

Shropshire Tales

FREE

Issue 3
Winter'17

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FOR
REAL ALE**

Official magazine of
Telford & East Shropshire
and Shrewsbury &
West Shropshire
branches of CAMRA



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This newsletter is published by the Telford & East Shropshire and Shrewsbury & West Shropshire Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale. However, the views or opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor, local branch of CAMRA or CAMRA Ltd. © Copyright CAMRA Ltd.



Editor's Welcome

Shifnal Beer Festival was very successful and plans have already started in preparation for next years festival. A big thank you to the main organiser Paul Barrow and all those who helped out.

As the days and nights turn colder, when you have to go out into the madness that is Christmas shopping or January sales, there could be nothing better than ending your outing sitting in a nice warm pub with a great pint of real ale. In fact forget the shopping everybody can just have vouchers, lets just go to the pub!

Over this winter period CAMRA Branches start choosing their entries for the next edition of the Good Beer Guide so there is a big call out to all members to get visiting those pubs and remember to submit your scores via **WhatPub.com** to get your votes in. These scores and votes determine what goes in the Good Beer Guide so make sure you have your say!

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition. It is these articles that make the magazine possible and if it wasn't for them and our graphic designer then we wouldn't be able to produce this magazine. I am eager to hear from our readers - for more information see pg 17.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Lee Bradbury | Editor

email: editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com

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A word from T.E.S CAMRA Chairman

First of all a big thank you to all of the people who were involved in the organisation and running of the recent Shifnal Beer Festival which I am told has had a good outcome for the branch.

Also a thank you to all of you worked at the festival and not to forget those who supported it by turning up and drinking.

When asked, most people would say that taxation in the forms of duty, rates and VAT are the biggest threat to real ale and our pubs but a threat that is just as big is the anti-alcohol lobby which really could be considered the old Temperance Movement in new clothing.

To counter this CAMRA has been at the forefront of a new initiative called "Drinkers' Voice", so that a united front can be presented against the anti-alcohol lobby. What is needed is a full and honest debate about alcohol with the full truth about it available and not the often twisted information that is often used to back up reduced "so called" safe drink limits which I am sure their ultimate target is to set at ZERO.

To find out more about "Drinkers' Voice" and how you can support it visit their web site at www.drinkersvoice.org.uk

Adrian Zawierka
T.E.S Branch Chairman

From our Market Drayton sub-branch

Our sub-branch is now well established in the town and we are determined to help the pubs and real ale drinkers of Market Drayton.

CAMRA as you may know are a campaigning organisation, working hard to keep the British pint that is part of our heritage and unique in the world. We work with local pubs in the town and surrounding area and they in turn recognise the potential we have in helping them sell their real ale and beat that dreaded threat of closure. It is a tough trade and we want to help.

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, Battlefield, Theakston's, Salopian, Wadsworth's Wychwood, Burton's and Titanic ales, to name a few in the town. Plus with all the surrounding villages with their community run pubs selling good real ale 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, pub landlords to get involved with us and become members that will help our pubs, beer and community.

Bryn Pass
Sub-Chairman

A word from S.W.S CAMRA Chairman

Thank you to everyone that submitted their nominations for the Champion Beer Of Britain competition (CBoB). This will decide which beers go through to the blind tastings at the various festivals around our region over the coming months.

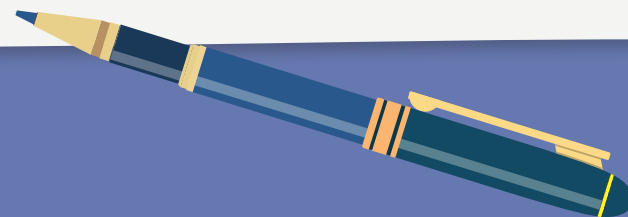
The main branch activities during winter are aimed at selecting pubs for the 2019 Good Beer Guide and the branch Pub / Club of The Year competitions. The Beer Guide selection is primarily based on the beer scores that members submit when they visit pubs. The PoTY / CoTY selection is made based on nominations backed up by beer scores. We are lucky in Shropshire that so many of our scores are from out of county members who are visiting the incredible selection of pubs that serve real ale here.

