

Issue 4 Spring'18

# Shropshire TAles

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## Editor's Welcome

# Hello and welcome to Issue 4 of Shropshire TAles

It has been a busy period for the Shropshire CAMRA branches with the Good Beer Guide 2019 selection process and the branches voting for their Pub of the Year. Look out for news of the branch winner over the coming weeks.

Now that the winter months are behind us and the lighter warmer evenings are coming, we can start thinking about going out to our favourite pub and enjoying a good real ale in beer gardens and enjoying the evening sunshine.

CAMRA members have already started planning the beer festivals which will be taking place throughout 2018 and the call is out for volunteers to assist in these events.

The local branches are also organising many excellent trips to different areas of the county and beyond, see the branch diary pages for more details. If you are interested in attending any of these trips then please contact the social secretary. It is always good to see new faces at these events and you will always find a friendly welcome.

### Lee Bradbury | Editor

email: editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com

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

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This magazine is solely funded by advertising revenue. If any additional monies are raised then this will help to fund other TES & SWS CAMRA initiatives.

Articles and suggestions for the next issue of **Shropshire TAles** should be submitted by **1st May 2018**.

### How to advertise in Shropshire TAles

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



# A word from T.E.S (AMRA (hairman

Hopefully, the worst of the winter weather is over and we can look forward to promoting Real Ale, Cider & Perry in our wonderful pubs and clubs of Shropshire and beyond.

Coming soon is the CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference on 20th - 22nd April at the University of Warwick in Coventry, which is a chance to meet and discuss policy and direction of the campaign with members from across the UK and far afield. This is an important event and decisions made at this year's AGM & Conference will have an effect for a number of years to come, so I would urge you try to attend this event.

Locally we have two festivals for the main branch and the welcome return of the Bridgnorth Beer Festival in September. The main branch events are the beer tent at "The 27th Storytelling Festival at the Edge" Friday 20th July to Sunday 22nd July for which we will be looking for volunteers to help with setting up, serving at the festival and finally taking down. The other event is of course our now newly established Shifnal Beer festival in the autumn.

Remember campaigning takes many forms from attending or helping at events to getting out and about using and supporting the pubs and talking about traditional products like Real Ale.

Adrian Zawierka
T.E.S Branch Chairman

# A word from S.W.S (AMRA (hairman

Our congratulations go to the White Lion Ash Community Pub Group on their recent purchase of their North Shropshire village pub. The White Lion had been at risk due to the retirement of the owners. We have many pubs in the branch area owned by local groups of individuals but the White Lion is the first community interest group with a large group of shareholders.

When I joined CAMRA I assumed I would be campaigning for Real Ale. I find I am actually spending most of my time campaigning for the places in which to drink it. Instead of fighting off big brewery companies, pub co's and government, I find that property developers are the main threat. The government have given us some legislative tools and we engage with communities and their leaders to use these to fight the cause.

Often pub 'viability' is the main issue. The confusion seems to be between the viability of the business and the viability of the property as a pub. We are pleased that so many pubs in our area which are deemed unviable are actually turned around by the entrepreneurial spirit of new private owners.

A pub that is managed well with a sensible business plan will prosper anywhere in Shropshire. It needs to be innovative and distinctive and I recommend the fantastic diverse range of privately owned pubs, ale houses, micro pubs, tap rooms, country kitchens, inns, hotels and taverns we have in West Shropshire. All of these have details listed on **WhatPub.com** 

We wish the White Lion a happy and prosperous future and recommend you visit soon.

Dave Roll | S.W.S Branch Chairman

# Pub of the Season - Spring 2018

# Bridgnorth CAMRA Golden Lion Inn

83 High Street, Bridgnorth WV16 4DS

The presentation took place on 23rd February 2018



### **Telford CAMRA**

### The Wheatsheaf Inn

Chetwynd Aston, Shropshire, TF10 9LF.

The presentation will take place at our branch meeting on 10th April 2018



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

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

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

Bridgnorth branch nomination and voting are taken at branch meetings.



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### Coming up...

### The New Inn Beer Festival



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# A Life in Ale Part 2

Written by Pete Arden

The Cock Hotel, Wellington is a multi-CAMRA award-winning pub run by Pete and Liz Arden for many years. Here Pete continues from Issue 1; the story of his lifetime in real ale.



After spending time at the Black Horse, Bridgnorth to see how Liz and I got on working together, we thought it was time to branch out with our own pub. Gerald Gibson was looking to lease The Cock Hotel and offered us the opportunity of a ten-year lease; nineteen years later we are still here as when the lease expired we bought the freehold. During this time we have amassed several CAMRA awards: 7 times Branch Pub of the Year, twice Town Pub of the Year, 3 times County Pub of the Year and twice West Midlands Regional Pub of the Year.

There have been some big changes during the last nineteen years; the 'No smoking' legislation has made bars more comfortable places, and the relaxation of opening hours has enabled pubs to open when the customers want them to be open hence more accurately meeting the demands of the local drinking public. Also, people's tastes have changed markedly over the years from beers that are dark brown in colour to light gold with the taste still bitter but with more citrus flavours rather than malty ones; a trend that has been facilitated by the much greater variety of hop styles available to the brewing industry.

Although the number of pubs is decreasing all the time, the future of real ale looks good with the number of breweries increasing and the new development and interest in craft beer, whatever that may be. We hope that The Cock Hotel will stay relatively unchanged when we retire, but with the passage of time, who can tell?



# Ale by Rail to (hester

Words and Photos by Day Tripper

There are places and pubs to discover by letting the train take the strain. One of the best is to Chester taking the train from Telford Central. All the following pubs are recommended within the current edition of the CAMRA Good Beer Guide (but don't fall into the canal!)

