

2 in the Bar

New Licence Proposed

The controversial “2 in the Bar” rule that prevents pubs without a Public Entertainment Licence (and that’s most of them) from employing more than 2 entertainers, could be a thing of the past under current government proposals.

Dr Kim Howells MP, the minister responsible for licensing legislation writes in a letter to Island MP **Andrew Turner**.

“I agree with your constituent (Tim Marshall) that the “two in a bar” rule.....is out of date. However, its abolition only makes sense if it is part of a general licensing reform and modernisation.....

Under the new licensing regime, the concept of a public entertainment licence will completely disappear. Permission to sell alcohol, provide public entertainment, stage a play, show a film or provide late night refreshment (between 11.00 pm and 5.00 am) will be integrated into a single licence – the “premises licence”. The premises licence will also set the hours that the premises may open.

We are wholly committed to delivering the reform and modernisation of the alcohol and public entertainment laws by means of primary legislation as soon as parliamentary time permits. ”.

To read this letter in full visit www.wightwash.org.uk and click on **Campaign Issues**.

The views expressed in *Wightwash* are not necessarily those of the Editor or CAMRA either locally or nationally

ADVERISEMENT FOR THE
SUN INN
AT HULVERSTONE



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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Signed.....

Date.....

Wightwash

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Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Autumn 2002 Issue



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A message from our Chairman

“Edgar will be greatly missed on the Island; the seemingly forced closure of the Blacksmiths Arms was the ruin of an unique institution that was enjoyed by Islanders and visitors alike”

(see page 2)

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The Closure of the Blacksmiths Arms

Edgar will be greatly missed on the Island; the seemingly forced closure of the Blacksmiths Arms was the ruin of an unique institution that was enjoyed by Islanders and visitors alike. Edgar brought to the Island a breath of fresh air. His pub put the Island on the map through the national awards that he collected; from CAMRA Wessex Regional Pub of the Year and runner-up CAMRA National Pub of the Year to Pub Website of the Year.

What Edgar achieved was truly remarkable. In the face of all the 'wise' advice of his suppliers and peers, he courageously chose not to stock the 'staple' brands that 'the public wants to drink', and he removed these in favour of quality German and Continental beers, as well as an ever-changing and most diverse range of British Real Ales. He introduced some rare and unusual beer styles to the Island, including cloudy wheat beer, smoked beer, German black beer, alt beer, as well as the vast range of bocks and dunkels. Whatever Edgar stocked, he could sell. His bravery had realised the taste of the British drinker, who, in truth, does not want all the bland crap that the marketing men ram down our throats. The British public can be discerning and demanding, CAMRA has been stating this for years - and Edgar proved it!

What now?

Well, Edgar has secured a job in London with Youngs. A chap like Edgar will never be out of work for long.

And the Blacksmiths?

We have no idea what the plans for the Blacksmiths Arms are. Will anyone seriously want to take up the lease? We hope that no attempt will be made to convert the pub for private housing - remember what happened to the Sun at Hulverstone, and CAMRA's role in saving it as a public house?

Naturally, the Blacksmiths will now have to be removed from the Good Beer Guide in order to be fair to the drinking public and to protect CAMRA's reputation in its recommendations. What has happened really beggars belief and is such a great loss to the Island.

A full statement from Edgar can be found on his old website <http://www.blacksmiths-arms.co.uk/>

John Nicholson
Branch Chairman

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Something a bit different this time can you name these eight island ales ??

Send your answers to:

**The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley,
Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3NH**

or by email to editor@wightwash.org.uk

by 1st November

First correct answers out the hat wins a tenner!

Answers to Pete's Pix Quiz in the Summer Issue

- 1/ The ramp at Hamstead Ledge was used to disembark tanks.
- 2/ Nunnery Steps, Cowes
- 3/ Phil and Grace Archer (Norman Painting and Ysanne Churchman) opened Shanklin Carnival in 1955
- 4/ Godshill
- 5/ British Home Stores (Newport High Street)
- 6/ St Catherine's Lighthouse was first lit in 1840
- 7/ Yarmouth Station
- 8/ PLUTO stood for Pipe Line Under The Ocean.
- 9/ Billy Bunters, Shanklin.

