

# BARREL



# ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

Summer 2000

Circulation 1200

FREE Newsletter

## Let the Blackbird Sing

Last issue we carried the news that the Blackbird pub on Churchfields Rd. Salisbury had shut and we hoped that the new owner would continue with it as the excellent pub it was. Sadly, as many of you know, that is not the case and it seems that the Blackbird has sung its last song.

To bring you up to date:

28 February 2000 – final call of the Blackbird in the ownership of Joe and Audrey Leonard.

March 2000 - New song looking doubtful as the new owners, a Property Developer from Cambridge, apply for planning permission to convert it into three dwellings (nests). Presumably it would have taken the name “Blackbird Caught”.



March/April 2000 - Warning calls to the planners as many people write letters of objection to the planning office and the local councillor Beryl Jay is informed of CAMRA's concerns.

18 April 2000 - A call of delight as news is received that, for several reasons, the planners have refused planning permission.

And that, you may think, is where we are now, awaiting further planning applications from the developers. However, in this **Barrel Organ Exclusive** we can reveal that it is

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Come Inside For:

News and views on breweries, pubs, festivals, trips

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Pub regularly selling short measures?- Contact Wiltshire Trading Standards  
50 Bedwin St Salisbury (01722) 328367

**For your information :**

At present, Barrel Organ is published quarterly, entirely by volunteers. It is distributed free to nearly 200 pubs, clubs and other institutions in the area. If you wish to receive copies, or place advertisements, contact the editor. (A small charge may be made for postal deliveries).

We would love to have articles, news, comments, puzzle entries etc., from you.\*  
Please send to :

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e-mail [barrel.organ@salisburycamra.org.uk](mailto:barrel.organ@salisburycamra.org.uk)

\* The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions

For other CAMRA business :

Branch Contact is:  
Mike Bird, Branch Secretary  
01722 333839

The branch meets on the first Wednesday of each month in one of the local pubs. Details of the venues are available from the branch contact or through the branch web site at [www.salisburycamra.org.uk](http://www.salisburycamra.org.uk)

Our great thanks to all of the advertisers, it is their contributions which make the publication of this newsletter possible.

(Continued from page 1)

not only CAMRA who believe the Blackbird is a viable pub business. We have been contacted by a representative of someone who wants to buy the Blackbird and run it as a pub featuring a good selection of Real Ales. They are so convinced that it is the pub they want that they have contacted the developers and offered to buy the pub from them for more than they had paid for it. To date that offer has not been accepted but we are hopeful that we will hear The Blackbird sing once more.

The campaign is not over yet, we may again have to write to the planners or lobby the council. We need to be ready to launch a big campaign, in case it is needed, and if you want CAMRA to keep you informed of when to write, what to write and who to write it to, you can register with us now by sending your name and address to “Let the Blackbird Sing”, CAMRA, New House, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury SP2 7JG.

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### **Crowned Again!** by Richard Godwin

The Crown at Orcheston held its second Beer Festival over May Bank Holiday. It was well supported by local people and by two separate motorbike owners' clubs camping on the adjacent site, as well as visitors from afar who had read the advertisement in the previous issue of *Barrel Organ*. The *Panther* and *Honda* owners thoroughly enjoyed the warm spring weather, talking themselves hoarse about their favourite subject and restoring their throats with copious amounts of real ales. They enjoyed themselves so much that they hardly noticed that one of the bands had failed to turn up!

Landlord Derek Harnett reported that the festival was a great success, selling even more beer than the first year, and it has encouraged him to make it an annual event. He extended the beer choices this year, having Adnam's *Extra* and *Broadside*, Bass *Best Bitter*, Butcombe *Bitter*, Hall & Woodhouse *Badger Best* and *Tanglefoot*, Wadworth's *6x*, *Henry's IPA*, *Easter Ale* and the renowned *Farmer's Glory* which was voted the champion beer simply because it was the first to sell out!

