

FREE

POTTERS BAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTTERIES BRANCH
OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

No.147

Autumn 2011



**The Beer Fairies welcome you
to The 31st Stoke Beer Festival,
13th-15th October 2011**

LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS

SEPTEMBER

Opens: 9am.

**Fri 2nd -
Sat 3rd**

Cheadle Beer
Festival,
Guildhall, Tape
Street, Cheadle,
ST10 1BG

Opens: 12noon

**Fri 2nd -
Sun 4th**

Lord Nelson,
School Drive,
Oakamoor,
ST10 3DQ

Opens: Fri 6pm
Sat Sun 12noon

Sept TBC

Week long
Curry and IPA
Festival at The
Wheatsheaf,
Church Street,
Stoke, ST4 1BU

Opens: 9am

OCTOBER

**Wed 5th-
Sun 23rd**

National
Wetherspoons
Beer Festival at
The Arnold
Machin,
Ironmarket,
Newcastle, The
Bradley Green,
High Street,
Biddulph, The
Reginald
Mitchell,
Parliament Row,
Hanley and The
Wheatsheaf,
Church Street,
Stoke.

**Thurs 6th -
Sat 8th**

Talke Beer
Festival, Talke
Village Hall, High
Street, Talke,
ST7 1QQ

Opens: Thurs
5pm Fri & Sat
12noon

**Thurs 13th -
Sat 15th**

Stoke Beer
Festival, Fenton
Manor Sports
Complex, City
Road, Fenton,
ST4 2RR

Opens: Thurs:
2pm-5pm &
6pm-11pm Fri
11am-4pm &
6pm-11pm Sat
11am-11pm
(doors closed
4pm-6pm)

Oct TBC

Barlaston
Cricket Club,
Longton Road,
Barlaston, ST12
9AJ Ring 01782
373 733 for
dates.

NOVEMBER

**Mon 7th -
Sun 13th**

Bignall End
Cricket Club,
Boon Hill,
Bignall End,
ST7 8LA

Opens: Mon-
Thurs 5pm Fri-
Sun 12noon

Welcome to the Autumn POTTERS BAR!

When Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths faked their famous fairy photographs, little did they realise that, if they had waited a mere one hundred years, they could have simply embarked on a tour of the streets of Stoke-on-Trent and seen the real thing for themselves; for, over the past couple of months, heads have been turned and old ladies have fallen out of their motor scooters at mere sight of a group of multi-coloured be-winged apparitions parading around the area; and all of this was before they even arrived at Meir.

All of this ado is, of course, in order to promote the upcoming beer festival, which, for a second year running, will take place in the Fenton Manor Sports Complex from Thursday 13th through to Saturday 15th October. Just on the off chance that you have somehow managed to miss the fairies thus far, you need not fear, as they will be out in full force during the first week in October; so getting your beer festival ticket(s) could not be simpler, simply turn to the centre pages, find out which part of the city will be claiming host to the fluttering of gossamer wings, and let these wondrous mythical creatures sell you however many tickets you require. Further details can be found on our award-winning website: simply log on <http://www.camrapotteries.co.uk/StokeBeerFestival11/Home.html>.

The first week in October is also CAMRA's National Cask Ale Week, so, besides using this as an opportunity to promote The 31st Stoke Beer and Cider Festival, we will be travelling around and drinking Cask Ale, as this is by far the best means to promote it (it's the best one we have thought of, anyway!) All this and cider too; for October, as if it isn't busy enough already, is also CAMRA's dedicated cider month, meaning that you can legitimately remove the "Ale" from "Cask Ale Week" and replace it with "Cider".

Real cider is somewhat scarcer than real ale in the local branch area, but can easily be tracked down by those willing to persevere. The Old Brown Jug (Newcastle), The Gresley Arms (Alsagers Bank), The Swan (Bignall End) and The Congress (Longton) always have a good selection; while out in The Staffordshire Moorlands, The Black Lion (Consall Forge) and The Wilkes Head (Leek) are always worth visiting. Or you could just head for The Cider Bar at The 31st Stoke Beer and Cider Festival, the clue being in the name.

So, whatever you are drinking, be it beer or cider, and whatever you are promoting, be it Cask Ale Week, Cider Month or The Beer Festival, come along and do it with The Beer Fairies, who will quite literally take you under their colourful wings. Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would not have minded that!

Martin Perry, Potters Bar Editor

Many thanks to all the contributors:

Neil Barratt, Corin Brown, Selwyn Brown, Lorna Denny, Bob Dylan, Mervyn Edwards, Keith Jackson, Ken Lee, Steve Mollatt, Dave Payne, Martin Ridge, Ceri Roberts, Kevin Sharpe, Lyn Sharpe, Henry Sitko, and all those delectable fairies!

**DEADLINE FOR WINTER POTTERS BAR 147:
TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2011**



Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month **September 2011**

THE CROWN, WRINEHILL

The Crown at Wrinehill (CW3 9BT) can be found on the Staffordshire/ Cheshire Borders, lying just off the main road on Den Lane; a gem of a pub which serves excellent food and a good range of real ale. The building was a coaching inn in the 19th century and today still has the feel of bygone days with open fires and low beamed ceilings. The pub has been owned by Charles & Sue Davenhill since 1977 and in recent years they have been joined by his daughter Anna and son in law Mark Condliffe. Charles and Mark are the current licensees, whilst Anna is responsible for the amazing food that is served at the pub. Jennings Snecklifter and Cumberland Ale, as well as Marston Pedigree are permanent ales on the bar, as well as three rotating guest ales.

The pub over the years has won several awards for real ale and food including the 'Beautiful Beer- Platinum Award', the Crown being the only pub in Staffordshire to win this title. I am sure that all who visit the Crown would agree that they deserve the Pub of the Month award. The presentation will take place on Saturday 3rd September at 1pm. The pub is easily reached by catching the No. 85 D&G that leaves Newcastle Bus Station at five past of every hour, reaching Wrinehill around 40 minutes later.

Lorna Denny



Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month **October 2011**

CLOUGH HALL, KIDSGROVE

October's Pub of the Month takes its name from the 19th century Clough Hall, demolished in 1927, which stood just a hundred yards away. A few remnants of the extensive estate can still be found, but the most splendid is the hall's ornamental lake, which comes right up to the pub's garden. Built in the 1930s by Parkers of Burslem, it is a fine free-standing example of the style of architecture with which breweries were once proud to be associated. Its interior has, of course, been modified over the years, but although open-plan there are three quite distinct areas. To the left of the entrance is the football fans' TV lounge, with a large bay window and dartboard; to the right is a two-tier lounge, facing the bar; and at the back is the dining room— with a pool table for those evenings when food is not served.

