

# Shropshire Tales



Issue 2 | Autumn'17

Inside...

Haughmond



Long Mountain Breidden Hills  
Beacon Ring Breidden Hill  
Middelton Hill  
Welshpool  
Lord Hill's Column Shrewsbury  
Wedge Hill



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

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





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## Editor's Welcome

Welcome to Issue 2, I have some great news to share. Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch have come on-board so we will now be covering the whole of our wonderful county.

We have had a busy period with presentations within Telford and East Shropshire Branch, thus being forced to visit a number of rather good pubs.

Shrewsbury and West Shropshire have had their beer festival at its new location in July and I'm sure all those who went will agree with me that it was as excellent as always.

A week later T.E.S Branch provided the beer tent for Festival at the Edge at its new location. It was an enjoyable weekend for all who went with one exception - the bagpipes lesson which was given in the beer tent!

Unfortunately those who have been looking forward to reading Part 2 of Pete Arden's A Life in Ale will be disappointed. Unfortunately Pete was taken seriously ill and has been unable to write the article. However, we are pleased to hear that he is on the mend and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Thank you to all who have submitted articles for this and future editions of **Shropshire TAles**.

**Lee Bradbury | Editor**

email: [editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com](mailto:editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com)


## How to advertise in

## Shropshire TAles

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

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

## Remember...

Articles and suggestions for the next issue of should be submitted by **1st November 2017**.



## A word from T.E.S CAMRA Chairman

A big thank you to all those that were involved in getting the previous issue of **Shropshire TAles** put together, printing, drumming up adverts and distributing it. The feedback I have had is that it was well received and welcomed.

A question: What is CAMRA's most important asset? The only answer is its volunteer membership because without those people CAMRA as we know would not exist.

Therefore, I would like to say thank you to all the members that attended the branch AGM at the White Hart, Shifnal in June and thank those people who took on roles on the branch committee for the coming year.

Volunteering can take on various guises, be it taking a role on the branch committee, working at beer festivals, putting together magazines like this or liaising with one of breweries in our area.


It has been good to see new faces taking on tasks for the branch over the last few years but we could always do with more people coming forward. If you have something to offer please contact me (see contact list on page xxxx)

You can support CAMRA by visiting the wonderful selection of pubs and by talking with other pub users and landlords about what CAMRA does and how it champions choice for all.

**Adrian Zawierka | T.E.S Branch Chairman**



## Welcome from our Bridgnorth sub-branch



**As chair of Bridgnorth CAMRA sub-branch I am pleased to contribute to the second edition of this new magazine produced by members of Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA.**

The Bridgnorth sub-branch area covers pubs in the town as well as those in the southern part of the East Shropshire area. Our membership currently stands at 148 and will hopefully continue to grow. We hold monthly meetings, in various locations, on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except for December). Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings where we arrange our activities and promote the various campaigns CAMRA highlights. The sub-branch is active in supporting real ale throughout the county and organises trips to pubs and breweries in the whole of Shropshire and neighbouring counties.

Normally at this time of year we are busy putting the finishing touches to our annual Bridgnorth Beer Festival which is held at the beginning of September at the Severn Valley Railway Station in Bridgnorth. As refurbishment work is still continuing at the station we have had to put our plans on hold for a second year. We are planning to return in September 2018 and will keep you posted.

**Eleanor Haddon | Sub-Branch Chairman**



## A word from S.W.S CAMRA Chairman

**I reported to the branch that we have had a very successful year. Over the past ten months we held two fantastic beer festivals. The volunteers at the festivals were brilliant, worked hard but seem to have enjoyed themselves despite the increased business. We owe many thanks to them all.**

We worked with the Whitchurch Town Council and town pubs on the successful Whitchurch Weekend Festival. The Oswestry Food and Drink Festival was again supported by a well-attended tasting session at Oswestry Railway Station.

Our social events included a well-attended annual dinner and our popular pub survey trips which remain the core of the branch campaigning activity. We have enjoyed an increase in Meet the Brewer / tap-take over events in Shrewsbury and in Oswestry. Our trips to the Green Hop festival last year and the Stafford festival in July appear to have been appreciated by all those attending. We have also had an increase in social visits to our branch area from other branches.

The branch has advised and assisted several communities in the past year enabling them to move forward with pub preservation opportunities. By getting involved early we are able to be more effective and it is gratifying to know that the branch is becoming

the first port of call for communities concerned about their local pub. We continue to submit applications for listing pubs as Assets of Community Value. The recent removal of pubs from the Permitted Development Rights legislation helps our cause and we have already started to object to changes of use, with some success.

