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Tue 5 Bridgnorth Folk Club 8pm
Sun 10 Live Music - Rhf & Ed 4pm
Tue 12 Tale at the Edge 8pm
Sun 17 Live Music - Mike Holloway 4pm
Fri 22 Summer Gin Tasting Event 7pm
Sun 24 Live Music - New Ruffians 4pm
Tue 26 Charity Pub Quiz 8pm
Sun 31 Live Music - The Bright Eyes Band 4pm

August

- Tue 2 Bridgnorth Folk Club 8pm
Sun 7 Live Music - Cooper & Davis 4pm
Tues 9 Tale at the Edge 8pm
Sun 14 Live Music - Shady Past Band 4pm
Fri 19 Summer Wine Tasting 7pm
Sun 21 Live Music - Paprika Blues Band 4pm
Bank Holiday Monday Live Music with HMV Band 4pm
Tue 30 Charity Pub Quiz 8pm

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Hi

Welcome to issue 10 of *Ale Sabrina!* This is the last one to be compiled by Bob, one of our founder members. His work on making the magazine a success has been tremendous!

We would like to thank him for all his effort and wish him well for the future; we now welcome Paul to the family! And we are sure he will carry on the Good Work.

I'm sitting in a pub garden in South Devon compiling these notes, thinking back to my visits to the same town in the early to mid-1960's the two main pubs I used then were 'The Old Quay Inn' and 'The Blue Anchor' both selling 'Real Ale' before the term was invented! 'The Old Quay' sold Plymouth Brewery bitter straight from the barrel. It was taken over by Courage and has now been demolished for the Teignmouth Quay Company to expand the 'Blue Anchor'. It was a Devenish house and sold one bitter on hand pump! It is now a free house with eight hand pumps selling two ciders and six ales all in very good condition! How uncomplicated time were back in the swinging 60's.

Have a good summer and if you go back to 'memory lane' then let us have an article about it. They say never go back but I'm glad to say my trip down 'memory lane' found Teignmouth much the same as I remember it. Alas some pubs have gone! The Kangaroo has become Malloys and the Dawlish Inn has become Dicey Reillys, but at least they are still open. I will close with my usual use it or lose it.

Cheers

Bill Sturt

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



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.....NEWS FROM THREE BRANCHES

Welcome to the latest edition of Ale Sabrina.

Unfortunately, I have to start with some bad news. It is with deep regret that I have had to cancel this year's Bridgnorth Beer Festival which was due to take place at the beginning of September.

Severn Valley Railway has been planning an upgrade of the facilities at the station for some time and they are finally in a position to commence the work. Therefore, there is no space for us to hold the festival this year. We have looked at other possible venues but have not been able to source somewhere suitable.

However, we are already starting planning for next year's festival and hope you will be able to join us at the revamped SVR station.

In the last edition I reported that our Telford and East Shropshire Chairman was in hospital. He has now been discharged and is recuperating at home. This will be a long journey for him and we wish him well and a speedy return to the CAMRA family.

I recently attended the national AGM in Liverpool and had the opportunity to see how our National Executive looks after our interests. I would recommend that all CAMRA members attend an AGM to see for themselves how they fit into the bigger picture of supporting real ale and cider in this country. CAMRA has also launched a revitalisation project and is looking to CAMRA members for ideas on CAMRA's future purpose and structure.

At time of writing we are due to hold our AGM and will hopefully have a new chairman and committee. Hopefully, in the next edition we will have details of those involved. If you would like to join any of the committees in the Telford, Bridgnorth or Market Drayton area please do not hesitate to contact one of the chairpersons.

In Bridgnorth Mike Vorwerk has recently taken over as sub-branch secretary and Alan Thwaites as our membership secretary. If you wish to join CAMRA please do not hesitate to contact Alan for information.

We are also hoping to introduce a new award – a Pub of the Season and hopefully, more details of this and our first award will be in the next issue.

Nationally CAMRA is keeping the pressure on parliament and large organisations for a tax cut on Real Ales, Cider and Perry as well as protecting local pubs with ACV's.

CAMRA has also reported this month on statistics recently released which show that there has been a reduction of alcohol related hospital admissions since 2008. Further research has concluded that those who use a local pub drink less than casual visitors to city centre bars.

CAMRA continues to support local pubs and is trying to ensure that those threatened with closure are given as much support as possible.

Have a good summer



Eleanor Haddon

CAMRA Sub Branch - Bridgnorth



NEWS FROM THREE BRANCHES

And so we enter the summer months we cannot help but have smiles on our faces and glasses raised because we as a sub branch, that has been set up for approximately 18 months, have achieved in getting four of our town pubs into the next edition (2017) of the annual Good Beer Guide.

Topping this off is the fact that the Tiddly was voted the Branch Rural Pub of the Year and our members voted this as the top pub in our sub-branch. (Please read the article regarding the Rural Pub of the Year).

We will not rest on our laurels and we will continue to be busy working with local pubs and breweries with the aim of promoting our wonderful local hostelries that are well worth a visit. We are a small group and are proud to support them, but we cannot do it alone and this is where you come in. Would you like to become a member of CAMRA and support your local pub and ales? We are looking for new members who want to join us for a drink. All we ask in return is for all the members to simply score a beer or cider everytime you go into a pub. You can do it one of two ways, either using the www.whatpub.com website or using the score cards found in this edition of the magazine, passing them on to myself or another committee member from the branch, it's that easy.

What we need from our local pubs is to support us and one way you can do that is by joining up and using our Facebook page (Market Drayton Camra sub-branch) to tell us what ales and ciders you are selling and what is going on in your pub. What could be easier?

Our local facebook page is; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199617536785775/>

As I have said our sub-branch is very young and we have a lot of work to do. That is why we need the help of members and the co-operation of the locals to establish ourselves. So can you help?

Please contact Bryn for more information.

Cheers,

Bryn Pass

CAMRA - Market Drayton Sub Branch

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How Deep is your Wallet (part three)

By Alan Thwaites

Following on from *Ale Sabrina Issue nine*, where I left you at the delightful 'Barley Mow' at Cosgrove drinking top quality Everards 'Tiger', we continued north as far as Blisworth where we turned round at Gayton, the junction for the branch to Northampton. The *GBG* recommends the 'Walnut Tree', a hotel adjacent to the old railway station. Although quite an up-market venue, drinkers are welcome amongst the diners in the bar and the local 'Mill Race' from Towcester Mill brewery was well worth the price. Others tried the 'Plough' in Blisworth village and reported it to be another excellent establishment. We then returned through Blisworth Tunnel to Stoke Bruerne where the water point for replenishing the boats was immediately outside the 'Boat', an old-established boatman's inn with a thatched roof. Although tied to Marston's, the 'New World' bitter was a popular choice and was in excellent condition. We then returned to the 'Barley Mow' for the night before calling at the 'Three Locks' at Soulbury for the following lunch. Here we enjoyed a range of microbrews at this isolated country pub; I selected 'Chinook' from Scarborough brewery.

