



# NORTH CHESHIRE

Covers Warrington and Vale Royal, including Frodsham, Lymm and Northwich.  
Meetings are usually held in the Warrington/Northwich area, with regular surveys of outlying areas.  
**New members and formerly inactive members are especially welcome.**

**Branch contacts:** Rupert Adams [contact@northcheshirecamra.org.uk](mailto:contact@northcheshirecamra.org.uk)  
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*If anything of remotest interest is happening in your local, let these guys know!*  
[www.northcheshire.camra.org.uk](http://www.northcheshire.camra.org.uk)

North Cheshire Pub of the Year 2017: **Egerton Arms**, Little Budworth  
North Cheshire Club of the Year 2017: **Appleton Thorn Village Hall**

## CAMRA DIARY

*All Weekday events start at 8 pm unless specified otherwise.*

- Sat 2 Sep: **Frodsham** Walk & pub saunter in the afternoon, meet 3 pm, see web for details
- Tue 26 Sep: Branch Meeting, **Ferry Tavern**, Penketh
- Wed 18 Oct: Committee Meeting, **Barnton Cricket Club**
- Thu 19 Oct: Beer Matched Dinner event, **Chime**, Hartford
- Sat 11 Nov: Afternoon Social, **Cheshire Beer Festival**, Chester see [www.cheshirebeerfestival.org.uk/](http://www.cheshirebeerfestival.org.uk/)
- Mon 13 Nov: Branch Meeting, **Comfortable Gill**, Glazebury.
- Sat 25 Nov: **Lymm Survey**, meet at Brewery Tap Lymm, 12 noon

*For latest updates visit*  
[northcheshire.camra.org.uk](http://northcheshire.camra.org.uk)  
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## BEER FESTIVAL SERVICES

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## The Albion; North Cheshire CAMRA Community Pub of the Year 2017

The looming Victorian facade of the Albion may seem, at first glance, a bit imposing but as any visitor to the Albion will attest, it gives way to a warm, friendly and welcoming interior: what all we beer and pub lovers would call 'a good, old-fashioned, cracking local boozer'.

Sitting on the Fringe of St. Peter's park in Orford, Warrington, it sits very much at the heart of our community. The Albion embodies that resilient, communal spirit that all great pubs should have and it's a glowing tribute to the management team Pat, Emma and Jennie Worrall that they accomplish this so well. Boasting an impressive 4 frequently rotating guest ales, often sourced from local breweries, the Albion forms an essential part of the local community. The pub has spacious seating areas, a live hearth in winter and two bar areas, but what it gives back to the community goes way beyond this.



The Albion annually donates Easter eggs and Christmas selection boxes to Warrington food bank to help struggling families, they provide support to the local Women's refuge and have numerous charity nights and events throughout the year raising lots of much needed funds for some very deserving causes.

During the recent local authority led scheme, Clean17, encouraging residents to come

together in mutual pride and tidy up the streets, the Albion hosted all the volunteers back at the pub afterwards. And all this is in addition to any given week: live music, stand-up comedy, quiz nights, bingo and live sports coverage.

The presentation took place in May and was well attended. The local customers provided a very welcome sense of celebration and kindly lent their voices and their approval to the presentation speech. The staff showed their kindness and appreciation by the complimentary drinks and a great evening was had by all.

As an organisation like ours that prides itself on protecting our pubs and promoting good beer, the Albion is exactly the kind of pub that we at CAMRA need to get behind and support. In coming years other pubs will be nominated and awarded this community accolade but for us here in Orford, the Albion will always be at the heart of our community. Cheers!

JF



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## An interview with Chris Mundi, owner of Northwich's Salty Dog

Welcome to Northwich's newest pub, the **Salty Dog**, 21-23 High Street Northwich CW9 5BY. Chris Mundi and Gregg Sawyer of **Tatton Brewery** are joint owners of Salty Dog. We have a very symbiotic relationship with Tatton Brewery because of this. I spent the last decade touring the world with punk rock band "The Business", and working for Tatton Brewery.



Having spent so much time it had to be Northwich, it's my home, it's where our children go to school and it's a great town. I want to provide a genuine alternative to the existing bar scene in Northwich. We provide real ales direct from the brewery and have a good selection of craft beers.

