

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 10



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

WINTER ISSUE 2001

In this **FREE** issue

Ushers "U" Turn

An Innspired decision?

Read Paul Mattick on page 4



"Spreading a little hoppiness"

www.goddards-brewery.co.uk

Plus

PETE'S PRIZE QUIZ

Isles and Ales

WAY OUT WEST

Boathook Remembered

And much, much more.....



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Tourism and CAMRA

The Perfect Partnership?

Tim Addison, Head of IoW Tourism Services airs his views in our Guest Editorial

The

Vaguely Sunny

Gig Guide

This time we not only tell you

where and when,

but also

who and what!

SINCE

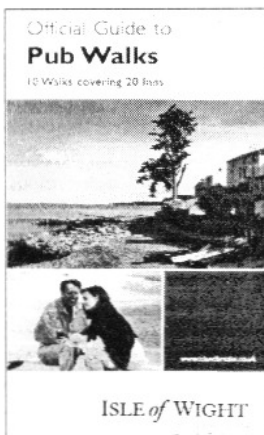


1840

VENTNOR BREWERY
BREWERS OF TRADITIONAL ALES
www.ventnorbrewery.co.uk

Isle of Wight Tourism is fast developing a growing interest in pubs!

This is the sort of statement which could quite quickly find a Council department on the front page of the County Press, so perhaps it needs some explanation. Personally, I have to concede that the interest and enthusiasm is not completely professional! One of the great benefits of moving back to the Isle of Wight has been access to our many character-full and enjoyable public houses. The business interest is, however, about recognizing these quality assets and bringing them to the attention of both existing and potential new visitors to the Island.



In the background there is a growing appreciation for the vital role pubs now play particularly those in rural areas, providing employment and leisure opportunities whilst in many cases being the only community facility available. Islanders as well as visitors are also looking for better places to eat and drink, and as a tourist board we are increasingly relying upon the service pubs provide as the backbone of this provision. As an example, here are just a few important ways in which the Island can benefit from its pubs:

- Pubs form part of the quintessential English countryside experience and whilst mainland facilities become increasingly homogenous, Island pubs become more appreciated and build the Island's reputation as a distinctive and authentic desti-



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Shipmates!"*

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

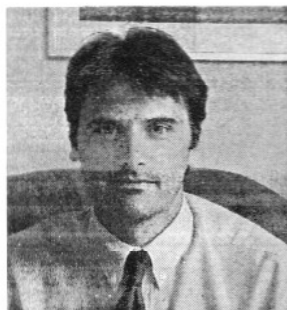
Each offers its own individual style, and the "nammit" features the freshest of local produce, including the famous Ventnor Bay Lobster and Crab.



nation.

- Access to local produce as well as our successful Island wines and beer. Visitors are increasingly seeking out local cuisine. Pub menus which feature locally-sourced ingredients offer a valuable service.
- Walking and Cycling breaks show no sign of abating. Again, pub hospitality offers the perfect excuse for a pit stop.
- Finally, developing year-round tourism means changing the Island's image from just being a summer family holiday resort. In fact, more than 60 per cent of all visitors now arrive without children and visitors in December have grown by 55 per cent since 1995. Pubs offer some of the most consistent facilities during these off-peak periods.

The truth is, there is almost no end of ways to celebrate the importance of our pubs, whether in town centres or the countryside. Isle of Wight Tourism is developing a number of initiatives aimed at supporting this sector including guides to Pub Walks and Eating Out, whilst our popular Pocket Guides and main Accommodation Guides are also very pro-pub. There is of course a lot more that can be done and I will certainly be very happy to hear from CAMRA members about ways in which we



can continue to add value in the future and work together to ensure that pubs continue to go from strength to strength. I certainly look forward to maybe meeting some of you in pubs around the Island in the future.

