

Shropshire Tales

FREE

Issue 10
Autumn 19

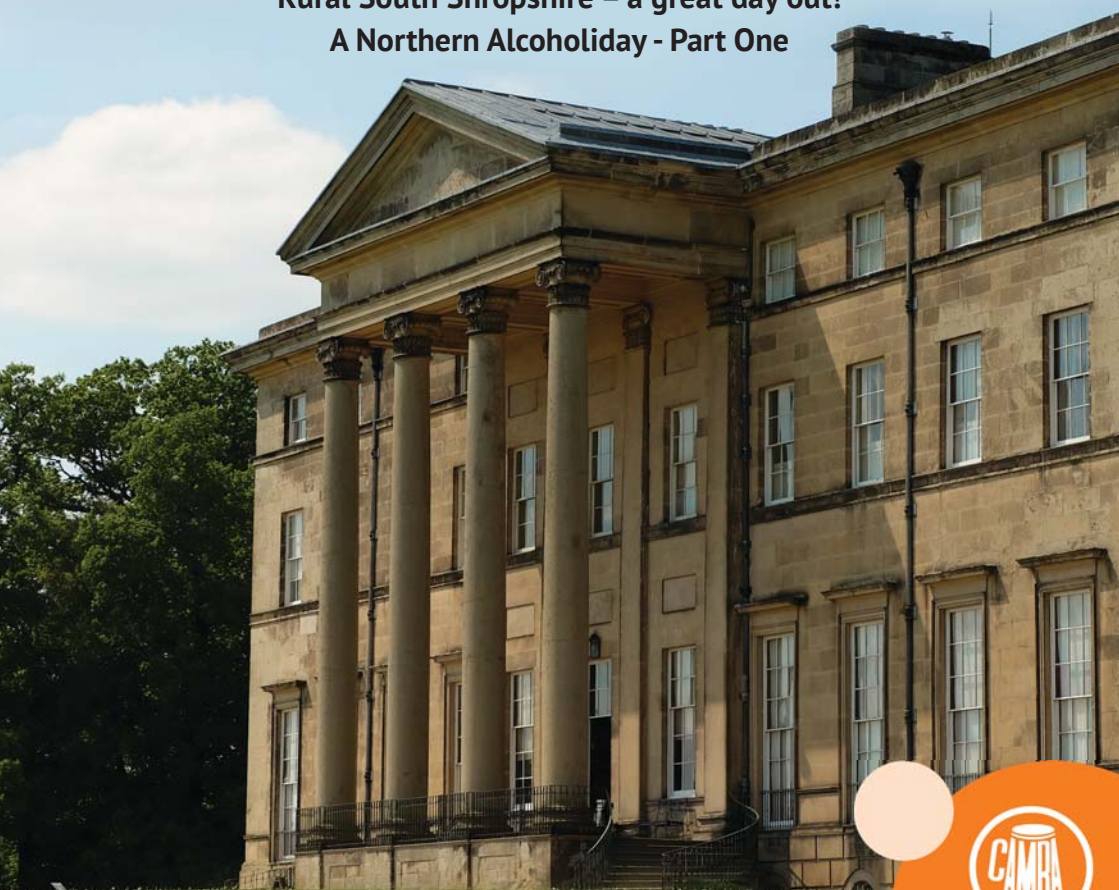
Inside...

Pub of the Year Awards


There's Gold in The Shropshire Hills

Rural South Shropshire – a great day out!

A Northern Alcoholiday - Part One



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We hold numerous Meet the Brewer events throughout the year, details of which can be found on our website and social media.

We have won a number of awards from CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) and SIBA (the Society of Independent Brewers).

Shrewsbury & West Shropshire CAMRA Market Towns Pub of the Year Winner 2019, Winner 2018, Winner 2017

Shrewsbury & West Shropshire CAMRA Pub of the Year Runner up 2019, Winner 2018, Runner up 2017

Shropshire CAMRA Pub of the Year Runner up 2018

Marches CAMRA (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Third place 2018

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2019, 2018

Society of Independent Brewers UK's Best Independent Craft Beer Bar or Pub – Rural Finalist 2018





Editor's Welcome

Hello and welcome to Issue 10 of **Shropshire TAles**

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 issue of Shropshire Tales. So summer has gone and autumn is here, but don't let the dark cold nights stop you going out to a lovely warm pub and drinking some beer.

Over the next couple of months the east side of the county bring you not just one but two (yes TWO!) beer festivals. The beginning of September sees the welcome return of Bridgnorth Beer Festival at the Severn Valley Railway Station. Then in October we have Shifnal Beer Festival. Hopefully we may see many of you at one or both of these beer festivals, or maybe even volunteering at them!

This issue's cover photo is again from TES CAMRA photographer extraordinaire Dave Haddon. The photo is of Attingham Hall near Shrewsbury. The nearest real ale and real cider pub is the Mytton and Mermaid Hotel at Atcham, it is situated close to the entrance to Attingham Park. Here you can enjoy a real ale sat in one of the comfy sofas or outside by the River Severn.

Until the next issue.

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.

See page 17 for how to advertise in
Shropshire TAles

A word from T.E.S CAMRA Chairman

I hope everyone enjoyed using both the Cider & Perry Trail in the last issue and the Mild in May Trail in issue 8.

While some of the pubs get in Mild, Cider and Perry specially for these trails a fair number of them have them available for most of the year. So please continue making use of the trail list for these products that need support to stop them disappearing from our bars.

Having just finished working as a volunteer at the Great British Beer Festival down in London, I am looking forward to the two festivals that are a little bit more local, namely Bridgnorth (September 5-7) and Shifnal (October 17-19), details of both can be found on other pages in this issue. Also, looking forward to early next year the Great British Beer Festival – Winter will be at the New Bingley Hall in Birmingham between the 4th and 8th of February and if you are a member how about considering working as a volunteer at any of the festival mentioned here.

Please remember that we want beer scores at all times of the year not just prior to Good Beer Guide selection, so please get those scores in as it will give us a much better overall view of how our pubs are doing throughout the year.

Enjoy your drinking and campaigning.

