

**Victorian Village  
by Night**

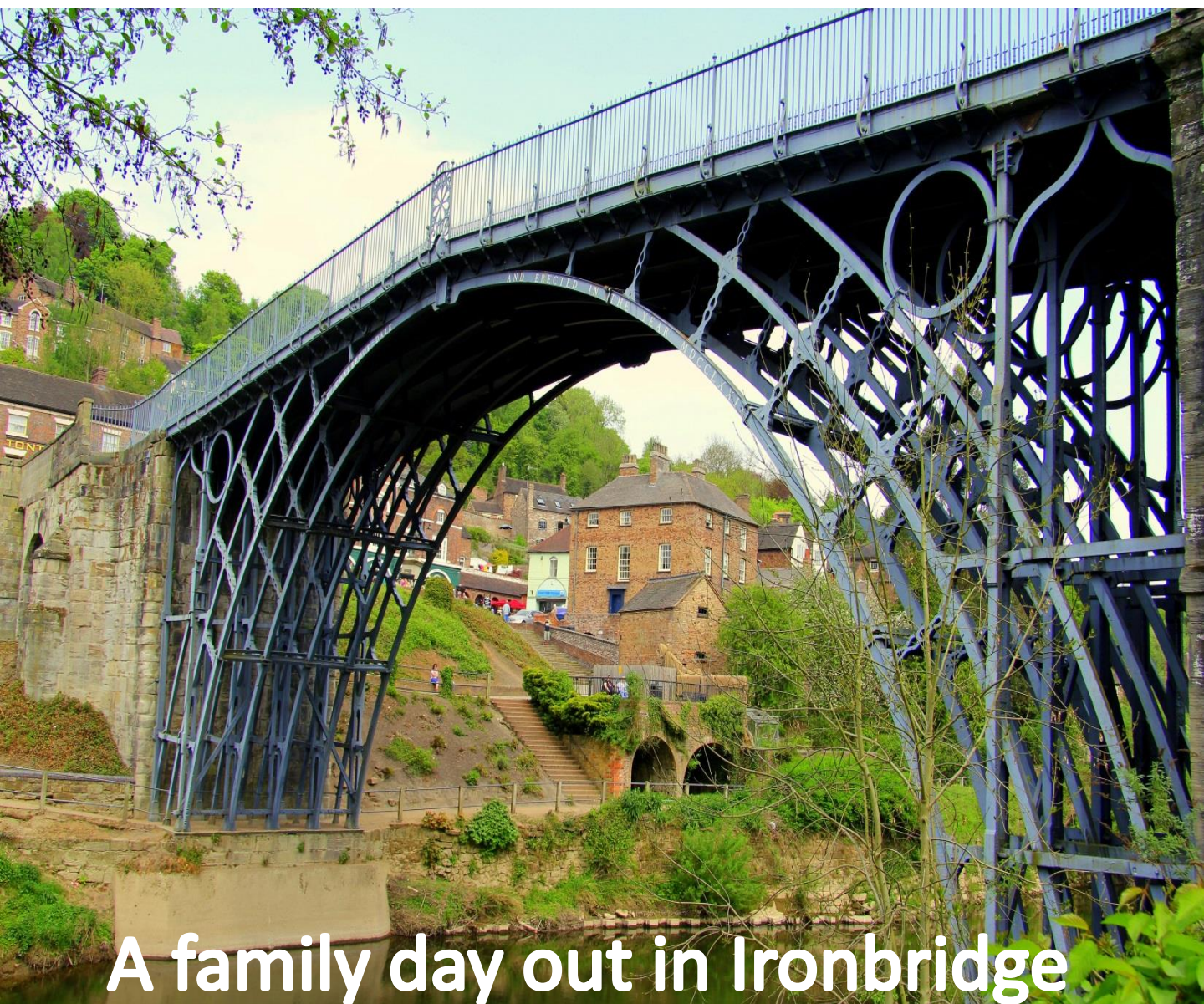
**Fun in the  
Park**

**Gorge Trust Celebrations**

# Shropshire Life

January 2014

£3.50



**A family day out in Ironbridge**

Our special feature this month centres in and around Ironbridge, one of Shropshire's finest tourist destinations.

