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In the next issue of *Wightwash*: Ventnor's Haunted Brewery, A Picture Quiz, Pubs with Fires, Winter Beers, and much much more. Out in November

Wightwash



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight Branch of CAMRA

Summer '99 Issue



and



Inside this

Free

Issue

Prize Quiz
page 5

PubNews
Round-Up
pages 6, 7 & 8

Goddards
Win Again
see Brewery News
page 3



If you're reading this in a pub, please leave it for others to read when you've finished.

- Portsmouth Beerex, Portsmouth Guildhall 21st and 22nd August (ticket details 01705 671817)
- Social: Havenstreet Steam-Up, Havenstreet Station Fri 27th August. Evening
- Business meeting: Simeon Arms, Simeon Street, Ryde. Wed. 22 Sept. 8.30 p.m.
- Goddards Brewery Visit 9th October Noon (with Portsmouth and various other South of England branches)
- Social/walkabout: Meet at the Volunteer, Ventnor 22nd October, 8.30 p.m (to coincide with Ventnor Beer Festival).
- Business meeting: Highdown Inn, Totland, Wed 17 Nov. 8.30 p.m.
- Christmas Social: Blacksmiths Arms, Wed 8 Dec. 8.30 p.m.
- AGM: Venue to be decided, Fri 21 Jan. 8.30 p.m.

About *Wightwash*

It is this editors intention to make *Wightwash* a means of informing members of the activities of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA but also to celebrate the rich and varied pub tradition we have on the Isle of Wight. In this way, who knows we might persuade a few others to join.

I hope you enjoy the Pub News Round-up. Please keep sending the snippets of information.

When I took on this job, I have to admit I didn't know what I was letting myself in for. I'm sure when I master my computer's desk top publishing programme it will make life a lot easier, but at the moment it's like gardening, no, make that farming with nail scissors.

Thank you for all those who have helped me. Thank you to "G" at The Paper Workshop for your professionalism and patience. Thank you to the advertisers. I hope your advertisements increase your trade. I'm sure they will; potential advertisers please note! Thank you for the super articles. (I'm holding some back for the next issue). But now I know what it's like, thank you most of all to Nick Ward for editing *Wightwash* for the last 8 years.

For a more conventional hectoring, tub-thumping editorial see penultimate page.

Tim Marshall

The views expressed in *Wightwash* are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Campaign for Real Ale either locally or nationally.

IF YOU HAVE ANY MATERIAL, ARTICLES, INFORMATION, PICTURES, ETC.
OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN *Wightwash* PHONE ME ON 721557

The other evening, I wandered up to my local pub and had a pint of HSB. I could have had Old Speckled Hen or one of three other real ales on offer. Alternatively, I could have walked up to the other pub in the village and had a pint of Green King Abbott Ale, Hall & Woodhouse Champion Ale or Thomas Hardy. Yet in the 1970's there was no real ale in the district. The only choice of bitters was Whitbread Tankard or Whitbread Trophy, both keg beers.

Sometimes things do change for the better!

But this particular change was no accident. It was principally due to the efforts of one organisation. The most effective pressure group Europe had seen - **CAMRA**. The Campaign for Real Ale. Us. The lot with beards and sandals and fat bellies and endless droning on about specific gravity and hop backs and the like. Sometimes I think we deserve a little pat on the back..

Gentlemen (and Ladies) take a bow.

This however, is not a time for complacency. Once again the big brewers are spending fortunes on persuading the Great British public to drink easy to produce, easy to dispense, and (in my opinion) inferior beer. And they are succeeding. Nitro keg and Smooth beers are driving handpumps from our bar counters all over the country. Granted there may be some that like drinking something that tastes like a mixture of ditch water and shaving foam but most of us over a certain age know it's a fad. We've seen it before. We remember the craze for Mexican Lagers, Ice Beers and Alcopops. But when it's all over, will it be too late? There's no doubt it will be for some breweries.

Help stop this trend by supporting CAMRA.

How?