Shrewsbury and West Shropshire branch continues to increase its membership. It still remains a concern to me that many do not engage with our online communication, be it Twitter, Facebook or the website. In fact the website continues to improve with more content and improved appearance as well as becoming easier to navigate. It remains the best place to go to find up to date information about the branch and its activities.

I hope that **Shropshire TAles**, this new and very welcome publication, will encourage members to become more active by distributing the magazine around the county, so adding to its success.

I am honoured to remain Chair of the Branch for another year and I will be very pleased if it as successful as the last one.

**Dave Roll | S.W.S Branch Chairman**



## Pub of the Season - Autumn 2017

Bridgnorth CAMRA

### The George

Hollybush Road, Bridgnorth  
WV16 4AX

The presentation took place  
on Tuesday 22nd August.



Telford CAMRA

### The Huntsman

Wellington Road, Little Wenlock  
TF6 5BH

The presentation will be taking  
place approx 4pm on Saturday  
16th September 2017. Also, join us  
for Little Wenlock's Tom Pickering  
benchwalk before the presentation.



### Call for votes for the Telford and Bridgnorth Branches Winter 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 October branch newsletter. Votes will be received at the October branch meeting or by email ([LocAle.TES@gmail.com](mailto:LocAle.TES@gmail.com))

Bridgnorth branch nomination and voting are taken at branch meetings.



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# Dave Tyler

Words & Photo by Dave Haddon

During our branch AGM in June a Special Award was presented to our past Branch Chairman of 13 years, Dave Tyler. This was in recognition of the hard work and support he has given to the branch and the two sub branches during his long spell “at the helm”



Dave first became interested in real ale in the mid 1970's, a time when CAMRA was a fledgling organisation. Even so, whilst helping to run a Workingman's Club in Feltham, West London, he managed to get real ale on tap. Such was Dave's enthusiasm for pubs and real ale, he recalls that his friends used to think it odd that he and his wife Susan used to travel 3 miles to their favourite 'local', The Windmill at Hampton Hill, a pub that still survives to this day.

A great fan of locally brewed Fuller's ales, Dave visited all 110 of their pubs and treasures the many mementos he still has of his real ale drinking days in West London.

Dave and Susan moved to Shropshire in 1989 and immediately took an interest in the local real scene.

When enquiring with a neighbour they were told of a great real ale pub within walking distance of home; the Lord Hill, Ketley Bank. It was an entry in that years CAMRA Good Beer Guide serving Draught Bass, M & B Highgate Mild and Springfield Bitter and was then owned by Gerald Gibson.

Nowadays Dave lists several pubs in his local area as favourites, including the Cock Hotel, Wellington and the Crown Inn, Oakengates. But he still frequents the Lord Hill and especially looks forward to their Monday Club, meeting old friends and drinking a decent pint of real ale. This is often his favourite Shropshire beer, Hobsons Best Bitter.

Our thanks to Dave for his many years of dedication to the branch and we wish him good health and happy drinking days in the future.

## St Georges Sports & Social Club

Club of the Year  
2017 presentation

At our July branch meeting, for the second year in succession, we were pleased to present St Georges Sports and Social Club with TES CAMRA Club of the Year 2017 to Garry and Helen Keable.

St Georges has a strong history of serving good quality real ale, evidenced by the vast display of COTY certificates which hang proudly above the bar, having won this award for 19 out of the last 20 years! Garry and Helen ensured we were all well fed and watered, with a good range of real ales to suit all tastes, ranging from the refreshing Wye valley HPA, to the classic Everard's Old Original and as a treat for the dark ale lovers Slater's Smoked Porter.

Following the presentation the Clubs Chairman, Jeff Fletcher, then presented Garry, John, Carol, Paul and Janine with certificates for their recently achieved awards in Beer and Cellar Quality (from BIIAB). A great night was had by all!



Branch Chairman Adrian Zawierka presenting the award to Gary and Helen Keable



John, Carol, Janine, Paul and Garry receiving their certificates from Jeff



# A Mild Day in May

Words and Photos by **Dave Haddon**

As part of CAMRA's national campaign to promote the style of mild ale, we are very fortunate in Shropshire in that both CAMRA branches organise a 'Mild in May Trail'. This year 67 pubs participated in the trail by making a mild available and therefore being listed in Shropshire CAMRA's 'passport' of pubs. The idea is to complete as many pubs on the list as you wish and enjoy the mild ale that is available.

On a gloriously sunny afternoon, ten members of Bridgnorth CAMRA, armed with their passports, boarded a mini bus and set out to visit a selection of pubs to enjoy the mild beers available.

