

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 56



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Summer Issue 2013

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

Marston's Open Merrie Garden



The Island has yet another brand new pub; this time owned by the Marston's Group. The group, formally known as Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries

own several breweries and brands including Ringwood, Wychwood, Jennings, Banks, Mansfield and Brakspear. Although they own over two thousand pubs across England and Wales, this is their first Isle of Wight pub. It is anticipated that Marston's will use the pub to run training schemes including cellar management courses.

And in other Isle of Wight pub news -

Derek and Ruth Call it a Day

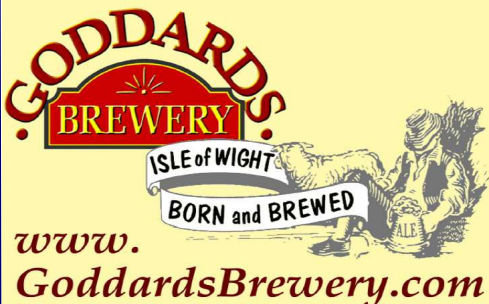
The Traveller's Joy is on the market - lease or freehold.

Island Pub Groups Add to their Portfolios

Inns of Distinction have added the Stag, Parkhurst and the Character Group have added the Bugle, Brading.

"Spoons" Move into Uptown Newport

Wetherspoons have confirmed that they have purchased Temptation nightclub.



Yates' Brewery Report.

The new beer for the summer is **Sunfire** rekindled by Bob Simpson and Xavier Baker, last brewed at Ventnor Brewery in 1996. As before it's 4.3% abv and it's an amber / orange colour with a citrus floral aroma. It's brewed with triple hops and is on sale now.



The abv of **TropicAle** has been lowered to 4.5% and is available in bottles. This is to encourage sales at Ventnor Botanic Gardens and also in their café. The brewery has supplied all beers for the Gaffers festival again (a super selection) and also will supply the beer for the Real Ale Bar at the Isle of Wight festival. (Hope it stays sunny.)

The bottle side of things is doing extremely well as is the barrel side, keeping Dave Snr. and Ollie very busy. The brewery has submitted two beers for the bar at the Great British Beer festival (more about that next time). Here's to a super sunny summer and a chance to sample some great beer.

Lorraine Daish B.L.O.

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Goddard's Brewery Report.

Goddards have extended three of the fermenters, giving them a theoretical brew length of 90 firkins. So far they're doing brews of 75 firkins, and are just ensuring they have sufficient fridging liquor for the extended brew length. The Brewery brew length project has now been completed.

Last year they installed a new grist case and mash tun to take their brew length (batch size in brewer-speak) up by 50%. One brew now produces up to 6,500 pints (22.5 brewer's barrels), and helps improve the efficiency of the plant.

Goddards have produced a new mild in May in collaboration with Windsor & Eton



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brewery. It's been available at several local pubs, including the Newport and Cowes Alehouses, the Pilot Boat at Bembridge, and

the Waterfront at Shanklin.

Goddards celebrated their 20th anniversary on 13th June. They now have a contract to supply Enterprise.

Hoppiness: is available from 9th June. They've dropped the abv a bit to 4.5%, but with the same intense hoppiness.

Inspiration: Goddards did three brews (normally only one) which shows how popular this has been.

Brian Jacobs B.L.O



Join
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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 £25 Joint £30
Over 60 and Under 26 £17.50 (Joint £20.15)

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Address.....

.....

.....

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.....

Take advantage of the CAMRA **direct debit option** with 15 months subscription for the price of 12.
www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201

Wightwash has received an amusing email from Ray Ingles of the Maidstone and Mid Kent branch. Fuggle-Dee-Dum won Beer of the East Malling Beer and Cider Festival and several attempts were made to present Anthony with the certificate. Eventually they managed to present it to Nigel.

Island Brewery Report

Success breeds success, and continued business and growth of volume with Wells & Young and with Wadsworth, in both directions, continues to rise as relationships flourish, gaining more exposure and demand for Island Brewery beers on the mainland as appreciation spreads afield. Of course, no success is completely without problems, and this increase is threatening another cask shortage, so a move is afoot to pre-empt with an order for yet more casks to keep pace with production!

New to the business, Ashley, Chris's son, and assistant brewer, is now on his 100th

brew, already having devised his own recipe for the much acclaimed **Wight Diamond**, later followed by **Wight Christmas**. And, they have been busy, building up a stock of bottled beers for the summer demand that has jammed the stores full, awaiting to go out.

Reflecting on this year’s Beer of the Year awards, brewery director, Steve Minshull says: “As a Company, we were very honoured in the Beer of the Year awards to have been so recognised, and especially with our connoisseurs’ stout, **RDA** in third place. Also, we were very pleased to see Yates **Yule be Sorry**, gaining a deserved supreme position for a record number of years.” Steve goes on to say, “and, to see Goddard’s flagship **Fuggle-Dee-Dum**, so well appreciated for the marvellous beer that it is. In fact, we are very proud to share such a wonderful heritage of diverse, quality beers with our fellow Island breweries, and particularly would like to congratulate Goddards on being the first to introduce an innovative mild beer, **Collaboration**, this May.”