There is a large garden at the back, with several mature trees which probably date back to the heyday of the Clough Hall estate. From the bottom of the garden you can look along the full length of Clough Hall Lake. Several picnic tables and a children's play area make it a most pleasant spot on a sunny afternoon or fine evening.

Tenants Kevin and Tracy Warrilow have run the Clough since 2003, having followed on from Kev's parents, Peter and Christine. It is a Marston's house, and Kev is very pleased with the support he receives from the brewery in providing ready access to beers from across the company. Marston's and Banks's beers are always on, of course, with Banks's Bitter being the most regular, but on the four pumps you can rely on finding representatives from among Jennings, Mansfield, Ringwood and Wychwood. One factor leading to the nomination

of the Clough as Pub of the Month for October, is that this is CAMRA's Cider Month, and Kev always has two or three real ciders available from Weston's and Thatcher's, with perry making an occasional appearance.

Food is served on Thursday and Friday from 5pm to 8.30pm, on Saturday from 12noon-8pm, and on Sunday from 12noon-3pm.

On the sporting front, it is popular with Stoke City supporters, which means the landlord has to keep a low profile on certain match days, as he supports a well-known team about 35 miles north of Kidsgrove. The pub sponsors a local team playing in the park just opposite, and there are gents and ladies darts teams in the Alsager & District League. And although not directly associated with the pub, members of the Clough Hall Bowling Club are frequent customers, as are those of the local sub-aqua club, who train in the sports centre a couple of hundred yards away.

For entertainment there is a quiz on Sunday evenings, and an acoustic night on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month. (Guitars are provided!) There is a car park, and buses 20A and 34A stop on First Avenue only two hundred yards away. Kidsgrove station, with three trains an hour, is a quarter mile away—a pleasant stroll along the Trent & Mersey Canal to the Harecastle Tunnel.

The Clough is located at Clough Hall Road, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 1AN. Opening hours are: Mon-Thu 5pm-11pm, Fri 5pm-11.30pm, Sat-Sun 12noon-11.30pm. The presentation will be made on Monday 3rd October at 21:00.

Ken Lee



Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month **November 2011** **CATCHEMS CORNER, MEIR**

On the outskirts of Meir, travelling along the A50 opposite Tesco, is where you will find our Pub of the Month for November, Catchems Corner.

So where so I start to tell you about this little piece of Heaven? Well, let's start at the top: this gem of a watering hole is one of the Marstons chain of pubs, and is run by landlady Nikki. Nikki is helped by her wonderful bar staff, June, Stacey and Steve.

By the time of the presentation, Nikki will have been in charge a little over 20 months, and, not surprisingly, this is not the first award won by Nikki and the pub. To date, said partnership has won the Cask Marque Mark of Excellence, plus runner-up in Marstons Pub of the Year (Midlands Region) 2010. Nikki has great experience at being behind the bar, having learned her trade at The Duke of Wellington in Fenton, and having run The Weston Coyney Arms.

Five real ales adorn the bar, with Marstons Pedigree and Banks's Bitter as standard, plus three guest ales. These are supplied by Brakspear, Jennings, Ringwood and Wychwood breweries. Everyone is assured of a warm and friendly welcome, even non-drinkers, as tea, hot chocolate and a large array of coffee, including cappuccino and espresso are provided.

Two TVs show Sky Sports, ESPN and Euro Sport, plus The Racing Channel. Two crib teams and skittle teams make for regular customer participation, with a view to a darts team as well. The pub has raised nearly £1000 for The Help the Heroes Appeal, plus The Beatrice Charity for local disadvantaged children has also benefited greatly.

As for the pub's strange name; I have it on very good authority that it comes from the days when men had to stop cattle running out onto the old aerodrome. As this was the last point at which they could be caught, you would often hear cries of "Catch 'Em!", hence the name. This is also what the pub sign outside depicts.

The presentation will take place on Tuesday 1st November at approximately 8pm. Opening times are Monday 3pm-10pm; Tuesday-Thursday 12noon-11pm; Friday-Saturday 12noon-12midnight; Sunday 12noon-11pm. For further details, contact Nikki on 01782 499172.



Dave Payne

POTTERS BEER

Pub & Brewery News From The Area

Pub News

GOOD PUB NEWS

If you spend your time reading certain newspapers or magazines, you would get the impression that the pub trade is doomed, set to slide down the rocky road to oblivion; but, yet again, within the Potteries Branch Area, there is much to smile about as we creep slowly into the azure-tinted Autumn. **The Wheatsheaf Stores** on Keeling Road in Northwood has re-opened and is looking very smart after a thorough internal refurbishment; the owners are enthusiastic about their real ale and Limestone beers have been much in evidence here. By the time you are reading this, both **The King William IV** in Talke Pits and **The Huntsman** in Burslem should be re-open and serving real ale. **The Talisman** in



Tunstall re-opened a while back and is now serving real ale again, as well as food all day; the young landlord here hopes to join the SIBA scheme, giving him access to a wider selection of beers. The landlord of **The Old Bulls Head** in Newcastle left suddenly a couple of months back, but the pub is still open and serving Speckled Hen and Pedigree to a good standard.

Another refurbished opening is **The Joker** in Blurton, re-open and now serving Joules plus Hobgoblin; it is being run by the same people as **The Sea Lion** in Longton, which is also serving real ale again after a

long absence, in the shape of Joules. Real ale has also made a return to **The Royal Oak** in Fenton in the shape of Speckled Hen, which always used to be the staple drink here. Varsity in Hanley has changed its name to **The Syndicate** and now stocks a good range of real ale and cider, forming a little triangle of excellence with **The Reginald Mitchell** and **The Market Tavern**. **The Victoria** (on the square) at the top of Shelton has seen the light and is serving a decent drop of Pedigree to all those who order it.

Out beyond the smog of the city and into the beautiful Moorlands, **The Railway** in Froghall has re-opened with the ubiquitous Hen, and **The Ship** at Teanford is looking very smart externally after a thorough refit. You can get inside it again, as well. **The Britannia Inn** in Leek, shut for around twelve months, has re-opened its doors, as has **The Butchers Arms** in Forsbrook, serving two varying real ales. No news as yet as to whether **The Old Git's Corner** survives, though.

