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HOLDEN'S

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Editor's Comments

Welcome to issue 24 of *Ale Sabrina*. Wishing all our readers, contributors and advertisers a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year!

As we look forward to the coming year, I would like to make my annual plea for more readers to contribute articles for future issues of *Ale Sabrina*! While I am grateful for the articles from our regular authors it would be nice to see a few new names at the top of articles in the coming years!

As we enter 2020 and look forward to the new beginning, I would like to remember absent friends who we have lost in 2019, regular visitors to the Severn Valley Railway and Railwayman's Arms will remember Eric Linford (ex-bar manager of the Railwayman's) Ken Oultram (ticket office and Engine House) and last but not least Dave Lacey who was involved with the SVR and CAMRA for over 50 years, they are all people I am glad to have called friends! And they will all be missed by the people who knew them! I am sure you all have friends and loved ones to be remembered as we enter a new year!

On a happier note 2019 saw the return of the Bridgnorth Beer Festival at the SVR! The first since 2015. Let's hope it carries on and goes from strength to strength! We also saw the opening of the new refreshment room and toilets on platform one of the station after a long wait! It has proved popular with locals and visitors, the next project should be the installation of the turn table and eventually the upgrading of the Railwayman's Arms bar and cellar!

As I sit down to finish these notes we are a week away from the General Election, let's hope that whichever party wins they do something for the pub and brewery trades, to help slow the loss of the great British pub! So let's look forward to a special few years ahead and some nice weather after all the rain in recent weeks!

For visitors to the SVR please note that the section of the railway between Bewdley and Kidderminster will be closed from December 30th 2019 and Easter 2020 for repairs to Falling Sands Viaduct and trains will only run between Bridgnorth and Bewdley! See their web site for more information, svr.co.uk or call 01562 757900.

Cheers



Bill Sturt
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Beer Days Out - *Top Ten Railway Pubs*

By Steve James

When was the last time that you went into a railway station bar or pub? Well, for many of our readers it's going to be a very regular occasion, drinking in the Railwayman's Arms at Bridgnorth Station! But for many CAMRA members, it's probably on route to or from a beer festival; for others, a day out in another town or city, after a commute from a day's work, or awaiting another train connection.



A crisp, refreshing pint in the early evening is often the equivalent of an airlock between work and home life, allowing enough breathing space to put the working day to bed peacefully. The comforting railway station pint offers a shining amber beacon guiding you through the transition from work to home. However, at such bars, the rules and timings of the trains often inform the behaviour of drinkers and define the rules of engagement. Sometimes, the unusuality of the station pub might lead to experimental behaviour, perhaps a sudden inclination to try a 12% peanut and gooseberry stout for the first time, or you may swap personal tales with complete strangers. But it certainly provides an infinitely more preferable environment to kill time

compared to waiting on the bleak and soulless platform. Station pubs are often part of a journey, but are rarely a destination in their own right. However, they can be habit forming in our human desire for the familiar. Many station pubs boast a quality offer, knowledgeable bar staff and a well-kept pint, held dear by 'frequent flyers'. But for most of us, they are rarely used as a local.

Earlier this year, the Daily Mirror listed the Top Ten Railway Pubs/Bars based on the opinion of Kate Andrews of website Loco2.com. So which were her Top 10?

1. The Sheffield Tap, Sheffield
2. Hamilton Hall, Liverpool Street, London
3. Corrour Station House, Highlands
4. The Centurion, Newcastle
5. The York Tap, York station
6. The Booking Office, St Pancras
7. Stalybridge Buffet Bar, Stalybridge
8. Old Station Restaurant, Spean Bridge, Highlands
9. Station Bistro Restaurant, Wymondham, Norfolk
10. Codsall Station, Staffordshire





There are some surprising omissions and inclusions in this list. Few would disagree with the inclusion of the Sheffield and York Taps, but what about the similar Taps at London Euston, Harrogate and Manchester Piccadilly? It's good to see Codsall Station included, but where are the King & Castle (Kidderminster) and Railwayman's Arms (Bridgnorth)? London rail terminals are poorly represented, with only Liverpool Street and St Pancras having a selected bar. What of Baker Street (Metropolitan Bar), Kings Cross (Parcel Yard), Paddington (Mad Bishop & Bear) and Marylebone (Victoria & Albert)?

In other cities, omissions include the Head of Steam (Huddersfield and Liverpool Lime Street), Metro Bar (Manchester Victoria) and the Old Ticket Office (Cambridge). Also omitted is the GWR Centenary Lounge (Birmingham Moor Street) and Bonapartes Café Bar (Bristol Temple Meads). Other bars on station platforms, such as Brief Encounter (Carnforth), Royal Hotel (Hull), Jubilee Refreshment Rooms (Sowerby Bridge),

Station Refreshment Rooms (Bridlington), Waiting Room (Durham) and All Bar One (Windsor & Eton) are also missing.

Although it's nice to see the Station Bistro at Wymondham (Mid-Norfolk Railway) in the list, most other heritage railways are completely omitted. As well as Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, there's no reference to the Trackside Bar & Buffer Stops (East Lancashire Railway), Bessemer Arms (Bluebell Railway), Waiting Room (Whitby) and Ratty Arms (Ravenglass & Eskdale). Scotland gets a couple of mentions, but there's nothing in Wales. Not even a reference to Yr Hen Orsaf (Aberystwyth) or Spooners Bar (Ffestiniog Railway).

Of course, the solution is to extend the list! Perhaps to the Top 30 or even Top 100 Station Bars/Pubs. I know of over 60 bars or pubs serving real ale at railway stations and Bob Barton's book 'Unusual Railway Pubs, Refreshment Rooms & Ale Trains' lists some 76. What would you include on your list?





Another Booth Booze Cruise - *Part 1*

By Alan Thwaites



October and it is time for the annual boat trip organised by my good friend, Anthony Booth. This year he hired the boats from Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove and we all met at the Navigation adjacent to the boatyard. The pub sells a house beer brewed by Laines of Brighton which was very pleasant. Having loaded the boats, we left in mid-afternoon were immediately faced with the 35 locks from the boatyard up to Tardebigge, so we stopped for the first night five locks up at the Queen's Head, Stoke Pound. This high-end gastropub was an eye-opener: the beers were all £4 a pint as one would expect in such an establishment, but the quality was excellent. Purity Mad Goose poured down my throat far faster than my wallet liked and my colleagues agreed that the other beers (HPA and Davenport's Bitter) were equally good. The young bar staff were proud of their beers and keen to learn more: I recommend this place to anyone in the area.