Returning to the 'Black Lion' at Leighton Buzzard' for the night (see *Ale Sabrina* eight), we ventured on to the Aylesbury arm the following day and had an excellent lunch-time at the 'half Moon' at Wilstone where the Tring 'Side Pocket for a Toad' was a definite 4.5 on the CAMRA scorecard, it was so good. This is another splendid English Village Inn with a wide verge outside to sit on and enjoy the sunshine (and the aircraft heading for Luton Airport!). for the night we stopped in Aylesbury where I visited the Chiltern Brewery tap the 'Farmer's Bar', followed by a session in the 'Old Millwrights Arms', a *GBG*-recommended pub near the cut.

Retracing our steps to London, I have to recommend the 'Grand Junction Arms' at Bulbourne', selling Tring 'Ridgeway' and the 'Three Blackbirds' at Boxmoor where we found XT brewing 'four', also the 'General Elliott' at Uxbridge where I enjoyed an excellent pint (or two) of Greene King 'Old Golden Hen'. We then had a couple of days left so went down to Limehouse basin and back. The notable features here were the price (£4.20 per pint!!) and the inability to moor a boat anywhere: one night we spent under a road bridge outside Westbourne Park station next to a bus garage. The saving grace was the 'Union Tavern', a Fullers owned pub selling a wide range of cask and craft ales. Here I had Portobello 'Star' and 'Hopspur' from Redemption brewery.

At Limehouse we headed for the 'Grapes'. This historic alehouse on the banks of the tideway is well-worth a visit despite the price. The Greene King 'Old Golden Hen' was very toothsome. For our final night we stopped at the 'Black Horse' in Greenford. This large Fuller's pub is in the *GBG* and the 'London Pride' was in good condition. Being our last night, we elected to feed here (to avoid having to clean the kitchen on the morrow) and the food was very reasonably priced as well.

Ale on the Rails

It's as easy as A, B, C

By: Paul Appleton

Since Ale Sabrina was first printed, I have been regaling the good reader with information about pubs that can be visited along the glorious Severn Valley, using the steam trains as a means to explore them. But, for those who like a bit of variety built into their days out, what sort of 'crawl' can you do using the trains to get you from station to station?

The railway operates three basic timetables; A, B and C, although to confuse matters there are two different versions of Timetable C! But worry not, it isn't too complicated. My wife works in the booking office at Bridgnorth and has managed to master them, so if she can, I am sure that you can!

Timetable A is the quieter, off-peak timetable, operated midweek in May, June, the first week in July, September and during school 'half term' holiday weeks. It also operates at weekends in February, March and from the end of October until the end of November, notwithstanding any special events in the calendar (and the SVR has quite a few).

This issue I am going to concentrate on Timetable A because it represents more of a challenge, there being less trains to choose from in order to make the most of your journey and the available drinking hours. Timetable B operates midweek in June and July and on weekends in October, and offers more trains, while the C timetable – either version – offer even more trains, operating mostly on weekends between early May and the end of September.

Even though they offer more trains, Timetables B and C don't get underway from the Bridgnorth end until 11.00, whereas perhaps surprisingly, the A timetable starts earlier at 10.20. There are operational reasons for this, too complicated and uninteresting to try to explain here, but needless to say, a day out visiting the pubs along the SVR on Timetable A takes some careful planning.

One bonus you get with the early start is that you can travel along the line before the pubs open, so to maximise available pub time, the best thing to do is catch the 10.20 out of Bridgnorth and travel all the way to Kidderminster (while you work up a thirst). The train gets in at 11.27 so there will be some pubs open, although some I would otherwise recommend don't kick off until mid-day, so those are out on this trip! At Kidderminster you can have a leisurely hour before catching a train back towards Bewdley, so choices might include the railway's own real ale bar – the King & Castle – in the station concourse, or you can venture out of the station to The Station Inn on Farfield, which is just out of the station, right over the bridge, and then first right down a side street.

You can then catch the 12.30 from Kidderminster for a leisurely journey to Highley, arrival time 1.13, where you can visit The Ship and as well as a choice of quality beers, you can get a decent bite to eat. If the weather is good, you can sit out on the front decking and enjoy unspoilt views along the River Severn. The pub is easily reached down steps and a steep path behind the station, but for those who require a more gentle route, the lane at the top of the

station drive runs under the railway and down to the pub at the side of the river.

You now need to travel back in the direction you just came from, only this time as far as Bewdley. The train leaves Highley at 2.49 and gets in at Bewdley at 3.16 where The Great Western awaits. This superb real ale pub is open all day and is just a few minutes' walk from the station, turning right and going under the arches of the viaduct and cutting through to the rear of the pub along a short path. You can even watch the trains pass over the adjacent viaduct from the pub.

The last train back from Bewdley is at 4.39 so don't miss it as there are no loops on the buses! The train takes about 55 minutes to get back to Bridgnorth, and if you fancy it, you can have a bottled beer from Bewdley Brewery, or perhaps even Bathams, in the comfort of your window seat. And of course, when you do arrive at Bridgnorth at 5.35, what better way to round off a day of imbibing in the Valley than a final pint or two in the Railwayman's Arms?

So there you have it, at least four pubs and good mileage value out of your return ticket from the Severn Valley's most modest of timetables – Timetable A.



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Adrian & Alison

Irish Transformations

By: Alan Thwaites

A long weekend with the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI) gave us an excuse to review the beer situation in Belfast, Dublin and out west. The situation in Belfast seemed little changed from recent years: apart from the 'Crown Liquor Saloon' - an absolute must for all pub and cask ale enthusiasts - and Weatherspoons, the other establishments that we visited using the 2016 GBG as a guide were either selling imported beer (usually Shepherd Neame or St Austell) or had no cask ale at all.



