

Wightwash

Volume 2. Number 31

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

SPRING ISSUE 2007



www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk

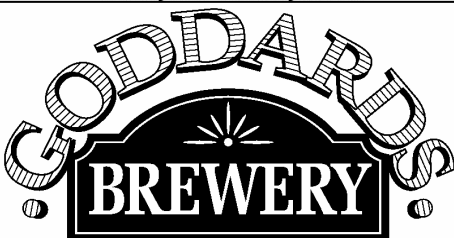


The Oakleaf Brewing Co Ltd
The Pourfect Pint!

www.oakleafbrewing.co.uk



www.yates-brewery.co.uk



"Spreading a little hoppiness"

www.goddards-brewery.co.uk

In this **FREE** issue:-

New Island Brewery on the Way?
(see News and Gossip)

Full Fat Cat Festival Itinerary
(see centre pages)

Message from our new RD

POLICE PAGE

Prize Quiz

Vaguely Sunny
New Faces

and much, much more....

Wightwash welcomes Kerry
see News and Gossip



Editor and News Editor Tim Marshall and Paul Mattick pictured with new recruit to the Wightwash staff, Kerry Ashmore.

Last year John Buckley took over from Marcus Stanley as Regional Director for the Wessex Region. By way of an introduction he has sent us this message...

The Wessex Region of CAMRA consists of 3,700 members from all walks of life and background, and sure as it will rain if you don't take a brolly, they will all have different opinions. "Why wasn't the Gnat and Carrot in the Good Beer Guide?" or "Let's ban all Fullers beers as they axed Gales" or "Burts was better than Brickwoods". These members make up the ten local Wessex 'Branches' covering Dorset, Hampshire, the Channel Islands, parts of Wiltshire and of course the Isle of Wight.

Like many other organisations it is a very diverse body and opinions within it vary enormously. Get a group of CAMRA members together in a pub and what will happen - the same as anywhere else, discussion will probably turn to religion, politics and sex, and they will disagree on all of them, but one issue will bind them together - the beer. Or more accurately the quality, choice and enjoyment of the real traditional brew in convivial and sociable surroundings.




Being a democratic consumer body, all have a right to air opinions. For many, this will be in the pub over a pint; while others will attend their Branch Meetings and Socials. But how do these views reach into the heart of the Campaign. Firstly, it is through the local Branch - no, it is not that miserable group of old grizzlies in the corner, but that friendly, sociable, outgoing and welcoming band of friends enjoying themselves. On the Island it is that wonderful social crowd CAMRA IOW.

All the ideas, opinions, arguments and disagreements can then be raised at Regional level. That's where the bloke who put his hand up last comes in. I jest because all of CAMRA is worthwhile and helping the Campaign in any way can be extremely rewarding and worthwhile. Every couple of months all ten Branches get togeth-

A true locals pub where visitors are always made welcome

THE CHEQUERS INN

NITON ROAD · ROOKLEY · 840314

VOTED BY
1999
UK FAMILY
PUB OF
THE YEAR
THE GOOD PUB GUIDE

AS
FEATURED
IN THE 2009
GOOD BEER
GUIDE
PUBLIC HOUSE

An award winning pub set in the heart of the Island's countryside, surrounded by glorious views and wonderful walks. With a comprehensive menu including children's and vegetarian dishes, a carvery every weekday lunchtime and traditional Sunday roasts.

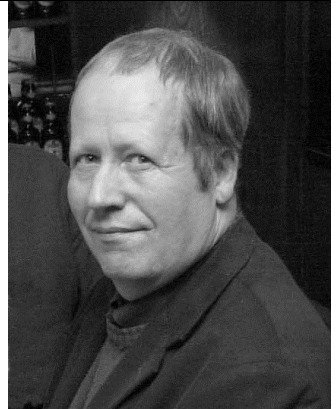
Food served all day everyday • Large garden and car park • Extensive children's adventure playground

www.chequersinn-iow.co.uk

er to chin-wag, at what is known as a Regional Meeting. Mr Short-Straw (aka Regional Director) then acts as a conduit into the Campaign as he then has to attend Branches and National Executive Meetings which can be anywhere in the country. Here policies are made on all manner of issues, and the direction that the Campaign takes is determined.

In Wessex we have introduced a new structure where the main duties are being shared - Good Beer Guide, Pub and Club of the Year, Champion Beer Of Britain submissions, liaison with breweries, cider matters and so on. We are lucky to have a great band of chaps and chapesses who are all committed to getting the best deal for the drinker - the consumer - YOU. Raise your glass to them - I do.