We host original music and try to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment. These are all things that I expect from any good community pub. Aside from stocking Tatton beers, we are keen to showcase as many great local breweries as we can and we will only be ordering directly from independent breweries. That limits us geographically, but it's a trade-off we were willing to make to ensure casks reach us in the best possible condition. We can spread our wings a little further with the craft kegs we stock and we sell some of the best craft beer from around the country.



18 It's probably something of a cliché to say we are trying to be as inclusive as possible, but the idea is to provide a place for people who are into things, people with interests, not even necessarily beer or music related, just interesting people. Our set-up is basic but functional, the layout includes a small stage for our regular music events which span all genres.



Pubs can only succeed if they have a sense of community and we want to support local performers and producers. We host comedy nights, and 'meet the brewer' events. Our cosy back room has a jukebox, table football, retro arcade and quiz machine. We have traditional board games and are always looking for new things to try. As for food, we have a small preparation room so can offer award-winning cold cut pies and quiches from Roberts Country Fayre, with piccalilli or real ale chutney from Galore Foods in Buxton. Pie and a pint is a classic; why reinvent the wheel?

Our priority is quality, we want people to enjoy their time with us and come back again. All are welcome, kids are fine until 6 pm, dogs are allowed any time, although we would ask people not to bring in dogs when live music is scheduled, so they don't get distressed.

We can make our back room available for group bookings.

We've been lucky that the local community and businesses have been so welcoming. It's early days, but with this support we are confident we can make the Salty Dog a great place. We appreciate CAMRA support and advice, and encourage customers to submit their beer quality scores via [Whatpub.com](http://Whatpub.com). Onwards and upwards!

To keep people coming out we offer quality beer, interesting entertainment and a positive environment. The setting up of our new pub has been shambolic at times and we've had a few near disasters, but that's life. As David Lee Roth wisely stated; "*you have to roll with the punches*".

Chris, at The Salty Dog email: [salty@salty-dog.co.uk](mailto:salty@salty-dog.co.uk) mobile: 07980 975755

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## Summer Pub of the Season; Little Tap, Tarporley

The **Little Tap** is a collaborative concept between James Ivell and Myles Carr. A former butchers shop was converted in Tarporley High Street and they shared their vision, love and passion for Craft Beer, eclectic gin and good food to create the Little Tap.

They have fulfilled a niche in the village to provide small plate dining which is perfect to enjoy whilst enjoying a beer or three from their extensive range of cask, keg, bottles and cans sourced from local, national and worldwide breweries.



There are currently three cask beers on hand pump, the locally sourced house beer from Brew Foundation Little Bitter That and the rotating guests which on our visit were Roosters Londinium and Northern Monk Eternal. The choice of beer by other methods of dispense is way beyond that which you would normally expect to find.

We visited on the night when they were celebrating their first birthday and there was a busy and lively but relaxed atmosphere. The Little Tap is doing a great job attracting the younger generation of beer connoisseurs but everyone should feel at home here. The vision of James and Myles to create a community hub for everyone to enjoy is working.

JR



## Out and About in Tarporley Area

Recently reopened the **Rising Sun** in Tarporley has undergone substantial refurbishment by Robinson's. At first glance the work appears to have been quite sensitively done with the modernisation opening out the interior whilst still managing to retain some of its key original features. Also the terraced area at the back adds another dimension on fine weather days. The number of cask ales has increased and at present are from the standard Robinson's range (Unicorn, Dizzy Blonde, Trooper, Wizard) although it is hoped to have others in the future. Hopefully this will start a new chapter in this popular pub's history after the lean times of the last couple of years.

Further down the street the **Swan** now has a new licensee and new permanent cask ale brewed by Coach House called Hospitality 16.

Just round the corner the **Crown** also has a new licensee who has introduced a real cider and hopes to have two rotating guest ales in the near future.

Just a short step away is a casual dining and drink venue named "**Street**" which serves Sharp's Doom Bar cask ale.

Out of town the **Alvanley Arms** at Cotebrook recently held a charity night in aid of one of its young chefs, sadly diagnosed with terminal cancer. They raised over £15,000 for the chef's chosen charity, When You Wish Upon A Star.



# The Stag at Walton

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Warrington's Only Brew-Pub



## If music be the ale of love; play on!

North Cheshire CAMRA Pub of the Year, the **Egerton Arms** held another summer beer festival – “**The Budworth Sessions**” on the weekend of 21 July with plenty of live music. Sadly Friday evening torrential rain reduced the number of attendees but on Saturday and Sunday things got busier as the weather improved.

