

ALES & TALES



Campaign
for
Real Ale

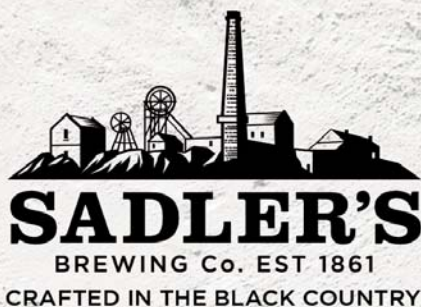
*The Newsletter for the Campaign for Real Ale in
Stourbridge & Halesowen and Dudley & South Staffordshire*

**Issue 42
Autumn 2019**

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www.stourhales.camra.org.uk
www.dudley.camra.org.uk



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Membership



Brewery, Bar & Visitor Centre

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Opening Times:

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Sunday
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Saturdays 2pm

www.theludlowbrewingcompany.co.uk

Welcome Back

Summer came, summer went. We hope that you made wonderful memories and that many of those were created (and captured on camera!) in British beer festivals, pubs and clubs.

We also had plenty of tense and entertaining sporting spectacles, from the first drawn Ashes series since 1972, through to a fourth place finish for England women's national football team in the FIFA Women's World Cup. Where better than your local boozer to enjoy these national moments of hype and ultimate disappointment!

But with damp days and nippy nights on the horizon, it's critical that we continue to spend our downtime in pubs; perhaps huddled around a roaring log burner. Encouragingly, the newly-released **Good Beer Guide 2020** confirms that there has never been a better time to consume great quality real ale across the West Midlands region.

In fact, of the 387 West Midlands entries included in next year's 'beer bible', 25% are 'new entries' – this means that they weren't featured in the 2019 edition. Of course, some of these will be established pubs which simply 'dropped' out of the guide for a year or two because of a change of management or a blip in performance, but a significant number of the 99 new entries are young micropubs and brewery bars waiting to be explored. So get out and about and drink plenty of stout this autumn and winter.

On the topic of the evolving West Midlands beer scene, it gives us great pleasure to announce that the Plough & Harrow, Cradley Heath, has been declared the Overall Winner in the **West Midlands County Pub of the Year 2019** competition. The B64 gem had never before won the number one Dudley & South Staffordshire accolade before 2019 but became an immediate hit across the county and has now been judged as the best public house in the whole of Birmingham, Coventry & District, Dudley &

South Staffordshire, Solihull & District, Stourbridge & Halesowen, Walsall, and Wolverhampton. WOW!

Dudley Winter Ales Fayre 2019 (DWAF19) is fast approaching. It doesn't really seem like a whole twelve months since last year's festival. To be honest, like most branches, we don't really have time off between festivals, what with visiting other festivals, going to pubs all over the country, and the constant search for the perfect pint. It's a hard job but one we all think is a worthwhile endeavour.

This year's festival will continue to have certain aspects tweaked to try and improve the experience for everyone. But some things never change, showcasing and highlighting local breweries (some trading for over 100 years and others just a few months). A mixture of strong dark ales, hoppy IPAs, seasonal favourites, wines and ciders will be sold. We are proud to carry on our partnership with Holden's Brewery; many thanks to Jonathan, Abi, and all of the team for their support. Key Keg this year will be dispensed though a purpose-built system supplied from CAMRA HQ. We also have over 70 casks set out alphabetically in brewery order. Our bottled beer bar will be stocked mainly with German beers and will be well worth a look, you never know what we have managed to find.

Our doors at Dudley Town Hall open at 5:30pm on Thursday 28th November and 12pm on Friday 29th November and Saturday 30th November. We'd love to see our usual attendees along with plenty of new faces. If you are a CAMRA member and you have a few hours to spare you could always volunteer. You can find out more at www.dudley.camra.org.uk.

Wishing you a safe and joyful Christmas,

Ryan Hunt

Chair, Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA

Karl Denning

Festival Organiser, DWAF19

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, or the editor. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information in this publication is accurate and up to date, no responsibility for errors and omissions can be accepted. ALES & TALES is published by "Stourbridge & Halesowen" and "Dudley & South Staffordshire" branches of CAMRA - the Campaign for Real Ale.

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Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Meet The Brewer Print Works Brewery

at The Windsor Castle Inn, Lye



It was early July that Emily Sadler contacted us about the new venture she was embarking on with her husband Gareth and here's what they have to say.

Inspired by our family heritage and tradition as well as a love for craft beer we have launched a brand new craft brewery located behind our pub The Windsor Castle Inn, Lye.

Emily's father & Grandfather Jack & John Sadler started the family printing & publishing business at number 7 Stourbridge Road, now The Windsor Castle Inn & Brewery, when the printing industry was booming in the early 80's.

Print Works to Brewery to Print Works Brewery! In 2004 my dad John Sadler packed in the printing & transformed the print works into a brewing haven following in the footsteps of his great, great, grandfather Thomas back in Oldbury in the late 18th Century.

Since then under the direction of my brother Chris, due to the Sadler's ales success the brewery out grew & moved on from its smaller beginnings at The Windsor Castle inn leaving room for a new craft brewery for our family to get creative with!

When brewing is in your blood! Inspired by the passion for brewing beer we have continued the family tradition by starting Printworks Brewery producing small batches of craft beer to serve in our pub The Windsor Castle Inn, Lye. My Dad has helped us with his knowledge of

brewing and recipe writing along with the talent of our Head Brewer Dave, we have a small but mighty team and are thoroughly enjoying our new venture.

Expect a selection of craft beers packed full of flavour from some of the best English hops & malt available with some extra special limited-edition experimental brews from time to time.

Official launch party Saturday 30th November from 2pm. All Ales & Tales readers invited for an afternoon of brewery tours, beer sampling & nibbles – please email

info@printworksbrewery.co.uk



What are the challenges of working in an older brewery?

I think we've probably adapted to what we are used to. We have been busy bringing everything up to spec again & the brewery kit itself is fantastic. It's been really exciting bringing the brewery back to life again! I have missed that amazing smell of beer brewing in the pub!

What was your first alcoholic drink? Real Ale surely?

Of course!

What makes a brewer happy?

Great tasting beer & happy drinkers. It was so exciting, if a little nerve wracking, when our first beer Helvetica was served on the bar. I'm so happy for all the positive feedback we've had from our customers so far. I'm looking forward to seeing our new beers on tap soon.

What food do you enjoy? What's your favourite beer and food pairing?

I love food as much as I love beer! This combo

together makes me very happy. My favourite food would have to be seafood & I would choose a pale ale with a citrus kick to compliment the flavours such as our newest beer, Geneva.

Gareth's choice is a burger & a stout....every time!



Other than the Windsor Castle, what is your favourite pub and why?

On days off from work we enjoy trips over to the Cotswolds with the children and we do love lunch at the Mount at Stanton, the food is great and the views from there are amazing on a sunny day with a beer in hand.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of brewing?



We have three little ones who are 5 and under who keep us pretty busy but very happy too. With looking after a young family and running a business there isn't time for too much else! When we aren't in the brewery or the Windsor Castle you'll find us taking it easy enjoying our homelife with our family, our dog Hugo, our chickens & meals out with family and friends. Is it ok that our work and hobbies/interests are all food & drink related?!

What are your aspirations for the future?

We are starting small with Printworks Brewery by brewing enough beer for our customers at The Windsor Castle. Our hope for Printworks Brewery is to complete the experience here at The Windsor Castle by focusing on quality over quantity and give our customers the best experience when they visit us with great food by our head chef Andre, fantastic beers from Printworks Brewery and a relaxed environment

to enjoy it all in. We are also putting a window in between the pub and the brewery so that when we are brewing you can enjoy a pint sitting in the pub and watch how the beer is made.

What advice would you give to someone else who was thinking about starting up a brewery?

I have always found the brewing world to be a really friendly one, even more so in the last few months since launching Printworks Brewery. Everyone is helpful and if you need any advice or support reach out to other brewers and you'll either find your answer there or be put in touch with someone who does.

In your opinion what are the best and worst things happening in the industry in the last 5 years?

The worst thing is seeing pubs & breweries closing down, it's not an easy industry to be in, business rates & overheads are high and with fears of produce going up in price when we leave the EU it's not looking to be getting any easier. Although it will hopefully encourage everyone to buy British & buy local which has to be good for our farmers & local businesses. I'd like to think that the best thing that's happened in the last 5 years is the increased appreciation for craft and independent businesses and hopefully this is set to continue.



How do you think/would like CAMRA to help you in your business?

As always, continued support is so important to us. We have always wanted and appreciated the support from CAMRA. We have recently started to provide discount to all CAMRA members as a thank you for that support too and I hope that our new brewery venture can only develop a stronger friendship with CAMRA.

Emily Sadler & Lizzie Cadwell

Pub News

Dudley & South Staffs

Barge & Barrel Bloomfield Rd, Tipton DY4 9AJ reopened on 30th July 2019 trading as a sports bar and grill which specialises in 'cask and curry'. The three beers are from the Marston's stable. There has been a full and colourful refurbishment by the new management group, 'Mr. Chef'. There is a Lunch Menu available daily between 12pm-4pm and a full menu served all day.



