

# Diary Dates

Thursday 16th - Sunday 19th June: **Beer Festival**, Highdown Inn, Totland  
Friday 17th June: **Branch Social Visit**: Highdown Inn, Totland 8pm  
Saturday 2nd - Sunday 3rd July: **Ryde Beer and Cider Festival** - Minghella Square (opposite Castle pub). Ten real ales and ten ciders, hog roast, live music. In aid of Challenge Adventure Charity. 11am - 8pm  
Friday 22nd July: **Branch Newport Walk-About**: start Prince of Wales 8pm  
Sat 30th - Sun 31st July: **Cider, Ale and Live Music Weekend**: Chequers, Rookley  
Friday 26th August: **Branch Social Visit**: Havenstreet Steam Show - time TBA (see website)  
Friday 16th September: **Branch Meeting**: Volunteer, Ventnor 8pm  
Sat 15th & Sun 16th October: **IOW Classic Buses, Beer and Walks Weekend**

## Members:

Paul Sheldon is looking for more volunteers to help with the Beer and Bus Weekend. If you can spare a few hours, please phone Paul on 01983 611063.

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

*Wightwash* is produced with the support of our valued sponsors

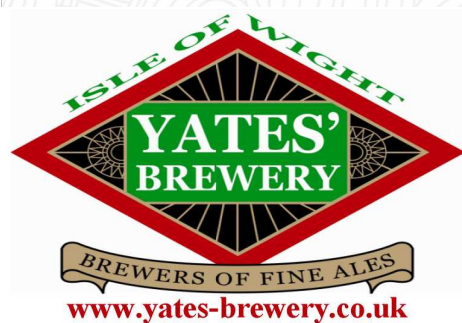


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# Wightwash

Volume 2. Number 68

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

# Summer Issue 2016

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



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

In this FREE issue:

**Brewery News** **New Faces** *Pete's Progress*

**KONG KONG** **Morrismen** **Labology**

'Pop Inn' **Island Landmarks** **PRIZE QUIZ**

and much, much more...

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

**A Campaign of Two Halves**

Fair on dea tax beer l now

**Join CAMRA Today**

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

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Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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Email address (if different from main member) \_\_\_\_\_

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I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

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Applications will be processed within 21 days

01/15

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If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to.

You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

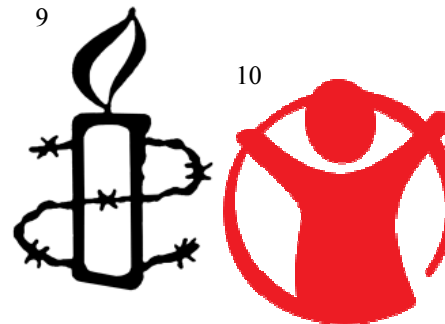
Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

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

Just answer these easy questions. The first two correct answers out of the hat on 1st August win the prizes.

Send answers to - The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3NH or email - [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

- 1/ What was the *Guardian* newspaper called until 1959?
- 2/ Which US state is named on a bottle of Jack Daniels?
- 3/ Which British band had a hit with "House of the Rising Sun"?
- 4/ How many strings does a mandolin have?
- 5/ Which cheese is traditionally used for pizzas?
- 6/ Who directed the film "Train-spotting" ?
- 7/ On which Italian island is Palermo?
- 8/ Which county plays cricket at the Ageas bowl?
- 9/ and 10/ Identify these charities...



Answers to the Spring Quiz

- 1/ Nichola Martin
- 2/ Rio de Janeiro
- 3/ Spotlight
- 4/ English
- 5/ Abbey Road
- 6/ Emma Watson
- 7/ Bat
- 8/ 23rd April
- 9/ Forsyth 10/ Deighton

Lee Canderton of Watford wins a meal voucher and David Clapper who entered by email wins a case of Yates' beer. Thank you to all the others who took part - better luck next time!

**THE CHEQUERS INN**

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\*Valid on return visit to The Chequers Inn when purchasing food both times. Offer only valid on presentation of this advert.

