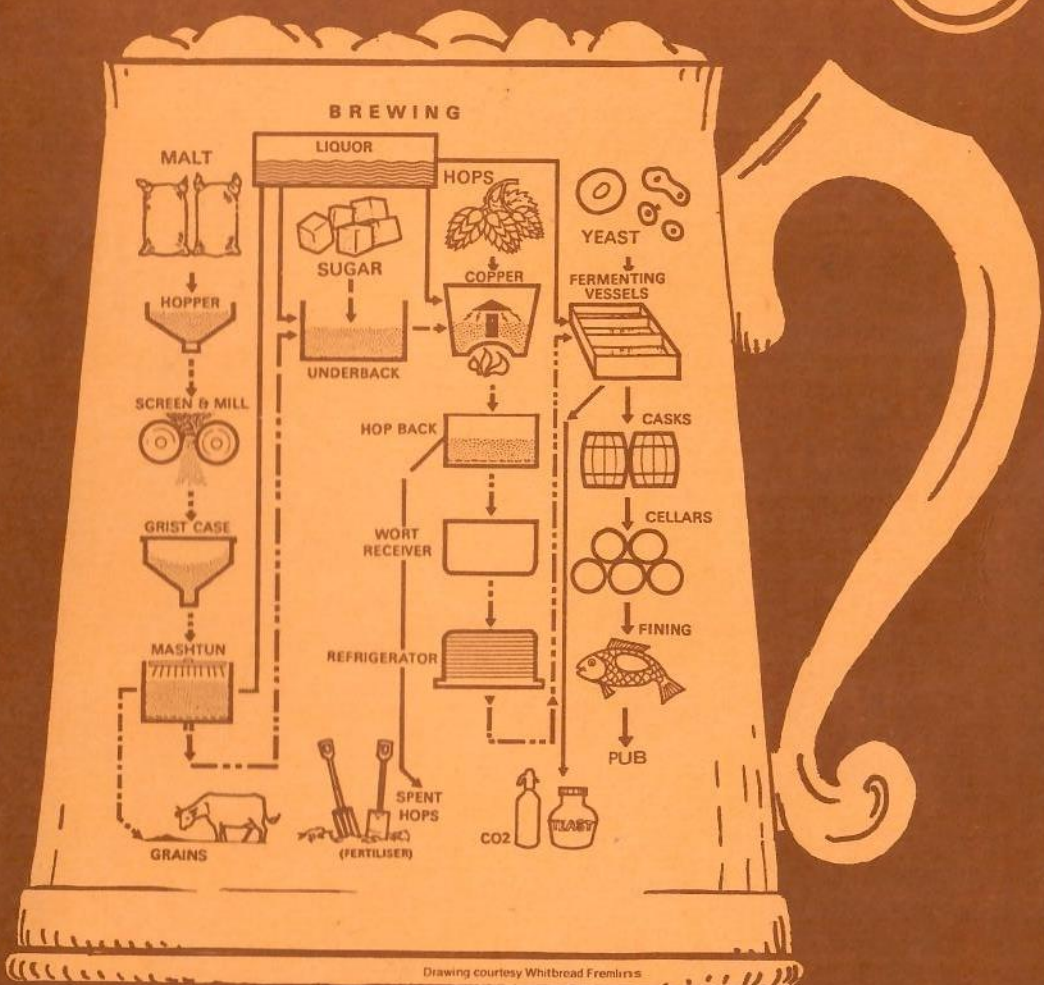


HOP PRESS



Drawing courtesy Whitbread Fremurs

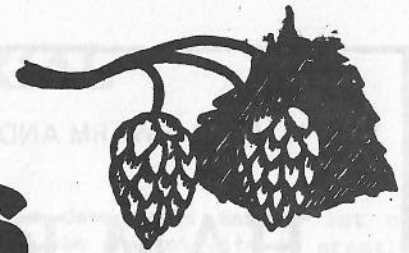
AUTUMN 1986

BRANCH ACTIVITIES

- 9th December Branch Meeting,
venue to be arranged - contact
D. Markell.*
- 20th December Southampton 'walk-about.'
Start 7.30pm, the Victory.
- 10th January Branch Late, late Xmas party,
IBM Social Club.
All members welcome, please give
advance notice to D. Markell.*
- 13th January Branch Meeting.
Phoenix, Twyford 8.00pm.
- 10th February Branch Meeting,
venue to be arranged. - contact
D. Markell.*

* D. Markell Telephone Southampton 784537.