From Chester station walk up the lefthand side of City Road. When you get to the bridge over the canal go down the steps to the **Old Harker's Arms** on the canal towpath. It is a former warehouse that sells 9 real ales. You can buy food but it is busy at weekends.



Leaving Harker's turn left along the canal towpath walking underneath the City Road bridge until you reach the next bridge at Egerton Street, cross over this then turn left into Milton Street to the

**Mill Hotel**. It is a residential hotel with a bar which serves 3-7 real ales and food.



Turn left out of the Mill follow the canal (Union Terrace) to the road junction. Go straight across by the new bus station into Gorse Stacks. which continues as George Street, then at the cross roads by the Bull and Stirrup (Wetherspoon's) go straight on into Canal Street. Go under the flyover, left at the mini roundabout left into Raymond Street to **Telford's Warehouse**. This is a converted Georgian warehouse at Tower Wharf by the Shropshire Union Canal Basin and is decked out with industrial artefacts. Three regular beers are served from Salopian, Weetwood and Young's plus 3 changing beers. Food is also available.



Coming out of Telford's turn left back onto Raymond Street, pass the mini roundabout keep going, turn left at the Bouverie into Garden Lane and the Goat & Munch micro pub will be on the righthand side. It opens at 2pm but is closed on Mondays. They serve 4 cask ales. To come back into the city centre, turn left out of the Goat walk back along Garden Lane crossing over Raymond Street at the Bouverie staying on Garden Lane, go under the flyover turn left into Canal Street. When you reach the crossroads (you will see the Wetherspoon's Bull & Stirrup again ahead) turn right here into Northgate Street and continue right down to the end of this street. Walk towards the mediaeval Cross, which is on your right, then turn immediately left into Bridge Street. This leads down to Lower Bridge Street and the **Brewery** Tap is on your right. It is an historical Jacobean Great Hall, which won the CAMRA Heritage Conservation Award. They serve 7 changing real ales from both Spitting Feathers and microbreweries. They also serve food.

Turn right out of the Brewery Tap, cross over the street, walk down Lower Bridge Street and the **Cross Keys** is on the corner of Duke Street. This is a Victorian Joules pub serving 4 of their own beers plus a guest.



Turn right from the Cross Keys walk up Lower Bridge Street as far as the traffic lights, then left along Pepper Street as far as the Roman Amphitheatre, then turn left into St John's Street. Turn right into Foregate Street, cross over and continue walking on the left-hand pavement to the major junction until you reach the pedestrian crossing. Cross over both carriageways and you will see the railway station road-sign ahead and turn onto City Road. Walk a few yards down City Road until you come to the Cellar Bar on the left, which is at street level despite the name. They have 5 ever-changing beers and serve bar snacks. The advantage of this pub, apart from the excellent ales, is the fact that it is a five-minute walk from the railway station.





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# Brewery News

### **Joules**

Joules have two new replacement brewers who started early in the New Year, Martin Cullimore formerly of Batemans and Tom Edgeley returning to his roots from New Brew.

The first of this year's seasonal ales is now out for January, Penny Pincher that has added twist of ginger to enhance the flavour and it comes launched with a beer promotion for the notorious tough period for brewers generally.

### Clun

This original nano brewery, now a little bigger, currently situated behind the While Horse Pub in Clun now has plans to move as its expansion plans, currently subject to planning permission, relate to a unit on the Green Industrial Estate on the eastern approach to Clun.

### **Hobsons**

In March the brewery will be hosting a trade event on the Severn Valley Railway for customers and suppliers by invitation only. In May the visitor centre will be open to the public for brewery tours, live music and food. Admittance is by ticket only which are available through their website.

In April the brewery celebrate their 25th Anniversary and have a series of special events lined up and a special beer will be brewed to commemorate this milestone. As yet the beer is unnamed but is likely to be an amber beer of around 5.0% and be available in both cask and bottled.

# Hobsons (continued)

Seasonal beers
available during 2018:
February-Shropshire Stout 4.3%
April-Postman's Knock 4.8%
May-Old Prickly 4.2%
June-Manor 4.2%
September-Green Hop 4.2%
October-Old Henry 5.2%
November-Postman's Plum Porter 5.0%

### **Wood Brewery**

The Wood Brewery has been acquired by Yarrawaddie Brands.

Yarrawaddie Brands is owned by Stephen O'Neill, a drinks industry executive who was formerly Senior Vice-President of Strategy for Pernod Ricard USA and Patrick McGuckian, who has spent his career in the food distribution business. They will be joint managing directors of the brewery.

Joining the company as Commercial Director is Tony Walsh, who previously worked for Bass and Imbiba, a leisure industry fund.

Edward Wood, MD of the Wood Brewery for almost 40 years, said: "Obviously I have mixed feelings about leaving the company, but I believe the new owners can take the business to a new level and are well placed to ensure substantial growth from a robust base."

Edward will continue in the business as a consultant for some months to ensure a smooth handover.

### **Ludlow Brewery**

Gary Walters of the Ludlow Brewery tells me that they are investing in a £20,000 upgrade of its brewing copper.

In addition there were 3 music evenings on Saturday nights varying from blues to rock running through March and this is set to continue. It also supports local sports events including a duathlon in April called Storm the Castle in Ludlow, a cycling sportive in June which starts and finishes at the brewery with a free pint to finish and a mountain-bike charity event at Church Stretton with 600 people pre-entered supporting a local primary school.