As BLO and branch Chair, I think that our three breweries are a shining beacon on

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how diversity, quality and friendly rivalry can drive an industry to everybody’s advantage, and it is nice to see this being recognised both on and off the Island. It serves the Isle of Wight to its greater



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benefit and this was endorsed in comments from Pubs and Community Minister, Brandon Lewis, on his recent visit to the Island and the Traveller's Joy. During his visit, a well-received break from his political rounds, he was invited to pull a pint of Island Brewery **Wight Gold** in the company of Head Brewer, Chris Coleman.

John Nicholson B.L.O



Brandon Lewis, John Nicholson and Chris Coleman

Closed pubs

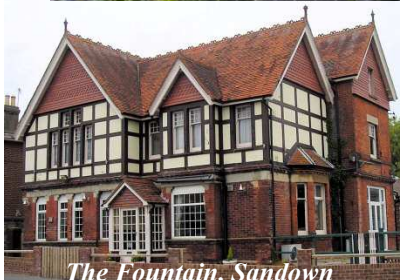
We have been very lucky on the Isle of Wight bucking the national tendency for pub closures. However, there are a few that are giving us cause for concern including the Colwell Bay Inn, the Worsley, Wroxall and the Fountain, Sandown .



The Worsley, Wroxall



The Colwell Bay Inn



The Fountain, Sandown

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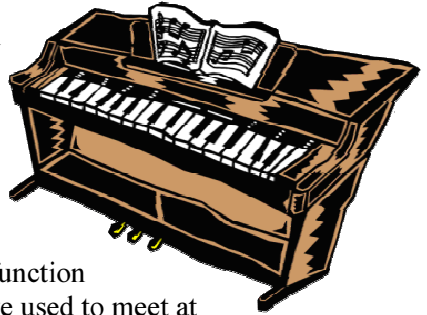
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Hi,

This is to introduce the Isle of Wight Keyboard Music Club. We are a small group of people who enjoy playing and listening to music using electronic keyboards. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of each month and there is always at least one keyboard provided, so anyone can play even if they haven't brought a keyboard with them! Meetings are held in the function room at the **Eight Bells** pub, in Carisbrooke (we used to meet at Newport Football Club), and entry is free on a first visit, £3.50 on the door thereafter, or, membership is £25 for the year (£40 couples), which covers all meetings except concerts by professional players, which are charged separately. We have concerts once or twice a year featuring players, including Jean Martyn (as seen on 'Britain's Got Talent'), and Andrew Varley. We've also had Ian House, and Paul Carmen, demonstrating Yamaha and Orla instruments. Ian House is coming back to play for us again in December! Back in April, a few of us went over to Andover, to see the amazing Claudia Hirschfeld in concert, playing the Wersi Louvre organ!



So, whether you are a beginner, more experienced player, or just want to listen, come on down to the **Eight Bells** and see us!

For further details, call Dave on 07773455153.

Ashley Cooper

Are you a member of a club or organisation that meets in a pub?

Why not publicise it in Wightwash - It's FREE!

Tel: 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

Diary Dates

Friday 5th July Amen Promotions present **Stompin' Dave's Blues3**

at the Quay Arts Centre, Newport see www.wightwash.org.uk for details

Wednesday 17th July Branch Meeting Prince of Wales, Freshwater 8.30pm,

Thursday 25th July to Monday 29th July Castle Cider Festival, Sandown.

Friday 23rd August Branch Social 8pm till late, Havenstreet Railway Steam Up

Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September

King Harry's Beer Festival, Shanklin *Featuring a range of ales and ciders (including fruit ciders) Entertainment and nibbles*

Friday 20th September Branch Meeting King Harry's Bar, Shanklin 8.30pm

Friday 25th October Branch Meeting Castle Inn, Sandown.8.30pm

Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs,

by Geoff Brandwood, is a lavishly illustrated new publication from CAMRA. Working with English Heritage and Historic Scotland, CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group has catalogued some of our finest pubs into a National Inventory. This book draws on this and describes pub interiors and the fascinating history behind them. So why view stately homes from behind cordons when you can enjoy a beer in surroundings as fine as any museum?



The Café Royal

The City of Edinburgh has some of the finest pub architecture in the country.