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### **Told ya so!**

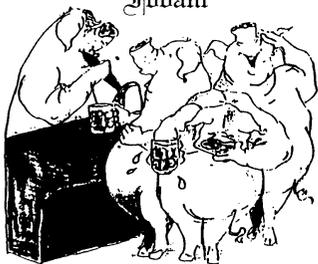
Just a few months ago Eldridge Pope opened their flagship pub in Salisbury. We were astounded to hear that this brand new venture was to be *tastefully* named the “Slurping Toad”. We wrote to Eldridge Pope and suggested that this name may not be in keeping with its surroundings. Their reply explained that the name reflected the chain of similar successful pubs and they were not interested in renaming it. So what, may I ask, is the Corn Market Inn doing where the Slurping Toad used to be? Could the banner advertising accommodation have something to do with it? Imagine the tourist thumbing the guide to hotels in the beautiful Cathedral city of New Sarum. Would he stay in the “Slurping Toad”? I think not! Thanks for the new name, Mr Pope.

## **Salisbury and South Wiltshire Pub Guide Update**

The pub business is an ever changing one with places opening, closing and changing hands. Here are some changes to pubs in the guide which we know about. If you know of others please let us know.

**Blackbird**, Churchfields Rd, Salisbury page 51 - Closed

**Pembroke Arms**  
Fovant



# Annual Beer Festival

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> & Sun 13<sup>th</sup>

Ringwood Archers Hop Back Moles  
Fullers... and more

Food all day!  
Large beer garden

In the Marquee...Live entertainment from:

**The hilarious Somerset Racing Pigs!**

**The fabulous Mike Vickers**

**The Irish group Murphy's Law**

Bus service to be announced

## Don't miss it

The Pembroke Arms  
Fovant  
Tel: 01722 714201

## Headache cure available... by Richard Godwin

Been to a beer festival recently? Woke up the morning after with three things: a headache, a commemorative glass, and a piece of paper saying 'CAMRA temporary membership'? Well, it could be worse...you could have joined the Foreign Legion. So what happens now?

How do you cope with your new status symbol of CAMRA membership? Here are a couple of options:

- 1) Hide under the duvet. Do nothing. You'll receive a lively entertaining monthly newspaper, and you may get other benefits when attending other beer festivals.
- 2) Come out of the (beer) closet, rediscover your lost youth, be a wow with the opposite (or same!) sex, gain hair on your chest – How? Become an enthusiastic active member, getting out of it more than you think. There are, as ever, the humdrum jobs of course, including leaflet deliveries (and sampling each pub's beers), *Barrel Organ* delivery (and sampling each pub's beers), surveys for the *Good Beer Guide* (and sampling each pub's beers), or the exciting branch social activities such as pub crawls (and sampling each pub's beers), brewery visits (and sampling each brewery's beers) – but you already enjoy doing all this, don't you?

So, now you can add to this, the stress, hard sweat and argument that goes with working at two beer festivals (and – you've guessed it - sampling each festival's beers) and then there are the jobs for those of you with masochistic tendencies, or just plain ego-trippers, such as serving on the committee, writing articles for this journal,

### The Cuckoo Inn



**The Cuckoo Inn** at Hamptworth is a warm, friendly and traditional pub run by the Proudley family.

Situated just to the north of the New Forest boundary accessible from the A36 at Landford.

It is well known for providing a good selection of beers, i.e Hopback, Pots etc..., all served straight from the barrel. The Cuckoo also

serves excellent food and snacks.

Children and dogs are welcome and can be accommodated within the enclosed garden that surrounds this pleasant English pub.

*Private garden with barbecue and Petanque terrains available by arrangement.  
Large and small private functions can be catered for at your choice of venue.*

**Hamptworth, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2DU**

**Tel: 01794 390302**

***Salisbury CAMRA's Pub of the Year 1999***

Marion and Chris Pitcher  
welcome you to



STAPLEFORD, SALISBURY  
Telephone: 01722 790241

*Old, friendly, comfortable pub with warming inglenook and staff.  
Excellent value for money. Special offers on pitcher of ale  
Otter and Ringwood Ales served regularly + weekly guests*

Home-cooked foods  
\*\*\*

Traditional Real  
Ales  
\*\*\*

Large garden  
good childrens play  
area  
\*\*\*

Families welcome  
Special childrens  
menu  
\*\*\*

lobbying MP's etc.. Alternatively, you can join one of CAMRA's Tasting Panels, whose job it is to try everyone's beer!

Of course, you don't have to do it all. Not yet, anyway. After all, the free training takes five minutes. But if you feel that something in your life is missing, we could do with a little help. The easiest way to get volunteered is to come along to the next branch meeting (as advertised in *What's Brewing* or the diary in this magazine).

