

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fri 13th June **Goddards Tenth Anniversary Party**
- Wed 18th June 8.30 **Social Get-Together** (bring a friend) Castle, Sandown
- 9th-13th July **Railway Inn Beer Festival**, Ryde (**WWII - VE Day** Theme) 30 Real Ales
- Wed 16 July 8.30 **Business Meeting** The Sun Inn, Calbourne
- 22nd - 24th July Leon Warner Trio Pub Tour (see page 4)
- Sun 22nd July - Mon 7th August **Rookley Inn Summer Beerfest**
- August **Branch Social** Bank Holiday Friday (22nd) Havenstreet Steam-Up
All Welcome
- Wed 24th September 8.30 **Business Meeting** The Sportsmans Rest, Porchfield

Wightwash

Volume 2. Number 16



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Summer 2003 Issue

Around 1,000 happy drinkers were unanimous in their praise for the **Fat Cat Beer Festival**. The organisation was good; The staff were efficient and courteous; and The beer was GREAT



Branch chairman, John Nicholson (right) and former branch chairman (and award winning brewer) Chris Coleman compare notes.

The Champion Beer of the festival was Harvisoun *Schiellion*. And the most popular local beer was Ventnor's *Pussy Galore*.



The Oakleaf Brewing Co Ltd
The Pourfect Pint!
www.oakleafbrewing.co.uk



"Spreading a little hoppiness."
www.goddards-brewery.co.uk

Answers to Winter Quiz

1/ The first Island buses ran between **Ryde and Seaview**. 2/ The paddle steamer in the picture was the **Ryde Queen**. 3/ The Shanklin - Ventnor railway closed in (**April**) **1966**. 4/ Shanklin lift was replaced in **1956**. 5/ The company with the really really long name is know as **Red Funnel**. 6/ The station in the photo was **Shide Station**. 7/ There are **eight** stations on the Shanklin-Ryde line. 8/ St Georges Way opened in **1985 (Dec)** 9/ "Dodson Bros. Ltd" became the **Southern Vectis Omnibus Co**. 10/ The structure in the picture was **Seaview (suspension) Pier**.

Jenny Mew from Chale wins a tenner

The views expressed in *Wightwash* are not necessarily those of the Editor or CAMRA either locally or nationally



Join
CAMRA
Today



Just fill in the form below and send , with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4 LW
Rates are Single £16 Joint £19
OAP's £9 (Joint £12) Under 26 £9 (Joint £12)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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Post code.....

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Signed.....

Date.....



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for
Full Menu and Daily Special Board
together with a fine selection of
Wines, Lagers and Ales

SUNDAY ROASTS

Come and relax in our 60-seat
Beer Garden
with delightful coastal views
Barbecue

every Sunday in the garden
from 6.30 p.m.
(weather permitting)

Volly Wins Pub of the Year

Leapfrogging from last years forth position to this years Isle of Wight CAMRA Pub of the Year top spot, goes Tim Saul and his splendid Ventnor pub, The Volunteer.

Well done, Tim, and a well-deserved win for one of the most characterful pubs on the Island. The Solent has nudged the excellent Traveller's Joy into third place, so Andy and Margaret Taylor can congratulate themselves on coming from nowhere to second in just two years – not surprising, in view of the care and attention they lavish on their real ales (and what a great pub, too!). Congratulations, too, to the White Lion, Niton, and the superb Fat Cat at Freshwater for polling a good number of votes for the first time I can remember. And well done to Dave Moore at the Railway *continued on next page*



www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk

Yates' Brewery
at the
Inn at St Lawrence
the "Real" local brewery
www.yates-brewery.co.uk

continued from front page Medina, one of Newport's most atmospheric pubs, who has more than doubled his points after serving consistently good beer over the last year, not to mention some splendid brewery trips.

Ventnor Golden has hit the top spot for the second year running, coming in just ahead of Yates' Undercliff Experience and Goddards GSB. It's good to see all three Island head brewers in the top three and with so few votes between them, proving, once again, how lucky we are to have so many great local beers available. Nice to see Oakleaf's Hole Hearted in there, too, for the first time.

