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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

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 63

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Spring Issue 2015

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



In this **FREE** ISSUE:

TITANIC (beers that went down well*)

BeerPoint PRIZE QUIZ



Labology **Selling ice to Eskimos**

Island Landmarks And much, much more...

*sorry!



Isle of Wight Born and Brewed
www.goddardsbrewery.com



Results

Pub of the Year

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

Beer of the Year

- 1/ Earl's RDA, Island Brewery
- 2/ Yachtsman's Ale, Island Brewery
- 3/ Fuggle-Dee-Dum, Goddards
- 4/ Yule be Sorry, Yates'
- 5/ Ale of Wight, Goddards
- 6/ Dark Side of the Wight, Yates'
- 7/ Wight Gold, Island Brewery
- 8/ Wight Christmas, Island Brewery
- 8/ Wight Squirrel, Goddards
- 10/ Golden Ale, Yates'


Thank you to all those who took the trouble to vote. The presentations will be on Wednesday 15th April at the Railway, Ryde. More details www.wightwash.org.uk

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

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/ Gorgonzola cheese comes from which country?
- 2/ Who won an Oscar for his portrayal of Professor Stephen Hawking?
- 3 What colour was Tom Robinson's Cortina in his 1978 song?
- 4/ Which element has the atomic number of 1 (one)?
- 5/ Which football team's home ground is White Hart Lane?
- 6/ What is the capital of Tasmania?
- 7/ Who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"?
- 8/ In which county is Bateman's Brewery?
- 9/ and 10/ identify these two Eastenders actors.



Answers to the Winter Quiz

- 1/ Popeye 2/ 1952
- 3/ Holiday Inn
- 4/ 5 or 6* (both accepted)
- 5/ Cricket 6/ Australia
- 7/ Irving Berlin
- 8/ Nicola Sturgeon
- 9/ Mew Langton 10/ Brickwoods

Peter Robichon of Wroxall wins a meal voucher and Peter Flynn who entered by email wins a case of Yates' beer. Thank you to all the others who took part - better luck next time!

* Some include the Sveriges Riksbank Prize for Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel.

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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.

Palmers Lodge Gatehouse



This colourful and interesting building close to the bottom of Lushington Hill is no longer the focus of close Island interest. At one time it was used by Royal visitors to Osborne house and its interesting gate and resident gatekeeper were in regular use.

In those days guests would travel along the

track now used by the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and proceed to the Whippingham railway station where a horse drawn coach would be ready. The short drive down what is now the crematorium approach road would bring the coach down to the lodge. Here no doubt a uniformed gatekeeper would be ready to open the monogrammed gate for the journey onwards to the big house. This did not make use of public thoroughfares but carried the travellers through winding lanes to their destination. Whippingham station buildings are still visible at the end of the road but give little hint of their former glory days.



Rob Marshall

THE CASTLE INN
 01983 403169 12 - 14 FITZROY STREET SANDOWN

EASTER ALE FESTIVAL
 3rd TIL 6th APRIL

Goddards Brewery

Goddards have brewed a new spring beer 'Storm' 4.5%ABV which will be available March.



There are no details at the time of going to press about the new brew, but the guess is that, being spring, it'll be quite a light storm.

Inspiration is returning at the same time; the Brewery has been waiting for the Mount Hood hops to arrive from the USA. It'll be in bottles ready for late spring.

Scrumdiggity has been a hit with the Rugby World Cup coming up, and is now listed with Punch Taverns. At least part of the reason for its success is that it's a shining beacon among the generally dire offerings from other breweries to woo beer-drinking rugby fans (is there another sort?). I wonder if breweries think that rugby fans are less discerning than other drinkers, and leave half the ingredients on the shelf when creating a rugby beer?

The excellent **Wight Squirrel** continues to flourish at no detriment to the indigenous red population on the Island, and one was found trying to leave the country via the Flyhorse at Gatwick airport! Wetherspoons are just coming to the end of a three month run with Wight Squirrel.

Fuggle-Dec-Dum is currently on sale with Enterprise Inns and is picking up momentum.

At the SIBA BeerX Goddards will be attending with Wight Squirrel and **Quarr Abbey Ale** in the national final, after winning Gold regionally. Well done, Goddards!

Goddards are working with the Tomato Stall to distribute their Beers into London. It's early days, but so far there's been a good response.