If this is difficult, contact one of the branch officers on:

\*01722 333839 (Secretary and Treasurer)

\*01722 331134 (Chair)

\*01722 328949 (Vice Chair and Membership Secretary)

Your first steps to a new lifestyle...

.... and the pig got up and quietly walked away.

## **Mine was Mild – was yours?** by Hilary Bird

May is Mild Month when CAMRA members up and down the country try to encourage their local pubs to offer a mild for sale. Of course we are pleased to see mild available at all times of the year but in May it is the focus of the campaign. As an ale style mild has suffered a lot of bad press in the past as it was thought to be, and in some cases was, the destination for all the slops. If you had visited a select few Salisbury pubs in May you would have found mild putting that and other reputations behind it and going down necks as if it was going out of fashion.

The mild attractions we know of were:

Deacons – Fisherton Street had a very tasty Sussex XX Mild which at 3% ABV meant you could drink several and still walk straight. Verdict – it may only be 3% but the roasted malt taste lingered nicely all the way home.

Wyndham Arms – Estcourt Rd had Hop Back Mild which I'm told was pleasantly malty slipped down well and was so popular it soon ran out. Verdict – I should have got there before it ran out. Eddy, BREW SOME MORE!!!

The Village Freehouse – Wilton Rd really excelled with one mild after another. Sarah Hughes Original Dark Ruby is 6% ABV but slips down as if it is about 4%. There are definitely hints of liquorice and even mint in amongst all the flavours. Verdict – dangerously drinkable but well worth the risk.

Dale Bottom Dark from Briscoe's of Otley proved so popular it was sold in 48 hours. It was the first brew from the newly moved and expanded brewery and if anything, improved with the larger brewing batch. Verdict – a balanced 4.3% ABV, malty but clean tasting.

St Austell XXXX Mild which a few years ago was a regular in the pub. It used to be quite sweet but now is drier and the roasted malt flavours seem stronger. Verdict – definitely improved.

Shefford Mild from what was known as B & T but now trades as the Shefford Brewery had some of my favourite roast flavours without the nuttiness that I know some people don't enjoy. This was even more popular than the Dale Bottom Dark and only lasted 24 hours. Verdict – I know this was supplied through Tisbury Brewery, ask Ron for some more.

Cain's Dark Mild, very dry and very very very dark - almost black and malty. Verdict – I always enjoy this one.

Pressed Rat and Warthog from Triple FFF was still in the cellar when this article was written. I like this one, it'll be worth waiting for. Verdict – go to the pub and wait for it.

Apologies to any we missed, please let us know.



The Old Mill  
Netheravon  
(01980) 670631

### Regular Beers

Benchmark 3.5% ABV  
Pigswill 4.0% ABV  
Best Bitter 4.1% ABV  
Old Smokey 5.0% ABV  
Danish Dynamite 5.0% ABV  
Great Dane (Real Lager) 5.0% ABV

### Seasonal Beers

Sign of Spring 4.6% ABV  
(March - May)  
Second to None 4.6% ABV  
(June - August)  
Stig Swig 5.0% ABV  
(Sept. - Nov.)  
Rudolph 5.0% ABV  
(December - January)

# THE DEVIZES INN

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HOPBACK GFB & SUMMER LIGHTNING

GUEST BEERS & EXTENSIVE WINE LIST

EN SUITE B & B K TOURIST BOARD APPROVED

DISCOUNT TO CAMRA MEMBERS

OUTSIDE BARS c FUNCTION ROOM

## **Travels with my Guide?** by Hilary Bird

When you arrive at Kings Cross at four in the afternoon and don't need to be back in Salisbury 'til late what should you do?

Last time this happened we took the opportunity to be guided across London by the Good Beer Guide. It takes longer than the tube but is much more fun.

From Kings Cross we headed down Grey's Inn Road to the Calthorpe Arms, a corner local owned by Youngs. Both the Bitter and Special were top notch and although a locals' pub the atmosphere was friendly.

Next stop was the Lamb in Lamb's Conduit Street, handy for Great Ormond St Hospital and the alien registration bureau. Another Youngs' pub with equally good Bitter and Special. This is a grade II listed Victorian pub with an amazing etched glass snob screen around the bar. To see the barman you need to look through the top window of the screen.