Jenny Mew of Chale wins a tenner.

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The Leon Warner Trio

I run London's most popular and entertaining jazz trio, and we would like to do a unique event on the Isle of Wight. We would like to come over with our lovely singer Nicky Clark and do a 5 or 6 night playing tour in your finest pubs.

We are very audience friendly and amazingly entertaining to both young and old. We would like to do the gigs for free in exchange for accommodation. We have quite a following and would probably have in tow a fair number who would come and visit your lovely isle if we were there for a week. Leon Warner .
For further details contact Leon on leonwarnertrio@lineone.net or phone 01438 716081

Hoorah!

At the Regional meeting, yesterday, Marcus was obliged to raise the question of the illegal CAMRA oval used in the Regional logo. I told him, in no uncertain terms, what I thought of this criticism. Also, I called for a vote of approval from those members present - with unanimous support. The logo stays!!!



Advert for Globe and Anchor

From *Paul Mattick*

The **Culver Haven** has changed hands recently. **Leslie Dyke** (no relation to that famous media personality Gregg – sorry Alex!) says that he is keeping the menu as it is for the time being. You can also enjoy a pint of **Ventnor Golden, Badger's Best** or **Tanglefoot**.

The **Hole in the Wall** (Ryde) is about to have a new name. "**The Slug eating Parrot**" it will not be known as. It will though go back to old times and officially be recognized as "**The Railway**". What are we boys going to do now when our spouses tell us to crawl back into that Hole we came from! Landlady **Jan Brown** recently received a letter from **E.H. Taylor** Esq. who frequented the Railway many years ago. The letter told of how he would travel from Brading to St. Johns station with his mates when **Wally and Betty Brading** ran the pub. It was affectionately known as "**Fred Pecks**". If anyone can let me know why, send a letter or E-mail me and I'll make an effort to follow it up in the next issue. Mr

Taylor was invited to the Island as guest of honour to re-open the already open Railway but due to ill health he had to decline.

Welcome **Cathy Hollyhead** and her partner **Paul Miller** (not from Radio Solent surely!) who are the new owners of **Billy Bunters**, Shanklin. They have four ales on at the moment **Undercliff Experience, Ventnor Golden, London Pride** and **Badger's Tanglefoot**. The food is also worth mentioning. Wednesday is steak night, which includes a 7oz steak, peas chips and apple pie & custard (on separate plates!) Daily specials are available and food is served from 12-9.30. Vegetarians are also catered for. On the subject of vegetarians a friend of mine, **David Lloyd** pointed out to me "why is it that you can get a vegetarian meal in a steak house, but you can't get a meat dish in a vegetarian restaurant!" (Racist Suckling Pigs!)

King Harry's Bar in Shanklin has gone from strength to strength. Since my report 6

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months ago, it now boasts five beer engines. Some of the Ales obtainable are **Undercliff Experience**, **Old Thumper**, **London Pride** and **Pride of Romsey**. Clive informs me that **Wight-Spirit**, along with **Hopback's Summer Lightning & Thunderstorm** are imminent.

Oakleaf Brewery has made the Headlines following their win at the Hampshire beer festival. **Hole Hearted** (4.7%) was chosen as Champion Beer 2002.

An incredibly excited **Dave Pickerskill** said we are still celebrating two weeks after winning! **Blakes Gosport Bitter** (5.2%) is now available in bottles and the Gosport Brewery has introduced a 36-pint bag in a box of anything that takes your fancy. Watch out for **Farmhouse Ale** (3.5%) and the suitably named lager **I can't believe it's not bitter** (4.9%). Mild's going to be off for the winter, but will be replaced by a Porter. All will be revealed in the next issue. Following the duty reduction Oakleaf have decided to print brochures on what's available. With deliveries coming over to the island regularly, it's pleasant to see a brewery doing so well considering it was one of my first reports when I took on this job-and I did say it was one to watch out

for then!! (Big head)
Island Ales are supplying **Jennings Red Squirrel** (4.5%) in bottles to outlets on the island. **Steve Taylor** said, "Cumbria, (where it is brewed) and the Isle of Wight are the only places with Red Squirrel colonies so every bottle sold will give the Red Squirrel Conservation Society 10p." I wonder if it has a "nutty" flavour! Keep your eyes open for a range of **Caledonian Beers** throughout Sept/Oct including Champion Beer **Deuchars IPA** (3.8%)

