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CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2017
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Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 84

SUMMER 2020 SPECIAL LOCKDOWN ISSUE



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

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

THIS WILL BE A DIGITAL-ONLY ISSUE.

Obviously, you will not be expecting to pick up a copy at the pub but I do apologise to members who enjoy receiving a copy of Wightwash in the post.

The branch simply cannot afford the set-up cost for a print run of only a few hundred.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a paper copy and is unable to download one from the website, please print one for them.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this rather unusual issue.

There are various quizzes and crosswords etc. The answers start on page 28 (sorry, no prizes!).

Please be aware that the advertisements reflect life outside of lockdown and should not be taken too literally.

Finally, although at the time of publication you will not be able to visit the pubs advertised in this issue, we hope you give them your very best support as soon as you can.

Keep Safe!

Tim Marshall

Editor



Campaign
for
Real Ale

In this FREE issue:

GOOD NEWS NON-PRIZE QUIZ

News from the Breweries **A (hard) IOW Crossword**

LOCKDOWN BLUES & BOOZA MOODY BLUES

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

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 camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Your details

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
 Address _____

 Postcode _____
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Single Membership £26.50 £28.50
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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for _____
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Applications will be processed within 21 days

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Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today - camra.org.uk/joinus

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit.

Please fill in the whole form using a ballpoint pen and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW
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 Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.
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Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

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- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the organisation or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
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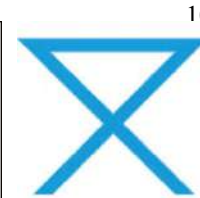
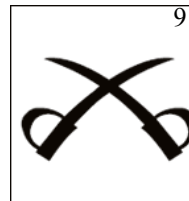
Due to Lockdown we are extending the deadline for the Spring Quiz to 1st August 2020

Win a £20 Meal Voucher for the Wight Mouse 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

- 1/ Which British Explorer was killed by the natives of Hawaii?
- 2/ Who played "Perry Mason" and "Ironside"?
- 3/ Apache, Merlin and Chinook are all types of what?
- 4/ Edgbaston is home to which county cricket team?
- 5/ What is the collective noun for a group of baboons?
- 6/ What was the Roman name for Ireland?
- 7/ What is the Isle of Wight landmark St. Catherine's Oratory better known as?
- 8/ How many US cents in a "dime"?
- 9/ and 10/ What do these Ordnance Survey map symbols mean?



Answers to the Winter Quiz

- 1/ New Zealand
- 2/ Treasure Island
- 3/ Princess Anne
- 4/ Lot
- 5/ 1969
- 6/ Nymph or Naiad.
- 7/ Jet Harris
- 8/ Widow Twanky
- 9/ John Pasche
- 10/ Salvador Dali

Liz Brammall of Brighstone wins a meal voucher and Roy Roach, who entered by email, wins a case of Yates' beer.

Thank you to all the others who took part - better luck next time!

The WIGHT MOUSE INN

Andy & Cheryl welcome you to their family run 17th century coaching inn situated in the idyllic village of Chale on the Island's most southerly point, with spectacular views to The Needles and beyond.



- Live music twice a week
- Food served all day
- Outdoor childrens' play area
- En-suite bedrooms
- Large sunny garden
- Large car park

Church Place, Chale, IW, PO38 2HA
 01983 730431 info@wightmouse.com www.wightmouse.co.uk

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	¹⁵ N	E	W			E		R		M		E	

Explanations

Across

- 2. Peter **Pan** the boy who didn't grow up.
- 4. Yokel affirmation = **arr**, Edwards initial = **e**, 20 cwt = **ton**
- 8. Point of entry = **gate**, contains word "**comb**" (as in beach**com**ing)
- 9. A **lake** is a big pond
- 11. The **Under**cliff is between Ventnor and Niton
- 13. Antonyms are opposites: *up* - **down** - *beginning* - **end**
- 15. **New**close cricket ground complies with *county-standard* (so that English county cricket games can be played there)

Down

- 1. Medal = **BEM**; Crossing = **bridge** Bembridge is easternmost point
- 3 A common - North East **NE** with **OK** inside
- 5. Australian native = '**Roo**, potassium = **k**, **ley** = ancient alignment
- 6. Cut = **sawn**, Containing letters of **don** mixed up (mad)
- 10. Stone is dug from a **quarry**
- 12. "Ticket to Ride" (sounds like **Ryde**)

Crossword devised by Clive Leal



THE
WHEATSHEAF
 EAT DRINK STAY
 A Hotel with History



St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG
 Tel: 01983 532444 Email: admin@thewheatsheafhotel.com

Ye Olde Village Inn

61 High Street, Bembridge - PO35 5SF

7 Day Offers

Tel: 01983 872616



Monday Night

DEAL • FREE QUIZ - SELECTED PIZZA £10

Tuesday Night

DEAL • CURRY NIGHT

Wed Night

DEAL • PIZZA NIGHT

Thursday Night

DEAL • SPECIALS BOARD OFFER

Fri & Sat Night

DEAL • FREE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Roasts

DEAL • HOMEMADE DESERT OFFER

T&C Apply within Ye Olde Village Inn
All Offers available on Booked tables.
Monday to Thursday : 5-8pm
Sunday 12-2pm with £10.95 roast
Or until the last roast : (01983) 872616