From there we went down to Holborn and found the Cittie of York, a Sam Smith's pub with Old Brewery Bitter at the same price as you'd expect to pay in the City of York. As well as the nice price, the beer was as good as I remember it from my student days in York and more recent visits there. This is one of the CAMRA heritage pubs which is a list of pubs with original unspoiled features. In the back there is a very long bar, an enormous triangular stove and a set of panelled compartments for that extra privacy.

Finally we visited another of the heritage pubs, the Lamb and Flag in Rose Street. This is thought to be the oldest pub in Covent Garden and once was called the Bucket of Blood because of its prize fighting. It is a basic pub with a fairly narrow bar area and it was very busy at 7 o'clock on a Saturday night in Covent Garden. We had Barnsley Bitter and Marston's Pedigree both of which were very good and I always say a good pint of Pedigree shows the beer is well kept.

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## **Tisbury on the move and in the pub** by Hilary Bird

Tisbury brewery have had a busy year so far, they have won awards, moved and entered the pub trade.

Bottled Fanfare, Stonehenge and Real Nut Ale were Gold, Silver and Bronze in their classes at the Off Licence News competition. Cask Nadderjack won its class and was reserve show champion and bottled Stonehenge won a Silver medal at the SIBA Beer festival.

After five years in the old Becketts brewery building in the heart of Tisbury, Tisbury Brewery has moved to larger, more modern premises just north of Dinton on the Wylye road. The old building was expensive to run and didn't allow the increase in production needed to meet the demand for beers. The new one, on the site of a former chicken farm and WWII US Army barracks will allow production to double. When I visited the new brewery several brews were sealed safely in their fermenters while the

next phase of the building work, cutting the drainage channels in the floor, was being done. Most of the equipment was moved from Tisbury but looked a lot smaller in its new home than it had before. There is a new, specially built mash tun and a few other new items are planned. There is still a lot of work to be done but when it is finished it will be a modern brewery to be proud of and well worth a visit.

As for the beer? I've had a few from the new brewery and they are at least as good as they were. Mind you I agree with Ron – I think the Archibald Beckett is better for the move.

As well as moving the brewery, Tisbury Taverns has been established with the lease of the Cornubia in Bristol. Near the fire station and the former Courage Brewery it is on my list of "things to do in Bristol". Following the refusal of planning permission for the Wyndham Arms in Dinton to be demolished for housing, Tisbury Taverns have made it their second tied house as a community pub with an emphasis on their real ales.



## CAMRA's *Aims*

We aim to



*maintain consumer rights*



*promote quality, choice  
and value for money*



*support the public house*



*and campaign for greater  
appreciation of traditional  
beers, ciders and perries*

We welcome new members! Why not join?

CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, AL1 4LW  
Tel: 01727 867201 Fax: 01727 867670  
E-mail: [camra@camra.org.uk](mailto:camra@camra.org.uk)

### Why isn't your name **HERE ?**

Advertise in Barrel Organ, get  
your name known and support  
CAMRA.

Contact Ian Turner  
01722 331134

1/4 page £10, 1/2 page £18,  
full page £35 per edition. Back  
cover £70

**Discount** for booking more than  
one edition at a time.

## **Death throes of King & Barnes** by Richard Godwin

Sussex brewer King and Barnes became the latest victim of the recent spate of take-overs and brewery closures, when the shareholders agreed to accept an offer from Dorset based Hall and Woodhouse. The new owners are closing the brewery, probably to sell off the site for redevelopment, and will be placing their own beers into the K & B pubs. The chain of 50 plus pubs was the prize that H & W were really after, as were Kent brewers Shepherd Neame, who had previously made two attempts to buy the brewery. Although all three brewing companies involved are independent regionals, strongly into real ales, the methods by which this deal has been manipulated must be closely questioned and examined by CAMRA.

At the start of all this, K & B approached CAMRA, at both local branch and national levels for help in fighting off the initial bid from Shepherd Neame, which was a hostile take-over attempt. Articles in *What's Brewing*, CAMRA's own newspaper, press releases etc., were part of the national campaign fought on behalf of K & B, and the local branch fought hard, with local press, radio and television articles and other demonstrations. At the regional level, Kent, Surrey and Sussex branches of CAMRA boycotted Shepherd Neame products for their festivals, and naturally, goodwill was lost between that brewery and its local branch.