Black Horse 52 Delph Rd, Brierley Hill DY5 2TP closed for a brief spell in July 2019 whilst some decisions were being taken behind the scenes. However, Ross Bayley is still manging the pub which is now back trading from 3pm Mon-Thu and from 12pm Fri-Sun.

Cross High St, Kingswinford, DY6 8AA is scheduled to reopen as a new branch of JD Wetherspoon by April 2020. The Express & Star has reported that the new budget food premises will create 60 jobs with a total investment of £2.6m.

D R Higgins & Sons Butcher Shop 608 Bearwood Rd, Smethwick B66 4BW may reopen as a micropub if planning permission is granted by Sandwell Council.

Dock & Iron 104 Delph Rd, Brierley Hill DY5 2TR is the subject of a planning application which proposes to demolish the crumbling building and erect six bungalows.

Dog & Lamppost 62 Dudley Rd, Brierley Hill DY5 1LQ is currently closed.

Dog & Partridge 136 High St, Brierley Hill DY5 3AB will be reopening as a town centre boozier. Upgrade and repair works have been ongoing throughout September 2019.



Dr Eamers' Distillery Bar 20-21 Waterfront East, Brierley Hill DY5 1XJ opened on 14th October 2019. It sells gin, cocktails, craft beers and real ales. The gins are produced locally at West Midlands Distillery in Dudley. The bar is also set to offer various demonstrations and tastings.

Green Man Inn, High St, Swindon DY3 4NR has a new tenant called Pat Harley. There are no noticeable day-to-day changes, though.

HSBC 110-112 High St, Brierley Hill DY3 3BD is probably being converted to a pub by the chain Amber Taverns. The bank has been closed since 2017.



Laurel Tree 349 Stourbridge Rd, Dudley, DY5 1JD offers a 10% CAMRA discount. As a small, family run pub, dogs are welcome and children may visit until 9pm. Facilities include pool, darts, table football, and a large beer garden. The work of local artists is showcased throughout the venue. The function room is available to hire and you can enquire about DJ services, too.

New Inn 90 Oldbury Rd, Blackheath B65 0PH is currently closed.

Old Hop Pole 474 High St, West Bromwich B70 9LD is now managed by Leigh Maskell who also manages the Wonder in Tividale.

Old New Inn 17 High St, Brierley Hill DY5 3AB is the subject of a controversial planning application which proposes to demolish the existing structure and erect three new commercial units. The application has already been heavily objected to, including high profile objections from Dudley South MP Mike Wood, Dudley Council's Historic Environment Officer, and Brierley Hill Civic Society. The pub sits in the Brierley Hill High Street Conservation Area.

Park Tavern 182 Cot Ln, Kingswinford DY6 9QG has been recruiting a new manager following the departure of Ian on 8th July 2019, who has taken up a new opportunity at the Queens Head, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Plough & Harrow 67 Corngreaves Rd, Cradley Heath B64 7BT has been declared the Overall Winner in the West Midlands County Pub of the Year 2019 competition. Bravo!

Red By Night Unit 11-13, Waterfront East, Brierley Hill DY5 1XJ is a new live entertainment venue featuring comedy and music set to open on 26th October 2019. The pub will sell two rotating real ales.

Red Cow 84 Grosvenor Rd, Lower Gornal DY3 2PR is now owned outright by the existing manager, Dave Corns, after a successful spell as part of the Stan Owen pub group.

Spring Meadow 255 Halesowen Rd, Old Hill B64 6NP is currently closed.

Tenth Lock 154 Delph Rd, Brierley Hill DY5 2TY will have new managers when Chris and Chere leave on 29th October 2019. The departing duo have given the pub a decade of service.

Tivi Ale 45-47 Regent Rd, Tividale B69 1TL is holding a Halloween Hog Roast on Thursday 31st October and a Christmas Fun Day on Sunday 22nd December. To celebrate inclusion in the Good Beer Guide 2020, the pub will now sell three rotating guest beers in addition to Holden's Golden Glow (previously two guest beers). The third handpull will rotate locale only (e.g. Enville and Olde Swan). In other news, the 'Tivi Team' will be opening their new venture in Pensnett High Street, next to Pensnett Fish Bar, before Christmas.

Vine 1 Dunsley Rd, Kinver DY7 6LJ reopened to the public on 27th September 2019 following the much-reported kitchen closure earlier in the year. New management.

Windsor Theatre Bar 377 Bearwood Rd, Bearwood B66 4DL has been shut down by the owner, Paul Fletcher, in August 2019. Reports are indicating that it is due to antisocial behaviour. The building has a guide price of £700,000-£750,000 and went up for auction at £550,000 in September 2019 (outcome unknown).

Woodman 45 Saltwells Rd, Netherton DY2 0BP has a new manager, Jake Ketteridge, who is hoping to reinstate cask beers at the pub.



Stourbridge & Halesowen

Crafty Pint 8 Wassell Rd, Halesowen B63 4JU

planning to do a Christmas Fair probably on Tuesday 10th December 6:30-9:30pm. Date will be confirmed on their Facebook page.

Foresters Bridgnorth Rd, Stourbridge DY8 3PL

will be serving Christmas Fayre from the 3rd December until the 22nd December but booking is a must.

Lounge 101 Kent Rd, Halesowen B62 8P

will soon re-open! Hopefully it will be up and running at the end of October.

Old Wharf Inn 78-80 High St, Stourbridge DY8 4LY

is now open and serving three real ales.

Picks 91 High St, Halesowen B63 3BQ

One of the oldest pubs in Halesowen has reopened. Pick's (formerly the Lyttleton Arms) reopened in July 2019 after refurbishment and redecoration. It now regularly offers three cask ales, often including Banks's Mild, Wye Valley Butty Bach & Abbeydale Moonshine. New licencees, Izzy and Mark, look forward to meeting you all in their friendly pub.



Queens Head 111 Envile St, Stourbridge DY8 3TQ

Live Music/open mic every Friday night - 20/10, 17/11 15/12th 8.30pm is our monthly Do You Write Night? poetry, comedy & song writing open stage - Every Monday 12 - 2.30pm Senior Skittles Social Skittles with friends or come make new ones - 15/10, 12/11 & 10/12th (every 2nd Tuesday) 3pm - 7pm Folk @ the Queens.

Early doors folk sessions. Taking bookings for Christmas for skittle alley/function room. BFG & Pig £2.50 Carling £3.10 Mon-Fri 12-7pm Stew, Chilli Meat & Vegan £3.50

Red House 21-26 Foster St, Stourbridge DY8 1EL

are holding monthly tap takeover - Thursday 3rd October – Abbeydale, Thursday 31st October – Arbor, Wednesday 27th November - Northern Monk, Thursday 19th December - Xmas Tap Takeover TBC

Seven Stars Brook Rd, Stourbridge DY8 1NQ

will hopefully re-open under Black Country Ales in early December all being well with such a big refurbishment plus other structural work required!

Waggon and Horses 21 Stourbridge Rd, Halesowen B63 3TU

will be having a fancy dress Halloween party on the 26th Oct. And a Peaky blinder in November date TBC.

BARBRIDGE

- 4 ales on hand pulls and 4 on key Keg
- Locally sourced real ales and fine wines
- Well known and obscure brands available
- All welcome
- Live music on occasion
- DJ's once a month
- Fine array of ciders



Barbridge, Unit 11, Victoria Passage,
Stourbridge. DY8 1DP



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FRIDAY....GIN DISCOUNT NIGHT
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18 ROWLEY VILLAGE,
ROWLEY REGIS B65 9AT



THE WHITE HORSE

New St, Quarry Bank,
Brierley Hill DY5 2BA

The White Horse Inn serves
real Ales including Sarah
Hughes' Surprise and
Holden's Golden Glow

Food including Punjabi
curries, mix grills, all-day
breakfasts and kids meals

Family pub open from 2pm
Mon-Friday and 12pm
Saturday and Sunday

We also serve pre booked
roast dinners on Sundays.
Food orders can be taken
over the phone by calling
01384 941194

Children play area which
includes jumbo garden games
We also have a car park

Branch Diaries

DUDLEY & SOUTH STAFFS

OCTOBER

Wednesday 9th 8.00pm. West Midlands County Pub of the Year Presentation, Plough & Harrow, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7BT

Saturday 19th 10.30am Branch Social to Sheffield Beer Festival by train from Birmingham New Street, Kelham Island Museum, Alma Street, S3 8RY

Wednesday 23rd 7.30pm. Delph Scoring Social, meet at Bell, then Tenth Lock, Black Horse, Vine (Bull & Bladder)

Monday 28th 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Fountain Inn, Temple Street, Lower Gornal, DY3 2PE

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th 8.00pm. Dudley Winter Ales Fayre Planning Meeting, Park Inn, George Street, Woodsetton, DY1 4LW

Wednesday 13th 7.30pm. Bearwood Scoring Social, meet at Dog, then Midland, Bear Tavern

Monday 18th 8.00pm. Dudley Winter Ales Fayre Planning Meeting, Park Inn, George Street, Woodsetton, DY1 4LW

