

number of years, so there is always a friendly face around ready for a chat & those of you who are concerned about smoking will be pleased to hear that we have installed air filtration & increased our no smoking areas.

Our new addition to the menu seems quite popular the sizzling steak but don't forget we also run a specials board and bar menu concurrently. We are still offering reduced price beer on a Friday night & watch out for the extra special offers for January and February.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAC & PAULETTE

Thank you for writing to us, Paulette

If you would like to tell us about YOUR PUB, write to:
The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 3NH

Or email: editor@wightwash.org.uk

Don't forget our website
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The views expressed in *Wightwash* are not necessarily those of the Editor or CAMRA either locally or nationally



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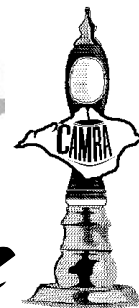
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Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 22

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Winter 2004 Issue



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Inside this **FREE** issue:

NEW FACES
Bumper Prize Quiz
Vaguely Sunny

LOCAL LANDMARKS
What CAMRA Does

News and Gossip
and much, much more...



Vine Re-Opens

The Vine, the popular St Helens pub has re-opened after a huge face-lift which has seen a complete revamp of the interior. The new layout involves a large dining area and a completely new bar which will stock at least 3 real ales. Licensees, Nicky and Curly Floyd have been joined by new head-chef, Mark Cramp.

So what have we been up to?

Well **on a branch level** we've been pretty busy thinking about which pubs should go into next year's Good Beer Guide. Every year we have to come up with recommendations for this national publication, and it is no easy task. I don't have to tell you that we have dozens of really good pubs on the Island all serving up good real ale. Regrettably we are only allowed to recommend 22.

This is how we do it :-

We start with a list of all the pubs in the area (the Island).

We chuck out all the ones that don't sell real ale.

That leaves us with around 100 pubs, *and this is where the trouble starts!*

Over the course of several meetings, we whittle this number down to around 80 then 50 then 30 using the following criteria.

Quality of Beer etc This obviously has to be the most important single factor. The pub doesn't need to sell a wide range of beers. A pub selling a couple of ales in tip-top condition is infinitely preferable to one selling lots of variable quality. *A common factor here is the temperature of beer. As mentioned in the last issue, a frequent complaint from members is that beers are either too cold or too warm.*

Atmosphere/Style/Décor This is partly about the "feel" of the interior— is it a nice place to be? Pubs certainly don't have to be picture-postcard, unspoilt rural gems to score highly here. Estate pubs, town centre bars, back street boozers — all can be excellent in their own terms.

Service and Welcome Is the service prompt, efficient and friendly? Do you get full measure or at least a top up without having to ask? Does the person serving you seem to regard you as a human being rather than just a source of revenue?

Clientele Mix A good pub is one where anyone can go in and feel comfortable, whoever they are.

Sympathy With CAMRA Aims Does the pub espouse and promote our values? Is cask beer given a positive push here? Is information offered about the ales sold?

Good Value This is about value for money, but in the widest sense of the term i.e. not just how cheap the ale is.

By now we have probably decided on the 10 or so "must include" pubs, but what about the remaining 12

This is when the hit squads come in to their own. This year 3 teams of CAMRA members will visit a list of pubs outside their normal drinking areas and report back.

The results will be discussed at a final meeting at the Fat Cat on

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every night was an old chap by the name of Dick Fallack. Yes, they were brothers; and the night we took Charlie to the Sportsman's Rest to meet his brother for the first time in 25 years, there was a film crew there and I believed they filmed the event. I believe it was really something to behold. If it still around what a wonderful thing for the pub to have and show off to visitors and the like.

Does anyone know of this film?

Ray is also trying to track down a book of Isle of Wight songs called "Songs of the Soil". It is by Percy G Stone and it was published by the County Press in 1933. If you know of anyone who has this rare book, please contact me. editor@wightwash.org.uk or phone 721557

More Island memories from Ray in the next issue

Paulette has written to tell us about what's going on at the Vine, at the not so far flung Freshwater...

After spending three years living in Freshwater Bay having babies, we are back on site at the Vine Inn Freshwater.

