# ALES & TALES



The Newsletter for the Campaign for Real Ale in Stourbridge & Halesowen and Dudley & South Staffordshire Issue 34 Autumn 2017



www.stourbridgecamra.org.uk www.dudleycamra.org.uk



## Welcome Back

Well the great British summer started with a bang. Those members who worked the beer tent at Kinver Country Fayre were blessed with one of the hottest days of the year! Let's hope that it continues and our local outdoor festivals benefit from good beer drinking weather.

We try to bring you news and articles that reflect the current scene locally (and nationally) and two of our articles look at different results in the battle to preserve our pubs. There is also one member's definition of craft beer, a hotly debated topic for both drinkers and brewers.

After a successful beer festival Stourbridge & Halesowen CAMRA thank you trip for volunteers went to Manchester and it seems that a jolly good time was had by all! However yet again we must put out a plea for Dudley & South Staffs members to come forward and help to make Dudley Winter Ales Fayre 2017 become a reality. We have an organiser but we need other members to volunteer to help with jobs prior to the actual festival and during the festival. With over 1100 members it is so disheartening to those of us who have been involved for decades in some cases that the festival may cease to exist through the inertia of some of the younger members.

If you are a licensee check out the article on

Whatpub to learn how you can keep the information for your pub current. It is the go-to resource for anyone planning to visit a new area and for locals who want to try somewhere different.

Speaking of licensees we have heard that Mel who has run The Vine aka The Bull and Bladder will be retiring at the end of October. He has been the landlord since 1989 and the pub has remained in the Good Beer Guide throughout his tenure. Whoever replaces him will have a hard act to follow. As a staunch CAMRA supporter we wish him and his family well.

As we keep saying brewery news and pub news reflect the information we have been given. We would like to say thank you to all our contributors. If your favourite pub or brewery hasn't been included and there is news to share then let us know. Send to editor@dudleycamra.org.uk.

We hope that you enjoy some of the articles contributed by members of the branches and if you feel you would like to put pen to paper then send your views, comments or articles to editor@dudleycamra.org.uk. We would also like to thank our advertisers whose support means that Ales and Tales is distributed across our branches and beyond as a free publication.

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# Meet The Brewer Craddocks



Name: Dave Craddock

Age: 35

#### **Background before brewing?**

After leaving college I travelled around many places in the world, doing various jobs and sofa surfing.

#### What was your first alcoholic drink?

When I was three, eating sliced fruit from garden party platters, which to my mum's horror, were heavily laced with punch.

#### What are your hobbies and interests?

Rugby! I stopped playing when I became selfemployed, but am now back playing for the mighty Stourbridge Hoppers.

#### What is your favourite:-

#### Beer - your own and someone else's?

Depending on the time of year, Saxon Gold and Yule Glow. Otherwise anything by Scott from Fixed Wheel.

#### Food?

Cheese and onion cobs.

#### Drink that's not real ale?

Wine.

# Pub? (could be anywhere in the country as long as you don't own it)

The Baiting House in Worcestershire, because the landlord is my good friend Tim Lawson.

#### How did you get started in the trade?

Started brewing at 13, making wine to sell to my classmates, and I first tapped and vented a cask at The Shrubbery Cottage when I was 18. I came home from my travels and invested in my first venture -The Bulls Head, a Holdens pub in Sedgley. I learned the trade while turning it around and getting it into the Good Beer Guide in two years. It was modelled on the Plough & Harrow in Stourbridge. After another pause from the trade, we bought the best pub on the market that we could afford – The Plough & Harrow – 11 years ago. Then two or three years later came the recession and the opportunity to buy the Duke William from Marston's. The pub had a 'chequered' history and reputation, the bar had been painted white, and it took a lot of effort by mates with skills looking for work to strip the paint from the bar, walls and floors to restore the current traditional feel. Two years later we bought a brewery and opened it at the same time as our first born arrived!

### What is the development period to bring a brew to the market?

It depends. Either I see what is missing from the range or see a beer I like and have a go.

#### What are your aspirations for the business?

A lot of work is going on at the Talbot in Droitwich where there is real potential. The rejuvenated garden area will soon be opened and will transform the place. The capacity for brewing behind the Stable Bar in Bridgnorth has now been reached. I am happy with the existing business model of brewing for my four pubs, though if an opportunity arose to get a larger brewing space I might consider ......

# What's the best and worst thing to happen in the industry in the last 5 years?

The emergence of 'craft' beers has brought more beers and drinkers to the market, and generally excited interest in beer drinking that wasn't there before. There is far more enthusiasm in the industry now.

### How do you think CAMRA could help you in your business?

I appreciate the exposure that local CAMRA members give to the brewery. It is good to see that CAMRA is addressing the changes in the business, and putting more emphasis on protection of pubs. The bigger companies need to be encouraged to free more ties for landlords.



# **Brewery News**

#### **GREEN DUCK**

The next monthly specials are:

#### **IUNE**

Flame Of The West – citra simcoe mosaic pale sold out in 6 days

#### JULY

The Great Divide will be an ekuanot citra pale & Steeltown a beer brewed for Black Country day celebrations

#### **AUGUST**

Dead on Arrival - a strong British IPA brewed with a blend of new English hops

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Close Action - a mosaic pale

Date for the diaries this year's Oktoberfest is the  $19^{th}$  -  $21^{st}$  October

#### **FIXED WHEEL**

Having taken a leap of faith 3 years ago Scott Povey and Sharon Bryant are continuing to grow. Fixed Wheel Brewery has recently confirmed that they have taken the lease on the adjoining unit at the Long Lane Trading Estate in Blackheath, doubling the brewery size to 2,000 sq ft. This will enable them to increase output and provide more room for cold storage and the onsite bar. Fixed Wheel have also taken on a third member of staff to support the demand. A fifth fermentation vessel they have purchased means production can be increased to 40 (Brewer's barrels at 36 gallons or 288 pints) barrels a week.



#### **SADLERS**

Halewood Wines & Spirits, makers of Crabbie's and Lambrini, has taken a majority stake in Sadler's Brewing Company in Lye, the Black Country brewery behind Peaky Blinder IPA. Sadler's, which is now operated by 5th generation brewer, Chris Sadler, will now have access to Halewood's global infrastructure as well as gaining new routes to market. The deal will enable the brewery to further capitalise on the growing craft beer industry and they will also receive marketing support from Halewood, but will continue to operate separately. Chris Sadler, the managing director of Sadler's, has said that "Halewood's investment gives us the opportunity not only to continue providing handcrafted beers with a strong provenance locally, but also to expand our reach throughout the rest of the UK and internationally". Stewart Hainsworth of Halewood has said that "Sadler's has a fantastic family heritage and Chris has continued the passion for creating characterful beers with a point of difference. The current Sadler's generation is talented and visionary while upholding the original family ethos and with Halewood's focus on craft, we're looking forward to supporting their business. The Peaky Blinder brand holds huge potential for the off-trade, which is very focused on listing more craft beers. It is a natural fit with our portfolio alongside our investment in the Cumbria-based Hawkshead brewery and the Tsingtao distribution business". Halewood is the UK's largest independent alcoholic drinks manufacturer and distributor, and is still family owned. Its product range includes wines, spirits, beers, ciders and bottled water, including Lambrini, Whitley Gin and Vodka, Marylebone Gin, Bajan Rum 66, The Pogues Irish Whiskey and Red Square Vodka, and of course Crabbies Ginger Wine.

