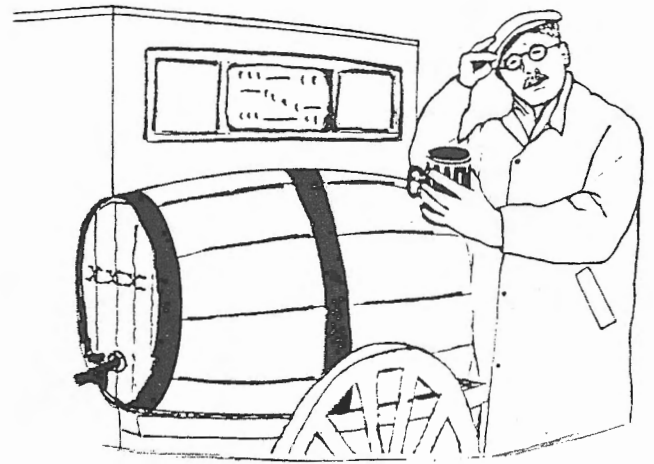




CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Branch



Barrel Organ

WINTER ISSUE

The Good Beer Guide 1996

So the 1996 GBG has hit the streets, and because of the long press time the decisions for inclusion in the 1997 Guide are now being made. It is a democratic decision amongst active branch members as to which pubs should be included and every year the decisions get harder. When you discover your favourite pub has not been included please remember the following facts.

It is a Beer Guide not a Pub Guide.

The Salisbury & South Wilts Branch area contains over 170 pubs but we have only 17 entries in the GBG – we cannot include all of the excellent pubs out there.

We try to visit all of the pubs but there are not enough active members to manage regular visits to them all.

We do listen to what people say – if you send your comments to CAMRA HQ via the recommendations form in the GBG we will get them – eventually. If you are a CAMRA member and want to have your say in the GBG selection come along to the meetings or at least contact us.

It's a sign of Good Beer to be in the Guide *not* a sign of bad beer to be out of it.

About those Hand Pumps

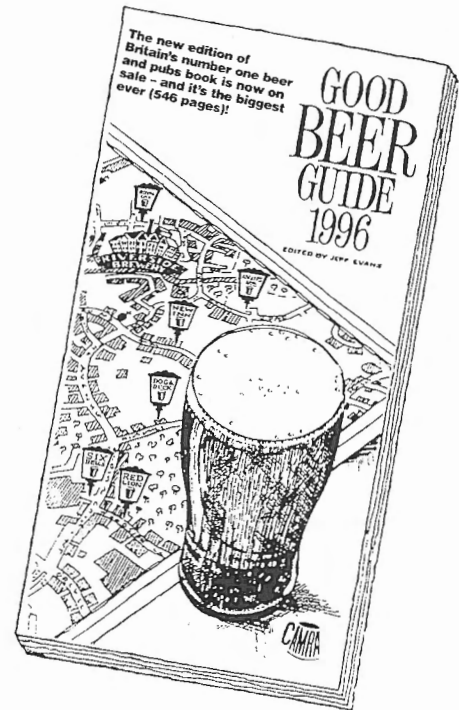
The Good Beer Guide 1996 is now available and its publication has caused a bit of a stir in CAMRA circles. The reason being the enforcement of CAMRA policy to exclude pubs with Keg beers or Ciders on 'misleading dispense' from the GBG. The upshot of this is that a number of pubs which branches recommended for the BEER Guide have been removed because they sell Scrumpy Jack keg cider from a large tap which, it is claimed, looks like a hand pump.

I don't intend to present a view on this, just look into the arguments around this bit of CAMRA policy.

One side says It s a Good Beer Guide and cider dispense should have no bearing on it at all. If a pub either serves Real Cider or has a keg cider on a false hand pump this should be noted in its entry but not influence its inclusion in or exclusion from the Guide. When it is keg beer under discussion this argument splits into those who think keg beer is irrelevant to the Good Beer Guide and those who accept that the argument of misleading dispense is stronger in these cases. I have been fooled by this one with the 'Brewery Conditioned' warning on the pump clip in very small print and the keg 'hand pump' being identical in appearance to, and forming part of, the row of cask hand pumps.