The pub is if you didn't already know a tied George Gales house offering GB, HSB & GUEST ALE. We are very into our fundraising & recently raised £895 for the Totland, Yarmouth & Freshwater boxing club by holding an enjoyable race night, which was extremely well supported by locals & local business.

Next spring we will be organising a charity golf day, all welcome of course!

The majority of our staff have been with us for a

Continued on back page...

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Over the last couple of years I have been delighted to receive emails from some fairly far flung places. Probably the most remote was Derek Fountaine, the ex-Rookley man now living in Vanuatu. Here is a little look at some more of the other correspondence that has been emailed "to the editor"...

From New Zealand

Can you tell me what has happened to the sportsman's rest at Porchfield. It was a place I knew well as a boy of 7 years old. or during the second world war and a few years later. I have been living in new Zealand for the last 40 years and I know how things have changed I would be more than happy to receive any information about the above pub. my email address is elray.j@clear.net.co.uk Ray Jolliffe.

I wrote back to Ray to tell him that the Sportsman's Rest is still going strong and received this reply...

Hi, it's Ray and Elaine again.

It was just out of this world to see a photo of the pub and to know it still is serving beer. My involvement with the sportsman's rest goes back to the 1940's. My mother and father would take the car out to the pub on a Saturday to have a drink and I would play with the local kids. I was only 5 years of age and it was the beginning of the 2nd world war. The landlords during the war were Stan and Minnie Cheeseman.

It was around this area that there were army encampments there for the build up of tanks and armoury that went on the great push to Normandy. I remember that in those days the bus came through the village twice a week on a Tuesday and Thursday if you missed this bus you had to walk out to the main Yarmouth road, I remember it well as my aunty had to march me there and I was not at all a very popular little boy. I do remember one thing which could be on film, It happened after the war around the 1950's. My parents owned the Falcon Inn in Castle Road, where we used to have an old chap come in every night for a pint before he went home to bed (you see he walked to work and back every day which would have been around 10 miles) the old chaps name was Charlie Fallack. In Porchfield going into the sportsmans rest

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16th February and the results sent to GHQ St Albans. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings. (For the dates for these and other branch events, see "Dates for Your Diary on page 9).

We have also been asked to nominate 10 of our best foodie pubs for inclusion in the latest edition of CAMRA's **Good Pub Food** guide which is due for publication in early 2006. Editor Kim Adams said "Eating out in pubs has never been so popular - or more important, as many pubs in rural areas rely on income from serving food to stay in business". "To be included a pub doesn't have to be in the Good Beer Guide, but it must sell great food and great cask beer". "It doesn't have to be a gastropub either - simply selling fresh, beautifully-cooked, good - value dishes is enough. At the same time, gastropub nominations are welcome, providing they let people drink in the bar without buying a meal". If you would like to nominate a pub, please phone Wightwash on 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk.

At a regional level we have been discussing the recent Great British Beer Festival and the Champion Beer of Britain. There have been questions asked at a local and regional level (and possibly national level) about the procedure for inclusion in these two prestigious institutions. Our Regional Director, Marcus Stanley has taken on the task of requesting a more transparent answer to these questions. (For a more detailed report on the recent Regional Meeting see next page). One thing has become clear and that is we need a local tasting panel to sample our local beers and report back to GHQ. If you have a discerning palate, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us... **Phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk**

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CAMRA Regional Meetings

Don't we all love meetings? Well as meetings go CAMRA Regional meetings are better than most. You get to try some choice ale at hand picked pubs round the country, in the company of other ale enthusiasts. OK, so there is business to be done, but that way you find out what other branches are up to, and what's going on in the pub and brewing business in the rest of the country.

The meetings are held quarterly, and the Weyhill Fair, the Salisbury Village Freehouse, the Queens Hotel, Gosport, and the Boot at Weymouth have been recent destinations. At the Boot we met Giles Smeaton of Dorset Brewery. He told us about SIBA which represents 380 small brewers, and about their relationship with the 'pubcos' which are sweeping the land (and the Island) and posing a threat to choice and diversity of beers.

