

# 14 Pubs Near Banbury

## Visiting Boatman?

If you have just arrived at Castle Quay by narrowboat then welcome to Banbury. The next thing you might want to do is wet your whistle.

By the Banbury lock and footbridge 165 stands the **Mill Arts Centre** where a pint of Abbot Ale or Greene King IPA awaits you. Open 10 am-2pm and 7-11.

On the opposite side of the lock is the bus station and home of the Good Pub Bus. Why not step aboard and explore some delightful country pubs? Back by 6pm.

KEY:

GBG: Good Beer Guide

GPG: Good Pub Guide

CQ: Castle Quay in Banbury where shopping centre and bus station meet the Oxford Canal.

The author thanks the members of North Oxfordshire CAMRA and Shakespeare CAMRA and the contributors to the Good Pub Guide for their help in creating this guide. Any improvements would be welcome to: jsargeant@iee.org.  
Ver 2006/4

## Starting from Shipston?

Take bus 480 at 9.50 am and stay aboard till Banbury bus station. Journey time about 45 mins. You then have a couple of hours to look around before catching the 12.30 pm towards one of the pubs. Have you been to Tooley's Boatyard & Museum recently? (situated at Castle Quay)

**Real Ale Trail**  
is on page 7



Between Banbury and Shipston on Stour the Good Pub Bus passes 8 hostelries where a pint of cask-conditioned beer may be imbibed – and in Shipston there are 6 more.

On the way:

Saye & Sele Arms, Broughton.  
Lampet Arms, Tadmarton.  
Stags Head, Swalcliffe.  
Bishop Blaize, Burdrop.  
Wykham Arms, Sibford Gower.  
Chandlers Arms, Epwell.  
George Hotel, Lower Brailes.  
Gate Inn, Upper Brailes.

And in Shipston:

Black Horse.  
Coach & Horses.  
Falcon.  
George.  
Horseshoe.  
White Bear.

**Saye & Sele Arms**, Broughton.  
OX15 5ED. 01295-263346.  
2.7m west of CQ.

4 x cask: Adnams Bitter,  
Wadworths 6X + 2 guests e.g.  
Archers or Frankton Bagby.  
Open 11.30-2.30 Mon-Fri (3pm  
Sat) + evenings (7pm) & Sun-  
day. Food lunchtime & evening  
every day except Sunday eve-  
ning.  
GBG 2005 p389.  
GPG 2004 p589.

*How to catch the bus:*  
*From Banbury bus station take*  
*bus 480 at 12.30 pm Mon-Sat.*  
*Journey time is about 10 mins.*  
*Continue towards Shipston at*  
*1338 or 1538. Last bus back to*  
*Banbury from Broughton 1749.*

**Lampet Arms**, Tadmarton.  
OX15 5TB. 01295-670428.  
4.6m west of CQ.

2 or 3 x cask: Hooky Bitter,  
Theakstons Bitter + occasional  
guest.  
Open all day every day  
(Mondays from 4pm). Food  
lunchtime & evening 7 days.  
Live music some Saturdays.  
Pool table. B&B.

*How to catch the bus:*  
*From Banbury bus station take*  
*bus 480 at 12.30, 1.30 or 3.30*  
*pm Tues-Sat (pub is open all*  
*day). Journey time about 15*  
*mins. Continue towards Ship-*  
*ston at 1342 or 1542. Last bus*  
*back to Banbury from Tadm-*  
*arton 1742.*

**Stags Head**, Swalcliffe.  
OX15 5EJ. 01295-780232.  
5.3m west of CQ.

3 x cask: Hooky Bitter + con-  
tinually changing one northern  
and one southern bitter. Also  
Old Rosie cider.  
Open 11.30-2.30 + evenings  
(6.30pm) and Sunday. Closed  
Monday lunchtime. Food lunch-  
time & evening every day ex-  
cept Sunday evening. Back-  
ground music is often Classic  
FM. Occasional live music.  
B&B.  
GBG 2005 p396.  
GPG 2006 p580.

