

BARREL



ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

Spring 2001

Circulation 1200

FREE Newsletter

Ask if it's Cask

CAMRA has launched one of the most ambitious projects yet. For the past two years we've been getting together a fighting fund, supported by many brewers, and now at last we're off. You will see on Advertising sites and pubs all over the country and advertising campaign promoting real ale and defending choices for drinkers.

Yet for all the effort we're putting into it and for all the support we've received, we won't be able to spend even a fraction as much on promoting real ale and defending drinkers' choice as a national brewer can spend on a single lager or smooth beer brand. And that says it all, really!

Big brewers are interested in big brands. They'll spend millions on pushing their own brands and, hopefully, knocking out the brands of their rivals. Their ambition is to shoulder all others aside and to freeze out the competition.

But what CAMRA is interested in is choice, variety, a pub culture where there are beers of all styles and characters to suit beer-drinkers of all styles and characters. You choose lager? Fine - let there be lager. You choose smooth beer? That's fine too. But we'd like to be able to choose real ale as well, and unfortunately, in all too many pubs, that choice no longer exists.

Big brewers have been yanking the handpumps out of pubs all over the country to create the appearance of "consumer demand" for smooth beers which are more profitable because they are easier to store, easier to serve and they don't have any wastage. But it's a bogus. Thousands of smooth beer drinkers only drink smooth because their pub no longer stocks cask ale. We know the demand is there because

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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

* 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

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

(Continued from page 1)

regional and micro brewers are all reporting rising sales in the 20% of the market they control. But in the 80% of the market controlled by the big brewers, power over supply is being used to distort demand.

That's why CAMRA is taking to the billboards. It's about defending choice and variety. It's not about knocking lager and smooth beer, or putting down the people who prefer them. It's about persuading people who prefer cask beer to demand it in their local pub and to refuse to be fobbed off with something they regard as second best.

For only when every pub in the land has a handpump alongside the lager and smooth beer fonts will brewers and landlords be able to say, and mean that:

"The choice is yours"

So don't forget to "ask if it's cask" next time you go to the pub!

www.askifitscask.com

The Crown Inn
orcheston, nr shrewton,
salisbury.tel: 620304

Orcheston's 3rd Beer Festival

Friday 4th May,

**Saturday 5th May, Sunday 6th May and
Monday 7th May**

Live Entertainment

Friday -Karaoke

Saturday - Brad - playing rock and country

Sunday - The Tofs - Singing Duo

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 contact us.

Hook & Glove, Farley page 25 -

Recently bought by Carolyn Wallbridge who is very keen to promote real ale in the pub. Currently there is Hop Back GFB, Ringwood Best, Waddies 6X & Moles Tap Bitter. Range does vary & it is hoped to

Cuckoo Inn, Hamptworth page 27 -

Now owned by Tim & Jan Bacon. Redecorated inside and with a slightly more extensive menu but essentially unchanged. Still keeping the same extensive beer range.

Swan Inn, Enford page 24 -

New management

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A Walk Around the City by Ian Turner

Since last I wrote, the branch has had at least two city crawls - a chance to visit those pubs not so generally frequented by us beerphiles.

First trip, the hangover cure, took place on 3rd January. The few met at the Dusthole or was it the Railway? The pub had recently changed hands and we were pleased to see two real ales available both in good condition. Leaving the pub and it's 6% beer, we ventured on to the Tollgate. Badger Best and IPA were on offer both of which were very drinkable indeed. Third on the list was The Queen's Arms where we found Ushers Best and Banks' Bitter. The Ushers was fine as was the Banks' though personally I prefer the Banks' Mild which we never seem to see in Salisbury. Penultimate was the New Inn in New Street. As usual the Badger Best, IPA and Tanglefoot were on offer but that night something special... King & Barnes' Old Ale was a guest and what a guest. As we all sat enjoying a half we were sorely tempted to stay but we had arranged to drop in on the Clock Tower and, somewhat grudgingly, we had to go. The Clock Tower, our final destination that night, was excellent with an impressive range of real ales available. I was more than content to finish off the evening with a pint of Ringwood 4X Porter, one of my favourites.

All in all this was a good night out with good real ales being served at all of the pubs we visited. Well done and thanks to the Landlords of all these pubs

Our second pub crawl, on 21st March was not quite so enjoyable.....