Brian Jacobs
Goddards BLO

Island Brewery

Can you remember your 5th Birthday. If not, now is a chance to relive it by helping Island Brewery celebrate theirs, this April. Except it will be beer and sandwiches rather than ice cream and jelly. Many happy returns to Steve, Chris, Ashley and team! The exact date has not been set yet, so watch Wightwash website and emails from Buzzy for further notification.



And, in their 5th year, Island Brewery have embarked on a new venture, small batch, experimental craft beers. But, they say there is nothing new under the sun, and indeed that seems to be true, because small batch home brewing was the passion that got Chris started as a professional brewer many years ago, when he was asked by the young Goddards (in those days the head brewer was Jonathan Standstill, for those who can remember), to do small experimental batch brews for them, the success of which caused them to invite Chris to work as assistant brewer in the rapidly expanding business.

Island Brewery has bought some pins

(small casks) to contain the brews, and the first brew is a mild, that they have named



Mild Discrepancy due to the nature of its composition. A series of other craft and exotic beers will follow, ideas and orders are welcomed.

As well as congratulating Island Brewery on their first 5 very successful years, they are congratulated on their spectacular result in the IW CAMRA Beer of the Year competition, taking a very clear 1st with the truly excellent RDA and a well-deserved 2nd with the universally popular Yachtsman – and I do wonder whether The Duke’s penchant for this particular beer had any influence, although there were no score cards or envelopes with the Palace or RYS mark or seal on them. Have you ever wondered what sort of stamp the Royals use, do they have their own copyright supply?

Magnanimous as ever, Steve Minshul declared, on hearing the news that “this is a

victory shared with all Island brewers, CAMRA members and beer lovers” and paid tribute to the worthy rivals of Fuggle-Dee-Dum and Yates’ heavyweight masterpiece Yule Be Sorry and being tough champion opponents to compete against.

Well, I don’t know about you, but with the advent of spring and all this news on craft beers and celebrations, I am starting to feel rather thirsty!

Cllr John Nicholson
BLO Island Brewery

Yates’ Brewery

The brewery has done well over the winter months. Beers are being sent on a regular basis to Gaylords and Brighton Bier to be distributed at their outlets. There will also be beers coming from them so something to look out for.



Bottle sales are up. Yates’ are now doing all the Island deliveries for Goddards brewery on a regular basis and this is going well. The wholesale side is going great guns keeping them extremely busy.

Last but not least, huge congratulations to Hayley & Andy on the birth of their baby girl and a Yates’ welcome to new employee Madison Garnham who is working in the office.

Lorraine Daish
BLO Yates’ Brewery

Dianne and David invite you to their
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BeerPoint was devised to identify and promote those establishments that consistently serve Real Ale to the highest standards.

After a break to reconsider how to manage **BeerPoint** more effectively, we are ready for the re-launch. Being awarded **BeerPoint** status is a strong recommendation from IW CAMRA, as it says that members consider that a **BeerPoint** listed pub is one that you can rely upon to get a good pint of Real Ale. Importantly, the definition of a good pint, in CAMRA terms, means that the beer must fulfill 3 basic criteria:

1. The beer must have condition, which means it must have natural carbonation from undergoing a secondary fermentation on the cask- that tingle on the tongue. It, also, means that the beer must be fresh, as, by definition, stale beer loses its carbonation and goes flat.
2. The beer must be kept and served within CAMRA acceptable temperature range. This is very important to maintain good quality beer. Too cold, and some yeasts coagulate and taint the flavour (peppery, for one). Too warm and the beer can taint too, with off flavours (marzipan and others). Also, the mouthfeel of the beer changes above 13 degrees and it becomes significantly more difficult and less pleasant to swallow. CAMRA ideal is around 11 or 12°C.
3. The pint must be clear. This is very important for a pulled pint, as haziness or cloudiness can be an indicator of dirty lines, and, thereby, contamination. There is nothing wrong with un-fined beer, and there is a trend for this amongst progressive craft beers, but the taste and effect of fresh yeast is quite different to that of dirty pips.

The revised scheme will, now, fully focus and rotate on these criteria; only pubs that serve beer that satisfies all these 3 criteria will be listed, and if and when they cease to satisfy all 3 (for example, too warm or too cold), they will be dropped, with the reason stated by the advocates, and that reason will be passed on as feedback to the pub, by me, as the instigator of the scheme.