That is not to say that our pubs as businesses are not struggling. If they sell a selection of well-kept real ale they tend to be doing better, but life moves on and businesses can be put at risk through retirement, ending of leases and management changes.

We keep a close eye on the changes within the pub business community but some things will always get past us. We are therefore always happy to hear news from locals so that if there is any campaigning to be done we can be pro-active in offering assistance where necessary.

Have a happy festive season and please keep up the good work by submitting you beers scores!

Dave Roll
S.W.S Branch Chairman



Pub of the Season - Winter 2017

Bridgnorth CAMRA

Eagle & Serpent

Kinlet, Bewdley DY12 3BE

The presentation took place
on Saturday 25th November



Telford CAMRA

Edgmond Lion

**1 Newport Rd, Edgmond,
Newport TF10 8HH**

The presentation took place on the
14th November at the
branch meeting



Call for votes for the Telford and Bridgnorth Branches Spring Pubs of the Season

To be eligible for selection a pub needs to not be in the Good Beer Guide and currently achieving a minimum of 3.0 for their beer quality score (an up to date beer score will be checked following nomination).

Telford Branch nominations will be taken at branch meetings. A list of the nominated pubs will be listed in the January branch newsletter. Votes will be received at the January branch meeting or by email (LocAle.TES@gmail.com)

Bridgnorth branch nomination and voting are taken at branch meetings.

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Bishops Castle Public Transport Trip

It is a tradition in the Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch that the weather on the 3rd Tuesday of the month is kind to us. This is the day we use public transport to visit pubs around the county in order to check the quality of the beer, update and survey pubs for the WhatPub website and research for the Good Beer Guide.

Our October trip was to Bishops Castle. Using the 553 Bus from Shrewsbury we arrived at 11am when only one establishment is open. The Castle Hotel at the top of the town has an excellent bar serving beers from Hobsons, Three Tuns and Clun breweries. We happily spent an hour here before moving on to the Three Tuns Inn next to the Brewery opposite the Castle Hotel. A full range of current Three Tuns beers were available and had survived the journey from the brewery in excellent form. Bishops Castle is a delightful market town. The history of its pubs is related in a leaflet available around the town including the visitor centre, which we passed on the way down through the town to the Six Bells Inn and brewery. Here we found a full range of the Six Bells current beers on offer and an opportunity for some lunch.

Bus timetables in rural areas have to be studied closely. Missing the last bus would be an expensive mistake, so with that in mind we moved back up the hill to the Boars Head. So far we had sampled only locally produced beer but here we had the chance to try some nationally available cask ales from Theakstons, St.Austell and to our delight, Titanic Brewery.

On a weekday, the brews from Ludlow and Monty's Breweries at the Crown and Anchor Vaults have to be missed as the last bus leaves before opening time. This meant we headed back to the Three Tuns in order to be close to the bus stop for the 1540 back to Shrewsbury.

Another fine day, fine ales and survey work completed, a happy group headed home looking forward to next months trip. These are listed in this magazine under our branch diary and also in What's Brewing and on our website. No booking required. Just turn up!



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Sun 12 - 10.30pm

facebook.com/theblackboybridgnorth

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All the Fun of the Festival

Words and Photos by **Paul Jones**

Here is a list of the beers at Shifnal Beer Festival 2017... No you don't want that. It's past now and if you came along you'll know well enough what was on offer. What I want to tell you is how it happened and the people that made it happen.

The decision to hold a 3rd Shifnal Beer Festival came shortly after the second festival in October 2016. Unfortunately someone had already booked the club for their 70th birthday party on the date required, so we had to go for a week later and this then clashed with a number of large festivals not too far away. Ah well in for a penny, in for a pound...

Our festival organiser Paul Barrow has to start many months earlier twisting arms, cajoling brewers, pleading with sponsors and basically being very persuasive and humble at the same time. Joules became the very generous main sponsors, and a number of local brewers and pubs made donations of ale. Last year was a reasonable success, but we decided not to increase the number of beers, just continue with a good and unusual range.

As a CAMRA festival we have to comply with a fair number of rules and guidelines dictated by past experience of an organisation that is the backbone for over two hundred separate events each year.

