

# POTTERS BAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE POTTERIES BRANCH  
OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

No.146

Summer 2011



## Young Members Celebrate as Titanic Wins at Liverpool Beer Festival

FREE

## LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS

### JUNE

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> –  
Sun 12<sup>th</sup>**

Duke William,  
St Johns Square,  
Burslem, ST6  
3AJ

**Opens: 12 noon**  
(£1 Charity  
Entrance Fee)

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> –  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> –  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup>**

Vale Park  
Music &  
Beer Festival,  
Hamil Road,  
Burslem, ST6  
1AW

**Opens: 1.30pm**

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> –  
Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Gladstone  
Pottery Museum,  
Uttoxeter Road,  
Linton, ST3  
1PQ

**Opens: 7pm**  
(£5 entrance incl.  
souvenir glass)

### JULY

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Piccadilly  
Circus III; 50  
beers and 12  
ciders outside  
The Unicorn Inn,  
Hanley, ST1 1EG

**Starts: 11am**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> –  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

Swan Inn,  
Stafford Street,  
Stone, ST15 8QW

**Opens: 11am**  
(Sundays 12noon)

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup>**

Churnet Valley  
Rail Ale Trail,  
including extra  
beers at Fox &  
Goose (Foxt),  
Boat Inn  
(Cheddleton) &  
Black Lion  
(Consall Forge)

**Starts: Fri**  
7.30pm **Sat & Sun**  
10.30am **Phone**  
01538 750 755

or visit  
[www.churnet-valley-railway.co.uk](http://www.churnet-valley-railway.co.uk)  
for further  
information.

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> –  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup>**

Stafford Beer  
Festival, Blessed  
William Howard  
School, Rowley  
Avenue, Stafford,  
ST17 9AB

**Opens:**  
Thurs 6pm  
Fri 11.30am-  
3.30pm & 6pm  
Sat 12noon

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> –  
Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

Kidsgrove  
Athletic  
Football Club,  
Hollinwood  
Close,  
Kidsgrove, ST7  
1DH

**Opens:**  
Fri 7pm **Sat &  
Sun 12noon**

### AUGUST

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> –  
Mon 29<sup>th</sup>**

Gresley Arms,  
High Street,  
Alsagers Bank,  
ST7 8BQ

## Welcome to the Summer POTTERS BAR!

Summer is upon us once more, which means that the gloriously golden weather that we experienced in Spring will have begun to retreat, the clouds will have begun to scowl ominously overhead and the storms will have begun to gather; yet never fear! As usual, we have a packed programme of events to help negate the summer time blues and banish all the dread of getting soaked to the skin during the annual CAMRAmble.

First of all, it is perhaps appropriate to introduce our cover star for this issue, Miss Zoe Manning; although unfamiliar in the local area, Zoe is somewhat of a star in her native Liverpool, having worked at such illustrious pubs as The Ship and Mitre & The Dispensary, not to mention having graced the cover of the local CAMRA magazine countless times. It is with thanks to one of our roving reporters that she brightens our humble offering, and her purpose is two-fold.

Firstly, our local brewery Titanic have scooped yet another award at The Liverpool Beer Festival; you can read all about this, and other brewery developments, deep within these very pages. The other reason is an area that is somewhat unexplored territory for the Potteries Branch of CAMRA, that of Young Members. CAMRA defines a "Young Member" as anyone of the age thirty or below; and, contrary to local scuttlebutt, our local branch does contain the odd member who does not possess a long, fluffy beard and a cobwebbed bus pass.

Jo Keeley from Wolverhampton, the Young Members officer for the West Midlands region, introduces the role of younger people within CAMRA and tries to dispel that which has unwittingly been reinforced by the last paragraph; this is followed by Gareth Mawby, our Webmaster, talking about what it means to be within the campaign and under the age of 75. So read their sage words, hark them well and follow unto your destiny.

We also have news of the upcoming Stoke Beer Festival, complete with a first for the local branch, a competition to design the logo for the glasses (the organiser of which is also under the benighted age of 30- like The A Team before us, we love it when a plan comes together!) So get your thinking cap out of wardrobe, your crayons from the biscuit tin and start doodling! Later on, our new festival organiser, Lyn Sharpe, introduces herself and gets you all in the correct frame of mind for much active volunteering and a bit of drinking and carousing on the side.

So ignore the gorgeous summer weather pouring down outside and instead enjoy a well earned pint amongst all the gorgeous under 30 CAMRA members that are lurking out there, awaiting the time that you go and buy them a pint.

**Martin Perry, Potters Bar Editor**

Many thanks to all the contributors:

Neil Barratt, Corin Brown, Selwyn Brown, Lorna Denny, Mervyn Edwards, Mike Harker, Bill Johnson, Jo Keeley, Ken Lee, Zoe Manning, Gareth Mawby, Ceri Roberts, Lyn Sharpe  
(Four of these are Young Members, do you know which they are?)

ULTIMATE DEADLINE POTTERS BAR 147: FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011



Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month June 2011

## THE TOP PUB, BROWN EDGE

The Potteries CAMRA top pub for June 2011 is The Top Pub at Hill Top, Brown Edge, ST6 8TX, lying about three quarters of a mile from the village, on a hill, and set on the edge of the Staffordshire Moorlands. The pub was built in 1840 and was known as The Rose and Crown until it re-opened under its new guise in summer 2010, comprising of one spacious, single room. Pub Historians can still see it under its old name by going onto Google Maps.

Now run by Matt and “arry”, there is no TV or juke box, just good conversation and you will be assured of a warm welcome. A pleasant beer garden is outside, perfect for the warmer weather.

Good food is served all week from 12 noon until 8.30pm, and this is a good area for walking, with Knypersley Pool lying just down the road. Five real ales are served, with the three regular beers coming from Titanic Brewery of Burslem and the two guest ales hailing from micro breweries up and down the country.