Our first stop was the **Lion O'Morfe** at Upper Farmcote which, amongst the six other beers on offer that afternoon, was serving Hobsons "Champion Mild" (3.2%). We all settled down in the new conservatory and Nat Bull commented that, as the pump clip claims, it did indeed have a "nutty" taste.



Lion O'Morfe Upper Farmcote



Royal Oak Rudge Heath



Very soon we were heading down the narrow country lanes towards the village of Claverley for a stop at the **Plough Inn**. "Banks's Mild" (3.5%) was one of four beers on offer and with beers in hand everyone shuffled outside for a group photo. Sat amongst the beamed interior of this charming village pub we all agreed that beer was of an acceptable quality.

The **Royal Oak** at Rudge Heath is a popular roadside pub situated on the A454 Wolverhampton to Bridgnorth road. Our hostess that day, Lisa, commented that there had been quite a few visitors who had called in who were taking part in the Shropshire CAMRA "Mild in May Trail". Amongst the five real ales available on the day we all gathered in the comfortable darts lounge to once again enjoy "Banks's Mild" (3.5%). Nat Bull again summed up our parties' thoughts saying that it was a "very supple drop of mild".

A very short distance away is the **Inn at Shipley**. Formerly the Thornscroft Hotel until acquired by Brunning & Price, this spacious and charming pub is an ideal place to enjoy food and drink in its traditionally decorated rooms. The recently formed Gorgeous Brewing Company brewed "Mild in May" (3.5%) to coincide with the CAMRA mild promotion and this smooth and rich tasting beer gained much praise from the members of our party. Linda Lewis quipped "It's gorgeous!"

As we trundled towards the village of Albrighton we knew that, as well as the two we had planned, we could include a visit to a third pub as a bonus. We quickly decided on which one. But first we were due to visit the two pubs listed in our "passports" as serving mild.

Last year a micro-pub **Platform Ale House** opened on the westbound platform at Albrighton station. We were delighted to find five real ales available at this single roomed pub situated in a building that dates back to 1849 - even more delighted with the CAMRA members' discount. With plates of bar snacks we sat and once again enjoyed Gorgeous Brewing Company's "Mild in May" (3.5%) as the trains sped by just a few yards away.

Such was Mark Fieldsend's delight that he commented as he supped away at his beer that it was "like velvet going down". Proudly displayed next to bar is certificate from Telford & East Shropshire CAMRA awarding the Platform Ale House the Pub of the Season for Spring 2017.

Situated on a crossroads in the centre of the village is the large Marstons pub called the **Crown Hotel**. I had not visited this pub since working in the village over 25 years ago. Even though the interior has now been opened up around a central servery, I was delighted to find that the "sunken" or "well" seating area in what used to be the bar has been retained. As we sat in the beer garden we tasted the "Banks's Mild" (3.5%) which was refreshing in the May sunshine.

Our "bonus pub" the **Harp Hotel**, owned by Wiltshire brewers Hop Back. There was no mild available but there was a collection of five hand-pulls dispensing three local beers with a choice of two beers from further afield. I have always enjoyed beers from Dancing Duck Brewery of Derby and their "Abduction" (5.5%), a full flavoured IPA did not disappoint.

Our last call was the **Davenport Arms**, also known as **The Dog** in the village of Worfield. A fine selection of Hobsons real ales beckoned us to the bar and pints and halves of "Champion Mild" (3.2%) were soon being quaffed.

Mild is a style of beer that is still very much enjoyed in the Midlands. We are lucky that local brewers are still producing this popular beer, whilst in other parts of the country it is very much a rarity. Our party enjoyed the afternoon sampling the beers in the pubs we visited. Maybe when you next see a mild being served at your local, why not give it a try, you might be pleasantly surprised as to how tasty these beers can be. Cheers!

# The Fighting Cocks

Rural Pub of the Year  
2017 presentation

The Telford and East Shropshire branch of CAMRA recently presented the Fighting Cocks at Stottesdon, near Bridgnorth, their Rural Pub of the Year award for 2017.

Branch secretary Eleanor Haddon presented the award along with the Barry Malone Shield to owners Mark Morris and Bre Hill who have only been running the pub for 18 months after moving to Shropshire at the end of 2015. Members of staff and pub regulars also attended the evening to enjoy the celebrations. The pub was one of six pubs shortlisted by local CAMRA members which went on to be anonymously visited by out of county judges.

The pub serves a selection of locally brewed Hobsons ales as well as beers from Ludlow and Wye Valley breweries. Guest beers from further afield are often available.

