

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 19

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Spring 2004 Issue



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In this **FREE** issue:

Vaguely Sunny

WAY OUT WEST

Pubs Past

Grand Picture Quiz

(Island Pubs Wet Was)

Trivia Topics

News and Gossip
and lots, lots more...

There will be nothing about

Nude

Celebrities

in this issue.

Don't forget our website

www.wightwash.org.uk

Nick Ward Retires

Nick Ward has retired as Membership Secretary after 10 years in the post. Nappy changing duties etc. are now his main preoccupation.

Many thanks for all your hard work, Nick and CONGRATULATIONS!

Tim Marshall - Editor

Please Don't Live in Lapseland

Hello, it's me with a different hat on.

First of all I would like to welcome the 27 new members that have joined us since the Wightwash mailing list was last updated in October of last year.

(particularly Terry and Margaret!).

I thought that you joining us would help maintain our record for the highest membership per capita in the UK. Unfortunately, Malcolm Harding, our Chief Membership man in the big office in the sky (well, St Albans, actually) informs me that around 40 naughty pixies have gone to live in Lapseland and are being drawn under the influence of the most bad person A.Pathetic.

Please don't live in Lapseland. CAMRA needs your support. For us to be effectual both locally and nationally we need numbers. £16 per year isn't much (and it's a lot less for joint members, students and seniors).

If **good beer and good pubs** matter to you, please pick up the phone dial 01727 867201 and rejoin! Better still take out a direct debit.

Tim Marshall - New Membership Secretary

Pub of the Year

Hello fully paid up members. No, it's not Tim again it's your friendly "Pub of the Year" organiser. It's time, once again, for you to have your say on which of our local pubs you feel are the best.

This year, in an exciting development, **Isle of Wight Radio** have become involved and the results will be announced on the John Hannam Show on Sunday 30th May between 12 and 2pm.

In this issue you should receive a form to enable you to vote. If for some reason you haven't, (like perhaps you've only just re-joined) please contact me immediately and I will send you one.

Brian Jacobs

Pub of the Year Organiser

Phone 527093

or Email: jcloth@yahoo.co.uk



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From *Paul Mattick*

I only hope that since the last issue, all you budding gamblers went along with my tip and backed the **Hall & Woodhouse** horse '**Rigmarole**'. Not only did it come first at 3/1, it also won two more races at 25/1 and a colossal 33/1. For just a £1 stake for all three races (and if you had played your cards right) you could have picked up a paltry £3,826, and guess what... I missed the lot! So if any of you out there managed to take my advice spare a thought for my empty glass and fill it up when you see me, won't you.

*Having been given a new post on the Island as **Brewery Liaison Officer (B.L.O.)**, it's my job to contact the Breweries on the Isle of Wight and report back anything from new beers to who pinched the tea money from the canteen! What it primarily means is that any **Wightwash** reports I write are duplicated and E-mailed to the appropriate person who then reads it out with other reports at the **Wessex Branch Meetings**. In the past, as you may be aware, there were separate **B.L.O.'s** for each brewery. These reports were not just glowing they were also very informative. I shall endeavour to make them just as enlightening in the future.*

Following an article recently American Magazine **Maxim**, have shown interest in bottles of **Ventnor Breweries** "Oyster Stout". **Aaron Baker** told me that after sending a sample to them, they were very pleased and ordered 300 cases with a likely further order of **Sandro** and **Hygeia** to follow. The buck doesn't stop there though. Due to red tape, labels have to be re-

printed owing to the 'Surgeon Generals' warning that 'drinking while pregnant may turn your child into an alcoholic' or the likes! It cost a staggering £12 to send a sample off but as Aaron said "it was well worth it in the end". The Brewery itself will soon have its all-new secure web site, which means we can buy merchandise and produce on line with a promise of next day delivery throughout the UK (within reason). A new brew is now available called **Pistol Night (4.4%)**, which I shall describe as golden coloured and full of hoppiness. Aaron's brother **Xavier**, was unavailable

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this time around as he was moving a friend to Spain. I can disclose however that he had a hell of a time getting back through the blizzards in the new brewery truck which involved a mountain rescue by a St Bernard with a barrel full of Crème de Menthe and a hot water bottle.