### **Wye Valley Brewery**

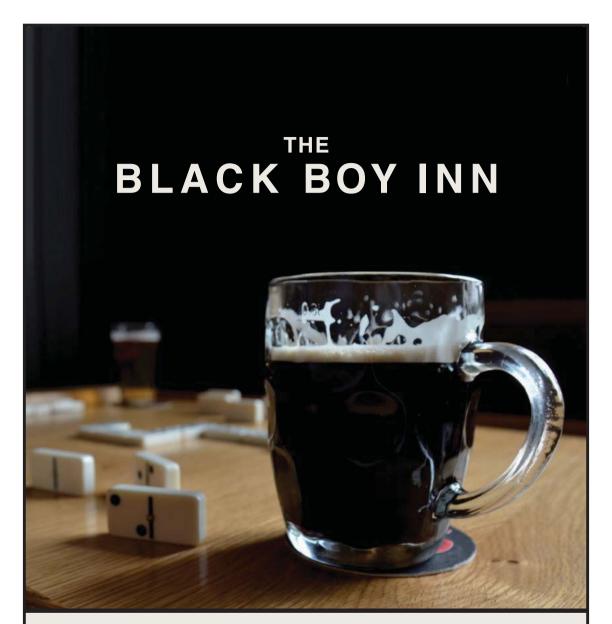
A record month in December! The demand, especially for Butty Bach and HPA, skyrocketed... Cask ale is still king!

West Midlands Champion Beer of Britain 2017: Butty Bach wins silver in the 'real ale in a bottle, light category'; Wholesome Stout wins silver in the 'stout category'.

We have launched monthly special beers. For all of our 2018 monthly specials, visit www.wyevalleybrewery.co.uk/promotions/monthly-specials.aspx

Let us know your brewery news. Please contact **Lee Bradbury** email: **editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com** 





### **Opening times**

Mon - Sat 12 - 11pm Sun 12 - 10.30pm

facebook.com/theblackboybridgnorth 58 Cartway, Bridgnorth, WV16 4BG | 01746 766497

# Notices & emails

### Dear reader,

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

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

See contact details below.



### Dear Lee

My family and I were fortunate enough to visit "The Talbot" Pub in Shrewsbury recently when we visited my brother, Jonty and his lovely wife, Caroline over Christmas. Coming from sunny South Africa to a cold country was quite a shock, however, on our first night in Shrewsbury, my brother took us to The Talbot and what a wonderful evening we had! The atmosphere was one of friendship, warmth and hospitality. We met the two owners, Tracy and Sean, who were so friendly and welcoming, we felt right at home.

Our meal was cooked by Sean himself and served to us by Tracy. I opted for the Steak and Ale Pie-the Best Ever!

We returned twice more in the short week of our stay and enjoyed ourselves each and every time.

Thank you to Sean and Tracy and the "regulars" at The Talbot for making our stay in Shrewsbury so special!

Warm Regards Caroline and Francois Dassonville Umdloti Beach, Durban, South Africa

# 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

### Remember ...

Articles and suggestions for the next issue of **Shropshire TAles** should be submitted by **1st May 2018** 

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# Dog Hangs Well parlour pub in Ludlow

Shrewsbury and West Shropshire CAMRA Winter Pub of the Season Award 2017

Before we could publicly recognise the Dog Hangs Well parlour pub in Ludlow with our Winter Pub of the Season Award, it reached national fame in the spring edition of Beer magazine.



Our photo shows Branch Chairman Dave Roll with Jon.

Opened by Jon Saxon in December 2015, it sympathetically re-creates a good old-fashioned pub in a classic Georgian setting.

It is not immediately obvious as a pub, so look for the No.14 door and the lamp above. If the lamp is lit then the pub is open. A small corridor leads you into the lobby area which connects the two main rooms. At the back of the building is the kitchen bar with a solid oak counter from where the drinks are served. The room is adorned with collected pub artefacts, though the usual impression of the room one is left with is the buzz of traditional pub conversation. The front room of the house is the parlour, with decor straight out of a Conan Doyle novel.

Jon offers just one cask beer at a time, with five casks prepared and served each week.

The opening hours are: Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 5pm until 9pm Dogs Hang Well, 14, Corve Street. Ludlow. SY8 1DA



The range of beers is eclectic with a typical offer being something like: Digfield Ales - Barnwell Bitter (ABV 4), Purple Moose - Madog's Ale (ABV 3.7), and Dark Side Of The Moose (ABV 4.6), Downton Brewery - Four Corners (ABV 4.4) and Swan Brewery - Swan Neck Oil (ABV 3.4). By the presentation night 175 breweries had supplied 450 beers to the Dog Hangs Well over the two years since the business opened.

The natural cellar relies on nothing more than Georgian design and the external elements to maintain a serving temperature between 12 and 14 degrees throughout the year.

Proving that a pub doesn't have to offer a variety of ales all at the same time, the Dog Hangs Well was a worthy winner of our Pub of the Season Award and is clearly proving extremely popular.