The Regional Director coordinates all this essential but worthwhile work. This means you need to be able to contact him - you could try 01256 892650 or 07963 237619. If desperate you could try asking around in the pubs - the chance of hitting the right pub would be low, but at least you could enjoy a pint or two on your travels.



John Buckley -Wessex Regional Director

PUB OF THE YEAR

POY time has rolled round once again. Last year, the 2005 winner, the **Solent Inn**, was knocked back to third place, a hairsbreadth behind the **Volunteer**, by a landslide win for the **Yarbridge Inn**, which, under the stewardship of ace beer hunter Paul Jenner, has come from nowhere to number one within three years. But how will you vote this year? Members should find voting forms posted to them with this issue (joint members get 2). If for some unpardonable reason you didn't, please contact me immediately - email jcloth14@yahoo.co.uk phone 527093 or write 14, Staplers Road, Newport PO30 2BZ. As usual, select which three Island pubs you think are best and list them in order of preference. The same method applies to voting for your favourite local beer. So, complete the voting slip and send it to me at the address above **by the end of April**. The results will be announced on John Hanam's Isle of Wight Radio show on 27th May and in the summer issue of *Wightwash*.

Please, **do** take the trouble to vote.

Brian Jacobs



Thumping
GOOD BEER
(01425) 471177

From *Paul Mattick*

A very warm welcome to our new reporter, **Kerry Ashmore**, who Tim and I met recently at the **Yarbridge** in Brading (see front page). She has come up with some very good ideas, and she was looking forward to reporting (and visiting!) breweries and outlets across the Island. Much more to follow!

I was very fortunate to reach the final six for the **Publican Awards** Bar Person of the year in 1998. Just to reach the final six was a great achievement in itself, and to actually win it was something that I still can't put into words. I'm not blowing any trumpets or anything, I'm just letting **Gillian Bell**, of the **The Fighting Cocks**, Arreton know how well she and her team have done, not to have just reached the last six in the **Newcomer** of the year, and the final six in the **Customer Service Pub of the Year** but to say *enjoy the night* and the very best of luck to you all at the Fighting Cocks.

THE RICHMOND ARMS
Ventnor Esplanade
Isle of Wight
(01983) 855674
- FREE HOUSE -
OPEN ALL DAY
11am - 11pm Mon - Sat
12 - 10.30 Sun
Varied Menu
& Extensive Specials Board
Non-Smoking Dining Room
At least three REAL ALES!
Your Hosts:-
Mike and Dawn Bothwell

After a couple of bureaucratic setbacks, Paul Jenner is now ready to start work on the **Pagan Brewery** in the grounds of the Yarbridge Inn. It will have a five barrel capacity and initially brew a session and a stronger beer. Why the **Pagan Brewery**? Apparently the Isle of Wight was the last place in England to convert to Christianity (make up your own jokes!). Paul also plans to wholesale some of the more unusual

beers he comes across to fellow Island publicans. The next Yarbridge festival will run between the 31st May and 3rd June.

I was recently talking to my local drug dealer (well the Chemist if truth be told!). She asked me if I knew why there was any reason why a notice on the blackboard outside a particular East Wight hostelry read: "Due to the disappearance of the landlord, there will be no food!". Read on for clues in the movers and shakers section.



King Harry's Bar
the old village Shanklin
*Come and try
our wide variety of Real Ales*
open 11am - 11pm
Tel: 863119
thekingharrybar@aol.com
SEPARATE RESTAURANT OPEN IN THE EVENINGS

Here's Kerry's report from **Goddards**:-

A whistle stop brewery tour and pep talk from Chris Coleman left a very pleasant taste in the mouth indeed! Goddards are preparing for a busy season ahead now that demand for its ales has reached the mainland. Goddards Ales are becoming ever increasingly popular with the lunch time crowd and Chris is developing a new take on a regular brew. The "exported" **Isle of Wight Ale** will be lowering its alcohol content to 3.7% so those who enjoy their daily tittle with their sandwiches can now enjoy an extended lunch. Internet users should "watch this space" as Goddards are planning a review of their website and regular fans of Goddards should be ready with their glasses as the summer production of Inspiration will be hitting those bars in no time. And for something really different, how about Goddards Real Ale Chutney. Head chef of **The Windmill Inn**, Bembridge, Kieron Barton told us that using real ale in the kitchen gives his menu a new twist. His not to be missed home made speciality is the delicious **Fuddle de Dum Chutney**. Traditional food lovers should

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
Every Night

try Goddards Beer Battered Cod and the all round favourite Steak in Ale pie. Kieron said "Fuddle de Dum" is a popular ale that tastes great in food and makes a lovely golden batter for his fish.