The Café Royal in West Register Street is an extravaganza not to be missed. Somewhat plainer is the Oxford Bar in Young Street, an unspoiled pub made famous by Ian Rankin and his Inspector Rebus. Kelburn Misty Law is an excellent bitter I had here. The



The "Goth"

Prestoungrange Gothenburg, known as the 'Goth' to locals, is outside the City at Prestonpans. The Gothenburg system was designed to encourage temperance by rewarding the landlord for sales of food and non-alcoholic drinks. This is a stunning pub with its own micro brewery, sadly not in operation at the date of our visit. We had excellent beer from Stewart Brewing of Midlothian. Edinburgh Pub Walks by Bob Steel is also by CAMRA books. This provides maps and guidance to many of the pubs in and around Edinburgh, along with

plenty of local background. It led us to the Prestonpans Industrial Heritage Museum on our way to the Goth described above. On another day we followed the Water of Leith to Teuchters Landing which was formerly the waiting room of the Leith to Aberdeen Ferry. Our lunch there was washed down with outstanding Orkney Dark Porter, and with (Loch) Fyne Ales Jarl, a 3.8% golden ale. I must also mention the Halfway House, situated up steps behind Waverley Station, where I had excellent Cullen Skink, and pretty good beer as well: Broughton Ales Bramling Cross, a 4.2% Golden Ale.

These books are available at £9.99 each (reduced to members) from www.camra.org.uk/books .

A little bit of Isle of Wight history was unearthed recently when I was presented with a copy of the Isle of Wight Pub Guide from 1975 by my Swedish friend Ingvar Börgjesson. When Ingvar was a student he stayed in Bembridge with the then IW CAMRA secretary Brian Arthur. Brian was quick to sign him up and by all accounts Ingvar thoroughly enjoyed his introduction to the best of British beer.

The guide, modest by today's standards, provides an insight into the Isle of Wight pub scene of the 1970's. Not only does it mention many pubs no longer with us, it also reminds us of the days when: - "improvement" was big brewer speak for the removal of

Although no responsibility for the quality of the ale can be accepted, it is hoped that this selected list will have helped people to find Real Ale in an area which is largely saturated with 'Keg' and other pressurised beers. Strangers are warned to watch out for fake hand pumps which are, in fact, delivering fizzbears.

The Annual Subscription to CAMRA is £1* which includes a monthly copy of "What's Brewing" to inform members of just what is going on. It also entitles the subscriber to wear the CAMRA tie, which is the hall-mark of a good beer-drinker and an introduction to convivial company wherever they drink Real Ale. In addition, the holder of a CAMRA card may attend any meeting of any Branch anywhere in the Country and can obtain the national Good Beer Guide and other publications at reduced rates.

*Probably £2 after March 1975.

Membership application forms can be obtained from most pubs in this list or direct from the undermentioned.

B. M. ARTHUR
Hon. Secretary
Isle of Wight Branch
Caerleon
Swains Lane
Bembridge

V. D. S. FOWLER
Area Organiser
Hants. and I.W.
Gray Lodge
Vernon Square
Ryde

or

CAMRA Headquarters
94 Victoria Street
St. Albans

Additions and Deletions

Where to find **REAL ALE** in the **Isle of Wight**

A list compiled by V. D. S. Fowler for the
Isle of Wight Branch
of the
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



Since the closing of Mew Langton's Royal Brewery at Newport the only Brewery left on the Island is Burt & Co. Ltd., Ventnor. Real Ale is also supplied by George Gale & Co. Ltd., of Horndean, and also in most of those Whitbread houses which have not yet been "improved", many of which still serve direct from the cask. The Free Houses are almost entirely Keg.

The pubs listed were all serving genuine living beer without the assistance of CO₂ at the time of printing but no guarantee is given that a changeover has not taken place since or that every pub is open for the whole period of permitted hours, which are as follows:

MONDAY to SATURDAY
10.30 to 3.0 6.0 to 11.0

SUNDAY
12.0 to 2.0 7.0 to 10.30

real ale; it was common to wear a tie in a pub; and if you fancied a pint on a Sunday afternoon - tough!

It is also a reminder of the hard work carried out by IW CAMRA in those early days. Without the efforts of the likes of Brian Arthur, "Boathook" Fowler and Arthur Taylor, the pub scene as we know it just wouldn't exist.

Gentlemen, we are indebted to you!

Tim Marshall

ABBREVIATIONS GBG indicates pub listed in the Good Beer Guide CL means Landlord is a member of Camra
 H = Hand pumps D = Direct from Cask E = Electric pumps HSB = Hordean Special Brew

RYDE AREA

CL Anglesea Tavern, Anglesea Street (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter E
 GBG Castle Hotel, High Street (Gales)
 CL Mild, bitter, HSB, old H
 Crown Hotel, St. Thomas Square (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Fleming Arms, Binstead (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter D
 CL Fountain, Player Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Greyhound, Union Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 GBG High Park Tavern, Elmfield (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter H
 King Arthur, Arthur Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 CL London Hotel, Swanmore (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Marine Hotel, Esplanade (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Oakfield Inn, St. Johns Hill (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 Prince of Wales, High Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Seaview Hotel, Seaview (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Simeon Arms, Simeon Street (Gales)
 Mild, bitter, HSB H
 CL Solent Inn, Monkton Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter E
 CL Vine, Castle Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Wellington, Esplanade (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 GBG Yelf's Hotel, Union Street (Free House)
 CL Burts, Worthington, Whitbread H

