

# Five Years On

Don't time fly when you're enjoying yourself. It only seems a few weeks ago when Nick Ward and John Nicholson caught me unawares and coaxed me into the job of editor. At that time, although Wightwash had been in regular production for several years, its future was in the balance. The suggestion was to amalgamate it with Ale Mail, the Portsmouth branch news letter. I was reluctant to see this happen, concerned that it might lead to a disappearance of the Isle of Wight branch as a separate entity. After some words of encouragement from Chris Bleach, the then editor of Ale Mail, and assurances from Messrs Ward and Nicholson that I would be flooded with articles via email, I decided to have a go.

My first step was to write to all the Isle of Wight members and ask for volunteer contributors and distributors. The first two members to reply were Brian Snellgrove and Ken Trace - well, that was Totland sorted! Since then I have lost count of the number of people - members and non-members - who have given up their spare time to help me. I haven't got space to name them all but I must give a special "thank-you" to Paul Mattick who comes to the rescue every time I find myself in a cold sweat staring at a mass of blank pages. To him and all the rest of the Wightwash gang -

*Cheers!*



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



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

Signed.....

Date.....

# Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 20

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

## Summer 2004 Issue

In this *FREE*

# Bumper

## 5th Birthday Issue

(Yes, it's five years since our re-launch)

win tickets to the **Great British Beer Festival;**

The **Ghost of Ventnor Brewery;** **Vaguely Sunny;**

**Pub of the Year;**  
**News and Gossip**  
and lots, lots more...



The hit counter at  
[www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk)  
has passed  
**12,500**



[www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk](http://www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk)

*Yates' Brewery*

at the

**Inn at St Lawrence**

*the "Real" local brewery*

[www.yates-brewery.co.uk](http://www.yates-brewery.co.uk)



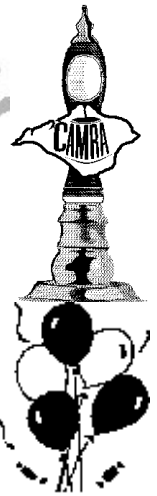
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Well, the votes have been counted, the winners announced and, hopefully, a good few pints of ale have been drunk by the winning landlords. So, if you missed the announcement on **Isle of Wight Radio**, you just might want to know the results. Another interesting ballot this year – since Edgar left the **Blacksmiths** and these shores, the league's been wide open. Last year it was a stunning win for the **Volly** at Ventnor, this year, in spite of a change of landlord, they've only dropped three places to fourth. That might seem a strange achievement to celebrate, but if you consider that a pub is only as good as its landlord, then you might expect the departure of long-established Tim Saul to have sent his former pub tumbling down the table. So well done the **Volunteer** – it's hung in there and that speaks volumes about its new landlord (and landlady!).

Next up, and two points ahead of the **Volly**, and unchanged from last year's position, was the perennial **Traveller's Joy** at Northwood, still offering the widest choice of beer on the Island, and still well favoured by local drinkers.

Climber of the year is the **Fat Cat** at Freshwater, which has leapt from eighth position last year to a richly deserved second this time around. Many local CAMRA members will now be familiar with the pub through the two excellent beer festivals it's staged, but, if you've not visited the pub itself yet, then it's well worth the trek to Freshwater Bay to sample the ever-changing range of four real ales from regionals and microbreweries up and down the country. Well done to Jay and the team, and well done, too, to Airon at **Ventnor Brewery** for finding all the amazing beers to supply the **Fat Cat**.

And finally, the glittering prize goes, at last, to Andy and Margaret at the **Solent Inn**, Ryde. **The Solent's** enjoyed a meteoric rise through the rankings since they took over the pub, so it was almost inevitable that it would eventually hit the top spot. Why did it win? A great combination of a good range of beers (usually four or more on at any one time), which Andy nurtures with infinite care, a rapid turnover of cask beer, which means that you're always assured of a pint in top condition, and a lovely, ancient, back-street pub, quite unspoilt and with a terrific atmosphere. Most importantly, Andy listens to his customers and gives them what they want. The only downside is that he turns over so much real ale, you'll often find that your favourite has just been drunk dry! So the top accolade goes to the **Solent**, and with good reason.

And just in case those winning landlords might feel inclined to take a deserving rest on their laurels, they should cast their eyes down below the top four to see that pubs like the **White Lion** at Niton, the **Yarbridge Inn** and the **Railway Medina** are rising through the poll, and could soon be snapping at their heels.