#### **HOLDEN'S**

Holden's brewery have recently announced an extension to their pub estate. They have purchased the Golden Lion in Bridgnorth. Situated on the High Street in High town it should prove to be a welcome addition to the pubs of Bridgnorth. The pub has

been closed for a while and at the time of going to print an opening date has not been confirmed.

The Wheatsheaf in West Bromwich is also being refurbished.

Holden's seasonal beer at the moment is Summer Buzz. The original brew of this honey beer sold out in spectacular fashion and

sold out in spectacular fashion and further brews are currently in the fermenters. Look out for this 4.2% beer.

# SUMMER BUZZ Statement Internal dia 1.25 ARV HOLDENS HITTER

#### **BATHAM'S**

The conversion to a pub of the offices in Hagley known as Palladium House increases the brewery's estate. The building work is underway and the new pub is scheduled to open in September.

#### **SWAMPY'S KITCHEN**

New nano brewery in Kinver. Small quantities of 4 hand-crafted bottle (plastic) conditioned beers are produced. They include Tie Your Mother Down: 3.6% heavily hopped pale ale; Jailbait: a 4% smokey blonde cream ale; Tailgunner: a 4% rauchbier; and Smoke on the Water: a 4.6% dark cherrywood smoked porter. Bottles of these beers can be sampled and bought at the French Connection Bistro in Stourbridge and the Old House Tea Rooms in Kinver.

This is all the brewery news we have received for this edition, which is a great pity!

If you are a brewer, BLO or just someone who wants to recommend your favourite brewery get in touch please.



# 'High Five' for Enville beer joint



It was just before 7pm on a warm and sunny Wednesday evening when a group of Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA members met to go and represent the branch at the 2017 South Staffordshire Pub of the Year Award presentation.

Once again, following a comprehensive contest, the **Cat Inn** at Enville was to be crowned as the winner for the fifth year running.

Accompanied by friends from another branch, we arrived at the Cat to find the car park full and the garden and pub even fuller. Thankfully, tables had been reserved for us and with thirsts honed by anticipation and the good weather we set to. As usual, a selection of Enville beers were available including Ale, Ginger, and Old Porter all of which were really good plus the American Pale Ale from Enville's trading subsidiary Stourton Brewing Co. There was also Wye Valley Butty Bach and Three Tuns Solstice which were also on fine form and Thistly Cross cider was available and happily being consumed.

Aimee and Dan Hicks were the usual gracious hosts and as well as a very welcome free drink a small repast was also laid on for us.

The Branch Chairman Ryan Hunt made the presentation from behind the bar, the only space available, as by that time everyone had come into the pub to watch the proceedings and cheer the winners.

Sadly the convivial evening was drawing to a close as our minibus was to arrive for 9.45pm. However, we still had time to have one last drink and continue the joviality.

When we finally departed the Cat we all agreed it had been a really pleasant visit and soon suggestions were being made for other visits and socials that could be undertaken.

The minibus dropped us at the pick-up points which were the New Inn in Wordsley and the Court House in Dudley where we still had the appetite for a 'nightcap'.

All in all, it was a really good visit and thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. Our con-Cat-ulations once again to Aimee and Dan and our thanks for their warm welcome.

**Jacqui Edwards**Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA
Social Secretary

### **Pub News**

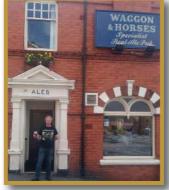
The Swan, Halesowen B62 9JY Beer festival is booked for 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> August there'll be 65 ales and 35 ciders.

The Waggon & Horses, Halesowen B63 3TU have

been flying the Black Country banner!

Return to New York - Real ales from across the pond

Reading the of last issue Ales and Tales whilst enjoying a few pints in the Waggon and Horses



Halesowen, we came across Matt Merricks article to the big apple and his visit to McSorely's, a real ale house in New York.

With our own trip to New York next week we thought we would raise the bar somewhat and show some old fashioned Black Country international relations. A few days into our holiday and the quest was on, 15th east, 7th street McSorely's is a gem of a bar, and we soon found ourselves sampling the select range of ales, light or dark sir was the question asked. Over the next couple of hours we tried and enjoyed them all. Smashing bar tucked away on 7th street with



a warm friendly atmosphere, welcoming staff and proper New banter. York Plenty of photos were taken for the family album and then the reason we had taken time out to find this wonderful bar. As a gesture of good will Dawn

and Mick from the Waggon gave us one of their

Waggon and Horses 100 club shirts which was readily modelled by Sean the Irish New Yorker and head barman. With a show of good sportsmanship, Sean gave us a McSorely's shirt to be presented to Mick on our return to the Waggon and Horses. We look forward to having a pint or three with Sean in the Waggon next time he visits the UK where Black Country Ales will twin with New York .....so good they named it twice ...

Terry and Dawn Hughes

Also, in the West Midlands County Pub Of the Year competition, the Waggon and Horses, Halesowen has been awarded 2nd place! Congratulations guys!

If you fancy venturing further afield **The Gunmakers Arms** 93 Bath St, Birmingham B4 6HG have been in touch to encourage us to pay a visit to their newly refurbished bar! Please let us know if you do manage to make a trip as we'd be interested to hear your opinions.

Queens Head, 129 High Street, Wordsley DY8 5QS are holding a Cider Festival from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Old Bulls Head, 1 Redhall Road, Lower Gornal DY3 2NU are holding a Beer Festival from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Rising Sun, 116 Horseley Road, Tipton DY4 7NH are holding a Beer Festival from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Church Tavern, 36 High Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2AA, formerly a Brains pub is now a freehouse. It continues to serve Brains Reverend James to satisfy the locals, alongside 3 changing Real Ales.

Wheatsheaf, 379 High Street, West Bromwich B70 9QW is due to reopen on 4<sup>th</sup> August after a major refurbishment.



# THE OLDE SWAN INN

(Ma Pardoes) Halesowen Road, Netherton

6 Home Brewed Beers on offer
Olde Swan Original 3.5% ABV
Dark Swan Mild 4.2% ABV
Olde Swan Entire 4.4% ABV
Bumble Hole 5.2% ABV
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NPA 4.8% ABV

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Contact Tim Newey on 01384 253075

# CAMRA not Persuasive on Parking Permits

Objections to a controversial Sandwell Council proposal to introduce Residents Only car parking in designated bays on Causeway Green Road Car Park, Oldbury, have been described as "laughable" by the Cabinet member for highways and environment, Councillor David Hosell.

He made the remarks at a Highways and Environment Decision-Making Session on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Council Chamber at Sandwell Council House. Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA Chairman, Ryan Hunt, had attended to object to the proposals which would see 5 spaces reserved strictly for permit-holders from 6pm to 8am Monday to Sunday inclusive.