### The Tomb of Sir Edward Horsey

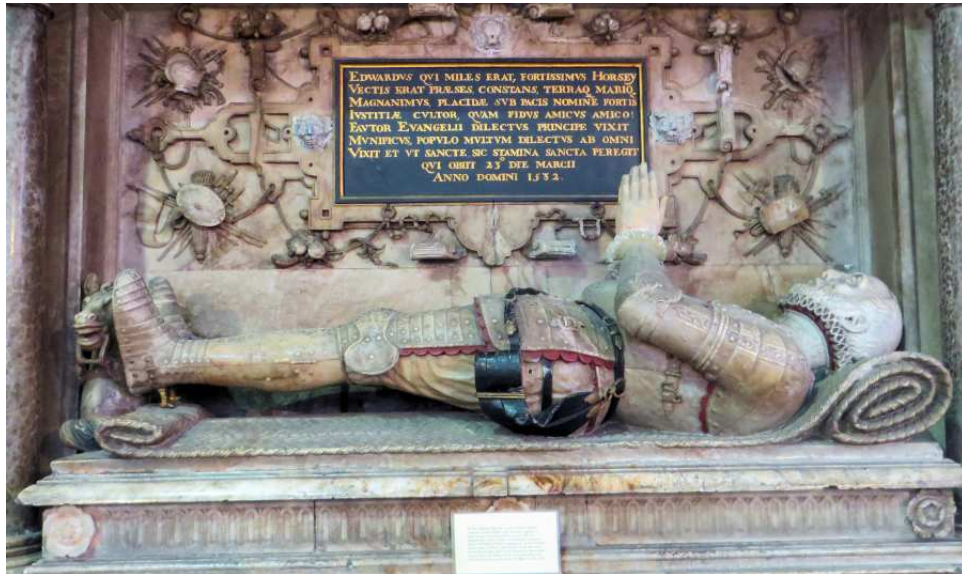
Many interesting characters of the Island are buried in the Church of St.Thomas, Newport, but none of the monuments there tell the story of a more interesting character than that of Sir Edward Horsey. His career began with an enforced exile to France for treasonable activities, and ended after he had been honoured with the title "Captain of the Isle of Wight".

During the reign of Queen Mary, a Queen who was opposed by many who did not support her Catholic views, Edward Horsey was one of a number of conspirators, led by the Earl of Dudley, whose treasonable plot to depose her was uncovered. Its members escaped and fled the country.

He lived in France for years and married a French wife. When Elizabeth came to the throne all was forgiven and he returned to England. His prowess as a soldier with French connections led to his preferment and by 1565 he was appointed Captain of the Isle of Wight and had moved to Haseley Manor with a local heiress called Dowsabell. A contemporary observed that "he would have married her but for the fact that he already had a wife in France".

Sir Edward died of the plague in 1583. His tomb at one time held his invaluable *Sword of Office*. Early photographs show this sword in its scabbard but as the recent photo shows the scabbard is empty. The bejewelled sword now resides in a local bank vault for security reasons but there are plans to make it part of a secure display within the church.

*Rob Marshall*



### Goddards Brewery

Goddards Brewery have continued to build on their national distribution contracts with Greene King, JD Wetherspoon, Mitchells & Butlers and Enterprise Inns, which has resulted in 90,000 pints of beer being produced in February alone. At present Goddards award winning **Wight Squirrel** continues to grow in popularity and has just been selected for another national slot by Punch Taverns as part of their 'Finest Cask Champion Ales rotation, which will see more quality Island produce in pubs across the country from now until July.

Goddards **Fuggle-Dee-Dum** shortlisted as one of the UK's top eight UK craft beers by Majestic Wine customers across the UK along with Adnams and Bath Ales. Over 400 British beers were selected and tasted as part of Majestic's first Oktoberfest held last year.

Goddards **Quarr Abbey Ale** won Bronze at the SIBA National Beer Competition 2016 for small pack speciality beer out of 85 speciality bottled beers. Now with two awards to its name, Quarr Abbey Ale is brewed in collaboration with the local Monastery on the Island, using herbs grown by the monks. At 6.5% it is a sweet, rich, smooth Belgian style ale with hints of Sweet

Who's Who

**Chairman and BeerPoint coordinator**  
John Nicholson  
[jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk](mailto:jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk)

**Secretary**  
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[alec.lawson@virgin.net](mailto:alec.lawson@virgin.net)

**Treasurer and GBG coordinator**  
Ken (Buzzy) Matthews  
[camraiw@aol.com](mailto:camraiw@aol.com)

**Wightwash Editor and Membership**  
Tim Marshall  
[editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

**Press Officer**  
Brian Jacobs  
[jcloth14@gmail.com](mailto:jcloth14@gmail.com)

Gale and Coriander.

Other news includes:

- Annual visit of the Jamie Oliver trainee chefs '15 Project' as part of the IOW local produce tour.
- Josh Davies has completed his apprenticeship. Congratulations! Josh is now a full time brewer at Goddards we are proud to say.
- **Inspiration** is now available for the summer. A strong pale ale brewed with Mount Hood Hops
- In Feb Goddards brewed enough beer to line up pints side by side to stretch from the



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- Goddards Brewery continue to support [www.abilitydogs4yp.org.uk](http://www.abilitydogs4yp.org.uk)

Brian Jacobs  
BLO Goddards Brewery

## Island Brewery

How things move on; Ashley Coleman, Chris's son, is now, in effect, Head Brewer at Island Brewery after qualifying through the Institute of Brewing as a professional brewer and achieving the General Certificate of Brewing. With Chris taking more of a back seat, young Tom Leman has joined the brewery as Assistant Brewer.

But, do not think that this is the end of Chris, for, ever innovative, he has come up with a new title of supreme importance to suit and describe the grandeur of his current venerated role, that of *Senior Consultant Brewer* – the Man from del-

Rio, if ever there was!