Tim Addison

Head of Tourism Services

Tim is a member of CAMRA



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

Diary Dates

- 18th January - AGM - Travellers Joy, Northwood - 8.00 pm
 20th February - Social - Fat Cat Bar, Freshwater Bay - 8.30 pm
 6th March - Business Meeting - Hole in the Wall, Ryde - 8.30 pm
 17th April - Social - Volunteer, Ventnor - 8.30 pm

Member's Notes

To help us improve communication please let us have your email address. Send it to camraiw@aol.com and we can remind you of upcoming events etc. It would also help us to have your phone number. If your details are **not** in the current BT directory, please let Ken Matthews know what your number is. Phone him on 294377.

From *Paul Mattick*

InnSpired/Ushers have at last seen the light. All sixteen houses have the opportunity to give us a much wider variety of Ales. As I reported in the spring, **Oak-leaf** of Gosport are already providing the majority of pubs, and with **Goddards** also on hand (see below) it seems the Wiltshire brewery have done a complete "U-turn" on their guest beer policy. At one time they were maintaining that they had such a large portfolio that there was no need for guest beers. Since the early nineties when **Whitbread** sold them an extremely unlucky thirteen pubs Ushers have had nothing but dire publicity. Lets hope we see a beneficial result for past, present and future licensees. While on the subject of the future, Area Manager **Dennis Cook** tells me that **The Partlands** in Ryde will by now have re-opened. **Mathew and Sharon Collins** took over on 23rd Nov. Mathew who was a resident of East Cowes and Sharon who has run a string of pubs in the London area are looking forward to their first venture as tenants. We have received an email from them and they have extended an invitation to all CAMRA members to go along and suggest beers. We wish them good luck!

Hoggie

We are delighted to report that **Pete "Hoggie" Hogman**, the legendary harmonica man has now fully recovered from his op and is back playing up a storm with the **Sharpetones**. (see **gig-guide** on page 15).

Greene King have purchased all three **Old English Pubs Company** Houses on the Island along with all of the outlets on the mainland. **The Fountain** Cowes, **Hare and Hounds** Arreton, and the **Hotel Ryde Castle** will, in the New Year be supplying

us with abundant amounts of **Speckled Hen** and **Abbots Ale**. **Sandy**, the Manageress at the **Hare and Hounds** said that **Green King** were doing away with about half of the empire but it did not include any of the island pubs.

Wightwash Distribution

Through no fault of their own, Ernest Frost and John How-Seamons have had to retire from distribution duties. We would like to express our gratitude for their help with *Wightwash* and their contributions to the Campaign. *Thanks Guys!*

Perk's Pedaller's

Cyclists from the **Crab and Lobster**, Ventnor joined forces with the **Old Codgers and Young Whippersnappers** for the London Bikeathon raising £3500 for Gary Lineker's Leukaemia Research Fund. The Island team raised more than any other team. The overall total was £200,00.00

Arreton Barn

The Gibb Brothers, that's the ones that own the pubs not the ones that sing like sheep, are hoping to have the **Arreton Barn** open by the early spring and plan on including a micro-brewery.

Goddards

With **Ducks Folly** running low, brewery boss **Anthony Goddard** says that **Winter Warmer** and **Iron Horse** will be available in the usual outlets by the time you read this. With cask sales once again the best ever for this time of year the brewery have also secured a deal with InnSpired Inns to supply **Fuggle** and **GSB**. Anthony said it's taken a year to arrange with the help of the majority of the licensee's. On a sad note this must be the first time I haven't reported on **Goddards** winning an award of some sort. The solution to this is, from

now on I shall issue an accolade in each issue to one of our "Local Breweries"..... and who better than Trevor "Fireman Sam" Perkis 47! For trying to put out fires with a can of petrol. I consequently award him the "Order of the Phoenix"

