

# ≡ RISING TUN

Spring 2020

Issue 128

**A stunning 1965 image of a Swindon Borough Council, Daimler Fleetline bus, sweeping around Wellington Street, toward the old Bus Station, was one of a larger fleet.**

**Arkell's Brewery commissioned a complete repaint of the vehicle for advertising and PR purposes. I wonder if old friend, and famed Arkell's signwriter Ronnie Harper, was involved?**



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

# THE GLUE POT

*12 consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide,*

*Swindon & North Wiltshire CAMRA*

*Cider Pub of the Year*

**5 Emlyn Square, Swindon, SN1 5BP - 01793 497420**



## 7<sup>th</sup> Real Ale & Cider Festival

**10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Real Ales & Traditional Ciders from across Britain!**

**Come and visit the Ringwood Brewery Shop**  
(Open: Monday - Saturday 9.30-5pm)

Tours are also available, booking compulsory.  
Call our Brewery Store on 01425 470303

138 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 3AP  
[WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK)

VISIT THE WINDING DOWNS

# From the Editor...

For Christmas I received two quite super books. The first one, written by an 'ancient' school friend of mine, John Truman, displayed not only his effortless ramblings of an old duffer, but also his quite extraordinary sketching ability. The poetry was not quite in the class of Keats and Byron, however it is delightful and thought-provoking. Entitled "Behind the Rhymes", I have taken the liberty of reproducing one of the classics on page 10 of this issue. The other book, 'A Christmas Railway Mystery', by Edward Marston is a detective novel set in and around Swindon's Railway Village. I confess I've not yet got to grips with that, but next week in Tenerife, it's part of the plan! If you would like to look at either of these books, then they will be in the Bakers Heritage Café in Emlyn Square, which is another project yours truly is now responsible for.

I have been contacted by a few members regarding the next CAMRA trip out, and I'm proposing something on a Saturday towards the end of March, almost certainly in the Bristol area, where the local beer scene continues to go from strength to strength. Keep 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> free! If members have any preferences as to where they would especially like to go, you can text me on (07836) 609369, and I'll see whether these choices can be accommodated. I hope to see a good turnout and we are looking at 53 seats being full.

I'd just like to mention Barrie Hudson, who many of you know was an old hand at the Swindon Evening Advertiser and a great supporter of CAMRA locally. No it's not an obituary, but he has been made redundant in the latest round of cost-cutting, which is a great shame. We do hope he will still have time to judge the beer choices at our festival in October, and as a really good journalist, we wish him well for the future. Although a fan of the Adver', I do worry that just about all the

long experienced journalists seem to be disappearing.

Finally, if you like me are Tenerife enthusiast, do visit the Big Ben pub down at the front in Los Cristianos next to Desperate Dans. It's really hard to find decent beer in Tenerife and my old

friend there stocks Speckled Hen, albeit under top pressure. I have to say it's just about drinkable!

**John Stooke**  
*Editor*

[www.swindon.camra.org.uk](http://www.swindon.camra.org.uk)  
[editor@swindon.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@swindon.camra.org.uk)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I'd like to thank Richard James, Chris James, Barry Hillier, Vince Chilcott and Gill White for their invaluable help in compiling this issue.

## THE RISING TUN

**'THE RISING TUN' is the magazine of Swindon and North Wiltshire branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)**

### THE LOCAL DIARY

All meetings and social events are relaxed and friendly. Why not come along and join us? Members and non members are equally welcome to attend. Check the website before setting out in case of any last minute changes. Meetings usually begin at 8.00pm. Upcoming dates are:

#### Monday 9th March

The Green Dragon, 12-13 High Street, Marlborough  
SN8 1AA

#### Monday 6th April

AGM - The Goddard Arms, 1 High Street, Swindon  
SN1 3EG

#### Monday 11th May

The Rat Trap, Highworth Road, Stratton, Swindon  
SN3 4QS (New Function Room)

## JOKEs

**A man has been found dead in Lagos, capital of Nigeria... \$27 million dollars in cash was found stashed in his cellar ... apparently he's been trying to give it away for the last 20 years, but nobody wanted it...**



# A Coincidence?



'Exmoor Beast' won beer of the festival back in October (where did 2019 disappear to?). I then open the winter magazine from Somerset CAMRA branch, 'Pints of View', to find an article on Exmoor Head

brewer Tom Davies. I couldn't resist reprinting it for the benefit of our local CAMRA members. Wetherspoon's Savoy are trying to persuade Exmoor to deliver to Swindon, (they come as far as Chippenham but not here) in order to widen their offer on Exmoor Ales. I will update this if anything further does materialise on this front.

