

# Wightwash

Volume 2, Number 78

Newsletter of the Isle of Wight branch of CAMRA

## WINTER ISSUE 2018



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



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FOR  
REAL ALE

In this FREE issue:

**Brewery News**

**Island Landmarks**

**Dambusters**

and much, much more...

**Southsea Bubbles**

**Cider News**

**PRIZE QUIZ**

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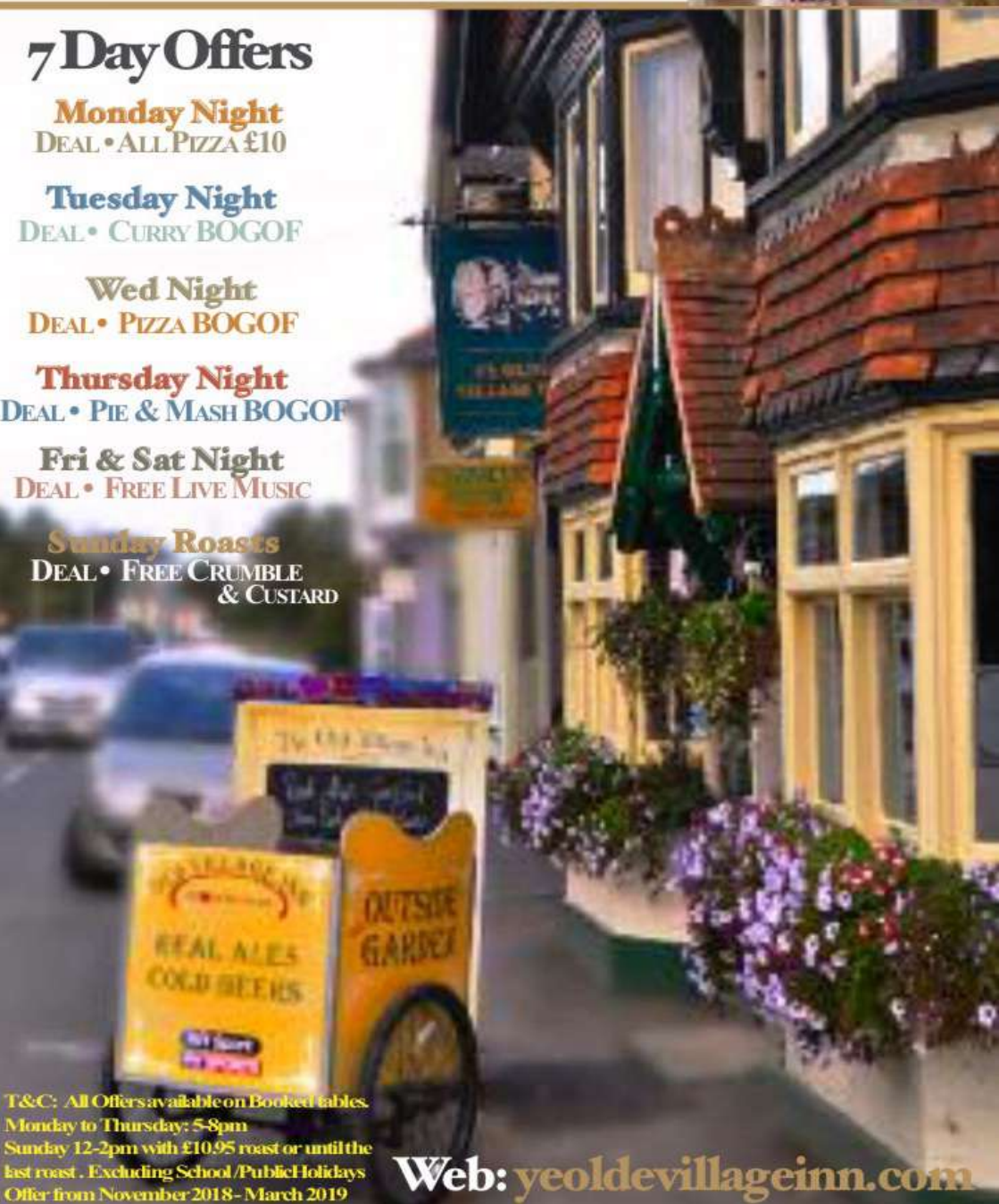
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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

## Partner details (if joint membership)

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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

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Applications will be processed within 21 days

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## CAMRA MEMBERS WE NEED YOU TO VOTE

It's time for members to vote for their favourite pub and beer!  
All members should have received a voting form with this issue.  
If you haven't, please contact Mike Hoar by email

**mike.camraiw@gmail.com** or phone 526165.

All we want to know is which Isle of Wight pub and beer you enjoyed most during 2018.

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

(The codes are randomly generated and are anonymous)

[www.wightwash.org.uk/voting](http://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 10th February and will be published in the Spring Issue of Wightwash.

**Only members can vote.** If you're not a member - see *opposite!*



## Island Brewery

Every season brings its opportunities, and the winter season brings that of enjoying the gold medal winning **Wight Christmas** ale again. Just to remind people, Wight Christmas is brewed using specialty Munich Malt and a measure of oats and chocolate malt to give it its unique comforting malty taste and smooth texture. If you have not tried it yet, don't miss the opportunity this time round. Winter drinking is well supported by Island Brewery's regular range as well, as there is something for just about everyone's taste and any weather. I particularly enjoy the warming effect of the stronger beers, especially that of **RDA** and especially when savoured out of a pint stemmed glass as accompaniment to a warming beef stew or the like – try it! In the confidence of every one of Island Brewery's beers in bottles winning an



award, Island Brewery have launched another potential winner, **Victoria of Wight**, exclusively available through Wightlink (on their ferries and in the main terminals). I was privileged to be a participant at the official launch tasting and am impressed how light and refreshing this new beer is. "Although we are mainly known on the Island for our stronger beers, there is definitely a market place for lighter, refreshing beers with taste," says Steve



*Chris Mousley (Island Brewery) John and Simon Lewis (WightLink) with Victoria of Wight in the background*



# The Traveller's Joy



Pete and Sam Booth look forward to welcoming New and Old Faces

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We have re-introduced the Cyrilburger!

