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3RD - 5TH MAY

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REAL ALE TRAIN



19TH JULY

ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

The Railway Station Havenstreet Isle of Wight PO33 4DS

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 59

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Spring Issue 2014



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

Inside our first **FULL COLOUR** issue:-



BEER AND BATTLEFIELDS The History of Beer in Cans

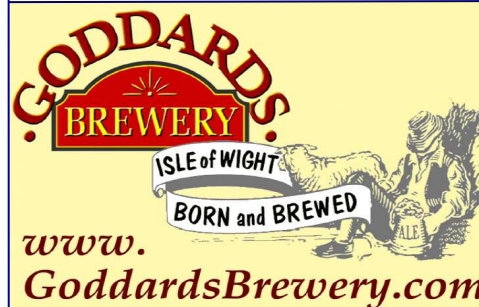
BeerPoint

Island Landmarks

Pete's Progress

PRIZE QUIZ

And much, much more...



On the 17th January about 50 people representing different aspects of the licensed trade met at the Riverside Centre as a result of an invitation from Andrew Turner MP.

The meeting was addressed by Cllr John Nicholson (our famous chairman), Tim Addison (Taste the Wight) and was chaired by Alan Marriott, Editor of the County Press.

It soon became apparent that there were many concerns and it was decided that they would be better addressed by a group rather than individually. Subsequent meetings have been held and a group has now been formed. It is called Fight4Wight Licensees. Its chairman is Jay Chapman (Operations Manager of the Character Group).

Anyone involved in the licensed trade and interested in the activities of Fight4Wight is invited to a further meeting at the Riverside Centre on 4th April at 10am. They will hear about the groups activities so far and be able to voice their own personal concerns.

Andrew Turner MP will be in attendance as will representatives from the Isle of Wight County Council.

For more details please refer to www.wightwash.org.uk



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Signed.....Date.....

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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

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a new approach - a new start

BeerPoint was started in 2005 as a method of recommending pubs who consistently presented beer of a very good standard. It involved specific visits and inspections. The Isle of Wight is only allocated 22 entries in the Good Beer Guide and it was felt many pubs who may not have featured in the book were, nevertheless, worthy of recommendation.

In 2009 the method was simplified and any member could recommend a pub at one of our monthly branch meetings. This has been very successful but flawed. If no one at the meeting had visited a pub recently it may have been unfairly left out - or left in!

It has become clear we need a more scientific method of selection. Fortunately one is at hand.

During the last few months a team of approximately 9 members have been surveying pubs specifically for inclusion of the 2015 Good Beer Guide. They have been using the National Beer Scoring System (see box). Although other factors are taken into consideration for the Good Beer Guide, any pub scoring more than an average of 3.5 will be included in future **BeerPoint** listings.

The **BeerPoint** list will be constantly reviewed.

Ken Matthew writes:- *"The 22 pubs in the 2015 Good Beer Guide scored an average of between 4.13 and 4.88, a further 10 were 4.0 and above. Only just over 50% of pubs visited attained the BeerPoint standard of 3.5. There's still a long way to go!"*

(He's very hard to please is our Ken - Ed)

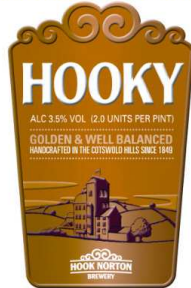
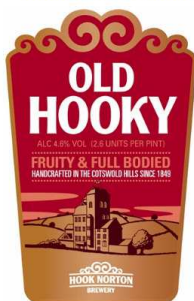
The National Beer Scoring System

is an easy to use system that has been designed to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide and also monitor beer quality. Beers are scored 0 - 5 in half increments.