The car park is within walking distance of the branch's new and impressive micropub, the Old Dispensary and it is evident that the sustainability and profitability of the business is dependent upon designated drivers having somewhere safe and secure to park their vehicles.

Following the unanimous decision taken at a branch meeting in April 2017 by the Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA committee to oppose the proposal, Ryan Hunt addressed Councillor David Hosell directly at the Decision-Making Session by stating: "we do prefer to comment on good news stories, but we do believe that if this proposal was translated into reality, far from being a bad news story, it would be a devastating, anti-business news story. We have come to the conclusion as a committee that you could not sell to the public how you would allow 2 investors to inject money and time into the local area by opening a new business and then, in the same calendar year, take a decision that would be pulling the rug from underneath them".

The go-ahead for the scheme came within weeks of the returning pro-pubs MP for Warley, John Spellar, signing up to CAMRA's own mini-manifesto "Pledge for Pubs" prior to the Snap General Election. Spellar, who in parliament represents hundreds of the 1,100+ fully paid Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA members, is on record praising the crucial role played by community pubs in local life and their huge contribution to the local economy.

Councillor David Hosell claimed that the opening of the Old Dispensary had resulted in residents demanding to be granted the above privilege from the council. Responding, Ryan Hunt said: "when people moved into the terraced houses, there was no designated parking for them, and obviously what goes hand-in-hand with living in a terraced house is that you are competing for somewhere to park but what trumps that is that there is not even enough spaces for those residents anyway and there's going to be a lot of conflict because I don't know who you're going to give [permits] to and who you're not going to give them to".

Ryan Hunt asked how the success of the scheme would be monitored and reviewed moving forward. In reply, a representative from Sandwell Council revealed that "the scheme



would be assumed to be successful unless there are complaints or issues that arise... but that could only be considered as a petition by a petitions committee. If in a year's time, the pub says "nobody's ever in those spaces", that would be a 'petitionable' reason to come back".

Announcing his decision to approve the proposal, Councillor David Hosell praised CAMRA for "doing a marvellous job" and reassured Ryan Hunt that the perspective of Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA had been "taken into consideration".

Seemingly, we're half way there, as Bon Jovi once sang. But if our campaigning is to make a meaningful difference in the future, we will need

to be more spirited, more innovative, and better organised in our approach.

To see the proceedings in full, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPKg3bjkRtQ.

Ryan Hunt

Dudley and South Staffordshire CAMRA Chairman

# **Campaigning CAMRA**

Ahead of the Queen's Speech, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) called on the Government to deliver on its Manifesto commitment to review the business rates system and relieve the burden on the pub sector.

CAMRA is very concerned that pubs are facing a punitive tax burden, which sees the average pub pay £140,000 a year in direct taxes, or 34p in every £1 taken in the till. The Campaign is therefore calling on the Government to make the Pubs Relief Scheme permanent and to extend it to £5,000 per pub per year.

These calls come in light of 130 MPs - making up a significant 20% of the House of Commons - pledging before the general election, to celebrate and promote Britain's breweries, support action to help pubs thrive and represent the interests of pubgoers, beer and cider drinkers.

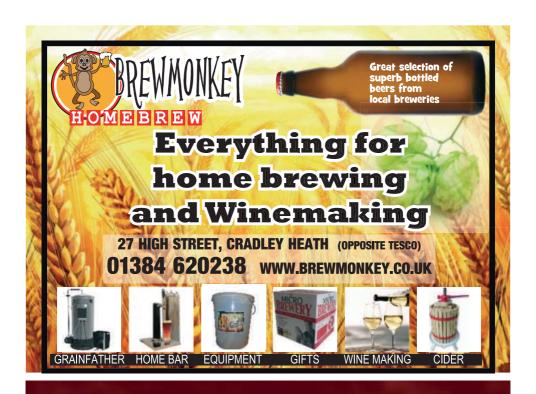
Support for CAMRA's #pledgeforpubs campaign has crossed party lines, with 69 Labour and 46 Conservative MPs pledging their support before the election, along with a statement of support from the former Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron.

CAMRA is also calling on the Government to keep the brewing and pubs sector front and centre in the Brexit negotiations and to freeze beer duty for the duration of the next Parliament.

Colin Valentine, CAMRA's National Chairman says: "Pubs are a force for good in local communities. Not only do they support the economy and provide employment, but they also bring communities together, help raise money for charities and are a major attraction for visitors from around the world. Despite this, pubs continue to face a huge tax bill which has recently been made even worse through increases to beer duty and business rates.

"Ultimately, it is the consumer who will pay the price as publicans are forced to put up prices, which could lead to a number of pub closures in a time of austerity and uncertainty. This is why we are calling on the Government to adhere to its Manifesto commitment to review the business rates system.

With one in five MPs promising to back the brewing and pubs trade, we hope those elected will come together to become a powerful voice for pub-goers and beer drinkers in this Parliament."



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# Hitchmough's Lost Pubs

### Here is a photograph of another mystery pub. Can you identify it?



### The solution to last issue's lost pub is the ANGEL, Castle Street, Dudley.

The earliest date we have for this pub is 1819. It was run by the Cole family for 30 years in the 1800s, firstly Benjamin, then his widow Sarah, followed by their son, Joseph.

It brewed its own beer until 1918.

It was for many years the headquarters of Dudley Town FC.

The current building, opened in 1936, is adjacent to the site of the old one.

In 1995 it was renamed MARKET TAVERN, had problems and closed, later becoming a shop.



2009

#### ANGEL, CASTLE STREET, DUDLEY

#### County Express 17/3/1883

"On Tuesday afternoon Miss Jones, daughter of a licensed victualler and cab proprietor, of Tipton, was skating, with others, on the Tipton reservoir, when the ice gave way, and Miss Jones disappeared beneath the ice. Mr. John Mitchell, of the ANGEL INN, Castle Street, Dudley, who was skating a short distance away, made for the spot, and in endeavouring to reach the young lady he also became immersed. After scrambling through the broken ice, with the water up to his chin, he reached her, and held her up until a rope was procured, with which she was rescued from her perilous position."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1891 - Advert

"ANGEL INN, Castle Street, Dudley.

Sale by Auction, the Whole of the Brewing Plant, comprising 250-gallon Copper Boiler, with large brass taps, small Copper Boiler, pair of Vats, 16-bushel Mashing Tub, Refrigerators, Hop Press, copper-bottom Sieve, copper Wort Pumps, and other Utensils."

#### County Express 16/5/1908

"Eli Bradley, the erstwhile centre-half of West Bromwich Albion, was married on Saturday, under somewhat romantic circumstances. bride was Miss Alice Barney, daughter of Mr. H. Barney, proprietor of the ANGEL HOTEL, Dudley, a handsome girl of nineteen summers. For some reason or other Mr. Bradley had failed to obtain the parental consent, and the couple had to meet clandestinely. An elopement was planned and kept very secret, the arrangement being that the nuptial knot should be tied on Saturday by special license. Mr. Barney got wind of the affair, and took the girl from the would be bride-groom at the very door of the Registrar's office to her home. Her tears and protestations were, however, too much for the good people, and they were forced to release her again, so that at twelve o'clock midday, some three hours after the first attempt, the ceremony was performed at St. James's Church. The happy pair subsequently drove off on their honeymoon."

