



Issue 26

Summer 2015

Ales & Tales

CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

*The newsletter for the Campaign for Real Ale in
Stourbridge & Halesowen and Dudley & South Staffordshire*



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BREWED IN THE BLACK COUNTRY



Welcome Back

After a brief hiccuph Ales and Tales is up and running again. Many of you will know that it is a joint venture between Dudley and South Staffs and Stourbridge and Halesowen Branches of CAMRA. With 2 new editors and a new publisher we hope that we can produce a magazine that gives you a flavour of all the great breweries in our area and the local pubs where you can not only taste smashing beer but also enjoy a night out in a convivial and welcoming atmosphere.

We have information on Dudley Pub of the Year, Stourbridge Pub of the Year and South Staffs pub of the year, which for those of you new to the area might be good places to start.

As you can see, both branches have lots going on and a warm welcome will be extended to you at any of the events listed in our diary page. We would also suggest that you might like to visit the biggest beer festival in the UK, again you can find details in the magazine.

Both branches run beer festivals and for a flavour of what it's like to work at a beer festival and maybe tempt you to join us at Dudley and South Staffs read the experiences of Tim Caldwell at Stourbridge.

CAMRA is a campaigning organisation and the focus of one of its current campaigns regards the closure of pubs and how we can fight against this. You don't have to be a member to do this (but it helps), as details of what you can do are available in our article, "Help to save our pubs."

We've had no pub news as such for this issue, apart from closures and the opening of one pub not in our area, so landlords, customers and CAMRA members, let us know if you have any new beers coming in, events going on, beer festivals or even a regular pub activity, so that we can let everyone know.

Thanks for taking the time to look at Ales and Tales, comments, pub news, articles for the next issue

in September would be welcome, by 10th August please. Send to editor@dudleycamra.org.uk

Cheers

Pam and Tony

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Beer In Cuba

Beers in Cuba, are there any, you may ask. The answer is yes and it's good. PLAZA VIEJA just off the waterfront in Havana is the home to Factoria Cervezas, a brewery offering German (Austrian) style beers. Three beers were on offer: a Light, a Dark and a Black beer all served in typically English pint dimple jugs with a typically German measure (two thirds full if you are lucky).

I started with the Light - Clara, the beer had a rich aroma from the various pale malts, a Pale Ale although fairly low in hop character. For those that have drunk the *ungespundet* style German beers it had similar qualities, slightly hazy but very tasty at about 4.5%.

The service at this cafe was not brilliant, often slow and the waiters often appeared to be unaware that the glasses were empty and people wanted another drink. Perhaps this is the culture of the country, who knows?

Entertainment was provided, typically Cuban but accompanied by a dancer with a very exotic

pedigree! The 34 degree heat was making the afternoon go with a swing. Around me groups of people were sharing beer tubes, 3 Litres at a time served from a 1.5m tube with a tap at the bottom and a central column of ice to keep the beer cool. Unfortunately the 14 Americans sharing 3L amongst themselves seemed strange.

The second beer I tried was the Dark - Oscura, although when it arrived it was more a deep Amber colour, more full bodied than the light and a much better flavour. I had assumed it would have been a *Dunkel* in taste but it was more like an English best bitter crossed with a heavy American style IPA. More effervescent than the first beer but not gassy just a livelier fresher taste.

The Black beer - Negra tasted like a cross between a *Dunkel* and a *Schwarzbier*. Lacking the Roast Barley harshness of many black beers the dark malt flavours predominated but not to the exclusion of the hops. An excellent beer and easily the best of the three.



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Pub of the Year

Dudley & South Staffordshire branch Pub of the Year



The Pub of the Year award is presented annually by CAMRA branches to the pub in their branch area that is judged to be the best of the best. Each year a short list is established

as part of the process of selecting pubs for the next edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. This year's short list contained six pubs: the New Inn, Wordsley; the Park Tavern, Kingswinford; the Wall Heath Tavern; the Vine (Bull & Bladder), Brierley Hill; the Beacon Hotel, Sedgley and the Cat, Enville. Accompanied by CAMRA's trusty National Judging Criteria the team of judges visited each of the pubs. Visits took place on different days at different times of the day to ensure a fair and consistent approach was maintained. Obviously the quality of the beer, cider and perry is of prime importance but other factors are taken into account. Judges consider the atmosphere, the service & welcome and the value for money and all are important contributors to what make a good pub into a great pub.

The winner of the award for 2015 was judged to be the Beacon Hotel in Sedgley, home to Sarah Hughes brewery and a multi-award winner of this title in previous years. The pub will represent the branch in the next round of the competition where it will battle it out against pubs from Wolverhampton, Walsall Birmingham and others in West Midlands County.

The Staffordshire award went to the Cat in Enville where Dan & Aimee continue their fine run of

form with their third successive win. Selling a large range of Enville brewery beers along with a couple of guests and a real cider this



pub will represent the branch in the Staffordshire area competition challenging pubs from Burton On Trent, Stoke, Stafford and Cannock.

Stourbridge & Halesowen branch Pub of the Year

Regular entrant in the GBG over the last 10 years, the Robin Hood, Amblecote has been voted Stourbridge & Halesowen Pub of the Year for 2015. The photo shows Ben Jeavons proudly show-casing their excellent range of local beers.



Meet the Brewer

Sadler's

Name: Chris Sadler (Front Cover)

Age: 32

Background before brewing: Like most people I had loads of random jobs from the age of 13. I've washed pots, pulled pints, delivered post, baked cakes, cooked, washed cars, and taught about 3000 people to windsurf and sail. This all led me to Southampton to study a Degree in Leisure Management, which I managed to finish despite working full time and enjoying myself far too much.

What was your first alcohol drink?

This may sound weird, but I think it was watered down red wine at a family meal!

What are your hobbies and interests?

Luckily I love what I do, so most of my time is spent in and around the magical world of beer. Beyond that, my beautiful wife and two children keep me out of mischief. I take our dog Fuggles the Brewery Mascot for walks and occasionally get to go windsurfing.

What is your favourite:-

Beer - your own and someone else's?

My favourite Sadler's Beer is JPA brewed with loads of Citra hops. I have always been a big fan of Thornbridge, Jaipur.

Food?

Anything BBQ. Low and Slow all the way.

Drink that's not real ale?

I love gin or Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough in New Zealand because it tastes and smells like hops!

Music?

Funk

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

The Pandora Inn, Falmouth

How did you get started in the trade?

As a fifth generation brewer, beer is big in my family. I have always worked in and around beer, but you could say it got serious when my father and I historically reopened Sadler's Brewery in 2004 and I haven't looked back.

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

Beer is at the centre of everything we do, so ideas are constantly developing and becoming a reality. I would say on average it takes about 6 months to bring a beer to market, but it can be 6 weeks or sometimes 6 years!

What are your aspirations for the business?

To continue to brew the very finest beer possible and to make it available for more people to enjoy.

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

We've been happy to see Beer Duty reduced over the past few years and unhappy to see pubs close.

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

To continue to campaign for what matters. Many Breweries across this wonderful Country would simply not be here without the endless dedication of CAMRA members. Long may it continue and here's to a Beer filled future. Cheers.

Brewery News

Much has been happening since the last edition of Ales and Tales within our branches' areas; we will try to give you an update on what may be happening or available over the next few months.