The Pub of the Year is a Really Useful Exercise, as it gives all local CAMRA members a chance to show their appreciation of their favourite local pubs and beer. I find it disappointing, though, that only about a third of all local members take the opportunity to do so. Come on, you people! It only takes a minute or two to complete the voting slip, and the cost of a second class stamp to post it. We have so many wonderful pubs on the Island, in spite of the past efforts of Whitbread *et al*, and perhaps if more of you voted, we'd see a wider range of pubs getting a mention. Pubs like the excellent Prince of Wales at Freshwater, the Railway at Ryde, the Suns at Calbourne and Hulverstone – I could name plenty of others, but I think you get the point. So let's make next year a really high turnout – go for it!

Brian Jacobs

THE RESULTS

Pub of the Year

- 1st Volunteer, Ventnor
- 2nd Solent Inn, Ryde
- 3rd Travellers Joy, N,wood
- 4th Bargmans's Rest, N'port

Beer of the Year

- 1st Ventnor Golden
- 2nd Undercliff Experience
- 3rd GSB
- 4th Hole Hearted

Club of the Year

- 1st Cowes Con Club
- 2nd Ventnor BLC
- 3rd Shanklin Con Club
- 4th Island Sailing Club

You can read the full results on the Wightwash website www.wightwash.org.uk

Even at its own individual style, and the 'mummit' features the freshest of local produce, including the famous Wightwash Bay Lakelse and Crab

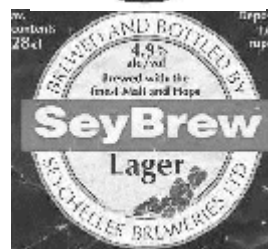
If you have to get worried, there's no finer place to do it than at one of our Waterside Taverns!

Explanade, Shanklin
THE STEAMER INN
 Little London, Newport
The Bargeman's Rest
 Explanade, Ventnor
The Spyglass Inn
 Up to seven real ales on offer!

Where in the World?

Just match the beer with the countries listed below

1. Caledonian 70 Shillings
2. Cisk Larger
3. Old Foghorn
4. Keo
5. La Trappe
6. Pelforth Brune
7. Red Stripe
8. Seybrew
9. Tsing Tao
10. Voll Damm



Jamaica; Seychelles;
 Scotland; USA; Spain;
 France; Malta;
 China; Cyprus; Netherlands.

Send your answers to: The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3NH or by email to editor@wightwash.org.uk by 1st August
 First correct answers out the hat wins a tenner!

Hello!

I stumbled across your website and was totally taken aback. For most of my pre-teen life (Late 40's / early 50's) I lived within a bottle throw of The Chequers. How well I remembered it then. Used to ride my bike past it many times and pop into it's roadside "long drop*" when the need was such. (* = lavy)

Derek Fountaine.

Now living on the South Pacific Isle of Vanuatu. Once an Islander always an Islander.

Dear Derek,

Your email has caused much interest in our family for several reasons:

- During 83/84 I visited Vanuatu several times working for P&O as a ship's musician.
- My father was the last headmaster of Rookley school before it closed in 1958 and has recently produced with the help of several other Rookley residents, a book about the village. There is a photograph of you on page 22 on a school trip to Blackgang in 1947
- The Chequers is my local and I'm going up there in about 10 minutes time for my Sunday lunchtime pint.

Cheers! *Tim Marshall* - Editor blong Wightwash

Subsequently I received several more emails from Derek in which he described how he ended up living in a remote island in the South Seas and the following:

Would you like a small anecdote regarding the Chequers? As I told you they had a roadside Long Drop that yours truly would frequent form time to time. It was a particularly odiferous place as you could well imagine and the door had a gap of about six inches at the bottom and the best part of a foot at the top; for ventilation I suspect. However. the sun, when we got it, came through the top of the door and travelled round the side wall upon which had been placed many years before I ever went there, a piece of graffito. It was a poem of uncertain length that the sun had faded into obscurity, all except the last two lines. These I think you may find amusing:

*" so if at first
you find no paper,
Lift the seat and you'll find a
scraper."*

Caio
Derek
Does any one know the rest of
this poem?