Well-behaved dogs are very; indeed, you can meet the two lively pub dogs, Beezer and Frazer within the very walls of the pub.

The Pub of the Month presentation will take place at 4pm on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June; a bus runs every half hour from Hanley bus station, to Brown Edge, the 8B departing on the hour and dropping off by the school, from which it is a fifteen minute walk up the bank and around the corner, or the 8B leaving on the half hour, dropping off by the Holly Bush pub, from which it is a ten minute walk up the bank. So why not join us and experience this wonderful pub?



Neil Barratt



Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month July 2011

## THE NEW INN, FLASH

The New Inn at Flash, seven miles beyond Leek on the A53 to Buxton, is not too remote to reach.

The No. 118 bus from Hanley to Buxton stops at the bottom of the lane leading up to the village.

Flash's first claim to fame is that it is the highest village in England, which makes the New Inn the highest village pub in England at an altitude of 1518 feet. The second claim to fame is that it is the origin of the term flash or flashy. The Concise Oxford English Dictionary defines it as, "archaic of, or relating to, the language of criminals or prostitutes", which fits in well with local history, as Flash was the centre of a flourishing counterfeiting industry in days gone by. The pub sign illustrates this with a portrait of an eighteenth century counterfeiter.

The pub, a genuine free house, was well refurbished a few years ago, and features flagged floors throughout, as befits a pub in a farming and walking area. The public bar usually has racing on TV (especially on Saturdays), and sells beers from Macclesfield's Storm brewery. There are two pumps, but usually only Bosley Cloud is on, with Silk of Amnesia making an occasional appearance. There is a pool table at one end of the small lounge (the pool team plays in the Flagg Moor Pool League), and the other end opens out onto an outside terrace with lovely moorland views.

The presentation will be made on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 3.30pm.



Opening hours: Mon-Thu 1800-0100; Fri-Sun 1200-0100 Tel. 01298-22941

Ken Lee



## Potteries CAMRA Branch Pub Of The Month August 2011

### THE SWAN, BIGNALL END

The Swan at Bignall End is no stranger to readers of Potters Bar, but, after Carl and Sarah Smith left some time ago, standards fell. It is good to report that in October last year new licensees took over, and the Swan (the Duck to you) is back to its old self. Paul and Linda Shaw ran the Audley WMC for three years, but had only one real ale on, and really wanted to spread their wings. They've chosen the right place. In the public bar you are faced with a line of ten pumps, seven for beer and three for cider and perry. The three regular beers are: Bass, Oakham Inferno, and Dartmoor Legend. The last one is new to me, but Paul says it is nearly driving Bass into second place with his customers. There are always four guest



beers on, selected from among medium-strength bitters, a mild, a stout or porter, light beers, a golden beer. Three pumps serve Weston's Scrumpy, 1st Quality and Country Perry, with Thatcher's Cheddar Valley available behind the bar.

Food is served Monday to Friday, from 5pm to 8pm, when the deal is: two people have two courses for £8.99. On Wednesday, you can "Eat for a Pound" (varies weekly – it may be curry one week, full breakfast the next, and so on). There is a purpose-built barbecue outside, which will be in use on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, when the weather encourages it.

On the games front there are two dominoes teams – one has just won the Newcastle League – playing on Monday and Thursday. Paul is looking to start a darts team. Tuesday hosts a quiz night, featuring "Deal or no Deal", and the third Friday in the month has a vocalist performer. Pub owner, Dobiere, wants the pub run as a true local, so will not be having constant music, which is music to my ears.

Presentation of the Pub of the Month trophy will be on Saturday 6th August at 1pm.

Address: 58 Chapel St, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8QD

Opening hours are: Mon-Thu 12-11; Fri, Sat 12-12; Sun 12-10.30  
Tel. 01782-720622

Ken Lee

# POTTERS BEER

## Pub & Brewery News From The Area

### Pub News

#### THE GOOD PUB NEWS

As was remarked by a certain commentator last year, Summer is Icumin', and so it is suitable that the most exciting pub news this edition is taking place in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Titanic Brewery have bought **The Roebuck** on Derby Street in Leek and are hoping to have it open by the end of June; this is a Punch sell-off, and nothing to do with Everards, although it will no doubt stock their Tiger, along with the full Titanic range and guest ales from interesting micro-breweries. Positioned directly opposite Joules' Cock Inn, this would seem the ideal location and we wish them success.

Elsewhere in town, on the eastern edge, **The Moss Rose Inn** is now re-open after a refurbishment and again selling real ale; and **The Earl Grey**, which was assumed to have ended its life as a pub, re-opens as a free house at the end of August. Just outside Leek, **The Lazy Trout** in Meerbrook has been taken over by a new, enthusiastic landlord who wasted no time in joining the LocAle scheme; so expect beers from Wincle and Peakstones Rock to surface here.

Back in the City and districts, **The Bush** in Silverdale had a double celebration earlier in the year, when it was awarded Cask Marque and gained third place in Scottish and Newcastle's Community Pub Award; so

congratulations to Christine on all her hard work. **The Britannia** in Bradwell recently had hand-pumps fitted and has converted to real ale; whilst **The Cavalier** just up the road continues it's life as a pub, and several micro-breweries have been spotted in here, such as Black Hole of Burton-on-Trent.



**The Eagle and Child** in Chesterton has also been bathed in the glow of real ale, installing two hand-pumps and serving Bass directly off the barrel, which must make it unique within the Potteries Branch Area. **The Boat and Horses** in Newcastle recently installed an extra pump and now serves two guest beers; whilst **The Boughy Arms** in Audley is making the most of the new found freedom provided by Thwaites, stocking a guest from a local micro; an excellent pint of Beartown Pandamonium on our visit.