- 0. No cask ale available.
- 1. Poor. Beer that is barely drinkable.
- 2. Average. Competently kept, drinkable but not inspiring
- 3. Good. Good beer in good form. .
- 4. Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- 5. Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Members can partake of the NBS system on-line. Go to www.camrapubs.org.uk and click on Beer Scoring

Hook Norton Ales now available on the Isle of Wight



from Island Ales - Tel: (01983) 821731

Yates' "Yule be Sorry" reigns supreme for the 6th year running with Goddards Fuggle-dee-dum second and Island Brewery third with Earls RDA. Fourth was Yates' Dark side of the Wight/Wight Winter. Its good to see each of our breweries achieving such high standards. The Anchor, Cowes takes first place in Pub of the Year knocking the Traveller's Joy, Northwood into second. A great result for Bill Downer at the Chine Inn, Shanklin who came third, and the Railway, Ryde who were fourth. In all 43 pubs and 27 beers were voted for. The voting was slightly up on last year after extending the deadline by an extra week but I would really like to see more members participating. We do have a few new ideas for next year. Please remember every pub on the Island needs your support.

Gary Daish

Pub of the Year

- 1/ Anchor, Cowes
- 2/ Traveller's Joy, Northwood
- 3/ The Chine Inn, Shanklin
- 4/ The Railway, Ryde
- 5/ Fowler & Co, Ryde
- 6/ King Harry's Bar, Shanklin
- 7/ Cowes Ale House
- 8/ Newport Ale House
- 9/ The Buddle Inn, Niton
- 10/ Bargeman's Rest, Newport

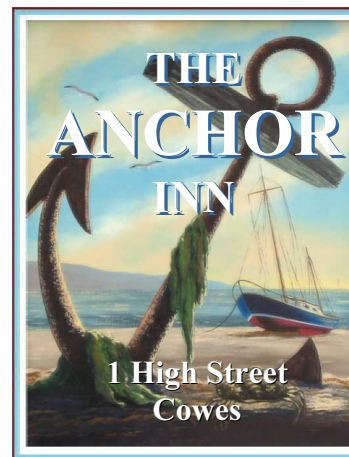
Beer of the Year

- 1/ Yule be Sorry, Yates'
- 2/ Fuggle-Dec-Dum, Goddards
- 3/ Earls RDA, Island Brewery
- 4/ Dark Side of the Wight, Yates'
- 5/ Yachtsman's Ale, Island Brewery
- 6/ Wight Gold, Island Brewery
- 7/ Ale of Wight, Goddards
- 7/ Undercliff Experience, Yates'
- 9/ Nipper, Island Brewery
- 10/ Collaboration Mild, Goddards
- 10/ Holy Joe, Yates'

For more details please see our website www.wightwash.org.uk

The awards will be presented at **The Anchor**, on Tuesday 25th March at 7.15pm

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Goddards

Goddards launched their much-anticipated new beer at the Railway, Ryde on Saturday 1st March. Multitudes gathered at this fine establishment, which has been earning an Islandwide reputation over the last year for excellent cask beers, to sample the first few pints of **Wight Squirrel**. It's a 4.3%



amber ale, the first designed by newly promoted head brewer Nigel Eldridge, and an excellent debut beer it is, too. I was expecting something along the lines of the 4.5% **Lost Track**, a blend of Scrumdiggety and Fuggle-dee-dum sold exclusively at the Railway, but it's quite unlike any beer that Goddards has done previously. Designed to fill the gap between Scrum and Fuggle at 4.3%, it's made with pale and crystal malts and a little wheat, and hopped with Goldings, Boadicea from the Botanic Gardens at Ventnor and a little Cascade. The result is a deep amber beer with an initially dry palate which mellows to a pleasant, subtle malty sweetness after a few mouthfuls. The hops are finely

balanced against the malts and not too assertive, and the overall result is a clean-tasting, refreshing beer. Interestingly, Nigel has resisted the recent trend towards the 'Cascade Explosion', and used those hops sparingly in the background.

The return to Boadicea hops from the Botanic Gardens is interesting and coincidental. They were originally planted at the behest of Ventnor Brewery's last brewer, Xavier Baker, who has recently joined the Goddards Team. Sadly, Ventnor Brewery went into liquidation before they could use the hops, and the first beer made with them was Goddards **Hoppiness**, launched at 5.2% at the Botanic Gardens. The hops next surfaced in Yates' **Tropicana**, but this year, Goddards have bought a batch of them for their new beer. It's not known yet whether Wight Squirrel will be a regular or seasonal beer; that will be judged on its performance in the coming months. Alongside it from mid-March will be **Inspiration** making its welcome 2014 appearance.