BeerPoint listed pubs that are known currently to satisfy the criteria are, by area:

North - Cowes & District:

Anchor Inn, Cowes Ale House, Duke Of York, Folly Inn, Fountain Inn, Kingston Arms, Lifeboat, Pier View, Portland Inn, Prince Of Wales, Ship And Castle, Traveller’s Joy, Union Inn

Central - Newport & District

Bargeman’s Rest, Blacksmith’s Arms, Castle Inn, Chequers Inn, Dairyman’s Daughter, Fighting Cocks, George Inn, Man In The Moon, Medina Quay, Newport Ale House, Pointer Inn, Prince Of Wales, Taverners, Waverley, White Lion, William Coppin, Wren’s Nest,

East - Ryde & District

Boat House, Castle, Railway, Cedars, Crown Hotel, Falcon, Fowlers (Wetherspoons), High Park Tavern, King Lud, Old Village Inn, Ryde Castle Hotel, Simeon Arms, Solent Inn, Swan’s Nest, Vine Inn, White Hart Inn, Woodman Arms, Yelf’s Hotel

South -Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor & District

Bonchurch Inn, Buddle Inn, Castle, Chine Inn, Crab & Lobster Tap, Crab Inn, Cricketer’s Rest, Falcon, Flanagans, Four Seasons, Holliers Hotel, King Harry’s Bar, King’s House, Mad Cow, Old Comical, Perks Of Ventnor, Village Inn, Volunteer, Waterfront, White Lion

West – Yarmouth, Freshwater, Calbourne, Shorewell & District

Bugle Hotel, Crown Inn, Highdown Inn, Horse & Groom, Kings Head, New Inn, Red Lion, Sun Inn, Vine Inn, Waterfront

John Nicholson

John can be contacted at juann@btconnect.com

Her Majesty and maltster, Medina Brewery'. Thomas Blake had a son in law named T Huffam.

The Isle of Wight Brewery Co. Ltd., Brading

This was the Brading Brewery, not to be confused with the Yarbridge Brewery, also known as the Wrexham Brewery, which was next door to the Anglers Inn.

The brewery was on the corner of New Road, opposite Station Road. It was incorporated in 1896. In 1899 a lease was assigned to Clare W Wright and, in 1923, after his death, it was sold by his sister, Ada Wright, to WB Mew Langton for £1425.

JG Duffett, The Lion Brewery, High Street, Ryde

James Garland Duffett was a butcher in Ryde when he married Jane Lake, daughter of George Lake, a brewer (hence the Ryde pubs named after the Great Lakes). He bought the brewery from James Lake in 1877 and died in 1909, but the brewery continued under his son until it was sold to Long & Co of Portsmouth in 1922 with 7 licenses – Brickwood had earlier tried to buy it in 1920.

It is believed that the company's records were lost when Long's was bombed during the Second World War.

This is the only label I have seen from the firm. It was owned by the late Fred Ward and disappeared after his death. He once told me that he had a number of labelled bottles and some stone jars, but these were all smashed by vandals.



The Labologists Society may be found at-
www.labology.org.uk

The Brewery History Society may be found at-
www.BreweryHistory.com

Jeff Sachiani

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Live Entertainment

The Griffin, Godshill



The new landlords of the Griffin certainly come with a wealth of experience. Mike and Debbie Hooper spent many years running pubs in Devon and the New Forest including The Lamb at Winton, The Fisherman's Rest, Lymington and the Hare & Hounds at Sway. It was when they were running the Devonshire Dumpling in the small hamlet of Morchard Road that they met Martin Bullock. Martin persuaded them to come over to help with

his pubs on the Island.

Since then they've spent time at the Ponda Rosa, The Windmill, The Horse and Groom and The Griffin. Plans for early retirement in Cyprus were shelved when the lease for the Griffin became available.

Mike and Debbie took over the pub on 5th January and things are going well. There's a dedicated children's menu, an excellent carvery, a gated area for small children and loads extra for kids to do including a maze so big it can be seen on Google Earth.

There are two or three handpumps depending on the time of year with a rotation of local ales (currently Yates' Golden) and the popular Doom Bar and probably the best selection of cider on the Island (watch out for Bee Sting at 7.5%!).



Plans for the future include a monthly quiz, a monthly band night, an Easter egg hunt, a Fun Day on 27th June for Island charity Challenge & Adventure with the White Hot Pipes and a September Sausage and Cider festival.