Chris Coleman of **Goddards Brewery** has had a busy summer and like most is happy with the reduction in beer duty. It's the first time I've spoken to Chris and he's been lost for words. It's one of those times of year that nothing really happens added Chris. I'll vouch for that. Although there's no ground breaking news from the breweries they are all busy. Perhaps next time we will be hearing of a Christmas beer brewed with Rudolph Droppings or the like...

Mike Strand tells me the **Wight Mouse Inn** is shutting down... for a re-vamp in Sept/Oct for 4-6 weeks. The once Family Pub of the year sold by John Bradshaw should see a couple of changes. I suggested that musicians should be added to the instruments that adorn the ceilings (hmmm **Tim Marshall** suspended from a rafter playing lead bass along side **JC And Angelina!**) **Badgers** Guest ales for September include **Wadsworth JCB** (4.7%) and **Fullers Honeydew** (4.3%). **Champion** (4.6%) available in bottles is back in Cask form, and if you ever get the chance to visit the brewery make sure you take advantage of the sensibly priced boxed sets of ales before you

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TAP

Typical of these is the **Polacher** (Pol-a-car-a) **Inn** (pictured opposite) located on the beach at the southern end of South Uist overlooking the sound to Barra and Eriskay. By the way Eriskay, now that it has a causeway also has a purpose built pub 'An Politician', named after the Whiskey Galore wreck.

These rather expensive causeways now link most of the islands and we just had to get the game little

ferry (18 vehicles) from Berneray to Harris. There we found even better beaches and turquoise seas plus views to Taransay (of Castaway fame). We had also left the problem of finding cask beer back on the Uists where we had tracked down every possible bottle of Hebridean as nothing else was available. This had been brewed by the aforementioned Andy for the 2001 Mod (Scottish music festival) and there were just a few bottles lurking at the back of shelves. Andy himself feels he has improved since then and is hoping to get bottling sorted out for his two main cask ales very soon. Transporting casks and returns is prohibitively expensive out there!



The Cal-Mac 'Isle of Cumbrae' makes the 70 min exhilarating slalom crossing from Berneray to Harris dodging innumerable rocks and islands en route.

Having spent a few excellent evenings in the Whalers' with Andy quaffing his 'Islander' (4.8% abv.), our final stay on the islands was in Tarbert prior to catching the ferry back to Skye. Next to the hotel the friendly Isle of Harris Inn sported two hand pumps; one with **Hebridean's Clansman** (3.9%abv.) and the other for an Isle of Skye ale, **Red Cuillin** (4.2% abv) whilst we were there.
Barrie and Mo

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“Are you ready for a Stornaway Sunday?”



The inquiry was made by a commercial traveller at the next table in the Langass Lodge on North Uist. It proved to be an appropriate caution! Although some things are slowly changing, much of Stornaway shuts down for the Sabbath including of course the pubs. However we found two reasons to celebrate. **The Whalers' Rest**, on the strength of a couple of letting rooms has just been given a 'hotel' classification and consequently a new Sunday licence. Also it sells ale from the **Hebridean Brewing Company**, a new enterprise set up by the intrepid Andy Ribbens.

Stornaway is the only town and administrative centre on the Outer Hebrides or Western Isles; a string of 12

inhabited islands extending some 150 miles north to south and with an area six times that of the IOW. Our trip took us to most of these islands except Barra which proved a ferry too far!