Collaboration between **Angel Ales** and **Fixed Wheel** brewery, first mooted at Stourbridge Beer Festival 2014, resulted when a joint brew finally took place, at the premises of Fixed Wheel, basically due to the larger capacity of the mash tun. Many various recipes of style and permutations of strength had been discussed at meetings in the Waggon & Horses (Halesowen) beforehand, but with so many collaborations seemingly taking place, it was decided that any prospective brew would have to be very special to attract attention. Being in awe of Brewdog's higher strength brews of a few years back, and now with the almost feverish growth of the brewing scene locally (and nationally) it seemed that no one in the West Midlands, despite all of this experimentation, had tried to brew anything of such a high ABV?

Hence, their brew was born :-). All we can say at the moment is that it is a Triple IPA of 15% and is possibly one of the highest strength beers ever brewed in the region? No name for the ale as yet.. However, watch this space and media in the coming months! It will be launched at Birmingham Beer Bash 23rd - 25th July 2015.

Pig Iron Brewery, a newly opened brewery based in Brierley Hill launched their range of beers at the recent Stourbridge beer festival with three beers: Hog Ore Best Bitter 4.0% a smooth and enjoyable bitter with all English grain and a mix of hops from the UK and USA, smooth and light with a subtle hop flavour. Pig Iron APA 4.9% (All American) is truly all American, brewed by owner and head brewer after spending over three years in Cleveland, Ohio honing his craft. All American grain, hops and yeast blended to bring out the best in this American pale ale. Pig Iron Blonde 3.8% smooth and light blonde pale ale, all English malt with only the best Marris Otter used in this recipe, infused with three hop varieties

with a hint of honey.

Holden's are celebrating their Centenary this year with an open day on 15th August, (see diary and advert) and after many years are rebranding their products. Seasonal beers available in the next few months are:

June – Buffalo Soldier 4.5% A pure Golden Ale using Admiral hops and the finest English Maris Otter Malt to give light delicate floral hop notes leading to an almost citrus refreshing tang.

July - 'Ay it 4.6% A rich Golden Ale with a fresh clean aroma and a moreish gentle sweetness and spicy notes with a bitter finish. Brewed using the finest English Maris Otter malts and Northdown hops, 'Ay it a truly refreshing premium beer.

August – Shag Boss 4.2% Totally Bling in colour with a positive aromatic nose, the combination of Challenger hops and Maris Otter malt gives a dominant fruity sweetness, which leads to a crescendo, which is sweet and full yet long and satisfying. A beer that really hits the spot!

Angel Ales have continued to grow with several ales now on the "permanent" seasonal list, such as Ginger Stout, a 4.8% Vegan friendly stout available May onwards, Elderflower Ale, a light bitter with added elderflowers, 4% and available June onwards and Mettle & Fire, a full bodied strong ale at 5% available July onwards. Some outlets will be selling the warming Eclipse Mild (5%) from May onwards.

Another new brewery has been established at the side of Graham's Place in Wollaston and is known as **Websters of Wollaston**. Beers produced here are only sold in the pub at present. Currently available are Graham's Pale Ale (GPA), a hoppy bitter weighing in at 4.2% and Tarty Sara, named after a previous barmaid, a hoppier, stronger version of the GPA. Graham is also experimenting with new recipes and GPA X has been seen at 5.7%.

Brewery News

Black Country Ales has moved to new premises on Pensnett Trading Estate to free up room at the Brewery to add a further 4 fermenting vessels. (The existing 3 fermenters are a hundred years old.) It will allow for production to be doubled and, it is hoped, overcome the current position of occasional stock-outs of the 3 permanent beers. A first pub in Burton on Trent has been acquired. The Dog Inn on Lichfield St is was closed for refurbishment. It has now reopened with a wide range of real ales, fruit wines and real ciders as from May 21st.

Green Duck Brewery latest brew is Duck n' Cover 3.9% hoppy session beer. It has Slovenian Dana hops to give a dry bitter finish with notes of pine, it received positive responses from drinkers at Stourbridge Beer Festival. They continue to host seasonal beer festivals of their own at the Badelynge Bar. They featured a Brewdog collaboration beer at their last festival.

Congratulations go to **Kinver Brewery** for winning the West Midlands strong bitter category at Coventry Beer Festival with Half Centurion. They are also brewing Living on the Edge (of the Black Country) for Black Country Day celebrations which officially take place on 14th August.

We know that we have not included information from all of the breweries in our region. If you are a brewer and you have news regarding events, new beers etc then either contact editor@dudleycamra.org.uk or tell your Brewery Liaison Officer to pass the message on.



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WYE'S WORDS No. 68

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16 + 2 Dogs Go On a Cider Crawl

(Alfie was in a sulk cause it was raining and didn't go :-(-)

At last the day arrived when we could go on a proper crawl around the pubs and drink a proper drink CIDER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We always do our cider crawls this time of year, because as we all know a Cider is not just for Summer. We all jumped onto the 11.30 number 9 bus from Stourbridge to Halesowen to meet up with others at the Waggon and Horses.



Picture of everyone outside W & H

There we all were standing outside the pub as it hadn't opened yet when the bar maid came out for a quick cigarette before opening up, she nearly had a heart attack on the spot when she saw us all



*picture of
Reggie asleep*

standing there. "Flipping eck we're not ready yet, he's still cleaning the taps, but if you're quiet I'll let you in when I've finished me cigarette." She said and did just that. 3 ciders on tap my favourite was Plain Innocence (forgot the producer!) Some of us had our lunch here, thought it best to put something in our

stomachs to soak up the cider (and beer) we were all about to consume. The food here is always good and loads of it. As the title states we had 2 dogs with us. Sasha and Reggie, should have been 3 but Alfie doesn't do rain so stayed at home having a sulk. Reggie is the newest recruit to Stourbridge CAMRA and at only a few weeks old was unbelievably well behaved, although he did get very bored by it all and went to sleep on Lizzie's lap.

We finally got the five minute warning from Tony Morgan and were on our way to the next pub. The King Edward VII. Just a short stroll down the road. Cider was Apples and Pears from Lillies Cider Barn, well done to the landlord for keeping cider at this time of year, it's something that he is trying this year and it seems to be working.

Next onto Sadler's new Brewhouse. Unfortunately they only have 'real' cider in bottles and at £4 a go it's a bit steep for more than 1, so after the beer heads had had their fill we moved on to the Windsor Castle just up the road and also owned by Sadler's. Here they had Hazy Daisy from Gwynty Draig and for a change we actually got a seat, as anyone will know if they go into the Windsor Castle in the afternoon the tables are usually reserved and set up for evening meals, which means you aren't allowed to sit at them even though it's still a while until meals are going to be served, seems a bit silly to me!



*Picture of everyone inside
the W & H*



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16 + 2 Dogs Go On a Cider Crawl

Five minute warning given and time to catch the Number 9 back into Stourbridge. All into the Duke William where we met up with Sally Lavender the Regional Apple Rep. The Duke almost always have 3 ciders/perries on but you have to ask otherwise you only see the pump clip for Dog Dancer. Jason the manager has said he will get a list put up on the chalk board but as yet he hasn't done it, really need to Jason so we all know exactly what's on offer.

The Duke William has been voted CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR for Stourbridge & Halesowen branch so only fitting that we finish our crawl here. Congratulations to Jason Kidd who sorts all the ciders and to Dave Craddock the Landlord, well deserved guys.

London Cider Company - Bush Pig was on but only if you asked for it as it was in the cellar, (where's the list!!!) as well as Dog Dancer, and Orchard Pig – Reveller.

Have to say the favourite of the day was Bush Pig.

Thank you to all who attended our Mad March Cider Crawl here's to the next one, Cheers.

Chris Heardman

Micropubs

Although pubs are closing at an alarming rate, the number of micropubs is growing. The Butcher's Arms is the original micropub and, thanks to Martyn' Hilliers's vision, there are now micropubs springing up all over the UK. The Butcher's Arms is situated in Herne Village in the beautiful county of Kent.