The pub is set in the heart of rural south Shropshire and is a thriving community pub with its own shop adjacent to the premises. A traditional bar has a log fire in the winter and two dining rooms where locally sourced food is served.

The function room has recently been converted to a coffee shop. A children's play area has also been added to the beer garden.

The Fighting Cocks - originally the Cock Inn - was the first recorded license in the village and has been open since 1830. The first landlord Thomas Jones would advertise a cockpit at the pub, but cock fighting was banned in 1849. In later years the pub was owned by the Wrekin Brewery & Co. Ltd. of Wellington which was taken over by Greenall Whitley in 1951. The name was changed in 1976 to the Fighting Cocks.

The new owners, Mark & Bre, have made many improvements to the pub which still retains its charming rural character.



Branch secretary Eleanor Haddon presenting the award to Mark Morris and Bre Hill

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# Railwayman's Arms steams ahead

Written by **Dave Haddon**

**The Bridgnorth CAMRA has recently presented its award for Pub of the Year 2017 to the Railwayman's Arms. The pub is situated on platform 1 of the station at the Severn Valley Railway in Bridgnorth.**

Customers and local CAMRA members turned out on a sunny May evening to congratulate pub manager Samantha-Jayne Cottrell and her staff on achieving their success.

Up against 16 other nominated pubs in the Bridgnorth area, the Railwayman's Arms received enough votes from members of the Telford & East Shropshire branch of CAMRA for it to reach a final pairing. These two pubs were then scrutinized by independent, non-branch judges, looking at criteria such as atmosphere, pub décor, service, welcome and crucially, beer quality.

The Railwayman's Arms is run by the SVR and opened in 1861 as a licenced refreshment room.

The single bar boasts an array of 10 real ale hand pumps which serve a selection of local and national ales and in summer serves a traditional cider and a perry.

The bar area and its adjacent lounge with its original cast iron fire surround contain a plethora of railway memorabilia, a delight for all railway enthusiasts. Plans to increase the area of the main bar will turn an adjacent store room into an additional drinking area. Samantha-Jayne Cottrell was very proud to receive the award from local branch CAMRA branch chairman Eleanor Haddon and thanked her regular customers and staff for their help in receiving the award.

The pub now goes on to compete against four other pubs in the hope of being judged as CAMRA Marches Pub of the Year 2017. These include other CAMRA branch winners from the rest of Shropshire as well as Hereford & Worcestershire CAMRA area. Cheers and good luck!



Staff members and Andrea Smith and Julie Ponchery join Pub Manager Samantha-Jayne Cottrell, as she receives the award from Bridgnorth CAMRA chairman Eleanor Haddon

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WYE VALLEY  
BREWERY





# Super Nova

## Our Branch visit to Plan B Brewing Company in Newport

Written by **Dave Haddon**

**Hidden away on an industrial park on the outskirts of Newport is the mysterious sounding Plan B Brewing Company which is providing the trade with an interesting selection of real ales under their New Brew range.**

Like most breweries, the history of the brewery begins with the demise of a former brewery. In January 2016 the premises of Woodlands Brewery in Nantwich, Cheshire had been sold and so the 5½ barrel brewery plant had no home. It was acquired by Mark Charman who had had 4 years previous experience with Battlefield Brewery near Shrewsbury. The plant was moved to the unit in Newport and, after a 3 month long conversion and some frustrating delays, the first brew appeared in July of that year. Further expansion took place in September

2016 when a 10-barrel plant acquired from Eastbury Brewing Company in Wiltshire was fully installed in Newport by December.

On a mild and sunny evening in June of this year, members of Telford & East Shropshire CAMRA were invited along to view the brewery, discuss its current set up and, of course, sample a selection of the real ales on offer.

Mark, ably assisted by his son William and colleague Eliza Pore, welcomed us into a bar area located at the front of the premises which has been specially built to host visitors. The 3 beers available were all from their core range of 4 beers; Nova Gold (3.8%), Nova APA (4.1%) and Nova NPA (4.4%) with their Nova New India IPA (6.0%) being the only one not available.

The beers are produced using Maris Otter, Munich and Vienna malts and then a mixture of hops from the UK or the new world are used for flavouring.

It was the Normans who planned a new town called Novo Burgo. Over time the name changed to Newborough and finally to Newport. The ancient name was the inspiration for the brewery's range of beers, but some seasonal beers are sold under the Woodlands Brewery name.

Shortly after our arrival and with beers in hand Mark began his very interesting and thorough tour of the brewery which currently produces 1 - 2 brews per week. But the plan is to expand the output to 100 hectolitres.