1. Join. Or if you are already a member, get someone else to join;
2. Go down the pub and enjoy a pint of real ale;
3. Both.

Cheers!



Tim Marshall (Editor)

PS I don't wear sandals, I don't have a beard or a fat belly and I'll challenge anyone who says I do to a 10 mile run any day.

(Groaning answers at bottom of page)

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----|----|
| | | £. | s. | d. |
| 1 | A stone | | | |
| 2 | A bicycle | | | |
| 3 | A man's name | | | |
| 4 | A singer | | | |
| 5 | A kind of pig | | | |
| 6 | Leather worker | | | |
| 7 | Part of a monkey's leg | | | |
| 8 | Sun, Moon and Pluto | | | |
| 9 | 50% of panties | | | |
| 10 | Royal head dress | | | |
| 11 | Hit repeatedly | | | |
| 12 | Unwell sea creature | | | |

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

1/ £14 (14pounds); 2/ 1½d (penny farthing); 3/ 1s (Bob) 4/ £10 (tenner) 5/ £1.1s (guinea) 6/ 6d (tanner); 7/ ½d (ape knee) 8/ ¾d (3 far things); 9/ 10s (half a knicker) 10/ 5s (crown); 11/ £1 (pound); 12/ 6s (sixpence)

Goddard's New Head Brewer

Chris Coleman is reportedly "quietly tickled pink" at equalling his predecessor Jonathan Stancill's achievement of winning a Bronze for **Goddards Special Bitter** at this year **Great British Beer Festival**. Well done Chris!



Chris centre is pictured here selecting which batch to send to the GBB assisted by CAMRA members Paul Johnson and Nick Ward right

Goddards are about to launch the first of a regular series of seasonal beers at the IW Steam Railway. Joining **Winter Warmer** (5.2% November to February) and **Inspiration** (March and April) will be **Iron Horse** (4.8% "a lightly hopped dark beer" normally released in September), **Duck's Folly*** (5.2% "a pale, strong bitter" normally released in October) and **Ale of Wight** (4% using the "wonderfully floral" liberty hops - May and June).

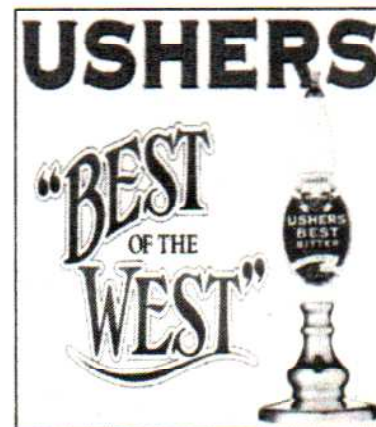
On August 9th **Goddards** took over **The Wishing Well**, Pondwell, their first pub. They hope to have 6 by 2005. It will stock the full range of Goddards products plus one "Ale of the Month".

Ventnor Brewery have chalked up another success at the Tesco's Beer Challenge, this time with a Smoked Beer. Bob Simpson continues to expand the bottling side of the operation with plans to export to Europe and the USA. Outlets for **Ventnor's** bottled beer include Sainsburys. For a more in depth look at Ventnor Brewery, see the next issue of *Wightwash*

Ushers have announced that two Island pubs will revert to their former names (or very nearly) **The Cask and Custardpot**, Newport becomes **The Old Stag** and the **Hole in the Wall**, Ryde becomes **The Railway** once again.. More details on this in PUB NEWS ROUNDUP on pages 6,7 & 8

Ushers seasonal offering is **Summer Madness**.

* Why is this beer called "Ducks Folly" answers in a plain brown envelope!
MORE BREWERY NEWS →→→→



A Pub Valuer Remembers.....

For me, real ale conjures up memories of pubs back in the 1950's. Most of the pubs on the Island were owned by the **Mew Langton Brewery** under the authoritarian rule of Lennie and Francis Mew. Pubs were very basic affairs, often with outside toilets and facilities for ladies were rare. Food in the bar was virtually unknown and it was believed that one landlord refused to stock crisps as they caused the beer to go flat. One of my earliest recollections of Island pubs is visiting The Chequers Inn in Rookley.