The latest meeting was at the Shanklin Conservative Club, an outlet for fine beers including Ventnor Brewery (and for Burts before that!) and a previous Island nominee for Club of the Year (COTY) award. CAMRA National Executive member John Holland was present, and talked about this competition, which he organises.

The hot topic was the CAMRA method for its choice at the Great British Beer Festival of Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB). As you know from the previous Wightwash, Dave Yates deservedly won a bronze award for Yates' Special Draft. However the choice of Green King IPA as champion bitter had raised some eyebrows. Other matters were Brewery reports, Pub chains, branch reports, and a report on the success of 'The Ciderman' the local company supplying our pubs with cider from four different English Counties. Well that brought the meeting to an end, but not the beer session, which continued at the Solent Inn in Ryde.

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- 2/ What is a tapster?
- 3/ Which fruit is used to make Calvados?
- 4/ On which planet was Mr Spock's mother born?
- 5/ What is the "Wood" anniversary?
- 6/ What is IBM's motto?
- 7/ Which gin would you be reminded of at the Tower of London?
- 8/ How old did a woman have to be to vote in 1918?
- 9/ Which musical takes place in the village of Anatevka?
- 10/ What was the Beverly Hillbillies family name?



11/ Name this 20th Century French Leader



12/ What type of bird is this?

First correct answers will win a case of **Ventnor Beer** or a £20 meal voucher for the **Chequers Inn, Rookley.**

Send your answers by 1st Feb to The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3NH or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

Quiz by Kris Kwizzer

Answers to Autumn Quiz

- 1/ Margaret Cameron
- 2/ Uffa Fox
- 3/ Anthony Minghella
- 4/ Robert Hook
- 5/ Alfred Lord Tennyson
- 6/ Thomas Arnold
- 7/ Mark King
- 8/ Jack Douglas
- 9/ Raymond Allan
- 10/ Shirley Robertson

Mrs Margaret Howden of Ryde wins a case of Ventnor Beer

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The Palmer Memorial

Visitors to Bembridge will have seen this ornate memorial which stands by the roadside at the end of the embankment. The symbolism in the sculpture is reinforced by the inscription which tells of the local vicar whose life is commemorated here. John Palmer, vicar of Bembridge who died in 1896 was a popular incumbent of the village. His claim to fame and no doubt, source of the funding for this remarkable memorial is due to his official duties as Chaplain to the Grand Masonic Lodge of Great Britain.



The memorial was dedicated at a ceremony conducted by Lord Alverstone who was the Lord Chief Justice of Great Britain. He was acting in his official capacity as the Grand Master of the Central Masonic Lodge. Lord Alverstone had long connections with the Island. In his younger days, as Richard

Webster he was a sitting member of parliament for the Island and he owned the company responsible for the modernisation of Sandown Pier. Rising through the ranks he was at one time Attorney General and later the Lord Chief Justice.

Rob Marshall

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From Paul Mattick

Following proposals to cast out smokers from our restaurants, the race is on to find the first Brewery that can come up with their own unique brew that contains either Nicotine or Tobacco. **Goddards** are at present researching a leaf that **Chris Coleman** brought back from his trek to Peru and hopes to have his first batch of Rothmans Roy-Ale (5.0% TBV) in time for the new year. Others include **Ventnor Breweries Cough-Meister** (4.0% TBV) **Yates' Smokey Joe** (4.8%) named after a local who spontaneously combusted, and **Scarecrow Breweries Anti Wheeze** (3.8% TBV). The potency of each beer corresponds to the amount of fags per pint. A beer with a TBV (Tabs by volume) of 5.0% equals the equivalent of five medium strength cigarettes per pint. Binge drinking is a thing of the past; Binge Smoking will be in soon... No doubt someone will come up with a beer for smokers before long but remember, you heard it here first. (Patent applied for!) I was having a drink in a pub the other day and overheard a conversation between the Landlady and the Darts captain the subject - **Smoking Proposals**.

Landlady: It won't involve us, as we don't do food.

Captain: You'll have to stop selling crisps though won't you cause that's food that is.

Landlady: Yes that's true but you don't get a club sandwich for £8.50 with it so it doesn't count.

Captain: Oh Christ that will mean my team won't get the complimentary sandwiches on darts nights!