HOP PRESS



ISSUE 21, NOVEMBER 1986.

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Editor Charlie Excell. 105 Elder Close, Winchester. 63706

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EDITORIAL

At long last HOP PRESS is back, we hope to bring you all the old favourites; Pub News, Innsight and comment on pub life in South Hampshire along with, we hope, some new ideas.

While we've been away there have been quite a few changes in the HOP PRESS team; We bid farewell to Ged Wallis, who has contributed so much to our success. Ged spent many weekends with scissors and glue pot pasting up, often working into the wee small hours and missing last orders. Ged will still be seen in local pubs playing with in his band; Egg On Legs. Thanks again Ged for all your efforts.

The departure of Ged also loses us that well known anagram and fly on the wall of so many bars; Aged Swill. Pub news remains however, bringing the latest news of whats happening in your local.

Now for a quite different topic:

Big changes could be about to take place in Winchester at Marston's. They are considering a proposition to sell their Hyde Street depot; once the old Winchester Brewery, and then moving out to a 'green-field' site on some industrial estate elsewhere in the county.

We understand that tentative approaches have been made to the brewery by developers, as yet unnamed, and figures of some millions have been mentioned. Figures being rumoured about range from £2M to £6M - at either end of that scale that's a lot of pints! From the brewery's point of view, of course,

such a deal would make a lot of sense; the present site is greatly underused and is far from ideal as a transport centre. A brand-new, purpose built unit with easy access to trunk roads and some money left over in the bank must be very tempting.

However, what will it mean for Winchester? It is not just a question of losing some elderly bits of warehousing. The Hyde Street site includes an excellent pub (the White Swan), the old Brewery Counting House, the Hyde Abbey Club and its superb bowling green, an old-established car bodyshop (Giles) and a mass of historical remains from Roman times onward. Readers may remember the controversy a few years ago when it was suggested that the old wall would have to go in an abortive plan to widen North Walls...

For us in particular a development on this site would be especially painful, since we are only just celebrating the conversion of the White Swan back to Real Ale and thus taking its proper place as the brewery 'tap'. This pub, the adjoining house and the brewery offices form an excellent piece of architecture - may we appeal now to the City Planning Department, that should any development plans come before them, please insist that these buildings are incorporated and not demolished. If any lesson at all is needed in the wisdom of replacing pubs by new developments then give a moments thought to the prospect in Southgate Street if the Black Swan had been retained.

Mike and Jocelyn
Hendrickx

Junction — St. Denys, — Inn

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Marston's

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Quick Halves

NULV tear up FLAG

THE National Union of Licensed Victuallers last month withdrew support from the Flexi-Law Action Group (FLAG) until it gets assurances from the brewers that the "open all permitted hours" clause will be removed from tenancy agreements.

The move is a sharp blow for the campaign for flexible pub hours, which is supported by CAMRA, as Home Secretary Douglas Hurd has repeated that licensing reform can only occur once the trade is united on the details.

Brum test?

COUNCILLORS from the three major parties have combined in Birmingham to seek Government approval to turn the city into an 'experimental zone' for flexible licensing hours. Cllr. Frank Carter, an ex-Lord Mayor, is leading the campaign. He describes the present opening hours as "ludicrous" and detrimental to Birmingham's efforts to attract tourism and conference business.

Gibbs move in

DEVENISH have sold 13 of their pubs around their home base of Weymouth and Portland in Dorset to Salisbury brewers, Gibbs Mew, for £1.5m. The deal follows the restructuring of Devenish after its merger with Inn Leisure earlier this year. While bringing a welcome increase in choice in the area, the move underlines concern for the future of Devenish's remaining West Country estate of 330 pubs.

THE GUARDIAN

Chain saw reaction of bitter drinker

By a Correspondent

DRINKER Lindsey Harmon got up rough when his favourite pub was split during modernisations and he attacked the dividing wall with a chainsaw.

Customers at the Clifton Arms in Caterham, Surrey, scattered as Harmon — wearing a balaclava mask over his face — raced into the pub with the saw and cut a 4ft by 3ft hole in the plasterboard.

The landlord, Mr Colin Wood, and police gave chase and caught him when he dropped the saw and fell over.

Harmon, aged 25, a labourer, of Caterham, Surrey, admitted causing criminal damage when he appeared before the court at Godstone yesterday. He was remanded in custody for three weeks for reports.

He and some friends had objected to the changes and after a few drinks he decided at someone else's suggestion to cut an arch through the new wall, the court heard.