Things like insurance, health and safety, loan and hire of equipment and point of sale literature; all have boxes to tick, and payments to be made.

The War Memorial Club in Shifnal is held metaphorically together by a very capable steward called Chris. He is absolutely essential for the smooth setting up, taking down and running of the festival. The hours we keep are not his usual ones, and so Monday morning dawns and at 9am Chris is there to unlock doors and allow us to start assembly of stillage and bar counters. From a distance our crew of highly trained athletes must look like leaf-cutter ants carting boards, beams, boxes and bags. In fact this is Janine, Barbara, Eleanor, Linda, Paul(s), Colin, George, David, John, Roger, Len and Lee. Apologies if I've missed anyone. Because they are so highly trained the stillage is up before lunch time. And so to Tuesday.

Tuesday is the day the brewers deliver beer. We all wait eagerly. Mid-day dawns and we only have three beers. Everyone is trying hard to make work for themselves, but really all we want is a delivery.



Then the London Bus analogy happens; they all arrive within an hour of each other. Still, we leave happy that evening; the portfolio is complete.

Wednesday is venting and tapping day. This is when we get a hint of what we've ordered. Some are lively and emulate whales resurfacing from the depths, others just a little puff! The good news is the only cloudy one is the one that should be. It is unfined for vegetarians.

Thursday is titivating day. Let's make the place welcoming and interesting. Put out what literature we have; hoist the signage and labels; get the welcome table and posters up; lay out the glasses and rehearse your welcome talk.

The festival opens and as it's Thursday evening just a trickle of customers wander in. We bite our knuckles wondering if the public have heard about us, and did we do enough advertising?

Friday and some are waiting for us to open. Later an attendee wrote on a media site that he'd arrived early and we'd let him in- unheard of at most festivals! As Friday proceeds, the place starts to fill up and by 8pm we are packed.

The atmosphere is everything you dream about; a lovely buzz, with oohs and ahhs and laughter and giggles;

friendships reformed and newly made. And then the event we'd planned.

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charity box on the glass
returns table. Thank you
to all who donated.



The White Hart in Shifnal has won the prestigious Pub of the Year, Shropshire (POTY) and runner up for The Marches POTY. Adam and Jodie have come along to be presented with their awards. Our Chairman, Adrian gives a little speech, and a dog barks on cue just as the applause begins and the whole place dissolves in merriment. Adam returns the accolade and the dog leads the applause again. It's a wonderful moment. We couldn't have planned it better.

Saturday isn't an anticlimax, but the Friday euphoria won't be repeated. How could it? Saturday trade jogs along, and we retire home towards midnight knowing we have to be back for 9am Sunday for knock-down and storage before 12pm.

Sunday arrives and the bed pulls even if we have had an extra hour for the winter clocks going back. The highly trained crew set to work dismantling. Nobody is told to do anything, they just do it and the van turns up at 10am and is loaded and on its way to our storage, where it is unloaded very tidily ready for next time. We are all very pleased with ourselves, but we have finished just after 11am and there's no where open for a drink!

West Midlands Awards Extravaganza 2017

By Gary Timmins, Regional Director

Our well-established awards extravaganza to honour CAMRA campaigners and our champion brewers, as judged in our beer festivals, takes place on Saturday 30th December at the fabulously baroque Bartons Arms in Birmingham.

Pub opens at 11am; we kick off around 1pm. Also being honoured will be CAMRA members for items such as best magazine, campaigner of the year and so on. The ceremony concludes with the overall champion beers of the region, which is a well kept secret until then, and awards to the regional pub, club and cider-pub of the year. It's a grand day out, I hope to see you there on the day! For more information visit whatpub.com/pubs/BIR/1566/bartons-arms-birmingham



Last years regional PotY winner, The Earl Grey in Leek

Members' Weekend AGM & Conference 2018

This event will be held at Warwick University next April. For those who are not familiar with the area, Warwick University is not in Warwick at all, but on the south side of Coventry (not to be confused with Coventry University).



It is easily reached by a frequent bus service from Pool Meadow bus station, or the railway station. The conference itself will be in Butterworth Hall, a world-class concert hall. The Members' Bar will be in the nearby Students' Union building.