In fact, Chris's job, now, apart from acting as a consultant, is to brew small batch craft and fusion beers. For those followers of The Coleman's illustrious career, you will remember that this is how Chris started out on his road to fame, as a small batch home brewer, who, then, commissioned trial brews for Goddards, in the days when the illustrious maestro, Jonathan Stancill, was the Head Brewer there; the founder of some of their landmark brews so well known today.

This is how **RDA** was born, as a rich, dark homebrew in the Coleman shed, in the back garden. It took over a decade to succeed in persuasion that this beer was worth brewing commercially, and judging by its awards since that advent, I reckon I was right. Island Brewery's small batch craft initiative was launched at their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, last year, where **Chocolate Rye Stout**, American hopped

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**BeerPoint** was devised to identify those establishments that consistently serve Real Ale to the highest standards.

Being awarded **BeerPoint** status is a strong recommendation from IW CAMRA, that the listed pub is one that you can rely upon to get a good pint of Real Ale. The definition of a good pint means that the beer must fulfil **three** basic criteria:

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

Only pubs that serve beer that satisfies **all** these three criteria will be listed, and if and when they cease to satisfy **any** of the three (for example, too warm or too cold), they will be suspended with the reasons passed on to the pub by the administrator.

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

### North - Cowes & District

Anchor Inn, Cowes Ale House, Duke Of York, Folly Inn, Fountain Inn, Kingston Arms, Lifeboat, Pier View, Ship & Castle, Traveller's Joy, Union Inn, Vectis Tavern, White Hart - East Cowes, Woodvale

### Central - Newport & District

Bargeman's Rest, Blacksmith's Arms, Castle Inn, Chequers Inn, Crispin, Dairyman's Daughter, Fighting Cocks, George Inn, Griffin, Man In The Moon, Medina Quay, Newport Ale House, Pointer Inn, Prince Of Wales, Taverners, Wheatsheaf, White Lion - Arreton, Wren's Nest

### East - Ryde & District

Boat House, Castle, Cedars, Crown Hotel, Culver Haven, Fowlers, High Park Tavern, King Lud, Kyng's Well, Old Village Inn, Pilot Boat, Ryde Castle Hotel, Seaview Hotel, Simeon Arms, Vine Inn, Wheatsheaf - Brading, Woodman's Arms, Yarbridge, Yelf's Hotel

### South -Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor & District

Buddle Inn, Castle, Caulkheads, Chine Inn, Crab & Lobster Tap, Falcon, Flanagans, King Harry's Bar, Old Comical, Perks Of Ventnor, Spyglass, Village Inn, Volunteer, Waterfront, White Horse, Wight Mouse.

### West - Yarmouth, Freshwater, Calbourne, Shorwell & District

Bugle Hotel, Crown Inn, Highdown Inn, Horse & Groom, King's Head, New Inn, Red Lion, Sun Inn (Hulverstone), Sun (Calbourne), Three Bishops, Vine Inn, Waterfront, Wheatsheaf.

PLEASE NOTE: The absence of a pub's name in this list may not necessarily indicate that their beer is not up to the required CAMRA standard. Members, please contact the **BeerPoint** administrator if you know of a pub that you think should be included or reviewed.

**BeerPoint** is currently administered by our chairman John Nicholson who can be contacted on [jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk](mailto:jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk)



also great supporters of the event supplying on loan much of the pub furniture.

It is hoped that given the success of the event 'The Pop Inn' will pop up again in other venues over the year to come, and continue to provide contributions from any profits to local charities, as well as a great night out for the villagers and their friends. The Earl Mountbatton Hospice and the Chillerton Village Association will benefit from this first event.

Once again thank you to all those people from the Village and beyond who attended and made for a great evening. To those who enjoyed the evening, and those who were unable to get there this time, we hope to see and welcome you to future 'Pop Inn' pop ups.

Look out for details of the next venue and date on the [Wightwash](http://Wightwash) website. See you all there

#### Pop Inn Chillerton update.

The second Pop Inn happened on May 21 at a different venue ie Lisle Barn, the home of Paul and Kate Wells. We opened the doors earlier at 2-00pm this time to allow more families to come and spend time together in the afternoon session. It was again a great success with over 150 people passing through the doors, despite the not altogether great weather. Lots more local Ale and cider were consumed. We are hoping to run a couple more this year and will let people know where and when after we recover from this one!

*Steve Hoyle*

IPA, cloudy wheat beer and **Mild Discrepancy**, were met with acclaim. Since then other brews have included a raisin stout and rye IPA, and have been available in local leading Real Ale pubs where feedback from aficionados is sought and welcomed.

With the advent of such a prolific increase in beers and breweries, SIBA (the Society of Independent Brewers, formerly the Small Independent Brewers Association) have undertaken to carry out an audit of all small independent breweries who are members of SIBA, in order to assess and ensure their standards are meeting the mark required by the Food Safety and Quality Standard. The audit is compulsory to membership. I can't imagine this would be a problem for Island Brewery, with their systematic approach, a quality reflected in their regular achievement in awards, locally, regionally,



nationally, and internationally. In this year's local Beer of the Year awards, they have swept up 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places with RDA, **Wight Christmas** and **Yachtsman**, respectively.