Into the City proper now, and **The Angel** in Fenton has been saved from the rapacious hands of developers and re-opened as a pub, complete with four hand-pumps and beer in good condition; whilst up the road at the top of Fenton, **The New Penny** is serving real ale once more. Down into Stoke itself and **The London Road Sports and Social Club** has been bought and opened by Joules' Brewery of Market Drayton and is looking very smart after a refurbishment; **The West End** has re-opened and is

serving two real ales; whilst Peakstones Rock of Alton was recently spotted in **The New Commercial Inn**.

**The Sir Robert Peel** in Dresden, previously a keg-only establishment, has been brought to life by new licensees and now serves Brains SA and a guest beer; **The Travellers Rest** in Goldenhill has been similarly converted, and now stocks a decent drop of Greene King Old Speckled Hen; and **The Jolly Potters** in Hartshill did indeed re-open as a classic four-roomed pub and is now going extremely well once more.



#### THE BAD PUB NEWS

Not much bad news to report this month, but any bad news is worse than none. Odd things have been happening in Bucknall recently, with **The White Lion** turning into Owd Grandad Piggotts, selling Real Potteries Snappin' and then almost immediately closing.

**The Talisman** in Tunstall closed suddenly a few months back; whilst **The Albion** in Newcastle now lies vacant again, never really having got off the ground. **The Jolly Potters** on Crackley Bank just outside Chesterton now sits forlorn and boarded up, mere months after it was reported as serving real ale; and **The Joker** in Blurton has shut, having been sold off by Punch Taverns.

# Brewery News

## LEEK of Cheddleton

The installation of the 20 barrel brewing length and high speed brewery is now complete, meaning that contract brewing for the bottled output from other breweries can now take place in earnest. The brewery shop in Cheddleton should also be open by the time of publication, meaning that Leek beers will once again be locally available on a permanent basis. Supplying John Lewis with Cottage Delight beers as an ongoing project; and, in an exciting development, Leek will be teaming up with the Baltic Fleet on Liverpool Docks, to produce a real lager, albeit one that will be kegged.

## LYMESTONE of Stone

Have been extremely busy with March proving a record month, both in terms of sales and production, helped tremendously by the success of Gaul Stone (5.5%) in the recent Wetherspoons Beer Festival. The Brewery bees have been busy little bees, which means that Stone Brood (4.4%) will be ready for July, both on cask and in bottles. Seasonal beer Cobble Stone (4.7%) is again being brewed, using slightly different hops to last year; while Seven Stone Weakling (4.7%) has been going down very well. New beer Stone Banker (4.0%), a dark copper bitter brewed to celebrate the success of Stoke City at Wembley, will also be bottled and 10p from every pint & bottle sold will be donated to The Donna Louise Trust.

## PEAKSTONES ROCK of Alton

Peakstones have been extremely busy all the way through Spring with the brewing of the seasonal beers, especially the now ubiquitous Dimmingsdale Blonde; so much so that they are beginning to run out of space! The usual outlets all of the Moorlands are supplied, with a strong presence in the city as well; Chained Oak was spotted in The New Commercial Inn in Stoke recently, whilst the Malt N Hops in Fenton, Blue Bell in Kidsgrove and Market Tavern in Hanley continue to stock their beers.

## TITANIC of Burslem

Staged a tremendous first beer festival at The Sun in Stafford, which was a runaway success, with virtually all the beer selling out over the weekend; now looking forward to the opening of their sixth pub, The Roebuck on Derby Street in Leek, which should be up and running by the end of June. Continue to supply Morrisons nationally with their bottled

product, with Iceberg making a welcome appearance on the shelves. Continue to help set up local beer festivals, such as The Freebird in Newcastle at the end of April, and Port Vale Park at the end of June.

## BULLS HEAD EVENTS

- 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June:** Midsummer Beers  
**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Independence Day Beer Festival. Up to 12 beers on tap!  
**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July:** Fruit Beers  
**August (date TBC):** “Port” & “Vale” Beers for first Port Vale home game  
**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August:** Champion Beers of Britain Festival  
**9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September:** Battle of Britain Week

## TOFT of Cheadle

Everything going well, with all three beers in production and The Malt N Hops in Fenton still being a regular outlet. Producing a brand new (but as yet unnamed) beer for The Huntsman Beer Festival in Cheadle at the end of May. Boggarts of Newton Heath have been buying the beers, so they will no doubt appear in The MicroBar in The Manchester Arndale Centre as well as farther afield. Thinking of bottling the core range, and busy searching for an outlet.

## TOWNHOUSE of Audley

Business as usual for Townhouse, with brewing at near full capacity. The Gresley Arms in Alsagers Bank and The Bush in Silverdale remain regular outlets, whilst the rare Townhouse Porter made a guest appearance at the New Oxford Beer Festival at the end of March; and very nice it was, too!

## WINCLE of Rushton Spencer

Have been incredibly busy of late with the opening of the new brewery, which should be complete by the time that you read this; the brewery shop will also be open, and brewery tours are available. Not many new beers recently due to the move, but Cosmic Flyer, a 5.2% IPA, literally flew out of the brewery and old favourite Willaby Wallably has been sighted in many city locations recently, such as Newcastle’s Freebird and Hanley’s Market Tavern.

# VIEW

## from the Bar Room Floor

A lady in Silverdale wanted to raise some money for charity and she asked for my help. I organised a knock-out pub quiz championship and every pub and club in Silverdale took part. Pubs and Clubs could enter more than one team and each team paid an entrance fee.

We organised the quizzes to start and finish in three weeks (well, 22 days actually – we started on a Sunday and finished on a Sunday three weeks later) And that involved a lot of quizzes! I organised at least one quiz on every day except Fridays and Saturdays. That was a very busy time, but it gave me a chance to visit lots of lovely pubs!

