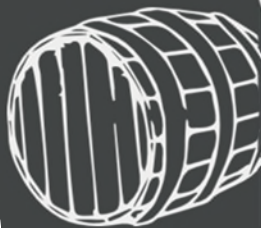


Barrel Organ



*The magazine of the Salisbury & South Wiltshire and
Heart of Wessex branches of the Campaign for Real Ale*

Voted CAMRA's most improved magazine 2018

December 2020



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More Lockdown

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Plus much more...

**STONE
HENGE** ALES



**THE
BREW
SHACK**



**DARK
REVOLUTION**

**WRIGGLE
VALLEY
BREWERY**
STALBRIDGE, DORSET



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Designed and Published by
Salisbury & South Wilts CAMRA

EDITORIAL December 2020

Welcome to this special edition of Barrel Organ – Online! A local beer magazine for the Salisbury & South Wiltshire, and Heart of Wessex branches of the Campaign for Real Ale.

No-one could have imagined the situation we have all endured in 2020, back when the previous paper copy of Barrel Organ was released in February. With the coming of spring, the local CAMRA branch was looking forward to meetings, city saunters, minibus trips and of course, the Summer Beerex in June.

In place of that we have had pubs closed, restrictions on who we can meet, and social distancing. With the lockdown in March, so ceased our paper production of the magazine (at least temporarily), so we now find ourselves producing this version online to try and keep you up to date with local beer, brewery and pub news.

So please peruse this online version, and share any news that you have with us. With the situation changing fluidly we also ask that you check out the links below which will give you the most up-to-date information on beer and pub related information in our area.

Cheers

Kathy, Paul, Will & Derek

salisburycamra.org.uk

[Heart of Wessex CAMRA](http://HeartofWessexCAMRA)

[UK Pub Guide, Campaign for Real Ale •
whatpub.com](http://UKPubGuide.CampaignforRealAle.whatpub.com)

Salisbury Winterfest



With 22 winter festivals behind us you'd have thought that preparation for the 23rd would be a breeze. Well it was until we heard that our venue for the past 5 years was to close. The search for a new venue was on...

We looked at a number of venues, but nothing was quite suitable. Some too expensive or not available for the length of time we needed it or just a little too far from the city centre. A chance conversation with Jonty the Landlord at the Duke of York prompted him to suggest we consider the 'Chapel'; yes, the nightclub! So, off we went to have a look (it seems I'm not the only one who had never been before).

Well it's a chapel. organ, lectern, pews and, enough space below the balcony to house our stillage. Winterfest had a new venue

Working round the nightclub's need to be open at 10.00pm on Saturday evening, it was decided to open the festival from

11am to 9pm that day, A single session taking everything down after we had closed to allow the room to revert to nightclubbing

The festival was as popular as ever, tickets selling out well ahead of opening day. We decided to source all our beer locally. This turned out to be very successful with one or two of our local breweries also providing beers from producers further away as part of beer swap deals they had. We were ready on the Friday with 22 cask beers and three boxes of cider.



We are proud of the ales we serve at all our festivals and having tested all of them before we opened, somebody had to, I was sure no one would be disappointed.



Our first Winterfest at the Chapel was, overall, a resounding success with most of the comments we received positive. We have already reviewed all we heard, and we will come back next time with an even better festival.

Beer of the Festival was Cerne Abbas Gurt Stout, followed by Eight Arch Corbel and Brew Shack 8 Grain Porter. Huge thanks to Amanda and Jonty Newbery for allowing use to use the Chapel and the staff there who helped make it a success.

Coronavirus has put a stop on Winterfest 2021 but we hope to be back in 2022 with Winterfest XXIV.

Ian Turner Salisbury Branch Chairman

GBG & Pub of the Year 2021

Selecting Salisbury and South Wiltshire pubs to be candidates for inclusion in the Campaign for Real Ale's *Good Beer Guide* and possible selection as the local Pub of the Year will be done very differently in 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the past members of the Salisbury and South Wiltshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) have chosen a shortlist for possible inclusion in the *Good Beer Guide* by scoring beer quality and nominating pubs.