## MEET THE BREWER TOM DAVIES, EXMOOR ALES.



**Where did you originate from?** ...I'm a Devon boy and grew up in Torbay. I've also lived in Australia for 10 years before returning to the UK a few years ago.

**What is your previous background i.e. career**

**or training?** ... I have a varied background in so far as I started out as an industrial designer then went into website development. My career took a complete change of direction once I realised I love brewing beer and took an IBD qualification in my spare time - I began as a trainee assistant at Exmoor and the rest is history.

**What interested you in brewing?** ... Like most professional brewers, I started my journey by home brewing, in the garage. It all began with good old Coopers tinned kit, and I pushed on from there. Starting with kits is an excellent way to begin building an equipment collection and getting used to the basics. However, it's only once you get a bit more adventurous and start

playing with All Grain Brewing that you really learn how to create beers as you want them.

**How long have you been brewing?** ... I began around 12 years ago now.

**Favourite Hop?** ... I'm a massive fan of some of the traditional English varieties such as Fuggle and Challenger - but I would have to say that my 'desert island' hop would be Cascade. The grapefruit and citrus notes are amazing if they are used late on in the boil.

**Favourite Malt?** ... **Malts?** A tricky one to pick a favourite from but I think it's pretty hard to look past a good floor-malted heritage Crystal.

**What is your favourite ale style?** ... There are so many different types it's hard to choose but I do love a good, strong bitter but I'm also a bit of a smoked beer nerd, and never pass up the opportunity to get my laughing gear around a decent German Rauchbier.

**Which is the favourite ale you brew?** ... At Exmoor ales we pride ourselves in producing top quality traditional English ale across a wide range of styles, but as my previous comment about strong bitters, I confess the Exmoor Stag is my beer of choice, from our range.

**What about the favourite ale not brewed by you?** ... As I mentioned that Rauchbier was a favourite style of mine, then I have to plump for the one brewed in Bamberg, by Schlenkeria as my all-time number one.

**Tell us an interesting fact that few people know about you?** ... In my spare time I have been known to do cartoon illustrations and can also, wait for it, juggle (definitely a useful skill to have at Exmoor Brewery!).



*Jason Nash at the Savoy, Swindon. Jason is the main man in selecting the amazing range you will find at this excellent local Wetherspoons.*



# FAMOUS INNS IN REASONABLE DRIVING DISTANCE



## No 1 The George at Norton St Phillip

The George must be one of the most recorded and written about English inns. Licensed as an alehouse in 1397, the Duke of Monmouth spent the night there shortly before the Battle of Sedgemoor, when an attempt was made to shoot him through a window. The Duke appeared at a window and the assassination was presumably seeking the price on his head offered by James II. In the event the Duke may have wished the shot had hit home as within a few days he was caught and later beheaded on Tower Hill.

It was built for the wealthy Carthusian Priory of Hinton serving the double purpose of accommodating wayfarers and providing a centre for the weekly market and annual wool fayre, which were under the Priory's remit.

It's reported that Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads lodged at the George during the English Civil War.

There are many who believe that the George can lay claim to being the oldest pub in England, although I'm reminded that Ted Brunning in his book 'Mediaeval Roots of the Great British Pub' said, *"that the oldest inn question is as unanswerable as it as it is trivial"*.

When writing of the George, Brunning said, *"The first and most obvious candidate is the backyard of the George at Norton St Philip in Somerset ... Having a pint here, especially on a quiet day when there's no one else around, is the closest experience I have ever had to being transported back to the Middle Ages. Its completeness and intimacy make it more atmospheric than any crumbling castle or grand cathedral."*

And people ask why we English love our pubs ... Ed

## WELL, FANCY THAT!

I was contacted recently by Linda Brown, owner of this splendid corner cottage in Haydon Wick, to say she had looked out some old deeds and discovered that this left hand part of the building was indeed a beerhouse in the mid-19th century. When researching my well-known, local history book on Disappeared Pubs, both I (and David Backhouse) felt there was another pub in Haydon Wick, as Police and Magistrates described the village "as the most drunken parish in the area". It seems this was originally a small establishment, known as "Poultons Beerhouse" before on sales closed, in around 1880 and it was converted to an off-licence in the ownership of Ushers Brewery. Remarkably Ushers retained ownership up until February 1960. Mmm, 3 pubs and a Workman's Club in Haydon Wick ... perhaps they coppers had a point?