Beer of the year, once again, was **Ventnor Golden**, narrowly clearing **Goddards GSB**, and to complete the hat trick of Island breweries, **Yates' Undercliff Experience** fetched up in third place. It's good, once again, to see all three breweries in the top spots, so congratulations to Xavier, Chris and Dave for their splendid and continuing efforts.

**Brian Jacobs**

## Win Tickets to the Great British Beer Festival.

**We have 10 tickets to give away for the Saturday session (7th August).**

Just answer the following ridiculously easy questions; **but be quick** - the first correct answers will get the tickets!

1. Which member of the Royal family is involved in a campaign to save rural pubs and make them more viable?
2. Approximately how many members does CAMRA have: 22,000, 42,000 or 72,000?
3. Which cockney duo that hit the charts in the 1970s and 80s will be playing at the Great British Beer Festival this year?
4. How much does it cost to join CAMRA as a single member: £16, £32 or £40?
5. How many pints of beer in one gallon?
6. Which famous British brewery is based in Southwold in Suffolk: Tetleys, Fullers or Adnams?
7. What was the average price of draught bitter in 1994 according to the British Beer and Pub Association: 99pence, £1.42, £1.87?
8. According to CAMRA's research approximately how many pubs are closing down in Britain every month: 5, 10, 20?

Send you answers to:

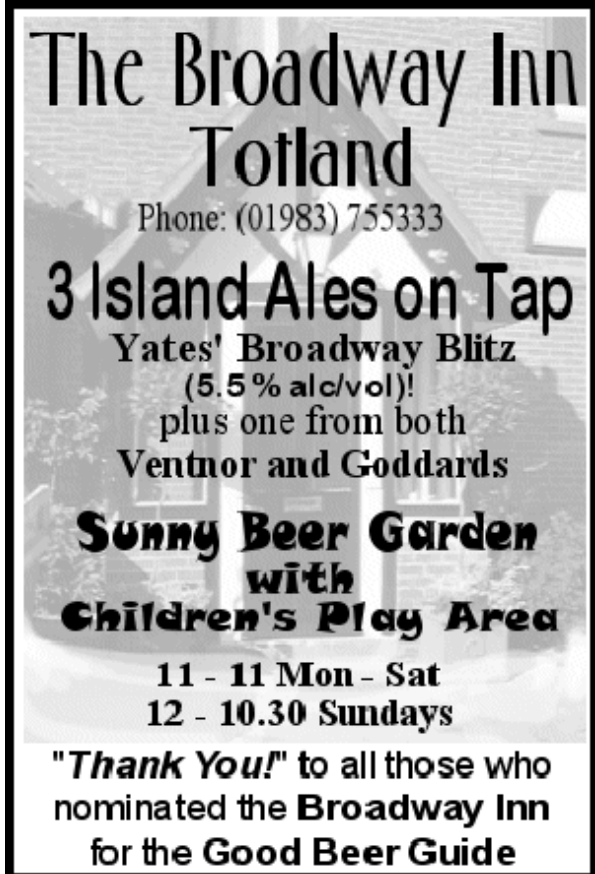
The Editor  
Wightwash  
Oakdene  
Rookley  
Ventnor  
Isle of Wight  
PO38 3NH

or email

[editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

### Answers to Spring Quiz

- 1/ The Terminus, Ventnor
- 2/ The Dolphin, Newport
- 3/ The Eagle, Newport
- 4/ The Walmer Castle, Ventnor (aka The Drum and Monkey)
- 5/ Sailor's Home, St. Helens
- 6/ The Sun, Newport
- 7/ The Star, Niton
- 8/ The Sloop Inn, Newport  
Keith Brookes from Shanklin wins a case of Ventnor Beer.



**The Broadway Inn  
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**3 Island Ales on Tap**  
**Yates' Broadway Blitz**  
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plus one from both  
**Ventnor and Goddards**

**Sunny Beer Garden  
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Children's Play Area**

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**"Thank You!" to all those who  
nominated the Broadway Inn  
for the Good Beer Guide**



## Discover the Magnificent 700 at the Great British Beer Festival London Olympia, 3rd -7th August

*Louise Ashworth, CAMRA's Marketing Manager tells us all about it...*

This festival brings together the widest beer range from around the country with a hand-picked selection of over 700 real ales, ciders and perries.

There is also live entertainment and music, traditional pub games and a fine selection of food including many pub favourites.

Our enthusiastic bar staff are also happy to advise you on the wide-ranging international choice of beers and real lagers from all around the world at Bières sans frontières.

Cider drinkers will find a wide choice of real ciders on offer at the Real Cider and Perry Bar and there is also a large range of bottled real ales for you to enjoy at the Bottled Beer Bar.