Web: yeoldevillageinn.com

New for 2019

MONDAY QUIZ NIGHT

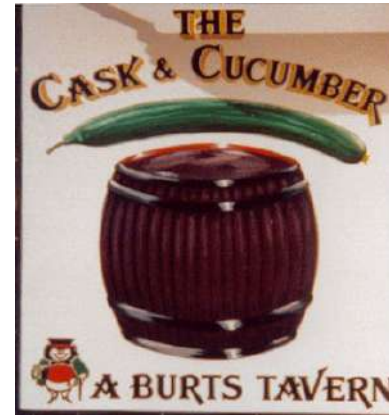


Wightwash

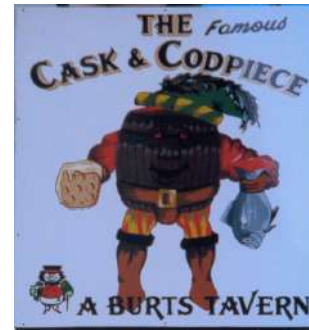
ANSWERS

Page Thirty Three

The Railway - The Cask & Cucumber,



and the poor old **Commercial Hotel** (now the **Old Comical**) became the **Cask & Codpiece**



THE GARDEN CIDER CO.
CRAFT, PREMIUM, ETHICAL, AND SUSTAINABLE.

Labels shown: Blueberry, Elderflower, Vintage, Raspberry & Cherry, Strawberry & Apple.

AVAILABLE ON THE IOW THROUGH YATES BREWERY. FOR ALL TRADE ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT 01983 867878

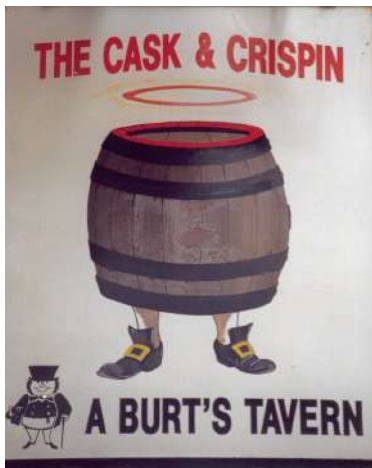
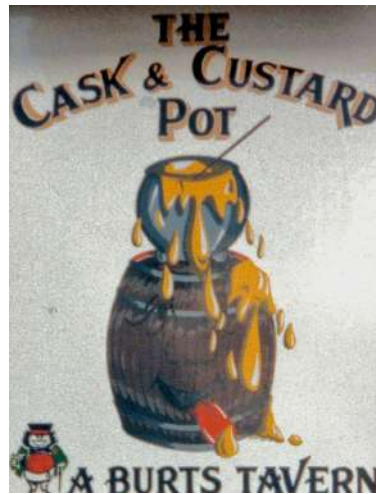
King Harry's Bar
Old Village, Shanklin
Ever changing variety of well kept real ales
Telephone: 01983 863119
Function room available for all occasions
Live bands every Friday from 9pm 'til 11pm
20p off a pint of real ale for card carrying CAMRA members

5. The only known examples of the Cyclists' Touring Club logos on the Island are on the **Red Lion**, Carisbrooke (what was) and the **Wheatsheaf** in Newport.



6. All the pubs mentioned were at one time owned by Geoffrey Hartridge and given the name "Cask and....."

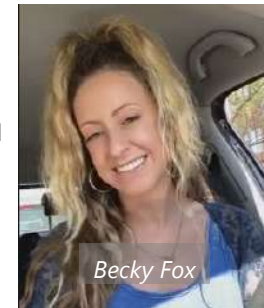
The Stag became the **Cask & Custard Pot**, the **Crispin** - The **Cask & Crispin**



Despite the unusual, and in some cases, sad and desperate situation we find ourselves in, there have been some heart-warming stories of kindness. None more so than what's been happening in a little pub in Brading...



When the **Yarbridge Inn** was forced to close due to the coronavirus outbreak the owners **Becky Fox**, brother **Richard** and mum **Jane** felt that they would like to do something for the community that had always supported the pub.



They started by using the surplus food left over from the closure to cook meals and, together with a team of volunteer drivers, they began delivering them to those in the area who had little or no support.



The surplus food quickly ran out, but help was at hand.

Assistance in the form of food donations, drivers and chefs came from all quarters with a lot from the hospitality trade: Jenna and Paul from the **Brunswick**, Rob and Rachel from the **Blacksmiths**, Tom Axford from the **Kyngs Well**, Jay Chapman from **Ye Old Village Inn** have all contributed to this fantastic effort.



Volunteer delivery driver Al Gornal and his tuk tuk



Tom Axford

To date, they have delivered over 4,000 "community drop" meals, and jolly tasty they look too!



For more details see the [Yarbridge Inn facebook page](#)

Goddards Brewery

Supporting Local

So, with the sudden closure of the hospitality industry Goddards Brewery rose to the challenge of adapting. Straight away they were pushing their #DeliverBrew service on the island. It has always been available but not widely promoted. The service provides beer directly to people’s doorsteps, whilst adhering to Government guidelines of social distancing and hygiene.

Along with this, Goddards Brewery have been widely pushing the #SupportLocal hashtag to encourage the general public to make use of the local delivery services that have become available. As much as they have been keeping the supermarkets stocked with their beer, as a local producer they want to ensure other local producers keep going through these difficult times too.

Their beers have also been venturing across the UK to keep the beer flowing for other Goddards fans across the UK – even a Deli in Essex is stocking their brews. Their contract brewing has also still been going, with one contract bottle brew exported to the United Arab Emirates!