The Waterfront
Totland

Quality dining in a perfect setting

Martinez

every Friday

*"The best Acoustic Latin Jazz this
side of Barcelona"*

Tel: 756969

From *Paul Mattick*

The **RAILWAY MEDINA** recently achieved the notable feat of having a beer named after the pub. **RAILWAY RAMBLER** (4.6% abv) brewed by **Ventnor Brewery** has been available exclusively as a guest beer at this hospitable local. Landlord **Dave Moore** also reminds local music fans that two IW groups "**The Jones**" and "**Sporting Life**" have been playing gigs in the public bar and that all guest real ales are on jug offer at 4 pints for the price of 3. Can't be bad

Jay Chapman may have started a trend. We have heard of several proposed festivals and one of the more interesting ones will be held at the **Railway Inn**, Ryde. Jan. the enterprising landlady will be organising a festival between 9th 13th July with a VE Day theme. There will be up to 30 Real Ales all sold directly from the dray. The patio will be opened up to provide an Italian style "Al Fresco" barbeque and spit roast. AND THIS COULD BE YOUR CHANCE TO BE A STAR! Jan's brother, David Harrigan is Microsoft's European Director of Photography. He will

be filming the event and is looking for stars and extras to appear in the film in 1940's costume. Auditions will be held about a week beforehand.

After their successful Whitsun Beer Festival at the **Yarbridge Inn**, Paul and Sharon Jenner are planning more events including an Hawaiian Evening.

Jeff Ledicot of the **Rookley Inn** has recently acquired a vintage **Mew Langton** stillage. He will be putting it to good use during the **Rookley Summer Beerfest** (22 June - 7 August). If only he could overcome his crippling shyness...

The **Richmond Hotel** on Ventnor seafront has had a new bar built. It's also open to the public. At the moment a couple of ales from a well-known Ventnor Brewery are available.

Look out for **Fursty Ferret** (4.4%) at your local this summer **Mike Strand** tells me that **Badger Brewery** in Blandford have seen more ferret scuttle through its doors than anything else on the Badger portfolio. As proof I can disclose that the little old Lake Huron in Ryde managed to get

Advertisement for Solent Inn

through two casks in 24 hours (the majority of it drunk by Roger Heady!) Advanced orders have also been received for a new brew called **Caulkheads** (3.7%), which at the moment is being tested out on a very Fursty Ferret! Other novel ales will soon be offered up to, and including Christmas. These new beers are apparently going to be named after country animals, of which I have a few suggestions: Randy Rabbit, Dancing Bear, Dwunk Skunk and Hare of the Dog not to mention Shire Fire. Anybody with any better names (99.9% of you) should contact Badger brewery and who knows you may get to sample a Jug or two, at **Mike Strand's** expense of course!

Talking of animals **The Snooty Fox** in Brading is doing so well that a new fourth pump has been put in to keep up with demand.

Other than the occasional guest beer you can knock back **Tanglefoot, Caulkheads Bitter, Badger Best** and of course **Fursty Ferret** with your meal.

Talking of animals - (well crustacia actually - Ed) **Punch Taverns** have taken on the **Crab and Lobster Tap**, Ventnor along with the **Ship and Castle** E. Cowes. I had

Perks of Ventnor
Wholesale wine
available by the case
for that special occasion
Barbeque
Birthday
Wedding
 Phone Graham on -
857446



heard they were purchasing another. Let me know if you hear anything.

Incidentally, the **Crab and Lobster Tap** is now being run by **Adam and Becky Lawson**. We wish them all the best. Reports are coming in that, the **White Lion** (talking of animals) Arreton's landlord **Chris and**

Katie Cole have acquired the **Sun Inn** Hulverstone.

Talking of Animals The **White Mouse** is about to re-open after a couple of months following a refit the restaurant will seat approx 300! I didn't think there were that many living on the Island! (That's enough animals -Ed)

Robin Hill Country Park is staging a fun day on 21st June. The **Pink Floyd** tribute band will be there, as well as a Bar, which will be run by **Ventnor Brewery**. See local press for more details. Alternatively ring Robin or Mrs Hill

The **Leon Warner Trio**, who were on the Island earlier this year are returning by popular demand in July. Here are the dates and venues.

22nd (Eve) The Broadway (Totland)
 23rd - (Aft) Colwell Bay Inn

Wightwash
 has a website
www.wightwash.org.uk

The Inn at St Lawrence
 Tel: 853938
Delicious Food and Great Beer
from Yates' Brewery
 Live music every Friday
 with Kelly Burke

THE BROADWAY, TOTLAND.

Goodbye Kym and Hello Kim! After a lot of work building the business from almost nothing, Paul and Kym are departing for foreign parts and the new owners have already made their mark. There will be some alterations and food may appear in due course but the beer remains the same with 3 Island brews of excellent quality. The bare walls are now being adorned with mainly local pictures including some prints of Julia Margaret Cameron's work. (If you have not been to Dimbola Lodge to see the exhibitions you should go - it is becoming one of the Island's important attractions.) We wish both parties well with a further lease of life for the pub.