VENTNOR BREWERY

Ventnor brewery have obtained a further six conditioning tanks to keep up with demand. Head Brewer Xavier "Hawaii 50" Baker also said that Christmas Ale 5.8% would be available soon. Brewed with Scottish malts and dark roasted wheat it will give a rich smooth taste with a slightly spicy aroma. Admirals Ale was voted best label of the year by the Labologists Society (1958-2001). Old Ruby Bitter 4.7% a rich, ruby strong bitter is now obtainable bottle conditioned and if you can't see it on the shelf, ask the landlord! Summerfield are now stocking Oyster Stout; if you can't locate it in wines and spirits try the fresh fish counter! Bottoms Up are now stocking Ventnor's bottled beer throughout the country. After the initial order of two pallets they re-ordered another ten! Xavier, unpretentious about his recent 4th place in the Southern England surfing Championships was more interested in telling me about "educating" the 60 or so participants with the help of eight Firkins of Wight Spirit.

As a special treat to all CAMRA members, Ventnor Brewery is prepared to offer us a Pin (4 1/2 Gallons) of Ventnor Golden for an incredible £43.20. This includes delivery, but if you pick it up after ringing them on 856161 they will deduct £5....the offer which ends on 24th Dec, may well cause traffic jams

back to Shanklin Old Village.

Ventnor late night shopping on 14th December will include a Ventnor Brewery stall. Rumour has it the staff will be dressed as reindeer. Oh and look out for the Gift Box of bottled beers (an ideal Xmas present!)

Yates Brewery

David Yates is currently brewing "Wight Winter", which will be at the pumps in time for Christmas. The recipe promises a dark full-bodied stout-like beer at 5%. David will revert to brewing the popular Holy Joe in the spring. Undercliff Experience and Holy Joe will be appearing

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Publican Awards TOP THREE FREEHOUSES IN COUNTRY





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OPEN ALL DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK

LARGE CAR PARK

in bottles this summer. **Holy Joe** will be bottle conditioned.

Island Ales are now part of a national association of wholesalers called **National Drinks Distributors**.

Watch out for the following ales:

Adnam's mighty winter ale "**Tally Ho**". At 7% this beer will have limited availability. Look out for it at the Buddle, the Traveller's Joy, the Blacksmiths and the Volunteer. **Fuller's** "**Jack Frost**" a distinctive amber ale made with blackberries.

"**Rocking Rudolf**" - a 5.0% brew from **Hardy and Hanson** described as a rich, dark crimson thirst quencher.

Bateman's "**Rosy Nosey**" at 4.9% (You can't miss this one. It has a flashing red nose pump clip); and for the first time on the Island - **Brain's** "**Rev. James Cracker**" a 5% porter from this award winning Cardiff brewery.

Lastly from **Wychwood** - "**Mistletoad**" 4.5% an aromatic ale with a crisp finish and "**Shires**" which I thought you could only get in the Bull at Ambridge!

Traditional Beer Company

Look out for Bargain Bottles of 5% **Badger Champion Ale**.

Hall and Woodhouse's winter offerings

will include **King and Barnes Old Ale** (4.6%), **Poole Brewery's Pie Eyed Pudding** (4.5%), a light mahogany brew seasoned with whole-leaf Golding hops, **Wadworth's J.C.B.** (4.7%) a robust amber ale with tropical fruit flavours and **Morrell's Graduate** (4.8%).

Cask Marque

Edgar from the **Blacksmiths Arms** would like to point out that his Cask Marque award was sponsored by **Island Ales** and the **Beer Seller** of Eastleigh

Oops!

When reading the new **CAMRA Good Beer Guide**, Volunteer landlord Tim Saul was distressed to discover that his pub had not only been renamed without his knowledge, but also transported to another town. It appears as **The Ventnor** in **Shanklin**. "Who proof reads this?" asks Tim.

WARNING!

Head office have asked us to point out that the web address of CAMRA's national site is **www.camra.org.uk**. Apparently an unscrupulous company has set up a pornographic website with a similar address. For further details contact our secretary or chairman.