Minshull, managing director of Island Brewery" and I am very pleased with this all new creation. It is just right to hit that spot that travellers need in a refreshing drink, and is a good introduction to the marvellous flavours of Wight!"

As a reminder, look out for the small batch specials (The Ale Houses and other locations), some of which are doing a second or third round. I was lucky enough to catch a repeat of the amazing **Black IPA** at Newport Ale House before it disappeared again, and I think that there is a chance that we might see one or both of the Marmalade specials again soon. Both the **Marmalade Porter** and **Pale Ale** weighed it at a robust 6% ABV, but it was a weight that is necessary to carry such body and flavour and both are beers of such complexity that to get full enjoyment, you really need to sip them and watch the flavours unravel, build and subside – any single malt drinker will know what I am

talking about.

"There really is enough interest, range and demand building in Chris's specials now, to start considering building another label," remarks, Steve Minshull, reflecting on the outstanding success of the small batch venture. "Our interpretation of the old Mew's recipes for Paul at Quay Arts, is now becoming established as a several times a year event, due to the popularity and demand that they have created. They really sit well with Paul's artistic flare, and the wide range of international bottled beers that we supply Paul, which any aficionado would be impressed in."

"With all this business building, what about the new building?" I asked Steve, not meaning to be confusing in my language. "The plans are drawn, and we should start the process for building sometime in the New Year, planning for completion and transfer to the new premises after the busy

## the ANCHOR inn

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summer season." says Steve. "It will be good, and we do need it," confirms Steve, "especially considering our broadening range and increasing popularity on the mainland, which will take all we can produce." Steve continues "In Christchurch and Bournemouth demand for Nipper has just gone out of the window!"

Expanding range, one-off classics becoming regulars, a growing array of national and international beer awards, a new premises; it sounds to me like Island Brewery is going to be a source of focus and innovation for many years to come – watch this space!

**John Nicholson**

**Island Brewery BLO**

## Goddards Brewery

**Bottles galore**

You all know the song, "Ten green bottles "

well that's not quite right. For a start the bottles should be brown and then the number is a few short. Since they started bottling, Goddards have produced 400,000 bottles of their finest beer! However, if I started singing 400,000 brown bottles on the wall ... I would never finish before going gaga, and by that time the starting number would probably be nearer 800,000!

In October, Goddards successfully renewed their SALSA plus Beer accreditation. For those of you who think of SALSA as a dance or sauce it should be explained that the SALSA plus Beer audit has been developed in association with Cask Marque to provide a standard for smaller breweries, tailored to the scale and structure of their operations and giving them reinforced confidence when approaching buyers with their craft ales and



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beers. Congratulations to the team for their hard work.

**I'll have a pint of Puncheon Porter please.**

Many like me have complained about the lack of a good winter Porter or Stout in the Goddards range, A couple of years ago they experimented with Mocha Stout but now they are launching a successor to the Winter Warmer – **Puncheon Porter** (alc. 5.0% vol). A strange name especially to those not born on the Island before 1940. A lot of research went into finding a name to fit their "Isle of Wight born and brewed" slogan, and was found in Puncheon – old Island dialect for a container used to carry beer to the fields at harvest time. Puncheon Porter will be on sale from December in venues across the Island. Preliminary tasting bodes well for the final



result.

**Not too late for Christmas**

The collaboration with Isle of Wight Pride continues, a donation is made for every bottle of **Island Pride** sold and at the end of August £1300 had been raised. Island Pride is brewed with locally sourced Island barley and English hops, whilst it still proves to be popular, they thought why not bring you the Island Pride gift box (a 4-pack of Goddards Ales) just in time for Crimbo! There will even be a little gift added from the Isle of Wight Pride team. Keep an eye on the website [goddardsbrewery.com](http://goddardsbrewery.com) for more information or get in



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touch to get your gift pack!

As another way to distribute Goddards Ales and to expand sales whilst aiding the environment, KeyKegs have been initially introduced for **Fuggle, Ale of Wight** and **Starboard**. They are using the 30L capacity variety which require no return administration (or cleaning!). KeyKegs give extended shelf life while maintaining quality. When empty just deflate and send for recycling.

### They keep getting bigger

The team at Goddards have grown once again with Kevin Fisher joining the team as Business Development Manager. Kevin is no stranger to Goddards having worked with the team over twenty years ago! Here's wishing Kevin good luck in his new role.

### Successful Duck Hunt

As part of their participation in this year's Beer and Buses they organised a Duck Hunt through participating venues selling Goddards Ales. On getting the required number of stamps on a card a 'Duck Hunt' T-shirt could be redeemed. No T-shirts were returned!

**Mike Hoar**  
Goddards BLO

## Yates' Brewery

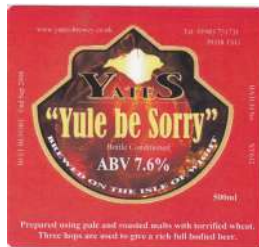
Hayley tells me that all is well at Yates' Brewery, having had a very busy summer. Beer and Buses again proved a huge success with **On the Buses**, 5.0%, being a sell out and they have ordered over 100 extra casks for establishments across the Island.

**Islander**, 4.0%, is still proving as popular as ever and they appreciate the continued support of this beer by their customers.

