

# Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 17

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

## Autumn 2003 Issue



### Tim Wins and Goes

#### Row over POY

Shortly after picking up the Isle of Wight CAMRA Pub of the Year Award, Tim Saul announced that he would be leaving the Island and selling his Ventnor pub, the **Volunteer** to a mainland company. This prompted questions in some quarters as to whether or not the award should be withdrawn.



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*Yates' Brewery*  
at the  
**Inn at St Lawrence**  
*the "Real" local brewery*  
[www.yates-brewery.co.uk](http://www.yates-brewery.co.uk)

John Nicholson, branch chairman was quick to point out that the award was for services in the past. "We can't possibly vote for a pub that we think will be good in the future. The award reflects the way that



members feel the pub has performed during the previous year". "In any case, we are a democratic organisation and it's not up to the Chairman or

anyone else to overturn the results of the voting". "We would like to thank Tim and Ann for their dedication and enthusiasm and wish them well for the future". (more details on page 8).



[www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk](http://www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk)

**N.B.** Last years winning pub, the **Blacksmiths Arms** saw its landlord, Edgar Neighorn leave only a few weeks after receiving the award.

Hey, You!

Now you're probably reading this whilst standing at the bar thinking I have a lovely glass of beer in front of me so why should I give a tinker cuss about CAMRA.

Well, think back to your last foreign holiday. Could you get a Mild or a Best Bitter; or a Brown Ale or a Stout? Did you even get a discernable choice of lagers?

The word you are probably looking for is "No".

Well you can here.

Why? Because a group of people won't let big business decide what you want to drink.

They are called The Campaign for Real Ale or CAMRA.

If you care about British pubs and beer, please consider filling in the form on the back page and joining CAMRA.

Cheers!

PS If you didn't have a foreign holiday, don't bother; stop here and finish the day with a nice pint of what you fancy care of us, CAMRA.

**One World, One Beer? See Campaign Issues on page 14**

*They there shipmates!*

*If you have to get wrecked, there's no finer place to do it than at one of our Waterside Taverns!*

Esplanade, Shanklin  
**THE STEAMER INN**

Little Tandon, Newport  
**The Bargeman's Rest**

Esplanade, Shanklin  
**The Spyglass Inn**

**Up to seven real ales on offer!**

Each offers its own individual style, and the "wrecked" features the freshest of local produce, including the famous Wainwright Lakeland Lamb.

From *Paul Mattick*

I can confirm the rumour from the last issue that **Kate and Chris Cole** have taken over the **Sun** in Hulverstone. Chris has poached **Dave Gibson** from **Hogshead** and installed him as manager. The pub will now be open all day - even in the depths of winter. In fact, now that the collapsed chimney has been repaired, there will be two fires. Chris explained that the beer policy is best described as "working my way through my 100 favourite ales". There will be a fortnightly quiz alternating with Chris's other pub - Arreton's **White Lion**.

Avid **Wightwash** readers may remember an article **Dag Crawford** wrote for us telling us about his adventures on the Isle of Wight and his subsequent move to the Isle of Bute (Summer 2002 Issue). Dag has been picking up awards for his pub, the **Port Royal Hotel**, at breath taking speed. Learning everything he knows from **Tim Saul** (or so Tim says), Dag has only been a landlord for a couple of years. Within that time he has won his local CAMRA branch Pub of the Year

(even before Tim did), **Les Routiers** Champion Pub of Scotland, and now **Les Routiers** Overall winner of National Pub of the Year. Have a look at Dag's Website [www.butehotel.com](http://www.butehotel.com). Was this the pub where **Stella McCartney** held her hen night I wonder?

**Edgar and Donna Nieghorn** are now at the **Mitre** in Shaftsbury's High Street. They were recently visited by **Pete and Heather**



## The Inn at St Lawrence

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# Advertisement for Solent Inn



**Cobb** who report that the pub has stunning views of the Blackmore Vale. The pub was originally owned by **Eldridge Pope** who sold it to a developer. When permission was refused to convert it into flats, it was sold to **Youngs** who installed their star landlord – **Edgar**. **Edgar** hopes to soon be able to stock a range of German beers to add to the **Youngs** and **Smiles** beers already available.