Like many others, they have been doing the frequent shout outs for the NHS and all other Key Workers – even



taking the steps to create a limited-edition tankard to recognise the outstanding work of nominated Key



Workers. There’s also the bottle cap

4. Here’s a photo of the section of the skyline in question. It’s at 44 High Street Ryde and it was the Eagle Hotel. Behind it was **Lake's Eagle Brewery** (later bought by Sweetman - hence the ES on the two stone panels below the roofline).



We welcome you to The Waterfront with our all new restaurant “The Mediterranean Kitchen” where you can come and enjoy the magical location of Totland Bay in the west of the Isle of Wight. Experience some of the finest sunsets in Europe over a drink, or our freshly prepared delicious Mediterranean cuisine.

Find us on Facebook facebook.com/eatbythesea

Wi-Fi DOGS ARE MOST WELCOME IN CERTAIN AREAS

The Waterfront, Totland Beach, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight PO39 0BQ | Tel: 01983 756969

www.eatbythesea.com

THE CULVER HAVEN INN

Located at one of its highest points, The Culver Haven Inn boasts some of the best views on the Isle of Wight

As well as an ever-changing variety of real ales, beers and wines, we also serve a range of delicious pub dishes

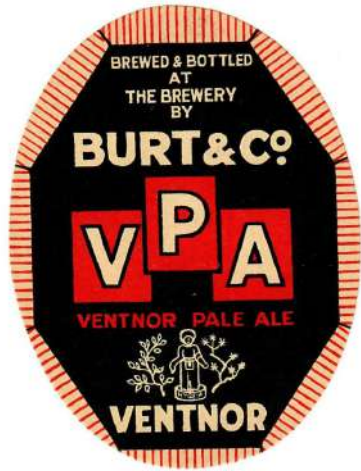
With friendly staff and a cosy atmosphere, The Culver Haven Inn is the perfect place to take the weight off of your feet – or paws!



Culver Down, Sandown PO36 8QT (01983) 406107 www.culverhaven.com



3. You can see from the labels that Burt's **VPA** was **Ventnor Pale Ale** and Mew Langton **OPA** was **Osborne Pale Ale**.



Joe's Bar

A WIDE RANGE OF REAL ALES

including a regular selection from micro breweries

All food home cooked and fresh!

Dog friendly - Families Welcome - Large Garden

Woodfired Pizzas (from 6pm)

High Street, Niton PO38 2AZ
01983 730280

rainbow that has featured across many social media posts.

For now, until our friends the publicans re-open, Goddards say support local and stay safe. We will see you on the other side!

Yates' Brewery

Hayley tells us that all is well with Yates' Brewery during these very strange times: "We have been doing home delivery to keep ourselves busy, our bottles are flying out the door and still having to brew to keep up with sales.

We are missing our publicans and regular trade for this time of the year and can't wait to speak to them all very soon.

We recently donated 150 cases of

orange juice to St. Mary's hospital to help patients in need of extra vitamin C."



Aidy just off to St. Mary's .

Tim and Julie look forward to welcoming you to

THE WAVERLEY INN

CARISBROOKE

Now with Six En-Suite Bed and Breakfast Rooms



Food: Mon - Sat: 8am - 2.30pm and 5pm - 8.30pm

Sunday Roast - £8.95

booking recommended

11 draught beers and ciders (IOW real ales)

Open for breakfast Mon - Sun from 8am

Telephone: 01983 522338

Email: waverleyiow@gmail.com

www.waverleyinn.co.uk

Boojum Brewery

At Boojum Brewery we decided the best thing to do during this time was to get brewing and selling beer. We proudly presented our first beer for sale 39 litres (in a bag in box) of **South Island Pale Ale** 5% ABV. As you can imagine it's sold out rather quickly and we have another batch fermenting at the moment. It is our own recipe, a SMaSH beer (single malt



Kevin

Rob

whole orchard. Customers, head brewer Kevin at Vibrant Forest and Rob at Botley have described SIPA as pleasant, refreshing and a smooth summer ale. We look forward to presenting our next brew as we refine the recipe, dropping the ABV to a more sessional 3.9% and more hops at flame out.



and single hop) using Rakau hops from New Zealand which says it has the taste of the

Two Great Ventnor pubs!

The Traditional British Lounge and Wine Bar

and the little gem!



Surround yourself with nostalgia and enjoy our fine home cooked food. We stock an excellent range of Wines, Beers, Lagers, Ciders and Non-Alcoholic drinks. Guest Bottled Ales and Organic Ciders. 46 High Street. Tel: 01983 857446 www.perksofventnor.com



No chips, children or fruit machines. Just good ale and conversation. **Fully Open** (* expt. Tuesdays) 30 Victoria Street. 01983 852537

2. Having obtained a bottling plant, Goddards bottled beer for the **Crumbs Brewery** from Reigate who brew all of their beers using leftover bread. As well as **Sourdough**, other beers include **Rye Ruby** and **Rye Coffee Porter** which also has spent coffee grounds in its recipe.



Brewed by Crumbs Brewing, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 2HD, in partnership with Goddards Brewery and Chalk Hills Bakery in Reigate.

SOURDOUGH PALE

Crumbs Brewing Sourdough Pale Ale
Alc. 4.2% vol. 500ml

Ingredients: water, barley, wheat and oat malts, sourdough breadcrumbs (wheat & rye), hops.
Allergy advice: for allergens see ingredients in bold

Use your loaf - drink responsibly!
The UK's Chief Medical Officer recommends adults do not exceed 2-3 units per day



Best before:

THE WHITE LION NITON



Welcome to our newly refurbished, independently owned FREEHOUSE. We offer a fantastic menu serving fresh local produce along with a great selection of real ales. Enjoy the best of gastro style food in our family and dog friendly village pub.