Away from Stornaway, the islands feel remote and can be wild and bleak if the weather is against you. But the weather changes quickly (and frequently!) and in the right conditions the scenery is spectacular-mile upon mile of empty beaches of white sand, flowering 'machair' beyond the sand dunes and inland moorland, lochans and mountains. Near deserted single-track main roads (busier in August? Maybe.) lead to small communities. There are virtually no pubs, with a drink only available at the small hotel bars.



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leave the bar.

Arreton's **Scarecrow Brewery** is about to scatter its seed. The first brew has been assigned to the **Gibb Brothers** chain of pubs. When visiting the **Dairyman's Daughter** check out the beer shop which has done exceptionally well selling all sorts of beers and breweriana from across the country.

Four conditioning tanks are on order and **Xavier** is looking to purchase 100 extra casks. He tells me that like everyone else **Ventnor Brewery** is having an eventful summer. The new **Organic Hygeia Ale** (5.2%) looks set to take the island by storm in October. Available in bottles as well as cask, the label/pump clip will portray a buxom beauty similar to Xavier's Girl-friend. (Easy tiger!) Could this be the only Cask Ale brewed in Britain?

InnSpired, the top ten pub company, is continuing to build on its staff and tenant relation's programme by launching a newsletter. Aptly titled InnTouch, the first edition was distributed in August. The newsletter aims to inform tenants, staff and prospec-

tive tenants of the latest developments within both InnSpired and the wider pub world, through the provision of up-to-date comment and advice.

To be issued each quarter, InnTouch will contain an informative mix of news and opinion from across the InnSpired estate. Complementing the blend of tenant, employee and business news, the newsletter will include tenant case studies, question of the issue, what's on guides, team profiles as well as some more light hearted

elements such as pub trivia and short quizzes.

Each issue of InnTouch will also incorporate a pull-out business supplement, written by specialist writers and offering third party advice on subjects relevant to the pub trade such as smoking in pubs, health and safety and marketing.

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Peter Brook, Chief Executive of InnSpired, is full of enthusiasm for the initiative: "We are looking forward to the first edition of the newsletter. It creates an additional platform for communication between InnSpired, its staff and our tenants. Now with the newsletter, new web site - www.innspired.co.uk - and our extensive tenant support programme, we offer a resilient package designed to attract high calibre tenants who are looking for a business opportunity.

Hot News: International brewing rivals **Heineken** and **Interbrew** are to end the incongruous agreement whereby Interbrew makes and distributes the "opposition" brand in the UK. The contract for brewing and distributing Heineken will cease next year and is not to be renewed.

Interbrew will take on Australian brand Castlemaine XXXX from Carlsberg Tetley

(C-T) plus a supply deal for Carlsberg lager.

From next year Heineken is to be marketed by a new company, Heineken UK, and the brand will be imported from Holland. The Dutch company has long regarded the "Cold Filtered" version of the beer sold in the UK as a low-strength, poor relation to the core brand, which enjoys a premium reputation internationally. Rob Marijnen, managing director of Heineken UK, said: "Now's the right time to launch a Dutch-brewed, international Heineken in the UK."

Paul

Have you got news for Wightwash?

Wightwash Mail
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DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Sunday 8th September **A Finale** (to Ryde Carnival & Arts Festival) at Ryde Town Hall

Featuring The Blue Horses from Wales
- a brilliant band fronted by two fantastic girl fiddle players -
plus - RAW SAMBA (a 50 piece samba band)

Tickets from the box office or phone 730930 (evenings)

Wednesday 18th September **Business Meeting**
Crab and Lobster, Bembridge, 8.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9th October **Social & Walkabout**
Prince of Wales, Freshwater, 8.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20th November **Business Meeting**
Buddle Inn, Niton, 8.30 p.m.

Friday 6th December **Christmas Social**
Venue to be decided, 8.30 p.m.

Friday 24th January **A.G.M.**
Travellers Joy, 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 19th February **Social & Walkabout**
Volunteer, Ventnor, 8.30 p.m.

blind men and other unfortunate beggars, who quickly relinquished their various "ailments" once inside its hospitable doors.

It lasted until 1905 when it was closed after approximately two hundred years of existence. Some little snippets of history remain to give a flavour of its life.