Good luck to **Mick Quinn** and his partner **Chris** who have taken the helm at the **Fleming Arms** in Ryde/Binstead. You may remember them from the **King Lud** on Ryde seafront. Good food and good beer are on the menu and I look forward to visiting them soon. For the meantime I believe they are still at the **Lud** until a replacement can be found.

Last year during a visit to Amsterdam, **Wightwash** editor, **Tim Marshall**, found **De Bierkoning** - a sort of Harrods for beer drinkers.

Amongst the British beer section was a whole shelf full of beers from **Ventnor Brewery**. The proprietor, **Ton**, turned out

to be a big fan of **Sandrock Smoked Beer**; although he had to be enlightened as to the origin of the name. (In case you don't know, it is named after a local hotel that mysteriously caught fire.) This time when **Tim** returned, he took a present of a **Ventnor Brewery** T-shirt with which (as you can see) **Ton** was most pleased.



**Ton** turned up on the Island shortly after this and was the surprise guest at the Pub of the Year awards. For photos of this event, see our website.

Incidentally, if you have not already heard, our esteemed editor has resigned from full time musical maritime duties

with **P&O Cruises**. Mr **Marshall** gave the reason for his resignation as "wanting to spend more time in the pub." Following their recent success with **Fursty**

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and brewery memorabilia

**Arreton Barns Craft Village**

Ferret, Badger Brewery has announced the arrival of a new winter seasonal ale with an ABV of 4.6%. **Rick Payne** (Beer Brands Marketing Manager) told me that following an on line questionnaire, it was narrowed down to either **Nut Cracker** or **Gobbledy Goose**. The rest is history (in fact the Goose won by a very long neck!). It will be launched on 13th October 2003 and cease in the first week in January 2004. Now lads, lets have a bit of decorum when ordering this beer, especially if there is a young lady behind the bar!

**Cloud 9 Design** of Northwood have designed a unique guide to Island pubs. It's an "Overground" map, based on the London Underground map. For more details phone Dorri Jones on 296991



**Island Ales** continue to supply the Island with a variety of ales. Their featured brewery this time around is **Young's Brewery** which includes: **Young's Bitter** (3.7%), **Special** (4.5%), **Golden Zest** (4.8%) and **Waggle**

## The Village Inn

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**Dance** which sounds like a strong one to me.

**Thatcher's Inn** on Ryde Esplanade has been sold and may soon be a Chinese restaurant.

**Goddards** are at present having their **Fugle, Bitter** and **Ducks Folly** bottled by the mainland's **Hopback Brewery** due to what **Chris Coleman** describes as a very busy summer. Chris expressed his disappointment at coming third in the recent Isle of Wight CAMRA members' poll in the local breweries section but he has promised to get out next year and kiss a few more ba-

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British Beer Festival for **Holy Joe**. Dave Yates's son Dave Jnr. has opened a few doors lately after starting working full time, which has given him more time on the brewing/bottling side of things. With Christmas coming, a festive brew may be on the cards. Dave wouldn't disclose anything but he mentioned something about reindeer droppings.

Good luck to **Dennis Cook and Jay Thompson** who have taken on one of the few Gales pubs on the Island. Jay, Who has 14 years experience in the trade and Dennis who has of

bies! Yet another batch of casks has been ordered to cope with demand and Chris added that following the popularity of seafood beers he was thinking of brewing a Mussel Mild or maybe a Whelk Porter! The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration party at the brewery in June went very well, in particular the cabaret when Director Natasha Adams performed her rendition of the dance of the foolish virgin entirely from memory!