Adrian Zawierka
T.E.S Branch Chairman

A word from S.W.S CAMRA Chairman

Having just hosted a magnificent beer festival in the splendid surroundings of St Mary's Church in the centre of Shrewsbury, the branch had nothing but praise from visitors for all aspects, including the range, choice and quality of beers.

The success was in no small part due to the superb work of the volunteers that organised the event and those that turned up from far and wide to assist. Our thanks go to them all as well as our many sponsors.

This is my last chair's report for Shropshire TALES. I thank the branch members for all their support and assistance over the past three years. Whilst continuing to assist anyone attempting to save an 'at-risk' local pub we also put a lot of effort into our What Pub and beer surveys. We promote beer and pubs in our social media and organise 'Mild in May' and Cider trail events. Our social events also include visits to local breweries. No wonder our membership continues to increase!

My last message to readers is this - if you are sitting reading this in a pub, have you scored your beer yet? You need to be a member to score, and scores matter for entry into the Good Beer Guide, (published on the 12th September). - Cheers!

Dave Roll
S.W.S Branch Chairman

CAMRA branches are always looking for CAMRA members to volunteer to help with organising trips, beer festivals and regional promotions. If you have some spare time then please come along to any of our branch meetings. For further information see branch diaries (pg 31-33).



A word from our Market Drayton sub-branch

After a wet summer (so far) we are all contributing well to the Market Drayton area. Membership appears solid but as always we could do with more members to raise the CAMRA banner and get ourselves out and about helping the pubs and breweries that in the long run will help us enjoy our favourite pastime.

These are as always challenging times in the brewing industry and we have to be mindful of this so this is the rallying call, if you have thought about joining CAMRA please do so now. We enjoy social gatherings and believe me it is not all about cardigans and beards, we want to support our heritage beers and the way that it is brewed and kept. We want to support a struggling industry and we can all help, so heed the call, now is the time! Enjoy the summer whilst it lasts. Cheers to all.

Bryn Pass
Market Drayton sub-branch

Pub of the Season - Autumn 2019

Bridgnorth CAMRA

**The result of the vote for
Bridgnorth Pub of the Season
- Autumn 2019 was not
available at time of printing.**

**Keep an eye on Facebook for
details.**

Telford CAMRA

The George and Dragon
Much Wenlock TF13 6AA
Presentation 3rd September at 7:30pm



Call for nominations for the Telford and Bridgnorth Region 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 nominations will be taken at branch meetings and a list of the nominated pubs and email voting details will be sent out in September. Votes can also be cast at branch meetings.

Bridgnorth nomination and voting are taken at sub-branch meetings.

Brewery News



Corvedale Brewery

Corvedale Brewery celebrated 20 years in August. Congratulations to Norman.

Finney's Brewery

Finney's have introduced a new beer to the range. Pheasant Plucker at 5.4% is a strong golden ale brewed with challenger and cascade hops to give a refreshing hopiness to balance the malt and fruit flavours. It debuted at The Pheasant Inn in Wellington, perhaps not surprisingly.

Hobsons Brewery

The Hobsons Brewery Tap reopened in August after being closed for building works. As before there will be four handpulls dispensing their core range of 6 real ales including special monthly brews and collaborations with London brewery "Brew by Numbers". An extensive range of Hobsons bottled beers, ciders and merchandise are also on show for purchase.

Formerly known as the tasting room and when it opened in 2014, as the Visitors Centre, the venue pays homage to the brewery's dedication to sustainability. Stone from Clee hill makes up the outer walls and a ground source heating system is installed to minimise energy use. Opening days and times are on whatpub.com, Facebook or Hobsons website

Wood's Brewery

On 24th August Wood's held their own outdoor festival at their brewery in Wistanstow.

Salopian Brewery

At the Great British Beer Festival in August, Salopian's Darwin's Origin received bronze in the Best Bitter category in the Champion Beer of Britain competition.

Ludlow Brewery

Ludlow Gold was recently available at Craven Cottage (home of Fulham FC), it's great to be seeing some of the excellent beers from our county further afield.

Three Tuns Brewery

Although no trophy this time Thee Tuns' XXX was a finalist in the Champion Beer of Britain competition. Still a brilliant and well deserved achievement.

Rowton Brewery

There has been a new specially brewed beer from Rowton. Apollo at 3.8% is powerfully hopped using Rakau and Comet.

Joule's Brewery

Joule's have been busy in developing a small portfolio with specialist one off brews such as Hawaii Five Joe, Smashing, and Sun of Man. These are ales brewed for the summer, quaffable that are tinged with citrus and fruit flavours. They are still producing their popular seasonals over the summer, Kolkata and Bob On that are out now.

Let us know your brewery news - email: editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com

All information correct at the time of publication.

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Shrewsbury – Cider Town?

Is Shrewsbury the new cider pub capital of Shropshire? Shrewsbury and West Shropshire's Cider Pub of the Year awards might suggest so! Two out of three of this year's finalists were from the town, as was last year's winner. For the third year in a row, the town was chosen by CAMRA West Midlands as the destination for the Regional Cider Walkabout.

The Salopian Bar was this year's Cider Pub of the Year winner, with the certificate being presented by West Midlands Region Cider Coordinator Steve Swain during the regional walkabout in July.



Runner up was the town's Abbey Hotel in Monkmoor Road where new Chair Becky Ransley presented the certificate to Caz Rutter. Like the Salopian and the Abbey, last year's CPOTY winner, The Admiral Benbow, also stocks several ciders all year round. The town also has many more pubs which stock one or two ciders, and the regional Walkabout visited several of those, too, including the current Shropshire Pub Of The Year, The Prince of Wales



The second CPOTY runner-up place was won by The Crown and Anchor Vaults in Bishop's Castle.

Bridgnorth Beer Festival returns for 2019

Bridgnorth CAMRA are pleased to announce that their beer festival is returning for summer 2019.

Situated at the historic Severn Valley Railway Station in Hollybush Road, Bridgnorth, it runs from Thursday 5th September until Saturday 7th September. Following extensive improvements and renovations at the station, the marquee will be in a superior position than in previous years being located on the site vacated by the former buffet building.