The Chequers, now a thriving pub/restaurant was tenanted after the war by 2 elderly ladies. As young men we sat at benches by scrubbed deal tables whilst one of the ladies disappeared to the rear of the premises. She would return with an enamel jug from which she dispensed, in our case, half pints of beer.

Some years later, as part of my business, I visited the Chequers as a pub valuer. In those days the practice was for the vendor's valuer and the purchaser's valuer initially to agree a figure for fixtures and fittings. On the day of the change over, after adjustments had been made for stock and breakables, the transaction would take place in cash. Inventories were usually under £1000 and with stock only a few hundred, a £50 fee was well appreciated. This rather insecure system was later replaced with certified bankers draft and valuers cheques

Then came the changes: Island pubs in a succession of takeovers, were bounced between Brickwoods, Strongs and Whitbread. Inventories ballooned. Major improvements were carried out and although comfort became the norm, valuations were the subject of intense, often arbitrary negotiation and the writer thankfully retired in 1987.

D.B. (Retired valuer of licenced premises)

BREWERY NEWS (Continued)

Hall and Woodhouse's seasonal offering, former winner of the Tesco's Beer Challenge is **Badger Golden Champion Ale** is "An award winning premium ale from Badger Brewery. The floral characteristics of elderflower give this ale a fresh, delicate balance and light fruity flavour." It's 4.6 alc/vol and it will be in the pubs until October

Watch out for **Bohemian Rhapsody** (5%), and **Porky and Best** (4.5%) limited edition seasonal ales from the **Hampshire Brewery** over the next few weeks. Pubs stocking one or both of these ales include: **Chine Inn**, Shanklin, **Blacksmiths**, Carisbrooke, **White Hart**, East Cowes and **Travellers Joy**, Northwood. Derek at the Travellers is also stocking the delightfully named holiday beer **Wish You Were Here** from Ridleys.



When I commissioned this article, this isn't quite what I had in mind, however.....

Dear CAMRA Member,

Firstly, an apology. I know less about real ale than the average vicar does about the barmaid's sexual peccadilloes. I am a Real Ale ignoramus, but I do know one thing about beer. I like to drink it and when I drink it, I order lager.

Whilst the more conservative amongst you attempt to catch your breath, let me tell you that I genuinely like lager. I like the taste, the coldness and the fizziness. The editor assures me that I can say this because all of you kind people will assume that I have yet to see the Real Ale "light". This will probably never happen, so instead, I will talk about the joys of lager. I will remark upon how lager leaves a clean taste in my mouth (even after seven pints), and how a woodlouse, and half a pound of accompanying leaf mould, has never been found in a glass of Miller. I will probably make snide and nasty comments about several ales I will attempt to drink over the forthcoming months (purely in the spirit of journalistic research). Be damned with all this rubbish about specific gravity, and the nutty aftertaste of "Blind Pew's Cock" at the Sheepdip Arms.

This is not to say, however, that I do not appreciate the finer things in life. Many lager drinkers, like myself, have a very refined palate. Scientists have even gone so far as to say that many of us Fosters drinkers can spot the difference between a nice red wine, and a short fat barmaid (at least at the start of the evening). I like my lager, and I expect my factory-perfect pint of Fosters to satisfy me every bit as much as you stump-water drinkers expect the local real ale to satisfy you. I like the qualities of my favoured poison, and several million people agree with me. Like it or not, Lager is the beer of choice of this planet. Nothing else approaches its popularity. I accept that popularity does not equal "goodness" (30 million people voted for Hitler, and another thirty million own Phil Collins albums), but lager can be said to be better than bitter for several reasons.

Alas, I find myself short of space to elucidate in this issue, so perhaps you will add your ha'p'orth (c/o The Editor), and I shall find a suitably smart-arse reply by the time Tim next asks me for a submission.