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Friday 10am - 6pm

Saturday 10am - 5pm

Sunday 11am - 4pm

**Brewery Tours:** 

Weekdays 3pm

Saturdays 2pm

# (oalport (AMRAmble

### Words by Dave Haddon

### Walk Information

Distance: 4.4 miles (7.1km) Ascent/descent: 368ft (112m)

Level of difficulty: Easy / Moderate | Map: OS Explorer 242

Paths: Well maintained, woodland (some steep), cycle-track, bridges and roadside

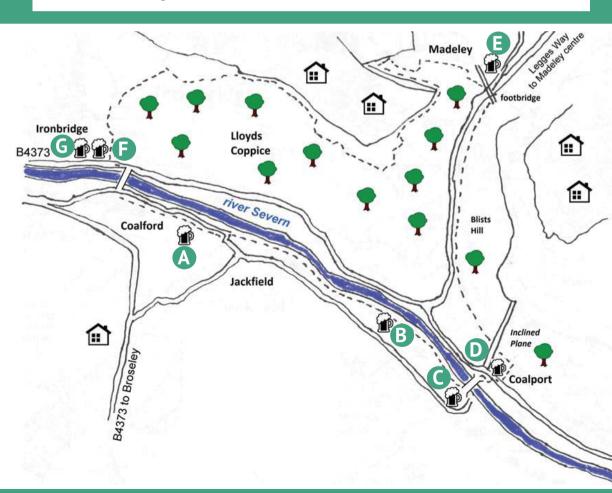
Start: Black Swan, Lloyds Head, Jackfield, Telford, TF8 7LZ | Grid: SJ 6832 0315

Finish: Bird In Hand Inn, Waterloo Street, Ironbridge, Telford TF8 7HG | Grid: SJ 6811 0336

Dogs: Obey notices. Enquire at pubs

Public Transport: Arriva Buses www.arrivabus.co.uk

No. 9 - Telford / Bridgnorth | No. 18 - Telford / Much Wenlock



### Pub A Black Swan

Opening times: 12 - midnight

A traditional country free house over 350 years old situated next to the River Severn. The pub garden overlooks the River Severn.



Distance to next pub: **0.5 miles - approx. 15 minutes** 

Leave pub and heading downstream cross road at tracks to footpath. Continue towards Jackfield and take left hand junction sign-posted "Boat Inn PH" & "Half Moon Inn PH", walk past tile museum on right, take left hand Church road, passing village hall on left and Jackfield Church to the right. Take footpath on left to river and continue to road and pub

### Pub B Half Moon Inn

Opening times: 12 - 11pm

Re-opened in 2012 after refurbishment. It is set beside the river Severn with a substantial outside patio area and lawns fronting the river.



Distance to next pub: **0.3 miles - approx. 10 minutes** 

### Pub B Half Moon Inn (continued)

At end of beer garden take riverside path on left. Emerge on to man-made track passing rear of Maws Craft Centre on the right. Continue on path passing terraced house to pub and river footbridge.

### Pub Boat Inn

Opening times: 12 - Midnight

Positioned next to the river and footbridge. Infamous for regular winter floodings, there is gauge showing the various heights of the water in past years, the interior of the pub which is still comfortable and inviting.



Distance to next pub: over footbridge - approx. 3 minutes

Leave pub and cross memorial footbridge. Exit from bridge and the bottom of famous inclined plane will be in front of you. Head onto the road bridge using the steps on the left to the road. Turn right at road to pub on the far side.

### Pub Shakespeare

Opening times: 5-11pm; 12-11pm Sat. & Sun.

Cosy, but spacious village pub with views of the river and close to all local museums. Good food; very popular so book ahead. Real cider may be available.



### Pub D Shakespeare (continued) Distance to next pub: 1.1 miles - approx. 25 minutes

Continue past pub and take footpath on left zig-zagging uphill. This is signed-posted "Victorian Town 34 mile". At the footpath, turn left and continue along path towards "Madelev 1 ½ miles". This is now Monarchs Way. Ignore other footpaths to left and right and go through first tunnel (this is under the inclined plane). Ignore road on left and continue along path and enter a longer tunnel. Blists Hill Museum is now on your right and eventually the footpath meets the Coalport Road. The footbridge across the road comes into view. After passing under the footbridge climb steps to cross footbridge over the main road, exit right and head up hill to pub

Pub (1) All nations

Opening times: 12 - Midnight

A small friendly renowned institution untouched by modern fads. A cosy logburner warms the pub in winter and there is a pretty beer garden for the warmer months.



Distance to next pub: 2.1 miles - approx. 50 minutes

Leave pub car park through a gap between a wall and railings on opposite side of car park to pub. (Do not take footpath at top of car park heading uphill). Follow path keeping right and continue through wood land, footpath veers to the left and keep housing estate on your right.

You eventually cross a stile and emerge on a well-established track and turn left. Follow track keeping fencing to housing estate always on the right. Enter woodland and keeping to the right past open area (ignoring footpath off to left).

### Pub All nations (continued)

Bear left at junction of paths and continue straight on until you reach a long barbed wire topped fence with view across the gorge beyond it. Follow uneven tree-rooted path keeping gorge to left. Continue until housing appears on the right and path emerges into a clearing. Continue straight on to another open space.

Take a left turn at finger-post in the direction of "Wesley Road" and follow path down-hill keeping left along fence, reach wooden steps to tarmac drive. Follow tarmac drive down the right and at T-Junction turn left signed "Lloyd's Coppice". This is now Wesley Road, go down to the left and enter footpath on right hand side with steps and path heading down. Footpath narrows and Jackfield New Bridge and pub come into view on the left. When you meet the main road the pub is to the left. If you miss this footpath there is another partially hidden footpath from Wesley Road that emerges in the beer garden of the pub.

### Pub ( Robin Hood Inn

Opening times: 12 - 11pm Mon-Thu; 12 - Midnight Fri & Sat: 12 - 11pm Sun

Traditional Holden's pub with views over the River Severn with five areas to eat and drink served by two bars. Comfortable en suite accommodation is available.



Distance to next pub: along main road approx. 3 minutes

The Bird in Hand Inn is on the same side as the Robin Hood Inn heading upstream away from the road bridge.

### Pub G Bird in Hand Inn

Opening times: 11-11pm

Family owned free-house overlooking the River Severn near to the Free Bridge at the Jackfield end of Ironbridge and serving customers with real ales for over 235 years. Dining/ snacks and accommodation available.