The current CAMRA policy argues that Real Ale and Real Cider are both part of the maintaining traditional drinking aim of CAMRA. Although the GBG is specifically Beer oriented anyone who is prepared to mislead their customers by using a false hand pump for keg products does not fully endorse the 'quality drinking experience' which Good Real Ale is a part of. Allowing false hand pumps on either keg cider or Beer is the thin end of the wedge and could lead to the loss of Real Ale.

Many CAMRA members feel that nationally CAMRA should set guidelines but that local branches should have the final say in this matter as they know the pubs and the landlords. What do you think? If you have any views why not let us know.



Prize Winning Beers

The presentations for the winning beers from the 1995 Salisbury Beerex have all been made. As announced earlier, the winners were: Rooster's Yankee, and Hopback's GFB and Summer Lightning.

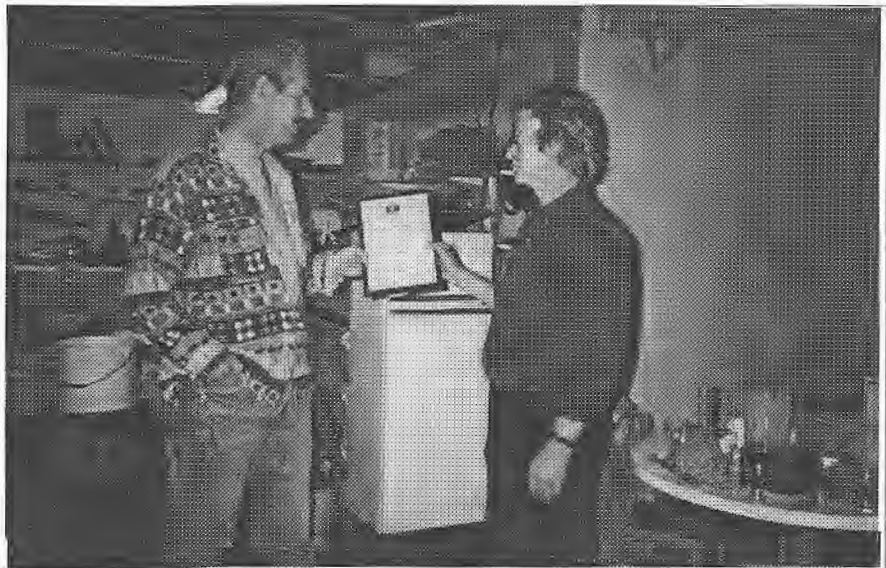
September saw members of the branch travelling to Yorkshire for the presentation to Rooster's in Harrogate. The Good Beer Guide and the B&B landlord suggested a tour of the York pubs on the Friday evening including a visit to the Blue Bell – recently awarded Pub of the Year by both the Yorkshire Evening Press and the local CAMRA branch. The range of beers available in the city was impressive including Timothy Taylors, Samuel Smiths, Mansfield, Vaux and Theakstons.

Since last years visit Rooster's have produced a number of different beers including a series of monthly specials from the Pioneer Brewing Company. Of the beers tasted on this visit the Special was the favourite. Following the presentation, we headed for Tap & Spile for some Jennings – which was excellent. On return to York we settled in the Maltings for some Hopback Entire Stout, shame it wasn't coals to Newcastle.

November about 12 of us visited the Hopback Brewery in Downton to see what changes had been made since our last visit exactly 1 year earlier. Even with the expansion into several units, the installation of the new 40 barrel line has not left a lot of space around.

We were joined by North Hants Branch for a joint presentation of 4 certificates and a chat with the brewer about future brewing plans. The bottling of the Wheat Beer, the availability of Summer Lightning in America and the contract brewing for Weatherspoons. A number of beers were consumed although the youngest visitor abstained – maybe 5 days is a bit soon for beer if not breweries!

LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
 FULL PINTS



Sean Franklin (left) of Rooster's Brewery, Harrogate, Yorkshire – receiving his award from local Chairman (Salisbury & S. Wilts Branch) for Best Beer in its class at the '95 Salisbury Beerex.



Loads of excellent ale available, with yours truly supp'in Jennings! Other beers available here at the Malt Shovel included Black Sheep, Hogs Back T.E.A., Enville Ale, Longstone Bitter, Entire Stout, Lurcher and Sheriff of York.