The result of all this activity led Shepherd Neame to have its offer turned down, so they came back with a much improved offer. They also stated that they would keep the brewery open, and as many of the K & B beers as possible on the agenda. This revised offer was discussed by the shareholders (the majority being in the two families' hands) and rejected outright, voting going for the secret offer from H & W, believed to be nominal pennies per share more than Shep's offer.

Now, business is business, and the board of K & B has a duty to its shareholders (themselves!) to obtain the best deal possible. But I wonder how much thought was given to the brewery employees and their families? When two similar offers are on the table, one promising continuing employment, the other immediate disposal, surely a little humanity could have come into the equation? Let alone all the time, energy and funds expended by CAMRA, who were unwittingly, and very cynically, used, solely to improve the deal.

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## **Hop Back Win the Challenge**

Hop Back Brewery of Downton have won the Tesco Beer Challenge - a competition to produce adventurous new bottled beers for the supermarket. The competition, split for large and small brewers, has attracted Salisbury's only brewer since its inception some three years ago but this is the first time they have won. The brew to tempt the tasting panel was Crop Circle. This incredibly light coloured beer has a wonderful refreshing taste produced by some quite rare hops. Try it! Available exclusively (for six months) from Tesco.

## Have I Got News for Winterfest Punters!

Those of you who were sufficiently sober at the end of this year's Salisbury Winterfest to leave your unused tokens in the charity box will be pleased to know that a total of £20 was raised. The charity chosen by Salisbury CAMRA to receive this amount is the local branch of *The Talking Newspaper Association of the UK*. TNAUK is a registered charity that provides national and local newspapers and magazines on audiotape, computer disk and e-mail for visually impaired and disabled people who find reading a strain.

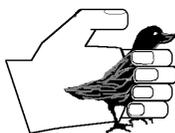
The Salisbury branch was started about 21 years ago in a spare bedroom. They now occupy a small room in the basement of the former Theological College (now a conference centre) in the Cathedral Close. This dedicated band of volunteers number 25 locally including 6 readers who regularly record selected items from the *Salisbury Journal*. Sixth formers from Salisbury Grammar Schools help to produce the 250 copies of the recordings that are sent out. The Post Office provides free delivery of the tapes and the conference centre provides their accommodation but all other expenses must be funded from voluntary contributions both in terms of money and effort.

So the next time you go to a beer festival remember to look out for the charity box and empty your pockets of unused tokens before you leave. All contributions will always be gratefully received by organisations such as the Salisbury Talking Newspaper Association.

## Bird in Hand

North Street, Salisbury  
(01722) 327238

A warm welcome from Mike



Céad Mile Fáilte!

REAL ALE                      BAR FOOD  
DARTS                      BAR GAMES                      POOL  
MUSIC NIGHTS  
IRISH MUSIC & DISCOS

## Take a Trip by Ian Turner

What's the worst thing these days about pub crawls? Is it perhaps that in order to visit some of the nicest country pubs, there is a need to drive? Well boys, the wife will only take so much.... and on that subject, why is it that you always drive there and the better half always drives back? Is there some way to enjoy a nice trip around some of our region's finest public houses without driving? Yes! join CAMRA and join the branch on our mystery trips visiting our best real ale houses.



Our last trip which took care of a Sunday afternoon, started at the Yew Tree in Odstock. This was a family affair and many, including me, took the children along. It was a glorious day so we sat in the very pleasant garden soaking up the long overdue sunshine. The pub specialises in food, a very extensive menu will tempt most with a broad range of meals from bar-snacks to full three course Sunday lunch.

Everyone back to the bus and on to our next port of call. I lost the way as we turned off the Blandford road towards Rockbourne. We finally stopped in a little village with a big pub, the Catherine Wheel at Whitsbury. This is a real ale drinker's Mecca - a choice of five stunning bitters and as a treat to me (I'm strange that way) Hoegaarden Belgian wheat beer. The pub also boasts a full menu and a super garden with lots of fun for the kids. Believe me, if you want a little treat for the family this one is worth a Sunday lunch.

Finally a cross country trek to our pub of the year - the Cuckoo at Hamptworth. All that watching everyone else eating at the other two pubs and a half or two of ale had built some healthy appetites. The Cuckoo doesn't boast the type of menu that we had previously seen but makes that up with its choice of up to nine real ales. Food is basic but home made and of the highest quality. The garden has a fenced off area with playhouse, swings and a climbing frame - strictly for the children. There are plenty of tables in the garden which is a real sun trap and for those who wish a little peace and quiet there is a corner where children are banned.