Hope to see you all again soon!

Follow us on Instagram

High Street, Niton. PO38 2AT | 01983 719402

whitelioniow.co.uk

Follow us on facebook

Here are the answers to the quiz on page 12. We hope you find them interesting.

1. You will see from the label that before Goddards had their own bottling plant, **Fuggle Dee Dum** was once brewed and bottled by Bateman and Son of Wainfleet.



As luck would have it we have an off sales licence so during lockdown we can deliver boxes of craft bottles and cans, featuring **Orbit, Padstow, DAMM, Botley and Downton Brewery**. Now things are easing down, we are open for draught takeaway beer and cider. Fridays and Saturdays and



Tracy enjoying Entlea at Vibrant Forest

odd days when the sun is shining! As brewers are classed as key workers we were able to take a trip to Southampton in May to collect some fresh beer and support these breweries. It was great to meet up - social distancing observed - and we enjoyed a glass of beer and caught up with the goings-on. We have some great beer from **Unity Brewery Co., Vibrant Forest, Red Cat** - local Hampshire breweries - and some guests from further afield. Watch out for some **Gose, Saison, Stout, Porter** and lots of cider too. All our beers and opening times are on our [Facebook page](#).

Julie Jones-Evans - Brewster

Island Brewery

The Island Brewery was planning to celebrate its 10th Birthday earlier in March just when the lockdown started, so for obvious reasons had to postpone the event which was to be held at the brewery but we now hopefully will celebrate the birthday in November when hopefully things maybe somewhere near back to normal, details and invitations to follow. The brewery is currently closed but Chris, Ashley and Tom are raring to go as soon as things start to open up again.

Island Ales are operating a home delivery service, so you can still get bottles and polypins of the Island Brewery Ales delivered straight to your

door. From the beginning of June, the Island Brewery Ales will be available in 20ltr, 10ltr and 5ltr polypin format, this is following a surge in demand for these sizes. Island Ales home deliveries have no minimum order or delivery charge and nearly all deliveries are made the same day, so why not take advantage of their range of wines, spirits and soft drinks.

We at the Island Brewery and Island Ales wish everyone well in these unprecedented times and look forward to working with you again in the near future.





HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

OF

Wines, Beers, Spirits & Soft Drinks

No Minimum Order • No Delivery Charge

01983 821731 info@islandales.co.uk



THE CASTLE INN

FITZROY STREET, SANDOWN

ISLE OF WIGHT PO36 8HY

01983 403169

www.sandowncastle.co.uk

A Right Proper Pub!

Beer and Buses Most Popular Pub 2018

Winner

IOW CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018

Third

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



BLUES & BOOZA

2-3 month worldwide shutdown, but there, I'm just a silly old layman. Yes, there will be pubs and breweries, and, of course, many other businesses, which will go down the tubes, but it's up to us, the punters, to make sure a setback doesn't turn into a catastrophe by getting out and drinking in pubs as soon and as often as we can, and doing our best to support the licensed trade. The future is what we make it.

In the meantime, lockdown doesn't mean shutdown. In earlier times we would have had to get through a situation like this with just the telephone, the radio and TV. Now we have satellite TV, mobiles and DAB, but, more importantly, we have the world at our fingertips. We can all connect online to whatever entertainment we want, whatever beer we want (almost) and enjoy it in the company of who we want, albeit digitally; let's hear it for Tim Berners-Lee. And don't overlook the joys of a pint on the patio which is now becoming more attainable as restrictions ease. Look, we can't do anything about Covid, so regard it as an opportunity to try something new rather than mourning the loss of something we had; let's make the most of what we've got and be jolly thankful we've got it! And when this little lot is over, remember the 4 Good Ps – a good pint in a good pub with good pals; the final one comes slightly later. There's nothing better!

Brian Jacobs

The Highdown Inn

Bed & Breakfast, Local Seafood Restaurant and Country Family Pub



Dog Friendly, Family Friendly, Walker Friendly "Muddy boots welcome!"

[See our facebook page for our takeaway times.](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Telephone: 01983 752450

