

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 77

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Autumn Issue 2018



The Campaign for Real Ale exists to preserve and promote good beer and pubs.

ISLE OF WIGHT CLASSIC BUSES BEER & WALKS WEEKEND

13th & 14th
October 2018



See Page Twelve



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

In this FREE issue:

New Faces AN ORIENTAL ADVENTURE

THE MEW LANGTON FIRE PRIZE QUIZ

Island Landmarks Boozing in Brum

and much, much more...

BEER & BUSES



ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

**Saturday 13th &
Sunday 14th October**

Leave the bus at Wootton and board the train to Havenstreet where you can enjoy a selection of ales at the Real Ale Bar.

Special timetable in operation;
visit our website for details.

Free travel between Wootton and Havenstreet **ONLY** on production of a Beer & Buses programme.

The Railway Station, Havenstreet, PO33 4DS
01983 882204 | iwsteamrailway.co.uk

ISLE OF WIGHT BUS AND COACH MUSEUM

Come and see our collection of vintage buses & coaches.
Visit the shop & teabar.
See the displays of memorabilia and artefacts.

FREE ADMISSION

Opening Times: Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Bank Holidays
From 1st April to 28th October
extra dates see: www.iwbusmuseum.org.uk

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

The Bus Depot

www.iwbusmuseum.org.uk

A registered charity 1097347



Ye Olde Village Inn

61 High Street, Bembridge - PO35 5SF

Tel: 01983 872616



7 Day Offers

Monday Night

DEAL • ALL PIZZA £10

Tuesday Night

DEAL • CURRY 50% OFF 2ND CURRY

Wed Night

DEAL • PIZZA 50% OFF 2ND PIZZA

Thursday Night

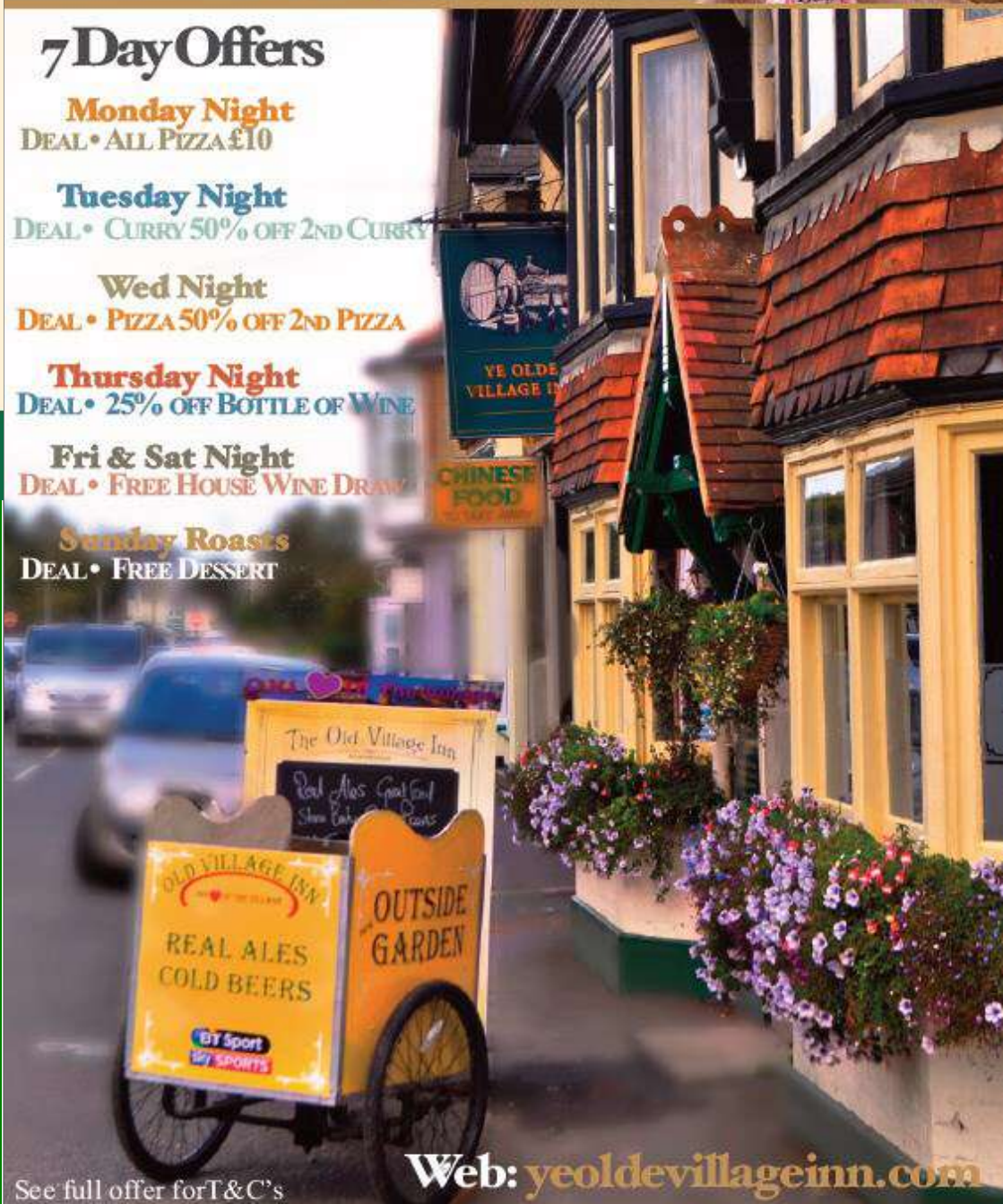
DEAL • 25% OFF BOTTLE OF WINE

Fri & Sat Night

DEAL • FREE HOUSE WINE DRAW

Sunday Roasts

DEAL • FREE DESSERT



See full offer for T&C's

Web: yeoldevillageinn.com

JOIN CAMRA TODAY!

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form. Visit camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Your details

Title _____ Surname _____
Forename(s) _____
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Email address _____
Tel _____

Partner details (if joint membership)

Title _____ Surname _____
Forename(s) _____
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
Email address _____

Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership £25 £27
(UK & EU)
Joint Membership £30 £32
(Partner at the same address)

For the under 26 membership and other concessionary rates please visit camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

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

I enclose a cheque for _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

**Campaigning for Pub Goers
& Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale
& Pubs**

Join CAMRA today - camra.org.uk/joinus

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit.

Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society:

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference

Service User Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY
This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- The Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the organisation will notify you (normally 10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the organisation to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the organisation or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the organisation asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify the organisation.