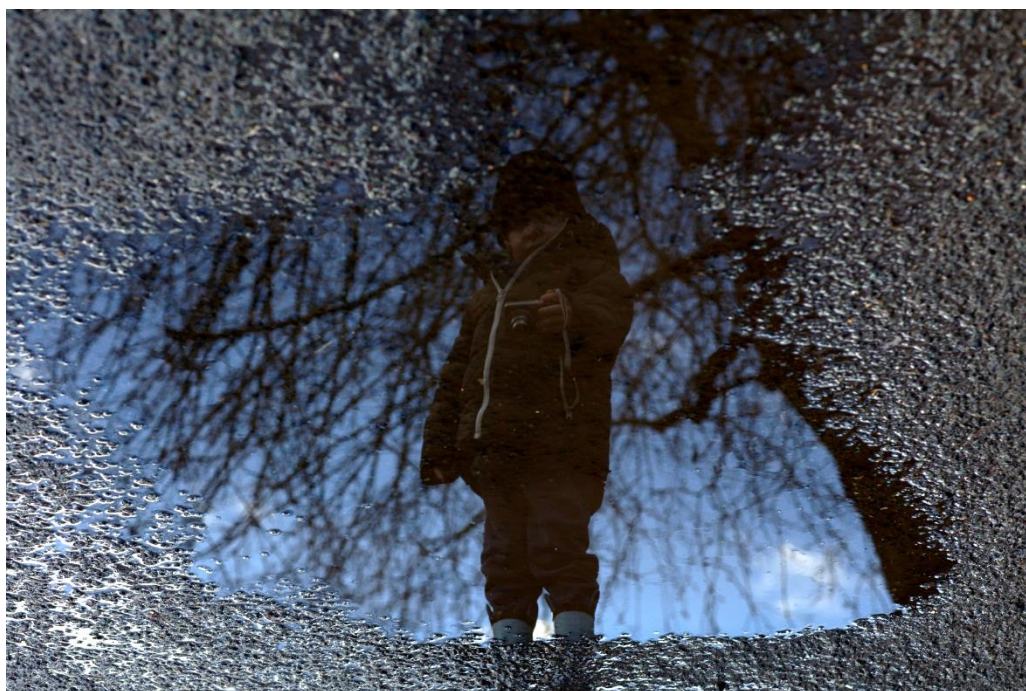
Ironbridge is a settlement on the River Severn, at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge. Ironbridge developed beside, and takes its name from, the famous Iron Bridge, a 30-metre (100 ft) cast iron bridge that was built across the river Severn in 1779. The around



Ironbridge is described as the "Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution". This description is based on the idea that Abraham Darby perfected the technique of smelting iron with coke, in Coalbrookdale, allowing much cheaper production of iron.



Today, Ironbridge is one of the most visited tourist destinations with over 2 million visitors last year. Whatever the weather there is always something to do for all ages. Even when it rains there are magical sights to see.



This young visitor took full advantage of the wet conditions, wearing wellies and exploring the area of Ironbridge with his parents

## Special Events

Sunny days bring visitors in their droves especially when an event is being held such as the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ironbridge Gorge Trust.

There were street entertainers all around. Our local one man band paraded the high street whilst a youth band from Coalbrookdale School took to the stage with their take on popular songs.