The Black Sheep in Capel St

However, the Republic is enjoying an Ale Revolution. While the availability of cask ale is very limited, most pubs in Dublin now offer an intriguing selection of Craft Ale, which makes a welcome change from the ubiquitous Guinness and Smithwicks. We used an article in 'Last Orders', the magazine published by Tamworth CAMRA to guide us round Dublin and were very pleasantly surprised. Time precluded an extensive crawl, but highlights include the 'Black Sheep' on the corner of Capel St and Parnell St and the 'Brew Dock' just south of Connolly Station. Both of these establishments are run by the Galway Bay Brewery and had a fine range of up to 30 craft ales on offer with a wide range of strengths and tastes. The Brew Dock also sported a hand-pump dispensing 'Hairy Goat' from the

Mountain Man brewery at Renanirree in County Cork. This is a 4.5% amber ale and, while a little sweet for my taste, was very welcome.



The Brew Dock in Amiens Street



In the 'Cask Corner of the Black Sheep ('Where shit gets real') we found three hand pumps, with Weston's 'Old Rosie' cider flanked by 'Killanny Red' from Brehon Brewhouse, Co Monaghan at 5.1% and 'The Chancer' from the O Brother brewery in Bray, Co Wicklow. This latter is a 5.1% American Pale Ale and although a little cloudy was very palatable. We also sampled some of the craft ales from Galway Bay including stouts, porters and various IPAs.

The tastes ranged from the sweet (very) to their '303', advertised as being tart and boy was this true; despite being only 3.5% there was almost too much bitterness. Denise acquired a Galway Bay pint glass, proclaiming 'Awful Tasteless Crap', but when the small-print on the glass is analysed, Galway Bay are disclaiming the awful bland and tasteless beer that drinkers are forced to consume, vowing to cut the crap and brew hand-crafted ales with a wide variety of flavours. Another Dublin establishment we visited was J W Sweetman, a large multi-floor eatery which brews on the premises. One cannot miss this place, situated at the south-east corner of O'Connell Bridge.

Moving out west to County Mayo, we had two nights in Westport and again every bar we visited offered local craft ales alongside the national brands. One we particularly liked was a Belgian wheat beer from the Mescan Brewery situated on the western slopes of Croagh Patrick. St Patrick is reputed to have fasted for 40 days on the summit of this mountain and the brewery is named after St Patrick's personal brewer (or so it is said).

So do not be afraid of being stranded in a beer desert in the Emerald Isle, there is much to enjoy and it is getting better all the time.



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TES CAMRA

Rural POTY presentation – The Royal Oak (Tiddly) Ellerdine Heath

By: Bryn Pass

The branch Rural Pub of the Year presentation took place at the Royal Oak (Tiddly) Ellerdine Heath and it was well deserved, “it’s a great local pub and what’s not to like?” Said Bryn Pass the local branch organiser for Market Drayton. The Barry Malone shield that was presented to the pub coincidentally was presented to the Telford and East Shropshire branch was named after the former landlord of the Tiddly, “so it’s nice to see that the shield has come home” added Bryn.

In presenting the award Bryn referred to comments made by one of the independent judges that read, *“A really welcoming country local, a great selection of beers and ciders. The real fire makes it very cozy and the locals are very keen to welcome strangers with friendly chat. There’s a summer Cider Festival to look forward to, knowledgeable staff that are keen to*

discuss the various beers on offer and the facilities are immaculate.

The Landlord and Landlady keep the focus on providing the locals and visitors with a warm welcome and tremendous amenities.”

The awards were presented by Market Drayton CAMRA branch chairman

Bryn Pass

Well done and

congratulations and tremendous amenities.” What more can I add?



The Tiddly was one of the top four pubs out of 460 others in the area and will now go forward to be judged within the Marches area of the West Midlands with these awards again being judged independently; hopefully the Tiddly can go on and win there. Well done and congratulations must go to those at the pub, it’s a fantastic result.

Pictured our Sue and Garry Thomas (Landlady and Landlord) Charlotte McHaddon, Luke Thomas and Eva Douzi.

The Cross Keys at Siddal

By: David Litten

The Cross Keys in Siddal, near Halifax has now been open as a freehouse for over three years. It has during this period gained a reputation as one of the best pubs in Yorkshire under the ownership of Ruth Dunsmore and Hugh Kirby.

Ruth and Hugh got to know each other when young. In fact, they were childhood sweethearts. However, their lives took different paths until they reunited once again and decided to take on a pub as a joint business venture, something they had often joked about. With Ruth's business acumen and Hugh's vast experience in the brewing and license trades they saw the opportunity to take over the pub as a totally independent free house, - 'free of any tie'.

The pub had been a failed pub group hostelry that had been closed for some time. Ruth and Hugh, however, saw its potential as an opportunity not to be missed. They wanted to put the 'pub' back into a pub, just like they used to be. One day Ruth was in Skipton and decided to make an offer there and then and negotiated the deal. No pussyfooting! After just a month, with a pot of magnolia paint and an overhaul of the fire together with extremely hard graft, the pub was reopened on 7th December 2012. As the project took off Hugh took on the day to day running of the pub while Ruth continued with her full time job.

Hugh made use of his links in the trade and struck up supply deals for cask ales with as many local breweries as possible and other suppliers to provide products complimenting the style envisaged. Once open, the word soon spread amongst members of the local community that its former hub had been reopened and revitalised and curious villagers came to discover the delights of their local. They liked what they found and began to return to the warmth and comfort of a second home. It did not take long for beer enthusiasts from near and far to discover via the 'hop vine', the latest addition to the real ale pub scene, Ruth and Hugh's efforts were soon recognised and rewarded by CAMRA and SPBW.

Ruth and Hugh have always supported local charities and always make the most of opportunities created not only on a daily basis but also via festivals and by sponsoring local organisations and sports teams. Consistent reinvestment into the pub has enhanced the décor and ambience while added features are the beer garden and letting rooms. Only