And lots of Silverdale people raised more money with some intriguing sponsored events : a lady typed non-stop – for 24 hours! And a strong man walked from Tunstall to Silverdale carrying a hod full of bricks.

What was wonderful was the community spirit that was revealed. It seemed as though just about everybody in Silverdale wanted to do something, even if it was just coming along to the pub quizzes and putting some money in the bucket that we passed around during every quiz.

And the pub quiz teams did the same. They may not have been taking part but they wanted to size up the competition!



On the final Sunday night we had the quiz final. Lots of Silverdale people came along to watch an exciting final.

The pubs (and clubs) all welcomed the pub quizzes. With all those extra drinkers, it was good for business.

And the champion pub quiz team? The winning team came from the Globe pub.

But I think the real champions were the people of Silverdale. I experienced a warm, genuine, community spirit.

If only all villages could be like that!



This all happened about 25 years ago. I would like to think that the village has the same atmosphere today. Especially as the first pub I ever took my wife-to-be to was a Silverdale pub. That was on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1959. The pub was The Bush. And I have to admit that I drank lager & lyme – but please don't tell CAMRA!



JSB



## 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**

# IN SEARCH OF CUSTOMER CARE, LOOK YOU!

With a name like Mervyn Edwards, you'd expect me to have a soft spot for Wales – and you'd be correct.

I have made sundry visits to North Wales over the years, and have developed an enduring affection for Llandudno, with its aptly-named Grand Hotel on the pier, its immaculate pebble beach and a marvellous, flat promenade that transforms into a weird blister-pack during heavy rain.

The pubs are variable, in common with many resorts, the best one being the King's Head, looked down upon by the goats that circumbulate the ridges of the Great Orme above. It's the oldest pub in Llandudno and boasts a cosy, island-bar interior that is akin to a larger version of **Gray's Corner**, in Stoke.

The Palladium (Wetherspoon's) is a must-visit on account of JDW's splendid preservation of a 1920 baroque cinema. As a building enthusiast, I find the interior awe-inspiring, and the pubco deserves every credit for their effort. However, in the manner of many JDW outlets, the pub is gut-wrenchingly boring to imbibe in. It feels like drinking in the middle of a supermarket or a NAAFI. Too many Grand Canyon-wide open spaces, too much clang and clatter and not enough intimacy.

Atmosphere is created in pubs partly through the way in which physical space is used, which is why hostelries such as the **Coachmakers Arms** in Hanley and the **Blue Bell** in Kidsgrove feel comfortable.

Wherever I may roam, I am always on the lookout for an exceptional pub experience, and the chance to make comparisons with our own hostelries in North Staffordshire.

To this end, I must tell you about the Cottage Loaf, just around the corner from JDW in Llandudno.

This was modernised some years ago, and although the traditional elements of it are slightly superficial, I felt wonderfully relaxed on my last visit. My three pints were excellent, but as I have always maintained, it is people who can make or break a pub.

During my sit-and-watch-the-world-go-by afternoon session, I gazed at the older man adjacent. He was in his own little bubble of existence in tackling a newspaper crossword, his spectacles perched halfway down his nose.

Three or four other people were reading newspapers, whilst two well-presented young girls took their late lunch in the dining section at the rear.

A couple in early middle-age were sitting at twelve o'clock from me, happily talking. The lady, who had copper hair, often laughed as she spoke, making good eye contact with her partner, suggesting a

marriage that was holding up well against the threats of diminishing physical attraction and life's vicissitudes.

The visit was notable for two reasons. I did not hear one profanity during my sojourn, which is remarkable in a pub nowadays. Secondly, it is the only pub I have ever visited that displays a rack of questionnaires soliciting customer comments "good and bad."

Always a believer in credit where it is due, I completed one of these and handed it to the bar staff. It's a confident licensee that offers a drinker the opportunity to complain, but I saw no single reason to do so. The entire customer experience was tickety-boo. If only such care came as standard in all our public houses!

*by Mervyn Edwards*

---

---

# THE PROGRESS OF PPPG

---

---

March winds may blow, but they evidently don't ruffle the feathers of the Potteries Pub Preservation Group's members.

No fewer than 14 of us attended that month's meeting, which was especially impressive as it was held at a slightly outlying pub – the **Foxley** at Milton.



It's a measure of the progress being made by PPPG, which continues to support pubs through publicity, events and the noble art of beer-guzzling. It is not a bad achievement for a group of volunteers who all have demands on their time outside of their advocacy of PPPG and its favourite hostelries.

We have been proud to raise funds for charities over the years, with Checkley Church and Lifeboats being recipients of tidy sums of money. In January, a pub quiz that we organised at the **Duke William** in Burslem helped to raise the sum of £200 for the Douglas Macmillan Hospice at Blurton. As quiz-master, I was delighted at the turn-out on what was otherwise a quiet January night in Burslem.

However, with propitious weather on its way, PPPG members can look forward to some excellent social outings. In recent years, the group has visited destinations including Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Alton and Stone in search of beer and banter. They have not been in short supply. This year, new social secretary Phil Glover will be co-ordinating several beery revels in stout defiance of the

government's Health Officer.

There's something else to look forward to, as well. The PPPG Community Pub of the Year will be announced in May. A total of 25 pubs have been nominated this year, all hoping to win our handsome shield – now known as the Titanic Trophy. It was first won by the **Golden Cup** in Hanley in 1998. Last year's winner was the **Leopard** in Burslem, and this year, old favourites and all-new nominations – such as the **Queen's Arms** in Hanley and the **Glebe** in Stoke – have made the short-list.