**Dark Side of the Wight**, 5.0%, is now available in cask and will be throughout the winter months, and I was delighted to hear that Yates' **Yule be Sorry** at 7.2%, and **Santa's Ale** 4.9%, will both be back for the festive period. Santa's Ale bottles are already being sold and you will also see them on the Wightlink Ferries.

A last word from Dave, Hayley and the team - We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we look forward to what 2019 will bring.

Santa's Ale is an amber coloured ale with a slightly toasted sweet malty finish, complemented with a hint of cinnamon - ideal for the cold nights of the festive season. Yule be Sorry – don't you just love the names Yatesy has come up with over the years, is described as a very dark coloured Winter Ale prepared using pale and roasted malts. Three hops are added to make it a rich full bodied beer. A past winner of IoW CAMRA's Beer of the Year award on a number of occasions, I thought I would include images of the current pump clip and a bottle label from 10 years ago to add a bit of colour. Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.



**Jeff Sechiari**  
Yates' Brewery BLO

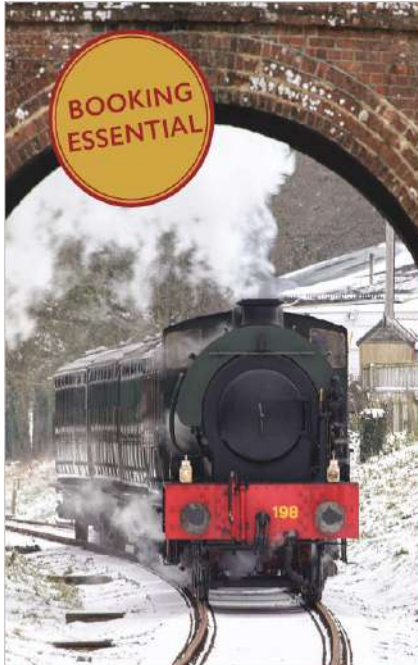
CAMRA NATIONAL CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR - The award went to The Firkin Shed, Bournemouth.

I would like to congratulate pubs and establishments that made a great effort in promoting cider on the Beer and Buses route this year. Even though I could not get to every establishment to sample all ciders, I gave it a good go. I am not referring to the ubiquitous Strongbow, Stowford, Magners or sugar based fruit ciders etc, but to establishments such as



the Olde Village Inn, Bembridge who listed ten different ciders without one mention of Bulmers etc. and The White Lion, Arreton, where I had the pleasure of sampling a

boxed perry on the bar. The landlord made a great effort in preparing his pub for the event. The Rugby Club, Ventnor, Traveller's Joy, Railway Inn and the Winter Gardens were all stand out



# ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM RAILWAY

## BOXING DAY SPECIALS

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December

## NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIALS

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019

One of the only attractions open over the festive period. Sit back and relax in the warmth of one of our cosy carriages as you take in the wintery Isle of Wight countryside.

Visit our website for train times and to book.



establishments that made a real effort in introducing Beer and Bus customers to new and exciting ciders and perries. It would be great to see Island cider producers getting in on the act next year.

**Budget** – I notice the Chancellor left cider alone for duty increases this time, however he will now increase duty on so called “white ciders” in February 2019.

### What is White Cider?

Several sources suggest that the definition is “It is made by processing cider after the traditional brewing process is complete, resulting in a nearly white product. This processing allows the manufacturer to produce strong (typically 7-8% ABV) cider cheaply, quickly, and on an industrial scale, often from poor raw materials”. White cider

has benefitted from the tax break which was given to cider to encourage the more traditional producers, mainly in the West Country and Herefordshire. The likes of Diamond White and Frosty Jacks fall into the white cider category. I, personally, still fail to understand how they can be classed as “cider” given the poor raw materials used. I would have thought Excise Notice 162 – Cider Production would have to be amended as the increase in tax on so called white ciders could inadvertently affect craft cider makers if changes/amendments to notice 162 are not made.

Carrying on with white ciders, Agrial, the French farming cooperative and France’s largest cider producer has purchased Kingstone Press and Frosty Jacks supplier Aston Manor.

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As Christmas is approaching, take a look on line at the great depth of real cider makers that are available around the UK. There are some great real cider producers out there who would be more than willing to let you visit their establishments to sample their goods. You never know, you may be bringing back a polypin or two to get stuck into over the festive period. It's a shame we have to visit the mainland to see how real cider is properly made, sadly we cannot do this on the Island.

Wassail

**John Glazebrook**  
**CAMRA IOW Cider**  
**Rep**



## Who's Who

**Chairman and BeerPoint coordinator**  
John Nicholson  
[jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk](mailto:jnl@johnnicholson.co.uk)

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On 30<sup>th</sup> October CAMRA members from all over the country descended on to Westminster to “Mass Lobby” their MPs. The Isle of Wight was represented by Malcolm Watson and Mike Locke. The original idea was to try and persuade Members to block any attempts to increase duty on beer on the upcoming budget. The budget was brought forward a week so there was a rethink. The new brief was to persuade Members to

1. Carry out an immediate review of the Pubs Code so that the Market Rent Only (MRO) Option becomes a genuine choice for tenants in England and Wales.
2. Support the introduction of a preferential rate of duty for draught beer.
3. Commit to reshaping the business rates system to address the unfair burden on pubs.

Malcolm and Mike had a very successful meeting with our MP, Bob Seely MBE. Malcolm said “There is no doubt that his support can be called upon on CAMRA’s issues at the appropriate time in Parliament and that his heart is in the social benefits of sensible drinking in licensed premises and a proper pint. He was particularly keen to know about why the MRO (Market Only Rent) option did not seem to be working and how it could be made to in future.”