PAUL



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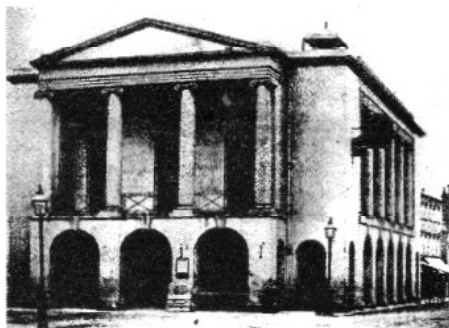
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Pete once again tests your local knowledge:

- 1/ What Island family owned the lock gates rights to Wootton Creek and have a pub named after their coat of arms?
- 2/ What building with a façade a quarter of a mile long was demolished in 1965 due to medical advances?
- 3/ In what year was the dual carriageway known as St George's Way opened?
- 4/ Which railway station was built for the personal use of Sir John Barrington-Simeon of Swainston Manor?
- 5/ Which Island resort had a suspension pier until it was destroyed by storms in 1951?
- 6/ In which century was the construction of Yarmouth Castle completed?
- 7/ How old (in completed years) was Queen Victoria when she died at Osborne House on January 22nd 1901?
- 8/ A flying-fifteen yacht named "Cowslip" was designed by which sailing companion of Prince Philip?
- 9/ In Isle of Wight dialect, what is a "gallybagger"?
- 10/ In which town or village on the Island are the only surviving stocks?



11/ Who designed this building?



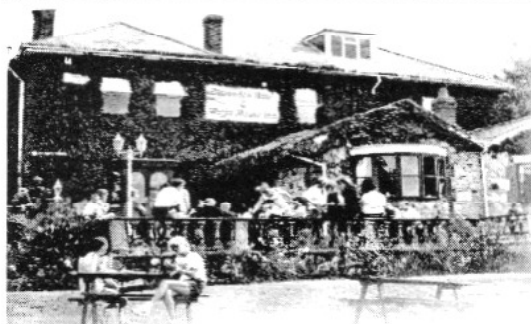
12/ Which village High Street is shown in this 1890's photo?

First one with correct answers out of the hat on 1st February 2002 wins a tenner.

Answers to: **Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3NH**

Or email your answer to: editor@wightwash.org.uk

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During the Summer, the Isle of Wight was host to Andrew Purcell, head brewer of the Flagship Brewery, Kent. He wrote and told us about his visit.

"Having arranged cover for telesales and worked out brewing schedules it was my time for a rare break away from the business I started up over 6 years ago. I had already booked the Montrene Hotel, Sandown for the family but strangely up to the point of departure I hadn't checked out the breweries on the Isle. Anyway we set off on the morning of 5th August, round the M25 and down the M3 to Southampton. Found a park next to the ferry terminal for a rest. Crossed over to the ferry terminal just in time to get put on an earlier ferry.

After locating our hotel, it was time to explore (wife left to unpack). Along the seafront I couldn't believe my luck at finding the Ocean Deck Inn with an appropriately named bar The Flagship. Even better, they had the Yates Undercliff Experience on tap, a local brew. An excellent quaffable ale, well balanced and refreshing. I soon started recommending it to others coming in. Then I moved onto the Badger Tanglefoot. Served in tip top condition a superb barley wine hint to this strong ale. They also had the Badger Best, but the cask needed changing so I had to come back later for that. I was then pointed in the direction of the Caulkheads but only time for a swift half of Ventnor's Sunfire, a very distinctive ale.

Settling down to family matters for a while, it was not long before I needed to make contact with my fellow brewers. First Chris Coleman at Goddards. Come down and have a chat he said - spend the day with me! I didn't think I could get away with that. I managed



to persuade my wife to drop me off at the brewery and go off to the nearby flamingo park. Chris was quick to make me welcome with a pint of Fuggle-dee-dum from the racking tank. Well chilled but no problem, another superb brew. We then had a good chat and after a Special Bitter and another Fuggle-dee-dum, time to depart. I was instructed to walk back to the flamingo park but in need of a boys room was given directions to the Wishing Well, Goddards tied pub, where another Special Bitter was in order before being collected.