After tackling the Tardibigge locks in torrential rain, we squeezed into the Weighbridge at ABC's boatyard at Alvechurch for Sunday lunch. This small pub started as a club for the yard staff but has

grown into a well-respected local with a regular place in the *GBG*. However, most of the tables were for diners and the only unreserved tables were in a temporary shelter outside. However the quality and variety of the beers soon made up for this slight inconvenience, I chose a seasonal beer from Pitchfork 'Somer Session'. After lunch, a long afternoon's cruise took us through West Hill Tunnel and along the Stratford Canal to the Blue Bell at Waring's Green. For many years this was a cider house with its own brewhouse, which has recently been reopened. I had some Golden Flash from the brewhouse as well as a pint of Light Oak from Wetheroak brewery.

On the Monday we continued down the Stratford Canal to Lapworth, crossing over on to the Grad Union at Kingswood and visited the Navigation where I had some of the house beer Lapworth Gold brewed by Byatts. As the rain descended (again!) we made our way to Knowle where a short walk took us to the Ale Rooms, a micropub in the main street. Here I had Super Star IPA from local



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By Alan Thwaites

brewer Silhill, some Backyard Blonde and finished with some excellent Peaky Blinder Dark from Sadlers.

Continuing on Tuesday we made our way into Birmingham stopping in Digbeth, adjacent to the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House (and right under Proof House Junction outside New St Station), and made our way to the Woodman. This gem of a pub had been under threat from HS2, but fortunately the design for Curzon St Station has now been modified to accommodate the pub, although the Eagle and Tun down the road will not be so lucky. Here I had some Dragon Smoke from Beowolf followed by Castle Rock's Harvest Pale before climbing the locks through Birmingham to moor outside the National Indoor Arena at Cambrian Wharf. From here it was a short walk to the Prince of Wales at the back of Symphony Hall where I had some Mad goose from a disappointingly small range. The pub obviously had had a very good weekend as many pumps had clips turned round and, with little trade at the start of the week it is sensible to reduce the amount of beers available.



The Eagle & Tun, under threat from HS2

Wednesday saw us ploughing our way along the Walsall canal to... Walsall where we visited the Black Country Arms, a Black Country Ales pub in the town centre. Here I was astounded to be asked £4.50 for a pint of 4% beer, Hank from Tiny Rebel. This was by far the most expensive beer of the trip: even in Central Birmingham we paid a maximum of only £4.10. For the evening we popped up the eight locks to Birchills from where we walked back to the Pretty Bricks, a very friendly back-street pub also run by Black Country Ales.

Leaving Birchills, we went round the Wyrley & Essington Canal to Rushall where we visited the Manor Arms. This canalside pub is an historic house with an entry in the Camra National Inventory. Beers from the Marstons range are dispensed from pumps situated along one wall of the Saloon - there is no bar as such. I drank the Wainwright (I find other Marston's brews too sweet for my palate) and found it to be in excellent condition.



The Beer Engines in the Manor Arms, there is an open seating area to the left.



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By Steve James

South Korea (officially the Republic of Korea) occupies the southern part of the Korean peninsula lying to the east of the Asian mainland. It has a population of over 51 million people, of which around 10 million live in the capital, Seoul. Beer was introduced to the country in the early 1900's and the domestic beer market is now dominated by three major players, Hite-Jinro, OB and Lotte. They mainly brew beers from rice, which tend to be rather bland and of low quality and are not considered as good as those in North Korea! Imported beers are expensive, but after revisions to the liquor tax regulations in 2014, the craft/micro-brewery scene is booming, including Korea Craft Brewing, Magpie, Amazing, Ambition, Playground, Gorilla and Craftworks. In September, the Great Korean Beer Festival is held annually in Seoul, attracting over 20,000 people. Although South Korea is one of the world's leaders in per-capita alcohol consumption, most South Korean people prefer to socialise with a beer when having a meal in a restaurant and drinking beer in small bars has only recently become popular, mainly with students.

We began our beer-hunting in the Itaewon district of Seoul. This tends to be more cosmopolitan than many other parts of the city, with plenty of signs in English (this is one of the problems getting around and finding places, since most streets and bars only have Korean characters on their signs). This area used to be infamous as the place where American soldiers let off steam, but has now cleaned itself up. Just a few doors away from our hotel in Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-ro, we were surprised to find one of the only **Brewdog** bars outside London with its own in-house brewery! It offered not only the

familiar range of Brewdog beers, but also its own beers, such as Konglish Ale and Dunba Dunba Dunkelweizen, along with taps and bottles with beers from Taiwan craft breweries. We made it our second home! Just down the road in Gwanghwamun, Jongno-Gu, we found **Tap Public**, a basement bar with 60 taps around the wall serving craft beers from Taiwan and overseas. Here you serve yourself with as much or as little as you wish and pay at the end. We sampled beers from Amazing (Coffee Stout and NE Pale Ale), Artmonster Hidden Track and Yuzu.



Further along the main street, we found the **Ember** upstairs bar offering craft beers from the Korea Craft Ark brewery, including Be High IPA, Hug Me Wit Bier and Black Swan, served by a Ukrainian barmaid! Behind the main street is one of the so-called craft-beer alleys, packed with many bars, clubs and restaurants, some of which offer craft and imported beers. In the **Craft Hans** brew pub, we sampled their Pilsner, IPA, Weizen and Dark Ale. Just behind was the **Caligari** brew-pub, which offered Koslch, Pale Ale, Banana White, Sabzak IPA and Duvel Image DIPA (a good copy of Duvel Belgian-style beer). In stark contrast, next door was the **Rose &**



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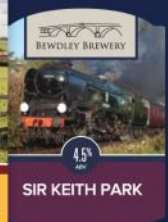
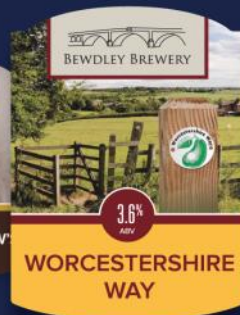
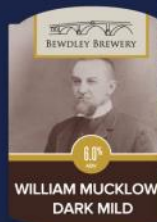
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By Steve James

Crown, with Fullers London Pride, whilst a few doors away was the **Hop House** with Guinness and Hop House lager!

A 15-minute walk away in Yongsan-Gu found us at the **Magpie** brewery tap. Founder, Erik Moyniham, welcomed us to this friendly taphouse and offered us samples of their Pale Ale, Robust Porter, American Pale Ale, Kolsch, Ghost Gose and a fine Winter Warmer barley wine. Around the corner, we spied the **White Rabbit** craft beer bar, another cosy micro-pub, with 14 taps offering beers from Ballast Point, Galmegi and Gorilla; the Gorilla IPA was tasty! Across the main road, we found the new location for **Craftworks**, an award-winning tap-house, where we sampled their Namsan Pilsener, Baekdusan Hefeweizen, Bukhansan Pale Ale, Geumgang Dark Ale and Jirisan Moon Bear IPA.