Distance to next pub: **0.4 miles - approx. 15 minutes** 

To return to the Black Swan, cross Jackfield New Bridge over the river using the left hand footpath. Immediately after bridge turn left on road following pub signs. Follow road and footpath passing houses until you reach the Black Swan pub.

All information in this article is correct at time of printing and CAMRA accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies therein. You are advised to check the public transport website For any changes to listed times www.arrivabus.co.uk

Members of Telford & East Shropshire branch of CAMRA will take part in the Coalport CAMRAmble on Saturday 14 April at 1.30pm

There will be a lunch stop for one hour at the Boat Inn/ Shakespeare pubs. Please check with the pubs for meal times and availability of food.

Bring a packed lunch if you wish.

For more information contact Dave Haddon or email dhaddon@hotmail.com

### Arriva Bus

No. 9 - Bridgnorth | Departs: 12.29pm Arrives at Black Swan: 1pm

No. 9 - Telford | Departs: 11.50am Arrives at Black Swan: 12.24pm

No. 9 - Bird in Hand | Departs: 6.27pm Arrives at Bridgnorth: 6.58pm

No. 9 - Bird in Hand | Departs: 6.32pm Arrives at Telford: 7.05pm All members and especially non-CAMRA members are welcome.



Rebuilding the track to Stonehouse Brewery.....

Open weekends Easter to September on both railways at

Llynclys Station, SY10 8BX & Oswestry Station, Oswald Rd. SY11 1RE

More information at www.cambrianrailways.com or on 01691 728131 Volunteers welcome in all departments .



# THE PLOUGH INN, SHIFNAL



26 BROADWAY, SHIFNAL TF11 8AZ (01952) 463118 www.theploughinnshifnal.co.uk

Telford & East Shropshire Town Pub of the Year 2016

10p off a pint of real ale for CAMRA members
8 real ales, 2 real ciders, Belgian bottled beers

Food served tue - fri 12-2.30 & 5-9.30, sat 12-9.30 and sun 12-4.30







Huge beer garden and covered heated outdoor area

Function room available to hire

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you!

# The Eagle & Serpent in Kinlet

Bridgnorth sub-branch Pub of the Season - Winter 2017

The Eagle & Serpent in Kinlet has been voted Pub of the Season for Winter 2017 by members of the Bridgnorth sub-branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Sharon took over ownership of the 400 year old rural pub nearly 14 years ago which she runs with her son Tom and a team of friendly and welcoming staff.

The pub features 3 permanent real ales; Hobsons Mild, Hobsons Town Crier and Wye Valley HPA with one other locally produced guest ale. Eleanor Haddon commented that



Our photo shows branch chairman Eleanor Haddon, landlady Sharon Neath and CAMRA Pub of the Season Organiser Alan Thwaites.

the Eagle & Serpent was a worthy winner of the award and Tom thanked his regulars and CAMRA for their continued support. The pub is frequented by walkers and cyclists who can enjoy lunchtime and evening meals served in a large but cosy lounge, spacious conservatory or in the beer garden during the summertime. The small front bar is dedicated to sports with a pool table, darts board and TV.

# The Edgmond Lion, near Newport

Telford sub-branch Pub of the Season - Winter 2017

The Edgmond Lion, near Newport, was voted Telford sub-branch Pub of the Season for winter 2017, which our Chairman, Adrian Zawierka, presented at our November branch meeting.

It was easy to see why it is a popular choice on cold winter nights as we were welcomed with a roaring fire, a good range of real ales, and a food menu tempting us with lots of homemade traditional dishes. To entice us



Our photo shows branch chairman Adrian Zawierka presenting the award to Sam.

back in the sunny weather is a large beer garden at the rear of the pub with great views of the surrounding countryside. We would also like to congratulate Sam and Laura on the arrival of their baby daughter, Winnie, who was born early in January! We look forward to receiving her CAMRA membership form!

# Bridgnorth Beer Festival 2018

Yes, its back! With the impending completion of the building works at the Severn Valley Railway Station, it is planned to resume the annual Bridgnorth Beer Festival. The 2018 event will be held between Thursday 6th September and Saturday 8th September, and volunteers are required to assist with both the set-up and running of the festival.

Would any persons wishing to assist please contact **Alan Thwaites**, the festival co-ordinator: email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com or tel: 01746 763558 address: 2 River View. Bernard's Hill. Bridgnorth WV15 5AT

### Assistance will be required with the following tasks:

- Van driving either a hired transit long wheel-base or (if you have one and are prepared to offer it) your own van; mileage will be paid for. This will be to collect the racking from Wellington on Monday 3rd September and returning the racking to store on Monday 10th.
- Loading and unloading the van.
- Assembly of the racking and bar-front (Monday 3rd afternoon & Tuesday 4th September)
- Placing casks onto racks in time to settle (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday)
- Serving Beer (Thursday evening & all day Friday & Saturday)
- Overnight security
- Other miscellaneous tasks.

As a new feature, we will be considering sponsorship of casks of beer. Anyone interested in sponsoring a cask should also make contact so the matter can be discussed.

### **CAMRA Bridgnorth Sub-Branch**

# Beer of the Festival

Over the recent few months Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA have been making presentations of certificates to the Beer of the Festival winners at the 2017 3rd Shifnal Beer Festival.

The winner was Ken Finney for Finney's Dunkelseite, with second place going to Hop and Stagger Brewery's Bridgnorth Porter, and third place going to Rowton Brewery's Fall About. Congratulations to you all.