# CRAFT BEER Love it or hate it: a personal view

A two-part article, which considers the definitions of "craft beer" and looks at the local "craft beer" scene. Part 1 looks at the definitions of "craft beer".

Discussions about craft beer have been continuing in the press, including What's Brewing, in local pubs and beer cafés, and at CAMRA meetings and conferences. I remember asking someone: what is the difference between real ale and craft beer? About £5 a pint, he said! So what is craft beer?

It is difficult to define craft beer, since it turns a subjective by-word for quality into something which is objectively quantifiable. One quick and short definition is probably: "a beer made in a traditional or non-mechanised way by a skilled brewer in a small brewery"; simply put, it is not beer brewed by one of the mega-breweries. But this may be too simplistic.

I think the original term "craft beer" came from across the pond, where the USA Brewers' Association describe an American craft brewery as: small (annual production of less than 6 million barrels); independent (less than 25% owned or controlled by a beverage alcohol industry that is not itself a craft brewer); and traditional (most of the alcohol in a beer's flavour derives from traditional or innovative brewing ingredients and their processes). But this definition, particularly in size, would include most of our major UK brewing companies. So, for Europe, this definition has been refined, defining a European craft brewery as: small (less than 500,000HL annually); authentic (brews all their beers at original gravity, without using corn, rice or other adjuncts); honest (ingredients clearly listed on the label, with the place of brewing); and independent (not more than 25% owned by a brewing company which operates any non-craft brewery).

So what do CAMRA say? Well, we know that "real ale" is: "beer brewed from traditional ingredients, matured by secondary fermentation in the container from which it is dispensed, and served without the use of extraneous carbon dioxide". We also know that it is a "living" product, as opposed to "keg" beer which has been filtered and/or pasteurised, and is served under pressure by adding carbon dioxide and/or nitrogen when it is dispensed.

CAMRA launched a consultation in March 2016, recognising that craft beer posed a challenge to CAMRA's original aims, since much of it is served from gas-pressurised metal kegs or plastic "key kegs", rather than "living" beer served by a handpull from traditional wooden or metal casks. There is also the temperature at which the beer is served. Traditional real ale is usually served at normal cellar temperature (11-13oC), but "craft-keg" beer tends to be served at a much lower temperature (5-8oC). But both are made in exactly the same way with the same basic ingredients.

clearly wishes embrace to developments in the pub and beer industry, without compromising its key principles and purposes. The CAMRA Revitalisation Project is taking this matter further, examining its future role, but not without much discussion and soul-searching. A press release in December 2016 suggested that CAMRA should widen its vision and mission to reflect changing consumer needs and developments in the drinks industry. The Good Beer Guide confirms that "while real ale is craft beer, not all craft beer is real ale". In fact, "real ale" cask beer is a perfect example of craft beer, being made with premium natural ingredients in a traditional way. But still no specific definition of "craft beer"...yet; the jury is still out.

SIBA (the Society of Independent Brewers) sees its key role as "promoting and campaigning for Britain's independent craft breweries". It also says 46% of beer drinkers regard craft beer as made by small brewers rather than large corporations; 35% regard craft breweries as "artisanal", with 22% associating the term with "small" and 14% with "local". Brewdog, great proponents of craft beer, are keen to establish a definition, and suggest: "a beer brewed by a craft brewer at a craft brewery", but that means we have to define the terms "craft brewer" and "craft brewery".

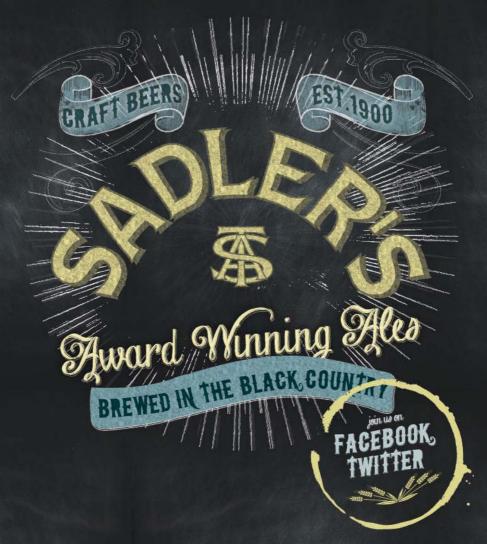
Key-kegs outside a local brewery

However, I think there are some themes here. The key characteristics of a "craft" brewery seem to be its size and production capacity (relatively small); authentic and honest (premium quality ingredients, output and traditional production processes, brewed by a skilled brewer) and its independence (not controlled by a major brewing combine). This should result in the production of "craft" beer, by a "craft" brewer in a "craft" brewery. And the moral of the story is, while nearly all traditional real ale is craft beer, not all craft beer is real ale!

In Part 2, we will look at the local craft beer scene in the West Midlands.

Steve James





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### **Festival News**

#### THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

Will take place at Olympia in London from the 8<sup>th</sup> until 12<sup>th</sup> August. The festival opens on Tuesday evening from 5pm until 10.30pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from noon until 10.30pm and Saturday from noon until 7pm. General admission is £11 a day (how much!!!) in advance and £14 on the door. www.gbbf.org.uk Check out Dudley CAMRA to see if there are any vacancies on the trip!

WORCESTER

http://worcester.camra.org.uk/wordpress/

#### HARBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Starts off the Autumn period of beer festivals. Held in the village hall in Harbury CV33 9JE it commences on Friday 1st September opening at 5.30pm until 11.30 pm (TBC) and continuing Saturday 2nd with two sessions, the first from 11.30am until 4pm and the second from 6pm until 11.30pm (TBC)

http://www.camrahow.org.uk

#### TAMWORTH BEER FESTIVAL

Takes place from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September until Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Once again, the venue will be the Masonic Rooms, 29 Lichfield Street B79 7QE. The venue has plenty of seating



outdoors with marquee and heating just in case. The festival opens from 11am until 11pm each day. Admission is £3 on Thursday and until 5pm on Friday when the price rises to £5. Saturday admission is only £1. http://www.lstcamra.org.uk



#### CANNOCK BEER FESTIVAL

Is the third festival in September. Held at the Prince of Wales Theatre on Church Street WS11 1DE, in the centre of town it opens on Thursday 21st at 5pm until 11pm, continuing on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd from Noon until 11pm.

http://www.cannockbeerfestival.co.uk

October takes the beer festival roadshow across to Solihull. Based in the Royal British Legion Club, Union Road B91 3DH, the festival opens on Thursday  $6^{\rm th}$  and Friday  $7^{\rm th}$  October from Noon until 11pm both days. The entrance package is £10 (discount for CAMRA members) which includes Glass Hire, Programme and beer tokens. Live music Saturday night.

http://www.solihull.camra.org.uk

#### STOKE FESTIVAL

Takes place at its usual venue of Fenton Manor Sports Complex from  $19^{th}$  until  $21^{st}$  October. Open every day from Noon until 11pm. Admission charges vary – Thursday Noon until 6pm is Free, from 6pm it is £2; Friday Noon until 6pm £2, from 6pm it is £5 and on Saturday it is £3 throughout the day. (Free entry for CAMRA members)

http://www.camrapotteries.co.uk

Advance notice of two festivals in October. Both of these events are the same weekend towards the end of the month.