Hampshire Telegraph 23rd October 1820

Lot 1. "The Rum Puncheon". A large and roomy dwelling house, situate in South Street, formerly known by the name of Rum Puncheon, now used as a private house, in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Davies and his under-tenants. The house comprises two rooms in front, the back ditto, four good chambers, and two rooms in attic, with a large store near adjoining with useful out-buildings.

A message, heretofore a public house called the Flower Pot, since the Millwright Arms, lately called the Rum Puncheon, and since called the Rose & Crown (1/2 place of ground) in Newport, on north side of South Street, late in occupation of Thomas Davies and since of William Rose, bounded on east by lands of Read Taylor, bricklayer, on west by lands of William Clarke and on south by South Street.

The above undated deed gets the location completely wrong by having both the north side and the south side of the building facing South Street but presumably Thomas Davies is Benjamin Davies son and this places the deed 20 or 30 years after the 1820 Hampshire Telegraph advertisement.

Going further back in time to 1805, Phineas Board, a young band-master on board Nelson's flagship, the Victory, writes to his mother at the Sign of the Millwrights Arms, on the 25th August whilst the British fleet were waiting for the French fleet to come out to battle.

Dear Mother, This comes with my fond love to you, hoping these few lines to you will find you all well, as it leaves me at present, thank God. This is the third letter hi wrought to you, and hi am very oneasy because hi dont know whether you get my half pay because hi sent my Will and power to you and hi shant be happy untill hi know. So send me an answer as quick as possable. We expect the French fleet out every day. Dear mother, hi think hi made my fortune with the rich prisoner we have taken, so hi shall be able to do something for you all very shortly. God bless you all.
Phineas.

The actual Battle of Trafalgar took place on 21st October 1805, young Phineas's fate is unknown. A hundred years later the inn closed and the door on another chapter of Newport's history swung shut.

Kevin Mitchell

Kevin's books on the history of Newport's pubs and Ryde's pubs are available from all good bookshops including Ottakars.

The Millwrights Arms, Newport



The rare picture above is a small section of a larger photograph of Newport taken from the air in 1932 and shows the area around the junction between South Street, Church Litten and Town Lane. The Prince of Wales pub can be seen clearly with its new exterior of mock Tudor cladding, but now look across the road opposite to what today is a public car park. There stands the Millwrights Arms facing into a ramshackle courtyard with little terrace houses all around. See how Orchard Street sits in the shade and grave stones stand in Church Litten graveyard on the lower right of the picture.

By the time this photograph was taken, the Millwright Arms had been closed for a quarter of a century but its memory lived on as a notorious public house of ill repute. Newport in the late 18th century had had many inns that had a certain unsavoury character and this old inn plied its trade amongst the slums that have since been cleared away. It had several names before settling on the Millwrights Arms including the Flower Pot, Rum Puncheon and Rose & Crown. It was also apparently the home of bogus cripples,

It's Florida, the sun is shining, the humidity's rising, the heat is unbelievable, so what's the first thing you think of? No, it's far too hot for that, so why not have a beer, instead? But how do you make your choice among the dozens of unfamiliar brands, especially when supermarkets only sell 6-packs, rather than individual bottles? Well, it's not that difficult really; after you've dismissed anything by Bud, Coors or Schlitz (the beer that made Milwaukee famous!) and other straw coloured, fizzy concoctions, you're really left with only one alternative - one of the excellent indigenous red wines available at very reasonable prices from all supermarkets and liquor stores! It has to be said that Florida does not offer the discriminating beer drinker very much in the way of satisfaction, which is a little surprising when you compare it to other holiday areas. In Spain and the Canaries, for example, although the predominant beers are Dorrado and St Miguel, it's not too hard to find a few interesting bottles in the local supermercado. Such an establishment, which was adjacent to my holiday residence in Tenerife a few years ago, afforded a splendid selection of German Weissbiers, amongst others. French supermarkets, as I've previously reported in Wightwash, of-