"We are very proud of our staff and our achievements," says Steve Minshull, director of Island Brewery and Island Ales, "Chris has been the backbone of our

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brewing success, and his son, Ashley, now following in his footsteps, already making a name for himself with the world gold award winning Wight Christmas under his belt. I am really excited with the prospect of Chris brewing experimental fusion and craft beers for us; he just does this sort of thing so well!"

John Nicholson  
BLO Island Brewery

### Yates' Brewery

Yates' new Craft IOW Lager is going very well in bottles and there are eight pre-orders for installation on draught so the brewery are really pleased with the way it's going out in trade.

Wyoys Boys is making a reappearance as Yates' guest ale for the Euros 2016, a 3.8%

light refreshing ale brewed for the euros and orders are now being taken. Casks from the Wentworth brewery have come in and this is the latest beer swap and they have gone down very well across the Island. The brewery have had a very good month with casks going in Wadsworth pubs and to HT Whites. Yates' brewery were very happy to support the Steam Railway beer festival working again alongside them to get the lovely selection of cask ales from numerous breweries around the country.

Lorraine Daish  
BLO Island Brewery

### IOW Distillery

Wight Mermaids Gin was named as one of the UK's top craft spirits in a nationwide Twitter campaign that saw over 20,000



A lot of people were involved in putting this event together and thanks should go to both Paul and Steve for all their back up help in the weeks leading up to the event. People like Sam', Marcus and Sham for doing stints on the bar, and those like Kate, Carolyn, Gillian and Jill who helped out behind the scenes and provided the excellent soup and bread. Ella and her friends delighted and entertained people with their ukulele trio a

couple of times during the evening and were greeted very enthusiastically. However it must be said that the genuine pub atmosphere was created by the people who came through the door. It was a very happy event.

All the drink was sourced locally, Goddards Brewery supplying the excellent beer through 'King Harry's Bar, the Isle of Wight CAMRA pub of the year. The Island Wine Company supplied the wine and the Godshill Cider Barn the scrumpy cider. The 'Cowshed' at Froglands were



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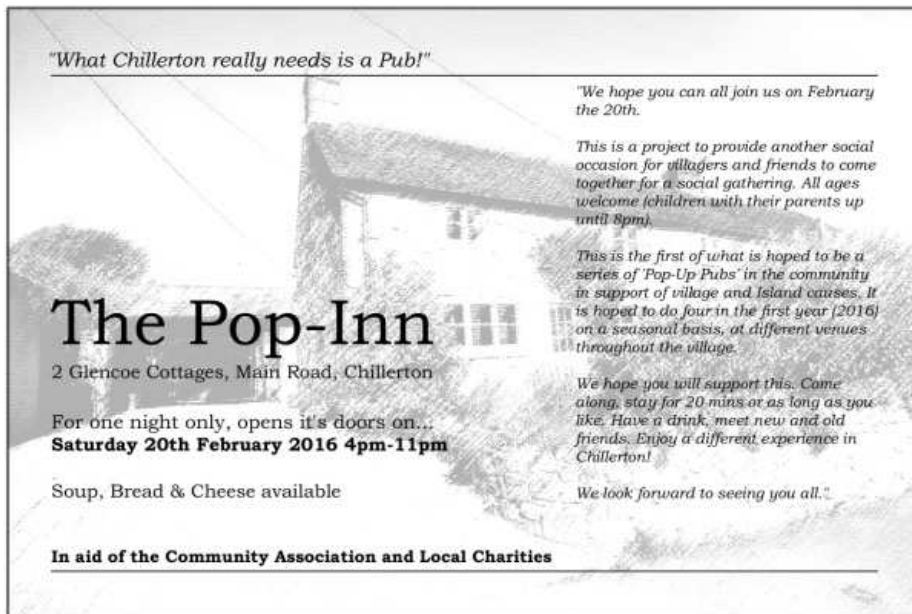
1-3 HIGH STREET, COWES, PO31 7SA  
01983 292823  
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So the much awaited 'Pop Inn' finally popped up in Chillerton on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of February. It would seem that the banner on the fliers "What Chillerton really needs is a pub", a much used phrase in the village, was born out by the fact that well over 100 people passed through its doors between 4 o'clock and 11.



The clientele ranged in age from 4 months to 84, and the first reaction appears to be that everyone had a great time, although to be honest the baby didn't express too much of an opinion.

The event was enhanced by the conversion of the beautiful old cottage at Glencoe for the first of these events. Its flag floors and beamed ceilings created a wonderful atmosphere and environment. As many people were heard to comment "This feels just like a pub used to be." A real thank you must go to Zoe and Gareth for allowing their lovely home to be used for the event and all the hard work they put into the day.



The flyer that was used to publicise the event

votes cast to find the nations favourite craft spirits. The Isle of Wight Gin achieved a total of 1,460 votes from across the UK.