#### SHIFNAL FESTIVAL

Takes place at the War Memorial Club, Innage Road, Shifnal, TF11 8AD from 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> October. The festival opens at 5pm until 11pm on Thursday and from Noon until 11pm on Friday and Saturday. Free entry to all.

http://www.tescamra.org.uk

#### **BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL**

Takes place the same weekend. It is at another new venue in the Digbeth area of the city and will take place at the Custard factory. More details available in the next issue of Ales and Tales.

http://www.birminghamcamra.org.uk

# Stourbridge Beer Festival Thank You Trip to Manchester



As a thank you to the beer festival volunteers a coach was provided to visit Manchester for the day. We boarded at Wordsley, which was the first pick up point. With further stops at Stourbridge and Halesowen, we were on our way by 9:30am. There were 49 of us, all looking forward to our 7 hour pub crawl.

We made very good time and arrived by the Marble Arch at 11:20am but unfortunately it didn't open until noon. We all split into small groups, Tim, Lizzie, Bridget and I set off for Cloudwater Brewery Tap

which was just over a mile away. In spite of an interesting detour along one of the canals we still arrived early. If it hadn't been for Tim I would have gone to the Brewery, but they have moved the Tap to the barrel store under the railway arches by Piccadilly Station.



We were first in at 12 and enjoyed a selection of their beers, including a couple of double IPAs. These 9% beers were not the wisest beers to start the day on but they were superb and not to be missed. The place soon filled up which meant queuing for the next beer. Lizzie volunteered which gave me chance to examine the many wooden casks, some former whisky, some sherry and some Jack Daniels, but all now containing Cloudwater beer.

Not really wanting to move but needing food we walked to Bundobust at 61 Piccadilly, a vegetarian Indian restaurant with a fantastic range of beer. Tim and Lizzie enjoyed the food, an interestingly named Vada Pav (basically veggie potato burger with lots of extra green chillies!) with Okra fries. We all enjoyed the Northern Monk Eternal Infinity 7.4%. Bridget and I had booked a meal in the Northern Quarter, so intended to just have a quick one but the lure of Alefarm Golden Orb DIPA 8% was too great I rang the restaurant and told them we'd be late.



This gave us time to visit the Terrace Bar in Thomas Street which was pretty packed, but we squeezed in on the roof terrace after purchasing Wiper and True's Pale Ale Kaleidoscope 4% and Magic Rock's Magic 8 Ball, a black IPA 7%. We could delay our meal no longer and we headed off while Tim and Lizzie popped into Marble's 57 Thomas Street a few doors away.



We met up at the Smithfield Market Tavern, in Swan Street, and joined Steve and Stan from Dudley branch just as Geoff, Mike and Andy were moving on. The Smithfield is Black Jack Brewery's Tap House so we chose their Snip Snap Snorum 4% IPA. Good to see a bar billiards table in full use in here.

Time was pressing on and the Marble Arch on Rochdale Street cannot be missed. As we arrived Geoff & Co. were off to the Angel so we grabbed their table and set about the beer menu. A great pub this, with tiled walls, sort of vaulted ceiling, slopping floor and an old Batham's cask above the bar. Marble's Lagonda IPA 5% and their Indiana American IPA 7.4% were our final choices before catching the coach home and sleeping all the way.

**Tony Skirving** 



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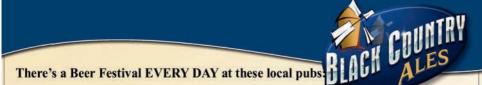
Find us on Facebook at Miriam Leaver (Church Tavern)





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Cross, Church Hill, Kinver, DY7 6HZ Queen's Head, High Street, Wordsley, DY8 5QS Swan, Long Lane, Halesowen, B62 9JY

Waggon & Horses, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, B63 3TU
CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Pub of the Year 2017
Runner Up West Midlands Pub of the Year 2017

And the recently opened Queen's Head, Enville Street, Stourbridge, DY8 3TQ









Great beer, brewed in the Black Country.

# Welsh Brewpubs

#### Snowdonia Parc Real Ale Brewpub

The pub is in an idyllic mountain setting in the village of Waunfawr, 4 miles from the foot of Snowdon. It is on the A4085 road between Beddgelert and Caernarfon. CAMRA Pub of the Year for the local region on numerous occasions, it is a must to visit if you are in the area. It's right next to the Welsh Highland narrow gauge railway which you can watch go by as you enjoy a beer or two in the garden. There was also a good range of pub food available.



Brewer Carmen Piece's signature beer is Carmen Sutra, a perfect blend of pale ale and Crystal malts marries to no less than three hop additions of choicest Fuggles and Challenger hops! Golden brown in colour, it is 4.4%. My favourite beer of the visit was Snowdonia Gold 4%, a really refreshing golden ale with citrus notes. One I wanted to try and was saving it till last was Ixion Addiction, a ruby-coloured ale of 6%. Unfortunately I was in the hands of the driver and had to leave before I had a chance to try it.

#### Market Hall Brewpub

Located in Palace Street adjacent to Caernarfon Castle, the Old Market building was in need of much renovation, then along came Caren and David Lloyd. They had a vision of brewing fine cask ales; they established Old Market Brewery in 2015. The Old Market Hall with its rustic appearance, splendid architectural design and historic location is without doubt the perfect location to produce fine local ales.



Noticing the Barrel hanging outside the building we popped in for a quick half of Old Market Blonde, a 5.2% bitter. We got chatting to brewer David Williams, pictured above, who generously gave us large samples of the other beers on tap, A55 a 4.5% golden ale, Genius a 5.2% stout and easily my favourite, Brag Dre, a golden brown ale of 7.2%

on the pump clip though billed as 5.2% on their website. It would have been rude not to have bought some after all these



tastings so we had a couple more and abandoned our other lunch time plans. Well worth a visit.

**Tony Skirving** 

# Grahams place Wollaston



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Graham's Place, Bridgnorth Rd, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3PZ





# Ade & Joy's Worldwide Travel So Who's Planning A Summer Holiday?!

#### Cornwall

Back to one of our favourite hunting grounds this year, Cornwall, for a bit of Pasty-hunting and, our favourite game, 'seek-out-a-decent -pint-of-beer'. We last visited Cornwell in 1976 and things have changed considerably in the intervening 40 years. You can actually get beer from more than 5 different brewers down there now (and one of the 'originals' has totally disappeared).

The NEW Good Beer Guide lists 30+ breweries in the county all with a nostalgic grip on Cornish heritage and tradition giving their beers weird and wonderful names relating to people, pastimes and places of Cornwall, 'Betty Stogs' really did exist! Sharps and Skinner's, who along with St. Austell are commonest at the bar and, they are everywhere. Don't get me wrong, all three produce some decent ales, but the impression we got is that a lot of landlords take an easy option and order most of their beers from the 'big 3'. We spoke to landlords, their staff and 'regulars' in about 15 pubs and a lot felt the market in Cornwall is stifled by these larger brewers, only the really enthusiastic publicans (ep's) and bar managers were prepared to take a risk and go against the flow.

