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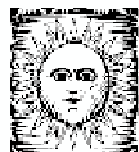
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Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 18

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Winter 2003 Issue



Howdy, Sheriff!

Brewery boss and eminent CAMRA member, Anthony Goddard, has been appointed new High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight.

High Sheriff is one of the oldest offices in the country dating back beyond the Norman Conquest. All at Wightwash would like to offer their congratulations.

Who would you like to share a Coby with?

Win a 4.5 gallon party box of **VENTNOR BREWERY**

anti Freeze

See page 9 for details



The Man (or Lady) Behind the Bar

I can remember remarking to a well-known Island publican (I won't mention his name - we don't want him getting big-headed) that a good landlord makes the job look easy in much the same way that a good musician does. Watch Nigel Kennedy play the violin and you think - "I could do that; saw away with a bow in one hand and just put your fingers in the right place with the other", piece of cake!

It's rubbish of course.

I've just watched someone pull a pint, change a barrel, repel a rep, convey a piece of salacious gossip to a local and impart some valuable local information to a visitor

- all at the same time - and it was made to look easy.

I hadn't witnessed the filling in of forms, the ordering of food and drinks, the organising of the cellar, making up wages or any of the dozen or so other jobs that go on in the background. I, like everyone else, just took it for granted.

Here on the Island, we have a wealth of good pubs and if we ask ourselves the question; what makes a good pub? The answer has got to be:

The men and the ladies that work behind the bar.

So raise your glasses to them or better still buy them a drink, just because it looks easy, it doesn't mean isn't hard work.

Now, where's that violin?

<p>The Dairyman's Daughter <i>Free House</i> 01983 539361 Food served all day Up to 8 Real Ales including Scarecrow Bitter brewed on the premises Arreton Barns Craft Village</p>	<p>The Scarecrow Brewery Brewing Traditional English Bitter with Bramling Cross Hops <i>"Outstanding in our field"</i> Visit our Brewery Shop for an amazing assortment of bottled beers and brewery memorabilia</p>
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Win a case of beer from
VENTNOR BREWERY
in our famous Prize Quiz

- 1/ What are the wooden pegs called that are tapped into the top of a barrel?
- 2/ How many gallons in a firkin?
- 3/ What is the most northerly tip of the Isle of Wight called?
- 4/ Who makes Fursty Ferret?
- 5/ What was voted Champion Beer at this years Fat Cat Beer Festival?
- 6/ Who has just been appointed the Island's new High Sheriff? (If you can't answer that one, you're not paying attention!)
- 7/ In which Newport pub was King Charles I rumoured to have been imprisoned after his escape attempts from Carisbrooke Castle?
- 8/ In which Isle of Wight park would you find a memorial to Elvis Presley?
- 10/ Where on the Island can you find ER-VIII, the insignia of Edward VIII? (there are several correct answers to this question and we will make it the subject of an article in the next edition of

Wightwash

Answers to Autumn Quiz

1. John Keats
 2. Julia Margaret Cameron
 3. J B Priestly
 4. Mica (Michael) Morey
 5. Alfred Lord Tennyson
 6. Sir Chistopher Cockerill
 7. J W M Turner
 8. Bonchurch
 9. Barnes Wallace
 10. John Nash
 11. Marconi
 12. Holy Joe
- Jane Phillips of Chale wins a tenner.



9/ This Ryde house used to be a pub. What was it called?

Send your answers to:

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

or by email to

editor@wightwash.org.uk by 1st February

First correct answers out the hat wins the beer!



They say no news is good news so we are thankful in West Wight that life goes quietly on and, in fact, the last deadline came and went while we were still dreaming in the sunshine, or perhaps we were on “Waverley”. Anyway, here are a few notes:

THE BROADWAY in **TOTLAND** deserves a further mention now that John the chef has a good menu up and running. Re-furnishing has made the pub more attractive and there are certainly more customers about. Changing the back yard into an 80 seater beer garden has proved a real talking point. Further plans include knocking the downstairs bars into one, applying for a public entertainment license and opening an a la carte restaurant on the first floor. The beer is always good - 3 from the Island - and the old image has definitely gone. “Totties” next door will always tell you when your order is ready and the quality there is excellent too - also good for a thirst.