In Mapo-gu, we visited the **Seoul Brewery** taphouse. Sited up an alley off the main road, we sampled their Pale Blue Red IPA, Salinger Rye IPA, Robust Porter, Galilea Pilsner, Tres Leches Blonde Ale, S'more Stout and Homage IPA, all in excellent condition. **The Booth** has seven outlets in the city, with a range of craft beers (including a very murky

NEIPA) and tasty American-style pizzas. **Amazing's** original brewpub in Seongsu is in a wooden shed dating from 1959, with 60 taps. Also recommended is the Mikkeller bar (near Sinsa station), Pong Dang (Gangnam), Goose Island, Hand & Malt, CraftRoo, Crafted, Namsan Chemistry, Four Seasons and Mysterlee Brewing Company. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit all these other bars, which need further research about location, opening hours and beer offerings.

During our visit, we travelled around South Korea, mainly by train and sampled some excellent cans and bottled craft beers from the local convenience stores and craft bottled beer shops, including beers from Jeju and Playground breweries. On our visit to the De-Militarised Zone abutting North Korea, we even sampled a can of Playground DMZ beer! And food-wise, there's always the staple dish of Korean fried chicken, which always goes well with beer.

So, South Korea has a growing and vibrant craft beer scene, with an ever-expanding number of micro-breweries to complement any business or tourist trip. If only more of the signs were in English...

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Offended? You Will Be!

By Paul Appleton

So, CAMRA has decided to call time on what it describes as “discriminatory names or artworks” on real ales, starting with its flagship beer festival at London Olympia which ran from 6-10 August this year. This, it reminds us, isn’t a one-off, but continues a CAMRA policy launched last year.

Abigail Newton, Vice-Chair of CAMRA’s National Executive, says; “Beer is not a man’s drink or a woman’s drink, it is a drink for everyone.” And on that she is quite right. But is it necessary to ban some of the more risqué beer names or their artwork, just because they might offend the more sensitive imbibers?

Let’s have a think about this. What CAMRA appear to be saying is that any real ale, cider or perry that has what can be construed as a sexist name or imagery on its label is bad for business because it will alienate around 50% of potential customers.

This means that beers with names like ‘Top Totty’, ‘Slack Alice’, ‘Dizzy Blonde’ and ‘Village Bike’ are off limits. From personal experience, I haven’t met a woman yet who would boycott a tasty and refreshing beer because of what it is called or what is on the pump clip. Perhaps it is me – CAMRA might call me laddish – but I find some of the more creative names quite amusing and some of the artworks quite nostalgic in style.

American bomber squadrons famously had names on their charges like ‘Heavenly Body’, ‘Honey Bunny’ and ‘Texas Rose’ often accompanied by slightly salacious artwork, to give their ‘planes a little character, remind them of home when on long sorties and, to

help keep their pecker up (err, or should I say chin up?). You see, this is the problem with some of these names, it can be quite subjective. Is it the mind of the person who is being offended that is in question, or are some of these names so blatantly rude that they are so obviously offensive?

The Telegraph’s Sophie Atherton refers to being offered “A Good Stuffing” by a barman who was playing on the name of a festive beer with a turkey on its pump clip and I can accept that in that scenario it is being used to make a sexist remark, which is offensive. But is the name ‘A Good Stuffing’ with a picture of a stuffed turkey in itself sexist? I’m not sure it is any more offensive than ‘Bert’s Chipolata’ or ‘Pigs in Blankets’ of which one is potentially a double-entendre while the other is bound to send vegans into a spin.

The artwork on those American bombers was often quite stunning, even if the images were sometimes a little risqué, and at least one brewer has adopted this style of artwork for its products, but to get its beers into the London festival had to have its artworks sanitised in order to be accepted.

And what about beers with names that might offend blokes? ‘Old Growler’, ‘Tiny Tim’, ‘Wobbly Bob’ and so on. And does the ‘Village Idiot’ get offended when the beer named after him is on sale at the bar, or does he even realise? Of course not, it’s all part of the colourful and varied array of beer names that makes trying new beers fun.

If they all were named just after their style; Orville’s Best Bitter, Pale Ale or Brown Ale, wouldn’t all get just a bit boring? And, wouldn’t it become difficult to remember

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By Paul Appleton

one beer from another. That's marketing surely? If your beer has a memorable name then doesn't it tend to stick in the memory? Of course, the other challenge when naming new beers is trying to think up something original, which is never easy. I would have thought that 'Piddle in the Hole' was quite a creative name for a beer brewed at Wyre Piddle and fairly inoffensive at that. Nope, CAMRA don't like that either! Even though it allegedly derives from an old children's rhyme.

Am I trying to make excuses for the industry in the face of this latest wave of protestation? Perhaps I am. I certainly don't endorse discrimination, but if you are going to eliminate any beers named for either sex then that will take out a whole lot of established brand names, because where do you draw the line on what is or isn't sexist. Again, to some degree that's in the mind of the beholder. So better play safe then and ban the lot!

More than two in three British women said they would not buy beers that carried sexist advertising, according to a YouGov survey of more than 2,000 women in July commissioned by CAMRA. You can't ignore that really can you?

Newton again; "It's hard to understand why some brewers would actively choose to alienate the vast majority of their potential customers with material likely to only appeal to a tiny and shrinking percentage. We need to do more to encourage female beer drinkers, which are currently only 17 per cent of the population, despite the fact that they make up more than 50 per cent of the potential market." And I am sure we would

all welcome more women drinking real ale. We would welcome more people drinking real ale full stop. So is this new CAMRA policy the right way to go about achieving this?

CAMRA says it made the decision to change the line-up of beers on offer at its big event after a survey revealed that 68 per cent of women would be unlikely to buy a beer if they saw it advertised in a sexist way. "Each of the 1,000 beers, ciders and perrys on sale at the Great British Beer Festival had been checked to ensure they adhered to CAMRA's 'charter and code of conduct, which details its commitment to inclusivity and diversity'" Newton told reporters after the start of the event.

In addition to removing drinks with supposed offensive names, CAMRA chose to hold collections to raise money for Stonewall, a charity that campaigns for the equality of LGBT+ people, during the five-day festival.

Abigail Newton insists that work needs to be done to overcome what she describes as "outdated stereotypes" in the real ale world. It is a changing world out there, no-one can deny that and for anyone who thought nipping out to the local was a good way to get away from political correctness and ultra-liberalism, think again!

You can understand why some might see it differently; the campaign that has worked so hard trying to spread the good word now appears to be at war with some of its greatest proteges.

