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Editorial & Advertising Information

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Editor's Comments

Welcome to issue 16 of *Ale Sabrina*. We all would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and if you pick up this copy early enough a Merry Christmas.

It's been a hectic year for yours truly editing *Ale Sabrina*, co-organiser of RATS trips (Railwayman's Arms Touring Society) who's members are made up of CAMRA members, Railwayman's Arms regulars and SVR volunteers and my third hat as a SVR volunteer.

If you only make one new year's resolution, can I ask you to make it 'I must send some articles to *Ale Sabrina*' I am told by lots of people how much they enjoy reading the magazine and it's articles, but only a few send us articles, and without them we cannot fill our pages!

2018 promises to be an exciting year for Bridgnorth the Golden Lion 'Holden's' and Falcon 'free house' opened in late 2017 and last but not least the Shakespeare 'Joule's' is due to re-open soon after a refurbishment! And let's not forget all the other excellent pubs in our town!

As I am compiling these notes in Mid-November, we are not sure when the new toilet and refreshment building will be completed at the railway, but when it is the Railwayman's Arms will move into it on a temporary basis so that some minor improvements can be made to the pub, to make a bit more room for drinkers and behind the bar for staff!

So let's hope that all is finished in time for the Railwayman's to move back in and for the old, life expired, refreshment porta cabin to be removed in time for the 2018 Bridgnorth Beer Festival to take place on its site. As they say as you get older time seems to fly by, but it does not seem possible that the last Beer Festival was in 2015, so I close with all the best for 2018!

And remember use it or lose it!



Bill Sturt
Editor Of Ale Sabrina

The Old Castle

10/11 West Castle Street Bridgnorth
Tel: 01746 711420



Real Ales

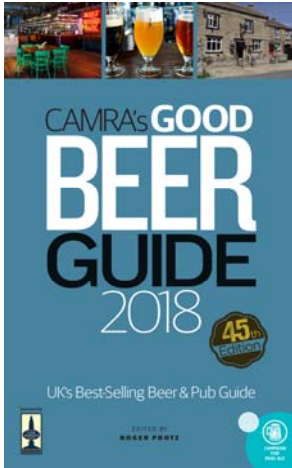


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The Cape Of Good Hope

The Cape of Good Hope was situated at 5 Bridge Street next door to The Black Horse, in fact it appears to have had the same number as the Black Horse. The signboard is of National Interest and was probably only a name board. It commemorates when the colony of the Cape of Good Hope was taken over by the British from the Dutch in 1806 during the Napoleonic wars. Its full title is 'The Colony of The Cape of Good Hope' and tries to imply that inside the establishment it is friendly and comfortable. There is still a Cape of Good Hope at Billingsley not far from Bridgnorth. In 1941 it was a shop with Fred Ball as the proprietor. On 20th March 1949

there was a sale of furniture here the property of Edmund Bailey. The building over the years has also been a shop and more recently in 2017 has been knocked through into the black horse hotel.

The Carpenters Arms

The Carpenters Arms was situated at 53 Whitburn Street. The signboard is a trade one and the original landlord may have been a carpenter himself and wish to attract fellow carpenters. The latter seems to be true as a sawpit could be seen at the rear but is now filled in with rubble. A carpenter in bygone days did the main timberwork in the



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building of a house and the joiner did the lighter internal painting. It appears that the Carpenters Arms was originally a private house and granted its first license in about 1840 and it was classed as a Tavern in 1888. In 1851 it was not listed as a tavern. In 1892 B. Price was advertising for a brewer and ostler to live in. In 1895 a Mr J. Guest worked in the Carpenters Arms Yard at the rear of this establishment. It was regularly used on market days after the Smithfield Market opened in 1906. It is one of the listed buildings of the town and one of the main pubs for the Auction Yard before it moved. In 1901 W. H. Porter owned it and the manager was Mary Price. It had 4 rooms upstairs and 5 rooms downstairs with stabling for 9 horses. The Carpenters arms built a single storey extension that commenced on 20/1/2007. The building retains only part of it's framing visible like many local buildings in the town it has been partly rebuilt in brick.

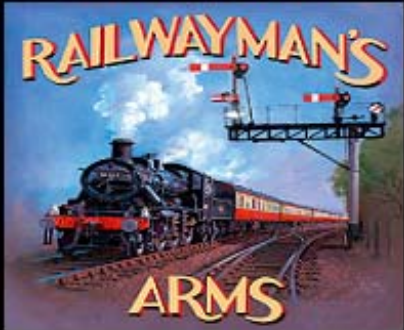
In October 2013 an archaeological dig uncovered fragments of a 12th century cooking pot. The pub closed in 2013 and has been sold and converted to two dwellings. Further dwellings have been built on its car park at the side and the rear.

Landlords include: Mary Price (1895) Benjamin Price (1888) B. Price (1892) Mary Price (1901) Mrs Cooper (1916) William Joseph Miles (1941) Other more recent include Bill Wall and family, Chris Moss, David Ritchie and Marjorie Smallman.

The Castle Vaults

These Vaults were situated at 39 High Street and were the remains of The Pig and Castle

after it closed down. The majority of the building became a wine and spirit merchant business and the small portion to the south became the Castle Vaults and continued selling retail. It is described on a licensing list as first being licensed in 1646 but there is doubt whether this is correct. In 1901 W. H. Foster was the owner and Thomas Whitefoot was the manager. It had 4 rooms on the ground floor and the remainder of the property remained private. It had a 6-day license.



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Cracking Good Beer In Krakow

By Steve James

Poland has long been known for its beer and as in many European countries, has experienced a virtual explosion in smaller craft and micro-breweries. With the advent of cheap flights from Birmingham and elsewhere, it is now readily accessible and deserves a few days of your time, since there is a wide range of light and dark beers available in most of the towns and cities.

We decided to check what was on offer on a recent trip to Krakow. This is Poland's second largest city and has long been the centre of Polish culture, with its Old Town being recognised as a World Heritage Site. It has one of the largest medieval market squares in Europe, close to the historic Wawel castle and River Vistula. But now you can add micro-breweries, craft beer and beer cafés to the list.