"I was devastated. The customers were very frightened and got out of his way pretty quick. He looked menacing. I thought it was a motorbike in the pub at first," said Mr Wood.

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AND

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INN-SIGHT

MILBURYS - BEAUWORTH

Five miles due East of Winchester, high up on the chalk downland is an attractive inn. To the North and East the hills roll on into the far distance, giving extensive views from the large garden. Milburys stands isolated from the small village of Beauworth; the nearest building, a youth hostel, lies a quarter of a mile away.

Before describing the inn itself, the surroundings are worthy of further explanation. The name of the pub is derived from the nearby hilltop, known in Saxon times as *Nealan Borge*; this translates as either Mealan Barrow (burial ground) or multicoloured hilltop. A Bronze Age barrow covered the hilltop and today is still an impressive monument, standing some hundred and fifty yards East of the pub. This barrow, known as Millbarrow is the last survivor of twenty or more similar mounds in what was a Bronze age cemetery.

The building dates back to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. In the eighteenth century it was known as the Hare and Hounds; around the eighteen fifties the name changed to the Fox and Hounds and so it remained until the nineteen eighties. Then, following the death of the landlord, Whitbread's sold the building. After extensive alterations the pub reopened as a free house, Milburys. Inside, the old bar and accommodation have been opened up to make two drinking areas, connected by a narrow passage, making an L-shaped area. There is

also an upper gallery which is used as a restaurant area (in addition to a separate full restaurant). The smaller of the two areas incorporates Milburys' most distinguishing feature; a three hundred foot deep well complete with treadmill to haul the water up. The well is safely covered by a grating and a glass window and is lit down to the water level - a tiny speck below. Customers can also sit in an alcove behind the wheel and look out at the country views.

The amenities on offer are of a high standard and include good family facilities, ample parking and clean toilets

There is a strong emphasis on food (though this does not intrude upon the drinker) and a varied and sometimes exotic menu is always available; an Egon Ronay listing and a supper licence reflects this.

Milburys, although a free house, still has some trading ties with Whitbread's; the range of beers includes Flowers Original, Vethereds Bitter and Gales BBB and HSB all on handpump. A guest beer is often available and Hill's Devon cider is also served on handpump.

Wine drinkers may also like to know that an extensive cellar is kept.

Friendly staff, good beer, fine food and pleasant surroundings make any visit to Milburys worthwhile. The inclusion of Milburys in this year's Good Beer Guide is well deserved.

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WHITBREAD - MONEY GRUBBERS?

Whitbread Wessex, the local branch of a national company which recently announced a massive 17% increase in profits to £130 million, are obviously not letting the grass grow under their feet.

Not content with selling some of the most expensive beer in the South, raising the rents of their tenants, taking a large chunk of the food profits and grabbing all they can from fruit machines, Whitbreads have found yet another fat teat to suck on and once again it's the landlord who will have to fork out. This time any landlord who decides to eke out what is

often a precarious living by offering accommodation (a welcome facility in this popular holiday area) will have to pay over to the brewery 35% of his profits - a tax on him for the pleasure of starting even earlier in the morning, having the breakfasts to prepare and then the rooms to clean.

How long, one may ask, before the charity bottle, the Christmas club or the darts kitty have to fork out? Or shouldn't we put ideas into their heads? Possibly coins in the slot to use the loos will be the next profit centre to be tapped.

HAVE A GO!

Here is a little pre-Christmas quiz to while away a few minutes at the bar. The phrases given below are anagrams composed of the combined names and locations (towns or villages) of pubs within our branch area - that is Southern Hampshire. To make the solutions simple we should say that all of the pubs chosen are entries in the new 1987 Good Beer Guide.

The first two correct entries to reach the Editor will each receive a brace of Gale's "corkers"

1. YOU'RE MOST RED, ROS.
2. SELLING VEG. ALE, BILL?
3. DETAIN NO WELDERS.
4. NO PUN TO SHAKIN' TRAMP.
5. A FEW DRINKS CLING THERE.
6. WHY DO THEY HATE MARBLE EEL?
7. MARATHON MAN SPOUTS MOSS.

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& ALI

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BAR

GOOD BEER GUIDE

MILD
• B.B.
• PEDIGREE
• OLD TODDLER

MARSTON'S

SOMERSET & NORTH DEVON COAST PATH

Minehead is not the most inspiring town that I have ever visited. Small and over populated with hot-dog stands and amusement arcades, it has lost its character to the trippers who flock there from Bristol, the Midlands and from South Wales.

