

HOP PRESS



BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 19th

"Docks Walkabout", start **Platform Tavern**, 8.00 pm.

Saturday, January 9th

The Branch "Late, late, Xmas party" at the **IBM Club**, Hursley.

Eastleigh 642246 for more details.

Tuesday, January 12th

Branch Meeting, The Star, Southampton.

Tuesday, February 9th

Branch Meeting, venue to be announced.

Southampton 37263 for more details

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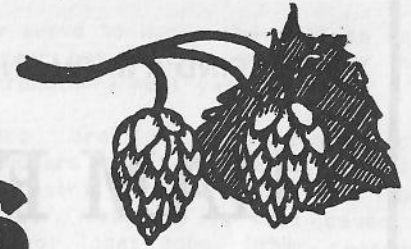
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Seasons Greetings

To all of our
readers and to all
of our hard-working
Landlords and Land-
ladies.

Editor Charlie Excell. 105 Elder Close, Winchester.
Winchester 63706

Published by *Camra* Southern Hampshire Branch.
Printed by *Sarsen Press*, 21 Hyde Street, Winchester.



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Editorial¹

Nineteen eighty-seven has not been a good year for real ale drinkers, takeovers once again are dominating the scene. Greene King have closed their delightful Rayments brewery, Scottish and Newcastle have finally succeeded in their latest bid for Matthew Brown and Greenall Whitley are closing their Wem brewery. Closer to home, Whitbread have decided to close the Wethered brewery at Marlow in the coming year. Their reasons are known only to themselves, but the fact that the site is right in the middle of such a very desirable Thames-side town could have some bearing.

Although none of these breweries are in our immediate area this is no time for complacency, very few regional brewers are completely safe from the current round of takeover mania.

The breweries most at risk are those regional companies with solid tied estates. The big national brewers all have massive over-capacity in brewing - made ever worse by the decline in beer consumption over the past few years. The only salvation they see for themselves is to increase their pub base by stripping them from some unfortunate takeover victim.

Brewery closures are usually stated to be because the plant is "not viable", "too costly to modernise" etc.; these are normal code-words for the desire to realize assets for short-term gains. I understand that Wethereds of Marlow are currently working at over 90% capacity, not bad for a brewery that is no longer viable.

The sale of the odd brewery or two

may serve to boost the profits for a year but what do you offer the shareholders next year?

There are many reasons why takeovers must be resisted; Firstly it restricts the choice of the drinker, secondly it will cause a loss of local jobs. Other reasons include the replacement of the tenant with a manager in many pubs and almost always the drinker can also look forward to a round of price rises as a result.

The closure of Wethereds is a particularly nasty piece of work by Whitbread who have been unable to give any good reason for their actions which will do little for the drinkers of Marlow and even less for the workers and their families.

The question must be: What can be done to stop this madness?

One might think that as a result of breweries closing the new generation of small breweries may have a chance to do well; sadly, just the opposite is true. National brewers, in their search for outlets for their surplus beer, throw money at the owners of free houses in return for barrellage agreements that effectively block out the small brewer.

CAMRA can show that the drinking public do care about their pubs, their beers and their local breweries. However the voice of any organisation is only as loud as its members can shout, perhaps you can add your voice and help CAMRA shout louder. We had many successes in the seventies but the war is breaking out again now and we need new members, *it still costs less than one pint per month to protect your pint.*

John & Heather Snellgrove

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Rip-off Corner

Gales are at it again, not content with being in the upper price range generally our local brewery has now put their Prize Old Ale "Corkers" up to a level that will produce a bar price of an unbelievable £1.35 to £1.40.

This staggering increase represents some 44%. Does this herald similar rises in other Gales products, especially 5X, which is an 8 to 1 mixture of BBB and Prize Old Ale?

We have recently made many unfavourable comments in Hop Press

and other CAMRA journals about the quality of Gales beers. We are pleased to say that in many respects the quality is now much better and the beers, in particular the BBB, are much more consistent. However, unless they moderate their pricing policy we shall not be testing their beers very often, however good they may be. Word from the brewery is that the volume of beer sales has declined considerably this year, to compensate the cash-flow by drastic price increases is surely a recipe for disaster!



DAVE & ALI

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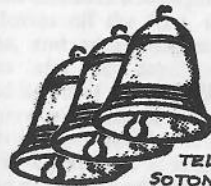
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Rhum brew for Scottish Stone Age tipplers

By Mark Douglas Home
Scottish Correspondent

A BLACK encrustation, resembling burnt porridge and found on pieces of pottery unearthed on the Inner Hebridean island of Rhum, has turned out to be the remnants of a 4,000-year-old alcoholic drink.

The rough neolithic brew contained oats, barley, heather, honey, meadowsweet, bog myrtle and royal fern. The heather ale is the earliest evidence of alcoholic consumption in Scotland. The Celtic recipes died out in the Bronze and Iron ages.

However, William Grant and Sons, the Scotch whisky distillers, have tried to discover what the drink tasted like. Using the same ingredients as those early island tipplers, they set about producing the ale.

George Wilkin, then the chief chemist but now a consultant to the company, said yesterday: "It was quite horrible." The problem was tannic acid in the royal fern, but the distillers tried again. They stripped the leaves off the fern, leaving only the stems, and added bog myrtle. About 20 brews later they produced a honey coloured liquid of about 8 per cent proof.

There was enough for 60 bottles, and yesterday they tried it out at a press reception in Edinburgh. It smelt of honey, but tasted of herbs. And there was another flavour which nobody could quite describe.