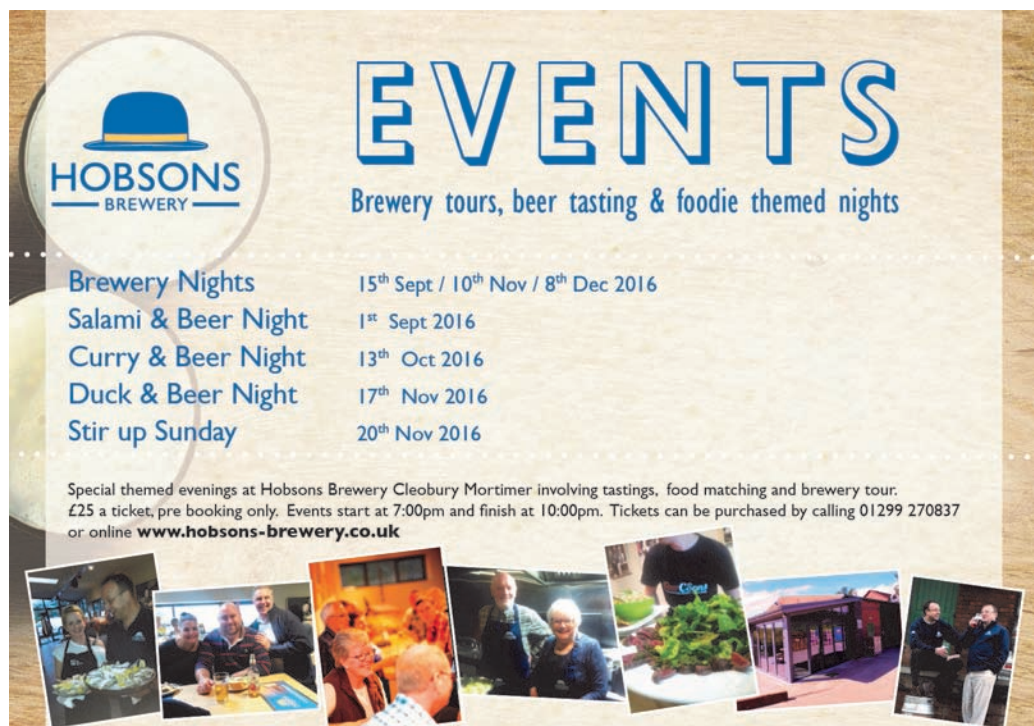
recently, further sympathetic refurbishment has taken place in the bar area and as with all such adventures there will be more to come.

There are always things going on from a community point of view. The tap room is an ideal room not just for the darts and domino teams but lends itself well for meetings, parties, wedding breakfasts and receptions and funeral teas. Sunday afternoons see some great music gigs from both local outfits and bands from afar. Even touring bands from America have sought out the venue and had their requests to play at the intimate surroundings granted. Cycling and walking clubs gather to use the Cross Keys as a pre and post exertion meeting point.

There are many notable characters at the pub, perhaps most notably the beloved pub dog, Poppy who patrols the pub with extreme vigilance at all times making sure that she gets her share of the award winning pork pies made by champion producer Barry.

Thus the pub is all a great traditional pub for locals and beer enthusiasts should be. There are no TVs, Sky Sports, pool tables, gambling machines or certain, bland lagers and bitters. Just great beers in a friendly atmosphere. A fine nod to tradition has been the purchase and hanging of a welcoming 3D 'at the sign of' style' Cross Keys sign which has replaced the more usually seen board signage.

Ruth and Hugh – we raise our glasses to you.



The poster features the Hobsons Brewery logo on the left, which includes a blue hop cone above the text 'HOBSONS BREWERY'. To the right, the word 'EVENTS' is written in large, blue, outlined letters. Below this, the text 'Brewery tours, beer tasting & foodie themed nights' is displayed. A list of events is provided, including 'Brewery Nights', 'Salami & Beer Night', 'Curry & Beer Night', 'Duck & Beer Night', and 'Stir up Sunday', each with a date. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text about special themed evenings and a row of seven small photographs showing people at events, a beer glass, and the brewery building.

HOBSONS BREWERY

EVENTS

Brewery tours, beer tasting & foodie themed nights

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Salami & Beer Night	1 st Sept 2016
Curry & Beer Night	13 th Oct 2016
Duck & Beer Night	17 th Nov 2016
Stir up Sunday	20 th Nov 2016


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Readers Comments

In response to the letter from R.H. in the last edition of Ale Sabrina I would like to make a point. The figure of 40% decline in younger people drinking is totally contrary to what I see. Indeed at recent beer festivals I have been to, the attendance of young people has been huge of both young men and young women. In many pubs I frequent, I see plenty of young men and women enjoying Real Ale and Cider. As a member of the younger generation myself it is great to see young men and women enjoying Real Ale and Cider. The more pubs we can keep open and the more we can encourage young people to enjoy their beer and cider in the controlled environment of a pub, with a responsible landlord/lady, the better. The fight for Real Ale is arguably won. The fight to keep pubs open is what CAMRA needs to be focused on.

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The Halfway House at Pitney

Somerset Pub of the Year 2015

By Paul Thursfield

Situated between Langport and Somerton on the B3513, outside the village of Pitney, this traditional pub has two rooms, both with flagstone floors. The main bar situated at the front of the building contains the 'U' shaped bar and the beer list is on the wall to the right. To the left is the access to the other room which tends to be used for eating and a family room. The main bar has real log fires at each end. There is an ever changing list of beers which are served direct from the casks stored in the ground floor cellar behind the bar. On my lunchtime visit I sampled the Summer Lightning and the Otter Bright. Both were in excellent condition.



I would have liked to have stayed longer but as I had said previously I wanted to visit another classic pub that lunchtime and my driver wanted to move on to...Eli's.

Eli's (correctly called the Rose and Crown) Huish Episcopi Langport. A very traditional pub with thatched roof dating back to the 17th Century.

The flag stoned bar area does not have a bar. Both customers and staff stand on the same

side with beer dispensers mounted on the left hand wall. They still pump the beer with the handle on the right of the beer tap. There is one regular beer plus two guests depending on the time of year. On the day of my visit the only beer on sale was Teignworthy again in very good condition. My Sunday lunchtime visit in early March to both pubs, found them to be busy with a steady flow of locals.



AS WELL AS
BEER

WE NOW MAKE
GIN

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An Afternoon in Wigan

By: Alan Thwaites

Someone said “Why do we not go to Wigan?”, so a dozen or so of us met in the ‘Anvil’, a Hyde’s house close to the Bus Station. As well as the range of Hyde’s beers, this also offers a range of Belgian fruit beers as well as guests from other British breweries. The best feature of all though was the price: £2.15 per pint for ordinary bitter!

We then moved to the ‘Tap ‘n Barrel’, a new Micro-Pub owned by the Martland Mill brewery. I sampled the ‘Spinners Gold’, a 3.8% bitter at £2.40 per pint, followed by ‘Clogmaker’, a 4% pale ale at the same price. Both of these were in excellent condition. However the highlight for me was the ‘Arctic Convoy’, a 4.5% stout which was in such good condition I felt obliged to score as a ‘5’ on the CAMRA beer scoring system.

We moved then to the ‘Dog & Partridge’, but found all the pump-clips turned round, so we did the same and moved across the road to the ‘Raven’. This former Tetley house has a splendid panelled Victorian interior and a good range of ales. I selected Moorhouses’ ‘Raven Ale’, a good session beer.