We, that same few, met at the Haunch of Venison once a regular entry in the Good

(Continued on page 6)

Beer Guide. As always there were two real ales on offer: Courage Best and Directors. The Best was certainly o.k. but the Directors was not. I cannot be sure what the problem was but the taste of the beer seemed a little odd and I suspect the fault lay with the Brewery and NOT the landlord. From the Haunch we walked across the road to the Market Inn, an ex-Gibbs house. Ringwood best and Wadworths 6X were on offer both of which were very well kept. Two doors down the Market Place took us to the Ox Row Tavern and a locked door prevented us drinking there!!! Undaunted we headed across the Market Square and into the Sloping T..... no the Corn Market Inn. Courage Best was the only ale to be offered from one of the five or so handpumps. It was horrible and had anything else been available would have been taken back. Despite our comments to the lady behind the bar, the beer was still being sold as we left. This is what gives Real Ale a bad name and as has been said in this publication before, if you can't keep it properly then don't sell it. Determined to clear the nasty taste from our mouths we ventured across to the Chough. As I raised my glass of Marstons Pedigree to my mouth I had that feeling of déjà-vu. "Shall we say a little past its sell by date" I whispered to the barmaid. "I'm so sorry", she said as she turned the pump clip around to indicate that the beer was no longer available, "can I offer you something else?" Now that is what you want to hear when the beer is off and happily I chose the Flowers Original which was in perfect condition. Thank-you to the Chough for training their staff on how to keep us punters happy. Over the road at the Avon Brewery, the builders had taken over but the beer and atmosphere were still well worth the visit. The full Eldridge Pope portfolio was on offer—Pope's, Hardy Country and Royal Oak were all good. Last on the list but not least was the George & Dragon. Ushers, Courage Best and Fuller's London Pride were available and all in good

The Cuckoo Inn



The Cuckoo Inn at Hamptworth is a warm, friendly and traditional pub run by Tim & Jan Bacon.

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 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.

Hamptworth, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2DU

Tel: 01794 390302

Salisbury CAMRA's Pub of the Year 1999

Marion and Chris Pitcher
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Salisbury & South Wilts Pub of the Year 2000

Home-cooked foods

Traditional Real Ales

Large garden
good children's play
area

Families welcome
Special children's
menu

condition.

We all enjoyed this trip which was let down only by the beer quality at the Corn Market Inn. Had they taken the beer off when we made comment on it as did the Chough, I could forgive them. To carry on selling it was inexcusable and I shall need a lot of persuading to return. To the other landlords and landladies my thanks again for helping the cause and keeping fine real ale we really do appreciate it.

Winterfest Voters Head North by Hilary Bird

Every beer at Winterfest was somebody's favourite - or so the voting said as all beers received some votes. This supported the feeling amongst organisers and punters that this was the best beer yet at Winterfest with all beers in excellent condition.

The winners were:

First – Cropton Monkmans Slaughter form Yorkshire

Second – Gales Winter Brew from Hampshire

Third – Bath Festivity from Gloucestershire

Ye Olde Morris (& Real Ale) by Chris Cox

An appreciation of good beer is something that many Morris dancers consider almost as important as dancing the Morris. On warm summer evenings the ideal venue for dancing is outside a local hostelry that serves fine ales. At Sarum Morris, Salisbury's local Morris side, we are no different and an important consideration when selecting our dance venues each year, is what beer is served at the appropriate pub. Also on Thursday evening, after our practice sessions, we like to adjourn to a local pub that serves a nice pint of beer and we are always on the look out for something a bit special.

Currently, you can find us in the Winchester Gate in Rampart Road, Salisbury after 10pm on Thursday enjoying the latest offering from the Milk Street Brewery. In the recent past, we have frequented the Wyndham Arms and sampled the best of Hopback and over the past twenty years Sarum Morris have ventured to most of the Public Houses in and around Salisbury Each year, Sarum Morris dance at approximately 30 different events including impromptu sessions outside a pub, local village fetes, country fairs and folk festivals. These are held across the whole of the UK and sometimes overseas and what we enjoy most during our travels around the country is sampling the varieties of beer on offer. The highlight of our dancing last year was a tour of the Cotswold villages, from where our dances originate - Bampton, Ilmington and Oddington. In addition we went to the village of Hook Norton which boasts an exceedingly fine brewery and Sarum Morris can confirm that the beers available, including the wonderful Old Hookey, are exceptionally good. Around the country, many other Morris sides have a close affiliation with local breweries and during our travels, when we meet up with the other Morris sides, we hope to be sampling some of the beers from their sponsors. This year, Sarum Morris is pleased to be associated with the Badger Brewery at Blandford who have kindly offered us assistance in producing our 2001 programme. In return, we will be helping Badger Brewery in promoting some of their ales including Tanglefoot and Golden Champion. This year, Sarum Morris are

