



# 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.***

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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 24 Mar: 8th Annual Beer-matched Dinner, **Helter Skelter**, Frodsham  
see web for details.
- Wed 28 Mar: Branch Meeting, **Baron's Lounge**, Northwich
- Sat 28 Apr: Branch Committee Meeting, **Liberty's**, Culcheth 12:30 pm  
followed by;
- Sat 28 Apr: Branch Social Visit to Culcheth; meet at **Liberty's** 2 pm
- Wed 10 May: North Cheshire Branch AGM, **Chetwode Arms**, Lower Whitley.
- Sat 19 May: May Mild Month survey in **Northwich**,  
see web for details.



For latest updates visit  
[northcheshire.camra.org.uk](http://northcheshire.camra.org.uk)  
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## Lymm area survey



Our first port of call was the **Crown** a large pub on the Warrington side of town with something for everyone, sports TV, meals and a range of ales from the J.W. Lees stable, where the unanimous beer of choice was Lees Plum Pudding. We congregated round the day's first roaring open fire. You can't beat it, can you? And other Winter/Christmas themed ales were to follow!

Lymm centre has several traditional pubs with such cosy atmospheres this time of year and all with the benefit of Wi-Fi. The **Bull's Head** has 5 pumps selling from the Hyde's and its Beer Studio range. The **Golden Fleece**, a Greene King house which is more of a locals pub, also serves guest beers, sometimes locally sourced, and here Rocking Robin was enjoyed.

**Saddler's** (right) is a smaller quiet free-of-tie house with up to 3 ales available and a great atmosphere was created in front of the fire when our party of ten CAMRA members arrived.



The highlight of the trip was the **Brewery Tap** (pictured) which can be relied on to serve a wide range from Dunham Massey and Lymm Brewery beers in excellent form.

The renowned Lymm Dam Strong ale (named after a local point of interest) at 7.2% was a popular choice.

Had I known we were going to get sample paddles, I would have brought a table tennis ball; the three holes would have added a new dimension and a new pub game could have been born!

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We then took a short bus ride which stops right outside the door of the recently refurbished **Star** at Statham, but it's an easy pleasant walk of under a mile heading west on the Trans-Pennine Trail.

3 real ales are usually available; the regular Wainwright, a Coach House LocAle and a changing guest.

Back on the bus towards Warrington for our final stop at Thelwall.

First stop was the **Little Manor** which is part of the Brunning and Price group. A large pub with quality fixtures and an enticing menu where you won't be embarrassed if you take someone you want to impress.



As with all chains a lot depends on the local management but it's very good here and there is a genuine commitment to well kept real ale with at least six beers on offer from a variety of breweries but Phoenix and Coach House usually feature.

Prices might be thought a little on the high side by some, but this is definitely a place that justifies it!

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Our final stop of the day was 100 yards down the road at the **Pickering Arms**.

The concentration here is on food but 3 real ales were available from the Punch list.

The Black Sheep Best Bitter was in good condition and brought our day to a close.



Thanks to our social secretaries Phil & Andy for planning the day.

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## A Round of Pubs

Looking back over the last 6 months or so we have seen multiple changes to pubs around north Cheshire; some good and some inevitably less so.

By the time you read this the ACV-listed **Chapel House**, Burtonwood should have been sold to Bravo Inns. Let's hope they have retained cask ale. Meanwhile the **Fiddle it' Bag** continues to tread its own unique path – you either love it, as I do, or not!

Over in Glazebury Helen and James appear to have turned around the formerly failing **Comfortable Gill** which is now acting as Coach House Brewery's unofficial tap and is well worth a visit.

Down the road in Culcheth cask ale convert **Liberty's** continues to impress and often features Wigan brewery, Martland Mill. Meanwhile unfortunately the *Noggin*, Risley has closed its doors for good.

On the west of Warrington the locals at the **Sloop**, Sankey are fighting to save it from demolition as part of the proposed Western Link Road development.

The **Ferry**, Penketh became the first pub locally to achieve twenty years' consecutive entries in the Good Beer Guide; a tremendous achievement for Andy and Jade. We topped this by awarding them Autumn Pub of the Season!



In Westbrook the **Maltings** has reopened offering up to three cask ales from the Greene King stable.

In Warrington centre the **Bear and Bottle** is now firmly established as a 'must visit' on the local cask ale scene. Meanwhile in the summer **9 Gallon** replaced four of its cask ale pumps with real cider, so it now has the best choice of real cider of any pub

in our area, nearly rivaling the 6 to 8 real ciders at **Appleton Thorn Village Hall**. November also saw the reopening of the **Ring o' Bells** next to the parish church with up to 3 cask ales and licensee Dave keen to promote local breweries.

A little further out, the **Cheshire Cheese**, Latchford is a cask ale gain with up to three now on offer. With a glut of closures in the last few years it is now the only remaining pub in the village.

Lymm now boasts three pubs in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide – **Brewery Tap**, **Bulls Head**, plus the **Barn Owl** at Agden. Then of course GBG-listed **Little Manor**, Thelwall is only just around the corner!

Manchester's Lees Brewery continued their expansion in 2017 firstly buying the **Vale Royal Abbey Arms**, Oakmere and then closely followed by the **Hanging Gate**, Weaverham and **Crown**, Lymm. All eleven pubs in their local estate offer cask ale.

South of Warrington the **Partridge**, Stretton reopened in the early Summer after a long closure by the new owners for a major rebuild. Their range of cask ales includes a house beer from Coach House. Meanwhile beer scores for the nearby gloriously unspoilt **Ring o' Bells** continue to impress.

The **Hatton Arms**, Hatton has been bought by a group of local businessmen and we believe continues to thrive. The **Antrobus Arms**, Antrobus was reported as sold end 2017 and was expected to close for a full refurb early in the New Year, although we have no other details as yet.