Last held in 2015 the Bridgnorth CAMRA team have been busy working to bring 60 real ales plus ciders and perries to the festival.

A souvenir festival glass will be on offer with our distinctive new logo for 2019.

The logo features the soldier of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry which tops Bridgnorth War Memorial in Castle Gardens. His outstretched arm points towards the opposite hill where our beer festival marquee is located.



Beer sessions are 5pm to 11pm on Thursday 5th, 11 am to 11pm on both Friday 6th and Saturday 7th September.

Admission to all sessions is FREE.

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carrying their CAMRA membership card**



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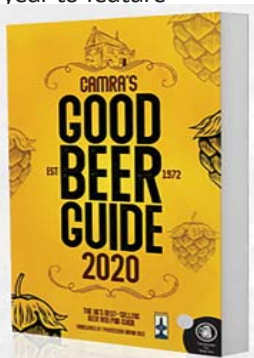
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Good Beer Guide 2020

Now in its 47th edition, The Good Beer Guide 2020 will be released on 12th September 2019.

The beer-lovers' bible is fully revised and updated each year to feature recommended pubs across the United Kingdom that serve the best real ale. The GBG is completely independent, with listings based entirely on evaluation by CAMRA members.



Flaxmill, Shrewsbury - Open Days

On 14th & 15th of September, 2019 there is a unique opportunity to go on a guided tour inside the buildings.

Guided tours will be available at regular intervals between 10am and 4pm, with a chance to look in the Main Mill and see the views from the newly opened up windows. Unfortunately, due to building works, the tower is currently out of bounds.

There will be child friendly activities, displays and entertainment over the weekend.

The Visitor Centre will also be open, with volunteers available to talk to.

New Chair for Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch

Becky Ransley has been unanimously elected Chair of Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch of CAMRA. Becky has been an active member and a festival volunteer since 2006, a branch officer for five years. Becky's aims for her time as Chair to include engaging more with a wider range of members and she says "I want to take SAWS CAMRA out into the local community, including having a presence at non-CAMRA events and festivals".



Previous Chair Dave Roll, who served for three years before his planned resignation, welcomed Becky's election saying "It is a delight to hand over the reins to an enthusiastic, younger and female Chair who intends to keep CAMRA relevant to Shropshire". In his final report Dave welcomed the work done by the branch to increase the membership, encourage more beer scoring and support anyone working to save pubs at risk of closure. The branch gave Dave a generous vote of thanks for all his efforts and many successes over the last few years. Dave will be taking on additional responsibilities at Cambrian Heritage Railways in Oswestry.

A Northern Alcoholiday – Part one Northumberland

Word and photos by **Bob Eastwick**

Bob has undertaken a "Grand Tour of the North" which we have divided into three parts, one of each will be appearing in this and the following two issues.

We decided not to go abroad for our holidays this year as we wanted to re-visit some places we had stayed at many years ago. We also wanted to visit Liverpool, a place we had never seen.

We set off around mid morning on a Sunday hoping to avoid the worst of the traffic but, unfortunately, got caught in major roadworks near Stoke on Trent. We were heading for the Miners' Arms at Nenthead, Northumberland which we knew served food on a Sunday until 3pm.

Arrived with fifteen minutes to spare to find the only beer was Doombar. Not one of my favourite beers so decided to just have a half. Soon ordered another half though, as it was so good. Nice basic village pub with great food.

Called into Alston briefly to pick up some supplies and arrived at our self catering place in Allendale late afternoon. As we were too tired to even bother walking the 50 yards to the nearest pub, we stayed in with a few bottles.

Next day (Monday), we took the bus to Hexham. First stop was the "Heart of Northumberland".



Lovely old pub but over loud, crap "music" playing. Much quieter in the comfortable back bar where I tried "U.S. Session Ale" from the Northern Academy brewery and "Pagan Queen" from Firebrick brewery, expensive at £4 a pint but very nice.

Next stop, The Globe. Basic "boozer" with comfortable back bar area. Sadly though, more awful "music" playing. No local beers but Deuchars "I.P.A." & Gales "Seafarers" were very good.



Time for lunch so, as we didn't much like what other pubs were offering, we headed for Wetherspoons. Disappointed to find no beer on offer from local breweries - of which there are LOADS - so settled for Sadler's "Peaky Blinder" - (I've often wondered why Wetherspoons don't do more to support local breweries.....) The bar service here was much better than we've come to expect from Wetherspoons although the food was of the usual mediocrity.

Time to catch the bus back to Allendale and a short break before heading out for the evening.

There are three pubs in Allendale, all within about fifty yards of our digs. Tonight we decided to visit the Golden Lion.



This has a large open plan bar with a huge central fire place. Very friendly locals and staff, the perfect place to while away an evening of good beer and conversation.

An interesting range of ales of which I tried "GFPA" & "Pennine Pale" from the Allendale brewery plus "Gold Tankard" & "Jakehead" from the Wylam brewery in Newcastle. GFPA had a weird taste, maybe because it's gluten - free, but the Pennine Pale was excellent as was the Gold Tankard. I finished the evening on the Jakehead (6.3%) which tasted like a Belgian dark beer and was superb.

Spent most of Tuesday driving along country lanes and over the moors taking photographs, with a lunch stop at Alston. Poor choice of pubs here as many are closed (permanently). However, we did find the Cumberland Inn on the edge of the town. Really nice pub with an excellent selection of ales; "Blaydon Brick" from Firebrick brewery, "Plumdog Millionaire" from S43 brewery, "Haystacks" from Hesketh Newmarket brewery and "Northumbrian Blonde" from Mordue brewery.

Can't remember which two I tried but they were both very nice. Great food here too.

Tuesday evening we had arranged to meet up with an old friend - a retired local lead miner who we hadn't seen for nearly twenty years - in his local, the Kings Head. Sadly not much choice of beers as this is a Marston's pub but they did serve a very nice pint of Jennings "Cumberland Ale". The pub is rather basic and frequented mainly by locals and has a nice traditional feel.