The Isle of Wight distillers achieved top ten status on the #HotCraftSpirits leaderboard beating stiff competition from around the country. Established in 2014, Mermaid Gin uses juniper berries, rock samphire handpicked from the island and Boadicea hops grown at the Ventnor Botanic Garden. These feature alongside England's first home grown coriander seeds, fresh lemon zest, angelica root, liquorice root, orris root and elderflower.



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Xavier Baker, co-founder of Isle of Wight distillery: "We're extremely proud of our gin and saw this as a great opportunity to get people talking about Wight Mermaids Gin."

CAMRA DISCOUNTS

Here is a list of pubs which offer card carrying CAMRA members discount.

- Old Village Inn, Bembridge - 10%
- Pilot Boat, Bembridge - 15%
- Union, Cowes £3.90 all real ales for locals and CAMRA members
- Anchor, Cowes - 10%
- Duke of York, Cowes - 20p
- High Park Tavern, Ryde - 25p

Landlords, if you offer discount to card carrying CAMRA members, please inform [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

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Dear Tim  
Having just received my copy of Wightwash I was looking through the local brewery notes & noticed that Yates' are now taking some beers from the **Derventio Brewery** with the claim that 'they have never been on the Island before'.



I thought to myself, I don't believe that is correct and when I had a few minutes, I checked my list of beers for the Havenstreet Steam Show with no success. However my list did not include the Spring Beer Festival. I looked through all the beer lists & lo and behold in 2012, the theme that year was a *Trawl around the Midlands* and included **Derventio Brewery - Cleopatra 5%**.

Further investigation revealed that in 2014, as part of my themes for that year, Liz Taylor & Richard Burton had got married for the first time in 1964 and as they both starring in the film 'Cleopatra', I got the same beer again!

It may be true that the brewery's beers haven't probably been sold in any pub on the Island before, but they have certainly been sold in both of the Steam Railway's Beer Festivals.



In the 24 years that I have been involved with the bars on the Steam Railway we have sold a lot of different beers from a lot of different breweries, large medium & micro. Having done a quick count it is probably about 700 different beers from about 400 different breweries. I could go on, but it is time to stop there! All the best in beer.

Derek Bishop  
(Thanks Derek! -Ed)

Dear Tim,  
Thanks for - and congratulations on - the new-look Spring Wightwash.

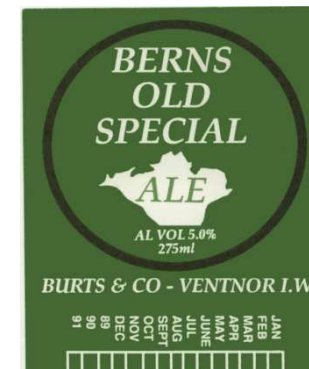
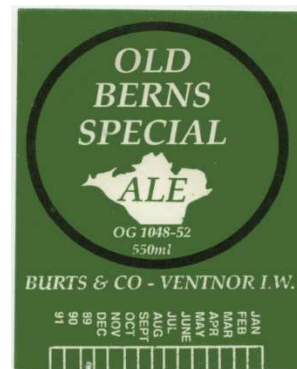
(You won't thank me, though, for annoyingly pointing out, as no doubt others will have too, the tiny typo that changed Binfield into Binstead in your father's piece. Happens to us all, constantly.)  
(Yes, All my fault for relocating the Medway Queen several miles to the east - Ed)



"Ironhenge" from Jeff Sechiani's piece in the last Issue

I particularly enjoyed the bit on 'Ironhenge', not least because I suspect my great-great-grandfather, JGN Alleyne, may have made the original pieces. Ok, not him but the

smaller 275ml bottle the label was revamped as 'Berns Old Special Ale', as well as showing the Alcohol by Volume rather than the OG.



Another variation for the collector is the cask label, often very functional, especially these days. Burts had an attractive range in the past and we shall explore these next time.

The Labologists Society may be found at- [www.labology.org.uk](http://www.labology.org.uk)  
The Brewery History Society may be found at- [www.BreweryHistory.com](http://www.BreweryHistory.com)

I would be delighted to hear from anyone about Isle of Wight Brewery History and breweriana.

Jeff Sechiani  
Email: [Chairman@BreweryHistory.com](mailto:Chairman@BreweryHistory.com)

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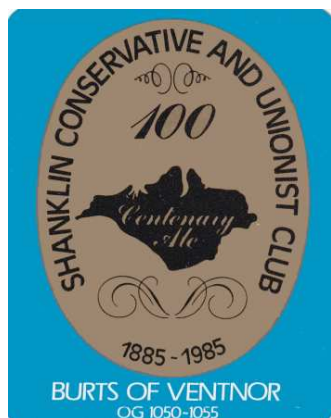
A traditional pub, well known for it's real ales and community spirit, popular with locals and visitors alike.



The following pair of 4X labels shows the transition from OG - Original Gravity to ABV – Alcohol by Volume, and it interesting to note that the first covers Best Before End dates in 1989-1991, whilst the second covers 1990-1992, suggesting that this change came in for 1990.



Although Burts ceased trading before the current heyday of ‘specials’, they did produce a few bottled beers with their own labels for special events, e.g. for the Shanklin Conservative & Unionist Club’s centenary in 1985, and Basingstoke Round Table’s 50th anniversary.



