm - **King's Ditch**

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you!



THE ANGEL
ATHERSTONE

North Warwickshire CAMRA:
Pub of the Year 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019 & 2022
Cider Pub of the Year 2017, 2018, 2020, 2023 & 2024

Located on the historic market square in Atherstone, 5 minutes from all public transport, a traditional pub to meet friends old and new.

Six real ales, many traditional ciders, craft beers, premium lagers, large selection of gins and spirits. Something for everyone!

Dog and children friendly.

24 Church Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1HA 07977 801 060

Mon-Tue 4-9.30pm
 Wed-Thu 4-10.30pm
 Fri 2-11.30pm
 Sat 12-11.30pm
 Sun 12-9.30pm

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

The King's Ditch
CAMRA LOCAL

Real Ale and Cider Micropub

Up to 5 constantly changing real ales
 Up to 8 real ciders and perries

Lined glasses - full pint guaranteed

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Mon-Thu 4pm-7pm
 Friday 3pm-8pm
 Saturday noon-9pm
 Sunday noon-7pm

Craft keg beers
 Bottled beers
 Wines and Gins
 Soft drinks
 Snacks
 Dog friendly
 Children until 6pm

West Midlands Cider Pub of the Year 2016, 2017, 2019 & 2022

07989 805 828

Find us on Real Ale Finder

Find us on Facebook

Regional Cider Pub of the Year

We found out in early August that the results are in for the overall West Midlands region Cider Pub of the Year; we are pleased to report that the **Tamworth Tap** has come out as the winner this year. This means that, like the **King's Ditch** in past years, a Tamworth venue is again home to the regional trophy, a mini cider press!

Placed second in the region was **Roberto's Bar** in Halesowen (West Midlands metropolitan county winner), while third place went to the **Admiral Benbow** in Shrewsbury (Shropshire county winner). As a result of the Tamworth Tap's win, it will enter the final stages of the national competition, going up against the winners from the 15 other regions across the UK. The winners from those regions are shown in the table below; why not watch out for them on your travels? Note that the "final 16" is in fact the "final 15" as no winner was put forward in Northern Ireland.

We will supposedly know the national winner soon, in October allegedly, but as the regional winners were expected to be available in May but weren't published until August, things might be a bit delayed!

The regional cider winners 2026 ...

East Anglia Black Horse, Rampton, Cambridgeshire	East Central Mermaid, St. Albans, Hertfordshire
East Midlands Red Lion, Kniveton, Derbyshire	Greater London Cock Tavern, Hackney
Merseyside and Cheshire That Beer Place, Chester, Cheshire	North East Bodega, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear
North West Petersgate Tap, Stockport	Northern Ireland No entry
Scotland Albert Tavern, Freuchie, Fife	South Central Cuckoo Inn, Hamptworth, Wiltshire
South East Hopp Inn, Selsey, West Sussex	South West Pebbles Tavern, Watchet, Somerset
Wales Ty Seidr Bar, Aberystwyth, West Wales	West Central Hoptician, Dursley, Gloucestershire
West Midlands TAMWORTH TAP, TAMWORTH	Yorkshire Nan Moor's, Todmorden, West Yorkshire

Looking for
real cider in
LST branch?

North Warwickshire
Angel, Atherstone
Bird In Hand, Austrey
Griffin Inn, Shustoke
Market Tavern Tap, Atherstone

Staffordshire
Acorn, Lichfield
Beacon, Lichfield
bod Lichfield, Streethay
Bole Bridge, Tamworth
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Lichfield

Hop House, Tamworth
King's Ditch, Tamworth
Old Bank House, Tamworth
Sir Robert Peel, Tamworth
Tamworth Tap, Tamworth
Three Tuns, Fazeley
Whippet Inn, Lichfield
WIP, Lichfield

West Midlands
Andys' Brew House, Streetly
Leviathan Tap, Sutton Coldfield



Five diverse real ales

A changing real cider

A range of craft cans

Fine wines and spirits

Dog friendly, dog treats!