Landlady: (Picks up the phone) Hello is that the loony bin... You had to be there!

Steve Bull who really enjoys the odd Tanglefoot has told me that **Paul Jenner** of the **Yarbridge Inn** has as many as 6 real ales on the go at the same time. There is also a rumour that a **microbrewery** is in the offing. I'll be visiting him shortly and let you know all about it next time. I can tell you that amongst the ales on offer during their **12 Ales of Christmas Festival**, Paul and Sharon will be offering: **Fallen Angel**, 12 Days, **Santa Moors**, Santa's Steaming Ale and **The First Noel** to name just a few.

As reported in the last issue, **Brian Poulter** has taken over the **Railway** in Ryde. I had the opportunity to visit him recently for my brother in laws 40th (Happy birthday **Pete Jarvie**). The atmosphere was great and the beer (of which there were 5 to chose from) was well kept and varied in strength. Brian runs the pub along with his family and he seems to have created a great relationship with his customers. I had a terrific time and I can't remember getting home! (see **New Faces** on Page 10.)

It was so nice to see that the last issue winner of our postal quiz was none other than **Margaret Howden** of Ryde. For those of

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you who don't remember her Margaret used to be the Landlady of the **Flat Iron** in Ryde of which I have memories of going into at the age of twelve with an old friend of mine **Graham Ockenden** as carol singers. We were given lemonade, a bag of crisps and a serious amount of cash from Margaret and the locals, one of them being my uncle Bert (Lavers) who would occasionally play the ukulele and piano there. Margaret moved on to the **Wheatsheaf** in Brading and is now enjoying retirement. She can be heard on **Radio Solent** from time to time and enjoys quizzes. If you ever meet her, ask about her quiz round on hats and headgear!

Totland residents and visitors are informed that the **Waterfront** will be closed until March.

The **Bell Bar** at the Winter Gardens will shortly be undergoing a refit. Matt the manager is looking forward to it and will still be there when the job has been completed.

It's all hands on deck for **Xavier Baker** and his troops following orders for both the Island and the mainland since he re-launched **Anti-Freeze** (5.2% abv) **The Volunteer** has it and you can find it at many other outlets from now until January. Japan

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was the main issue of the conversation as Xav had travelled there looking for concentrated liquid nicotine to compliment his Cough-Meister! Actually he did travel to Japan to promote **Oyster Stout** and **Sand-Rock Smoked beer** (Nicotine free) that he hopes to be exporting soon. One of his main intentions was to meet the man who introduced **Guinness** and the **Contraceptive pill** to the land of the rising sun, who is probably responsible for the increase in alcoholic mothers over there! Joking aside it was a very useful meeting. One of the main problems with the export of Guinness was that they had to change the recipe, which appears to have worked well, and as for the contraceptive pill – do they need to market a product like that! While he was there Xavier tried a Milk Stout brewed by the **Kirin Brewery**. One of the chaps from **Swan Fast Foods** is hoping to open up a chip shop there and use it to make a crispy batter for the sushi. Back in Britain, the **Brewery History Society** made a visit to not just **Ventnor**, but also to **Goddards** and **Yates Brewery**. Bernie Jones (Ex Head Brewer with Ventnor Brewery) had a great time conducting the tour with Xavier who between them told many



26/06/04 - Bus to Bembridge to look round the Heritage Centre – Closed! but had excellent pint of G.K. Abbot at the VILLAGE INN. Returned to Ryde and THE SOLENT to meet our friend Geoff from N.Surrey CAMRA.

27/06/04 - Took Geoff to SUN INN, Calbourne (Breakspare Special – V.Good) Bus to Newport and the RAILWAY MEDINA (all beers in good condition), an excellent pint of Wight Spirit in the BARGEMAN'S REST and another excellent pint of Hole Hearted in the PRINCE OF WALES.

28/06/04 - My 59th birthday! Bus to Bembridge - Heritage Centre Open! Walked to Adgestone Vineyards for tour. Walked to Sandown for bus back to YARBRIDGE INN for another pint of Cairngorm Sheepshagger (V.Good) birthday meal and a bottle of wine. Bus back to Ryde. Drank the SOLENT INN out of Mountgay Rum. Another Happy Birthday!