also planning a trip to Ontario in Canada in August and September when we will be dancing at the Toronto Morris Ale which is held every year over the Labor Day weekend. We are looking forward to sampling some of the very tasty Canadian beers that are renowned for their maple and honey flavours.

I can certainly say that participating in Morris dancing has enabled me to enjoy drinking a wider





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Bodyline 4.3% ABV
Heel Stone 4.3% ABV
Danish Dynamite 5.0% ABV

Seasonal Beers

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

range of beers from all around the world.
Something I don't think I would have
done if I hadn't joined Sarum Morris.

If you would like to find out more about
Sarum Morris - would you like us to
come and dance at your local village fete
or outside your pub - or perhaps you
might be interested in trying to dance or
play a musical instrument - contact
Graham 01722 710796 or email
eggss@hotmail.com.

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Positive Start to Sliding Tax Negotiations by Ted Bruning

Independent brewers' representatives have had their first meeting with Government officials following Chancellor Gordon Brown's budget promise to work on bringing in progressive beer duty.

A Society of Independent Brewers delegation headed by the organisations president, Carola Brown of Ballards, met customs and Department of Trade officials in London. Ms Brown told SIBA's Annual General Meeting in Lincoln that for the first time, the officials seemed to be addressing methods of solving PBD's perceived problems rather than using them as an excuse for blocking it. She told the AGM that there were grounds for optimism but added: "We must counsel caution as discussions are at a very delicate stage".

SIBA believes it has just six months to iron out all obstacles to the introduction of practical PBD regime if a workable scheme is to be placed before the Chancellor in time for next year's budget.

SIBA's AGM also took a first step towards raising the profile of small independent brewers with the drinking public.

It voted unanimously to create a new category of membership, pub associate membership, aimed in the first instance at publicans who regularly stock SIBA brewers' beers. Such members will be able to attend SIBA events and will receive SIBA's internal magazine and will also be able to display a plaque similar to those awarded by Cask Marque and the British Institute of Innkeeping.

SIBA General Secretary Peter Haydon said: "We can now embark on educating the drinking public to recognise the SIBA name and logo and to understand that when they see the sign they know they are about to receive something rather special - a first rate pint of traditionally produced, hand crafted beer.

Beerex XXIV

Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street

Thursday 14th June 6:00 - 11:00 (£5)

Friday 15th June 12:00 - 4:00 (£2) 6:00 - 11:00 (£6)

Saturday 16th June 11:00 - 4:00 & 6:00 - 11:00 (£6)

Music all sessions except Fri lunch. Quiet area and food at all sessions. Entrance price includes commemorative glass and programme. Card carrying CAMRA members receive beer concession. Approximately 70 Real Ales, 2 ciders. Tickets on sale from 11:00, 5th May at Salisbury Arts Centre.

Branch Diary

Date	Event
2nd May.	Open branch meeting - Winchester Gate, Salisbury. 20:00 everyone welcome.
5th May.	Beerex tickets on sale from Salisbury Arts Centre from 11:00.
11th May.	Mystery trip by coach. Leave Salisbury Coach stn at 11:15. Names to Pete Wood please.
16th May.	Branch AGM. Card carrying members only - Village Freehouse. 8:00.
19th May.	Tisbury by train. Meet at Salisbury station at 18:50.
20th May.	Bike ride to the Cuckoo, Hamptworth. Meet at Petersfinger at 10:30.
14th - 16th June.	Beerex.
27th June.	City pub crawl. Details tba.
25th July.	City pub crawl. Details tba.

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.



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 ?