Wednesdays
Crib League from 7pm

FREE Wi-Fi

AIR CON

Sundays
Free cheeseboard
from 2pm

Monthly
music
sessions



Tue
5.30-10pm

Wed-Thu
4-10pm

Fri
2-11pm

Sat
12-11pm

Sun
1-9pm

Whippet Inn, 21 Tamworth Street
Lichfield, WS13 6JP
07590 543024

thewhippetinn-lichfield.co.uk
thewhippetinn.micropub
whippetinnlichfield

Have Your Say

One of the highest accolades that CAMRA can give to a brewery is Champion Beer of Britain, either supreme winner or category winner. And it all starts with you, the members! The competition starts in the regions, with members voting for their favourite beers. This leads to shortlists of beers which enter the regional judgings, with the winners going on to the next levels. Member voting is now open, and runs until the 31st of October inclusive.

So have your say at

cbob.camra.org.uk

where you login with your membership number and password. It's then a matter of selecting your choices from the various categories (milds, bitters, stouts etc). There's a simple user guide if you need a bit of help with navigating the selection system. Beers selectable are those which are available for most of the year or for a specific season – obviously the beers will need to be available for the judges to sample and compare!

We suggest you stick with the default option (voting on West Midlands beers) but you can opt for national if you wish. You don't have to select from all categories; even just one is helpful. Have a go and support our local breweries!



Would you believe it, although water is to be had in abundance in London and of fairly good quality, absolutely none of it is drunk? The lower classes, even the paupers, do not know what it is to quench their thirst with water. In this country nothing but beer is drunk... it is said more grain is consumed in England for making beer than making bread.

Cesar de Saussure, a French visitor in 1726

Next LST
Branch
Meetings

Mon 5th Oct, 7.30pm, Old Bank House, Tamworth
Mon 2nd Nov, 7.30pm, Bridge Tavern, Lichfield
Mon 30th Nov, 7.30pm, Duke Inn, Sutton Coldfield



THE OLD BANK HOUSE TAMWORTH

SET IN ONE OF TAMWORTH'S FINEST VICTORIAN BUILDINGS, THE OLD BANK HOUSE SERVES UP TO FIVE VARIED REAL ALES, CRAFT GINS, PROSECCO, FINE WINES, AND ABK BAVARIAN BEERS.



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AND FRUIT CIDERS



9 LADYBANK
TAMWORTH
B79 7NB

MONDAY : 5-10
TUESDAY : CLOSED
WED-THU : 4-10

FRIDAY : 2-11.30
SATURDAY : 12-11.30
SUNDAY : 12-10

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

It's all systems go at the **Market Tavern Tap** in Atherstone, where formal approval to begin work on the transformation of the top floor has been given, and the actual graft starts. There'll be a bit of disruption to the first floor, half of which is usually out of use to allow for all the goings on. Knowing gaffers Leigh and Antoni – who marked two years at the pub as of mid September – we should expect something well out of the ordinary when the top floor opens up to the public, probably by the time you read the next issue! Those two years have flown by, but have been marked by the extraordinary achievement of the pub and its team winning CAMRA's overall Warwickshire Pub of the Year for two years on the trot.

As we go to press, the nearby **New Swan** remains closed with major refurbishment work still going on, but it looks to be getting close to re-opening. A new signboard looks optimistic, promising real ales. As mentioned previously, the place would do well to augment the market square's status as a real ale hotspot, so we hope to have some good news next issue!

It came to our attention recently that Atherstone's **Black Horse** – closed since June last year – has been sold. Previously an Admiral Taverns pub, it has been taken on by the Tamworth-based Banx Pub Group. Banx apparently run over 25 venues across the country, with the **Plough & Harrow** at Fazeley being one of them, a pub which was successfully put back into operation after a significant period of closure. That said, it appears that the Banx takeover of the Black Horse was in late November last year, so with no sign of anything yet happening, the future still looks unclear. The Black Horse has lots of potential in the right hands, so let's hope it gets the same treatment as the Plough & Harrow.

We extend a warm welcome to Masie Smith as she joins the team at **Church End Brewery Tap** as bar manager. Masie replaces Martelle D'Arcy who left the taproom in June, after seven years, to pursue other interests.