Whilst on the subject of the book **'Last Orders'**, you can easily pick up copies of this, if you wish to buy it at just £10 (of which £3 goes directly to Swindon Women's Refuge). It's today on sale at the Glue Pot, the Beehive, the Hop Inn, the Steam Railway, the Carter's Rest, the Blunsdon Arms as well as Magnum Wine in Wood Street.

## Did You Know:



the average human walks nearly 1000 miles each year, and (if they've any sense) consumes 22 gallons of beer. On my reckoning this is nearly 46 mpg ... Not that bad?

# BEER FESTIVAL ROUND UP

## MARCH

13th/14th

Wantage Beer Festival at the Beacon, Portway.

[www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk](http://www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk)

13th/14th

Winchester Beer Festival at the Guildhall.

[www.winchesterbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeerfestival.org.uk)

## APRIL

24th/25th

Wanborough Beer Festival at the  
New Callay Arms

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-old-boilers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-old-boilers)

24th /25th

Chippenham Beer Festival at the  
Olympiad, Saddler's Mead

[www.nwwiltscamra.org.uk](http://www.nwwiltscamra.org.uk)

## MAY

8th/9th

Christchurch Swindon Beer Festival

Tickets contact Chris Smith (01793) 617237

## JUNE

13th

Covingham Beer Festival,  
at St Pauls Church, Swindon  
12 noon till 10 PM

## OCTOBER (THE BIG ONE)

22nd/24th

Swindon and North Wilts Beer Festival  
at STEAM Museum

[www.swindon.CAMRA.org.uk](http://www.swindon.CAMRA.org.uk)

# JOKes

My grandfather told me that he saw the Titanic, and from the beginning he warned all the people that the ship would sink but nobody would listen to him. But he was a brave man. He didn't give up. He warned them again and again and again, on many occasions ... until eventually they kicked him out of the cinema ...

# TAXI ANYONE?

Seems Bianca Wilson and Darren Turner, who run the Angel in Purton, have bought a pair of taxis to ensure anyone overdoing it can get home safely, at no charge, every Friday and Saturday after 10:30PM in a 10 mile radius. Although technically not a taxi service and really a free lift home, it is truly a great idea and one that other country pubs might consider when they are looking for innovative ideas to improve business?

# GUN LAW

In a post-brexite period, when we kind of look



across at the United States as a beacon of hope for us in our brave new world, I can't help thinking that their values are not

my values. Don't get me wrong, I have worked in the US, travelled extensively and enjoy the United States but one thing I have never fathomed is their attitude to firearms.

In South Carolina not too long ago a 21-year-old boy (he looked about 14!) was given a Glock handgun for his 21st birthday present. A week later he went into a Methodist Chapel and shot to death six women and three men, praying in the congregation.

In 2017 handguns killed, 58 people in Israel, 52 people in Canada, 48 people in Japan, 42 people in West Germany, 34 people in Switzerland, 21 people in Sweden, 8 people here in the United Kingdom (as a direct result of our eminently sensible laws on firearms), yet in the United States, wait for it, 10,728 people were shot and died.

The National Rifle Association, their gunmakers trade union, believe the answer is MORE guns in circulation, in order citizens can feel MORE secure? Yeah right. They desperately want a return to the original Wild West! Sometimes it's really good to live out one's life in North Wiltshire. **Ed**

# THE WORKS HOOTER (Or Steam Trumpet!)



**I grew up to the regular wake-up call of the works factory hooter. In the past, all Swindon lived by this timing. It was loud and clear and you couldn't miss it. Seemingly in earlier days the hooter could be heard over a range of 15 miles and it benefited not just the factory men but also local agricultural employees. Jack Hayward discovered some notes relating to the**

**hooter and I thought these would be of interest to Swindonians, in recalling a different time and place?**

The introduction of the works hooter took place in October 1867. Before then, and beginning in 1843, a bell would be rung at the beginning and end of shifts, which was mounted on the roof of 'C shop'.