Mike says "You are always sure of a warm welcome at the Griffin"

Please note that the **Griffin** and the **Horse and Groom** at Ningwood are continuing their mutual loyalty card scheme with special offers and discounts.

The Wheatsheaf, Brading



Hayley Harbour and Greg Hailes

When Greg Hailes took over the Wheatsheaf in April 2014 together with his partner Hayley, he had a pretty good idea what the locals wanted. Well, he'd been one for over twenty years. He realised that there was no point in competing with other pubs in the area for the food trade. Instead, he decided to aim for a good local pub with regular customers. Carling and John Smiths went straight back on the pumps and a large tv screen was installed for the football fans. Island Ales were contacted to supply the type of ales that he knew would be popular:

"proper beer coloured beer" with a medium strength, somewhere between 4.3% abv to 5.2%. Now Vectis Venom is the house ale with a rotation of guest ales that have included Spitfire, Bishops Finger, Speckled Hen and Summer Daze from the Arundel Brewery.

The prices are kept "sensible". In fact, some drinkers find it cheaper to get a taxi to the Wheatsheaf and spend the evening there rather than pay the prices in the pubs nearer to their own homes.

There's something going on every night with five darts teams and crib and pool teams. There's live music on Saturdays with the likes of Sporting Life and Special Brew, and a friendly quiz on Sundays.

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to benefit from label sales, and this has raised the amazing sum of over £60,000 in that time. In fact Island Brewery's is not the first success for an Isle of Wight brewery in this competition; Goddards having also won a second prize for 'Fuggle-Dee-Dum' in 1995. This was particularly helpful for me as I was able to return an empty cask to Anthony Goddard at the ceremony at Brakspear's Brewery in Henley-on-Thames. Then in 2001, at Black Sheep, Masham, Ventnor Brewery won first prize in the Commemorative Category for Admiral's Ale. (More about Admiral's Ale in a later issue.)

I have been thinking of writing a series of articles on the labels of the Island's breweries for some time, and John's comment has finally spurred me into action.

For this first article I shall look at some earlier labels from the Island's breweries.

Medina Brewery, West Cowes

Thomas Blake was listed as brewing in Cowes in directories from 1828, initially at 'Park' (does anyone know where this might have been?). By the 1840s he was at the Medina Brewery, Medina Road – opposite the police station. Following his death the 7 quarter brewery and the Grapes PH in Sun Hill were put up for sale in 1862. By 1867 there is a listing for 'Timothy Huffam, late T BLAKE, Brewer to

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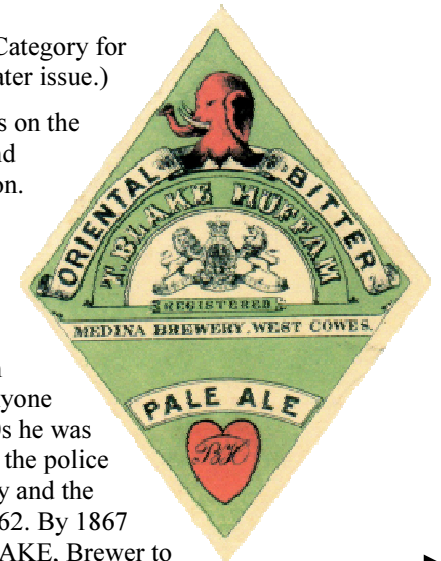
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Labology and the Garden Isle

Readers of this colourful magazine will have spotted the comments of our esteemed chairman in the Winter 2014 edition (page 4) – “*The Labologists Society (well I had never heard of them either!) have awarded Island Brewery 2nd place prize in the annual label awards for their Wight Christmas label*”. Having been a member of the Labologists Society for around 40 years I was, of course, horrified at this admission.

The Labologists Society was formed in 1958, initially with support from Guinness Exports Ltd., who saw it as an opportunity to promote their products. It has flourished ever since and has members around the world.

The Society recently revamped their web site, which now includes many illustrations of attractive labels – see www.labology.org.uk. This also includes a brief history of the label, explaining that their use started in the 1840s following the repeal of the heavy duty on glass. Many people start collecting simply by keeping the labels of beers that they have tried and there has never been a better time for this. With the ever increasing number of new micros, and the world’s constant quest for new branding, there are plenty of new labels to be collected after enjoying the content of the bottle! As with everything, a few very rare labels attract large sums in auctions, but there are also still very many attractive, older labels to be found at modest cost and there is a thriving swap market.