What is a micropub? One definition is :-

'A Micropub is a small freehouse which listens to its customers, mainly serves cask ales, promotes conversation, shuns all forms of electronic entertainment and dabbles in traditional pub snacks'

Kent has more micropubs than anywhere in England and Thanet has the highest concentration. We managed to book the Premier Inn on Margate seafront for £29 a night in February, not the warmest time to go but probably the cheapest, anyway it was drinking we were interested in not paddling. Our hotel was next to the "Loop" bus stop which as the name suggests loops around Thanet with 8 micros on route. On the first evening we went to the nearby Harbour Arms which used to be a fisherman's hut and is built on the harbour wall. It is the only micro built offshore. On gravity were Dark Star Hophead, Ramsgate's Gadd's No. 5, Ramsgate's Seaside, Adnam's Broadside and eight ciders were available. No machines, no piped music, no TV, no food other than bar snacks, no mobiles, our type of pub. The Harbour Arms doesn't have its own toilets either but there are public ones next door. With room for about 12 seated (the pub not the toilets) you could not help engaging in conversation with the other customers. We had a great evening chatting with local electrician Gary and a couple of stockbrokers who had second homes nearby. Before we knew it we were in "rounds" and elected to carry on drinking instead of going for a meal. Great Night!

Tony Skirving

Great British Beer Festival 2015



Promises to be a voyage of real ale discovery

The Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) 2015, organised by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), will take place from 11th - 15th August at Olympia London.

The festival offers you the chance to discover your perfect pint, as you explore over 900 real ales, ciders, perries and international beers. The UK's biggest beer festival will feature over 350 British breweries across 27 different bars as well as fantastic entertainment, food and traditional pub games all under one roof in the heart of London.

The festival will be spread across five public sessions plus a Tuesday afternoon trade session that will feature the announcement of the winners of the Champion Beer of Britain Award, all of which will be available at the festival.

The festival is made possible thanks to the contributions of over 1,000 volunteer staff, all members of CAMRA, who fulfil a variety of roles at the event. Unpaid volunteers work as bar staff, stewards, public relations officers, front of house staff, volunteer coordinators and as members of the festival's organising team.

New This Year

A new and improved Souvenir Festival Guide will also be making its debut at GBBF, produced in the style of CAMRA's award-winning *BEER* magazine. The guide will include the full festival beer list with tasting notes, special features on beer and brewing plus some attendee only vouchers. The guides will be available to CAMRA members to purchase on the door and throughout the venue for just £1 (non-member price £2).

Tickets Available Now

Tickets for the festival are now on sale with a variety of special offers and packages available via www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets

VIP Bundle Tickets

Price: £17 (non-member price £20)

Everything you need to explore the festival in one

package.

A VIP ticket bundle includes single day entry to the festival, a copy of the souvenir guide with complete beer list, a commemorative glass and £5 worth of beer tokens for use in the festival. So you can beat the queues and get to the bar quicker.

Season Tickets

Price: £22 (non-member price £26)

Make your visit to the Great British Beer Festival a true voyage of discovery.

A season ticket lets you enter the festival at anytime over the five days it is open, including access to the trade session on Tuesday afternoon. Meaning if you want as much time as possible to find the half, pint or third that you are looking for you can explore again and again.

Single Day Tickets

Price: £8 in advance/£10 on the door.

A ticket for one day's entry to the festival's public sessions. The festival public sessions are:

Tues 11th Aug: 5pm - 10.30pm*

Weds 12th, Thurs 13th, Fri 14th: 12noon - 10.30pm*

Sat 15th Aug: 11am - 6.30pm*

*Last admission times

Special Offer – Buy one day, get one half price

Attend any one day of the festival with a single day ticket (or VIP ticket) and you can also get a second standard day ticket half price! That's just £4 in advance for CAMRA members. (Tickets for second day are non-transferrable and must either be purchased alongside the initial ticket or from the festival's ticket office on the first day of attendance at the festival).

You can get tickets now by visiting www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets or calling the GBBF ticket hotline on 0844 412 4640. (Please note booking fees apply for each transaction.)



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Stourbridge Beer Festival

I write this the day after the close of Stourbridge Beer Festival 2015. What a week it has been! Between me and my other half we have worked on all four days of the festival and it has been a pleasure. Very tiring, although a lot of people did a lot more work than we did!



Wednesday 15th April. This was the opening night, and the first time the branch had done a 'CAMRA members only' night. My own opinion is that overall it was a great idea as it was fantastic to see so many brewers, publicans, and fellow CAMRA members in the same place, at the same time. There was lots of discussion on beer, cider, brewers and pubs in the local area. I'm sure some new contacts were made by many which can only strengthen the profile of real ale and cider in the area. Those in the know got to try exactly what they wanted as all beers were freshly tapped! No need to worry too much about getting people more involved in real ale on this day, as we were mostly preaching to the converted.

Thursday 16th April. The first night open to the general public as is usual for the Thursday. For those who are not CAMRA members it provides an excellent chance to try some new beers in fairly relaxed surroundings. For those serving the beer,

including myself, it was a great opportunity to talk to those who were trying some local beers for the first time, and passing on information on where to find them in the area. I am hoping that Green Duck Brewery, Sadler's Tap House, and the Duke William will see a few more visitors seeking them out to try their house beers. In some ways, the general public nights are extremely important as it's about attracting non-CAMRA members to try something a little different compared to what they would normally order. It was great to hear that new members were being signed up too! Some customers stick to familiar brews and tastes, where others are a little more adventurous. No matter how they select the next beer, a thimbleful sample often goes a long way in assisting the consumer. If not, they can always find something else they do like instead. Popular beers and breweries were now starting to sell out, particularly the excellent beers from Fixed Wheel, which were proving extremely popular.

Friday 17th April. As always, a busy night! Having reported for duty at 3 o'clock, I did not get a chance to go out and see how long the queue was, but as a non-member attending in previous years it has always been a case of making sure you get there early to get in! Serving the customers was a non-stop task, and it was good to have the pleasure of serving some real cider as well as real ale. In some ways, people who come for the Ciders ask more questions than their beer drinking counterparts!

Saturday 18th April. The final day always takes place at a slow and steady pace. Towards the end, many had now sold out, so the steady stream of customers had to make an alternative choice. The quieter atmosphere allowed customers to ask a little more about the ale they were drinking, hopefully to give them a few pointers until the next Stourbridge and Halesowen Beer (and Cider) Festival. The night finished with many opting to spend their remaining vouchers on take-away real ale to enjoy at home, or perhaps even in a local balti or curry house.



All in all a great festival, with a large amount of hard work put in by my many volunteers before, during and after the event. CAMRA is always looking for volunteers to work at this and other beer festivals, and if you're passionate about beer or cider, it's a great opportunity to mix with like-minded folk, and even get some free beer tokens for your trouble.

See you next year!

Tim Cadwell

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Sweetness 3/5

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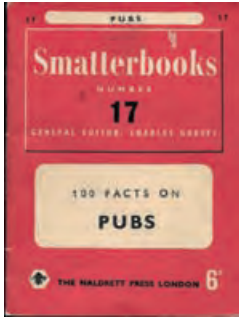
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 14th July

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“100 Facts On Pubs”: The First Chapter



My father is getting on a bit now and has decided, bit by bit, to offload his collection of books. To my delight, in a plastic bag full of softback guides and histories, I came across 'Smatterbook No.17; 100 Facts on Pubs'. For those of you not familiar with Smatterbooks, published

by The Naldrett Press of London, they are a series of tiny paperback pamphlets issued in the early 1950's, each one relaying 100 'really' interesting facts on a particular subject.