After our friend left, we decided to pop into the Allendale Inn, the town's third pub. Well, we popped in and popped straight back out again. This used to be a nice traditional old pub with back bar for the locals and a front, more saloon like, bar usually frequented by walkers and holidaymakers. It has been changed into one bar with extremely loud music (if you can call it that), a huge TV screen dominating the bar and children's toys littering the floor. We didn't even stop to check what beers they were serving....! (We thought we'd died and gone to hell...).



On then to the Golden Lion, where the previous evening's "Pennine Pale" had been replaced by "Curlew's Call", again from the Allendale brewery. A couple of pints here and we were ready for bed.

Wednesday and another bus trip, this time to Corbridge. Delightful small town with lots of history where we discovered the Angel of Corbridge, a rather grand hotel which happened to have six ales available, all from local breweries. I opted for the "Great Corby Ale" from the Great Corby brewery. Sadly, it wasn't in the best of condition but still drinkable.



Not a lot to keep us in Corbridge so we hopped back on the bus and stopped off at Hexham for lunch. Decided on the County Hotel as it was close to the bus station. Only three beers; "Doombar", Timothy Taylor "Landlord" and Robinson's "Dizzy Blonde". Music was very loud but they did turn it down when asked. The food was a huge disappointment so when someone came to the table and asked, "Is everything o.k...?", they got the answer they weren't expecting...! To be fair, they did refund the cost of my meal. (My wife's meal was fine).

In the evening we went to the Crown Inn at Catton, a village just up the road from Allendale, as there was a folk music session advertised. Unfortunately there had been a mix up with the dates and the session had been cancelled in favour of the quiz finals. Still managed a couple of beers though. "Red Rowan" from First and Last brewery and "G & P" from Daleside brewery.

On Thursday morning we decided to pay a return visit to one of our favourite English villages; Blanchland, just over the border in County Durham. Many of the buildings date back to the 12th century and the village is dominated by the Lord Crewe Arms, a beautiful hotel with stone staircases, nooks & crannies and a cellar bar usually selling between two and four ales.



It wasn't anywhere near beer o'clock so we just had a cuppa then moved on to Stanhope. By this time we were ready for lunch, but the pubs here weren't very inviting so we got back into the car and drove westwards following the picturesque valley of the river Tees.

This road eventually led us up on to the moors (as most roads seem to do around here) and brought us to the Langdon Beck hotel (on the B6277 in the middle of nowhere).

Spacious bar with a separate dining room serving delicious, home-cooked food. They only had Wainwright but it was in tip-top condition. The hotel is popular with walkers, bird watchers and geologists, lots of stuffed birds and bird identification charts around the pub plus something very unusual – a geology room. Glass cabinets all around the room displaying mineral specimens from local mines.



Back to Allendale for the evening and a few more pints in the Kings Head and the Golden Lion while watching Hexham morris men dancing in the square.

On Friday we drove up to Kielder Water to visit a Bird of Prey centre – amazing place and definitely worth a visit if you're ever in the area. Popped in to the Anglers Arms for a quick half. They had "Nel's Best" and "Matfen" from High House Farm brewery plus "Black Sheep Bitter". Large open bar popular with cyclists and walkers. Unfortunately, we had to take our beers outside as there was the most awful smell coming from the kitchen.

Driving around looking for somewhere for lunch, we came across the Hadrian Hotel at Wall. This was a lucky find as, not only did they serve the most incredible food, but they had around four ales from Twice Brewed brewery. I sampled "Sycamore Gap" and "Gallia", both very nice indeed.



Friday evening..? Where else but the Golden Lion for a few more pints of the local brew.

On Saturday back to the Golden Lion for lunch and had the best steak & ale pie I have EVER tasted. O.K., some purists would say that it wasn't a "Pie" as there was only a crust of pastry on top of the meat, but who cares...? It was delicious, with lots of succulent, tender steak and absolutely no fat. Also, delighted to find the Pennine Pale back on tap.

Went for a short walk along the banks of the river East Allen in the afternoon then discovered that Allendale now boasts a museum of science fiction, with lots of original props from Doctor Who, Planet of the Apes, and various S-F "B" movies. Fascinating place..!

On Saturday evenings Allendale becomes rather busy with people coming from all around to eat at the Golden Lion. The pub was fairly packed so we sat outside looking over the square with a few more pints of "Pennine Pale" and "Jakehead" just watching the world go by. Can't think of a better way to spend a summer's evening.

Called into the cafe just outside our digs for a lavish Sunday breakfast then it was off to Dumfries.



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We would like to hear from our readers!

Please email **Lee Bradbury** to voice your
opinion about anything beer related.

Please let us know if you have any
information or news which can be used in
future articles. We are reliant on CAMRA
members who support us by contributing
to the articles in each edition.

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Remember...

Articles and suggestions
for the next issue of

Shropshire TAles

should be submitted by
1 November 2019

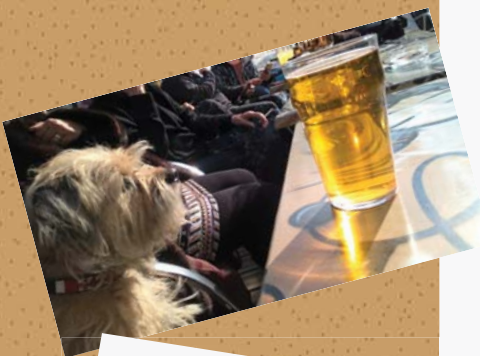
A Pint of Cider by Dave Andrews

Come, golden draught, and let me clutch thee close,
Thy bubbles make me yearn for that first sip,
Beguiled by thee - rejuvenating dose!
Refreshing friend! - I draw thee to my lip.
I pause, transfixed, and hold thee near my chin
To savour to the full th'anticipation,
Then gazing at thy form I guide thee in
Exulting at this blissful consummation.
To taste thee, sweet solution, is my prize
At end of day with labours left behind,
For with thy warmth salubrious vapours rise
To soothe and vitalise the weary mind.
I drink thee to the dregs, good friend, and then
Beseech mine host to charge my glass again.