*How to catch the bus:*  
*From Banbury bus station take*  
*bus 480 at 12.30 pm Tues-Sat.*  
*Journey time about 20 mins.*  
*Continue towards Shipston at*  
*1348 or 1548. Last bus back to*  
*Banbury from Swalcliffe 1739.*

## Real Ale Trail In Shipston on Stour

*How to get there:*  
*From Banbury bus station take*  
*bus 480 at 11 am Mon-Sat and*  
*stay on board to the terminus at*  
*Tilemans Lane in Shipston.*  
*Journey time about 45 mins.*  
*The **Black Horse** is at the junc-*  
*tion of Station Road, Tilemans*  
*Lane and Watery Lane.*

On leaving the **Black Horse** go  
left down Station Road to the  
junction and carefully cross  
over to Church Street. Walk  
along towards the church and  
note the bus stop by the Ship-  
ston Guest House for the 1710  
return bus to Banbury. Just past  
the pedestrian crossing in  
Church Street you will find the  
black and white timbered  
**Horseshoe Inn.**

Go left from the **Horseshoe**,  
carefully cross over Mill Street  
and follow the pavement curv-  
ing right to the junction with  
New Street. Again carefully  
cross the road to find the **Coach**  
& **Horses.**

Coming out of the **Coach** go  
left along New Street and con-  
tinue past Edward Sheldon  
Wine Merchants to cross the  
road and enter the Square where  
the **White Bear** (once a coach-  
ing inn) will be found on the  
right.

A couple of doors further on is  
the **George** with a fine façade  
dating from its coaching inn  
days of King George III (after  
whom it is named).

Both the **White Bear** and the  
**George** have rear entrances  
through their car parks and by  
using either one you can exit to  
Church Street. Go left and pass  
the fish & chip shop to arrive at  
the **Falcon** at the junction with  
Sheep Street.

The **Falcon** car park adjoins  
Pettiphers Garage (TEXACO  
fuel) and the bus stop for return-  
ing to Banbury (1710 last bus)  
is diagonally opposite.

**George Hotel**, The Square,  
SHIPSTON. CV36 4AJ.  
01608-661453.

2 x cask: Hooky Bitter + one continually changing e.g. Everards Tiger or St. Austell Tribute.

Open 12-3 Mon-Fri + evenings (6pm) and all day Sat & Sun. Food lunchtime and evenings every day except Sunday evening. SKY Sports TV. Pool table.

*How to get there:  
See Real Ale Trail.*

**Horseshoe Inn**, Church Street,  
SHIPSTON. CV36 4AP.  
01608-661225.

3 x cask: Ruddles Bitter + 2 continually changing – often from Archers Brewery and sometimes from the Wizard at Whichford e.g. One for the Toad. Also Old Rosie cider. Open 12-3 Mon-Thurs + evenings (7pm) and all day Fri-Sun. Food lunchtime & evening every day except Sunday evening. B&B. Occasional live music. GPG 2006 p761.

*How to get there:  
See Real Ale Trail.*

**White Bear**, The Square,  
SHIPSTON. CV36 4AJ.  
01608-661558.

4 x cask: Old Hooky, Bass, Adnams Bitter + one continually changing – often from the Titanic Brewery.

Open all day every day. Food lunchtime and evening every day except Sunday evening. Live music Sunday evenings. B&B. GPG 2006 p753.

*How to get there:  
See Real Ale Trail.*

### Where are the ships?

The shipyards and slipways can be hard to find but the names Sheep Street and Watery Lane give a clue to the most likely origin of the town's name : sheep-wash-town.

**Bishop Blaize**, Burdrop.  
OX15 5RQ. 01295-780323.  
6.4m west of CQ.

2 or 3 x cask: e.g. Vale Special, Theakston Grouse Beater, H&H Olde Trip.

Open 12-2.30 Mon-Sat + evenings (6pm) and Sunday. Food lunchtime & evening 7 days. GBG 2006 p389. GPG 2006 p578.

*How to catch the bus:  
From Banbury bus station take bus 480 at 12.30 pm Mon-Sat. Journey time about 25 mins. Bus stops 50 yards past the pub. Continue towards Shipston at 1352 or 1552 (note: Wykham Arms is only 0.4 miles along the road so you may choose to walk). Last bus back to Banbury from Burdrop 1732.*

**Wykham Arms**, Sibford  
Gower. OX15 5RX.  
01295-780351.  
6.8m west of CQ.

2 x cask: Usually Hooky Bitter + one from North Cotswold e.g. Pig Brook. Taittinger champagne available by the glass.

Open 12-3 Tues-Sat + evenings (6pm) and Sunday lunch. Closed Sunday evening and all day Monday - else food lunchtime and evening every day. GPG 2006 p591.