After Now Open refurbishment

Richard and Russ are the new owners of The Three Horseshoes (the Shoes) in Alveley and are keeping the tradition of the English pub alive with every print served; after all it is believed a drinking establishment has stood on this site since 1406.

Open Hours: Tues - Thurs 12:00 to 11:00pm Fri & Sat 12:00 to 11:30pm Sunday 12:00 to 11:00pm Food Served: Tues - Sat Lunch 12.00 - 2.30pm Dinner 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Choice of 4 Real Ales that change on a regular basis (many local) Large selection of Gins, Malt Whiskies and Vodkas

A Beer Garden that hosts stunning views of the Clee Hills

Close proximity to the Severn Valley Country Park and Railway

Charity Quiz night the last Sunday of the month

Freshly cooked food from local ingredients Small functions catered for







Alveley, Bridgenorth. WV15 6NB Tel: 01746 780 923





Tel. 01691 676457 info@stonehousebrewery.co.uk stonehousebrewery.co.uk





AGM & CONFERENCE

**COVENTRY 2018** 

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK 20th-22nd APRIL 2018



# Sally Lavender - An Appreciation

The CAMRA family of the West Midlands were saddened and shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Sally Lavender at the start of February.

As the Chair and Magazine Editor for Birmingham CAMRA, taste trainer, and cider champion, she was an intrinsic part of many Midlands events and left many great memories, some of which are shared here by people who loved her.

We uncovered some things people may not have known. "She did Stag parties rather than Hen parties: she went on mine, the only female on a beer bus trip around Black Country pubs" - Colin Clayton. "She used to be a singer and had a really good voice." - Clive Walder

"She was a loval friend not only to me, but to many others. Part of that friendship was based around her great empathy. She cared about other's feelings, and tried never to offend even when disagreeing with you. I'll miss her birthday celebrations which have taken me to diverse cities, where we visited her favourite pubs and breweries. The breadth of her friendship circle was clearly revealed then. I was looking forward to this July's visit to another 'exotic' location such as Peterborough or Huddersfield and consider myself lucky to have been her friend. Sally was one of the most intelligent and knowledgeable people I knew and she wore her knowledge lightly."- Bill Taylor

"My memories of Sally are not necessarily beer or pub related. She was so much more than that. Her incredible memory never failed to impress me. One year she asked me what I was doing on Tuesday in a couple of weeks time. I couldn't think. 'Well Andy', she said, 'it's your birthday!' She had reminded me of my own birthday! If there was a trip we'd been on and it came up on my Facebook memory page, most of the time I'd forgotten where and when it was, but if I showed Sally she would always know. A truly remarkable lady we'll never see the likes of again." -

### **Andy Maxam**

"Our recent gathering at The Wellington showed how she had touched people's lives far and wide. Unforgettable and irreplaceable Sally Lavender." - Karina Bradley, Birmingham CAMRA

"I first met Sally when I took over as Editor of the Solihull Drinker in 2016. At the time she was editor of the "Barrel of Brum". Birmingham CAMRA's magazine. She won the West Midlands Magazine of the Year competition that year at the Barton's Arms, with the Drinker as a finalist. We were sat together and I was privileged to see her pride and joy at winning that well deserved award. We would often bump into each other, mainly around the brewery taps of Birmingham, or at the Inn on the Green, where we spent a final pleasant evening at the January beer festival. Anyone who met Sally was richer for the experience, and we are all poorer now she has left us far too soon. I, like many others, will miss her." **David Cove** 

# Revitalisation Vote:

Words by David Cove

On the 20th April 2016 around 70 members of the West Midlands region squeezed into a room upstairs in Cherry Red's for the Birmingham Revitalisation consultation meeting.

In advance of the vote to accept or reject the Revitalisation proposals at the national AGM in April, Michael Hardman, one of the original founders of CAMRA, returned to the Midlands to brief regional representatives.

No fewer than 68 members from 21 branches turned up at the Barley Mow in Droitwich on the 24th February 2016 to listen to the briefing, and to question Michael Hardman and Tony Lewis about the proposals.

The assembly was reminded of the path to the Revitalisation vote, and the reasons for it. When CAMRA was founded the activists were young men in their 20s who had a passion for quality beer. As CAMRA has grown so the active membership has aged. People in their 20s find it hard to understand the relevance of CAMRA as the choice of beer is wider than ever before, as shown by the membership age profile. The rate of membership growth has slowed, and traditional revenue streams like beer festivals and publications are under increasing pressure.

The core activity of CAMRA to campaign for real ale will remain central to its purpose. One of the new proposals is to provide an enhanced education and information experience to help drinkers appreciate and learn about all types and styles of beer, cider and perry, so that members can make informed decisions about quality.

The proposals being put forward support CAMRA becoming more welcoming, inclusive, diverse, sociable and bringing fun into the Campaign.

The most debated parts of the proposals related to widening the scope of beer festivals to offer a wider range of quality beers, ciders and perries in all formats, and the "embracing" of all drinkers.

A wide ranging discussion followed the presentation, covering amongst other topics; promotion of real ale in a bottle, the risk of diluting the message by including all drinkers, CAMRA's current attitude to people not drinking real ale, relevance to young people, campaigning for all venues selling real ale, potential of diluting the message on saving pubs and on real ale, and understanding how to tell what is a quality beer.

The resolutions will be published in the March issue of What's Brewing.

You can also find out more information at www.revitalisationdecision.camra.org.uk, including information on how to make your vote count.

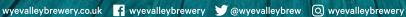
The key message was that a great deal will not change and CAMRA wants as many members as possible to have a say and a stake in our future.

A 75% majority of those that vote is required to pass the resolutions. Make sure your voice is heard. The AGM is in the West Midlands this year at the University of Warwick in Coventry. Come along and join the debate.