There are dozens of different bars at the festival and you will find many of your favourites. As well as the tastes on offer, you could attend one of our tutored beer tastings hosted by our international team of beer experts; this year the tastings include Beer and Chocolate and Belgian Beers.

Not only is a trip to the Great British Beer Festival an enjoyable day out, if you book your tickets in advance you can save money. Book your ticket by 23rd July and receive a £1 discount on all single session tickets. If you are a CAMRA member you will also receive an additional discount.

CAMRA welcomes families to the festival and provides a Family Room with entertainers and games open until 9pm every night. Children must be supervised by a family member at all times and under 18s must remain within the Family Room.

For further information, please visit the festival website [www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org) or telephone CAMRA on 01727 867201. The Great British Beer Festival is open every day from

Tuesday 3rd August to Saturday 7th August and full details of opening times, prices and live music can be found at [www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org) or on our Information Line 0900 525 2525 (calls to this number cost 60p per minute). Tickets can be booked online or by telephoning 01727 867201; discounts are available for CAMRA members.

Remember to leave your car at home as London Olympia is easily reached by public transport.

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## Wightwash and the Web

[www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk)

You may have noticed from the front page that our website recently registered its 12,500<sup>th</sup> hit. In fact, the site is being looked at several hundred times a week.

That means that people from all over the country (and possibly all over the world) are reading about YOUR PUB.

To ensure I have the correct details, **please** have a look at the site and let me know if anything needs altering.

I can't keep the site up to date without YOUR help.

Cheers!

Tim ([editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk))

## Pub of the Year Results at a Glance

First - The Solent Inn, Ryde

Second - The Fat Cat Bar, Freshwater Bay

Third - The Traveller's Joy, Northwood

Forth - The Volunteer, Ventnor

Fifth - The Yarbridge Inn, Brading

## Beer of the Year

First - Ventnor Golden Bitter

Second - Goddards Special Bitter

Third - Undercliff Experience - Yates' Brewery

(For a full statistical analysis, [www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk))

**The Pub of the Year Awards will be made by**

**John Hannam of Isle of Wight Radio**

**On 10th August at the Solent Inn, Ryde**

## Advertisement for Solent Inn



From *Paul Mattick*

If you are wondering why this issue of **Wightwash** has arrived slightly later than normal, then wonder no more because I, and I alone have a valid excuse for holding up the printers, reporters and volunteer distributors (Which I might add are worth their weight in Ale). It all started six weeks ago when I was aboard a friends Sailing Boat 'Tloga'. We had finished our race and were heading back to base when I heard a distinctive cry of 'DUCK'. Thinking that Skipper **Ken Dye** was informing us of what he was having for dinner when he got home I was knocked on the bonce by the boom and accordingly spent the night at St Mary's Hospital nursing a cut and a rather nasty headache! Anyway I'm better now (wibble wibble), but let that be a lesson to all of you sailors for the future. One thing I can't understand is why oh why do they call it a boom and not a 'bang' because that's the noise I heard when it hit me!

**Goddard's** head brewer **Chris Coleman** is delighted with the result of a **blind tasting** that took place recently at the **Reading Beer Festival**. About 40 or so ales were

judged by the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) who grade each beer in the usual way not knowing whose is whose. These blind judges then take the results (via their guide dogs?) to be counted up, the result being in favour of not one but two of Mr Coleman's brews. In their classes **God-dards Special Bitter** won the Gold Medal with a silver medal going to **Inspiration**. To top it all **Special Bitter** won the overall silver medal only to be beaten by **Cheriton Brewery's Village Elder**. The brewery itself is at the moment gearing up for the summer season of which Chris expects to be as busy as last year, and with the Nokia Pop Festival a stones throw from his house it wouldn't surprise me if you don't see him selling sandwiches and beer from his garden drive!!

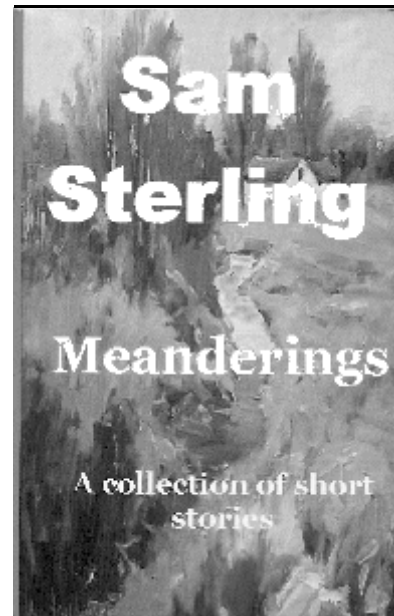
Although the Isle of Wight branch scheme **BeerPoint** is still in its embryonic stage, it has already been spotted by the Rural Community Council as an example of "good practice and innovation". BeerPoint, the brain-child of branch chairman, John Nicholson, will encourage, promote and