NEWPORT AREA

Barley Mow, Shide (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Freemasons Tavern, St. James St. (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Malt & Hops, Orchard Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Plough Inn, St. James's Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Princess Royal, Cross Lane (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 CL Rose & Crown, St. Thomas Square (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 St. Crispin, High Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 GBG The Vine, High Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter E

EAST WIGHT

GBG Birdham Hotel, Bembridge (Whit)
 CL Bitter E
 Bonchurch Inn, Bonchurch (Whit)
 Bitter D
 Clarendon Tap, Chale (Whit)
 Bitter only D
 GBG Commercial, St. Johns Rd., Sandown. (Gales)
 CL Mild, bitter, HSB H
 CL Marine Hotel, Bembridge (Whit)
 Mild, bitter E
 CL Marine Hotel, Regent Street, Shanklin (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter H
 GBG Mill Bay, Esplanade, Ventnor (Burts)
 CL Mild, bitter H
 GBG Pointer Inn, Newchurch (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter D
 GBG The Star Inn, Chale Green (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter D
 CL The Vine, St. Helens (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter E
 Volunteer, adj. Bus Station, Ventnor (Burts)
 Mild only H
 CL White Lion, Arreton (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter D
 Yaverland (Bass Charrington)
 Bass bitter only E
 CL The York, York Street, Sandown (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H

WEST WIGHT

Albion Hotel, Freshwater Bay (Whit)
 Bitter E
 GBG The Crown Inn, Shorwell (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter D
 CL High Down Inn, Totland (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter D
 GBG New Inn, Shalfleet (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter D
 CL Red Lion, Church Path, Freshwater (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 CL Sportsmans Rest, Porchfield (Whit)
 GBG Mild, bitter D
 GBG The Sun, Hulverstone, Brook (Whit)
 CL Mild, bitter D

COWES AREA

Bell Inn, Medina Road, Cowes (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL The Kingstone Arms, Newport Road (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 GBG Painters Arms, Cross Street, Cowes (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H
 CL Travellers Joy, Pallance Road, Cowes (Whit)
 Mild, bitter D
 Vectis Tavern, High Street (Whit)
 Mild, bitter H

Note: In some pubs (e.g. Seaview Hotel) real ale is served in one bar only

Crab and Lobster Tap, Ventnor



David and Dianne Weedon originally come from Leicester but David admits he just loves Ventnor and has done ever since he first came here on holiday. Four years ago David, a housing manager and Dianne, a community midwife moved to the Island and on the 25th March this year they took on their first pub, The Crab and Lobster Tap.

Since taking over, the couple have been adding some "colour and character" to the pub. The window boxes are currently blooming and the walls of the pub are now adorned with interesting original pictures.

Ale is obviously very important and all staff have been trained in cellar management. The well stocked cellar, conveniently situated right under the bar is kept at a constant 11°C. There are two regular ales: Arundel Sussex Gold (4.2%) and Hogs Back TEA (4.2%), and one guest beer, which at the time of writing was the award winning Triple *fff* Alton Pride (3.8%).

There's a good choice of wine supplied by the Island Wine Co. and an impressive range of whiskies and rums.

All food is locally sourced as much as possible with seafood from Ventnor Haven and vegetables from the local greengrocer. Currently the food times are 12noon to 9pm Wednesday to Sunday (roast on Sunday).

There's live music Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sunday is frequently "Jazz Night" regularly featuring Island jazz stars Gary Plumley and Jules Nelson. Look out for Open Mike nights on Thursdays.

David and Dianne are keen to support local charities; a recent Quiz Night held in aid of Diabetes Research raised a whopping £500.

To see what's going on at the Crab and Lobster Tap, check out the pub's **facebook** page which features lovely photo of Dexter the pub dog (named after the creator of Morse, David is keen to point out, not the American serial killer!).

All are welcome at this very friendly Ventnor pub.



The Volunteer, Ventnor

Although Kim and Sue Meguyer are new faces behind the bar at The Volunteer, they are not exactly new to the pub. In fact Kim has been a regular since 1976 and remembers Tim Saul rescuing the pub from it's derelict state and taking it to IW CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2003.

Kim, a builder by trade, has lived most of his life in Ventnor but is originally a Shanklin man. Sue was born in London. Although this is their first pub, they seem to be making a grand job of it, including looking after the five real ales.



There's plenty going on at the "Volly" with live music from the likes of Hippy Dave, Paul Ruck, Bill Burns and members of Lucid on Sunday afternoons after the meat draw. There's a monthly quiz in aid of the local boxing club and live entertainment is planned for Saturday evenings with the possibility of a Northern Soul night with Taffy.

The summer league darts games are played on Monday evenings. (This swaps to Friday evenings for the winter league.) Tuesdays is rings night and the ladies league darts games are played on Thursday evenings.

Anyone concerned that the Volunteer, one of the Island's few "wet pubs", will suffer from "innovations" can be reassured that there are none planned; it's still -
no juke box,
no fruit machines,
no chips and
no telly.

Just the best of beer and company!