No.1, unsurprisingly, is 100 facts about The Bible, seems like a good place to start. Followed by No.2 'The Ballet', No.3 'The House of Lords', No.4 'Swing Music'..... 'Swing Music'? Bit of a diversion, anyway I digress, it's not until they got to No.16 'The National Trust' that sanity kicks in and on go the thinking caps... what shall we do next, Death?..... no, Fortune Telling?..... no, Pubs?..... hmmm, can we think of 100 facts about Pubs? They did!

Unless you actually get to read the book you might think that finding 100 facts about boozers would be a relatively easy task, sit down and start writing your own list, it's then that you realise that it's not that simple. Folk back in the 50's had a different outlook on things compared with the people of today, the War was a recent memory, rationing was still going on, houses and pubs being rebuilt..... "and you try telling the kids of today", sorry, felt a Party Political Broadcast coming on.... well, it is topical! The population were governed by a form of politics that was trying to get Britain back to work and prosperity, to get everyone housed and employed and to try and cheer everyone up after years of extreme chaos and hardship. It is this outlook on life that produced a book that, now, seems extremely conservative about the way people and government felt what a pub was and

what it should be used for! In fact it reads just like a script of one of the 'Information Films' of the 50's and 60's..... you all remember them?

Looking through the book you begin to feel that things haven't actually moved on that much and things aren't a lot better these days, indeed in some instances things might be worse. In 1942 Mr. Herbert Morrison set up The Morris Committee to "consider how to fit licensed premises into the re-development of war-damaged areas", deciding that "suitable distribution of licensed premises is recognized to be an integral part of re-planning". The Reith Report on 'New Towns' came to the conclusion that "in each neighbourhood there should certainly be one 'refreshment house' and in order that this should not be too large it is probably desirable that there should be a number of smaller places of one kind or another as well". A little vague but the gist seems to be 'plenty of boozers'.

The Peel Commission, set up to 'reform the licensed trade' dealing with topics such as ratios of pubs-to-population recommended one pub to 800 people but other 'experts' considered the question not "how many pubs" but "how many square feet of space for the customers, distributed over how many pubs"..... think they had the same problem we have today, too many bureaucrats!

Most of the larger City Councils felt that pubs "were social necessities on the new municipal housing estates built between the wars" and the brewers building the pubs were generally granted a 99 year lease 'for the service of food and the provision of recreation'. Most housing estate pubs these days either are or are in danger of becoming a Tesco Express 'for the provision of food'!

Fact No.20 considers "why do people go to the pub at all? The obvious reason seems to be beer! But it is not true. If beer is the real object, it is no more expensive and less trouble to drink it at home". That rings a bell! Fact No.20 goes on.... "yet pub-

consumption far exceeds home-consumption, most people find that solitary drinking is not much fun and go to the pubs for company, people do not go to public-houses in search of solitude, they look for bustle, gaiety, laughter and a 'buzz of talk', cheers and chaff round the dartboard. Where they find these they are good-humoured, tolerant and well-mannered". Hooray!! (They must have avoided Brierley Hill).

Fact No.10 informs us "there are no figures to show how many pubs belong to brewers and how many are free houses". (Perhaps they didn't have enough bureaucrats after all!) Mind you the Book tells us that the Chancellor of the Exchequer knew exactly how much duty he was receiving and how much cash was flying over pub 'counters'. No change there then.

It is interesting to know that 178 pubs in North Cumberland and 33 in Cromarty, Scotland were under control of the Home Secretary and his equivalent over the border (and very good beer it was too my first pint Editor). The pubs were managed by 'state employees' after laws introduced in 1915 'to deal with the outbreaks of drunkenness which were interfering with urgent war-work at the local munitions factories and dockyards'. That does seem moderately sensible!

To sporting matters..... Fact No. 40..... "Shove -ha'penny is second to darts as a pub game in the South. There are places, where a local variation is insisted upon. It is shove-penny, at which local ancient mariners regularly tear summer visitors to pieces". We have the odd punch-up when someone pokes fun at an Albion supporter, but we don't promote 'blood-sports' in general. Weird lot these Southerners! Fact No. 43 seems to be a little premature in its assumption..... "the robust old skittle-alleys, where strong, noisy men threw 'cheeses' at nine-pins and scored 'flooders' (?) have nearly all gone. They survive in Somersetshire; there is at least one left in London and two in Cardiff". They really needed to get out more in those days!

The Landlord's wife was deemed to be of 'enormously increasing importance' when it came to matters of 'the rise in the standard of comfort, decoration, appointments and service. There is no harder job than to be a good publican without a good wife'. I don't know whether the ladies will be pleased to hear remarks like that these days (or just carry on buttering the cobs). I can think of quite a few landlords who would be 'lost' without their better-halves having to plough through all that work on their own.....

I hope you've enjoyed my little meander through the machinations of life in the fifties according to Smatterbooks, I'm going to leave it there for now and start work on the second chapter.

Adrian Stevens

(I apologise to the publishers if I've infringed copyright but I did look thoroughly on the internet and could find no trace of Smatterbooks or The Naldrett Press still in existence).



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Help To Save Our Pubs

We are currently losing pubs at the rate of 29 every week. This is terrible news not just for those of us who love pubs but also for lovers of real ale (or cider & perry), as there's nowhere better to drink beer than in a pub. The good news is that active campaigning, by CAMRA and others, has saved many pubs from being lost forever.

An obvious way to help our campaigning efforts is to become active in your local CAMRA Branch. However, if that isn't possible for you, or it's just not something you wish to do, there are still many ways in which you can contribute.

Information

Should you become aware of any kind of threat to a pub, please tell your local CAMRA Branch. The earlier they get to know about such things, the easier it is to take action.

Individual Pub Campaigns

Very often when a pub comes under threat, the locals will want to resist, usually forming some kind of action group. If this happens with a pub you use, even if not regularly, please get involved as they'll no doubt need all the help they can get. There's much advice and guidance at www.camra.org.uk/protecting-and-saving-pubs so point them in that direction if they haven't yet found it.

Assets of Community Value

Even if your local isn't under any kind of obvious threat, it's well worth getting it registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Should a pub with ACV status ever be put up for sale then a six-month moratorium kicks in during which time the local community can submit a bid to buy it themselves. At worst, this buys campaigning time. The Government has recently announced its intention to further protect ACV-listed pubs by requiring planning permission to be obtained before they can be demolished or converted to a shop, restaurant or office. Guidance on applying is at www.camra.org.uk/list-your-local-assets-of-community-value

Wider Campaigning

CAMRA campaigns to change legislation in ways which are more favourable to pubs. Our major current campaign is called Pubs Matter – www.pubsmatter.org.uk – which seeks the strengthening of planning laws so that planning permission is always needed to demolish a pub or change it to a shop, restaurant or office. You can help by writing to your MP, asking them to support our campaign and to pressure Ministers accordingly.

Local Planning

Most planning decisions by Councils on the future of pubs are determined by reference to the policies in their Local Plans. CAMRA campaigns for all Councils to adopt policies which help protect pubs but many are still far too weak. You can help by checking your local Council's policies – and if they aren't helpful, asking the Council to consider beefing them up. *The advice to Branches on doing this is equally applicable to individual members.*

Planning Applications

Monitoring and Commenting

Many proposed developments affecting pubs will need planning permission – for instance, a change of use to residential. Branches are advised to check their local Council websites for relevant new planning applications and to submit comments on any applications seeking consent for unwanted developments. Individual members can also contribute to this process, in which case *the advice to Branches tells you how to locate applications and how best to make objections.*

Last But Not Least

We can all help pubs not just survive, but thrive, by using them regularly. Most CAMRA members will not, of course, find this a hardship but always remember – our pubs need you, so do your duty!