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The week was running away fast, but chance had it that a leaflet left in the hotel about the Men of Wight Morris group sent me in the direction of the Old Comical. Ushers Best was the choice this time, then back to the Caulkheads for some Ventnor Golden Ale. The Ventnor Brewery was next on the agenda the following day. There, Head Brewer Xavier Baker welcomed me. It was interesting that the brewing equipment at the Ventnor was produced by the same company that supplied ours - so I was familiar with the basic workings. It was also interesting that the brewery uses natural spring water. I was treated to a special Festival Ale that Xavier had produced, no complaints here! After another lengthy chat I left him to finish his work and headed off to the Volunteer just round the corner, a delightful establishment. A wonderful choice of ales, so much so I can't remember which one I had.

I had to leave as I had arranged to meet up with David Yates Snr at his Brewhouse adjoining the Inn at St Lawrence. An amazing compact kit in a small room. You have to be dedicated to the cause to work on this one - but having already sampled the Undercliff Experience, I knew it worked well. Unfortunately, the Inn was not open so I could not sample any wares with him. I had to leave David and get back to my hotel in time for Dinner.

My hotel did not have any hand pumps but did have Goddards kegged Special Bitter. However, I was able to concentrate on the bottled offerings that they had, Goddards Fuggle-dee-dum, Duck's Folly and Ventnor's Wight Spirit and Oyster Stout. Although it is always difficult to choose a favourite, the Fuggle-dee-dum was mine for the week. Having depleted the hotel's stock, the end of my week was in sight. After having farewell drinks at the Ocean Deck, Caulkheads and Old Comical, it was time to pack our bags and head for home truly refreshed."

Thanks Andrew, you're welcome any time!

Wightwash

has a website
www.wightwash.org.uk

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From our West Wight Correspondent Brian Snellgrove

In spite of everything thrown at us, the pubs in the West Wight have held up reasonably well this season but of course, could do better!

THE HIGHDOWN INN now stocks Oakleaf Nuptuale which at 4.2% is very popular – is Ushers getting a bit boring?

THE BROADWAY INN always has 2 good and well-kept ales and they change every couple of weeks – Abbott, Bate-mans (3), Oakleaf, Adnams et al.

THE FAT CAT is up around 500 different ales so far which makes it difficult to specify but important to visit – usually 3 at a time. Do I hear of a Beer Festival?

THE ALBION The Bass is good, the view is good, perhaps when the work is finished a new menu will attract more customers – they deserve them.

THE PRINCE OF WALES there are still folk out there who do not know where it is – WHY? - It is a good old-fashioned beer house with excellent ales. – why not give it a try?

THE VINE is looking very smart and what better than Gale's HSB? Cheers!

The Fat Cat Bar
Freshwater Bay

Unusual
Real Ales



(01983) 758500

Why not be a Wightwash Correspondent? Give me a ring or send me an email. 721557 or editor@wightwash.org.uk

Travellers Tip

Any Islanders planning on visiting Dublin please note that the splendid **Porter House** in Temple Bar is offering a free pint of ale of anyone adding to their bottle collection. The bottle has to be full (of beer!) and one that they haven't already got. And at the time of writing, they had no Isle of Wight beers at all.



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Joint Winner



Pub of the Year!

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In 1971 four young journalists, unhappy about the way traditionally brewed beer was disappearing from the nations pubs, started the Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale; later to be the Campaign for Real Ale. Soon branches were cropping up all over the country; and one of the first was on the Isle of Wight.

Amongst it's founder members were Tony Edmonds – Chairman, Brian Arthur – Secretary, Arthur Taylor – Recruitment Secretary and the Events Organiser - Valentine “**Boat Hook**” Fowler, described by Tony Edmonds as an “absolute autocrat”.