Alongside this there are plans for a tasting room which will be available for private hire and the viability of the bar being open to the public is also being considered. Also of interest to real ale fans is the fact that bottle conditioned beers are soon to be produced and will be made available via their shop and website. Their bottling plant has an impressive throughput of 340 bottles in only 60 minutes. The ales are unfiltered to produce a finer taste.

A further treat from our hosts that evening was a very enjoyable BBQ which, along with the fine ales we had tasted, meant that we trundled off into the setting sun feeling well-nourished, informed and thoroughly entertained by our hosts.



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# Pints South-West

## A day trip to Weston-Super-Mare with Wolverhampton CAMRA

Words & Photos by Dave Haddon

**Wolverhampton beer festival took place in early June and, by way of a thank you to the many volunteers who helped organise and work at the festival, a trip took place on a very overcast day in July. The chosen destination was Weston-Super-Mare and over 50 volunteers eagerly boarded a coach early one Saturday morning to make the journey down the M5 to the south-west of England.**

The day was closely coordinated with the Weston-Super-Mare sub branch of Bristol CAMRA whose members generously volunteered to guide us in small groups around the town.

Our first pub was the **Waverley** and we all eagerly alighted from the bus to enjoy the first beer of the day. This is a genuine old fashioned community free house to the south of the town centre but within easy walking distance of the railway station. My first impression of the pub was the friendliness and the welcome by the local customers, one of whom asked jokingly "Oh you must all support West Bromwich Albion then?" Two regular beers are served with two changing beers some of which are the usually rare to find ales from the local area.



One of the joys of going to a distant town is having ales that you do not normally get the opportunity to try and my first beer proved the point. It was '4ours and Five5' (4.5%) from Powderkeg Brewery of Devon which was set up in 2015

A short distance away is a very spacious and comfortable pub, the **Bear**, which reopened in 2012. This pub has a large drinking area and there is a refurbished function room with a skittle alley and a stage for live music. It also has 23 ensuite bedrooms. The bar servery is surrounded by hundreds of pump clips which is testimony to the number of different ales which have been served. At the time of our visit 4 hand-pulls were serving two beers from Acorn Brewery of Barnsley, a dark beer from Moles Brewery and a golden ale from Box Steam Brewery of Wiltshire. I opted for the Acorn 'Summer Pale' (4.1%) which was very refreshing.

We were split into small groups with a guide from the local CAMRA branch. Our guide was Natalie, a young member of the local branch who was eager to show us a selection of pubs in the town centre.



**Off The Rails** is a free house which was highly recommended by Natalie and we could see why. It is conveniently situated at the towns' railway station. Although lacking in railway memorabilia, it is very comfortable, spacious and welcoming. It was serving two beers when we visited, a golden ale from Cheddar Ales called 'Potholer' (4.3%) and Great Western Brewery 'Maiden Voyage' (4.0%). I opted for the former and found it to be delicious and in great condition. With one exit directly out on to platform, should you want to take your drink out onto the platform, then they are served in plastic glasses. Two-pint carry out containers are available upon request.

Situated on Lake Alexandra Parade is the **Red Admiral**. This is a true locals' pub bustling with customers. Two real ales were available; Wells 'Bombardier Pale Ale' (3.6%) and the very popular Butcombe 'Bitter' (4.0%), which I found clean, refreshing and in fine form. A CAMRA discount is available to card carrying members.

The **Imperial** is situated on the South Parade and it was the pub highlight of my day. Having reopened after refurbishment in 2015, this is a smart, airy and comfortable pub in which to enjoy the three real ales usually on offer.



A CAMRA discount is available making this pub a must visit. However, on the day there were only two real ales on offer but both were exceptional quality. My choice was a very enjoyable pint of 'Raver' (3.8%), a light session pale ale from Beat Ales of Bristol. There is also a range a bottle beers available from around the globe. The meals served here use locally sourced produce. There is also a function room offering classic cocktails and a welcoming atmosphere.

The entrance to **Brit Bar**, a long-standing town centre pub, is through a long courtyard. This popular pub offers one regular beer with two changing guest beers. My choice was the golden ale 'Pitchfork' (4.3%) from Pitchfork Ales. 'Pitchfork' was originally brewed by RCH Brewery who have operated in the area since 1983. But recently they went into liquidation and two former directors set up Pitchfork Ales using the same plant in the same location as RCH Brewery. Once again a CAMRA members discount was available.