Chris Coleman of Goddards is very busy at the moment trying to keep up with the bottling, which **Salisbury's Hopback Brewery** are undertaking.

Ale of Wight (4.0%, an intensely aromatic pale beer) will be back for April/May/June and the newly endorsed Sheriff of Nottingham is keeping an eye on things following his swearing in.

While on this subject, **Anthony Goddard** has received his very own "Isle of Wight" sheriff's badge, a present from the Sheriff of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, USA.

David Yates (Jnr and Snr) have gone into distribution. Their site

is at **Dean Farm, Whitwell** and they can now supply pubs with not just the Yates Ales, but also have a wide range of wholesale goods.

"**Bugle Bitter**", one of David's bespoke beers continues to sell

well at the **Bugle Hotel** in Yarmouth. As does his "**Old Pondwater**" (Rookley Inn) etc. etc... Bottle conditioned versions of most of Yates' ales are available from **The Inn at St Lawrence** or the **Brewery shop** in the Arreton Barn complex. The Brewery shop is now run by **Gill Dimmick**, who since the age of 19 has been the landlady of **The Globe, The Barley Mow, the Buddle** and up to six years ago, **The White Hart** in Havenstreet (I always wondered what happened to her).

Brian Lewis, better known as "**Stumpy**" and one of Hampshire's most enthusiastic home brewers has gone into commercial production. **Stumpy's Ales** have appeared in the **Solent Inn, Ryde** and **The Yarbridge Arms**. Ironically, due to their popularity Brian has had to call on his friend **David Yates** and is using the brew-

Please let us know your news

tel: 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk



Advertisement for Solent Inn

ery site to cope with the extra demand! **Scarecrow Brewery** has no plans at the moment as **Xavier Baker** is rushed off his feet at the 3.5-barrel plant. **Scarecrow Bitter** (4.2%) is doing well at all Gibbs Pubs, and once thawed out, Xavier is looking at the possibility of adding a second brew to equal his eminence the Scarecrow.

Badger Brewery has extended **Thatchet Ale** (4.4%) until the end of April. **Fursty Ferret** has fortunately been given a new lease of life, and **Mike Strand** tells me that **Tanglefoot** may be brewed in

future via the old dry hop recipe, which means a slight drop in strength (not such a bad idea me thinks?) Incidentally, if two Tanglefoot equals "feet" and Three Tanglefoot equals a "yard", what do four pints equal? Look out this summer for **Tennyson's Elbow** (details to follow in the next issue).

A very good friend of mine, **Peter Cogger** who is potty about football and darts (and not particularly in that order) has informed me that **The Marine** in Ryde have rein-

stated real ale. **Keith and Andrea Liveridge** who have endured their first year are now doing extremely well. Keith who left **Trucast** says he is looking forward to a busy 2004. **The Marine**, (once named **Trotters**) offers happy hours on most days and has a sensibly priced menu including daily specials and a great Sunday lunch, which at the moment can be washed down with a

decent pint of **Yates Undercliff** (4.1%). Oh yes, I must give Lisa a mention - the nanny who I thought was the barmaid!

The Worsley Wroxall has undergone a complete bar revamp and had a new

kitchen installed. With new signage outside, new licensee **Tracey Tredwell** is using her 25 years experience to gain an excellent reputation amongst locals and tourists alike after offering a menu that boasts anything from sandwiches to steaks.