THE BUGLE, YARMOUTH.

My first visit to the entirely different pub was perhaps coloured by a mild shock and I was tempted to say that the Bugle had become a Euphonium due to its vastly increased seating capacity. In the dark entrance one is confronted by a plate glass door which might be a risk but the room on the left and the bar area are quite unchanged which cancels out any adverse comments. A long divided Brasserie is on the right whilst on the left the public bar/games area is now also a long, divided seating area with a conservatory style breakfast area behind the bar. All quite attractively done with some nice nautical touches which will bed in with time. The beer is still good but of the restricted Yarmouth range - it is a pity that more imagination cannot be introduced - after almost visitors will surely look for something more interesting such as can be found in nearly all Island watering holes.

Brian Snellgrove



<p>The Dairyman's Daughter <i>Free House</i> 01983 539361 Food served all day Up to 8 Real Ales including Scarecrow Bitter brewed on the premises Arreton Barns Craft Village</p>	<p>The Scarecrow Brewery Brewing Traditional English Bitter with Bramling Cross Hops <i>"Outstanding in our field"</i> Visit our Brewery Shop for 4.5% an amazing assortment of bottled beers and brewery memorabilia</p>
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Mike Hoar thought we would like to hear about some of the rather interesting environments he has been allowed to discover in the last few months by his generous employer IKEA.

Just before Christmas they thought I would like a week in the sun to brighten up the winter months so I departed for 6 days in sunny (despite the monsoon) Bangkok.

IKEA being a very 'thrifty' company provided accommodation in the Novotel Lotus (economy) hotel at very reasonable rates. What they did not know was that this location was destined to lower my efficiency level considerably as on the street corner opposite the hotel lies the London Pride tavern (or name rather similar). This eminent establishment brews a range of 'English style' beers, served in an atmosphere which is decidedly British if somewhat exotic as regards the various languages to be heard. Over the course of several evenings I managed to partake of several pints of something which was very reminiscent of a well known Fuller's beer. None of the samples I imbibed were other than excellent, they also did a very reasonable, hoppy IPA. IPAs seem to be popular in Asia, they also had them in the micros in Singapore and the pub in Hi Chi Minh. (MS spelling checker thinks it should be happy not hoppy!).

Last week I had the pleasure to visit Warsaw – again 6 days. This time I was kept quite busy and the weather was not an invitation to exploration. However on the last night it cleared up a bit, only -5C so I went exploring with a very nice Vietnamese girl from our Product design department, Within a couple of hundred meters of the hotel we found a pub/restaurant called SOMO. 3 large bars and 2 large restaurants on 2 floors. Half the ground floor was covered in brewing apparatus. I had, once more, an IPA to wash down the very good beef tenderloin and followed it up with a dark porter ginger beer. This was hoppy with a slight chocolate taste and then a very slight after taste of ginger. They had no information regarding the strength, but after considering the erratic nature of the walk back to the hotel I think it was probably up around the 7% mark.

One bit of bad news that affected my beer tasting and enjoyment thereof is that I was diagnosed to have type 2 diabetes just before Christmas. However as times go by I find it is having less and less affect, I am supposed to drink in 'moderation' and to make sure I eat at the same time – well that's not so bad. The other advice was not to drink the low-alcohol beers as these have too high a sugar content. So now we know high alcohol beers are good for you.

It will be back in Warsaw for a couple of days in months time so I will see if they have any other 'pleasant surprises'.

The other interesting point was that they sold the beer in 50cl MARKED glasses with plenty of room for a head.

Mike Hoar

23rd - (Eve) King Harry Bar (Shanklin)

24th - (Eve) Big gig in what used to be a cinema in Freshwater (sorry that's all I know. Details at Gigs)

Ventnor Brewery is celebrating their recent CAMRA beer of the year win for **Ventnor Gold**. Having recently been a part of Ventnor Day involving local businesses and bands on the seafront, **Xavier Baker** thought it was a good idea to parade a local girl dressed as **Hygia**.