Extensive renovations following the devastating fire at the **Cottage Inn** in Fillongley have been delayed, forcing them to reschedule their planned reopening until early 2027.

Congratulations to the staff and regulars at the **Horseshoes** on the edge of Nuneaton as they continue their phenomenal charity work. They have raised £23,000 for the Myton Hospices by taking part in a pub skydive. The pub is now closing on Mondays and Tuesdays until the new year, to allow some time to recharge after a hectic year of events.

The JD Wetherspoon **Felix Holt** in town is planning a series of brewer tap takeovers. The current plan is Limestone in November, Christmas-themed beers for December, and then the first three months of 2027 will see visits from Byatt's, Black Hole and Golden Duck in turn. Note also that the Felix, along with JDWs across the land, will be offering an autumn beer festival from the 7th to 18th of October inclusive.

The **Stag & Pheasant** on Hartshill Green closed its doors again on the 5th of August. It is unsure what owners Stonegate have in mind for the pub. The place was not serving real ale prior to its closure.

The **Windmill Sports & Social Club** now plays host to Nuneaton & District Amateur Radio Club, who hold their educational and social events there on the first Monday and third Friday of every month. Radio amateurs and short-wave listeners are welcome.



THE HORSE & JOCKEY

SANDFORD STREET, LICHFIELD
WS13 6QA

LOCAL BRANCH
STAFFORDSHIRE
PUB OF THE
YEAR 2017



GOOD BEER
GUIDE LISTED
SINCE 2011

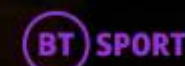
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OPENING HOURS
MON - SAT: 12 TIL 11
SUN: 11 TIL 11

STAFFORDSHIRE

Early September saw the welcome arrival of **Brewhouse Fradley**, a micropub in a former Indian restaurant. Unfortunately they were closed for a week's holiday when we visited (either they're doing exceptionally well or the holiday was pre-planned!) but we'll be able to tell you more next issue. It's on the 33 bus route from Lichfield.

Brilliant news from Tamworth, where the **Hop House** is now offering a couple of cask beers, with a pledge from gaffer Martin to avoid mainstream ales, and a CAMRA discount on them as well! A good range of indy keg beers is also available.

It's somewhat the end of an era at the **Kings Ditch** in Tamworth, where popular long-standing barperson Heather Dunlop is leaving to pursue a new career as a teaching assistant. Having been at the pub since 2015, and having provided continuity during the change of ownership, Heather is actually the Ditch's longest-serving member of staff! We will no doubt still see her in the pub, but we wish her all the best in her new vocation.

Whisper it, but the **Sir Robert Peel** in Tamworth had a rather special keg beer, Otherworld *Smoked Helles*. Made in Edinburgh, it's a splendid smoked-malt pale lager, an unusual beast anyway as most smoked beers in their Bavarian homeland are dark. The *Smoked Helles* has a good hit of Bamberg phenolic smokiness without being overpowering. Sadly it was a one-off at the Peel, but it's worth looking out for.

Tamworth drinkers were surprised to see both the **Phoenix** and **Penny Black** close abruptly in mid July. This was because the operator running them, KS Bars Limited, had ceased trading after being put into compulsory liquidation by the government's Insolvency Service. KS Bars was only a short-lived outfit (founded in May 2025) but its failure has triggered the similar sudden closure of at least two other pubs in the country. The Penny Black re-opened in late August, but was still not offering real ale. Does the Phoenix – still closed as we go to press – have a brighter future? It had quite limited ale choices prior to its closure.

Good news from Lichfield, where the **Brewhouse & Kitchen** looks to be one of the pubs favoured by the owning company, which was looking to divest itself of a number of sites. We had worried that Lichfield might be one of the affected sites, but after we went to press with the last issue, a planning application was published regarding the venue. The plans see the ground floor retained as is, with the first and second floors converted into nine hotels rooms.

At the other end of the spectrum, we're saddened to note that **Brew City Lichfield** ceased trading at the beginning of August. Their last post said that "Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control we will not be open this weekend", with the building repossessed the day before. Intended to be a standalone brewpub operated by owners Silhill, the business never really got up to speed, with no brewing ultimately happening. The edge-of-city setting can't have helped drive footfall, something which previous operators Trinity Brewing found.