So where does all the beer from the 'army' of microbrewers go, where can you find it?

The Beer Guide is a help but as we all know, like a computer, is out-of-date before you've got it out of the wrapper. I had done some 'homework' before leaving, ploughing through Whatpub and making copious notes. Anyway, we managed and did find some truly wonderful pubs on our travels and quite a few 'new' beers from micros. The secret is to chat, we found the ep's love to talk about, not only their own beers but also what is available elsewhere.

Back to the actual holiday. Due to knowledge gained on our previous visits to the South-West about the narrow roads and dubious sign-posting we had decided to invest in a SatNav ..... hmmm! After three and a half hours on the road we were in desperate need of relief, the good-lady keyed in the co-ordinates for The Star at Vogue and we followed the instructions going past a sign to Vogue 'cause the SatNav said so', big mistake. The SN took us on a grand tour of the surrounding countryside where we nearly lost a wing-mirror. With panic setting in we referred to the good old OS map, turns out we had stopped about 200 yards from the pub, approaching along the same road that we'd previously ignored but from the other direction ..... hmmmm!

Fortunately it was a superb country local with some interesting ales, shame about the fish 'n' chips!

Back on the road and only a few miles to our destination, a bit remote but a beautifully appointed 'barn conversion' just outside the hamlet of Rame. We settled in and spent an energy replenishing evening with a couple of bottles from the cool-bag. We planed to use public transport but as plans go it didn't really happen as buses in Cornwall are similar to the Stourbridge to Kinver route, one an hour in each direction and none after 6 o'clock!

However, our first day was spent in Falmouth, having reached the town by bus before midday the plan was to 'cram' as much beer as possible before an early return. All in all a great day. The best, beer wise, of the holiday with great pubs and a fine selection of ale. We started at 'Beerwolf Books', a bit like Waterstones with a bar with a wonderful selection of beer from seven handpumps. (Brewers:-

Shiny, Gt. Heck, Marble and Penzance). Highly recommended, excellent choice of quality beer served by enthusiastic and knowledgeable young staff in unusual surroundings ..... superb.



On to the waterside and into the 'Front', a friendly welcome was received from behind a 'wall of 14 handpumps' and conversation broke out! Apparently our buddy 'Kinver Dave' and his crew are well known in the 'Front' with his ales having appeared there on several occasions. We got stuck into ales from Cornish Chough, Rebel, Granite Rock, Harbour and Sharps, a fine selection.. We were also invited to try 'Grandma's Weapons Grade Ginger Beer' .... at 5.9% it certainly hit the spot! A short 'wobble' took us to 'Hand' a sort of Micropub/Specialist Beer emporium, not really our sort of pub but a decent pint of Harbour 'Light' was consumed.

The Bus was calling ..... however not visiting the 'Seven Stars' would be rude. The pub is on CAMRA'S National Inventory of Historic Interiors (Cornwall's only entry) with beer and cider dispensed straight from casks behind, at the end of and on top of the bar. 'Weapon's Grade Ginger Beer' in evidence again. A real throwback to our visit of 1976.

Traditionally we have included a trip to the 'Blue Anchor' in Helston, however this year we had realised 'Blue Anchor' now have another outlet for their beer, 'Out of the Blue' at Porthleven, a campsite clubhouse. The beer was not at its best.

The rest of the holiday involved suitable lunchtime stops and we found some wonderful pubs. The 'Star Inn' at Crowlas is an absolute gem, it is the archetypal 'Brewery Tap' for Penzance Ales with five or six of their own beers at all times plus one or two 'guests'. The bar staff were friendly telling us about the brewer and how he created such a fine range of beers and how he personally vets possible 'freetrade' outlets for quality, brand protection! The range of beers included Mild, rare in Cornwall, three Bitters and a superb Stout at 7% and the prices were spot on for a 'tap', only the Stout over £3!

Other classic Cornish pubs included the 'Queen's Arms' at Botallack, typical cosy interior and beautiful spacious garden at the rear - beer and food both very good. The Trewellard Arms, nearby, is a proper Cornish local (6 ales) but unfortunately as we were in the car justice couldn't be done! Another short visit was paid to the Coppice Inn at Lanner, apparently it is one of four pubs owned by Keltek Brewery, here the emphasis appears to be on food, although there was a good selection from the Keltek range. The Falmouth Packet at Rosudgeon sells beer from Penzance Brewery however the staff were more interested in their i-pads than customers. beer was ok. The Trengilly Wartha Inn at Nancenoy is well worth visiting, though difficult to find, both beer and food were excellent.

Our 'local', The Seven Stars at Stithians, about two miles along winding country lanes was well worth the visit. Although the regular beers were supplied by St Austell the pub has interesting guest ales, usually one at a time, from local breweries such as Powderkeg. All the beers were in good condition and food was excellent. It was here that we met 'Norm', a Cornish CAMRA stalwart for decades and former holder of every committee position possible

(a bit like our own Tony Morgan), and could he talk. The barman pointed out to Norm that I was his 'stunt-double', I don't know who felt happier .....

And finally, we came across a real gem on our journey home. In Honiton we called at the Poacher's Inn in the village of Ide (pronounced Eeede) for a bit of lunch and several beers. At least six handpumps dispensing ale from Exeter, Bays, and Branscombe met our gaze. The friendly locals and landlord made us feel at home and we gorged ourselves on generous helpings of food.

To make my day the landlord, after a short bout of blagging on my part, came up with a bag of 'old' pumpclips, some of which date back to the 'Dark Ages' ..... lovely!

We thoroughly recommend the 'West Country'!

**Adrian Stevens** 





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# WhatPub Update



#### Licensees this is your chance to update your pub details

For several years now CAMRA has maintained an online Pub Database. This database is accessible to all members of the public not just CAMRA members. The database, WHATPUB, contains information on over 36.000 pubs and clubs nationwide. Each pub has a photograph, details of opening hours, an indication of beers that are likely to be available and a short description. WHATPUB has a default setting that shows pubs where Real Ale is available but establishments that do not serve Real Ales are also accessible.

With over 400 pubs and clubs in the Dudley & South Staffs branch area and over 200 in the Stourbridge & Halesowen branch area the ongoing maintenance of the pub information is a monumental task. Licensees often comment that the data on their pub is out of date. Well now it's your opportunity to keep your pub information up to date. Remember this is not an opportunity for you to extol the virtues of your pub but is a means to keep the factual information up to date.

#### VISIT www.whatpub.com

ENTER your TOWN into the SEARCH box, you may need to uncheck the 'only pubs that serve Real Ale' box.

SCROLL DOWN until you see your pub.

SELECT your pub\*

If you are using a MOBILE device on the ABOUT TAB you can now view the information that is currently held on your pub. Examine the opening hours, food hours, telephone number, email address, website address on this page. Access the other tabs to check information about your beers, buses that pass close to your pub and facilities that your pub offers. (Similar information can be seen on a Laptop/ Desktop.)

If the information is wrong or just out of date use the SUBMIT UPDATES option and your new information goes to the local CAMRA branch for consideration.