Mr WF Gooch, Manager announced in 1850 that "The bell will in future be rung a second time beginning three minutes before each hour, that is at 5:57AM, 8:57AM, and 1:57PM and continue to ring for a period of two minutes. The doors will be closed punctually on the hour and the special attention of all workmen is called to rules 6 and 7".

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1867, the GWR erected the first factory 'Steam Whistle' on the 'R shop' roof, to summon men to work.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 1869, Sam Carlton, Locomotive Works Manager warned; "On and after Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> inst, I have arranged the factory whistle to be blown at 6AM, 9AM, and 2PM so that no excuse can be made for men not commencing work at the right time. Please inform your men of this and any persons not commencing work at the proper time after this arrangement, will be severely dealt with".

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1872 another notice was released by Sam Carlton this time stating: "Commencing on Monday next, the factory whistle will be taken down and locomotive guards whistle fixed in its place".

Previously in 1867 the steam trumpet had been erected and this was to be blown as follows: 5:20AM for 10 mins, 5:50AM for 3 mins, 6AM for one min, 8:15AM for 30 secs, 8:50AM for 30 secs, 9AM for 30 secs, 1PM for 30 secs, 1:50PM for 30 secs, 2PM for 30 secs, and 6PM for 30 secs.

In 1873 Lord Bolingbroke strongly objected to the blowing of the steam trumpet and in June 1873,

his lordship, based at Lydiard Mansion, brought a successful case against the GWR to have it removed. His main objection was the hours and duration for which the steam trumpet was sounded.

It was not just the 3700 factory workers now employed, who relied on it for getting to work on time. Farmers and local tradesmen had become accustomed to conducting their business set by the regular time checks. In consequence the GWR were besieged with requests to continue blowing the trumpet and received petitions from 14 different parishes as far apart as Wootton Bassett, Purton, Lower Stratton, Hook, Elombe, South Marston, Wanborough, Wroughton and others. Requests for the continuation of the hooter came from clergyman, farmers, landlords, coal merchants, labourers, toll receivers, wheelers and hundreds of local people. Such was the demand that the GWR decided to appeal the ban and, armed with the overwhelming support of local residents, the sanction was revoked in July 1874.

By 1875 the Steam Whistle was incorporated into a hydraulic hooter house and was thenceforth driven by hydraulic high pressure from the workshops, operating the hooter fixed the roof.

In the 1960s Mr JS Scott sought to reduce the volume by chopping off 2 inches from the top of the valve. Workmen quickly complained they could not hear the hooter when the wind was in the wrong direction. The original design was restored.

When the working week reduced to 38 hours, the hooter was blown 9 times a day Monday to Friday at the following times: 6:45AM 17 secs, 7:20AM 12 secs, 7:25AM 7 secs, 7:30AM 12 secs, 12:30PM 12 secs, 1:20PM 12 secs, 1:25PM 7 secs, 1:30PM 12 secs, 4:30PM 12 secs. It was no longer blown on Friday afternoon.

**The hooter just seem to fade away in my recollection, but I have researched it and seemingly it was blown for the last time, at 16.30 GMT on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1986. Ed**

## THE WINTERBOURNE, Winterbourne Bassett

Called into the Winterbourne on the way home from Devizes the other evening, and was delighted to see Bristol Beer Factory 'independence' on the bar. What are the chances of calling into a modest, isolated, country pub with a few regulars stood around playing darts, and seeing well-kept Bristol Beer Factory fine ales? This is a community owned pub and the landlady told me they have more innovative real ale offers in the pipeline. Apparently the food is very good as well.

# RENAISSANCE PUBS



**An occasional column which features historic pubs which have enjoyed a chequered recent history, with the hope of course that they now have their futures on a firm footing. This month we feature the second Wroughton pub in a row, the Brown Jack at Priors Hill.**

This pub was originally known as the Three Horseshoes and opened as a Beerhouse, under the 1830 Act, around 1840. It moved between some ancient now defunct brewers in its early days including Ducks of Malmesbury the Beaufort Brewery, in Wootton Bassett and Bowly's in Old Town. Under Bowly's ownership it was rebuilt at the turn-of-the-century and became part of HG Simonds brewery holdings following the acquisition in 1945. It is suggested that the original pub burnt down in 1901 as a result of a lightning strike and the outbuildings mentioned below were all that was left. In

August 1947, and in honour of Wroughton's most famous racehorse, the pub was renamed the Brown Jack.