Inns seem eager at the moment following the **Solent Inn's** re-fit (last issue) and lets not forget last year when **The Princess Royal** had a face-lift (which is understandable!). This may well be the start of a purge on the dozen or so pubs

Members

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camraiw@aol.com
so that we can keep you bang up
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spread across the Isle of Wight. Good luck to both Tracy and Phil. I look forward to visiting you soon.

The Winner of last issue's "Who Would You Share a Cuby With?" competition was **Mr E.Cockerham** of Ryde. Despite assuring us of his generosity, Mr Cockerham tells us that he would share the beer with his grandchildren as "*they are not yet old enough to drink.*" He wins a 4.5 gallon party "cuby" of the **Ventnor** beer of his choice. Thank you Mr Cockerham and thank you **Ventnor Brewery**.

Ryde's **Star Inn** has now decided to keep Real Ale. At the time of going to print **Green King IPA** (3.6%) was at hand, but you may come across a whole host of different Ales in the next few months.

The **Crown** in Ryde is now a fizz pub no real ale anticipated for the future.

The Fat Cat Beer Festival (25th – 28th March) looks like it's going to be even bigger and better than last year. There will be over 70 beers on offer with many making a requested return appearance. There will be live cover-

age on a webcam (log on to www.sandpiperhotel.com and follow the link). You will also be able to buy a festival t-shirt. If you would like to help out at the festival, give Jay a ring on 758500.

Bob Hall youth FC is looking for a manager to assist with their U14 youth football team that has been up and running for 18 months. Meetings are held every other month at the **Lake Huron** which has a bus stop outside and

now boasts three real ales (it's cheaper than an advert!). Contact 563512 or call in if interested.

Building work at the **Sun** at Hulverstone is well underway. Owner **Chris Cole** and manager **Dave Gibson** have been surprised by how well the pub is doing; and with the new improvements, things can only get better. By the time you are reading this, phase one will have been fully completed with a brand new kitchen, refurbished toilets, a new cellar and all service connections in place.

Then, when the summer is out of the way, up goes the new restaurant – book your Christmas lunch now!



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Incidentally, Chris, who at one time was a professional entertainer, runs a weekly charity quiz on Sundays, alternating between the Sun and his other pub, The **White Lion** at Arreton. All proceeds to local charities.

Chris Troup, owner of the **Anchor Inn**, Cowes has taken over The **Wheatsheaf**, Yarmouth. Chris also runs **Mayflower** in his hometown of Lynton.

Congratulations to Barry Sharp and Neil Hilson of Shanklin Conservative Club who scooped this year's **CAMRA Regional Club of the Year** award. It was presented by Marcus Stanley, Regional Director, at a ceremony on January 30th at the club.

Our cousins over the water in Southampton have a brand new brewery (the first to open in Southampton since 1957). It's the **White Star** brewery and it's already won the Champion Beer at the Eastleigh Beer Festival with its **Majestic Ale** 4.2% and the strong beer category with **Capstan Full Strength** 6%. Their other ales also have nautical themes - **U-X-B** (3.8%) after an unexploded WWI bomb found in the dockyard and **Battleaxe** (4.6%) a battleship. If you would like to try some



White Star beer, you don't need to cross the Solent, you can try them at the **Yarbridge Inn** and the **Solent Inn** in Ryde. **White Star** hope that soon many more Island pubs will be stocking their wares. Check out their website <http://whitestarbrewery.users.btopenworld.com>

On the national front, **The Publican** reports that the Office of Fair Trading has cleared a merger between **Punch Taverns** and the **Pubmaster** chain of pubs. **Punch** already own several pubs on the Isle of Wight including the **Ponda Rosa** and **Billy Bunters** and are reported to be looking for more. This merger, the **Publican** goes on to explain, would create the UK's biggest pub-co with 7,400 "outlets". However, John Reynolds, the city editor of **What's Brewing** (CAMRA's excellent monthly national magazine - join now and get yours free!), reveals that **Enterprise Inns**, who now own the majority of the **Whitbread** pubs on the Island have confirmed that they will take control of the **Unique** pub chain making them the biggest pub-co in the country with an estate of 9,000 pubs.