Subtle, yet quite significant, changes have been made to one of our well established Good Beer Guide pubs, **The Unicorn**, in Hanley. Jill Lawton, having been the manageress for the last ten years, has purchased the leasehold from Matt Taylor and can now call herself Landlady. Jill, having run pubs in the City, and Leek for thirty years, is already planning ahead. She and her partner Sandy Davison are going to utilise a previously unused room at the rear of the pub by fitting it out with a kitchen where Jill will be cooking a range of home made

pies, and other quality meals for her customers; not to be left out, Sandy plans to install ice cream making equipment, resurrect traditional recipes, and add them to the menu. Another scoop for the Potter Bar! (Oh dear- Ed) *Bill Johnson*

And finally, the rather lovely **Butchers Arms** in Audley has been added to The CAMRA National Inventory (Part 1) for the completeness of its interior and the presence of its original fittings.

THE BAD PUB NEWS

This is the section to read if you prefer to believe that the pub trade is on the rocky road to oblivion. **The Jovial Foresters** in Hanley seems to have shut its doors once more, and **The Winking Frog** right next to it is now an upmarket café bar. Talking of Café Bars, **The Bank House** in Stoke is now firmly closed; and

The Norfolk Inn in Shelton is apparently going to become part of the chemists next door. And **Chambers Wine Bar** in Burslem seems to have mislaid the real ale of late, the single hand-pump always being as naked as when it was born.

Various other closures include **The Miners Rest** in Cheadle, **The Red Cow** in Werrington, plus **The Shoulder of Mutton** and **The Graduate** in Shelton; plus the poor old **Waggon and Horses** in Audley, having been shut since the disastrous fire a while back.

All pub news correct at the time of publication; any amendments or corrections should be sent to the Editor via the usual methods.

Brewery News

FLASH of Hollinsclough

Based at Moss Top Farm, Hollinsclough, Staffordshire, SK17 OBE, which is situated off the minor road between Flash and Longnor, just south of Buxton. They are doing bottled beers at the moment with three types available: Mer Meg 5.0% (light and hoppy), Flash Black 4.2% (dark brown) & Cerberus 6.5% (ruby ale). They trade every 3rd Saturday of the month at Leek Market. They have sold cask beers in the past at the Queens Arms at Taddington in Derbyshire, but are concentrating on bottled beers at the moment until the brewery takes off a little more and can get some money together to increase the brew length. They will do cask beers but only as one off's on request.

LEEK of Cheddleton

The brewery upgrade is approaching completion following a few hold-ups; all the new equipment is in place, but needs final installation and commissioning. Completion is expected during August, which will give needed capacity to meet large bottled beer orders for the Christmas season. Following the commissioning of the new plant it is intended to set up cider production in the area currently occupied by the existing brewing plant.

LYMESTONE of Stone

Limestone were proud to serve Ein Stein on The Hastings Bar at The Great British Beer Festival, and also had Limestone Cowboy on the bar in The Volunteer Arms in Baker Street; Cowboy has also gained a placing on the national Wetherspoons guest list for the Autumn. Brad also opened the recent Stafford Beer Festival and is now bottling Stone Brood, with plans to bottle Stone Dead for the Halloween season, as well as the return of the cask version. They are brewing a new beer for the Rugby World Cup, called Pounamu Green Stone (4.7%), made with New Zealand hops and named after a stone precious to the Maoris.

PEAKSTONES ROCK of Alton

Brewing busily at the moment. Sales efforts have resulted in many new customers, particularly in south Staffordshire and Derbyshire. The brewery is becoming more involved in arranging beer festivals and has a heavy involvement with the Churnet Valley festival. The usual beer range is being supplied, with Dimmingsdale Blonde running during the summer and being replaced by Submission during autumn and winter.

TITANIC of Burslem

Very busy with business as usual, winning awards at various festivals and eagerly awaiting the opening of The Roebuck on Derby Street in Leek, which will

turn a beautiful building into a beautiful pub. Considering bottling the awesomely successful Chocolate and Vanilla Stout. Seasonal beers for September: Triple Screw (4.5%) Red Ensign (4.3%) & Shugborough Gardener's Retreat (4.7%) October: Engine Room (4.6%) Last Porter Call (4.9%) Shugborough Gardener's Retreat (4.7%) November: Night to Remember (4.3%) Wreckage (7.2%) Shugborough Lordship's Own (5%)

BULLS HEAD, BURSLEM EVENTS

- 26th - 30th Aug:** Champion Beers of Britain Beer Festival
9th - 18th Sep: Battle of Britain Week: "Sink a Few for The Few"
1st - 9th Oct: Cask Ale Week incl. Beer Fairies Tour of Burslem (5th)
28th - 31st Oct: Halloween Beers
4th - 5th Nov: Bonfire Beers
10th - 13th Nov: Poppy Day Beers
25th - 30th Nov: Scottish Beers for St Andrew's Day

TOFT of Cheadle

The much anticipated new beer is called Inn Swinger and weighs in at 4.4%, and is a tasty bitter; it has already made appearances at The Malt N Hops in Fenton and The Swan Inn in Stone, and will be at the upcoming Cheadle Beer Festival with a bit of luck. Now bottling all the four beers.

TOWNHOUSE of Audley

Brewing three times a week at present; Spring Ale 3.6% went well and brewing commitments at present mean no new ales are planned for the next few weeks. Townhouse brew a beer exclusively for The Hops at Crewe called Enigma, a 3.5% pale ale and a brew for The Congress at Longton called GSA 5.0% dark ruby ale. Mark Nixon informs me that his beers are now available at the Holly Inadequate at Etruria. Townhouse has one regular outlet in London, the Palm Tree at Bow. On another front Townhouse are supplying around 15 cask ciders picked up from the Malvern Hills Brewery, thus bringing rare ciders to our region that were previously difficult to get. Tony Nixon, father of Mark, and founder of Townhouse, is still very much involved with the brewery in an administrative and delivery role.

WINCLE of Wincle

Brewing City Premier again for the new football season, which will no doubt go down well everywhere except for Burslem. The new brewery is up and running now, and they have been very busy of late; a good variety of their beers should be available at The 31st Stoke Beer and Cider Festival. The Brew for a Day initiative, where members of the public can go onsite and brew the beer, has been very successful.