Highdown Lane, Totland, Isle of Wight, PO39 OHY

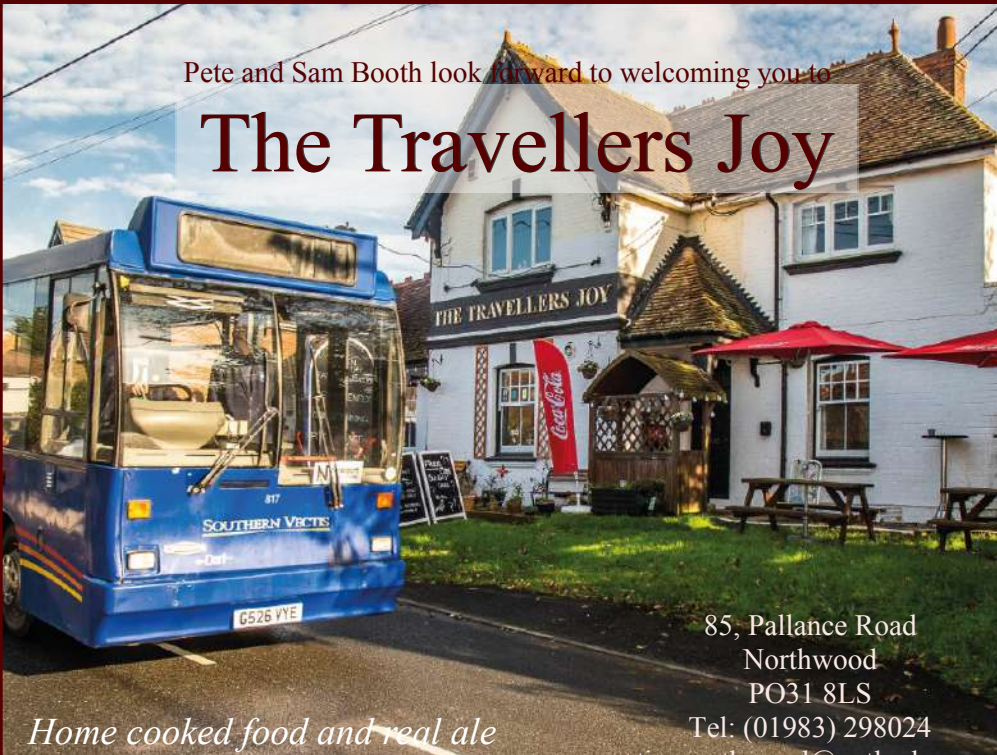
www.highdowninn.co.uk

using the pigeon as they hate being clicked on), after answering some simple questions, like 'Do you want to join with video' or 'Do you think that Zoom is a fake app and it's better to inject yourself with disinfectant'. Simple! Still not sure? There are plenty of YouTube tutorials like <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnFSBjFvK2o> to guide you.

So, that's got you by the past and present; what about the future? What saddens me most is that the media, ably and ineffectually led by our esteemed Government, continually talks down post-virus prospects, just in case you were beginning to feel any nascent optimism. No one's pretending it's going to be easy coming out of such a devastating setback, but the light at the end of the tunnel isn't necessarily a train coming towards you and we will do it because there's no alternative. Hey, every country in the world, however hard they've been hit by Covid-19 and however well or badly they've dealt with it, is in the same ball game as the UK. I find it hard to understand why a company like Rolls Royce, a global long-lead-time manufacturer which has been around in one form or other for over 100 years, has to shed a fifth of its workforce because of a

Pete and Sam Booth look forward to welcoming you to

The Travellers Joy



85, Pallance Road
Northwood
PO31 8LS
Tel: (01983) 298024
tjoynorthwood@outlook.com

Home cooked food and real ale

The Isle of Wight Distillery has recently turned its expertise and knowledge to the production of a hand sanitiser, Wight Wash (sound familiar?) The initiative was set up to support the local community, with special priority being given to key workers and organisations experiencing shortages, such as NHS services, schools and residential homes.



and are looking forward to supporting the local on trade community once the restrictions are lifted. "It's been a challenging time," said Xavier Baker, co-founder of the Distillery, "but we're looking forward and getting ready to welcome customers and support our local pubs".

In addition, the Distillery team continue to supply locally, nationally and overseas,

Head to social media and follow [@iowdistillery](#) and [@mermaidgin](#) for cocktail inspiration and updates from the Mermaid Crew or find out more at www.isleofwightdistillery.com

THREE HOUSE ALES AND ONE FORTNIGHTLY GUEST ALE.
REGULAR ALE & CIDER FESTIVALS
CAMRA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% OFF ALL REAL ALES ALL DAY EVERY DAY

Solent Inn
Ryde



FACEBOOK.COM/SOLENTRYDE | SOLENT INN 7 MONKTON STREET, PO33 1JW RYDE | 01983 613761

During a Zoom meeting, care of Brian Jacobs, we broached the subject of an Isle of Wight Quiz based around pubs and beer. Jeff Sechiari came up with a few teasers.

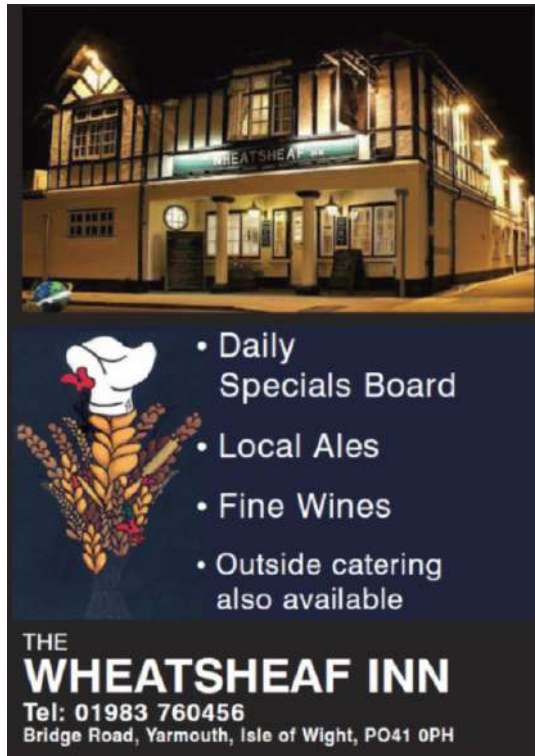
Sorry - no prizes. The answers start on page 30. I was going to print them upside down in the grand old puzzle book tradition but on reflection thought it unfair on those reading this on a desktop.