Ventnor Brewery News

The Baker Boys have been off beachcombing for driftwood. You can see the results in their newly refurbished shop. The shelves, all made from salvaged wood are now fully stocked.

Xav is currently brewing his favourite beer, **Molly Downer** 4.2% named after the Bembridge witch/smuggler. Look out for the unusual pumpclip. The Christmas Fayre set up in the Brewery yard was a great success.



Favourite

Traveller's Joy

Families Welcome

Pallance Road, Northwood, Isle of Wight

Tel: (01983) 298024

www.tjoy.co.uk

Garden
play area
and
pet animals

Function
room
for
private
parties

For those of you who couldn't go I can tell you that you missed, amongst other things, a hog roast, beer from the wood, Santas grotto, mulled beer and cider and a vast array of entertainment. Hopefully we won't have to wait until next Christmas for a repeat.

The Sun Inn at Calbourne are trying something different - every Thursday they are holding a Chinese Night 6 - 8.30. There's a selection of individual dishes and platters (including vegetarian options).

Yates News

Yates' real ale sales have continued to rise. Hayley says it's because people like phoning her up but Dave insists it's the quality of his beers.

After the fabulously named "**Heckled Sven**" we have another Yates pun, this time with a rugby theme. **Front Row Firkin** 4.6% brewed with 3 varieties of hops is "Just the one to try" geddit?

If you are in Ryde and want to try some Yates beers, try Smithfields who always have at least 2 on and The Solent - (see New Faces) and over on the other side of

The Crab and Lobster Tap

A Truly Traditional Pub

and the oldest license on the Island
Grove Road, Ventnor

(01983) 852311

Live Jazz every other Tuesday

the Island, the Kings Head at Yarmouth are now taking YSD on a regular basis.

David now has 5 regular beers:- Best Bitter, Undercliff Experience, Blonde, Holy Joe, Yates Special Draught and one semi-seasonal - Winter Warmer (aka St Lawrence Ale). If the Front Row Firkin proves popular it will be renamed and become a regular.

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU!** to our Distribution Supremo **Gerry Hallett** who is hanging up his carrier bags and elastic bands after many years of hard work. Lifting 2000 Wightwash in and out of the

Food
all
Day



Always
6
Guest Real Ales

S. Fowler & Co.

Union Street, Ryde

Tel: (01983 812112)

www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk



Great Beer at Great Prices

f
JACK'S JAZZ
(1 TO 7 PIECE)

*For those who like Jazz
AND those who don't!*

JACK TAIT
(01983) 854403



leaflets to any would be quitters. I have recently signed up with Island Quitters and so far haven't had a single puff (but that's another story!). Thanks to Deb, her team and a bit of will power for helping me out. What next me thinks...Alcoholics Anonymous... (Me thinks not!).

Chicago Rock is, at the time of writing this, having a refit. When it re-opens, I have been told they will be a non-smoking establishment. Make the most of it!

boot of his car every three months has taken its toll. All those that would like to take over this job, please form a queue... seriously if someone could take over Gerry's job of distributing to the distributors please phone 721557. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

In the next issue, the front and back pages will be waterproof to allow you to keep the rain off while smoking outside in the wet season . Tar Tar for now!

Paul

Movers & Shakers
(pubs for sale)

- White Lion, Arreton;
- Blenheim, Ventnor ;
- Roadside Inn, Nettlestone ;
- Ocean Deck Inn, Sandown;
- Royal Standard, Freshwater;
- Crab and Lobster, Bembridge;
- Crab and Lobster Tap, Ventnor;
- Sportsman's Rest, Porchfield;
- Cask and Crispin, Newport;
- Eight Bells, Carisbrooke;
- Plough and Barleycorn, Shanklin;
- Swans Nest, Ryde;
- Fleming Arms, Binstead;
- Smart Fox, Brading.

The 14th March is National No Smoking Day across the country. To mark this occasion **The Steamer Inn, The Dairyman's Daughter** and **The Bargeman's Rest** will be gearing up for July by having a no smoking day. Deb Cant (no relation to Brian!) and her colleagues will be at hand to give any information or

THE WAVERLEY CARISBROOKE



*Steve, Rachel and the staff
Keith, Little Em, Emma
Brian, Heather, Cat and
(oh yeah) Zoë
will make you feel most welcome*

Sky Sports with Live Football
Live Music every Saturday
Tuesday and Thursday
are Curry Nights
(£6.95 inc a drink)
Sunday Lunch from £5.75

Food Served 12 - 2.15 6.30 - 9.15
Sunday 12 - 2.30 not evenings



Tel: (01983) 522338



A Quick Chat with ...