WEST MIDLANDS

The end of September was slated to see the opening of a new craft beer bar on High Street in Sutton Coldfield. To be known as **Roll The Bones**, it will apparently offer six rotating draught beers plus a range of canned beers, with a claim that it won't be selling any beers that you might see in a supermarket. Clearly it needs checking out, but keg or not, it should be a welcome addition to Sutton's somewhat sparse beer scene.

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Birmingham Road, Ansley Village, Nr Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 9PQ



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Tamworth
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Local branch



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**Up to five diverse
real ales and
seven real ciders**

**Plus a good range of
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Grassy walled beer garden

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Mon: 1-8pm
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Thu: 1-11pm
Fri: 1-11pm
Sat: 2-11pm
Sun: 12-10pm

BEYOND THE BORDERS

Excellent news from up the A444, where the **Cock Inn** at Sibson is slated for a re-opening in late November. This will be a relief to both locals and fans of classic old pubs, as this historic thatched pub has been closed for seven years and was looking horribly neglected. Now owner Star Pubs is putting up nearly half a million for the work, and have an experienced licensee lined up to run the place. The timescale seems ambitious, but with a following wind this Grade II-listed classic should be open well in time for Christmas!

As expected in the previous issue, Coventry's **Whitefriars Olde Ale House** did indeed re-open, though later than planned, at the end of August. The couple who run it have apparently been working on the refurbishment for over seven years, to restore the 14th century building to its former glory. The initial plan appears to be to offer a couple of real ales, with sightings so far of *Doom Bar* and Church End *Goats Milk*. Chinese food will also be offered.

As this issue is being printed, Birmingham should be seeing its first CAMRA beer festival in years. The Celebration of Birmingham Beer Festival took place at Birmingham Brewing's tap room in Stirchley, on the last weekend in September. Offering 30-plus ales, ciders and perries, as well as the brewery's own beers, we trust it was successful enough for a repeat next year!

Another beer festival happening very soon is that at the **Hop Station** in Aldridge. Their latest use of the stillage is an Oktoberfest, featuring an extra nine ales and ciders as well as the usual offerings on the bar. See inside-back-page festival listings.

Curmudgeons across the land will be toasting Sir Tim Martin for banning mobiles phones on loudspeaker across the JD Wetherspoon pub estate. Sir Tim said that playing music or taking calls on speaker was "driving other customers chicken jalfrezi", 'chicken jalfrezi' presumably being New Zealand rhyming slang for 'crazy' rather than a recommendation of curry night. But good old Sir Tim has a point – why do so many people think that you're okay with your ears being polluted by their crap music or dancing cat soundtrack, or your brain being frazzled by their endless inane conversations with persons unknown? Particularly when the latter are shouted out as though they're speaking into a tin can connected to a taut piece of string? Anyway, Sir Tim is now requiring the use of headphones and a bit of consideration, in order to return your local JDW to its former state as "an oasis of tranquillity and contemplation", which some might consider a slight overstatement!

• Thanks to contributors Sue K, Ian B, Adam R, Barry E, Eric R

All are welcome to the LST branch Xmas Crawl of Lichfield. Though to avoid the festive rush, we'll actually hold it on **Saturday 28th November**! Approximate timings are:



from 1pm - **Horse & Jockey**

from 2pm - **Bridge Tavern**

from 3.30pm - **Beerbohm**

from 4.30pm - **Whippet Inn**

from 5.30pm - **Beacon**

from 6.30pm - **Duke of York**



All welcome, we look forward to seeing you!



Monday-Thursday
2pm - 10.30pm

Friday & Saturday
noon - 11pm

Sunday
noon - 10.30pm

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**Fantastic
range of
real ales
& ciders**

★ ★ ★

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9 cask beers
& 3 ciders,
served from
the cask**

**Come and join us for
The Hop Station,**



Oktoberfest

Friday 2nd October to Sunday 4th October

**Free
live music
each
evening**

★ ★ ★

**Food
available
over the
weekend**

198 Walsall Wood Road
Lazy Hill, Aldridge, WS9 8HB

 Follow us on Facebook for more event details.