YARMOUTH cannot really go wrong and if you turn the wrong way on leaving one pub you will surely fall into the one next door. The Wheatsheaf in particular has had a very good season and on one very busy weekend they almost ran out of food (this also was blamed in part on a rush when “Waverley” discharged a large crowd and reminds me that on two occasions when we sailed to Swanage for a rail trip they too had run out of beer! During the winter most ales are drawn straight from the tub.

THE HIGHDOWN gets an occasional visit but usually when they are quiet This must be an unfair trial as Nick always manages to afford several holidays from the profits. Abbot is the best seller and with excellent food it is always worth a call.

COLWELL BAY INN This is the biggest turnaround in these parts and is doing well under current ownership - good beer led by Abbot, good food and pleasant surroundings. I delivered the last Wightwash at midday +10 one Sunday morning and the place was crammed as though it had been open all morning - perhaps it had~? There is plenty of car-parking round the back.

FRESHWATER BAY - The **ALBION** is slowly taking shape and there is new furniture in the bar. The Bass is good but sometimes not available. Let us hope that there will be more choice when work is finished
The **FAT CAT** speaks for itself. Visitors might perhaps find it slightly “Quaint” with small rooms but it is the beer range and quality which count. I must try a meal there sometime. It is always well recommended and the restaurant certainly looks the part.

Brian Snelgrove

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Introducing:- **BeerPoint**

The Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA has been quietly running a pilot scheme for the last few months for the purpose of rewarding, encouraging and promoting the delivery of Real Ale in good condition at the point of sale. It is called **BeerPoint**

- The general principle is that **BeerPoint** status will be awarded to any pub that wishes to join the scheme and meets certain criteria; the most important of which would be quality of the beer at the point of sale. Other points taken into consideration would be presentation, ambience and the promotion of real ale.
- Membership of **BeerPoint** shall be through nomination by CAMRA members accompanied by request of the landlord. The nomination would be followed up by 3 visits by trained CAMRA beer tasters. Successful pubs will be awarded a plaque to display inside and outside the pub.
- **BeerPoint**, however, is not just an award scheme, it will also be a self-help organisation. Not only will the participants be able to call on the specialist help from all the Isle of Wight brewers (who are all fully behind the scheme) but will be able to call upon each other for help and advice.

If you would like to learn more about **BeerPoint** call 721557 or email jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk and we will send you a booklet.

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

Advert for the Anchor

From *Paul Mattick*

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the last issue had my report scattered all over the Wightwash pages for some of you due to an error at the printers. I have been reliably informed that if this report doesn't start on page 56, the printer will personally donate a large sum of money towards the Icelandic Synchronized swimming team!

Firstly, I must give a mention to the **Countryman**. Situated at Limerstone (Brighstone) I was greeted recently by the very affable **Roy** and **Jane Frost**. They serve great food, and at the present time **Tanglefoot** and **Bombardier** were also on the menu along with **Gobbledy Goose**.

Chris Coleman was sad to tell me that Director **Natasha Adams** will be leaving **Goddards** in the New Year to live in Spain. I would like to wish her the best of luck in her new venture. On the brewing side of things, this year looks set once again to be the busiest yet, and Chris added that a second brew of **Winter Warmer** is on it's way which should keep everyone happy over the festive season. **Hopback** bottling is now running smoothly, and the wall of fish has had loving care lavished upon it to

return it back to its original high standards (don't ask).

Andy 'Windows' Taylor and **Margaret** ('I clean the bloody windows') **Taylor** were in for a treat when **InnSpired** finally granted them permission to revamp the **Solent Inns** cellar. 'Not just the cellar' added Andy, 'we also have new lines and pumps'. When I had a look, the floor alone looked good enough to eat your dinner off! **The Solent** can now accommodate up to SIX ales and recently Andy and Margaret hosted the **CAMRA** Christmas party. Thanks to you both for the (as usual) excellent grub, which not only catered for murderers like me but also the vegetarian commune. (*Are you still on page 4?*)

Last time I talked to **Xavier Baker**, he was on his way to the goldfish bowl for a spot of surfing. He mentioned a honey beer but wasn't ready to let slip anything... until now that is. Although not specifically a honey beer, the newest **Ventnor Brewery** winter beer fittingly named **Anti-Freeze** weighs in at 5.2% and is described as slightly spiced with a hint of honey which as it happens comes from the finest bees

We also visited the 3rd Helston Beer Festival at the Community Centre, Helston. What a pleasant surprise! Over 30 Cornish beers, all barrels with thermal jackets. £3.00 Admission - CAMRA members £1.50 including souvenir glass and programme.