There is a gentle stirring in West Wight after a longish quiet spell which has been the general trend for business in general and the pubs in particular. The close season has seen a new kitchen at the WATERFRONT which is always a sign of things to come. The WHITE HART changed hands recently but no startling changes to be seen but then are any needed in this busy pub? The FAT CAT beer festival went off well with I believe is a better result than before—word must be getting round. I have at last had a meal there in a party of 30 for which I can give them full marks all round—must go again! Paul from the COLWELL BAY will by now have taken over the BUDDLE so we hope the Milly Road will stand up to some high speed traffic. There is something about the PRINCE OF WALES because the Abbott always seems to taste better there than almost anywhere else - is it because they hand wash the glasses? I think we have all got used to the BU-GLE in its new guise and it is almost as if it had always been like it. There is something comforting in finding pubs unchanged in the West while in the East alterations, enlargements and fancy names are always appearing, presumably in efforts to attract more trade. You will note that there is little comment about beers—well, with a good variety and excellent cellarmanship what would one expect—let's face it no business on the Island survives long if it falls down in any way—the grape vine is much faster than the post.

**Brian Snellgrove**

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# THE CHEQUERS INN

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**This story starts about a year ago when I received an email from the island of Efate, in the South Seas.**

The sender, Derek Fountaine wanted to know if I knew anything about a pub called **The Chequers** in Rookley that he could remember from his childhood. I replied that I was just on my way there for my Sunday lunchtime pint and we have been corresponding ever since. Derek has a very interesting story to tell, educated (or "partially educated" as I'm sure he would wish to point out) at Rookley School he emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and 2 children in 1966 working first as a mechanical engineer and then as a telephonist.



*Derek (just under the bear's nose and flanked by two pretty maids) aged 6 on a Rookley School trip to Blackgang Chine in 1948*

About ten years ago he saw an article in a local newspaper regarding a boarder from Vanutu who was studying at the local Boy's High School. The boy needed somewhere to stay while the school hostel closed for the holidays. Derek contacted the school and told them they had a guest room and the boy was welcome to it. One became four, then four became eight... Soon Derek and his wife Evelyn were playing 'Mamma mo Papa' to seventeen Melanesian teenagers. This inspired them to take a couple of holidays in Vanatu and eventually they decided to move there.

A couple of months ago Derek wrote to tell me the news that despite his less than inspiring academic start at Rookley School, he had had his first book published, "**Meanderings**" under the non-de-plume of Sam Sterling. Derek had been writing stories for some time but publishers had been reticent. However in 2002 the BBC World Service selected one of his stories and placed it in the fifteen finalists of their Short Story Competition. It was read on air in February 2003 and the publishing deal arrived shortly after.

"**Meanderings**" is an amazing mixture of short stories from the rural to the supernatural. If you would like to read a sample story, go to our website [www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk) and follow the link on the News Page.

I'm rather hoping that Derek's next book will be an autobiography!

**Tim Marshall**

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**Island Ales** have settled in well since moving to their new location. The open day was a success and was well attended by existing customers and a few new ones! They were also well supported by the trade, which included **Courage, Youngs, Fullers** and **Hartridges** to name but

a few. **Steve Minshull** told me that he was looking forward to a very busy summer and gave me a list of Ales available that were as long as yer arm, some of which included **St Austel, Sheppard Neame, Youngs, Thwaites, Ringwood**, etc, etc (need I go on!). One of the newest that will be on offer was a range of **Titanic Brewery Beers - White Star (4.2%ABV) and Captain Smith's Strong Ale (5.2%ABV)** are a couple to look out for, apparently they go down well and it's guaranteed not to come back up when you get home! **Youngs** and **Thwaites** bottled beers are also available, and for every bottle of **Thwaites Libera-**



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**tion Ale** that is purchased, 10p will be donated to the Royal British Legion for the D-day celebrations.

The newly opened **Driftwood Bar and Grill**, Sandown has the distinction of being one of the very few bars in the UK to have a license to sell drink directly onto the beach. As the cooled cellar is situated some distance away, the beer is piped under the sand and up into the bar.

Incidentally, help will soon be at hand for all those of you that have trouble keeping your beer cold at picnics and barbecues -

**The Volunteer**

Victoria Street, Ventnor Tel: 852507

*Mike and Heather Janvrin invite you to partake in one of 8 Real Ales (all in tip top condition) in the Island's smallest pub.*



the self cooling can! Temptra Technology of Florida has signed a deal with **Bass, Heineken, Coke, Pepsi and Budweiser.** The Instant Cool (IC) can works by using the principle of water evaporation.