Thursday 28th 5.30pm. – Saturday 30th 11.00pm. Dudley Winter Ales Fayre, Dudley Town Hall, St James's Road, Dudley, DY1 1HP

DECEMBER

Monday 9th 8.00pm. Xmas Branch Meeting (with chip butty), Old Bush Revived, Powke Lane, Blackheath B65 0AD

JANUARY

Saturday 4th 12noon 'Ten to Target' Mini Bus trip around Dudley & South Staffordshire, details TBC

Friday 10th 12.00 midday Deadline for all beer score submissions from 19/01/19 – 08/01/20 inclusive

Monday 13th 8.00pm. Good Beer Guide 2021 Selection Meeting, Britannia, Kent Street, Upper Gornal, DY3 1UX (invitation only – eligible members will be contacted privately)

Monday 20th 8.00pm. Dudley Winter Ales Fayre Inquest Meeting, Park Inn, George Street, Woodsetton, DY1 4LW

Wednesday 22nd 7.30pm Coseley Scoring Social, meet at Coseley Cricket Club, then Old Chainyard, Apple Tree, New Inn

Monday 27th 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Bell, Delph Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2TZ

STOURBRIDGE & HALESOWEN

OCTOBER

Thursday 24th 8.00pm. Stourbridge Marking Social. Meet Red House then Cock & Bull, Barbridge and Waggon & Horses.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 7th 8.00pm. (Note: Thursday Meeting) Branch Meeting, Why Not, Why Not Street, Colley Gate, Halesowen B63 2JH

Wednesday 20th 8.00pm. Wollaston Marking Social. Meet Foresters, then Plough, Gate Hangs Well, Unicorn, Princess and Graham's Place

Thursday 28th 8.00pm. Branch Social Dudley Winter Ales Fayre, Dudley Town Hall, St. James's Rd., Dudley DY11 HP

Saturday 30th 2.00pm. Printworks Brewery Launch event and CAMRA Brewery Tour. Meet Windsor Castle 2.00pm. MUST contact info@printworksbrewery.co.uk directly to book a place.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 4th 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Robin Hood, Collis St. Amblecote, Buffet provided, cost £1.50 per head.

Thursday 12th 8.00pm. Halesowen Marking Social. Meet Crafty Pint then Rose & Crown, Hare & Hounds, Picks, William Shenstone and Waggon & Horses.

JANUARY

Wednesday 8th 8.00pm. (Note: 2nd Wednesday of the month) Branch Meeting, Queens Head, Envile Street, Stourbridge

Thursday 16th 8.00pm. Amblecote Marking Social. Meet New Talbot then New Wellington, Starving Rascal, Swan and Robin Hood

Saturday 25th 12 Noon Branch Buzz Crawl. Meet Red House Boutique, Stourbridge, 12 Noon. Itinerary TBC

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 12th 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Duke William, Coventry Street, Stourbridge

Real Ale Availability

A recent trip to the “Big Clash” rugby match at Twickenham led me to reflect on the ever widening availability of traditional draught beer. A temporary mobile bar had been set up within the outer area of the sporting complex with other bars within the stadium itself. There was a choice of 3 ales, all served in the latest, reusable hard plastic, commemorative ‘glasses’. Better in a proper glass but we all understand the safety concerns. Expensive but this seems to be the accepted practice at sporting and entertainment venues. Amazing though to have this choice which reflects well on the influence of CAMRA on the beer scene.

The origins of this consumer campaign are well documented. Initially set up by a few irate beer drinkers, to fight the push towards pressurized keg, homogenized beer, whilst at the same time supporting the last remaining independent

breweries, CAMRA struck a nerve, sparking a very British revolt. The movement steadily gained popularity from thousands of others keen to protect the British heritage of traditional, living beers. Even the name, Campaign for Real Ale, was cleverly chosen. Real ale is now an accepted term for traditionally brewed British ales, although it was introduced by the CAMRA pioneers, implying that anything else was false and, thus, to be avoided.

No-one could have foreseen the success of the movement. Today beer has moved on at a fast pace, embracing many different styles, driven by the demand for new and varied tastes. However, one area that is often overlooked is the availability of beer in all sorts of establishments in the UK. The first issues of the Good Beer Guide contained a very limited number of pubs which served traditional draught ale and contained a





list of breweries still offering old style beer. This has now fattened out to include a selection of establishments with a much enlarged section on breweries. It is not only pubs that are included, as CAMRA also recognizes the efforts of private clubs that offer draught beer. At one time it would have been almost unheard of to visit a sporting club and be able to drink anything other than lager or keg beer.

High quality ale can also be found in unexpected places. The current desire to promote local products has enhanced the choice in cafés and restaurants where it is now common to be able to drink bottled beer from local breweries. We recently heard of a bottled beer on sale at the tourist attraction, the Italianate village at Portmeirion in North Wales. Their own No. 6 beer (a reference to the cult TV series “The Prisoner” – I am not a number!) is a dark ale 5.5% produced by one of the local N. Wales breweries, Bragdy Nant.

A day out on the Gloucs and Warks Steam Railway during their steam festival, gave us the opportunity to sample more local beers. Firstly at Toddington where a ‘bus’ offered a choice of 2 decent draught ales. Then at Winchcombe station, where Goff’s brewery had a marquee, selling 2 of their beers from hand pump, both excellent and also a range of other beers in bottles.

The new White Hart Lane football stadium, home to Tottenham Hotspur, has been even more inventive, including a micro brewery within the ground. There is a growing trend for football stadia to be venues, offering all round entertainment, building on the club’s history and encompassing conference facilities. According to their website, the new White Hart Lane complex includes 2 “Feature Bars” and Tap Inns in every stand. Amongst these there is the “Microbrewery and Beavertown Tottenham Taproom” – for those planning a visit, it is

located in the SE corner, level 1 – where the Tottenham-based brewery’s range of craft beers are served via the latest bottom up “fast pour” system. Apologies for all the speech marks but this is mainly quoted from Tottenham’s website. I look forward to reading a review from anyone visiting the stadium.

In conclusion, there are many aspects that have contributed to the success of modern day beer. Who would have thought that a few grumpy individuals could have fostered such a revolution?

Joy Stevens



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OXFORDSHIRE SINCE 2003**



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**TAPROOM NOW OPEN
THURS/FRI/SAT**

Hitchmough's Archives

The Delph Fell Down!

County Express 24/4/1909

"Mining operations at Delph, Brierley Hill, are causing great damage to surface property. Some time ago the main road between Mount Pleasant and Brierley Hill, near the COTTAGE SPRING INN, subsided several feet, as did the field on the Merry Hill side of the road. More recently mining has proceeded beneath and adjacent to the carriage way from the Delph canal bridge to Mount Pleasant, and in one portion of the district between the STORES INN and the DUKE WILLIAM INN, many houses have been wrecked, while none of those standing have escaped damage. In several parts of the road the pavement is doubled up. Three cottages standing a little away from the main road, near Delph Mill, are damaged beyond repair. A fissure varying from 12 to 18 inches wide runs from top to bottom of one building, and a large portion of the roof has fallen into one of the bed rooms.

At present the most serious damage is occurring a little lower down, in the vicinity of Gas Light Row. Here the road has sunk six or seven feet; all the eight houses comprising this row are tenantless and the windows and doors are barred, whilst on the opposite side the cottages are similarly partially wrecked and empty. Near to, a few days ago, the front of a cottage, which a few weeks ago was occupied by Mrs. Bidmead, fell bodily into the garden in front, half the roof clattered down at the same time.

In order to keep the gas mains under observation the gas company have laid these on the surface at the side of the road."

[The DUKE WILLIAM was rebuilt c.1912, and was renamed the DOCK & IRON in 1986.]

County Express 15/5/1909



"The above depicts a portion of the ruined Delph Brewery, which years ago was among the most successful of its size in the country. Adjoining, on the reader's left, is the DUKE WILLIAM INN. Its licensed business is carried on in a specially-built structure at the rear of the house."



"At the Delph, Brierley Hill, there are two VINE INNS. The one portrayed above adjoins a footpath within a stone's throw of Delph Church. Owing to damage from mining operations the tenant, Mr. Ebenezer J. Shaw, abandoned the house several weeks ago, and the licensed business is conducted in a specially-erected structure in the garden."



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

Ma Pardoe's Black Widow Brew 6.7% ABV

NPA 4.8% ABV

Opening Times:

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

Food Available:

Mon - 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

1ST SEDGLEY MORRIS MEN 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday 21st September, 1st Sedgley Morris Men celebrated 40 years of dancing with a tour of the Black Country – well, just Dudley Borough really! They were joined by other sides including Jockey Morris Men from Birmingham and Ewell St Mary Morris Men from Ewell near Epsom, and also by partners and families of the members.

1st Sedgley Morris Men were formed initially as a joke to raise funds for 1st Sedgley Scout Group, hence the name. However, it became obvious that the original men wanted to take the dancing more seriously and also that it was a lucrative source of income for the Scouts. So we learnt the dances properly, joined the Morris Ring, and here we are, still going strong (if a little slower!) after 40 years.