The Volunteer

Victoria Street, Ventnor Tel: 852537

Kim and Sue

Welcome all customers, old and new!

5 Real Ales plus Old Rosie Cider



Dorset and the New Forest

Our first campsite was at Corfe Castle and we walked into the Village as soon as we had sorted ourselves out as it was a beautiful day, the last for a week! Went into the Greyhound Inn, a Bistro pub; the Timothy Taylor Landlord was cracking plus there were two other beers and the food looked good.

We spent a lot of time walking around this area of Dorset. One day we went round the castle which was interesting historically and also as a German TV Film crew were shooting a murder mystery with fights, blood and corpses. The corpse, a dummy I'm glad to say, being thrown from the battlements. The steam train to Swanage was good too and we walked round Old Harry Rocks from Studland. Lovely views of the Isle of Wight from there. Sadly we found no decent pubs in Swanage although Corfe seemed to have plenty. It was very cold whilst we were here and plenty of mist around the hill behind the camp site! Buses to Poole and onward and to Swanage were good.



On to Holmsley, in the New Forest which is an old world war two aerodrome and again, a lot of walking. The Crown at Bransgore had Doom Bar, Ringwood Best

and Old Golden Hen. We went on a Wednesday when they do a Vintage Pie day. There was a choice of six pies, six types of cooked potatoes and six types of vegetables and the food was brilliant, good value and TASTY. Beer was good too. One day we walked to Burley, about 5 miles over the heath and visited The Queens Head which had Abbot Ale, IPA and Flack Double Drop, a Romsey brew. Beer went down very well after 5 miles in the hot sun. On Bank Holiday Sunday we walked to The Rising Sun at Wootton and had a traditional Sunday lunch washed down with Dartmoor IPA. There were two other



real ales and it is a very, very busy family pub. The food and beer were OK. Not much in the way of buses here so no option but to walk. If you like cycling or walking, this campsite is the place.



On to Salisbury campsite, near Old Sarum for shopping and walking. The only pub we went into was The White Horse at Quidhampton as we walked over to Wilton Shopping Outlet. This had Sharps Doom Bar and Old Hooky which were excellent, didn't eat here although the food looked very tempting! Had too much beer and got the bus back. Best walk was the bus to Amesbury, walk out to Stonehenge along The Avenue, back along the Cursus to Woodhenge and Durrington Walls Henge and bus back to camp site.

Gary, the new landlord of the Halfway House, on Wilton Road, is setting up a new brewery called Sarum Shield Brewery actually at the pub. Their first beer will be Shield Maiden.

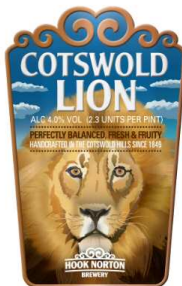
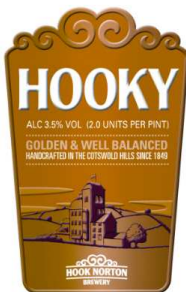
Home again and the next trip is to Weston-Super-mare, Bristol and Devizes. Keep on drinking.

Pete Cobb

P.S. The Stag on Newport Road is up and running with three beers and good food but I have not visited yet although the Missus and her friend did and found the refurbishment splendid and the food good.



Hook Norton Ales now available on the Isle of Wight



from Island Ales - Tel: (01983) 821731



Mark Voller

In the Autumn 2009 issue of Wightwash we introduced our new Police correspondent Sgt. Mark Voller.

Over the years Mark has been invaluable providing an accurate insight in to licensing regulations and how they are implemented. He has covered a variety of subjects including:- Pub Watch, "Who's the Governor?", How to Organise a Party, ID cards, "The Customer Code" and Live Music.

Last week we learned that he is to take, what I am sure is, a well earned retirement. He will be much missed not only for being as far as we know, the only CAMRA branch Police liaison officer in the country, but also for providing Wightwash with a series of extremely interesting articles.

We wish Mark well in what ever he chooses to do next and hope we haven't heard the last of him.

Here is his latest article...



It's Time to Go!

In my final days as a licensing sergeant I have deleted literally thousands of e-mails and reports (to which I had clung in the belief I would one day need them). I have filled several black sacks full of obsolete-looking uniform and equipment and, at long last, handed back my warrant card. Leaving the police service- in fact any career- after 30 years elicits many memories and some rather mixed feelings!

The experience of leaving has made me realise that, above all, people matter. So much of what we say and do- however important at the time, has little lasting value.

I'm reminded of my earliest days as a PC in Ryde, when, frankly, I had much to learn about life itself, let alone how to curb the conduct of others! I have reflected on the many good people, both within and outside the police service, who have helped, guided and encouraged me over the years.

In a career of ups and downs, my last four years, in the licensing post, have been the most rewarding. Not that licensing has been without the odd frustration.

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The Ups

Working alongside the licensed trade, in particular with licensees of local pubs and clubs, has been the easy part. It has been a pleasure to share with landlords the aim of keeping crime and disorder low, and most of them rise to that challenge admirably.