An event like this requires quite a few volunteer staff. We need people to work in the bar area, "Meeters & Greeters" and tellers.

If you are interested, would you please register online at

www.camraagm.org.uk/volunteer

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Brewery News



Gorgeous Beer Company

Autumn will see the introduction of an 'experimental' brew 'Ginger Ale'. It will be around 4.0% ABV and it is hoped that it will become a seasonal brew.

They are hoping to produce a stout for the winter season, but as of yet, the strength of the intended brew is unknown.

Blonde (4.8%) was voted Ale of the Festival at Sedgley Beer Festival held in September.

Hobsons

The next seasonal beer will be Plum Porter (5.0%) which will be available in mid-November. Old Henry will be available in cask until January 2018.

Old Prickly 4.2% was awarded Gold in the "Small Pack Standard Bitters & Pale Ales" category in SIBA's Wales & West Independent Beer Awards held in April at Ludlow Castle. Champion Mild (3.2%) was awarded Bronze in the "Cask Standard Mild & Brown Ales" category at the same event.

Joule's

The brewery planning is well and truly rolling with the brewery becoming increasingly busy and aiming to produce 12 seasonal beers from next year each on a monthly basis. This will enable them to offer diversity from their regular core ales.

The Christmas favourite Old Number 6 is a dark beer that will be brewed and ready from early December.

Plan B

Plan B has built a public bar adjacent to the brewery and it opens on Friday 13th October. Hours are restricted to Thursday 5.30pm to 7.30pm, and Friday 1pm to 8pm. The shop selling bottled beers will be open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. A new experienced head brewer has been appointed, and also a bottle labelling machine.

Rowton

The Wrekin brewery is gone and all of the old brewing equipment has been removed. Rowton has taken over the brewhouse and installed a 6 barrel plant bought from a brewery in Bury that has ceased trading. It is hoped to start trial brews late October/early November.

Three Tuns

Brewing continued at maximum capacity Solstice a huge seasonal success so now permanent. A 3.8% brown beer is to be introduced, along with Steampunk seasonal which has all been presold.

Stonehouse

Family owned Stonehouse goes from strength to strength. Not just Cider and Beer but adding spirits to their portfolio. Their seasonal brew, Ballast Porter (ABV 4.4%) is now available.

www.facebook.com/stonehousebrewery

Notices & emails

Dear reader,

We would like to hear from you. Please get in touch to let us know of any matters which are important to you. If you wish to remain anonymous we will keep your details confidential.

Or simply just drop us a line with details of your favourite pub that you think is worth a visit and why our readers should visit it.

See contact details below.

We have had an email from Malcolm Nicholls who will be opening Stretton's first micropub, Stretton Ale House, at 8 The Square SY6 6DA.

Malcolm says:

"We shall be offering four cask beers on a changing basis, at least two of which will be local.

Our bottle and can range will number about 50, including a selection of Belgian bottles. These can be drunk in the Ale House or taken home.

We will offer a range of snacks (pork pies, scotch eggs, pickled eggs) and a small selection of wines and spirits.

Initially we will be open from 12 til 10pm (6pm on Sundays).

We will be offering a CAMRA discount Sundays to Thursdays."

We wish them every success in their venture.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us by contributing to this issue.

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If you would like further information about advertising in the next edition of **Shropshire TAles** please contact **Lee Bradbury** email: editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com

Remember...

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Brewery that started with a bang

Words by Paul Jones

Jim Preston's father purchased a farm in 1940 at the start of WW2. Before long the British Army were retreating and famously evacuating from Dunkirk. The army needed somewhere to repatriate the evacuees and Mr Preston's farm was chosen.

There wasn't much in the way of facilities in deepest Shropshire and especially a good supply of water, so they bored a hole 120feet deep until they found what they were looking for.

Sixty four years earlier on April 20th 1876 in mid afternoon there was a sonic boom over Rowton and a meteorite weighing 3.5Kg hit the ground, leaving a crater 18inches deep. Thus was born the concept for a brewery called Rowton with a meteorite as its logo and using water from under the very ground the visitor from outer space had landed on. Later this became the inspiration for the flaming barrel logo.

