

BARREL

CAMRA ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

March 1998

Circulation 1000

FREE Newsletter

CAMRA Calls for Duty Cuts

CAMRA has called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to cut duty on the price of a pint of beer by five pence in this month's budget as part of a staged reduction towards European levels of duty.

Barrel Organ reported in the December issue on increasing problems caused by the high levels of duty paid imports from France. British drinkers pay nearly SEVEN times more tax on their pint than French drinkers. Hardly surprising that so many Brits are day tripping to France - including the smugglers! Already one pint in twenty drunk in the UK is **brewed** in France. This is set to increase to one in FIVE by 2006.

CAMRA's submission to the Treasury asks for a 5 pence cut this year, followed by similar cuts in 1999 and 2000. The Treasury's own economic model shows that a tax cut would be self-financing after two years.

The Government's high tax policy is causing pub and brewery closures, leading to job losses and even more loss of revenue - income tax, national insurance, VAT, excise duty, council tax - not to mention the knock on effects on the local economy.

One of the arguments often used against cutting beer duty is that people would drink more, and alcohol related social problems would increase. This argument does not stand close

(Continued on page 2)

Inside

- 3 - Branch Diary
- 4 - Gosport Guzzle
- 6 - Winterfest Report
- 7 - Pub/Brewery News
- 14- Brewery Focus
- 15- Competition
- 16- Cask Marque
- 17- Pub Focus
- 18- Verse & Worse
- 19- AGM Notice

(Continued from page 1)

scrutiny. Customs and Excise estimate that 75% of personal cross border shopping for beer is a direct substitution for UK sales. This leaves 25% that is additional and due solely to the tax differential. Surely it would be better for the British economy if that 25% were produced and sold in Britain.

Moreover, Customs and Excise also claim that two thirds of the beer coming over from Calais is smuggled. Smugglers don't care who they sell the beer to, so long as they have the cash. This is leading directly to an increase in under age and street drinking and all the associated problems. High tax is acting against licensing law. If differentials were reduced, smuggling would be less profitable and more drinking would be done in the socially controlled environment of the local pub.

You can support the campaign for tax cuts by writing to the Chancellor or your local MP.

Do your duty, Chancellor, and cut your duty!

For your information :

At present, Barrel Organ is published Quarterly, in June, September, December and March, entirely by unpaid volunteers. It is distributed free to over 70 pubs, clubs and other institutions in the area. If you wish to receive copies, or to 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 :

Editor: P. Godwin
2 Longland
Salisbury SP2 7ET

TEL : 01722 328949

* The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions

For other CAMRA business :

Branch Contact is
I. Turner
01722 331134 (home)
01980 662390 (work)

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA or Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch of CAMRA. © Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch 3/98.



Though the branch's social calendar has been empty since the Christmas Membership Drive And Social Evening (13th December), we have all been busy, organising and running our first winter beer festival in February, making preparations for the BIG event, our 21st Beerex, and coping with the onerous task of surveying the pubs in our district for next years "Good Beer Guide". We have had our usual branch meetings, of course, one up in the air at the Aardvark drop-in centre (more prosaically known as the Bull, Fisherton St), and one at the Wyndham

We have also had 2 regional meetings, one "overseas" on the Isle of Wight, and the other at the new branch in town, Heart Of Wessex, Gillingham. As usual, we all agreed to disagree, quaffed large amounts of beer, and instantly forgot whatever it was we discussed, until the next meeting. Oh, yes. I have just remembered, We have a

(Continued on page 4)



In the Restaurant, in the Bar
or by the River in our Garden,
you can relax in our warm atmosphere.



We offer an extensive menu using only
selected fresh food.

Real Ale and Good Wine.

We constantly strive to maintain
our reputation.

En-suite Accommodation available



The Prince Leopold
Upton Lovell

Tel: 01985 850460

Branch Diary

March

1st Regional mtg,
Gillingham 12 noon
4th Branch Meeting,
Wyndham Arms 8pm
7th Brewery
presentation, Sarah
Hughes (Sedgeley)
28th Skittle match
George, Shrewton
(Contact Pete Wood for
details.)

April

1st Branch meeting
Wheatsheaf, Wilton
8.00 p.m.

May

6th AGM & branch
Mtg Cloisters 8pm.

**For details of these
and events not yet
arranged contact:**

**I. Turner (01722)
331134**

(Continued from page 3)

new deputy Regional Director, Mr John Cornish. Good luck in your year of office, John.

Looking to the future, we hope to be playing skittles against the George pub in Shrewton. Other hopes are a trip to both Tisbury and Hampshire Breweries (dates to be arranged).