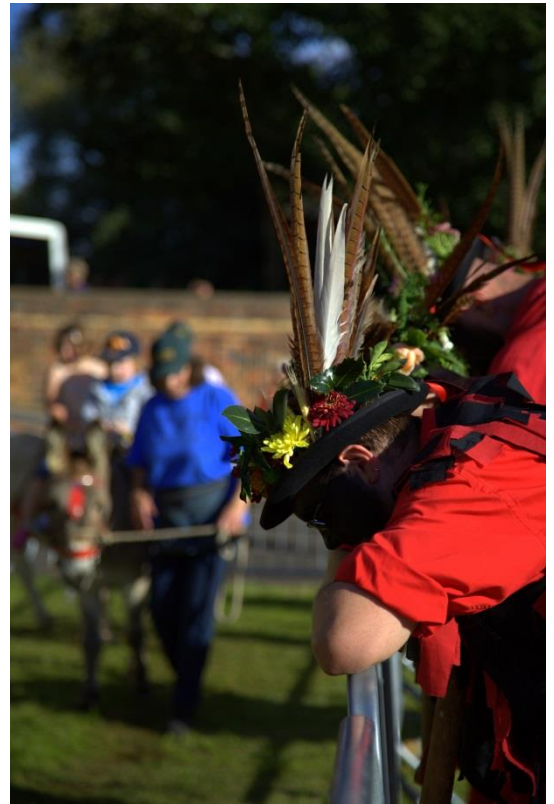


Two tall bobbies were on the beat to maintain order. They reprimanded a family for being disorderly. They came up against problems when they couldn't reach low enough to handcuff the offenders.

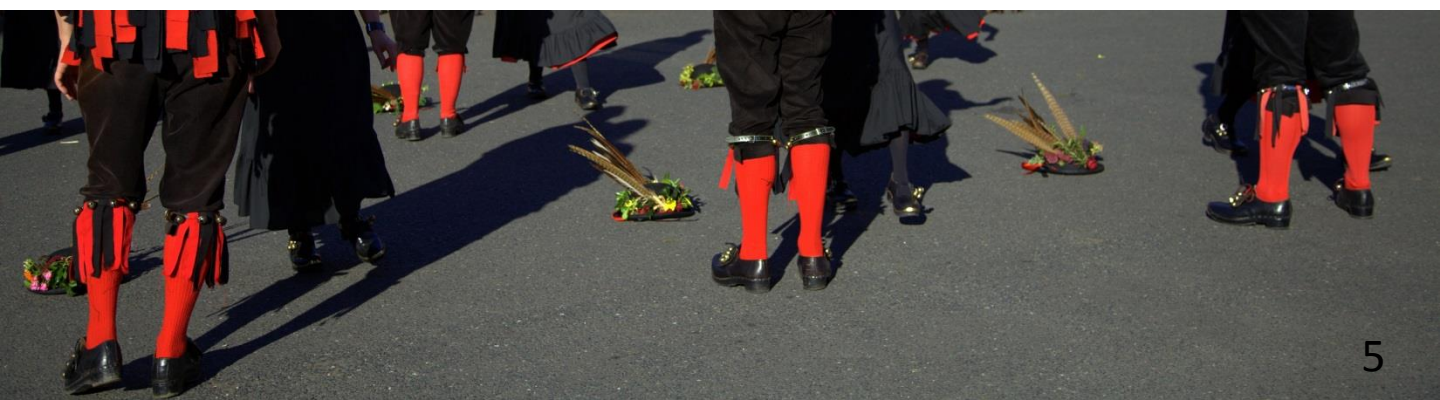


This poor little guy was exhausted from all the activity going on.

## The Ironmen and Severn Gliders



This dance troop are a regular feature in Ironbridge. Their dances and costume date back to 1652. Dave Garrett (above) explained 'we dance with blackened faces which are thought to serve as a disguise, possibly from evil spirits'.



## Dale End Park

At the end of the high street is Dale End Park which is a lovely riverside area for walking or picnicking. Sat alongside the park is the river Severn with is cruise boat for a scenic trip along the river.



There are over 2 miles of pathways to stroll around with lovely views of the surrounding hills.



The many acres of grass make way for ball games or simply relaxing the afternoon away.



Dale End Park



For the children there's an enclosed play area and lots of open space to run around in.

The autumn leaves provide lots of fun too!

The park originally belonged to the Rawdon-Smith family. They planted some lovely specimen trees which have grown to very respectable sizes.



Ironbridge Gorge has 10 museums in and around Ironbridge. Blists Hill is a Victorian village and at night it's visitors experience what it was like to live before electricity. Lamplights, like the one here, are placed through the streets.