See our
choices on
Real Ale Finder



32ND

TAMWORTH BEER FESTIVAL



A big message of thank-you is owed to all who came along to this year's Tamworth Beer Festival in September, and made it such a success. It was the 32nd outing for the fest, and as ever we tried to live up to the ethos of Chris Fudge, a key founder of the festival, by having a range of exotic and hard-to-find ales on the stillage. Chris died way too early in 2010, but is still our inspiration to make the festival as interesting and enjoyable as it can be.

This year's beer selection saw about a third from localish breweries, with the remainder pretty evenly split between up-north and down-south. With nearly 90 ales and ciders from all over, we always expect at least a couple to fail to arrive, but this year was a clean sweep – all beers and ciders present and correct, not a single no-show. So, many thanks to our suppliers on a sterling job. We also maintained our dark-beer-bias, with a third of the beers black or near-black. Dark beers don't sell? Oh yes they do!

A long-standing Tamworth priority is to have a strong theme for the festival, and we were pleased with the reception of this year's Batman theme. Many thanks to the customers and indeed staff who turned up suitably attired! The striking souvenir T-shirts sold out in record time, and we only had a handful of the special festival glasses left at the end. As the glasses are fully refundable – we don't believe that you should be compelled to take a glass home unless you think it's worth keeping – this was a brilliant result. We were asked "why so few festivals have themes these days?" The answer was "don't know, but it works for us!"

The festival has supported St Giles Hospice for many years now, so we were delighted to have another excellent result for this outstanding charity. This year we will be able contribute £1,938 to support their much-needed facilities. This splendid result was due in part to donations from our generous customers, but we must also especially thank our three local home-brewers who provided for-donation charity beers. They are David Jackson, Mark Foster and David Nicholls. This year David J takes the charity beer of the fest award, with his splendid *The Dark Night Roast*. Congratulations also to the other award winners below!

Let's finish off with our thanks to all involved – our dedicated volunteer staff, our generous sponsors who make the event possible, and of course our all-important customers!



Beers of the Festival

Charity Beer	Dexter	The Dark Knight Roast
Dark Ale	Crich	Voodoo Empress
Pale Ale	Church End	Gotham City Gold
Locale	Vine	Original Brown Ale



Next year: Thu 9th - Sat 11th September 2027 - see you there!



Introduction & Mission Statement From New Chair

Hello friends of Nuneaton & Bedworth CAMRA

As you may be aware, it was not possible to elect a new committee for the branch at the March AGM. However, this situation was successfully resolved at an EGM in July, and I am proud to say that I have accepted the responsibility of branch chair until the 2027 AGM.

The Nuneaton & Bedworth branch has seen more than its fair share of turmoil since Covid, and it is my aim to rectify the situation. This is something that I cannot do on my own. I will rely heavily on the experience and guidance of my predecessors and of course you, the valued members of Nuneaton & Bedworth CAMRA.

There is a lot to do, and a relatively short time to do it in, so I would greatly appreciate your support, and attendance, whenever possible

Many thanks & Cheers

John Harris, Nuneaton & Bedworth Chair

Nuneaton & Bedworth Diary Dates

Thu 8th Oct, 7pm	Attleborough Social, Fox Inn , Fuel Bar & Royal Oak
Thu 12th Nov, 7pm	Bedworth Social, Miners Arms , Marston Lane
Mon 7th Dec, 7pm	Nuneaton Xmas Social, Lord Hop . As this is a Monday, the Hop will open especially for the occasion, providing a selection of nibbles

See the branch website for up-to-date details: nuneaton.camra.org.uk

Sadly, the membership of the Nuneaton & Bedworth branch continues to fall, with a total loss over the last 12 months of 30. This is despite the generous discounts that are available to members – it's not just Wetherspoon vouchers, it includes free entry to CAMRA beer festivals, discounts on ferry crossings, Red letter days, boat hire and Merlin Entertainments (Warwick Castle, LEGOLand, Thorpe Park, Alton Towers and many more).