Guzzling at Gosport

The annual migration of the species *Camra Sarumi Beerus* to the warmer southern lands was observed at the end of February this year. The specimens departing this year were seen to be distinctly lacklustre of eye. Their plumage, normally a range of bright colours, was subdued, the only hint of colour the strange henge-like design on the breast. A leading naturalist explained that, unlike previous years, The group had recently been seen in a frenzied ritual of imbibement and merriment, termed a "*Winterfest*", and had lost the high sheen and glossy coat that normal winter abstinence brings.

The rich foods and plentiful liquid at Gosport Beer Festival soon

(Continued on page 5)



The Village Freehouse

Wilton Rd - Salisbury

(01722) 329707

*A Selection of Quality Cask Ales from Local
Brewers including*

Abbey Ales Bellringer Oakhill Best
Oakhill Mendip Gold Adnams Oyster Stout

Guest Real Ales

A Friendly Welcome Awaits You

Sunday Night is Quiz Night



Real Sausages.

Pork, Kangaroo, Chicken, Herb,
Dorset Scrumpy and others from
The Sausage Station.

*Joe's Below Downstairs at
The Village*

Jugs of Ale
straight from the Cask
Darts Board
Room to Hire
Good Beer
Good Atmosphere

Ray - Julie - Kevin - A Warm Welcome Always

HOGSHEAD

GOOD ALES

Wilton Road
Salisbury

GOOD
FOOD



Tel (01722) 500955

7 Days a
week

GIBBS MEW
BASS

ENJOY FINE
WINES

Bookings
Taken

(Continued from page 4)

restored the group to health and vigour, however, and all were seen to join in the ceremonial end festivities with great relish.

Selected as Champion Beer, **and** best strong bitter, Bunces **Danish Dynamite** - Well done, Stig!!



BEEREX TICKETS



ON SALE

2nd MAY 1998

FROM 11.00 am

SALISBURY ARTS CENTRE



Winterfest 1

I'm glad its over. It was one heck of a strain, and didn't look as if it was ever going to happen, but it did. It certainly wouldn't have without Ian Turner, and my debt of gratitude to him is immense. I must also express my thanks to the Committee and staff at the Castle Street club, who have really helped tremendously. Although we have been running Beerex for years, this was the first "CAMRA only" event in Salisbury, backed by our National HQ. This meant that we had to prepare a budget for their approval, and stick to it. This controls the amount we can spend, the amount of beer, etc. The allocation of beer at 3 pints per person per session seemed very small. Indeed, from the point of view of amount of beer divided by numbers actually attending, it should be about 4.5 to 5 pints per person. However, we did not sell **all** the tickets, so some beer got left.

The entertainment was very good, and our thanks must go to Pete Wood for his help and advice in arranging it. "Pure Finders" were excellent on Friday evening, and Brad was as superb as ever, and really got the party swinging on the Saturday evening.

We had a large number of votes cast for "Beer of the Festival" with, in reverse order, **Oakhill Black Magic Stout** placed third, **Bunces Rudolph** second and **Nethergate Umbel Magna** being the worthy winner. Congratulations to the three breweries concerned.

Talking of winners, The Wordsearch competition in the programme resulted in 57 correct entries, and the first 2 pulled out of the hat were : **Mr Ian Drinkwater** of Eastleigh and **Mr Morgan** of Southampton. As soon as tickets are available for **Beerex**, they will be coming your way, Gentlemen. Well done. - The answer, by the way? WINTERFEST of course, and not, as someone put it, "Lager sucks", even though I agree with the comment!

There were many constructive criticisms and requests also handed in, and we have tried to take these on board where practical. The major critique was regarding the prices. Especially: "*£1 a half for the two milds.*" I agree. In our defence, however, nobody from Salisbury environs complained about the price - indicating that we had got it right to **CAMRA's** policy of local pricing - all the complaints came from further afield. In actual fact, the complaint should have read - too **low** a price on the stronger beers! Both the We will, however, try to include some differentials next year! - yes, WINTERFEST 2 is already being planned, folks!

There were several requests for cider. As we are trying to make it a "seasonal" event, perhaps **you** could suggest perries and ciders **specialy** brewed for the **Winter months**? we'll see you all next year!