The Day of Dance commenced at 10am with dancing in Sedgley by the flagpole. The whole party of more than 60 then boarded Keith's classic West Midlands Passenger Transport double-decker bus and set off for the first pub of the day, the Malt Shovel in Tower Street, Dudley. Fiona opened the pub early to let the



thirsty dancers in and served some lovely real ales, the price of which amazed the Ewell men! 'Only £3.20 a pint – unbelievable!'

Then came a short walk to Dudley town centre where the men performed to a very appreciative crowd next to the statue of Duncan Edwards. He would have been impressed by the side steps! Back to the bus and off to the Old Swan (Ma. Pardoe's), in Netherton for lunch...and a pint or two! Our old friend Tim met the challenge of 60 hungry mouths all with different choices and as usual the meal served was generous and tasty, as were the beers. Thank you, Tim.



Next the Gongoozler at the Dudley Canal Trust in Tipton. (If you don't know the word, look it up!). We were given a warm welcome by Matt and his colleagues and danced on the tow path, not without some fear and trepidation from a number of the Morris Men. After entertaining the customers on the balcony and onlookers from the Museum, the men and families boarded a narrow boat to be taken on a return trip to the Factory Locks, passing through the Tipton Canal & Community Festival. Lots of friendly waving and the usual 'Hello Morris' on the way! Alas, we could not alight to sample the delights of The Fountain or the Barge and Barrel!

Last drink stop was the Jolly Crispin, Sedgley, where the Morris Men repair after practice on Thursday nights. Robin always welcomes us and keeps an excellent range of real ales much sampled by the sides. It was also the Fownes Brewery 7th Anniversary so the seats outside were filled giving the men an audience who enjoyed the spectacle.



Finally, back to the Ale & Feast at Jubilee Scout Hall, real ales provided by Kinner Brewery and food prepared and served by the Beacon Explorers.... all to the delight of the participants. A moment of silence in memory of Mike Edwards, who founded the side with Jack Cotterill and died earlier this year, a speech by the latter, a few songs and some dancing, and the day was over! Wonderful weather, great venues and heartfelt fellowship. May it continue!!

**David Jeffery (Bag Man) and
Jack Cotterill (Foreman and Fool)**



**As our farmers
know all too well:
no pain, no grain.**

They say nothing worth having comes easy. Unfortunately for our farmers that's true of the barley we use to brew our beers. We use a classic variety called Golden Promise, grown to our own unique specification. The biscuity, golden malt it produces is the perfect partner to our natural spring water, and is vital to Landlord's depth and delicate balance of flavour. It's also a type of barley that's notoriously hard to grow, and our exacting specification makes it even more difficult. Which makes it a costly ingredient and a real challenge even for experienced farmers. Luckily we can offer some liquid therapy.

All for that taste of Taylor's



Great British Beer Festival 2019

On a sunny August day, Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA members made their annual fact-finding mission (at least that's what some told their partners) down the M40 to London accompanied by members from Stourbridge & Halesowen plus Wyre Forest branches. An 8am start & pick up in Stourbridge followed by a few hours of travel made for a group of thirsty visitors; ranging in age from early 20s to early 80s.



Black Country Flag at GBBF

Beers from all over the world made an appearance in many different formats: cask, cans, bottles, Key Keg & keg. Craft Beer made a welcome appearance, too. There was an abundance of breweries from all over the country to cater for all tastes with Tiny Rebel and Wild Beer leading the charge of the Craft Keg revolution (the first time in GBBF's 42-year history). Local breweries like Holden's, Green Duck, Fixed Wheel & Burning Soul were showcased.

Beer ABV ranged from 0% up to north of 10%. Surrey Hill's Shere Drop won the Supreme Beer of Britain along with the long queue at the bar to sample it. Between the 28 of us who attended we managed to sample beers from every bar.

It was good to see branch members volunteering as door staff & on the bars, it's always hard to make sure there's enough staff at festivals. All CAMRA's beer festivals are staffed by volunteers. There's a few festivals coming up over the next few months locally that need volunteers; take a look at www.dudley.camra.org.uk & www.wyreforest.camra.org.uk for more information of just two examples.



coach journey return

So, 7 hours after arriving it was time to head back home. On the way out a Black Country Flag was seen proudly flying behind one of the bars. A little after 10pm we arrived back in Dudley with an extra two passengers. Two of our own members fell foul of a power cut at Euston & we happily gave them a lift back from London.

Karl Denning
Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA

DUDLEY WINTER ALES FAYRE 2019



The beer has landed!

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOON LANDING

Dudley Town Hall, St James's Road, Dudley DY1 1HP

Thursday 28 November 5.30-11pm • Friday 29 November 12noon-11pm

Saturday 30 November 12noon-11pm or when the beer runs out

70+ Traditional Real Ales • Key Keg Bar

Cider • Foreign Beer • Wine • Hot & Cold Food

Live Entertainment Friday and Saturday Quiet Night on Thursday



Contactless
payment
accepted

Admission charges apply (including glass and tokens - refundable)

LAST ENTRY 10:30PM



Over 18s only
will be admitted
on Thursday
and Friday



For more information
or to volunteer to help
at the event please visit
www.dudley.camra.org.uk



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**



Follow us on Twitter @DudleyCAMRA

Thirty Reasons to join CAMRA

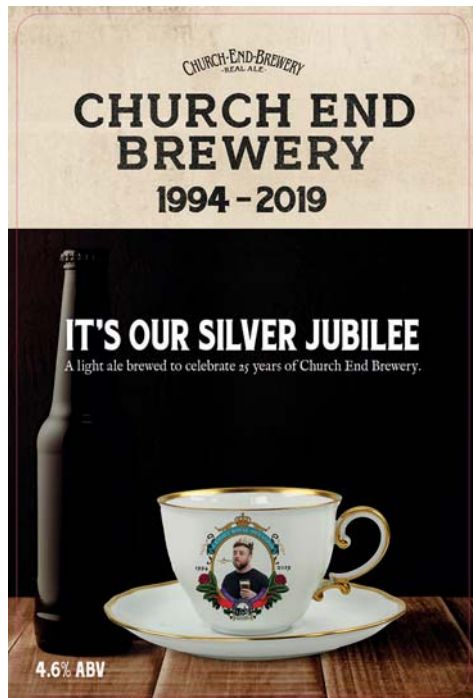
CAMRA's previous membership scheme had a strong Wetherspoons' incentive to join CAMRA with its £20-worth of vouchers giving 50p off a pint in every one of their pubs. However, on 1 July 2019, CAMRA launched a new voucher scheme for new and renewing CAMRA members. This is wholly a CAMRA initiative. Whilst coming under the Real Ale Discount Scheme umbrella, it is a bigger and better voucher scheme which is hoped to increase the discount access to over 1,500 pubs nationwide. This is in addition to the Real Ale Discount Scheme where around 3,500 pubs offer great discounts to membership card-carrying CAMRA members.

So what are the essential differences? Well, the latest CAMRA voucher scheme offers £30-worth of vouchers redeemable at over 1,550 pubs. They will run from the membership start and end date. The scheme not only includes all Wetherspoons pubs, but now also includes Brains, Stonegate, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns pubs, along with City Taverns, Slug & Lettuce, Walkabout and other smaller pub chains. Now that Stonegate have taken over Enterprise Inns, this may increase the number of eligible pubs even more. All existing Wetherspoons vouchers will still be valid during the next 12 months. Other pub chains may join the scheme in the future. If a pub or pub chain shows an interest in the scheme, they should contact CAMRAvouchers@camra.org.uk. The agreement runs for a minimum of 12 months and can be applied to any real ale, cider or perry products. However, CAMRA does not allow members to approach or encourage individual pubs to join the scheme. Window stickers and point-of-sale material should promote the availability of the scheme and discount at individual pubs. New vouchers will be sent to each member when they join or renew their membership.

Another key recruitment initiative will be aimed at beer festivals, with new advertising and promotional material being made available to organisers and branches. However, members will need to show their CAMRA membership card when using the vouchers in pubs. So, there are now 30 good reasons to join or renew your membership with CAMRA!

Further details are available at :
CAMRAvouchers@camra.org.uk
or 01727-798440.

Steve James



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 Cottage Spring, Alexandra Road (previously Workhouse Lane), Tipton.

Wednesbury Herald 19/10/1895

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, Joseph Smith, boat builder, Tipton, was charged with cruelty to a monkey, and William Davis, railway porter, and Joseph Gittings, builder, were charged with aiding and abetting. The prosecution was instituted by the Birmingham Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, on whose behalf Inspector Reans attended. Mr. Waldron appeared for Smith, Mr. Tildesley for Davis, and Mr. Foster for Gittings. Mr. A. Whitehouse watched the proceedings on behalf of the owner of the house in which the cruelty is alleged to have taken place.

It seemed that a monkey was kept tied up in the yard of the Cottage Spring Inn, Workhouse Lane, Tipton, and on the 11th of September the three defendants went into the yard, Smith having made a bet of £2 to £1 that he would compel the monkey to perform certain tricks, and would afterwards fight him. The first part of the programme was carried through successfully, but when it came to the second part the monkey showed fight and bit his tormentor severely. It was alleged that the animal was roughly treated by Smith. In reply to representations for the defence it was denied that the monkey was vicious except when teased.