Much has been achieved through partnership, for example the link between police and the Island's pubwatches. Currently pub-related trouble on the Island is at its lowest level for many years, and this could not be achieved without the licensed trade and police pulling together.

The close association between police licensing team and CAMRA has been one of the most welcome partnerships. Giving police a voice through Wightwash has allowed us to 'reach' not only pub managers and staff but many drinkers who, like me, pick up a copy while waiting for a pint. I shall certainly miss writing here in the future.

And the Downs

Other aspects of my licensing role proved more difficult. I am thinking particularly of the massive music events which take place on our doorstep.

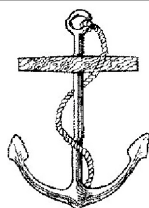
It is essential, for the sake of festival-goers and for the rest of the Island community, that these events are properly regulated. Just as licensees of pubs are challenged when they step out of line, so should it be with event promoters. That is only fair -and there is so much more at stake when a big event goes wrong.



REAL ALES & LIVE MUSIC
GREAT FOOD & GOOD PRICES
IN A TRADITIONAL PUB SETTING

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Islanders must keep the Isle of Wight Council and other authorities on their toes. Like many I was uncomfortable that it was left to a private company, GKN, to call for the review of the Isle of Wight Festival after the traffic chaos last year.

It has proven difficult for Island-based police officers- including the licensing team- to have much say in the planning and control of these events, a situation which must change in my view. I hope it does not take a tragedy to force a re-think and for regulators to take a more decisive stance. This of course is a personal view, which should not be taken to mean I'm 'anti-Festival.' But surely Islanders, and festival-goers, want and expect these huge, expanding, private events to be safe and for the authorities to do their job.

Where now?

I owe a great debt to my two (former) police licensing colleagues, PC Gary Fletcher and Cindy Wright, who are based at Newport Police Station. They are being joined- at least temporarily - by PC Dave Eastham. I happen to know how hard they work on behalf of all Islanders, and that they want to build on the strong links with the local pub trade and its 'community' of responsible drinkers. My replacement- as licensing supervisor- will in future be based in Portsmouth.

Many thanks to CAMRA- especially to Tim Marshall and John Nicholson- for letting the police speak through the pages of Wightwash. This time, though, the views are entirely my own!

Cheers to you all!

Mark Voller

Chris and Wendy welcome you to...

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The Wheatsheaf, Yarmouth

Over the past few months, my work and other interests have been taking me to the west Wight once or twice a week. I decided to eat out for my evening meal on the first such occasion, but as it was 5.00 pm, there was only one choice for a place to eat - the Wheatsheaf, situated in Bridge Road.



As I was driving, an ale was not an option, but the excellent ales confronting me were three of my favourites: Spitfire, Fuggle-Dee-Dum and Ringwood Bitter.

Sadly, I had to settle for a soft drink (enough of that!).

The food! What an imaginative menu Shaun, Kathryn and their lovely staff produce, especially The Sizzlers! This is pub food at its unsurpassable best. I have travelled around many pubs in the country and I have sampled some good pub food, but the usual selection is of predictable dishes. Not so at the Wheatsheaf - the ideas are amazing!

Needless to say, I have made a point of dining there every week! A venue to be visited - and food is served all day!

Ron Bird

How much is a half?

"Half" I hear you say. Well, not necessarily; not when it comes to paying for one.

Wightwash received a letter from a disgruntled drinker recently who complained he had been charged £3.65 for a pint but "a whopping £2.00" for a half of the same beer, equating to an extra 17pence per half or 35pence per pint if bought in halves.



We contacted the pub chain concerned and their response was -

"We estimate that we have a fixed cost of approximately £1 to simply serve an empty glass to a customer - once you factor in the cost of the glass and the labour to store and serve it, coupled with the cost of the detergent, hot water, rinse and labour necessary to clean it.

Because of these fixed costs we make less profit on smaller drinks serving - whether minerals, beer or wine than we do on the larger sizes. With wine and soft drinks this has always been reflected in the relative pricing - a 125ml glass of house wine is priced at £2.40 whilst a 250ml glass is priced at £4.20. The 125ml is 57% of the 250ml pricing.

We simply sought to reflect the same principal in beer pricing - our halves now cost 55% of a pint. This reflects the higher % of fixed cost in a half as opposed to a pint.

I assure you that we are not profiteering and are struggling to continue to invest in our teams and our pubs despite year on year declines in our profit margin."

Have you any views on the subject?

For any of you who haven't savoured the delights of the beer scene in South Devon, I would firmly recommend doing so. Not only does the area host some very impressive beer festivals, such as the mighty Tuckers Maltings Festival in April, where you can sample over 350 beers from the West Country, but it boasts a stunning array of micro-breweries, and has been far less afflicted by the scourge of pub closures which has hit the rest of the country.

A Very Fine Place to begin your exploration of the beery delights of Devon is its capital, Exeter. Exeter, sadly, is no exception to the general rule that town planning should never be left in the hands of town planners, as the many beautiful buildings are interspersed with ghastly examples of the worst the 20th century had to offer. Notwithstanding, there are some great pubs in the city; so many, in fact, we had to limit our perambulations mainly to GBG entrants.