VIEW

from the Bar Room Floor

Did you know that beer has inspired many poets? And the most famous and prolific of these poets is ANON. Here are just a few of his poems –

There was an old drunkard of Devon
Who died and ascended to Heaven.
But he cried 'This is Hades –
There are no naughty ladies,
And the pubs are all shut by eleven',.

An organic young gardener from Sale
Collected his slugs in a pail.
'I hate pesticides,
It's immoral', he cried,
Before drowning the buggers in ale.

A couple of boozers from Swaffham
Would seek out real ales and then quaff 'em.
The problem that made
For the licensees' trade
Was in getting the cost of 'em off 'em.

I know a young chap who's much wiser
After failing the old breathalyser.
At the end of the year
He'll be giving up beer
In favour of fruit juice and Tizer.

Letter to the Editor

Selwyn Brown is wrong to refer to the pub "above the Castle Mona" as the Victoria. It was called the Steam Plough until it closed down in the early 1980s. It was on Victoria Street, hence Selwyn's confusion. Has there ever been another pub of this name?



The un-named canal side pub was the Bird in the Hand at Kent Green. I recall the poor old landlady staggering up from the cellar with a large jug of Worthington Bitter. All offers of help were politely refused!

When in Newcastle, I frequently visit the Old Brown Jug, which sells a fine choice of well-kept beers, albeit expensive with the top price



at £3.40 a pint last Easter. Good to see that they advertise extensively in Potters Bar.

Stephen D'Arcy
Brussels, Belgium

The Editor responds:

Thanks for taking the time to point out Selwyn's mistake- you are, of course, correct. I am far too young to remember the pub myself, but should have realised the mistake as I know a bit about the history of Newcastle's pubs. The Steam Plough was rumoured to be one of the smallest pubs in England, merely consisting of a bar in the landlady's front room; maybe Mervyn Edwards could shed light on the derivation of the name; I learnt the origins of the naming of The Castle Mona from his Great Pubs Around Stoke-on-Trent.

Kind regards
Martin



Potteries Pub Preservation Group

Aim: to investigate, protect and promote public houses of special character and historic interest in the Potteries and Borough of Newcastle

COMMUNITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2011



The Wellington in Birmingham is a utopia for Real Ale drinkers— not just because of the exceptional range of beers, but because of its visible price list.

Did I say visible? It isn't far off the size of an airport departure board and it's a real eye-catcher even if you're a specky four-eyes such as my good self. It is an illuminated, back-lit board, announcing all the available beers, their price and their ABV.

How I could have done with such a list in the Swan with Two Necks in Stockport recently, when I paid a whopping £9.40 for two pints of Old Tom.

Sure, it is a favourite beer of mine, with a muscle-ripppling ABV of 8.5%, but I would have given it a miss had there been any indication that I would be paying £4.70 a pint for it.

The need for all pubs to display a VPL— surely an act of courtesy as well as a legal requirement that is flouted by most pubs— leads me nicely on to the subject of the PPPG Community Pub of the Year for 2011.

The annual presentation of the hallowed Titanic Trophy represents that time of the year when PPPG manages to breathe new life into the hackneyed expression, "You can't please everybody."

We normally do our best, by presenting runners-up

certificates to the second and third-placed pubs. I remember a few years ago, when the estimable Blue Bell in Kidsgrove was handed one of these. One of the regulars muttered to the landlord, "You should have won it, Dave."

This year, the Blue Bell has done exactly that— adding to its wins in 2000 and 2002 — much to the disapproval of one landlord of my acquaintance who harrumphed, "The Blue Bell? Community pub? Huh!"

This year, 25 pubs were short-listed for the trophy, and even finishing in the top three must be seen as a fine endorsement of a pub's qualities.

Our 1-2-3 saw the Blue Bell beating two Titanic pubs, the Bull's Head (Burslem) and the White Star (Stoke) by a short head.

If you want to know how to run a pub, then you could do far worse than use the Hardingswood hostelry as a template. Dave and Kay Washbrook are extremely polite, and I have rarely heard swearing in a pub that truly demands respect. I often put a collar and tie on to go to the Blue Bell, as it's a privilege to drink there. You could visit certain other pubs attired in a boiler suit and look over-dressed.

The Titanic brewery deserves credit for creating what I call "talking pubs", and the Bull's Head and the White Star are fine examples of watering-holes where it is possible to chew the fat or to banter to your heart's content without the distraction of noisy creature comforts.

Our 1-2-3 has something else in common, too. Each of them boasts a chalkboard detailing its beer prices. The sooner they are adopted by all pubs, the better it will be for the beleaguered pub-goer!

by Mervyn Edwards

Announcing The 31st Stoke Beer & Cider Festival!



We return to Fenton Manor Sports Complex for a second time after last year's successful first appearance. The 2010 Event proved to be such a thoroughly enjoyable experience that it was a simple decision to return and we hope you feel the same.

The times for this year's Stoke Beer Festival have also been confirmed:

Thursday 2pm to 5pm to trade and paying customers,

Thursday evening 6pm to 11pm as the quiet night,

Friday afternoon 11am to 4pm & evening 6pm to 11pm,

Saturday 11am until 11pm with the doors closed but bar still open between 4pm and 6pm.

Keep an eye on the Festival website for further details

<http://camrapotteries.co.uk/StokeBeerFestival11/Home.html>

You can also join us on Twitter and Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/StokeBeerCiderFestival2011>

And a message from the organiser:



Preparations are well under way for the 31st Stoke Beer and Cider Festival Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th October. By the time most people read this our official launch at The Glebe in Stoke will have taken place and advanced tickets will be on sale both from Fenton Manor Sports Complex and at local pubs (check the website for details)

We are introducing a "fast track" entrance fee on Friday and Saturday nights: customers pay £10 on entry or for an advanced ticket. This will get you a souvenir glass (subject to availability) a programme and on Friday £4 and Saturday £5 worth of beer tokens. The canny amongst you will see that this is a £1 increase in the admission charge on the Friday. This is due to the rising costs of putting on this event: we hope you agree this is still excellent value for money.

If you are a CAMRA member, then on production of a valid membership card, you will also receive 2 half pint vouchers as will any one who joins CAMRA during the festival.

Hopefully Stoke City will win their home game against Fulham and supporters will return happy to the festival.

We have a wonderful glass design this year courtesy of the design competition winner Liana Jackson: a big thank you from us all.