This festival is put on by the Lizard 2000 Club to raise money for local charities. The glasses were sponsored by a local solicitor, Randle Thomas, and each barrel was sponsored by a local business. Hot food and music were provided. The local CAMRA branch provides technical help. I did my best but, restricting myself to ½s (halves), I managed 8 and not necessarily in this order:

1. **Ring of Bells Dreckly** 4.8% warm ruby coloured, rich in malt, spicy aroma.
2. **Ring of Bells Surf Board** 4.0% light coloured ale, full hoppy aroma, clean bitter finish.
3. **Dog House Brewery Bitter** 4.0% A bitter with a bite!
4. **Ales of Scilly Scuppered** 4.6% Traditional Malty ale made with pale crystal and black barley.
5. **Ales of Scilly Natural Beauty** 4.2% A delicious summer session beer made with Mount Hood hops.
6. **Blackawton 44 Special** 4.5% Full bodied and distinctly English.
7. **Organic Brewery Serpentine** 4.5% Rich ruby in colour and fully flavoured organic beer.
8. **Sharps Wills Resolve** 4.6% Well balanced full bodied malt crisp lingering finish.

I steered clear of the **Blue Anchor Easter Special** 7.6% although I think it is great. All beer £1.00 per half and £2.00 a pint - Best Festival I have ever been to. Pale golden beers seem very popular in Cornwall. All the Breweries do at least one.

Ah well, all good things come to an end, back to reality. Roll on the next visit.

Pete & Heather



8
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Pete and Heather Cobb have been back to Cornwall to discover some new pubs, some new beers, a new brewery and a beer festival.

After a very early start, we stopped at **The Blisland Inn** on Bodmin Moor for lunch. **Kelter Golden Lance** was chosen by me and for the take away Heather tried the **Porridge Stout** - both went down very well. 1700 different Real Ales have now passed through these pumps.

Cornwall now has another brewery - **Blackawton** recently moved from Devon and can be added to the list that already includes: **Ring of Bells, Doghouse Brewery, Ales of Scilly, Blue Anchor, Organic Brewery, Skinners, Redruth, Keltec, Sharps and St. Austells** - boasting some 50 different beers between them.

We visited some different pubs as well;

The Lion & The Lamb at Ashton, changed hands recently and much improved with 5 Real Ales. The **Caledonian Flying Scotsman** was very good.

The Crown at Goldsithney, is a St Austell house. It has 5 real ales. We tried the **Sunrise** - a very golden and very palatable beer. The meal was good too.

We did a fair bit of walking on the Lizard, and discovered some good pubs there;

The **5 Pilchards** at Porthoustock has 4 Real Ales - 3 **Sharps** and **Greene King Abbot**.

The evening menu looked very extensive. The 3 fish chowder for lunch was excellent.

The **White Hart** at St. Keverne has 4 Real Ales - **Sharps & Abbot** and does B&B. Very pleasant.

The **Mounts Bay Hotel** at Mullion is in the process of being refurbished. It has 2 Real Ales - **Sharps Doom Bar** and **Redruth Cornish Rebellion** - both very good.

Advertisement for Solent Inn



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year, but guess what? He wouldn't let on till the next issue. On a festive note, on the 20th Dec Ventnor are holding their **Xmas market**. Lots of stands and traders plus the Ventnor Brewery stand on hand to refresh us with tasters of **Anti-Freeze**, and of course gift packs, t-shirts etc. Who knows we may see Xavier dressed as an elf or a yule log maybe?

We would also like to thank Ventnor Brewery for this issue's quiz prize (see page 354) of a

case of beer for the first person out of the hat, with the correct answers of course. **Wetherspoons** right across the country.

The competition to name **Anti-freeze** was won by **Charles Gilby** who was given a case of beer for his efforts. Other entries included Twisted Fire-Starter, Chill-blain and Frostbite and some other suggestions which I dare not put in print! If you would like a "Cuby" (4.5gallon party pack) of beer to help your Christmas along, you can pick one up from the brewery. Please give them 24 hours notice (tel: 856161). Offer ends 22nd December. A prospect of a busy summer and the new fermenting room have given Xavier a few ideas for the new

case of beer for the first person out of the hat, with the correct answers of course.

