

## ***EARLY MAY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY FUN DAY/WEEKEND***

Yes its coming, clean your caravans, waterproof your tents or even buy a motor home and get back to Shropshire. Those of you long in the tooth will recall the previous Shropshire Fun Days/Weekends. After 4 years we have now found a new pub (well 16th century) with its own small camp site for the Mastiff Spring Fun Day/Weekend.

Roll up on the Saturday morning (or even the Friday if you're a keen caravaner) and after parking the caravan take the rest of the day to explore the local countryside and towns. Be it dog friendly Bridgnorth (5 minutes away) with its history and stunning views, or Ironbridge (20 minutes away) with its museums (e.g. dog friendly Blists Hill Victorian Village), and the original iron bridge. Then upon your return meet up with your fellow mastiff owners and take the long walk to the pub, at least 30 yards. The return walk should still be 30 yards but depending on alcohol intake and probably more importantly the possession of, or more precisely the absence of, a torch this could vary.

If you turn up for the Fun Day only this will begin on the Sunday (2nd May) at 11 am. There will be the usual array of sophisticated and refined activities (programme to follow). Weaving through poles is a popular but, for many mastiffs, pointless activity since every mastiff knows the shortest route between A and B is a straight line with a restful sit halfway. Sausage eating however is almost always an exercise that stretches a mastiff, you can almost see the cogs turning as they ponder can they eat this piece of sausage and run, well amble, to the next piece. It's hard being a mastiff under pressure. Owners can also have their own competition, how many drinks can they carry back from the pub without spilling any.

Sunday evening repeat Saturday except now rather than merely thinking all judges are incompetent blind bats for not recognising your mastiff as the epitome of all that is best in the breed you now have the evidence to prove it. No not the white stick that the judge may have been carrying but the fact that it was gusts of wind that blew the weaving poles down coincidentally just as your dog was passing each one, but the judge failed to spot these acts of nature. You may even have noticed the judge giving your mastiff slightly larger pieces of sausage, but for this yours would be champ. (At this time the judge hasn't yet been decided so there is a risk of egg on face if they have an inbuilt Beaufort scale gauge and a Little Chef approach to portion control.)

So what do you do next? Well first put thoughts of winter weather behind you and think spring and check out the pub's website "[halfwayhouseinn.co.uk](http://halfwayhouseinn.co.uk)" which also has links to some of the local tourist attractions. Then book remembering to state that you are for the Mastiff Fun Weekend. It doesn't matter how many people or mastiffs are in a caravan the price is the same. The reservations are on a first come first served basis so don't delay.

Lee Cruickshank  
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