The day ended with addresses in the auditorium from CAMRA officials and three MPs: Alan Brown (Dudley South (Con)), Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group; Ruth Smeeth (Stoke-on-Trent North (Lab)), Vice-Chairman of the beer group; and Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun (SNP)). All took the welcome opportunity to speak to such a captive audience of the faithful and converted.



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So far we've received just over 400 comment cards and we've completed the number-crunching. There have been a couple of interesting trend shifts (albeit small ones). This is the first year when it looks like the number of Islanders has exceeded visitors and the first year when the most popular primary interest has been pubs/beer rather than buses. Here are the numbers: Visitors 43% (2017 58%) Residents 57% (2017 42%). Primary interest: Buses 46% (2017 58%) Pubs/Beer 51% (2017 37%) Steam Railway 1.5% (2017 3%) Walks 1.5% (2017 2%). Over £750 was collected in the charity buckets. Using programmes sales, the capacity of the buses and the number of trips, we calculate that this year we catered for around 14,000 passengers. We have yet to finalise a total but it looks like the event raised over £30,000 for the bus museum (more accurate total in next issue). Congratulations to **The Castle**, Sandown for being the most popular pub with the Buddle and the Highdown coming respectively second and third.



Dave and Jo Radcliffe with staff, and CAMRA and Bus Museum volunteers

 The poster has a dark, festive background with snowflakes and a lantern on the right. At the top center is a logo of a castle with the text 'THE CASTLE INN' below it, and '12 - 14 Fitzroy Street, Sandown' in smaller text. Below this is the heading 'CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE'. The event details are listed as follows:
 

- Friday 14th December - £1000+ MEAT RAFFLE (9.30pm draw)
- Sunday 16th December - CHRISTMAS DRAW (2pm start)
- Sunday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY with DJ Phil (8pm til late - NO TICKETS NEEDED)
- Sunday 31st december - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY with DJ (8pm til late - NO TICKETS NEEDED)

 At the bottom, it says 'Dave, Jo and all the staff would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' and provides the website 'www.sandowncastle.co.uk'. On the right side, a lantern graphic contains the text 'VOTED BEST PUB BEER AND BUSES 2018'.

The Isle of Wight is a delightful place to live – brimfull with bucolic charm, quaint villages and wide open beaches. However, it can be occasionally frustrating, and one of those frustrations for the beer connoisseur can be finding an interesting pint, and, progressively, a pub to enjoy it in after the recent Enterprise Tour of Devastation.

It's not that there isn't a ready availability of real ale – in spite of all the pub closures in the recent years, there are still over 120 places on the Island (or there were at the time of writing) where you can enjoy a good pint, and, of course, there are three excellent breweries turning out some very fine beers. And if your bibulous ambitions don't extend beyond Doom Bah!, Marston's portfolio and London Pride, you won't be disappointed. However, it must be said that many Island pubs (and I can think of a good few on the mainland as well) don't seem too concerned about what beer they offer, and most of them just stock the same tired old range of mass-market beers, cask, keg and bottled, perhaps because they don't have the balls or budget to walk on the edge – they play safe. Is it any wonder that so many pubs are closing, not just here, but up and down the country, when landlords won't make the effort to try diversifying? It's no use whining about falling custom when you do nothing about it! And when was the last time the landlord or landlady served you a pint? At the end of the day (and that's the end I like best), the iconic and most viable pubs are usually those which go the extra mile in diversity and appeal to a wider customer base. For example, if you pop in for a pint at the Castle in Sandown or the Guide Dog in Southampton you can see how well-supported a back street, wet-led pub can be which provides a decent range of beer. And I'm sure the popularity of the two Wetherspoon's isn't just down to cheap prices. And prices, eh? Many Island pubs are now charging £4.50+ for a pint, and I recently paid over £3 for a small orange juice and soda. Is that acceptable, when you can go to Joe's Bar in Niton, a small free house without a Wetherspoon's in sight, and get a pint for less than £3.30?

Sorry about the rant, but, sometimes, wouldn't you rather go off-piste than piste off? If so, the time will come when you want to drink something a bit more exotic and drink it somewhere without the miasma of onions and chips; where the clientele doesn't disappear after feeding time and where the beer connoisseur isn't disdained but encouraged. A place still largely untainted by grub pubs and where beer

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choice extends beyond Bombardier and GK IPA is closer than you might think.

Southsea is the interesting end of Pompey, and a source of great anticipation in the days of my youth, with its boating lake, miniature railway, illuminations and fairground. The railway is no longer there, but a lot of good pubs still are – 13 GBG entries, and plenty more of equal merit – and it's but a 10-minute hop on the hovercraft from Ryde, making it the closest oasis to the Island. And apart from the two Wetherspoon's in the area, both of which are very good indeed, nearly all of them are wet-led. This might be because there are so many catering establishments in the Southsea locality (Southsea, Eastney, Milton and Fratton) that the addition of ubiquitous pub grub would be a nugatory gesture - steak and ale pie and ham, egg & chips just don't have the same appeal as kebabs, curries and fusion.

So where do you start an exploration of Southsea pubs, and, more importantly, how do you decide which of the 80 or so candidates in the area should be included? I do a Southsea run- ashore several times a year and each trip I find an undiscovered gem. Surprisingly, whether you cross the Solent by Wightlink or Hovertravel (if the latter,

do

bear in mind that the last crossing from Southsea is 9pm, apart from Thursday-Saturday) the answer to the first question is some way away, in Portsmouth City Centre. There are two reasons for this. One is that the hoverbus and the train both take you straight there, and the other is that the first of my recommended pubs is an unmissable Pompey gem, the Royal Standard in Edinburgh Road. Known locally as Ruby's after the landlady who ran it for over 40 years until 2001, it was a great favourite with sailors who used to run up a tally which Ruby pinned

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up behind the bar and made damn sure they settled before they went back to sea. You won't be surprised to find that it's an unspoilt street-corner town pub of considerable character, overflowing with nautical memorabilia and nautical characters. You won't be impressed with the beer choice, usually Doom bah!, slightly atoned for by Old Rosie, though to start a pub crawl with a 7.3% cider does take some fortitude and not a little foolhardiness.