The **Dragon Inn** is a small Wetherspoon's pub located in the town centre, handy for the many shops and the seafront. It first opened in 1996 and has been a regular CAMRA Good Beer Guide entry. We did not have time to try a beer here as we spent so much time enjoying the previous pubs. This was the meeting place for our coach party.

I have looked back through many past editions of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide and found that in the past Weston-Super-Mare really was a 'real ale desert'. This is far from the case now. Cheers!



## The Pheasant Inn at Neenton

Bridgnorth CAMRA  
Pub of the Season  
Summer 2017 presentation

The Pheasant Inn at Neenton, near Bridgnorth, has been voted Bridgnorth CAMRA Pub of the Season for summer 2017. Sub-branch chairman Eleanor Haddon presented the award to Mark Harris (Manager and Head Chef) and Sarah Cowley (Manager, Front of House) on a sunny evening in May.



Eleanor Haddon and Alan Thwaites presenting award to Mark Harris & Sarah Cowley

Mark commented that he was "quite surprised" to win the award. He went on to say that "We do things to the best of our abilities" and this award is recognition of his and Sarah's dedication as Managers.

Eleanor Haddon and fellow CAMRA Pub of the Season organiser Alan Thwaites explained that the pubs village location, beer garden, hospitality, fine food and quality real ales make it an ideal destination for a summer visit.

The Pheasant Inn is a community run pub which reopened in 2015 after being closed since 2006. The reopening of the pub was the culmination of four years work spearheaded by Neenton Community Society.

This late 18th Century Inn with large open plan facilities has a small Inglenook room off the bar, and a comfortable lounge area adjacent to the dining room. The lounge, with its wood burner, is suitable for families for lunch and evening meals.

Up to four real ales are normally available, one of which is sourced from Yorkshire based Black Sheep Brewery as well beers from local producers.

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

### Remember...

Articles and suggestions for the next issue of should be submitted by 1st November 2017.

### How to advertise in Shropshire TAles

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



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## The Gaskell Arms Hotel

Telford CAMRA  
Pub of the Season  
Summer 2017 presentation

The Gaskell Arms Hotel, Much Wenlock, is the Telford CAMRA Pub of the Season for summer 2017.

Owner Maxine's family have presided over the Gaskell Arms since 1978 and it has been Chris the cellar manager's ambition and promise to Maxine's late mother, Jean, that the Hotel would achieve CAMRA recognition for the quality of their beers. So it was with great pride and no little emotion that Maxine and Chris received the Pub of the Season award from Branch Chairman Adrian Zawierka in the lounge bar on June the 8th.



Our Chairman Adrian presenting the award to Maxine and Chris

The award recognises not only high quality real ale but also the features of a pub which make it a great place to visit during that particular season of the year. In this case the Gaskell Arms boasts a beautiful, sunny, tranquil garden in which to enjoy a pint and maybe lunch, with a sheltered area should the summer's day not quite live up to expectation. The current building dates from the 17th century but according to local historians parts of the foundations and internal timbers remain from Rindleford Hall, a Tudor stately home which previously occupied the site.



The current external brickwork dates from the 18th century when it served as a prominent coaching inn and later as a hostelry for travellers on the new railway when it arrived in Much Wenlock in 1860. The railway has gone now, but echoes of the track and station remain, as do many other historical features such as Wenlock Priory, the old gaol house, and of course the whole town is steeped in the history of the Wenlock Olympian Games, thought to be the origins of the modern Olympic Games. No wonder Much Wenlock is a popular tourist destination, especially in the summer.



# Ludlow Brewery & the Railway Shed

Written by Dave Haddon

The Ludlow Brewing Company began in 2006 when Gary Walters established a 6 barrel plant in an old malting building and continued his passion for home brewing in creating top quality real ales. Such was the success of the company's first brews, Ludlow Gold (4.2%) & Boiling Well (4.7%), that they moved a short distance to a new brewery 4 years later.

The Railway Shed began life as an engine and goods shed in 1857 and after a short spell as a builders merchants, fell into disrepair until Ludlow Brewery acquired it in 2010.

Along with other Bridgnorth CAMRA members we visited the Railway Shed in late April and the first thing that strikes you is the enormity of the building. It was early afternoon and the bar and outside drinking areas were already packed with thirsty customers enjoying the full range of 6 real ales.



CAMRA members enjoying a pint...

The Railway Shed has become quite a venue in the town after it first opened its doors in early 2011 and is home to the brewery and visitor centre.

We were met by our host and brewery guide Glynn, a cheerful and humorous character with an in-depth knowledge of the history and beers that the brewery produces.