In 1983 the Society started a ‘Label of the Year’ (LOTY) competition with the host brewery nominating a charity



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especially if it features Tottenham. There's an extra screen in the lounge in case there's a conflict of interest and someone wants to watch the rugby or Grand Prix.

There's even more excitement when the results go up on the lottery bingo board where 96 locals pay a pound a week to enter. With roll-overs, the pay-outs have been up to £600. (Before you all rush, be warned, there's a waiting list!)

Greg, who has a background in landscaping, is gradually upgrading the pub. Last summer he redesigned the garden and this spring the outside of the pub and parts of the public bar will be redecorated.

The Wheatsheaf is open 12 till close every day. For more details, please phone 400747

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No doubt Ray Scarfe (see page 16) will be pleased to know that the art of the handpainted pub sign is still alive and well. Local painter and decorator Neil Webb has another string to his bow and is frequently busy painting signs and murals. Amongst his latest work is the picture above the door of the Waverley, Carisbrooke depicting the paddle steamer Waverley. He has also restored the swinging sign for the pub which local firm Emerald Construction will rehang in the pub car park. Neil is currently working on a sign for the Medina Railway Tavern.



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The White Horse, Whitwell



There was a collective Isle of Wight sigh of relief when the news broke that the White Horse would reopen after its sudden closure. Fans of the pub were doubly pleased when they learned that it would be in the hands of Alison Wills and Rachel Sharp, both of whom were born in Whitwell. Rachel started working at the White Horse in 2006 and remembers well the famous fire that destroyed the pub's thatched roof. Alison, a qualified chef, joined the staff in 2013 and the two ladies worked together until 2014 when Rachel left to manage the Fighting Cocks.

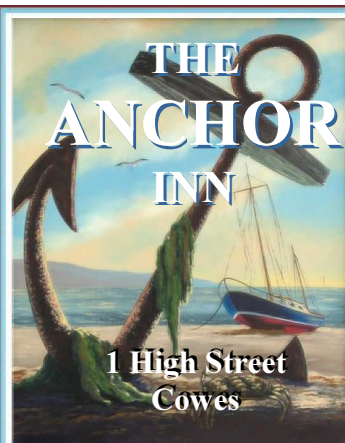
The pub closed unexpectedly on 13th January but Rachel and Alison decided to come to the rescue and take over the lease. The pub remained closed while a new bespoke kitchen extraction system was fitted and Cater Wight installed a brand new kitchen. Six weeks later on 20th February The White Horse reopened.

The new tenants are sure that the pub will retain its great reputation for home made food with generous portions and local produce.

However, there are a few changes: There are now four real ales, Doom Bar and Fuggle are the normal regular beers and there is a rotation of guest beers which recently have featured London Pride, Yates' Undercliff, Greene King IPA and Sharp's Atlantic. All real ales are £3.30.



Alison Wills and Rachel Sharp



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Kim and Sue

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Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington who for 23 years held the post of Lord Warden of the Kentish Cinque Ports, his official residence was Walmer Castle. The Castle, currently a National Trust property, was built in 1540 as a massive artillery fortification in the town of Walmer near Dover, for King Henry VIII.

The Duke among his many well known achievements was also elected Newport's Member of Parliament for the Isle of Wight in 1807. Our Walmer Castle pub was named in honour of him a year after he died in 1852. The Walmer Castle boat shown on the Burts sign sank 39 years later.

The second well known but unofficial name of this pub was The Drum and Monkey. I have no idea why the locals used this unusual nickname it would be fun to find the answer.

(Does anybody know any details of the Burts pub sign artist, D Stephenson, Sandown?)



If you do have any information that may help please contact Tim Marshall at Wightwash.

In the next issue I will introduce you to the Island's most prolific pub sign artist P J Oldreive and the signs he has painted for The Fighting Cocks, Arreton.