While you're in the area, you might as well pop across Guildhall Square to another former matelot favourite, the Brewhouse and Kitchen in Guildhall Walk, known to mariners and locals alike as the Mucky Duck, derived from its former name, the White Swan; that crazy Brit humour, eh? It's a large, tastefully sanitised craft brewpub next to the beautifully restored Theatre Royal, and sports half a dozen handpumps serving beers from the in-house brewery; they're always in good nick, and though the range can be sometimes disappointing, it's backed up by a huge choice of keg and bottled craft beers, albeit at the sort of prices you expect from city centre craft outlets.



There are a variety of options from here, but, unless you want to explore some other pubs in the city centre, and there are some reasonable ones like the Fleet or the Brunel (Wetherspoon's), you can walk the half mile or so to the next set of watering holes or catch a cab or a nearby bus (Service 2) into Southsea



proper. If you choose to walk, go via Eldon Street, where you'll pass the Eldon Arms, a large, music-oriented pub which seems to have disappeared from WhatPub, but used to be pretty good with a decent range of beers, and King Street Tavern (Wadworths) with its lovely glazed tile elevations. Stop off at these by all means, or head down to Castle Street, a few minutes walk away, and for 2 GBG-listed pubs of some note.

Eight beers are on offer at the Barley Mow, a red brick street corner local with 2 bars and a wealth of interior



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features. There's been a pub here since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though you won't be surprised to find out that the present building dates from 1924; the architecture, steel windows and the internal between-the-wars panelling are dead giveaways. This is an unpretentious, comfortable pub, which seems to have slipped under the Ei Group profit-scanner as it's been left well alone, and the range of beers from nationals and micros cover all styles – there's usually one or two dark ales available - and are backed up by Old Rosie. No, that's not the landlady.

On the opposite corner to the Barley Mow is Southsea's most impressive building, the magnificent Grade II mock-Tudor Ernest Smith clocktower. Ernest Smith is recorded as 'Upholsterer and Cabinet Maker' and his name is emblazoned around the clock. It's currently a hairdressers, but it was almost certainly built as a pub in 1903, as it has many typical (and untypical) pub features, it was commissioned by Horndean brewers George Gale, and, like a number of pubs in Portsmouth, such as the Fawcett Inn and the Nell Gwynne, has a characteristic tower and witch's hat roof. Quite what the eponymous Mr Smith's occupation had in common with the licensed trade is rather less certain, but maybe he fitted out the interior.



Head up Great Southsea Street from the clocktower and you'll find the compact Hole in the Wall, a converted bistro standing next to the former India Arms (you can still see the Gale's sign on the fascia), which ironically is now a restaurant (it does sell London Pride from a handpump). This delightful freehouse has the atmosphere of a local, and offers 6 micro and national cask beers, 5 of which are guests. The standard beer is Flowerpots Goodens Gold, which isn't a bad choice for a house beer. The décor is subdued and atmospheric, and the beer is generally well-kept. [I understand that during the pantomime season, our editor can frequently be spotted here between performances]. Of

particular note is that this is one of the only pubs on our tour which doesn't stand on a street corner.

From here, you can head up to Albert Road or down towards Southsea Common, where a clutch of excellent pubs and craft bars can be found, and, for the sake of continuity, and because we don't want to



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walk too far before the next pint, this is the route we'll take. Walk back down to Castle Road and head Commonwards, and you'll pass one of the best culinary experiences in Southsea, the excellent Pie & Vinyl Shop and as, at this juncture you could eat a pie or a record, why not sample a pie (I have always found them easier to digest) in very congenial surroundings? And the vinyl bit? No, it's only for aural consumption and you can buy, hire or just listen to vinyl records. It seems an incongruous coupling, but it works, and it is a place of some character.



Castle Road takes you down to the Common, and, turning left and walking along its northern boundary, you pass the former Queens Hotel, still impressive in its Victorian elegance, then take the next left into Auckland Road where you'll find the Apsley House. This is a very pleasant boozery, where you can enjoy a good pint of Landlord in the stripped wood bar. Around the corner, and backing on to it, is one of my favourite Southsea pubs, the Auckland

Arms, which has one of the most unpretentiously handsome exteriors in Southsea. The glazed tiles perfectly complement the arched windows, and the interior is pretty decent too. There are 2 beers on offer, often from Portsmouth brewery Irving, the bar staff are friendly, so what's there not to like?



Well, you've enjoyed a few good locals, now it's time for one of the big boys. There are two Wetherspoon's in the Southsea area, the Lord Palmerston and the John Jaques, and both are very good, though the JJ is to the north of Fratton Station, and will not feature on our tour. Many CAMRA members are uneasy with Wetherspoon's, regarding them as profit-driven beer factories which lead to smaller pubs closing. However,

A dark blue advertisement for 'THE LIFEBOAT EAST COWES'. At the top center is a white and black lighthouse icon. To the right is a 'free WiFi' logo. Below the lighthouse, the text reads: 'THE LIFEBOAT EAST COWES', 'BAR - RESTAURANT - TERRACE', 'ONE OF THE ISLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRETS', 'WONDERFUL VIEWS OVERLOOKING THE WATER FROM OUR WEST FACING TERRACE', 'NON STOP FOOD AND DRINK SERVED FROM MIDDAY TO 9.30PM', 'RALLIES AND REGATTAS WELCOME', 'BRITANNIA WAY, EAST COWES, PO32 6UB', '01983 292711', and 'www.thelifeboatcowes.co.uk'.