Oswestry-based writer Dave Andrews has just
published his eleventh book. Entitled 'Old Oswestry
and other sonnets' it is written to raise money for
Lingen Davies Cancer Fund and Cancer Research
UK. Copies can be bought direct from Dave via
dand103750@aol.com or 01691 650293. Price £5
all of which goes to the two charities.

Think of a caption!

We received the above photo
from David Jones setting the
challenge of who can come
up with the best caption for it.
Email yours to us at our email
address above.



There's Gold in The Shropshire Hills (and other beers)

Word and photos by Gareth and Val Mason

Church Stretton is better known as a centre for walking activities than a place for a real ale tour. I am hoping that our little ramble may change your mind. On a beautiful sunny Saturday in June my wife Val and I decided to hop on a couple of trains and check out the town. The journey from Wellington to Church Stretton takes less than an hour including a twenty minutes change at Shrewsbury.

Church Stretton railway station lies a short distance to the east of the town centre. A sign by the footbridge indicated that we needed to cross over the railway and walk up the hill to join the road into town. The route passes several interesting antique shops and that old happy families stalwart, Mr Bun the Baker. Turn left at the top of the hill and see if you can walk by van doesburg's gourmet food shop without being tempted by the goodies in the window display (the lower-case lettering reflects the sign on the shop).

All six of the real ale outlets in Church Stretton are along a short stretch of the High Street and we decided to start at the furthest pub, The Kings Arms. This was purchased by Joule's less than two years ago and has been tastefully refurbished. The local customer sitting at the bar informed us that the front room is much the same as it was previously. However, the pub has now been extended out the back to include cubicle seating and a dining area. The back door leads out on to a wooden veranda overlooking a grassed area where the bench tables give tantalising glimpses of the surrounding hills. Three of Joules regular beers are supplemented by an ever-changing guest ale, on this occasion Purity Mad Goose. A good start to the day.



Retracing our steps and crossing the road we find a smart cocktail and wine bar called Catch. The barman told us that this was converted and extended from its previous use as a pharmacist. Wye Valley HPA was available but we opted for Ludlow Gold. Proof that there is gold in these hills. The best surprise about Catch is the neat, narrow, winding garden at the rear with views of the top of the church tower.

A few steps away and we were straight in the door of The Buck's Head. A Marston's house with four beers from their portfolio including our choice, Brakspears Jericho Pale Ale. We found ourselves a seat outside with a fine view of the church and chose a "light bite" from the menu. Our light bite turned out to be a substantial sandwich and good value. A very friendly, efficient family pub.



Almost directly across the road is Housmans. A bar/restaurant where we had just missed the lunchtime crowd. Ludlow Gold and St Austell Tribute were available. There is no beer garden as such so we sat by the front window watching the world go by. Several shelves of books included a volume about the poet, Alfred Edward Housman hence the name of this bar. A. E. Housman originally came from Bromsgrove but is best known for writing "A Shropshire Lad". His ashes are interred in Ludlow.



Further up and across the road is the Stretton Ale House with six hand pulls that include Salopian Oracle, St Austell Proper Job and changing guest ales. This is a light airy bar which makes up for the lack of an outside drinking area. The walls are covered with an eclectic mix of mostly beer related pictures and posters. The photoshopped image of Theresa May made me smile, in fact it still does as I am writing this article. A bar designed for conversation.



Back to the junction and just beyond leads us in to The Old Coppers Malt House. This is a large rambling pub that was once a hotel. Several hand pulls offer a changing range of beers including Brains Rev James, Timothy Taylor Boltmaker and Rat White Rat. The White Rat can be served through a Randall pump to alter the flavour of the beer. An interesting idea which taken to its logical conclusion could turn the ubiquitous Doom Bar into a delicious Framboise. Okay, perhaps Doom Bar is a lost cause. We chose an unaltered White Rat which was very good. A small beer garden across the car park is a nice sun trap.

From here it was back down the hill to the railway station saying farewell to Mr Bun the Baker as we "roll" on by. Play our cards right and we could meet again quite soon for another visit.

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Telford CAMRA

5th Shifnal Beer Festival

Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th October 2019

at The War Memorial Club, Innage Road,
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Thursday
5 - 11pm

Friday and Saturday
12 - 11pm

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Awards presented to Shropshire Pubs of the Season

Spring Pub of the Season winners from around the county:

The Wheatsheaf, Whitchurch

The Wheatsheaf in Green End, Whitchurch, has been presented with the award for Shrewsbury & West Shropshire Pub of the Season Spring 2019. Following substantial renovation, the pub has succeeded in maintaining a consistent quality of beer and a warm and welcoming atmosphere in what can still be considered a traditional community pub.

The owners, David & Maureen Wiles, carried out extensive work to the premises including fitting a new oak bar, toilets, state-of-the-art kitchen and a new beer garden with its own bar, pizza oven and stage.

It's a two-roomed pub mainly set out in a "U" shape, with tiled and wooden flooring, chunky pub furniture, and an open log/coal fire. A separate dining/function room is available for private parties and there are also five en-suite guest rooms which have been completely refurbished.

The beer range usually includes local ales and guest ales which change regularly. Congratulations to Maureen, David and the team for this well-deserved award.



Summer Pub of the Season winners from around the county:

The Black Bear, Whitchurch

The Black Bear is an eye catching black and white timbered building (dated 1662) at the top of the High Street and opposite the church. The theme is continued inside with its low timber beams and original design signifying its heritage. There are several sections to the internal layout, part of which is devoted to dining. However, a bar area is available for those attracted by the interesting range of six well-kept beers and a cider. A comfortable, attractive and friendly establishment, it prides itself on being dog friendly.



The Black Bear is a leading member of the growing number of quality real ale outlets in Whitchurch. It was the Branch Market Town Pub of the Year in 2015, joint winner in 2016, runner up in 2017, and runner up for the overall Branch Pub of the Year in 2016. Having been in the Good Beer Guide for seven consecutive years a special award was presented alongside the PoTS Summer award.

These accolades acknowledge the continued quality of the beer and friendly service offered by Mark and the team. Congratulations to them all.