By 2001 farmer Jim Preston decided to rent out the farm and change direction.

He fancied trying his hand at brewing and was friendly with local brewer Jack Hanby of WEM, and eventually this led to Jim constructing a four barrel brewery in one of the cowsheds on the farm.

Jim enjoyed brewing and his beer was popular, but he was in an isolated part of the county and will happily concede he is not a salesman. Things started happening when son Steve agreed to join him in the venture.

Initially beers were Bitter 3.9%, Comet 4.3% and Meteorite 4.7%. The meteorite was a great opportunity to theme the names and spawned the distinctive flaming barrel logo.



Since those early beginnings a number of celestially named beers have emerged; Moonstruck Mild, Total Eclipse, Area51 and Galaxy. Also as an experiment Jim added a bottle of port to a stout one Christmas and so created one his most memorable brews- Portly Stout.

Meanwhile in nearby Wellington, Jim's friend Dave Goldingay was considering moving out of the trade and Jim thought he might take on Dave's pub as his brewery tap. Thus the Preston family, Jim, Steve and now Peter became brewers and landlords of the Pheasant, Wellington. This is an Everards Project William enterprise, and has room for a brewery which initially they didn't need. However business was very brisk and with the opportunity to buy a modern six barrel brewing plant from a northern seller, they decided to occupy the brew-house.

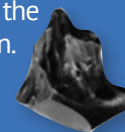
By the time you read this is it will be fully functional. Also as Everards are currently downsizing in Leicester 200 empty firkins have been purchased from them. Brewery trips are planned as soon as facilities can be sorted out.

The brewery is a bewildering array (to me) of fermenters, boilers, conditioners and control panels. Altogether this adds up to more than 10 barrels available across the two locations. The beers that feature in their portfolio range from Starlight at 3.6% to Rowton Rocket at 5.9% via Space Walk 4.5%; plus seasonal Mother Plucking Turkey 4%.

Jim now takes a back seat and Steve is head brewer with two staff. Peter is bar manger of The Pheasant and the whole operation now employs 15 full/part-time people.

Wellington has over the past few years become a favoured destination for real ale, and Rowton and The Pheasant are leading the way. If you are in the area it's a must visit location.

The meteorite was last heard of at the Science Museum, South Kensington. More information can be found at www.rowtonbrewery.com



The George in Hollybush Road in Bridgnorth

Bridgnorth CAMRA Pub of the Season Autumn 2017 presentation

The George in Hollybush Road in Bridgnorth has been voted Pub of the Season for Autumn 2017 by members of the Bridgnorth CAMRA.

Our photo shows branch chairman Eleanor Haddon, owner Sue Tristram and CAMRA Pub of the Season Organiser Alan Thwaites.



Sue, a former special-needs coordinator, opened the George as manager in 2009 and took over ownership 5 years later. The pub usually features 5 ales including Hobsons Town Crier, Thwaites Wainwright, Wye Valley HPA and Brakspear Oxford Gold.

Eleanor Haddon explained that the George was a worthy winner of the award and praised it for its good selection of well-kept real ales, comfortable interior and friendly welcoming staff.

Sue was thrilled about winning the award and paid tribute to her "wonderful regulars". She hails from Stourbridge, moved to Bridgnorth in 1983 and says her favourite real ales are Ludlow Stairway and Salopian Oracle.

Keeping the Lion Roaring

Words by Timothy Foulger

The White Lion at Ash, near Whitchurch, is one of Shropshire's few remaining traditional rural freehold pubs. Over 250 years old, its future is uncertain as the current owners are retiring.

The local community has therefore stepped in and is running a campaign to raise £370,000 to retain the pub as a community asset. With tremendous community support, £115,000 was pledged within the first two weeks of the campaign, whilst a further £100,00 has been secured through grants and loans!

Leigh Griffin, Secretary of the White Lion Ash Community Pub Group comments "The support of CAMRA and the Plunkett Foundation to this great cause has been fabulous."

We had a public meeting on 30th November in the Village Hall at Ash. Why not come along and join us at our next meeting! More information, including how to make a pledge, can be found from the Facebook page 'White Lion Ash Community Group' or the website www.savethewhitelionash.co.uk.