THE FOUNTAIN

8 Temple Street, Lower Gornal DY3 2PE
(01384) 242777



Our 9 real ales are:
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RCH Pitchfork
Abbot Ale
Morland Old Speckled Hen

+

5 rotating guest ales
inc Red Lion White Lion every week

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2 for £10 menu / 2 for £15 menu / 2 Steaks for £25 inc Wine / Large cobs on the bar

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Festival News

Throughout June there are a number of CAMRA beer festivals taking place. The first is the Wolverhampton beer festival which takes place in the Wulfrun Hall, to the rear of Wolverhampton Civic Hall. This is the 40th anniversary festival and it is open on Thursday 11th June from 5pm until 11pm with Friday and Saturday opening hours from Noon until 11pm and features 75 Real Ales, Cider & Perry and Foreign bottled beers. Admission charges apply except Saturday when it is free entry all day. Entertainment takes place on the Friday evening and features Richard Evans (multi-instrumentalist).
www.wolverhamptoncamra.org.uk

Stratford beer festival also takes place the same weekend at Stratford upon Avon racecourse. It opens on Friday 12th June from Noon until 11pm with the same hours on Saturday. The festival will feature a War of the Roses theme with beers from either side of the Pennines. Friday is a quiet day for friendly banter but Saturday offers a range of entertainment – At 2pm the Worcester Ukulele club perform followed by Swing from Paris at 4pm and 4more (a covers band) at 7pm.
www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

Rugby beer festival also takes place this weekend, Friday and Saturday the 12th and 13th June. Full details were not available at the time of publication of this magazine.

Bromsgrove beer festival takes place over the last weekend of June 27th to 29th at Bromsgrove Rugby Club. The festival opens on Thursday evening for CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY from 6pm until 11pm. The festival is open to the public on Friday from noon until 11pm and Saturday from Noon until 9pm. Offering over 120 Real Ales along with 50+ Ciders & Perries plus fruit wines. An outdoor festival held in a large marquee the event offers significant grassed areas (bring your own gazebo). Camping is also available booked through the rugby club. The festival site is a 10 minute walk from Bromsgrove train station but is about a 25 minute walk from Bromsgrove town centre.
www.bromsgrovebeerfestival.org.uk

July opens with Hereford beer festival on the riverside at Hereford rowing club. Opening on Friday 10th July at 2pm it continues on Saturday 11th July Noon until 11pm and Sunday 12th July Noon until 5pm. This is the second outdoor festival of the summer and has a delightful setting on the riverside overlooking the River Wye.

www.herefordcamra.org.uk

Stafford festival again takes place at its regular venue, the Blessed William Howard School. The festival opens on Thursday 30th June from 6pm until 11pm with sessions on Friday from 11.30am until 11pm and Saturday from noon until 11pm.
www.heartofstaffordshirecamra.org.uk

Worcester beer festival is the final open air festival of the summer in our region. Taking place at its usual venue of Worcester racecourse it opens on Thursday 6th August from 5pm until 11pm continuing on Friday from Noon until 11pm and Saturday from Noon until 10pm. Worcester festival operates an ADVANCE TICKET scheme. All tickets for Friday need to be bought in advance, a limited number of tickets will be available for Thursday and Saturday will be available on the door.

www.worcesterbeerfest.org.uk

The Great British Beer Festival also takes place in August. GBBF as it's more commonly known opens on Tuesday 11th August until Saturday 15th August. Tickets can be obtained from www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets or by calling 08444124640.
www.gbbf.org.uk

September sees three festivals, Tamworth, Bridgnorth and Cannock Chase. Tamworth runs from 3rd until 5th of September in the Assembly Rooms in Tamworth. Bridgnorth festival should be the same weekend but be aware that work is taking place at the Severn Valley Railway. Cannock Chase will be hosting their second festival between 24th and 26th September.



AFTER 100 YEARS IT WAS

This year Holden's Brewery is celebrating its centenary. It was on the 13th of August, 1915, that Edwin Alfred Holden started brewing at The Park Inn, Woodsetton, Dudley and Holden's Brewery was born.

We thought it appropriate, then, to make 2015 the year we unveil a fresh new look – that's it above, on our new pump clips. They're modelled on the cast iron



Photographed at The Mill, Upper Gornal, Dudley.

TIME FOR A NEW LOOK.

plaques you would have seen on industrial machinery when we were founded, and when Black Country industry was great. See it also on our bottles, beer mats, bar runners, etc.

We're rather proud of it. We like to think that Edwin Alfred would be too.

BLACK COUNTRY BORN AND BREWED



HOLDEN'S

1915-2015

Spot the Pub



1



2



3

These are all in Dudley & South
Staffs Branch but have
Stourbridge post codes.

Tony Skirving



4



6



5

OUR GREAT CUSTOMERS RECENTLY VOTED US TOP TEN FINALIST IN 'MCCOYS' BEST LOCALS PUB IN THE COUNTRY



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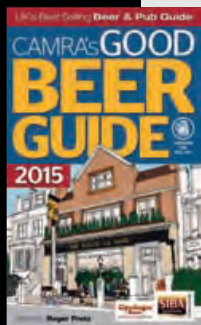
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Beer Scoring

You are probably aware of the 'Good Beer Guide', CAMRA's National flagship publication which lists pubs selling the best Real Ale in the UK. But what you may not know is how those pubs are selected to appear in the Guide. The answer is that it is largely via beer scores submitted by CAMRA members from all over the country. So if you are a CAMRA member you can send in beer scores. If you've ever wondered why your favourite pub isn't in the Guide, this may well be because you, and others, haven't entered scores rating the quality of beer there. By beer scoring, you can contribute to the process of selection of pubs that go in the Good Beer Guide.

So how do I score the quality of the beer?

You don't have to be an 'expert' to begin scoring your beer. However, it is not about your personal favourite beer receiving the highest scores! You may try a beer that isn't to your normal taste but what you need to consider is the quality of that beer, how well the pub has kept it and served it, and then score it according to the general guide below. It is a simple 0 to 5 point system, with half points being used if your opinion of the beer falls between two categories.

0. No cask ale available
1. **Poor.** Beer is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2. **Average.** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3. **Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again
4. **Very Good.** Excellent beer in excellent condition. You stay put!
5. **Perfect.** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

How do I submit my scores?

In order to submit your scores you need to login to CAMRA's online pub guide www.whatpub.com either on a computer or by smart phone. Here you will find a list of over 35,800 real ale pubs from all over the UK; these are not all Good Beer Guide pubs, merely pubs that serve real ale. In order to start submitting scores via WhatPub you need to:

1. **Login.** To do this you need your membership number and your CAMRA password.
2. **You can then search for your pub by name.** Be careful here as there are many pubs in the country which share the same name. My advice is to search by the pub name and the town or postcode. The WhatPub smart phone web page also gives you the option to search for real ale pubs nearby, very useful if you are in an unfamiliar town.
3. Once you have found your pub a 'Submit Beer Scores' box will appear on the right hand side of the screen (or on the tab-bar underneath the pub photo if you are using a smart phone).
4. Simply fill in the date and your score then as you begin typing, the brewery name should automatically appear underneath where you are typing. Enter the name of the beer you are drinking or if you wish to do so once you have entered the brewery name you should be able to click on the arrow in the beer box and a drop down list of that brewery's beers should appear. In some cases the beer you are drinking may be new or a one off by the brewery so may not appear on the list, if this is the case you can simply type in the beer name. Select the correct one click 'submit score' and your score will be entered into the database.