Awards presented to Shropshire Pubs of the Season *(continued)*

The Malt Shovel, Highley

The award of Bridgnorth branch Pub of the Season for Summer 2019 was made to the Malt Shovel, Highley on Tuesday 22nd May. In recent years the "Malt" has endured a chequered career, but since the arrival of Carol and her team less than a year ago its fortunes are looking ever brighter. When they took possession back in September last year, they found little more than a shell of a pub. Re-opening after a refurbishment, the pub is now growing in popularity with locals and visitors.

Situated at the North-west end of the village, the pub has extensive views across central Shropshire and provides a perfect location to enjoy a drink and/or meal while watching the sun set over Brown Clee Hill.

Landlady Carol Ahern looks after the bar along with Husband Kevin while Lucy Burge is in charge of the cellar which, on the occasion of the presentation was hosting Ludlow Gold and Bitter as well as the ever-popular HPA from Wye Valley. Not to be forgotten is Lucy's partner Chris Taylor who makes up the fourth member of the team.

As the only cask-ale outlet in the village and with new caring owners, the Malt Shovel deserves the support of all who love the traditional British country pub.



The Anvil, Shifnal

Telford Pub of the Season for Summer was awarded to Tom and Eloise Sutton at The Anvil in Shifnal.

Black Country Ales purchased the pub just over 12 months ago, saving it from potentially being turned in to residential housing, it underwent an extensive refurbishment to open the bar space up making it lighter and brighter and also include an outdoor seating area.

With 10 handpulls serving good quality beer (including 2 real ciders, regular Black Country Ales and changing guest ales from all over the country), darts and dominoes teams and excellent bar snacks what more could you want....all in 6 months hard work.



On the day off the presentation they had a 'tap takeover' by Fownes Brewery and also have 'meet the brewer' events.

Well done to Tom and Eloise for bringing yet another great pub to Shifnal, and a very convenient place to wait for your train home after visiting Shifnal Beer Festival (17th -19th October)!

Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Pub of the Year Awards

The Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch Pub of the Year for 2019 is the Prince of Wales in Bynner Street, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury.

A welcoming two-roomed "back street local" which has a bowling green to the rear and is overlooked by 19th Century former maltings, it is a true community pub where darts, dominoes and bowls teams abound. Shrewsbury Town FC memorabilia adorn the building both inside and out, with some of the seating from the old Gay Meadow ground skirting the bowling green. They hold two beer festivals each year, the Winter Ales Festival in February and another festival in May as well as popular themed nights. Free of tie, the beer range has been increased to include regulars from Hobsons and Salopian alongside some nationally available ales and local guests such as Wood and Stonehouse as well.

Our congratulations go to Vicky and Ian and the team for a well-deserved award, won against some very stiff competition from all around the branch area.



The Bailey Head in the centre of Oswestry is the Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch Market Towns Pub of the Year for 2019.

This former Marston's pub was renamed The Bailey Head and reopened under private ownership in March 2016.

The owners have a clear vision of what the pub ought to be with real ale very much a part of the offering. Grace and



Duncan have created a pub that the community at large is able to enjoy. Thus they welcome customers who may just want a comfortable interlude with a soft drink, a snack or a newspaper (or access to WiFi!) or indeed some quality time with a well behaved dog (the pub was voted Most Dog Friendly Pub in the West Midlands in 2017). A glance at the pump clips on the ceiling in the bar will reflect the effort put into providing the customer with an interesting range of beer. Over 500 different cask beers are sold in a year. Also, the real ale offering is supplemented, not only by three carefully chosen key cask beers, but also by extensive and exciting menus of gin, rum, vodka and whisky. Regular 'Meet the Brewer' and tap take-over events have been established and we congratulate Grace, Duncan and the team on this award which was announced on the third birthday of their taking over the pub.

SWS Pub of the Year Awards (continued)

The Shrewsbury and West Shropshire Branch Rural Pub of the Year for 2019 is the Mytton Arms in Habberly, near Pontesbury.

To get to the Mytton Arms, there is no alternative other than negotiating the narrow lanes of South Shropshire, although in the summer the Shropshire Hills Shuttle bus could help! Nevertheless, it is worth seeking out this well used village community pub.

Its three low beamed rooms are cosy, comfortable and tastefully done out which, together with a friendly rustic atmosphere, make it a pretty tempting, quiet place to linger. It is quite close to popular local walks on the Stiperstones and Earls Hill, including Route 4 in the Walking with Offa series. A frequent award winner, here you will find beers from Hobsons and Three Tuns complemented by a couple of guest ales from other local breweries.

Beer set to flow at Shropshire oktoberfest

The huge beer tent for Shropshire Oktoberfest is due to return to Shrewsbury's Quarry Park on October 4 and 5.

The award-winning Shropshire Festivals team have organised brewers from the region and beyond to serve up around 150 different real ales. There will also be lager, cider and wine bars, a prosecco parlour and gin den, with a vast array of delicious street food.

The Ironbridge Beer Factory will be debuting their craft beer offering at the event. On offer will be Coracle, which is a 5.2% IPA that picked up a Gold Medal at the Regional SIBA (West and Wales) awards.

Shropshire Festival's founder, Beth Heath, comments, "We are very excited to be bringing back Shropshire Oktoberfest for a third year. We have been thrilled with the support for the event over the last two years, with people flocking to the Quarry to try our huge selection of ales."



The festival's comedy club will be compered by Chris Brooker. He will be joined by Stephen Carlin's deadpan wit, Keith Carter's character comedy, Vince Atta and his multi-track looper, and Gordon Southern who headlines following huge success on the international comedy circuit.

The music line-up has just been revealed. Acts include The Paprika Blues Band, Custard Connection, The Follicles, Vorsprung Durch Oompah, Dirty Rockin' Scoundrels and Bouncing Betty - all promising to keep crowds entertained throughout the festival.

Purchase tickets from www.shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk

Rural South Shropshire – a great day out!

Word Richard Nicholls and photos Dave Haddon

Saturday 25th May 2019 was a day which dawned clear and bright, with the promise of sunny weather throughout, and it was with great anticipation at 11am that we (Bridgnorth sub-branch members) awaited the arrival of the coach which had already picked up Telford and East Shropshire folk from further north in the county.