We climbed 2 flights of the stairs to a mezzanine area high above the bar area where Glynn began his entertaining talk.

Originally called Black Christmas, a sweet and nutty tasting ruby black stout proved so popular that its name was changed to Black Knight (4.5%) and became the third member of the breweries family of beers. Best (3.7%), Stairway (5.0%) and the recently added pale gold Blonde (4.0%) complete the set.

Brewing 3 or 4 times per week with a 20 barrel plant using Maris Otter pale malt; Fuggles and Goldings hops are added for bitterness before Cascade, Sladek, Marynka and Citra hops are added for flavouring and aroma. The shiny stainless steel mashtun and copper sit on their own raised platform in the visitor

centre as if holding court above their admirers below. In the fermenting room we admired the 6 fermenters as Glynn continued to inform us of the brewing process where approximately two-thirds of the breweries production is dedicated to producing cask ale.

With the tour concluded we were treated to a tasting session of all 6 beers when we discovered that our host's favourite beer is the powerfully sharp, sweet and full bodied Stairway (5.0%). Who can blame him? It is delicious.

After a couple of more beers in the bar, the obligatory group photograph and it was time to pay our thanks and bid our farewells. When I next raise a glass of Ludlow ale I will remember a very enjoyable afternoon in the market town of Ludlow.



# THE BLACK BOY INN



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58 Cartway, Bridgnorth, WV16 4BG | 01746 766497

## Inter Branch Quiz

On 24 June 2017 the inter branch quiz between teams from Bridgnorth, Telford and Wolverhampton took place at The Wrekin Inn, Wellington. This time the winning team was a team from

Wolverhampton the members of which were Robin Davies, Simi Gadu, Julian Robinson and Mark Hewitt. They narrowly beat the Bridgnorth team. Congratulations to them and thanks to the Wrekin Inn for hosting us. The next inter branch quiz will take place on Saturday 25th November 2017 and will be held in Bridgnorth.



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Opening Hours: 21st 5pm - 11pm 22nd & 23rd - Midday - 11pm

Check: [cannockbeerfestival.co.uk](http://cannockbeerfestival.co.uk) for updates

Prince of Wales Theatre Church St, Cannock, WS11 1DE

Cheers!



# CAMRA LocAle

## What is CAMRA LocAle?

It is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and a greater awareness of 'green' issues.

## How does a pub become LocAle accredited?

LocAle status is accredited by your local Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA branch and is subject to the pub having at least one locally brewed, good quality, real ale available at all times.

## What is classed as local?

Within our county, or up to 30 miles from the brewery, via the shortest driving route.

## CAMRA Discount

All over the Country there are 1000's of pubs offering discounts to card carrying CAMRA members!\*

Visit [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com) to find which pubs are involved in the scheme.

For details on how to participate in the Real Ale Discount Scheme contact [LocAle.TES@gmail.com](mailto:LocAle.TES@gmail.com)

\*Please note that pubs may remove an offer at anytime and all offers are subject to change without notice.

For more information on the CAMRA LocAle scheme visit [www.camra.org.uk/locale](http://www.camra.org.uk/locale) or email [LocAle.TES@gmail.com](mailto:LocAle.TES@gmail.com)

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## Local CAMRA Beer Festivals

### September 2017

#### Thu 07 24th Tamworth Beer Festival

Masonic Rooms, 29 Lichfield Street, Tamworth, B79

#### Fri 08 Crewe Rail Ale Festival

Crewe Railway Heritage Centre, Vernon Way, Crewe, CW1 2DB

#### Thu 21 Cannock Chase Beer & Cider Festival

Prince Of Wales Theatre, Church St, Cannock, WS11 1DE

### October 2017

#### Fri 06 18th Solihull Beer Festival

Royal British Legion, Union Road, Solihull, B91 3DH

#### Thu 19 37th Stoke Beer and Cider Festival 2017

Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Rd, Fenton Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR

#### Thu 26 Birmingham Beer & Cider Festival

The Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Digbeth Birmingham, B9 4AA

#### Thu 26 Telford CAMRA's 3rd Shifnal Beer & Cider Festival

War Memorial Club, Innage Rd, Shifnal, TF11 8AD

why not come along  
and join us?

## Local Non-CAMRA Beer Events

### September 2017

#### Sat 16 Rugby Rocks Beer Festival, Whitchurch, Shropshire

#### Sat 23 New Inn Beer Festival & Newport Food Frenzy, Newport, Shropshire

### October 2017

#### Fri 06 Shropshire Oktoberfest, Shrewsbury

#### Sat 14 Beer & Buses, Walsall, West Midlands

All information correct at time of  
print. Please check prior to event  
by searching on the internet.