My partner, Pat, and myself arrived headed for our first port of call, the Old Firehouse in New North Road, the oldest public open space in England. In keeping, the Firehouse is a listed building, and is high on the list of must-do pubs in Exeter. It nestles snugly between the surrounding buildings, and is a pub of some character. It's clearly well favoured by the student population in the city, as the décor of bare brick, wood and swathes of dried hops and students testifies. As well as the eight well-kept real ales on offer, mostly from local micro-breweries, there's an astonishing array of ciders; the food was pretty good, too. If you've only time to do one pub in the city, do this one; it's a cracker.



The next on the list was the GBG-listed North Bridge Inn, taking its name from the magnificent Iron Bridge, built in 1834, which straddles the Longbrook valley. Sadly, the bridge has proved to have more longevity than the pub, which had clearly been closed for



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JESSICA SINGS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

some considerable time. We retraced our steps to the City Gate Hotel just up the road, a splendid Youngs pub offering fine examples of Special and Waggledance. We had actually visited this pub a couple of years before when it was listed in the GBG, and it's a testament to Exeter pubs that it's as good as it ever was, but the competition is better. When they're open, that is.

It comes to all of us when drinking our way through a city that, sooner or later, we find ourselves in a Wetherspoons. That splendid online resource, What Pub? listed the Chevalier in Fore Street as being the closest pub, so there we went. I've rarely been disappointed with a Wetherspoons, but this is a city centre establishment with remarkably little character, though the Dartmoor Jail Ale was faultless. We then went round the corner to South Street and found the White Hart Hotel, a Marston's house of great character and antiquity, rather like me; well, partly, anyway, and I'll leave you to guess which part. The pub consists of a rambling bar on one side of a shady courtyard,

and a more up-market hotel bar on the other side. It is a very commendable establishment, and had Marstons resisted the temptation to fill every available space, and a few which weren't, with antique bric-a-brac, including pictures screwed to ceilings (really over the top), it would have turned a superb pub into something quite outstanding. A 5.9% house beer was on offer, which proved to be re-badged Old Thumper, but was none the less acceptable for that, and, to make sure, we came back for seconds after crossing the road to try Wetherspoons number two, George's Meeting House. This is a converted Georgian chapel (George's – get it?) with all the original features preserved, including a magnificent carved pulpit from which, after my couple of Thumpers, I was ready to address the congregation, but was persuaded by the Good Lady to rethink this course of



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action. Nevertheless, a fine selection of ales was on offer, though my memory is hazy as to the precise details. Diners are able to get closer to heaven by eating on the balcony; high tea, anyone?

We returned to the White Hart for more Old Thumper and a very good Farmer's



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Pie, which at a fiver a head was considerably less than extortionate. The Good Lady was content to leave me and a pint of Otter in the Well House Tavern opposite the Cathedral while she sampled the local shops. This is a GBG pub owned by celebrity chef Michael Caines, which has the

appearance of having been a shop in an earlier life, which is to its advantage, as the huge windows frame a stunning view of the Cathedral. According to What Pub?, the cellars (of the pub, not the Cathedral) are open to the public and are old Roman wells.

We headed for St David's Station which was a cunning suggestion on my part, as the journey there takes one by the Imperial, or Wetherspoons number three in the vernacular, which lies very close to the Uni, from which it draws much of its trade. I have visited some large and impressive Wetherspoons in my time, but this one takes the biscuit; it fulfils both those adjectives and more. Built in 1810 as



Elmfield House, it became the Imperial Hotel in 1923, and remained so until its acquisition by Wethers in 1994. The jewel in a very jewelled crown is the orangery, one end of which consists of the most breathtaking semi-circular wrought iron window you're ever likely to see. From the impressive range of ales, I chose Titanic Nautical Mild, a deceptive title in that it is neither nautical nor mild. Let's face it, 4.8% is pushing it for a mild,

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especially when it's as heavily hopped as a porter. However, I wasn't complaining - I'm not a fan of mild, anyway - and we eventually tumbled out of the Imperial and down the hill (tumbling is good when you're p***ed) to the last pub of the day, the Great Western Hotel, which lies barely a stein's throw from St David's Station. It's a traditional railway hotel with such a curious mixture of décor it seems unable to quite make up its mind into which era it fits, but the range of eight real ales compensates for any artistic shortcomings. The pub doesn't lean as much as the photo implies, unless I was leaning to compensate..... A pint of Jail Ale was a fitting end to the day, and ensured a comfortable doze on the way back to Newton Abbot, itself worthy of a very fine pub crawl.



I used the word 'magnificent' several times. Although it's actually quite hard to pronounce it after visiting eight hostelrys, it's a very fitting word to sum up Exeter and the drinking experience which can be gained from it. We only sampled a fraction of the many wonderful pubs in the City, and many visits would be necessary to drink your way through them all - What Pub? lists over 80 pubs, bars and hotels in the City, and if you can survive the frustration of having to log back on every 30 seconds, it's a very useful way of finding your way around them. It's more fun on foot, though.