GREAT SHROPSHIRE BEERS





By Steve James

The **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** is an award-winning, mainly steam-hauled heritage railway, running for 18 miles between Pickering-Whitby and carrying 350,000 passengers a year. It originally opened in 1832, but was closed in 1965. It began operating as a heritage railway in 1971 between Grosmont-Pickering and services were extended along the Network Rail line to Whitby in 2007. It runs across part of the North York Moors National Park to attractive towns and villages, all of which have worthwhile pubs and bars to visit. We recently decided to see what was on offer.

We started our journey at **Whitby** and began our beer-hunting right on the station at the **Waiting Room**. This is Whitby's first micro-pub, 'micro' both in character and size! It offers six ever-changing cask ales, of which we sampled Half Moon's Lunar and Great Heck Shankar IPA. Opposite the railway station is the aptly-named **Station Inn** (sometimes known as Platform 3), which regularly offers beers from North Yorkshire & Durham breweries, including Black Sheep, Ossett, Theakstons and Whitby – the Whitby Jet Black was superb!



Up the hill in Flowergate is the **Little Angel**, a Grade II historic listed building serving up to five cask ales, including beers from Three Brothers and Bradfield breweries. Around the corner in Skinner Street is a recently opened micro-pub, the **Arch & Abbey**, with four cask ales, often including blonde and dark ales, sometimes from Wild Beer, Tiny Rebel and George Wright micro-breweries, along with a wide range of bottled and canned craft beers. Near the harbour swing bridge is the **Angel Hotel**, a recently refurbished multi-roomed bar and hotel with the familiar range of well-priced Wetherspoon's meals and drinks. Across the swing bridge, is the **Endeavour** (named after Captain Cook's ship), with four ever-changing cask ales and Yorkshire 'tapas') and the **Black Horse** in Church Street, with five guest ales, often from Tiny Rebel and Beavertown, along with a good range of Belgian bottled beers. At the other end of Church Street, at the bottom of the 200 steps to the Abbey, is the historic **Duke of York**, offering four cask ales, including beers from Greyhawk and Adnams.

We soon heard the whistles blowing and knew it was time to board our train to Pickering. The line from Whitby crossed the River Esk countless times before we swung left at the junction to enter **Grosmont** station. This is the main locomotive depot and visits are occasionally available to see the iconic Class A4 steam loco *Sir Nigel Gresley*. But there was also time to visit the nearby **Crossing Club**, converted by local villagers into a bar over 20 years ago. We had to ring the doorbell to gain entry, but were rewarded with plenty of railway memorabilia and four cask ales, including beers from Wold Top and Bosun's Brewing (although it may not be open all day every

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By Steve James

day). Next to the railway station is the **Station Tavern**, with beers from Black Sheep and Camerons. If you fancy a mile walk, the **Birch Hall Inn** at Beckhole is also worth visiting (Black Sheep and North Yorkshire Beckwatter – house beer).



Returning to join the next train, we climbed up the steep 1 in 40 incline via Beckhole, crossing the Eller Beck a few times to arrive at **Goathland**. This station is almost unchanged from its original 1865 appearance and may seem familiar, since it doubled as Aidensfield in the *Heartbeat* TV series. A short walk up the hill found us at the **Goathland Hotel**, famous as the Aidensfield Arms in the TV series. Plenty of *Heartbeat* memorabilia here and a nice glass of Camerons Strongarm; sometimes there are vintage vehicles parked in the nearby garage.

Rejoining the train, we travelled across the moors past Newtondale Halt and Levisham and arrived at Pickering, the southern terminus of the line and the NYMR's main carriage works. The station has now been restored to its 1938 condition, with an overall roof and original fixtures and fittings. Nearest the station in Park Street is the **Station Hotel**, a local pub with three cask

ales, if you fancy a glass of Wainwright or Doom Bar. In the Market Place, the **Black Swan** is the taproom for Great British Brewworks micro-brewery behind the pub and offers beers from other Yorkshire breweries. Close by are other historic Grade II listed coaching inns, including the **Bay Horse** (four cask ales including Bradfield Farmers Blonde) and **White Swan** (Black Sheep and Timothy Taylor beers). Local ales and craft beers can also be found at the **No.4 Café Bar**, whilst nearby in Westgate, the **Sun Inn** has a popular beer garden and offers beers from Helmsley, Saltaire and Daleside breweries. In Smiddy Hill, the **Lettered Board** often offers beers from Moorhouses and Theakstons.



The North Yorkshire Moors Railway often has a beer festival at Goathland and Levisham stations during its Autumn Steam Gala in September. Bottled beers are also available in the Gresley Buffet Coach on Saturdays and Sundays. So, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway offers the opportunity for a steam-hauled journey across the scenic North York Moors with the added advantage of some excellent beers in the towns and villages along the route. Beers and steam - an ideal combination!



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Beer Days Out - *Breakfast at Marston's*

By Steve James

A full English breakfast with a glass of Imperial Stout! Who could resist that invitation? So on 18 September 2019, I joined a small group of journalists and beer-bloggers at Marston's iconic brewery at Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent to enjoy their hospitality.

No.2 Horninglow Imperial Stout is one of Marston's limited edition bottled beers in the Horninglow Beer Collection, named after the site of John Marston's first brewery in 1834. It is brewed using the unique Burton Union method and is believed to be the first time that these oak barrel sets have been used to brew a stout. Five English roasted grains are used in the brew, including pale ale malt, roasted barley, chocolate malt, malted oats and malted wheat, imparting flavour, body and refreshment. Water from Marston's own well is used, along with their unique Burton Union yeast, a robust yeast delivering a dry, fruity flavour. Finally, English Challenger hops are added for bitterness and aroma. It is bottle conditioned, giving a full English taste experience, with roasted malt, coffee and chocolate flavours and tastes. It was a perfect accompaniment, if a little strong (7.4% ABV), to our breakfast! It follows on from No.1 Horninglow, a traditional British pale amber IPA, late and dry hopped with four different hop varieties and also weighing in at a hefty 7.4%. Next up will be No.3 Horninglow, a double-dry hopped IPA. These beers are test-brewed and perfected in the DE14 'nano' brewery at Marston's Visitor Centre, before being brewed on a larger scale in the main brewery. All these limited edition bottled beers are sold exclusively at Waitrose stores.

Accompanying us at the brewery was Marston's head brewer, Pat McGinty, who explained more about how the beer was brewed and showed us around the brewery. Lisa Harlow was also on-hand to answer our questions and guide us around the brewery. We first visited the building which houses the Burton Union sets. Each set consists of 24 x 150 gallon wooden barrels, linked to each other with pipework with a tray above to collect the yeast. Each set is capable of brewing beer for just over 32,000 500ml bottles.



We then visited the cooperage, to join Marston's onsite cooper, Mark Newton. He explained the process of making wooden beer barrels, using skills and tools handed down through generations of coopers. He also maintains the oak barrels used in the Burton Union sets. Finally, we visited the bottling lines, an impressive if somewhat noisy sight of hundreds of bottles going through the washing and filling processes.