CAMRA discounts in Nuneaton & Bedworth:

Acorn, Horeston Grange	10% with membership card	<i>All discounts are at the discretion of the licensee and may be withdrawn at any time.</i>
Attleborough Arms, Attleborough	10% with membership card	
Bear & Ragged Staff, Bedworth	CAMRA 50p vouchers	
Chase Hotel, Higham Lane	10% with membership card	
Crows Nest, Attleborough	10% with membership card	
Felix Holt, Nuneaton	CAMRA 50p vouchers	
Fox Inn, Attleborough	10% with membership card	
Horseshoes, Nuneaton	10% with membership card	
Miners Arms, Stockingford	15p/pint with membership card	

The WHITE HART Ridge Lane



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RIDGE LANE, NUNEATON, CV10 0RB

The Story Continues

CAMRA judges have been out across the nation, looking at pubs in each of the regional areas, and now the results are in – we have the regional winners. Locally that means the West Midlands region, which in CAMRA terms is the overall winner from Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and the metropolitan West Midlands. The winner is – for an amazing fourth time – the **Tamworth Tap**!

Owners Louise and George are pictured with the weighty trophy, accompanied by staff and CAMRA dignitaries including the national chairman. The win means that the Tap is now one of the final sixteen, who go on to compete for the overall national winner. That result will be announced early in January next year. Meanwhile, the process of enhancement at the Tap continues, with the addition of four handpulls (taking the total to 12) and ongoing work to bring another upstairs room into service.



Somewhat unusually, West Midlands branches have not been informed of the rankings of the other pubs in the region, i.e. who came second and third. This is of particular concern to LST branch as the outstanding **Market Tavern Tap** in Atherstone – Warwickshire county winner – was also in the competition.

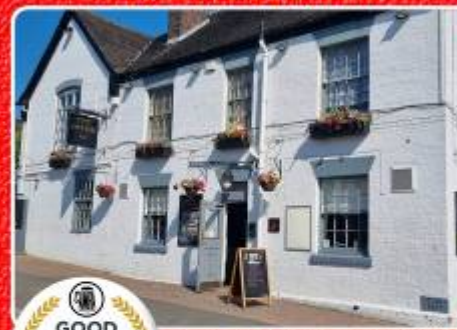
The other fifteen regional winners are listed below, and all will no doubt have their eyes on winning the national prize. The only repeat regional winner from last year, other than the Tamworth Tap, is Northern Ireland's **Dog & Duck Inn**. The regional winners are outstanding pubs, but we should never forget that our country is blessed with thousands of other wonderful hostelrys – show them your support!

The regional winners 2026 ...

East Anglia Railway Arms, Saffron Walden	East Central Malt Shovel Tavern, Northampton
East Midlands Railway Inn, Ketton	Greater London Cockpit, Chislehurst
Merseyside and Cheshire Turks Head, St Helens	North East Olde Cross, Old Ryton Village
North West Northumberland Arms, Marple Bridge	Northern Ireland Dog & Duck Inn, Lisbellaw
Scotland Steam Packet Inn, Isle of Whithorn	South Central Bell, Waltham St Lawrence
South East Nelson Arms, Tonbridge	South West Fallen Tree, Clevedon
Wales Mold Alehouse, Mold	West Central Alma Inn, Linton
West Midlands TAMWORTH TAP, TAMWORTH	Yorkshire Countryman's Inn, Hunton

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 - Sat Dec 5th Pub Fiction (Live Band)
 - Sat Dec 19th Carl Jenkins (Xmas Party)
- facebook.com/theofficeatwarton/events

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Eastern Promise

I headed east to the town of Louth in Lincolnshire with the promise of some interesting pubs according to the *Good Beer Guide* and some additional places listed on the pub-finder part of the CAMRA website (camra.org.uk/pubs). The first of these was out of town but close to my hotel: the Grade II-listed **Woolpack**, below. It is located near the canal and numerous old warehouses now converted into apartments. The pub has a spacious U-shaped interior with a central servery and a substantial curved wooden settle situated among the more comfortable seating options. Pictures adorn the walls with shelving and books along one, and two wood-burning stoves add to the character. There is also a spacious patio and adjoining beer garden at the rear. A Bate-mans pub, it had five of their own beers available, of which my choice was *Yella Belly Gold*. This was a light, hoppy, fruity refreshing ale, an ideal starter.