Jamie Griffin

One of the busiest musicians on the Island scene in terms of the number of gigs that he plays, is young singer/songwriter **Jamie Griffin**. Vic King managed to catch up with him recently for an update on how Jamie's career is progressing.

VK: Jamie, I know that you have just come back from doing some gigs in Germany. Where were you based ?

JG : In Waldshut in south Germany, near the Swiss border. I had played there before with some friends. This time I went out to do a three-and-a-half week residency in a bar. I was doing four hour gigs on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It was hectic. I sold about thirty CD's.

VK : I also wanted to talk about The Cavern in Liverpool where you did a gig last year.

JG : There were some heavy rock bands on the same night as me, so it was not the right ambience. A nightmare drive, I wouldn't want to do that in a hurry again. All experience though. The place is total Beatlemania.

VK : What are your regular gigs on the Island ?

JG : The Village Inn in Shanklin, The Fountain in Cowes, The Waterside, Cowes, I also do Sunday sessions at Jo Daflo's - both in Newport and Ryde. I was playing in a duo with Nik Potts on violin but now I'm playing solo.

VK : How did your career as a musician get started ?

JG : I've played guitar ever since day one. I used to watch gigs - people like JC and Angelina at The Bargeman's Rest. JC is such a fine guitarist. People don't realise just

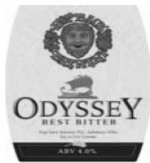
Tel: 07971 797942



www.hopback.co.uk

Hop Back Brewery

are now delivering quality cask conditioned
beers direct to the Isle of Wight



how good he is. You have to learn how to gig, it's more than just playing guitar. I used to go to watch gigs to learn how to gig.

VK : When you are writing a song, what comes first, the words or the music?

JG: I write lyrics to fit the music, I've got music in my head all the time. The music is more important. You have got to get somebody listening to that first, getting their feet tapping, to then get them to listen to the words.

VK: What's next for you on the recording front ?

JG : I'm going to Dave Waight's studios in a couple of weeks to record a four track EP. Hopefully, I can release it and get some radio play.

VK: On the Internet, My Space seems to be all the rage for musicians now. Has it helped you ?

JG : I've got a gig at The Edge Of The Wedge at Southsea in April through that.

VK : Finally, on the Island, Festivals have been very much in the news this week. What do you make of them ?

JG: The Isle of Wight Festival is unbelievably corporate, although I did play on The Platform One stage last year which was good. Little things, like being allowed to bring in your own food and alcohol makes it more relaxed at The Bestival.

You will be able to see Jamie at the Isle of Wight Folk and Blues Festival in Ventnor later this year. He will be playing on the final day, Sunday, September 23.

For more information please go to www.iwfolkblues.co.uk

To find out more about Jamie and his music, including his latest CD 'Hiding From The Pain' please visit :

www.jamiegriffin.co.uk

www.myspace.com/jamiegriffin

Good Friday, April 6th

Vaguely Sunny presents
an Easter Concert:

Highly regarded Scots/Gaelic Singer

MAEVE MACKINNON

with **Innes Watson** on guitar.

Quay Arts Centre, Newport
8.00pm.

Tickets £10/£9

Box Office 01983-822490

www.myspace.com/maevemackinnon



Broadway Inn
Totland

GUEST ALES AND LOCAL BREWS
ALWAYS ON TAP

Lunches and Evening Meals
12 - 2.30 and 6 - 8.45

Live Music
every Saturday

w i d e s c r e e n t v
for major sporting events

Tel: (01983) 755333

Freshwater ale tycoon Jay Chapman has conjured up a medieval theme for **Fat Cat's 5th Ale & Music Festival** taking place at the end of March. Jay told us he wants to use the idea to raise funds for Isle of Wight children's charities. Participating breweries are invited to take a place as one of 12 Knights at the Round table each producing a unique medieval themed ale. Breweries at the table agree to donate £50.00 to the IOW round table to help support further fundraising activities.



This year's event will host around 60 UK breweries and there will be up to 180 real ales to sample. Standard ale price is £2.80 per pint and further reduced if you purchase a wristband. As usual there will be a commemorative glass to hold your chosen brew and when you eventually stumble out of the marquee there's a collection of pub games to try your hand at.



A folk night kicks off the festivities with visitors being treated to different musical events over the 10 day stint. Most are free but expect to pay up to £15 to attend weekend sessions and entertainment. Discount wristbands are available. Full programme black bands cost £40, entitling free entry to all events and a per pint discount of 80p. Yellow wrist bands cost £5.00 giving a £5.00 discount to paid events and a per pint discount of 30p. The event will be complimented with a curry tent (eat in or take-away) and a special bus service will run to/from Newport costing £2 per journey.