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

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

- 1/ Who is the current German Chancellor?
- 2/ To which fish family does the common goldfish belong to?
- 3/ In which sport did England win gold in the Winter Olympics?
- 4/ Who won it?
- 5/ "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" comes from which musical?
- 6/ In which county is Knebworth?
- 7/ Which side moves first in chess?
- 8/ A sphinx has the body of a what?
- 9 and 10 Identify these car manufacturers



Answers to the Winter Quiz

- 1/ Julian Assange 2/ Robert Hooke
- 3/ Hops 4/ Tasman Sea
- 5/ John Kerry
- 6/ 39 (P) 46 (C)
- 7/ Trousers
- 8/ Cumbria
- 9/ Princess Beatrice
- 10/ Duke of Kent

Tracy Asher of Newport 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!

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*Valid on return visit to The Chequers Inn when purchasing food both times. Offer only valid on presentation of this advert.

The Freemantle Gate



This imposing gateway marks the edge of the Appuldurcombe Estate, for many years the home of one of the Island's great families. For one of these it was the site of a family tragedy.

In the year 1545 when the Mary Rose sank at Spithead a French raiding force was in the offing. Fears of this kind of raid had been expected on the Island for years and seven years earlier in 1538 a new Captain of the Isle of Wight took over. This was Richard Worsely of Appuldurcombe who succeeded his father in the post.

He began his work as Captain in a thorough manner. He arranged for each parish to have its own canon (a fawcet of iron or brass) and strengthened the Island militia (Home Guard). Regular practice was to be held to familiarise the force with its weapons

It would have been expected for him to keep a stock of gunpowder handy at Appuldurcombe in case of need and that this stock might from time to time get damp in storage.

One day when an inspection of the gunpowder stock revealed some which had deteriorated he ordered servants to take it to a room close to the Freemantle Gatehouse to dry it off.

Unfortunately the adjoining room was being used as a schoolroom for his two sons John and George and the inevitable happened. The drying process went awry, the gunpowder exploded and many of those present, including the two boys perished in the conflagration that followed.

Rob Marshall

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Other developments at the Brewery include a loyalty scheme called 'Drinkers of Goddards' (DoGs) involving branded merchandise, and that will be launched shortly.

Brian Jacobs

Island Brewery

New year, new business and Island Brewery has a national distribution agreement with Punch as well as having their bottled range featuring on Carnival Cruises liners, one of the world's leading cruise lines. Talking bottles, **Wight Christmas** bottles completely sold out over Christmas, as did the casks of Wight Christmas too – well done to Ashley, whose innovative brew this was!

Cowes Food Fayre, hosted by Red Funnel, has been a particular success for Island Brewery, and their parent Company, Island Ales, where much interest has been shown in their products by dedicated food fayre

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browsers and people just taking a quick look while they are using the ferry or just passing by. It is the modern thing to associate food with beer, or beer with food, and anyone not doing this yet is really missing a big opportunity.

Island Brewery are certainly doing their bit to promote Isle of Wight produce, being part of the recent representation of Island Business at Westminster at Isle of Wight Day, and the very successful interview

HAVING A PARTY, VISITORS COMING, JUST FEEL LIKE A FEW PINTS AT HOME?