For the walker, the railway enthusiast and the lover of the English landscape, however, there is much to offer in and around the town.

Here is the start of the longest of our long distance paths: the Southwest Peninsula Coast Path, stretching over 500 miles from Minehead around the Cornish peninsula and back along the Channel coast to Poole Harbour.

Regular readers of Hop Press may remember last year's trip along the Dorset section. Being gluttons for punishment we same three travellers decided to go North this year and start at the other end, walking the section from Minehead through to Ilfracombe.

Saturday night saw us installed in the Lorna Doone Guest House in Tregonwell Road, Minehead, a pleasant establishment now run by Richard Holloway, recently moved from the Running Horse at Littleton near Winchester. Richard acted as guide to the local pubs for the evening, but after advising us that Minehead had little to offer, he suggested that we went to Porlock and on to Dunster.

At the Royal Oak in Porlock the welcome was warm and the Ushers Best in fine condition. The landlady kindly helped us out by 'phoning around to find us our accommodation for the following evening. On to the picturesque village of Dunster, we sampled the first of many pints of the excellent Exmoor Ale at the Luttrell Arms, a Trust House Fortes hotel. The Luttrell Arms is a fine old building with a comfortable bar and the food, which is served in the old kitchen, is both tasty and reasonably priced. Tired from a day travelling, we then returned to Minehead for a good night's sleep.

Sunday and the start of the walk

Roger & Karen
Welcome you

Pub Games
Childrens Garden
Happy Hour
Saturday

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THE KEY & ANCHOR

WHITBREAD REAL ALES AT SENSIBLE PRICES
FLOWERS ORIGINAL
* POMPEY ROYAL *

Piano Sing
Along: Thurs.

Tasty Hot and
Cold Bar Food

proper, the weather was warm and a little on the humid side, not ideal for walking. The Ship Aground is one of the best pubs in the town; sited along by the quay it is an ideal starting point for the path. The pub caters for both locals and visitors, serving the ubiquitous, but very drinkable, Ushers Best. The Cornish pasties are genuine, but more than you really want before starting a long walk!

No further diversions; we had to start walking and, like all paths, the way was upwards. Starting at an alley between two cottages, we were soon in thick woodland. Climbing to the top of North Hill at 1000 feet, we were greeted by a couple of radio controlled gliders hanging in the upcurrents. The path now followed open heathland until it returned to the coast at Bossington Hill, which it encircled, before dropping steeply to the village below. Many of the cottages in this area have remarkably tall chimneys, the reason being that with such steep hills in the area there are considerable downdraughts and these high chimneys prevent the occupants turning into smoked bacon.

A short stretch along the beach past old lime kilns led us into Porlock Weir, our goal for the day. The Ship Inn is part of the Anchor Hotel, an establishment that seems to own much of the rest of Porlock Weir. Our stopping place for the night was in a pleasant country cottage called Snow's Orchard at West Porlock.

The evening was spent visiting the pubs of Porlock, starting with the Ship, where, alongside Draught Bass and Courage Best, Perry's cider was sold for 60p a pint. The Ship is an old village pub in the style traditional to Exmoor. The food was good and the locals friendly. The

only problem is that the cider seems to dissolve your teeth rather fast!!

Moving on, we then visited the Crown Hotel, where Exmoor Ale was served, in a large bar much given over to pool. From there it was a revisit to the Royal Oak for a last pint of Ushers before returning to our lodgings.

Porlock Weir to Lynmouth is a distance of fourteen miles, passing through steep combs heavily wooded and abundant in wildlife. Although it is never far away, only brief glimpses are seen of the sea, far below. The tiny church at Culbone is worth a short stop; it is one of the smallest parish churches in the country and features in both the Guinness Book of Records and the Domesday Book. This area used to be called Kitnor and is steeped in history, much of it of a sinister nature. Back in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries it was the refuge of outcasts of society, left to fend for themselves without shelter in a wilderness of oak forest. Later it was a leper colony, and then the domain of charcoal burners. Now it is wild woodland with buzzards soaring overhead.

After a long slow climb the landscape opened up to richer farmland and then on to open moorland at County Gate. Here a short break was made, for a fine drizzle had set in and we took to the road to arrive at the Blue Ball in Countesbury in time for lunch. Blue Ball is said to be a corruption of Blue Boar, although when we arrived the innsign proclaimed The Blue Boar - whatever the name, the inn was a welcome sight to three wet and tired walkers. The beer was Whitbread and well kept, the real ales being Samuel Whitbread Strong Ale, Flowers Original and Wethereds

Bitter. The food was homemade and a fireplace held several hams curing over a smouldering fire.