Message from Jay

We would like to thank our Sponsors this year who have teamed up to support this annual event: **Adams:** Glasses and Main Bar Design; **Thwaites:** Beer Technical Support; **Ventnor Brewery:** Stage and Beer Logistics; **Waverley TBS:** Beer Logistics and Programme; **Southern Vectis:** For Getting Us all home safely in the form of Discounted Bus Fares £2 a ride as far as Newport; **Wells & Young's:** Sound & Lighting and Back Stage hospitality; **Beck's:** Wrist Bands for Entry; **Wightlink:** For getting all the bands to the gigs arranged by Phill Snellen; **Sigma Events Management, Phill Snellen:** For the Headliners; **Island Marquee's & Gray's Marquees** for there Support; **Family & Staff at the Fat Cat**



What's Happening



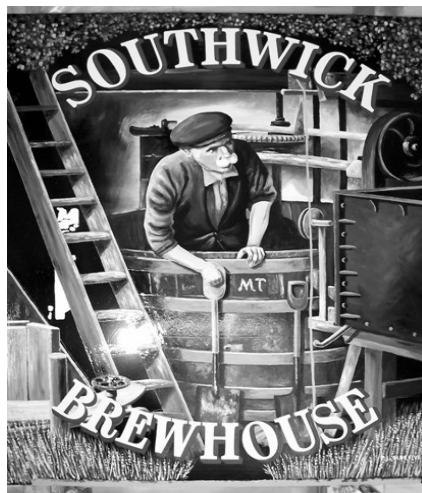
Date	Entertainment	Style
Thurs 29 th March	Traditional Music from Traditional Groups Headline from 1800 Smoke & Mirrors	Folk/Rock
Fri 30 th March	<p align="center">Fantastic Funky Friday @ the Fat Cat</p> <p>7.30 – 8.45pm Shine Blues based Jazz with avant-garde Eastern Sounds</p> <p>9.15pm – midnight PROTECT THE BEAT "Seriously funky jazz/groove"</p> <p>with Derek Nash of the Jools Holland Rhythm And Blues Orchestra Playing throughout/compere Jazz DJ Tim Boogaloo 6.00 - midnight</p>	Jazz
Sat 31 st March	<p align="center">'Saturday is Tiswas Never a Day to Miswas'</p> <p>During the Day Ventnor Comic Band vs Samba Band Real family event not to miss.</p> <p>8.15 – 9.15 pm I Love Audrey 10.15 – 11.30pm MOTION PICTURES DJ's throughout The Motions DJ's & DJ DRUT</p>	Mayhem
Sun 1 st April	<p align="center">Dot Com * Martinez Jamie Griffin * Jim Brook's Quintet</p>	Acoustic and Jazz
Mon 2nd	<p align="center">West Wight Beer Day</p>	No music
Tue 3rd April	<p align="center">Giant Quiz Night 'Hear no, See no, Speak no Evil!'</p> <p>Teams welcome for the Fun Quiz with a difference</p>	No music
Wed 4th April	<p align="center">Rock Baby Rock! Riptide * Midnight Creepers</p>	Rock
Thur 5th April	<p>Smoke & Mirrors (folk rock band) Other local bands</p>	Folk
Fri 6th April	<p align="center">Jazz @ the Fat Cat</p> <p>7.30pm – 9.00pm IOW Jazz Youth Orchestra lead by Gary Plumley Debut Gig of "Local Talent at its best"</p> <p>9.30pm – Midnight (2 sets) MANTECA "Nu-Latino Groove"</p>	Jazz
Sat 7 th April	<p align="center">'Soul and Blues with attitude!'</p> <p>9.30pm – 11.30pm (1 set) THABANI "The London Soul Grove "</p> <p>6.00pm – midnight Plus Soul & Blues DJ Tim Boogaloo</p>	Blues



Work in progress

Peter J. Oldreive's studio is a portable building located in his garden at Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Before working on a particular sign he seeks direction from the customer. "I listen to and follow the customer's brief. Sometimes the customer has material such as an old photograph that I can utilise but often it involves my own research and then producing some preliminary drawings along with any of my old sign photographs on a similar theme," he explains.



He does try to add his own personal touch to each sign though. "Mostly I just add my name, but, I sometimes make a deliberate small difference on each side for my own amusement," he says.

For one sign, that of the White Horse at Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, Peter managed to include a portrait of his own daughter on her favourite horse.



Peter is a traditional sign artist in every sense and produces a new signboard to exacting standards. I use aluminium panels that have usually been prepared for me, they would have a primary undercoat, then a coat of $\frac{1}{2}$ undercoat and $\frac{1}{2}$ gloss. I would then rough the surface up with a light sandpaper to give good keying.



