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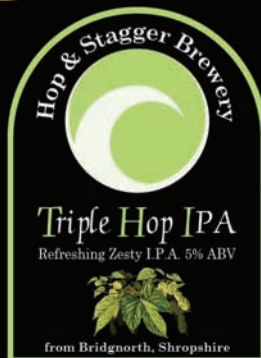
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Issue 6. Summer 2015

www.bridgnorthcamra.org.uk

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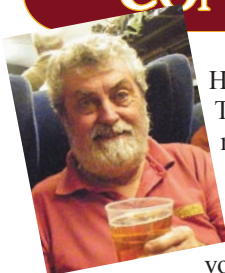


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EDITOR'S COMMENTS



Hi
The year is only six months old and already it's been a good year for Bridgnorth! The Black Boy in Cartway has been

voted Telford and East Shropshire Pub of the Year and The Railwayman's Arms the Town Pub of the Year. Hop and Stagger Brewery is in the process of moving to a six barrel brewery at Astol Farm on the Apley estate near the Farm Shop.

Five of our pubs have new management or rebranding, so it looks like times are still good in Bridgnorth.

I have been on the Mild in May trail and talking to landlords it seems to have been well received. As a bitter drinker I have been asked by friends why do I do it. My answer is a bit like people who climb Everest "Because it's there"!

Going back to Mild in May, thanks to Alan and Denise, I have been introduced to a lot of pubs in 'the sticks' as we needed these to get our rewards.

These were found to be real gems! If you see me on your travels please make yourself known and let me know your thoughts on Ale Sabrina 'good or bad' as this will help us improve what we think is already a good magazine.

So remember use it or lose it.

Cheers

Bill Sturt



A SHROPSHIRE TREE 'O' OR.....



A lot has been happening in the Bridgnorth Sub-branch area since the last edition of Ale Sabrina. In April there were two presentations for our Telford and East Shropshire Pub of the Year awards. The Black Boy was overall winner and The Railwaymans Arms was selected as Town Pub of the Year. The Red Lion at Cheswardine was the Rural Pub of the Year. Congratulations to all concerned. It was good to see pubs in Bridgnorth being voted by branch members as top pubs in the Telford and East Shropshire area.

During May the Shropshire Branches have been participating in a *Mild in May* promotion. Over 70 pubs throughout the county have taken part in promoting 'mild' of various strengths. Whilst it's fun to take part and visit as many pubs as possible in the 'booklet', it is always worth reminding everyone to drink sensibly and heed the drink-driving laws. Look out for our Cider Trail later on in the year.

We continue to hold joint trips with members in Telford and Market Drayton and have made visits to the Stoke on Trent area, Stourbridge and Worcester. More trips are planned for the future.

We look forward to our annual beer festival at the beginning of September - a definite date for your diary if you are in the area. Details will appear on our website. Have a good – and hopefully – warm summer.

Eleanor Haddon

CAMRA Sub Branch - Bridgnorth

.....NEWS FROM THREE BRANCHES

You might have picked up, either in the press or on social media, that Telford & East Shropshire Branch has recently presented its 2015 Pub of the Year (POTY) award to the Black Boy, Bridgnorth.

A lot of people ask me about how we decide on our POTY so I thought it worth outlining our system in this magazine in order to inform the wider 'pub going' public.

First of all each pub in the competition must be eligible for inclusion in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. Then, because of the size of our patch the territory is split into three, roughly equal, pubs areas. Not surprisingly, this comprises north, middle and south. This system allows members who live and drink in Market Drayton in the north (but never make it as far as Bridgnorth in the south) to vote for their favourite eligible local pubs and vice-versa. Those that do get around the county can, of course, vote for pubs in any locations they have frequented.

The top two winners in each area are put on a short-list which are then visited by judges from nearby CAMRA branches.

These judges visit all six pubs and use the CAMRA National POTY Scoring System to arrive at their total of marks for each establishment. Naturally, beer quality is of the utmost importance and this is weighted accordingly. The other categories to be scored are Atmosphere: Style: Décor: Service: Welcome Community Focus Sympathy with CAMRA Aims and Good Value. The pub that secures the largest number of marks becomes our winner. Thus far we have never had a tie but, if we do, it will be beer quality that is the decider!

Dave Tyler

CAMRA Telford & East Shropshire

As our sub-branch has now been established in the town we are determined to help the pubs and real ale drinkers in Market Drayton.

I read recently in a CAMRA newsletter that 31 pubs close down every week.

That is far too many! So it is inevitable that changes will have to happen for them to survive. Hopefully the pubs in the town will recognise the potential we have in helping them sell their real ale and beat that dreaded threat.

Market Drayton has a great deal of beers to offer, we have our own brewery in Joules. You can buy Woods, Marston's, Banks's, Theakston's, Salopian, Wadsworth's Wychwood and Titanic ales, to name a few. A little further afield we have the Lion's Tale micro-brewery in Cheswardine.

The area also has many wonderful surrounding villages with their community run pubs selling good real ale which bodes well for the area.

To help them we need a vibrant CAMRA Market Drayton sub-branch and I would appeal to all beer drinkers and pub landlords to get involved with us and help our pubs, beer and community.

Bryn Pass

CAMRA - Market Drayton Sub Branch

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PUB NEWS

The Loggerheads - Shrewsbury

I just wanted to introduce myself, Mike Hibbert; I have just recently taken on a new five year lease at the Loggerheads, Church Street, Shrewsbury after a seven year spell at the White Hart in Iron-bridge.

We have on sale normally seven cask ales from the Marston's range, as you may already know Marston's has just acquired Thwaites Brewery and I am looking forward to serving some of their beers. I have 26 years' experience in the trade and am loving my time so far at the 'Loggers and in Shrewsbury.

Our long awaited move and increase in capacity to a six barrel plant has finally come to fruition.

Anyone who has spoken to us over the past months will no doubt have realised just how frustrating the delays have been. It's a bit like moving house; but worse.

We have now carried out our first test brew and are looking forward to moving our full brewing process to the new site over the next couple of weeks.

Moving from a 2.5 barrel kit to our new brew house has been a bit surprising in many ways, it may sound stupid, but everything is bigger (and heavier), the pipes are longer and heavier, the vessels are deeper and the manways certainly don't cater for this man, perhaps I need to be less heavy.

So, if you hear any screams from the Astol Farm area it may mean I have given myself a hernia or fallen in the mash tun.

Cheers!