The list is then posted out to all branch members in December and they choose the final 15. Places in the prestigious annual publication cannot be bought or paid for by sponsorship.

Members also vote on which of the 15 should become the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Pub of the Year. The criteria for this award extends beyond the quality of real ale and cider and includes the ambience and inclusive nature of the pub.

However 2020 has been utterly different because of Covid-19. Members have not been able to visit as many pubs as they did in the past and the branch has not been able to generate income to cover the cost of postage of the annual ballot.

Online branch meetings have therefore agreed that we have to do things differently for 2021. Despite lockdowns, a number of pubs have been nominated for the *Good Beer Guide* and these along with their beer scores will be put to the February meeting for a vote. At the same meeting the branch will decide whether it can nominate a Pub of the Year.

Branch members wanting to take part in the selection will find a list of nominations on the Salisbury and South Wilts CAMRA branch website.

Whether the branch can meet in person or online - or a mixture of the two - in February will depend on Covid-19 regulations at the time. Those wishing to take part online will need to advise either the chairman or the secretary of their e-mail address so that they can be sent an invitation

Anne Duncan 1953 - 2020

In February 2020 Salisbury and South Wilts Branch lost a much respected member when Anne Duncan passed away. Between 2007 & 2016 Anne and her husband Bill ran the Winchester Gate in Rampart Rd, Salisbury. Within 18 months the local branch voted it into the Good Beer Guide where it stayed for the remainder of their tenancy.

Four times they won the Branch Pub of the year & when CAMRA's National Executive and Regional Directors met in Salisbury in 2013 they chose the Winchester Gate as their "Pub of the Weekend".

Much of the success of the Winchester Gate was due to Anne's care of the pub's customers as much as of the pub itself. She had a phenomenal memory for people no matter how infrequent, or how long between, their visits. Bill says that she would not suffer any nonsense and could anticipate any problem arising from the customers. Such problems were averted by her disarming and tactful manner.

Born in 1953 in Ipswich where her father was based at the naval training base HMS Ganges, It was on a blind date in Bournemouth in 1982 that she met Bill. Two years later Bill's work took him to Hong Kong where they married and where their daughter Sarah was born. They returned to the UK in 2001 and fulfilled an ambition to have a pub of their

own.

Anne had a love of catering and would undertake this activity for various private functions. She was meticulous about food quality to the extent that she frequently lost money on such ventures but did it because of her love of it.

On leaving the Winchester Gate Anne joined the committee of Salisbury Cycling & Social Club, which benefited greatly from her good sense and planning ability.

In 2019 Anne went on an extended visit to New Zealand to visit Sarah who had emigrated there. While Anne was there Sarah gave birth to Aidan, and Anne became a doting grandmother.

Anne's active participation and pleasant manner are greatly missed by branch .



Anne enjoying the beautiful Milford Sound on New Zealand's South Island

What has CAMRA been doing?

National

Nationally Camra has been busy campaigning. Thousands of letters have gone to local MPs asking for support to pubs and local brewers. We know that those campaigns have had effect and that many MPs were persuaded to get the government to allow pubs to provide takeaways allowing them to keep trading while still keeping necessary Covid precautions

Camra's national chairman, Nik Antona, named Covid-19 as the biggest threat to British pubs in Camra's 50-year history. *"Many pubs and breweries have fought hard and the majority have survived the first lockdown, but it's clear the industry was already in a vulnerable position when Covid-19 hit. Since then, breweries have all but been forgotten as new restrictions have been introduced, despite relying heavily on pubs as a key outlet for their products. It's clear that preventing widespread closure and rebuilding our pub culture will be Camra's greatest challenge yet."*

Camra launched Brew2you, brew2you.co.uk, an open access web based service to let people know where they could get takeaways or home deliveries of quality beer. A project bringing people and great beer from great local businesses together.