This was a most interesting, informative and enjoyable visit, not only for the friendly hospitality, but also for an insight into the way the beers are produced.



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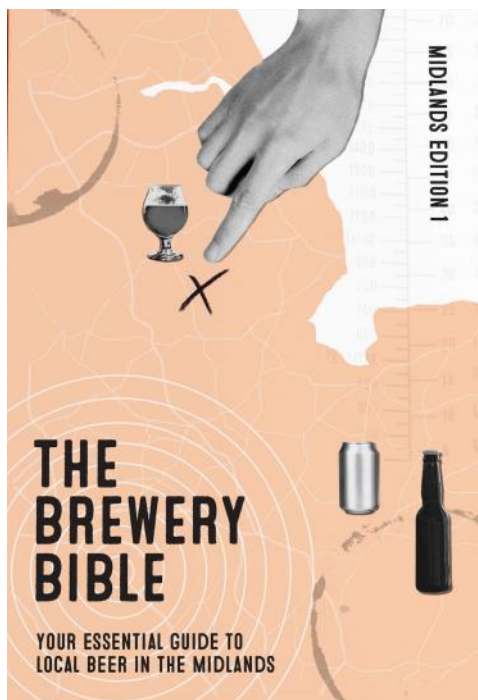
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Beer Guide - *Midlands Brewery Bible* Launched

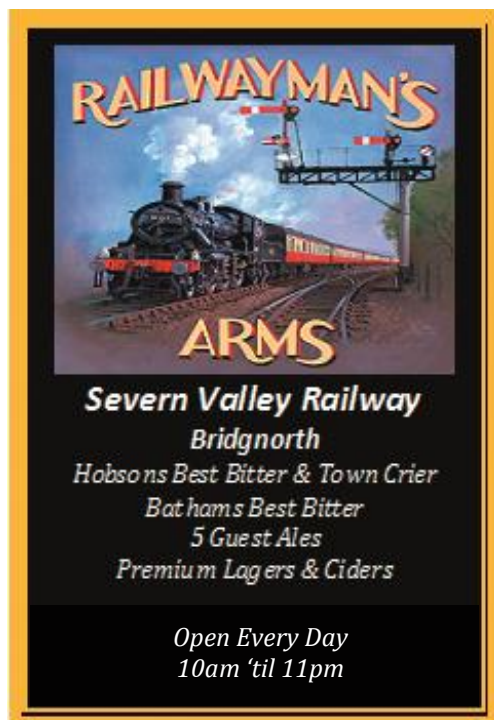
By Steve James

The Midlands edition of The Brewery Bible was launched at the Attic Brewery in Bournville, Birmingham on Thursday 26th September 2019. This claims to be the Essential Guide to Local Beer in the Midlands and follows on from the First Edition which covered the South-West of England. It covers the whole of the Midlands region, including the East and West Midlands and Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. It includes a list of over 200 breweries in the region, along with detailed entries for many breweries, taprooms and craft beer bars. It also details two beer trails, including the Stirchley Beer Mile and the Black Country taphouses. It also links with a phone app to 'connect you directly with the best places and spaces serving the freshest local beer up and down the country'.



Although most of the Shropshire breweries are included, there are some surprising omissions, including All Nations (Madeley – one of the oldest remaining home-brew pubs in the country), Clun and Rowton, as well as some of the smaller micro-breweries such as Chapel (Criftons), Church Aston and Corvedale (Corfton). While the guide is a useful addition to the beer library, apart from the detailed descriptions of some breweries, taprooms and craft beer bars, it is not as extensive as the CAMRA Good Beer Guide and no replacement for it.

The guide is edited by well-known beer writer, Adrian Tierney-Jones and retails at £6.99 (also available at Amazon).



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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.

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A Visit to Burton-on-Trent

By Bill Sturt

Back in 2012 a group of likeminded drinkers in the Railwayman's Arms Bridgnorth, decided to set up a club and hire a local minibus to travel to other pubs and breweries around the area. In 2016 we decided to call ourselves The Railwayman's Arms Touring Society – RATS for short. After many different pubs and breweries visited, we decided to educate ourselves more by visiting some of the museums and visitor centres here in the Midlands. On November 9th, we went to the National Brewery Museum in Burton-on-Trent. This turned out to be a winner!

We booked a tour and arrived with plenty of time to spare. So we were offered tea or coffee in the reception area. When we were all suitably refreshed our tour guide, Ollie, came in and introduced himself. We learned during the tour that he came from Liverpool, but he had moved to Burton in 1964. The museum incorporates large elements of the original Bass Museum. The museum also celebrates the social history of the development of brewing and stories of the people who helped to build Burton's world-renowned brewing reputation. The tour itself, which took about two hours, was very interesting and entertaining. Ollie proved to be very knowledgeable with a great sense of humour!

They have three shire horses, but only one was there on the day we visited – Jed. One of the others was on holiday and one at the Lord Mayors Show in London. Luckily Janet had some mints in her pocket so Jed quickly became friends with Janet and Paula!

The final destination was the Carpenters Building, a three-storied building that produced all woodwork for Bass, except the wooden barrels. If you worked for Bass, when you had a family they would make a crib for the baby and when you died they would make a coffin! So as Ollie said "they looked after you from the cradle to the grave". There were lots of exhibits in the building, with a working model on the top floor of Burton as it was in 1923 showing all the breweries and railways! As I said earlier it was a very informative visit enjoyed by all of us and impossible to do justice to in words! So to do it justice, I would recommend a visit!

When we finished the tour we were taken by Ollie to the onsite pub. Open to the public, there were six real ales on offer at £3.40 a pint, one free if you had completed the tour and a comprehensive menu with food at reasonable prices! So as this was an educational visit it ended like all our trips in a bar with food and real ale. What a lovely end to a lovely day!

The Tally Ho

Emma and Stephen Copson, the licensees of the Tally Ho, Bouldon, were presented with the award of Pub of the Season for Autumn 2019 on Bonfire Night by Bridgnorth CAMRA. Pubs are eligible for this coveted prize if they meet all the criteria for inclusion in the National CAMRA Good Beer Guide but fail to be voted in due to the limited entries available.

The Tally Ho is located in Corvedale over three miles from the nearest main road. However, please don't be put off by your journey down miles of twisting narrow lanes as this remote rural free house is well worth seeking out for its range of quality real ales and good value meals. In truth the Tally Ho Inn is the quintessential rural pub.

Surrounded by farmland, the Tally Ho is on many walking routes including the Three Castles Walk and the Shropshire Way. First licensed in 1844 it is a busy pub which has served locals and visitors for many generations. It is furnished to recreate its bygone charm with a large array of photos, posters and rural paraphernalia which adorn the walls.