In my capacity of Brewery Liaison Officer for Rowton Brewery I recently met with the owner/brewer, Jim Preston. Jim was delighted to tell me that his spring beer, Pure Gold (3.8% ABV), won the bronze award in the SIBA Wales & West competition for 'standard bitter' held at the Ludlow Beer Festival. The seasonal beer for summer will once again be Star Light (3.6% ABV) a golden refreshing brew, ideal for 'quaffing'. No changes are currently planned for the brewery or manpower.

Dave Tyler

**DO YOU HAVE ANY
NEWS?**

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

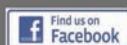
Cheers!



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A to Z Of Bridgnorth Inns and Alehouses – Clive Gwilt

ANCHOR AND WHERRY

The Anchor & Wherry was located somewhere in Friar Street, the exact location is uncertain. The signboard is connected to the River and Riverside group and named after local River Traffic. A "Wherry" was a small craft of shallow draught used for local trading purposes. It was propelled by oars, or a punt, and consisted of a sharp pointed bow, with a broad flat stern to assist with the loading. A Trow was another type of small craft on the Severn, that was captained by a trowman and had a flat bottom.

ANGEL

The Angel was located at 4 Granary Steps, just off The Cartway. The signboard was in the religious group and showed a picture of the Virgin Mary. With Mary was the Angel of the Annunciation holding a scroll bearing the words "Ave Maria Gratia Plena Dominus Tecum", which means "Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee". It is thought this is the same as the Salutation, which can be found in many other Towns. It was located near the Old Franciscan Friary and there is a possibility the sign may have originally come from the Friary before the Reformation. This establishment was no doubt frequented by many Barge masters and the Religious touch to the place may have brought Good Luck.

ANTELOPE

The Antelope or Ellock was situated at 64 or 65 High Street in the position now occupied by Barclays Bank. The actual site is given as being 'from the South bounds of the Corn Market and extending to the little lane in the Churchyard. (This lane being the one between Barclays Bank and Burtons and the Corn Market held opposite the factory shop). The signboard is of Heraldic origin showing the crest or Coat of Arms of an early owner. It is described as an Hospice in a 1465 will. In the will "Thomas Parsons" bequeathed to his son "The Antelope Inn" in the High Street with gardens extending itself from the High Street as far as the little lane leading to St. Leonards Church. In 1495 the Antelope was bequeathed to the Chantry of St. Leonards by Thomas Parsons, a Merchant of the staple, on whose coat of Arms the Antelope may have appeared.

The Heraldic Antelope had the body of a deer and the head of a tiger with serrated horns. The local name for the Inn was the Elk or Ellock and this Inn may have disappeared and reappeared as the reindeer at Northgate. In 1623 it was known as the Antelope when Sir John Hayward sold it to Sir William Whitmore. In 1646 it was probably destroyed by the great fire.

ASH INN

The Ash Inn as it was known, was situated at 32 Salop Street on the site once occupied by Rutters Garage Car Park and now occupied by Talbot Court. The signboard is no doubt of the locative group taking its name from an Ash tree nearby. It is said the original building was built in 1462 as a farmhouse but was converted into an Inn many years later. It was one of the out buildings outside Whitburn Gate ordered to be taken down in June 1645 to improve the defence of the town. It was rebuilt at a later date and the last tenant before closure was Mr. Brian Underwood. It appears on a list as being first licensed in 1821. The picture (right) shows the pub before it was demolished in the 1960's.



Next edition: The Ball and The Bandon Arms

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Mild in May 2015

By; Alan Thwaites

Well, the merry month of May has come and gone (did it really exist?) and with it this year's Mild in May campaign. As in previous years, the two Shropshire branches collaborated in preparing a trail of as many pubs as we knew would be selling mild during the month. This year's trail consisted of 74 Shropshire pubs plus another four just outside the county. Participants were also asked to include any other pubs within the county which were found to be dispensing mild.

Denise and I never thought we would make all 78 pubs, but we made a good fist of it, with a total of 55 from the train plus a bonus. What impressed us was the enthusiasm of the vast majority of the participating landlords, even the Wetherspoons outlets were well versed and keen on the promotion. However it was disappointing to find some pubs had 'run out'. I know that it is difficult to assess the likely demand, but many of the successful landlords told me that they had arranged for the mild to be delivered in pins (4½ gallons) so as to avoid wastage, and were ordering a fresh supply well before the previous cask was empty. Another black mark was scored by the barman who, on being asked for "two halves of mild and two stickers",

supplied the stickers and then started pouring from a smooth-pour keg font without first explaining that an earlier coach party had finished off his available mild. (The pub shall remain nameless, but it is in the 2015 GBG!)

The diversity of pub types and styles always pleases me. It is great to see some real gems still trading successfully, such as the delightful, remote 'New Inn' at Oretton and the quiet back-street boozer, the 'Dog and Partridge' in Shrewsbury. Busy town-centre pubs such as the 'Pheasant' in Wellington were also well represented, and I found my 'Bonus Pub' really close to home at 'Bamboo', the real-Ale Café-Bar by the Bridge at Bridgnorth.

I hear that at least one participant has made it round all 78 pubs. However some of the participating pubs only open in the evenings, even at weekends thus preventing the use of public transport to return home as the last bus to Bridgnorth leaves Shrewsbury at 19.40 and I did not like the prospect of a long drive in the evening to places like the 'Anchor' at the top of the Clun Valley just to get these last few into the book. However, there is always next year!

MICROPUBS

coming to an empty high street shop near you

By: A Pair of Daytrippers

Probably not in Bridgnorth though – we have so many great, proper pubs. However, this is certainly a trend in many towns and cities.

These establishments serve real ale, real cider and sometimes country wines. What they don't have are gaming machines, TV or loud music – just the simple art of conversation. Surprisingly they are inhabited by an assortment of customers and not just grumpy old men.

Living up to our pseudonym, we regularly travel the country on day trips seeking out new watering holes and have noticed on these travels the rise of the 'Micro Pub'.

For anyone thinking of opening one of these establishments, the time seems to be right. Old shops seem to be the right choice for conversion at the moment. There are so many advantages for the would-be publican: low rent and start-up costs, adaptable opening hours, no hassle and tied shackles from a Pubco and an impressive range of cask ales from micro brewers at

affordable prices.

Another obvious reason of course is the fact that property owners are desperate to get their vacant premises trading again!

Other sites can also be viable. One of our favourites, so far, is Wigan Central, situated beneath one of the railway arches of Wigan North Western Station. As well as ticking all the boxes, there are two live arrival and departure boards for both North Western and Wallgate Stations!

The pattern of shopping has changed the face of the typical high street – but Bridgnorth High Street is not your average.

Thank goodness for that!