# SEETHE LIGHT, TASTE THE DARK!



Wholesome Stout is a beer of few words. It's a dark and thoughtful brew that lets its rich coffee notes, intense roasted-barley flavours and dry, bitter finish do all the talking. Savour it for yourself to be enlightened - and left speechless! 4.6% ABV









# Join up, join in, join the campaign



**Direct Debit** 

£25

Single Membership

Non DD

£27

### You are just moments away from a year in beer heaven!

From as little as £25\* today, be part of the CAMRA community and enjoy discounted entry to around 200 beer festivals, exclusive member offers and more. Discover all the ins and outs of brewing and beer with fantastic magazines and newsletters, but even more importantly support various causes and campaigns to save pubs, cut beer tax and more.

### Join CAMRA today

Title ...... Surname .....

Your details:

Enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below to get 15 months for the price of 12 for the first year and save £2 on your membership fee.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinup or call 01727 798440. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

r orename(s)		(OK & EU)	
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Joint Membership	£30.50 £32.50
Address		(Partner at the sam	e address)
Email address	ode	other concessionary WWw.camra.org.uk/ or call 01727 79844	membership-rates O.
Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)		and agree to abide Articles of Associat	e Campaign for Real Ale, by the Memorandum and ion these are available at
Title		camra.org.uk/mem	orandum
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Date	used within 21 days of receipt of this form. 04/17
Building Society to  CAMPAIGN Please fill in the whole form us	o your Bank or pay by Direct Debit ling a ball point pen and send to: tfield Road St. Albans, Herts ALI 4LW Service User Number  9 2 6 1 2 9	DIRECT	This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.  The Direct Debit Guarantee  • This Guarantee is offered by all banks and
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Branch Sort Code Reference	that this instruction may remain with Limited and, if so will be passed elec-	Campaign For Real Ale	you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank

# West Midlands (AMRA Regional Awards

On 30th January 2017 it was the West Midlands CAMRA Regional Awards Extravaganza held at The Barton Arms, Birmingham.

Shropshire TAles was awarded Magazine of the Year - Welcome Newcomer and Janine was on hand to receive the award from Regional Director Gary Timmins.



There were also a number of awards for Shropshire Breweries with one in particular doing exceedingly well.

### **Gold Medal Winners:**

Speciality Beer - Salopian Brewery's Lemon Dream

Golden Ales - Salopian Brewery's Oracle

RAIB - Dark - Salopian Brewery's Polygraph

RAIB - Light - Salopian Brewery's Kashmir



### Silver Medal Winners:

Golden Ales - Salopian Brewey's Hop Twister

Best Bitter - Salopian Brewery's Darwin's Origin

Strong Bitter - Salopian Brewery's Golden Thread

Champion Beer of the Year - Salopian Brewery's Oracle

### **Bronze Medal Winners:**

Golden Ales - Ludlow Brewing Co's Gold
.....
Best Bitter - Joule's Slumbering Monk

## Out and About With (AMRA

Words by Paul Bradburn

As Social Secretary for Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA I would like to warmly invite all members in our patch to join us on our many social events which are held regularly for your enjoyment.

We have had a lot of fun recently visiting pubs to do surveys for What Pub which is an important part of the voting process for the 2019 Good Beer Guide.

We use local buses, or a minibus, to survey both rural and urban pubs, sampling the beer, scoring it and enjoying lovely surroundings in some of the many wonderful pubs in our area. We have been to many Good Beer Guide regulars and have also enjoyed many others which are not currently in the guide which serve super beer and deserve to be more widely known.



# Beer Festivals 2018

### March

Sat 31st | Event: New Inn Beer Festival. Newport

### **April**

Fri 20th, Sat 21st & Sun 22nd | Event: CAMRA Members Weekend & AGM, Coventry

Fri 20th, Sat 21st & Sun 22nd | Event: Willenhall Beer Festival, West Midlands

Sat 21st | Event: Middleport Pottery Beer Festival, Stoke-on-Trent

### May

Thu 10th, Fri 11th & Sat 12th | Event: Shirley Beer Festival, Solihull

Thu 17th | Event: Kidderminster Beer & Cider Festival

Sat 26th & Sun 27th | Event: Beer Festival at Prince of Wales, Shrewsbury

### **June**

Thu 7th, Fri 8th & Sat 9th | Event: Wolverhampton Beer Festival (CAMRA)

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

Travelling together with like-minded friendly people is a wonderful way of enjoying a Saturday without any commitment to coming to every listed event.

We have lots of other events planned already, details of which are on the branch website, and have other projects in mind for the months ahead. These include brewery visits, visits by coach or minibus to other pubs in areas like the Black Country or towns like Leek or Stafford. There are rambles to join in, with the odd pub or two along the way or at the end!

There are quizzes to enjoy, where we can meet up with CAMRA members from adjacent branches for fun and banter, and sample a couple of beers.

Details of all these events can be found on the website, and I am sure you will enjoy the welcoming atomsphere and fun which we have on our socials. Do give me a ring or email me for more details, or to offer ideas for future events; my contact details are at the back of this magazine. We are a happy bunch and would love to welcome more of our branch members along, so please give it a try.

# T.E.S Branch Diary 2018



### March

Sat 10th 1pm | Event: Inter Branch Quiz with Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton

(no need to book)

**Venue:** Shakespeare, Bridgnorth

**Tues 13th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting Venue:** The Station, Oakengates TF2 6DU

why not come along and join us?