This was the fourth of a hugely successful series of outings which have taken us to the Donheads, Kilmington, Lavington and all points in between. Although appearing enjoyable (I have to say this), this is a campaign, a campaign to visit and support as many of our local pubs as we can. As difficult and unenjoyable as it may be we will continue to see a few of the many landlords and landladies as often as we can!

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## The pub scene... by Richard Godwin

Imagine owning and running your own pub.... It's a pipedream for many people, who may think of running a little country public house, possibly thatched, with inglenook and settles, the locals yarning as the dominoes are shuffled, the thump, thump, thump of darts as the team practice, and many a foaming pint of good English ale passed over the bar...Or perhaps you're more of an entrepreneurial mind, where dozens of people are fighting their way to the bar, willing to stuff your tills with lots of the ready, for highly profitable drinks that you sell....

The reality is vastly different for the majority of pubs (though of course exceptions exist!). Most country pubs are struggling. If they don't sell food, they **will** go under. Town pubs are also struggling, but for slightly different reasons. The majority of pubs these days are actually owned by banks – *often a cynical way of getting round the beer orders. Big breweries sell their pubs to a bank to avoid having to let guest beers in. The banks, who know nothing of the licensed trade, then have to appoint companies to manage the pubs for them. Who do they appoint? Why, the brewing company who sold them in the first place, of course!* – But I digress – The one thing that banks and big companies know, is how to squeeze the maximum profit out of the small guy. So rents for pubs are set at arbitrary “commercial rents”. Imagine paying rent of £1000\* per WEEK for a small pub in a town or city! At least the local brewers used to make allowance for location, etc., but accountants now say that each pub must show a net profit on their rental, let alone on the other things such as beer, pool tables, juke boxes, etc.. Add to that costs of council taxes, licences, rubbish removal etc, heating and lighting the place, providing facilities, stretching from ashtrays to toilet rolls, cocktail shakers to dishwashers, and of course staff costs – (after all, 11 am to 11 pm Monday to Saturday, 12 to 10.30 Sunday = 87 hours a week, and that is just opening hours – add on to that time doing the cellar, banking and cash counting, paperwork, stocktaking, etc, you WILL need staff!) so lets add another £500 per week to cover all this. So, before you even serve a pint of beer, you need £1500 each and every week.

A firkin of real ale, of 3.5% ABV will cost in the region of £60, or about 85 pence per pint. It will retail at around £1.60 to £1.80 a pint. So ‘profit’ per pint, allowing for VAT, is about 50 pence. To cover the £1500, you need to sell therefore, some 3000 pints per week, just to cover your costs, let alone make any actual profit. So be kind to the poor landlord when he puts up the price of beer – after all, we don't want him to starve, do we?

*\*All figures used are approximations for demonstration purposes only, but based on such sources as CAMRA's annual survey of pub prices, etc.*

## ***Branch Diary***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Beerex. 49 real ales - milds, stouts, bitters, wheat beers, porters, lagers and ciders. Open Thursday night, Friday lunch (no music), Friday night, Saturday lunch and Saturday night.
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Bike ride to the Cuckoo, Hamptworth. Meet at Petersfinger at 10:30. No time trials, no mountain climbs just a leisurely trek on as many little roads and tracks as we can use. Lunch at the Cuckoo.
<b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Trip to the Pelican to present award for “Pub of the Year”. Coach from the coach station at 7:30. Names to Pete Wood please.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Open branch meeting - Cuckoo, Hamptworth. Coach from the coach station at 7:30. Names to Pete Wood please. Everyone welcome. If you want to see what we do and how we do it come along, you don’t have to be a member to join us.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Mystery trip by coach. Meet at coach stn. Details from Pete Wood.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Village Freehouse annual charity bike ride. The more the merrier. Details from June at the Village, Wilton Rd.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Pork Pie Cup. The annual cricket match between CAMRA and the Wyndham Arms. Meet in the Wyndham Arms at 1:00. Played at Chafyn Grove School. Our thanks to the school and “Andy”.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Post-Beerex barbecue. Members only at “Big George’s” place.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	Open branch meeting - Probably Wilton! Details in “What’s Brewing” and <a href="http://www.salisburycamra.org.uk">www.salisburycamra.org.uk</a> . Everyone welcome. If you want to see what we do and how we do it come along, you don’t have to be a member to join us.
<b>12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Pembroke Arms, Fovant beer festival. See page 5 for full details.
<b>18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Cuckoo, Hamptworth beer festival. See back page for full details.