So with a healthy contingent of 39 on board we first travelled over the river Severn to Cleobury Mortimer, home of the excellent Hobsons brewery. Founded in 1993 by the Davis family, over the past 26 years they have grown to become a leading brewer in the area. We were welcomed there by Head Brewer, Paul Albin and Kitchen Tap Manager Duncan Turner and provided with the opportunity to sample their very good mild and “25” brews, plus a taste of new “Mandarin” ale which is in development. A selection of excellent cheeses from Leominster’s Monkland Dairy along with pork pie and chutney were provided to help the beer down. The main reason for the visit was to present Paul with the 2019 Brewery of the Year award which is very well deserved indeed. Finally a brief tour of both of Hobsons brew houses was provided, which included some very interesting stories of the history and development of the site, including some fascinating nuggets such as how Polish hops ended up in the Twisted Spire recipe!



It seemed all too soon when we were called back to the coach to continue our tour of the Marches. So after many thanks were given to our hosts at Hobsons Brewery we were on our way to the Fighting Cocks in the tiny village of Stottesdon. At times on the very rural journey it seemed that the coach was touching both hedges, but we got there safely to be rewarded by a fine selection of 4 beers on hand pump, all in good condition. Wye Valley HPA and Butty Bach, Ludlow Blonde and Hobsons Twisted Spire were all sampled by various members of the group.

Once again time was against us so it was back to the coach and along to the hamlet of Kinlet, where we visited the Eagle & Serpent. A previous winner of the Bridgnorth group’s pub of the season award it was no surprise to many of our group the Hobsons Mild and Town Crier were served in a condition every bit as good as the ales offered at the brewery. HPA from Wye Valley was also on tap here, also perfectly kept.

Time seemed to be moving even faster (the effect of beer on the brain?) when the call to the coach led us on to our final destination, across the Severn again to end up at the Lion O'Morfe at Upper Farmcote, a village so small it just seems to consist of the pub... This house is a great favourite of our CAMRA branch and we were there to present licensee Sam Jervis with not one but two awards!

Firstly the 2019 Rural Pub of the Year but also the Barry Malone Memorial Shield, both given by our chairman Adrian Zawierka. Once again a good selection of 5 ales all in excellent condition were on offer, HPA and Town Crier, along with Three Tuns XXX, Envile Ale and guest ale Sharp's Sea Fury.



There was finally one more call to leave and all too soon the Bridgnorth contingent were decanted out at the Foster's Arms in Low Town Bridgnorth and with a brief wave the coach departed north with the remainder of the group on board.



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Telford and East Shropshire Pub of the Year Awards

The Branch gathered for this AGM at the overall winner of the Telford and East Shropshire Pub of the Year Award - The Sandbrook Vaults in Market Drayton.

When presented with the award Laurence commented "Running a pub is a way of life so to have your way of life endorsed in such a manner by our local CAMRA feels quite surreal and such a boost to our self-belief in all we do here and the values we believe in. Please pass on our appreciation and best regards to the group"



Bryn Pass awarded Laurence Payne with the Market Drayton Sub-branch Pub of the Year Award. Then Adrian Zawierka awarded Laurence and manager James Billington with the Telford and East Shropshire Pub of the Year Award.

The AGM as always was well attended and it gave the branch members the opportunity to visit and check out the pubs in the town and later on in the village of Cheswardine and surrounding area.



The Bear Hotel Hodnet received their award as our Branch Rural Pub of the Year.

Presenting the award was Adrian Zawierka chair of the Telford and East Shropshire branch to Greg Williams licensee. Local member and regular at the Bear, Pete Ellis said, it is a great pub and an asset to our village. Not only is this pub steeped in history it is a great local as well. It gives us the opportunity for us locals to meet as a community, it has a lovely warm feeling to it and it is very welcoming.



In April Bridgnorth CAMRA presented their Pub of the Year 2019 award to the Black Boy in Bridgnorth.

Manager Ryan Mushing commented "Having only been at the Black Boy since December, winning Pub of the Year means the world to us, though it wouldn't have been possible without the hard work put in by the staff and the on-going support of our patrons"

The Black Boy is a Grade II listed 17th Century ale house. First licensed in 1790, it stands on historic Cartway which links High Town with the river quayside. 6 real ales are on offer from Bewdley Brewery, Greene King; a choice of other breweries and a real cider.

TES Pub of the Year Awards (continued)

The Telford Pub of the Year Award 2019 went to The White Hart Shifnal.

The White Hart is a fantastic example of a true real ale pub and has won many well deserved CAMRA awards in recent years. The presentation was made by Adrian to Adam and Jodie back in April.



The Pheasant in Wellington won this years Telford and East Shropshire Town Pub of the Year.

Adrian presented the award to Steve and Peter Preston (and their team) at the end of April at one of their regular cheese evenings. The pub was packed with regulars who each take along a cheese hoping to have it voted the best by all who sampled the selection available.



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Beer Events & Festivals 2019



September

Thu 5 - Sat 7 | **Bridgnorth Beer & Cider Festival**, Severn Valley Rail Station

Fri 6 - Sun 8 | **Crewe Beer & Cider Festival**, Railway Heritage Centre

Sat 13 - Sun 14 | **Shirley (Solihull) Festival**, West Midlands

Sat 14 | **2nd Shropshire Real Ale Trail** by bus

Details at: www.realaletrail.co.uk/shropshire-real-ale-trail

Thu 19 - Sun 29 | **National Cask Ale Week**

Thu 19 - Sat 21 | **Cannock Chase Beer & Cider Festival**, Prince of Wales Theatre, Church Street, Cannock

Sat 21 | **The New Inn**, Newport beer festival

Thu 26 - Mon 30 | **Telford Drinks Festival** - Crown Inn Oakengates

Thu 26 | **Meet the Brewer** – Mobberley Brewhouse tap takeover at Bailey Head, Oswestry 8.00pm

Fri 27 - Sun 29 | **Clun Valley Beer Festival** 4pm – 11pm

Sat 28 | **Wheaton Aston Beer Festival**, Staffordshire

October

Thu 3 - Sat 5 | **Solihull Beer Festival**

Fri 4 - Sat 5 | **Oktoberfest**, Shrewsbury

Sat 5 | **CAMRA Regional Meeting** at Joule's Shakespeare pub, Bridgnorth. 12 noon.