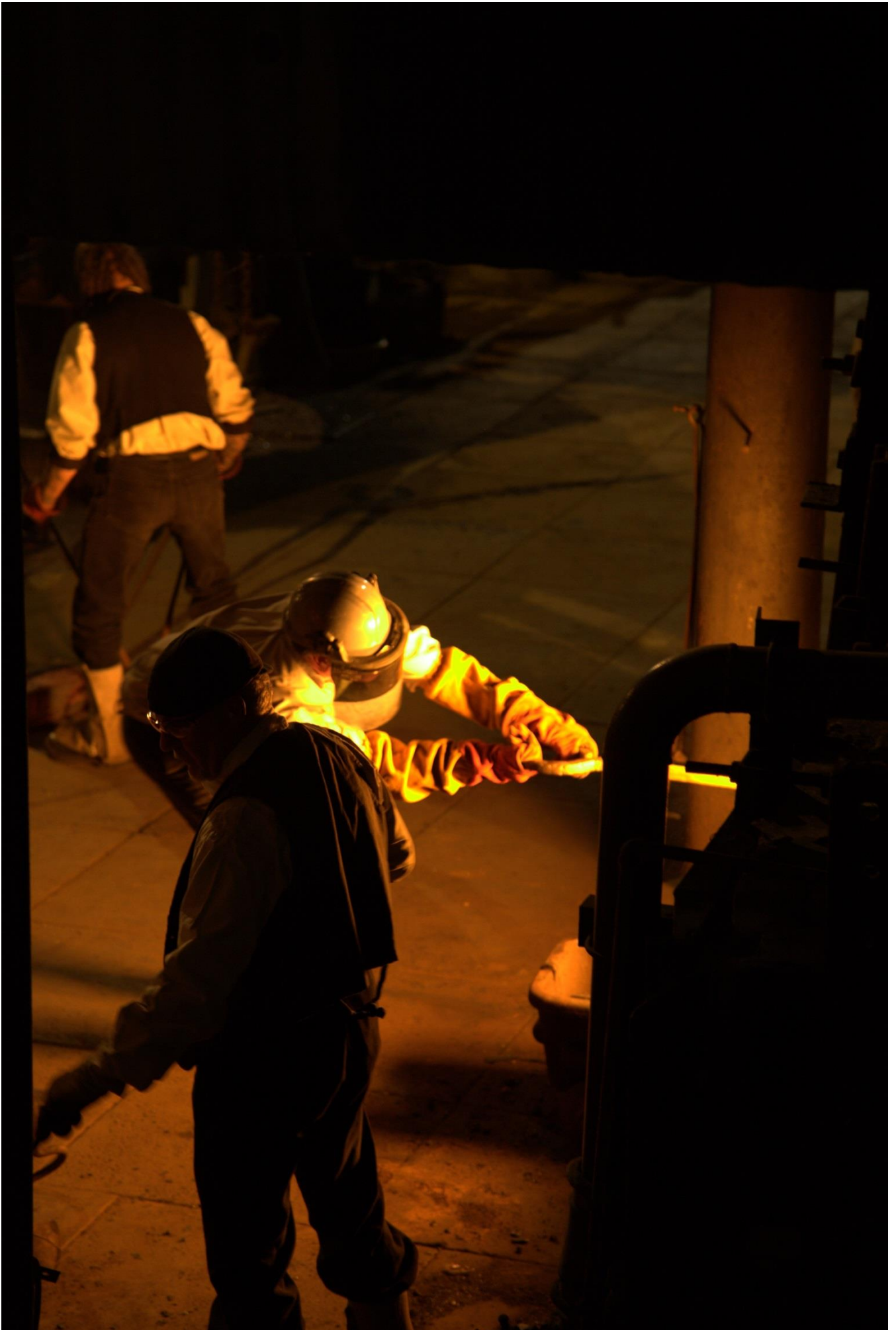






The shops are brightly lit and welcoming with a warm glow inside them.

Victorian children loved the thrill of the travelling fair. The carousel is lit inside but it's dark for the awaiting crowds.





Industrial establishment didn't have the luxury of lamplights. Here fire pits and stakes are doused in oil and set on fire to provide light for the workers.