On the evening of the presentation the darts team were at home and the pub was very busy with many customers enjoying the convivial atmosphere around the log-burning stove in the bar area. Another log-burner warms the larger dining area towards the rear. However, this is a pub for all seasons: there is a large garden with excellent views across Corvedale or, after dark, superb 'Dark Sky' stargazing of the heavens.

Emma and Stephen took over the pub in April 2015 after a prolonged closure and have worked tirelessly to build the business.

No less than five beers are dispensed from handpumps, all from local breweries: currently HPA from Wye Valley, Gold and Stairway from Ludlow and (a real rarity in a remote pub) Hobsons Mild. The fifth hand-pull serves a guest beer, often from local Plan B brewery in Newport. The food is equally good as vouched by some of the CAMRA party who dined before the presentation.



Our photo shows Bridgnorth Chairman Eleanor Haddon presenting the certificate to Emma and Stephen, alongside Branch Secretary Alan Thwaites.



The Unicorn

Voting for the Winter 2019 Pub of the Season took place at the November meeting of the Bridgnorth sub-branch, which was held at the Unicorn in Hampton Loade. Quite by chance, the Unicorn had been one of the pubs nominated and was duly elected.

The Unicorn is a long-established pub adjacent to a large camping and caravan site on the west bank of the River Severn. New owners Dave, Deb, Shaun, Keely and Allan took over the premises in February 2019 and have already made welcome improvements, including a full refurbishment of the dining area scheduled to be reopened in time for Christmas.

Four regular beers include Marston's Old Empire, Banks's Bitter, Wychwood Hobgoblin and Wye Valley HPA, and up to four more guests will be available during the busy summer months.

The pub is easy to access from the Severn Valley Railway with Hampton Loade station around five minutes' walk away. National Cycle Route 45 passes through the village and the 125 bus from Bridgnorth to Highley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge passes the end of the lane, about a mile distant.

With the campsite open all-year-round, the pub is well supported by campers and fishermen. Log-burning stoves provide a warm winter welcome to this popular hostelry which, coupled with a large beer garden including a play area for children makes this a pub for all seasons.



Bridgnorth Chairman Eleanor Haddon presenting the award to Bar Staff Darcie, watched by Amy, Deb, Keely and Bridgnorth Secretary Alan Thwaites

Call For Votes for Bridgnorth Branch 'Pub of the Season - Spring'

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).

Please email your nomination (with your name and membership number) to LocAle.TES@gmail.com or submit them at the next branch meeting.

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By Steve James

The nights have drawn in and it's getting colder. We're in the depths of winter. British beer is uniquely seasonal, with skilled brewers timing their brews to ensure that the right styles of beer are heading to pubs' cellars when drinkers are most likely to be craving them. In the spring and summer, you can expect golden ales (sometimes called summer ales), or light, hoppy pale ales and session IPAs, which suit drinking in warmer weather. But in winter, brewers start to produce more richly-flavoured beers, which are often stronger, ranging from glowing amber old ales and winter warmers to roasted, smoothly drinkable porters and stouts. We cannot be certain that the idea of a 'winter warmer' was invented in the UK, but almost certainly the phrase was coined here. However, since the notion of a strong ale warming the proverbial cockles is so universal, it's hard to give Britons the sole credit for this one. The colder counties, especially in the far north, have a long tradition of comforting themselves with strong beers during the darkest, shortest days of winter. The new season's barley and hops provide the basis for seasonal specials that start to be released in November. So what types of beer are available to satisfy our winter palate?

Strong Ales and Bitters

The rich, nutty flavours of British strong ales make them perfect for drinking in the autumn or when you're looking for something to bridge the gap between the light summer beers and the darker fuller-flavoured beers designed for sipping by the fire in winter. Smooth, fruity caramel finishes give tasty beers which are often very moreish. But there are also strong lagers (bock beers), which are rich, malty and

sometimes sweet and sustaining. These are the ideal beers to bridge the gap between autumn and winter.

Porters and Stouts

Porters and stouts are quite similar, both being very dark, often black in colour and with flavours of dark chocolate, coffee and roasted malt. However, porters tend to be a touch lighter in body, whilst stouts tend to have a stronger, drier and more intensely roasted flavour. The most wintry beers of all are the extra-strong, almost tar-like porters and stouts originally made in Britain for export to the cold countries around the Baltic, such as Courage Imperial Russian Stout. But then the Baltic countries re-invented them, including Baltic Porters!





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Old Ales and Winter Warmers

British old ales, sometimes known as winter warmers, are not always as strong as you might expect. Many examples pack a rich, fruity flavour into a beer which is relatively mid-strength. Some have delicious soft malty notes of coffee, plums and chocolate, combining with a pleasant light hoppiness to create a rich, full-tasting old ale. Some are spiced beers, with ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves and some are even intended to be drunk as mulled ales. Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild (6%) could fit into this category, with its toasty, rich, fruity and complex taste, as could Titanic's Gran Reserve Plum Porter (6.5%).



Barley Wines and Strong Old Ales

'Pipe and slippers beers', the big brothers of British beer. High in alcohol, the strongest of beers, with impressive flavours produced by a combination of speciality malts and British hops. You can expect smooth bitter-sweet toffee and mince-pie fruit flavours, almost a meal in a glass! Berry fruits and spice are often up front, with hints of dark stewed

fruits, figs, raisins and plums, backed up by warming alcohol and a light, semi-dry finish. Expect Christmas cake sweetness and fruit, including pear drops, mandarin orange and lemon peel. The ultimate beer-at-bedtime is probably Thomas Hardy's Ale, which can mature in the bottle for between 5-25 years, developing Madeira flavours and hitting a strength of at least 12% ABV. In Scotland, a glass of 'wee heavy' fits the bill, using peat-dried malts, like those typically employed in whisky-making. And some of those Baltic porters can also hit high alcohol levels.



So, there's a wide variety of beers available to warm you through the winter months, best drunk at home or before you get the bus or taxi home! It's also worth bearing in mind that CAMRA's **National Winter Ales Festival** takes place in Birmingham in early February, where a good range of 'winter warmers' and other seasonal ales will be available. Beers and cheers for the winter warmers!

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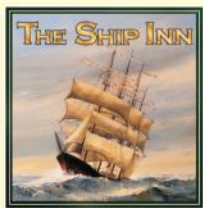


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Beer Destinations - *Beer in Belfast*

By Steve James

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland, with a population of nearly 350,000 people. Standing on the banks of the River Lagan, it is a major port where linen-making and shipbuilding were key industries. In fact, the RMS Titanic was built here at the Harland & Woolff shipyard, where the cranes still dominate the skyline and a new museum commemorates the ill-fated ship. In the past, Belfast was not known for its range of beers and even now, most of the bars offer little more than Guinness, Harp and Hop House lager. However, there is now a burgeoning micro-brewery industry, the first being Hilden in 1981, followed by 30 more, including Boundary, Farmageddon, Hercules, Hillstown, Whitewater and Yardsman.