PPPG is fifteen years old this year, but welcomes new members. The group continues to meet on every third Wednesday of the month at a range of pubs in the Potteries and Newcastle. If you are interested, then do come along to one of the meetings, or attend our next charity quiz. We don't bite!

*by Mervyn Edwards*

**Wish to become a member of the PPPG?**  
Ring 01782 832877 and ask for  
Harold Harper or visit [pppg@supanet.com](mailto:pppg@supanet.com)

# Young CAMRA

by Jo Keeley

Not all CAMRA members are old, have a beard and moan about the good old days when beer cost half a shilling. Far from it! CAMRA is made up of a diverse range of ages! Indeed, the Cask Ale report published last year found that younger real ale drinkers are on the increase and this is both male and female. Woo hoo! So, don't be put off joining in- there are people just like you, who drink Real Ale and have a passion for the campaign!

If you want to get to know who these other people are, why not start by looking online? Our neighbouring branch (Heart of

Staffordshire) has a thriving Young Members Facebook group so why not sign up to the group? Their contacts Luisa and Dave would be more than happy for you to join in on any of their events- recently they paid a visit to Lymestone brewery. CAMRA also have their own Young Members Twitter page, so why not follow them and see what events are going on across the country- these can be easily accessed by regular trains from Stoke.

Young CAMRA arrange varied social events such as trips to breweries, themed days out and visiting beer festivals. You can join



in on any activity, just let the contact know you are coming along- we will make you very welcome and you will then see one of the major benefits of being a Young CAMRA member- a ready made group of like minded friends!

## YOUNG EXPERIENCES

BY GARETH MAWBY

It was in May last year that I offered to become involved with CAMRA. Having discovered that the Potteries Branch required a Webmaster I was keen to mix my newfound pastime with an older one - Real Ale. I had heard all of the stories regarding CAMRA Members being a group of bitter old men who were gently fixated about the quality of their pint. However, having frequented many Stoke Beer Festivals I knew that this was only partly true, and being a Real Ale enthusiast meant that I had no problems with obsessing over it!

Despite this, I was still stepping in to the unknown and, at 29, wasn't ready to join what has at times been stereotyped as an old man's club. I therefore arrived at

the Huntsman in Cheadle with a little trepidation, but instead of gloomy faces, I found myself greeted by a group of welcoming individuals and was quickly accepted in to the Branch and on to the committee.



My first year has been 'interesting' with a number of changes taking place within the Branch. What has never altered is the positive and helpful nature of a group of volunteers who do a heck of a lot

of work that largely goes unappreciated. Their enthusiasm is infectious and helps deliver such wonderful events and publications as the Stoke Beer Festival and Potters Bar, as well as numerous social events over the year.

I have made new friends and discovered some glorious pubs of which I had previously been oblivious to. Naturally the bonus of frequenting such alehouses is that they reliably have terrific beer to sample, after all the Campaign is there to help preserve such standards. And yes, we must not forget the Campaign, but for me the social nature of this is key. At the end of the day, who doesn't enjoy attending events held in such fine establishments with such outstanding characters?

# Wandering the Streets of Burslem...

with  
**Lorna Denny**

**M**y wanderings have this time taken me to the north of the City and to the Mother Town of the Potteries. As a 'neckender', this is alien territory to me, as well as venturing into Port Vale land. Ok, I tell a little white lie, I have been to the pubs in the town before, but that is as much as I know of the area. We started our little adventure by catching the train to Longport and a leisurely stroll up the hill enjoying the beautiful spring weather. Needless to say at the top of the hill I was ready for a drink!

The first place where we enjoyed a good pint of London Pride was the **Roebuck.(ST6 4ED)** Not a pub I have ever been in before but it felt homely



and oozed community spirit. It was interesting to chat to the lady behind the bar who had known Phil Taylor since he was a child and delighted in showing me photos and trophies that were surrounding the walls of the back room. Also amongst all the trophies on the shelves in the front bar I noticed a Dougie Mac teddy bear. Good to see such a worthwhile cause supported. I did check out the beer garden where you can enjoy a drink with 'Winnie the Pooh and friends' as well as people enjoying their drink which were all painted onto the walls by local artists.

It was a shame to move on, but we finished our drinks, waved goodbye to the bar staff and wandered on to the **Red Lion (ST6 1DJ)**. Again, a new one to us and definitely a pub for Vale fans especially on match days. We had a good look around and saw interesting little items such as stone beer tankards from Hook Norton, Adnams and various other breweries around the room, as well as photos of various groups including ACDC

on the walls. On the day of our visit, only Bass was available.

Next port of call was the the **Olde Smithy (ST6 1DT)** where we got chatting to the new landlady whilst supping a really lovely pint of Hobgoblin . Again, as with most of the pubs in the town, it has good community base with darts, pool and a super league team. Watch out for this pub as there are plans for more events and real ales....

Now the next few pubs will be well known to CAMRA members and real ale enthusiasts alike. **The Post Office Vaults (ST6 3AA)** never ceases to make me smile with its one room and good selection of beers and a real cider. If you want to know what beers have been on the bar in the past, then you need to wander out into the smoking area and look up!



We also had the opportunity to go into the cellar and see where the important stuff happens. Just to let all you Jaipur lovers know that this is on at the pub, although I personally prefer the dark beers and savoured the delights of a Beartown Brew.

A few doors down from the Post Office is the **Leopard (ST6 3AA)** Now this brings back memories of a Halloween party we went to a few years back. Dressed as ghouls, hags, ghosts and other various Halloween-y type things we had a guided tour of the upper floors by candle light. Now that was an experience, and was very creepy! This time it was back to normality and we sampled one of their five real ales whilst enjoying the historical surroundings. Too much to tell you in this article about the history of the place, but definitely worth finding out for yourself.