After a long hearing Mr. Waldron took the objection that a monkey was not a domesticated animal within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, and that therefore the prosecution must fail. It was not an animal which had been tamed so as to be subservient to the need of man. He had other points to raise.

The Stipendiary said there was no necessity to go further. It was quite clear this was a wild animal not kept for any purpose subservient to the use of man, but for the purpose of giving people who were perhaps lower in the scale of intellect than the animal itself opportunity to tease it. He was glad that the monkey had given proof of its higher order of intellect by taking care of itself, and he hoped that if anyone else went to tease it he would be bitten more severely than Smith.

The defendants were discharged."

Dudley Herald 9/5/1931

"Regret will be felt at the passing of a well known and respected old Tiptonian. Mrs. Phoebe Gould, of the Cottage Spring Inn, Alexandra Road, Tipton. She was 82 years of age, and held the license for a quarter of a century. She was born in the same house, as also were the two previous generations. It was extremely interesting to hear her stories of Tipton in bygone days. She will be sadly missed by old and young, for even the children loved her.

The interment took place on Saturday last at the Tipton Cemetery. Along the route all blinds were drawn and heads bared, showing the respect in which she was held....."

The pub was demolished in December 2012 and recently housing has been built on the site.

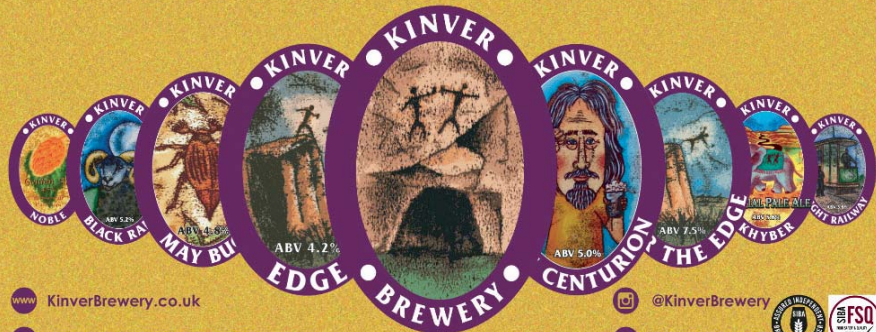


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Fashioned values set
on edge of Country side
and 5 minutes from
Wombourne and
Kingswinford*



Beer Tasting

Worcestershire HomeBrew Club has around 20 members that meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. They have all levels of experience across their membership from beginners using extract kits, all grain brewers using the latest technology and professional brewers.

The club runs regular themes for its club nights including home brew tastings, beer swaps and often have a comparison brew running where they compare brewing methods or brewing ingredients. They also run regular tech sessions at the club night, where members share their knowledge on a particular topic, last month it was how to set-up a home keg system.

The Green Duck brewery was one of the club's first outings where Head Brewer Alex Hill ran a brewery tour and tasting session especially for the club members. The Green Duck team have always been very supportive of the club. With that in mind they approached Alex earlier this year to run our annual club competition where members brew a beer and the winning beer is then brewed at commercial scale.

Bridget and I were asked to join the judging panel at Green Duck Brewery on Thursday 15th August. Who wouldn't want to do that! Unfortunately for me, my dentist had given me a course of antibiotics and warned me not to drink alcohol. I asked for an alternative, but he insisted I needed the one prescribed. Bridget however was fighting fit, so she agreed to do it. The panel was lead by Head Brewer Alex Hill assisted by brewer Matt Meese, Senior bar member Siobhra Harman-Duffy and Bridget Skirving.

The beers to be judged were submitted by club members Dan Walters, Dave Cutler, Steve Bevan, Ben Lester, Craig Arnold, Chris Woofendon, Martin Culwick, Meirion Williams and Martin Lewis. They had each brought along four bottles of their entry and placed them in the fridge to chill. The club's organiser Dan Walters

ran the evening and got each participant to tell the judging panel the style, strength, ingredients and brewing method of their beer. Two bottles were given to the panel and the rest shared with other club members.



The judging panel took into account the aroma, appearance, taste, mouthfeel and overall impression of each beer and awarded a score for each aspect. Judges' scores were then combined to find the winner.

The winning beer was brewed by Meirion Williams, who is the club's newest member.

He had brewed a beer he called Sold as Seen a 6.3% IPA using both American and English Hops and also using Kveik yeast from Norway. Alex made arrangements with Meirion to brew his beer as a full production beer and also gave other members feedback on their beers.



We found it a most interesting and informative evening and it was enjoyed by all.

Tony Skirving and Dan Walters

Kinver Brewery

Firstly, Kinver Brewery are pleased to extend a warm and somewhat overdue welcome to our two new team members. Paul Meng joined the brewery at the start of the year as assistant brewer, whilst John Mantle (A.K.A. Young Man) is a long-standing friend of the Kelly family who is now the Kinver Brewery drayman, delivering beers to our customers across the Midlands' regions. Both team members joined Kinver Dave on the Charles Faram 2019 Hop Walk, where they collected a crop of green 'Endeavour' hops. Due to green hops being picked from the bine and remaining fresh without exposure to drying processes, a more intense flavour comes at the expense of requiring immediate use. Our special green hopped pale ale 'Green Deavour' (4.5%) was brewed with less than 24 hours between the hops being picked and their addition to the copper.



Left to right: Kinver Dave, Young Man, and Paul Meng pictured on the Charles Faram hop walk. Within 24 hours, the green Endeavour hops held by Kinver Dave and Paul went from bine to copper for the 'Green Deavour' special pale ale.

In May, Kinver Brewery launched our first rock collaboration beer, joining forces with Witchfinder General guitarist Phil Cope to produce a namesake porter and a new fusion genre of beer and music; 'New Wave of British Heavy Metal Brewing' (**#NWOBHMB**).

Witchfinder General is a 5.5% porter that is dark and heavy, just like the band! Since the beer's launch at the Robin Hood in Amblecote, the popularity of Witchfinder General has resulted in the beer becoming a permanent addition to the Kinver Brewery cask and bottles range.



Phil Cope from Witchfinder General performing well on the Kinver Brewery stage!

In October, Kinver Brewery will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. In acknowledgment of this milestone, the brewery will be producing a commemorative premium pale ale, 'Quindecim' (5% ABV), which will be brewed on 16th October; 15 years to the day from Kinver Brewery's maiden brew. The name of the beer is the Latin word for 15, whilst the ABV represents the 5 Kelly family members that have joined the business in the 15 years of operation.

For more Kinver Brewery news, keep an eye on our newly redesigned website (**kinverbrewery.co.uk**) or our social media feeds (**@KinverBrewery** – Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram).

P.S. Mark V has been brewed. Get ready to go Full Centurion!

Carol Kelly



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

3 Enjoy CAMRA
BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

7 Get great
**VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

9 Enjoy great
HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!)

10 **HAVE YOUR SAY**

What's yours?

Discover your reason
and join the campaign today:

www.camra.org.uk/10reasons



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Wyre Forest CAMRA's 6th Beer and Cider Festival 2019



This year sees exciting changes for Wyre Forest CAMRA's beer festival. The festival is moving to the autumn and will this year be running from Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th of November. So when it's cold, wet and miserable outside it's a perfect time to visit the charming Kidderminster Town Hall where there will be a warm welcome inside. The venue features two spacious halls. The Corn Exchange will offer a vibrant meeting place and host the bustle and hubbub of the bars while the adjoining main hall will offer a more relaxed atmosphere with ample seating for those wishing to sit and savour drinks. Hot and cold meals and snacks will all be available on site or there is a choice of restaurants and coffee shops within a 5 minute walk of the venue.

The Town Hall is just a 10 minute walk from the Bus Depot, Train Station and Canal Moorings while for those travelling by car we operate a designated driver scheme.

For 2019 the festival will offer 42 ales, 15 real ciders and perries, a selection of wines and for

the first time a Gin Bar. The ales will of course cover all styles with a selection including local ales alongside more varied drinks from further afield. The Gin bar will include a selection of local speciality gins alongside trusted favourites. Festival facts at a glance: Thursday is designated a 'Quiet Day' with CAMRA members / trade preview running from 12 – 2 and general opening from 2 – 11. Friday will open from 11 – 11 with music and live entertainment in the evening. Saturday will run from 11 until 9 (subject to beer availability). Entry to all sessions is £3 (£2 discount to CAMRA members). Festival Glass £2.50 (refundable deposit).

Full details are available on our website: <https://www.wyreforest.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=96055>.