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We're in the Good Beer Guide

Budvar Tackles Bully in its own Back Yard

Rice beer brewer and international bullyboy Anheuser-Busch faces a fight on its own doorstep following Budweiser Budvar's launch of real Budweiser in America.

The 5% ABV Czech Budvar is now on sale in California, Florida and several Eastern States but under the name Czech-var to honour a long-standing agreement with A-B. The label however will be instantly recognisable to lovers of the real thing with the new name in the familiar red script. Jiri Bocek, MD of the state-owned brewery, said he was not looking for a fight with A-B, owners of the American version of Budweiser. "I just want to sell beer in the U.S." he said. "Imported beers are popular there and it's a growing market that I want to be in".

Budvar is sticking to a promise made in 1939 not to use the names Budweiser or Bud in the U.S. although the Czechs still smart at the memory of an agreement forced on them under threat of legal action by at the precise moment the Nazis were marching into Czechoslovakia.

Mr Bocek added the Ministry of Agriculture in Prague, which owns Budvar, was holding talks with the European Union to see whether the brewery can win a seal of geographic origin when the Czech Republic joins the EU.

Meanwhile Budweiser Budvar has won another two rounds in the war of attrition being waged by Anheuser-Busch in Europe's courts. Having lost legal actions in Denmark, Finland and Latvia, A-B has been dealt another blow by courts in Lithuania and Italy which have thrown out its claim that Budweiser Budvar is infringing its trademark.

Lessees to Battle on After Whitbread Sale

CAMRA is continuing to support the right of former Whitbread lessees to buy their pubs following the sale en bloc to German-owned venture capitalist Morgan Grenfell Private Equity.

The 3,000 pubs were sold for £1.6 billion subject to the agreement of a Whitbread shareholders' EGM at the end of April.

It is expected that the 1,700 leased pubs will be securitised and it is already rumoured that many of the 1,300 managed pubs will be sold off.

Several hundred Whitbread lessees, led by Cumbrian licensee Gary McClure, who have been campaigning for the right to buy have been told that they have no chance of success by the estates new boss, ex-Bass chief, Ian Payne. But they are determined not to give up and are to stage a protest outside the EGM. Mr McClure said the tenants planned to start a court action for misrepresentation against Whitbread. "I don't think they realise what they're taking on", he said.

Now CAMRA National Executive Jim Fox and members of Portsmouth and South Hampshire have presented a petition to Portsmouth MP Mike Hancock backing the lessees campaign. Mr Hancock said "I have submitted the petition to Parliament. I hope that the publicity that arises out of this will shame the new owners to listen to what has been said".

CAMRA Head of Campaigns Mike Benner added: "It's a basic right of a tenant to buy their own pub at it's market price if it is put up for sale".

Focus



A CAMRA Stalwart

It is with much sadness that we announce the death of CAMRA stalwart and Wiltshire Pub Guide Editor Dave Backhouse aged 67. Many branch members will know Dave, a founder member of Swindon branch, through his association with the Wiltshire Pub Guide which was the work of all CAMRA branches in Wiltshire.

Dave, who was injured in a car accident in 1962 and wheelchair bound since then, was a very active member who also edited and wrote most of the Tun, Swindon CAMRA's branch magazine. He coordinated all of the Wiltshire branches in the production of the Wiltshire Pub Guides, the last of which was produced in 1997. He has never let his impediment restrict his passion for seeking out and enjoying real ale and was an inspiration to us all.

Well done Stig & Ann Marie from Stonehenge Brewery who completed the London Marathon in under 4½ hours. Money raised will help Christian Lewis Trust Cancer Care for Children and Naomi House Children's Hospice.

CAMRA is celebrating an astonishing double victory in its campaign to win mandatory rates relief for country pubs.

The speed of the measure, which gives an unconditional 50 per cent rates cut to all pubs with a rateable value of £9,000 in settlements of fewer than 3,000 inhabitants, was a source of celebration. It was passed without celebration last month, scarcely a year since the proposal was first tabled, and should be implemented next year.

And there was double delight when every amendment proposed by the campaign was conceded almost verbatim.

CAMRA proposed three crucial changes to the Government's original proposal:

- ◆ That leased and tenanted pubs, and not just owner-operated free houses, should be eligible for the cut.
- ◆ That the ceiling for eligibility should be raised from the rateable value of £6,000 applied to village shops and post offices.
- ◆ That the measures should be extended to all pubs, not just those with additional community facilities such as meeting rooms, cash-back facilities or post office counters.