GODDARDS Bag in a Box deals for Spring

Beer	3litre fridge pack	5 litres	10 litres	20 litres
	<i>Just over 5 pints</i>	<i>Nearly 9 pints</i>	<i>About 17 and a half pints</i>	<i>Just over 35 pints</i>
Ale of Wight 3.7%	£12.00	£18.00	£35.00	£62.50
Scrumdiggity 4.0%	£12.00	£18.00	£35.00	£62.50
Fuggle-dee-dum 4.8%	£13.00	£20.00	£37.50	£66.00
Inspiration 5.0%	£15.00	£22.50	£40.00	£70.00

1. Collect from Made on the Isle of Wight, Bullen Road, Ryde PO33 1QF
2. Delivery to anywhere on the Island on next day (Monday - Friday) for £5 per drop-off (irrespective of quantity ordered)
3. Mainland deliveries available by courier - £10 per box

Orders and details of all the beers at www.goddardsbrewery.com or Tel: 01983 611011

Dianne and David invite you to their
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with Island Radio's Tom Stroud, who has a personal interest in fine food and drink, and their current involvement in, Andrew Turner, the Island MP's initiative to raise the profile of and help the Island pub and drinks industry on the back of the recently unanimous Isle of Wight Council vote in support of The Beer Motion (November 2013), to promote Isle of Wight produce, including our home drinks industry. You only have to take one look at head brewer Chris Coleman to tell he is a sausage man, and it should be no surprise that following his very successful and acclaimed home-made RDA sausage, his curiosity has now ventured to creating a Wight Christmas Sausage, with a far-off plan to now produce a whacky RDA fudge that looks like a pint – with a dark RDA base and a light creamy head. Whatever next? Well you will just have to wait and see!

Cllr John Nicholson

Yates'

For the 6th year running voters favourite beer is **Yule be Sorry** with the excellent **Dark side of the Wight/Wight Winter** (same beer different names for marketing purposes a very good fourth. Thanks to David Snr. and Ollie for giving us these. Also a huge thank you for your continuing

support. Siba sales have been steady in the South Coast and guest Ales have arrived from XT Brewery and are selling well. The brewery has another contract with Punch for April, May and June with Woys Boys to go alongside the World Cup and summer football. Watch out for Yates new beer coming soon **YPA** at 3.8% no more details at this point. Also bottles of Yates' beer may be available at the Co-op soon.

Cider News

As Gemma is very busy at University it has come to me to try and find out how real cider is doing on the Island. There are quite a few pubs who are selling it either through hand pumps or in boxes on the bar. I think they need to advertise this alongside the real ale information on their beer menu boards (if they have one). Real cider is quite a popular drink throughout the year and needs more support. A CiderPoint pub will run along the real ale BeerPoint and will be listed in future issues of Wightwash. We have some excellent producers of real cider here on the island which I hope to investigate soon. If there are any cider drinkers who have any comments or information please pass them on or any suggestions for CiderPoint.

Lorraine Daish

Chris and Wendy welcome you to...

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We will have to visit the Fat Cat Tap next time, although we did visit a few years ago when it was The Cider Shed with the Fat Cat Brewery attached.

Having got lost a bit we found The Belgian Monk, described as a beer restaurant. We were intrigued so went in and were presented with a beer menu with 51 different Belgian beers. (Gary and Lorraine you would love this one!). We tried Wittekerk white beer and St Louis Peche - both good, www.thebelgianmonk@aol.com. There are many more pubs to visit here so will have to come back! On to Ely and after a visit to the Cathedral and a walk round the city, on the walk back to our



Campsite we came across the Cutter Inn on the riverside and enjoyed a pint of Caledonian Poltergeist Porter. Very nice it was too!

On the way home we stopped at Alton, Hampshire. The campsite we stayed on was Adults Only and very green and eco friendly. It had Camping Pods for hire by night or longer – The Two Hoots campsite is five minutes walk from The Watercress Line and well worth a visit. We dined

at the Three Horseshoes, www.3horse-shoes-alton.co.uk. Food good, four real ales all Fullers. They are part of a scheme I'd never heard of – a camper van can stay the night in their car park free, providing you have dinner in the pub. Seems reasonable to me!

P.S. My son Russell who works for Carlsberg gave me a bottle of Jacobsen Golden Naked Christmas Ale. This is a dark brown (not as the label description implies), very enjoyable drink which packs a punch at 7.5%. It is in a 75cl bottle brewed by Carlsberg in Denmark but not available in this country. This is definitely not Eurofizz!! Anyone going to Denmark should try this beer with caution and when not driving.