29/06/04 - Doesn't the taste of rum linger! A very "hangy" morning. Bus & train to Ventnor Brewery to see my old friend Xavier Baker (old!? - Ed) who gave me a bottle of Wight Spirit (Many Thanks, Xav) Onward by bus to see another old friend David Yates (old!? well, okay – Ed) at the INN AT ST LAWRENCE. Another birthday bottle, this time YSD (Cheers, David!). A couple of pints of Undercliff Experience (V.Good) in the pub and then bus back to Ventnor. Visited the RICHMOND ARMS and then to the VOLUNTEER for Scarecrow Bitter in excellent order.

30/06/04 - Visited Goddards Brewery (compulsory!). Bus to Niton – White Star (excellent) in WHITE LION. Walked to Buddle via the roadworks. Bus to Newport via Chale – one of the best bus routes. Bus back to Ryde. HSB in KING LUD (V.Good) and excellent pint of Undercliff Experience in MARINE which we nearly missed as the pump handle was hidden behind a pillar!

01/07/04 - Bussed it to POINTER INN, Newchurch. Gales Best Bitter (V.Good). Walked along old railway line to Newport. Visited ROBIN HOOD – no real ale but enjoyed a nice cold bottle of Gold Label, licensees and customers most convivial. On to East Cowes – London Pride in SHIP AND CASTLE (V.Good form). Ventnor Gold in another East Cowes pub (*which has subsequently changed hands-Ed*) was in very poor condition. Back to Ryde, where in one pub I was inadvertently served a taster of line cleaning fluid. And then to the SOLENT with good beer, good company and no line cleaning agent in the pipes!

02/07/04 - Visited Fort Victoria, then walked the Coastal Path to the COLWELL BAY INN and then to the PRINCE OF WALES. A nice chat to the governor ensued. Moorhouse Black Cat and G.K Abbot in V.Good Form.

03/07/04 - Our last day on the Island for this year. Visited the French Market and bought a bottle of Cidre (cider) and Poire (perry) both excellent. Train to Shanklin. Took our friend to the CHINE INN – Harviestoun Navigator (excellent) then to THE CRAB for some Goddards Special Bitter in superb nick. Back to Ryde to THE SOLENT for farewells and our last Island pints for this year. Hopefully we'll be back for my big 60 next year. That's all folks!

Ken and Jackie

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During September, Wightwash received what can be best described as a very comprehensive account (7 pages in all) of a visit to the Island by Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA members Ken Lowe and Jackie Tulip. Regrettably we don't have enough room to print it all here, but here are some excerpts:-

Summer hols time again, where to go, Majorca, Bodrum etc. etc??. Sod it! even though "we" or should I say "I" have done every pub on the Island in the past, it's got to be the IOW again, for the 5th time. Why? As I am writing this I can hear the incessant drone of the M25 1.5 miles away. Anyway, here we go about the pubs and beer that we met on our hols. I'll be as brief as I can (eh? Ed).

19/06/04 - Arrive, find digs. Only one pub today as we are tired. Well, you try carrying a fully laden 75cl rucksack and other assorted baggage most of the way up West Hill Road all the way from the station. WETHERSPOONS – Caledonian Nectar - V.Good

20/06/04 - Got our 7 day Rover tickets on S.Vectis. Afternoon trip to Sandown – Not impressed with pubs visited. Back to Ryde. Andy and Margaret (SOLENT INN) welcome us with hugs and kisses! I only wanted a pint of decent beer!! 4 pints (including excellent pint of Oakleaf Hole Hearted) back to the digs and didn't even dream or have a nightmare about Sandown.

21/06/04 - Walked the ex-railway track from Shanklin to Wroxall – 4 SEASONS – excellent pint of Freshwater Best Bitter and THE WORSLEY – Greene King IPA – V.Good.

22/06/04 - Trip to YARBRIDGE INN, Paul recognised us both from last year. Princetown Jail Ale and Coach House, Dick Turpin V.Good.