For further information, as well as updating and booking please contact Pete Wood (Social Secretary) on Salisbury 501481. Pete is also keen to hear of any other activities planned locally.

**ENGLISH ALES  
SCOTTISH MEASURES  
IRISH CRAIC**

All at the

**DEACON'S ALMS**

FISHERTON STREET

PLUS A WARM WELCOME FROM FRANK, ANNIE AND STAFF

We're in the Good Beer Guide

Focus



**A Brewery  
or three**

We've seen a few brewery visits over the last few weeks starting with Milk Street. The Griffin, a small back street pub in Frome was recently acquired by Nick and Rik with a view to making a brewery with its own built-in outlet. Brew pubs are in decline particularly with the loss of the Firkin chain of pubs, many of which were successful breweries. This pub will hopefully redress the balance. Rik Lyall was the head brewer at Hop Back until eighteen months ago when he left and went to Cotleigh. When the

opportunity arose to buy the Griffin he talked to a long standing friend, Nick, and his partner Dorothy and all entered into a partnership to run the business. After much work the brewery now produces four or five ales featuring the excellent "Beer" and "Nick's". Hopefully Salisbury will soon be able to have its fill of this fine ale as the brewery has made a bid for the Winchester Gate. We wish the venture the best of luck and will be supporting it in the best way we can by drinking the beer.

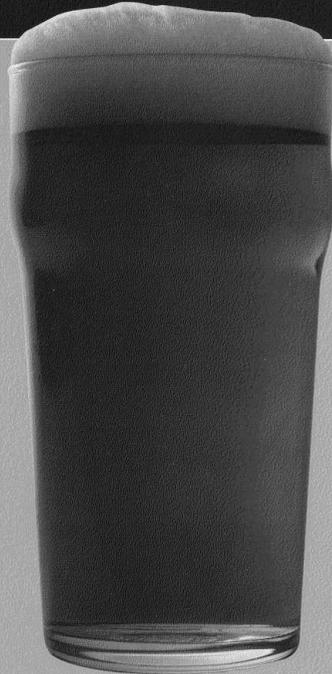
Speaking of Hop Back the (what seems like annual) trek took place at the end of May to present an award for the winner of Winterfest. The superb Winter Lightning was voted the winner by those attending the event and Steve Wright, head brewer, accepted a certificate after giving a most informative tour.

Last, but by no means least, the branch took advantage of a long standing invitation to visit Itchen Valley brewery in Alresford. Our thanks to them for a great night out and all of the others for allowing us to gorge our passion.

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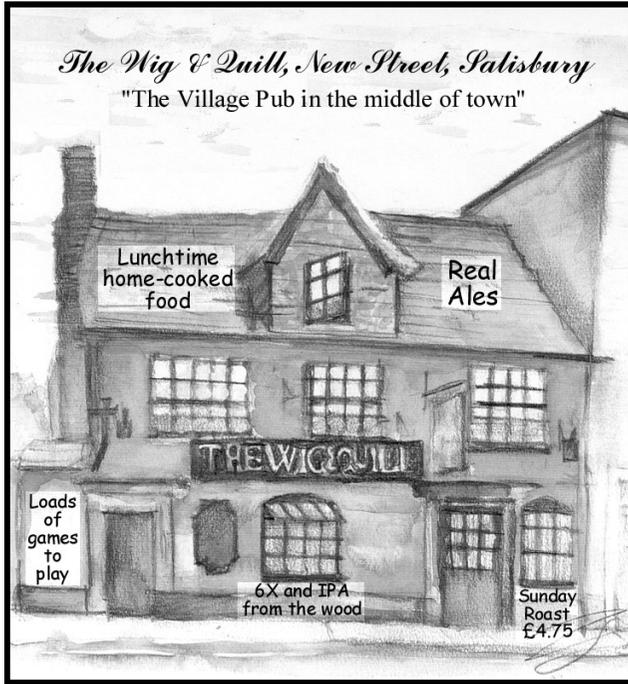
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