The Government believes that some 8,000 country pubs in England - the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament have yet to approve similar measures which are before them - should benefit, although some critics say this is a substantial over-estimate. The Publican newspaper, which has also pressed hard for rates relief, believes it may be fewer than 1,700 but CAMRA Head of Campaigns Mike Benner hailed the victory and dubbed the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions "the Department that likes to say yes". "This whole initiative has come in less than a year since our first meeting with DETR and it shows that when you have a strong case, properly backed up with public surveys and with full media support, the Government will listen and act", he said. "The fact that the Government adopted all the changes we proposed reinforces our experience that if you come forward with a strong, well-argued case, Government Departments will listen."

Mr Benner said he doubted that the foot and mouth outbreak had been a factor in the speed of the measure's introduction. "This was put out to consultation last autumn, long before foot and mouth and won't actually be implemented until next year, so I have no evidence that foot and mouth was a factor", he said. "What was a factor was the superb co-ordination of all branches of the campaign. We got a good media campaign going, the Postal Action Network worked well and we used our links with the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group, the Countryside Agency, licensed trade associations and the licensed trade press, especially the Publican, to present a united front and a coherent case to the Government.

Letters (Well one !!! At last)

Congratulations on nice Barrel Organ collected at your Pub of the Year “The Pelican Inn”. I recently purchased the Salisbury & South Wiltshire Pub Guide 2000.... An excellent guide.

Keep up the good work. Myself and wife regularly visit country pubs on weekly days out and rely upon good guides. We have yet to be let down by the brief descriptions in the Good Beer Guide and have now extended our reference books to local guides such as your own.

We visited almost 80 pubs last year and are well into double figures this year.

Thanks for the good recommendation of the “Pelican Inn” - your description is totally correct, we hope to test many of your descriptions later this year.

Gordon & Liz, Bristol.

Gordon, thank-you for the kind letter. You will find many more pubs just as worthy of a visit in our area. Happy hunting. Ed.

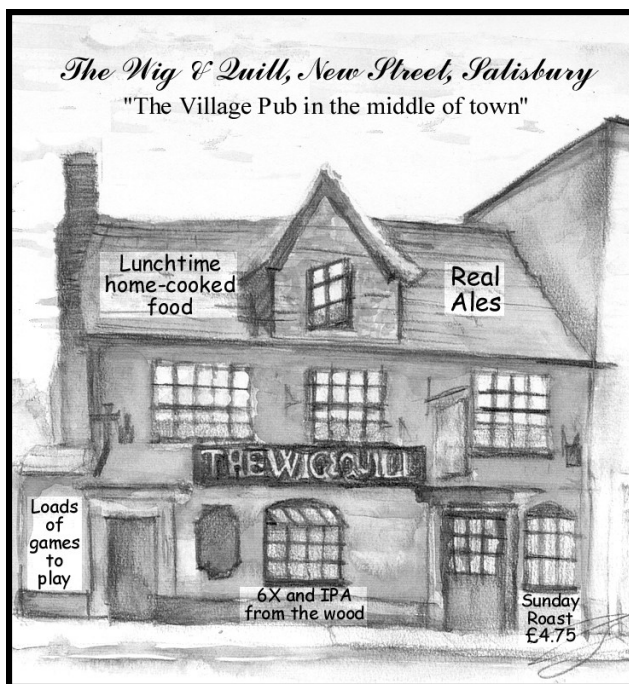
Southampton Beer Festival

At the Guildhall (5 minutes from Central Station)

Entry includes free programme and commemorative glass

Thursday 21 June	7pm - 11pm	£2	Preview session
Friday 22 June	11:30am - 4pm	Free	Quiet session (£1.50 deposit on glass)
	6pm - 11pm	£5	Skimmington Ride Folk with attitude
Saturday 23 June	11:30am - 4:30	£4	Riverside Jazz Band
	6:30pm - 11pm	£4	Rufus Stone (local soul legends)

Tickets and further information available from Alex on 023 8055 1878 or www.shantscamra.org.uk or tickets@shantscamra.org.uk



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

Salisbury and South Wilts Branch BO Spring 2001