Cloakroom facilities will be available at the venue for a nominal fee (proceeds to charity)

CAMRA's current campaign is "A campaign of two halves" and when it comes to fun the people of The Potteries really know how to Party! So come and join us in October.

The "Beer Fairies" will be out in force to serve you at the Saturday lunch session: if you've got a pair of wings and a wand please join us!!!! And remember: there is a dress up theme of Gangsters and Molls on the Friday night.

Lyn Sharpe Festival Organiser aka "*Summer Ale Fairy*"

THE STOKE BEER FAIRIES

May 2011 saw the debut of the 'Stoke Beer Fairies' with their first engagement at the Congress beer festival in Longton. The idea came about initially as the fancy dress theme for the Saturday evening session of the 31st Stoke Beer Festival, until one very clever CAMRA member who shall remain nameless, but is actually called Lyn Sharpe, decided that this could be a Potteries CAMRA trademark to promote the Stoke Beer Festival as well as show the different types of real ale available. It also highlights the fun side of CAMRA. So the Beer Fairies were born. There are approximately 30 beer fairies including Summer, Stout, Christmas, Strawberry and Fruit ales to name a few. But also look out for our Bitter, Ginger and Copper Ale fairies and the La Chouffe gnome who all seem to steal the limelight. The fairies will be making appearances at various locations during the year and will be fluttering around at the Stoke Beer & Cider Festival in October. Follow us on Facebook or at twitter.com/BeerFairies.

Christmas Ale Fairy



CASK ALE WEEK 1st - 9th OCTOBER 2011: THE STOKE BEER FAIRIES ON TOUR!

During the run up to the 31st Stoke Beer Festival, The Fairies will be out in full force promoting the festival, selling advance tickets and generally fluttering their wings at everyone in the vague proximity. The following timetable tells you where they will be:

Sat 24th Sept: Nantwich Beer Festival. The Fairies have kindly laid on a bus to get there, which will set off from The Coachmakers Arms, Lichfield Street, Hanley, ST1 3EA at approximately 11.30am. Anyone interested in reserving a place on the coach should contact Lyn Sharpe on 07881 901306. **Price £10 a head.**

Sat 1st October: Beer Festival Promotional Tour of Cheadle and Leek. Another bus tour, again setting off from The Coachmakers Arms, Lichfield Street, Hanley, ST1 3EA at approximately 11.30am. Anyone interested in reserving a place on the coach should contact Martin Perry on 07763 379584. **Price £10 a head.** Visiting Cheadle for lunch, Leek later on and possibly some other pubs in between.

Wed 5th October: Beer Festival Promotional Tour of Burslem.
Meet in The Post Office Vaults (Market Place, ST6 3AA) at 7.30pm.

Fri 7th October: Beer Festival Promotional Tour of Stoke.
Meet in The Sutherland Arms (London Road, ST4 5RW) at 7.15pm

Sat 8th October: Beer Festival Promotional Tour of Newcastle.
Meet in The Arnold Machin (Ironmarket, ST5 1PB) at 6.30pm

If you wish to join us en route on any of the above day, please phone Lyn to find out where we are (or Martin in the case of the Moorlands Trip); or log on to <http://www.camrapotteries.co.uk/> for the full itinerary. We will also be in The Clough Hall in Kidsgrove on Monday 3rd for the Pub of the Month presentation, and The Holy Inadequate in Etruria on Thursday 6th, to provide other opportunities to buy your beer festival tickets.

BEER FESTIVAL BUS TIMETABLES

There will again be a special Beer Festival Bus to shuttle everyone to and from Fenton Manor Sports Complex; the fare will be a mere £1 for each journey

Departure times to Beer Festival from:

Hanley Bus Stn Stand no. 31.

1145 1245 1345 1445 1745 1845 1945 2045

Stoke Station Stop F (Hanley direction bus stop for 23/25 etc.)

1205 1305 1405 1505 1805 1905 2005 2105

Stoke Minster Stop X.

1210 1310 1410 1510 1810 1910 2010 2110

Departure times from Beer Festival to:

Hanley Bus Station Stand no. 31.

1230 1330 1430 1530 1830 1930 2030 2230 2330

Stoke Minster via Stoke Station

1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300

BEER FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 14th lunchtime: Hayley Strangelove (guitar/ vocals)

Friday 14th evening: Slide Boy Roy (blues band)

Saturday 15th lunchtime: Audley Brass Band (brass band)

Saturday 15th evening: White Light (rock covers)



BEER FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

The Saturday afternoon session of the beer festival will again see us presenting our annual Pub of the Year award at approximately 1pm. We will also be presenting awards for the Best Milds of The Mild Trail 2011, and the inaugural presentation of The Barry Underwood Memorial Award, to be presented to the person, organisation or pub that we feel has done most for real ale promotion in the local area. This award is a public vote, and we are accepting nominations up to the end of September; send your nominations to The Editor (contact details on Page 33).

Joules Brewery

The original Joules' Brewery brewed its final pint in the early 1970's when the company was acquired by Bass Charrington; when the brewery was demolished in 1974, the famous brand seemed to have been consigned to the dusty cellars of history. Then, in 2001, a pub was bought from Enterprise Inns that was once a Joules pub, and, as luck would have it, a source of spring water was discovered underneath the pub.



This serendipitous find was the birth of a monumental idea, to resurrect the long dormant Joules brand; the rights were sought and bought from Molson Coors, a fleet of pubs was acquired and thoroughly refurbished, the original Pale Ale was brewed and two more beers added, and the whole is a modern day brewing success story.

The Joules Brewery now lies behind the Red Lion on Great Hales Street in Market Drayton, which serves as its brewery tap; on Sunday, 19th June, amid the glorious sunshine, a small army of CAMRA members were lucky enough to be invited on a tour around the brewery itself. In due course, the wonderful red

double decker bus arrived to take us all on to Market Drayton. Upon arrival, we armed ourselves with pints of Pale Ale, Slumbering Monk and Blonde from the pub itself, before proceeding into the brewery to partake of the self same beers served directly from the barrel. A small introduction was given, whilst the Brewery Cat did its level best to divert everyone's attention by posing atop the yellow dustbins.