They also bottled a beer for Bernie Jones, originally a Burton man who had joined them from Shanklin Brewery when that ceased brewing in the early 1950s.

The story goes that he was rather touched by the thought but wasn’t so taken with the name – ‘Old Berns Special Ale’ – less of the ‘old’, please, so when they produced the

workforce at the Butterley Ironworks that he managed. In fairness to him, he was a Victorian engineer of the hands-on type - he patented industrial machinery methods for manipulating iron, whether for the beams and girders of St Pancras station’s extraordinary roof or for the navy’s battleships. At home, near Derby, he built an observatory, a fire engine and a steamboat for navigating the canals. According to *Bygone Derbyshire*, ‘crucial to the design and engineering of St Pancras were WH Barlow, the brilliant railways engineer who conceived the idea, and Sir John Alleyne, the equally brilliant company engineer and manager of Butterley Co for 28 years, who transformed the idea into reality.’

Butterley supplied 60 million bricks to the station building and Midland Grand Hotel, along with 9,000 tonnes of ironwork. It’s nice to think of some of that now preserved as a shrine to Burton Ales.

All the best,  
Rupert Besley

Dear Tim

I have recently been passed a copy of the Spring Issue of Wightwash, on page 20 you mention the vessel, which was used to ship Newport beers to the mainland. I don’t know if you have previously seen the attached photograph of Mew Langton’s ship which was taken about 50 years ago.



It forms part of my collection, it was taken by the late Tony Bennett.

Best wishes  
Roy Denison CAMRA pioneer

Hi  
I visited the Island last week. the Ryde Esplanade Hotel (Harrys Bar) now sells two cask ales, both from the Heritage Brewery at Burton. Charrington IPA 4.4 and Masterpiece 5.4. Also a selection of local bottled ales, Wight Gold and Wight Knight.

The Marine Bar has one handpump serving Goddards Ale of Wight. All three beers in the two bars were in very good nick! I’ve been a Camra member since 1983 so was very pleased to see these additions as I was staying in the Esplanade.

Rgds  
Mark Harrington  
Darlington



### Cornwall- (Eventually!) 2016

We started our holiday in Emsworth to see our friends Terry and Val Smith and so that I could participate in the Emsworth St Georges day and The Queens Birthday Parade. Having taken part in the parade with the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans, we had a buffet lunch and a couple of pints in The Lord Raglan pub. Both the parade and the pub session were on South Today. That evening we had dinner in the Bluebell pub and another couple of pints which were excellent. The next day we all went to Haying Island and had lunch in The Inn on The Beach which had three Cornish beers on offer, fabulous views, we could see the Island and had a good lunch.



On to Alton to see our daughter and family who took us to The Chocolate Frog which is a gift shop, food hall, garden centre, art gallery and restaurant complex and had a superb lunch washed down with a pint of cider.



Onwards to Topsham near Exeter. The camp site had installed rainwater showers, solar heated, so we stayed five days instead of the usual two. Having settled in and after a good nights sleep, Heather and I crossed the estuary in a small ferry, seeing a seal en-route and set off walking to Exeter along the river bank. We stopped at The Double Lock Hotel (A Youngs Pub [www.doublelocks.com](http://www.doublelocks.com)) which has



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The Minimum Contents value also changed from imperial to metric values over time. The following selection of labels shows these characteristics. It's also interesting to see how they broadened their range of beers on offer, including both a Light Ale and a Pale Ale – although a number seem to be of very similar strength.





continued  
→

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## Labology and the Garden Isle

This is the fourth article in a series looking at the beer label heritage of the Isle of Wight, following remarks by chairman Juan (page 4 of the Winter 2014 edition), who observed – “The Labologists Society (*well I had never heard of them either!....*)”. (He’s never going to let him forget that is he? Ed)



Last time we looked at the earlier labels of Burts, taking us to the advent of the introduction of Minimum Contents in the 1960s.

The information that was required to appear on a bottle label started to change dramatically with the arrival of new legislation, firstly in 1963 with the Weights & Measures Act, which required that the minimum contents should be specified, and over the following years it became necessary to declare the Original Gravity (OG), later replaced by the Alcohol by Volume (ABV), and the Best Before date.



The label shape changed from oval to square in this period. This was possibly driven by mechanisation in the wider industry, but Burts still famously hand bottled using their wooden box of labels with an integral glue tray.

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an extensive outside area, caters for weddings and has real log fires. They serve three real ales and three ciders. I tried The Hunters Pheasant Plucker which was very palatable and on setting off walking I promptly tripped on a protruding stone and skinned my knees and elbows - don't laugh and had only had one pint! The next night we met our Grandson and his lady friend in the Lighter Inn in Topsham and had a really good steak and ale pie washed down with pints of Badgers Diver. We spent some time looking around Exeter and did a bit of shopping and then set of for Cornwall.