Island Brewery

Bronze for Bottles!

Bronze for Bottles in the World Beer Awards! In this year's World Beer Awards, Island Brewery's bottled **Wight Gold** and **Wight Knight** were both awarded bronze in category. This is a fantastic achievement to add to the now numerous other prestigious World Beer Awards, including a gold in 2015 for **Wight Christmas**, a gold for best stout in the world for **RDA** in 2017 and a bronze for **Yachtsman** in 2016. With all these accolades it is little wonder that they need a new and bigger premises in which to expand!

But, this fantastic success story is really no surprise to those who know the beers and the brewers and the history of this remarkable enterprise. Starting as a serious home brewer, Chris was taken on by Goddards in the early days to do small batch brewing, and it is many years later that he now spends his working days doing just the same again but for Island Brewery, with free licence to experiment and brew whatever style appeals. So busy is the small batch business that it is fully commissioned right up to Beer & Buses, and beyond with a series of specials – very specials! Did anyone get a sample taste of them at the Havenstreet Beer Festival over the last Bank Holiday, where three very specials were on



exhibition (hand pumps)? Chris's first version of a cloudy wheat beer, in the German Weissbier style, was christened **First IoW Pop Festival**. He also produced, for the event, a rich roast barley and oat stout called **Jeff's Driving Test** and a pale beer called **15 Guinea Special** using chocolate rye malt. All were 4.5% ABV – and very delicious!

Cowes Week, this year, saw the brewery drunk dry, and the Island Brewery bar on the Parade run out of

Who's Who

Chairman and BeerPoint coordinator

John Nicholson
jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk

Secretary

Alec Lawson
alec.lawson@virgin.net

Treasurer and GBG coordinator

Ken (Buzzy) Matthews
camraiw@aol.com

Wightwash Editor and Membership

Tim Marshall
editor@wightwash.org.uk

Press Officer

Brian Jacobs
jcloth14@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR WINTER WIGHTWASH WILL BE
 20TH NOVEMBER 2018



Branch Pub of the Year 2017

King Harry's Bar

Old Village, Shanklin

Ever changing variety of well kept real ales

Telephone: 01983 863119

Function room available for all occasions

Live bands every Friday from 9pm 'til 11pm

20p off a pint of real ale for card carrying CAMRA members

some styles and down to the last drop on others. "One of the most surprising things this year," says Steve Minshul, managing director of Island Brewery and Island Ales, "was the number of foreign people that made their way to our bar, specifically to ask for a pint of RDA." Steve goes on to ponder "I suppose it must have been due to RDA winning best stout at the World Beer Awards. Hmmm, these awards really do have impact – international impact!". I did suggest that it might be good to capitalise on this and put up a banner saying: Foreigners Welcome – Come and Try Our RDA! But I don't think this was taken seriously.

For me, I look forward to this year's Beer, Buses and Walks Festival, to try that stronger version of **Hop Aboard** again, and seek out the numerous other one-off specials dotted about the island that Chris has been so busy brewing; Mews recreations at the



Quay Arts, more tasty favourites at the Ale Houses, the array at the Traveller's, the pristine RDA at the Man in the Moon – and many others.

Contra to the puritanistic calls and endeavours to curb beer drinking, the world undoubtedly would be a better, happier, friendlier and more constructive place if more people drank Real Ale, which is actually a food for the body and for the brain.

Was it not in the Taverns of old that the ideas and inventions were formulated that seeded this Country to lead the world in the industrial and scientific light? Has anyone ever heard an angry word or seen a disruptive scene at any Real Ale Festival? The reports we get back from townspeople, shopkeepers, etc. from the Beer, Buses and Walks Festival is what a bunch of good natured nice people the participants are!

John Nicholson
BLO Island Brewery

the ANCHOR inn

BAR - RESTAURANT - ROOMS - MUSIC

The Island's premier live music venue

Home cooked food served all day

Large all weather beer garden

Refurbished en-suite accommodation

Large range of traditional ales

01983 292823

www.theanchorcowes.co.uk

1-3 HIGH STREET, COWES, PO31 7SA

Goddards Brewery

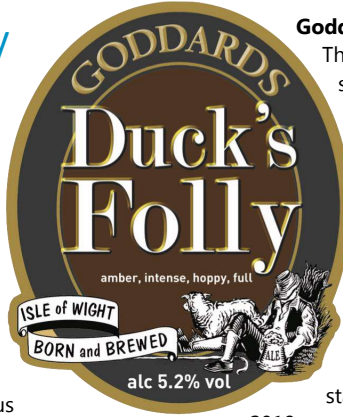
Duck's Folly has arrived

Goddards ever popular autumnal beer is out now!

The nights are starting to draw in, so it's time to get the **Duck's Folly** out. A dark amber, strong ale, with a spicy aroma and a complex sweetness to complement the hoppy dry finish. 5.2 ABV.

One of their most popular beers, you will find Duck's Folly in various pubs and distributors across the Island.

Have you spotted the anagram in the name? Now the stuff of legends, read the full story of how Duck's Folly got its name, you won't look at a bottle the same again! Visit the 'Our history' page on the Goddards Brewery website to read the full story.



Goddards Beer & Buses 'Duck Hunt'

The annual Beer & Buses event will soon be upon us. This year, we are giving away 250 limited edition t-shirts to lucky participants who complete our 'Duck Hunt'. Bus goers will receive a stamp for each half pint of Duck's Folly they order and when they have all six, they can claim their special t-shirt. If you're planning to take part, find the Goddards 'Duck Hunt' stamper in the official Beer & Buses 2018 programme and get hunting!

2018 Barley Report

Goddards have been working closely with Isle of Wight farmers and Peter Thomas, Managing Director of the Island Grain Group (a collective of over 40 Island farms) to ensure that the best possible quality ingredients always go into their beer. Due to the wonderful sunshine we have had

THE SUN INN
— HULVERSTONE —
Hulverstone, IOW, PO30 4EH

- CAMRA REAL ALES
- DOG FRIENDLY PUB
- WEEKLY LOCAL LIVE MUSIC
- EXTENSIVE DAILY SPECIALS

10% OFF!
YOUR BILL WITH THIS ADVERT E&OE

2017 WINNER "BEST PUB"
IOW BEER & BUSES

Tel: **01983 741124** **TheSunInnHulverstone**

this summer, 2018 was forecast to be a bad harvest with the extreme hot weather and drought to blame. Following a day visit from Chris Garrat, Head Maltster at Warminster Maltings (who reviewed this year's barley crop), he confirmed that there was in fact a very successful harvest thanks to a great start in the spring, the sunshine has resulted in barley that is plump, with high nitrogen levels - basically perfect for brewing a great beer! "We are so pleased with this year's harvest" commented Xavier Baker, Managing Director. "We take great care to use only the best quality ingredients in our beer and we were worried when the heatwave came but, actually, it has all worked out for the better. Not only do we have a fabulous brew, we have a pretty good tan going on too!"