There followed the brewery tour itself, and we soon discovered the true meaning of higher learning, as flights of metal stairs were climbed in order to reach the top of this tower brewery, all the time gaining more and more knowledge of the history of the brewery and discovering about the brewing process itself. Following this, more liquid refreshment was called for and we ended the day in The Mouse Room, where we were invited to pour our own pint and indulge ourselves with the delicious pork



pies and chilli cheese. Finally, reluctantly, at around 6 o'clock, we trudged despondently back onto the resplendent bus to be taken back

from whence we came.

A huge Thank You is due to all at Joules Brewery for organising this wonderful day! If you were one of the unfortunate souls who could not get a place on the bus, then never fear, as there are regular trips to the brewery; just keep an eye out in the Joules pubs themselves, either The Glebe in Stoke or The Cock inn in Leek.

Martin Perry



A Trip to Belgium Part 1

by Martin Ridge

Although there is never a bad time for the beer lover to visit Belgium, a long weekend in March is particularly rewarding. This offers the opportunity of attending two excellent beer festivals: The Alvinne Craft Beer Festival (ACBF) organised by the Alvinne Brewery and this year held on the 4th and 5th March near Kortrijk <http://alvinne.wordpress.com/acbf/> and the more established annual Zythos Beer Festival (ZBF) held in St Niklaas on the 5th and 6th March <http://www.zbf.be/UK/index.htm> The festivals complement each other perfectly – ACBF acting as a festival of international craft brewing while ZBF (the Belgium equivalent of CAMRA) effectively functions as Belgium's national beer festival promoting Belgian breweries.

I travelled out on Thursday 3rd March taking the 17.04 Eurostar from St Pancras International, arriving slightly delayed at Brussels Midi Station at 20.30 local time. A straight forward connection from the same station meant that by 22.00 I was checking into my accommodation, the Ibis Hotel, Doorniksestraat, Kortrijk <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/home/index.shtml>

Keen to start appreciating the superb beers that Belgium offers, I visited Gains Bar <http://gainsbar.org/> located on Vlasmartk and a short 5 minute walk from the Ibis Hotel. The very respectable beer selection on offer was obvious from the presence of familiar faces from previous Belgian beer festivals. During the evening we enjoyed several excellent beers. These were Alvinne Brewery's Freaky beer, a bitter, citrus, golden session beer at only 3.8%, the classic Trappist Brewery Orval at 6.2%, Brewery De Ranke's Hop Harvest IPA style beer at 8% and Brewery Brouwkot's dark, moderately spiced Luxuria at 8.8%.

The following morning we made our way to the Friday session of the ACBF. Although held at the Kasteelhoeve near Avelgem, approximately 16km from Kortrijk, getting to the festival was no problem as we had pre booked seats on the brewery shuttle

coach at 12 Euros return and we arrived half an hour after leaving Kortrijk.



The entrance fee of 25 Euros might seem steep for a beer festival but this included a tasting glass, 10 drink tokens and reflected the logistical expense of organising a craft beer festival of international breweries. A combined total of 18 breweries were in attendance from Italy, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, The United States, England and Belgium, one of the three Belgium breweries being Alvinne – the event organisers. To give an indication of the quality of the brewers in attendance the UK representative was Thornbridge from Derbyshire and I have to confess that despite a choice of 120 beers my first was Thornbridge's Italia pilsner at 4.7%.

Despite many beers being of a high gravity the use of tasting glasses (approximately 10cl measures) meant we were able to sample a variety of beer styles over the course of the afternoon, these included: Deutcher Porter 8% by Freigeist Bierkultur (Germany), a slightly sour porter; Back to Basics West Coast Imperial India Pale Ale 9% by Revelation Cat (Italy); Triple IPA 10% by Emelisse (Netherlands) and Pikkulintu Tiple IPA 12% by Grassroots Brewing (Denmark) which was, despite the high alcohol content, an extremely well

balanced beer with many attendees (myself included) purchasing a few bottles to take home from the beer festival shop.

Over the course of the afternoon we did not encounter one poor beer and the ACBF certainly presented an opportunity to enjoy a range of unusual international beers that would normally be quite difficult to encounter.

That evening we returned to Kortrijk and visited Eirekedeire, a bar located on Sint Jansstraat and listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide to Belgium by Tim Webb. A traditional, friendly locals bar with a respectable beer list, I chose a Belgian stalwart - Hercule Stout 9% by Ellezelloise brewery, quite a light bodied stout relative to those encountered earlier in the day. We then concluded the evening by re-visiting the superb Gains Bar selecting Alvinne brewery's Morpheus Triple, an enjoyable, complex, slightly spicy, orange coloured beer at 8.7%.

The next day we could have re-visited the ACBF for the Saturday session but we decided we'd done it sufficient justice and made our way to St Niklaas to attend day 1 of ZBF beer festival. This opened at 12.00 noon Saturday 5th March.

We departed Kortrijk on a direct train at 11.40am and arrived at St Niklaas station a little under 1 hour later. It was then a short 5 minute walk to the festival venue – a large hall called the "Stadsfeestzaal".



Admission was free and we purchased a tasting glass (15cl), some beer tokens at 1.2 euro each and a festival programme which included descriptions of all the beers. Not being conversant in Dutch

posed no problems as owing to the international popularity of the festival, the programme was also available in English. Despite the festival being admission free we were also given two free beer tokens on production of our CAMRA membership cards!!

A total of 56 breweries were in attendance with each running their own stand and offering in total well over 250 beers. This meant a good representation of all the diverse beer styles that makes Belgium such a rewarding destination for the beer lover. Despite the large venue the organisers said they had to turn away a further 30 breweries.

We sampled a range of beers over the course of the afternoon, all a token each irrespective of gravity, including: La Trouffette Belle d'ete 6% by Bastogne Brewery, a blonde light bodied, slightly citrus beer; Noblesse Extra-Ordinaire 7% by brewery De Dochter van de Korenaar, a golden / orange, quite bitter beer. Of Love and Regret 6.2% by brewery t'Hofbrouwerijke, a golden, spicy beer with moderate bitterness; and Verse Vis by brewery De Dolle, one of my favourite Belgian breweries located in Esen near Diksmuide. I'd certainly recommend their entertaining Sunday afternoon tours in English <http://www.dedollebrouwers.be/en/bezoek.htm> The unconventional approach of De Dolle was certainly confirmed by this beer which was a little sour for my tastes and those of my companions and we were grateful for the festivals use of 15cl measures!. As the day progressed the festival became very crowded and my final beer of the afternoon was De Dolle's superb full bodied Extra Export Stout at 9%.