STOP PRESS

*The Volunteer, now in the safe hands of Mike and Heather Janvrin, have been selling out of **Antifreeze** nearly as*



soon as the brewery can supply it.

Over a dozen local ploughmen endured appalling conditions to compete in the **Chequers Inn Ploughing Match**. Island champion, John Stallard of Apse Heath, unexpectedly beat off arch rival Glen Draper of Shorwell in driving rain to pick up the engraved plate and free meal. Richard Holmes, landlord of the Chequers, explained that because it is so expensive for competitors to take their ploughs to matches on the mainland he decided to initiate the competition to give local ploughmen (and ploughwomen) a chance to show off their skills. The only

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other competitions being the Isle of Wight Championship Ploughing Match and an East Wight versus West Wight clash. This is the event's 4th year.

Check your page number now!

The Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA now has an official tasting panel. Five branch members attended a special course at the **Great Western Arms** in St Denys last month. During the three hour course, master taster Kevin Travers taught the eager pupils the art of detecting tastes and flavours, how to spot faults in the brewing and serving process and the art of writing tasting notes. They will now be able to submit tasting notes to **The Good Beer Guide** and recommend beers for the **Champion Beer of Britain** competition.

MEMBER'S NOTE

Kevin would like to hold a similar course on the Isle of Wight next year. If you would like to attend (FREE!) please let us know. Phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

Island Ales have moved to a larger location. Steve Minshull told me that they now operate from the old Carlsberg/Tetley site in Sandown and they were looking forward to the extra room to expand the already thriving business. Along with the customary stocks of Fullers London Pride, Flowers, Youngs Special Bitter and the Ringwood selection, we can now expect to see a lot more Ales including the possibility of Breacais Whisky beer (4.6%), which boasts 100% malt with an addition of whisky thrown in at the end of the process. Island ales delivery arrangements are now better than ever, and Steve stressed

that if you want it he'll go out of his way to get it. Christmas Ales this year include J.W. Lees Plum Pudding (4.8%) and Youngs Christmas Ale (5.5%). Others not mentioned are Highgate and Walsall breweries which should be available now.

Hall and Woodhouse (Badger) are delighted with the outcome of **Fursty Ferret** sales over the Summer/Autumn. Mike Strand informed me that ferret would be returning in the new year. They have also added to their portfolio Adnams Broadside 4.7% and Wrecked 4.5% from the Studland Bay Brewery. Look out for Badger's Cold Turkey 3.6% in January. Described as a budget busting brew for all those feeling

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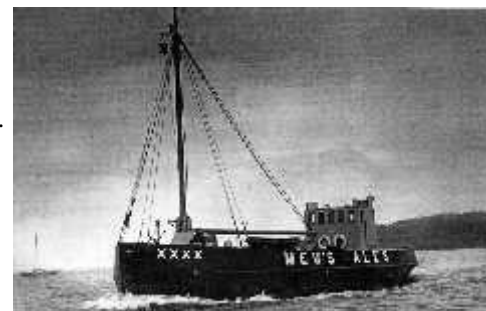
EQUESTRIAN RIDING STABLES & PONY RIDES (CALL FOR DETAILS)

In the last issue of Wightwash Jeff Ledicot described the growth of the Mew Langton Brewery to its zenith in the 1940/50s. Here he writes a little about the forms of transport used.

The Mew Langton estate spread right across the Island and reached right out to Portsmouth, Southampton, Totton and New Milton. Part of Lukely Brook was converted in to a canal to allow ships to dock alongside the brewery. (In fact the old dock gates can still be seen). In 1920 the first motor vessel was built. She was called the WIGHT and replaced the old sailing barge which we believe was called IBIZA. If you look carefully at the photograph, you can see it is an open bridge, which must have been more than a little nippy at certain times of the year. At least 2 Island pubs were serviced by boat, the Ship and Launch at Hurstake (near Dodnor) and for some unfathomable reason, the Globe on Cowes Esplanade. Between WWI and WWII many changes in transport were seen; horse drawn drays were re-



placed by motor transport and the last of the brewery horses OLD TOM was retired to Ningwood. A new motor vessel was built in 1949 by JS White. She was called the XXXX (4X) after the famous Mews brew. She supplied the mainland until she retired in 1966 when products were ferried to the mainland by lorries. (to be continued)