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We arrived at the Tremorvu campsite at Ashton, halfway between Helston and Penzance and set up, etc. In the morning we walked to Helston and on the way saw an advert for a charity Beer Festival. As a nod is as good as a wink to a blind man, we found the festival at the back of the Methodist church in their upstairs hall, run by The Rotary Club. With 20 real Cornish beers on offer and four pints for £10.00 - bargain! We sampled half a dozen halves and wandered up the High Street. Came to a brand new Wetherspoons and, as usual it was very well converted - from an old furniture shop. On offer - eight real ales, seven craft beers on draught and 15 bottled but settled for a sobering coffee.



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In the morning we walked along the coastal path to Porthleven. The weather turned foul, the paths were getting very slippery, cliffs eroding, but we made it and caught the bus back to dry out. Next day, caught the bus to Porthleven and walked the coastal path



through the Penrose estate (National Trust) into Helston stopping for a pint in the

Harbour Inn, Porthleven and the Tribute was cracking. At Helston we headed for The Blue Anchor - Flora Daze 4%, Jubilee I.P.A. 4.5%, Middle Spingo 5% and Special Spingo 7.4%. I left Heather and went to the brewery. The brewer, Tim, has been brewing there for the last thirty + years. The whole town was busy getting set up for the Floral Dance, an annual event but as we were on the move we missed it. Having seen it previously, 'tis well worth a visit, (proper job!)



Moved on to The Pentewan Valley - to The Meadows campsite for adults only. Facilities were first class and the owners very friendly - lots more walking. We walked to Pentewan village and had lunch in The Ship Inn ([www.theshippinnpentewan.co.uk](http://www.theshippinnpentewan.co.uk)) which is a St Austell house, very good food and the beer was on top form. Tribute, Cornish Best and Mena Dhu stout, 4.5%

with six different malts in it, Cornish Stout with a smoked oak aroma and a hint of chocolate but a delicate touch of liquorice to finish.

Then walked to Mevagissey, a very strenuous walk, up and down, in and out on the coastal path and then caught the bus back. Next day we walked to the Lost Gardens of Heligan and spent the day exploring. The following day we were going to Truro but missed the train so rather than wait an hour for the next one we caught the bus to the Eden Project and spent the day looking around. A word of warning – it's well worth a visit but take a picnic with you as the food is both rubbish and expensive. All good things come to an end so we set off back and stopped at Lytton Lawns Site just outside Milford on Sea and had a good kip and in the morning walked to Keyhaven and then along the coastal path to Lymington, which is a lovely walk through mostly nature reserve on the left (many birds to see, feathered variety of course) and the Solent and island on the right. Had a look at the market and caught the bus back.

And so to home...

*Pete and Heather Cobb*



*Everybody dancing Franny Frail*

turns blue as the Bluebells in the green come into focus, this makes it all so worthwhile .....Do come again next year...1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 or look at the Men of Wight web page to see where we are for this summer !

<http://menofwight.org.uk>

Wassail everybody !!!

NB Wassail is an old English word meaning "be of good cheer!"

*Steve Baker*





Goddards at the Longstone

using sticks. After this, two of the audience sing a song about the coming of summer. There is then a couple more Morris dances by the Men of Wight, then another song sung by Brian Jacobs, Bagman of the Men of Wight, which he wrote himself, about (surprisingly) Morris Dancing on the first of May!!

Then to finish a Circassian Circle which everybody joins in forming a circle right around the Longstone to the tune of Nelly the Elephant!! The sun is now well above the horizon and beaming bright, warm and golden light down on to the scene, time now, to wend your way back down the path to the car park, and as you walk down you see a green carpet of plants amongst the trees as you walk further that green carpet

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## The Volunteer, Ventnor

At 2am on Monday 23rd May, Margaret and Simon Grocock left Newark in a rented 7½ ton van and started their journey to Ventnor. They arrived 12 hours later and opened the Volunteer at 5pm. The planned opening wasn't until the Friday but there was a darts match booked. Well, you don't want to upset the darts team do you?

This is the first time Simon has run a pub despite coming from a long line of landlords going back to his Great Grandfather. His brother Julian was CEO of SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) and former Managing Director of Castle Rock Brewery (owned by CAMRA's Chris Holmes). He is currently on CAMRA's steering committee.

To say Simon has had a colourful past would be putting it mildly. He met Margaret in his brother's pub when he spilt some beer on her. They moved to Margaret's native Canada where amongst other occupations Simon tried his hand at sheep farming. The project failed. "I bought ten sheep but within a week the wolves had eaten five of them".

They moved back to England and set up a very successful jewellery business. Margaret is a trained and, by the sound of it, a highly skilled goldsmith (more of this in a future issue).

Deciding to take on a pub was quite spontaneous. One Tuesday morning in February Simon went on line and looked for available pubs. They spotted the Volunteer and by the Friday had travelled to the Island and decided it was just what they wanted.

The "proper" opening was on Friday 27th May. They opened the doors at 5pm and by the time the last customer left at 1.30am they'd shifted 23½ gallons of beer.

Talking to Simon and Margaret it is clear that they love the pub and have a passion for beer. It is heartening to know that this much loved pub is in such good hands.