Bottoms up!

Goddards were pleased to win two awards at the recent BBI (British Bottlers' Institute) awards for the Ales, Lagers and Ciders section of the 2018 BBI Drinks Competition. Ale of Wight scooped a

Diploma in Ales ABV 4.0-4.4% and Duck's Folly won the Diploma in Ales 5.0-5.9%. The competition is evaluated by an independent blind tasting panel with a subsequent visual evaluation of the packaging and both Goddards Ale of Wight and Duck's Folly were recognised by the panel of judges. "With the number of entries going up every year, we're really pleased to see that two Goddards real ales have been recognised in this national competition" added Babs Mitchell, Associate Director of Goddards. The BBI Awards will be formally presented at its annual dinner on Thursday 1st November in London.

Welcome to the family

Welcome to some new additions to the Goddards Brewery team. Hannah Crookes is the new Sales Administrator helping to keep the beer flowing and Josh Aspinall joins as a Brewery Assistant.

Mike Hoar
Goddards Brewery BLO



STEAMER INN
FREE HOUSE

LIVE MUSIC & GREAT FOOD
RIGHT ON THE SEAFRONT AT SHANKLIN

Open all day every day
Fresh seafood
Real ales
Panoramic views
B&B available

Esplanade, Shanklin, PO37 6BS | 01983 862641 | thesteamer.co.uk
f /TheSteamerInn JoinTheLocals

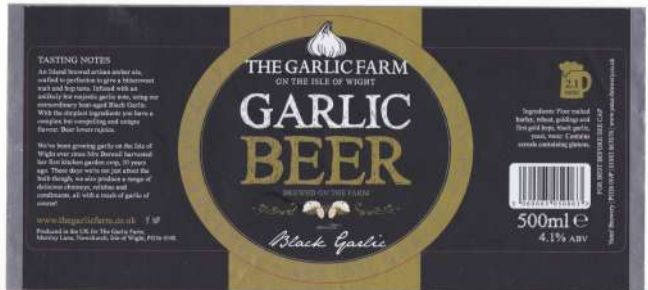
Yates' Brewery

There are no significant changes at the brewery to report this quarter but after a quiet start to the year the good news is that Yates' continue to be extremely busy in both cask and bottle. I am particularly looking forward to the return of 'On The Buses' for Beer & Buses in October. Our brewers do us proud with their offerings for this tremendous event.

Last time I mentioned that the Volunteer had produced their own label for some bottled Yates' beer and that made me think of the current version of the Garlic Beer. Now, I love my beer and I love garlic but in the past I have to be honest and say that I have struggled to enjoy the Garlic Beer, finding it a little overpowering. However, the current version with a subtle infusion of heat-aged Black Garlic is a delight to drink as well having the pleasure of adding

another interesting label to the collection. As I am writing this, entries have opened for CAMRA's 2020 Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) nomination. The Island's three breweries are all represented in various categories so do have a look and support them. If you share my passion for **Dark Side of the Wight** you have the same dilemma as me as it's up against **RDA**, whereas **Yule be Sorry** has little competition. Cheers!

Jeff Sechiari
Yates' Brewery BLO



Two Great Ventnor pubs!

The Traditional British Lounge and Wine Bar

and the little gem!



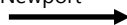
Surround yourself with nostalgia and enjoy our fine home cooked food. We stock an excellent range of Wines, Beers, Lagers, Ciders and Non-Alcoholic drinks. Guest Bottled Ales and Organic Ciders.
46 High Street. Tel: 01983 857446
www.perks of ventnor.com

No chips, children or fruit machines.
Just good ale and conversation.
Fully Open (* expt. Tuesdays)
30 Victoria Street. 01983 852537

Traveller's Joy, Northwood



Sam and Pete Booth took over this much loved village pub on the 4th February of this year and it's obvious that they are tackling the job with energy and enthusiasm. The interior has been redecorated and currently Sam is working on the exterior. Some of the locals have been warned that if they sit still too long they will get painted too. As an anniversary present Sam received some more paint brushes and a head torch so that she can still paint when it gets dark. The pool table has been reinstated and now the pub boasts four teams in the Coves/Newport



The Traveller's Joy



Pete and Sam Booth look forward to welcoming New and Old Faces

We are
very
Family-Friendly

85, Pallance Road
Northwood
PO31 8LS
(01983) 298024
tjoynorthwood@outlook.com

We have
re-introduced the
Cyrillburger!

league. The kitchen has been refurbished and there's a full menu of good home-made food (including the famous "Cyril Burger").

One successful introduction has been the Afternoon Coffee Club which is held on the last Thursday of every month. Everyone in the village is invited for free tea, coffee and biscuits (and even a lift home if required). Some villagers are now getting to know neighbours who they have lived next to for years but never met and some even bring along contributions of their own.

The fund raising for a village defibrillator is going well and now stands at over £600. There's to be another fundraising evening for Way-Forward, the charity for adults and young people with learning and physical disabilities. The quizmaster for this occasion will be Andy Barnett – Yes, Barney is Back!!

There are three regular beers and three or four guest beers all with Cask Marque accreditation. To cater for the cider drinkers "Thundering Molly" is proving very popular (and there's even a sticker to prove it's a "real cider" – John Glazebrook please note!).

There's Bingo every Monday, some form of entertainment every Saturday and Derek's Quiz every Sunday night. And coming soon – Pie Night!

It's wonderful to see this pub, which has played such an important part of Isle of Wight pub history, in such good hands.



the Highdown Inn

Bed & Breakfast, Local Seafood Restaurant and Country Family Pub



Dog Friendly, Family Friendly, Walker Friendly "Muddy boots welcome!"
Constantly Changing Cask Ales (inc. **Botanic Ale** from Ventnor Botanic Gardens)

Come and see us on Beer and Buses!

Telephone: 01983 752450

Highdown Lane, Totland, Isle of Wight, PO39 0HY
www.highdowninn.co.uk

Beer and Buses is back again and will be taking place over the weekend of Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th October. The event is now regarded as one of the best of its type in England. If not, the best!