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they do give CAMRA everything they want – a good variety of well-kept beer, usually ones unavailable elsewhere in an area, at unmatched prices, an extensive range of craft beers, comfortable interiors, no music and cheap, if basic, food – it's hard to fault them. OK, many are noisy, the service isn't always commendable, the toilets are nearly always a climb away, and the manic beeping which announces a table order from customers who are too lazy to go to the bar can be infuriating. The Palmerston is certainly one of the better 'Spoon's establishments; a comfortable, quality interior and an excellent range of well-kept beers commend it to the discerning imbiber.



Just down from the Palmerston are three craft beers bars, the Southsea Village, Croxtons and the Meat & Barrel (there are another 2 nearby, the Wave Maiden and the Belle Isle). These are recent additions to the Southsea beer scene, and I've yet to try them, because our tour heads in the other direction, up Clarendon Road, into Victoria Road and thence the length of Duncan Road until we hit the nerve centre of Southsea drinking, starting with the excellent Phoenix.



The Phoenix is a popular, street corner community pub just off Albert Road. The interior is a delight, full of tiles, panelling and many photos of famous artistes who have appeared at the nearby Kings Theatre. The beer's not bad either – apart from Ringwood 49er, there are 2 others from micros, one of which is often a porter. You can enjoy them in either of the comfortable, charismatic bars or the flower-decked patio outside. The Phoenix is a real gem - a very well-kept local which suits every taste - and no trip to Southsea is complete without a visit. If all locals were this good, maybe we wouldn't see so many of them closing!

#### Footnote:

The Phoenix also acts as a sort of equestrian theatrical digs. Over the next few weeks the pub will be playing host to two white ponies who tow Cinderella's coach off stage at the end of act one.

*To be continued.....*

*Brian Jacobs*

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### Dambusters

During a recent trip to "Fairytale Germany" with Leger Travel, Sheila and I visited the dams of the Ruhr Valley; made famous by the 1943 "Dambuster" raid of 617 Lancaster Squadron. It was a bit of a challenge to find any decent, affordable ale during

the holiday (see end of article) and, I must admit, I was surprised and a little disappointed not to find a "Dambusters" beer there. So, on returning, the quest was on...



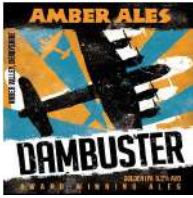
Let's start with **Batemans 617 Ale** commemorating the "70th Anniversary of the Dambuster Raid" before moving on to an unlikely American connection - the **British Bulldog Brewery** in California, whose beers have amongst them English or war themed names:-

- Crusader** (6.5 %), **Red Baron** (5.6%), **Trafalgar** (4.9 %)
- Dunkirk** (8.1 %), **The Blitz** (8.3%), **Barrage Balloon** (5.0%), **Battle of Britain** (3.8 % ) and **Dambuster** (6.5%).

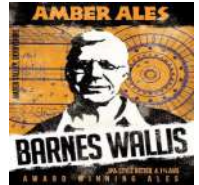


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Next, **Shepherd Neame Dambuster Ale** (4.4%) "a Kentish Ale".



Following on we have two from the **Amber Valley Brewery** in Derbyshire: **Dambuster** (Golden IPA at 5.2%) and **Barnes Wallis** (4.1%) named after the local hero who designed the bouncing bomb. In all this let's not forget Wing Commander Guy Gibson's black Labrador who was noted for its liking of beer (sensible dog this) which he drank from his own



bowl in The Officers' Mess!

This leads me nicely on to the specially commissioned **Dambusters Black Dog Ale** which was available only at the BMF (British Motorcyclists Federation) 2017 Dambusters Rally held at Thorpe Camp near the village of Tattershall in Lincolnshire. Around 120 attended this event enjoying the atmosphere and ale of the historic **Blue Bell Inn**, a particular favourite of Guy Gibson. Pilots' signatures cover the ceiling as well as the pennies they left in the beams to pay for their drinks when returning



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from bombing missions - many of which sadly were never reclaimed.

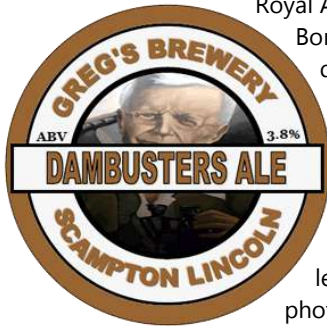
Also visited over the weekend was RAF Cranwell, the war graves of nearby Scopwick Cemetery and the 617 Squadron memorial at Woodhall Spa.

Finally, on this theme I come to **Greg's Brewery** established by Greg Algar in 2013 in the **Dambusters Inn** (Lincolnshire *Pub of the Year 2018*) located next to RAF Scampton, the present home of the Red Arrows and base for the raid itself. Greg took over the pub in 2007 as well as installing his brewery, set about adorning the interior of the pub with his personal collection of Dambusters memorabilia, including a genuine Lancaster cockpit; Greg's father having served in the

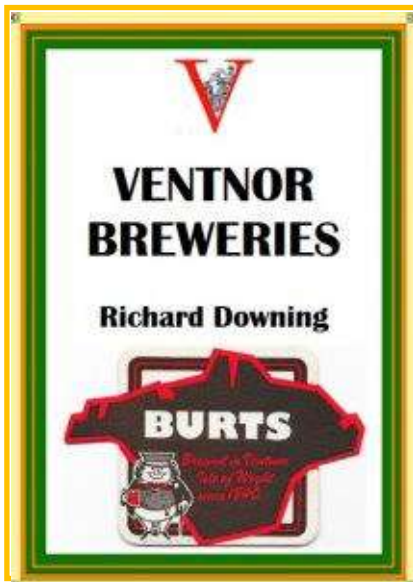
Royal Air Forces

Bomber Command

during WWII. The brewery's ales of course include **Dambusters Ale** (3.8 %).