Ray Scarfe



Salvatore's

Est. 25years

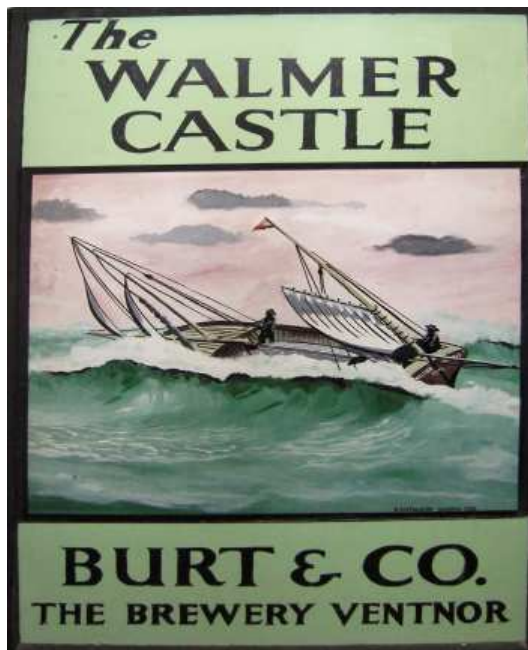
Restaurant open for lunch and dinner Wednesday to Saturday

Pub open 11am to 3pm and 6pm to 11pm Sundays 11am to 6pm

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The Walmer Castle, Ventnor

This is the story of an old Ventnor pub which many of you may never have heard about. It's a mystery pub with an unusual sign and two strange names, one official, the other a local pet name. The pub named The Walmer Castle closed many years ago but still exists as a private house on the corner of West Street and South Street.



For many years this fine Burts pub sported a double sided sign painted by a local sign artist D Stephenson, from Sandown. The sign shows an old Kentish lugger from the port of Deal. The boat on the sign was also named The Walmer Castle and sank in Horseshoe Bay, Bonchurch, IOW on 15 March 1892 with the sad loss of all six members of its crew. Now the strange thing is that this pub was named The Walmer Castle 39 years before the boat shown on the sign sank.

It looks as if the link to this Ventnor pub's name is the famous soldier

There have also been similar price drops on some menu items.

Rachel and Alison would like to express their thanks to all those in the village who helped get the pub up and running so quickly.

Alison says:

"Customer service is our utmost priority - **and** we have a great specials board!"



Diary Dates

- Friday 20th March: Branch Meeting - Railway Inn, Ryde 8pm
- Wed 15th April: P/BoY Presentations & Branch Meeting - Railway, Ryde 7.15pm
- 17th - 19th April: CAMRA Members' Weekend, Nottingham
- Friday 15th May: Branch Meeting - Buddle then White Lion, Niton 8pm
- Friday 26th June: Branch Meeting - Crown, Shorwell 8pm
- Friday 17th July: Branch Meeting - Volunteer then Ventnor Walk About 8pm
- 17th - 18th October: Beer and Buses Weekend

Regular Events

- IW Keyboard Club - Wight Montrene Hotel, Sandown every Monday at 8.30pm
- RSPCA Quiz Night - Last Friday of every month - Hare and Hounds - 8pm



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Selling Beer to the Bavarians

(it's like selling ice to Eskimos, but it worked!)

Last December an intrepid band of enthusiasts spent a week in **Coburg**, the Island's twin community in Bavaria promoting the Island as a destination, but also promoting Island produce, not least Island Real Ale.

In sub-zero temperatures the five of us, (Veronica, Jane, Geoff, Peter and Bob) set about the task at the **Coburg Christmas Market**.

It is incredible but the Bavarians went big on Wight Knight, Wight Christmas and the Dark side of the Wight. We were there for a week, (Monday to Sunday) but by the Thursday all the beer was gone. Even more surprising was the locals' taste for Isle of Wight garlic beer which also was in great demand.



Veronica and Bob on the stall with Geoff at the side.

All our other produce was gone by the Saturday and we were able to shut up shop a day early. Cars that had been heavily laden with Island beer and other produce returned home, not with unsold stock, but with copious amounts of German beer. We would like to thank the Island Brewery, Yates' Brewery and the Garlic Farm for their support and I would like to thank John Nicholson for his help and advice.

We hope to repeat the adventure in 2015.