From Countesbury to Lynmouth is a long trek down hill with the sea hundreds of feet below. Lynmouth is a small town straddling the combined East and West Lyn rivers. In 1952 tragedy struck the small holiday town when, high up on Exmoor several day's rain overflowed the river catchments and a huge torrent swept down the valley. The town was severely damaged and many lives were lost. Today the rebuilt town is pleasant and busy and little trace remains of the disaster.

A short ride upwards by a funicular cliff railway took us to Lynton 600ft above. Lynton is a good place to stay, with plenty of guest houses and hotels. The pubs of Lynton although pleasant, are not particularly memorable; Ushers are the main suppliers with Bass and Courage Best also available.

Carrying on westwards the next day, the Valley of The Rocks was like an alien landscape on a grey drizzly morning; even the resident goats had disappeared from their perches on the rocky pinnacles. The drizzle persisted, and for a while we trudged on in silence through the penetrating dampness with the sea below, heard but not seen. Lunch was found at the Hunters Inn, an interesting pub very popular with coach tour operators. During the summer months more than a thousand customers a day are catered for. The beer was Exmoor Ale, Samuel Whitbread Strong Ale and Wethereds Bitter; All at 95p a pint! The building, however, is of an interesting design, having been erected in 1901 on the site of a much older inn that burned down.

Leaving the pub, the path climbed

upwards towards the parish church of Trentishoe and then along the cliff tops towards Combe Martin. The descent to the village passed by the old Silver mines, worked until the last century; today only the chimney and a few ruins remain.

The pubs of Combe Martin are heavily geared to the tourist trade and are in general unremarkable. However, The Pack of Cards is well worth a visit, though not especially for the quality of its ale. The pub was built in the seventeenth century by the local squire and gambler George Ley, who won a considerable sum at the tables. There are four floors representing the four suits; each floor has thirteen doors representing the thirteen cards, and just to finish off there are fifty two windows. The beer on sale was Bass, although the pump clip said it was Flowers Original! The Dolphin Inn served a fine pint of Exmoor Ale in a relaxing bar, otherwise only Keg beers were available.

Fine weather at last for the final day's walk, around the corner to Ilfracombe. The pubs of this town are particularly unmemorable with the possible exception of the Britannia Hotel, where the Courage Best and Directors were sold for 70p a pint up to 8.30pm. The food was also good value for money. Sadly, nearly every other pub in the town has sold its soul to loud 'entertainment' and discos abound. It seems a shame, that so many of Ilfracombe's pubs all provide for one class of customer.

Ilfracombe marked the end of our walk and after retrieving the car from Minehead - no mean task when the buses were on strike - we moved on to Barnstaple and Bideford for a day or two. But that's a tale for another day.

REINHEITSGEBOT - BARRIER TO TRADE?

Readers may have noticed in the national press in recent months that the German pure beer law, the "Reinheitsgebot", is being challenged in the European courts. The law, dating back to 1516, was attacked by the EEC Commission for being protectionist, i.e favouring German brewers unfairly against outsiders in their domestic market.

The law states that beer must contain only malt, hops, yeast and water - what else? I hear you cry! The German Government defended the law on the grounds that other ingredients (adjuncts and additives) in imported beer would harm the health of German drinkers.

The German male takes 26.7% of his daily nutrition from beer.

In Britain, the Brewers' Society criticised the German refusal to allow imports, saying that people should be allowed to choose what beer they drink. This seems a strange criticism coming from them since they support our unique tied house system which prevents some 80% of our publicans from choosing which beers they will sell.

However, the purity laws are not, it seems, the real issue. It is the German Government's use of them to give protection to home producers.

The alternative would be for the Germans to share the almost non-existent restrictions on ingredients applied to British brewers. A wide variety of "adjuncts" are allowed, including such things as rice grits, flaked maize, corn syrup and potatoes. Our laws do not require ingredients to be listed. Which would you prefer, strictly controlled and published ingredients or no laws and no information for the customer?

Your editor would welcome your views on this subject, so why not put down your pint and pick up your pen; the most interesting replies will be published in the next edition of "Hop Press".