Working in conjunction with SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, Camra launched the *PullingTogether* Campaign providing a range of resources and ideas to pubs and breweries to help them through this most difficult period.

Local

Locally we have been busy updating our website and the WhatPub database with as much information about what local pubs are providing them where possible updating opening hours.

Salisbury and South Wilts branch had, sadly, had to cancel their regular programme of minibus outings to pubs in rural areas and their saunters to pubs in town. Individual bubbles of members however have, where possible, been visiting pubs though of necessity this has been restricted to Salisbury City.

Branch meetings are still held on the 1st Wednesday of every month but because members are not able to meet in person this has been done via Skype. Any member wishing to take part would be most welcome and should send their email address to

chairman@salisburycamra.org.uk.

PUB OF THE YEAR

Every year the each branch picks their Pub of the Year. As Salisbury and South Wilts branch cover both town and country they pick two establishments. If the overall winner is in town then the 2nd is the country Pub of the Year and the opposite applies if the overall winner is a country pub.

For 2020 the overall winner was Deacon's in Salisbury where the owners Dave and Aimee Hancock were presented with their certificate by branch chairman Ian Turner.

For the second year running, the Horseshoe Inn at Ebbesbourne Wake was voted Country Pub of the Year. With no scheduled minibus trips to the Chalke Valley, a dozen, or so, branch members caught the number 29 (Shaftsbury) bus to present Pat & Tony Bath with a certificate and enjoy the trip!



Tony and Pat Bath proudly showing their award

Going by bus enabled the members to enjoy the excellent beer got a choice of 4 real ales drawn straight from the barrel and a real cider, and to be able to travel home again safely following a leisurely and enjoyable lunch.

Those trying the vegetarian options were very suitably impressed; the Game Pie, a special that day, was amazing. The only problem on the day was our worthy chairman sitting on the framed certificate with the inevitable consequences, the frame being far more damaged than he was. He claimed it was an accident and felt duty bound to revisit the following week to re-present it in a new frame. We believe him – *well, nearly*.



Just a few of the antique farm imple-

Heart of Wessex branch were extremely unfortunate in that just as they were selecting their pub of the year the Covid restrictions came in and they were unable to complete the process. Let us hope they are able to have more success for 2021.

A Strange Year

This year has without doubt been rather strange and, let us hope, unique. I do not think any of us want to see another like it. It has affected all of us in so many ways. I have missed most meeting up with friends in the pub and sharing the banter. But my problems are insignificant when compared to the licensees and brewers in our area who have lost income and many of their staff have unfortunately lost their income. They have not taken it lying down however and many of them continued to serve their local community providing takeaway and home deliveries of food and drink.



The mighty Duk Tuk

Many of our local pubs, particularly those in the villages, went above and beyond what might be expected of them. In Salisbury branch area The Duck Inn Laverstock with its mighty delivery Duk Tuk set up shop bringing supplies from butchers and wholesalers as well as beer from Hop Back Brewery. In the city the Wyndham Arms and Rai d'Or provided draft beer in takeaway containers as did

the Village Freehouse and the Duke of York who also the opportunity to upgrade their premises while they were closed.

At the northern edge of the district the Swan at Enford did sterling work as did the Wyndham Arms, Dinton and the Queen's Head, Broad Chalke. The same story could be found in the Heart of Wessex branch area with pubs such as the Walnut Tree, Mere, The Ship, West Stour and King's Arms, Marnhull providing takeaway lunches. The Benett Arms at Semley, featured in our August 2019 edition, changed hands just as the first lockdown came in but the new licensees, who live in Semley kept things going with takeaway beer and meals.



The Great Dane himself on home deliveries

Our local breweries worked hard at keeping their businesses afloat and us well

supplied with draft beer some supplying takeaway beer from the brewery door. Others provided a service I have not seen since my childhood reviving doorstep deliveries of fresh real ale and bottled beers. All at very reasonable prices.