Pete Cobb with Photos by Heather.

THE WATERFRONT INN
 SHANKLIN ESPLANADE

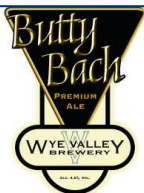
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To start with I went to the Forest of Dean for a family reunion at the Dog & Muffler just outside Coleford. A brilliant evening, excellent company, good food and the Butty Bach (Wye Valley Brewery) was superb.



Back to Lymington to pick up Heather and we camped at Lyton Lawns, Milford on Sea. We went to The Crown at Everton for dinner and the food was good with three real ales. Ringwood Bitter was very drinkable.

Then off to Norfolk and the oddly named Wells Next the Sea - nice place. Holkham Hall was worth a visit but no pubs near where we were camping so had to make do with bottled Hobgoblin.



On to Norwich and on day one we visited the Fat Cat and Canary (The third pub in their growing empire). Cracking pub with twelve+ real ales, (more on football match days), ten+ ciders, bottled beers, rolls and pies. Very clean toilets - first class! <http://fatcatcanary.co.uk/> Had a good days shopping in Norwich and went to The Murderers pub (this pub, The Gardener's Arms, gained its gruesome nickname when in 1895 the landlady's daughter, Millie was beaten to death by her estranged husband Frank. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment because of



"extreme provocation"). An olde worlde pub with seven real ales, food reasonably priced and plenty of it. www.themurderers.co.uk/

Next day we wandered out to the Fat Cat but unfortunately Colin the Boss was on holiday but I explained to the barmaid that Colin had told me to make myself known and he would buy me a pint. (Thanks Colin - the Timothy Taylor was in good condition). The well filled rolls @ 60p were really good, the pub as usual was very clean, well stocked and still 30 ales on tap! www.fatcatpub.co.uk



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Sunflower	Orange	Red	Khaki	Black

Diary Dates

- Friday 21st March Branch Meeting**
Sportsman's Rest, Porchfield. 8.30pm
- Friday 4th April Fight 4 Wight Meeting**, Riverside Centre, 10am
- Friday 4th April Branch Social**
Fowlers (Wetherspoons), Ryde 8.30pm
- Thursday 17th - Monday 21st April Beer Festival** Railway, Ryde
- Friday 25th - Monday 23rd April Members Weekend** Scarborough
- Saturday 17th May Wolverton Folk and Blues Fair**

Due to the vagaries of the printing process, this chart if for indication only.

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Back in September 2010 there was an exchange of letters in the County Press. The subject of these letters was the Mew Langton's Mews Ale beer can.

The letters repeated several myths about the can though a Don Barnes of Newport was close to the truth with his dates.

The story of the can, sometimes referred to as a "cone top" which is apt as it resembles a Brasso polish can, is quite interesting.

In an article in the American magazine 'Beer Cans Monthly' Richard Dolphin provides many of the pieces of the jigsaw. He reports that in 1935 beer canning began in Britain. Many brewers had been visited by representatives of Metal Box, a British company. This can be checked as all the Mews cans have 'patents pending, the metal box company' printed on their side. The dating can of course be verified by contacting the patent office.



The beer can was first developed in the USA by companies such as the Continental Can Co, and the American Can Co, and Metal Box was trying to develop a market in Britain and had protected itself by taking out a patent.

On a questions and answers page in the Daily Mail dated 17/2/2001, Philip Lewis of the Felinfoel Brewery, Llanelli outlined what is generally agreed the first British beer can. The article states "In 1931 Can Co anticipating the end of prohibition in the US and with

the depression affecting its conventional markets tried again (a 1909 trial failed). Can Co persuaded the small Gottfried Krueger Brewery of Newark, New Jersey, to try the process. A test run of 2,000 cans was produced in 1933 and these sampled by regular Krueger drinkers. The results were positive : 91% liked the canned drink. Then in January 1935 two brands, Krueger's Finest Beer and Cream Ale went on

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Day 5. We left our hotel the Oude Abdij which originally was an old abbey for the Augustine Monks. It is a very peaceful simply furnished hotel with beautiful surroundings and views. It also has a magnificent bar which stays open forever. First stop was at Frelinghien near the French Border. This is where the memorial to the 1914 Christmas Truce is which started with the shout from the German troops to the English troops "Don't shoot, we will send beer". A game of football took place (which is re-enacted each year) (I expect the Germans won) and small gifts were exchanged. It also was an opportunity to bury the dead who were lying in no-mans land sometimes in mixed graves.