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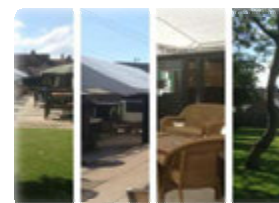


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The Huntsman

Telford CAMRA Pub of the Season Autumn 2017 presentation

On a sunny Saturday in September we were pleased to present The Huntsman at Little Wenlock with the Telford branch 'Pub of the Season' award for Autumn 2017, as voted for by Telford CAMRA members in recognition of its good quality real ale.

The Huntsman is in a delightful location, sitting near the foothills of old man Wrekin, with breath-taking views across the county and beyond just a short step away from the patio beer garden. As a real ale and local pub enthusiast I was thrilled to read about the story behind the success of the Huntsman. In 2009 the pub was derelict and in danger of being demolished to make way for a new development, but local business man, Peter Morris, had other ideas. The thought of losing a treasured childhood memory and having no village pub prompted him to step in and purchase the pub and create a focal hub for the community.

After 18 months of hard work the pub was completely refurbished and re-opened its doors in 2011. It now has a cosy bar area with a large fireplace taking centre stage, a thriving restaurant serving local produce and accommodation available either in the pub or in a stone cottage just behind. The pub always has 5 real ales on hand-pull, many of which are usually serving local beer, but with a range of national beers also making an appearance. It has been a successful summer for the Huntsman as they also received the Shropshire Star's 'Most Popular Pub of the Year' in July. Congratulations to Peter Morris and his team, long may your success continue!



Peter Morris receiving the certificate from Chairman Adrian Zawierka with Huntsman staff



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CAMRAmbling around the Wrekin

Words by Paul Barrow

Sometimes enjoying pubs and beer is not just be about sitting in a cosy hostelry, wondering what the ancient artefacts which adorn the shelves were used for before being replaced by something modern, and discussing with your companions the relative merits of Hardcore's Frontal Lobotomy versus something a little more of a session ale, such as Brewdungeon's Liquid Hobbler. Also, sometimes it's good to enjoy the great outdoors more than just by visiting the beer garden for a nicotine or vitamin D top-up.

You can easily mix these forms of pleasure close to home in Shropshire if you know where to look. This is the story of a group of TES CAMRA members, friends and family, who struck out from Wellington for an afternoon of walking and drinking using the well-marked trails around the Wrekin;

a straightforward ramble which is easy to navigate and negotiate, making it the sort of jaunt which is accessible to a wide range of people. Starting from the front door of The Cock Hotel on Holyhead Road, Wellington at mid-day, we headed roughly north-west for a short stretch before enjoying the first view of the day; six handpulls offering a wide variety of ales. Yes, we were at the bar, so we selected our first beer of the day and settled down to a not-so well-earned refreshment break. Well, you don't want to start off too quickly, do you?

Having made sure we were not likely to suffer from dehydration early on, we posed for the obligatory group photograph so that should anyone get horribly lost we could at least provide details of what they looked like to the police.

Once this critical health and safety element was completed, we struck out west along Holyhead Road, crossed at the first pelican crossing and then turned left into Limekiln Lane, heading up the slight incline and under the motorway bridge and thus left suburbia behind. The wide untarmacked road leads to a group of houses and farms called Steeraway. At the far end the track turns sharp left but the bridle path heads straight on, well signed, and heads into Limekiln Woods.

The untarmacked road and path are pretty much dead straight because this used to be the route taken by a tramway which served the open cast mining and quarrying of this area in the past. The path is well marked with red arrows showing it to be one of the clearly defined paths that criss-cross the Ercall Nature Reserve this side of The Wrekin. The path crosses a wide forestry road where you need to turn left for about thirty yards before taking a well signposted right turn back onto the footpath to maintain your original heading. The scenery is deciduous woodland with, depending on the season, wild flowers or fungi, birds and deer to entertain the observant, and occasionally a break in the foliage to afford a view of The Wrekin to the right and Ironbridge Gorge to the left. After a while the path opens out onto open pasture, with a couple of short, straight paths punctuated by kissing gates before meeting the road from Forest Glen to Little Wenlock. Here we turned left to head downhill along the road to our second pub of the day, The Huntsman at Little Wenlock.