1. Why did **Goddards** find themselves in Lincolnshire in the 1990s?
2. What is the link between **Goddards** and left-over bread?
3. If **PA** is **Pale Ale** and **IPA** is **India Pale Ale**, what is **Burt's VPA** and **Mew Langton's OPA**?
4. Why might you see an Eagle on the Ryde skyline?
5. On which Island pubs could the Cyclists' Touring Club find their seals of approval?
6. What have the following pubs in common: The Stag Inn, Parkhurst, The Crispin, Newport, The Railway, Ryde, The Old Comical, Sandown and The Taverners, Godshill?

7. Where does this phrase originate "**Ryde for Pride, Newport for Hot Dinners**"?

(actually we don't know the answer to this one. We rather hoped you'd be able to tell us.

Email editor@wightwash.org.uk.



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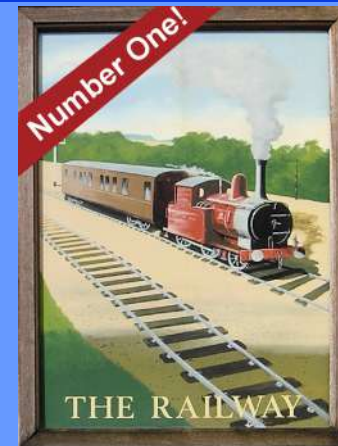
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BLUES & BOOZA

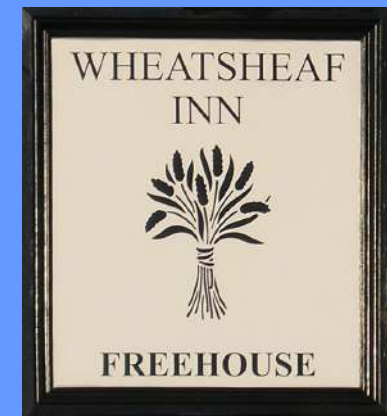
many online video conferencing apps for mobile and PC, mostly free, to choose from. CAMRA nationally have an online video forum, Red (On)Lion, though it's buried deep in its website, and the only link to it is by cycling through the home screen pop-up, so it's not readily obvious; neither is how to operate the table-booking facility (basically a personal chat room) because there's no actual guidance to its operation. However, there are plenty more. Some, like WhatsApp and Houseparty, are mobile-only for video, but there are many cross-platform video alternatives available with varying degrees of complexity. I've found the best to be Zoom – it can be temperamental, but it's reasonably straightforward, you can have 100 participants at any one time, and it's free, though the basic model limits meetings to 40 minutes (you can schedule a follow-on meeting straight afterwards). If you're prepared to sacrifice 14 of your English pounds a month for the premium version (currently on offer for £84 annual subscription - a drop in the ocean compared to what you're saving by not going out), you can get by the 40-minute curfew; It's money well spent, and makes you a god among your fellow Zoomers! Just download it to your PC or phone, or both, from <https://zoom.us/>, sign up to a user account, and you're good to go! The host schedules a meeting and sends a link by email, message or carrier pigeon, which you just click on to join the meeting (take care if

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range (see their [Facebook page](#) for more details), and there are many online beer retailers to choose from, purveying an astonishing range of mini-kegs, bottles and cans. You might find some of the more tempting brews (like those above 5%) are temporarily out of stock, and you will have to wait anything up to a fortnight for your beer to come, so plan ahead. Two that I have found very satisfactory are Flavourly (<https://www.flavourly.com/>) for UK craft beers, with many crazy styles and headbangers in the range as well as baby beer, and for continental ales, I recommend Beerwulf of Amsterdam, <https://www.beerwulf.com/en-gb>, which offers many insanely strong beers among its exemplary fare. Neither charge delivery for orders above a certain value. I haven't tried them, but Beers of Europe (<https://www.beersofeurope.co.uk/>) look good, though its range is so extensive, it's like being in the best sweetshop in the Land of Sweetshops. Bewildering!

So, you've got your beer, but you really don't want to drink alone, do you? The best way to mitigate the desolation of isolation is by means of video chat – it lacks the atmosphere of the pub, but, hey, when you can't get caviar, you make do with cod roe. There are



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This is a puzzle for the real cruciverbalists (crossword enthusiasts) amongst you. All the answers are Isle of Wight towns or villages.

To get you started, the answer to 5 down is **Rookley** (Australian native = 'Roo, potassium = **k**, **ley** = ancient alignment). The other answers are in a similar vein. Answer and explanations are on page 34 Good luck!

Across

2. Peter didn't grow up near Newport (3)
4. Edward's initially 20cwt after yokel affirmed (7)
8. Do it on the beach within entry point (8)
9. Big pond southwest of Sandown? (4)
11. -----cliff, twixt Ventnor and Niton
13. Up beginning antonyms
14. Service in keeper
15. --- close county-standard ground (3)

Down

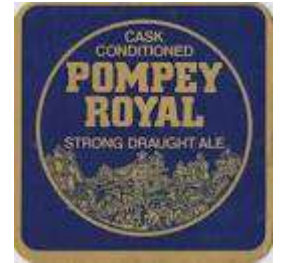
1. A medal for crossing out east. (9)
3. Common to be alright in the north east. (4)
5. Native Australian and potassium go ahead of ancient alignment. (6)
6. Cut containing mad university lecturer. (7)
7. Prepare cured pig for painting. (7)
10. An abbey where stone is dug out? Not quite (5)
12. It sounded as though the Beatles had a ticket to go there. (4)

[Click here to download the crossword to print](#)

BLUES & BOOZA

Whitbread Final Selection, a barley wine, etc. Some Mew Langton pubs sold 4X, which was slightly stronger, and Brickwood houses sported a robust best bitter which would go on to become Pompey Royal. Then it got even worse. The advent of keg beers and pseudo British lagers took the UK by storm in the 60s and 70s, and fizzy, bland beers became the norm until CAMRA led a backlash in the 70s, and shaped the beer scene more or less as we know it now. The astonishing variety of beers we take for granted these days, not just here but abroad, is due in no small way to four disenfranchised blokes sat round a Kerry pub table in 1971.