And on the international front, **Interbrew** who bought all of the **Whitbread** breweries, are merging with **Ambev** of Brazil

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making them the biggest brewing company in the world. However, this only refers to volume. **Anheuser-Bush** brewery of the U.S. remains No. 1 in terms of revenue. Whatever happened to *Small is Beautiful*?

I had to go to the doctors last week. When I told him I couldn't stop singing Tom Jones songs he replied, "it's not unusual"!

If you have a joke like this one that at least 75% of people laugh at when you tell it, send it to me standto@ension.fsnet.co.uk and you may be included in the next issue's 'Bar Banter' Cheers!

Paul

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CAMRA and Smoking



CAMRA has joined the fight to stop a smoking ban in Britain's pubs, advocating a policy to promote the use of signage, good ventilation and no-smoking areas. Research carried out by CAMRA showed that 83 per cent of adults support the view that pubs, where possible, should have a number of rooms to meet the needs of both smokers and non-smokers

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Dates for Your Diary

25th to 28th March- **Fat Cat Beer Festival**, Sandpiper Hotel, Freshwater.

Tuesday 20th April - **Social and Walk-About** (and Beer Tasting)

The Volunteer, Ventnor 8.30 pm

Tuesday 18th May - **Business Meeting**, Prince of Wales Newport 8.30 pm

4th, 5th, 6th June - **Yarbridge Beer Festival**, Yarbridge Inn (near Brading)

Friday 25th June - **Wightwash's Birthday Party** Travellers Joy, All Welcome!

Tuesday 27th July, **Business Meeting**, Sun Inn, Calbourne 8.30 pm

Friday 27th August **Social Get-Together** Bank Holiday Steam-Up & Beer Festival
Havenstreet Station

CHECK OUT www.iowrock.net for an up-to-date Gig Guide

The Coors logo is displayed in a white, cursive font on a dark rectangular background.

As we all know Whitbread and Bass gave up brewing and Interbrew bought their breweries. So where does Coors fit into all this? Bob Simpson explains...

Interbrew, the Belgian brewing giant did indeed buy up Whitbread's brewing concerns and this became Interbrew UK. However, although they bought Bass they ran it as a separate entity. When the "powers that be" became concerned that one company owning so many brands would constitute unfair competition, the Carling Brewing Company was set up. This contained many of the key brands such as Carling, Worthington, Mitchell & Butler, Grolsh and Stones. Interbrew kept Bass, Tenants and Staropramen. When the American company Coors bought the Carling Brewing Company, they changed the name to Coors UK. Although Coors is the second biggest brewing concern in America, it still sees itself as a family concern with Peter Coors as Company President. Coors UK is left very much in the hands of the UK management. The only main input from the US is that of financial restraints (keen to prevent another Enron, no doubt!)

Coors now own "Trade Team" together with Excell (the new name for the National Freight Corporation.) Trade Team are now the biggest drinks distribution company in the country. On the Isle of Wight they have taken over the Whitbread fleet of lorries. That is why you may very well see the unusual sight of Worthington and Grolsh being unloaded from a Boddingtons lorry.

Although it would be foolish to pretend that Real Ale is Coors primary concern (one in every five pints drunk in this country is Carling!), they are proud of the fact that their Worthington brand is producing "1744" – "a premium real ale that tastes of Britain to the very last drop" and that "White Shield", probably the most famous bottle conditioned beer in the country, is safe in their hands and is being actively promoted. Coors also find themselves distributing real ale in reciprocal deals with brewers such as Fullers.

Wightwash would like to thank Bob and congratulate him on winning Coors southern region "High Achiever Award".