At the time of writing, around 100 vehicles had been confirmed, including those based on the island. They will be operating a network of 19 special routes, some of which are running the same as last year's event, as well as some that have been re-designed following

operational and visitor feedback. This includes a rural West Wight route "West of the Yar".

As per previous Beer and Bus Weekends, travelling on the buses is absolutely free however we would encourage everyone to buy a programme. Not only does this finance the event, it represents great value for money with virtually every venue offering some form of discount and great deals from Southern Vectis, IW Steam Railway and Wightlink. There are timetables and details of all the routes and venues. Programmes are available from the website



Photo © Neil Berry

ISLE OF WIGHT DISTILLERY TRUE ISLAND SPIRIT

Visit the Mermaid Bar for amazing cocktails, local ales or a coffee. Taste our Island inspired spirits and see the stills in action overlooking the countryside.

We are open 11am to 11pm daily.

Mermaid Bar, Wishing Well,
Pondwell Hill, Seaview
PO33 1PX

01983 613653
isleofwightdistillery.com



(www.iwbeerandbuses.co.uk), all participating pubs, the Bus Museum, the County Press office, Newport Guildhall, Southern Vectis travel shops, and Rookley Post Office.

Arrangements at Newport Quay will be the same as last year with the buses arriving and departing via Seaclose Park. The available space for arrivals and departures at Ryde Museum has been increased and we are adding a marquee to the museum departure area.

The event has raised significant funds for the IW Bus Museum in recent years, with well over £27,000 raised from the 2017 weekend. All of this money helps to conserve not only their collection of vintage vehicles, but also the Museum premises. Major restoration work on several vehicles has all benefited from monies raised through this event.



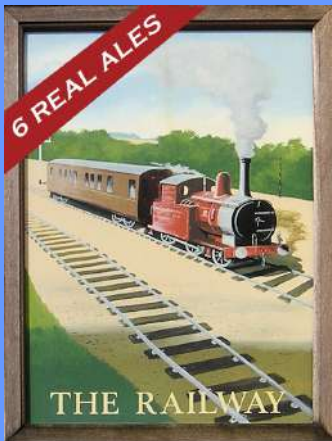
Volunteers Required!

We are still short of volunteers to act as marshals etc. If you can spare a couple of hours during the weekend and would like to help, please contact Paul Sheldon tel: 01983 611063.

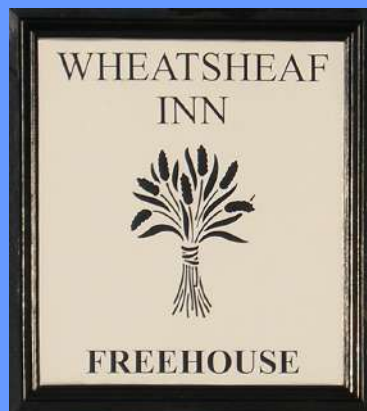
You will get a smart lanyard, a free programme and when appropriate, a very fetching hi-viz waistcoat!

Greg and Hayley welcome you to The Railway Inn, Ryde and The Wheatsheaf, Brading

Freehouses with Real Ale at popular prices : Live Music : Sky & BT Sports TV



Tel: 611500 | PO33 2RT



Tel: 400747 | PO36 0DQ

The Railway & The Wheatsheaf are family & dog friendly pubs and are easily accessible by train & bus (No. 3)
Live Music @ The Railway - Fri 9pm & Sun 6pm | Live Music @ The Wheatsheaf - Saturdays 9pm

"from one Island to another.....!"

On 31st July, as part of a short break to Devon to visit friends (and have a breather from Beer and Buses planning), Charissa and I decided to visit the Island of Lundy, which sits in the Bristol Channel about 10 miles off the Devon coastline.



Lundy is very remote with only a small number of inhabitants who run the local facilities and farm the land. It is 3 miles long by 0.5 miles wide.

Sailing from Bideford on MS Oldenburg, we landed after a "moderate" crossing (that was the captain's description anyway!) lasting just over 2 hours. Having made the walk up from the pier to the village, the opportunity was taken to visit the Marisco Tavern. The pub has a small bar area as



clear brew

The Beer Line Cleaning Professionals

- Save Money
- Reduce Waste
- Save Time
- A Perfect Pint Everytime
- A Tried & Trusted Service
- No Contracts
No Commitments

FREE INITIAL LINE CLEAN!

For more information please contact: Simon Harris
Tel: 07941 058166. Email simonharris@clearbrew.co.uk
www.clearbrew.co.uk

well as some seating for dining; food is served at set meal times but the menu is extensive given the remoteness and includes meat from livestock farmed on the island itself.

Games are available (dominoes, draughts etc) and there is no music, making for a traditional atmosphere. The pub even has an open air Gents convenience (no photograph!)



There were three beers on; all of which were from Bath Ales ("Barnsey", "Gem" and "Summers Hare") although I was assured they didn't always have all from the same brewery. I enjoyed a

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

If portable electrical appliances are used by you, your customers, your guests or your staff then you need to protect yourself and the public. It

may even be a requirement of your insurance.

Have your appliances tested by **West Wight Audio.**

Call for a no-obligation quote. 01983 754666.
All Island coverage.

pint of "Summer's Hare" with a local lamb pasty and we then walked around the south of the Island, taking in the church and castle before heading back to the pier for the crossing back to the mainland, not quite so rough as

ESTD 1984 THE WATERFRONT



We welcome you to The Waterfront with our all new restaurant "The Mediterranean Kitchen" where you can come and enjoy the magical location of Totland Bay in the west of the Isle of Wight. Experience some of the finest sunsets in Europe over a drink, or our freshly prepared delicious Mediterranean cuisine.

Find us on **Facebook**
facebook.com/eatbythesea



DOGS ARE MOST WELCOME IN CERTAIN AREAS

The Waterfront, Totland Beach, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight PO39 0BQ | Tel: 01983 756969

www.eatbythesea.com

The Village Inn

Shanklin Old Village

Open lunchtimes and evenings

for lunches, snacks, evening meals and REAL ALE

Good Food, Fine Wine and Fine Ale. Tel: 862514

Check our Specials Board

Live Entertainment



the outward leg!

We enjoyed our visit to what is surely one of the remotest pubs in the UK; if you are ever in the area,

do make the journey as it is quite an experience to be remembered. The beer was well kept too!