I draw the basic design onto some tracing paper and then chalk the back of the drawing. I then place the paper onto the blank sign and draw around the picture to transfer the image.

I then start the painting using synthetic lead based enamels. Each side takes Peter on average a day to complete, though heraldic signs can take between two and four days per side. Peter has his own technique to ensure the reverse of the sign mirrors as closely as possible the front. "I use the tracing for the outline and memory and experience for the colours."

The end product is a unique sign that will hang well and advertise its public house for many years.

The
YARBRIDGE INN
The Railway Themed Pub
Yarbridge Cross, Brading, Isle of Wight
Tel: (01983) 406212
Extensive Menu of Hot and Cold Food
Beer Garden
Families Welcome
www.yarbridgeinn.co.uk

by *Kerry Ashmore*



The King Lud, Ryde

Matt & Karen Lum are the proud new tenants of the **King Lud** in Ryde. The **King Lud** sports three real ale pumps. Currently it serves **Ventnor Golden Bitter** and **HSB**. Spot the empty pump! -the third real ale is to be announced shortly-.

Whilst the pub has undergone a recent refurbishment, it has kept its traditional character and remains popular with locals and visitors

alike. The King Lud serves home cooked food and has made a start towards the “no smoking” ban by making some tables a no smoking area.

Previously the pub was closed on a Sunday but Matt & Karen have decided it should remain open. To mark the Sunday opening the pub recently took part in the IOW radio live pub quiz and provided a free buffet.

Cask and Taverners, Godshill




New managers **Lyn and Adrian Fagg** may have received a spooky welcome to their new home, **The Cask & Taverners** in Godshill.

Lyn told us that although she isn't sure how old the pub is, she senses something

from the past has said hello. Some locals have even claimed to see the friendly ghost, but Lyn and Adrian are still waiting for the apparition to put in an appearance at the bar.


Lyn and Adrian, new to the trade, have moved from their Whippingham home and intend to put their own stamp on the pub by renovating the Pentanque facility located in the Garden.

The pub serves the ever popular **London Pride** and also has the tasty **Hobgoblin** from the Wychwood Brewery on draught as its current visiting brew.



HALL & WOODHOUSE
INDEPENDENT SINCE 1777

Brewery Visitor Centre



Soak up the atmosphere of a working brewery on our guided tours

View our collection of brewing artefacts

Sample our ales & enjoy traditional pub fare in our unique restaurant

Our Brewery Visitor Centre is open:
Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 5.30pm

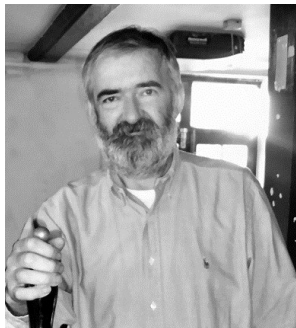
Brewery Tours run at set times so please call to reserve your place

Adults £4.50 Concessions £3.50 Children £2.50
(Price includes one free pint or soft drink)

Evening tours & group bookings by arrangement
Conference & Meeting Room Facilities also available

Call 01258 452141

The Stag Inn, Lake



Passionate about his local community, Gerry Wight the owner of The Stag Inn, wants to bring laughter to Lake. The secret cellar venue due to open at the end of April is a dream come true for Gerry. He said "I invite anyone to make use of the new facility free of charge" Gerry told us he would love a comedy club to take up his offer.

During the summer the pub will host its own pool tournament with prize money offered by Gerry of £1000. Monies raised during the tournament will go to the Sandown and Shanklin Inshore Lifeboat and some lucky customer will scoop the jackpot prize.



The Stag Inn, a traditional community pub offers regular guest real ales. A popular addition to the bar is the bespoke "Stag Ale" brewed and produced by Yates Brewery. At 3.8%abv it can be enjoyed throughout the evening. Other ales include Ventnor's Golden Bitter and Goddards Best Bitter.

Smithfields, Ryde

Smithfields, the latest brainchild from Karen & Ian Whitehead (former owners of Jo Daflo's) opened on Union St, Ryde on 12th January.

Karen described the venue as "something completely different". She told us Smithfields provides a totally smoke free atmosphere where families can relax to eat real food and drink Real Ale".

Unusually, neither Karen or Ian drink alcohol and rely totally on customer opinions. Karen asked us to taste the Real Ales being served. The ales, provided by Yates Brewery, Undercliffe and Blonde tasted just fine. Smithfields intend to serve a regular guest ale and welcome any suggestions from CAMRA members.