Yates Brewery has been so busy that Dave Yates Snr. didn't have time to talk to me for the last issue. This time around I camped out on his doorstep until he would! **Undercliff** sales are gradually increasing and the publicans seem to be very happy with it. **Arreton Barns** has taken delivery of a be spoke bitter throughout the summer fittingly named **Dairyman's Water** (4.5%), with the slogan "It's stronger than you think". Yates has also concluded the deal by supplying it in bottles (available from the bottle shop on site.) David was very pleased with a great report from the

*A warm welcome at the Heart of the Island for good food & cheer*

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LARGE CAR PARK

late been serving at the **Union Inn** at Cowes are now working together at **The Pointers Inn** at Newchurch.

I spoke to **Xavier Baker** of **Ventnor** brewery at the start of a stag weekend (not his!). The ferry was just about to arrive over in England and he was in a hurry to get his surfboard off. **Hygeia** is now being sold in **Wetherspoons** across the country and now that the labels have arrived from the printer, it will also be available in bottles. A pallet of **Oyster Stout** has just been sent off to the USA and due to a very busy summer, a new fermenting room has been opened. **Scarecrow Brewery** have had their busiest summer ever (and it's only their second, bless 'em). Xavier told me to look out for a Christmas beer, which will be out at the beginning of November.

I had to include this true story – **Poet Dylan Thomas** is no longer banned from the **Pentre Arms** in Llangrannog, Wales, well over half a century after he was barred for helping himself to a pint. I held a séance at home the other day (don't try this at home or your auntie will start gibbering!). Anyway, I summoned Dylan and this is what he said:

*The Boy stood in the public bar,  
Helping himself to a beer,  
He got told off and barred for life,  
So what am I doing up here!*

Cheers! **PAUL**

P.S. Don't leave us in the dark. Tell us what's happening in your neck of the woods. Phone 721557 or email [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

## Dates For Your Diary

- 24<sup>th</sup> September Business Meeting **Bonchurch Arms** 8.30
- 15<sup>th</sup> October Branch Social **King Harry's Bar**, Shanklin 8.30
- 5<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Social **Solent Inn** Ryde TBA
- 7<sup>th</sup> December **Brolum** at The Riverside Centre
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January AGM
- Traveller's Joy** Northwood TBA

Members are asked to inform **Ken Matthews** [camraiw@aol.com](mailto:camraiw@aol.com) if they have email but are not yet on our "emailing list".



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## Goodbye Tim

**Sadly, the rumours have been confirmed and Tim Saul is to leave the Volunteer Inn after 10 years of magnificent and well-appreciated service to the real ale drinkers of the Isle of Wight.**

Tim first moved into the "Volly" in 1993 and faced a mammoth task. The tiny Ventnor pub had been abandoned 2 years earlier and lay derelict; even the beer had been left in the pipes. The only attention it had received was the unwelcome kind from local vandals. Tim, whose background had been in insurance, was in those days a bit of a novice when it came to real ale. He wisely sought the advice of CAMRA and the rest, as they say, is history. He decided to pursue a policy of "No Chips, Children or Juke box" and quickly developed the skills of a master cellarman.

The pub has featured in the national Good Beer Guide every year since Tim took it over and this year it cast off its bridesmaid's dress and became our branch Pub of the Year. Following the sale of the pub, Tim and Ann will be moving to the Isle of Bute in Western Scotland. They leave the Island on 21 September and will be opening a seafood restaurant in Rothesay in the New Year - Brechin's Brasserie.

Any visitors from the Isle of Wight will be made most welcome. Tim can still be contacted (for the time being) on his old email address.

Victoria Inns Ltd. of Haywards Heath will be the new owners of the Volunteer and the lessees will be Mike and Heather Janvrin who confirm that they plan to continue the Volunteer's policy of good real ale.

We would like to wish Tim and Ann the best of luck in their new venture and say a big THANK YOU for all their hard work at the Volunteer.

### And Goodbye Dave

**Another famous Island real ale pub waved good bye to its landlord recently with Dave Moore's departure from the Railway Medina.**

Many remember Dave from the Crab Inn, Shanklin, but it was the Railway Medina where he made his mark, keeping a fine array of real ales and organising some memorable brewery trips.

Stephen Kennedy who recently took over the Sportsman's Rest in Porchfield (see Spring Wightwash) is now running the pub.