JIM JONES

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Rural Pub of the Year

Members gathered on an early April evening to celebrate with Jon and Sheila Morris of the Red Lion Cheswardine, as their pub has won this year's Branch Rural Pub of the Year. This pub is quite unique in the area as the Lions Tail Brewery is at the back of the pub and brews a number of its own ales not available in any other pub.



Town Pub of the Year

By: Janet Sturt

On 22nd April, members from Bridgnorth, Telford and Wolverhampton CAMRA, congregated at The Railwayman's Arms in Bridgnorth. This was for the presentation of the Telford and East Shropshire Town Pub of the Year Award, to Mr Eric Linford and his staff.

This lovely pub, which is situated on platform one of the Severn Valley Railway has lots of railway memorabilia (come and see if you can find the little mouse on the large Cuneo painting of Clapham Junction in the bar) and try a drink from the selection of real ales and ciders.

Congratulations once again to Eric and his staff!



Mild Surprises

By: David Jones

Whilst travelling round to collect stickers in my Mild in May Passport, there were a few interesting encounters.

A visit to the Sun at Clun was enhanced by the Clun Green Man Festival, where for two days the Town Square was closed to traffic and most of the locals were dressed in costume to celebrate the battle on the bridge when the Frost Queen was defeated by the Green Man.

Whilst at Ratlinghope, enjoying some mild in the sunshine outside the Bridges, one local climbed onto his steam powered road roller and chugged off home.

On one of those cold days we had in May, when there was hailstones in the rain, we arrived in Ellesmere to find about twenty swimmers in the Mere, they were blue and shivering.

A lunch time stop at the Red Castle Harmer Hill coincided with the OAP club on their 'egg day'; several trays were distributed amongst them. They were all very adept at carrying eggs as well as walking sticks.

Having seen a recent repeat of the Time Team excavations at the Kynnersley Arms Leighton, I was interested to see all the old mill workings besides the stairs from the bar to the toilets; mind you I spent more time looking on the way back.

A disappointing day was spent in Wellington where several of the participating Pubs did not have Mild.

And the final surprise was to find a giant Bouncy Castle in the garden of the New Inn at Oretton.

Posted on Facebook- 'I ordered a pint and a half of Mild and two stickers – when the beer arrived it came with two Snickers'

Readers Comments

Dear Editor,

In the last edition a lady/gentleman expressed some concerns over CAMRA using the Bridgnorth Community Bus for their trips and asked for a member to respond. So here goes.

I can only speak from my own experience having been on numerous outings both as a CAMRA member and as one of the volunteer bus drivers and if there has been a 'booze up' then I missed it every time. What I did see was a group of likeminded people enjoying excellent/good/bad beer depending on their considered opinion and recording their findings. Normally a few pubs are visited, many that some of us have not been too and I can say that there are some gems out there and if that helps their business then surely that is to the good.

You stated that 'we are all suffering the effects of a widespread recession' and 'they seem able to afford to drink reasonable quantities'. Does this mean that we are not allowed to spend our money on anything else but bills? Very presumptuous of you as unless you know the people how can you say they cannot afford to socialise. Maybe we should stop going to the cinema, leisure centre, restaurant etc., is that what you are suggesting?

As a CAMRA driver, (unpaid) I have never seen anyone drunk, fall over or been rude. I have heard laughter and everyone talking to each other, nobody is ever ignored or left out. There are people on their own, both men and women ranging from their mid-20's upwards. There is one member (Janet) who will have a taste of her partners drink so they can have an opinion on the beer, and then go back to her coca cola or hot chocolate.

The Community bus is there for the Community, the clue is in the title. So long as you are a member and pay for using the bus then it is available to all. As a volunteer driver with Bridgnorth Community Group I have sought advice from their management and I have been assured that no groups, charity or otherwise are subsidised for their outings. Everybody pays the same.

Finally, why not come on one of our outings and if you still feel the same then at least you will be talking from experience.

Name and Address Supplied

Dear Editor,

Regarding the Clipper Brewery

Just in case any fellow CAMRA members are interested in the truth, the brewer left because the proprietor refused to pay for further brewery supplies. As he was unable to brew fine ale from dust and spiders, he was given little option. He left a week later. Strangely, a member of Bridgnorth CAMRA sub branch committee was a witness to the final conversation between brewer and owner. I know. I am that brewer.

Best Regards,

Howard Brown

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MY MYSTERY JOLLY TOUR

By: Joan Hibberd



ASKED IF I WANTED A BUS TRIP OUT
 TO ROWTON BREWERY AND ROUND ABOUT
 NOT KNOWING WHERE WE WERE GOING ONCE MORE
 I AGREED TO GO ON BILL STURTS JOLLY MYSTERY TOUR
 A FEW WEEKS LATER THE DAY CAME
 JAN & BILL, LES & MOIRA, MO & DAVE
 HELEN & BRIAN, PAULA & BILL, MAJOR, DAVID & ME
 AND WE SET OFF WITH OUR FAVOURITE DRIVER STEVE
 A FEW MILES LATER AND TURNING LEFT
 TO A FARM YARD THE BUS CAME TO REST
 JIM OUR HOST ARRIVED AND INVITED US IN
 AN OLD FARM BUILDING TO HAVE A DRINK
 HAND PUMPS OF ROWTONS BITTER AND MILD ON THE SIDE
 JIM TOLD US TO HELP OURSELVES WITH PRIDE
 SAT AT THE CHAIRS AND TABLES WE STARTED TO RELAX
 WITH AN EXCELLENT BEER LISTENING TO JIMS CHAT
 A CORNER BARBEQUE WAS LIT FOR OUR USE
 BILL & PAULA TOOK CHARGE, TO FEED THE TROUP
 CHICKEN LEGS, HOT DOGS, BURGER AND BACON COBS
 ENJOYED BY ALL, WHAT A GOOD JOB
 A TRIP ROUND ROWTONS BREWERY AND MANY PINTS MORE
 RELUCTANTLY WE HAD TO GO, A GREAT PLACE WE DID ROAR
 ONTO THE PHEASANT AT WELLINGTON AND IRONBRIDGE GOLD
 A TRIP INTO THEIR BREWERY AND MORE PINTS WERE SOLD
 MANY BEERS ON SALE, A LOVELY OLD BUILDING, A MUST TO SEE
 THEN OFF TO THE ALL NATIONS AT MADELEY, WE DID AGREE
 WAS WORTH THE VISIT, OLD AND QUAIN, BUT HAD TO GO
 BACK TO THE RAILWAYMANS ARMS FOR A FINAL PINT AND SO
 CAME THE END OF MY JOLLY MYSTERY DAY TOUR



A Weekend in Blackpool

By: Alan Thwaites

This February, Denise & I took advantage of an out-of-season weekend break in Blackpool. Arriving at our hotel on the North Shore, it was a pleasant surprise to find beers from Lytham Brewery available at the bar, and the 'Lytham Blonde' and 'Lytham Gold' were both very toothsome. However, the fruit-based 'Berry Blonde' was like drinking strawberry ice cream: not a success I think!