So that brings us kicking and screaming to the present day when the range and quality of beers has never been better, but it's part of the same scene which has ironically seen a dramatic reduction in the places where you can enjoy them. Until lockdown, I thought that was an unacceptably high price to pay for beer diversity, but at the moment, with every pub shut, I'm grateful for such a cornucopia of beers being available in the off-trade, whether locally or online nationally or, indeed, internationally. Even before the present crisis, I found a 3pm Belgie (my term of endearment for a Belgian headbanger) to be particularly satisfying, though it does impair performance for the rest of the day.



I understand that all 3 Island breweries are offering a home delivery service for packaged and draught beer during the lockdown, though only Goddards has any reference on its website to Covid-19:

<https://goddardsbrewery.com/>

<https://yates-brewery.co.uk/>

<http://islandales.co.uk/>

At the time of writing, Boojum and Snark at Sandown is offering takeaways on Fridays and Saturdays between 12 and 6pm – visit their [Facebook page](#) for more details. Other pubs are also doing a takeaway service, and you'll find details on the home page of the [Wightwash website](#). To help you further, CAMRA nationally has launched a beer delivery app for your mobile: <https://brew2you.co.uk/>.

If you're prepared to forgo beer from the tap, why not take advantage of the lockdown to indulge in some craft beers? Although some of them are so weird you think they should be served with custard, many of them are so good you just want to take them to bed with you. Sometimes, I just line them up on the table and lick them one by one (don't try this yourself; I'm a professional). Supermarkets offer a great choice of craft beers and ciders, and Morrisons is particularly rewarding. If you want something a bit more exotic, Lifecraft in Cowes High Street is open despite restrictions and offers a good

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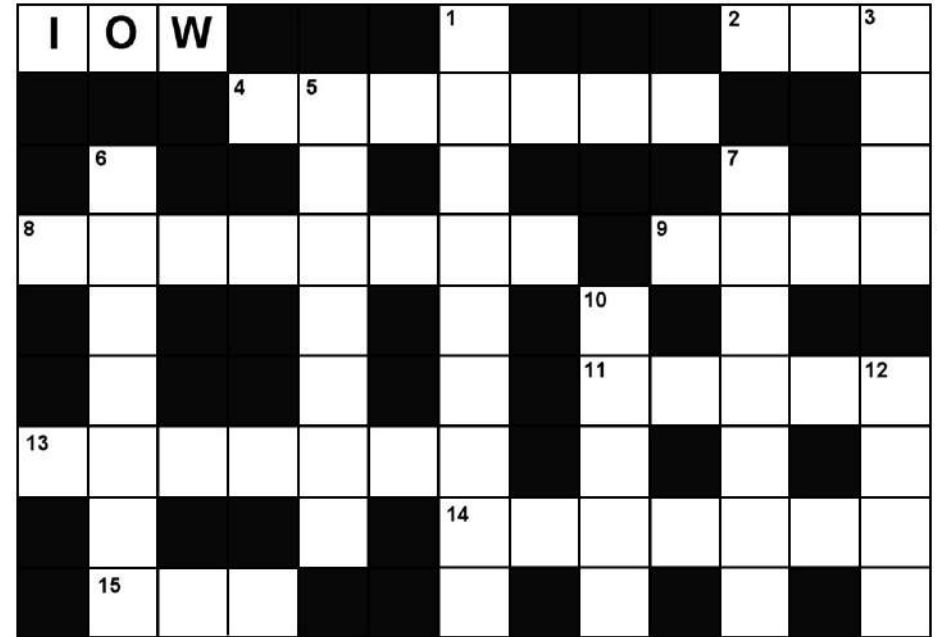
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One of my CAMRA colleagues recently unearthed a County Press cutting from 1988 which showed a disgruntled letter about the closure of the Star at Chale, which by then had suffered the abject humiliation of being renamed the 'Jolly Brewer', a feeble attempt at recognising that it was once Sprake's Brewery, by Whitbread, as it was 'no longer viable'. While the writer's sentiments were perfectly sound, his recommended form of retaliation was to boycott Whitbread pubs which would undoubtedly have resulted in the closure of even more! Don't talk to me about irony.



Although there was such an abundance of pubs on the Island until the 1970s, the same could not be said of the beers they served. Up to the 1960s, choice in many hostelrys was limited to a session bitter or mild, supplemented by a range of bottled beers which was rather more inspiring than today (inconsistent draught beer quality during the 1950s had increased the popularity of bottles), and included bottled-conditioned Guinness and Worthington White Shield,



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How did the Moody Blues get their name?