1882 a sour lambic beer, Pannepot 2011 10%, Gulden Draak and Kabert 11.5%

On reflection this tour was very humbling and certainly brought home the huge sacrifice so many people made so that we can enjoy freedom. It was made more light-hearted with the visits to the different breweries and café bars. This is only a small portion of our notes and if anyone wishes to learn more than please let us know.

Lorraine & Gary Daish.

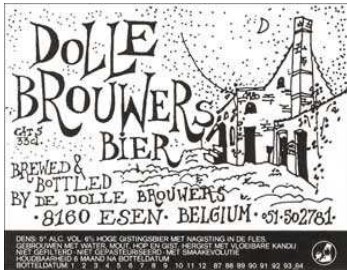
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Welcome all customers, old and new!
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Moving on to the excellent Trappist Monastery at Westvleteren where soldiers were billeted throughout the war and brewing beer was carried on. An opportunity to purchase their fantastic beer (very hard to get anywhere else) and also sample a few. Last stop of the tour was at the beer café Kunstmaecker in Steenkerke near Veurne. We sampled Black Albert 13% Girardin

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are organised by Chris "Podge" Pollard and offer a varied programme of tours in Belgium and further afield for everyone from novice to expert. The next tour is to Leuven & Antwerp and leaves on 26th April For more details visit www.podgebeer.co.uk

worth the visit. After all that walking up and down 22 floors we were delighted to arrive at De Dolle Brouwers in Esen. Archive records state that the first building dates from 1835 and was once both brewery and distillery. The founder died in 1882 and the brewery was sold to Alouis Costenoble. The family brewed for three generations until 1980 when brewing stopped. Beer brands



include Coq Pils Oud Bruin & Cosmos. In 1980 when the old building was built little did they realize they had started Belgians Microbrewery revolution. Whilst there we sampled De Dolle Extra Export Stout at 10%, very enjoyable.

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A free evening in Poperinge followed. Again most popular places can be found in the market square. We had a super meal at Oud-Vlaenderen with Hopus Blonde 8.5% St. Bernardus 12 10% and Oer bier bruin 9%. At the café De Stadsschaal we had Grimbergen bruin 5.4% and Hununles Lupulus. The last café bar was Hotel Café De La Pax where we sampled Rochefort 10% Gueuze Mort Subite 4.5% Trappist Achel Bruin 8% and St. Bernardus Prior 8%.



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sale in Richmond, Virginia".

Back in the UK other brewers were keenly watching progress and taking part. The Llanelli and County Guardian recorded the historic moment on 3/12/1935 under the headline 'Canned Beer Arrives', Epoch-Making Process at Felinfoel Brewery' and 'New Hope for Tinplate Industry'.

Back on the Isle of Wight, Mew's Ale was also out and by 1937 production



was in full flow. The screw top described in the County Press is erroneous as the can has a crown cap. Interestingly the crown cap has exactly the same Pale Ale design as the paper neck strap label used for the glass screw topped bottles. I would hazard a guess that the Mews' Ale was Mews' Pale Ale, though it may have been brewery conditioned, filtered and/or pasteurised. Secondary fermentation wouldn't though I guess have been too much of a problem as the cans are a heavyish gauge steel and very robust! Further research can be initially undertaken by Googling "cone topped beer cans", and the wealth of information there. Lots of American cone topped cans can be viewed on EBay, though British cone tops are much rarer and highly sought after. This rarity was due to the production of British cone tops ceasing due to the outbreak of World War 2.

by David Dines (IOW CAMRA and Hon Treasurer Brewery History Society)

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SHANKLIN

**A Personal View:
Is Drinking in Public Such a Crime?**

When is it a crime to drink alcohol in a public place? The simple answer is that it is a perfectly legal activity - unless you happen to be drinking in an area covered by a 'designated public places order', or DPPO. Currently DPPOs exist in parts of Newport, Ryde and East Cowes, where, admittedly, they have helped to curb loutish behaviour in places where outdoor drinking had become a nuisance.