At the end of the yard is an old barn, (now replaced as a garage), that could possibly have been 400 years old with gnarled beams, adze hewn and pegged. The remaining stone section contains a skittle alley and it could be 300 years old, and was thatched until recent times.

The famous horse, Brown Jack, was trained by Ivor Anthony at Barcelona Stables, over in

**To Advertise: Matelot Marketing - [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com)**



the High Street and won 125 races between 1928 and 1934. On arrival it is said he promptly sickened with a fever of 105° but did not go off his food and was nursed back to health. He never had his top section door closed neither in summer nor winter.

It said that most racing tips came after the stable lads had enjoyed a few pints of Bowly's 'Old October', matured at the brewery for 12 months and very strong, and usually mixed with half a pint of Bowly's 'Forpenny', making the whole a palatable pint for just 3d ... that's approx 1p in real money.

Later the pub went to Courage from HG Simonds and was then bought by Ushers in 1991. From Ushers it became part of many Pub Cos, hence the difficulty in retaining good quality landlords.



Brown Jack pictured, just a name to our generation, but almost a hundred years ago he was the hero, not only of the last day of the Royal meeting, but of the whole week, for it was on the Friday afternoon that he won the Queen Alexandra Park Stakes for the six successive year. It said that he thrived on hot Bowly's beer! And why not ...

# JOKes

BBC News reported last night that there is a gang, going through Sheffield City Centre, systematically shoplifting clothes in order of sizes ... the police believe they're still at large ...

## THE BEEHIVE

Swindon's Favourite Local

- Local real ales and craft beers -
- Locally made Pies, Mash and Gravy -
- Regular live music -
- Local art on display around the pub -
- Free Wi-Fi -

Open all day from noon - 7 Days

**The Beehive Pub**  
55 Prospect Hill, Swindon SN1 3JS  
T: 01793 523187 E: [post@bee-hive.co.uk](mailto:post@bee-hive.co.uk)  
[www.bee-hive.co.uk](http://www.bee-hive.co.uk)

## FLACK MANOR

BREWERY

BREWED IN  
**Romsey**

01794 518 520  
[info@flackmanor.co.uk](mailto:info@flackmanor.co.uk)

# THE PUB POEM

**My old school friend John Truman was always a bit off the wall but, as mentioned, I think one of his recent poems cries out for more publicity. Whilst our modest magazine is hardly the Guardian newspaper, I'm afraid John old friend, it's the best we can do!**

## THE PUB

*Whatever's 'appened to the country pub?  
Whatever's 'appened to our locals?  
They were once a refuge for the drinking man,  
Full of jolly, happy, drinking yokels.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the ambiance,  
The welcome smell of fags and beer,  
Plain walls yellowed by nicotine,  
Wood floors mellowed by the year.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the alehouse,  
Once a place of ribald cheer?  
They're wine bars, gastros, bistros, now,  
Selling anything but beer.*

*Whatever's 'appened to our proper drinks,  
Mild and bitter, brown or light?  
With Babycham for ladies,  
And port and lemon, Saturday night.*

*Young 'uns now drink foreign lager,  
Or liquers, or alcopops,  
And poncy wines like Prosecco,  
Or, God 'elp us, even shots.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the barmaid,  
All smiles and bouncing chest?  
So when she bent to pull a pint,  
You caught a glimpse of breast.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the landlord,  
Red-faced, potbellied and funny?  
Now there's just a faceless manager,  
In 'is office, counting money.*

*What's 'appened to the click of dominoes,  
Or the thud, thud, thud, of darts?  
Now there's just a giant bloody screen,  
Blasting pop videos, from the charts.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the characters,  
Telling far-fetched tales and jokes?  
Now huddled outside, in the street,  
To enjoy their harmless smokes.*

*Whatever's 'appened to the toilets,  
In corrugated shed, across the yard?  
Now it's mood music and urinals  
Decorated 'avant-garde'*

*What's 'appened to the cheap night out?  
Tippin' eight pints down the throat,  
A bag of chips on the way home,  
And still change from a £10 note.*

*The pub trade's burning, just like Rome,  
And, like Nero, owners fiddle,  
And blokes like me are staying 'ome,  
Drinkin' beer, and wine, from Lidl!*

Courtesy of John Trueman, "Behind the Rhymes"