On the Saturday a tram journey to Fleetwood saw us eschewing the 'North Euston' in favour of the 'Steamer', about 100yds south from the tram terminus along the waterfront. This is a large friendly pub with a number of hand-pumps, four of which were in use on this cold February day. I chose 'Keepers Gold' from Walls of Northallerton while Denise opted for JHB from Oakham, both in very good condition. A short walk in the rain took us to the 'Strawberry Garden' on Poulton Road. This GBG regular specialises in 'Locale' beers, and I had a very pleasant pint of 'Lancaster Blonde' from Lancaster Brewery to accompany my bar meal before taking the tram back from Fisherman's Walk stop.

On Sunday we travelled south to Lytham to visit the 'Taps', a pub that I knew would be showing the Ireland-England 6-Nations rugby match. I chose 'Art of Darkness, a mild from Dark Star brewery (West Sussex) which proved to be a very pleasant beverage with which to celebrate the Ireland victory.

Telford and East Shropshire Pubs of the Year Presentations.

By: Eleanor Haddon

In March the branch announced the following winners:

Rural Pub of the Year-The Red Lion Cheswardine

Pub of the Year – The Black Boy in Bridgnorth

Town Pub of the Year – The Railwaymans Arms in Bridgnorth

A busy week followed in April when presentations were made on 7th April to the Red Lion, followed on 9th April by The Black Boy. The Railwaymans Arms received their award on 22nd April. Each occasion was well attended by both CAMRA members and locals and saw Dave Tyler and myself presenting the trophies and certificates to commemorate their successes. The Black Boy then went forward to the Marches round of the competition – against two winning pubs from Shrewsbury & East Shropshire and Hereford branches.

Final results have now been received and at the time of going to press we are awaiting the presentation, by the area organiser, of the winning certificate to The Black Boy in Bridgnorth. Well done to the licensees and their staff in all our pubs for the quality and service they provide.



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BBQ frenzy - 13th August

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Beer and Cycling - A Song of Unrequited Love

By: Stan Good

One fresh winter's night he had visited some friends in The Great Western. Cycling back to his country home outside the city he was feeling a warm golden glow following the imbibing of a few Holden's and Batham's beers. Langley Road, fairly wide, reasonably straight and at that time of night with no traffic leads him gently down from the city lights to the darkness of the South Staffordshire countryside.

His Never Ready bike lights were clearly illuminating the long white broken central road markings. All was well in his tiny world of light. With a smile of contentment he began to steer in out of the gaps in the white markings, generously using up most of the road and even nibbling at the verges. The rotation of the pedals, his steady pace and the repetitive swerving were all in perfect harmony. The Beatles' 'Hey Jude' drifted as a leitmotif into his beery consciousness. The melody matched exactly his meandering motion.

He began to sing, quietly at first "*Hey Jude, don't be afraid, you were made to go out and get her . . .*" Then louder as the last of the town's houses drifted behind him. Then the chorus . . . Even louder . . . "*La la la la la la, la la la Hey Jude. . . la la la la la . . . Hey Jude . . .*" What perfection! What harmony! Louder still he sang his heart out to the starry sky in the empty night. Paradise! He continued on, singing and swerving, lost in the synchronisation of the motion and the melody.

But somewhere in his intoxicated mind something was not quite right. He almost felt the trees lining the sides of the road becoming lighter. When he could clearly make out the bare branches lit up by the headlamps of a car slowly following, he decided it would be prudent to keep to the left. He did not like cars slowly tracking him, alone on a lonely road. He glanced behind, swerving uncontrollably. "Oh bother," he thought, but with a certain amount of relief, "It's a cop car".

The car slowly drew alongside him. The inside lights switched on. Two cops! Winding right down the nearside window the policeman indicated that he should stop. He stopped. The driver and his mate stared at him. He looked at them. Silence. He wondered what to say. "Evening sir", said the passenger., His reply - "Evenin'." "Now then", the policeman continued ponderously and a mite sarcastically, "Do you not think that, even at this late hour, it might not be a good idea for a cyclist to keep to the left? Not using the entire road, eh? You know - we were wondering if you've maybe had a few too many?" Pause. "But what is *really* causing us concern is your annihilation of one of the best of The Beatles' classic numbers. It was awful". "Actually, *I* thought it was rather good," the cyclist thought. But all he said was, "Aah". "*Aah*, you say *Aah*" shouted the driver, leaning over with a gleam in his eye. "What'll we do with you? Where do you live? Speak up man" "By the Greyhound in Lower Penn," was the cyclist's only mumbled response.

The two policemen stared at him. He gazed down at the verge, wondering about his fate. "You're a lucky man", eventually said the passenger "As it turns out it's my mate's birthday tomorrow and we really are in a good mood". "Tomorrow!", interjected the driver "It's after midnight, mucking about down here!" To the cyclist, "is The Greyhound still serving?" Loaded question. "Oh no, not at this late hour!" As an afterthought, "Happy birthday!" "Um, thanks. Never mind. You get off home, and Behave!" To his mate, "Oh well - It'll have to be The Holly Bush again."

With that the police car sped off into the night towards Ebstree. Our intrepid cyclist followed slowly to the crossroads. Without any swerves. Without any song.

A true story from the mid 1990's

A Magical History Tour

Part One

By: Paul Barrow

Wellington is one of the historic market towns of Shropshire, having received its first market charter in 1244. It is also located next to an ancient route and Roman road, which later became known as Watling Street and more recently the A5, so it is not surprising that Wellington has a rich history of commerce, trade and travel, and some interesting pubs. With this in mind, a small group of thirsty amateur historians decided to take a tour of some of those pubs which combine a little history with the offering of good quality real ale.

The first port of call was The Pheasant, a newly refurbished town centre pub which boasts a brew house in the back yard which is the base for the Ironbridge Brewing Co., now operating as The Wrekin Brewing Co. The pub dates from around the 1840s and by the turn of the century there was stabling for fourteen horses, something quite common for pubs around that time as they provided refreshment and often accommodation for wayfarers. In 1940 it was bought by the Wrekin Brewery who brewed on site, but when it was taken over by Greenhall Whitley in 1969, brewing stopped. Bumpy times ensued for the fortunes of the pub, but it is great to see it now refurbished, busy and with beer production back on site. Beer miles can be measured in yards here, so it would have been remiss to not enjoy a pint of their own Kiwi Pale Ale, which was on top form.