Hop Back Brewery marches on with 4 more Best Beer awards – Head Brewer Rick Lyall (centre) receiving award for Best Beer – Wheat Beer at Andover Beerex (1995) and 3 awards from Salisbury Beerex (1995) – GFB Best Beer in its class; Summer Lightning, Best Strong Beer and Champion Beer.

Overton Beer Festival

This year the Overton Festival was on 21st October and was billed as a Trafalgar Day Celebration – 'A Great Excuse to Hold a Beer Festival'. The beers were chosen accordingly and included Bateman's Victory Ale and Nelsons Revenge from Woodforde's, the brewery closest to Nelsons birthplace. Three beers from the Flagship Brewery in Chatham Dockyard were present including Nelson's Blood (6.0 ABV) brewed specially for Trafalgar Day.

Eleven members of the branch attended the festival for an evening of Beer, Burgers and Original Gravity. The range of beers was particularly noted for its balance of strengths and number of dark beers.

Congratulations once again North Hants!

When Bitter was Bitter

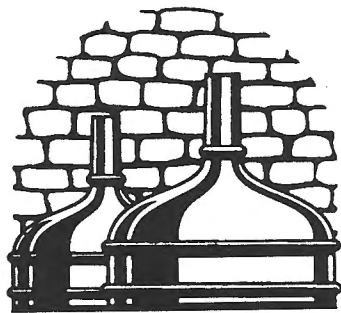
There was a time when beer was Bloggs bitter or Bloggs mild. Names such as Best Bitter, Special Bitter etc were also acceptable. Gradually as breweries have increased their range of different beers they have had to vary the names and beers are being named after brewers, ingredients, cars, babies and places. Breweries naming their beers along a theme is also quite common, Nautical Breweries, Agricultural Breweries and Railway Breweries all exist.

But there is now a new development – beer names to attract name collectors and sell well at festivals. At the Chappel festival this year I could have had a Knickerdroppa Glory, Agent Orange or even a Blow Job, the latter sold 18 gallons in 90 minutes (1 pint each 40 seconds)!

Is this good or bad for beer drinkers? Certainly some of the names are ingenious and you never know what they will come up with next. Also the demand for new names shows a demand for more brews – not the same as more beer – and encourages brewers to experiment with different recipes. A lot of them are monthly specials which never reappear although new classics do develop from these experimentations keeping beer choice alive and well. Personally, so long as this vast number of beers with crazy names does not mean the demise of good solid favourites and so long as beers are brewed to try out different recipes not to try out another name it can only be good for the future of Real Ale. Sadly I did not get a Blow Job and had to make do with a Wild Session and some Wild Oats.

Clash of the Titans!

J is for January and by the time the next J arrives it will be Salisbury Beerex time – on the 13th, 14th and 15th of June at the Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, immediately after the Salisbury Festival. This clashes with the football (European Cup) England versus Scotland is on the Saturday midday session. So will we have lots of spare tickets?



Brewery and Pub News

Whitbread have apologised to Bunces Brewery for their use of the name Old Smokey for a seasonal brew. They apparently looked at registered beer names only – Bunces did not register the name – but have promised to research more thoroughly in future. Gales have complained to Bunces about the name Gale Force Five – Bunces brew containing the herb sweet gale. Bunces are to rename the beer StigsWick next year. The Ship Inn at Burcombe has changed hands.

Congratulations

Are in order to the landlord/ladies of the following 17 pubs, to being in the 1986 *Good Beer Guide* (Salisbury & South Wiltshire area). City pubs, *Avon Brewery* (Eldridge Pope), *Deacon Alms* (Freehouse), *Royal George* (Gibbs Mew), *Village* (Free) and *Wyndham Arms* (Hopback). Country pubs include: *Bear* (Hall & Woodhouse), *Bell* (Free) Wilton; *Crown* (Gibbs Mew) Tisbury; *Fox & Hounds* (Free) The Green, East Knoyle; *George* (Free) Shrewton; *Horseshoe* (Free) Ebbesbourne Wake; *Lions Head* (Free) Winterslow; *Parish Lantern* (Free) Whiteparish; *Pelican Inn* (Free) Stapleford; *Swan* (Free) Enford; *Talbot* (Free) Berwick St. John and the *Wheatsheaf Inn* (Free) Figheldean.