Advert for the Anchor

You Never Know Who Is In The Pub With You (part 4)

In the last edition I wrote about a mystery musician who I met by chance in the Travelers Joy, Northwood. Well after meeting him again with Vic King my **Vaguely Sunny** cohort at **The Railway Medina** in Newport I can now disclose who he is. **Mike Kellie**, drummer with the Birmingham based rock band **Spooky Tooth**, again opened up our memories of the late sixties and early seventies British progressive rock scene. If anybody can remember seeing **Spooky Tooth** in Ryde at the **Ryde Castle Hotel** or the **Royal York Hotel** we would be very interested.

You can e-mail me on rebpet@btinternet.com.

Just recently I have been working away in Woking and I have come to realise that we are so lucky on the Isle of Wight with a thriving local music scene and a great number of pubs to drink decent beer in. In Woking, for instance, I have the choice of the Hotel bar or Wetherspoons for the beer but there is nothing in terms of live music. Contrast this with the events which take place on the Island; music at **The Steamer**, Shanklin, **Barge-man's Rest**, Newport, **The Dairyman's Daughter**, Arreton, **The Spyglass**, Ventnor, **The Lake Huron**, Ryde, **The Solent Inn** Ryde, just to name a few. If you ever catch anyone, like I did in Ventnor the other night, knocking the live music in a pub just tell them politely to *go to Woking!*

Special mention to the **Chine Inn**, Shanklin as there is always an interesting guest ale on plus some music in the summer.

With spring just around the corner **Vaguely Sunny** are hosting the following gigs:

John Tams & Barry Coope at **Arreton Village Hall** on Friday 26th March, tickets £10.50. John was with the **Albion Band** and arranged the music for the TV programme **Sharpe** starring Sean Bean.

On Sunday May 2nd we will be presenting **Kevin Montgomery and the Roadtrippers** at **Ryde Theatre**. This band will feature two of the **Mavericks**, **Al Perkins** of the **Flying Burrito Brothers** and one of **Steve Earle's** band. Tickets will be £12. This show is a direct response to the sell out show that Kevin did with Al in **Porchfield Village Hall**, last July. Make an effort, it will be worth it. For all you fiddle players and lovers of Irish Music we will be presenting the **Kane Sisters** at **The Riverside** on Sunday May 16th. Tickets will be £10. Liz & Yvonne came here a few years back with **Sharon Shannon** as members of her wonderful **Woodchoppers Band**. Those of you who went to the sell out show at **Medina Theatre** will love this one. Tickets for all gigs from Vic on 01983 730930.(evenings) or 07779124579.

Happy Trails

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John Bourne to Leave The Buddle Inn

One of the Island's most popular landlords has decided to start to take things easy and leave the pub he has been associated with for the last 17 years. John Bourne is to leave the Buddle Inn.

John's first pub job was at the Coach and Horses in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire when he was 14 years old. There he used to clean the toilets and set the beers up before going to school. The landlord was definitely of the "old school" and thought that the pub was no place for women, well, certainly the

public bar. John recalls an incident when the women formed a darts team and consequently had to be admitted to the public bar. One of the ladies ordered a gin and tonic. "You'll have to have a pint of gin, then. We only serve pints in the public bar".

It was there that he was later to meet his wife Pat, and for a while, Pat studied for her exams in the bar while John worked behind it.

Later John took up the position of Relief Clerk with London Underground. This involved all sorts of emergency duties, not knowing what the next day would bring. During his time with London Underground John continued to work in pubs in the evenings all over London.

One day John and Pat came to the Island for a day trip and it was to change their lives. They spent the lunchtime in the Mill Bay and then, after "one too many VPA's" they bought a guesthouse on the way back up the hill, the Bermuda, in Alexandra Gardens. For 2 years John shared his job between running the guesthouse and working for Red Funnel. He then took his first pub, the Britannia in West Cowes.

From the Britannia, John and Jill moved to the Barley Mow, which they ran from 1981 until 1987 when they took over the Buddle. Over the years John thinks the biggest difference is the growth of the family pub and the general acceptance of children and women. Something John's former boss would definitely not have approved of!