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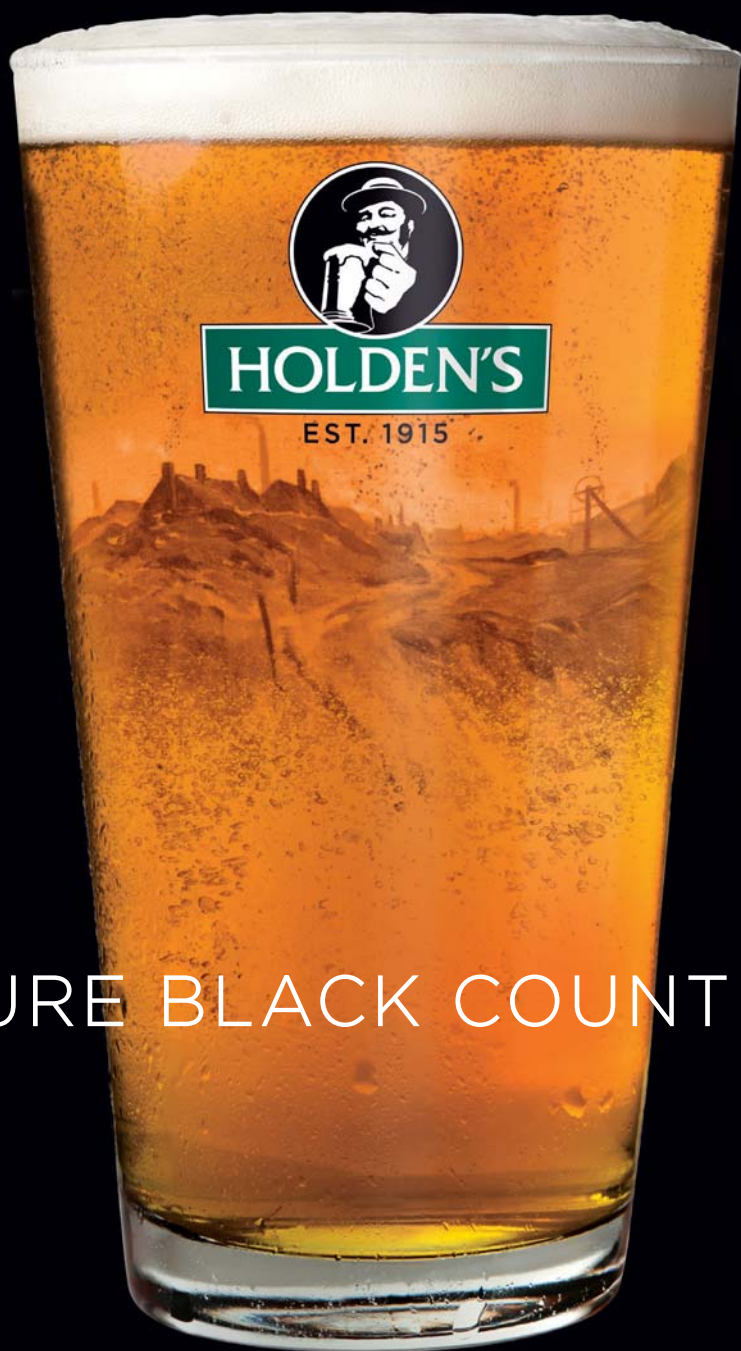
Tel: 01384 440315

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Graham's Place, Bridgnorth Rd, Wollaston,
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PURE BLACK COUNTRY.



A Norse Beer Saga

Earlier this year, my wife and I went on a cruise to Norway. The last time we went I found some decent bottled beer in Alesund and a great bar in Tromso but not much else. Hopefully, I would have more success this time although beer in Norway is taxed so heavily that it makes London craft beer prices seem an absolute bargain!

We were not in Stavanger long enough to find any bars and things were not helped by the fact that my two Nkr 100 notes were out of date and no longer legal tender!

When we arrived at Trondheim, the ship berthed about a mile from the town centre so my wife stayed on board whilst I walked into town in search of a cashpoint. Having no luck, I wandered into the Thon Hotel Nidaros at the corner of Carl Johans Gate and Sondregate, just down the road from Burger King (no, I did NOT partake!). The barman spoke excellent English and pointed me in the direction of the nearest cashpoint. I promised that, if successful, I would return and buy a beer! Mission accomplished, I returned to the bar. The fonts had the usual suspects, Heineken, Newcastle Brown, Tuborg etc. so I looked at the bottled beer cabinet and saw some bottles from the Austmann Brewery, Trondheim. This was much more like it, so I started off with a Cocoa Crimson Porter 7.5% then followed that up with Utpa (a wheat beer) 4.5%, Onkel American IPA (4.5%) and IPA (6.5%) Each bottle cost between Nkr 115 to Nkr 125 (draught beers were Nkr 108). All beers were excellent, and I thought the Porter the best. I then thought it prudent to get back to the ship having spent most of the money I had drawn out of the cashpoint. Apparently the Austmann Brewery Tap is located in Sluppen, on the east side of the Nidelva River and E6 motorway.

I did not have a chance to try any other local beers until the ship docked in Geiranger Fjord. Since I was last there, a jetty had been

constructed which meant no messy trips on tender boats. I had heard about the Geiranger Brewery, but it was at the top of a long steep hill and I did not fancy it. However, I was sure there must be a bar somewhere in the town that sold their beers. Having got off the jetty, I walked towards the main road but took a right just before I got there with the e-mobility carts on my left. Walking down the street, I noticed a coffee shop outside of which people were drinking beer. I looked in and there, behind the counter, was a fridge stocked full of bottles of Geiranger beers. I decided I need travel no further! I bought a bottle of Pilsner (4.7%) Nkr 88 and proceeded to drink it. This was a tactical mistake as, when I had finished it and went up for the next beer, there was a long queue not helped by the fact that everyone apart from myself wanted to pay with a card and the reception was so poor that it was taking an age to process each transaction. When I eventually got served, I bought a Vikingska Pale Ale (4.7%) Nkr 88 and a Bolga IPA (7%) Nkr 116. It had taken so long to get served that I was not best pleased to return to my seat to find someone else sitting there and my stuff cleared away! Having retrieved my bits and pieces from behind the counter, I found somewhere else to sit outside and sup my beers! I then decided to go for it and ordered a Solfest Brown Ale (4.7%) Nkr 88, a Studbaker Chocolate Stout (5.3%) Nkr 102 and a Maxim Gorky Imperial Stout (8.5%) Nkr 125. All were very enjoyable. The shop was less crowded, and I could virtually sit where I liked. The staff thought it very amusing that my table was littered with empty bottles. I was about to leave when I noticed that there was a limited-edition bottle of Oak Aged Sour Ale (6%) Nkr 123. I don't usually go for sour beers (unless they're brewed by Fixed Wheel!) but I thought, "Well, why not?" It was actually very nice and not at all like sucking a lemon. All bottles had the ingredients listed on the side as well as IBU and EBC figures. Having finished that, I then

returned to the ship for a well-deserved sleep. I later discovered that some intrepid souls had actually got to the brewery only to find that it was an industrial unit not opened to the public!



The next day we were in Flam. This time the brewpub was only a short walk from the ship so, after a short walk around the town my wife and I entered the Aegir Microbrewery, unmissable as it looked like a Viking Feasting Hall. Dark inside, there was a circular seating area with additional tables and chairs on the outside. The pub was busy but eventually we persuaded a young lady that she didn't really need three seats for herself, her coat and her scarf! I started off ordering a sampler of 5 beers: Boyla Blond Ale,

Rallar Amber Ale, Kvette Witbier, Porter (all 4.7%) and an Aegir India Pale Ale (6.5%). My wife liked the witbier and the porter but not the others. I liked them, and also the IPA. The sampler cost Nkr 150 in total. I then moved onto the bottled beers starting with a Sognakrut Espresso Vanilla Baltic Porter (9%) Nkr 139. My wife and I then shared a Gere & Freke Imperial Coffee Stout and a Natt Imperial Porter (both 10%) which cost Nkr 122 each. In order to conserve our currency, we paid with my wife's credit card and she informed me that those two beers had cost £26! (Well, we are on holiday!) My wife liked both of those despite the price and I finished off with an Amara Chocolate Cherry Imperial Rye (8%) Nkr 139. We then decided that it was time we got back to the ship before I spent any more of her money on beer!

The final port was Haugesund. Unfortunately, we were only there until 5pm and most of the bars appeared to open at 4pm. Undeterred, I took the free shuttle bus to the main church, walked down Torggata, turned right into Strandgata and, at the end of the street, found the Captain's Cabin, which promised to open at noon and, much to my surprise, it did open at noon! The only beer available was Hansa but it was any port in a storm and, as it was happy hour, the beer was Nkr 59 (usually Nkr 74). They also had Hansa Bayer available and I did try that but went back to the ordinary Hansa. The pub itself is on two levels. I was on the upper level which was all dark wooden panelling, photographs and marine-related artefacts. I was gutted to find that the pub had only been refurbished 20 years ago and so the panelling was not original. However, at least it looked like a pub instead of some trendy café. I then returned to the ship and headed back to the land of cheap beer.

Tony Morgan

The 2020 Good Beer Guide

The 2020 Good Beer Guide (GBG) has now been released! Speaking for Stourbridge & Halesowen only, we have just 11 spaces to fill! So to put this into context, we have approximately 90 venues serving real ale in our branch area, with around 30 that could justify a listing in the guide which obviously gives us a selection headache!