*A Beerhead Abroad*

Hot, humid, noisy, crowded and expensive – no, not a West End pub, but the former British colony of Hong Kong. Time was when it was a by-word for all things cheap – ‘Made in Hong Kong’ summoned up an oriental vision of Woolworths. That is no more; Hong Kong is one of the most expensive cities in the world to live, and the dearest to have a pub crawl in. There’s plenty of craft beer if you look for it beyond the Tsing Tao and the Asahai, but at around £10 a pint, you really can’t afford to get

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and thinking “what are we doing up here at this hour and in the cold!” Then the dancing starts, the Squire calls out the name of a dance such as William and Nancy, Jockey to the fair or the Lolly Pop Man !! “Six men up” he shouts and the men take off their warm coats and grab a stick or pull out their hankies, The musicians warm up the Morris tune and play it through so all know it. The Squire calls “this time!” and the dance starts. There it is Morris dancing at the Longstone at sunrise on May Day morning!

It is ethereal and moving that all these people have made the effort to get out of their warm cosy beds to stand by a standing stone on Mottistone Down watching Morris Dancing and the sunrise! It is very satisfying to celebrate the passing of winter and the start of summer. The Morris dancers have now finished two dances and are having a beer break from the barrel, plus they slip their warm coats on for a minute. There is more dancing and stick clashing as it gets brighter as the sun rises behind the hill, until eventually the sun breaks out from the horizon and as the day really starts you can feel the heat of the sun and the rays dazzle you. Everybody is invited to join in a massed dance with the Morris Men

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hammered on it. And don't be fooled into thinking the price you see is the price you pay – the extortionate prices are inflated by a further 10% 'service charge'. And the prize for the biggest rip-off? None other than Brit craft beer kings Brewdog – over £10 for 500 ml (not even a pint) of a very ordinary 4.6% Alice Porter.

That said, it's a fascinating and eclectic cauldron of cultures – east meets west in a sensory orgasm. Two things rule in Hong Kong; commerce and cars. Any spare space which isn't occupied by apartment blocks or roads is turned into a shopping mall – there are so many, it's hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. It's the ultimate retail experience, but make sure you have a big credit card limit before you start, and don't hunt for bargains or you'll waste a lot of drinking time. Believe me, this is one place where you really don't want to let the wife go shopping while you sit in the pub; in Hong Kong you can't afford to do either.

This doesn't do justice to the native Hong Kongers. In Aberdeen (a good old Cantonese name) in the south of the island, we were accosted by a Chinese resident as we were minding our own business by the harbour, and all he wanted to do was to talk to a Brit to improve his English. This

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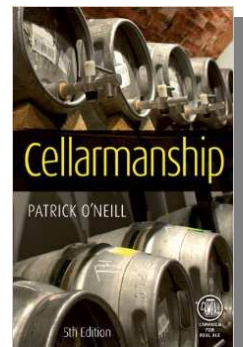
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very un-English approach set the alarm bells ringing, but he was straight up – he even guided us to a very reasonably priced restaurant where the locals ate, but declined our offer of a free meal; they're not all bent on the pursuit of mammon.

Getting around is pretty easy, and not a rip-off. The bus service is very good, the Metro excellent, and the trams are brilliant – real, old world, ting ting trams which are slow and reliable, and only cost pence to ride.



But back to the beer. There are plenty of craft beer bars, and even a few brewpubs. The Globe, a Brit pub in Soho, was far and away the best we found; the locally-brewed 7% Young Master Oil Added stout, exemplary in itself, was but a pale shadow of the Dutch de Molen Russian



Imperial Stout at 10%. There is no

finer beer style for my palate than Imperial Stout, though the local Kowloon Bay version at the nearby Tipping Point Brewery bar was rather lightweight at 8%, and lacked the alcoholic punch and complexity of its bigger brothers. You might think that Imperial Stout isn't the ideal beer for a hot, humid Honk Kong summer, but never refuse an opportunity, I say.



As you might expect, there's a plethora of IPAs available

(though dark beers are surprisingly plentiful), and the 6% Tipping Point IPA was a fine example. A style I hadn't previously encountered is Imperial Pilsner, which has the body but lacks the hop bop of IPA, but is none the worse for it – very reminiscent of a Belgian Trippel.

Hong Kong is a reminder that the craft beer revolution is astonishingly viral – if it has a significant presence in the back streets of a Chinese city, then it truly is a force to be reckoned with. It's a universal language which transcends culture and language – having an in-depth conversation about it with an Aussie backpacker in the Hong Kong Brewdog outlet was a surreal experience; it wouldn't happen with tea or cola.

When I leave a place, I always ask myself – would I go back? The answer in Hong Kong's case would be 'no'. I had a great time, and the experience of being there is justification itself. But the humidity, the crowded, frenetic lifestyle and the worship of retail aren't the scene for a small-town guy like me. If you're in that part of the southern hemisphere, then by all means drop in; but you won't have missed a lot if you don't.

Brian Jacobs

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