I've been asked by **Robin Tangleferret** (sorry Robin, I don't know your surname but I know what you drink) to point out that **Salvatore's** in Ryde (aka **The Swan's Nest**) serve a great pint. At the moment, **Goddards** and **Bass** are at hand and with guest ales available as well it's understandable why **Jeff Uncle** drinks there! The ales are well looked after and as a sideline they do excellent grub.

**Badger Brewery** has just had the honour of inviting me for a brewery visit. (Well in reality I was on our yearly pub trip). If you have been before it may be worth going again as they now have their new hospital-ity suite up and running. This time last year I reported on how the **Isle of Wight Hockey Club** had been promoted. The reason I am writing about them again is because they have been promoted once again. Their games will be a lot harder next season. Let's hope that they can do the same again next year. Treasurer **Dave Reynolds** would like to thank **Badgers** on behalf of



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Live music every Friday  
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the Club for sponsoring them and he, along with a coach full of players look forward to a brewery visit in the not too distant future.

**Archers** of Swindon invited several Island landlords to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Great Western Steam Museum in May. They were treated to a tour of the museum and a tour of the brewery, situated in the old weighing sheds, by Canadian brewer, Carey Foree.

Steve Taylor is now the **Beer Seller** representative for the Isle of Wight.

Mandy Metcalf and Lorraine Shearing, Niton residents raised over £1000 for the local pre-school with a cricket competition featuring a pre-school team, Ventnor Rugby Club, Ventnor Cricket Club and Ventnor Football Club. I'm afraid I don't know who won. I do hope it was the pre-school team as they can only have been 2 to 3½ years old. **Ventnor Brewery** donated a barrel of **Golden Bitter** (4%) and **David Yates** created a beer especially for the occasion. "It was about 4.6ish," said David.

**Other Yates' News.**  
The wholesale side of the business is

shop, exploding on the lawn of the house next to the brewery, the Phillips family home, where tragically Jack Phillips' wife Mary, and his father William (Bill) Arthur were killed instantly. His youngest sister, Pamela, died later from her injuries. So do war-time events shed any light on the haunting at the brewery?


"No-one knows who the ghost actually is, but there has been talk of one here for years," said Xavier. "I think that he is benign and friendly," "He was seen most recently by a young woman visitor who noticed a man wearing old-fashioned clothes, standing at the top floor window looking down. His sleeves were rolled up as if ready for work. We sometimes hear him whistling when the building is empty, and he has also been seen waving from the window of a disused storeroom. So, does he haunt his old workplace? Whoever the ghost is, he still like his ale and clearly has no time for other beverages. When Xavier and Airon bought some traditional cider with a view to selling it as part of the Ventnor Brewery range, they found the three stone flagons had been thrown across the room and smashed. "It couldn't have happened by accident. It had been done deliberately in the night and when we found the broken jugs next morning it was as if he was trying to tell us he didn't approve of cider in his brewery!" "Apart from that we have had no trouble with him," said Xavier. "I really feel that he's happy the brewery is back in business again and he's keeping an eye on things. We have

even named a beer in his honour now. We call it our **Wight Spirit bitter – Brewed Supernaturally.**"

"I don't know if he still appreciates the brews, but at the dead of night when all is silent, it would be nice to think he has a sup or two and approves of what we're brewing here today."

**If anybody has further information on the Ventnor brewery ghost – or any other stories of haunted pubs please get in touch with Gay who is writing her 6th book on Isle of Wight ghosts. gb@hauntediw.demon.co.uk or telephone on (01983) 294651.**

**The David Yates**  
**“Rookley Open” Golf Championship**  
sponsored by **Yates' Brewery**  
In aid of the Mountbatten Hospice  
**Sunday 1st August**  
Tee Off 2 pm  
£5 Entrance  
Win the Golden Putter!  
Usual Rules  
**Pimms bar on course**  
Information 728100  
Yates' Pondwater @ £1.50 per pint  
Unity Stompers will play Trad Jazz  
3pm - 5pm  
This event is part of the **Rookley Inn Beer Month**



**Warning**  
**The “Rookley Open” is not to be taken seriously!**



Wearing old-fashioned clothing, complete with starched wing collar and rolled up shirtsleeves, the phantom brewer has been seen at a third floor and labelling room windows, surveying the yard at Ventnor Brewery, while his spirit is also heard whistling in empty rooms.