Back to our German holiday. In Cologne, I managed to find a brewpub but in Hanover, where we were out in the suburbs, finding a decent beer was a problem. That was until I discovered the local supermarket where real ale was selling at less than £2 a bottle. Needless to say I took full advantage (see photo opposite) and I am now slowly getting through them. I



## Ventnor Breweries

The Ventnor Heritage Centre (11 Spring Hill) published this booklet in 2017. It covers the brewery that became known as *Burt's Brewery* and kept that name until *The Ventnor Brewery* was established on the same site in 1997. Written by CAMRA member Richard Downing, the booklet can be purchased from the Ventnor Heritage Centre for £3, or online from <http://ventnorheritage.org.uk/> plus £1.50 for postage and packing.

If ordering by post, please send your order, including cheque for £4.50, made out to VDLHS, along with your name, address and contact phone number or email to: Publications, Ventnor Heritage Centre, 11 Spring Hill, Ventnor PO38 1PE.

The Ventnor Heritage Centre is only open on Saturdays 10.00-12.30 during the winter months Nov-April.



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found a similar bargain in Goslar in a butcher's shop of all places.

I would like to take this opportunity to add my thanks to all who served in this raid during WWII for their bravery and dedication through those dark days.

*Paul Sheldon*

Footnote:

Having attended the Great British Beer Festival in 2018, guess where you could taste the Supreme Champion Gold winning ale? For those of you that haven't been to the GBBF, the bars are given alpha-numeric names and pub names. **Broken Dream Breakfast Stout** the winning ale, from Berkshire's **Siren Brewery** was served at **Bar B17 - The Dambusters Inn!**

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## Round Britain by Ship



First holiday of the year and the first weekend we spent at our son and daughter in law's place. Should not have travelled on Bank Holiday Friday! Had a lovely day out with them at Hughenden Manor, near High Wycombe, which is a National Trust property. Had a couple of pints of **Rebellion Bitter** in excellent condition,



with our son, at the Three Oaks, Chalfont St. Peter.

On to Tilbury to board The Columbus for our first ever cruise. It was a round Britain, 10 day cruise, also calling at Amsterdam and Honfleur. Beer on board not so good, so stuck to wine and spirits.



Having walked around Amsterdam on a very hot day, a couple of glasses of Bavarian Beer went

down well

before going back on board for a cream tea.



Next day spent at sea on way to Orkneys – lovely weather and flat calm. Went ashore at Kirkwall and caught a bus to Maes Howe, a 5000 year old neolithic tomb, complete with Viking graffiti which references Skull Splitter.

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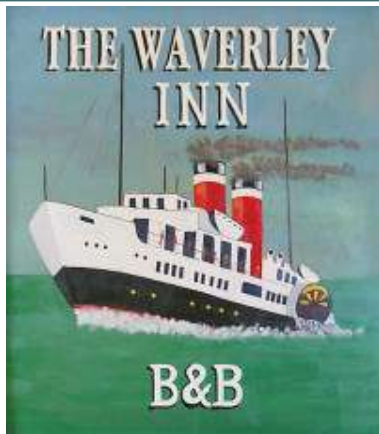
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# Wightwash The Cobb Cruise Page Twenty Seven

The Quoyloo Brewery named their 8% beer after it – lethal but nice. Went into the Kirkwall Hotel for a pint of their Red MacGregor, which I love, but they only had it in bottles and it was very cold which does spoil the taste a lot. Managed to visit the Earl's and Bishop's Palace in Kirkwall although raining quite heavily by then.



Onwards along the north coast of Scotland and the sea was getting rougher when one engine broke down due to a generator fault so we had to turn back to Invergordon for repairs. For this inconvenience, the Captain awarded each cabin £50 to spend on board. (Two x 1 litre bottles of Asbach brandy in the bag).

Subsequent gales, force 9 – 10 and the swell on the seas after meant we couldn't land at Skye or Mull. No piers there so it would have to be by tender.

On to Dublin and we walked around the city and ended up in Ireland's oldest pub, (bet it isn't the only one!) The Brazen Head. A very nice pint and a half of Guinness although that cost 10 euros.



St. Mary's in the Scilly Isles was cancelled also due to heavy swell so we stopped at Cobh in County Cork. Lovely place and we walked round and had a pint of Murphy's which was good. (No we didn't, we had a coffee! He forgets stuff now!)

## THE CULVER HAVEN INN

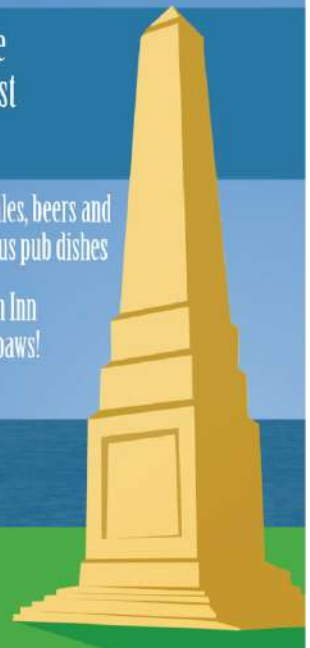
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# Wightwash The Cobb Cruise Page Twenty Eight

On to Guernsey which we both loved! Ashore by tender in spite of the swell and had a bus trip round the island to see parts of the German Occupation remains. It was very interesting. The museum in the underground U-boat fuel tank bunker (never used for fuel) had a lot of good information, especially interesting were the details of ordinary residents' lives under the occupation. It was a lovely sunny day and just right for visiting various gun emplacements, trench complexes, towers, etc. The driver's commentary on life under the occupation was brilliant. Dreadful how people, slaves and their own soldiers must have suffered at times, especially from starvation conditions.