**The Duke William (ST6 3AJ)** is becoming a favourite of mine. Another old building which has been renovated but retains a lot of the charm of yesteryear. Being cheeky as I am I managed to get us another guided tour of the cellar! Very



interesting to see how it all comes together so that we can all enjoy a good pint. There is also a large restaurant area with two hand pumps available. (Now, I can see a plan formulating for a future girls night out .....)

If you are at a loose end between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, then there is a Charity Pie and Cask Ale festival being held here. All proceeds will go to 'Help the Heroes' and the 'Rainbow Trust'. Now how can I possibly refuse beer AND pies? Might see you there.

The last stop we made was one of the old favourites of CAMRA members – **the Bulls Head (ST6 3AJ)**. No doubt is left in anybody's mind that this is a Titanic pub, with photos, documents etc as well as some excellent beer. Always good to be drinking the local

stuff from 'up Boslem' As with all Titanic pubs there is an excellent range of beers from both Titanic and other breweries. I think it is



safe to say that there is something to suit everybody. The pub is also a supporter of the Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre near to Eccleshall, which is well worth a visit.

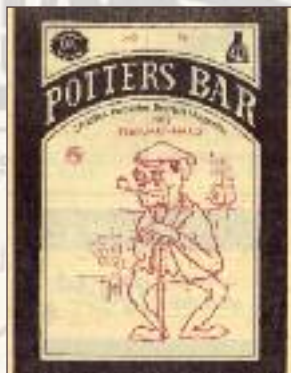
I should just add that Chambers Wine Bar and Ye Olde Crown also serve real Ale but they open early evening so unfortunately we didn't get chance to go in to them. But call in and check them out next time you are in the area.

So our day ended with us wandering back down the hill to Longport railway station to go back to Stoke. Good weather, good beer and good company. What else can I ask for? So till next time when we go on our wandering again and see where we end up.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### POTTERS BAR No. 26, February & March 1982

A CAMRA member was recently kind enough to contact the local branch and donate a set of Potters Bars from the early 1980's; so this is the first in a series of short, occasional articles that will invoke memories in older readers and let our Young Members know what life was like before they were even thought of.



The Pub of the Month for this edition was The Albion (nowadays The Tavern) in Tunstall, having introduced real ale in the shape of Ind Coope and Ansells in the previous year; the pub went on to stage beer festivals, so this was no doubt a successful move, and it also served food lunchtimes and evenings when such a thing was far from common.

At this time, Pub of the Year was split between the pub chosen by the local branch and the one chosen by readers of Potters Bar; The Swan in Burslem was the outright winner of the former, being the only pub in The Potteries to have been in every edition of *The Good Beer Guide*; whilst The Foaming Quart in Burslem looked like winning the reader's vote.

There was general dismay at the growing trend of Wine Bars that were springing up over the city, in particular Leadbelly's in Hanley, described as a "platisised travesty"; however, it was admitted that such places introduced many a fine wine to the city (CAMRA at this point seemed to sneer at wine drinkers in general, this being a recurrent theme).

There was general dismay at the astronomical price of beer, Burtonwood having raised their prices to 50p a pint; but congratulations to pubs such as The Village Tavern in Wolstanton who kept a pint at an affordable 40p.

The edition rounded off with a report on Banks's Brewery and news that the Black Lion in Consall Forge had just won The Potteries Branch Most Accessible Pub Award. At least some things don't change!

Martin Perry



# 31<sup>st</sup> Stoke Beer & Cider Festival

## GLASS DESIGN COMPETITION

CAMRA Potteries are delighted to announce a very unusual competition.

This is your chance to have hundreds of people drink from your creation at one of the most popular drinking festivals in the UK. The competition is open to anyone and, although there are a few restrictions, the floor is yours to impress.

Yes, that's right. CAMRA Potteries are offering a unique opportunity for one artist to have their design seen by thousands of people, as part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Stoke Beer & Cider Festival.

Not only will the winning design be featured on all our publicity material and our highly collectible Beer Festival glasses but we are also offering the following package to our First Prize Winner:-

***A one-off 'VIP All Access, All Weekend' pass for **two adults** to the Festival (travel to Stoke at the winner's own expense)***

***A box of the Festival Glasses to share with your family and friends***

***A goodie-bag of Stoke Beer Festival merchandise***

The competition is open to absolutely anyone, of any age, anywhere in the world and the rules are very simple:-

1. The design must measure no more than **45mm by 60mm** – a template can be provided on request
2. You may use up to FOUR colours in your design
3. The design must include at least the outline of a bottle-kiln (as featured on the CAMRA Potteries Branch logo)
4. The design must be suitable to be scaled up for use on t-shirts, posters and other publicity items, as well as on our Collectors Item Festival Glasses
5. Designs may be submitted by e-mail in .jpeg or PDF format. Hard copy designs may also be submitted but these must be suitable to be scanned and converted into digital images.

Deadline for the competition is midnight on **TUESDAY JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – any designs received after this time will not be put forward to the Festival Committee for adjudication.

**Entries should be sent to Ceri Roberts at [contact@camrapotteries.co.uk](mailto:contact@camrapotteries.co.uk)**

Or addressed to Ceri Roberts, C/O 34 Ashworth Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST4 4NY

The winner will be notified by e-mail and phone – any further queries regarding the competition can be addressed to **Ceri Roberts, Branch Publicity Officer**, via [contact@camrapotteries.co.uk](mailto:contact@camrapotteries.co.uk)

# Titanic Sails into Liverpool

It is always pleasing to hear good reports of our local brewers from other areas of the Country, so it was tremendous news that Titanic Brewery had once again won best beer at the prestigious Liverpool Beer Festival. To quote Titanic's Keith Bott,

"Titanic Brewery is delighted to have won The Beer of the Festival at Liverpool with Nine Tenths Below. We at Titanic have always strived to produce a range of interesting beers and to be at the forefront of innovation within the world of brewing, so it is fantastic to have received this recognition only two years after winning the same award with our Chocolate and Vanilla Stout".