Christened Valentine after the day he was born (14th February), he gained his nickname after a somewhat boisterous cruise on the Thames when an attempt to secure a mooring resulted in a boat hook being smashed through the wheelhouse window.

He had always been keen on good beer and when the movement started, he threw himself into it whole-heartedly. National CAMRA founder member, Graham Lees remembers him as “a part-time estate agent and full-time campaigner”. “He would parade all along the South Coast wearing a bowler hat and carrying an umbrella haranguing brewers”. Together with his Island colleagues, dozens of new members were signed up including a police superintendent, and local MP's Mark Woodnutt and Steve Ross.

During the early days, meetings were frequently held in Yelf's Hotel, Ryde. At the end of the evening, Boat Hook would announce his departure by saying “Gentlemen, I'm now going down the hill by gravity”. Soon he became Area Organiser for the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, often visiting even the most far-flung pubs in his area by public transport.

His organisational skills came to the fore when it was decided to run an Isle of Wight Beer Exhibition and his flare for describing the flavours of beer resulted in a programme with extremely comprehensive tasting notes. The first exhibition in 1975 was held in the Ryde Pavilion. It was a one-day affair but so successful that the following year it ran for two days. Boat Hook issued a warning on the cover of the programme “to the younger visitor and those more used to drinking keg beer” “Some of these beers are stronger than ones you may be used to and should be treated with caution and respect!”

Sadly Boat Hook passed away days before the third Isle of Wight Beer Exhibition (a three day event).

He will be remembered as a driving force of the Campaign and amongst other things, for a famous letter he wrote to the press after a national brewer had defended the artificial introduction of carbon dioxide, as it was a natural “by-product” of beer.

“Sir,” wrote back Boat Hook “Manure (or a word to that effect!) is a natural ‘by-product’ of a pig, but you wouldn’t want it served up with your roast pork, would you?”

In brewing circles, it is still quoted today. TM



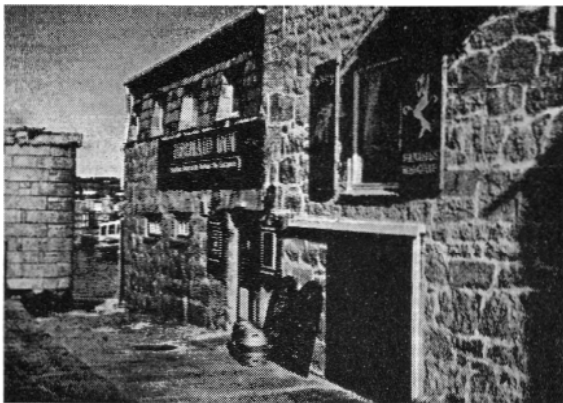
Thumping
GOOD BEER
(01425) 471177

On the bow of the start launch the large red and yellow quartered flag was dropped and the race was on!

This was no sedate yacht race, but a gig race in the Isles of Scilly. The race was the last of the weekly men's races that take place through the summer season with crews coming from all five of the inhabited islands. The course is about a mile and a quarter and local rivalry is intense. These races are certainly not just a tourist stunt. As may well be imagined all of this serious rowing leads to equally serious drinking.

The first pub for many visitors is **The Mermaid** situated right by the harbour entrance.

A favourite with boat crews, this busy pub has **Bass** and **Flowers IPA**, but the other beer, the locally brewed "**Maiden Voyage**" is of much more interest. It is a light hoppy bitter of 3.8% and selling at £2.10 a pint. It is the first brew of the new **Ales of Scilly Brewery** recently set up on St Marys. Commercial production began in August and the brewer, former teacher Mark Praegar and his wife Mollie are planning to expand production to enable them to supply outlets throughout the islands. There are also plans for a stronger second



The Mermaid

brew "**Three Sheets**". Whilst we were there (September) deliveries of **Maiden Voyage** were being shipped to the **Turks Head** and the **New Inn**.