PUB and BREWERY NEWS

I guess we need to change the heading of this section to "Pub chain & No Brewery" News, following the sell out of Gibbs Mew to Enterprise Inns. The selling of the GM estate was inevitable, the moment the brewery closure was announced. The only unknowns had been when, to whom, and how much? Not that it can all be bad. Houses such as the Hogshead, Royal George and the Dust Hole (AKA the Railway) should not only be "safe" for the immediate future, but can expect to improve things for their customers. The tenancy houses of the estate will now be able to buy in beers from a much wider range, to the benefit of their customers, extending their choice. Or will it? Enterprise Inns will only purchase beers from the major companies such as Whitbread and Bass, who admittedly have some fine beers under their control, but once again, the local breweries such as Bunces, Hopback and Tisbury will be squeezed out. So we can expect to see Fizzy Boddingtons, Flowers Old Original and other mass-market beers of mediocrity making even more inroads into the local economy at the expense of the small guy. Which eventually, of course, **will** affect everybody.

(Continued on page 8)

Marion and Chris Pitcher
welcome you to



STAPLEFORD, SALISBURY
Telephone: 01722 790241

Home-cooked foods

Traditional Real
Ales

Large garden
good childrens play
area

Families welcome
Special childrens
menu

*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*

(Continued from page 7)

The managed houses will also be "phased out". (Lower overheads at Head Office if there is no need to sort out manager's PAYE etc.). Top quality managed houses such as Cloisters and the Greyfisher will become tenanted, but there is, inevitably, too high a concentration of ex-GM pubs in Salisbury for the new owners. So will they be sold off as free houses, or, far more likely, offered to another pub chain? Time will tell, but already the Black Horse at Teffont is going the closure route.

Sad to note that the Wheatsheaf at Figheldean is to have several new houses built on its land, with the ex-pub also being converted to a dwelling. I hope the Swan at Enford is not to follow this route. All power to the villagers trying to buy their pub back. Perhaps *this* one will be a good news story.

Last Barrel Organ, The Four Seasons got quite a panning from this magazine, for trying to serve beer that was only fit for throwing (up or away!). Since then, your intrepid reporter has returned several times, and must report that the beers subsequently tried have been first class. It is worth noting that the pub is now run by a new team, and the emphasis seems to be on food.

(Continued on page 9)



*The
Royal
George*

Bedwin Street
Salisbury
01722 327782

REAL ALES

BEER GARDEN

B & B

POPULAR LUNCHTIME FOOD

JAZZ 1st SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

*All reasons to visit
The Royal George
the friendly 'Country Pub' in the City.*

Pool - Darts - Crib

(Continued from page 8)

Both Bunces and Tisbury Breweries report that they have had their busiest Januarys ever - traditionally a quiet month following the Christmas/New Year celebrations. Hopback have just completed purchase of the Bull at Downton, bringing their tied estate up to 6. John Gilbert reports that he hopes to make the Bull the flagship of the estate, with a first class restaurant as well as a comfortable bar - but first a lot of renovation work has to be done - hopefully completed in time for the Brewery's AGM. (Hope the pub's big enough to hold half of Salisbury!)

Good Beer Guide surveys have been carried out during the past few weeks, so many a CAMRA member has been roaming around, discussing and confirming details with Landlords. One of the disturbing trends that seems to be coming out from these discussions, is that the country pubs are suffering very poor trade during the week, with the businesses being sustained only by busy week-ends. If this continues, it seems likely that more pubs will close permanently.

Talking of country pubs, Willie Gough is leaving the Dove at Corton, and will be sadly missed. However, having spoken to his

(Continued on page 10)



HOPBACK GFB & SUMMER LIGHTNING

DRAUGHT BASS

SUNDAY LUNCHEES 🍷 EXTENSIVE WINE LIST

(FULL MENU AVAILABLE 12 - 4 PM)

EN SUITE B & B ★ TOURIST BOARD APPROVED

OUTSIDE BARS ✨ FUNCTION ROOM

BUNCES BREWERY



BREWERS OF TRADITIONAL CASK CONDITIONED BEERS

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

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)

(Continued from page 9)

successors, both at Corton and at Winterfest, I am sure that the pub is in good hands, and that real ales will continue to prosper there.

Back in the City, Frank and Annie at Deacon's gave us all a taste of Scotland on January 25th, when we sampled "haggis neeps and tatties" to celebrate something called "Burns Night". Funny, mine didn't taste burnt at all!

Steve at the Wyndham is keeping as good a pint as ever, and it's good to see the Ginger Stout making a more regular appearance there. The Aardvark of Fisherton Street keeps going from strength to strength, and challenges all you vindaloo champions to sample its chilli. (At least it was a good excuse to quaff copious amounts of their well kept beer!)