Fantastic indeed, and congratulations must go to Keith and Dave Bott and all the hard working staff at the Burslem-based brewery for all their efforts in the production and distribution of such an outstanding range of beers that are truly appreciated by so



many. But it's not just the Liverpool Festival where the reputation of Titanic is being enhanced, but in a growing number of the most renowned real ale pubs in Liverpool, none more so than the 2010, and (just confirmed), 2011 Liverpool Pub of the Year, The Dispensary. Run by Dave and Pauline, and a very capable staff, Titanic beers are often found on the bar; in fact The Dispensary was one of the first outlets to sell Nine Tenths Below after its success at the Beer Festival and as Dispensary barmaid Zoe Manning [our delectable cover star] said

"It went down so well that the first day we had it on, I was pouring rounds of twelve pints each time! It was gone in 3 hours here in Liverpool, we can't get enough of that hoppy-go-lucky flavour!"

As I said at the outset good news travels well, as do Titanic beers, enjoy. (Ed's Note: Indeed, Titanic travels farther than Liverpool- on a recent holiday to The

*Isle of Wight, I came across both Captain Smith's e3 White Star. At least the boat didn't sink in The Solent).*

Bill Johnson



## TITANIC AND WADE JOIN FORCES TO PRODUCE SOUVENIR ALES

Titanic Brewery has worked with Wade Ceramics to produce a series of limited edition ceramic bottles into which a special version of the fine, golden beer will be hand bottled and wax sealed. The first of the series went on sale in the middle of April to commemorate the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton; the second was produced a month later in honour of the launch of the original Titanic. Keith Bott, Managing Director of Titanic Brewery, said:

*"The Stoke-on-Trent ceramic industry has a long tradition of celebrating royal occasions with specially made pottery," said. "While brewing a Royal Ale in honour of our future King and Queen, we felt we could also celebrate a great British industry by commissioning unique bottles from a Stoke-on-Trent pottery. It is our intention to produce other limited edition Wade ceramic bottles to mark special occasions in the future."*



# NEWS FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

The Heart of Staffordshire CAMRA Branch voted **The Royal Exchange, Radford Street, Stone (ST15 8DA)**

as their Pub of the Month for February 2011; the pub was purchased from Marston's and following a complete refurbishment was re-opened as a Titanic/ Everards Project William pub on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Titanic ales are supplemented by Everards Tiger, and up to four guests. The Royal Exchange is a very welcome addition to the town's already good portfolio of pubs and ably run by licensee Cheryl Poppit and her staff.



Their Pub of the Month for March was **The Lamb, Broad Eye, Stafford (ST16 2QB)** If you've not sampled this traditional boozier before, then



next time your partner says they are going to Sainsbury's, do what one of the Lamb's regular Friday night customers does - offer to take them and meet them later after the shopping is done. Instead of pushing a trolley around, slip across the busy Chell Road and into a haven of peace, quiet and great beer. In fact, go on,

be a devil and take them with you, the shopping can wait!!!

Since Gary and Fran took over what was a closed pub in November 2008 they have slowly but surely transformed it into a great watering hole. With thriving darts and dominoes pub teams, this pub has bucked the trend of closed pubs that never re-open. Fran and Gary have steadily transformed this pub into a

landmark for real ale fans. Proud of the fact that they have spent over twenty years in the pub trade, both hosts are easy going and the pub fosters great community spirit. Fran runs the bar and a warm welcome awaits, with a few bar stools and lively conversation always the norm. However, if you just want to get away from the hubbub outside, there are a few quiet spots to spread out the newspaper and switch off from life's hectic schedule. With a second year of Cask Marque under his belt, Gary has set himself very high standards. Regulars Fullers London Pride and Wells & Youngs Bombardier are supplemented by two guest ales, such as Greene King Old Speckled Hen and Brains Reverend James.

A very pleasing pub inside is equally reflected on the outside after a recent facelift to ensure the welcome is always warm; a recently installed shower facility for the nearby truck stop reflects this. Also being a big rugby fan, Gary is certain to have the Six Nations matches on.

Their Pub of the Month for April was **The Barley Mow, Main Road, Milford (ST17 0UW)**. This widely appreciated example of the Greene

King "Hardy's Chain" was purchased from M&B around 4 years ago. The licensee, Chris Wall, is proud of his ales, and serves, Greene Abbot Ale, Old Speckled Hen and IPA, plus Hardy's & Hanson's Olde Trip (brewed by Greene King). The pub raises a lot of money for charity, with the Donna Louise Trust being their current recipient.



Finally, plans are being finalised for **The 4<sup>th</sup> Stafford Beer Festival**, again held at in the Sports Hall of The Blessed William Howard School on Rowley Avenue, ST17 9AB. Over 70 real ales will be featured, plus a good selection of Ciders, Perries and Country Wines. See the advert elsewhere in this issue.



Mar 11: Bob Williams presents Carl & Sarah Smith with their Pub of the Month Award for The Gresley Arms, Alsagers Bank



Apr 11: Ken Lee presents Carl Marland and Marie Tuohy with their Pub of the Month Award for Brindley's Lock, Packmoor



May 11: Ken Lee presents Steve & Julie Johnson with their Pub of the Month Award for The Railway, Halmerend



Other: Potteries CAMRA Members enjoy The National Winter Ales Festival in Manchester.

## Stoke Beer and Cider Festival update

The venue is booked Fenton Manor Sports Complex.

The dates are set Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

The committee has been elected

Its all systems go for The 31<sup>st</sup> Stoke Beer and Cider Festival!