## Just Consider This!

Martin Branchley-Sayers writes: "I have a micro pub in the same town that my ex had a mainstream pub. We've both been in the trade for 30 years. When I see accusations that pubs close because of 'bad publicans' I take exception. My ex was a hard-working and great publican, so let's put that to bed for a start! What closes pubs are greedy Pub Cos. My rent £9000, her rent £47000, my business rates with small business relief zero, hers £16500. I'm a free house and can haggle on price per cask where she had to buy from the Pub Co to the tune of approximately £50 per cask more than I and ... she was not allowed to go elsewhere. She had to insure via a company the Pub Co chose with a bill of £7000 per year. Her Pub Co inspected electrics gas and did PAT testing, another £3000 a year PLUS anything they found needed doing. Thousands have gone to the wall due directly to the actions of Pub Cos. They are parasites without exception".

When you wonder why that Enterprise PubCo house is closed once again or the landlord has walked out of the Spirit PubCo house after just six months, (or after a year they can't find anyone to take over the Crumpled Horn) understand what Martin Branchley-Sayers has said.

Perhaps the smaller groups are now beginning to understand you must try to look after good landlords, but will the proposed Stonegate/El merger creating 5000+ pubs in one business, make this better or worse? You decide.

**Ed**

# PUB NEWS...

## Swindon and North Wiltshire Branch

**The Wellington Arms in Marlborough** is offering a stonking 25% discount for CAMRA members and have been added to our list of pubs offering a discount. **The Village Inn, Liddington.** has a new tenant Steve Newton, who took over the business on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February. **The Bell, Purton** has new tenants Kayleigh & Guy Tasker who are taking over in April. **The Globe at Highworth** reopened on 20<sup>th</sup> December. The new **Hop Kettle 'Tap & Brew'** in Old Town opened on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December last year. They hope to start trial brews in late January. **The Red Lion at Baydon** closed on New Year's Day and there has been a planning application to erect two dwellings in the car park. Steve Leppard, the landlord of the **Heart in Hand** at Blunsdon, has announced he is retiring in April, (very bad news, Ed) **The Harrow in Wanborough** may re-open in February. It's presently closed as the landlady left suddenly. Seems like after the big falling out between Wadsworth and Howard Spooner at the **Outside Chance in Manton**, Wadsworth have now reopened the pub, going back to its original name the **Oddfellows Arms**, under the leadership of Ann, Jodi and Mark. **The Groves Company Inn** seems to be completely closed. There is been no movement at the **Crumpled Horn** for the last six months and CAMRA remain very concerned about its future. Good news is that the **Steam Railway in Newport Street** has reopened before Christmas but will be closed after the rugby tournament for a six-week full refurbishment, including new and additional television screens and a more imaginative use of the outside space. **The Red Lion at Cricklade** have disappointingly confirmed there will be no winter beer festival this year. **The Who'd A Thought It** at Lockeridge is now re-established under the leadership of father and son team, Alex and Ian, and is offering a range of Wadsworth's ales. There seems to be work still continuing at the **White Hart Inn, Oare**, but no real sign of reopening. If you, like me, wonder what's going on at the **Churchill in Wootton Bassett**, the massive building project in the car park is apparently a bedroom block.



## Turns out getting pulled over by the police isn't always bad news

It started as a day much like any other for our delivery driver. But later that morning, as he was carefully navigating the A64 with a precious cargo of Landlord casks, the flashing blue lights of the North Yorkshire constabulary appeared in his mirror. He pulled over, fretting about why the police were stopping him. But rather than issue a ticket, the officer wanted to order a delivery of Landlord to the police social club. Is it the combination of the finest ingredients and our traditional brewing methods that means some drinkers go that little bit further for that *arresting* taste of Taylor's?

All for that taste of Taylor's



# IT'S GOOD NEWS AT LAST!!

The Office for National Statistics has announced rare good news. For the first time in a decade, the number of pubs and bars in Britain rose last year, with some 315 more licensed premises opening than closing, however at 39000, it still remains a quarter down on 2001.

The increase was marked in small neighbourhood pubs with less than 10 people, where numbers rose by 85, a welcome first increase in 15 years. Also establishments employing 10 to 24 people rose by 50, but the strongest growth was in large premises, and surprisingly not Wetherspoon's or Marstons or Greene King.