There's been a brewery on the site since 1840 when **Ventnor Brewery** was opened to take advantage of the remarkably pure spring water, which rises through the chalk spine of St Boniface Down behind. An agreement with the Ventnor Water Company secured an unlimited supply of water for 1,000 years for just 6d (two and a half pence) a year! An arrangement still in force today, but with an additional £250 annual fee for the extraction licence. It became Burt's Brewery in 1860 and for more than a century, Burt's beers were served throughout pubs and inns on the Island. For almost a century

Burt's Brewery was owned and managed by generations of the Phillips family. Today, the Burt's name is owned by InnSpired Inns.

For six years the premises lay derelict. However, when brothers Xavier and Airon Baker re-opened the brewery, with Bob Simpson, they reverted to the original title of **Ventnor Brewery**.

Built as a Victorian tower, which used gravity to brew the beer, the brewery was rebuilt after the war. It suffering damage during a low level air raid on 18 August 1942, which left three local people dead; and a further raid on 17 January 1943, when at just after 5pm, two German Focke Wolfe fighters flew in at sea level - so low that one severed telephone wires - and dropped two 500kg bombs on Ventnor. If their target was the radar station on St Boniface Down behind the town, they missed. The 'tip and run' raid devastated the town instead. One bomb demolished several homes, businesses and an hotel and damaged at least 200 other properties. The other cut through the gable of St Boniface Villa, ricocheted onto the back of a radio



doing very well.

Most of David's beers are now available in bottled form. He has outlets in several village shops including Norris Stores in Niton, who stock **Niton Ale** (5%) and **Niton Strong Ale** (5.5%) as well as an impressive range of other local beers. You can also find Yates' bottled beers in selected post offices including Binstead and Whitwell.

Stocks of **Little Bitter Spring** are running out so production will soon turn to **Little Bitter Summer**. **Holy Joe** is now an all-year-round beer.

All of David's beers are now available in "Bag in a Box" (5, 10, or 20 litres). Just right for a barbecue! Phone 854689 for orders.

David is currently developing a new strong beer. He hasn't arrived at a final decision on the type of hops, but the beer will be darker than the light but strong **Yates' Special Draft**.

**Mike Strand** told me that the new 'Dry hop' **Tanglefoot** has had a mixed reaction following a slight drop in potency from 5.1% to 4.9% ABV. The reason for this drop is so it can be sold nationwide as a

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session ale. Basically (and please bear in mind that this is only my opinion) it works the same way as a shopping spree. When the missus sees a nice top for £9.99, she

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perceives it as under a tenner and buys it. Tanglefoot will probably work

in the same way. If it's less than 5%ABV then you won't fall over. Well that's how I see it anyway. With the football season ended and Euro 2004 just about to start (or well underway if my report is late, which habitually it is) **Badgers** have a couple of guest ales worth looking out for. **Wadworths Summer-sault** (4%ABV) and the appropriately named **Portu-Goal** (4%

ABV) which is a Ruby red beer with a characteristic support from the famous vineyards of Portugal (sounds nice), may possibly be in your local now. It's not often I recommend a beer; in fact I don't think I ever have so here I go. Whilst at the Brewery a Bottle of **Blandford Fly** was passed to me. It's highly addictive and has a curious ginger taste which had me thinking to myself two things, the first being why don't we see it anywhere and sec-

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ondly, why is it in bottles and not available from the hand-pump. There is also a good story behind this beer, which is on the back of the bottle, so you'll have to buy it to find out! (No, I'm not on commission).

The Sealed Knot will be staging a "skirmish" at the Stroud, Freshwater. 250 Roundheads and Cavaliers will be battling it out between midday and 4pm. Thirsty Royalist, Parliamentarians and onlookers will be able to quench their thirsts in the beer tent provided by **Paul and Joanne Kaczmarek** of the **Colwell Bay Inn**.



**Xavier Baker** is so busy at the moment he genuinely didn't have time to speak to me and asked me to ring back in a few days. All I did get out of him was how pleased he was that **Ventnor Gold** was Top of the Pops in the recent **CAMRA** beer of the year poll (as voted by you). I told him I was working to a very tight deadline and was it okay if I made something up on his behalf, of which he said "Do what you want I'm up

to my eyeballs in oysters at the moment". I had a feeling that his girlfriend was into that sort of thing when I saw her effigy on the Ventnor Carnival queen float last summer!

**Xavier** is truly very busy at the moment. He also assured me that next time I should go and see him in person to have a look at the latest alterations as they should have finished by then. Newcomer **Pistol night** went so well in the first three months, the brewery had to employ 20 extra staff to keep up with demand. He did say I could make something up- even though the beer is doing extremely well.