Dr Brian Moffat, the archaeo-botanist who deduced the ingredients from the pollen and spores in the black crust, said: "It's evocative of prehistoric times."

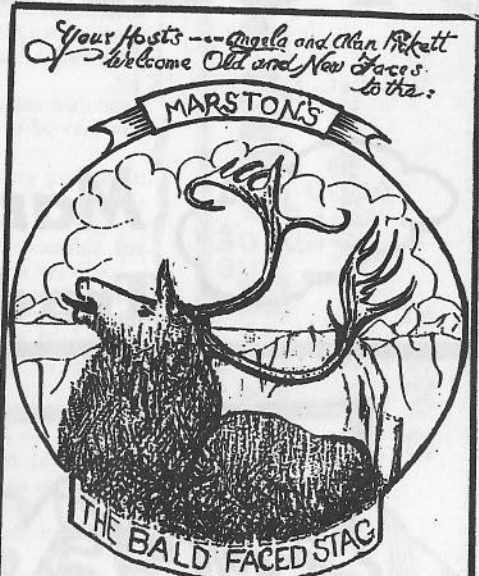
Mr Wilkin found it hard to be complimentary. He said: "I think it is fascinating as an archaeological project but as a commercial drink it would need a bit more work. I will tell you something though, once you have had three or four it kind of grows on you."

The pottery shards were found among stones and rubble at Kinloch, the oldest recorded site of human habitation in Scotland. Caroline Wickham-Jones, a freelance

archaeologist who works with the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, led the excavation which began in 1984. Four pieces of pottery, uncovered in 1985, had the black crust on them.

Analysis by Dr Moffat revealed that the combination of pollens and spores could not have occurred naturally, and William Grant and Sons decided to assist the research by brewing it. Perhaps wisely, the company has no plans to market the ale.

The "Independent",
Nov. 13th. 1987.



The House of PEDIGREE Bitter
BURTON Bitter
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Edward Road, Three mantle, Solon.

Joan & Bill Welcome you

GOOD BEER GUIDE

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GOOD BEER GUIDE

BREWERY BAR

BOTLEY

- MILD
- BB
- PEDIGREE
- OLD RODER

MARSTON'S

What the Bill means

THE NEW Licensing Bill is certainly the most important piece of legislation in its field since the DORA restrictions applied during the Great War.

It is a short document, just 17 pages long with only 12 clauses; that set out to amend the 1964 Licensing Act. Here is a brief guide to each of the ten clauses that affect legislation. The last two are purely administrative:

CLAUSE 1: This is the important one, changing weekday permitted hours (that is Mondays to Saturdays) to 11am till 11pm. The compulsory afternoon break is thus wiped out. The clause also allows Justices to order that the weekday opening hour is brought forward by one hour, to assist in regulation.

CLAUSE 2: This deals with an important new power given to Justices — a "restriction order" which can force a pub to close in the afternoon if there is any evidence of nuisance or disturbance from opening all day. Applications for these orders can be made by neighbouring residents or the police. Orders can last up to a year, but can be withdrawn after six months.

CLAUSE 3: This simply brings extended hours into line with other regular extensions, in that they no longer have to be renewed each year.

CLAUSE 4: This gives Justices special discretionary powers to grant or refuse special hours certificates, or to limit their operation to certain times, days or periods of the year.

CLAUSE 5: This allows London police (now responsible for general and special exemptions) to charge for that service.

CLAUSE 6: This provides for licences granted or renewed after January 5, 1989, to last for three years instead of the present one. This does not mean that the present annual Brewsters' Sessions will lapse. Annual reviews will continue to monitor licences granted.

CLAUSE 7: This gives Justices the power to revoke a licence at any of the transfer sessions held throughout the year. Anyone can make such an application, provided they give 21 days notice. Publicans have a right of appeal, and if they do so they retain the licence until such times as a judgement is made.

CLAUSE 8: A procedural clause, dealing with the administration on recording licences.

CLAUSE 9: This removes the present limit of eight transfer sessions throughout the year, plus the annual review. Justices can now call as many as they like. The clause also fixes the maximum membership of licensing committees at 20 and allows the Home Secretary powers to increase membership in particular areas.

CLAUSE 10: This gives Justices the powers to award costs — to licence applicants or to those opposing applications. Such a power is aimed at discouraging frivolous use of the system.

What's Brewing, December 1987

WHITE SWAN VOUCHER

Hyde Street, Winchester

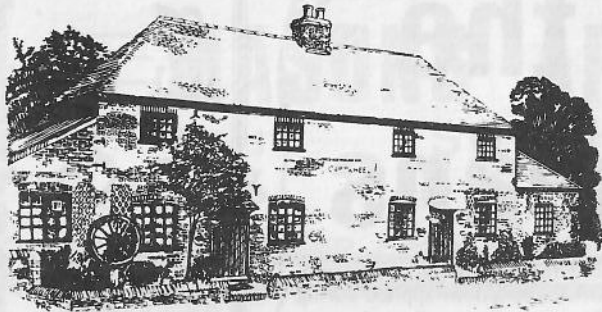
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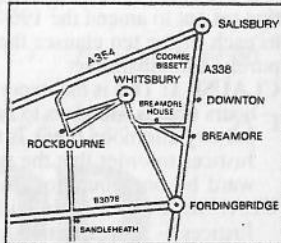


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INN-SIGHT

Cartwheel, Whitsbury

Now before anyone says; "where the hell is Whitsbury", I'll tell you. If you go to... no that's not right; try approaching it from, no, that won't get you there either...