Part 2 will appear in a future edition of Potters Bar and if this has wetted your appetite for Belgian ale, head over to the Belgian bar at The 31st Beer Festival!

Wandering the Countryside

with Lorna Denny



My wanderings this time have turned into a ramble—literally! June saw the branch's annual CAMRAmble and although dark clouds threatened rain early on, it stayed clear for the day much to everybody's delight. So ten CAMRA members armed with packed lunches and waterproof coats set off from the **Arnold Machin** (Ironmarket, ST5 1PB) in Newcastle along the old railway tracks with the final destination of Bignall End. It was interesting to hear tales from the people who knew the area's history and even a ghost story about the railway line added to the atmosphere. The first beer stop was the

Bush (High Street, ST5 6JZ), Silverdale, where everybody was happy for a pint and a sit down.



Next we walked through the beautiful countryside of Alsagers Bank. It was good to hear the sounds of nature such as 'watch the cow muck!' and 'That's not a bull is it?' Eventually we came to the top of the fields and arrived at the **Gresley Arms** (High Street, ST7 8BQ). Here I must say a massive 'Thank you' to Carl and Sarah who very generously supplied us with chip butties. We all enjoyed the welcome break whilst drinking from the excellent selection of beer and enjoying the beautiful scenery. Eventually we waved goodbye to the Gresley and moved on to the **Railway** (High Street, ST7 8AG) at Halmerend, via a lovely walk through a nature

reserve. By this time we were getting to know each other better (Really?-Ed) and there was a lot of good humoured banter between us all. We were made very welcome at the Railway and I am sure that the pints did not touch the sides as the weather started to warm up. Back onto the old railway track and with the final destination near, we all set off again (however there was a few choice words from the females of the group when we saw the bank we had to climb to get back onto the road!) But it was all worth it when we had a beautiful pint of Oatmeal stout at the **Bignall End Cricket Club** (Boon Hill, ST7 8LA) whilst a game of cricket was being played in the background. Also the club was getting ready for their annual beer festival the following weekend. From there it went completely downhill, by which I mean that there was a hill but in the good direction!

The Plough (ST7 8PS) and the **Swan** (Chapel Street, ST7 8QD) were ideal places for us weary wanderers to relax and quench our thirst with more beer. A good day was had by everybody, a nice walk and a good way to get to know other CAMRA members. If you enjoy walking, or just fancy coming along for the beer and fresh air, why not join us on the next one. Everybody goes at their own pace, besides there are plenty of places to catch up with each other – and of course have a pint.



THE FOURTH ANNUAL POTTERIES TREASURE HUNT



On Sunday, 15th May, a motley group of CAMRA members met in The White Star in Stoke in preparation for spending the afternoon running around the streets and diving into the surrounding pubs, all in the vain hope of answering this year's Fiendishly Hard Treasure Hunt Questions. The format stayed the same as with previous years, when the Hunt was held in Burslem; answers to the questions were to be found in the pubs themselves or any of the locations in between. In the event, two teams scored the maximum number of points and walked off with the top prizes, and our esteemed Chairman declared the day a roaring success, despite the fact that he finished in bottom place. Many thanks to Pamela of The White Star for donating the prizes and providing the afternoon's buffet; she is shown collecting a cheque for £47

for the charity Animal Lifeline, presented by Treasure Hunt Organiser Steve Mollatt.

First Place: Team Paton, who won a case of Titanic White Star

Second Place: Team Buddin, who won Sunday lunch for two at the White Star

Third Place: Team Hancock, who won a case of Titanic Iceberg

The questions are duplicated below should you wish to attempt them yourselves. The pubs involved were:

1. Glebe, Glebe Street, ST4 1HG, 2. O'Leary's Bar, London Road, ST4 5AB, 3. Staff of Life, Hill Street, ST4 1NL, 4. Sutherland Arms, London Road, ST4 5RW, 5. Wheatsheaf, Church Street, ST4 1BU, 6. White Star, Kingsway, ST4 1JB

Location Questions

- 01 What did Liz Lemon "give" in 2005?
- 02 Who designed the best selling Botanic Garden Pattern?
- 03 Be on your mettle but who made Bonio and mixed ovals?
- 04 What building was "added" in 1911?
- 05 Who laid the foundation stone of this building on 10th December 1877?
- 06 Who was born in 1733?
- 07 Who died on February 8th 1885?
- 08 When did the first market in Stoke date from?
- 09 Finished in 1830, what took 4 years to build?
- 10 Who "fell" on 23rd November 1986?

Pub Questions

- 11 What was the late Ron Greatbatch's Nickname?
- 12 Who wrote "The Breadwinner"?
- 13 Drawn by W. Rainey and on the Radar, that's the key, but what's the title?
- 14 Heads up! "Eagles Rock" met his end when?
- 15 There is smoke without fire but what's the name of the road sign on the wall?
- 16 Which newspaper published on 16/04/1912 carried the headline "ALL DROWNED BUT 868"?
- 17 Which company has the registration number 6492665?
- 18 What stayed in use for 319 years?
- 19 Get the picture, and complete the parked car registration number "TO ----"?
- 20 What 6 cylinder device has an "Attemperator" fitted?

THE 5TH NORTH STAFFS MILD TRAIL

A big thank you to all the pubs that took part in this year's mild trail, and also to all the people who entered into the spirit of the enterprise and drunk as much mild as possible. We had 16 entries in total, 5 of which completed the full 40 pubs; prizes will be sent out shortly to all the winners.

If you know a pub that regularly stocks a mild that was not on the trail, or, indeed, if you are such a pub, please get in touch so it can be included in the 2012 trail.

Neil Barratt

WANTED!

Caroline at The Wheatsheaf in Stoke would like a bar skittle table to use in order to raise money for charity. If you know of one going spare, please contact the pub on 01782 747462



Top Pub: Chantelle and Lisa receive the June Pub of the Month for the Top Pub, Brown Edge.



New Inn: Dianne receives the July Pub of the Month for The New Inn, Flash.



Swan: Linda and Paul receive the August Pub of the Month for The Swan, Bignall End. Ken Lee presenting.



Other two: Keiron, Conor, Kirsty and Emily pose at The Huntsman Beer Festival in Cheadle



News from the Heart of Staffordshire

HEART OF STAFFORDSHIRE CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2011: The Swan at Whiston.