Brian Jacobs

I notice, looking back over this article, that I've

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The Yarborough Monument



Standing on the top of Culver down this monument is visible from most of the East Wight. It was designed to stand some half a mile to the West of its present position but was re-erected on its present site when national security decreed that priority must be given to the construction of Bembridge Fort

The lettering on the monument tells how it was erected by public subscription in memory of the First Earl of Yarborough who is perhaps best known for his work in founding the Royal Yacht Squadron. Not mere playthings for the aristocracy the Yachts at this time carried enough guns to support the Royal Navy if the need arose.

The Falcon, belonging to the Earl carried twenty guns and was crewed by men who had to agree to submit to standard naval flogging when discipline called for it.

The Earl married into the Worsley family and adopted that surname although the peerage was granted to him as Charles Anderton Pelham. The unfortunate stonemason who inscribed the hundreds of words needed to record the Earl's praiseworthy life made a spelling error as he neared the end of his task. It is still there. (Good quiz question.)

Bridge players will no doubt know of the hand named a "Yarborough" after the second Earl. He is said to have wagered a thousand to one against a hand being dealt with no picture cards

Rob Marshall

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

- 1/ Which girl singer had a backing group called "The Waves"?
- 2/ In which English county is Cleethorpes?
- 3/ What do we call the group of animals with pouches?
- 4/ Who was Queen Victoria's father?
- 5/ To which Native American tribe did Geronimo belong to?
- 6/ For which country does Daniel Vettori play cricket?
- 7/ Who was the British Prime Minister during the Winter of Discontent?
- 8/ In which story does Jacob Marley appear?
- 9/ and 10/ Identify these trade marks.



9

10



Answers to the Winter Quiz

- 1/ Clarrie Grundy 2/ Trumpet
- 3/ Zoology 4/ Shepherd Neame
- 5/ Mike Thornton
- 6/ Doe
- 7/ Victims of Jack the Ripper
- 8/ The River Lagan
- 9/ Morocco
- 10/ Libya

Lynn Hood of Ryde wins a £20 meal voucher and Carley Barnes of Newport wins a case of Yates' beers.
Thank you to all the others that took part.

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BeerPoint

BeerPoint is a system whereby members of the Isle of Wight branch of the Campaign for Real Ale can recommend pubs that they have recently visited and found the beer to be of a good standard.

The system is providing a useful tool in highlighting good (or bad) practice.

BeerPoint is administered by our chairman John Nicholson who can be contacted on jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk

Here is a list of our current **Recommended BeerPoint** pubs by area:

North:

Traveller's Joy, Northwood; Anchor, Cowes; Union, Cowes; Fountain, Cowes; Portland, Gurnard; Lifeboat, East Cowes; White Hart, East Cowes; Duke of York, Cowes; Kingston, Cowes; Cowes Ale House; Sportsman's Rest, Porchfield.

East & North East:

Vine, St Helens; The Old Village Inn, Bembridge; Propeller, Bembridge; Simeon Arms, Ryde; Swan's Nest, Ryde; Castle, Ryde; Fowler & Co, Ryde; Lake Huron, Ryde; Dark Horse, Brading; King Lud, Ryde; Yarbridge Inn, Brading; Railway, Ryde.

Central:

Dairyman's Daughter, Arreton; White Lion, Arreton; Crown, Shorwell; Three Bishops, Brighstone; Chequers, Rookley; Griffin, Godshill; Taverners, Godshill; Four Seasons, Wroxall; Pointer Inn, Newchurch; Prince of Wales, Newport; Newport Ale House; William Coppin, Newport; Castle, Newport; Wren's Nest, Newport; Stag, Newport.

South and South East:

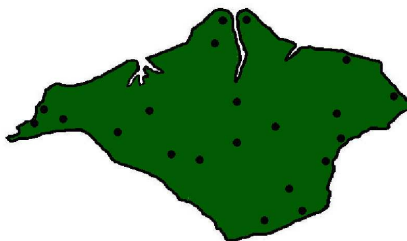
Buddle, Niton; Village Inn, Shanklin; Chine Inn, Shanklin; King Harry's, Shanklin; Waterfront, Shanklin; Crab and Lobster Tap, Ventnor; Volunteer, Ventnor; White Lion, Niton; Castle Inn, Sandown; Tap, Sandown; Perks, Ventnor; White Horse, Whitwell.

West:

Prince of Wales, Freshwater; King's Head, Yarmouth; Sun, Calbourne; Sun, Hulverstone; Broadway, Totland; Horse and Groom, Ningwood; Vine, Freshwater.

Please check the website for an up-to-date list

www.wightwash.org.uk
and click on "BEER POINT"



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The views expressed in Wightwash are not necessarily those of the editor or CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) either nationally or locally.

Wightwash can be contacted by phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk