

Egerton Arms – Pub of the Season Summer 2016

On a summer evening in July, North Cheshire CAMRA presented its Pub of the Season award, Summer 2016, to the **Egerton Arms** in Little Budworth, in a garden with a quintessentially English view over the village cricket club.

Since the Walter family resurrected and reopened the pub in 2013 - at a time when many thought it may have closed for good - it has grown into a local beacon for both cask ale choice and quality, with up to **six cask ales** served by enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff, including the recent addition of a house beer brewed by Deva Craft and named after the pub dog, 'Handsome Horace'. Indeed they always have a balance of proven beers, often local, and new ones coming on with the staff well-briefed about the beers that are on now and next, including the craft and foreign beers that supplement the cask ales. If you ask, nothing is ever too much trouble.

With 27 pubs closing a week, this is a tale of success and in just three years the pub has gained an entry in CAMRA's national **Good Beer Guide** and has risen to 3rd in our Pub of the Year competition. There is a popular **beer festival** in July, coincidentally (!) on the night of the presentation. As a dark beer drinker I particularly loved Blackjack's Jaffa Chocolate Orange Stout, a collaboration with Thornbridge as well as Beer Nouveau's oak-aged and the hugely-impressive Wee Beastie Imperial Russian Stout, 9.6%, which had been produced specially for them and served straight from the wooden barrel – a one-off liquid experience to be relished!

After the very successful Summer Beer Festival we are looking forward to their **Oktoberfest** event on the 1st and 2nd October

Part of the pub's success is that it remains very much a family affair; Mike and Helen Walter supporting their three daughters who run the pub day-to-day: Alice, Emily & Francesca. Emily's love of dark beers was almost certainly the prompt for several to be available at the three day festival. The regular weekend **live music** events are particularly popular and the pub certainly does its bit in supporting local **charities** via fund-raising events

The pub can get very busy in Summer with cricketers, locals, walkers, families and even touring car clubs with the vicinity to Oulton Park – a true community pub which is welcoming to both families and pets. The atmosphere is invariably relaxing, particularly when watching cricket! A well-deserved award for a cracking pub

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