Seriously though, it is not really that bad to find and when you do it is certainly worth the effort.

Whitsbury is in fact about three miles North West of Fordingbridge, roughly between Rockbourne and Breamore, an ideal stop for lunch if you are visiting the Roman Villa at Rockbourne and Breamore House on the same day.

The building dates from 1796, though it may well be on the site of earlier buildings. Originally two cottages in the two up and two down style, the first change of use was to business premises, a shop and wheelwrights. It was not until 1860 that the building became a pub, the first brewery to supply ale was Carters of Ringwood. Carters brewery was on what is now the site of Ringwood bus station. Strong's of Romsey took over in the early part of this century, they in turn were grabbed by Whitbread.

Whitbreads, in their infinite wisdom and probably to the benefit of the village, sold the pub in 1973; since when it has been a free house.

Although today a more peaceful spot would be hard to find, in the past things were different and around 1800 a gang of violent smugglers was captured nearby. It is likely that they were part of the notorious Hawkhurst gang who had

earlier fought a battle at the Royal Oak, Fritham.

Times were both hard and brutal in those far off days when wages amounted to only a few coppers. Entertainment was limited to the the local pub which was second only to the church as social centre of the village.

Whitsbury today has two churches but no vicar of its own, sharing with the neighbouring villages of Rockbourne and Damerham. Luckily the pub does still have both Landlord and Landlady.

The sound most likely to disturb the peace today is the thunder of hooves as the largest industry around is the local racing stable, once owned by William Hill and now apparently in the hands of his nephew. The stables have been in existence for over one hundred years and have passed through the hands of such racing notables as Marty Smythe, Bill Marshall and Gordon Richards.

The visitor to the Cartwheel is welcomed with a fine choice of real ales, kept in fine condition by Ian the landlord. As the beer list is extensive, I'll leave it to you to find out but there is always a wide range available. The pub has a reputation for fine food and no one who eats either in the bar or the restaurant is likely to leave in any condition other than full up.

Ian and Jeanette are to be congratulated for running a fine pub in such pleasant surroundings. Do get out your maps and pay them a visit.

Mike & Jocelyn

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Fair beer

SOME years ago Maurice "Michelin Man" Lovett, the cuddly but cunning PR manager for Bass Burton, observed that all White Shield drinkers sired daughters not sons. This might explain a recent finding by the Royal College of Physicians.

Following a survey which showed that butchers have 20 per cent more sons than daughters, the learned doctors have now discovered that brewery workers have 14 per cent more daughters than sons.

It is reckoned that the butchers eat more meat with male sex hormone in it. I hate to think what they are putting in our beer.

Bans read out

A FORMER army drill sergeant, Ken Pilling of Blackburn, is one of the increasing number of gay licensees who do not mind their customers knowing the fact. However, he took things a bit far when he started carrying out gay wedding ceremonies in the public bar. The brewery have now instructed Mr Pilling to confine these activities to his living quarters at The Wheat-sheaf — which is in Mincing Lane (honest).

Frog odd sake

THE White Hart in Debden, north Essex, is one of the decreasing band of village inns with a duckpond. But this particular duckpond lacks one vital ingredient — ducks.

Unperturbed, its owner George Pethers bought six brace of feathered fauna, only to incur the wrath of the Parish Council, who feared that the ducks would eat the pond's

goldfish. So then Mr P. bought 500 goldfish to help the stock.

"Shock! Horror!" cried the Council. "Don't you care about the fate of the Greater Crested Warty Newts who live in the pond? Your filthy -and-Countryside-Act-protected creatures."

Mr P. thought about this and concluded that as the goldfish were barely a quarter the size of the newts in question, the odds were stacked pretty much against them. In fact, he wondered if it was the newts that had frightened away the ducks in the first place.

Anyway, the storm in a pond ended amicably. The council told Mr P. that they would fine him £2,000 for every dead newt, and so he gave away the goldfish to a local farmer, who no doubt found them delicious.

Non-alcoholic

WEST COUNTRY drinkers whose passion becomes an addiction will be either heartened or dismayed to hear that Plymouth's local rehabilitation project for reforming alcoholics is based in Barbican Road.

Bud tempered

ANHEUSER Busch Inc. must be the most paranoid and aggressive brewing company in the world. No prey is too weak or defenceless for their legal eagles to devour.

The latest American target is a company called Spuds MacKenzie, clothes manufacturer. According to Anheuser, they pinched the mascot for the Budweiser Light brand — one

Spud the Dog — and reproduced him on items of clothing. This, they claim, is "unfair competition".

I agree. Brewing a vat of Spuds MacKenzie underpants and selling the drained liquid alongside pints of Bud Light would give drinkers an impossible choice.

Robbo's special

AT LAST, a designer beer for football supporters. For just 60p a can, Manchester United are relabelling a popular brand of lager in United colours and retailing it under the name of "Red Devil" in off-licences throughout Greater Manchester.

So the next time their drunk supporters wreck a train or go on the rampage through another town, the club will be able to pay the damage from the booze sales that caused it. Magic, eh?



LATE DRINKER

According to Dorset brewers, Eldridge Pope, this Ancient Briton "has spent the last 1,600 years in the car park" of the Trumpet Major in Dorchester. I know just how he feels. After six pints of Royal Oak you can never find your chariot.