We started our exploration at the **T.E.A. Time** brewpub ('Traditional English Ales'), in ul Dietla, close to the river and a short walk from the Wawel castle. This English-owned pub is Poland's first real ale brew-pub, with traditional English real ales, based on old recipes from John Eastwood of Huddersfield, served from handpumps at room temperature. We sampled their eight beers, including England's Glory bitter, Phoenix Pale Ale, Smooth Hoperator, Sunshine Drop pale ale, Black Prince Porter, Platinum Blonde Ale, Misty Mountain Hop IPA and Nettlethrasher ESB. We then took the tram into the Old Town to visit the **C K Browar** brew-pub in Podwale for a sample tray of their Austro-Hungarian-style Jasne and Miodowe light



lagers, Ingwer and Dunkel dark lagers, and Marcowe Marzen, with classic Viennese and Polish cuisine.

Later that day, we walked to the **Multi Qlti Tap Bar** upstairs in Szewska, with its 20 draught beers and literally hundreds of bottled beers to choose from. We sampled a wide range of Polish beers, including Holba Serak, Prerov Ciemay lager, Kancut witbier, Litovel weizen, Brokreecta Farmers Wheat Ale, Sosnowy Summer Ale, Setka Redneck Pils, Alebrowar Rowing Jack IPA, Piekarma Coffee APA, Tattooed Naughty Nun IPA and Podgorz Stout. We finished our beer-hunting at the Tap House **Pracownia Piwa** in Swietego Jana, with its 18 taps, where we sampled 100! Imperial Double Black IPA, Dwasmoki White IPA, Czemu lager and 400! IPA.





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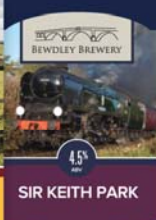
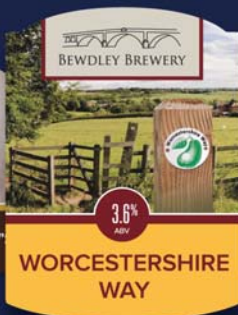
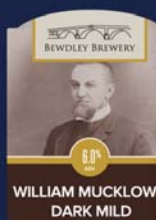
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Next day, we resumed our beer-hunting at the new **Browar Lubicz** brewpub restaurant situated in a new complex of apartments, offices and contemporary stores in Lubicz. This old brewery brews its own beers, including Pszeniczne Hefeweizen, Lezack pale lager and American Pale Ale, and serves some fine Polish cuisine. We then walked to **Viva la Pinta**, a friendly courtyard bar just off Florianska. One of our favourite bars, brewing a wide range of beers, including Pinta Farmhouse Ale, Hoplaaga Indian Pale Lager, Modern Drinking IPA, Atak Chmielu AIPA and American Black Stout, Pierwska Pomoc pils and Angielske Sniadawle ESB. Next up was the **House of Beer** in Swietego Tomasza. A cosy, brick-floored bar with another good range of beers, including Hopium Lane, Browar Podgorz Lane, Inny PL Craft and Suma PTA.



After a journey around Krakow in a historic tram, we ended up near the tram depot in the old Jewish quarter of the town. In fact, the old tram depot is now a micro-brewery operated by **Stara Zajezdnia** Krakow by DeSilva, in Swietego Wawrzynca. Here we sampled their Jasne pilsner, American IPA

and Ciemne na Miodzie dark lager, some of which have a taste of honey or apple. Then along the road to the newly-opened **Craftownia** bar, with its range of 18 craft beers. We sampled AleSmith Speedway Imperial Coffee Stout, Piwo Warownia Kawko I Mielkosz Coffee Milk Stout, Tattooed Beer Fallen Angel IPA, Nepomucen Solid Porter and Profesja Mysliwy Porter. Then we walked along the streets to the **Omerta** bar in ul Kupa, offering a range of Polish craft and Belgian beers, including Browar Zakladowy Pale Ale and Salamander Black IPA. Time for food, so we went around the corner to **Plac Nowy 1**, a complex of bars, clubs and restaurants serving beers from 3 micro-breweries, with a good selection of meals, including pizzas, burgers and curries. We sampled Browar Reden Milkolak milk stout, Recraft Pils and Recraft Honey, along with Browar Zarmkowy Brackie light beer and Browar Watra wheat beer. Finally, we walked around the corner to the **Strefa Piwa** pub in Jozela, with its extensive range of craft beers, where we sampled Tatra lager, Cieszynski lager, Porter and West Coast IPA.

So, Krakow is well worth a long weekend of beer hunting. Go soon!

Piwa i wiwaty – Na zdrowie! (Beers and cheers)

Ticket to Ryde – Beer and buses on the Isle of Wight

By Steve James

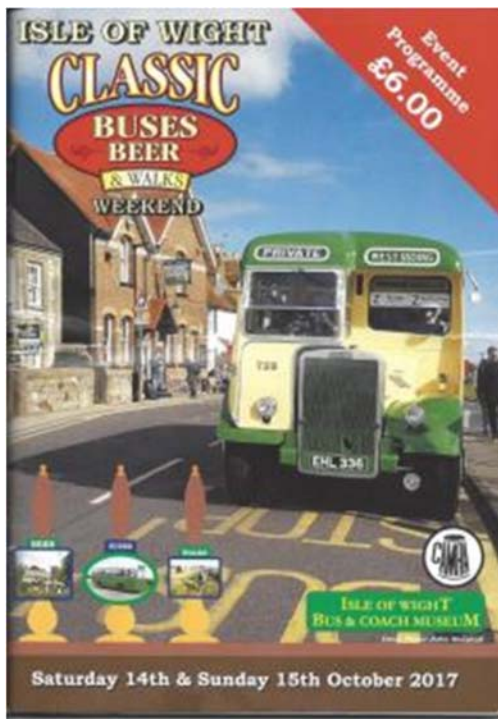
Imagine an attractive island, with over 80 pubs offering a wide range of island-brewed and other beers (some having their own beer festivals), linked by a network of 14 bus routes using over 70 heritage buses. Well, imagine no more, because this happens every October on the Isle of Wight during the Classic Buses & Beer weekend, organised jointly by the local bus museum and hundreds of local CAMRA members.