John doesn't want to cut himself off entirely from the license profession and hopes to provide relief cover from time to time. We wish him the best of luck.



The Anchor Brewery and Tap

Kevin Mitchell tells us about one of Newport's long gone pubs.

(Kevin's books are available from Ottakars and all good book shops)

The Anchor Brewery was one of many small breweries that existed in Newport in the 19th Century and as a matter of course, brewery-bars or tap-bars were attached to them for their wares to be sampled. Brewery tap-bars were usually popular as the beer and ale on sale would be better presented and looked after than the ale that some pubs could offer.

In the fierce competition that existed between different brewers, various methods were used to promote custom. The photographs below show the brewery's penny tokens which were issued sometimes in lieu of wages and which were redeemable only at the tap.



As Mew Langton and Brickwoods strengthened their grip on the town's licensed outlets, the smaller breweries gradually died out and by the early 20th century very few were left. Up until recent years the building was adjacent to the Unigate Dairy offices in Mill Street, but demolition of the site has occurred and a new residential development exists there now.

The pub seems to have been a colourful place to drink. See opposite...



Beaumont has its own individual style, and the "hammer" features the freshest of local produce, including the famous Wainwright Labradors and Fish.

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The Isle of Wight Observer

30th October 1852

James Harkey charged Charlotte Newbury with assault. The complainant being sworn in said, "I look after the **Anchor Brewery Tap** in Horsemongers Lane. The prisoner's husband has been in the habit of playing the fiddle of an evening for the amusement of the customers 'til within the last month, when he was discharged on account of his wife continually coming to the house and making a disturbance. He was paid six shillings a week and allowed beer and tobacco every evening. He came and played last evening for about an hour with another fiddler. He came in again this morning and called for a pot of beer. He had not been there above ten minutes before Mrs. Newbury came in and ordered him out. She was in a great rage, took the cups off the table, threw them on the stone floor and smashed them, She then struck me twice in the face, called me an old vagabond etc. I put her outside the door and shut it against her. She then threw the stones through the window by which she broke three panes of glass. An engine handle struck my wife".

In defence the prisoner said it was a house of ill fame and not fit for any man to go. The complainant encouraged her husband to go there. He was a shoemaker by trade and spent a great deal of money there instead of bringing it home.

The mayor told the prisoner this was not the way to induce her husband to spend his time at home and if she behaved in this way outside, she was very likely to do the same at home. Fined in the nominal sum of 6d with costs of 3s 6d and damages 6s 6d and in default, one week in Winchester Gaol.

Those were the days, eh? When a woman could go to jail for interfering with a man's valuable drinking time.

I particularly like the aside by the complainant that after being slapped in the face and being called names etc. "an engine handle struck my wife". Lucky bloke! It could have hit him!

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Brian Snellgrove - our West-Wight correspondent has been at large again and tells us about some of the pubs he has visited...

As usual life goes quietly on in west Wight - or does if you listen closely - and we seem to have escaped the worst of the weather.


THE WATERFRONT has been closed for refurbishment but whether they can prevent any further land slippage remains to be seen. At least trade must be reasonable for money to be spent - and so it should be given one of the Island's best locations and views. Will they be able to justify more than one real ale?

THE VINE is always host to such events as shopping evenings and visits by Santa and these raise quite substantial sums for charity being on a prime site in the centre of Freshwater. A popular pub with good beer though a guest ale might be appreciated occasionally. There is also good food to be had and a friendly and helpful staff - and management of course!

THE BROADWAY continues to improve with alterations planned for the future which will help to turn it from the old shop into a more attractive pub. It is unfortunate and quite unjustified that there still appear to be voices trying to discredit the management and direct trade elsewhere - sour grapes maybe? Three Island ales continue to be available and quality is there together with friendly service. Several parties have given very favourable reports on meals and a wedding reception is booked. There is no reason why they should not prosper - never mind the width, feel the quality! The New Year party was a great success.