Since 2016, the ONS also confirmed, those serving food outnumber those working behind the bar. This may be a reaction to a long-term trend towards people spending more household income on eating out and less on drinking out. Because consumers spent more in pubs and bars on food than they did on drink, it meant the total turnover of the pubs and bars sector rose in 2017 by 3.8% to £23.3bn, a figure not seen since the global financial crisis erupted in 2008. Smaller pubs have also benefitted from discounted business rates in former Chancellor Philip Hammond's 2018 budget, who also froze duty on beer, cider and spirits. Other factors may also be at play including: the quality of pub food, quality of cellaring following the rise in popularity of cask ales and craft beer, ease of opening micros, communities rallying round their pubs in the face of closures, campaigns such as 'Long Live the Local', and importantly pressure applied by CAMRA, with our membership almost doubling during the last decade. Changes in the law, for which we campaigned successfully, include winning "Asset of Community Value" status for threatened pubs which has made it harder for developers to demolish pubs or quickly convert them to other uses.

# FANCY YOUR OWN PUB?

Arkells brewery are seeking new tenants to run their pubs and have unveiled a campaign to show what an exciting and rewarding lifestyle this can be. The campaign showcases some tenant 'life stories' and features Tim and Lucy Hinton, who run the White Hart and the Kings Arms in Swindon and Alan Rossiter who manages the Southbrook Inn. The campaign is running over Arkells social media channels, so go to its website [www.arkellsrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.arkellsrecruitment.co.uk) where, if you're interested, you can discover everything about it.

---

## ARE YOU LONELY TONIGHT?

---

New research suggests loneliness among older people is on the increase, with many over 50-year-olds feeling more lonely than a year ago.

Many of those say it's because they no longer work, live alone, or have children who have left home. People over the age of 50 have an average of six close friends and see them once every five days, said over 50's dating app Lumen, which commissioned the 1000 person study.

The Campaign for Real Ale highlighted dozens of pubs running events aimed at connecting people. Examples include the Brook Inn, in Plymouth, which hosts TLC Thursdays - Tea, Laughter and Company - offering free cake, tea and entertainment, the New Inn, in Ceredigion, which boasts a cinema club and library, and the Four Ale Taproom in Gosport, Portsmouth, which hosts community groups every week. Chairman Nik Antona said: "There's something about the colder months, when it is harder to enjoy the outdoors, that makes winter particularly isolating. That's why we want to highlight the role that pubs play in providing social networks and at the same time connecting people to events happening in their area." Robin Hewings of the Campaign to End Loneliness said: "There are nine million lonely people in the UK, and about four million of those are older people. They lack the companionship, friendship and support we all need. In our polling, we found that pubs are the place that people feel most comfortable starting conversations in. Pubs are a great space for people to connect. Even just a small chat can make a big difference to someone who feels lonely."



# NEW TAP ROOM IN DEVIZES ROAD

If it wasn't already, Devizes Road is rapidly becoming the nerve centre for innovation in real ale, in Swindon. December saw the addition of Hop Kettle Tap and Brew, to Jason Putt's already splendid Hop Inn, the Arbor Ales Tap, (Little Hop) the Eternal Optimist bar, and the Tupenny. Spoilt for choice doesn't begin to describe it!

Opened in six weeks, Tom Gee's new venture will most likely become the home of a brewing school.



Tom viewed this position as the perfect showcase for his product, saying "It looks amazing and it means we can have a vast majority of our products on sale at once. I always wanted

*it to be more than just a tap room, so over the year it will evolve into a brew school with the experimental brewery we have out the back. People will be able to buy places on a brewing day, or buy it out for a full day to produce beers for birthdays, weddings or just because they fancy it. Everything that is produced will then be showcased in our free experimental tanks which are behind the bar".*

Tom is considering running competitions throughout the year for customers to design their own ales, where the winners of those competitions - after public testing - could then find their own recipe brew for sale on tap.

Could this street be a new regional destination? If you think of King Street in Bristol, alehouses are all lined up next to each other which makes it an irresistible destination venue. So, instead of going out on the weekends to Bristol or Bath, why not think about Devizes Road ... and it's a much cheaper taxi home!!

## JOKes

Saw a sign in the GWH car park last week.  
Said "Thieves Operate Here" ... yes ... well...  
don't know about you, but I'd be a lot happier  
if they were well trained surgeons...