We started our trip at Poole, visiting the **Brewhouse & Kitchen** (with South African-born Belinda as the brewer of five regular beers, along with a seasonal Oktoberfest and Wheat beer), the **Brewhouse** (outlet for the Frome-based Milk Street micro-brewery) and the **Drift** micro-pub (focusing on craft beers)

down on the quayside. After a brief visit to the Swanage steam railway, visiting a couple of good pubs at Corfe Castle, we crossed The Solent by ferry from Lymington to Yarmouth. Here, we started our tour proper on the Isle of Wight, visiting the **Kings Head** and **Bugle Coaching Inn**, both giving us discounts on their locally-brewed Yates and Goddards beers.

We then joined the heritage bus on Route C to the south-western coast at Hulverstone. Here we visited the 600-year old thatched and stone built **Sun Inn**, with beautiful countryside and sea views (and 50p off the Goddards Wight Squirrel). Re-joining the heritage bus on Route C, we continued to Newport, changing buses to Route X as far as Wootton. Here we took a ride on the Isle of Wight steam railway as far as **Havenstreet**, where a small 10-barrel tented beer festival was in full swing. 45 minutes later we were back on the train, returning to Wootton and rejoining the heritage bus on Route X to Ryde. Here we visited the Isle of Wight bus museum and walked around the corner to the **Railway Inn**, where another excellent 30-barrel beer festival was being held. A quick visit to **S Fowler & Co** to check out the beers available at Wetherspoon's beer festival, before taking the heritage bus back to Newport, our overnight base.

That evening, the highlight in Newport had to be the **Newport Ale House**, which quite surprisingly was offering Fixed Wheel (Blackheath) Devil Takes the Hindmost from the cask; never has a beer travelled so far



and tasted so good! Later, we called into the **Man in the Moon** to check out the Wetherspoon's festival beers, before visiting the **Wrens Nest** and finishing at the **Castle Inn**. An excellent day's beer and bus hunting!

Next day, we walked down to Newport quayside to join the heritage bus on Route J to Niton, to visit another idyllic stone-built pub in the countryside, the **Buddle Inn**, formerly used by smugglers (another 50p off a pint!). Rejoining the heritage bus on Route J, we continued to Ventnor, to visit the **Winter Gardens** (missing their Oktoberfest by a day) and on to the nostalgic former shop, now a small bar '**Perks & Co**'. Switching to Route X, we continued to Shanklin Old Village to visit the **Chine Inn**, another historic stone-built pub on the cliffs overlooking the bay (another 50p off a pint).

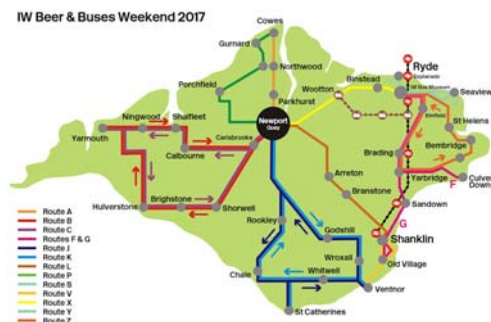
We then embarked on a bit of bus-hopping, taking Route G to Brading to call in at the **Kynges Well** (with another mini-beer festival) and then on Route F to Culver Down. Buses do not usually serve this remote headland with its superb views across Sandown Bay and Bembridge. Here we found the **Culver Haven Inn**, with a two-piece group playing 'Hotel California'! Rejoining the heritage bus, we continued to Ryde, to visit the **Marine Bar**, **King Lud** and **Harry's Bar** on the Esplanade, before returning to Newport to visit the **Bargeman's Rest**, **Wheatsheaf** and a second call to the **Newport Ale House**. Next day, we returned

to the 'North Island' by ferry to Portsmouth and home.

During the weekend, we must have sampled over 50 different beers in more than 20 pubs, travelling between them on a dozen or so different heritage buses, ranging from the 1930's to the 1990's. To list all the beers would take another article, but amongst those specially brewed for the festival included Island Brewery's *On the Buses*, *Busman's Holiday* and *Hop Aboard*, Yates' *On the Buses "I Hate You Butler"* and Ringwood *Double Decker*. Overall, an excellent weekend, well worth joining next year.

Apart from a £6 programme giving discounts off drinks, travelling on the buses is free of charge and, although slow, they rarely break down.

Beers and cheers, and see you next year!





Raising A Glass In Stourbridge

By Steve James

Stourbridge is a large town on the south-western fringe of the 'Black Country' in the West Midlands. The town gives its name to local glass production, which originated with the immigration of Huguenot miners in the 1600's. Stourbridge glass was recognised as being amongst the finest in the world, but sadly, most of the large glassmakers have closed or moved elsewhere. However, glasses and beer go together, so we decided to pay a visit to this historic town to see what it could offer.

Arriving by train at Stourbridge Junction railway station, we took the unique Parry People-Mover flywheel-powered lightweight railcar down the shortest branch line in Europe to Stourbridge Town. Passing through the modern bus station into a subway, we emerged into Foster Street for our first port of call at the **Red House Boutique**. Formerly a sports-bar, it now offers a great range of cask and craft beers from local breweries and further afield. We sampled Salopian's Shropshire Gold and Triumph's Pictish Ale.

Turning left along the High Street, a quick visit to **The Chequers Inn** revealed an excellent Wetherspoons pub with a good range of real ales. Walking along the High Street in the opposite direction, we found Victoria Passage where, at the end, we found the **Barbridge**, a tiny micro-pub on the corner of Talbot Street. Here, welcoming staff serve a good range of cask and craft beer and we sampled Kelham Island's Full Nutty Jacket and Burning Soul Simcoe Pale Ale.



Returning to the High Street, and turning left, we spied **The Old Bank**, on the corner of Coventry Street. As the name suggests, this is a recently refurbished former bank and offers a good range of real ales, including Pardoes Bumblehole. Turning right along Coventry Street, on the corner with Duke Street, we found the **Duke William**, one of two outlets for Craddocks Brewery. The beer was originally brewed behind the pub, (but is now mostly brewed behind the Kings Head in Bridgnorth). Famous for its beer and pies, we sampled Saxon Gold and Honey Ewe.