Yours truly,

McKinnell

(If this is an attempt to get me to buy you copious amounts of ale to try to convert you, you're barking up the wrong tree - Tim)

The future of the **Roadside Inn** in Nettlestone is still in the balance. Although an application to turn the village pub into a residential property has been



made by the owners, it is still hoped that a deal can be made with a consortium of locals. A sticking point seems to be the separate sale of the car park.

Objections to the application should be sent to:

The Director of Environmental Services,
Seaclose Offices

Fairlee

Newport

Isle of Wight

Quoting reference number TCP/06689/H
P/00053/99

Landlords of the **Sun Inn**, Calbourne, Pat and Trevor Kent for the last 13 years have put the pub on the market.

The Star, East Cowes is soon to be part of the Great East Cowes Car Park

CAMRA members Jed Jackson and Co. will be travelling to the Great Dorset Steam Fair in an Austin 4 wheel drive RAF lorry (the Wallis and Steevens Advance Roller isn't quite up to the trip yet). The Steam Fair which runs from 1st - 5th September, is run in conjunction with Hall and Woodhouse's **Tanglefoot**. It features over 100 different beers and a wide range of live music. Some of it, according to Jed, a bit too loud! Find out how they get on in the next issue of *Wightwash*.

The Four Seasons Inn, (formerly the **Star Inn**) opened it's doors on 25 June. The new owners of the Wroxall free-house, Sue and Pat Boynton have spent the last few months extensively revamping the premises while still retaining the traditional village inn feel. The food available ranges from a la carte to bar snacks, while drinks include a choice of real ales and an extensive wine cellar.

Open Arms, Sandown is closed at present. In fact NOT "Open" at all!

The Royal Standard, Freshwater has changed hands. New landlords, (perhaps the should be "landladies") mother and daughter Sue and Rebecca Stephenson took control on 1st June.

The **Bow Bars** Ryde is now up and running again.

The Waterfront, Totland now stocks real ale, John Smiths Bitter. Well done, Sleazy

Wightwash has a website:

www.nickoakdene.demon.co.uk/camra

It is linked to several pubs. Check out the superb Blacksmiths Arms site put together by Chris Murphy.

Chris can be contacted on 524476 and at christopher.murphy@virgin.net.

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1. Who or what was the Worcester Cadet?
2. How did a notable Merstone landmark travel to Dunkirk?
3. Which pub is closest to Michael Morey's hump?
4. What removed the roof of Appuldurcombe House?
5. Where do Lizzie, Jubilee, Joseph and Jacob fetch the water?
6. Whose features are carved above the South door of St. Thomas' Church, Newport?
7. In which Island village did Charles Dickens write part of David Copperfield?
8. Which Ventnor pub was known as the "Drum & Monkey"?
9. Where and what is the "Devils Chimney"?
10. Where on the Island is Egypt Point?
11. Which pub is closest to Betty Haunt Lane?
12. Where can you find part of the fastest destroyer used in WWII?
13. Where was Hoare's Chine Brewery?
14. What did Valentine Gray do?
15. Where is Uffa Fox's grave?

Please send your answers to me,
Tim Marshall, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor,
Isle of Wight P038 3NH
by 5th October 1999
Don't forget to add your name and address!
The first correct answers out the hat after
that date win the prize.
Answers and winner's name in next issue

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Princess Royal, Newport have just won the "Wight in Bloom" Chairman's Cup by winning their own category and going on to beat the winners of all the other categories.

On 24th August, landlady Coral McDougal will travel to Trowbridge to see how the pub has fared against all the rest of the Usher's pubs. Find out how she got on in next issue of *Wightwash*.

New landlords of the **Arreton Barn**, Jane and William Brown will be holding a mini beer festival between 29th September and 3rd October. They will be increasing their usual 4 real ales to 9 plus 1 real cider. The festival will feature live music, a raffle and a special menu. As usual, parents can leave the kids for a couple of hours in the Mega Maise under the supervision of NNEB and NVQ qualified minders. The Mega Maise boasts the 5th largest slide in the country!