(\*Can't find your pub – enter your Pub name in the search box, e.g. Red Lion, White Swan)

New photographs and any pub news like beer festivals, charity events can be submitted to: pubsofficer@dudleycamra.org.uk pubs.campaign.co-ordinator@stourhales.camra. org.uk

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# Dictionary Definitions No.46 - 'ANORAK'

#### ANORAK (1)

n. skin or cloth hooded jacket for wear in polar regions, similar weatherproof garment for ordinary wear. [f. Greenland Eskimo]

#### ANORAK (2)

n. nerd, beardie-wierdie, person having the need, urge to collect, chase or tick-off whatever interests them. The person often forms collections or keeps lists in note-books; often annotates special guides designed to encourage the anorak's interest; also found in the countryside chasing or photographing wildlife or modes of transport. Harmless if left to their own devices. Often seen in towns in 'flocks' hurrying from one public house to another, may wobble or fall over. Typically dressed in waterproofs, stout shoes and woolly hats will always carry a duffle bag or rucksack containing their note-books, reference guides, binoculars, cameras and cheese sandwiches.

#### **ANORAKXIA**

An advanced condition in which the person becomes very excitable when in close proximity to their interest or infatuation. Speech often garbled and incomprehensible, can talk (waffle) for hours if not distracted, may imitate birds or steam engines, pulling their woolly hats down over their eyes will confuse and immobilise them.

#### **ANORAKNOPHOBIA**

A fear of being in close proximity to an anorak, sufferers often feel uneasy and nervous if cornered by an excited anorak, sensible to ignore them or buy them a drink. Run away immediately if the anorak starts sweating or dribbling, pulling their woolly hats down over their eyes will disorientate them.

#### **ANORAKICIDE**

Being in the company of an anorak for more than a few minutes can often bring on the desire to commit murder. Alcohol is a useful antidote for this condition, the more the better, however too much can bring on side-effects similar to those exhibited by the offending anorak. Seek help immediately.

We all know an 'anorak', probably quite a few, if you're a member of CAMRA it's a stone-cold certainty...... we're everywhere!

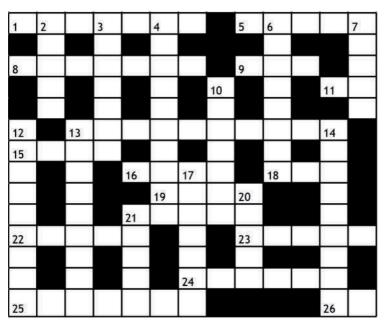
Anne O'Wrack

CAMRA SUPPORTS 'RESCUE AN ANORAK'.....
to donate Text 'NERD' to 700700 to give £1000
Thank you.



### Crossword

# SOME CRYPTIC CLUES, SOME GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, ONE THING IN COMMON..... BEER!!



(ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN G.B.G. 2015)

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. HIT PORK JOINTS!
- 5. COLOUR OF THE KINVER RAM
- 8. USING ONE FOOT ON THE SPINE!
- 9. FLIES IN MAY
- 11. NO LONGER FIT FOR DUTY
- 13. PLAIN GOES UNDER-COVER AT THE PUB!
- 15. RESULT OF BAD BEER?
- 16. RED OR STOURBRIDGE
- 18. NOT WANTED IN REAL ALE
- 19. MADE IN ENVILLE
- 21. A BREWERY TO BE RECKONED WITH!
- 22. SHADY LEAFY RETREAT
- 23. S.V.R. LOCO IN A BOTTLE
- 24. GORNAL LOCAL, NOW THE CHAPEL HOUSE
- 25. TREE IN A GRAVEYARD (3,4)
- 26. LONGER THAN A SINGLE!

#### **DOWN**

- 2. NUTTY BREWERY
- 3. PLENTY OF CHOICE
- 4. COFFEE FROM A PILOT
- 6. FROG OR GRAVY
- 7. COLLEGE OR HEAD
- 10. ST. PETER LIKES IT THIS WAY
- 12. TALENTED BUT FULL OF WIND (4,5)
- 13. CONTINENTAL NASTIES
- 14. DRY HOPS COME OUT
- 17. WHAT A ROWER!
- 20. DREAMY FRUIT
- 21. TUCKED INTO HIS ALE!

THE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37

# **Ludlow Spring Festival 2017**

Some things in life you can't control. Thankfully, there are coping mechanisms for almost all eventualities. Ergo, when you're caught up in a rainstorm you wear a raincoat. Difficulties start to arise when 'known unknowns' become 'known knowns' so late in the day that rejigging your social calendar becomes a Herculean task! If you haven't already guessed, I'm referring to the rescheduling of football fixtures by Sky. For season card holders, the anxiety generated by a 'new round' of Sky fixtures is akin to a 'new round' of redundancies at your workplace — you know when the announcement is coming but you know not of the consequences for your immediate future.

Lo and behold, the last-minute and uncustomary decision to air Albion's final game of the 2016/17 campaign at the Hawthorns versus champions-inwaiting, Chelsea, on a Friday evening was actually very welcome! It enabled CAMRA members to instead snap up the remaining seats on the branch trip to Ludlow Spring Festival. At the festival, located in the 11th century castle, we were quick out of the blocks to claim a table. Having done this successfully, branch members flitted between the 200 real ales racked at the rear of the gazebo and our trestle table which was situated equidistantly between the booze and the bands.



I remained refreshed by sipping a trio of Welsh IPAs including Mumbles IPA (5.3%), Hurns Tomos Watkin's IPA (4.8%), and Tenby Chinook IPA (5%). I then invested in a limited edition No.2 Session IPA (4.5%) from the 2017 'Super 6' series currently being rolled out by Cheltenham-based Prescott brewery before moving on to milds, bitters, and speciality beers. Questionnaires were circulated to obtain feedback from festivalgoers. A recurring theme was a recommendation to review the layout of beers according to their style/strength which was too complicated when compared to more orthodox methods, such as, alphabetical or geographical arrangements.

As Ludlow is renowned for having quaint and charming drinking houses, we opted to take time out from the Spring Festival to embark on a small crawl of local pubs. We first visited a Joule's outlet called the Rose and Crown before walking a matter of yards to reach the Church Inn. Their prime location and highly-rated offering of ales guarantees a healthy turnover of customers. Likewise, breathtaking photo opportunities and a pretty darn good drop of the Hobsons British Hedgehog Preservation Society brew Old Prickly are major pull factors for the iconic Feathers Hotel. One of Ludlow's lesserknown beer hotspots is Artisan Ales. Here you have a well-stocked bottled beer shop, circa 2015, which now boasts a second-floor mircopub. On this occasion, Salopian Divine Comedy and Ludlow Blonde were served directly from the barrel.