Bob Blezard



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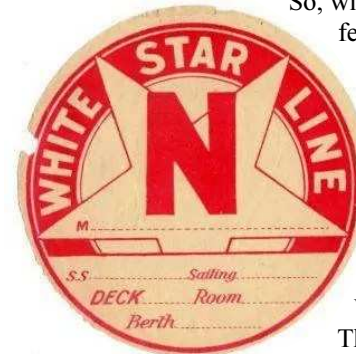
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1996 by the sanctioned salvor of the Titanic, RMS Titanic, Inc. by their mini sub. Recently the Queen Mary in Long Beach (if you have ever been on the vessel it dispels one's image of the Titanic as it has less tonnage than the Queen Mary) had a Titanic exhibition which had some of the items found on the ocean floor. Included in the exhibits were some Bass beer bottles without labels as one would expect after so long on the ocean floor. Some Guinness Foreign Stout was under the Kangaroo Brand on board although exact quantities of either Guinness or Bass to the full bottle cannot be ascertained. This Kangaroo brand was being used at the time and was first registered on the 11th June 1880, being mainly used as a brand for bottled Light Sparkling Ale. However, how some bottles of Guinness did end up under the Kangaroo brand is probably down to the labelling process which was very labour intensive.



So, with all this ale coming aboard who supplied it? This task fell primarily to Bottlers E & G Hibbert who were described in Kellys Directory of 1871 as Wine, Spirit and Export porter merchants. They were also trading as Hibbert & Co. West Indies Merchants from Billiter Street, London and later became known as Patterson & Hibbert. These bottlers, operating from Southampton and London sold their beer as ship stores to the White Star shipping line. Hence they supplied the Titanic with quantities on record for the White Star Shipping Line under the White Star label. Their other shipping lines included P & O Steamers and Castle Steamers. In their records for the Titanic it clearly states Guinness, Foreign Stout and Bass ales.



So there you have it. Obviously not to miss the marketing opportunity presented to these brewers all of which were particularly proud of supplying this unsinkable liner, special bills and posters were made at the time, 'Bottled Beer for the White Star Liner Titanic the largest vessel in the World'- check Denbighshire Archive photos for the 1901 poster - ref. Wrexham Lager.

At this point I will follow Charles Joughin's example and abandon ship with an ale or two.

Paul Sheldon

Joughin was portrayed by George Rose in *A Night to Remember* - partly inebriated; and by Liam Tuohy in the 1997 blockbuster *Titanic* - sober!

'Munich Style Lager' that was brewed by the Wrexham Lager Brewery. The latter may be a matter of conjecture, but let us consider some facts which would make it more than plausible. The actual brewery was closed in 2000 and re-opened some 11 years later. Records suggest that Wrexham Lager was drunk on board the tragic ship for various reasons. It was a lager well known at the time to 'travel well' and in its early years was far more popular abroad than at home. Industrialist Robert Grasser bought the majority share in this fledgling brewery in 1886 and secured major contracts with the British Army and the Great Western Railway. Alongside this were contracts for shipping lines and the Wrexham Lager Company archives clearly state that the White Star Line was supplied by Wrexham Lager. Grasser travelled to the USA in a White Star Liner in 1890 and took a barrel of Wrexham lager with him. It went down so well in America that many shipping companies decided to put it on all their ships. This included the White Star Line Shipping Co. that owned the Titanic who realised how much people were enjoying it and thus followed suit. Grasser also supplied the Cunard Steam Ship Co. which merged with the White Star Line in the 1930s and in fact the brewery continued to supply Cunard until 1980. Surviving copies of the last lunch menu for the Titanic (one of which made £76,000 at an auction in 2014) showed that 'iced draught Munich beer' was served, so the connection is there.



Now let us consider the Bass Pale Ale whose brewery was the first to use the term 'Barley Wine' for a bottled beer named No1 in 1903. On the Titanic were 500 cases of Bass ale which equates to 12,000 bottles most of which were in the hold when the ship sank. Some of these have been found on the ocean bed among other artefacts at the site of the sunken liner in August



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Editor's Note. I would like to apologise for the awful pun on the front page. I couldn't help myself.

Now you might think this article is about the Titanic Brewery in Burslem in the Potteries. It's not!

I wish to take you back to 1912; the year the RMS Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg on the evening of 14th April at 2340 some 350 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

What ales and stouts were stocked on that fateful voyage and which personalities can we link between ale and ship?



Let us look at some personalities, after all not everybody went first class. I will mention the Chief Baker on board, Charles Joughin who had a staff of 13 bakers under him. When the Titanic hit the iceberg he was off duty and in his bunk. He felt the shock of the collision and upon realising soon all would be lost, he decided to drink large quantities of alcohol to give him some courage before he abandoned ship. When he found himself sufficiently fortified it was said that he hurled deck chairs overboard to assist those in the water who had already abandoned ship. He then climbed to the starboard side of the ship and as the stern became consumed with water, he stepped overboard without even getting his hair wet as the ship finally sunk. He then kept paddling and treading water for two hours before clinging to the side of an overturned raft with most of his body submerged in the icy water. Miraculously he survived with only swollen feet.