Ben Bartram

CAMRA DISCOUNTS

Here is a list of pubs which offer card carrying CAMRA members discount.

- Old Village Inn**, Bembridge - 10%
- Pilot Boat**, Bembridge - 15%
- Anchor**, Cowes - 10%
- Duke of York**, Cowes - 20p off a pint
- High Park Tavern**, Ryde - 25p off a pint
- King Harry's Bar**, Shanklin - 20p off a pint

FREQUENT FLYERS

Did you know that your CAMRA vouchers are valid at JD Wetherspoon's pubs at airports?



Landlords, if you offer discount to card carrying CAMRA members, please inform editor@wightwash.org.uk



- Daily Specials Board
- Local Ales
- Fine Wines
- Outside catering also available

THE **WHEATSHEAF INN**

Tel: 01983 760456

Bridge Road, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0PH

THE KINGS HEAD YARMOUTH



Home cooked food,
selection of specials and
Sunday carvery

Booking advisable
Local Ales

Quay Street, Yarmouth,
IW PO41 0PB **760177**

As your beer drinking experience increases, so does your selectivity for what you drink and where you drink it. This is hardly news to the CAMRA clan, but, even within that hallowed community, there are degrees of tolerance; I even know one or two who wouldn't turn their noses up at Doom-bah! or Courage Pest. However, there is general consent that the wider the choice of beer and bars the better, and certain towns and cities are undoubtedly noteworthy not only for offering both but are jolly pleasant environments in which to indulge these beneficences. Such a place is our splendid second city, Birmingham.

Brum might not immediately come to mind as such a candidate, but, if you look beyond the architectural joke of the Bullring, undoubtedly inspired by a bad day at the golf range, there is considerable merit in the city's Victorian buildings. An example, and a good kicking-off place for a pub tour around the city (on the basis that it's safer to start

at the farthest point from the station and work your way back, possibly in a serpentine manner), is the Grade II listed **Woodman** at the end of New Canal Street, which is on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. Would that the same could be said of the interior of the dire GBG phone app, but let's not go into that (and I advise you not to). And the interior is, indeed, a gem; it contains a public bar and smoke room, both tiled in Minton glazed tiles, the bar, its back and the heating pipe footrests, are original, and the etched glasswork is a delight. In short, there are few finer places in which the ale and architecture connoisseur could enjoy an impressive range of eight cask beers.



The **DUKE** of YORK INN

Mill Hill Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7BT

Tel. 01983 295171

www.dukeofyorkcowes.co.uk

Special Offer for CAMRA Members

20p off per Pint on REAL ALES

on production of Membership Card

Great Value Accommodation

All Rooms en-suite

Serving Full English Breakfast through to Evening Meals

Large Crews & Families Welcome



Its listed status is probably why the pub and the building opposite, the former Principal Building of the London-Birmingham Railway Terminus, stand alone like sentinels in a modern-day abortion of town planning, the original Victorian environment having been supplanted by unfortunately-conceived fountains and parkland – why do planners disregard the beauty of Victorian industrial architecture in favour of featureless tracts of grass and naff water features? However, this need not trouble you too greatly, as you move on to a more acceptable water feature, some 15 minutes walk distant, the Anchor. On the way, we pass another outpost of Victorian civicisation, the Eagle & Tun, though not open on this occasion. We thus continue to our goal, a little more than a mile away.

The Anchor, once again a Victorian red brick delight, stands on the corner of Bradford Street and Rea Street. There are two bars, separated by a handsome, wood panelled screen, serving five cask beers from local microbreweries, including Church End and Wye Valley. The magnificent arched, leaded windows are best appreciated from the outside. Unlike the Woodman, it does keep company with other 19th century buildings in the locality, and we admire these on our way to the Victoria.



THE
LIFEBOAT
EAST COWES



BAR - RESTAURANT - TERRACE

ONE OF THE ISLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

WONDERFUL VIEWS OVERLOOKING THE WATER
FROM OUR WEST FACING TERRACE

NON STOP FOOD AND DRINK SERVED
FROM MIDDAY TO 9.30PM

RALLIES AND REGATTAS WELCOME

BRITANNIA WAY, EAST COWES, PO32 6UB

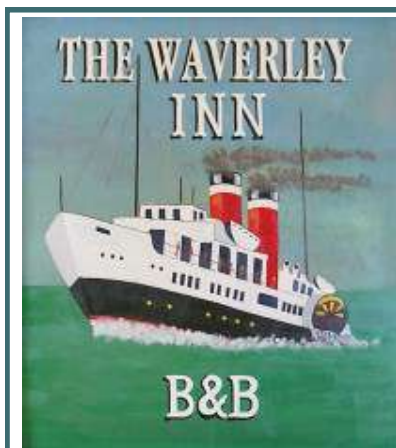
01983 292711

www.thelifeboatcoves.co.uk

The Victoria, in John Bright Street, is one of my favourite Brummie pubs, with an exterior and interior in keeping with the nearby Alexandra Theatre. The outside does indeed look like a stage set, a confection of rendered brick and wrought iron, while the interior is everyone's idea of 19th century chic. Neither does the beer disappoint; there are eight real ales on offer, mostly from microbreweries, and the Electric Bear **Changing Lanes** I tried was fruity and hoppy. I followed it with Blind Monkey **Contrast**, a 4.9% IPA, both beers in excellent condition.



Across the road and up the hill is the **Craven Arms**; with its lovely glazed tile elevations, it has undergone a few changes in recent years. It's currently in the possession of Black Country Traditional Inns who have tastefully refurbished the Victorian interior and supplied several of the 11 beers on offer from its own brewery. I selected their Millennium pale, a 6% hoppy amber beer with damson and grapefruit notes. It's a bit of a step up the hill from the main road, but this is a pub well worth the climb, and it holds its head up well among the plethora of



Tim and Julie look forward to welcoming you to
The

WAVERLEY INN CARISBROOKE

Now with Six En-Suite Bed and Breakfast Rooms

11 draught beers and ciders (IOW real ales)

Food: Mon - Sat: 8am - 2.30pm and 6pm - 8.30pm

Sunday Lunch - £6.95 booking recommended

Storm Café open for breakfast Mon - Sat from 8am

Telephone: 01983 522338

www.waverleyinn.co.uk

top class boozers in the area, several of which we pass on our way to the Post Office Vaults, because, well, if we'd stopped at all of them I'd have needed a week (but not a weak bladder), an industrial strength liver and a wheelchair.