Finally we moved to the ‘Wigan Central’, located in the arches under Wigan North Western station (despite its name – Wigan Central station having closed in 1964!). This micro-pub is particularly convenient for folks waiting for a train as the departure screens for both Wigan stations are displayed so, if one’s train is late, one need not rush out to then stand on the wind-swept platform above! Beers are from the Prospect brewery (who own the pub) and other local micro-breweries. I selected ‘Totem Ale’ from Prospect which is a good session beer to round off the visit.



BEER FACTS

Did You Know?

The study of beer and beer-making has an official scientific name – **zythology**. It derives from the Greek words “**zythos**” (beer) and “**logos**” (study).

WOOD'S

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by Clive Gwilt.

BELL

The Bell was situated at 54 High Street, the site once occupied by 'Bromley's' green grocer and florist and previously Hunters Stores. The signboard consisted of hanging a brass bell outside the building for use as a signboard. The signboard was a personal one although a bell was regarded as a charm to ward off evil spirits or influences. It could well have been a reminder that our ancestors loved bell ringing or the landlord was a bell ringer. The custom of bell ringing to summon worshippers to church originated in Italy during the fifth century. In 1796 William Minshall the landlord was found three halfpence for selling drinks at Bridgnorth Races without a licence. The Bell existed in 1836 as a coach house The Shropshire Hero Coach left here daily at 0800 to connect with the 'Wonder', Holyhead to London Coach at Wolverhampton. After about two years the coach run seems to have been taken over by the Raven.

Previous to World War I the Bell was a popular sign for Pigeon Racers. Every Saturday afternoon at 1600 a van ran to Stourbridge from the Bell carrying passengers and goods. A van also ran to Kidderminster every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. At 1500 each day a van ran to Weston, Brockton, Easthope, Lutwyche and Church Stretton. At 1545 a mail coach left daily for Wolverhampton in 1849. On Saturday 29th November, 1822 two pews of St. Leonard's Church were auctioned off at 1700 at this Inn. In 1824 William Preece was the landlord. Between 1828 and 1835 Michael Hall was the landlord. In 1853 there was a slaughterhouse at the rear of this inn occupied by E. F. Bowen. In 1859 George Evans was landlord. In 1860 George Barker was the licensee. On 27th August 1864 Joseph Pearman was deputy landlord of this public house and was found guilty of threatening language to his wife Ann. In 1866 the property was still for sale as part of Lord Sudley's estate. On February 12th 1867 Mr William. Roberts gave a fat pig as a prize for a pigeon shooting competition in the town. The following year the license was transferred to Jonathan Crowther. In 1871 Jonathan Crowther was still landlord. In 1882 Sarah Ann Cox was landlady. A cottage adjoining this property in Tudor Court has been name Bell Cottage. In 1960 Bromleys took over the premises and today it is a fish shop.



The Bell and Swan in 1905



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I Must be off my Trolley

By Bill Sturt

In October 2014, I was in the Railwayman's Arms having my usual ½ pint of shandy!! When Ken the organizer of 'Bodge it and Dodge it' (or the Thursday Working Party as they like to be known) came in seeing me he said "Bill I understand you used to do a bit of welding when you were at work". After a short pause he continued "one of our station trolleys needs a bit

of patching up can you find time to do it?" Like a fool I said "yes" before seeing what condition it was in (see photo 1).

So despite the efforts of the Wild West Cowboy Company, to put as many obstacles in my way as possible, I set to work.

Having served my apprenticeship and worked for John Laing Construction, the efforts of the



Photo 1 - Before

WWCC were no match for Paddy after 15 pints of Guinness. So after 20 months of bad weather and obstacles the job is finally done and it was a bit more than patching up (see photos of finished article)



Photo 2 - During

It is now ready to transport bottles of Batham's and Bewdley brewery beers from the store to the buffet cars! I think I heard Ken ask someone in the bar "can Bill knit fog".



Photo 3 - After

“COME ALONG CHAPS!”



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Scores

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(or no real ale)

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2 = Average

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4 = Very Good

5 = Perfect

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Surveyor _____

Mem. No. _____ Date of Survey ____ / ____ / ____

Pub _____

Location _____

GBG County Area _____ Score 0 - 5 _____

Beer _____ (Optional)

CAMRA National Beer Scoring Scheme

Surveyor _____

Mem. No. _____ Date of Survey ____ / ____ / ____

Pub _____

Location _____

GBG County Area _____ Score 0 - 5 _____

Beer _____ (Optional)

CAMRA National Beer Scoring Scheme

Surveyor _____

Mem. No. _____ Date of Survey ____ / ____ / ____

Pub _____

Location _____

GBG County Area _____ Score 0 - 5 _____

Beer _____ (Optional)

CAMRA National Beer Scoring Scheme

Surveyor _____

Mem. No. _____ Date of Survey ____ / ____ / ____

Pub _____

Location _____

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A Few Comments

By: Arthur Jones

First of all may I congratulate the editor and contributors for an excellent magazine. The articles from 'the few' who seem to relish their CAMRA Membership make for interesting reading. I hope you don't mind if I tell of a recent trip where I hired a luxurious mini bus to transport 15 real ale fanatics from Broseley Social Club on a cultural tour of 'The Black Country' on the evening of Thursday March 31st. Giving our friendly driver the various Sat-Nav post codes, we departed the club at 6.30pm and arrived at a lively Bull and Bladder on The Delph Road at 7-15pm. I never realised how many rooms they had in the building including a Buffs RAOB Lodge Room. Leaving there for 'Old Ma Pardoes' at The Swan, Netherton, where one of our party got conversing with a lady who had her King Charles Spaniel with her, which happened to be reared in Broseley. The £2.20 bitter went down a treat as did the 5.2% Bumble Hole at £2.95 per pint. Leaving there at 9.10pm we headed to a full Old Bull's Head at Gornal, where the Black Country Ales are brewed. The 'Pig on the Wall' was excellent. They had 4 of their ales on tap besides 2 guest ales. We departed the Old Bull's Head at 10.20pm to head up the



Rabbit Run to Broseley but due to excessive liquid intake had to stop for a natural break at The Royal Oak, Rudge Heath where Banks's ale became our next taster. Eventually we arrived back at the club where one or two had a nightcap of Hobsons Old Prickly or Oxford Gold. Another trip is booked for late summer.

May I make a few corrections and additions to Alan Thwaites excellent 'Looking Back' article in the last edition of the magazine...re mid to late 70's era.