PS. In May this year 10 of the 12 EEC governments decided against the listing of ingredients on labels of alcoholic drinks: only the Danish and German beer interests were in favour; however, a deadline is expected in 1986 for declaring alcoholic strength. Is the German Government leading the way again on behalf of its consumers?

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KEG BUSTER

BY BILL TIDY



KEG BUSTER appears every month in "What's Brewing" the monthly magazine for CAMRA members

DENISE AND ALAN WELCOME YOU

THE BELL INN

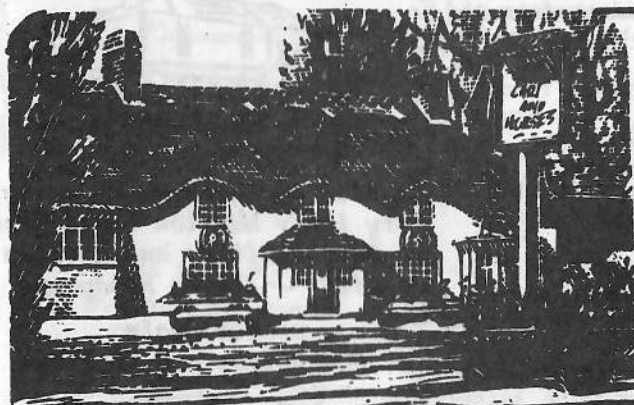
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1987 GOOD BEER GUIDE

You may well be confused by the ever-increasing number of guides telling you where to drink, that are appearing in the shops. The Good Beer Guide however, is different and stands above all of the rest. This is the only guide that puts the beer first. As well as exceptionally easy to follow pub listings and clear, attractive maps, extensive information is provided about opening hours, facilities and, of course, the fine range of beers to be found in 5,000 of the nation's best watering holes. Separate sections give full details of every brewery in the country and also every 'home brew' pub.

Anyone familiar with CANRA will know that the organisation exists primarily as a campaigning force, this is certainly evident from the various articles contained in the guide. There are items on artificial additives often found in beer and the German *Reinheitsgebot* (purity laws, listing the only permissible ingredients in beer, see the article in this edition of Hop press.).

Of particular interest is an article by George Bateman, the head of the long-established family brewery in Lincolnshire, expressing concern for the future of the small brewer. Few people could be better placed to write such an article; Bateman's brewery is currently threatened by takeover by one of the brewing giants.

CANRA chairman Jim Scanlon's article on the quality of pub landlords will certainly provide food for thought.

Add to this a pub photography competition and numerous cartoons by Hector Breeze and Bill Tidy and you have the complete guide for the British beer drinker.

The guide is available from all good bookshops and many local pubs for £4.95.

P.S It makes a great Christmas present.

SALISBURY ARMS SHIRLEY SOUTHAMPTON



Good Beer Guide

Bill & Jean invite you to try their Marston's Pedigree, Burton Bitter and Mercian Mild ~ All on handpumps

Hot Meals
Lunchtimes and Evenings
Ninchester Road



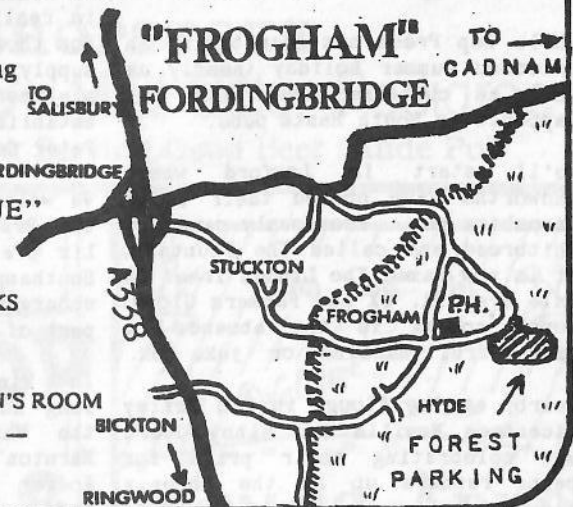
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PUB NEWS

While Hop Press has been taking an extended summer holiday (nearly as long as our MPs have) much has happened in South Hants pubs.

We'll start in Lowford where Wadworths have opened their fifth Hampshire pub. Previously owned by Whitbread and called The Fountain, it is now named The Linden Tree. On sale are IPA, 6X and Farmers Glory. Worth noting is the absence of either fruit machines or juke box.