Now for a longer stroll, through the Crown Shopping Centre, across the ring road (Bath Road) on to Enville Street. Two pubs to visit here; firstly, the **Queens Head**, a recently reopened and refurbished pub taken over by Black Country Ales, where we sampled their own beers, BFG, Fireside and Pig on the Wall. Returning along Enville Street, we couldn't miss the **Royal Exchange**, a long-standing pub serving the local beer from Bathams, not far away in Brierley Hill.

Returning to Stourbridge town centre for a longer walk along Bath Road, we turned right along Worcester Street towards Mary Stevens Park. On the corner of Chapel Street, we found the **Waggon & Horses**, recently taken over by Enville Ales, where we were able to sample Enville Ginger, and American Pale Ale from the associated Stourton Brewery. Further along Worcester Street, we reached the historic **Plough & Harrow**, now operated by Craddocks Brewery. A cosy and friendly pub, full of interesting locals, where we sampled Goat Herder Stout and Crazy Sheep.

Then back to Stourbridge Town, by railcar to Stourbridge Junction for our final three bars. Walking through the car park, we soon reached Rufford Road and continued to the **Green Duck Brewery**, a simple brewery tap (Badelynge Bar) with a friendly family atmosphere. Here, most of their current range of beers can be sampled (at £10 for 4 pints), including Duck & Dive, Duck Under and seasonal brews, along with some guest beers (only open Friday and Saturday afternoons).



Continuing along Rufford Road and Hungary Hill, we caught the No.9 bus along the Stourbridge Road to Lye. Here, at the cross-roads with Pedmore Road, our first port of call was the **Windsor Castle**, the original tap house for Sadlers brewery, where we sampled some excellent Worcester Sorceror and Boris Citrov. Walking north along the Dudley Road, we turned right into the station car park to find our final brewery tap, the new **Sadlers Brewery** (opens Wednesday-Saturday). A modern building with the bar on the first floor, with a viewing gallery to see the new brewery below. We had an excellent meal, washed down with the inevitable glass of Mud City Stout and Peaky Blinder.

Stourbridge is certainly to be recommended for a good variety of cask and craft beers within a short distance, and we rejoined our train at Lye station for our return journey home.





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➡ The Great Mogul

By Anna Rak

No, this is not about the notorious Hollywood Mogul Harvey Weinstein, but a railway pub with a connection to the Severn Valley Railway. On Station Road Maghull in Sefton Merseyside is the *Great Mogul* public house.



Railway enthusiasts will know ‘mogul’ refers to the 2-6-0-wheel arrangement. The sign on the wall of the pub shows an American railroad loco, which in 1860 used this arrangement. The SVR at Bridgnorth Loco Works is overhauling a *LMS Stanier Mogul* 42968, which was built at Crewe in 1933.

The pub itself does advertise cask ales, but is really food orientated. In earlier times, it served *Blezards Ales* once brewed in Liverpool. The advantage for travellers today that the pub is next to the Maghull *Merseyrail* station. In steam days, the line was owned by the *Liverpool, Ormskirk and Preston railway*.

Station Road has another claim to fame. A house called *The Hollies* was the first building outside of London to have a Blue Plaque installed. It was the home of Frank Hornby who lived from 1863 – 1936. He was responsible for the invention and production of three of the most popular toys of the 20th century – *Meccano*, *Hornby Model Railways* and *Dinky Toys*. There is now a *Wetherspoon's* establishment in Maghull named the *Frank Hornby*, which is listed in the Good Beer Guide and has won a CAMRA Excellence Award. It is decorated inside with examples of Frank Hornby's work.

(This is the 1st in a series about pubs with a railway connection.)



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A Visit to the 2017 Clun Valley Beer Festival

By Alan Thwaites

Every year in early October the pubs in the Clun Valley join together to host the annual Clun Valley Beer Festival. Hence 13 members of RATS (the Railwayman's Arms Touring Society) hired a mini bus on Saturday 7th October and ventured west, deep into Marcher Country. We started at the Anchor right at the top of the valley, only a stone's throw from the Welsh border. With the demise of the Kremlin on Clee Hill, this is now the highest pub in Shropshire, being approximately 1250 ft. above sea level. The pub normally does not open until the evening, but the landlord will open earlier for groups if asked. Although not part of the 2017 festival, it was well worth visiting this time-warp pub where it seems nothing has changed since the 1970s. Beers on offer on our visit included Clun Pale, Six Bells Big Nev and Hobson's Bitter. Weston's Family Reserve Cider was also available on a hand-pull.



We then ventured back down the Valley to Newcastle to the Crown. Here they were offering Priory Pale from Gloucester Brewery, Wobbly Wabbit from the Wobbly Brewery, Ludlow Gold & Black Knight, and Hobson's Bitter & Old Prickley. Adjacent to

the pub is a bus depot which was operating an hourly service from early afternoon to late in the evening, calling at all pubs right to the other end of the valley.

Moving on to the metropolis of Clun itself, we called first at the Sun. This was once a Banks's pub but is now owned by Three Tuns of Bishop's Castle. Here, in addition to the range of Three Tuns ales we found Bluestone Rockhopper, Spinning Dog Ale and Dark Side of the Moose from Purple Moose. The other pub in the town is the White Horse, home of the Clun Brewery. The beer list here was impressive, although not all beers were available at the same time: the eight hand pumps were changed as beers ran out. At the time of our visit, we found Mandarin Bavaria from North Riding Brewery, Butty Bach from Wye Valley, Salopian Polygraph and Tiny Rebel Stay Puft (pronounce as a Welshman to appreciate the pun) as well as the regular Clun beers. As we left, Wylam Galatia was being drawn through a vacant pump.