No visit to Belfast should miss the iconic **Crown Liquor Saloon**, opposite the Europa Hotel in Great Victoria Street. Opened as the Railway Tavern in the 1840s, it was refurbished and renamed in 1865. It is an outstanding example of a Victorian gin palace, complete with working gas lamps, elaborate woodwork, stained glass, carved ceilings, ceramic and granite-topped bar and tiling, along with a row of unique booths with individual doors and working bell pushes. One of CAMRA's most spectacular UK heritage pubs, it is now owned by the National Trust and run by Nicholsons. We sampled a glass of Whitewater Belfast Black stout, but it's a pity that the poor service and rather unadventurous range of beers do not match the splendour of the surroundings. Next door is another historic pub, **Robinsons**, more of a sports bar inside, but with an interesting interior and a small range of craft beers, of which we sampled Soulwater Mutiny IPA.



Personal Booths at The Crown

A few blocks away in Bedford Street is the local Wetherspoon's pub, **Bridge House**, offering the familiar range of well-priced beers and meals and often has draught local and imported craft beers on tap and in bottles. We sampled a glass of Inveralmond's Lia Fail dark ale, Orkney Dark Island and Pheasantry Mikado Mild to wash down an excellent steak.



Not far away, on the corner of Upper Church Lane, is another historic Victorian pub, **Bittles Bar**. Dating from 1868, this flat-iron shaped building was originally known as The Shakespeare, reflecting its theatrical



By Steve James

clientele. The interior has plenty of wood and tiles and also displays paintings of characters from Belfast's troubled past, including George Best, Seamus Healey and Ian Paisley, painted by local artists. From its eight taps, we sampled two Players, a collaboration between Beer Hut and Lacada using BBC Pure Hop Pellets for the first time in Northern Ireland. Just around the corner, in Chichester Street, is another historic pub, the **Garrick**. This is one of Belfast's oldest pubs dating from 1870 and has two rooms with plenty of dark wooden panels, glass partitions and tiled floors. It also offers a good range of local draught beers and over 50 Irish and imported craft bottled beers, of which we sampled Opengate Extra IPA.

One of the oldest pubs in Belfast is **McHughs** in Queen Square, dating from 1711. The main bar has a handpump dispensing beers from the Whitewater brewery and it seemed a shame not to sample their Belfast Black stout. If you wish to experience some of Belfast's modern bar culture, visit **The Dirty**

Onion in Hill Street, basically, a pop-up bar in an open courtyard, next to a former Jamieson's bonded whisky warehouse and the Yardbird restaurant. We basked in the rare afternoon sunshine to sample a glass of Whitewater's Maggie's Leap IPA. Also in the Cathedral Quarter is the **John Hewitt** in Donegal Street. This traditional pub is named after a local poet and Freeman, who opened it in 1999 to fund the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre. It has plenty of old woodwork, tiles and stained glass and from its 10 craft beer taps, we sampled Farmageddon's Gold Pale Ale to wash down an interesting cheese platter, including local smoked and goat cheeses.

Our final port-of-call was the **Sunflower** in Union Street, near Castlecourt shopping centre. You'll recognise it immediately from the old security cage at the front door, a relic of the 'troubles' and the sign announcing 'No Topless Bathing – Ulster has already suffered enough'! Opened in 2012, some say this is the best craft beer bar in Belfast. The pub



A fine range of beers and bottles at The Garrick

now concentrates on local independent craft beers from its 10 taps, including Hilden & Hercules, along with a good range of bottled beers. We sampled Hercules' Yardsman Double Stout, Boundary Wits Out and Northbound 70 Magnum IPA.

Unfortunately, we hadn't time to visit the Ormeau Road, south of the city centre. Here is the local Galway Bay brewery bar, the **Northern Lights**, the historic **Errigle Inn** (mainly imported craft beers) and **The Vineyard** (bottle shop). A short taxi-ride away is **Boundary Brewery's** taproom, at the Portview Trade Centre, but it's only open one weekend per month.

So, although Belfast has some catching-up to do in terms of craft beer, it's getting better all the time, with new craft beer bars opening and an ever-increasing range of local micro-breweries. Sláinte!



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The untimely death of Dave has robbed us of a great pal and fellow traveller. Steam railways were his first passion of course.

A career with British Railways led to a 53 year membership of the Severn Valley Railway, much of this time as a loco driver and fireman. He travelled the world with his camera looking for steam. From Argentina to China and most points in between he managed to find it. It also meant that he could indulge his second passion, which was ensuring that the locals were not being short-changed with the quality of their beer.

He was well known for being an active and enthusiastic member of CAMRA, being a committee member and helper at the

Birmingham branch for many years! After coming to live in Bridgnorth, he joined our local branch, supporting trips and helping with beer festivals at the railway station.

To all who came across him either at the lineside or in the pub, Dave was great company. The world is a less interesting and less fun place for his passing.

Bye Dave.





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Bamboo Bridgnorth WV16 4BE
Bear Bridgnorth WV16 4ET
Bell & Talbot Bridgnorth WV16 4QU
Fosters Arms Bridgnorth WV15 5AG
Friars Bridgnorth WV16 4DW
Golden Lion Bridgnorth WV16 4DS
Harp Inn Bridgnorth WV16 4DX
Jewel of the Severn Bridgnorth WV16 4DS
Kings Head Bridgnorth WV16 4QN
Old Castle Bridgnorth WV16 4AB
Railwaymans Arms Bridgnorth WV16 5DT
Shakespeare Bridgnorth WV16 4AD
Stable Bar Bridgnorth WV16 4QN
The George Bridgnorth WV16 4AX
Vine Bridgnorth WV 15 5AG
White Lion Bridgnorth WV16 4AB
Rose & Crown Burford WR15 8HA
Bulls Head Chelmarsh WV16 6BA
Plough Inn Claverley WV5 7DX
Golden Cross Clee Hill SY8 3LZ
Bell Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8AA
Kings Arms Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS
Royal Fountain Inn Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8BS
Sun Inn Corfton SY7 9DF
Halfway House Eardington WV16 5LS
Unicorn Inn Hampton Loade WV16 6BN
Old Gate Inn Heathton WV5 7EB
Malt Shovel Highley WV16 6HT
Ship Inn Highley WV16 6NU
Crown Inn Hopton Wafers DY14 0NB
Eagle & Serpent Kinlet DY12 3BE
Bennetts End Inn Knowbury SY8 3LL
Longville Inn Longville in the Dale TF13 6DT
Acton Arms Morville WV16 4RU
Pheasant at Neenton Neenton WV16 6RJ
Fighting Cocks Stottesdon DY14 8TZ
Lion O'Morfe Upper Farmcote WV15 5PS
Three Horseshoes Wheathill WV16 8QT
Davenport Arms (The Dog) Worfield WV15 5LF
Wheel Inn Worfield WV15 5NR