Fri 11 - Sat 12 | **Priorslee & St Georges Beer Festival 2019**

Fri 11 - Sun 13 | **Inn on the Green Beer Festival**, Acocks Green, Birmingham

Thu 17 - Sat 19 | **5th Shifnal Beer Festival**

Sat 19 | **Llangollen Railway Real Ale Train**

November

Thu 7 - Sat 9 | **Kidderminster Beer Festival**

Thu 7 - Sat 9 | **Stoke-on-Trent Beer Festival**

All information correct at time of print. Please check prior to event.

If you know of any beer festivals which are taking place in the future then please contact **Lee Bradbury** email: editor.tescamramagazine@gmail.com



BRIDGNORTH BEER FESTIVAL 2019



BRIDGNORTH

BEER FESTIVAL 2019
5 - 7 SEPTEMBER

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Bridgnorth Sub-Branch Diary 2019

September

Tue 24, 8pm | Event: **Sub-branch meeting**

Venue: The Down, Chetton at 20.00; a minibus will depart from opposite the George at 19.30.

Why not come along
and join us?

October

Tues 22, 7.30pm | Event: **Sub-branch meeting**

Venue: The White Lion, West Castle St., Bridgnorth

November

Tue 26, 7.30pm | Event: **Sub-branch meeting**

Venue: The Unicorn, Hampton Loade at 20.00; a minibus will depart from opposite the George at 19.30.

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

T.E.S Branch Diary 2019



September

Tue 3 7:30pm | Event: Telford Pub of the Season Autumn 2019 Presentation

Venue: George and Dragon, Much Wenlock

Thur 5 - Sat 7 | Event: Bridgnorth Beer Festival

Venue: Bridgnorth Beer Festival returns to the Severn Valley Railway Station.

Tue 10, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: Three Horseshoes, Sambrook

Sat 14 | Event: Beer scoring trip

Venue: South Shropshire - coach from Wellington, Oakengates, Shifnal and Bridgnorth. Contact Paul Bradburn for details including pick-up times.

October

Tue 1 | Event: Beer scoring by public transport

Venue: Much Wenlock and surrounding area. Meet for service 19 bus at 1120hrs from Telford Bus Station.

Sat 5, 8pm | Event: CAMRA Regional Meeting

Venue: At Joule's Shakespeare pub, Bridgnorth. 12 noon. Meet at Telford Bus Station for fast service 113 at 11:00 (Shifnal at 11:12).

Tue 8, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: Old__ Fighting Cocks, Oakengates

Thu 17 - Sat 19 | Event: 5th Shifnal Beer Festival

Venue: War Memorial Club, Shifnal

Wed 30 | Event: Beer scoring by public transport

Venue: Bus to Alveley, Meet at Telford Bus Station for 113 bus at 13:00, then Bridgnorth High Street for 1345hrs 297 service.

November

Sat 9 | Event: Beerfest "Thank You" trip to Kidderminster Beer Festival.

Venue: Coach as 14-Sept. Beer Festival volunteers free, others £12.

Tue 13, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: Bull's Head, Wrockwardine Wood

Thu 21 | Event: Salopian Brewery Trip

Venue: Salopian Brewery, Hadnall. Contact Paul Bradburn for details including pick-ups.

Sat 5, 8pm | Event: Beer scoring trip

Venue: Rural western Telford - coach from Wellington, Oakengates & Shifnal. Contact Paul Bradburn for details including pick-up times.

Why not come along
and join us?

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

S.W.S Branch Diary 2019



September

Wed 4, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: Albert's Shed, Shrewsbury (upstairs).

Fri 6, 7pm | Event: Beerfest "Thankyou" trip to Bridgnorth beerfest

Venue: From Salopian Bar. Volunteers free, CAMRA members £7, Non members £12.

Tue 10, 7pm | Event: First Beerfest meeting for 2020

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury.

Tue 9 | Event: PTG trip by bus to Baschurch, Ruyton & Oswestry

Times: Arriva 576 at 12 noon ex Shr Bus Stn. Arrival back 1736 or 1814.

Fri 19 | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Venue: Depart Salopian Bar 7pm.

October

Wed 2, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: Prince of Wales, Bynner St, Shrewsbury.

Tue 8, 7pm | Event: Beerfest meeting

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury.

Tue 15 | Event: PTG trip by bus to Bishops Castle.

Times: Minsterley Motors 552/3 at 1005 ex Shr Bus Stn (Stand N). Arrival back at 1640 hrs.

Fri 25 | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Venue: Depart Salopian Bar 7pm.

November

Wed 6, 8pm | Event: Branch meeting

Venue: TBA.

Tue 12, 7pm | Event: Beerfest meeting

Venue: Admiral Benbow, Shrewsbury.

Tue 20 | Event: PTG Beerscoring trip rail to Whitchurch & Wem

Times: TBA.

Fri 22 | Event: Beerbus beerscoring trip

Venue: Depart Salopian Bar 7pm.

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**
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Secretary: **Eleanor Haddon**
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Treasurer: **David Jones**
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Media Liaison: **Post currently vacant**

Pub Surveys Officer: **Dave Haddon**
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email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com

Social Secretary: **Jean Blake**
tel: **01746 219324**

Membership Secretary: **Ian Thwaites**
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email: hat.deecie@btinternet.com

Market Drayton CAMRA main contacts

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www.facebook.com/groups/199617536785775/

The official Shrewsbury and West Shropshire CAMRA branch contacts

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Secretary: **Nigel Bevan**
email: secretary@saws.camra.org.uk

Treasurer: **Jonny Sutton**
email: treasurer@saws.camra.org.uk

Membership Secretary: **Dave Ricketts**
email: membership@saws.camra.org.uk

Press and social media: **Norrie Porter**
email: press@saws.camra.org.uk

Social Secretary: **Dave Grainger**
tel: **01743 358975**

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

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Email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

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