Next up (or should I say down) is the Crown at Clunton. This pub has had a chequered history recently but is now owned by Six

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A Visit to the 2017 Clun Valley Beer Festival continued

By Alan Thwaites

Bells, also of Bishop's Castle. Being dispensed here was a range of beers from Six Bells brewery, including a number of beers brewed especially for the festival.

The Hundred House Inn at Purslow was offering Swan Amber from Leominster, Kittiwake from Orkney and Stonehouse Station Bitter as well as their regular beers from Ludlow and Greene King.



We reached the end of the trail at the Kangaroo in Aston on Clun. Here we found Black Sheep Best Bitter, Hop & Stagger (Bridgnorth) Shropshire Pale, Hook Norton Copper Ale, Bridge to Nowhere from Belhaven, Bonkers Conkers from Greene King, Green Swan from the Swan Brewery, Cambrian Gold from Stonehouse, Ludlow Gold & Stairway, and Weetwood Maori Sidestep Black Bitter.

Finally to provide a comfort stop on the return, we made a detour to the Tally Ho at Bouldon. This remote pub in the middle of Corvedale is well worth the journey. With a pleasant beer garden it is the perfect location to sample the beers from Wye Valley, Ludlow and Hobsons. Remarkably this

pub keeps Hobson's Mild as a regular beer: increasingly rare for a rural pub.



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Surveyor _____

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

Pub _____

Location _____

GBG County Area _____ Score 0 - 5 _____

Beer _____ (Optional)

0. No cask ale available.

1. Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2. Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3. Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4. Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5. Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.



RATS On Tour

By Bill Sturt

Our 2017 RATS Trips (Railwayman's Arms Touring Society) is made up of CAMRA members, pub regulars and SVR volunteers. Our year started on the 4th March, with a visit to five Batham's pubs which included a visit to The Bull and Bladder, a must for all our members! Next on the 8th April, it was our annual visit to north Wales for a visit to The Giler Arms Rhydlydan, an ex Batham's pub now free of tie. After a few pints of Purple Moose, sitting outside in the sunshine, it was off on the Mini Bus to The Crown Inn Llanfihangle Glyn Myfyr, a pub in the middle of nowhere, but if you are in the area it is well worth a visit! Again after a couple of pints it was back on the bus and on to the Grouse at Carrog overlooking the river and Llangollen Railway. Another couple of pints and it was time to return to Bridgnorth, with a stop in Oswestry for a quick pint. On the 6th May it was off to Stafford and a visit to some interesting hostelries! 8th July found us in Bishops Castle for the Beer Festival, no need to explain this one if you have been, if not you need to go to enjoy it. 5th August was a visit to Knighton, again visiting five pubs including the Red Lion run by the SVR Bridgnorth loco works manager Neil Taylor!

On 9th September we were off to Statfold Barns Narrow Gauge Railway, again a must see if you are into railways! And the last of our mini bus trips was to the Clun Valley Beer Festival on 7th October. See Alan Thwaites article for details.

On Saturday 4th November it was our annual trip to Liverpool by coach a bit more comfortable than a mini bus! We departed the SVR at 9.30am and this year our journey took us over the new Runcorn road bridge

(toll payable). It is an impressive sight! After a two and half hour trip we arrived at Kings Dock where the coach parked. Then a short walk to the Baltic Fleet where we meet Mike and Terry our guides for the day.



Here my choice was Swampy a very flavoursome pint. Only a few of us decided to do the pub tour, some going sightseeing, shopping or crossing the Mersey. After a couple of pints we left the Baltic with Mike and Terry for our tour. The next port of call was the new Head of Steam (formally the Abbey), very nice but pricey. Here I had a pint of Leeds Bitter kept in very good condition!



From here it was on to Wetherspoons (the Lime Kiln) where food was taken along with a pint of Adnam's broadside at £1.35 a pint with CAMRA voucher, excellent value!



After being fed and watered it was on to the Newington Temple. Here I had a very nice pint of Purity. Good service, nice décor, but spoiled by the terrible music. After leaving the Newington we set off for the Sanctuary. Yet another fine pub that had Adnam's Ghostship on offer and a good pint it was too. Then it was off to Doctor Duncan's for a nice pint of Marston's Pedigree. As time was getting on our trip had to miss our last pub. So it was back to the Baltic Fleet to meet up with the others and for me to have a quick pint of Swampy before we went back to the coach for our return trip to Bridgnorth! A good day was had by all and I think by what was said we will be going again next November!



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Benjamin Franklin

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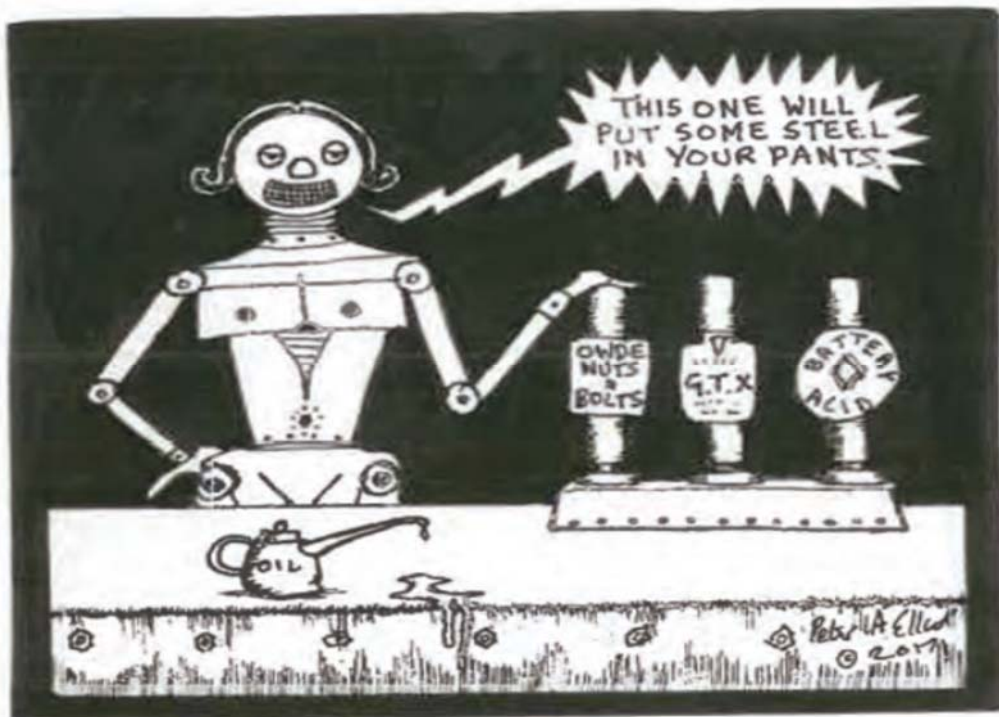
Robots Behind The Bar