We are not through the crisis yet and cannot be sure how many pubs and breweries will be able to continue trading. If we want to have the facility of our wonderful local pubs and the magnificent beers that are brewed in our area it is up to each one of us to give them our support. Yes you can buy beer in the supermarket, but it is not putting anything back into the local economy, *nor is the beer as good*. If we lose the 'local' we lose far more than a place just to have a drink; we lose part of our local infrastructure, part of our social life, and part of our hearts.

Derek Blackshaw

Support your local pub

Support your local brewers

and by doing so

Support your local economy

And

Support your Community



Quick stop at the brewery Blitzen to pick up a Minikeg

Beerex 2021

Planning was well underway for Beerex 2020 at Salisbury Arts Centre when Covid restrictions brought everything shuddering to a halt.

The festival, which is held in conjunction with Rotary Cogs and Wiltshire Creative, on the second weekend in June each year has been the enjoyable highlight of our Summer activities for many years and we will be working to have it back in action for summer 2021.

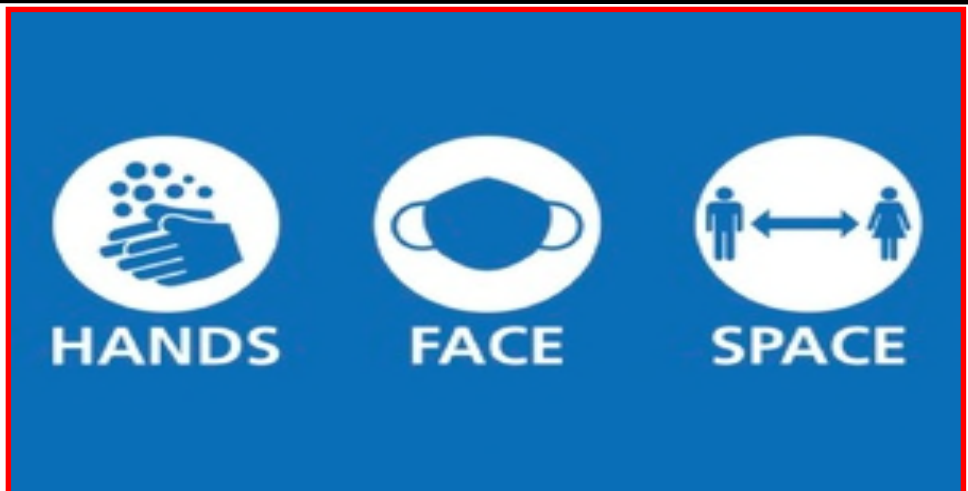
As yet we are not able to confirm arrangements but as soon as we can we will post these on our Website.

For News on this keep your eyes on
<https://salisburycamra.org.uk>

DIARY

At this time of year this column would normally be full with lots of branch activities going on. Salisbury and South Wilts branch continues to meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month and until further notice that will be on Skype. The meeting is open to all members but we do need your email address to be able to send you the link.

If we follow sensible precautions we will make it through these difficult times. In the meantime the editorial team send their best wishes to you for Christmas and New Year and we look forward to meeting you at the bar when all this is over



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What your membership includes:

- A welcome pack to help you make the most of your membership
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- Award-winning BEER magazine and What's Brewing news
- Learning resources to help you discover more about beer and brewing
- Discounts on CAMRA books including our best-selling Good Beer Guide
- Exclusive member discounts from retailers and other outlets
- Free or reduced entry to over 180 beer festivals
- £30 worth of CAMRA real ale vouchers (for use at pubs including JD Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Amber Taverns, Brains, Castle Rock and more)
- The Real Ale Discount Scheme where you receive discounts on pints at over 3,500 participating pubs with your membership card.
- **A range of local activities including brewery visits, minibus trips to village pubs and much more with an inclusive friendly group.**