fer a better selection of bottled beers than you'll find in their English equivalent. But hot, humid, Florida is about as exciting for the beer buff as a visit to Courage. That said, it does yield the occasional gem (though perhaps a better description might be 'tacky costume jewellery'). I tried a few bottles of **Coors 'Black and Tan'**, which was actually not bad, allowing for its processed origins. It was fairly smooth and malty, and had a tolerable flavour. I've no idea of its strength, since American brewers are not constrained to make such information available, but I would have guessed it at around 4.5%. A vastly better proposition was **Winterhook**, a 'robust Winter ale' from the **Red Hook** brewery. This was a powerful dark brew, well balanced with malt and hops, and comparing very favourably to an English bottled Christmas Ale, like Shepherd Neame.

I did come unstuck on one beer, however. Having been a long-time aficionado of **George Killian Red**, a delightful, malty beer available in almost every French supermarket, originally in Ireland but now by **Pelforth** in France, my heart leapt when I found some bottles bearing the name in the local Wal-mart. Alas, they say that beauty is only skin-deep, and never was it truer

Advertisement for Solent Inn

than with this beer. It was very nasty. Many years ago, American brewer Schlitz, actually went out of business by selling beer stuffed so full of dubious chemicals and additives that even American drinkers avoided it. The US version of George Kilians could well be a contender for the same fate, so, rather than risk being poisoned, I poured it away. Even the waste disposal flatulated in protest.

By the way, if you're in the States, never, ever be tempted to drink a concoction called 'Root Beer'. Whether or not it was traditionally an alcoholic drink I cannot say, but it's marketed as a soft drink, and it's disgusting. It's difficult to do justice to the palate of this nauseating beverage, and the nearest I can get is a combination of week-old cola and drain cleaner.

However, there was one bright, shining moment which came as an oasis in the beer desert of central Florida. In the Mercado Centre mall on International Drive, I came across a repro pub called the **Cricketers Arms** - how English can you get! I feared the worst. The dim interior was done out as an 'authentic' country pub - lots of bare wood (real, not fake), dried hops and much bric-a-brac. Contrived, of course, but, all in all, a pretty good attempt in such an unnatural environment. Lined up on the beer were some beer engines offering a number of typical UK real ales - draught **Bass, London Pride, Tetleys**, and - there is a god - **Fullers ESB**. 'Ha!' thought I, this might purport to be served from a traditional handpump, but surely this will be less than real and the beer will be keg, for thus it is written that when Brits journey abroad and enter a 'British Pub' they

will encounter only fakery and falsehoods. On this occasion, however, my disdain was unwarranted - the beer was like nectar, and tasted like real ale, though my scepticism told me it couldn't possibly be so. I readily, and with an almost complete lack of regret, parted with \$4.50 for my pint - around £2.80 (i.e. a typical Whitbread price,), but I didn't mind paying its air fare. I can honestly say I have had few better and more enjoyable beers in most British pubs and beer festivals I've visited. My only regret was that the presence of the hire car in the car park restricted my consumption to that solitary pint, but its memory will linger forever.

Brian Jacobs

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Contagious

One of the newer acts to come to the fore on the Island scene are Contagious - an acoustic guitar/vocal duo that play a variety of songs from Peggy Lee to Dido and from Smokey Robinson to Stereophonics. It is also very encouraging to hear that they are also currently writing their own material. .



Vocalist Paula Samson and guitarist Roland White met four years ago while playing in F-Beat - a five piece soul/funk band. They moved on to form Contagious two years ago.

Paula has a strong voice with a kind of dreamy, yet souly quality which shines on songs such as 'Son Of A Preacherman'. The duo also perform a mean, rocked-up version of Soft Cell's 'Tainted Love'.

At the time of going to press, Contagious had a Tuesday night residency at the Village Inn, in Shanklin. Flanagan's at Sandown, The Vine Inn in Freshwater and The Solent in Ryde are also regular gigs for this popular duo.

Check out the exact dates on the Vaguely Sunny gig guide at www.iowrock.net. For further information about Contagious telephone 01983-526633.

For more details and further gigs log on to

www.iowrock.net

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