The **Turks Head** is well worth a visit; the only pub on St Agnes it is the most southerly in England. Other beers are **Dartmoor** (3.8% abv £2.30) and a house beer **Turks Head** (4.2% abv £2.25) brewed by St Austell. The **New Inn** is over on Tresco located two minutes walk from the harbour at New Grimsby. Other beers here include **Betty Stogs** (4.0% abv) and a house beer **Tresco Triple** (3.4% abv) both brewed by **Skinner's** of



Donna & Edgar Nieghorn welcome you to ...

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Isle of Wight Branch of CAMRA

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Truro.

Whilst on Tresco try to allow time for the Abbey Gardens and the Valhalla display – well worth a visit.

Access to Tresco and the other three “off islands” from St Marys is very easy. The Isles of Scilly Boatmen's Association provide an efficient and comprehensive service – there is even an evening “Turks Head” special boat!

For a dry land pub crawl back on St Marys, go about 150 yards down the main (only!) road from the **Mermaid** to the next pub, the **Atlantic Bar**. This has harbour views and a



The Turk's Head

choice of five handpumps selling a good range of St Austell ales including Ruby Jack (4.5% abv) and XXXX Mild (3.6% abv).

Further on the **Bishop and Wolf**, named after the two local lighthouse, has a bustling atmosphere and also dispenses St Austell beers, this time **Tinnors** (3.7% abv) at £1.86 and **HSD** (5.0% abv). The other pub in town is the **Portressa Bar** serving **St Austell Tribute** (4.2% abv) at £2.10. This pub has an excellent south facing sun terrace right on Porthcressa Beach. To the east near the airport is the island's only other pub,

the **Old Town Inn**. It is a large modern two bar pub recently opened. It has two bowling alleys and sells **Doom Bar** (4.0% abv £2.00), **Cornish** (3.8% abv £1.90) and **Wadworth 6X** (4.1% abv £2.10).

Getting to the islands takes 20 minutes from St Just (near Lands End) by Islander, plus longer journeys from Newquay, Exeter and Bristol, or there is the two and three quarter hour slog by the Scillonian from Penzance.

Also from Penzance is the 20-minute Sikorsky helicopter service, an interestingly different way of dropping in on the islands.

A good time to go is during the gig racing season when at the end of a relaxing traffic-free day you have the chance to experience the friendly but frenetic post-race drinking sessions of the thirsty boat crews; but you may have trouble keeping up!

Barrie and Mo

Three Cheers!



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The Chale Wailers

One of the hardest working duo's on the Island are the **Chale Wailers** - **Ross Elliott** (banjo) and **Rick Stokes** (guitar) who serve up a tasty dish of goodtime blues and hill-billy music in several Island pubs.

An early influence on Ross's musical development was his father Mike - founder member of the Unity Stompers. Ross received his first banjo for his eighteenth birthday. "I had three weeks to learn three chords, then

we were off to a gig" he recalls. Ross began in the Tailgate New Orleans Jazz Band in the early eighties before joining the Blind Panic String Band, playing pure full-on bluegrass, with Rick Otley on fiddle and John Mansell on guitar. After a spell in Sporting Life, Rick moved on to New Country and Country/folk music with Carly Stone in Lonesome Pine. He then linked up with Rick Stokes for the first time in Detour with Toni Malo, Keith Newnham, Rick Otley and Phil Jones. Ross replaced Brian Munro.

The **Chale Wailers** were formed in 1996, and were originally a trio with Rick Otley on fiddle, who left in 1999.

Rick Stokes began his involvement with music in folk clubs in Reading before he moved to the Island in 1972. His first Island band was the Buster String Band, with John Mansell, Dave Botha, Chris Eccleston and Andy Hitt. Wednesday nights at the Royal Sandrock in Niton in the mid-seventies (before it burnt down) are fondly recalled. Dave used to play slide bass with a bottle. This band evolved into Hobo, and Rick also had a short spell in Chang Ba in the early eighties. Rick went on to play in Midnight Blue for nine years with Phil Jones, Rick Otley, Dave Packer and the late Rik Valvona. He also had a spell in Pete Hogman's Band before joining Detour. Rick enjoys Island music and points out "The density of venues is as much as anywhere in the country, even in London".