It is as simple as that.

An added bonus is that it will keep a record of your scores so you can look back to see what beers you have had and how you rated them if you want.

Your local CAMRA branch will regular monitor the scores to aid selection of pubs for the Good Beer Guide.

Join us at GBBF

the Great British Beer Festival

With over 900 real ales, ciders, perries and international beers, the Great British Beer Festival really does have something for everybody.

This year is set to be the best Great British Beer Festival ever with everything from limited edition brews and one-off specials from some of our best known real ale breweries, to award-winning favourites from microbreweries across the UK and even an American Cask beer bar unique to us.

This summer the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) will once again return to London's magnificent Olympia exhibition centre.

Ideally placed in the centre of London, and easily accessible by public transport, it is the perfect setting for the UK's biggest beer festival. During the festival's duration Olympia will host over 55,000 thirsty drinkers across two halls; the larger, and aptly named, 'Olympia Grand' - and the slightly smaller, but equally impressive, 'Olympia National'. Each hall will have a number of bars serving real ale from hundreds of breweries of all shapes and sizes across the UK, as well as brewery bars where you can try both well-known brews and limited edition beers from some of the UK's biggest and best real ale brewers. Confirmed brewery bars are Brains, Fullers, Harvey and Son, Hogsback, St Austell, Wadworth and Wells and Youngs. Negotiations are

ongoing to provide another 3 brewery bars as the aim is to provide 10.

As well as that there'll be some fantastic international draught and bottled beers from the likes of Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic, and the always hugely popular American Cask bar.

Both halls will also have expanded seating areas in 2015, plus some fantastic food and merchandise stalls hand-picked for the festival.

The dates for the festival will be as follows:-

Tuesday 11th August
Wednesday 12th August
Thursday 13th August
Friday 14th August
Saturday 15th August

However on Thursday 13/8/15 the branch trip to London Olympia for the Great British Beer festival will be taking place. For a great day out why not join us.

Cost will be £25 including entrance ticket to the festival. There will be several pick up points and these and pick up times will be available at nearer the date.

Further details and how to book are available www.dudleycamra.org.uk





CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Pubman: YOUR DOG IS VERY FAT, SIR. PRAY WHAT DO YOU FEED HIM DRY?
Traveller: WELL, HE HAS NO REGULAR MEALS; BUT WHENEVER I TAKE A GLASS OF ALE, I GIVE HIM A BISCUIT.

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CAMRA members are most welcome as guests



Back Room Tales

It was a quiet night in the back room, Ginny was knitting, Meg the tatty lurcher was sleeping under the table and I was chatting to Wizza. Suddenly Dave, who had been playing with his phone, says "Pois gris et bacon s'il vous plaît". Wizza looks at him balnkly and says, "is he alright?" I replied "he's speaking in tongues, he's off on a day trip to France". Dave smiles brightly and says "that's how you ask for gray paes and bacon over there". Wizza shakes his head and says "you're going to foreign parts and want gray paes?". To which Dave replies "I don't want to go hungry, do I?" Wizza shook his head and said "that's not very adventurous, you ought to sample the food over there, they're famous for it". Dave was just about to reply when he is interrupted by Tarby at the next table saying, "Ah Meg!". And then it hit me, it was bad, not just bad, very bad; as always Dave looked sheepish and blushed slightly. I looked down and Meg is obviously asleep, twitching a bit, probably dreaming about food. I say "Oh dear! Meg". And Ginny says to me "why do you always blame the dog?", "it's traditional" I reply. Ginny pokes me with a size 8 knitting needle and says curtly, "well don't, she's asleep". "But she's a girl and quite capable of multitasking: sleeping and making smells". This provokes what I can only describe as an viscous attack as the knitting needle is again used with greater force. "It weren't me" I say defensively. "It normally is you and you always blame the poor animal" Ginny replies. I decide that drinking my pint is the better part of valour and drop the subject. Tarby looks smug, and his mate Boz is quietly sniggering, as he pops another pickled egg into his mouth.

Jeffrey Hudson writes about the doings in his Black Country local.

(some names have been changed to protect the innocent)

Cider Bake

CIDER BAKED RED CABBAGE



- 675g Red Cabbage
- 1 Large Cooking Apple
- 1 Large Onion
- 50g Margarine
- 1 level Teaspoon Castor Sugar
- 1 Level Teaspoon Salt
- Pepper to taste
- 1/4 Pint Cider
- 1 Level Teaspoon Caraway seeds

Preheat the oven to 325F/160C or Gas 3. Wash, Shred the cabbage.

Peel and core the apple and cut into small pieces.
Peel and slice the onion.

Melt the margarine in a saucepan, add the onion, apple and cabbage and fry slowly for 10 minutes stirring frequently.

Pour all ingredients into a 3 Litre casserole dish and add sugar, salt cider and Caraway seeds plus a shake of pepper.

Cover with lid and cook for 1 hour.



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(Ma Pardoes)

Halesowen Road, Netherton

5 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

Ma Pardoe's Black Widow Brew 6.7% ABV

Opening Times:

Mon-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 12noon-11pm

Food Available:

Mon 12noon-2pm & 6pm-9pm, Tues-Sun 12noon-9pm
(Menus vary throughout the day)

Upstairs Function Room Available

(up to 60 persons - No disco or any other form of row!)

Contact Tim Newey on 01384 253075

Champion Winter Beer of Britain

Each year CAMRA determines what it believes to be the best beer in the country. The finals of this prestigious competition take place each year at the Great British Beer Festival in London. Earlier this year at CAMRA's National Winter Ales Fayre the preliminary rounds of the so called Winter Beers took place. Barley Wines, Stouts, Porters and Old Ales that had been successful in regional competitions were all judged by experienced beer tasters to determine the Champion Winter Beer.

The winner of the Stout class was brewed by Dancing Duck brewery of Derby. CAMRA's Good Beer Guide describes it as a beer that contains *Malty, Caramel, Licorice flavours that combine to give a smooth-drinking velvety oatmeal stout with a freshly roasted coffee and tea finish*. Having a strength of 4.5%, it is an easy drinking stout. Runner up was Incognito at 4.8% brewed by Plain Ales of Sutton Veney, Wiltshire and in third place was Highland brewery's Sneaky Wee at 4.2%.

The Porter category was won by Elland Brewery in West Yorkshire whose 1872 Porter weighs in at a whopping 6.5%. Described as a *creamy, full-flavoured porter having rich licorice flavours with a hint of chocolate from the roast malt. A soft but satisfying aftertaste of bittersweet roast and malt flavours*. Bath Ales Festivity at 5%, and Fullers London Porter at 5.4% were joint runner up with Blakemere brewery from Northwich Cheshire being third with Deep Dark Secret 5.2%.

The Old Ale was won by Purple Moose brewery of Portmadog with a beer called Dark side of the Moose (Ochr Tywyll y Mws). It has a strength of 4.6% and is described as a *dark, complex beer quite hoppy and bitter with roast undertones. Malt and fruit flavours also feature in the smooth taste and dry finish*. Runner up was Fra Diavolo at 4.3% from Ulverston brewery and in third place was Midnight Owl at 5.5% from Castle Rock brewery in Nottingham.