Christmas Past

Every year, around this time, there is always talk of the likelihood of a white Christmas. Now I have known all sorts of Christmases in the past and most of them have involved considerable time spent in the village local, but to date there has only been one that could be called truly 'white', in the Dickensian sense that is.

It was in the early seventies, I can't remember the exact year but it was certainly a *Christmas to remember*.

Events started back in the October when a certain 'gentleman farmer' of the parish claimed that his latest race horse was a sure winner and tried to persuade the punters to back the nag when it ran at Folkestone the following week.

This caused much merriment amongst the party, which in turn caused glasses to be refilled, many times. The result of this was that the stoutest of the party present, six foot four and weighing in at eighteen stone, stated in the presence of witnesses that: "If *that* horse wins a race, then *I'll* run around the village square on Christmas Eve wearing a grass skirt". Even the owner was surprised when it won, he'd not even had the courage to back his own horse.

The scene shifts to Christmas Eve, the sky is lit by a full moon, surrounded by a halo of light, the stars are hidden behind a thin veil of high cloud and the mercury has retreated into the thermometer's bulb. Glasses of Christmas Ale, closely spaced, soon begin to warm up the party. Ten o'clock was to

be the time of the big event, it was now nine and in walks the abominable snowman. Outside the village has disappeared in the heaviest snowfall for many years.

There was no escape, the Salvation Army band were there, patiently waiting for the rare sight of a six foot four, eighteen stone, fifty five year old running around on the coldest, snowiest night of the year wearing a grass skirt.

Now I've never sat down in a grass skirt myself, in fact I've never stood up in a grass skirt either for that matter, or even worn such apparel but I can imagine the shock to the system of sitting down in several inches of snow, it becomes apparent why Eskimos seldom wear them.

All went well at first, it wasn't so much a run as an ungainly shuffle through the snow, which was getting heavier all the time. It was the intrepid runner's own dog that caused his downfall. Taking great exception to his master's unusual appearance, he leapt up and seized a mouthful of grass skirt, briefly hung on, before falling back to the ground. I can still see the entire spectacle in my mind, in slow motion action replay. First there was a howl, this was followed by an attempted run forward to escape, followed by a less than graceful slide of about two yards rounded off with feet going in opposite directions and the final descent to the sitting position in the middle of the Salvation Army band. They didn't miss a note.

The onlookers cheered, thinking it was all part of the entertainment.

The Salvation Army struck up with "Once In Royal David's City", the sensible among us repaired to the bar, the luckless runner repaired to the back room for repairs to his person.

I was set to go home shortly after this and a friend offered me a lift in his car. Outside the snow came down in ready-made snowballs and the temperature dropped even lower. I wasn't really surprised when the key failed to open the car door, it was obviously a frozen lock and I knew a *certain* way to defrost it. Back to the bar where I ordered a double scotch, dipped the key in and knocked back the rest, the alcohol would soon free the lock. It didn't. Back to the bar and try again. A couple of doubles later my friend decided that *he* wasn't going to stand there without a drink whilst *I* was drinking numerous glasses of scotch under the pretence of opening *his* car door!

We gave up on the car and joined the party until closing time, tottering home through the deepening snow.

Christmas Day dawned with a hangover, the rustling of the wrapping paper was like thunder crashing around in my head and the thought of the large breakfast, traditional in our house, made me feel distinctly less than festive.

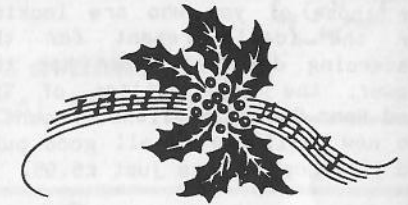
By midday I had revived enough to trudge through a foot of snow to the village, where, alone in the square was a large white mound, about the size of a Hillman Avenger.

In the cold light of Christmas morn it didn't take long to solve the problem of the frozen lock, you see

my friend had borrowed his wife's car that night but he had tried to get in with his own keys....

Given the right implement the lock worked immediately, without the application of any form of strong elixir, it was a pity that it was two days before it could be moved out of the snow drift.

The rest of that year's festive season went well, mostly spent in the pub, with Christmas ale being sipped by the side of a roaring fire and the steam rising gently from a dozen pairs of welly boots drying out in the hearth, I never did find out who dropped that sprig of holly in mine.



Pompey Royal

The recovery of Pompey Royal is gaining pace and is now available, or in some cases *re-available*, in the following further outlets:

Bricklayer's Arms, Swanmore.
Wheatsheaf Inn, Braishfield.
The Otter, Otterbourne.
The Canute, Southampton.

Pompey Royal is still under threat though, so why not help its survival and try a pint. We would like to hear of any other new outlets that we have overlooked.

GOOD BEER GUIDE

1988



For those of you who are looking for the ideal present for the discerning drinker, CAMRA has the answer, the 1988 edition of *The Good Beer Guide*, published recently and now available in all good pubs and bookshops, price just £5.95.

The "GBG" is still the *only* guide that keeps the reader up to date with over 5,000 pubs in Britain serving the best beer. Full information is given for each entry, listing all facilities available such as accommodation, food service, family rooms and of course details of all real ales offered.

In addition there is information on every brewery in the British Isles along with notes on all the beers brewed. This list includes the many new small local breweries and home-brew houses.

One important change in format for 1988 is with the maps. In previous editions the maps have been in a separate section in the back; this year there are individual maps with

each county section, which does make life easier when using the guide.