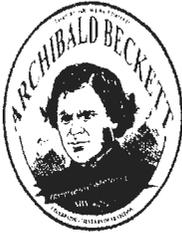
I'm told that the Bell at South Newton is hoping to be offering a wider range of guest beers soon, and is also going to be able to offer better facilities for the disabled amongst us (or is it locomotively challenged?). Things are beginning to happen at the Blackbird, towards their Summer beer festival, and I am informed there are rumblings to be heard from the cellar. *(New stillages, NOT where they are keeping Joe Leonard these days!)*

End of waffle

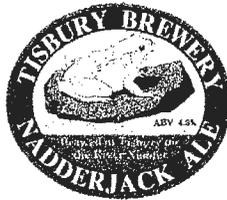
TISBURY BREWERY

LIMITED

A fine range of distinctive traditional beers



4.3%
A Beautifully Coloured,
Beautifully Balanced
Premium Bitter



4.3%
Pale in Colour,
Bittersweet Character with
a Spicy finish



4.0%
Light Refreshment,
from Barley, Wheat and
Goldings



3.8%
A good honest Session Bitter,
Full of Flavour



4.8%
Strong, Dark, Rich
and Mysterious:
A Masterpiece!

*Available at Real Free Houses in
The Nadder & Wylde Valleys.*

THE SMALL BREWERY WITH THE BIG TASTE

Bird in Hand

North Street Salisbury
(01722) 327238

A warm welcome from Mike & Jo



REAL ALE BAR FOOD

DARTS BAR GAMES POOL

MUSIC NIGHTS

IRISH MUSIC & DISCOS

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

Fill in the form, and send it with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans HERTS AL1 4LW.

Rates: Single £14 Joint £17

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by its rules.

Signature.....

Date.....

BLACKBIRD INN

CHURCHFIELDS

01722 502828

We're In The Good Beer Guide!



OPPOSITE THE RAILWAY STATION

Ever - changing Real Ales

Bar Snacks

Friendly Atmosphere

Nearly reached our 200th Guest Ale!

SARAH HUGHES & DARK RUBY

This March, Guy Perry, chief brewer at Sarah Hughes, was presented with a commemorative glass and certificate for "Best strong beer" at the June Beerex, 1997, for the Dark Ruby. (*Not a mild, and not a porter, he claims!*) The award was given after an excellent and informative tour of the brewery, in the presence of several members of the local Dudley branch, whose enthusiastic welcome made the long journey to the Midlands even more worth while. The brew pub is an excellent example of a pub of yesteryear, with several rooms. The beers on offer included Dark Ruby, Amber and Sedgeley Surprise. Very Good they were too!!

THE BULL

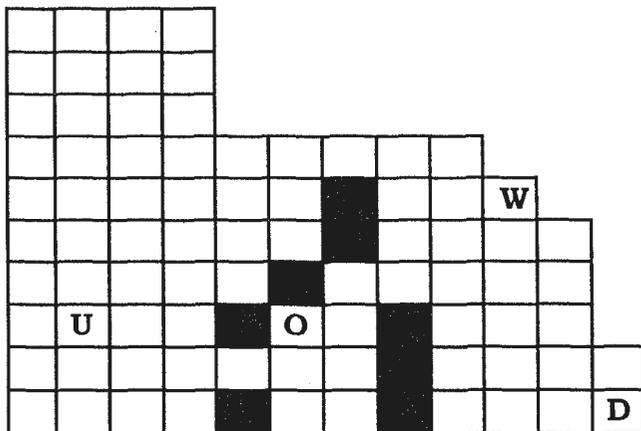
AS READERS OF BARREL ORGAN, I MUST ASSUME THAT EITHER YOU ARE MEMBERS OF, OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN, THE WORKINGS OF THAT LAUDABLE ORGANISATION, CAMRA, THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE. NOW, I CAN OFFER FREE MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER CRUSADING ENTERPRISE - CAMRAA - THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL AARDVARKS. CALL IN AT THE BULL IN FISHERTON STREET AND DISCOVER THE STRANGE WORLD OF THE LANDLORD AND STAFF.

SIGNED

Ernie the Aardvark

PS WE ALSO SERVE HALL AND WOODHOUSE
BEERS AND VERY FINE FOOD

Win a ticket to the **21st Summer Beerex!**



A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	L
7	11	2	3	6	1	3	5	3	10

M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y
3	2	4	1	7	5	2	2	1	1

The top grid has blanks where the names of 10 pubs fit. The pubs all have one thing in common, (other than selling beer!) which should be evident when the grid is complete. The second grid shows the letters used, and how many. Fit them all in, and let us know what the common thing is. First two correct answers drawn will receive tickets to the BEEREX in June.

To help you, some letters have already been put in. The first two pubs are in Wilton, the rest in Salisbury.