Over the weekend there were **over thirty cask beers** to try from both local breweries and those further afield. Matching the weather (Friday) on the dark side beer particularly enjoyed by several CAMRA



members were Cwrwial Pothole Porter, Heavy Industry Nos Smoked Porter and Ilkley Ruby Jane. On the lighter side Blackjack Play Your Cards Rye't and Cwrwial Apache were favourites. Several intrepid CAMRA members from South Cheshire bravely cycled to the festival on the Saturday afternoon – hope they all got home safely!

The next major event is the **Oktoberfest** planned for first weekend in October; here's hoping for some good weather.

## Lower Angel Warrington Beer Festival

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## The Real Ale Shack in Warrington is on the move

An update on Warrington's eclectic market stall micro-pub. The Real Ale Shack is on the point of moving locations to the new market premises, situated 600 yards from the original spot.

This will be a new challenge and opportunity for it in a brand new modern and vibrant market place.

It was due to close on 26 August and to reopen on 2 Sept at 10 am.

We look forward to enjoying some cask ale at the new bar.



## Culcheth Calling

This is the story of a survey using the number 19 bus from Warrington to check out the pubs right on the fringe of our patch ;over to the border of the East Lancs taking in Glazebury and Culcheth, uncovering a few hidden gems.

### **Comfortable Gill, Warrington Road, Glazebury**

Opposite the imposing Bents Garden Centre, the Comfortable Gill is a welcoming, friendly pub with bags of character and offering some seriously good beer. Indeed, the owners, James and his wife, Helen, certainly know a thing or two about serving great beer; being supplied by Coach House brewery, there were 3 pumps in operation: Inn Keeper's Special Reserve, Farriers Best Bitter and Gunpowder Mild. The pub itself is spacious, with a large bar and a dining area, and with a beer garden big enough to host a footy match in it is just the ticket on a hot day. A cracking pub and well worth a visit, either with the family, to enjoy a meal, or just to sample the superb quality Coach House beers.

### **Pack Horse, Church Lane, Culcheth**

Nestling under the shadow of Newchurch Parish church, this attractive little country pub offers 3 cask ales: Courage Director's, George Wright Pipe Dream and a consolatory Black Sheep Bitter. The long, narrow bar area was lively, leading to some comfortable little nooks as you follow it round. Benches are arrayed outside the pub

### **Culcheth Arms, Church Lane, Culcheth**

A quick glance at [WhatPub.com](http://WhatPub.com) will tell you this place is part of the Star (Heineken UK) chain, although to my untrained eye it's practically indistinguishable from most Wetherspoons pubs. A spacious yet homely pub, with 4 pumps in operation offering Adnam's Southwold Bitter, Theakston's Old Peculier, Robinson's Trooper and their house beer Caledonian Lion's Share.

### **Liberty's, Common Lane, Culcheth**

Without doubt, Liberty's is easily the coolest pub in Culcheth. At first glance it seems like the kind of bar you'd see down most town centre high streets. Once inside the first thing that hits you is all the promotional signage for offers on cocktails and gin – but look a little closer and you'll soon notice that this cracking bar takes its real ale very seriously. Supplied by the Wigan brewery, Martland Mill, the pub offered 3 of their cask ales: Chonkinfeckle, Liberty's Ale and Bomber's Blonde. The pub has a stylish interior, designed like an American diner with booths and an outdoor area overlooking Common Lane. It's great to see a pub which is obviously popular with the "youth" championing cask ales and it's a tribute to the great job the landlord, Ken, and his team are doing. If you call into only one pub in Culcheth village Liberty's has got to be it.



### **Cherry Tree, Common Lane, Culcheth**

Not to steal the Cherry Tree's thunder but this pub reminded me a lot of the Culcheth Arms, in the manner of its similarity to a Wetherspoons pub. This is the kind of pub [WhatPub](http://WhatPub.com) describes as 'family-friendly', 'spacious' and 'open plan' – all the adjectives you'd happily throw at the Culcheth Arms. In terms of beer there was initially Moorhouse's White Witch, Robinsons Dizzy Blonde and Sharp's Doom Bar. Later on a 4th pump became available offering Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

Pleasant surroundings, emphasis on food and a nice bar area with a few wall-mounted screens, indicating the pub's predilection for showing sports.

I really enjoyed our mini crawl round Glazebury and Culcheth; cracking pubs, great beer and well worth another visit. Cheers!