Along with the Good Beer Guide, we have also just published a little Christmas stocking filler "Two beers, my friend will pay..". This book, cover price £2.95, is a collection of beer and pub humour packed full of cartoons, anecdotes and both true and apochryphal stories.

Both the Good Beer Guide and Two Beers... are available post free from our offices in St. Albans:

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AL1 3BW

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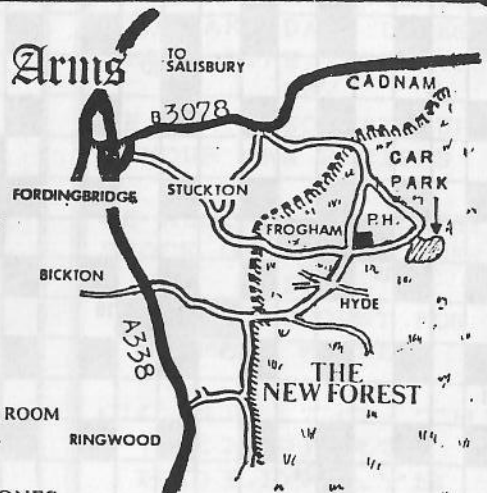
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"GOOD BEER GUIDES"

"AN OLD FOREST PUB FULL OF NOSTALGIA"

Xmas Xword

ACROSS

- 1 Add up, and a pound for the sum! (5)
 5 Exhaustively tests for a fashionable Scottish poet? (5,2)
 9 & 13 The just dessert (sic) for the season? (9,8)
 10 Fish about the first unlawfully removed. (5)
 11 Perhaps the next thing you'll buy... (1,5,2,6)
 12 Towards turmoil? Not I! (4)
 13 See 9.
 17 Require a swimmer for sewing (8)
 18 Great distance - a great distance indeed. (4)
 21 A 'doc' staying ill? Apparently he works like this. (14)
 23 Bathes topless to make a large plate. (5)
 24 Somehow I lose Scot but he isn't far away. (2,5,2)

- 25 Watch carefully, and almost finish the Sunday paper. (7)
 26 Relieves from striptease show. (5)

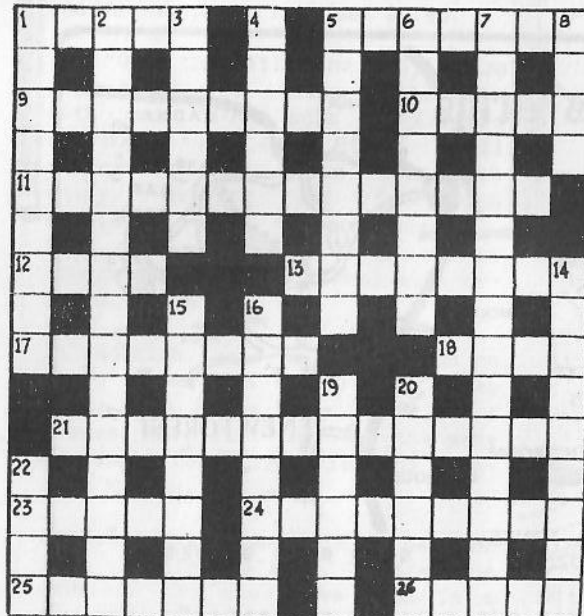
DOWN

- 1 Ancient language to chain strangely about a king. (9)
 2 Does one perform this illuminating act annually? (4,2,3,6)
 3 Not doing well, rolling in logs. (6)
 4 Company on the river - that's progress! (4,2)
 5 The big brewer's musical instrument? (4,4)
 6 Cuts off, and stirs ciders with poles. (8)
 7 Legs as small presents. (8,7)
 8 Lion rises up on the map at Christmas. (4)

- 14 Wandering animals remain'd right in taking beer measures. (5,4)
 15 One who steps down for the need of a smoker. (8)
 16 Endlessly lie in code, strangely restless. (8)
 19 Pieces of wood point to small insects. (6)
 20 Account for a few odd words at the start of the drama. (3,3)
 22 Portuguese resort is a long way to ring. (4)

Prizes will be awarded to the first two correct entries selected from the hat on February 1st. Entries to:

The Editor, Hop Press,
 105 Elder Close,
 Winchester.



Crossword Winners

With apologies for the delay, here are the winners of the last two Hop Press Prize Crosswords: Solution to the Crossword in our last edition:



- T. Cole 10 Seymour Rd., Ringwood.
 A.J. Siggery 19 Westfield Rd., Lymington.
 Mike Stretch 17A Salisbury St., Fordingbridge.
 R.G. Gulliver 1 Warren Cottages, Crawley, Winchester.

Congratulations to you all, bottles of Prize Old Ale are on their way. (Despite what we say in "Rip-off Corner"!!!)