Our choice gets harder and harder each year. Pubs that close their doors are often replaced with new, interesting venues with a passion for serving great beer, who may be offering something a little different to a traditional local pub. In the last year we have had micropubs, bars and brewery taps competing for their entry against older more established pubs, often winning. This increases the number of potential venues available to be listed.

As well as delighting those that make the guide, we will obviously disappoint those that do not. Even those pubs who may have been near-certainly for a listing in the guide a few years ago have been overtaken by newer venues, despite not doing anything different.

We take beer scores submitted by our members as a firm basis for drawing up a shortlist of contenders for the guide. It's easy to criticise CAMRA about inclusion or otherwise, but how many pubs advertise to their clientele and encourage them to submit their beer scores via whatpub.com? There is no set list of criteria that is used across all branches, however, beer scoring data must always be included.

We have a small sub-committee that deliberates over the list for the Guide on behalf of the branch so any decisions needed are taken by a vote, not just the will of one person. This sub-committee is open to all regular members to volunteer to participate in.

In effect we start with a clean sheet of paper each year. **No premises are guaranteed an entry** despite the fact some seem to have been an entry since CAMRA's inception. However with so many places serving good real ale, the average score of pubs getting into the Guide gets higher each year. If a venue was listed the previous year, there is no guarantee of a listing the following year.

The purpose of the Guide is where to find the

best pint of beer, not necessarily to identify the 'best' pub, however subjective the latter may be. Measurement of the condition of real ale should by-and-large be consistent, however what constitutes a good pub is open to lengthy debate and personal opinion. The branch does allow itself some leeway to make the final decision, including stipulating a minimum number of beer scores and individual beer scorers, in order to take a fair average.

There will never be a perfect system. There are some pubs in our branch that do not make the guide, who serve a pint that is way better than the best in some other branch areas, and vice versa. However, with so very few places available, we have to make tough choices and make decisions that we really don't want to have to make.

We must highlight the contribution of those entries that have been listed in the Guide this year. The bar is constantly being raised in terms of quality of real ale available and all have been tested by both our regular members and committee as we are always running marking socials to gauge the quality of real ale available. That said, there are plenty of great pints available at venues not covered in the guide, maybe even your local, so please remember to support these too!

Additionally, as more consumers will eventually move from a printed paper Guide to using the Good Beer Guide App or our 'Whatpub.com' website, all venues, whether listed in the Guide or not, are listed on these two systems according to their location.

Each brewery across the nation gets a separate entry in the brewery section, so if you're travelling don't forget to check these entries out as they may even offer a tap-room facility.

To reiterate - we don't get any more entries based on the increased number of pubs in our branch. In the coming years, our allocation will be reduced to 10. In effect, the #11 entry in the guide this year will not be listed in 2-3 years time. We would love to add double the amount of pubs we currently do into the guide, but it is simply not possible.

Tim Cadwell

The Church Tavern

36 High St, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill

DY5 2AA

01384 412942

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Brewery News

Dudley & South Staffordshire

Black Country Ales Pensnett Trading Estate, Third Av, Kingswinford, DY6 7FD has released the seasonal beer schedule for the coming year. Plum Pig will return in December and then again in March. English Summer will be released in July for two months. English Winter will reappear in November. Chain Ale will continue to be produce on an occasional basis. In bricks and mortar news, the Windmill in Rugby opened to the public in July 2019 following a standard BCA makeover, the Raglan Arms also in Rugby reopened in May 2019, and, closer to home, the Seven Stars will be opening this winter in Stourbridge.

Fownes Brewing Company Clarence St, Dudley DY3 1UL has begun the next chapter in its brewing saga. The award winning 'Brewers of Epic Tales', have moved production from the Jolly Crispin after seven years. Remaining within the Black Country, the crafting of Dwarfen Ales has been moved to Two Woods Estate in Brierley Hill. Brewing will continue on the existing site until the start of 2020 at which point capacity will double. Initially there will be monthly taproom events with a view to something more permanent in the future. Fownes will continue to supply the Jolly Crispin with its house beer, Crispin's Ommer, in addition to their core and limited-edition ales. James and Tom closed out their time at Crispin with a seventh birthday party which left them feeling emotional at all the well-wishers who attended and expressed their excitement for the future of the brewery. James said: "we deeply appreciate all the love and support our fans have given us during our time here and we can't wait to take them with us on the next chapter of our brewing adventure". Production at the new brewery should be underway by November.

Holden's George St, Woodsetton, DY1 4LW has again brewed the speciality brew 'Toffee Porter'. It will be available throughout October and November. The brewery shop is open 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, 9am-4pm Fri and 9am-12noon Sat.

Kinver Brewery Britch Farm, Compton Rd, Kinver DY7 5NW has brewed two new beers. 'Green Deavour' (4.5%) is a green hopped pale ale brewed with less than 24 hours between the hops being picked and their addition to the copper. 'Quindecim' (5%) will be brewed on 16th October; 15 years to the day from Kinver Brewery's maiden brew. The name of the beer is the Latin word for 15, whilst the ABV represents the 5 Kelly family members that have joined the business in the 15 years of operation.

Stourbridge & Halesowen

Beat Brewery Old Forge Trading Estate, Dudley Rd, Stourbridge DY9 8EL have extended their opening hours for the taproom recently so the bar is now open 2-10pm Friday and 12-10pm Saturday. Also, there will be a couple of special stronger beers on in the bar over the Christmas period and they will be running some promotions for their supporters over the holidays, which will be announced on social media in due course. The Christmas opening hours are: Friday 20th December 2-10pm, Saturday 21st 12-10pm, Sunday 22nd 2-8pm, Monday 23rd 2-8pm, Tuesday 24th 12-8pm, Friday 27th 2-10pm, Saturday 28th 12-10pm, Sunday 29th 2-8pm and Monday 30th 2-8pm.

Craddocks Brewery, Duke William 25 Coventry St, Stourbridge DY8 1EP By the time this magazine goes to print Dave Craddock will have led a team opening an innovative "Not-For-Profit" bar 'The Good Intent' in Birmingham City Centre. The bar will be located in the Great Western Arcade opposite Snow Hill station, with all profits donated to charities and worthy causes. A successful crowdfunding



campaign has added to the investment and a different charity will benefit every three months, nominated by founding members and investors. The charitable donations are estimated to be around 10% of the income. Alongside the range of Craddocks real ales will be a variety of other beers, wines and spirits. The bar will reflect the splendour of the Victorian arcade and its art deco touches. The declared intention is to also “generate additional funds for the selected charity by showcasing events focusing upon music, food, drinks and the arts. We intend to work with each charitable organisation chosen by the founding members for 3 months prior to making a donation, in order to ensure that both organisations are able to generate as much publicity as possible.”

A must-visit enterprise and an opportunity to eat and drink for charity!

Fixed Wheel Brewery Long Lane Trading Estate, 9, Long Ln B62 9LD are helping out



a local organisation called Brockwood who have been victims of a vicious arson attack. Brockwood is a non-profit making company, all of their profits are used to care for rescued animals and to maintain

and improve the site, as well as conservation of the site to provide a haven for British Wildlife. Fixed Wheel have dedicated a special ale to them, with money from every cask sold being paid directly to Brockwood. If you'd also like to show your support, and order one of these for your bar then please email Steph:

beer@fixedwheelbrewery.co.uk

Green Duck, Gainsborough Trading Estate, Rufford Rd, Stourbridge DY9 7ND The run-up to Christmas will be very busy for the team at Green Duck. As we well as their monthly

specials, which may even be brewed in their forthcoming new brew kit, they will be holding a number of special events. England games during the forthcoming Rugby World Cup will all be shown on the big screen, no matter what time they are on! Oktoberfest returns between 24th-26th October with Fat Snags providing the street-food. Christmas party nights are on 7th and 14th December, with tickets available through their website. December 14th is also their regular Christmas Doggie Day, and lastly their Christmas Beer Extravaganza kicks off on December 20th running through to Christmas Eve. Remember the bar is open to the public on Friday evenings (4-11) and Saturday afternoons (1-7) on non-event days with a multitude of different Green Duck beers to enjoy. Don't forget to score their cask beer on whatpub.com!

Print Works Brewery. Windsor Castle, 7 Stourbridge Rd, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 7BS Official launch

party Saturday 30th November from 2pm. All Ales & Tales readers invited for an afternoon of brewery tours, beer sampling & nibbles – please email:

info@printworksbrewery.co.uk.



Sadlers, 2, Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive, Stourbridge DY9 8ER Sadlers are continuing with their monthly beer specials.

On 22 August 2019, Sadlers launched a limited-edition beer “Last Train Home” at the Head of Steam, Birmingham, in collaboration with West Midlands Railways. It is a dry hopped session beer, which will be available in city centre bars close to railway stations to help promote the evening economy and support improved



additional evening and late-night train services that go into the city and help to bring revenue into neighbouring cities.

September sees the launch of "Two Tyred", a golden American IPA (5%), which has been dry hopped using the most aromatic transatlantic hops, including Citra, Summit, Chinook and a generous helping of Green Bullet. It is the official beer of the Tour of Britain, and the Sadler's bus will be attending all stages, featuring their own Peaky Blinder Morgan. October's monthly beer is likely to have a pumpkin slice to it.