The Falcon was Bass, not Greenall Whitley. The Black Horse was also Bass, not Ansells.

Add The George to the Bass list

Add The New Inns to the Banks's list.

In 1970 the Severn Arms and The Bull (now The Rugby Club) would have been on the Bass list and The Squirrel on Wrekin (The Greenall Whitley list.)



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BRAISED LAMB SHANK WITH IPA GRAVY

Ingredients

4 good quality lamb shanks
4 tbsp dripping
1 litre good quality, high ABV IPA
(look for good hop/sweetness balance)
1 large onion finely chopped
2 bouquet garni
1 large carrot, peeled and roughly chopped
1 stick celery, roughly chopped
2 tbsp redcurrant jelly
Seasoned flour
Salt and pepper
1 small bunch thyme
1 small tub soured cream
2 tbsp washed capers



Method

Heat the dripping in a casserole dish on the hob.

Add a couple of lamb shanks at a time to brown on all sides, then set aside.

Fry off the onion until semi translucent.

Put the lamb shanks back in the casserole pour in IPA, add the thyme, bouquet garni, carrot, celery and redcurrant jelly.

Place lid or foil on casserole and place in medium oven for 2 – 3 hours, until meat almost falls from the bone.

NB: Check the pot every 30 minutes or so, turn the shanks and top up liquid with water, if necessary.

Lift shanks from pot and keep warm.

Remove as much fat as possible from gravy then strain.

Tip: Cook the day before, leave the shanks to cool and refrigerate – chill gravy and remove fat next day – reheat shanks in gravy.

Stir in soured cream and capers and check seasoning. Pour gravy over shanks and serve on top of mash with seasonal veg.

Try the finished dish with a glass of the IPA of your choice.





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A word from outgoing licensee David Goldingay...

David Goldingay is the founder of Wrekin Brewing Company. He says: "Business is booming and it's a challenge to keep up, so I have decided to focus on my other pub I run in partnership with Everards – The Pheasant in Wellington, with its in-house brewery and gin distillery. The Old Fighting Cocks has been successful for us and has an award-winning reputation. It is near the train station and within a stone's throw of two other real ale pubs. That makes it an ideal destination for beer lovers."

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The Old Fighting Cocks

Oakengates

Dave Goldingay has left The Old Fighting Cocks in Oakengates to concentrate on his other pub The Pheasant in Wellington and his Brewery at the same address

The Old Fighting Cocks in Oakengates has been taken over by Everards Brewery

**DO YOU HAVE ANY
NEWS?**

**DON'T KEEP IT TO
YOURSELF, SHARE IT WITH
YOUR FELLOW BEER
ENTHUSIASTS.**

Cheers!

The Hare & Hounds

Bridgnorth

The Hare & Hounds Bridgnorth has closed with the departure of the landlord and there is no sign of it re-opening

Brewery News

The All Nations in Madeley has started brewing again.

More news next issue



HOP AND STAGGER BREWERY

A couple of things of note for this issue. The first bit of news came as a very pleasant surprise when, unexpectedly we heard the announcement that we had won a Silver award at the recent SIBA Wales & West Beer competition and festival at Ludlow.

Our Bridgnorth Porter was given the award in the Porters, Stouts and Strong Ales section and was judged against nearly 30 other ales.

To say we are chuffed is a bit of an understatement.

We have also commissioned a small test brew kit that will enable us to get back to the serious business of having fun with recipes and ingredients, so who knows what the future may bring. Cheers! And many thanks for your continued support.

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Lichfield Real Ale Trail –Launched

LDTA Lichfield District Tourism Association have launched a Real Ale Trail featuring some of the fine city centre pubs, reflecting on how much pubs and the variety of real ale in Lichfield have improved in recent years.

Back in 1834 Lichfield had 72 pubs a ratio of one pub for 69 residents, if this was today there would be a mind blowing 450 pubs!!! But as we all know they were much larger than those days.

Dr Samuel Johnson one of Lichfield's famous son's commented on the 21st March 1776 "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn "

Ten pubs are featured in the trail and free guides can be obtained from any of the pubs or the local Tourism Office or downloaded from www.visitlichfield.co.uk

Chairman of the LDTA Brian Pretty , who is a CAMRA member said " The aim is to attract even more visitors to our delightful Cathedral City and for them to enjoy a delightful pint "



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A Scottish Interlude

BY: Alan Thwaites

A weekend in Scotland provided the excuse to visit a number of pubs in and around the Edinburgh area. 'Auld Reekie' has many splendid hostelries in a range of styles, suitable for all tastes. The first we visited was the 'Café Royal Bar', a GBG entry also featured in the National Inventory with splendid tiling and ceilings. The Inverlmond 'Fair Maid' was in excellent condition although at over £4 per pint, it was not to be swigged lightly! Immediately next door is the 'Guildford Arms': the interior can best be described as 'Victorian Rococo', highly ornate with a large balcony and restaurant overlooking the drinking area. Again the beer was excellent although expensive; I had a pint of the intriguingly named 'Bad Day at the Office' from Alechemy. After an indifferent meal at a Weatherspoons, we proceeded to my favourite pub in Edinburgh, the Oxford Bar in Young Street. With a nice warm fire and an excellent pint of Stewart's 'Pentland IPA', this back-street local was well-worth a prolonged stay.



The Guildford Arms



The Oxford Bar

On the morrow, we eschewed breakfast in Edinburgh, choosing instead to sample the recently reopened 'Waverley Route' railway to Galashiels followed by a breakfast at the Hunters Hall, the local Weatherspoons. Unfortunately this establishment does not sell alcohol until 11.00, so we could not sample the ales on offer, which appeared to be mainly from (English) national sources. After returning to Edinburgh, we took a circular rail trip round Fife followed by a walk from Dalmeny station to the Hawes Inn, a pub immediately below the southern approach to the Forth Bridge. The beers here were all from national brands, but the Deuchars IPA was in very good condition and at £3.30/pint much



The Hawes Inn



Thomson's Bar

easier on the wallet than some of the Edinburgh pubs. On returning to Edinburgh we visited Thomson's Bar, a pub near Haymarket station with a hand-carved interior from Alexander 'The Greek' Thomson. Pentland IPA from Stewart was in excellent condition and (reasonably) cheap.