Two Roman guards for the pre-launch escorted her and the event was an amazing success. A few casks of Hygia have been distributed in the Ventnor Area, and reports are admirable. I look forward in eagerness to experiencing this Organic Ale, which will hit our bars soon. On the Brewery front Ventnor are on the Move!!! Well their fermenting and conditioning area is, which is going back to it's original place. I was told that although there will be busy times ahead, production will not change, and I was assured that deliveries will be carried out as normal. Congratulations also

The Rookley Inn Summer Beerfest

in Rookley Country Park
Sunday 22nd July - 7th August

10 Great Real Ales over 15 days
all at £2 a pint

Watch out for the Famous
"Rookley Open" Golf Championships
in aid of the Mountbatten Hospice

go to **The Volunteer**, which won the 2003 CAMRA pub of the year. A party is being organised as we speak of which I'm hoping to attend (purely on an editorial basis of course!). Xavier added, "If you want a good pint and a good atmosphere, Ventnor is the place to be". Ventnor Brewery T-shirts are now available from the beer emporium, Arretton, at a modest price, and come in different sizes to cater for the likes of **Tim Marshall** and myself!

Scarecrow Brewery who organised a bit of a do at the **Arretton Barn** have employed

Advert for the Anchor



King Harry's Bar
 the old village Shanklin
 Come and try
 our wide variety of Real Ales
 open 11am - 11pm
 Tel: 863119
 thekingharrybar@aol.com
SUPERB & RESTAURANT. open in the evenings

bash. **Goddards Brewery** celebrates its tenth anniversary on Friday 13th June. If it's half as good as their grand opening in 1993, I can personally guarantee great merriment. I did say I was looking forward to meeting Natasha and Anthony again, unfortunately I will be away showing my knobby knees at Butlins! Oh by the way if you are worrying about having an accident at the bash on **Friday 13th**, don't worry; there are plenty of first aid recruits to look after

Simon Newman to make **Scarecrow Bitter** available as a bottled version. It should be ready now. This, along with many other bottled ales is also obtainable from the Emporium. Scarecrow itself has had a brilliant year and the quality is at its peak said a spokesman called Xavier!

In the last issue I reported that the **Goddards** staff were involved in a First aid course. They were required to take a CPR course. And had to use the well-known mannequin victim, **Rescue Anne**, to practice on. The model used was the legless model to allow for storage in a carrying case. After the First Aid officer showed them the correct way for the kiss of life, it was rumoured that **Anthony**

Goddard was instructed to repeat the procedure. He bent down and gently shook the doll and asked, "Are you all right?" He then put his ear over the mannequin's mouth to listen for breathing. Suddenly he turned to the first aid officer and exclaimed, "She said she can't feel her legs!"

Head Brewer Chris Coleman would like to invite all Isle of Wight CAMRA members to a bit of a

you! On the business side of things Goddards are working to full capacity, which is just as well as they now (amongst many other things) supply **Red Funnel** with cold filtered **Special Bitter** to its three ferries. Details of the anniversary will appear in the press soon.

That's all for now folks. Till the next time..

Cheers!
Paul

PS. Don't forget, if you've got news for us, give us a ring 721557 or email edi-

Thatchers Inn
 Under New Management
 Open 11 am - 11 pm
Sunday Roasts
INCLUDE Free Glass of House Wine
FULL MENU AND SPECIALS BOARD
 12.00 noon - 2.15 pm & 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm
The Esplanade, Ryde. Tel 563794

You Never Who Is In The Pub With You

It's fair to say that if you enjoy good ale on the Isle of Wight you are bound to meet someone you know sooner or later. But what about those faces who are at the bar that you may not know?

Time and time again I have been quietly minding my own business thinking about the next gig when in walks so and so. Casual nods lead to conversations about what they are up to and away we go. **Isle of Wight Rock in real life.**

Take the **Travellers Joy** at Northwood, when time allows Glen Annett and Andy Skelton members of Fabba the best Abba tribute band can be found swilling a pint or two. In the same pub you might find one Milo Lewis. Tour manager of Elvis Costello. Milo's mum Judy Gascoyne was Bob Dylan's housekeeper at Forelands Farm, Bembridge for the 1969 festival. Performing occasionally at the Travellers you may catch up with Dick Taylor, founding member of the Rolling Stones.

Turn your attention to Yarmouth and **The Kings Head** in a quiet corner on a winter's night around 1992 you would have found Robyn Hitchcock. Who? Yes Robyn Hitchcock is one of those people who is a cult hero in the USA but over here struggles to survive in the underground music scene. His album was recorded in Yarmouth and the back cover features the a photo of the Church with the sleeve notes giving a credit to the kitchen staff at **The Kings Head** and Gossips Cafe in the Square.