The next stop was at The William Withering, a J.D. Wetherspoon pub, but don't let that put you off. The building was once a supermarket, but before that the land was associated with a pub, being the site of the stable yard of The Duke of Wellington, which was demolished to make way for the shop. William Withering was born in Wellington in 1740 and became notable for the promotion of the use of foxglove extract

to treat heart failure. Chemicals related to the alkaloid found in these plants are still in use today. A puzzling feature of this pub is the statue of a woman and children which stands next to the exit to the beer garden. This has nothing to do with William Withering, but is a memorial to Hesba Stretton, a writer born nearby who campaigned for the rights of impoverished children, and after whom the pub was to be named. However, someone noticed that Hesba was also a prominent campaigner against the effects of alcohol on the downtrodden, so it was improper to name a pub after her. But the statue had been commissioned and produced, so it remains as a warning to those who may be tempted to dally too long. This sobering thought was accompanied by a pint of Salopian Divine Comedy, one of three mild's available as part of the Mild in May promotion.

Slightly out of the centre next, to the Wrekin Inn, which stands on a route towards the Ercall and the Wrekin itself. The original building was opened as a beer house in the 1870s but was rebuilt sometime during or around the 1940s, with an extension being added after the turn of the millennium. The pub made it into the Good Beer Guide in 2011 and has been on the Wellington real ale scene ever since, despite a recent change of licensee and dropping out of the Guide. An excellent pint of Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby was served by Tom, one of the new tenants of the pub. Time to stretch our legs and head across town to a 2015 Good Beer Guide debutante, the Railway. The pub takes its name from the arrival of rail services to Wellington in 1849, opening around 1850, but not appearing to take its current name until around 1878. The pub was originally narrower than present, but in the 1970s it absorbed the next door butcher's shop. Now a free house, the Railway has permanent beers from Wye Valley Brewery, so we enjoyed a pint of Butty Bach before moving on

Wye Valley Brewery

A Winning Favourite By: Major Willmore

A notice displayed in the Old Castle pub in Bridgnorth offering a day at Ludlow races did not take too long to generate a high interest with regulars and friends.

The notice was issued by Wye Valley Brewery offering an exceptional day for a total of fifteen pounds sterling. This included entrance, race card and two free drinks with the hosts. Some races were sponsored by Wye Valley, not many tips were forthcoming though, but seeing AP McCoy race before his retirement was indeed a bonus. Unfortunately he did not have a winner. The offer was quickly taken up and a mini bus organised. Landlord Bryn Masterman also arranged for us to have an 11 am breakfast before leaving the Castle, it was more a brunch meal and certainly satisfied most for the period of racing. Our journey commenced at 12.30 pm arriving at Ludlow race course with plenty of time in hand before the opening race due at 2.20 pm.

The Wye Valley hospitality marquee was outstanding. The front section was the bar area which fronted the race track and a further tented area for the punters who wished to be seated at tables and watch races on a large screen display. Bar service was second to none, so thank you to all bar staff for their efficient handling of the throng of drinkers. Two real ales were available being HPA and Butty Bach, both in excellent condition along with wines, all at a reasonable price after you had exhausted your free allocation.

Many visitors were from other hostleries in local counties including Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands. Wit and repartee abounded among the many in attendance.

To conclude, we thank the owners and staff of Wye Valley Brewery for an outstanding day and look forward to the next sponsored race day at Ludlow.



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Drinking round the Peak

By: Alan Thwaites

Recently I received a message to the effect that my presence was requested at a pub-crawl of Stockport. However, a check of my diary revealed that an ex-work colleague was retiring on the same day and I was already booked to join him in Derby for his 'Do'. I happened to mention this to another ex-colleague and he said that he was in the same situation. We therefore decided to do both. We went to join the main Stockport crawling party at the 'Crown' under the viaduct, only to find that we were 30 minutes too early. However we were soon spotted by the landlord who called us in. A bar full of hand-pumps was dispensing beer from all over the land, from which I chose seasonal golden ale from Copper Dragon. Next pub was the 'Swan With Two Necks' a splendid little Robinson's boozer in the town centre, listed in the CAMRA Inventory, and then we tried the Queen's Head a Sam Smith house with 4 hand-pulls, all proclaiming 'Old Brewery Bitter. However all they had to sell was keg, so we left and went across the street to 'Winter's', a converted jewellers selling Holts.

Now it was time to take the train to Derby; this journey involved a 30 minute wait at Sheffield, time enough for a swift 'Jaipur in the Sheffield Tap on Platform 1 of Midland Station. Arriving in Derby, we joined the retirement party in the Alexandra Hotel near the station. After a couple of pints of 'Castle Rock', the party then adjourned to the 'King's Ditch', a new Micro-pub in Tamworth. This gem is close to the station and really worth looking up, as the gravity dispensed ale is of excellent quality. The stillage's in the cellar, a room behind the bar, are displayed on a wide-screen television so one can watch one's pint being poured. After another couple of beers a train and taxi ride back to Bridgnorth beckoned.

The Demise of the English Country Pub

From: John Morgan

Over some years now, the traditional English pub seems to have lost its place in community life. One of the many reasons for this seems to me to be the constantly escalating cost of the products on sale. I suspect that the main architect for this situation was lord Young who, around the mid nineteen nineties, devised a scheme to limit the number of pubs that a brewery could own, and this ended the brewery – tenancy relationship which had been running successfully for many years. This created an environment where chains of pubs could be owned by non-brewing organisations. Such organisations (Pubco's) then came into being, and seem to have directed the ever rising cost of products on sale.

I read articles attributed to the NHS which claims to be inundated with problems whereby youngsters heading to clubs are, what they describe as, 'pre loading' because they don't want to pay the excessive prices charged in the clubs. This may or may not of course be simply journalistic piffle.

However, if this is in fact the situation, then it seems to me that if the clubs did not charge excessively, this 'pre loading' would not be necessary, and the drinking might be conducted in the proper place, and in a (hopefully) controlled environment.

A common perception in the licensed trade is that supermarkets have killed the business by selling low cost alcohol, but the pubs themselves will set a mark-up of often some 300% or more for their products. No wonder the customer base has collapsed.

Unfortunately I do not see a reversal of this trend, because social habits have changed, and lots of pubs seem now to be trying to be restaurants which reluctantly sell beer, rather than functioning as social meeting places in the local community.

Rebranding Elland Brewery

By: David Litten

On my recently brew day visit to Elland Brewery I discovered the whys and wherefores about the recent rebranding of the fantastic range of beers. Despite retaining the distinctive shape of their pumpclips over the years there have been many varied and quirky designs. It has been noted that some were too individualistic and it was time to simplify the brand to uniformity. There was a need to make the clips less busy and communicate with the customer clearly to ensure easy and immediate identification by pub customers when reaching the bar to make a choice.