Over the road is Carter's Tap, a recently re-furbished ale-house determined to sell quality cask beer. The Harviestoun I selected proved to be the end of the barrel, but it was immediately exchanged for Golden Bay from Bellhaven which was some of the best quality



beer that I found. We moved down the road to the Haymarket Tavern, a large Nicholson's establishment for a meal and a reasonable pint of Hoppy Blonde from Hop Art. Here it was disappointing to note that none of the half-dozen beers on sale were from Scottish breweries, with Purity UBU' amongst the imports from south of the border. Finally it was a short walk back to The Oxford for a couple more before bed.



The Rise of the Micropub

By: Dave Weston

The first micropubs have just reached Shropshire, with the opening of two very different small and quirky pubs in Ludlow, earlier this year.

What is a micropub?

It is usually a small one room pub, often set up in a disused shop in a market town. The micropub is usually defined by its set of ethics, which are based on being a freehouse serving local cask ales, cider, wines and traditional pub snacks. The micropub often has no bar, with beer served straight from the cask or by hand pumps. They all have the philosophy of a focus on real ale, friendly conversation (with no fruit machines or TVs!) and a personal welcome. Often the micropub has a selection of board games and newspapers and the loyal customers help choose the beer. Many have limited opening hours, so it's always best to check before visiting. An interesting part of the 'independent' vision of some of the micropub owners is the imaginative naming of some of the pubs. Some of my favourites are 'Room with a Brew' (in Nottingham), 'Middle Earth Tavern' (in Burton) and the great '10-50 from Victoria' (in Strood Kent).

The first micropub in the country was The Butchers Arms in Herne in Kent. It was opened by Martyn Hillier, who originally set-up an off-licence and then in 2005 it became a micropub. Martyn gave a presentation to the CAMRA AGM in 2006, emphasising the simplicity of the micropub model and encouraging others to try it. Initially he was the driving force behind the micropub revolution and he set up the micropub association with its excellent website (www.micropubassociation.co.uk) which lists most micropubs and members get access to information about setting up their own micropub. Interestingly, Martyn suggests that a micropub can be set up for as little as £10,000!

The micropub movement took off slowly at first with the next pubs in 2009 in Hartlepool (Rat Race Ale house) and Newark (The Just Beer) and since then there has been an increasing number opening, especially in Kent, where there are now 43, out of a national total of almost 250. The West Midlands was quite late in getting micropubs, as it was not until 2013 that the first two opened in our area, they are The Weavers Ale House in Kidderminster and the award winning Hail to the Ale just outside Wolverhampton. Another recommended one nearby is the Beer Dock in Crewe which has a great bottle selection and a tasting area. They are all good examples of how old shops in the suburbs of older towns can be adapted and revitalised into micropubs.

Shropshire was even later in getting micropubs, with the first two opening in Ludlow recently. They are the Artisan Ales off-licence/micropub at 4 Old Street and the 'quirky' Dog

MICROPUB Association

Hangs Well, 14 Corve Street (at the moment only open 5-9 Thur to Sat). The Artisan Ales started off as a bottle shop and the owner has developed the upstairs into the micropub, whilst the Dog Hangs Well describes itself as a 'parlour pub' and is situated in a lovely building with a lamp outside indicating whether the pub is open or not – both are great places for a quiet pint of very well kept ale. The micro-pub can help revitalise old shops premises, support local breweries and help develop real ale trails. Our area is under-represented in the micropub movement and I'm sure there is a lot of opportunity in many of our market towns for new micropubs in closed shops – a real way of regenerating our High Streets and bringing the community together.



Picture Right - Interior of the **Just Beer** MicroPub in Newark

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RAILWAY SLEEPERS



Do you have any amusing pictures of your favourite drinker.

Go on!

Let us all have a giggle. Send them to

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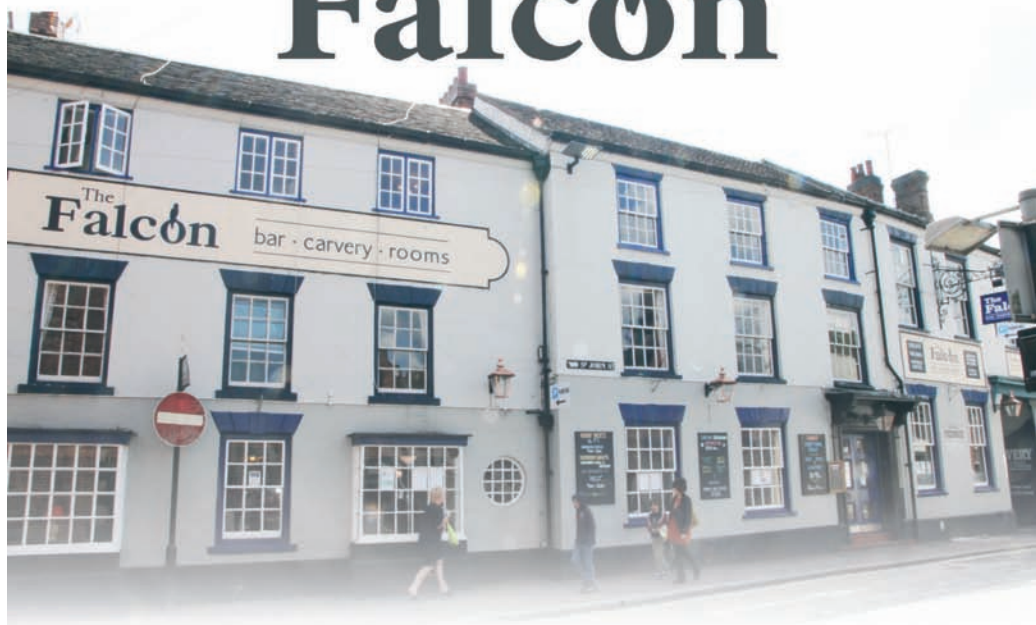
Deadline Dates for 2016

October 2016 Dead Line, Friday 9th September 2016

January 2017 Issue Dead Line, Friday 9th December 2016

Please make a note of these dates as a lot of the articles and adverts we do receive are coming in at the last minute and need editing or compiling for the next issue, this puts extra last minute work on the editor and compiler, your help in this matter would be much appreciated!

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NEW MEDICAL DISCOVERY

By: Bob Eastwick

Sometime during the early 1980's I started drinking real ale. Not very large quantities as money was tight in those days. Later, I think it was during the summer of 1985 or 6, I joined the organisation called 'Come And Meet Real Alcoholics' or 'CAMRA' as it's usually known. As a result of this, I started going on socials, surveys etc. and, naturally, my intake of ale increased.

It was soon after this that I noticed I had developed immunity to insect bites. Horse flies, midges, mosquitoes, didn't matter, they could bite me as often as they liked with no effect whatsoever.