Wiltshire Guide

You may have spotted some unusual behaviour from CAMRA members during the summer – flitting into pubs and asking such questions as ‘Do you have a garden?’ and ‘Are there childrens games in it?’ Well, the reason for this frenetic activity has surfaced (roll of drums) we bring you (Fanfare of trumpets) **WILTSHIRE THE NEW PUB GUIDE**.

This informative publication was compiled by the five CAMRA branches in Wiltshire and was launched at the end of October at the Swindon Beerex. Every public house in the county was surveyed and all are listed with details of their range of Real Ales and Real Ciders – correct at presstime!

The Guide is not just a pub list or even a beer list. It also tells you about the opening hours, phone number, food, car park, disabled access, garden, pub games, garden games as well as those essential trivia like ‘It used to be a brothel’.

If you are planning a quiet meal in a country hostelry or a serious crawl around town; whether you want to drink your way from Adnam’s to Wylve Valley; try Gibbs Mew in Devizes and Wadworths in Salisbury or Hopback any/where; if you want to impress your friends by taking them to all the ex-brothels this is the book for you.

‘Tell me more’ – here you say.

‘Where can I get this great work?’

‘How have I survived this long without one?’

They are available in a number of local pubs, should soon be seen in local book shops and Tourist Information Centre, Fish Row, or you can contact a member of CAMRA. They only cost 2.95 but could change your life – without one you probably won’t find the Sprat & Carrot.

Yer Tiz snaw!

WILTSHIRE
The new pub guide

FULLY ILLUSTRATED
OVER 750 PUBS DESCRIBED

still
only

HAND PULLED ALES



£2.95



Produced by the Wiltshire Branches of
CAMRA the Campaign for Real Ale

on sale yer....aaaaahhhhh

Pubs open all day Sundays

Bird in Hand
Bishops Mill
Boat House
Devizes Inn
Fisherton Arms
Star
The Wilton
Victoria
Village
Wyndham Arms

What's on

Jan 20 (Sat) Coach to Cuckoo Inn – Hampworth, depart Boat House Coach Station 7.30
Feb 20 (Sat) Pork Pie Cup (Darts) v Wyndham Arms, start 8.00
March 2 (Sat) Gosport Winterfest, by train
March 27 (Wed) AGM, Village 8.30
April Annual Hop Back World Tour by train

Branch Contact

For further details of all events within this newsletter please contact Mike Bird on Salisbury 333839.

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s)

Address

Postcode.....

Signature Date

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

| | Individual Annual | Joint Annual | Individual Life | Joint Life |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| UK and EEC | £12 <input type="checkbox"/> | £14 <input type="checkbox"/> | £120 <input type="checkbox"/> | £140 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rest of the World | £16 <input type="checkbox"/> | £18 <input type="checkbox"/> | £160 <input type="checkbox"/> | £180 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student/Unwaged | £6 <input type="checkbox"/> | £7 <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Disabled | £6 <input type="checkbox"/> | £7 <input type="checkbox"/> | £60 <input type="checkbox"/> | £70 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Retired | £6 <input type="checkbox"/> | £7 <input type="checkbox"/> | £60 <input type="checkbox"/> | £70 <input type="checkbox"/> |

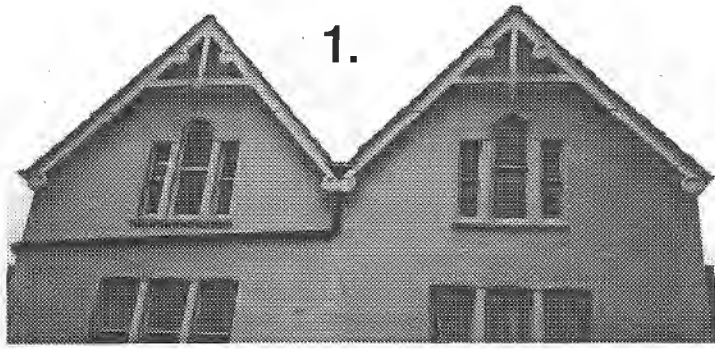
Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd., 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts., AL1 3BW