23/06/04 - Ventnor. VOLUNTEER for a quick ½ of excellent Summer Solstice between buses. On to Freshwater to watch the rollers coming in. FAT CAT BAR – Coachhouse Flintlock and Ale of Wight V.Good. Full marks for lined glasses. Bus to Newport – PRINCE OF WALES – Fuggle De Dum - Good.

24/06/04 - Bus to SUN INN, Calbourne, Archer's Sir Arthur Greasley and Tanglefoot – both V.Good. Bus to Yarmouth to visit BUGLE and WHEATSHEAF. Bus to Shanklin to visit KING HARRY'S BAR – Holden's Midsummer Madness – V.Good.

25/06/04 - Bus to Newport, walked to Cowes along ex-railway track. Cowes full of sailing people so didn't bother imbibing here. Onwards to the Wightwash Birthday Party at the TRAVELLER'S JOY.

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stories of past goings on, including the brewery ghost, which leads me straight on to **Gay Baldwin** who has recently included it in her new book. If you want to know the story buy the book!! Poly-pins are available for Christmas. Prices are available on request. Ring 856161 to arrange a pick up.

Please note bag in the box beers are not suitable for microwaves!

Arreton's **Scarecrow Brewery** is ticking over quite nicely. Bottles of Scarecrow bit-

ter are on hand at the **Arreton Barn Bottle Shop** and also via hand pump at all Gibbs's pubs.

Goddards Brewery have managed to produce their 500th brew of **Goddards Special Bitter** – Head of Brewing **Chris Coleman** (who has probably drunk about 20% of it) told me that it was quite an accomplishment for a small independent brewery and a tribute to the beer and the staff past and present. A special Christmas brew will be available from 10th-31st

December. **Christmas Orange** (4.0% abv) is brewed along the same line as Special Bitter but a hint of natural orange and a secret constituent to give it a bit of a sting (Holly?) has also been incorporated. **Winter Warmer** (5.2% abv) is now available from outlets till February.

Ale of Wight (4.0% abv) is now available in bottles so look out for it at TESCOS (probably) and your local now.

Badger Brewery recently ceased production of **Panda Pops**, This was a special

Members

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they there shipmates

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The Spyglass Inn

Up to seven real ales on offer!

brew with a **zero% abv** specifically distilled for children in different colours that made them Hyper-active (unless they had the clear coloured one!), which doesn't affect us grown ups so it's pointless writing about it isn't it, but I've done it now so there!!

On the adult side of things **Fursty Ferret** went well in the summer. As the festive season draws near however it has been replaced it with a very fruity new ale by the name of **Festive Pheasant** (4.5% abv). This will be available from now until January (watch out for the feathers though!). From Dec 21st and for one month only **Slurpin Snowman** will be available. Details are a bit sketchy but I have been told that it's a mid-strength beer brewed by Eskimos!

Mike Strand tells me that **Andrew Gibbs** is by now married. Mike took the opportunity to participate in his stag do, which started at **The Dairyman's Daughter** and finished at the **Kings Head**). 18 of them boarded a coach that took them to Ventnor. They were then taken to Yarmouth and they visited every pub on the way (18 by my calculation). At The Kings Head the party managed to down 140 pints of beer and ate 15 pasties, which were bought from a shop in the square as they couldn't smoke with a



meal. This was followed by a singsong with the Squeezebox. The locals joined in and everybody had a great time.

All of **Yates' Brewery** standard beers are now available in bottles and following the success of **YSD** at the Great British Beer Festival, David Yates has had masses of enquires including some from some most illustrious establishments such as the House of Frazer. **Wight Winter** (5% abv) which David describes as "a sort of stout" is already in many pubs. He is adding to it a special Christmas beer - **Wight Christmas** (5.2% abv) a lighter coloured strong ale with a hint of liquorice and raisins.

In My Sweet Baby's Arms, Old Blue, Don't Leave Me Here, Why O Why, In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree, Oklahoma Hills, Rock Island Line, Closing/ Railroad Bill.

So how did all this come about we wonder ? Perhaps Jack crossed on a ocean liner from New York to Southampton and then decided to come to the Island. So where were the recordings done ? Where did he play? Through the research that we carried out for our Isle of Wight Rock book we know that in 1957 there was skiffle music at the Wheatsheaf pub in Cowes featuring among others Cliff Maidment and the late Tom Taylor, but does anybody know about this ? Does any one recall seeing Ramblin' Jack ?