The shape has been retained but softened with rounded corners. Five key points are now quite evident across the range: the Brewery; the beer strength (ABV); the beer colour; the beer type (brief description); and the beer name. This uniformity should lead to the brand becoming far more recognizable and hopefully appealing to both traditional and new customers including the newer generation of cask ale drinkers.

And where did the launch of the rebranding take place? At the Junction in Castleford of course and all in the wood. Nine pumps were in action but not for long as six were soon drunk dry very rapidly.



Bank Holiday Fun at the Shakespeare Bridgnorth

By: Janet Sturt

On bank holiday Monday, the 4th May, I spent a lovely evening at The Shakespeare with my friend Helen. Her husband, Brian, was playing his first gig with his new band called 'Shady Past' and it was a great success!

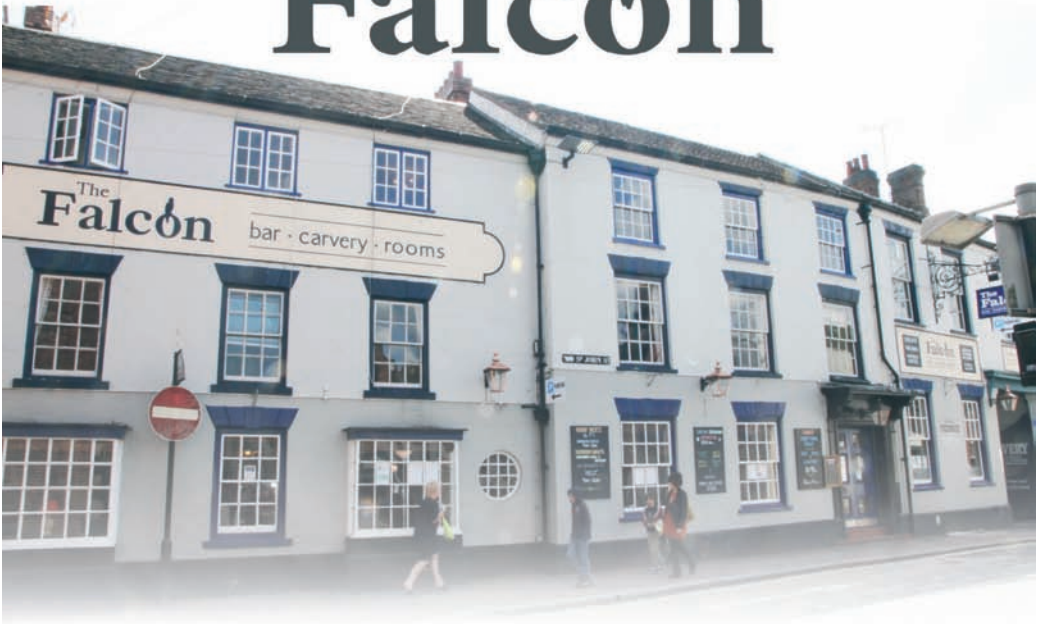
There had been fun and games at The Shakespeare all day, with Ade Fincher and his partner Julie having a charity day to raise funds for the Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes.

The biggest surprise was to come though, when Ade had his back waxed for the charity!! Well done Ade – I take my hat off to you and I think we all shared your pain! A grand total of £352.00 was raised for the Blood Bikes. Ade and Julie made us all welcome and the beer was good!



(Since this article was written we have been informed that The Shakespeare has undergone a change of landlord)

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MEET THE BREWER... *Bob Hayes*

How did Hop & Stagger Brewery get started in brewing cask ales?

My wife Sam and I have a pub in Bridgnorth called The White Lion. We have always championed cask ales and it was always our intention to have a micro brewery on site. In November 2011 we decided to take the plunge so bought a two and a half barrel which got us underway.



When did the business commence, and when did you become involved?

I have been involved right from the off. We started brewing in earnest in April 2012 after Pete (my brother and fellow brewer) went on a BrewLab course in Sunderland. We had done some test brews before that but the course gave us a push in the right direction.

What was the first brew marketed and is it still on sale?

Strangely enough it was called Brew No.1. It was definitely a case of blind faith and good luck but it wasn't too bad. It was only brewed the once so no, it's no longer around to inflict itself upon anyone.

How many barrels do you currently brew in total?

As we have just moved up to a 6 barrel plant, we can now brew 12 barrels per week.

When does a micro brewery cease to be micro and is there different divisions based on barrelage?

I think for me personally, when it takes more than 30 seconds to walk from one end of the brewery to the other, then perhaps it's not a micro anymore.

What is the development period to bring a new brew to the market?

I suppose it depends on the style of beer we are thinking of. When we brewed Simpson's it came together pretty quickly, the first brew was pretty close to what we wanted and then a couple of tweaks later and we were pretty much there. Other, more complex beers such as Eclipse, can take much longer to get right.

Where do you see Hop & Stagger in the next five years?

Blimey! I have just got my head around our recent move, but if I had to guess then maybe a sub brewery on a tropical island sounds ok to me.

What is your personal favourite cask ale not brewed by Hop & Stagger?

I like Wye Valley Butty Bach, Crouch Vale Brewers Gold and Thornbridge Jaipur but to be fair there are loads of great ales being brewed these days.

What tip would you give to the home brewer, other than buy Hop & Stagger Ales?

Don't be scared, get your hands on good ingredients and have fun.



*Bob Hayes - Micro Brewer
(Yes. He is tiny)*

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From Shropshire to Stourbridge

By: Niki Jones

On a sunny Saturday in April, local members of Bridgnorth, Market Drayton and Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA set off on a coach trip to Stourbridge. Some members of the group opted to disembark at the Plough for a pub crawl into town; the rest of us chose to be dropped off closer to the centre in order to visit the beer festival organised by Stourbridge and Halesowen branch.

The beer festival was a little tricky to find at first: unusually, Stourbridge Town Hall has been subsumed into a shopping centre. Once we found the place we were impressed: entry to the festival was free and despite our fears in visiting on the final day, there was still a good range of beers and ciders available. We did, however, miss out on some of the more exotic-sounding beers such as Hopcraft's 'Midnight in Antarctica' (described as a 'white porter' containing coconut!) and Hand Drawn Monkey's 'Cherry Bakewell Porter'. This being the Black Country, the festival had also run out of that perennial favourite, Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby. There was still plenty to choose from, enough to keep hop and malt fans alike happy.