Now the Isle of Wight Council has been asked by police to impose DPPOs in large parts of Shanklin, Sandown, Lake and Brading. The proposed areas are very extensive, taking in our main tourist areas - parks and beaches - as well as residential areas. I question whether this is justified or desirable.

Where is the Need?

DPPOs certainly have their place (Who would deny one to a childrens' play area or a memorial garden?), but they should be the exception not the rule.

Rightly, local police are seeking ways to make our streets safer, but could this proposal be pandering to a sizeable 'stay-at home' brigade who imagine our streets are alive with drunks and a host of other threats to their security? Maybe these are same people who fear that dimming the street lights will lead to a crimewave, or that dog fouling is the biggest issue facing the Island today! If you see yourself in this category, then bless you, but no amount of evidence (or the lack of it) will persuade you otherwise. The truth is the Island's streets have



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This is held underneath the Gate which forms a huge memorial to 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave. Their names and Regiments are etched on the walls round the gate. This was very moving and we were very lucky to get a good view.

We managed to fit in three café bars. The "T" Klein Stahuis, I had Flemish Fish Stew (a bit apprehensive) but it



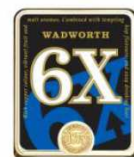
was absolutely delicious; Gary had Gammon Hock in Mushroom Sauce (boring) which we washed down with Tripel Karmeliet 8.4% and Rodenbach Grand Cru 5%. Next we tried Ypra Inn where we sampled Chimay Bleu 9% and Westmalle dubbel bruin. Last but probably the best was the De Vauban Café where they had a most excellent beer menu of which we had Liefmans Kreik 6.5% De-Ranke Noir De Dottignies 9% Ellezelloise Hercule Stout 9% and Keizer-Karel Charles Quint 8.5%



Day 4 took us to Ljzertoren ni Dixmuide . This is a museum to



the Great War and the struggle for Flemish emancipation. The IJzertoren (Yser Tower) is a memorial along the Yser river. The first tower was built after WW1 by former Flemish soldiers but was illegally demolished on 15th and 16th March 1946 with dynamite. Although the culprits were never caught it is believed it was members of the Belgian military and anti-Flemish French speaking radicals. A few years later a higher tower was built on the same place. The remains of the first tower were used to build the Gate of Peace. This site is also the last resting place for some Flemish soldiers killed on the battlefield who have become heroes for Flanders. The Tower has 22 floors, you start at the top and each floor represents a different story. It is very well done and well



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In the last issue of Wightwash Gary and Lorraine described the first part of their tour to the battlefields of Belgium. We pick up the tour on Day Three...

Day 3 and we are off again. First ever visit to the St. George (St. Joris) Brewery (owned by Six-Colpaert in WW1) in Reninghelst for a tour and tasting from the De Plukker brewery who brew the brown Rookop beer and the Keikoppenbier blonde which are both organically made with Belgian hops in Poperinge. The St. Joris brewery was just behind Allied lines in WW1 and was used as divisional baths for soldiers coming out of the line. These "baths" are still in their original place today but obviously not in use.



Next we visited the second largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Belgium at Lijssenthoek just south of Poperinge and it is huge.



We went to the newly built visitors centre where the story of how this unusual cemetery was constructed around a Casualty Clearing Station.

We then made our way to Ypres for lunch and a visit to the newly revamped In Flanders Fields Museum.