Andy Skelton Fabba



Glen Annett Fabba



Robyn Hitchcock at Sea

P.S. Next time I write there may well be someone who you want to tell me about. If you know any good stories please e-mail me at:
 peter.vaguelysunnypromotions@tinyworld.co.uk

Vaguely Sunny
 for details about Isle of Wight gigs log on to
www.iowrock.net

THE VOLUNTEER
 Victoria Street, Ventnor Tel: 052537
Isle of Wight
 CAMRA
Pub of the Year
 Sorry: No chips, children, juke box, TV, or fruit machines
 Just good beer and a great atmosphere
 Check out our website: www.volunteer-inn.com



The Men of Wight Morris Dancers

Thursdays (unless stated otherwise)

June

19th 8pm The 3 Bishop's Brighstone.
9pm The Red Lion, Freshwater.
With the Oyster Girls.

26th 8pm The Ship Anson, Portsmouth.
9pm The Clarence, Gosport.

July

3rd 8pm Ryde Castle, Esplanade,
9pm The Ponda Rosa, Ashey

10th 8pm The Battery Inn. Seaview.
With the Wight Bells.

17th 8pm The Albion, Freshwater Bay.
9pm The Highdown Inn, Totland.

24th 8pm Orchards Caravan Park, New
bridge.

9pm The Sun, Hulverstone.

31st 8pm White Horse Inn, Whitwell.
9pm The Buddle Inn, Niton

August

7th 8pm Vernon Cottage, Shanklin
9.15pm Shanklin Sea Front (clock
tower)

14th 8pm The Barns, Arreton
With the Wight Bells

21st 8pm The Albion, Freshwater Bay.
9pm The Bugle Inn, Yarmouth.
With the Oyster Girls

23rd (Saturday) 11am Havenstreet Steam-up

28th 8pm The Taverners, Godshill.
9pm The Rookley Inn, Rookley

September

4th 8pm The Mill Bay, Ventnor
9pm The Spyglass, Ventnor

11th 8pm Sandown Sea Front
9pm The Crb & Lbstr, Bembridge

The Oyster Girls

(Days vary)

June

25th 8pm Ventnor seafront
9pm The Spyglass, Ventnor

July

9th 8pm Sandown seafront, nr the pier

13th 12 noon Vernon Cottage, Shanklin
16th 8pm Worsley Court, Wroxall
9pm The Buddle Inn, Niton.
26th 3pm Freshwater Summer Fete
All Saints School, Freshwater

29th June - 12 Noon

Ventnor Botanic Gardens

A Fun Day Sunday to Remember
with dancing, a picnic and silly sports
(weather permitting.)

*Dancers from all island groups are invited
to join in. this fund-raiser for the Hospice.*

August

3rd 12 noon The Old Smithy, Godshill
13th 8pm The Globe, Cowes

21st 8pm The Albion, Freshwater Bay
9pm The Bugle Inn, Yarmouth

23rd 11am Havenstreet Steam-up

September

7th 12 noon Sandown seafront
14th 12 noon The Old Smithy, Godshill

Mr Baker's Dozen

Mr Baker's Dozen is a traditional English
Folk Dance Side who dance at various loca-
tions, on various days of the week for eve-
rybody's delight and delectation

June

23rd 8pm The Globe Cowes
9pm The Woodvale Gurnard

July

14th 8pm Orchards Caravan Park New
bridge
9pm The Bugle Yarmouth Square

26th 12 noon Carisbrooke Castle

28th 8pm Cask and Taverners Godshill
9pm Rookley Country Park

August

11th 8pm The Wight Mouse Chale
9pm The Buddle Inn Niton

September

8th 8pm Bargemans Rest Newport
9pm The Folly Inn

New Old Faces at the POW

As with previous landlord Bob Horton, Ruth Watson was a regular at the **Prince of Wales**, Newport long before she took on the licence for the pub last October. In those days, she was a residential care home manager, so the move to running a pub wasn't too much of a change (and a lot less paperwork)! Ruth is helped in running the pub by her partner, Ben Murgatroyd, and a continuing



Careful does it!

process of im-
provements, such as quiz nights and live music, and subtle refurbishment has helped to swell the clientele. Apart from the fact that they're a very engaging couple, what has also helped has been a great improvement in the quality and variety of real ales on offer. The staple beers are **Ushers Best** and the magnificent **Oakleaf Hole-Hearted** from Gosport, and there's also a guest beer always on tap. Although neither Ruth nor Ben have been real ale drinkers, they've been very diligent in seeking advice from CAMRA about the best beers to keep, and how to look after them. The result is that beer quality and variety are consistently excellent, which has earned them a well-deserved place in the next GBG.