I then began to notice that this immunity did not work while I was on holiday abroad. I first discovered this while in the south of France when I was bitten by a mosquito which produced an enormous bump that lasted for weeks. We all know the French don't like us so I put this down to that animosity extending to their wild life too. That was until I started getting bitten in Spain, Greece, Turkey etc., etc. I have just returned from a two week holiday in Turkey spending the second week in a hotel which happened to have a rather brackish river running alongside. I woke up after the first night absolutely covered in mosquito bites.

Well, after several pints of Efes and a few Rakis, a few of us got talking in the bar and I mentioned my UK insect immunity. One lad, who had been brought up in Australia, said that over there people know that if you eat plenty of Vegemite (Marmite), you will build up a similar immunity because, apparently, the insects don't like yeast.

Is it possible that somewhere in the brewing process the yeast is diminished in some way in foreign beers while over here our brewing process does not destroy some vital part of the yeast?

Have I perhaps discovered yet another reason to drink real ale?



THE QUIZ - Knowing Your K's

- 1) At the court of which Emperor of China did Marco Polo serve?
- 2) Topeka is the capital city of which American state?
- 3) Which fictional element is deadly to Superman?
- 4) Which bird is also known as the Halcyon?
- 5) What is the capital of Nepal?
- 6) Which Orange-coloured fruit comes from trees of the family Rutaceae?
- 7) Which BBC newsreader later went on to present the quiz programme *Treasure Hunt* on Channel 4?
- 8) Which World War II battle was the largest tank battle in history, with nearly 6,000 tanks involved?
- 9) What is the highest mountain in Australia?
- 10) Also called St Mungo, which Saint founded the city of Glasgow?

- 1) Kublai Khan 2) Kansas 3) Kryptonite 4) Kingfisher
- 5) Kathmandu 6) Kurnat 7) Kenneth Kendall
- 8) Kursk 9) Mount Kosciuszko 10) St Kentigern

ANSWERS

Phrases and Sayings

Can you work out the well known phrase or saying from the initial letters?

1, WBTE

2, DOG

6, ADITO

7, TTUH

3, ADIAMBF 8, DBOM

4 GOMW

9, TQATD

5, GDTBT

10, WL

- 1) Wet Behind the Ears 2) Delusions Of Grandeur
- 3) A Dog Is A Man's Best Friend 4) Get On My Wick
- 5) Get Down To Brass Tacks 6) A Drop In The Ocean
- 7) Take The Upper Hand 8) Darling Buds Of May
- 9) The Quick And The Dead 10) Wax Lyrical

From which films do these stills come?



Top - The Shining
Bottom Psycho

EVENTS TO COME

Bridgnorth Meetings

For information about meeting or events
please contact

Dave Haddon dhaddon@hotmail.com
07809 887159 01746 862884



Bridgnorth CAMRA

Volunteers Welcome

Accommodation: Free Camping
(Tents & Caravans) for all Volunteers

TES Meetings

Sat 9th July – 12 noon

West Midlands Regional Meeting
Red Lion (Mouse Room), Market Drayton,
TF9 1JP

Sun 17th July – 11am

Branch Meeting
Beer Tent, Storyteller Arms,
Festival at the Edge,
Stokes Barn, Much Wenlock, TF13 6DB

Tue 9th August – 8pm

Branch Meeting
Plough Inn, Shifnal, TF11 8AZ

Tue 13th September – 8pm

Branch Meeting
Pheasant Inn, Wellington, TF1 1DT

TES Social Events

Fri 15th - Sun 17th July

Festival at the Edge, Storyteller Arms
(Beer Tent – Volunteers Required)
Venue: Stokes Barn, Much Wenlock,
TF13 6DB

A Future Date for your Diary

Thu 3rd - Sun 6th November

Shifnal Beer Festival,
Shifnal War Memorial Club

For more information and to reserve a place
please contact

Stephen Betts Stephen@s-betts.co.uk
01952 371 743 or 07411 380 381

Market Drayton Events

For more information
please contact

Brynn Pass Bpass@btinternet.com
07949 321442

*Times and venues are subject to change at short notice. New events may be arranged after print date.
Please check with Dave Haddon (Bridgnorth CAMRA) and Facebook for up to date information*

BRANCH CONTACTS

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Eleanor Haddon
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Tel: 01746 250500
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bpass@btinternet.com
Tel: 07949 321442

T.E.S.

Chairman

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Treasurer

David Jones,
SAFEJONES@aol.com

Membership Secretary

Paul Jones
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Social Secretary

Situation currently vacant....

Survey Officer

Adrian Zawierka
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Beer Quality Scores

www.whatpub.com

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bsturt@alesabrina.co.uk

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HOW LUCKY THERE'S A JOULES HOUSE NEARBY

JOULE'S BREWERY TO OPEN LUDLOW PUB IN JULY

Monday 18th July will see the opening of Joule's Brewery's newest pub, **THE ROSE AND CROWN, LUDLOW**. The pub that is now going through a restoration project, was acquired by Shropshire based Joule's Brewery in September 2013 and has become part of a fine selection of pubs throughout their heartland counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire. Coupling a marvellous selection of cask and craft beers with freshly prepared home cooked favourites, Joule's aim to deliver the magic that can be seen throughout the rest of their pub estate.



The Rose and Crown will be showcasing Joule's renowned fine ales including, Joule's Pale Ale, Blonde & Slumbering Monk as well as their latest seasonal ale. The newly restored pub will also be showcasing Joule's Craft Lager, Green Monkey which is, brewed to the highest German brewing purity law of 'Reinheitsgebot' Green Monkey is a fan favourite in Joule's houses across the neighbouring counties and certainly one not to miss! You can follow The Rose and Crown's progress on their Facebook page.



The Red Lion

Great Hales Street
Market Drayton, TF9 1JP
01630 652 602

The Fox & Hounds

High Street
Cheswardine, TF9 2RS
01630 661 244

The Rose and Crown

Ludlow
SY8 1AP

The Castle Hotel

14 High Street
Wem, SY4 5AA
01939 236 088

LATEST JOULE'S NEWS:

The New Inn

2 Stafford Street
Newport, TF10 7LX
01952 812 295

The Sandbrook Volts

Shropshire Street
Market Drayton, TF9 3BY
07813 835 959

The Dolphin

48 St Michaels Street
Shrewsbury, SY1 2EZ
01743 247 005

The Crown

1 Wood Road
Codsall, WV8 1DP
01902 844 876



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