All of the Isle of Wight brewers featured in a 2 full-page article by Jeff Evans in **What's Brewing**, the fantastic national monthly newspaper from CAMRA (worth the subscription fee alone!).

Some bad news! - New research in (yes, you've guessed it) the USA has revealed that drinking alcohol and gout really are related. The worse news is beer drinkers run an even higher risk. As the Times reported: "The image of gout sufferers as cantankerous old men with a fondness for port was shattered yesterday - drinking beer is

## Danny Goodburn

**Danny Goodburn** is an excellent singer/songwriter who has emerged on the Island recently. Danny was born here. Having moved away to Southampton, he returned when he was eighteen. He first became interested in music a few years before that. Danny explained; "I was fifteen when I discovered Prince. He single-handedly led me to the boudoir of funk. That turned me on to music. That man is an inspiration from a business point of view. He built Paisley Park, he organised tours, costumes, he put all his money back in." So how did Danny begin to be involved in music when he returned to the Isle of Wight? He continued; "I found new friends. I went to summer beach parties. We'd all be round the camp fire about three in the morning. That's when the guitar came out. Friends saying 'Go on, Dan, give us a song.' The fire getting lower. I still don't sing with my eyes open. I'm round the camp fire".



Danny does regular gigs at pubs like **The Steamer** in Shanklin, **The Woodvale** at Gurnard and the **Lake Huron** at Haylands.

However, writing your own material and playing in Isle of Wight pubs brings a contradiction which Danny outlined. "I've got a gigs worth of my own songs but no opportunity to play them. It's all 'Can you do American Pie?' 'Hotel California?' and now 'Mad World'?. I try to be as professional as possible. I try to put across an intimacy. I'm a bit too nervous". Danny feels very strongly that it is difficult for musicians to play their own songs in Island pubs. "People are afraid to access their own songs. It's an Achilles heel for them. It doesn't help the art, and that's what I'm really into at the moment. The art of it. It's an expression. I wrote two songs of my own last night, but I've forgotten 'Desperado'".

Danny has a forthcoming CD release on Island-based label - A Town Full Of Fonzies. He told me how that association came about. "I've known Mark Little for years. Rick Stansbridge gave a tape of my songs to him. Mark started the label and looked around for anyone who wasn't in The Bees." The highly respected Ian Capel, well known for his work with The Tindersticks, will be producing the CD. Danny gave me an insight into what we can expect. "The album will be called 'American National Park'. My music tends to be a bit like one -very picturesque. Too remote and with all the Smashing Pumpkins, Rage Against The Machine and Pearl Jam's in there. There's not much Kinks or Beatles, although you could say that the tunes are quintessentially English, all that Blur, Jumpers For Goalposts type stuff, but the lyrical influences are American." We will keep you posted.

**Vic King**

Check out the **Vaguely Sunny** website [www.iowrock.net](http://www.iowrock.net) for a current gig guide.

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**St. Helens Old Church**

This old church which stands on the beach at St Helens has been gradually eroded by the tide and has been a ruin for over a hundred years. It was built as a Cluniac Priory Church in 1080 by monks and administered by them until Henry VIII suppressed the "Alien" priories when it became the parish church. Sadly the sea steadily encroached and in 1720 a huge wave destroyed all but the tower.

A new church was built further inland but the old tower still acts as a landmark to sailors as it has done for the last 700 years.

Back in the days of the "wooden walls of England" men of war routinely anchored close by at Spithead. It was customary to send boats ashore to St. Helens where the fresh water stream was reputed to supply a water which was resistant to fungal growth. Green stagnant water was sometimes all that the "gallant tars" got during a long voyage.

As a bonus acquisition the boats would often draw in by the ruins of the old church to pick up pieces of stone which littered the tideline. In texture, something like pumice, these stones were used for scouring the wooden decks.

Naturally the sailors called them holy stones.

The term *holystoning* to describe scouring a deck is still in common use in the Royal Navy.

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more likely to give rise to the painful disease."

Some International News - German politicians, sports fans and beer drinkers are fuming after learning that the International Football Federation has made an exclusive deal with **Anheuser-Busch** and McDonald's for beer and food sales during the 2006 World Cup (soccer) tournament. The deal means that local German breweries and sausage makers will not be able to sell their products in and around the football stadiums. There is some hope that a compromise can be reached in time for the competition.