The Barley Wine/Strong Old Ale judging chose Lees Moonraker as the winner, brewed in Manchester it is a 6.5% Strong old ale and is described as a reddish-brown beer with a *strong, malty, fruity aroma. The flavour is rich and sweet, with roast malt, and the finish is fruity yet dry*. Runner up was Orkney brewery's Skull Splitter at 8.5% and third was Darwin brewery's Extinction Ale at 8.3%.

These four category winners were judged against each other to determine CAMRA's winter beer of the year with Elland 1872 Porter coming out on top and receiving the Gold Medal.



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www.byattsbrewery.co.uk for more details

Kinver Country Fayre

21st June 2015

Kinver Country Fayre is a great midsummer day out for all the family. The historic village of Kinver has staged the Fayre for over thirty years and seen the event grow to become one of the region's leading summer shows, attracting over 10,000 visitors. Besides offering fun for all, the Fayre raises money for local good causes, with £12,000 donated in 2014 to a host of charities and community organisations.

What's on offer this year? We are proud to announce our headline act – **The Knights of Middle England** – one of the UK's top jousting teams with many film and TV appearances to their credit. The Knights will be providing some spectacular shows in the jousting arena during the day. Find out more at www.knightsofmiddleengland.com.

Plus there are dozens of stalls, delicious food and drink, craft demonstrations, children's entertainment, vintage vehicles, heavy horses, a real ale tent, live music and dance, a fun dog show, a full programme of arena events – the grand parade through the village – and some amazing entertainment. The real ale tent is run by local CAMRA volunteers and provides beers from both Kinver and Enville breweries. It's a great way to celebrate Father's Day.




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Bottles and Cans and a whole lot of Sun

What do you drink on a visit to Georgetown, Cayman Islands? As a regular cruise holiday lover finding a decent drink can be tough. It was hot and the beachside hut looked to be the best place to take in the sights. Normally these sort of places offer a selection of world beers from the likes of Heineken or Budweiser – Not here, the local Cayman Islands brewery provides beers and with temperature in the mid-thirties my thirst was rising. Yes it was bottled, no, it wasn't real but it was tasty and hit the spot.

The first beer I tried was Caybrew, their website describes this beer as a *smooth, full bodied premium lager, with a crisp, clean hop character which was awarded international gold medal for quality by the Monde Selection Jury in Brussels 2008.* Just what was needed to clear away the dust from my throat.

By now I had noticed that a couple of Canadians were drinking a tinny. Not the stuff I would normally try but Hey, I'm on holiday so in the interests of research it seemed a good idea. Intriguingly the marking said Ironshore Bock. Could this be a German

Style Bock beer with matching strength? Lo and behold, yes, a delightful and tasty 7% bock beer described by the brewers as *an amber beer made with specialty hops from Washington States Cascade Mountains. The Cascade hops give the beer its crispy after taste. Three speciality malts are used along with the Pilsner malt. Black Malt gives the beer the amber/reddish color. Crystal and Munich malt gives the beer a roasted flavor. Ironshore Bock is available in cans and on draught.*

The final beer was White Tip Lager, described as a *moderate bodied Pilsen lager, brewed in the style of a European premium brand. The finest malt and additional aroma hops provide the beer with extra flavour and a smooth bitterness. Golden in colour with a clean crisp palate, the beer has extra maturation time to achieve the 5.2% ABV and smooth flavours.* Sad to say this was the least interesting of the beers.

So, if you are out and about in strange parts of the world search out the local beers and give them a try.

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Please bring your valid CAMRA membership card, a copy of the Good Beer Guide, or this issue of Ales & Tales.

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Sadler's Brewhouse & Bar



Chris Sadler, Eamonn Holmes and Ian King

Sadler's have a great new venue in Lye which was opened by TV personality Eamonn Holmes on March 26th. He invited guests to view a video all about the history of the Sadler's Brewing Dynasty from 1900 to the present time.

It was in 2004 that John Sadler and his son Chris revived the family brewing and converted their old print works into a brewery eventually adding the Windsor Castle pub which John's daughter Emily now manages. Their beers have been a huge success leading to the conversion of an old warehouse into a 30 barrel Brewhouse and Bar which is yards from Lye Railway station and local bus stops, it couldn't be easier to visit.



Chris & Nigel Heardman with Roberto Ross

Following on from Eamonn, Chris Sadler and Sales Director Ian King thanked all the guests for attending and we were all treated to a variety of Sadler's beers and tasty bites. The bar is situated on the first floor with large viewing windows into

the brewery below. There were 6 Sadler's real ales on tap, 6 craft keg beers, 4 lagers and an excellent choice of 100 bottled beers from all over the world giving the discerning Black Country drinker the biggest choice outside Birmingham. Adjoining the bar is a large function room furnished with an eclectic range of tables and chairs with a small stage where we were all entertained in the evening by singer/guitarist John Townley.



Beers on Opening Night

The venue is open Thursday 5pm – 11pm, Friday 12 noon – 12pm and Saturday 12 noon -12pm and has Comedy and Music nights. They also hold corporate functions by arrangement, Brewery tours on Saturdays and Brew a Beer Days on Tuesdays.

Tony Skirving

Spot the Pub Answers

- 1 Red Lion
- 2 Queen's Head,
- 3 New Inn
- 4 Glasscutter's Arms
- 5 Bird in Hand
- 6 Rose and Crown

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Ghent Beer Festival

August 22nd 2015

This festival is organised by a group called "Gentse Biervvereniging" - Ghent Beer Society. They were founded 6 years ago by a group of recently graduated students with a mutual interest in beer, as there was no local beer society at the time. Their numbers are now up to over 100. Ever since their first year they've organised a yearly beer festival. Unlike Brussels, Bruges or Zythos beer festivals, where breweries are invited to attend and supply all their own beer and equipment, this one is organised solely by volunteers.



Ghent Beer Festival Garden

This little known festival is now in its sixth year, it is held in VIP School, Martelaarslaan 13, during the college's summer break. VIP incidentally is not Very Important Person but translates as Sales, Information and People Care. What a great venue, two large halls and a large garden, provided more than enough seating for everybody. Ample proper toilet facilities as well, in fact the best of any festival we have attended in UK or abroad, no smelly chemical sheds needed here. Entry is free but it is usually around €10 for a glass, programme and beer tokens. The glasses are refundable for €3 each and tokens are €1.50 each. A token gets you a 15ml tasting sample, effectively half a bottle on all beers except at the foreign bar where beers are two or three tokens. There are usually six bars,

four Belgian, one Dutch and a Rest of the World one. Almost all the 120ish beers are bottle beers which are kept in fridges, like most beers of this style are in Belgium. The programme gives a list of which beers can be obtained at which bar and an alphabetical list of all the beers explaining what type of beer it is. There are tasting notes but these are only in Dutch. This is a great festival to go to for beers from small breweries and latest releases from mainstream breweries. Ideal for tickers, yes Belgium has them too. There is food available; last year there was a selection of barbequed meats, three different quiches or a bowl of Chimay cheese. It was overpriced and the portions weren't great, but we had some, as when you've had a few beers who can resist. This year we will take our own food.

Tony Skirving

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The Black Country Boating Festival 2015

12th - 13th September 2015

The Black Country Boating Festival is a boat gathering and community festival held during September each year in the Bumble Hole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Netherton.



and run totally by volunteers. Attracting over 10,000 visitors a year, the event has helped raise over £100,000 for local and national charities.

With more than 200 boats, trade and charity stalls to browse, canal side entertainment, boaters' competitions, a funfair, 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 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.

The event, which is now in its 30th year, is organised

Stan Stephens

Hitchmough's Lost Pubs

This photo is of another of Hitchmough' mystery pubs. Can you guess where it is?