Jeff Ledicott

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You Never Who Is In The Pub With You (part 3)

It's quite amazing when you start something like this theme, that all of a sudden, something happens to you that makes you think, if I hadn't started writing this page would I have bothered thinking about who is in the pub. It was due to **Barney** at the **Travellers Joy** in Northwood that I was introduced to a guy that had 'I'm a musician' written all over his face. I'd like to tell you who he is, but to be brutally honest I have lost his phone number and I don't want to mention his name without his permission. Suffice to say he was a drummer in a legendary 60/70's rock band. I'll tell you who he is in my next article. Needless to say I have enjoyed endless conversations with him since. This is not only due to his knowledge of the late 60's and early 70's progressive rock scene in England but also his appreciation of a good pint and his open enthusiasm for the local music scene, which he wants to be a part of. To find out more about both I suggested that he headed for Ventnor where he could experience the delights of the Irish session with **Last Orders** in the **Volunteer** and enjoy a decent beer, after that he could then make for the **Spyglass Inn** on the Seaf front and quench his thirst whilst listening to those fine portrayers of Anglo American Irish folk music, **Tin Lids**. He took my advice and we met up at the **Spy** with his wife and we all enjoyed a great night.

If you're ever in Bembridge at the **Village Inn** you may according to my mate Ed rub shoulders with Jet Harris, former bassist with the **Shadows**, and then there's Harry's sister who lives nearby. The **Pilot Boat Inn** is also a place where some of the clientele might be on the verge of stardom; the **Bees** are known to frequent the area, so watch out they may sting at any time especially if your drinking **Fuller's Honey Dew**.

East Cowes could be the last place you might find a musician from the world's hall of fame but there are some promising young acts emerging from the area. The **Prince of Wales**, opposite Osborne House, holds a few secrets as does the **Duke of York** in West Cowes, Jim Capaldi, drummer with that legendary band **Traffic**, was a regular there as was the drummer with the **Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band** Legs Larry Smith. You see, you never know who is in the pub.

Pete Turner

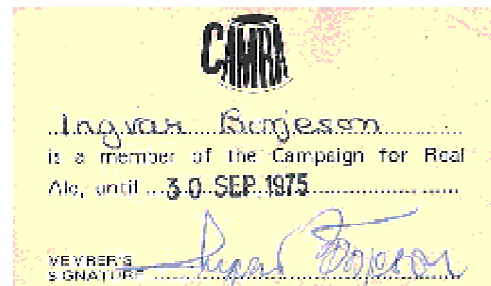
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7at Cat Bar
 Sandpipers

 Freshwater Bay

the pinch after the Christmas festivities. Badger's Marketing Director, Mark Woodhouse, has been having some unprecedented success with his latest purchase, a race horse called "Rigmarole". It's track record so far is; win, win, lose (4th out of 4) then, following a change of jockey, a nice little win at 33-1. Don't put your Badger t-shirt on it, but it might be worth risking a bob or two if you can afford it.

In 1975 a young man from Sweden was recruited in to the fledgling Isle of Wight branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. His name was Ingvar Börjeson and he first came to the Island as a student in 1963 staying with Brian Arthur. 11 years later, Brian, one of the Island's founder members, persuaded him to join the Campaign. This summer Ingvar returned to the



Island with his new wife Nina and even brought his membership card (even though it is ever so slightly lapsed!)

Yates Brewery have come up with some more beers for the winter. **Wight Winter** makes a come back and a new brew, **Yates' Festive Firkin** 5% alc/vol, a porter/stout

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with some "interesting ingredients" will be in pubs all over the Island. **The Broadway Inn**, Totland will be serving up "Xmas Blitz" and young Jeffrey at the Rookley Inn will be presenting "Three Wise Men and a Virgin". Jeff made some rather unkind comments about another Island village saying they would be lucky to find either. Yates have also been brewing a 6% Christmas bottled beer. It's available at the Arretton Barn Complex as **Dairyman's Christmas Ale** but it will also be supplied to various other outlets including hotels who will have their own personalised labels.

David Yates was recently interviewed by Channel 4 who have been on the Island following the fortunes of a young couple who have been looking for a restaurant or pub to buy. One of the premises looked at was the **Old Comical** in Sandown.