During the winter, **The Chale Wailers** will be regularly appearing at the **Sun**, Hulverstone; the **Wight Mouse**, Chale; the **Bargeman's Rest**, Newport and the **Woodvale**, Gurnard.

Vic King

**"Beer is proof
that God loves us
and wants us to
be happy."**

Benjamin Franklin



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The Fountain, Sandown

Last Orders

Lake Huron, Hayland

December 15**Hoggie and the Sharpe-
tones**

Woodvale, Gurnard

Tin Lids

The Sloop, Wootton Bridge

December 19**Last Orders**

Volunteer, Ventnor

December 21**Tzigane**

Woodvale, Gurnard

Risky Business

Anchor, Cowes

Tin Lids

Steamer Inn, Shanklin

Island

(formerly Jimmy's Big Fish)

Fountain, Sandown

December 22**Contagious**

Crab Inn, Shanklin

BMW

Fountain, Sandown

Tin Lids

The Sloop, Wootton Bridge

December 24**Tin Lids**

Steamer Inn, Shanklin

December 26**Tin Lids**

The Spyglass, Ventnor

December 28**Risky Business**

The Old Comical, Sandown

BMW

Vine Inn, Freshwater

December 29**Tin Lids**

Lake Huron, Upton, Ryde

Island

Anchor, Cowes

Risky Business

Three Bishops, Brighstone

For more details and further gigs log on to www.iowrock.net

2 In A Bar Fiasco (continued)

As a follow up to the editorial in the Summer Issue of Wightwash, we received an email from **Hamish Burchill** telling us of "goings on" in the Weymouth area.

Roger Gall, a local folk musician, organised the session in a Portland pub called the **Cove House Inn**. It was put under covert surveillance by the council, who subsequently declared the session illegal (quoting case law from 1793) because they counted participating members of the public as 'performers' - and there were more than two. The landlord was threatened with prosecution (max penalty £20,000 fine and six months in prison) if he allowed the sessions to continue.

News of this spread on the web and now music-loving American tourists have threatened to boycott Weymouth if they don't lighten up. Some of their letters have been published in the *Dorset Echo* and quoted in *The Stage*.

An email that Hamish Burchill latterly received from Tom Grainger, Chief Executive of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council seems to indicate that there might have been a change of heart. Mr Grainger writes "...I would be interested to hear of examples anywhere in England where the '2-in-a-bar' rule has caused problems for musicians. We do have a shared agenda to ensure musicians and culture can flourish. If the current legislation is curtailing this and can't be justified on other grounds a case can be made out for reform of the law."

Hamish Burchill is a London based drummer and is spearheading the campaign to end the law which prohibits pubs without a Public Entertainment Licence from having more than 2 performers. He can be contacted at ham.drums@virgin.net and would like to hear from anyone who has experienced problems as a result of this law.

Members Notes

Don't forget the

AGM

at the **Travellers Joy**
18th January at 8pm

Answers to the Quiz in the Autumn Issue

1/Newtown returned 2 MPs during this period. 2/Valentine Grey was a **chimney sweep**. 3/Chillerton Down TV mast was erected in 1958. 4/Northwood House was originally named **Bellevue House**. 5/ **J.B.Priestly** lived at Brooke Hill House. 6/ The County Press started in 1885 7/Appledurcombe House was built in the 18th Century. 8/The IOW Unitary Authority was formed in 1995. 9/**Julia Margaret Cameron** lived at Dimbola Lodge. 10/Terry Perkins became **Craig Douglas**.

John Farthing of Newport wins a tenner.

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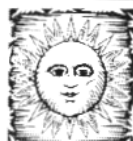
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