The bar is situated towards the top end of Union St and caters for a mixed age group.



West Wight Disco
"The Soundtrack to Your Party"
MUSIC & LIGHTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
10% Discount for CAMRA members
TEL 759213 or info@westwightaudio.co.uk



The Solent Inn, Ryde

If you thought that running a pub was an easy option - think again. How would you like to get up in time to get the kids off to school for 7.30, drive from Wroxall to Ryde, open the pub up, entertain the customers all day (whilst redecorating) shut the pub up, clean it and get it ready for the next day and then drive all the way back to Wroxall, sometimes not getting back until 2 in the morning?

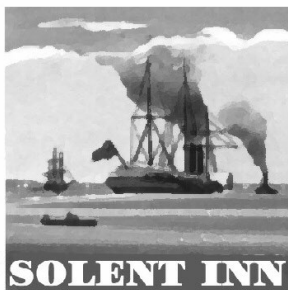
Well, that's just what **Helen and Graham Fastnedge** have been doing for the past 12 weeks. The truly amazing fact

though is that they have managed to maintain the Solent Inn's fine reputation for splendid ales, even managing to persuade Punch Taverns to allow them to stock a local ale from Yates' brewery.

The pub now has a shiny new no-smoking lounge (still, I'm pleased to report, with the endearing slope) and soon the new kitchen will be in operation.

The couple moved to the Island from the Forest of Dean 18 months ago to take over a hotel. Sadly the deal fell through so they considered the licensed trade. Helen had a spell behind the bar at the Rookley Country Park to see if she liked it – and she did.

When they took over the Solent, a decision was made to completely refurbish the pub including the accommodation upstairs. Needless to say, they are looking forward to the day when all this is finished and they can move in. The Solent operates the Finest Cast rotation system and customers are invited to add to a list on the wall the beers that they particularly enjoy. Graham and Helen are both keen on music and live music features on Thursday and Friday evenings and late Sunday afternoon.



Graham and Helen invite you to

THE SOLENT INN

UP TO 6 REAL ALES

Including local ales from Yates' Brewery

New No-Smoking Lounge

LIVE MUSIC THURS/FRI EVENINGS
AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

THE SOLENT INN, 7 MONKTON STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT PO33 1JW TEL: 01983 563546

Walking into the Licensing office this morning was something like the Mary Celeste; vacant seats, computers turned off, swivel chairs rotating slowly and a pile of messages on my desk – “Don’t forget I am on leave this week, and the deadline for the Wightwash article is the 16th” – Sergeant Mudge.

Thank you, Graeme! I do expect he did mention this fact to me last week, but as your age increases, sadly the grey matter does not. The memory is not like a good ale – it does not improve with age. We all need reminders from time to time.

So here goes – the first reminder of yet more legislation which will affect your working practices.

The smoking ban in public places comes into force at 6.00am on July 1st 2007



I would hope that all publicans have plans already in place as to how they are going to deal with this new law. There are conflicting reports as to whether this type of ban affects trade or not, but I think these are based more on whether you are a smoker or not. Personally after a year or so down the line, I expect we will all be asking what all the fuss was about (yes, I am a non-smoker!). The most important advice being given is for the matter to be discussed between customers and licensees expressing your thoughts. You can then come to a conclusion to the benefit of all (if within the law, of course!).

The Gambling Act 2005 comes into fruition later in the year. The present law on gambling dates back thirty years – long before on-line gambling and super casinos.



Again, this will impact on what gaming may be carried out in licensed premises; poker, bingo and fruit machines.

The advice is, prepare early.

Whatever happened to a decent pint of beer and a game of crib! There I go showing my age again.

Come back Sergeant

PC 374 Adrian Cleightonhills
Police Licensing



Carisbrooke Castle

Since Roman times there have been fortifications on the hill at Carisbrooke. They have been strengthened and improved over the centuries but have only been under serious attack on one occasion.

This was the time when French invaders landed on the Island in 1377 and proceeded to terrify the inhabitants by burning and laying waste to many properties. Those who could do so took refuge in the castle and waited for the danger to pass.



But the French had no intention of going away and laid siege to the castle hoping to starve the defenders into submission. Water was a big problem for those inside. The donkey powered well had yet to be dug and the one that existed in the keep was unreliable. For the garrison there was one hope.

The French commander was in the habit of riding in front of the gatehouse each morning and issuing threats to those inside. Seeing a chance of striking a decisive blow the garrison commander summoned one Rupert de Hainault of Stenbury Manor, who was renowned for his skill with the crossbow, to try to shoot him as he rode past. The first shot took deadly effect. History tells us that this Island marksman killed the said french leader. The ploy was so successful that the invaders then lost heart and as they were running short of supplies themselves they withdrew from our shores soon afterwards.