By Steve James (With thanks to DT)

Everyone seems to be talking about robotics and how they will affect our lives and our jobs. But have you thought of what robotics could mean to the pub trade. OK, well some might think that there are a few robots employed as bar staff already, some with batteries in a rather run-down state (no disrespect, please!). But robots have already arrived in many workplaces, displacing human beings, since they are more efficient and cost-effective. Perhaps the only way to hang on to your job is to undercut the robot manufacturers (many of whom are robots themselves), but we can't work for peanuts simply to undercut the robots.

What about the possibility of robots in the pub trade? Well, some of these machines

might resemble humans, but then no-one would want to buy a pint from a flabby 16-stone robot with multiple chins and a beer belly decorated with weird tattoos! Imagine an evening out at your local, where you approach the bar with your credit card at the ready (no cash in the future), eager to get a round in before happy hour finishes. And there she is, awaiting your pleasure, the robotic barmaid, in gleaming stainless steel! After reciting all the government health warnings about alcohol, she will be able to pour a perfectly measured pint every time, converse in a variety of languages at the customer's own intellectual level (although in some establishments, the dial may be set permanently low!) She will always charge





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Robots Behind The Bar continued

By Steve James (With thanks to DT)

the correct price, with an automatic CAMRA discount, and always know who is next without asking. And when you take back a pint of sludge which smells like vinegar, she will inevitably sneeringly say “Well no-one else has complained”. She will be able to recite every beer style and the complete Good Beer Guide. And she will never have to leave her position for the regular ‘fag break’ and will always wear a fake smile.

At the end of the evening, you will travel home in your driver-less car (no problem with drink driving), where the seats will face each other so that you can have a game of cards and a nightcap with your friends around a table – giving the expression “one for the road” a whole new meaning. The trouble is, would these super-efficient, super-intelligent robots want mere humans cluttering up their perfect world? To say nothing of their stainless steel, chrome,

plastic and glass pubs. However, the day of the robot may be closer than you think. Already beer is being served to each table with an individual tap recording the amount consumed and paid for automatically. And there are beer dispensing machines in pubs with slots for credit cards. And, finally, don’t think that you can take over by switching off all the lights – these robots can see in the dark! Even in the brewery, robots and computers are taking over, brewing a specific beer with a recipe card at the touch of a few buttons. I remember years ago visiting a large brewery in the West Midlands, where the current advertising slogan was “hand brewed by humans”, and all I saw was one gentleman in a white coat. Where were the humans? So support your local pub and your traditional brewery before they go....



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Beer Destinations - *Craft beer and trains in Colorado Part 1*

By Steve James

Colorado lies in the mid-west of the USA, covering most of the southern Rocky Mountains and the western edge of the Great Plains. The Rocky Mountains provide the most spectacular scenery, but with more than 140 micro-breweries and many more craft beer bars, it is also close to 'beer heaven'. We recently undertook a 19-day tour, taking in micro-breweries and heritage/tourist railways in Denver and around the Rockies. Part 1 of this article covers the capital city, Denver, with Part 2 covering other towns in the Rockies.

We arrived at Denver after a 9½ hour flight from Heathrow. Even with a tinge of jet-lag, we were keen to visit local breweries/bars.



First off was the **Wynkoop Brewery**, close to Union Station. This is a long-established 30-year old brewery/restaurant, offering a range of over 20 innovative beers, including a couple of cask ales served from handpulls. We sampled Rail Yard Amber Ale, Rocky Mountain Oyster Stout and a lovely Cascadian Dark IPA. Just around the corner, we found **Falling Rock**, a busy taphouse offering a wide variety of local craft beers, including Dry Dock Double IPA, Boulder Shake Chocolate Porter and Prost Dunkel.

Refreshed after a night's sleep, we bought a day transport pass covering the light rail network and local buses. After visiting the Denver Transportation Museum (to see a Big-Boy steam locomotive), we found our first brew-pub of the day at the **Great Divide**. Growing rapidly since 1994, it brews exciting beer styles, including Yeti Velvet Stout, along with a tasty Denver Pale Ale and Claymore Scotch Ale. A short walk away is the **Jagged Mountain** craft brewery, where we sampled Belay the Inevitable and Rocky Mountain Chowda IPAs, along with Grizzly Peak Porter and Walk Off Witbeir. In Denver's chic River North suburb, we found the **10 Barrel Brewery**; with over 20 beers on tap, we were spoilt for choice, but sampled Secret Sauce IPA and American Lager. Just across the road is the recently opened **14er** micro-brewery, named after the 59 Colorado mountains above 14,000ft. Their beers have an outdoor/ mountain theme, with plenty of flavour, including an Hibiscus Tropical Ale, Double IPA and Sunshine Peak Coffee IPA. Another walk led us to **Our Mutual Friend**

Malt & Brew, who try to source all their ingredients from Colorado. In their small, cosy taproom, we enjoyed Dad's Brown Ale, Novo Coffee Stout and Zero Sum IPA. We finished the evening with a visit to the **Hogshead Brewery**, with its emphasis on English and German-style beers. We were certainly not disappointed with their Oatmeal Stout and Chinwag ESB.