If you fancy an old-fashioned corner pub with excellent beer and good company the **PRINCE OF WALES** is only 3 minutes walk from the Memorial Hall. Plenty of parking, good games teams and a taxi home (the landlords) if required. One of the Island's longest serving landlords runs a tight ship and it is a popular watering hole - never mind the coke, try the Abbot! There can be very few "as built" pubs left, usually the brewers buy, modernise, spoil, and lose trade. This one was bought from the brewery, has remained unchanged except for the garden and continues to fulfill a local need - a popular pub.


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The Pointer Inn

Father and son team, Paul and Nathan Clark are the new faces behind the pumps at the Pointer Inn, Newchurch. Paul, a qualified chef with over 25 years experience will be overseeing the kitchen, insisting on fresh, home cooked food whilst Nathan will no doubt be pleased to have his feet firmly in one place. In his previous job as relief manager for London brewer McMullans, he worked in over 24 pubs during the last 12 months. He is no stranger to the Isle of Wight though; he started his career in the White Lion in Arreton. The landlords have joined Gales Beer Club, which will enable them to stock a range of guest ales (please phone 865202 to find out what is on offer). As well as good food and ale there's lots to do in the way of traditional pub games including shove ha'penny, pool and petanque.



Nathan Clark
A new face at the Pointer Inn

The Roadside Inn, Nettlestone

Wightwash readers with good memories may remember that The Roadside Inn, Nettlestone featured on the cover of the first issue after the re-launch. At that time its future was in the balance with CAMRA, villagers and local councillors fighting to get the pub reopened against the wishes of property developers who had applied for change of use. We are therefore, more than pleased to wish new licensees Russ and Sue Hall a very warm welcome. If you have ever had a quick pint whilst waiting for the hovercraft, you may well have already met them, as they were the hosts of The Clarence, Southsea for 5 years.

The pub looks lovely both: **inside** - with a new pool table, recently redecorated bar and a roaring log fire; and **outside** - with a large white flag pole and Union Flag (apparently the locals insist on it - a patriotic lot these Nettlestone folk). The Roadside is currently offering 3 real ales and a very popular £5 lunch.



The Roadside Inn - Flying the Flag!

If you would like us to write something about your pub, just let us know, phone 721557

*Win a case of the VENTNOR BEER of your choice.
Just name these...*

Island Pubs Not Was

With apologies to those that don't live in Newport or Ventnor



5



6



7



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 May

First correct answers out of the hat wins
the beer!

8



Answers to Winter Quiz

1/ The wooden pegs are called spiles. 2/ There are 9 gallons in a firkin. 3/ The most northerly tip of the Isle of Wight is Egypt Point. 4/ Badger Breweries (Hall and Woodhouse) brew Fursty Ferret. 5/ The Champion beer of the Fat Cat festival was Harvisoun Schiellion. 6/ Anthony Goddard was recently appointed High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight. 7/ King Charles was allegedly imprisoned in the Sun Inn, Newport. 8/ The memorial to Elvis Prestley is in Rylstone Gardens. 9/ The pictured pub was the Lake Superior. 10/ The insignia of Edward VIII can be seen on the telephone exchange in Shanklin, and a post box in Green Lane in Shanklin - see **Trivia Topics** on page 19.

ARKELL'S

Alec and Valerie Lawson recently visited Arkell's Brewery in Swindon. Here Alec tells us about the brewery and their visit.

Arkell's has celebrated 160 years of brewing in Swindon by holding a Beer Festival at its wonderful Victorian steam brewery. They are one of only 33 family breweries left in the United Kingdom, and these were all represented by a beer at the festival! This made for a very pleasant visit, although after imbibing we did have to hang on to the hand-rails when on the narrow and steep stairs in the three storey brewery.