The GBG-listed **Post Office Vaults** is a must-see for any trip to Birmingham. It is what it says – the old cellars of the Post Office, so you won't be surprised to find that it's underground, and consequently is frustratingly easy to walk by! However, your diligence will reward you with a wet-led pub of some character providing up to eight cask beers, ten ciders and perries and a stunning range of over 200 international bottled beers. No food, but you're welcome to consume your own on the premises, which isn't a bad deal when you consider the unimpressive offerings of most pubs. On this occasion, I had a 5.8% rich

An advertisement for The Red Lion Freshwater pub. The background is a photograph of the pub's exterior, a brick building with a red lion sign hanging from a post. A church tower is visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THE RED LION
FRESHWATER
PO40 9BP

Welcome to The Red Lion
The award winning
traditional country pub.

Four Real Ales

Telephone us on 01983 754925
www.redlion-freshwater.co.uk

amber bitter beer from the excellent Loddon Brewery near Reading.

A short walk past New Street station and up Bennetts Hill brings you to another Black Country Ales pub, offering the finest selection of beers in Birmingham. **The Wellington** has 16 beers and three ciders to tempt you, displayed on TV screens, and it's almost like a permanent beer festival. It also has the advantage of being but a short stagger (and a downhill one at that) to New Street Station, a singular advantage by this stage in your pub crawl; however,



navigating the Station is a formidable task in a fuddled state, though autopilot and homing instinct kick in, leaving you merely with the problem of waking up 3 stops after your intended one. Above all, it's a good traditional boozier, no food, no chintz, just a bit of sports TV to put up with – and we did spot a celebrity here, virtuoso cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, who was unimpressed when I said I had an LP of his; well, he's not so young as he looks. It's GBG listed (the Wellington, not the cello), so you know the beers, in spite of their number and variety, are going to be good. And if you want something more substantial to

eat than peanuts and crisps, exit the Wellington, go down the adjoining side passage, and you arrive at possibly the most magnificent pub in Brum, the Grade II listed Old Joint Stock, owned by Fuller's.



It will come as no surprise to note that it was formerly a bank, and its heritage is all around you, from the magnificent cupola to the busts which adorn the top of the walls. Its grandeur rivals the best of the London gin palaces, and it truly is a delight to drink in. Apart

A promotional poster for a Halloween Ale Festival. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with a witch in a black hat and a glowing jack-o'-lantern. The text is in a mix of fonts, including a gothic-style font for 'HALLOWEEN ALE FESTIVAL'.

THE CASTLE INN
12 - 14 FITZROY STREET
SANDOWN

**FRIDAY 12TH. SATURDAY 13TH
AND SUNDAY 14TH
OCTOBER**

**HALLOWEEN
ALE FESTIVAL**

JOIN US IN THE ISLAND'S BEST HALLOWEEN THEMED PUB

from Fuller's excellent range of bottled beers, there are seven real ales of the standard one expects from Fuller's, with the added bonus that, as the pub supports the LocAle scheme, there are two or three guest beers. There's also live entertainment throughout the year, though fortunately not when I visited. Live music is great, but sometimes you just want to talk and tipple.

It's hard to follow the opulence of the Old Joint Stock, but there is one more pub worth visiting nearby (actually, there are several, but I just couldn't get round them all), and that's the Nicholson-owned Old Contemptibles, round the corner in Edmund Street. Nicholson's (aka Mitchells & Butlers) can always be relied on for a decent pub, and this one is no exception. It sports a long panelled bar, and a delightful snug at the back. While not so



impressive as the Joint Stock, it has a much more comfortable and intimate feel, and sports an ever-changing portfolio of seven beers from micros and nationals, as well as two ciders. Although Nicholson's is a chain, their pubs, in my experience, are always well turned-out, traditional and atmospheric. And from the Old Contemptibles, it's only a short stagger to Snow Hill Station, which is considerably easier to navigate after a fine skinful than New Street, which is not designed for the old, feeble or inebriated.

So that's my selection of Brummie pubs – there are plenty more to choose from of, I'm sure, equal quality and merit, but these represent a good cross-section, and the tour avoids the city centre booze factories which, while they might offer a great selection of beers, aren't necessarily for the sensitive. Most of the pubs in this review aren't grub pubs, and it's a refreshing change to enjoy a decent pint without the miasma of steak and onions. Not only that, but the pubs I tried weren't chary of offering beers above 5% - in our alcohol-and-health-obsessed society, so many pubs ignore people like me who would rather drink something stronger and tastier, but less of it – I drink beer, rather than drink beer. Maybe it's also down to drink driving, but not everyone drives to a pub; my cynical side therefore suggests that a major factor is that there's a greater profit on weaker beers than stronger ones. One thing I have observed in my intimate association with beer is that strong ones sell out a lot faster than session ones. I wonder why?

Birmingham might not be unsurpassed for ale, architecture and environment, and there is the hideous Bullring to contend with, but I can think of few other places that are as easy to get to, and offer such a plethora of distinctive, well-kept beers, and pubs in which to savour them. So get out your railcard, get on the train and get stuck in – you won't be disappointed!

Brian Jacobs



Recently I have had the pleasure of meeting Island Historian Alan Stroud. As a post script to the Mew Langton article in the last issue of Wightwash, Alan has let me reproduce his recollections of the sad demise of the once grand brewery building that dominated the Newport landscape.



The first photograph was taken one Sunday morning in September 1979. Alan recalls "I had been called out to Holyrood Street in my capacity of telephone engineer. As there wasn't much traffic about, I took the opportunity to take a photograph through the front windscreen of my car." The photograph was almost certainly one of the last ones taken of the brewery as within a few hours it was ablaze. →

THE CHEQUERS INN
Rookley PO33 3NZ 01983 840314
www.chequersinn-iow.co.uk



The fire brigade did their best, but they were fighting a losing battle. Shortly after this photograph was taken, the roof collapsed and any hope that the building could be saved disappeared with it.

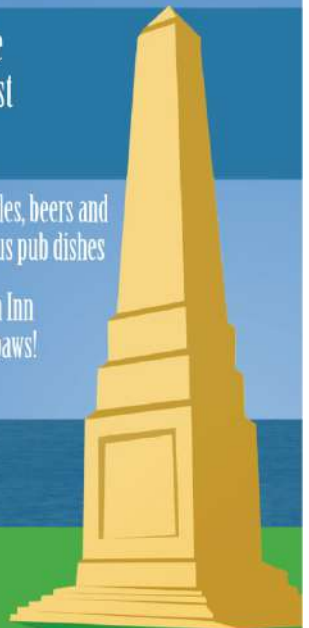
In the meantime, traffic on Medina Way had ground to a halt as people abandoned their cars to watch the biggest and most spectacular fire Newport had seen in living memory.