Nearby at The Plough in Old Netley licensees Neville and Ginny Guard are celebrating their prize for being runners up in the Phoenix flowers and garden contest, quite an achievement when the forecourt is asphalt! However every conceivable space is taken up with window boxes and flower baskets. In the same area Netley British Legion is now the place to go for a pint of Courage's Directors Bitter.

Staying in Howards Way country; The Swan at Bursledon, a Berni Inn, has been refurbished and the old Watney's red (paint that is) has been replaced by dark green.

The Mount in Chandler's Ford has also undergone refurbishment and surprise surprise we have another green Berni Inn. As promised the bar area remains almost untouched, prices however are raised a few pence. The choice is Gale's HSB, Webster's and Usher's. We welcome new licensee, John Chapman.

Further along Winchester Road things have changed at the White Horse, Otterbourne. First we had Beefeaters, then came Pie Pubs, now we have a Brewers' Fayre!!! As

expected the public bar has been removed along with the dart board. The most objectionable feature is the numbering of all tables, just to remind would-be drinkers that it is really a restaurant with a bar. For those customers who can read, a supply of old books litter various shelves. The opening of this establishment was carried out by Peter Osgood.

We welcome David and Liz Gibson to the Bridge at Shawford, David and Liz previously ran the Malvern in Southampton. The Bridge, which has undergone extensive renovation is part of the J. M. Inns chain.

In Winchester, there has been a long hoped for real ale gain in the White Swan in Hyde Street. Marston's BB, Pedigree and Owd Rodger are all available on hand pump. The White Swan is the 'Brewery Tap' built into the buildings of the old Winchester Brewery. At the Exchange, Barry and Jacqui Jackson have left to take up another pub in Bath, and we now extend a welcome to George Molyneux the new licensee. George has come from Scott's Bar in Portsmouth - a well known real ale outlet there. Bunce's Bitter from Netheravon is now available in the Southgate Hotel. Out of town at Veeke, that wonderful testament to the pub designers art, Blighty's, is now being transformed into Chesters, how exciting I hear you all saying!

Further out at Crawley, at the Fox and Hounds Ringwood Fortyniner has replaced the Gale's HSB.

A belated welcome is extended to Dave and Lynn Stringer at the Bell, Alresford. Nearby in Bighton, Arthur Heywood, new landlord of the Three Horseshoes, had his safe stolen together with £600. Ironically, Arthur was a policeman before taking over the pub. Still

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WEBSTERS YORKSHIRE BITTER GALES HSB

in the northeast at Beauworth, Hill's cider is now on sale at Milburys (see Innsight in this issue).

The Crown in Bishop's Waltham has reopened after a major refit, courtesy of, yes you've guessed it, Whitbread.

Meanwhile in Botley, there are "big changes" at the Bugle. The new landlord is John Rowberry who at six foot eleven claims to be Britain's tallest landlord.

On the other side of the county at East Tytherley, the Star now features a Spanish restaurant, notable for it's complete ban on smoking.

At Braishfield, The Newport has been voted favourite pub in the Gale's passport scheme, (and well deserved too!). If you voted for the Newport I understand that upon receipt of your passport Gales will send you a brewery tie or headscarf.

Bede's Lea over in North Baddesley is now a one bar pub, though the renovation is better than some. Truman's Sampson is available alongside Websters and Usher's Best.

Our Forest correspondent reports several changes from near the Wiltshire border. The sad news from Whitsbury is that the landlord of the Cartwheel has died, we send our condolences to his widow who, we understand, will continue to run the pub. Wiltshire Brewing Company's new beer 'Weedkiller' has been added to the range. There are new tenants at the Bat and Ball at Breamore and we hear they are co-operating with the Cartwheel to ensure that different beers are available in each pub. The Good Beer Guide listed pub, the

Compasses at Damerham no longer serves Courage Beers. Wadworth's 6X and Ind Coope Burton Bitter are now on offer. Finally in this area, the Horse and Groom at Woodgreen now offers Flowers Original on gravity alongside the Strong Country Bitter.

Back towards Southampton the New Forest Hotel at Ashurst now has Websters Yorkshire Bitter on handpump.

In Totton the Cross Keys has reopened after major repairs to this 400 year old listed building cost Whitbreads an estimated £200,000. Both wet and dry rot were the problems to be overcome.