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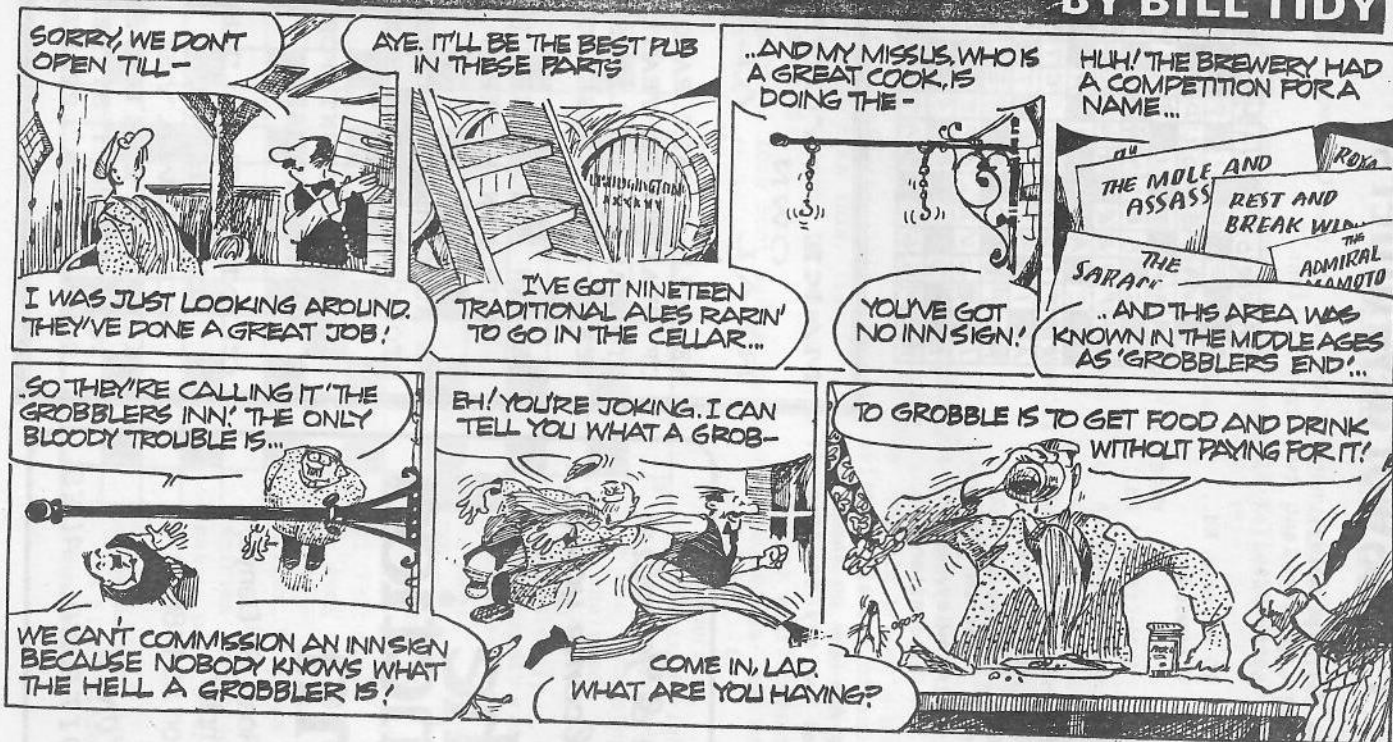
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BY BILL TIDY



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WEBSTERS YORKSHIRE BITTER GALES HSB

Pub News

Festive pub news starts out at Ovington where, despite objections from local residents, the Bush is to extend its restaurant and also add ten bedrooms. The bar will remain as it is now.

A former pub swap between Gale's and Eldridge Pope is to be reversed and the Riverside, at the bottom end of the High Street in Winchester, is to revert to Eldridge Pope; the pub is currently closed. The other half of this swap, the Greyhound at Cocking in Sussex is to be run by the ex-landlord of the Hampshire Bowman (near Bishop's Waltham). The Bowman, by the way, has re-opened. At the moment, although it is now a free house, it is still selling its original range of Gales beers.

Congratulations are due to Dave and Ruth Smith of the Cart and Horses at Kingsworthy who have won Marston's annual garden competition. This fine pub has all manner of features - skittles, children's room, restaurant etc. etc. but one that has vanished (to the pleasure of most, I'm sure) is the Juke Box - more congratulations to the licensees!

Not far away, at Weeke, the postman must be getting really confused. The Weeke Hotel / Blighty's / Chester's / Weeke Tavern is now Whitbread's latest Roast Inn, under the name 'Chimneys' (why?). This must be worthy of an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the number of name changes it has undergone in the last few years. Would anyone like to guess how long this one will last?

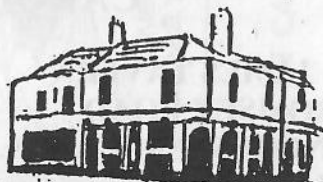
Down in Winchester's city centre there are a few changes to report in the local Courage pubs; Steve and Lyn Sankey are soon to leave the Rising Sun for the Exchange, from which the present licensees are transferring just out of town to the Marston's owned Plough at Itchen Abbas.

Still in Winchester we must apologise for our mistake in the last edition when we said that Jack Orrrell had taken over as landlord of the Olde Market Inn. In fact Jack has taken over from Mike Offer as President of the local LVA but

remains landlord of the Queen's Head at Fisher's Pond.

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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
Winchester Road



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POMPEY ROYAL GUEST BEER: WINTER ROYAL

RESTAURANT FOR MORNING COFFEES, LUNCHEONS
AND EVENING MEALS. ALSO HOT AND COLD SNACKS AT THE BAR

The
RISING SUN
HORTON HEATH

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STRONG COUNTRY BITTER...
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GOOD BEER GUIDE.

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TO
**YE OLDE
WHYTE
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• HAMBLE •
FULL RANGE OF
GALES ALES
AND
BAR SNACKS
TEL SOT'ON 452108

Speculation has finally ended over the future of the Brushmakers at Upham, the pub has been sold by Watneys and it is to re-open when essential repairs have been carried out to the somewhat crumbling fabric.