Ludlow's best-kept secret is the **Dog Hangs Well**. This parlour pub at 14 Corve Street could be mistaken for a residential property as there is no external signage suggesting otherwise. Would-be customers are invited to come inside only when the overhanging lamp is aglow on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. It is a tell-tale sign of a quality pub that there is a high number of bums on seats within minutes of opening. Just a small number of

destination pubs enjoy such loyalty. As we entered through the aubergine-coloured front door we were hit by a soundtrack of glasses clinking and punters conversing loudly in an attempt to be heard neighbouring tables. The pub serves 1 constantly (follow changing ale TheDogHangsWell on Twitter for weekly updates). On our visit. Mantle Rock Steady was accompanied by Harry Taylor's Crooked Branch Dry Cider



We had just enough time for a pit stop at the Royal Oak, Cardington. Here we savoured a fidget pie (local speciality) which is a small pastry case filled with gammon, potatoes, onion, cider, and apple — all that washed down by Titanic Plum Porter listening to the relaxing sound of countryside birds chirping. What more could you ask for?

Ryan Hunt Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA Chairman



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We stock a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four real ales rotating weekly. Regular ales are **Bathams**, **AJ Ales**, **Enville**, **Oakham Ales**, **Stairway to Heaven** and **Mapardoes Entire** plus many more!

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### **Beer and Boats**

#### **BLACK COUNTRY BOATING FESTIVAL**

#### 9th - 10th September 2017

The 32nd annual Black Country Boating Festival returns again in September at the Bumble Hole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Netherton. The event is run totally by volunteers and regularly attracts over 10,000 visitors, raising funds for local and national charities.

With more than 100 boats, trade and charity stalls to browse, canal-side entertainment, boaters' competitions, a funfair, dog show, vintage vehicles and regular boat trips along the Dudley No.2 Canal, there is always something for everyone in the family.

A Real Ale (and Cider) Bar managed by local CAMRA volunteers and supported by local brewers is situated in the main marquee. The Bar has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially if

the weather is fine, and in an attempt to relieve congestion in queueing, a separate gazebo is being set up just in front of the tent serving a selection of ciders and perries, supplementary to those on sale inside the main marquee. In addition to this there will be a further Bar on the opposite side of the canal, just around the corner from the Bumble Hole Visitor's Centre alongside the canal arm that leaves the junction at this point. This Bar will also provide a range of beers and ciders and an entertainment stage will be set up nearby.

The festival is open to the public from 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday; admission to the site is free and there is ample onsite car parking available.

**Stan Stephens** 



### **Diaries**

# Stourbridge & Halesowen

#### **AUGUST**

WEDNESDAY 2ND

Branch Meeting 8.00pm.

Crafty Pint, 8 Wassell Road, Halesowen

10-12TH

**Black Country Beer Festival** 

at Lye Cricket Club DY9 7DH

**TUESDAY 15TH** 

**Amblecote Marking Social** 

Meet New Talbot, Brettell Lane 8.00pm.

then New Wellington, Starving Rascal, Swan and

Robin Hood

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**TUESDAY 12TH** 

**Short Cross Marking Social** 

Meet Whitley, Stourbridge Rd. 8.00pm. then Hawne Tavern, Edward Vii and Waggon & Horses

**WEDNESDAY 20TH** 

Branch AGM 8.00pm.

Duke William, Coventry Street, Stourbridge

#### **OCTOBER**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH** 

Branch Meeting 8.00pm.

Coombs Wood Sports & Social Club, Stewarts

Road, Halesowen

**THURSDAY 19TH** 

Stourbridge Marking Social

Meet Waggon & Horses, Worcester St. 8.00pm. then Red House, Barbridge, Old Bank and Duke

William

#### **NOVEMBER**

**WEDNESDAY 1ST** 

Branch Meeting 8.00pm.

Queens Head, Enville Street, Stourbridge (TBC)

#### **THURSDAY 16TH**

Lye Marking Social

Meet Fox, Green Lane 8.00pm. then Shovels, Railway, Windsor Castle and Sadler's Brewhouse

# Dudley & South Staffordshire

#### **JULY**

**MONDAY 24TH** 

Branch Meeting 8.00pm

Britannia, 109 Kent Street, Upper Gornal DY3 1UX

**WEDNESDAY 26TH** 

**Scoring Social** 

Cradley Heath

#### **AUGUST**

**THURSDAY 10TH** 

Coach trip to Great British Beer Festival, London

Contact: Jacqui Edwards

socialsecretary@dudleycamra.org.uk or

07939480746

**SATURDAY 19TH** 

**Scoring Social** 

Wombourne, Swindon, Hinksford, Wall Heath

**MONDAY 21ST** 

Branch Meeting 8.00pm

Church Tavern, 36 High Street, Quarry Bank. DY5 2AA

#### **SEPTEMBER**

WEDNESDAY 6TH

**Scoring Social** 

Delph, Quarry Bank

**SATURDAY 23RD** 

**Scoring Social** 

South Staffs

SATURDAY 30TH

Minibus trip to Green Hop Festival

Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

Contact: Jacqui Edwards

socialsecretary@dudleycamra.org.uk or

07939480746

#### **OCTOBER**

#### **MONDAY 2ND**

Branch Meeting 8.00pm

Cottage, 534 High Street, Kingswinford DY6 8AW

#### **WEDNESDAY 11TH**

**Scoring Social** 

Bearwood, Smethwick

**MONDAY 23RD** 

Branch Meeting 8.00pm

Old Bulls Head, 1 Redhall Road, Lower Gornal

DY3 2NU

**WEDNESDAY 25TH** 

**Scoring Social** 

Langley, Oldbury

# Crossword Answers

#### **ACROSS**

1 BATHAMS, 5 BLACK, 8 HOPBACK, 9 BUG, 11 OG, 13 INNCOGNITO, 15 RUNS, 16 LION, 18 GAS, 19 NAIL, 21 FORCE, 22 ARBOR, 23 MANOR, 24 MINERS, 25 YEWTREE, 26 EP

#### **DOWN**

2 ACORN, 3 HOBSONS, 4 MOCHACCINO, 6 LAUGHING, 7 KINGS, 10 ORGANIC, 12 ARTY FARTY, 13 INTERBREW, 14 OASTHOUSE, 17 OARSOME, 20 LEMON, 21 FRIAR



- ★ Free WIFI
- ★ Sun trap patio
- ★ Sky Sports
- ★ Skittle Alley Hire



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Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Joint Membership	£30.50 £32.50
Address		Partner at the same	address)
Email address Tel No(s)  Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)  Title		*For information on Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk/membership-rates or call 01727 798440.  I/we wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association these are available at camra.org.uk/memorandum	
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)  Joint member's Email  Joint member's Tel No		Date	sed within 21 days of receipt of this form: 04/15
Instruction to Building Society to Building Society to Carenica Please fill in the whole form using the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. 230 Hat Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society To the Manager Bank or Building Society	pay by Direct Debit ng a ball point pen and send to: field Road St. Albans, Herts ALI 4LW	DIRECT	This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.  The Direct Debit Guarantee  This Guarantee is offered by all banks and
Address  Postcode  Names(s) of Account Holder	FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society Membership Number Name Postcode Instructions to your Bank or Building Society Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.  Signature(s)		building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debits  if there are any changes to the amount, data or frequency of your Direct Debit. The data or frequency of your Direct Debit. The working days in exhorac of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale. Lid to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.  If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale. Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the emount paid from your bank or building society.  If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, your must pay it back when The Campaign Real Ale Ltd asks you to
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