Originally a plan was put in place to gain sponsorship from the Birmingham based **Mitchells & Butlers Brewery**. Mike Pinder's mother worked there and at that time the brewery owned all the biggest dance halls, pubs and hotels in that area so they thought if they named the band with the same initials they could get a couple of thousand pounds out of them to buy some equipment and outfits. So the name '**M & B Five**' was adopted but, unfortunately, the beer company was not interested in sponsoring the pop group so the initials were adapted to present 'Moody' and Blues'. Denny Laine recalled later that he thought he came up with the name inasmuch as he was a moody sod apparently and he saw it as a blues band



BLUES & BOOZA

The pub closures happened regularly throughout the period, but two main phases can be identified. Newport was one of the hardest hit in the first one, between 1910 and 1920, when the combination of an anti-drinking chief constable and licensing magistrate led to the refusal of licences for dozens of small pubs, spurred on by the Compensation Act of 1904, which offered recompense for landlords who had lost their license, which sounded the death knell for thousands of pubs nationally.

Some years later, after Brickwood and Mew Langton were gobbled up by the arrogant and myopic desk jockeys of Whitbread in the 1960s, a further and even more devastating wave of closures took place in the 1970s and 1980s, and many delightful and charismatic little community gems were lost forever, like the Royal Oak in Cowes, the Gardner's Rest in Newport and the Prince of Wales in Ryde. Neither was the devastation confined to Whitbread. Funding shortfalls caused local heroes and cask beer champions Burt's to



close a number of pubs, like the lovely Hole in the Wall and Walmer Castle in Ventnor, before closing themselves. It's a sad fact that so many pubs throughout history have been owned by people and organisations who were totally unfit to run them, and, worse still, some acted like the proverbial dog in the manger by refusing to pass the licences on to others who were better qualified to own them. And before anyone throws a virtual rotten cabbage at me, Burt's wasn't

among that ignoble clique.

The pub on the beach!





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As I sit here looking out at the locked down world, my mind, or what's left of it after so many years of abuse and hard...thinking, wanders (as it frequently does, even though I keep taking the pills) to the local beer scene, past, present and future, because, well, it makes more sense than Trump and Boris. Judging by my video conversations with those of IOW CAMRA who have successfully negotiated the Zoom interface without their phone, laptop or head blowing up, similar thoughts have spread like a virus.

Let's look at the past to start with, as it seems the right and proper thing to begin with, and displays a mind untrammelled by the effects of imperial stout. The only trouble is that there's an awful lot of it (the past, not imperial stout; that's like gold dust), so let's draw a line in the sand at the beginning of the 20th century and use that as our start point. Unlike now, there were several hundred pubs on the Island, mostly concentrated in the main towns, and a good



few breweries to supply them. The big boys, Mew Langton and Brickwood, divvied up most of the tied trade between them, as well as Burt's, Sweetman, Shanklin Brewery, Isle of Wight Brewery, Sprake and a half dozen others who had small estates. A century or so later, not only have all those gone, but their

successors have as well, along with a massive number of their pubs, and their place has been taken by the present triumvirate of Goddards, Yates' and Island, shortly, we hope, to be accompanied by brewpub Boojum & Snark. So what happened; where did all those breweries and lovely town boozers go in such a short space of time?

All the local breweries, apart from Mew Langton and Burt's, had disappeared by the dawn of the 1960s, and their pubs absorbed mostly by Mew Langton. Interestingly, an army contract was a mainstay of their business, until Walter Langton joined them around 1873, and, in the belief that the brewery was making an insufficient profit from the arrangement, he cancelled the contract, having overlooked the fact that the sheer volume of sales was worth the lower margin, an oversight that very nearly led to the ruin of the brewery; it proved easier to survive than the subsequent Whitbread axe. Burt's, well, just sort of petered out in the 90s; the brewery passed to the hands of Ventnor Brewery, until then they too followed Burt's into oblivion.

as well. Mike Pinder, however, said that another inspiration was derived from 'Mood Indigo' by Duke Ellington. (In 1975 he bought a ranch in Malibu and called it 'Indigo Ranch').



The Moody Blues original line-up: Ray Thomas (Vocals), Denny Laine (Guitar/Vocals), Clint Warwick (Bass), Graeme Edge (Drums), Mike Pinder (keyboards, vocals).

So a lack of foresight maybe on the Brewery's part but who were **Mitchell's & Butler's**?

The brewery was formed when Henry Mitchell's **Cape Hill Brewery** founded in 1866 merged with William Butler's **Crown Brewery** in 1898. Both were founded in Smethwick so the merger made sense.

The Company's main brewery site was at Cape Hill (Henry Mitchell moving there in 1879) with its own railway network, connected to the national railway system from 1907-1962, via the Harborne Line. Various acquisitions followed including Holder's Brewery Ltd, who owned Birmingham Midland Brewery in

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1919 whilst much later in 1961 the company merged with Bass.



Unveiling of the M&B cenotaph in 1922

With the brand under the ownership of **Coors**

Breweries, the brewery closed in 2002 with

production switching to Burton upon Trent. The original brewery was demolished in 2005 and the site is now a housing estate. Retained and restored however, amidst this chaos of demolition, was the M & B Cenotaph built in 1920.



Cape Hill Brewery - Smethwick

Their most famous beer was **Brew XI** pronounced Brew Eleven advertised with the slogan 'for the men of the Midlands'. It is now brewed under licence for Coors by **Brains of Cardiff**. Ironically a descendant company which manages pubs, bars and restaurants throughout the UK is still known as Mitchells and Butlers plc, based in Birmingham.



Just think though if the original brewer had backed the Moody Blues when they were starting up they could have been 'On the Threshold of a Dream' Financial collaboration. I guess you could say it was a 'Question of Balance' if you pardon the pun.



Paul Sheldon

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