Last stop was Honfleur which is a lovely, quaint, very clean, port and town. Heather had particularly wanted to see it and The Lieutenancy as she'd painted it last year from old photos.



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# *Wightwash* The Cobb Cruise Page Twenty Nine

Back to Tilbury the next day and the end of our very first cruise.

We then went to Beverley Farm at Four Marks, near Alton, to stay in our daughter and son in law's caravan. We used to stay there in our camper van – it is a lovely, rural quiet and peaceful site. It was our daughter's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and her husband, Kev, had organised a lovely canal boat trip on the Basingstoke Canal for 40



friends and family. We had a cream tea and there was an excellent bar on board, but I was driving.

Later went to New Alresford



a very nice village with nice river walks famous for watercress production. Sat in the garden of The Globe overlooking a large pond and had a nice lunch washed down with a pint of Watercress Best. On the toilet wall there was a plaque remembering a U.S. Airforce Captain who saved the village by

steering his crippled bomber (with full bomb load) away from the village before crashing in nearby fields.



We shopped at the Co-op in Medstead one evening and bought beer - brewed by the Flack Manor Brewery it was called Black Jack. A smooth dark ruby coloured beer, with rich aromas of toasted malt, and initial sweetness followed by a good lingering hop finish and hazelnut afternotes. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Stanbridge Earls Estate at Roke Manor, located near the brewery, served as a Rest & Recuperation home for U.S. air force officers. Known as station 503 and endearingly called the flak shack, this was the inspiration for the name Flack Manor Brewery.

All good things come to an end, so home again, tired out but happy.

We now have a new, used motor home so watch out for a new instalment of "Pete's Progress".



*Pete and Heather Cobb*



*As one particular quiz clue (4) proved to be a bit challenging in the last issue of Wightwash, I decided to repeat the "Island Landmarks" from the Winter Issue 2011*

## The Brisbane Pillar



Sir Thomas Brisbane lived for a while in Ventnor in the mid nineteenth century. A keen astronomer, he applied to the authorities for permission to place a pillar on the Ventnor esplanade. It was to have a dual function, the first to establish by astronomical observation, the exact global position of a site in Ventnor. The second aim was to denote, in conjunction with stone markings, an accurate indication of the exact time of noon each sunny day. Permission was given in 1851 and the pillar with its capping metal gnomon is there to this day.

Modern technology has rendered this monument obsolete but in the days before radio time checks existed it would have been of great value to the town. Using only the chronometers available to him, his latitude and longitude position is remarkably close to the Global Position figures available today.

Sir Thomas had an interesting career. A Scottish landowner, he had enlisted in the British Army and served under the Duke of Wellington in the Spanish Peninsular War with the rank of Brigade Commander.

In 1821 he went to Australia as Governor of New South Wales. When the neighbouring state of Queensland was established the capital, Brisbane was named after him.



He is remembered in Australia as a gifted astronomer and the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, which he founded, still

bears his name.

We are indebted to Fay Brown for much of the detail in this article

*Rob Marshall*

## 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.

Send answers to - The Editor, Wightwash, Oakdene, Rookley, Ventnor, PO38 3NH  
or email - [editor@wightwash.org.uk](mailto:editor@wightwash.org.uk)

- 1/ Which form of transport did Sir Christopher Cockerell invent?
- 2/ What is the name given to an angle of less than 90 degrees?
- 3/ Who wrote the novel "Les Misérables"?
- 4/ Who did Mark Carney replace as Governor of the Bank of England?
- 5/ Leghorn, Rhode Island Red and Orpington are types of what?
- 6/ "You'll Never Walk Alone" comes from which musical?
- 7/ Hibernia was the Roman name for which area?
- 8/ What fruit is used to flavour "Kriek" beer?
- 9/ and 10/ Identify these two former Prime Ministers.



### Answers to the Autumn Quiz

- 1/ Charles Darwin
- 2/ Spruce Goose
- 3/ Bohemian Rhapsody
- 4/ Ventnor
- 5/ Treasure Island
- 6/ Matt Hancock MP
- 7/ Tin
- 8/ Michael Miles
- 9/ Henry Cooper
- 10/ Chris Eubanks

Chris How of West Sussex wins a meal voucher and Mrs M Gibbons of Dorset wins a case of Yates' beer.

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

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# Diary Dates

- 14th December - **Xmas Social** - Man in the Moon - 8.00  
25th January 2019 - **AGM** - Traveller's Joy, Northwood 8pm (sharp!)  
22nd February - **Branch Meeting - 8pm** Cedars, Wootton 8pm  
22nd & 23rd February - **Gosport Winterfest** - Thorngate Halls  
22nd March - **Branch Walkabout** - start Solent 8pm (Simeon, Railway, Star, King Lud etc.)  
26th April - **Branch Meeting** - Wight Mouse, Chale 8pm  
5th May - **Isle of Wight Randonnee** [www.cycleisland.co.uk](http://www.cycleisland.co.uk)  
11th May - **Wolverton Folk and Blues Fair** - [www.folkandblues.org.uk](http://www.folkandblues.org.uk)  
28th May - 2nd June - **Island Jazz Weekend** - various venues around Newport  
[www.iwjazzweekend.co.uk](http://www.iwjazzweekend.co.uk)  
13th - 16th June - **Isle of Wight Festival** - [isleofwightfestival.com](http://isleofwightfestival.com)  
12th & 13th October **Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer and Walks Weekend**

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[www.yates-brewery.co.uk](http://www.yates-brewery.co.uk)



[www.islandbrewery.co.uk](http://www.islandbrewery.co.uk)

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