Punch Taverns have been making further investments on the Island with the recent acquisition of Billy Bunters, the Three Bishops and the Ponda Rosa.

InnSpired Inns are currently giving a major facelift to the Worsley in Wroxall. Phil Treadwell is the new incumbent. Some will remember Phil from the Crown, Ryde and the Ponda Rosa.

It looks like **John Bradshaw**, previous

owner of the **Wight Mouse**, will get permission to open his Chale Farm premises as a pub. Good luck Brad!

Congratulations to Shanklin Conservative Club who have won the Wessex Region Club of the Year. Marcus Stanley, regional Director will be presenting the award

New Faces!

The Old Stag at Parkhurst has new landlords, Stuart Brock and Kevin Crew. Kevin is a relative newcomer but Stuart, together with his wife has, in the past, run the Wishing Well and Billy Bunters. They hope that new developments in the Stag Lane area will boost trade. These

include an extra lane and *traffic lights*. Oh well, it's an ill wind...

New Pub!

The bar of the Richmond Hotel on Ventnor Seafront has now officially become the **Richmond Arms**. Mike and Dawn Bothwell have even had a special coat of arms designed based on the coat of arms for the London borough of Richmond only with the added elements of lobsters and such.

That's all for now, folks!

Paul

Please let us know your news tel: 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

National Pubs Week 2004

CAMRA's second pub week kicks off on 21st February. The objective of NPW is to encourage people to visit pubs more often. It is important that as many pubs as possible take the opportunity that NPW offers to remind people just how great pubs are and overcome common objections such as "pubs are too smoky", "too full of leary blokes" and "serve poor food" - all myths which threaten to keep today's consumers out of pubs. CAMRA is keen to stress the Pubs Week is not just about real ale pubs. If you are a publican you should get involved. NPW is about increasing trade in YOUR PUB. Call CAMRA on 01727 867201 or visit us at www.camra.org.uk/pubsweek to order a support pack.

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At least three REAL ALES!
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Dates for Your Diary

- 20th January Meeting to discuss entries for the National Good Beer Guide Travellers Joy, Northwood 8pm
- 23rd January Branch AGM Travellers Joy, Northwood 8pm
- 30th January Regional Club of the Year Award Shanklin Conservative Club
- 3rd February GBG meeting Traveller's Joy, 8pm
- 11th February Branch Social Fat Cat Bar, Freshwater 8.30pm ALL WELCOME!
21st - 28th February National Pub Week
- 16th March Business meeting Railway Medina, Newport 8.30pm

Win a 4.5 Gallon Cuby of Antifreeze from VENTNOR BREWERY

Just tell us who you would like to share your cuby with and why in around 4 sentences. The most amusing (and printable) answer will appear in the next Wightwash and the winner will get a FREE CUBEY PARTY PACK (beer in a box) of **Antifreeze**. Send your answers to Wightwash, Oakdene Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 2NH

RAILWAY MEDINA RINGING THE CHANGES

Dave Moore was always going to be a hard act to follow at the **Railway Medina** but things have gone really well since July when Steve Kennedy and Rachel Ewart were the (Innspired) choice to take over as the management partnership. With a good turnover of guest beers, which have included **Nuptu'al, Hobgoblin, Tight Head, Hooray Henry** and **London Pride** plus regulars **Bass** and **Tetley** this gem of a street corner local has excelled itself. Dave still pops in for a pint and plays for the darts team and Steve has continued to have local groups fairly regularly at weekends- names such as **Sporting Life, She Said** and the **Tin Lids** are amongst recent gigs. At the time of writing, two quizzes are planned between the **Railway Medina** and **Sportsman's Rest** (home and away) the latter venue being Steve's former pub.

Footnote – Meals on Legs

Dave Moore started a lovely service for the occupants of the nearby St Cross Court (site of the old Royal Mew Langton brewery). Orders are sent over either by phone or foot and the meals are delivered to the door with absolutely no extra charge. Steve is carrying on this tradition.

Pete Skinner

They were shipmates!

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

- THE STEAMER INN**
Esplanade, Shanklin
- THE BARGEMAN'S REST**
Little London, Newport
- THE SPYGLASS INN**
Esplanade, Ventnor

Up to seven real ales on offer!

Each of our inns has an individual style, and the "innards" features the freshest of local produce, including the famous Ventnor Bay Lobster and Fish.