Down in Netley we extend a warm welcome to David and Lynda Trivett who are newly appointed managers of the Prince Consort

Over to the West, we belatedly welcome Mike Mills to the Fishermans at Woodside, near Lymington.

Staying in the town of Lymington, Ye Olde English Gentleman is closed for redevelopment, we await the results with much trepidation as since Devenish were taken over by the trendy Inn Leisure company some of their "conversions" have been a little less than wonderful. Lymington has also lost a real ale outlet at the Borough Arms which is now keg only, a temporary aberration we hope. This loss though is offset by a gain at Sway where the White Rose now serves Ringwood Best.

In Lyndhurst the parish council have asked Whitbread what their proposals are for the Fox and Hounds which is currently closed. New Forest Council's watchdog committee for West Totton are considering proposals to turn the 400 year old Hanger Farm into a pub and restaurant - let us hope that if it gets the go ahead the developers will take some care with a building of such age - a visit to the Hiltisbury Farm at Chandler's Ford might give them some warnings!

Southampton has three real ale gains: The Ship at Woolston now

offers Flowers Original, the Star Fortswood is selling Samuel Whitbread Strong Ale and the third gain is at Peggy Sue's, previously Friday's nightclub - it is now a disco/funpub but Courage Best Bitter and Director's are both on sale. There will be an admission charge on certain nights.

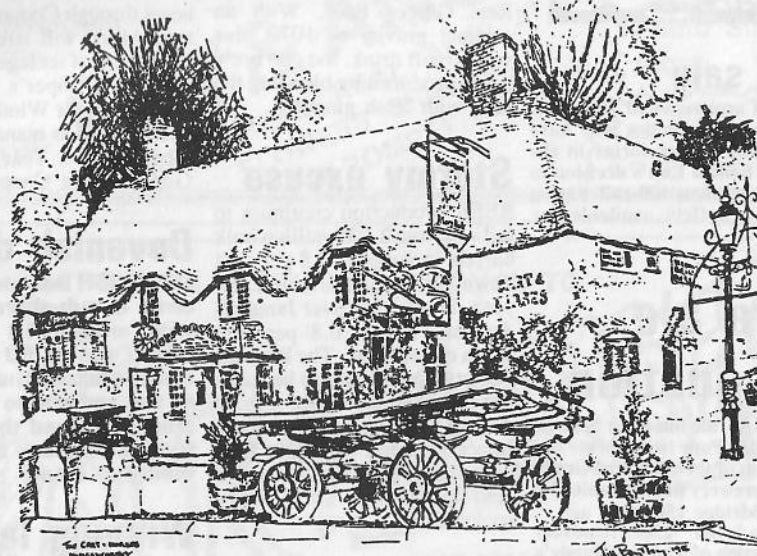
Still in the city centre another belated greeting goes out to Colin and Sue North at the Bay Tree, where the upstairs bar now has a service of Gale's BBE, HSB and 5X straight from the cask; there are weekly Blues sessions upstairs every Thursday. Another city pub that now offers live music is the Kingsland Tavern in St Mary St, recently re-opened after refurbishment.

Down by the water we welcome John and Gladys Page to the Sun, they previously ran a pub in Bristol; further along town quay, the Platform is open again selling Marston's Pedigree and BE.

Finally many of you may have noticed that the Painted Waggon behind the ABC Cinema is now Marco Polo's Mongolian restaurant, believe it or not this is not a one off, as several have been spotted all with the same decor and one would assume, the same menu. What do they eat in Mongolia? I really don't know and even Larousse Gastronomique fails to list that nation's culinary delights.

Late news Congratulations are due to Graham Jameson and his staff at the Wykham Arms in Winchester for being chosen by Egon Ronay as running Britain's Pub of the Year.

The Cart & Horses Inn



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3 LARGE CAR PARKS

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Quick Halves

Rail sale

MAJOR and regional breweries are among companies who have applied for tender forms in the wake of British Rail's decision to make more than 100 rail station bars and buffets available for letting.

Rare ale for auction

A SPECIAL ale has been brewed by Eldridge Pope to celebrate the foundation of their original Green Dragon brewery in Dorchester by Sarah Eldridge 150 years ago.

The ale is the "150th Anniversary" edition of Thomas Hardy's Ale, and it was matured in oak casks, rolled daily, and finally hand-bottled with a long full cork.

A very small quantity is available for sale through Huntsman wine shops at £5 per bottle, and Christie's will be auctioning three dozen bottles at their South Kensington Auction Rooms at 85 Old Brompton Road on December 7, for the National Theatre Trust.

Ginger beer

WILTSHIRE Brewery of Tisbury, near Salisbury, launched an unusual cask beer at the Great Western Beer Festival in Bristol last month — Stonehenge Real Ginger Beer. With an original gravity of 1070, this was no soft drink, the odd brew being produced by blending the malt with fresh ginger.

Stormy excuse

BEER production continues to fall — it was 2.935 million bulk barrels in August, 1.8 per cent down on the same month last year. Production over January-August 1987 is 0.8 per cent down on last year. The Brewers Society now appear to be running out of excuses too: "In an August that had a tornado in Lancashire and overnight frost in several areas, beer production held-up relatively well," said a spokesman.

Heads win

TWO landlords were cleared of serving short measure by Wolverhampton Magistrates last month, when drinkers went to court to say they liked their pints with a head. The two pubs were M+B's Halfway House and Summerhouse in Wolverhampton.