Beers were available from 'the M4 corridor' between Berkshire to South Wales and Yorkshire, the Peak District, Lincolnshire, Devon and Cornwall. My first beer of the day was from Yorkshire's Half Moon brewery: Dark Masquerade a pleasantly smoky ruby ale, packed with a surprising amount of flavour considering its low strength (3.6% ABV). In the course of three to four hours at the festival, I also particularly enjoyed Gower's Black Diamond (a delicious porter, 4.2%); and two full-flavoured beers from Tiny Rebel in Monmouthshire (Dirty Stop Out, a 5% stout, and FUBAR, a 4.4%

bitter described as "something a bit different to wake up your taste buds"). I was tempted by 'A Good Rogering' (a cheeky name to go with a cheeky style, described by brewer Hopcraft as "black IPA"), but although it tasted good I wasn't brave enough to drink a 6.1% beer during such a long session!

It was now time to head for the Duke William for a swift half and to board the coach to the outskirts of Stourbridge to visit the Badelynge Bar: home of the Green Duck Brewery. Not so much a pub as a social area



- a bit like an indoor beer garden. Green Duck beers were available at £ 10.00 for four pints! The bar area was divided from the brewery with glass panels, so that activity in the brewery could be easily viewed. There wasn't much happening other than fermentation when we visited, but the owner did give us a short tour. It was now time to return, so we staggered back to the coach for the journey home to Shropshire. It had been a good, well organised day out

The Recipe Corner.

Broad Beans & Bacon

By Paula Griffiths

Ingredients

1 Onion

Vegetable Oil

8oz (225g) Broad Beans (fresh or frozen)

4 Rashers Bacon (smoked or unsmoked)

2oz Grated Cheese (optional)



Method

Chop the onion and fry in a small amount of the oil until transparent.

Boil the broad beans until cooked.

Grill the bacon and chop into small pieces.

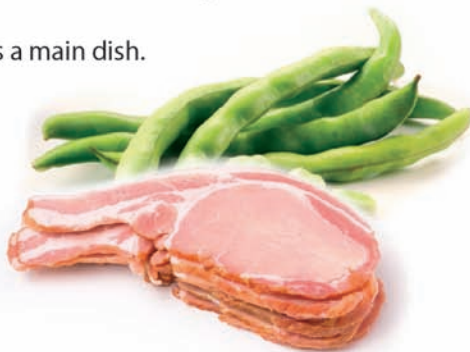
Combine the beans, bacon and onion together.

Put into an ovenproof dish.

Sprinkle the grated cheese over the beans mixture and grill until the cheese is golden brown.

This recipe could be used as a starter, main course or side dish, adjusting the quantities accordingly.

The quantities quoted are for two people as a main dish.





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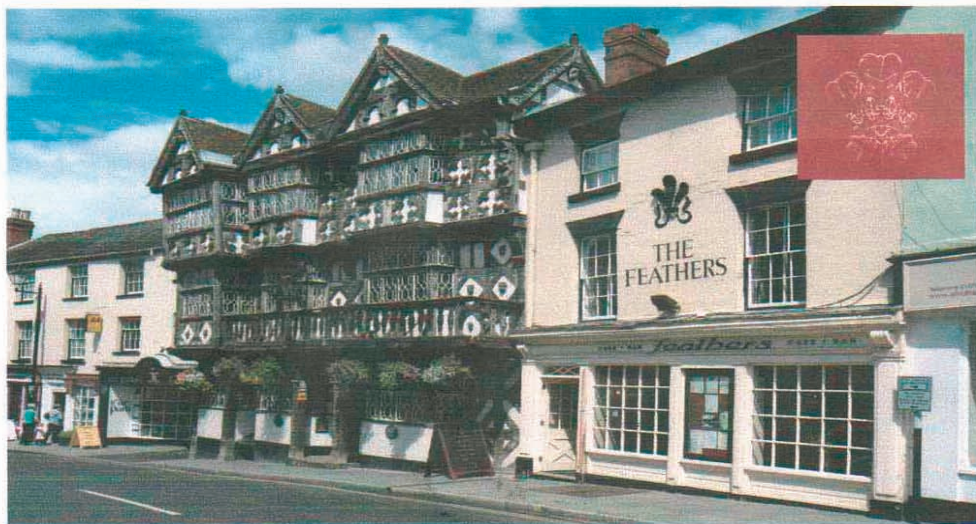
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Ale Tasters in Shropshire

From Robert Hodges

(3rd September 1884)

Old inhabitants of Albrighton still remember the 'Old Bush' inn, which had a yew tree growing in front. A *bough of holly* was nailed over the doorway, and was renewed once in every year. There were also 'bye brewers,' who took out a license for two days only, to sell ale at the yearly fairs in March and May. The constable went over night, and tasted their ale, and they hung a holly bough over the doorway of their houses as a sign that ale might be had within. Three fairs were held in the year. The March fair was the great one for fat cattle. At the May fair, the Mayor and Aldermen, with halberds, walked the fair, and the Mayor stood on the horseblocks at the doors of the Crown, and Harp, Inns, and cried the fair, proclaiming that it was to be held for two days, and that those who came were to pay toll. A man was placed at the entrance of the town, on each road, and took toll. The fair was held on a wide open space, called the Cross, where the cross roads are in the middle of the town. The Market Hall stood in the midst of the space, with the lock-up under it, and the stocks and pin-fold close by. These were afterwards removed further up the village. The Mayor and Corporation were done away with when the new police came in. Mr Bidwell was the last Mayor. No one seems to know what became of the mace.

(Notes: The Old Bush is still there, as The Harp. Bush attached. The Market Hall disappeared in the 1700s, but must have been similar to the one in Bridgnorth. 'The new police' came to Albrighton around 1840. The Mace was found and brought back at auction in 1948).



Cider Trail

July is Shropshire CAMRA's Cider & Perry Trail month. Pick up a Passport at participating Pubs and enjoy the Cider and Perry on offer. Contact John Lewis 01743 357017.

Ale on the Rails

Highley Recommended!

By: Paul Appleton

Set in a tranquil location on the bank of the River Severn, the Ship Inn at Highley is one of those places where you can spend a uniquely British summer's afternoon drinking in the surroundings, as well as the fine ales and wishing that everyday could be just like it.

It hasn't always been that way though. Like many settlements along the banks of the Severn, this area was once a hotbed of industry and the nearby township of Highley was very much a centre for the local mining industry. Highley and Alveley collieries were close by, one each side of the river, the coal taken away by train from the sidings alongside the Severn Valley Railway.

The pub itself is said to have been built to serve the bargemen who would have frequented these waters in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Now though, the dirty railway sidings have all gone, the sites of both collieries are no more. The one at Alveley is now a country park and barges can no longer navigate this far up the Severn.