So far we had covered just over three miles, so felt fully justified in stopping for a beer. The walkers' bar towards the front of the pub is the place to go if your boots are muddy and the weather isn't good, but as it was fine, we chose to drink in the beer garden in front of the pub.

At this stage of the day, decisions had to be made retracing our steps towards Wellington and maybe another beer at The Cock Hotel, or extend the journey by undertaking Little Wenlock's Bench Walk. This is a three-mile circular walk around the village which passes the pub and features several memorial benches dedicated to local people set out at various viewpoints as well as offering spectacular vistas of the south Shropshire hills and a tour of the village itself. Feeling refreshed and invigorated, we decided that the Bench Walk was definitely on the agenda and so set off, lengthening the hike and ensuring that The Huntsman would also become the third pub of the day on our return. Arriving back at the pub the weather had become a little too cool for the beer garden so we sheltered in the walkers' bar to enjoy one of the five real ales on offer before retracing our steps back to Wellington, where some of us inevitably made The Cock Hotel the fourth pub of the journey. In all we walked for around ten miles on well signed, easily accessible paths, enjoyed excellent scenery and some fine ales in two great pubs, all in the company of like-minded people. What more could you ask for?



St. Annes Brewery

Written by David Roll

We can report that Shropshire has a brewery that is so new you will not find it in the current Good Beer Guide. It is also the only brewery in the area that has its own church organ installed. S&WS Branch Members were invited to St. Annes Brewery for a tasting session and pulled out all the stops to check it out.

Most of our local breweries are either attached to pubs or in industrial units but this one is unique. It has a tower but is not a tower brewery. St. Annes Brewery is named after the church in which it is situated, in Lee Cross, South West of Shrewsbury.

Chris Julias Jones inherited the disused church from his father who had bought it for the benefit of the local community. With ongoing maintenance required on the structure of the building an income stream was required and brewing seemed an obvious choice to enable this.



Brewing instruction in Denmark followed by the purchase of the brewing kit from the far-east has now set Chris and his team up with a 'local Shropshire Brewery creating a variety of beers for the surrounding area.'

Trial brews are proving successful, having been subject to consumer testing in a variety of Shrewsbury's pubs. Beers to look out for are: The Three Erics 3.7% abv, Tumble Down Dicks 4.5%abv, Lee Cross Dark 4.3% abv and Number Nine 4.5% abv.

We wish Chris and the team every success in their venture. They appear to have struck just the right note. Up to date information is available at www.facebook.com/StAnnesBrewery



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T.E.S Branch Diary



December

Sat 2nd | Event: Christmas social for all members

Contact Paul Bradburn for details* (see contacts page)

January

Tue 9th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: The Foresters Arms, Madeley TF7 5AS

Sat 13th | Event: Final mop up survey for Good Beer Guide 2019

Usual pick-ups. Contact Paul Bradburn for details* (see contacts page)

February

Tue 13th 8pm | Event: Telford and East Shropshire Good Beer Guide 2019

Selection Night

Venue: The Plough Inn, Shifnal, TF11 8AZ

* Providing that members complete beer survey forms cost is only £5 per head for each trip

All information correct at time of print. Please check prior to event by contacting the Social Secretary.

Good Beer Guide Selection Process

The time is fast approaching when we must select our entries for the next edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.

As a branch we are only allowed a limited number of GBG entries - so only the best of the best get into our prestigious Good Beer Guide. Telford & East Shropshire CAMRA's selection evening is on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at The Plough, Shifnal and all branch members are welcome.

Each branch has their own selection process and the details of ours can be found on our website. All entries are selected by members via a voting process. Voting forms are sent out in early December and can be returned at anytime including at the selection evening.

One of the key factors that allows a pub to be eligible for the voting list is its average Beer Quality score which is taken from scores submitted by CAMRA members to WhatPub during the previous year. This is why it is important for you to enter scores for the pubs you visit and then vote for your favourite pubs.

When GBG voting forms are sent out to members they will also include a form for voting for the Branch's Pub of the Year, Club of the Year and Brewery of the Year. Again, please cast your votes, and return by the date stated, for your favourite as it may be your vote that makes the difference to which pub, club or brewery wins!