In central Southampton the Running Horse, recently damaged by fire, has reopened as the Wig and Pen. The pub is free of fruit machines and has a soft blue interior, with contrasting brown upholstery. Does this mean that Whitbreads have at last run out of maroon and bottle green? Flowers Original is sold for £1.06 a pint. Down the road the Southerner has changed its name to the Bargate. Badger Best is still available. Just across the road the Queens is now called Classic Corner, downstairs the bar has been well decorated in thirties style, Friary Meux Best Bitter and Burton Ale are on tap. Upstairs there will soon be a nightclub. We welcome new licensee Taina Edmonds. Opposite at the Star Wadworth's 6X is now alongside the Bass and Strong Country Bitter. Towards the docks Willows Wine Bar has replaced Hook Norton Best Bitter with New Forest Kingswood Bitter. Ringwood Best, Gale's BBB and Charles Wells' Bombardier also on sale. Visitors to the new Ocean Village will not be able to drink real ale in the cafe bar there. Let's hope this changes soon.

Northwest in Shirley, at the Crown Websters Yorkshire Bitter is available. The Icehouse is now under new management and the Woodman has reopened after refurbishment (much to the displeasure of the locals who preferred it as it was before). Visitors to the area will find that the Brickmakers is now named, Tudors. The pub has only one bar, which is oak panelled. The good news is that it is a real ale gain with Flowers Original available.


We welcome Tony and Linda Coles to what was the Belmont in Portswood which is now called the Mitre. Although this is now a Host group pub, Marstons beers are on sale, and desevedly popular.

PITSAW PROBLEM


Does any Hop Press reader know the whereabouts of a pitsaw? Preferably one that is lying around unwanted and waiting to take its honoured place on the wall of a pub which has possibly the best collection of forestry tools in the county.

The pub in question is, as might be expected, the Foresters Arms. If any reader can help, please contact:

Davy Jones, The Foresters Arms, Frogham.
Tel: Fordingbridge (0425) 52294.



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Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

[Note: Life membership is available for a one-time payment of £90
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*delete as appropriate

© All applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

Last thoughts...

Potent brew

THE tiny village of Ancrum (population 300) in the Scottish Borders is experiencing a baby boom — and villagers are in no doubt that the cause is Archibald Arrol's 70/-.

Twelve months ago the Simpsons introduced the beer to their previously all-fizz Cross Keys Inn. Since then there have been no less than 12 pregnancies — and all to couples who are real ale fans.

One mother had swapped to real ale after seven years' unsuccessful attempts to start a family. She is expecting in December. Even Linda Simpson did not escape. She gave birth to a 10½lb (!) baby daughter at the beginning of October.

Consultant obstetrician, Philip Myerscough, was in two minds as to what could have caused this sudden surge in his workload. It might be due to the high vitamin B levels in "properly brewed beers". On the other hand it might be due to more early nights.

But the Simpsons are getting worried. For a start they would like to change their range of real ale because of Allied's indifference to supplying it, but realise this might be risky.

"What really worries us," they told me, "is that some of the auld fellars have taken to the real ale. There's no telling where it will lead."

Nazi night

THE latest Miles Brewster Bad Taste Award has gone to the Chequers Inn, Aylesford, Kent. To liven up trade it was decided to hold a fancy dress disco with a "theme". The theme was 1940s Germany.

"The event was aimed at the younger generation and had no political overtones," bleated Gavin Francis, the landlord's son, "It was other people who called it Nazi Night."

The fact that the poster advertising the event had a picture of Der Führer framed in tinsel, and that the disco was to feature recordings of the poor misunderstood man was simply unfortunate.

Tiny problem

SHIRLEY Pepper, the saintly madonna who runs the world's smallest pub, the Nutshell in Bury St. Edmunds, is having a spot of bother with the council.

It appears that Suffolk environmental health regulations dictate that she must have a refuse bin on the premises. As anyone who has visited the 14' x 8' premises will tell you, it is hard enough squeezing in the drip trays.

But St. Edmundsbury Council Officials think they have found a solution. The new official dustbin sits proudly on the top shelf, twelfth curio from the right.

Made from regulation green plastic and of the precise approved design, it measures three inches high and one-inch in diameter.

Office of
Fair Trading

Time Gentlemen Please...

Calling all Beer Drinkers

The Director General of Fair Trading has asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to carry out a full investigation of the supply of beer. In particular, the Commission will be looking at the 'Tied House' system and why you may not always get your favourite pint in your favourite pub. They'll also be looking at competition in the industry and how this affects the price of a pint.

This is the time for you to air your views so if you wish to give evidence write to:

**The Secretary,
Monopolies and
Mergers
Commission,
New Court,
Carey Street,
London
WC2 2JT.**