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Email: [camra@camra.org.uk](mailto:camra@camra.org.uk) | Printed forms available upon request.



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**



# T.E.S Branch Diary 2017



## September

**Sat 2nd | Event: Minibus to South Shropshire**

Pick-ups: Contact Paul Bradburn for details\* (see contacts page)

**Tues 12th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: The Cock Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2DL

**Sat 16th 4pm | Event: Pub of the Season (Autumn 2017) Presentation**

Venue: The Huntsman, Little Wenlock TF6 5BH

## October

**Tue 10th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: The Crown, Claverley. WV5 7DU

**Sat 21st | Event: Minibus to mid-Shropshire rural pubs.**

Pick-ups: Contact Paul Bradburn for details\* (see contacts page)

**Thu 26th - Sat 28th | Event: 3rd Shifnal Beer Festival**

Venue: War Memorial Club, Innage Road, Shifnal. TF11 8AD

Open Thurs 5-11pm & Fri - Sat 12-11pm. Free entry all sessions. Glass hire £2.

## November

**Sat 4th | Event: Minibus to Bridgnorth Rural Pubs**

Pick-ups: Contact Paul Bradburn for details\* (see contacts page)

**Tue 14th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: The Edmond Lion, TF10 8MH

**Sat 18th | Event: Survey by train**

Pick-ups: Contact Paul Bradburn for details (see contacts page)

**Sat 25th 1pm | Event: Inter Branch Quiz with Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton**

Venue: Bridgnorth TBC

## December

**Sat 2nd | Event: Coach for pre-Christmas social to Hodnet, Market Drayton and mystery pub for meal later!**

Pick-ups: Contact Paul Bradburn for details (see contacts page)

\* 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.

# S.W.S Branch Diary 2017



## September

**Wed 6th | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: Dog & Pheasant, Shrewsbury

**Fri 15th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip**

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

**Tue 19th 12noon | Event: PTG Beerscoring trip (Public Transport Group) to Baschurch, Ruyton XI Towns & Oswestry.**

Meet: Arriva bus 576 at 12 noon from SHR bus stn.

**Fri 29th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip**

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

## October

**Wed 4th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: Dolphin, Shrewsbury

**Tue 17th | Event: PTG Beerscoring trip to Bishops Castle**

Meet: Minsterley Motors 552/3 at 1005 ex SHR bus stn.

**Fri 27th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip**

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

## November

**Wed 1st | Event: Branch Meeting**

Venue: Royal Oak, Coton Hill, Shrewsbury

**Tue 21st | Event: PTG Beerscoring trip to Whitchurch, Wem & Tilley by rail.**

Meet: TBC

**Fri 24th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip**

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

## December

**Sat 9th | Event: Regional meeting in Ludlow**

Venue: TBC

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](mailto:atoz@caskale.net)

Secretary: **Eleanor Haddon**  
email: [ehaddon1@hotmail.com](mailto:ehaddon1@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: **David Jones**  
email: [safejones@aol.com](mailto:safejones@aol.com)

Media Liaison: **Alan Thwaites**  
email: [hat.deecie@btinternet.com](mailto:hat.deecie@btinternet.com)

Pub Surveys Officer: **Dave Haddon**  
email: [dhaddon@hotmail.com](mailto:dhaddon@hotmail.com)

Membership: **Paul Jones** tel: **01952 460456** or  
email: [paul.jones@caskale.net](mailto:paul.jones@caskale.net)

Social Secretary: **Paul Bradburn**  
tel: **01952 510611**  
email: [paulbradburn8439@btinternet.com](mailto:paulbradburn8439@btinternet.com)

## Bridgnorth CAMRA main contacts

Branch Chairman: **Eleanor Haddon**  
tel: **07711 739007** or **01746 862884**  
email: [ehaddon1@hotmail.com](mailto:ehaddon1@hotmail.com)

Branch Secretary: **Alan Thwaites**  
tel: **07813 571956**  
email: [hat.deecie@btinternet.com](mailto:hat.deecie@btinternet.com)

Social Secretary: **Position Vacant**

Membership Secretary: **David Jones**  
email: [safejones@aol.com](mailto:safejones@aol.com)

## Market Drayton CAMRA main contacts

Branch Chair: **Bryn Pass**  
tel: **07949 321442**  
email: [bpas@btinternet.com](mailto:bpas@btinternet.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/199617536785775/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)

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Shrewsbury, SY3 8NL  
01743 366 032

**The Castle Hotel**

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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**

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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  
01939 261 716

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