## THE VOLUNTEER INN

Victoria Street, Ventnor Tel: 852537

*Isle of Wight  
CAMRA*

*Pub of the Year*

Tim and Ann would like to thank all CAMRA members and friends for their support over the last 10 years and will they please welcome Mike and Heather Janvrin - Your new hosts at the "Volly"!



## You Never Know Who Is In The Pub With You (part 2)

Following the 1969 Wootton Festival a strong rumour rumbled around the Island that a jam session had occurred at the *Crab and Lobster* pub in *Bembridge*. Rumour I believe it to be or perhaps just Island folklore. What it did do was fuel speculation that a bootleg tape existed of the event. Phone calls abounded from Dylan fans all over the world but alas no tapes ever appeared and they still haven't materialised. If you know of any please contact me by e-mail at [peter.vaguelysunnypromotions@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:peter.vaguelysunnypromotions@tinyworld.co.uk)

One night at the *The Blacksmiths Arms, Calbourne* I was talking to Bruce (surname unknown) about Bob Dylan when he started to tell me how the Dylan had visited *The Sloop* in *Wootton*. It was unclear if he played or not but what did happen is that the stool that the legend sat on was completely demolished by the crowd who had gathered to see him. If you were at this legendary event or even have a piece of the stool then please let me know. Whilst on the island for the festival the late Richard Manuel of The Band, visited the Island's floating nightclub, the paddle steamer, *Medway Queen*. He sat in with resident musicians Doug Watson and Ernie Hayles to add some eloquent piano to a blues standard. Were you there?

Skip to the filming of *That Will Be The Day* at *the White Lion* in Arreton and you may well have been drinking with David Essex and Ringo Starr. More recently at the *Hare & Hounds* you may have found yourself with Ashley Hutchings, Phil Beer and Chris While (The Ridgeriders). Ashley would have been the one holding the skull!

If you want to hear the music that made the book *Isle of Wight Rock* possible you will need one of our CD's. Priced £5. Available from Pete Turner on 07779 124579.



This years Vaguely Sunny Xmas concert will feature Scotland's best young traditional band **Brolum** at the Riverside Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> December (8 pm). Seven piece bands are a rarity on any music scene and one that creates as much excitement as this band is even rarer. Twin fiddles, pipes and whistles backed by one of the most solid rhythm sections around combine to create one of the most driving sounds you will have heard in a long time. For further details visit [www.brolum.co.uk](http://www.brolum.co.uk) Tickets for the gig are £10, and are available from the Riverside Centre, Newport or phone 01983-730930



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When I was a nipper on certain days of the week, an aroma of boiled hops used to hang over Newport. It signalled a new brew from **Mew Langton Royal Brewery** - destined to be drunk by many an Islander and visitor. In those days **Mew Langton** were the giants of Island brewing. They supplied beers to their estate covering Southampton, Lymington, Milford on Sea, Totton and the Isle of Wight, a total of over 180 pubs and off-licences.

## The Beginning

The story starts around 1643 when there is a record of three brewpubs in Crocker Street (then called North Street) owned by MR MEWES of the Newport Corporation. Facts are scarce and we can only speculate as to whether or not MR MEWES was related to a MR BENJAMIN MEW from Lymington who bought these three pubs and began furiously buying up as many of the other pubs as he could, several of them brewing their own beer. Within a surprisingly short period of time BENJAMIN had acquired inns and hostelries all over the Island and, together with his brother, had formed the "**Mew and Co., brewers of Newport and Lymington.**" Brewing operations were centralised in a large brewery in Crocker Street.

In 1850 a request was received from Queen Victoria to supply OSBORNE HOUSE with beer. A special brew of **Osborne Ale** was formulated and duly delivered. A royal charter was granted and the brewery became the **Royal Brewery**.