Rob Marshall



**THE
ANCHOR
INN**

1 HIGH STREET, COWES
(opposite Cowes Yacht Haven)

**THE OLDEST AND MOST TRADITIONAL
PUB IN COWES**

- Large selection of Real Ales
- Home Cooked Food • Live Bands Wed, Fri & Sat
- Food served all day 12 noon - 10pm (9.30pm Sun)
- Accommodation - 7 En-suite rooms

**The Stable Bar may be hired for parties,
weddings, private functions etc.**

Tel: 01983 292823 Fax: 01983 281511
www.anchorcowes.net

Win a **£20 Meal Voucher** for the **Chequers Inn** or a **Case of Beer** from the **Ventnor Brewery** just answer these easy questions. The first two correct answers out of the hat on 1st May win the prizes.

- 1/ Forest Whitaker won an Oscar for portraying which real life character?
- 2/ Who owned "Morning Cloud"?
- 3/ Who is the current Defence Secretary?
- 4/ What is the longest river in the British Isles?
- 5/ In what year was Everest climbed for the first time?
- 6/ Which London brewery recently took over Gales of Horndean?
- 7/ "I Wanna Be Your Man" was an early hit for the Rolling Stones. Who wrote it?
- 8/ What is the current name of the IOW pub that was at one time called the Jamaica Inn?

9/ and 10/ Who created these characters?

The Volunteer

Victoria Street, Ventnor Tel: 852537

Mike and Heather Janvrin invite you to partake in one of

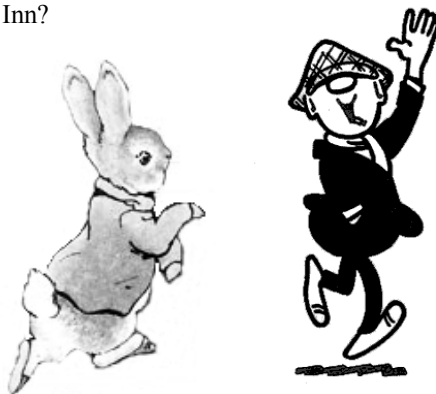
8 Real Ales

(all in tip top condition)

in the Island's smallest pub

www.volunteer-inn.co.uk





Answers to the Winter Quiz:

- 1/ Roger Daltrey and Pete Townsend.
- 2/ California. 3/ Cob. 4/ Genetics.
- 5/ Bob Champion. 6/ Foxglove.
- 7/ The Tan Hill Inn. (thanks for the photo, Paul!) 8/ Steve Harmison.
- 9/ Bradley Walsh. 10/ Sarah Lancashire.

Ian Cox of Edgeware wins a £20 Meal Voucher for the Chequers Inn and Susan Hammond of Wroxall wins a case of Ventnor Beer

Mac & Paulette
Welcome YOU
to the

Vine Inn

Freshwater

Ales from George Gale

HSB GB Guest Ales
Gales Country Wines

Well supported **Pub Quiz** on Monday evenings
(with excellent Quiz Master!)
Snowball and £25 First Prize

Live Music Good Food

01983 752959

Dates for your Diary

14th March - Branch Meeting Portland Inn, Gurnard 8.30

***15th March - Jeff Sechiari's Talk on Isle of Wight Breweries - ***

The Community Hall, St Helens - All Welcome

(maybe small charge)

17th March Spring Blues - Eugene "Hideaway" Bridges - Ventnor Winter Gardens

28th March - 8th April - Fat Cat Beer Festival, Freshwater (see centre pages)

29th March - Branch Visit to Fat Cat Beer Festival (transport - phone Juan: 524222)

6th April - Vaguely Sunny present Maeve Mackinnon at the Quay Arts

18th April Branch Meeting Vine, St Helens - 8.30

31st May to 3rd June - Yarbridge Inn Beer Festival

for more news, features and events log on to www.wightwash.org.uk

Editors Note:

Not **all** the events mentioned in Wightwash are CAMRA organised events, but they are **all** ones that I think deserve support.

Disclaimer

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

To contact *Wightwash*
phone 721557 or email
editor@wightwash.org.uk



Join
CAMRA
Today




The Sun Inn
Hulverstone, Isle of Wight
Tel: 741124



Open All Day, Every Day

Times: 11 - 11 Mon - Sat

12 - 10.30 Sun

Food from 12 to 9 every day

**Special menus to cater
for every occasion**

*Summer Barbecues
Winter Curry Nights*

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 £20 Joint £25
Retired £14 (Joint £16) Under 26 £11 (Joint £14)

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.....