Telford and East Shropshire

Platform Ale House Albrighton WV7 3DF
Broseley Social Club Broseley TF12 5EZ
The Riverside Inn Cound SY5 6AF
Royal Oak Ellerdine Heath TF6 6RL
New Inn Newport TF10 7LX
Three Horseshoes Sambrook TF10 8AP
Plough Inn Shifnal TF11 8AZ
White Hart Shifnal TF11 8BH
Coalbrookdale Inn Coalbrook TF8 7DX
Shakespeare Coalport TF8 7HT
Elephant & Castle Dawley TF4 2ET
All Nations Madeley TF7 5DP
Crown Inn Oakengates TF2 6EA
Station Hotel TF2 6DU
Cock Hotel Wellington TF1 2DL
William Withering Wellington TF1 1LU
Wrekin Inn Wellington TF1 1RH

Market Drayton

Old Jack Inn Calverhall SY13 4PA
Fox & Hounds Cheswardine TF9 2RS
Red Lion Cheswardine TF9 2RS
Red Lion Market Drayton TF9 1JP
Sandbrook Vaults Market Drayton TF9 3BY



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Get Your Thinking Caps On

Beer Sudoku

To complete the sudoku puzzles,
fill in the boxes such that the
letters

P I N T O F A L E

are found in each row, column
and 3x3 square without
duplicates.

Beginner

	O	E				L	P	
	P	I		E		A	N	
	F							O
O		P		L		T	F	E
F	I							
E		A	T	N			I	
I	T		F			P		
N		F	P			E	O	I
			O	I	N			A

Intermediate

		E		L		A	P	
	O						N	
	T			N				
F	L		A			N	I	E
		T	P					A
			E			P	F	T
A				E		L		
N	E	I	L					O
			O	A		I	E	



Get Your Thinking Caps On : Answers

Solutions To The Sudoku Puzzles On Page 47

A	O	E	N	F	I	L	P	T
T	P	I	L	E	O	A	N	F
L	F	N	A	P	T	I	E	O
O	N	P	I	L	A	T	F	E
F	I	T	E	O	P	N	A	L
E	L	A	T	N	F	O	I	P
I	T	O	F	A	E	P	L	N
N	A	F	P	T	L	E	O	I
P	E	L	O	I	N	F	T	A

I	N	E	T	L	O	A	P	F
L	O	A	F	P	E	T	N	I
P	T	F	I	N	A	E	O	L
F	L	P	A	O	T	N	I	E
E	I	T	P	F	N	O	L	A
O	A	N	E	I	L	P	F	T
A	F	O	N	E	I	L	T	P
N	E	I	L	T	P	F	A	O
T	P	L	O	A	F	I	E	N

Bridgnorth Meetings

28th January - 20:00

The Eagle & Serpent, Kinlet

Minibus will depart from opposite The George at 19:30

25th February - 19:30

The Harp, Bridgnorth

24th March - 20:00

The Three Horseshoes, Alveley

Minibus will depart from opposite The George at 19:30

For Latest Updates

See The **Bridgnorth CAMRA**
Facebook Group

www.bridgnorthcamra.org.uk

TES Meetings

30th December - 12:00

New Year Social

The White Hart, Shifnal

14th January - 20:00

The Harp Hotel, Albrighton

11th February - 20:00

Good Beer Guide Selection Evening

The Plough Inn, Shifnal

More ideas, suggestions and bookings to
Paul Bradburn 01952 510611 e-mail
paulbradburn8439@btinternet.com

Market Drayton Events

No Information Provided

For more information
please contact

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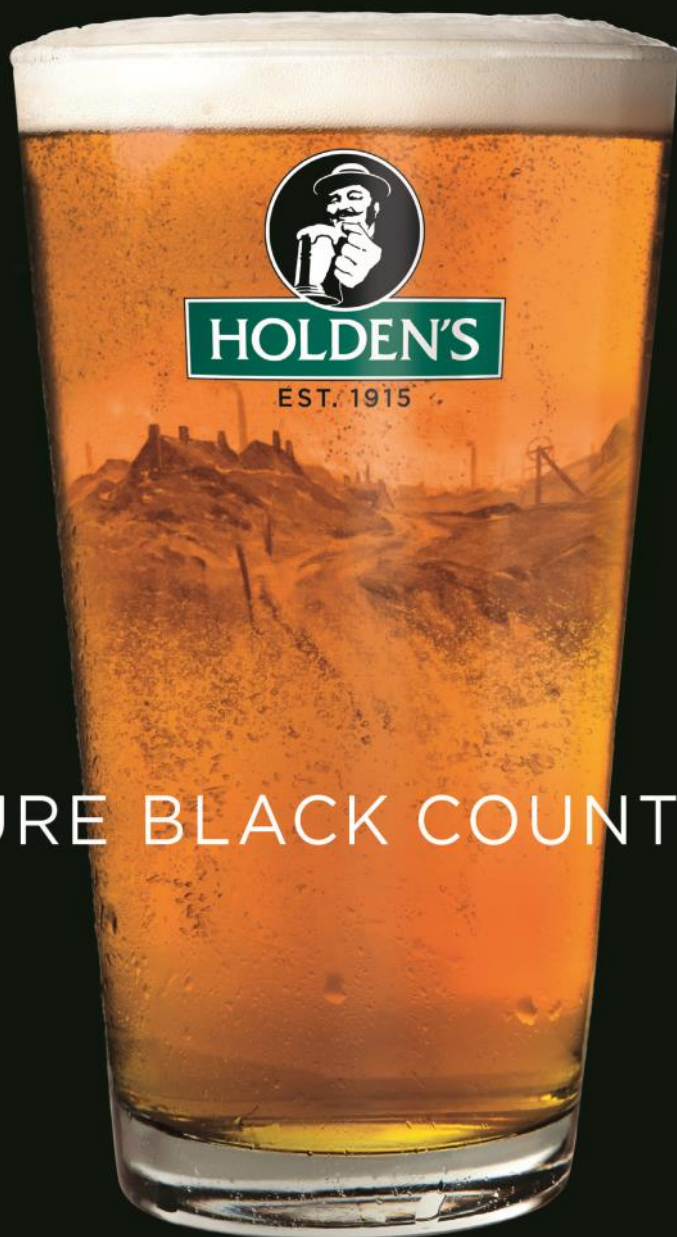
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Edwin Butler Bayliss, Black Country Landscape, early 1900s, oil on canvas.
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