Vic King

Forthcoming Vaguely Sunny gigs

Saturday, January 8 at 7.45pm.

Kevin Montgomery and The Roadtrippers.

The Venue @ Ryde Theatre.

The Roadtrippers band includes Paul Deakin and Robert Reynolds from The Mavericks and Al Perkins on steel guitar.

Tickets £12. Box Office 01983-568099.

Thursday, February 10 at 8.00pm

Vin Garbutt.

Quay Arts Centre, Newport.

Extremely witty and entertaining folk singer from the north east of England.

Tickets £8. Box Office 01983-528825.

Sunday, March 20 at 8.00pm.

Phil Beer.

Quay Arts Centre, Newport.

The Show of Hands man performing a solo show.

Tickets £10. Box Office 01983-528825.

Roy Orbison

In the last issue we published a photo of Roy Orbison standing next to a hovercraft and wondered if Roy had ever visited the Isle of Wight. Alan Hunter has a theory...

Hello there,

I read an article in your magazine of Autumn 2004 but, although I cannot shed any light on the photograph, I did hear that John Britten's brother Robin was once the manager of Roy Orbison and The Hollies. So maybe he was over visiting Robin Britten at his home in Bembridge. I cannot remember where I heard it but it can possibly be researched,

Regards, Alan Hunter

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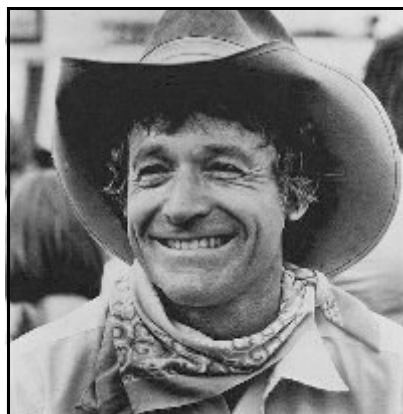
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Ramblin' Jack Elliott on the Isle of Wight

Recently, my Vaguely Sunny colleague Mike Plumbley unearthed a gem of a story regarding the American folk singer **Ramblin' Jack Elliott**. Ramblin' Jack is one of folk music's most enduring characters. Since he first came on the scene in the late 1950s he has influenced a whole host of musicians from Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger to the Rolling Stones and the Grateful Dead. The son of a New York doctor, he ran away from home at the age of eleven to join the rodeo. He later became a pivotal figure in folk music.



Ramblin' Jack Elliot

Ramblin' Jack was a protégé and a friend of Woody Guthrie. He went on to establish his own narrative style which was a great influence on his own protégé - Bob Dylan.

Amazingly, at the end of October on the Hi-Tone label two Ramblin' Jack Elliott CDs were released. The first is 'The Lost Topic Tapes - Cowes Harbour 1957'. The second is 'The Lost Topic Tapes - Isle of Wight 1957'.

Type in 'Ramblin' Jack Elliott Isle of Wight' on an internet search engine and you will discover several sources to order these two albums. The track listing for Cowes Harbour 1957 is Intro, Hard Travellin', Bick Rock Candy Mountain, Old Rattler, Talking Columbia Blues, Streets Of Laredo, Jack Of Diamonds, Rusty Jiggs & Sandy Sam, Tom Joad, Acres Of Clams, Freight Train, Chisholm Trail, Crawdad Song, Black Girl, Tom Dooley, Rocky Mountain Belle.

The track listing for Isle of Wight 1957 is Intro, T For Texas, I Thought I Heard Boddy Bolden Say, Crash On The Highway, Candy Man, Ballad Of John Henry, Car Song, Roll

Advert for the Anchor

Good news for the "Local Beer in Local Pubs" lobby – Punch Taverns are allowing their landlords to stock **Yates' Beers**. Good for them! The wholesale side of **Yates'** is going so well that they have transferred the phone line to the depot. Please note the new number 731731 (the editor's musical ear picked up that on a touch-tone phone this sounds like the Laurel and Hardy theme).