This is a very modern, well set out museum. You could spend hours in it. It tells the stories of so many people who took part in WW1, from the surgeons, soldiers from the different countries who fought, the local people who lost their farms, homes, villages and loved ones. The films are very graphic and gives one a real sense of what it must have been like for the soldiers and local people who had to contend with such awful conditions. Again this is quite a big town but everything seems to happen round the Market Square. We took in the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate which is held every night by the Belgian Fire Service in memory of those who died in the First World War.

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rarely been quieter - except of course for the confounded traffic which actually does present a threat! On most days it would be a challenge to find anyone drinking outdoors, let alone being a pest. It is hard to think of anywhere on the east Wight comparable, say, to Church Litten or parts of Ryde Esplanade, where adults had routinely gathered to drink. In other words, those arguing for a DPPO are trying to fix a problem which hardly exists



In support of DPPOs, some have cited the issue of groups of under-age drinkers, particularly on warm summer evenings. The DPPO powers offer no remedy, however. Police already have wide powers under existing law to seize alcohol from under-18s or from adults in their company. The DPPO powers are very much targeted at adults. Not all public concerns about alcohol are irrational, of course; as a former police officer I'm well aware of how habitual drunkenness and loutish behaviour can blight some residents' lives. But, generally, drinking in public places is not itself the cause of concern; More typically it is the presence of rowdy individuals outside, or dispersing from, licensed pubs and shops (which premises are exempt from the DPPO.) In these cases the police can and should direct their fire at the responsible business.

Many alcohol-related problems police deal with are of a sporadic nature and involve behaviour which is not amenable to the DPPO powers. When dealing with unruly drinkers officers already have an ample legal toolkit (including the rather useful power to give troublesome drinkers a direction to leave an area for up to 48 hours, backed up by arrest for non-compliance.)

I think the problem is not so much the need for extra powers, but, if anything, a lack of police resources and visibility.

Is a DPPO Really a Drinking Ban?

Yes and no. Strictly, a DPPO is not intended to be an absolute ban on drinking. A drinker may only be arrested or prosecuted if he or she fails to stop drinking, or to surrender alcohol, after being required to do so by a police officer or PCSO. In other words, enjoying a drink in the open air will be lawful, provided it's ok with the police. In practice, though, people may perceive the DPPO - reinforced everywhere by warning signs - as an outright ban, and, being unaware of the legal complexities, will not wish to risk the disapproval of the police. Supporters of DPPOs argue that decent citizens need not fear enforcement as police will only target antisocial or nuisance drinkers. There is a problem with this claim: Under a DPPO, enforcement is entirely at the officer's discretion, there being no need to prove the drinker's behaviour was unacceptable. Most police officers and PCSOs exercise sound judgement, but this is not always so, and I predict it is the exceptional cases that will make the headlines.

The Challenges of Enforcement.

The discretionary nature of enforcement by the police may lead to perceptions of unfairness. How, for example, should an officer dealing with an antisocial group of special brew drinkers treat a family picnicking with a bottle of wine who happen to be nearby?

In practice it may be easier to 'ask' all parties to stop drinking. Officers may also feel obliged to act on the complaints of third parties, even when no real nuisance is being caused. In this way there is a risk of decent individuals being caught by legislation intended for the antisocial few.

There is, anyway, a paradox with enforcement of DPPOs: The more our streets and public places fill with drinkers, the less likely the DPPO will be enforced. Consider, for example, the large crowds during the IW scooter rally or at carnivals and other large events. It seems to me that no one attempts to stop a crowd drinking alcohol when doing so is seen as the norm.

Before imposing a DPPO the Council will surely weigh the likely effect on tourism. Visitors to the Island (like the rest of us) expect to be free to have some pleasure, so public 'drinking bans' hardly add to the Island's relaxed and friendly image. If, on the other hand, a DPPO is to be introduced, but in effect waived whenever the streets are used for public events, the powers may be brought to disrepute.

It is clear that local police are serious about preventing alcohol-related disorder. To this end there is perhaps a case for a DPPO in some well-defined areas with a proven problem. It is hard, though, to avoid the conclusion that the plan to impose blanket DPPOs on another four communities is excessive and illiberal.

Mark Voller



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