Sadlers won several awards in this year's World Beer Awards. 1861 Wheat Beer and Peaky Blinder Black IPA both won Overall Winner in their class; Peaky Blinder Pale Ale won a Gold Medal, Mud City Stout won a Silver Medal and Hop Bomb & Worcester Sorcerer both won Bronze medals.

Sadlers are now partnered with both Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion Football Clubs, including sponsoring the logos on the back of the football shirts of BCFC and putting a wraparound part of the WBA ground. Sadler's beer is being supplied to both football clubs.

Sadler's Harborne micro-pub is currently closed for refurbishment and is hoped to reopen in October. The Quinton micro-pub remains open. The Brewhouse is already taking bookings for Christmas!

Don't forget, CAMRA members have a 20p/pint discount at all Sadler's bars, including at the Brewhouse.

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Sunday 26th January: 12.00 - 17.00





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Shell-ter, Halesowen



Shell-ter is a new micro-pub in Nimmings Road, Halesowen, near Blackheath. It opened in September 2017, and takes its name from Shell Corner, a junction on Long Lane. After the 1st World War, an artillery shell was displayed as a memorial to those who died, a replica of which has now been placed on the corner of Maple Road. The micro-pub has two rooms, fitted out with 1st & 2nd World War memorabilia, with pleasant drinking areas outside. It currently has three hand-pumps, serving a variety of ever-changing real ales, often including beers from Holdens, Bathams, Wye Valley, Salopian, Oakham and Enville, along with the house-speciality, Shrapnel, brewed by Blind Monkey. There are 7 keg taps, offering Thatchers and Carling Ciders, along with a guest lager and craft beer. Wines, spirits, soft drinks and coffee are also available, along with bar snacks, including pork pies and samosas. I recently talked with the landlord and owner of Shell-ter, Mike Whitmore.

Hi, Mike. Tell us a bit about yourself?

Well, I'm Mike Whitmore. I'm 44 and married to Natalie, and we have a son, Will, who's 14 years old.

What was your background before opening Shell-ter?

My background is an electrician, installing electrical equipment.

Why did you decide to establish Shell-ter?

Well, the premises were not used for much, just storing electrical equipment. I regularly visited some of the local pubs and thought I could do as least as well as them in providing a small pub for the local community. I don't have a background in the licensed trade, so it was a steep learning curve!

Has Shell-ter been a success for you?

Certainly. It makes a bit of money, but more importantly, I have personally made many new friends and met some really nice people.

What's next for Shell-ter?

I've recently set out tables and seats outside at the front of the pub, with a small garden, which is really popular in the summer. But I need to maintain the consistently high standard of the pub that I have set myself. I think the beer scene is changing a lot, with more emphasis on craft beer, including bottles and cans, and I can see this developing in my micro-pub. However, I can't expand much because of the limited size of the premises and site, but I think I could provide some extra covered drinking space at the rear of the premises.

Does Shell-ter do much for the local community?

Of course. This is essentially a community-based pub, with many local people who regularly enjoy drinking here. We support whatever charity event is taking place. For example, we recently

joined in with the Shell Corner Food & Drink Festival, with a choir in the bar! We raise plenty of money for local charities and charity events, such as Walking Wounded. The pub also offers space for the local community to talk about local issues and events, and for them to make friends too.



What advice would you give to someone who was thinking about setting up a micro-pub?

Make sure you have very deep pockets! It's an expensive job setting up a micro-pub, not just fitting it out and providing the necessary facilities, but also running the place. You need to keep your overheads low, otherwise those pockets will have to be bottomless. And try to identify what market you're going for – some micro-pubs mainly cater for youngsters, with TVs and amusement machines; others are community pubs for local people, like Shell-ter.

What do you say to other publicans who are concerned about the number of micro-pubs in the local area?

Micro-pubs serve a different market; a community pub where local people and their friends and families can have a few drinks. The turnover is much less, and we are much smaller; we can accommodate no more than 40-50 people at one time. And we don't offer hot meals or entertainment, or open the longer hours of most other pubs.

What is your favourite beer and your favourite food?

I think my first alcoholic drink was Hofmeister Lager – the one with the bear! I do like a good drink of Guinness, but some of the real ales and craft beers are really tasty. If I fancy a change from beer, then a nice crisp gin would be my choice. My favourite meal has to be something Indian, washed down with a cold glass of Cobra.

Where is your favourite pub, apart from Shell-ter?

Well, I don't have much time to go to any other pubs, since I work at Shell-ter nearly every day. But I have been to The Dog on the Hagley Road. It's a nice friendly pub and the beer and meals are good, too.

How do you think CAMRA can be more supportive of your business?

CAMRA should positively support micro-pubs like Shell-ter, but not at the expense of other pubs and bars. Promoting local micro-pubs in CAMRA magazines and guides always helps, and I am always pleased to welcome CAMRA members into my pub. Keep up the good work!

And the same to you, Mike!

Steve James

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2019 Real Ale & Pub Census

Our annual real ale & pub census took place at the end of July. This was the third year we have run the event and the most successful so far. The idea was originally pinched from an article in "What's Brewing", the monthly newspaper available to all CAMRA members with their annual subscription.



The idea of the Census is to take a snapshot of the real ales being served in our Branch area. Members volunteer to visit one or more pubs to record which beers are being served and to make a note of the prices charged. It's also an opportunity to check that the details on WhatPub are correct. This is the official CAMRA website, listing all the pubs in the country and giving details of opening times, features and facilities.

The census followed a similar plan to previous years except this time we extended the survey to run from the Friday evening to the Saturday evening. There were five ale-trails that all finished with a Stourbridge pub. Each trail was timed to finish around the same time before a final gathering in the Red House Boutique on Saturday evening. In addition, individual members were encouraged to visit our other real ale pubs during the 24-hour period. Thanks

to the help of 22 volunteers, we managed to visit all 91, which is the first year that we have succeeded in covering every single real ale pub in the Branch.

The 91 pubs in the Branch this year is a reduction of two from 2018. The pubs that have closed included the Black Horse, Halesowen, the Birch Tree Inn, Amblecote and the Old Bank in Stourbridge town centre. Hopefully these will be temporary closures, however the Labour in Vain in Stourbridge appears to be lost for good with plans for it to be turned into apartments. On the plus side we gained the Wheelie Thirsty and the Beat Brewery Tap House in Lye, two very welcome additions to our Branch.

The main purpose of the census was to record the different beers being served but members also recorded some information on prices. The cheapest pint of real ale available was just £1.89 and the most expensive was £3.90; both very similar to last year. The average price of a pint was £3.08, compared with £3.11 last year. The reason for this apparent reduction is likely to be that all our pubs were surveyed this year whereas in 2018 we didn't cover some of our local "estate" pubs, where prices are understandably lower than town centre locations. Even so, this compares well with a recent national survey where the average pint was £3.50. The average strength of the beers being served also remained about the same at 4.3%.

We also took the opportunity to mark various beers on the WhatPub website. The scoring system ranges from 0 for No Real Ale to 5 for Perfect. 105 beers were scored on the day, with marks ranging from 1 (Poor) to 4.5 (Very Good/Perfect). The average score was 3.0, just slightly lower than the 3.2 from last year.



An incredible 150 different cask beers were available over the weekend. Long gone are the days when the local pub just served a mild & bitter from their own brewery. Whilst this wide variety of beers and beer types is a very welcome development, as a campaign we are always mindful that the quality of the product is the overriding factor, rather than the quantity of beers on offer.

Local breweries were well represented including the four in the Branch area; Beat & Sadler's from Lye, Green Duck from Stourbridge and Fixed Wheel from Halesowen. However, the most popular beers (or at least the ones that were in the highest number of pubs) were Holden's Golden Glow (16 pubs) Enville Ale (14) and Wye Valley HPA (13).

The Branch reviewed all of the results at their recent August meeting. Tim Cadwell won the prize for correctly guessing the total number of different beers available on the day. The general view was that as well as collecting some very useful information, it was an enjoyable, sociable event. What better way can you think of spending a summer afternoon than going around visiting local pubs? The Branch agreed to now make this an annual event and plans for July 2020 are already in hand.

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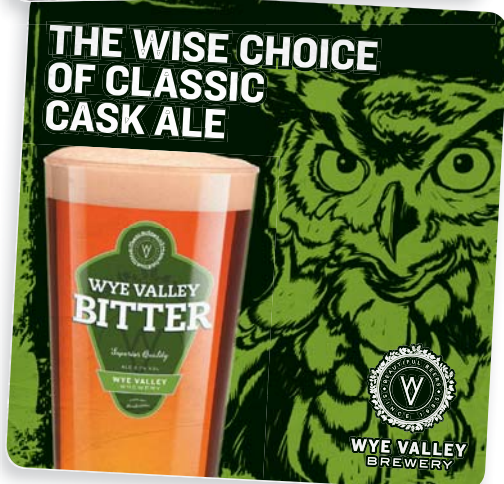
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