Originally a steam engine pumped the liquor to the upper level, from where gravity takes over. The heating of the brew is still performed by steam, but generated now by oil-fired boilers.

The end results are rather special. There is the 3.2% 2B's. Then there is the 4% 3B's Arkell's Best Bitter, know as Big Boys Beer, which is a full nutty malt flavour with a strong hoppy finish. The Summer Ale, also 4%, is a very refreshing hoppy brew intended to be served on the cool side. The Kingsdown is 4.5%, and other brews were being tried

out at the festival.

Last but not least in the range is the 5.5% Moonlight, a rich but well balanced brew. This has a Lysander on the labels & pump clips, and was first brewed this year to celebrate the 80th birthday of Peter Arkell, the Chairman of the company. As Flight Lieutenant Arkell during the war he made clandestine landings in France to ferry resistance and SOE agents, then flew 35 pick-ups behind Japanese lines in the mountains of Burma, before retiring to the brewery trade. Along with Arkell's the family brewers represented were Adnams, Charles Wells, Daniel Batham, Daniel Thwaites, Donnington, Elgood, Everards, Felinfoel, Fuller, Batemans, Gale, Hall & Woodhouse, Hardys & Hansons, Harvey, Holden's, Hook Norton, Hydes' Anvil, JC & RH Palmer, Jennings, Joseph Holt, JW Lees, McMullen, Ringwood, SA Brain, Robinson, Shepard Neame, St Austell, Ridley, Wychwood, Timothy Taylor, Wadworth and Youngs.

Cheers! Alec



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Edward VIII

Poor old Edward the Eighth didn't spend much time being King. He inherited the title when his father died in January 1936 and abdicated in December of the same year. During this time he was never crowned.



All this makes anything with his insignia on it pretty rare. However, here on the Isle of Wight we do have a couple of examples. Pictured here are the crest over the door of the telephone exchange in Shanklin and a post box in Green Lane. Do you know of any others?



Incidentally, the reason that Cunard's newest ship is written as QM2 instead of QMII is that the use of roman numerals indicates a monarch. With QEII of course there is a Queen Elizabeth the Second, but for there to have been a Queen Mary the Second, Mary Queen of Scots would have had to have been crowned Queen of England - and that would never do!

Plague Beer!

We are indebted to Ingvar Börjeson from Sweden whose membership of CAMRA was mentioned in the last issue of Wightwash. Ingvar has sent us some extremely interesting memorabilia including 2 copies of the Good Beer Guide from 1975.

Why 2 copies?

Well, the first issue had to be withdrawn after an injunction from Watneys who objected having the comment "avoid like the plague" levelled at their product. They seem to have been quite happy with the amended "avoid at all costs".



One of the best.

Ward: Sheffield.

Reasonably reliable.

Watney: Mortlake, London; Norwich;

Whitechapel, London.

Avoid like the plague.

Webster (Wa): Halifax.

Still a lot of real ale.

Wells, Charles: Bedford.

A one-in-three chance of real ale.

One of the best.

Ward: Sheffield.

Reasonably reliable.

Watney: Mortlake, London; Norwich;

Whitechapel, London.

Avoid at all costs.

Webster (Wa): Halifax.

Still a lot of real ale.

Wells, Charles: Bedford.

A one-in-three chance of real ale.

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featuring 70 Real Ales!



In the grounds of the
Sandpiper Hotel Freshwater

Thursday 25th March

Noon - opening by Mark King

8pm Men of Wight followed by The Tin Lids

Friday 26th March

Open all day. Evening Dave Hollis Blues Band

Saturday 27th March

Open all day. Evening - Chris Mew's Midnight Creepers

Sunday 28th March

Open all day. Lunchtime - Chris Mew's Midnight Creepers

Festival Volunteers Wanted - phone (01983) 758500

For more details see page 6

Or log on to www.fatcattrading.co.uk and follow the link

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Signed.....

Date.....