Last edition's mystery pub was the Travellers Rest, which stood in Long Lane, Blackheath.

A Mitchells and Butlers house, which was formerly a home brew house. It was well known for two landlords, both named Edward Sturman, Snr. and Jnr. The family ran the pub for forty years plus.

It closed and was demolished in 1997.





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Branch Diaries

Dudley & South Staffordshire

JUNE

Fri 5th

Ales & Tales launch Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar 7.30pm

Sat 6th

Kinver scores crawl – start Constitutional Club Branch Club Of The Year presentation 12.30 for 1pm

Wed 10th

Beer Quality Scoring Campaign Kingswinford Details TBC

Thurs, Fri, Sat 11th, 12th & 13th

Wolverhampton Beer Festival - Wulfrun Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1RQ. Branch Social Thurs 11th 8.00pm

Fri, Sat 12th & 13th

Stratford Beer Festival, Racecourse, CV37 9SE

Fri, Sat 12th & 13th

Rugby Beer Fest, Thornfield Bowl Club CV22 5LJ

Mon 15th - 8.00pm

Dudley Winter Ales Fayre (DWAf) Planning Meeting Park Inn George St, Woodsetton DY1 4LW All Welcome

Thurs, Fri, Sat 18th, 19th & 20th

Social Thurs 18th 8.00pm Rising Sun Beer fest, Tipton DY4 7NH

Sat 20th

Presentation to DWAf 2014 Beer of the Festival winner, Oakham Brewery for Green Devil – day trip to Peterborough by train.

contact jedwards31@btinternet.com as soon as possible

Sun 21st

Kinver Country Fair – beer tent run by CAMRA volunteers contact editor@dudleycamra.org.uk if you can help.

Kinver Country Fayre - Procession starts 11.00am.

***Buses will be running on this day!*

Mon 22nd - 8.00pm

Branch Meeting - Fountain, 51 Owen Street, Tipton DY4 8HE

Weds 24th

Beer Quality Scoring Campaign Wordsley Details TBC

Thurs, Fri, Sat 25th, 26th & 27th

Thurs – CAMRA members only - social Bromsgrove Beer Fest, Rug Club, Finstall B60 3DH

JULY

Sat 4th

Regional Meeting Staffordshire Moorlands Venue TBC

Fri, Sat, Sun 10th, 11th & 12th

Hereford Beer Fest, Rowing Club HR4 OBE

Sat 11th

A plethora of beer related events for Black Country Day -start Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar 11.00am see website for route

Fri, Sat, Sun 10th, 11th & 12th

Kinver Music Festival

Mon 13th

Dudley Winter Ales Fayre (DWAf) Planning Meeting Park Inn George St, Woodsetton DY1 4LW All Welcome

Tues 14th

Official Black Country Day

Wed 15th

Blackheath Scores Crawl route TBC

Sat 25th

Regional Cider Trail designed by the Shropshire branches. Catch the 10.25 train from Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury. London Midland Group Savers are available for groups of three or more. Contact sally.lavender@virgin.net for more details.

Monday 27th

Branch meeting Bull & Bladder DY5 2TN 8pm

Thurs, Fri, Sat 30th 31st & 1st August

Stafford Beer Festival, William Howard School, ST17 9AB

AUGUST

Sat 1st

August Kinver Scores Crawl route TBC

Thurs, Fri, Sat 6th, 7th & 8th

Social Fri 12noon

Worcester Beer Fest, Racecourse WR1 3EJ

Thurs 13th

Branches trip to London Olympia for the Great British Beer festival. Cost will be £25 including entrance ticket to the festival. There will be several pick up points, these and times appropriate will be detailed at a closer date.

Contact jedwards31@btinternet.com as soon as possible.

Sat 15th

Holden's Centenary Celebration day See Dudley CAMRA website for details

Mon 17th

Dudley Winter Ales Fayre (DWAf) Planning Meeting Park Inn George St, Woodsetton DY1 4LW All Welcome

Sat 22th

Staffs Crawl by minibus details TBC

SEPTEMBER

Sat 12th

Black Country Boating Festival, Windmill End Branch Social Noon

*Note new contact for Social Secretary jedwards31@btinternet.com
For info, website: dudleycamra.org.uk*

Stourbridge & Halesowen

JUNE

Sat 6th

Stourbridge Beer Festival Thank-You Trip to Chester.
Depart Halesowen (Swimming Baths) 9.00am.,
Stourbridge (Birmingham St. opposite Car Park) 9.15pm.
Return from Chester 7.00pm. Approx return to Stourbridge
9.00pm.

Free to Volunteers at the Stourbridge Beer Festival 2015.
Others £10.

Contact Tony Morgan (tonymorgan@morgs.org.uk) if
interested.

Tues, 16th 8.00pm.

Short Cross Garden and Marking Social
8.00pm. Whitley, 8.30pm. Hawne Tavern, 9.15pm. King
Edward VII 10.00pm. Waggon & Horses

Thurs 18th - Sat 20th

Green Duck Summer Beer Festival
Badelynge Bar, Green Duck Brewery, Rufford Road,
Stourbridge
Opening times Thurs 18th 4.00pm. – 11.00pm. Fri 19th &
Sat 20th 1.00pm. – 11.00pm.

No further details available at time of going to press.

Sun 21st

Kinver Country Fayre – beer tent run by CAMRA volunteers
Kinver Country Fayre - Procession starts 11.00am.
**Buses will be running on this day!

JULY

Thurs 2nd - 8.00pm.

Branch Meeting: Swan, Long Lane, Halesowen (TBC)

Sat 11th

Black Country Beer Day crawl in conjunction with Dudley &
South Staffs Branch.

Start 11.00am. Sadler's NEW brewhouse (next to Lye
Station) the Duke William, Bull & Bladder, Court House,
Old Swan, Jolly Crispin and Beacon Hotel. Finish Park
Inn Woodsetton approx. 7.45pm. All day buss pass
recommended. Feel free to visit other pubs en route.

Mon 20th - 8.00pm.

Amblecote Garden and Marking Social
8.00pm. Robin Hood, 8.30pm. Starving Rascal, 9.00pm.
Swan, 9.45pm. Maverick, 10.15pm. Red Lion

AUGUST

Monday, 3rd - 8.00pm.

Branch Meeting: Plough & Harrow, Worcester Street,
Stourbridge (TBC)

Thurs 13th - Sat 15th

Black Country Beer Festival, Lye Cricket Club, Stourbridge
Road, Lye DY9 7DH (2 mins walk from Windsor Castle)

Opening Times: Thursday 6pm. – 11pm., Friday & Saturday
12noon – 11pm. Upto 100 real ales, ciders and perries.
Entrance Fee £10 (£2 off for CAMRA Members) Although
not a CAMRA event (run by Lye CC & Sadler's) it is well
worth supporting.

Full details: www.blackcountrybeerfestival.com

Tues 25th - 8.00pm.

Halesowen Garden and Marking Social
8.00pm. Cobham Arms, 8.45pm. Royal Oak, 9.15pm.
Stag & Three Horseshoes. 10.00pm. Swan

SEPTEMBER

Tues 8th - 8.00pm.

Branch Meeting: Waggon & Horses, Stourbridge Road,
Halesowen (TBC)

Thurs 17th - 8.00pm.

Wollaston Garden & Marking Social
8.00pm. Foresters, 8.30pm. Plough, 9.00pm. Gate Hangs
Well, 9.30pm. Unicorn, 10.00pm. Princess, 10.30pm.
Graham's Place

Wed 23rd - 8.00pm.

Stourbridge Beer Festival 2016 Inaugural Working Party
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