The pub was purchased by the late Jim Davies over 11 years ago. It has been transformed from a closed rural pub into a thriving hostelry. The pub sells up to 8 beers of excellence, with Holden's Mild & Bitter as regulars. Jim decided to introduce real cider into the pub; it now sells a rotating selection of 10. It also has acquired a great reputation for fine food in the separate restaurant area. Much of the food is sourced locally, including eggs, pork and chickens living on site.

We were saddened by the death of Jim Davies; but we are delighted that the pub ownership is being maintained by his parents, Helen and Mick. The long term barman, Adam, remains at the helm. The pub is being run 'in trust' for Jim's son & daughter, Hanna (12) and Jack (9); it looks likely that this pub should be there for a long time yet!

The presentation was made at a family fun day on Saturday 6th August.

HEART OF STAFFORDSHIRE CAMRA CLUB OF THE YEAR 2011: Stafford Cricket & Hockey Club

We are pleased to announce that Stafford Cricket & Hockey Club, based in the Brian Westhead Pavillion at Riverway, Stafford, ST16 3WB was voted Heart of Staffordshire Club of the Year 2011. The presentation took place on Saturday 16th July, and was repeated at The Fourth Stafford Beer Festival on Thursday 28th July. The photograph shows Dave Thurgaland, organiser of the club's highly successful beer festivals, receiving the trophy from CAMRA Heart of Staffordshire Chairman, Neil Butler.

The Club has two real ales from Thwaites Brewery; five senior men's cricket teams, and five senior men's hockey teams. There are also lots of opportunities for youngsters to learn the games. The Clubhouse is shared with St. Leonard's Rugby Club, Riverway Football Club, and Stafford Ladies Hockey Club, through associate memberships.

We feel it to be a worthy winner of this year's award; so why not watch a game of cricket followed by a pint of their excellent beer!

Mike Harker

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**You can now find us on Facebook
and Twitter or log on to the website at
www.camrapotteries.co.uk**

This newsletter is published by the Potteries Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. However, the views or opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor, local branch of CAMRA or CAMRA Ltd.

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Potters Bar design by Art of Matelot
artofmatelot@live.com

CONSUMER INFORMATION

If you have any complaints over matters such as short measures, etc, and have no satisfaction from the pub in question, etc address them to your local consumer protection department.

City of Stoke-on-Trent

PO Box 2452, Hanley Town Hall, Albion Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1XP
Tel: 01782 232065
Fax: 01782 236496
Email www.stoke.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council

20 Sidmouth Avenue, The Brampton, Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Tel: (01782 297000)
Fax: (01782 297010)
14 Martin Street, Stafford
Tel: (01785) 277888
Fax: (01785) 259760
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trading

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus Operators

First Bus 08708 500868
Arriva Midlands 0116 264 0400
D&G Bus 01782 332337
Bakerbus 01782 522101

Rail Operators

Virgin Trains
www.virgintrains.co.uk

East Midland Trains
www.eastmidlandstains.co.uk

London Midland Trains
www.londonmidland.com

National rail enquiries
08457 48 49 50
www.nationalrail.co.uk

September

Thurs 1st

Branch Meeting, KPA Bar, Horwood Hall, Keele University, ST5 5BG, 8pm

Sat 3rd

Pub of the Month Presentation, Crown, Den Lane, Wrinehill, CW3 9BT, 1pm

Tues 13th

Stoke Beer Festival Meeting, The White Star, Kingsway, Stoke, ST4 1JB, 8pm

**** CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY ****

Fri 23rd

Social, Bulls Head, St John's Square, Burslem, ST6 3AJ, 7pm onwards

Sat 24th

Trip to Nantwich Beer Festival. Coach from Coachmakers Arms, Lichfield Street, Hanley, ST1 3EA, £10 a head, meet at 11am (pub will be open) Contact Lyn Sharpe on 07881 901306 to book a place OR meet Hanley Bus Station at 10am to use the normal service bus.

Fri 30th

Social, The Holy Inadequate, Etruria Old Road, Etruria, ST1 5PE. 6pm onwards.

October

CASK ALE WEEK EVENTS

Sat 1st: Beer Festival Publicity Tour of Leek and Cheadle by Minibus. Coach from Coachmakers Arms, Lichfield Street, Hanley, ST1 3EA, £10 a head, meet at 11am (pub will be open) Contact Martin Perry on 07763 379584 to book a place.

Mon 3rd: Pub of the Month Presentation, Clough Hall, Clough Hall Road, ST7 1AN, 9pm

Tues 4th: Stoke Beer Festival Meeting, The White Star, Kingsway, Stoke, ST4 1JB, 8pm

***** CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY *****

Wed 5th: Beer Festival Publicity Tour of Burslem Meet in The Post Office Vaults (Market Place, ST6 3AA) at 7.30pm.

Thurs 6th: Branch Meeting, Holy Inadequate, Etruria Old Road, ST1 5PE, 8pm

Fri 7th: Beer Festival Publicity Tour of Stoke. Meet in The Sutherland Arms (London Road, ST4 5RW) at 7.15pm

Sat 8th: Beer Festival Publicity Tour of Newcastle. Meet in The Arnold Machin (Ironmarket, ST5 1PB) at 6.30pm

Thurs 13th-Sat 15th: 31st Stoke Beer Festival, Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Road, Fenton, ST4 2RR

Fri 21st: Social, The Blue Bell, Hardingswood, Kidsgrove, ST7 1EG, 7.30pm onwards

Sat 22nd: Pub Crawl around Leek. Meet Hanley Bus Station at 2pm or in Leek itself. Phone Neil on 07722 042184 to discover our location!

Sat 29th: Trip to Birmingham Beer Festival. Meet 9.30am at Stoke Railway Station.

November

Tues 1st

Pub of the Month Presentation, Catchems Corner, Uttoxeter Road, ST3 6HH, 8pm

Fri 4th

Social, Wheatsheaf Stores, Keelings Road, Northwood, ST1 6PA. 7.30pm onwards

Thurs 3rd

Branch Meeting, Coachmakers Arms, Lichfield Street, Hanley, ST1 3EA, 8pm

Fri 25th

Social, The Wheatsheaf, Church Street, Stoke, ST4 1BU. 7pm onwards

DON'T FORGET

Every Friday evening that is not mentioned above, we will be in The Glebe, Glebe Street, Stoke, ST4 1HG from 8pm for an informal social. Come and join us!