By 1887 it became obvious that in order to survive, the company badly needed a financial backer. MR WALTER LANGTON arrived on the scene with a bag of money and **The**

**Mew Langton Royal Brewery** was formed. During all this time the raw products of malt and hops were purchased from outside suppliers. This was a tremendous expense. Amongst the archives there is a cheque for £1,408.06s.08d to cover the cost of a years supply of malted barley. In 1898 a momentous decision was made that from then on the brewery would malt its own barley. A new malthouse was built with a fine copper roof visible to most parts of Newport. The manufacture of minerals started the same year in the new state of the art factory. **Mew Langton** now dominated the Isle of Wight drinks scene.



*The Royal Mew Langton Brewery, Newport*



*A hand-written cheque for hops signed in 1848 by Thomas Mew*



*To be continued*

*Jeff Ledicott*



**British Man Wins Major International Sporting Event**

Shome Mishtake Shurely - Editor



*The Competitors Tee Off*



*Within only a couple of dozen shots they are on the green, or jolly close to it*



*Anguish on the 8th (par 57) when a birdie is narrowly missed by only a few feet*

*Perks of Ventnor*

*Wholesale wine available by the case for that special occasion*



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*A winner emerges and is presented with the Golden Putter by a totally bemused bloke we found at the bar.*

The Rookley Open is an annual event held by the Rookley Inn to raise money for the Mountbatten Hospice

If you run a charity event at your pub and would like some irreverent publicity, give us a ring on 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk



After our visit in the last edition to the far-flung Cayman Islands we return to home ground with a trip to South Devon.

Drive down to Bigbury-on-Sea and Burgh Island (the locals say 'Burr') is reached at low water by a five-minute walk across golden sands and at high water by a 'Sea Tractor', an unlikely and ungainly contraption, which is nevertheless useful in rescuing stranded drinkers. The island can be walked in about 20 minutes and has only four buildings; two houses, the splendid art-deco hotel which featured in a Poirot mystery and the Pilchard Inn. Adjoining the slipway, this pub has two bars (one non-smoking) with stone walls, flagged floor and open fires. Small windows look out over the strand towards the mainland; the pub is open all day and as



*Burgh Island's amphibious transport*



*The Sea-Tractor arriving. The Pilchard is centre-right of the picture*

well as food, serves Bass, Elgood's Cambridge Bitter at £2.30 and 'Pilchard Ale (3.8%) a house beer brewed by Bass (correct April 2003).

Whilst in the area there is one other pub well worth a visit. Back on the mainland a few minutes drive will take you to Ringmoor (OS 651 45100) or if time permits (3 hours) try walking via the hilly South West coast path and then inland along a bridleway.

The Journey's End is a fine old pub set in a quintessential Devon village. As well as providing food and accommodation, it has two bars, a conservatory and garden and a separate dining room. There are three ales all served by gravity: Palmers IPA, Sharp's 'Doon Bar' and 'Cornish Coaster.'

A Caution: if walking there are plenty of hills on the way back!

**Mo and Barry**



Now here's a great idea:

- Have a night out with the lads/girls.
- Get someone else to drive.
- Help raise some money for a fantastic charity

How?

Read on...

In 1976 Peter and Patricia Wrinkle's 3-year-old son, Derek developed Leukaemia. The treatment in London's Great Ormond Street Hospital lasted 2½ long years. Peter and Patricia were so impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the team of doctors (under Professor Chessels) that they decided to raise funds for Leukaemia Research. Early attempts included charity concerts and cabaret/dance nights at Lake Working Men's Club. Bingo was, and still is, a source of income (every Monday night at the WRVS hall Newport Street, Ryde if you're interested). But the real winner has been the Leukaemia Bus. The idea came to Peter when a group of nurses asked if he could organise a night out. Seats were installed in his van and he began hiring himself out as a minibus service. Apart from petrol and maintenance, all profits go straight to Leukaemia Research. Seven years later and we are now on to Leukaemia Bus mark III - a 14 seater. Peter's first target of £25,000 was passed as was his second target of £50,000. Now he's got his sights fixed on £100,000. One of the beneficiaries of this money has been St Mary's Haematology Department who have already received £32,000 worth of new equipment and are looking forward to the installation of a £10,500 Duet Reader.