He settled in New Jersey where he died on 9th December 1956 ironically of pneumonia. According to his obituary he was also on the SS Oregon when it sank in Boston harbour. A tall tale maybe, but he was one of the Crew members who reported to testify at the British Wreck Commissioner's inquiry headed by Lord Mersey, so judge for yourself. What is not open to debate are the facts behind Harry Markland Molson who inherited

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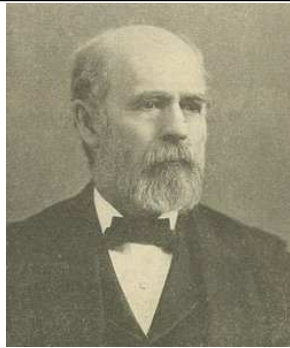
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Harry Markland Molson

the Montreal Brewery from his uncle John Henry Robinson Molson. The Brewery was founded by John Molson on the banks of the St. Lawrence River in 1786. This brewery is the oldest in North



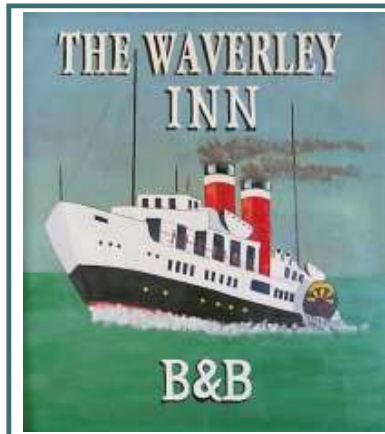
America and the second oldest Company in Canada where the Molson name has become synonymous with beer. John Molson was a hugely successful businessman and entrepreneur whose other accomplishments included a steamboat line, a luxury hotel and Canada's first industrial grain distillery. He married a Sarah Insley Vaughan and had three sons, John, Thomas and William. Harry Markland Molson was the son of William, however he was a passenger aboard the Titanic and it is reported that he was last seen removing his shoes with the intention to swim to a nearby ship. Needless to say, he never made it and his body was never recovered. His death notice was actually listed at the time in newspaper cuttings from the Syracuse Herald and the Indianapolis Star where his name appeared with others under the heading 'Wealth totals half a billion'. (This not the only unusual story involving Canadian breweries - see box)

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So what brews did we have on the Titanic? When the Titanic docked at Southampton from Belfast she was fitted out with the last of her provisions for her fateful voyage along with the passengers. On board when she set off would be 20,000 bottles of beer and stout, 1,500 bottles of wine, 15,000 bottles of mineral water and 850 bottles of spirits. These figures obviously don't include the ales carried on board with those in steerage in their pockets and bags. The majority of the 700+ in steerage were emigrants. The term 'steerage' originally referred to the steering apparatus, that was located in that part of the ship below decks. Thus it became adopted and accepted over time that the third class passengers would be gathered here complete with their fiddle players and card games alongside copious amounts of beer to pass the time away. For the rest of the passengers in first and middle class alcoholic drinks were only served in dining areas and lounges although the cost of such drinks was not included in one's fare.

The two beers on the Titanic were Guinness Foreign Stout and Bass Pale Ale alongside a

The loss of Harry Molson is a sad story but if we want intrigue I will mention Labatt Breweries. This brewery was founded in London, Ontario in 1847 by John Kinder Labatt. In 1866, John passed away and the family business was taken over by his son John Labatt Jnr who had been involved with the brewery at a young age at the side of his father and had served an apprenticeship in West Virginia. John Labatt Jnr. married Sophie and lived in London, Ontario with the brewery not an arm's length away. Mysteriously so, Sophie died in 1906 having accidentally been poisoned according to her death record. Some 30 years later in August 1934, their son John S Labatt was kidnapped by gangsters, held for a week then for some reason released unharmed. Upon his release he walked into Toronto's Royal York Hotel which just happened at that time to be full of reporters who were covering the kidnapping. Later the Ironwood Daily Globe did an article on one of the kidnapers, Russell Knowles who was going on hunger strike while being held at the Kingston Penitentiary.



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