The **Hole in the Wall**, Ryde soon to revert to it's former pre Hartridge name of **The Railway** (for a while the poor old pub had to suffer the indignity of being **The Cask and Cucumber**). Landlord Dennis Meek will be holding a beer festival in October. *Date yet to be finalized.*

Forget the US Masters, the hotly contested Rookley Open held on 25th July at Rookley Country Park held as a fund raiser for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice was won by Mark Crutcher. Organiser, Jeff Ledicott landlord of the **Rookley Inn** entered in to the spirit of the occasion and offered pints of Abbot and Champion for £1. Stand by for the *Autumn Classic!*

Jeff is planning a special Firework Celebration Weekend on 6th / 7th November with 10 to 12 real ales in a marquee, morris-men on the Saturday night, and The Unity Stompers on the Sunday lunchtime and of course, fireworks.

Spyglass landlords, Neil and Steph Gibbs have joined forces with Andrew Gibbs and Jane Simmonds to open the **Bargeman's Rest** in Newport (see photo on cover). Already extremely popular, the pub features at least 5 real ales (no gas or aspirators.!) and live music 5/6 nights a week. Bands will include: The Unity Stompers, Last Orders, Hoggy and the Sharpetones and The Chale Whalers.

Tim Saul landlord of the **Volunteer** and **The Blenheim** reports that Ventnor's annual beer festival will be held from Friday 22nd October to Sunday 7th November. Theme yet to be decided.

Tim is also running a brewery trip to Ringwoods on 6th October, price £18. Details from Tim on 852537.

Volunteer customers are well on their way to their target of raising £1,000 for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Last year pub regular Geoff Gardener was lost at sea.

There will be barbeques at the **Volunteer** on the evenings of the Carnival processions.

North Bucks CAMRA member Brian Bell has bought **The Falcon** in Ryde from Gales. The pub is scheduled to be closed from 31st August to 17th September for a £40,000 refit. When it reopens as a Free House it will stock Bass, Banks and Taylor's Shepherd Bitter, Goddards Special Bitter and Fuggle De Dum plus guest beers. Brian's previous pub, The Bridge Inn at Feeny Stratford, Milton Keynes, which was the meeting house of the North Bucks branch, has been sold to Punch Taverns. Brian is no stranger to the Isle of Wight; between 84/85 he managed The Travellers Joy for Memory Inns.

The Sun at Hulverstone remains closed.



At the public enquiry held during March at the Wiberforce Hall in Brighstone owner, Simon Bolt's appeal was turned down effectively banning him from using the ground floor for residential purposes or selling the pub as a private residence. CAMRA's Regional Director Marcus Stanley provided evidence to show that Mr. Bolt made no real attempt to run the pub as viable financial proposition. Several locals have shown interest in buying the pub if, and when it is put back on the market.

Grand celebrations are planned for the renaming of the **Cask and Custardpot** when it becomes once again **The Stag**, in fact **The Old Stag**. The local residents are delighted. They were so enraged when Hartridge boss (Sir) Geoffrey gave the well loved pub it's bizarre name that they raised a 500 name petition. The renaming will take place sometime during 21st 22nd August. During the weekend customers will be able to buy a £5.00 voucher entitling them to 5 pints of beer. There will be 7 or 8 real ales available in a specially erected beer marquee. Live music will be provided on Saturday night by Irish folk band The Wither Skinners and Sunday lunchtime Jack Tait's Henry's Pocket Jazz Band. Limited edition tankards and polo shirts will be on sale; and for those that want food, they can choose from a special "Game and Countryside menu" featuring dishes such as Venison Pie and Boar Steaks. In future, Ushers are allowing landlord Paul Holt to stock two regular guest beers on top of his two Ushers "in house" beers. Well done Ushers!

Edgar Nieghorn of the **Blacksmiths Arms** is expecting visitors from all over England during his unique OCTOBERFEST featuring all 6 genuine "Ocoberfest beers" brewed specifically in Munich for the world famous German Beer Festival Also on offer will be a comprehensive menu of German dishes. Edgar his holding his event between 1-10 October