Brian Jacobs


HALL & WOODHOUSE
Brewery Visitor Centre



Soak up the atmosphere of a working brewery on our guided tours
View our collection of brewing artefacts
Sample our ales & enjoy traditional pub fare in our unique restaurant
Our Brewery Visitor Centre is open:
Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 5.30pm
Brewery Tours run at set times so please call to reserve your place
Adults £4.50 Concessions £3.50 Children £2.50
(Price includes one free pint or soft drink)
Evening tours & group bookings by arrangement
Conference & Meeting Room Facilities also available
Call 01258 452141

Would you like us to write something about your pub?

JUST TELL US

Wightwash?

Tel 721557

or email

editor@wightwash.org.uk

The Village Inn

Shanklin Old Village

Open lunchtimes and evenings

for lunches, snacks, evening meals and REAL ALE

Good Food, Fine Wine and Fine Ale. Tel: 862514

Sunday Roast

includes

Free Glass of Wine

Live
Entertainment
Every Night

Summer is a Commie' in !

Well it's the first of May, the sun is shining and the birds are singing outside.

Yes it's Mayday where Morris Dancers all over the UK and yes, even the world will have been up before dawn to dance the sun up to ensure a good Summer where the crops grow well and the women are fertile (Oh and the men are fertile too !!).

The Men of Wight met as usual at Mottistone Car Park at 04:30hrs and walked up the footpath to the Long Stone in the dark. On arrival they were refreshed with a cask of Ventnor Golden donated by Ventnor Brewery. You must have heard the slogan Men of Wight Morris Men Powered by Ventnor Brewery!! The cask is traditionally stood on the Longstone for all to enjoy and a pint is poured over the stones to bring good luck for the coming year.

There was an audience of around 70 people who had also risen early to watch the Men dance the Sun up. The weather was overcast and windy but not too cold. We danced but the sun decided to hide its face this morning, we hoped for a window in the clouds to let us see the sun appear over the horizon but it was not to be. However it did not rain until we had stopped dancing and then only a few drops. The traditional mayday song was sung and everybody joined in a massive Circasian Circle around the Longstone.

As usual as we walk down from the Longstone through Mottistone Wood there is a wonderful deep green carpet under the trees which as one watches it turns blue from the Bluebell flowers showing up. It is quite magical and uplifting. Make a promise to yourself to come on up with us next year.


This is the start of the dancing season where we "happy folkers" will be dancing around the pubs of the Island. There are many different dance sides on the Island who dance out during the summer at the Island pubs. (See some programmes on page 10) As has been said before we are keeping the traditions of England alive and hopefully bring some entertainment and joy to those who drag themselves away from the bar to come out to watch us.

Please, if you see a side dancing outside a pub or at a country show come and watch. It really does help us if we have an audience we then have somebody to dance for, this makes us all leap higher and thus drink more beer!!

The collection that all sides make goes to



Fat Cat Bar
Sandpipers



Freshwater Bar
www.freshwaterpub.co.uk

local charities and some running costs of the sides. Some of the local charities that have been supported by the dance sides are, Earl Mountbatton Hospice, Cowes Inshore Lifeboat, Naomi House, Marie Curie Cancer Care and many others.

So I have done my pleading to the general punter, there is another group I would like to appeal to:-

LANDLORDS!

We get a very mixed response from them; some are very friendly and other down right indifferent!! Here you have a group of 15 or so dancers and families turn up at their hostelry all buying one or two drinks and entertaining the punters for half an hour at least, for free!

The best Landlord who looks after us I dare not name, as he would be embarrassed, he tries to let everybody think he is very mean, but he runs the most southerly pub on the Isle of Wight. He always puts a donation in to the hat as it goes round supplies a gallon of beer for the dancers and a tray of chips, yes really he does!

Others give us the "oh it's you lot again" greeting and that is all. We only ask to be made to feel welcome so we can carry on the traditions of Olde England.

So please Landlords make the men and women of the folk dance sides of the Island welcome. We are part of the local colour for Island, and a draw for customers.

So to end, we all hope that everybody has a successful summer with lots of sunshine in the day and rain at night.

Take Care all and Wassail !

The Happy Folkers

Illustration by Chris Molon

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