Peter's fund raising achievements were recognised when he and Patricia were invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

So if you want to hire a minibus to get you and your chums to the pub and back, give Peter a ring 562294. You will be helping a very good cause. (The average cost for the evening is £40. For that you will be picked up and taken back to your own front door.)

And how's Derek?

He's fine. He's 30, married to Emma and they are expecting their first baby.



Peter and the Leukaemia Bus mark III

## The Leukaemia Bus - 562294



## One World, One Beer!

“ANHEUSER -BUSCH ROLLS OUT HIGH END PILSNER”  
is the banner headline, and if it hasn't got you quaking in your boots it should do.

Read and be afraid, be very afraid!

*ANHEUSER-BUSCH own over half the USA beer market and now they have their eyes on Europe and beyond.*

The press release continues-

Anheuser-Busch' s top brewmasters have teamed up to create World Select, a continental pilsner beer. The project brought together the expertise of brewmasters representing 10 countries; Ireland, Spain, Italy, Korea, Japan, Canada, China, Argentina, UK and the United States. "It was very rewarding to collaborate with other brewmasters from all over the world and eventually develop one beer," said Nathaniel Davis, who directed the project. The company' s ad campaign for the beer will have the tagline "Ten Brewmasters. Four Continents. One Beer."

And that's what the big business boys want you to have- One Beer!

**One World, One Beer**

**NO THANK YOU!**

**Thank Goodness for CAMRA**

## BeerPoint

**Wanted...**

### Beer Tasters

The Isle of Wight Campaign for Real Ale are currently running a pilot scheme called **BeerPoint**. It has been devised for the purpose of rewarding, encouraging and promoting the delivery of Real Ale in good condition at the point of sale. We will be announcing more details in the next issue of Wightwash but in the meantime we need to recruit a panel of tasters from the ranks of our branch membership. This is not quite as easy as it might sound and anyone interested would have to attend a special CAMRA tasting training session in Southampton. These last a couple of hours and are free of charge.

If you are a CAMRA member and would like to attend one of these sessions, please phone 721557 or email [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

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## How much do you know about the Island's famous (and infamous!) characters?

1. Who stayed and worked in Eglantine Cottage in 1819 and has a Green named after him?
2. Which famous photographer lived at Dimbola Lodge?
3. Which writer moved to Brook Hill House in 1948?
4. Whose gibbet provides part of the roof beam of a famous Island Public House?
5. Whose poem 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' was written on the Down that now bears his name?
6. Who spent two years on the Isle of Wight developing his prototype of the hovercraft?
7. Whose first oil painting was a study of fishing boats off the Needles?
8. Charles Dickens wrote part of one of his novels in which Island village?
9. Name the inventor of the "bouncing bomb" who was an apprentice at J Samuel Whites.
10. Newport Town Hall was built in 1816 from a design by which architect?
11. Who transmitted the first wireless broadcast from The Needles Hotel in 1897?
12. Which popular Isle of Wight beer is named after the character in the photograph?



Send your answers to: **The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3NH** or by email to [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk) by 1st November  
First correct answers out the hat wins a tenner!

### Answers to Summer Quiz

1. Scotland (Cal.70 Shillings)
  2. Malta (Cisk Lager)
  3. USA (Old Foghorn)
  4. Cyprus (Keo)
  5. Netherlands (La Trappe)
  6. France (Pelforth Brune)
  7. Jamaica (Red Stripe)
  8. Seychelles (Seybrew)
  9. China (Tsing Tao)
  10. Spain (Voll Damm)
- Richard Palmer of Bethnal Green wins a tenner.

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



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Times: 11 - 11 Mon - Sat  
12 - 10.30 Sun

Food from 12 - 9 every day

*with an extensive menu  
to suit all tastes*

Winter Events will include:

*a fortnightly quizz,  
weekly curry nights,  
weekly music nights.*

Check out our website:

[www.sun-hulverstone.com](http://www.sun-hulverstone.com)

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4 LW  
Rates are Single £16 Joint £19  
OAP's £9 (Joint £12) Under 26 £9 (Joint £12)

Name.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Post code.....

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

Signed.....

Date.....