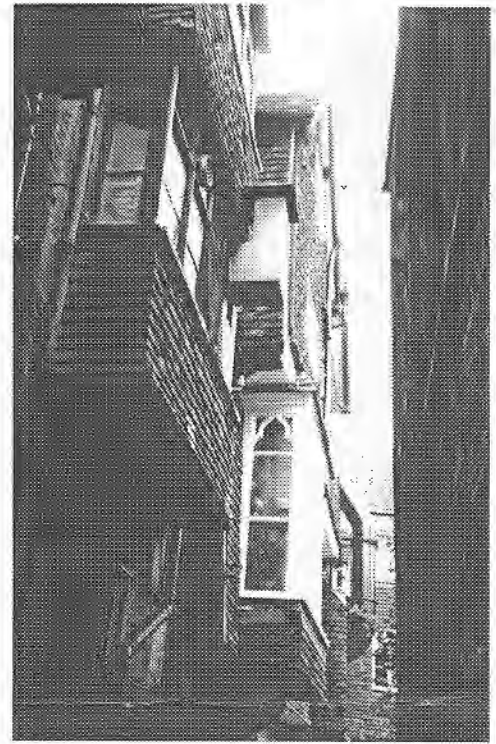


1. Devizes Inn
2. Haunch of Venison
3. Royal Oak
4. Coach and Horses
5. Chough
6. Anchor
7. Butt of Ale
8. Rose and Crown
9. Old Castle Inn
10. Tom Browns
11. Crown and Anchor
12. Village
13. Cross Keys (Fovant)
14. Grey Fisher

Pub Answers



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4.



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6.

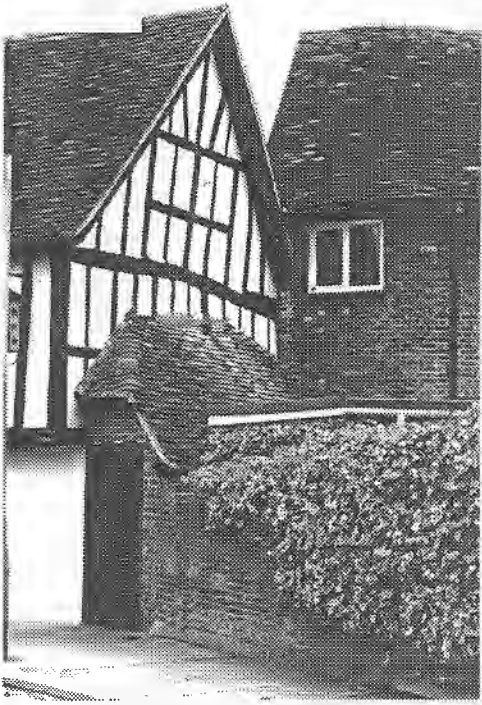


**Name these
city and
country pubs**

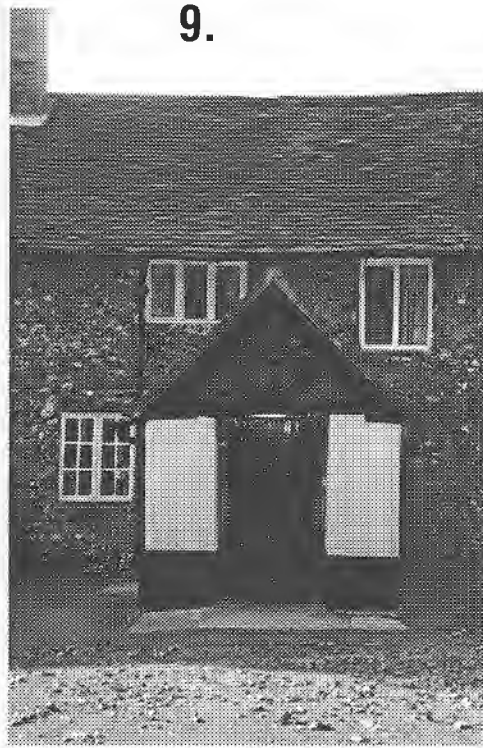


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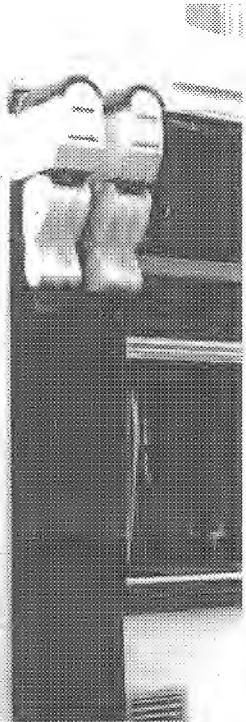
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