Thurs 15th 8pm | Event: Branch Social - Curry Night

Venue: William Withering Wellington | Contact: Paul Bradburn

Sat 24th | Event: Coach trip to Black Country area includes visitng Bathams,

Saddlers and Green Duck brewery taps
Venue: The Station, Oakengates TF2 6DU
Contact: Paul Bradburn for details and to book

Tues 27th 7.30pm | Event: Bridgnorth Sub-branch Meeting

Venue: Old Castle, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth

**April** 

Tues 10th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: The Wheatsheaf, Chetwynd Aston, TF10 9LF

Sat 14th 1.30pm | Event: CAMRAMBLE around Coalport and Ironbridge Starts at: Black Swan (See article on Page 20 for details & no need to book)

Tues 24th 8pm | Event: Bridgnorth Sub-branch Meeting

**Venue:** Crown, Claverley | **Travel info:** Bus from opposite the George at 7.30pm

May

Sat 5th | Event: Mild in May Mini-bus trip to Bridgnorth rural pubs and

**Hobsons Brewery** 

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

\* Providing that members complete beer survey forms the cost is only £5 per head

Tues 8th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting Venue: Cock Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2DL

Tue 22nd 7.30pm | Event: Bridgnorth Sub-branch Meeting

Venue: Shakespeare, West Castle Street, Bridgnorth

June

Sat 2nd | Event: Coach Trip to Western Shropshire and beyond (Llangollen and Ruabon)

**Contact:** Paul Bradburn for details (see contacts page)

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

# S.W.S Branch Diary 2018



### March

Sat 3rd 12 noon - 4pm | Event: Regional Cider presentation at Old

**Dispensary Microbar** 

Venue: Located at Langley, B68 8LS

Wed 7th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury

Tue 13th 7pm | Event: Beerfest Meeting

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury | Contact: Becky or Dave Ricketts

Thu 22nd | Event: PTG trip by bus to Whittington & Ellesmere

Travel details: Arriva 70A exp Shrewsbury at 11.15am

Fri 23rd 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Meet: Salopian Bar

**Travel info:** 552/3 exp Shrewsbury (Stand N) 10.05am

### **April**

Tue 3rd 7pm | Event: Beerfest Meeting

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury | Contact: Becky or Dave Ricketts

Wed 4th 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting Venue: Prince of Wales, Shrewsbury

**Tue 10th 5.30pm | Event: Branch brewery visit to Hobsons Brewery Meet:** Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury | **Contact:** Becky or Dave Ricketts

Fri 13th & 27th 7pm | Event: First & Second Beerbus beerscoring trip

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

Tue 17th | Event: PTG trip by bus to Bishops Castle

Meet: Minsterley Motors | Travel info: 552/3 exp Shrewsbury (Stand N) 10.05am

### May

Wed 2nd 8pm | Event: Branch Meeting

Venue: Royal Oak, Coton Hill, Shrewsbury

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

Tue 8th 7pm | Event: Beerfest Meeting

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury | Contact: Becky or Dave Ricketts

Fri 11th | Event: Proposed date for Brewery visit to Chapel Brewery (TBC)

Tue 15th | Event: TG trip by bus to Oswestry (full day)
Travel info: Arriva 70A ex Shrewsbury 11.15am

\_\_\_\_\_

Fri 25th 7pm | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Meet: Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury

# (ontacts and (onsumer Information

# The official Telford CAMRA branch contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Membership: Paul Jones tel: 01952 460456 or

email: paul.jones@caskale.net

Social Secretary: Paul Bradburn

tel: **01952 510611** 

email: paulbradburn8439@btinternet.com

### **Bridgnorth CAMRA main contacts**

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

Branch Secretary: Alan Thwaites

tel: 07813 571956

email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com

Social Secretary: Position Vacant

Membership Secretary: David Jones

email: safejones@aol.com

# Market Drayton CAMRA main contacts

Branch Chair: Bryn Pass tel: 07949 321442

email: bpass@btinternet.com

www.facebook.com/

groups/199617536785775/

# The official Shrewsbury and West Shropshire CAMRA branch contacts

Chairman: Dave Roll

Secretary: Nigel Bevan

Minutes Secretary: Norrie Porter

Treasurer: Jonny Sutton

Membership Secretary: Dave Ricketts

Clubs Officer: John Lewis

Public Affairs Officer: Norrie Porter

Social Secretary: Dave Grainger

Please contact via website and Facebook

(see cover for details)

### **Consumer Information**

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

**Telford & Wrekin Trading Standards** 

Tel: **01952 381999** 

Email: tradingstandards@telford.gov.uk

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

**Shropshire Trading Standards** 

Tel: 0345 678 9000

Email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

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



# Choice brews from Telford and East Shropshire CAMRA's Brewery of the Year



# 













By Goule's THEY'RE GOOD!

The Red Lion- Brewery Tap

Great Hales Street

Market Drayton, TF9 IJP 01630 652 602

The New Inn
2 Stafford Street
Newport, TFI0 7LX
01952 812 295

The Fox & Hounds
High Street

Cheswardine, TF9 2RS 01630 661 244

The Sandbrook Vaults
Shropshire Street

Market Drayton, TF9 3BY 07813 835 959 The Bricklayers Arms
Copthorne Road

Shrewsbury, SY3 8NL 01743 366 032

The Dolphin
48 St Michaels Street
Shrewsbury, SY I 2EZ
01743 247 005

The Castle Hotel

14 High Street Wem, SY4 5AA 01939 236 088

The White Lion High Street Wem, SY4 5AA

01939 232 927

he Rose and Crown

8 Church Street Ludlow, SY8 IAP 01584 875 726

The Talbot
Church Street
Ruyton IX Towns, SY4 ILA

01939 261 716