As I am writing this, **Carling**, sponsors of the Isle of Wight Rock Festival are coming to terms with supplying 35,000 people with beer. Last year they sold 18,000 bottles of beer. But this year, with 2½ times more customers expected, they have changed tactics and gone for draft beer. Six engineers have been despatched to erect four MDUs (Multiple Dispense Units). Each can pour 16 pints at a time. Several large tankers are on their way from the Carling breweries in Alton and Burton bringing half a million

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pints of beer. Carling's National Accounts Manager for Outside Events revealed that statistics from last years festival gave the Island the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest beer consumption per capita and only just behind Glasgow.

That's all for now folks!

*Paul*

**Members**  
Have you got email?  
Please let Ken Matthews know at  
**camraiw@aol.com**  
so that we can keep you bang up to date!

**Advert for the Anchor**

Friday 25th June - **Wightwash's Birthday Party** Traveller's Joy, All Welcome.

The following dates are all part of the Ryde Arts Festival

Tuesday 6th July **Jake Rodrigues** (zany comedy) Yelfs Cellar Bar, Ryde, 8.30pm £5

Wednesday 7th July **Keith Gore** (a sideways look) Yelfs Cellar Bar, Ryde 8pm £3

Thursday 8th **Elizabeth Courtney & Guests** (cello recital) All Saints Church 7.30pm £5

Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th

#### Writers Block

a philosophical comedy by Island playwright Graham Macfarlane  
Ryde School & Upper Chine School Theatre 8pm £5

Saturday 17th July **Sealed Knot Skirmish**, The Stroud, Freshwater. Noon. BEER TENT

Tuesday 27th July, **Business Meeting**, Sun Inn, Calbourne 8.30 pm

Sunday 1st August **Rookley Open Golf Championships**, Rookley Inn 2pm £5  
(part of the Rookley Inn Month of Beer 1st - 31st August)

Wednesday 25th August

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3rd - 7th August **Great British Beer Festival**, London Olympia

Tuesday 10th August **Pub of the Year Awards**, Solent Inn, Ryde 7.30pm

Friday 27th August **Social Get-Together Bank**

Holiday Steam-Up & Beer Festival  
Havenstreet Station

28th September **Business Meeting, & Walk**  
**About** Wheatsheaf, Yarmouth 8.30pm

### A Mystery

*The Osborne Inn, East Cowes*

Corrall McCormack wrote to tell us that her dad had recently purchased a pewter tankard from a charity shop in Amersham, Bucks.

There is an inscription on the bottom which reads **R Colley, Osborne Inn, East Cowes.**

Does anyone know anything about the Osborne Inn, East Cowes or indeed R. Colley?

Phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

Photos of the tankard can be found on our web-

site: [www.wightwash.org.uk](http://www.wightwash.org.uk)

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In a "prequel" (well, if Speilburg can get away with it, why can't we) to Jeff Ledicott's excellent articles on the history of the Island's Mew Langton brewery, we look at...

## Life Before Mews

The four present Island breweries follow a rich tradition of brewing within these hallowed shores. Fourteen breweries celebrated the arrival of the 20th century, and a far greater number had already closed by then. Ryde, alone, boasted eleven breweries in 1857, including several with tied estates, the Lake Huron for example, was owned by George Lake's Eagle Brewery. As well as the many Newport breweries, there were also breweries in the smaller Island towns. The Village Inn at Bembridge occupies the site of a brewery which, according to Boulay's

'Bembridge Past and Present' was where visiting ships "refreshed themselves with many a barrel of home-brewed ale ..... and even if the fleet did at times drink the Brewery dry, a boat load of this commodity could always be obtained from the Brading Brewery, just opposite the stocks". This institution was owned by one Edward Rychardes who "made

**At one time there were no fewer than 148 breweries on the Isle of Wight, and of these, 44 were in Ventnor!**



so much money by selling beer to ships visiting the harbour (at that time, a sea inlet, Brading Haven, allowed ships to reach the town) that he ultimately bought Yaverland (Manor)". No doubt the present-day microbreweries would long for that level of profit! Jack Phillips, who used to run the old Burts Brewery at Ventnor, also recalls a brewery adjacent to the Anglers Arms at Brading, the 'Isle of Wight Brewery'. Auction particulars from 1900 indicate that it was of quite a reasonable size.

The demise of many of these local breweries was triggered by the acquisitive zeal of Benjamin Mew, whose brewery dominated Island brewing more than the next hundred years.

*The above article was taken from the Isle of Wight Pub Guide*

*The handy pocket-sized book is packed with articles, maps, and crucial information about every pub on the Island. Yours for only £3.75. Don't leave home without one! Phone (01983) 721557 or email camraiw@aol.com*

Look out for Jeff Ledicott's completion of the **Mew Langton Story** in the next issue of

*Wightwash*