Sadly, two wishlist *Guide* pubs that I had intended to visit were no longer an option. Nearby along the canal, the unique and interesting-sounding **Gas Lamp Lounge** is now closed. And in town, the **Tap on the Line**, the brewery tap for the mothballed Luda Brewery, had also ceased trading. So from the Woolpack it was a fifteen-minute walk into the town centre to enable further imbibing to be undertaken.



The **Olde Whyte Swanne**, left, is another Grade II-listed place and the oldest pub in the town. It is low-ceilinged with two seating areas either side of the entrance, and a wood-burning stove to keep it cosy during the colder months. A corridor leads to a plusher back room, and interesting old local photos adorn the walls within. There is also an outside drinking area to the right-hand side of the building. The modern wooden bar looks out of character though, for such an old pub. It had four handpulls on it, with three ales available at the time. Salopian *Runaway* was a hoppy and slightly hazy offering with a sweet maltiness.

Situated at the end of the quaint Pawnshop Passage (pictured right) the **Joseph Morton** JD Wetherspoon has a spacious interior on two levels with the usual interesting old local photos and information boards displayed throughout. It is two former warehouses and two houses combined and named after a former noted ironmonger who had premises in the town. An outside patio area has the pleasing backdrop of the spire of nearby St James church. Harviestoun *Schiehallion* was an excellent fruity cask lager, the ideal accompaniment to some much needed sustenance. If all so-called lagers were as good then I would consider becoming a lager lout during warmer weather.



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Eastern Promise cont.

Cobbles Bar has a rustic, airy interior with bare floorboards, wood panelling and beams. With the feel of a café, this place has a varied food menu and a single cask ale on offer. A very unusual item sitting atop the brick-fronted wooden bar is an old Lancia car engine which has been converted to a drinks dispenser. I duly tried the Salem *IPhAze*, hazy and fruity with a pleasant subdued hoppiness, but served far too cold.



After a hearty breakfast the next morning, I embarked on the “Louth Central Heritage Trail” with the aid of a printed guide from my hotel. This takes you on a pleasant walking tour of the town. There are many notable buildings, churches and points of interest in and around the town centre, with most of the grand old buildings being Georgian or earlier. On the trail was the Playhouse, pictured left, an Art Deco-style three-screen cinema which is still in regular use. This

enjoyable two hour ramble worked up a thirst that needed slaking.

In pursuit of this, I boarded a bus to take me towards the **Munyard Brewery Taproom**, pictured right, which sits on an industrial estate north of the town. Brewing kit within provided a pleasant backdrop while trying the three different ales served from the barrel-stave-fronted bar. *Patchwork* was light and moderately hoppy with a biscuity maltiness. *My-Father* was an amber-hued ale, distinctly hoppy and grainy with a lingering bitterness. Last of the trio, *Portotype*, an English porter, was my favourite. This was black with a creamy head and good mouthfeel. It had chocolate and liquorice flavours with roast barley notes and a dry hoppy finish. Lined glasses are used here to ensure that correct measures are served. There are also some craft ales on offer as well as pizzas and the usual snacks.



Back in town I revisited the Joseph Morton for some sustenance accompanied by a pint of Dorset *Durdle Door*. This had a fruity pear drop aroma and flavour which led to a firm maltiness with a gentle hop finish.



The last venue visited on this trip was the **Consortium Micropub**. Situated in a small courtyard within the former Cornmarket, you can locate it by this signboard in the street outside. Small and convivial, it has a brewery on the upper floor, and an outside seating area. Unfortunately, the Consortium didn't seem to be in a mood to consort, as none of their onsite beers were available. So instead I opted for two of the guest beers, enjoyed while sitting in the cool interior. Jolly Sailor *Foreshore Best Bitter* was a pleasant example of the style, while the Zest *Heavenly Blonde* was sweet and malty with a gentle hoppiness.