THE CULVER HAVEN INN

Located at one of its highest points, The Culver Haven Inn boasts some of the best views on the Isle of Wight

As well as an ever-changing variety of real ales, beers and wines, we also serve a range of delicious pub dishes

With friendly staff and a cosy atmosphere, The Culver Haven Inn is the perfect place to take the weight off of your feet — or paws!



Culver Down, Sandown, PO36 8QT (01983) 406107 www.culverhaven.com
Photo supplied by David Reed



Against all odds, Local policeman PC Gurd, who some readers will doubtless recall, tried singlehandedly to move drivers on. He was largely ignored – everyone was determined to enjoy the once in a lifetime spectacle.

*The photographs and captions are from Alan Stroud's book, **Out of Time** published by **Now and Then Books**.*

Three Top Ryde Pubs

The Castle Inn

164 High Street
PO33 2HT



"A proper drinking pub"

01983 613684

www.castleinnisleofwight.co.uk

THE FALCON

17 Swanmore Road
PO33 2TG



"an excellent pub, fantastic bar staff, lovely beer and great entertainment"

01983 563900

www.falconryde.com

SOLENT INN

7 Monkton Street
PO33 2TG



Excellent street corner local, with a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

01983 613761

Last November, Sheila my wife and I took an oriental cruise on the Sapphire Princes and yes, we managed to find some ales to sample.

We came across our first real find on a day trip to the Great Wall; and whilst sampling a glass of **Night Drift** at 9.9% abv (Brussels Beer Project) I mused that choosing a beer is much akin to choosing a car – a high octane Bugatti with a low “miles to the gallon” ratio, or a more modest Volvo with a much better fuel economy? Perhaps a one-off like the Opel CD Concept. More later...

Let me tell you about some of the bars we visited...

I think I will draw a veil over the Rex Hotel in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) despite its historical association with the Vietnam war. The beer, **Saigon Export** was rather bland and far from notable.

In Beijing, the Drunk Bar was next to our hotel. Although not a large selection there were some interesting beers, the French **Gallia Triple** (a Belgian Abbey style), **Leo** from the Thai Boon Rawd Brewery and **Beerlao** imported from Laos. Unfortunately, the house-favourite “**Doctor's Orders Oatmeal Stout**” was not available. (a real Aston-Martin DB5 of a beer or so I gather).



Come and visit the Ringwood Brewery Shop
(Open: Monday- Saturday 9.30-5pm)
Tours are also available, booking compulsory.
Call our Brewery Store on 01425 470303
138 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 3AP
WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK



Earlier that day during our city tour lunch stop we called at a rather anonymous restaurant with an entrance between what looked like a greengrocer's and a gift shop.

From the outside you would not have know what was below, but as we were shepherded downstairs a vast array awaited us from the **Full Moon Triporteur** from the Belgian Original Maltbakery (BOM) brewery to **Paw**

Paw's Peach Wheat Beer from Alabama. The display of beers behind the bar begged belief. The four I tried were the **Chai, Hoplanta Session IPA** (at 6.8% shurly not a sheshon beer?!), **2nd Shift Hibiscus Wit** (5.2% described by the brewer as "Tart and refreshing, with a hint of fart") and **Boffo Brown Bear** (7%). There were even more beers on display halfway up the stairs. After that, the rest of the tour that day seemed a little hazy. Thank goodness we had climbed the Great Wall first.



Next stop Thailand and a trip to the oddly named Feat Lab in Bangkok. It was a small establishment but crammed full of craft beers. Not realising the prices, I tried the Prairie Artisan Ales **Farmhouse Ale** (7.5%).

Afterwards, Sheila pointed out that I had just drunk a £17 bottle of beer (certainly the Ferrari of my day). I thought it tasted top

notch but when we returned home it cost me some DIY – such is a husband's lot!

I was surprised to see some Flying Dog – **Double Dog, Brew Dog** – **Jack Hammer** and **Thornbridge Halcyon**. Others however were not so familiar – **Belching Beaver, Wizard Beer** and from the Brussels Beer Project (**Del IPA** and **Night Drift**).





I tried some Alesmith **Speedway Stout**, an Imperial Stout with coffee. *Next*, **Imperial Doughnut Break** from the Evil Twin Brewery. *Next*, a bottle of **Scotch Sillery Bourbon aged Scotch Ale** (11%) a heavy Scottish style ale similar to Traquair Jacobite. This took time to drink and perhaps I should have had a sample (or test drive) but everyone's entitled to a hobby. *Next*, **Breaking Bud IPA** from the Knee Deep Brewery an interesting beer with tropical hop flavours creating to my taste (although now

not to be relied upon) layers of mango, passion fruit and pine. *To finish* another Knee Deep beer, **Stoutello Chocolate**

Hazelnut Stout brewed with cacao nibs (whatever they are). As we left the establishment, unbeknown to me, Sheila took a photo of their outside wall. She said it resembled me on leaving.

Getting back to my starting point, considering the vast array of beers I discovered it reminded me that next to our hotel in Beijing were showrooms for Maserati, Ferrari, Land Rover, Aston Martin and Rolls Royce. Given the choice though, I'm sticking to Real Ale thank you very much.



Paul Sheldon



SHANKLIN

A range of well kept and well chosen real ales

Delicious, home cooked food with wonderful views of Shanklin's beaches & The Chine

Open 4pm - 11pm Tues - Fri (Closed Mondays)
Sat 12 noon - 11pm Sun 12 noon - 10.30pm

Please see our website www.chineinn.co.uk for details of events and entertainment.

01983 865880 or 07790 663527

Ventnor Botanic Gardens established a hop yard in 2009 and since then volunteers have joined the staff in hand picking the crop, which is then whisked off to Herefordshire to be dried and packaged whilst still fresh. This year the volunteers arrived early on the morning of Wednesday the 12th September raring to go. The weather was grey and threatening rain but the intrepid band got stuck in to pick as much of the crop as possible before Chris Kidd, the Gardens' Curator had to head off to the ferry late morning with the precious crop.



Although the strange weather this season has had an impact on the crop there were still plenty of cones of Boadicea to pick and the morning fortunately stayed dry for us until it was time to bag up the results of our efforts and say

farewell to Chris as he headed off to the ferry, leaving us to refresh ourselves with a cask of some excellent 'Ventnor Botanic Ale'. We look forward to sampling the results of our efforts in the months to come.