You can't appreciate good beer without reminding yourself of blander mass-produced beers, so we visited the massive **Coors Brewery** at Boulder, the largest single-site brewery in the world. We couldn't wait to return to Denver, to firstly visit the **Spangalang Brewery** in the Five Points district, named after a famous jazz symbol rhythm, with friendly folks, including the author of a book on Italian craft beer and the owner of a craft-beer bar in Rome. We

sampled their Sir Hops-a-Lot Farmhouse Ale and Barrel-aged Nightwalker Stout; in fact, barrel-aged beer seems to be the new fad in the USA. A long walk took us to **Ratio Beerworks**, where the street was closed off for a display of old American 'bangers' and hot-rod cars, including one with an aircraft engine under the hood. Here we enjoyed their Antidote IPA, Repeater Pale Ale and Hold Steady Coffee Scotch Ale. Back in River North, we visited the **Epic Brewery**, with its 25 taps of ever changing beers; we sampled their Hopulent IPA and Imperial Pumpkin Porter. Next off was **Beryl's Beer Company**, with its surprising range of flavoursome beers, including OG Dunkel, Rutledge Stout and Elsie Mae sherry-cask Farmhouse Ale. Finally, to the **Black Shirt Brewery**, with its emphasis on red ales, but we also enjoyed their Merlin Milk Stout and Baritone Black IPA.



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We also visited several other brewpubs and craft-beer bars in Denver, including the typically English **Pints Pub**, with its recreations of English-style beers, complete with red telephone box and a Triumph motorbike; the 1864 **Tivoli Brewery**, now transformed into a modern micro-brewery focusing on students, with over 50 taps; the modern **Rock Bottom Brewery**, close to the main baseball grounds; and **Alpine Dog** and **Deep Draft** micro-breweries. Other memorable breweries included the **Vine Street Pub & Brewery**, the **Factotum Brewhouse** (where the local community help to brew the beers), **Freshcraft** taphouse and the family-owned **Diebolt**

Brewery. There are even two brewpubs/craft beer bars at Denver airport (**Denver Chop House & Brewery** and **Mesa Verde** bar).

Beer Heaven, indeed!

Anyone interested in visiting Colorado for beer would find this guide very useful: "Beer, Wine & Spirit Drinker's Guide to Colorado" (www.DrinkingColorado.com)

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Early Days Imbibing on the Railways

It is hard to imagine such practice these days, but when railways first became fashionable and people started to use them over longer distances as the network developed, such a thing as on-board catering was non-existent.

Instead, trains used to stop regularly for refreshment and comfort stops. At the time - in the early to mid-1800s - this would have seemed quite normal, as prior to the arrival of the trains the fastest form of transport available was the stage coach, and this led to the development of staging inns.

As well as allowing passengers to stretch their legs, obtain some refreshments and use the loo, it also gave the drivers an opportunity to refresh the horses – either changing them for a fresh set of legs, or feeding and watering the same ones before embarking on the next leg of the journey.

So, the concept of stopping trains and the passengers getting off for ten or fifteen minutes would have seemed perfectly normal, albeit the demands of a train load of passengers was quite different to those of a dozen or so on a stage coach.

At first, waiting rooms doubled up as inns and visa-versa, so the idea of having a pint while waiting for the train isn't a new one by any means. The Liverpool & Manchester Railway's first booking office was where passengers boarded coaches to transfer them to the railhead. This was the Royal

Hotel in the centre of Manchester, passengers effectively starting out on the journey from a city-centre hotel, rather than the terminus station. In some cases, staging inns along the route became ticket agents for the new railways.

On even longer journeys, perhaps to the West Country as an example, passengers would break their trip at Bristol, not just to take refreshments, but for an overnight stop, including dinner, a relaxing evening in the hotel lounge and a full night's sleep – perhaps even a hot bath! All over the country – Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds and Peterborough – the same thing was happening and a thriving railway hotel business developed.

As a result, railway hotels started to appear at major termini and intermediate cities and large towns. In some of the biggest places there would be more than one such hotel, as rival railway companies offered their passengers the best in comfort and hospitality.

The railway companies started to build proper waiting facilities at intermediate stations, but it seems that providing refreshments was still not a priority and so it was left to local entrepreneurs to open up refreshment stands and inns along primary routes.

Claimed to be the first pub built specifically to tap into trade from the railways is the Patricroft Tavern, adjacent to the station of the same name, close to Eccles, near Manchester. It opened fully two years before the Liverpool & Manchester Railway it was to

serve, in 1828, and following a subsequent royal visit, became known as the Queen's Arms, and it survives in the same role to this day.

In time, many such 'railway taverns' appeared and you still often find a pub next to the station almost everywhere, and the likelihood is that such establishments were built as a result of the arrival of the railway. The other spin off was that local businesses had a field day, hawking drinks, pastries and cigars to passengers during train stops, until the railway companies put a halt to the practice as it was delaying train journeys.

Against a background of growing chaos, the railway companies were forced to bring



some order to the way in which refreshment facilities were offered to its passengers, and so it was made compulsory to stop every 50 miles – or the nearest equivalent – at a station with suitable facilities. There wasn't much time allowed – just ten to fifteen minutes at best, but even then, the caterers at Normanton near Leeds somehow managed to serve passengers from the Midland Railway's Scottish express six courses in the space of just 20 minutes!

These stations were the motorway services of their day – it was still a long way off on-board catering. There were still chaotic scenes, as hundreds of passengers disembarked and dashed to the bar to grab a pint and whatever else they could stuff down their throats. Whether the food was particularly edible or the serving staff showed any courtesy is an entirely different matter!

The first purpose built station refreshment rooms appeared in 1838 at the time of the opening of the London & Birmingham Railway, at its Curzon Street terminus in Birmingham, where facilities extended to hotel rooms, at Rugby where there was an important road coach interchange, and at Wolverton, which was approximately the half-way point on the journey where all trains would stop for a refreshment break.

The GWR set up its own refreshment facilities at Swindon in 1841, with the idea that no competing facilities would be built along the line and that all trains could stop there for ten minutes and thereby gain a monopoly on the trade. But the appointed caterers were so bad that the GWR had to

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By Paul Appleton

buy them out of a 99 year lease agreement. Part of these facilities still stand, in the guise of the Queen's Tap, representing the oldest pub in New Swindon, with Grade II listed protection.