This will be the second year at the new venue. We intend to build on last years success and "iron" out a few teething problems to give the people of the Potteries another fantastic event.

Some festivals view a "sell out" as a measure of a successful festival: we do not share this view and are committed to having good quantities and choice right up to last orders on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you have never volunteered to work before, please give it some serious thought! Most people try it once and become addicted (I did!) We are a strange mix of people but somehow we get the job done and enjoy ourselves at the same time.

This years Fridays Fancy dress theme is "Gangsters and Molls"; customers are welcome to dress up too and join in the fun. Which ever side of the bar you choose to be I look forward to seeing you in October.



Lyn Sharpe Stoke Beer and Cider Festival Organiser

**For sale to good home:  
Stoke Beer Festival Mugs: 1981 and 1984-2010. £50.  
Phone Dave on 01270 650472**

## Leek Hockey Club Beer Festival

From Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of April, we saw Leek Hockey Club hold their fifth annual beer festival. Believe it or not, for some strange reason, I felt compelled to attend. Talking to the head man at the club, Andy Machin, I learnt that it was his idea to hold a beer festival. He told me that it all came about when he and other committee members were trying to think of ways to raise funds for the club. By some strange quirk of fate they just happened to be in a pub at the time. Andy also told me that the event has gone from strength to strength over the years, and that they usually sell out by Sunday lunch.

This year 25 real ales along with 4 ciders graced the festival.

That having been said, Sunday saw what Andy called Cider Sunday with the appearance of another 15 ciders, to tantalise the taste buds of our apple juice loving friends. The profits this year were boosted by the fact that all barrels were sponsored by different firms or individuals: Andy said this is a huge plus.

Andy told me that he would like to thank all club members who volunteered their services in the smooth running of the festival. He also told me that a huge amount of credit must go to Phil Grocott of Simply Cask Limited who was responsible for the setting up and racking of the ales.

Dave Payne

# POTTERIES BRANCH CONTACTS

## CHAIRMAN

Ken Lee      chair@camrapotteries.co.uk

## BRANCH CONTACT

Corin Brown      contact@camrapotteries.co.uk

## TREASURER

Maria Dix      accounts@camrapotteries.co.uk

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Gill Round      members@camrapotteries.co.uk

## SOCIAL SECRETARY

Neil Barratt      0772 204 2184

## PUBLICITY

Ceri Roberts      contact@camrapotteries.co.uk

## CIDER

beerandcider@camrapotteries.co.uk

## PUBS OFFICER & POTTERS BAR EDITOR

Martin Perry      07763 379584  
pottersbar@camrapotteries.co.uk  
3 Edward Avenue, Westlands,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire, ST5 2HB

## TO ADVERTISE:

Neil Richards      n.richards@btinternet.com  
01536 358670

**You can now find us on Facebook  
and Twitter or log on to the website at  
[www.camrapotteries.co.uk](http://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.

© Copyright CAMRA Ltd

Potters Bar design by Art of Matelot  
[artofmatelot@live.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk)

East Midland Trains  
[www.eastmidlandstains.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandstains.co.uk)

London Midland Trains  
[www.londonmidland.com](http://www.londonmidland.com)

National rail enquiries  
08457 48 49 50  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## June

### Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>

Branch Meeting, The Congress, Sutherland Road, Longton, ST3 1HJ, 8pm

### Sat 4<sup>th</sup>

Pub of the Month Presentation, Top Pub, Hill Top, Brown Edge, ST6 8TX, 4pm

### Fri 10<sup>th</sup>

Social, Holy Inadequate, Etruria Old Road, Etruria, ST1 5PE, 7pm

### Sat 11<sup>th</sup>

Social at The Duke William Beer Festival (£1 entry), St John's Square, Burslem, ST6 3AJ, 4pm

### Sat 18<sup>th</sup>

Annual CAMRAmble! Meet 12.30pm, Arnold Machin (Wetherspoons), Ironmarket, ST5 1PB. Pubs to include The Bush (Silverdale), Gresley Arms (Alsagers Bank), Railway (Halmerend), Swan, Plough and Bignall End Cricket Club (all Bignall End). Bring a packed lunch, sturdy boots and waterproofs!

### Tues 21<sup>st</sup>

Stoke Beer Festival Meeting, The White Star, Kingsway, Stoke, ST4 1JB, 8pm  
**\*\*\* CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY\*\*\***

## July

### Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>

Pub of the Month Presentation, New Inn, High Street, Flash, SK17 0SW, 3.30pm

### Thurs 7<sup>th</sup>

Branch Meeting, London Road Sports & Social Club, London Road, Stoke, ST4 5AG, 8pm

### Sat 9<sup>th</sup>

Trip to Derby Beer Festival. Meet at Stoke Railway Station at 10.15am

### Tues 19<sup>th</sup>

Stoke Beer Festival Meeting, The White Star, Kingsway, Stoke, ST4 1JB, 8pm  
**\*\*\* CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY\*\*\***

### Sat 30<sup>th</sup>

Trip to Stafford Beer Festival. Meet at Hanley Bus Station at 9.45am

## August

### Thurs 4<sup>th</sup>

Branch Meeting, The Bush, High Street, Silverdale, ST5 6JZ, 8pm

### Sat 6<sup>th</sup>

Pub of the Month Presentation, Swan, Chapel Street, Bignall End, ST7 8QD, 1pm

### Tues 16<sup>th</sup>

Stoke Beer Festival Meeting, The White Star, Kingsway, Stoke, ST4 1JB, 8pm  
**\*\*\* CAMRA MEMBERS ONLY\*\*\***

### Sat 27<sup>th</sup>

Social at The Gresley Arms Beer Festival, High Street, Alsagers Banks, ST7 8BQ, 3pm.

Advert