Gibbs link

SALISBURY independent. Gibbs Mew have acquired a 50% stake in Allied's wholesaling subsidiary, Coopers of Wessex. Gibbs will now sell its beers through Coopers, while in turn Allied will strengthen the marketing of its lagers in Gibbs houses. Cooper's managing director, Peter Wintle, joins the Gibbs board as managing director in the New Year, with Peter Gibbs joining Cooper's board.

Devenish deal

DEVENISH last month launched a pub-share scheme with around 13 landlords taking out a 50 per cent equity stake in their pubs — at the same time as Elders quietly shelved their much-trumpeted plans to spin off their pub estate.

Winning labels

THE new "Newquay" range of bottle labels from the Cornish Brewery Co have scooped the best set award from the Labologists Society. Runner-up was the set of Charles Wells of Bedford, with Belhaven Brewery third. Bulldog from Courage took the best individual title. Best commemorative label was Christmas Old Ale from the Heritage Brewery, Burton.

Roger & Karen
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BEER
GUIDE

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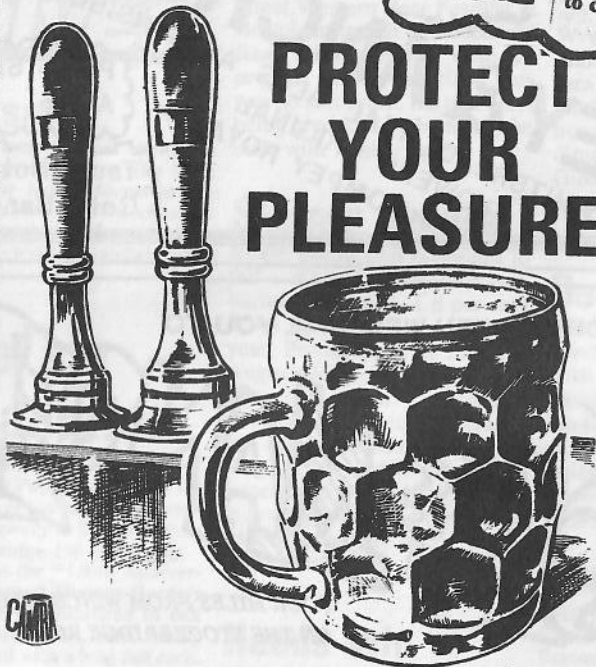
17th Century Village Inn
Car Park & Beer Garden



MARSTON'S Traditional Ale

Diary offer
 NEW members who join CAMRA this month will get a Beer Drinkers Diary for just £1 if they send £10 to cover their membership fee.

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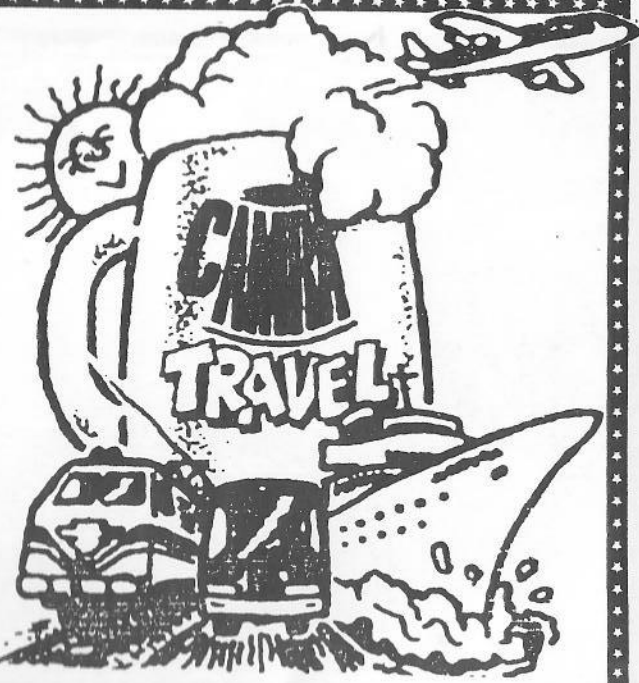
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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £9 (£12 if overseas).

Signed Date



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	Approx Cost
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MARCH 11-18: PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA – 7 nights. A further tour to this popular venue. Visit Breweries in Trebon, Krusovice and Prague.	£330
APRIL 8-10: "BLACK COUNTRY WEEKEND" – 2 nights. A Real Ale Weekend.	£60
MAY 6-12: CHANNEL ISLAND TOUR – 6 nights. A visit to Guernsey and its breweries in the Spring.	£140
JUNE 15-19: CAMRA CLASSIC COACH TOUR – 4 nights. Tour combines visits to Ridleys Brewery, Batemans, Classic Pubs and the Black Country.	£120
JULY 12-17: DUBLIN AND CORK, EIRE – 5 nights. This will be the third annual tour to Ireland visiting Guinness, Beamish and Murphys breweries.	£160
AUG 11-14: LANCS AND CUMBRIA TOUR – 3 nights. The Lake District is your base for this Real Ale Trip.	£65
SEPT 27-OCT 1: MUNICH OKTOBERFEST – 4 nights.	£125
OCT 28-30: DUTCH BOK BEER FESTIVAL – 2 nights. A beer festival in the heart of Amsterdam.	£75
OCT 8-15: HUNGARIAN TOUR – 7 nights. A beer and wine trip.	£330

If you like to receive further details please contact Mr J. Dixon, CAMRA TRAVEL, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW.



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