# BREWERY NEWS...

**RAMSBURY ...** For the new year, Ramsbury introduced a session ale called Hopper 3.2%. Dry hopped, easy drinking, hazy, micro IPA and with a combination of Centennial, Amarillo, later dry hopped with Mosaic and Citra ... it gives a hoppy and citrusy aroma, a bitter-sweet finish and a morerish aftertaste. For the 6 Nations Rugby Tournament, a 4.1 % called 'Blind Side' is planned. Increasingly there will be a focus on keg beers and canned beers. (Yuk, Ed) They say cans, which have an extended shelf life over bottles and can be better be re-cycled, are an improvement? The exception will be Ramsbury Gold, which remains popular in bottles. The Brewery have significantly invested in a refurbished shop and conference facility. It's well worth a look if ever you are in that 'neck of the woods'.

**ARKELLS ...** For 2020 they are producing a range of new single hop beers using rare hops selected from around the globe. The first one is Wolf (4.2% abv), a deep amber ale brewed using Styrian Wolf Hops from Slovenia. It is available in January and February. Two others will follow later in the year. *Wolf is on at the GW, the Sun and the Rat Trap definitely and it is excellent, Ed.*

**BROAD TOWN ...** No news yet as their website is still 'under construction'.

**HOP KETTLE ...** Their new Tap & Brew in Devizes Road, Old Town is featured on Page 13 .

**THREE CASTLES, PEWSEY ...** Following a busy Christmas period, the new year has already seen a number of wholesale and SIBA listed enquiries. Going forward, they plan a number of new beers including: a copper ale 4.0%, a new strong pale ale, a cask lager ale, a milk stout and a black IPA, spread throughout the first half of 2020.

**WORLDS END, PEWSEY...** Current brews are Gurt Ale (4.3% abv) and The Dark Stuff (4.3% abv). Christmas Cheer lager (4.7% abv) was the fastest selling of any of their beers and will return for the spring equinox as Spring Cheer.

**SHED ALES, PEWSEY ...** We are told they plan to resume brewing in late February.

**XT ANIMAL, LONG CRENDON ...** Craig Bennett has taken over as head brewer from Vinny Rosario. He has 20 years of experience in brewing. A brewing graduate from Herriot Watt University, Craig will be brewing the full range of XT and Animal beers. He also plans to add a few speciality brews of his own. Coincidentally Vinny has moved up to Craig's old home town of Edinburgh to start his own brewing venture there. The new Edinburgh brewery will be called Origin Brewing. (Look out for it, Ed)

JOIN US AT CAMRA....COME ALONG, MEET NEW FRIENDS, GET INVOLVED...

You perhaps pick up the 'Tun' occasionally, or maybe this is your first time, and you get to this last bit and think ... Why should I bother to join? What's the offer ... terrific fresh real ale, chance to get away and chat, the company of warm, welcoming, like minded friends, and knowing you play a part in one of the biggest and

most successful pressure groups in UK history.

We meet monthly and organise lots of social events.

Give it some serious thought. If you are still not quite sure, why not call Richard on Swindon 618921 and chat it over.

# Join up, join in, join the campaign

From  
as little as  
**£26.50\***  
a year. That's less  
than a pint a  
month!

Includes  
**£30**  
Real Ale  
Cider & Perry  
Vouchers

Discover  
why we joined.  
[camra.org.uk/  
10reasons](http://camra.org.uk/10reasons)

**Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.**

Become part of the CAMRA community today - enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at  
**[www.camra.org.uk/joinup](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinup)**

\*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at April 2019. Concessionary rates available. Please visit [camra.org.uk/membership-rates](http://camra.org.uk/membership-rates)



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

# DARTMOOR'S FINEST

The UK's highest brewery at 1,465ft above sea level, Dartmoor Brewery creates handcrafted cask conditioned real ales with authentic Dartmoor character from its heartland in Princetown. Since its formation in 1994, Dartmoor Brewery has gone from strength to strength producing top quality ales using the finest local ingredients, which remain highly regarded across the South West by licensees and real ale drinkers.



Dartmoor Brewery Ltd, Station Road, Princetown, Devon PL20 6QX  
Telephone: 01822 890789 Fax: 01822 890798 [www.dartmoorbrewery.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorbrewery.co.uk)



KEEPING IT LOCAL FOR  
**175 YEARS**



[WWW.ARKELLS.COM](http://WWW.ARKELLS.COM)



*Handcrafted  
from Plough to Pint*



RAMSBURY