S.W.S Branch Diary



December

Wed 6th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: Olde Buck's Head, Frankwell, Shrewsbury

Sat 9th 11.30am | Event: CAMRA Regional Meeting

Venue: Rose & Crown, Ludlow. Followed by a walkabout

Fri 15th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Meet: Salopian Bar

Tue 19th | Event: PTG Beerscoring trip to Ludlow by rail

Meet: 11.16am train ex SHR

Sat 23rd | Event: Xmas walkabout

Meet: Bull in the Barne 2pm, then Bricklayers, Olde Bucks Head & other Frankwell pubs

Thu 28th | Event: Post-Xmas Walkabout

Meet: Abbey pub 2pm, then Abbey Foregate pubs

January

Wed 3rd 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: Old Post Office, Shrewsbury

Tue 16th | Event: PTG trip by rail to Chester

Meet: TBC

Fri 19th 7pm | Event: Branch Xmas party

Venue: Prince Rupert Hotel, Shrewsbury

Fri 26th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Meet: Salopian Bar

February

Wed 7th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: Olde Bucks Head Inn, Shrewsbury

All CAMRA members are very welcome to join us on these events where we will concentrate on visiting some superb pubs, completing beer scoring and enjoying good company.

Contacts and Consumer Information

The official Telford CAMRA branch contacts

Chairman: **Adrian Zawierka**
email: atoz@caskale.net

Secretary: **Eleanor Haddon**
email: ehaddon1@hotmail.com

Treasurer: **David Jones**
email: safejones@aol.com

Media Liaison: **Alan Thwaites**
email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com

Pub Surveys Officer: **Dave Haddon**
email: dhaddon@hotmail.com

Membership: **Paul Jones** tel: **01952 460456** or
email: paul.jones@caskale.net

Social Secretary: **Paul Bradburn**
tel: **01952 510611**
email: paulbradburn8439@btinternet.com

Bridgnorth CAMRA main contacts

Branch Chairman: **Eleanor Haddon**
tel: **07711 739007** or **01746 862884**
email: ehaddon1@hotmail.com

Branch Secretary: **Alan Thwaites**
tel: **07813 571956**
email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com

Social Secretary: **Position Vacant**

Membership Secretary: **David Jones**
email: safejones@aol.com

Market Drayton CAMRA main contacts

Branch Chair: **Bryn Pass**
tel: **07949 321442**
email: bpas@btinternet.com
www.facebook.com/groups/199617536785775/

The official Shrewsbury and West Shropshire CAMRA branch contacts

Chairman: **Dave Roll**

Secretary: **Nigel Bevan**

Minutes Secretary: **Norrie Porter**

Treasurer: **Jonny Sutton**

Membership Secretary: **Dave Ricketts**

Clubs Officer: **John Lewis**

Public Affairs Officer: **Norrie Porter**

Social Secretary: **Dave Grainger**

Please contact via website and Facebook
(see cover for details)

Consumer Information

If you have any complaints over short measures etc. and have no satisfaction from the pub in question please contact

Telford & Wrekin Trading Standards

Tel: **01952 381999**

Email: tradingstandards@telford.gov.uk

Address: **Telford & Wrekin Council,**
Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford TF3 4JA

Shropshire Trading Standards

Tel: **0345 678 9000**

Email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

Address: **Shirehall, Abbey Foregate**
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND



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The Fox & Hounds

High Street
Cheswardine, TF9 2RS
01630 661 244

The Bricklayers Arms

Cophorne Road
Shrewsbury, SY3 8NL
01743 366 032

The Castle Hotel

14 High Street
Wem, SY4 5AA
01939 236 088

The Rose and Crown

8 Church Street
Ludlow, SY8 1AP
01584 875 726

The New Inn

2 Stafford Street
Newport, TF10 7LX
01952 812 295

The Sandbrook Vaults

Shropshire Street
Market Drayton, TF9 3BY
07813 835 959

The Dolphin

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

The White Lion

High Street
Wem, SY4 5AA
01939 232 927

The Talbot

Church Street
Ruyton IX Towns, SY4 1LA
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