Simply send your idea of the common link to the editor (address page 2). Closing date for entries - 18th April, 1998.

(Please remember to enclose your name and address with your entry!)

WIG and QUILL

NEW STREET SALISBURY

A warm welcome from Gordon and his staff
serving a Full range of Wadworth's Fine Beers + Guest Beers

Good Food Live Music Walled Garden

MINI - BEER - FESTIVAL APRIL 1998
FRIDAY 3RD SATURDAY 4TH SUNDAY 5TH

*The normal range of hand-pul real ales plus straight from the
cask*

Fullers Chiswick Mansfield Riding bitter
Adnams Southwold Archers Best
Oakhill Best Cotleigh Harrier

The Cask Marque

The cask Marque is an initiative by a group of brewers concerned about the quality of cask conditioned ale on sale to the public. Adnams, Carlsberg-Tetley, Fullers, Greene King, Marstons, McMullens, Morland, Mansfield, Vaux and Whitbread have all joined forces to run a pilot scheme to solve any teething problems.

Cask Marque will be based on the award of plaques to publicans who meet the required standards after several visits by inspectors. To ensure standards are maintained there are regular follow up inspections. The costs will be met by the publicans and the brewers.

It is anticipated that CAMRA will be asked to support this initiative and workshops and discussions will take place at the national AGM. CAMRA is in favour of any scheme that genuinely seeks to improve the quality of real ale. So keep an eye out for the Cask Marque Plaques.

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



**The Deacon's
Alms**

CAMRA members Frank and Annie Key bought the Deacon's Alms 8 months ago, and after a short closure for necessary repairs and decoration, have traded successfully ever since. The warm and friendly atmosphere they have created has seen an ever increasing clientele, many of whom are eager to try the excellent real ales. Frank at the moment has four handpumps, GFB and 6X being standard fare, with regularly changing guest beers on the other two pumps. It is pleasing to note that Franks experiment with lined glasses is paying off, with customers getting a full pint, and spillage minimised. Future plans include a possible rethink on the bar serving area and possibly reintroduction of food.

The hotel side also seems to be holding its own, introducing a sprinkling of new faces to the congregation of regulars. For the more spiritually inclined, shorts are served in larger measures than normal, including an Irish potcheen.

Other facilities offered include a welcoming fire, wide range of music to suit all tastes, and a large TV for sporting events, located in the upper bar area, so not interfering with those of us whose interest is in the quality of the handpumps outpourings!

The Mild saga goes on.....

Following the success of last November's Mild Madness, we are at it again!

HQ have decided - 16th May is the new date.

So, In the Merry month of May,
CAMRA decreed - "on 16th day"
Mild is coming down your way!
Now's your chance to have your say
About events for drink and play

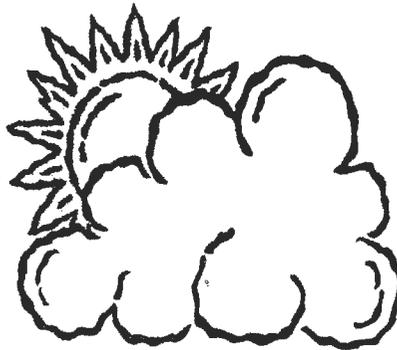
Ideas we need for what to do
So please inform the CAMRA crew
Then we might make a quid or two
For those less fortunate than you
And drink some tasty mild, too

Anon

(you don't think I'm going to admit to writing this, do you?)

Suggestions of what to do and what charities should be supported needed p.d.q. to set up and advertise.

- All properly censored ideas to the editor, please. (page 2 for details)



- Let's hope its better weather this time !

ATTENTION ALL CAMRA MEMBERS

**SALISBURY AND SOUTH WILTS
BRANCH OF
THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6TH MAY 1998

**8.00 PM at THE CLOISTERS INN
SALISBURY**

You will need a current membership card to vote

**Nominations for office may be sent to the editor or the
branch secretary (p2 for details)**

Nominations by post must include :

**A proposer and a seconder, including names, addresses
and membership numbers, along with a written con-
sent from the nominee agreeing to stand for a stated
office.**

The posts up for re-election are :

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Press Officer

Membership Secretary

Pub Preservation Officer

General Committee Members

CAMRA are proud to announce the

21 ST ANNIVERSARY BEEREX

**11TH, 12TH, 13TH JUNE 1998
SALISBURY ARTS CENTRE**

**SPECIAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE
OUR COMING OF AGE**

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE ARTS CENTRE



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

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

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

Contact P Godwin, 2 Longland,
Salisbury SP2 7ET. (01722)
328949

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.