Jeff & Anne Sechiari

The John Hannam Interviews

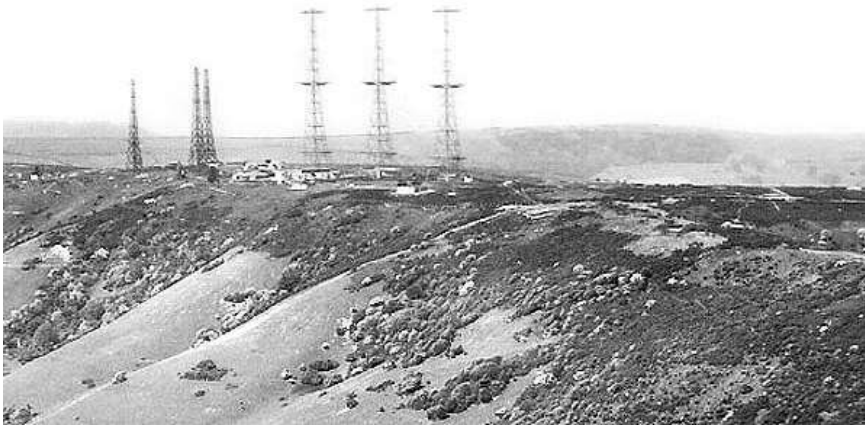
The Wight Connections
The revealing stories behind John's memorable interviews with past and present Isle of Wight people

The third volume of John's "**very hard to put down**" interviews is all about Island people. It features characters from all walks of life from Cliff Michelmores to Mark King, Phil Jupitus to PC Dave Gurd (there's even a bit about a band called Kite).

It is available from all good local bookshops, directly from the author or from the "Writing" page of John's website www.johnhannam.com

With a foreword by Craig Douglas

Ventnor Radar Pylons



In the late thirties, much interest was aroused locally by the gigantic structures being erected on the top of St Boniface Down above Ventnor. Much secrecy surrounded the area and photography was discouraged, but it was common knowledge that they were in some fashion connected with air defence. Some believed that a form of engine destabilisation was involved. This was a view supported by drivers whose vehicles had given trouble in surmounting the neighbouring Cowleaze Hill.

At the beginning of the war the true nature of our radar defences became general knowledge and the German air force began to take interest. All doubts about their importance were dispelled on 17th August 1940 when squadrons of German dive bombers unleashed a violent attack on the area. Dozens of houses in Ventnor were demolished and the pylon site was hit repeatedly. Although official secrecy prevented damage reporting no further mass attacks were made and the pylons remained standing for years.

In the sixties the derelict structures were on offer to local building contractors. An enterprising local businessman, Albert Henton, arranged for their demolition and purchased the debris. As the owner of the only stock of highly desirable steel girders at the time, Albert Henton's business took off.

Advances in radar technology resulted in the site's clearance and what now stands on the Down is the entrance to a vast underground bomb shelter and a few minor radio masts used for air traffic control. But the groups of overgrown craters in the ground are mementos of more dangerous days.

Rob Marshall

Win a £20 Meal Voucher for the Wight Mouse Inn or a case of Yates' Ales

Just answer these easy questions. The first two correct answers out of the hat on 1st November win the prizes.

Send answers to - The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3NH
or email - editor@wightwash.org.uk

- 1/ Who wrote "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection"?
- 2/ Which nickname was given to the Hughes H-4 Hercules aeroplane?
- 3/ Which song starts with "Is this the real life, or is this just fantasy"?
- 4/ On which Island seafront would you find the Brisbane Pillar?
- 5/ In which book would you find the pub "The Admiral Benbow"?
- 6/ Who became Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 9th July 2018?
- 7/ What is the principal metal used to make pewter?
- 8/ Who was the first host of ITV's "Take Your Pick"?
- 9/ and 10/ Identify these two British boxers.



Answers to the Summer Quiz

- 1/ Hat
- 2/ Falkland Islands
- 3/ Frozen
- 4/ Royal Yacht Squadron
- 5/ 1971 (February)
- 6/ Sajid Javid MP
- 7/ Hippopotamus
- 8/ Dick West
- 9/ Alexis Sanchez
- 10/ Bobby Moore

Sandra Dunn of Yarmouth wins a meal voucher and Mr P Sheldon of Ryde wins a case of Yates' beer. Thank you to all the others who took part - better luck next time!

The WIGHT MOUSE INN



Andy & Cheryl welcome you to their family run 17th century coaching inn situated in the idyllic village of Chale on the Island's most southerly point, with spectacular views to The Needles and beyond.






- Live music twice a week
- Food served all day
- Outdoor childrens' play area
- En-suite bedrooms
- Large sunny garden
- Large car park

Church Place, Chale, IW, PO38 2HA
01983 730431 info@wightmouse.com www.wightmouse.co.uk

Diary Dates

27th September - 1st October - **Beer Festival** - Dairyman's Daughter, Arreton
10th - 21st October - **Wetherspoon's Beer and Cider Festival**
11th - 14th October - **IoW Literary Festival** - Northwood House, Cowes
12th - 14th October - **Haloween Ale Festival** - Castle Inn, Sandown
Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th October **Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer and Walks Weekend**
(Volunteers needed, please!- phone Paul Sheldon 01983 611063)
19th October - **Branch Meeting** - White Lion, Niton
9th - 11th November - **IoW Ukulele Festival** - Quay Arts, Newport
16th November - **Branch Christmas Meal** - Bargeman's Rest, Newport - details to follow
14th December - **Xmas Social** - Man in the Moon - TBC
25th January 2019 - **AGM** - details TBC

Gallybagger Folk - The Reading Room, Main Road, Chillerton

A regular folk and music night held on the last Thursday of each month. Performers and audience are very welcome to come and support local live music at its best.



The front cover photograph was taken at the Castle Inn, Sandown and features a very small bus owned by David Dines.

www.wightwash.org.uk

Wightwash is produced with the support of our valued sponsors

ISLE OF WIGHT
DISTILLERY
TRUE ISLAND SPIRIT



www.goddardsbrewery.com



www.yates-brewery.co.uk



www.islandbrewery.co.uk

The views expressed in Wightwash are not necessarily those of the editor or CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) either nationally or locally.

Wightwash can be contacted by phone **721557** or email editor@wightwash.org.uk