

## History of The All Nations Inn

The All Nations, in Coalport Road (still known to most locals as Dabley Lane), is a particular favourite amongst real ale enthusiasts, having appeared in every single edition (38 to date) of the Campaign for Real Ale's Good Beer Guide. Famous for its homebrewed beer, in the early 1970s it was one of only 4 pubs in the country to brew its own beer. (One of the others was also in Shropshire - the Three Tuns at Bishops Castle).

The pub has a long sporting history - quoits was a local favourite and international games between England and Wales were held at the pub. The Baguley family, who kept the pub for many years, were particularly active sportsmen. Walter Baguley, landlord, was captain of Madeley Town Football Club when it was formed at the pub in 1885. He also played for Ironbridge FC and captained Madeley Wanderers FC, as well as playing for Madeley Hockey Team. In 1904 Madeley Airgun Club was formed, based at the All Nations, with the then landlord, George Baguley, as a team member.

The Madeley Parish Register lists the following as being resident at the All Nations in 1871:

<b>Christopher Baguley</b>	48 years old. Husband. Bricklayer. (Just a few years before, in the early 1860s, Christopher had been the main building contractor for the Coalport to Wellington branch railway, responsible for all the stations except Malinslee.	<b>John Baguley</b>	9 years old. Son Scholar
<b>Hannah Baguley</b>	48 years old. Wife	<b>Walter Baguley</b>	7 years old. Son. Scholar
<b>George Baguley</b>	17 years old. Son. Labourer	<b>Alice Baguley</b>	4 years old. Daughter. Scholar
<b>James Baguley</b>	15 years old. Son. Labourer	<b>Agnes Baguley</b>	7 months old. Daughter
<b>Henry Baguley</b>	11 years old. Son. Scholar	<b>Emily Knight</b>	13 years old. Servant
<b>1901: Licence Granted Owner Value Rooms</b>	All Nations Beerhouse (on premises) 1832 Walter Baguley, owner and manager £15 5s 0d 4 rooms up and 3 rooms down	<b>Stabling Condition Trade Proximity to other licensed houses Proximity to other dwellings Position of house with regard to Police</b>	2 horses Fair Mining and works 80 yards Surrounded Good



All Nations Inn

<< circa 1885

Today >>



## **The Demise of the British Brewhouses**

In Britain during the 20th century most of the traditional pubs which brewed their own beer in the brewhouse round the back of the pub, were bought out by larger breweries and ceased brewing on the premises. By the mid-1970s only four remained, All Nations, The Old Swan, the Three Tuns and the Blue Anchor.

The All Nations is one of the oldest brewpubs in the country, having brewed for over 200 years. It stopped brewing in early 2001 as the long time owners looked to sell the pub which was sold towards the end of 2002 to the present owners, Jim & Linda Birtwhistle. It used to be frequented by the miners coming off shift from Blists Hill Colliery.

The Blue Anchor at Helston in Cornwall however, was established in 1400 and is regarded as the oldest brewpub in the British Isles. It is known that this building used to be monk's resthouse in the early 15th century and became an inn during the 18th century with a four barrel brewplant situated at the rear of the pub.

The Three Tuns Inn and Brewery were established in 1642 with records showing that King Charles 1st issued the first brewing licences in that year to raise funds to pay for his army fighting the civil war. Part of the existing brewery is of 17th Century origin, and this would be consistent with it having been the original brew house, which would make it the oldest working brewery in Britain.

Both pub and brewery were modernised in about 1888 by the then owner John Roberts who added a state of the art 'tower brewery' which is a classic, miniature Victorian tower and together with the older building, is described in its Grade Two listing as "a rare survival of a small, working rural brewery".

The Pub and Brewery remained in the Roberts family, his son, Erskine Roberts, and his grandson, John Roberts, continued brewing until the 1970's and then for many years ownership and fortunes varied and following periods of closure, the future of the Three Tuns brewery appeared uncertain,. The investment required to bring it up to modern standards had made its viability questionable and in July 2002 a plan was published to convert it to housing.

In January 2003 the brewery was bought by the John Roberts' Brewing Co.Ltd, the name of which celebrates the brewery's historic association with the Roberts family. The brewery has now been fully refurbished which should ensure its brewing future for many years to come.

The Old Swan in Netherton, West Midlands which is affectionately known to locals as "Ma Pardoe`s after one of it`s well loved landladies, makes up the surviving quartet.

## **Blists Hill**

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Blists Hill was an industrial region consisting of a brick and tile works, blast furnaces and mineworks operated by the Madeley Wood Company. A short section of the Shropshire Canal ran from the site to the Hay Inclined Plane, which transported boats up and down the 63m high incline from Blists Hill to Coalport.

Mining across the region was widespread by the 16th century. By the 17th century Coalbrookdale had become the second most productive mining area in Britain. The coal was used as fuel to power the steam engines and furnaces of Shropshire and beyond in the production of iron, brick and tile. A large amount of coal was also exported.

During the 18th century large mining companies were formed. The Coalbrookdale, Lilleshall and Madeley Wood Companies were all a product of this period of industrial expansion. Coal production in the area peaked in 1871 when the production reached 1,000,000 tonnes.

Blists Hill is now an open air museum, founded 1973, one of ten museums operated by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. The museum attempts to recreate the sights, sounds and smells of a Victorian Shropshire town at the end of the 19th century. The staff wear period costume and demonstrate the types of jobs and skills that would have been common to a town of that period.