One thing we all take for granted that these licenced refreshment rooms gave us was the counter, or long bar, which was necessary in order to simultaneously serve large numbers of people. Prior to this, customers were served at their seats from a jug of ale. The railways also offered the first public conveniences, a service for which they made

a small charge, hence the 'phrase 'Going to Spend a Penny'.

By the end of the 19th century, most railway companies had managed to get their act together. With journey times speeding up, compulsory refreshment stops became a nuisance and were adding considerably to journey times which could otherwise be as much as an hour quicker. It was the arrival of the dining car that was to change everything, a subject we will look at next time.



Busy scene in a restaurant at Toowoomba, Queensland. The Australians followed the colonial British practice when it came to such pleasantries as the refreshment room, and but for the headgear worn by the men, could have been anywhere in the UK around the turn of the 19th/20th century. Wikimedia Commons

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Kings Arms Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS
Royal Fountain Inn Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS
Sun Inn Corfton SY7 9DF
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Unicorn Inn Hampton Loade WV16 6BN
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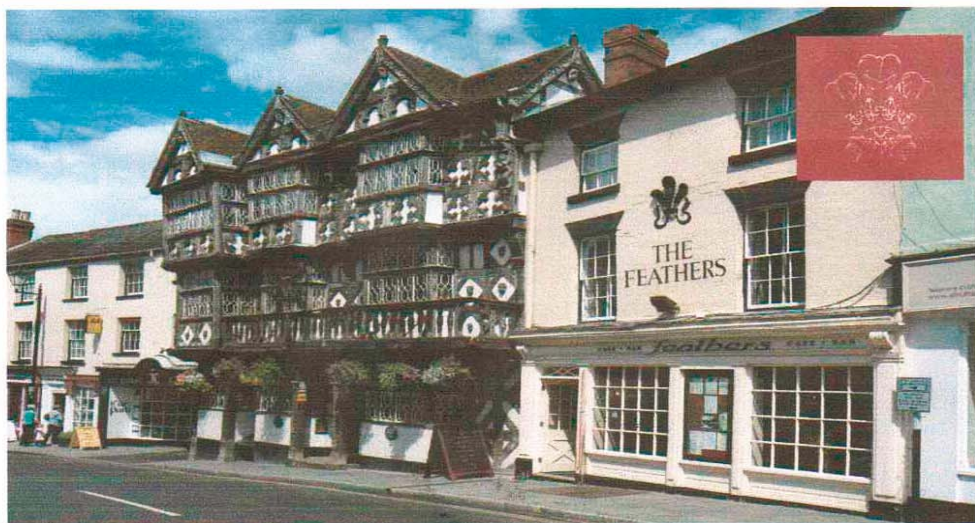
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Fox & Hounds Cheswardine TF9 2RS
Red Lion Cheswardine TF9 2RS
Red Lion Market Drayton TF9 1JP
Sandbrook Vaults Market Drayton TF9 3BY



The Feathers Hotel

17th Century Coaching House



**Proudly serving Local award winning ales
including the following**

Ludlow Brewery - Boiling Well & Ludlow Gold

Hobsons Brewery - Twisted Spire & Old Prickly

Are you a CAMRA member

Twenty Pence discount off a pint of real ale on production
of current CAMRA membership card.



The Feathers Bat

Three x 1/3 pint glasses of three real ales
£3.20

Ideal venue for Weddings, Business meetings, Conferences,
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Restaurant, Bar food, Forty bedrooms.

Contact details : Bull Ring, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4AA

Telephone : 01584 875261



Get Your Thinking Caps On

Say What You See

Can you name the breweries ?



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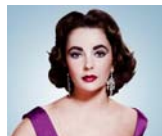
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Phrases and Sayings

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

- 1, AMYHGF 2, BOGBG 3, CBAH 4, DAYWBDB 5, EWHIB
6, FEINR 7, GCWCID 8, HITBP 9, IACGWIW 10, ITOTKO

Answers On Page 48



Get Your Thinking Caps On : Answers

Answers To The Quiz On Page 47

Say What You See

- 1 Bank Top
- 2 Blue Anchor
- 3 Brass Castle
- 4 Purple Moose
- 5 Red Squirrel
- 6 Ringwood
- 7 Samuel Smith
- 8 Dartmoor
- 9 Banks & Taylor
- 10 Backyard

Phrases & Sayings

- 1 Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder
- 2 Beware Of Greeks Bearing Gifts
- 3 Charity Begins At Home
- 4 Do As You Would Be Done By
- 5 East West Home Is Best
- 6 Fair Exchange Is No Robbery
- 7 Give Credit Where Credit Is Due
- 8 Honesty Is The Best Policy
- 9 If Anything Can Go Wrong It Will
- 10 It Takes One To Know One

For Only £50

This advertising space could be yours!

Reach a minimum of 4,000 real ale enthusiasts.

The all need to eat, they may need a taxi,
they all buy clothes and who knows what other
services and products they may be interested in.

You know it makes sense!

Bridgnorth Meetings

No Information Provided

For Latest Updates

**See The Bridgnorth CAMRA
Facebook Group**

**Or visit
www.bridgnorthcamra.org.uk**

Market Drayton Events

No Information Provided

For more information
please contact

Brynn Pass : Bpass@btinternet.com
07949 321442

Beer Festivals

Watch out for details of great local Beer
Festivals in the next edition.

Hopefully news on Bridgnorth Beer Festival
2018 too !

TES Meetings

Tue 9th Jan 8pm

Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: The Foresters Arms. Madeley TF7 5AS

Tue 13th Feb 8pm

**Event: Telford and East Shropshire Good
Beer Guide 2019 Selection Night**

Venue: The Plough Inn, Shifnal, TF11 8AZ

TES Social Events

Sat 2nd Dec

Event: Christmas social for all members

From: Bridgnorth 10.30am

For more information visit

<http://tes.camra.org.uk>

Branch Contacts

BRIDGNORTH

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Branch Chairman

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Social Secretary

Situation currently vacant....

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Dave Haddon
dhaddon@hotmail.com

Beer Quality Scores www.whatpub.com

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Edwin Butler Bayliss, Black Country Landscape, early 1900s, oil on canvas.
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