The restored cottages of the riverside community have been supplemented by modern chalets, giving the area more of a feel of a holiday resort than a down at heel industrial leftover.



The Engine House - Highley

As with other pubs featured in this series, the Ship Inn is easy to reach by steam train along the Severn Valley from Bridgnorth and from Bewdley and Kidderminster at the other end of the line. There is a path from the platform down to the pub, but beware, there are some quite steep steps to negotiate. Wheelchair access and for those who prefer a more leisurely walk 'especially on the way back up' the lane down from Highley to the riverside is an easier option, around 500yds or so.

Also close by and well-worth a visit is the Severn Valley Railway's Visitor Centre, otherwise known as the Engine House. Here the railway's spare locomotives are kept, the ones that have previously been restored but are now awaiting major repairs. There are also interesting displays and artefacts to enjoy, along with a well-presented cafeteria that has an outdoor balcony overlooking the railway – great for train spotting!

For those who are prepared to hike up the hill into Highley itself there is a pub on the High Street, the 'Bache Arms' and a little further away on the road towards Chelmarsh and Bridgnorth is the Malt Shovel that serves real ale.



Old Fighting Cocks Oakengates, Telford

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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 **bsturt@alesabrina.co.uk**

Disclaimer

Ale Sabrina is published by
Bridgnorth Sub Branch of
The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.
(CAMRA)

The views or opinions expressed
are not necessarily those of
CAMRA
or the Editor.

BEER FACTS

BEER & MARIJUANA ARE COUSINS

*Beer hops are part of the same family
of flowering plants as marijuana.
This could explain why ale drinkers are quite
relaxed.*

Harbour Inn Arley

Opening hours from mid-day to midnight

Contact details :

01299 210729



Home cooked food lunchtimes and evenings,
including specials board.
Real ales from local brewery's.

STOP PRESS

I have just been informed that the Black Boy has also been awarded the Marches Area (Herefordshire and Shropshire branches) POTY too. Congratulations go to Steve and his team there in achieving this alongside our own accolade. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing them well in the next stage of the competition involving all POTY winners in the West Midlands Region.

Dave Tyler



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**Shrewsbury
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11am to 9pm Saturday

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80 Real Ales + Cider, Perry and Country Wines

More details:

Facebook: Shrewsbury CAMRA Beer Festival

Twitter: @shrewsalefest

www.ShrewsburyCAMRA.org.uk

THE QUIZ - All Over The World

- 1) In which American state is New Orleans located?
- 2) What is the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga?
- 3) What are the three colours on the flag of Norway?
- 4) Medellin and Cartagena are cities in which South American country?
- 5) In which country does the Zambezi meet the sea?
- 6) The Davis Strait separates Greenland from which Canadian island?
- 7) Which is the only one of Pakistan's major cities to lie on the coast of the Indian Ocean?
- 8) Eritrea has land borders with Sudan, Ethiopia and which other country?
- 9) Tokelau is an overseas territory of which Commonwealth country?
- 10) What was the former name of the Vietnamese city of Ho Chi Minh

1) Louisiana 2) Danube 3) Red, White and Blue 4) Colombia
5) Mozambique 6) Baffin Island 7) Karachi 8) Djibouti
9) New Zealand 10) Saigon

ANSWERS

Phrases and Sayings

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

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1, OTW | 6, IHGAC |
| 2, UABA | 7, IWSFY |
| 3, UASTCAN | 8, IABDFI |
| 4 AWPNB | 9, JOATMON |
| 5, WYSIWYG | 10, JFTB |

What are these everyday items?



Top - A Pomegranate
Bottom - A Prawn

1) On the Wagon 2) Up a Blind Alley
3) Using a Sledgehammer to Crack a Walnut
4) A Watched Pot Never Boils 5) What You See is What You Get
6) I haven't got a clue 7) I will swing for you
8) If it ain't broke don't fix it 9) Jack of all trades, master of none
10) Jobs for the boys

EVENTS TO COME

Bridgnorth Meetings

Tues 28 July – 8.00 pm

The Royal Fountain,
Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS

Tues 25 August – 8.00 pm

Down Inn, Chetton WV16 6UA

Tues 29 September – 8.00 pm

The Danery, Quatford WV15 6QJ

Bridgnorth Social Events

Fri 10 July – 7.30 pm

Social Evening – beer & chat
Old Castle, Bridgnorth WV16 4AB

Sun 30 August

The Sun, Leintwardine Beer Festival

Thu 3 – Sat 5 September

Bridgnorth Beer Festival
SVR Station, Bridgnorth WV16 5DT

Fri 11 September – 7.30 pm

Social Evening – beer & chat
Foster Arms, Bridgnorth WV15 5AG
For more information and to reserve places
please contact

Dave Haddon dhaddon@hotmail.com
07809 887159 01746 862884



Bridgnorth CAMRA

T.E.S. Meetings

19th Jul - (Sun) – 11am

Festival at the Edge
Much Wenlock

11th Aug – (Tue) – 8pm

The Crown, Oakengates

6th Sep – (Sun) – 11am

Severn Valley Beer Festival
Bridgnorth

TES Social Events

17th – 19th Jul - (Fri – Sun)

Festival at the Edge
Much Wenlock

15th Aug - (Sat)

Newport & District Pub Survey
Various coach pick-ups available

29th Aug - (Sat)

Bewdley Beer Festival
Various coach pick-ups available

12th Sept (Sat)

Ludlow Real Ale Trail
Ludlow Town
Various coach pick-ups available

26th Sept (Sat)

Shrewsbury CAMRA Beer Festival

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 Event

4th Jul - (Sat) – 12am

Summer Pub Survey
Mkt Drayton, King's Head

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*

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Chairman

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T.E.S.

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Beer Quality Scores

www.whatpub.com

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Should you wish to contribute to the next issue please contact Bill by email:
bsturt@alesabrina.co.uk

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Keep an eye on the bar as well as on the web to stay up to date with Joule's latest news and brews.

LATEST JOULE'S NEWS:

Red Lion Brewery Tap
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01630 654 400

Fox & Hounds
High Street
Cheswardine, TF9 2RS
01630 661 224

Sandbrook Vaults
4 Shropshire Street
Market Drayton, TF9 3BY
01630 478 405

The Castle
14 High Street
Wem, SY4 5AA
01939 236 088

Old Town Hall Vaults
St. Mary's Street
Whitchurch, SY13 8NL
01948 664 682

Bricklayers Arms
Copthorne Road
Shrewsbury, SY3 8NL
01743 366 032

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

White Lion
High Street
Wem, SY4 5AA
01939 236 088



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