David was not best pleased with several erroneous details concerning his brewery in a well-known national publication which included his home phone number. He was recently phoned up late one evening and asked to supply a pump clip to a pub in Mansfield for **Fever Pitch**, a beer he hadn't even heard of.

The **Inn at St Lawrence** is to extend the premises to include part of the adjoining cottage. This will become a public/

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smoking bar. Windows will allow customers to look into the brewery and watch "the old boy at work" (*his words, not mine*).

Right I'm off to have a smoke and a Panda Pop - Merry Christmas!

Paul

Date for Your Diary

- Tuesday 18th January Traveller's Joy - Good Beer Guide Meeting 9pm
- 21st January -AGM - Traveller's Joy, Northwood - 8pm
- 16th February - Social (final GBG meeting) Fat Cat, Freshwater - 8.30pm
- 16th March - Business Meeting - Rookley Inn - 8.30pm
- 20th April - Social Walk-About - Starting Railway Inn, Ryde - 8.30pm

Advertisement for Solent Inn

The Fighting Cocks

Jack and Gillian Bell are the new faces behind the bar of the Hale Common pub, the **Fighting Cocks**. They moved to the Isle of Wight from West Yorkshire 4 years ago and since then have been running the Fawley Hotel in Hope Road, Shanklin. From now on, however, the hotel will be run by friends while Jack and Gillian concentrate on the pub, part of the Enterprise chain. Presently the kitchens are being refurbished in preparation for the arrival of the new chef who will not only be rustling up some traditional pub grub, but adding some very special dishes of his own. Currently the pub is open 11– 3 and 7 –11 but from the spring it will be open all day. And yes, it will be open during the Garlic Festival!



The Cask and Taverners

Gareth Beaumont is the new man behind the bar of the Cask and Taverners, Godshill getting plenty of help from his partner **Jodie Cook** in the restaurant. At the time of writing, Gareth and Jodie had been in place for 7 weeks although the first two weeks were taken up with redecoration. It has been a pretty thorough job with new carpets in the restaurant and pool room.

Gareth learned his trade at the Anchor in Cowes where he started as a part-time barman and ended up manager. For a while he worked alongside master cellarman Andy Taylor learning the “Way of the Windows”.

There is a strong emphasis on food with separate bar and restaurant menus, and a special Christmas menu running throughout the month of December. Special theme nights are planned for the new year.

Gareth is hoping to get some “team spirit” back in to the pub and already the Taverner’s quiz team is doing rather well in the Ventnor and District Quiz League. Watch out for darts and then petanque during the summer, with bar-b-ques and live music in the garden.



The Three Bishops

Although **Janet Brown** is the new licensee of the **Three Bishops**, Brighstone, the running of the pub, which is already gaining a great reputation for food, is a real team effort, as you can see from this photograph. From left to right we have Alex, Matthew, Janet, Garret and Bella.

The pub is now fully functional having recovered from the Great Brighstone Flood; however there are massive plans in the pipeline. By the time you are reading this, work will have already started on the outside. Soon after, the interior is to be completely redesigned. The public and lounge area will have a rustic feel, while the restaurant will have a partitioned area and a larger space suitable for functions. Real ales are selling well and if all goes well, you could find up to 6 pumps in the not too distant future.



The Railway

Taking over Janet’s former pub, The Railway, Ryde, we have another new face, **Brian Poulter**. And it is a very new face to the Island pub scene. Up until very recently Brian was working as an electrical engineer installing cctv security systems, but now he’s hung up his pliers (or whatever it is electrical engineers use) and he’s pulling pints. Mum and dad - Alan and Elaine and brother and sister; Richard and Laura have been working hard to help Brian put his own personal touches to the pub, and very nice it looks too. You will always find at least 4 interesting real ales to choose from. Karaoke on Friday nights has proved to be very popular as have the many live acts that have been appearing on Saturday and Sunday nights. Tuesday night is quiz night. Brian has asked us to pass on his thanks to Andy from the Solent Inn and Jamie from the Simeon Arms for all their help and encouragement. Only too pleased to oblige!



Wightwash would like to wish all
“New Faces” the Very Best of Luck.

If you would like us to write something about your pub, phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk