

Diary Dates

Friday 15th December: **Christmas Social:** Fleming Arms, Binstead. 7pm for 7.30pm
Monday 1st January 2018: **New Year's Day Steam Journey:** Havenstreet Station
Friday 26th January 2018: **AGM** Traveller's Joy, Northwood - 7.30pm
Friday 16th February: **Branch Meeting:** Fleming Arms, Binstead - 8pm
Friday 16th March: **Branch Meeting:** The Blacksmiths, Calbourne Rd - 8pm
Friday 20th April: **Branch Meeting:** Fisherman's Cottage, Shanklin - 8pm
20th - 22nd April: **CAMRA Members' Weekend,** Coventry
31st May - 3rd June: **Newport Jazz Weekend**
13th - 14th October: **Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer and Walks Weekend**
Advertise your event here for free! Contact: editor@wightwash.org.uk

MEMBERS:

Are you receiving our regular branch e-newsletters?
If not, contact Mike Hoar mike.camrai@gmail.com

www.wightwash.org.uk

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The views expressed in Wightwash are not necessarily those of the editor or CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) either nationally or locally.

Wightwash can be contacted by phone 721557 or email editor@wightwash.org.uk

Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 74



Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

Winter Issue 2017

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



Photo © Michelle Moody



In this FREE issue:
Firestone, Lions and Bears
Driven to Drink
Island Landmarks

PRIZE QUIZ
Brewery News
Pub Walk

and much, much more...

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Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

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Win a £20 Meal Voucher for the Wight Mouse Inn or a case of Yates' Ales

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

- 1/ Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect featured in which cult radio series?
- 2/ In which sport did Dick Fosbury excel?
- 3/ How many furlongs in a mile?
- 4/ What is the state capital of Colorado?
- 5/ In which Noël Coward play does Madame Arcati appear?
- 6/ Who was Prime Minister immediately prior to Margaret Thatcher?
- 7/ Gala, Honeydew and Water are all types of what?
- 8/ Spartacus by Khachaturian was the theme music to which seafaring tv series?
- 9/ and 10/ Identify these two veteran sports commentators.



9



10

Answers to the Autumn Quiz

- 1/ Leonard Swindley
- 2/ Chihuahua 3/ Vienna
- 4/ Piccadilly
- 5/ Puppet on a String
- 6/ Nancy Astor 7/ Joey
- 8/ Jaws II
- 9/ Cumbria
- 10/ Northumberland

David Clapper from Shanklin wins a meal voucher and Wendy Jefferies from Lake wins a case of Yates' beer.

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

The WIGHT MOUSE INN

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



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Binstead Quarries

Although visible remains of many quarries and pits are prominent throughout the Island, little evidence remains of what must have been the most extensive excavations of them all.

The Binstead Quarries, known nationwide for centuries, are now marked only by a little memorial by the roadside.

Early records of the quarries' extensive use tell when the blocks were used to build parts of Winchester Cathedral. No doubt the sea and River Itchen were used to transport the massive stone blocks. Road transport would have been impossible.

In later years water transport will have been the choice when Binstead was called upon to provide stone for the Tower of London, the Parliament Buildings at Westminster and for Romsey Abbey.

When monks were searching for a suitable site for an abbey on the Island they built Quarr next to an existing "quarry". The ruins of the ancient abbey can still be used to locate remains of the old stone pits.

After centuries of intensive workings the seams of useful rock were deemed to be exhausted and although small recent excavations have been used to provide for local memorials, Binstead Quarries no longer function.

Rob Marshall



VOTE VOTE VOTE

It's that time again and we are asking all members to vote for their favourite pub and beer!

Just tell us which Isle of Wight pubs and beers you enjoyed most during 2017.

All members should have received a voting form with this issue. If you haven't, please contact Mike Hoar by email mike.camra@gmail.com or phone 526165.

You can either post the form back to Mike or vote on-line using the unique code number on the form.

www.wightwash.org.uk/voting

Please take the time to vote. It's your chance to give a landlord and a brewer a pat on the back.

Results will be announced on Isle of Wight Radio on Sunday 11th February and will be published in the Spring Issue of Wightwash.

Only members can vote!

Not a member? See opposite!

Who's Who

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alec.lawson@virgin.net

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Press Officer
Brian Jacobs
icloth14@gmail.com

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Island Brewery

If we don't know that it will be a *white* Christmas, you will certainly be able to make it a **Wight Christmas**, looking at all that is being brewed now for cask and bottle. Wight Christmas being, of course, Island Brewery's 2015 Gold Award Speciality Class Winner in the World Beer awards. So, stock up!

The success of the best Beer and Buses Festival yet, was mirrored in the unprecedented success of Island Brewery's beers. The new super-hopped version of **Hop Aboard** was, for me, outstanding, and I even astounded people that know me by choosing it over (and over) the hallowed **RDA** – well you can only get Hop Aboard once a year, more's the pity! But, it wasn't just Hop Aboard that was held in such acclaim, **Busman's Holiday** sold out. The Mew Langton recipe recreations, specially brewed for that enterprising beer aficionado Paul Armfield, at the Quay Arts Centre, went down a storm, as did the specials ordered by



other venues like the stalwart Ale Houses, and this year's phenomenal new entrants at

Tapnell Farm and Porchfield Cricket Club.

All this demand and activity has made this year the busiest year ever for Island Brewery, patently showing that success really does build success. There is not a year that goes by without Island Brewery getting top recognition for their beers, not just through awards, but from the people that matter, their end customers who

drink it, and by the looks of things, can't drink enough!

In fact, Chris's magic touch on creations has now got to the stage where his boss, Steve Minshull, is asking "what other recipes do you have up your sleeve, Chris? Bearing in mind the one that you held back for so many years, RDA, only went and made best Stout in the World!". Not sure whether Chris was serious, joking, or success gone to his head, I distinctly heard Chris reply "Marmalade Porter!" I was sure he also said "my Lord", but it was only Steve and me there, not Lord Graham Perks, regent of Ventnor and landlord saviour of the

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

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

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

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

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

North - Cowes & District

Anchor Inn, Cowes Ale House, Duke Of York, Fountain Inn, Globe, Kingston Arms, Lifeboat, Pier View, Portland Inn, Sportsman's Rest, Traveller's Joy, Union Inn, Vectis Tavern, Waverley Park, White Hart - East Cowes, Woodvale, Yachtsman

Central - Newport & District

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

East - Ryde & District

Boat House, Castle, Cedars, Culver Haven, Esplanade Bars, Falcon, Fishbourne Inn, Fleming Arms, Fowlers, High Park Tavern, King Lud, Kynge's Well, Old Village Inn, Pilot Boat, Railway, Ryde Castle Hotel, Seaview Hotel, Simeon Arms, Solent Inn, Vine Inn, Wheatsheaf –Brading, Woodman's Arms, Yarbridge, Yelf's Hotel

South -Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor & District

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

West - Yarmouth, Freshwater, Calbourne, Shorwell & District

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

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

BeerPoint is currently administered by our chairman John Nicholson who can be contacted on jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk

the organics fed into the water failed to keep pace with the bacteria in the brewery waste and a foul odour enveloped the brewery and the nearby town of Paso Robles – this clearly wasn't part of the plan! Giant fans were hired to waft the odour away until the situation was brought under control.

So, in conclusion, it is amazing how a trip to Liverpool can generate such diversity - from industrial action afloat to Art Nouveau architecture and from tyres to beer - so cheers and I hope you found these articles interesting; if you dig deep enough the facts become quite ludicrous at times!

Paul Sheldon

The Port of Liverpool

By 1792 Liverpool was firmly established as Europe's leading slave port with 131 sailings that year compared to 42 for Bristol and 22 for London. Although the initial rubber plantations were far removed from the USA, slaves were used to a lesser or greater degree. In 1926 the Firestone Company of the US managed an agreement with Liberia to lease 1 million acres of its territory for 99 years for a rubber plantation, thus outstripping supplies from plantations in Ceylon and Malaya.



- Daily Specials Board
- Local Ales
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Volunteer, so I must have misheard. Marmalade Porter could be nice, and I would trust Chris's judgement, the chocolate, coffee, fruity notes of porter would sit well with bitter marmalade orange. It works well in Spain with orange sherry, so why not! However, if my opinion has any influence (being the one that predicted the success of RDA), I would like to see a Coleman version of that anomalous icon Black IPA, and, I say now, it will be another contender for Gold, if I know Chris and his beers. Hmm, just thinking of the tasting notes now, intense quenching hoppiness followed by a malty biscuit sweetness with burnt chocolate and coffee undertones. Wow, wouldn't you want a pint!

Oh, one last thing, I am informed that the brewery has had to buy a new thermometer "they don't last very long" I am told. "How old was the last one?" I asked the boys (young men). "I think you multiply it by 9,

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divide by 5 and add 32 to calculate thermometer years compared with human ones they said." To which I replied "Is that what they teach you at school now, then? I think I have fallen down a Christmas rabbit hole!"

John Nicholson
BLO Island Brewery

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Goddards Brewery

Winter Warmer now in Island pubs

The team have been very busy brewing seasonal favourites ready for the Christmas holidays.

Winter Warmer (5.2% abv) is out now; an "iconic seasonal ruby black beer that will warm the cockles of your heart" with dried fruit and bitter chocolate malt notes and a rich sweetish fruity finish.

Order your Christmas mini cask of real ale!

This year Goddards will be making its popular mini casks available from 2nd December 2017. Choose between **Starboard!** (4.0% abv) the new easy drinking seasonal pale ale or **Fuggle-Dee-Dum** (4.8% abv). Each mini



cask contains five litres of real ale and would make an excellent Christmas present. It's also an excellent excuse to stock up on Goddards for your Christmas parties and impress all your friends. You can purchase your mini casks from Farmer Jacks at Arreton Barns, Harveys Deli in Yarmouth, The Ale House Shop in Newport or Lesley's Nutshell in Ventnor. Prices are £22.50 for Starboard! and £23.50 for Fuggle-Dee-Dum.

Goddards are proud to announce that they are now SALSIA certified. SALSIA is the leading food safety certification scheme for the UK's small food and drink producers.

Another exciting achievement for the team at Goddards is that they will now be starting to

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global and the port of Liverpool, became involved [see box on next page].

The Firestone Walker Brewing Company logo depicts a lion and bear which represents the brewery's two founders,

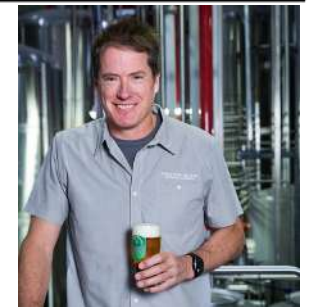


David Walker (the Lion)

David Walker and Alan Firestone. The lion represents Walker's British heritage, while the bear is a nod to Firestone's Californian roots. With claws and fists up, 'they mirror the spirited sparring that is the driving force behind the brewery ...'



FIRESTONE WALKER BREWING COMPANY



Adam Firestone (the Bear)



With some of their products, including DBA (Double Barrel Ale), the company utilises a variation of the Burton Union System, the only brewery in the world beside Marston's to use this method of fermentation. 60-gallon American Oak barrels are toasted inside imparting wood flavour to their beer. As the beer ferments, brown yeast and foam are pushed from the barrels to a 'bram rack' or receiving bucket. This gives the beer a soft and fruity character with a pronounced oakey, vanilla flavour compared with beer simply fermented in stainless steel vessels. The union system needs large amounts of water, however, as much of the water can be collected and saved during the brewery process, Firestone Walker decided to build water retention ponds. Initially, the aeration system designed to digest

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SHANKLIN

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For those of you still puzzled why these articles are entitled "Firestone, Lions and Bears", all will now be revealed.

My curiosity was aroused during our trip to Liverpool when I came across a Firestone IPA beer bottle. Was there a connection with the tyre company I wondered? On my return, I consulted Mr Google and "Bingo!".

The Firestone Walker Brewing Company in Paso Robles, California was founded by Adam Firestone in 1996 with his brother-in-law David Walker. It was started on the Firestone family vineyard in Los Olivos, California and moved to Paso Robles in 2001.



Adam's Great, Great, Great Grandfather was Harvey Samuel Firestone who started the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1900. In its day it was the largest producer, purchaser and user of natural rubber. In 1915 an office was set up in Singapore to supervise their operations including

purchasing, grading, processing, storing, and shipping rubber to the USA. Then as demand for rubber tyres and other associated rubber products increased throughout the world, their shipping turned



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supply more pubs nationwide, with Fuggle-Dee-Dum being served at Wetherspoon's pubs across the country from December as well as Greene King establishments nationwide.

"It's been a real challenge, but we take a lot of pride in maintaining our high standards. We are pleased to now be recognised by SALSA and are extremely fortunate to have such a great team, all working hard to maintain this level of excellence. With this certification we can now look forward to a future of increased national distribution."

IW Pride

Goddards are currently holding a Facebook competition in collaboration with Isle of Wight Pride to name a beer dedicated to the event. The names to vote for are #IOWnmydestiny, Island Pride, Destiny and Love-Island. The name with the most votes will be chosen and the Facebook users who voted for the winning

Ventnor Breweries

is the title of a recent publication from the Ventnor Heritage Centre. Written by Richard Downing, it covers the story of Burt's Brewery, founded in the 1840s and the subsequent Ventnor Brewery which closed in 2009. On sale for £3 at the Ventnor Heritage Centre or at the Ventnor Post Office.

<http://ventnorheritage.org.uk>

name will be entered into a prize draw to win a bottle of the new Pride beer, so make sure to get voting.

Goddards Brewery

CAMRA DISCOUNTS

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

- Old Village Inn, Bembridge - 10%
- Pilot Boat, Bembridge - 15%
- Union, Cowes £3.90 all real ales for locals and CAMRA members

- Anchor, Cowes - 10%
- Duke of York, Cowes - 20p off a pint
- High Park Tavern, Ryde - 25p off a pint
- King Harry's Bar, Shanklin - 20p off a pint

FREQUENT FLYERS
Did you know that your CAMRA vouchers are valid at JD Wetherspoon's pubs at airports?

Landlords, if you offer discount to card carrying CAMRA members, please inform editor@wightwash.org.uk

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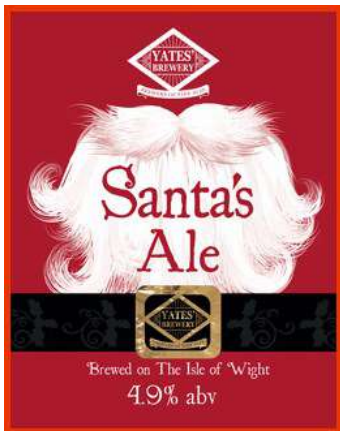
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Yates' Brewery

We are pleased to say that our Christmas beer, **Yates' Santa's Ale** (4.9% abv) has had a warm response again with pre-booking having been taken in November, and the ever famous **Yule be Sorry** (7.2% abv) is back again for this Christmas with limited availability so you best get in quick if you would like one.



with mainland wholesalers for early 2018 and are pleased to be asked to be one of Wadworth's guest ales for the month of February.

Beer and buses proved to be a very popular and busy event, we have had numerous comments and emails on how nice our **"On the Buses"** was and we

look forward to next year's event.

Lastly we would like to say a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Customers

Hayley Thearle - Yates' Brewery

It's been a great year for us with bottle sales exceeding last year's sales and forecasting even bigger volumes for 2018 with ASDA now open and stocking all our lines.

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of the vessel, the shipping routes that it was deployed on and which years its served the Island. Any help would be gratefully received."

I promised to print his request and Mike replied with an email that contained the following,

"...rail fans amongst your readership might want to know that the picture shows a Ryde to Cowes train hauled by number W33 Bembridge and was taken in 1965, the last year of the railway in Newport.

Built in 1892, Bembridge was one of the 23 former London & South Western Railway London suburban locomotives which served on the Island from the 1920s until 1966.

Happily, the sole survivor, number W24 Calbourne, can still be enjoyed on your Isle of Wight Steam Railway.

While I'm on a roll, can I be cheeky and ask if you could also help me with the name (and any history) of this inn which overlooked St John's Road station all those years ago?"



Now, I think I know answers to Mike's questions, however, I thought I would ask you to help just in case I've got it wrong. If anyone has any information about either of Mike's photographs. I would be delighted to hear from them (as would Mike).

Many thanks

Tim Marshall,

Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3NH or editor@wightwash.org.uk

This is a cross between a request for information and a quiz.

I received the following email from Mike Lampport, "I wonder if you, or any readers, might be able to help me please? Next year I am giving a talk about the Island railways as they were in the 1960s. Attached is one of my photographs which shows a train approaching Newport beneath which is moored a ship bearing the legend "Mews Ales", the name which looks to begin with two "X"s?! To help me add a little more colour to my talk I would, if possible, like to know the actual name



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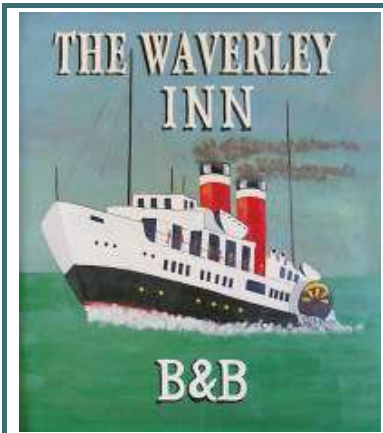
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Isle of Wight
Distillery

The Isle of Wight Distillery is moving to a new home, but don't worry the Island's only licensed distillery is not moving far. The distilling team will be based at the old Wishing Well pub in Pondwell from December. The venue has been transformed into a fully working distillery, cocktail bar and shop.

Xavier Baker, co-founder of the Isle of Wight Distillery says "We've been moving to our new premises over the past few months and excited to share all the hard work that has gone into restoring The Wishing Well. The fact that visitors can watch a fully working distillery, while enjoying a drink, in beautiful new surroundings is something unique to the Island and I hope locals and holidaymakers alike find this as intriguing and engaging as we do."

December is set to be a busy month for the Distillery with Mermaid Gin being the top



L-R Andy Dent, Retail Manager, Southampton Airport; Xavier Baker of Isle of Wight Distillery; Mermaid 'Merchelle'; Malcolm McClellan and Angus McIntyre, Head of Commercial, Southampton Airport.

selling gin at Southampton Airport for the past eight weeks. It will be interesting to see how well it continues to sell during December, typically the airport's busiest month.

Xavier continues, "All in all it has been a fantastic year and the Distillery Team would like to say a huge thank you for everyone's support. Gin Gin!"

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BEER AND BUSES 2017 – THE EVENT

Now that the event is over and we have time to reflect, we should look back to the beginning to see how it developed.

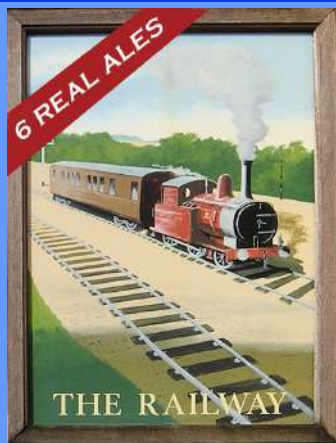
Paul Sheldon retired to the Island from Sheffield where the local branch of CAMRA ran a classic bus around a selection of pubs. From the germ of an idea, he met Tim Marshall from IW CAMRA and Ben Bartram from the Bus Museum and it was agreed to collaborate on an event at the end of the summer. That was four years ago and from small beginnings, an estimated 12,000 visitors on the 2017 event enjoyed what has become the “Classic Beer and Buses and Walks Weekend”



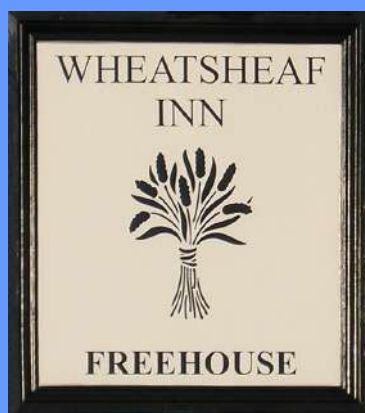
CAMRA's involvement is purely for the pubs. Let's face it, without the pubs, what is the point of CAMRA? It has always been the emphasis of the Island Branch to give whatever help and assistance we can to pubs. If we are able to bring the punters to the door then we are doing a good job.

Greg and Hayley welcome you to The Railway Inn, Ryde and The Wheatsheaf, Brading

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via Perks (Perksie's little freehouse) to imbibe Goddard's Ale of Wight and finally cross the High Street to the bus stop.

The Dessert!

Sunday was a day to relax and we began our excursion to West Wight via Newport's Quay Art Centre (former Mew Langton Brewery), where centre manager, Paul Armfield cheerfully served us with Island Ale's Oatmeal Stout 4.6% and Amber Ale 5.3%, based on the old Mew Langton recipes. Then, on to an upstairs bus deck to recline in a somnolent

posture, blissfully observing the rolling hills and glades of the centre of the island gliding by, as we ventured toward the north-west coastline, to be greeted by the energetic smile of Ken (Buzzy) Matthews at Yarmouth. Buzzy parked us with precision and we proceeded gleefully towards The Wheatsheaf for Goddard's Fuggle-Dee-Dum, followed by Timothy Taylor's Landlord (made with lovely sweet 'Golden Promise' malt) in The Bugle Coaching Inn; and finally on to The King's Head for some flavoursome Caledonian Poltergeist Porter.

The Sweetmeat Finish!

Our return to Newport *had?* to be delayed by a pleasant halfway-house stop (to comply with tradition); and where better to end the weekend's imbibing than 'The Blacksmith's Arms', where contemplation was the theme, supported by a salt-beef roll and washed down with a Legend (Dartmoor 4.4%) Another sensationally enjoyable Beer & Buses weekend, where we were 'Driven to Drink!'.

Richard Dakin



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Live Entertainment

the 'larger than life' Drum Major, previously of the Ventnor Comic Jazz Band. It was a little saddening to see that the efforts of the stalwarts of the Ventnor ethos appeared to have suffered somewhat; however, the honourable sentiment shone through the adversity, as did the brightly coloured mosaics.

We ventured to The Crab & Lobster Tap, possibly the oldest pub on the island and were served with Goddard's Wight Squirrel, by the *most pleasant landlord of the weekend*. Onward then, to the



Royal British Legion, via the well presented and interesting Ventnor Museum, for Island Brewery's Busman's Holiday and a £2 cheese burger! Thence, forward to sup Ringwood's Double Decker outside the newly re-opened 'Volly' - The Volunteer. The Winter Gardens offered a Crackle Rock, Dark Destroyer at 4.9% and as dusk descended, we ascended,



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There were a few moans mostly that the buses were full or "I couldn't find the beer advertised" (more about that later).

Southern Vectis, who gave the event their full support in many ways, offered an unlimited travel ticket from Friday to Monday for the amazing price of £15. Its use, in conjunction with the free classic buses would give you a smooth trip around the Island.

100 buses, some up to 80 years old, timetables that cover the majority of the Island and the company of lots of happy people – all for FREE!

What a delight for the drinker was the diverse range of rare and unusual beers. What we hope is that the pubs will extend the weekend to four days by having their full range of beers available by Thursday and Friday so giving the locals longer to try some unusual beer types.

There was disappointment in some parts that the full range of beers advertised were not available at one time. I am sure you are all aware of the multi-beer extravaganzas put on by Wetherspoon's and how many beers they have on at once. What we are trying to move the landlords towards is a multi-selection of beers in the cellar that can replace those available once sold, so please be patient and if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

The event next year is on the 13 and 14 October 2018. I am sure that next year there will be a few pubs extending the weekend so buy your programme early, find out who they are and give them your support perhaps on the Thursday and Friday as well.

Ken (Buzzy) Matthews

Chairman John Nicholson adds

With the Beer and Buses Weekend over and this year's GBG (CAMRA's Good Beer Guide) surveys underway, one thing has become very plain to us – the more you focus on what customers actually want, the more successful you are.

Without any doubt, during the Beer and Buses Weekend, the venues that put the most effort in to addressing customers' interest did best.

During our GBG rounds, every year, we see the same issues at play; pubs that go out of their way to supply interesting beers in good condition are the venues that are busy. Those that choose their stock on price and publicity, thinking that people will just drink it, should not wonder why they don't, and are so empty that they lock up early.

This rather reminds me of an occasion when I and a couple of stalwart friends were on a brewery trip, and after a fascinating tour, were offered as much free beer as we wanted, the only thing was it was over-chilled and tasteless, so we elected to go and sit on the coach and play I-Spy instead. Then Buzzy said to me, "You know what Juan, do you realise that when you become a beer aficionado, you immediately deprive yourself of the enjoyment that millions of people worldwide derive from drinking crap". To which Nick, who had a degree in philosophy, retorted, "Buzz, I genuinely think that is the wisest and most astute observation that I have ever heard you make!"

The Sun Inn Takes the Shield

Over 400 Beer and Buses comment cards were returned and now that we've crunched the numbers we can reveal that this year's most popular pub was the Sun Inn at Hulverstone.

Runners-up were Joe's Bar at Niton and the Sportman's Rest in Porchfield.

The Sun Inn is run by Vicky Hartley and Jamie Sowerby, both of whom were delighted with their award. Vicky said, "This is our first year of running the pub and we have worked hard to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. This award is a real accolade and proves we are achieving our aims."



Paul Sheldon competition organiser, Jamie & Vicky and John Nicholson (our famous Chairman)

Charity Buckets

77 pubs had charity buckets on their bars to collect small change during the

event. Over £1,250 was raised and this has been shared between 45 charities.

Photograph Competition

We are pleased to announce that the first ever winner of our photograph competition is Michelle Moody. Her winning entry can be seen on the cover of this issue.

Michelle says, "I was just going through pics of beer and bus weekend and thought I'd put this one in of some cheeky chappies who perfectly summed up the day"

Thank you Michelle and thank you to all the other readers who sent in photographs.

To win a £25 meal voucher for Character Inns and to have your photo on the front cover of the Spring Wightwash, please send your entries to editor@wightwash.org.uk

N.B. Entries should be uncompressed jpgs or equivalent.

somebody has to do it! And, for two whole days, Chas (our Commander-in-Chief), Russ (Head of kitchen sink duties) and myself (self-taught enthusiast, Chief cook and bottle washer), traversed 'The Island' from bus to pub, pub to bus, selflessly devoting our time to this most honourable cause. The objectives of our on-going mission: To give aid to these undeniably beneficial community establishments; and to help them regain their rightful place in society - turning the trend of public house *decline* to a bountiful *increase* in these genial settings once more (whilst supporting vintage 'Real Buses', of course - we each bought a programme).

Following a 'Full Ingleesh' breakfast, in the style of Fawty Towers' Manuel, at my humble abode, the three volunteers emerged 'to boldly go' to mission control (Old Shanklin) where we joined the long queue of devotees to board the next classic omnibus to Ventnor. Fully laden (the bus) we managed the long climb past Luccombe Village, using the *whole range* of first gear! and not needing, even once, to turn around and gain the use of the lowest ratio reverse gear, to 'walk' us to the summit of the peak (or get out and push!). Once at the top of the incline, the decline was speedier, *much* speedier; but we did eventually stop before surfing the waves!

In Ventnor, we had a cunning plan 'Start at the top; then continue on a steady decline for the rest of the day.' Indeed, we succeeded! I had been instructed, by a veteran of meaningful Island nostalgia, to take in the aura of 'Skimbo's' memorial in honour of Jim 'Skimbo' White,

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Driven to Drink! (The Four-site Saga)

What a fantastic way to enjoy learning about the history of The Island, quite aside from the delights of sampling so many really excellent Real Ales; an amazing achievement from the combined organisational efforts of IW CAMRA and the IW Bus Museum...

The Starter!

Friday started with a trip to the local where, upon opening the door, my sight was drawn to a hanging body, rotating slowly, to my right. Well, it was Hallowe'en, the start of The Castle, Sandown's Autumnal Beer Festival, and on the verge of Beer & Buses weekend! Following a pint of Dartmoor's Dragon's Breath 4.4% (copper coloured, with hops and caramel on the nose, then sweet treacle, sour hop and a finish of dark cherries - yum!), we ventured to Bellamy's Bistro, only to return to the dungeons an hour later, for more 'witchy' treats.



The Main!

Sometimes you just *have* to put yourself out for auld lang syne *and* posterity. Not everyone has the spirit, the inclination, or the sheer dedication, to set aside a whole precious weekend to donate charitably to those, all too speedily reducing establishments, namely 'The Pub'; but,

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In another first for the Isle of Wight, a series of Historic Walks have been developed by members of IW CAMRA. John Nicholson explains how it all started...

The idea was to create an additional interest for people on the Beer and Buses Weekend. With so many visitors with an interest in our Island's rich culture and history it seemed a natural progression to develop a medium to showcase it.

Jeff Sechiari, national Chairman of the Brewery History Society (BHS), moving to the Island was the catalyst that put the wheels in motion. We teamed up with another old friend, Dave Jones, of Cowes Heritage and author of the fantastic book on pubs of Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard. Between Jeff and Dave, we had all the material we needed. Back in January, using Dave's notes from his book, we embarked on a pilot walk to see how it felt.

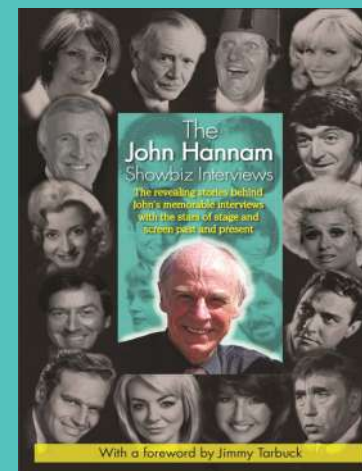
It soon became clear that, in Cowes, we were walking past locations of interest, other than pubs and brewery sites. How can you walk past the old dry dock, stations, hammer head crane, etc. without mention? The walk was, in fact, a stroll through the social history and development of Cowes, marked by its pubs, old breweries and other distinguishing landmarks.

After several refining exercises and trial walks with feedback from CAMRA members, we launched our inaugural walk one Saturday in February, attracting BHS and CAMRA members from across the South of England as well as locals. The number of attendees was far more than anyone had said was manageable, but we went ahead anyway, and, as we walked, we talked. Then, an amazing thing happened, the participants started telling their stories. The walk became a spontaneous interactive group event, further enhanced by the tales and anecdotes from our host character landlord speakers at the scheduled stopovers.

The success was amazing and the feedback from hardened historic walkers and fresh participants was very encouraging. It was like a penny dropping; we are sitting on so much history on this Island - what better way to bring it to life than through Historic Beer/Pub Walks.

Joe Pasquale

Was recording four TV game shows in one day hard work? "It was a lot easier than walking round Smithfield Market humping great lumps of meat on my back."



Su Pollard

When I won the rear of the year title, I got a tray with a picture of my bum on it. I always bring it out at Christmas to put the drinks on". I presumed she meant the tray.

The second volume of John's "*very hard to put down*" showbiz interviews is available from all good local bookshops, directly from the author or from the "In print" page of John's website www.johnhannam.com

So we then moved on to other locations, including another walk that I was requested to develop by Geoff Banks, along with the instrumental assistance of Dave Jones, again to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Cowes Blitz and the heroic rescue of the town staged by the JS White's built Polish battleship the ORP Blyskawica. Leading that walk through the town was like a pied piper experience, as people joined us on the trail, interested in the history and sharing anecdotes. Again, the walk was punctuated by a pub stop and display in the back bar.

The short walk, between the two pubs in Gurnard, too, was fascinating, and thanks, again, to local historians Sheila Caws and Dave Jones for their involvement in providing material and editing.

Our next big project was a Ventnor Walk, and for that, we teamed up with Richard Downing, CAMRA member and lead member for Ventnor and District Local History Society and the Ventnor Heritage Centre. We started opposite the Heritage Centre, in the Crab and Lobster Tap, a natural meeting point, then on to the site of Burt's/Ventnor brewery, where we had a talk from the last brewer Xavier Baker. We then went on to wind our way round to finish at the Spyglass. Again, the walk was attended by a mixture of Islanders and people from the mainland, interested in our history and culture. Of course, Ventnor is quite different from Cowes, and the focus reflected the social history of the town and its enterprising people. This was absolutely fascinating, seeing such curiosities as the Temperance Fountain and the Gnomon on the esplanade.

Teaming up with Richard Priest, aka Mr Shanklin, Jeff and I embarked on one more walk to



the radar for most Island publicans. Today there was Broken Dream, a smoky, creamy, coffee and chocolate stout, a salted liquorice stout and a couple of well hopped bitters, including a rather pleasant un-fined American style IPA.

Whilst sat there, we noticed that every so often someone would come in, not buy anything, but just sit down near the fire for a few minutes, then move on. Sometimes, the staff would come up and give them something to eat or a small refreshment. This went on through the evening, and, I think if the pub was busier, these visitors would not be noticeable. When I asked, the staff said that it was all part of their philosophy, to show some hospitality for people that might be down on their luck, as, there but for the grace of God

This has really elevated The Platform Tavern in my estimation, from being a wonderful, exciting pub, with interesting and diverse beers and music, a great atmosphere and all-round good experience, to one that has a social conscience and quietly does its bit in showing kindness and hospitality to those human beings that are in need, down on their luck for whatever reason, and in doing this in such a caring and normal way, they have more than won my support and patronage, and that of my family. I wonder if anyone else knows of other examples of such kindness, but on the Island?

John Nicholson

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Patrons of The Platform

Some readers may know of the Platform Tavern in Southampton; it is one of the most exciting pubs around, and, quite easily accessible for those Islanders who want to try something a bit different. It is a venue that I seldom just pass by, and this was the case, one cold November weekend when returning home from a short stay in London.

It is not a big pub, and can often get crowded, especially when there is music on. Bands come to do a turn at the Platform from as far afield as London, and I have seen Island bands there too. But, this Sunday, the music had finished, and the pub had quietened down. The staff, welcoming as ever, turned the fire up for us, as my wife and daughter took fireside seats.

There is always a good selection of beers (and other drinks), as they gave birth to the Dancing Man brewery, and their passion for diversity means there is always an interesting, if not outstanding, selection available of traditional and modern craft beers, stuff that is just off



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and the little gem!



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squeeze in before the 2017 Beer & Buses event. Now we had a tried and tested formula, the walk was produced in record time. The trial walk, routed to take in the town's pubs, old and new, started at the station, the place where people might arrive, and looped around the town to take in the wealth of history and local characters that Richard informed us of: Jarge, the outside porter, and the royal crest of the King who was never crowned. On completion of the walk, the Town Council were so delighted that someone should be taking such effort to promote their town, its history and culture, that they offered to contribute to the printing costs, a unique and very welcome gesture.

All the walks have been well received, in spite of the freezing temperature in Cowes and the lashing rain in Ventnor and we look forward to creating more, pairing with local historians, during this and future years. Our sights are currently on West Wight, and, of course Newport and Ryde, but, we do rely heavily on local sources and participation.

You can download the current portfolio of walks from the Wightwash website.

www.wightwash.org.uk (click on "historic walks") *John Nicholson*

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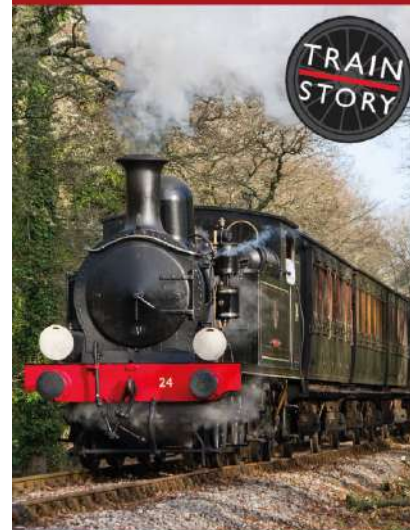
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Smallbrook Junction Departures: 11:02, 12:09

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The Three Bishops, Brighstone

Approximately 4½ miles.

Leave by the gap in the bottom right of the pub car park. Turn left in to Warnes Lane keeping the hedge on your left, pass the public car park and the sports ground.

Enter Wilberforce Road by the Methodist Church. Cross the road and turn right.

Pass a white fence and turn left through some trees on to a path - signpost "Footpath BS24 Galley Lane ¼ mile".

Cross the bridge. Keep the hedge on your left. Pass the cricket ground and proceed to the road (Galley Lane).

Cross the road and join the path directly opposite. Shortly after passing under some electricity cables, cross a stile on your left. Follow this path with the hedge and fence on your left.

Cross the Military Road and go down the path opposite at Grange Farm - signpost "Footpath BS 57 Coastal Path and beach". As the track begins to descend to the beach, turn right along the Coastal Path.

Follow the path along the cliff edge.

Where the path has disappeared by Brighstone Holiday Camp you will have to make a slight detour between a row of chalets and the indoor swimming pool. Rejoin the coastal path and continue until you reach the grounds of Isle of Wight Pearl, a large white building. Turn right, keep the hedge on your right and cross the Military Road. Signpost "Footpath BS68 Brighstone 1 mile". Pass the WWII "pill box" and follow the path until it joins the drive for



Chilton Farm.

Turn left on to a tarmac path.

After the first barn on the left, turn right up a grassy path - signpost "Byway BS104 Brighstone 1½ miles". This is Pitt Place Lane which will become a tarmac drive. Follow it until it reaches the road and turn left.

After about 300 yards turn right into Strawberry Lane. Just before the brow of the hill turn right and cross the stile into Grammar's Common - signpost "Footpath BS42 Grammar's Common leading to Brighstone Village".

Follow the path across the middle of the field and cross the stile into the woodland.

The woodland path first bears right and then left. As you descend, ignore any paths to your left. The path continues past bramble bushes. Exit by a stile and join a path between wire fences. This path descends into Gaggerhill Lane.

Turn right. Just before a house called Sandrock turn left into a lane - signpost "Footpath BS64 Moor Lane". At the end of the lane, turn right into Moor Lane. At the end of Moor Lane turn left onto the main road. Continue back to Brighstone village and the Three Bishops.

Follow the path across the middle of the field and cross the stile into the woodland.

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