*How to catch the bus:  
From Banbury bus station take bus 480 at 12.30 pm Tues-Sat. Journey time about 25 mins. Bus stops just before junction with Temple Mill Road – at which turn left to find Wykham Arms in 20 yards. Continue towards Shipston at 1352 or 1552 (note: Bishop Blaize is just 0.4 miles back towards Banbury). Last bus back to Banbury from Sibford Gower 1732.*

**Chandlers Arms**, Epwell.  
OX15 6LH. 01295-780344.  
6.6m west of CQ.

3 x cask: Hooky Bitter, Old Hooky + seasonal or guest e.g. Haymaker. Open all day every day. Bar food lunchtime & evening 7 days. Occasional live music; folk musicians meet on 2nd & 4th Tuesday. GBG 2006 p392. GPG 2003 p 599.

*How to catch the bus:*

**Warning!** Although the Good Pub Bus will take you to Epwell, you cannot get back till the following morning. So you could take a tent and ask the landlord for a pitch in the garden. And if you arrive on a Friday you will have to camp over till Monday. From Banbury bus station take bus 480 at 1.30 pm Mon-Fri and request to be taken to Epwell. Journey time about 30 mins. Return to Banbury next day at 0907. No service Saturday or Sunday. Note: only the 1330 service Mon-Fri can be requested to visit Epwell.

**George Hotel**, Lower Brailes. OX15 5HN. 01608-685223. 9m west of CQ.

3 x cask: Hooky Bitter, Old Hooky + seasonal or guest. Open 12-3 + evenings (5pm). Open all day Fri-Sun. Food lunchtime and evening every day. Live music Sunday afternoon and Monday evening; folk musicians meet first Friday. Much musical merriment on St. George's Day. B&B. Pool table. GBG 2004 p473. GPG 2006 p759.

*How to catch the bus:*

From Banbury bus station take bus 480 at 12.30 pm. Journey time about 30 mins. Ask to be dropped at the George, opposite the church of St George – after whom the pub is named. Continue towards Shipston at 1402 or 1602. Last bus back to Banbury from Lower Brailes 1725.

**Gate Inn**, Upper Brailes. OX15 5AX. 01608-685212. 9.6m west of CQ.

3 x cask: Hooky Bitter, Hooky Dark + guest e.g. Brains SA. Open 12-3 + evenings (6pm). Closed Monday lunchtime. Food lunchtime Tues-Sun and evenings Tues-Sat. Renowned for fish & chips Tues evening through Thurs. GPG 2006 p762.

*How to catch the bus:*

From Banbury bus station take bus 480 at 12.30 pm Tues-Sat. Journey time about 35 mins. Ask to be dropped at the Gate. Continue towards Shipston (3miles) at 1405 or 1605. Last bus back to Banbury from Upper Brailes 1722.

## SHIPSTON PUBS

12.5m west of CQ.

If you have used the Good Pub Bus en route for a couple of lunchtime visits you may arrive in Shipston on Stour for an hour or so to look round the town. Shipston has 6 pubs and at least half of them stay open all day. Or you may choose to come directly to Shipston for a lunchtime visit and tour around before catching the last bus back to Banbury at 1710.

**Black Horse**, Station Road, SHIPSTON. CV36 4BT. 01608-661617.

4 x cask: usually Abbot, Tiger, Greene King IPA + one continually changing e.g. Spitfire, Cumberland. Open 11-3 Mon-Sat + evenings (6pm) and Sunday. May be open all day Sat. Food lunchtime and evening every day except Sunday evening. B&B. Ancient thatched pub which predates the railway by 300 years. No need to hurry for the last train. It left for Moreton in Marsh in July 1929. GBG 2002 p472. GPG 2006 p760.

*How to get there: see Real Ale Trail.*

**Coach & Horses**, 16 New Street, SHIPSTON. CV36 4EN. 01608-661335.

3 x cask: Hooky Bitter, Hooky Dark & Old Hooky. Open all day every day. Food lunchtime & evening except Sunday evening & all day Wed. Occasional Karaoke. GPG 2006 p761.

*How to get there:  
See Real Ale Trail.*

**Falcon**, Church Street, SHIPSTON. CV36 4AS. 01608-664414.

2 x cask: usually Hooky Bitter and Adnams Bitter. Also Old Rosie Cider. Open all day every day. Food lunchtime (till 1.45pm) and evenings. No food Sunday evening nor all day Tuesday. SKY Sports TV. B&B. Occasional live music.

*How to get there:  
See Real Ale Trail.*