Eric Randall

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The LST branch pubs listed here kindly offer real ale discounts to CAMRA members. We offer them our thanks. Show them your support and get the most out of your membership! For further info on the pubs, consult WhatPub



Offering a discount in your pub, or know of one that does? Let us know at LST.Camra@gmail.com and we'll mention it here.

NEW below means new since the previous issue

Acorn, Lichfield	50p CAMRA vouchers	
Andys' Brew House, Streetly	30p/pint, 15p/half	
Angel, Lichfield	20p/pint, 10p/half	
Angel Ale House, Atherstone	10p/pint	
Beerbohm, Lichfield	10p/pint, 5p/half	
Bishop Vesey, Boldmere	50p CAMRA vouchers	
Bole Bridge, Tamworth	50p CAMRA vouchers	
Bottle Of Sack, Sutton Coldfield	50p CAMRA vouchers	
Bowling Green, Lichfield	20p/pint	
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Lichfield	10% off	
Crown, Four Oaks	20p/pint	
Duke of York, Lichfield	20p/pint, 10p/half	
Gamecock, Birchmoor	10p/pint	
Green Man, Clifton Campville	10% off	
Hardwick Arms, Streetly	20p/pint	
Hedgehog, Lichfield	20p/pint	
Holly Bush, Little Hay	10% off	
Hop House, Tamworth	20p/pint	(NEW)
Horse & Jockey, Sutton Coldfield	20p/pint	
Mare Pool, Mere Green	50p CAMRA vouchers	
Market Vaults, Tamworth	10p/pint	
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Old Bank House, Tamworth	10p/pint	
Owl At Lichfield, Lichfield	10p/pint	
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Sheriff of Tamworth, Tamworth	10% off	
Sir Robert Peel, Tamworth	10p/pint, 5p/half	(until 6pm)
Tamworth Tap, Tamworth	20p/pint, 10p/half	
Turnpike, Lichfield	10% off	
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Local Festival Diary

Festivals with a **bold heading** are CAMRA festivals, where entrance is free to CAMRA members. Why not join? See page 28 or go to camra.org.uk/join

30th September-3rd October, 39th Brunswick October Beer Fest
Brunswick Inn, 1 Railway Terrace, Derby, DE1 2RU
50+ ales, 20+ ciders/perries. Normal opening hours. Barbecue Fri & Sat.

2nd-4th October, Hop Station Oktoberfest
198 Walsall Wood Road, Lazy Hill, Aldridge, WS9 8HB
14 ales, around 9 ciders. Food, evening live music. From noon each day.

7-10th October, Nottingham Robin Hood Beer & Cider Festival
Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, West Bridgford, NG2 6AG
500+ ales, 100+ ciders/perries. Wed 1-7, Thu-Sat 12-10.30.

7-18th October, JD Wetherspoon Autumn Beer Festival
At JDWs across the land. Around 30 ales over the duration.

8-10th October, Nuneaton Round Table Charity Beer Festival
Nuneaton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road, CV11 4LU
40+ beers plus wines, gins, ciders, soft drinks, street food. 12.30-10.30 each day.

14-17th October, Derby Heritage Beer Festival
Derby Market Hall, DE1 2DB.
100+ ales, keg beers & ciders. Wed 5-10, Thu-Sat 12-10.

21-24th October, 50th Steel City Beer & Cider Festival
Kelham Island Museum, Alma Street, Sheffield, S3 8RY
200+ ales, 30+ ciders. Wed 5-10.30, Thu & Fri 11.30-10.30, Sat 11-9

12-14th November, Kidderminster Beer & Cider Festival
Kidderminster Harriers Social Club, Stadium Close, DY10 1NB
40+ beers, 15+ ciders/perries. Thu 12-10, Fri 12-11, Sat 12-9.

20-21st November, Newark Winter Beer & Cider Festival
Newark Town Hall, Market Place, NG24 1DU
50 ales, ciders and perries. Fri & Sat 10.30-4, 5-10.30

26-28th November, Dudley Winter Ales Fayre (*)
Dudley Town Hall, St James's Road, DY1 1HP.
70+ real ales and ciders. Thu 1-10, Fri 11-10, Sat 11-8. Entertainment Fri & Sat.
* NOTE, free CAMRA member entry only with advance booking.

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