

RISING

THE



TUN

The Old English word 'Tun'...

...means a cask or barrel of beer

**The newsletter from the Swindon & North Wiltshire branch
of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)**

FREE!

please take
one

On The Beers In Brittany

**Autumn 2015
Issue No. 111**

**CAMRA
Young Members**

**The Shed
Alehouse**

**Eastbury
Brewing Co.**



(Pic: La Vallée des Saints - Carnoët, France)

'THE RISING TUN'

The newsletter of Swindon & North Wiltshire branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)

Editor: Mark Nelson editor@swindoncamra.org.uk

Published Quarterly:

The newsletter is published quarterly in **January, April, July & October** and 2000 copies are distributed free of charge to pubs and other drinking establishments across Swindon, Devizes and the surrounding areas of North Wiltshire. If your pub doesn't currently receive copies, please email the editor and we will include you on the distribution list for future editions.

The editor would like to thank the following for their valuable contributions and help with this issue:

Alex Harkness, Bryan Jones, Chris James, Harvey Edgcombe, Kat Dixon, Kevin Galton, Paul Arrondelle, Richard James, Vince Chilcott and other members of the Swindon & North Wiltshire branch.

Highlights from some back issues, along with all Swindon & North Wiltshire CAMRA branch Real Ale news, can be found on our website; www.swindon.camra.org.uk

Think of the environment; please share this issue of 'The Rising Tun' before disposing of it carefully.

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The Local Diary

All meetings and social events are relaxed and friendly. Please feel free to come along and join in. All CAMRA members and non-members are welcome to attend. Please remember to check the website (see above) before setting off for any of the entries listed below, in case of amendments to timings/venue. All meetings start at 8pm unless specified otherwise.

SWINDON & NORTH WILTSHIRE BRANCH

12 th Oct	Branch Meeting	The Merlin , Drove Road, Swindon SN1 3AF
9 th Nov	Branch Meeting	The Red Lion , 74 High Street, Cricklade SN6 6DD
7 th Dec	Branch Meeting	Pig On The Hill , 8 Devizes Road, Swindon SN1 4BH
11 th Jan	Branch Meeting	The Merlin , Drove Road, Swindon SN1 3AF

DEVIZES BRANCH [www.devizescamra.org.uk]

6 th Oct	Branch Meeting	The Black Swan, Devizes SN10 1JQ
3 rd Nov	Branch Meeting	The Churchill Arms, West Lavington SN10 4JB

Find our meetings on Facebook, search: CAMRA Swindon

WELCOME

Swindon & North Wilts. CAMRA

Although summer has come and gone, the memories of a trip to France can be found on page 7 which included a gem of a pub, serving traditional British ale, brewed on the premises in Brittany. And while many of us will miss the lazy days in the sun, there's always something to look forward to and the changing of the season from late summer to autumn means that the Swindon Beer Festival isn't far away. Head to page 8 for some further information on the event, together with details of a book that's been republished by your local CAMRA branch, providing information on Swindon pubs and breweries from yesteryear. Copies of 'Home Brewed' will be available to purchase at the beer festival and even if you can't make it, you can always email contact@swindoncamra.org.uk if you would like to purchase a copy. The next edition of the 'Tun' won't arrive in your local until after Christmas, so although it's far too early to offer season's greetings, keep warm, stay safe and, as always, enjoy your beer.

Eastbury Brewing Co.

On June 20th Wiltshire gained a new brewery when the ribbon was cut for the official opening of the Eastbury Brewing Company based just outside Baydon.

Picture: www.tcphoto.co.uk



From left to right - Assistant brewer Freddie Reschwamm, Tarnya Sherwood, Oliver Sherwood, Phil Wright & Bob McGarva.

The brewery was founded by Phil Wright and Bob McGarva, two Berkshire-based entrepreneurs. They have been supported by investors from the Lambourn Valley area under an Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). This has allowed them to not only set up the brewery, but to also install a state-of-the-art bottling machine. The bottling plant will operate as a separate company, New Finches Bottling, as it was felt that it was important to attract bottling business from other brewers, as well as bottling their own.

Eastbury Brewing Company directors have PLC backgrounds and an understanding of the need for financial grip that makes business work.

Phil Wright and Bob McGarva are the founding partners and learned their craft at Brewlab in Sunderland.



The bottling plant for 'New Finches Bottling'

Bob McGarva is the head brewer assisted by recent graduate Freddie Reschwamm, while Phil will concentrate mainly on sales.

Following a first brew in May this year there are 3 regular beers in the range: Red Kite, a red bitter; Sarsen an amber ale and Golden Valley a refreshing golden ale. There are plans to extend the range with a Porter to be called Old Forge and a special beer called Many Clouds in honour of the 2015 Grand National winner trained by Oliver Sherwood from the Lambourn Valley.

So will the new brewery prove a winner? Based on the enthusiasm and passion that Phil and Bob are bringing to this new venture, the answer has to be yes!

For those interested in the finer points, the bottling machine is from Italy and is actually two separate machines – the first on the left hand side does the labels and the one on the right fills and caps the bottles. The two machines were supplied by Vigo based in Honiton, Devon.

The spent grains go to a local farmer for his pigs, although they do have plans to get a few brewery pigs of their own! They currently use Nottingham Ale yeast and mainly use Maris Otter barley supplied by Muntons.

Richard James

The Shed Alehouse

Since posting a snippet of what was going on in North Street, Pewsey, in last quarter's edition, the Shed Alehouse has since opened its doors to the public. One of the smallest pubs in the country, the 'Shed' is decorated in a style befitting of its name and provides a very informal setting for a decent pint and a chat.

Serving quality real ales and cider from local producers and from micro breweries further afield, the Shed offers a place to relax and chat without the distractions of loud music, TV and gaming machines.

On my visit there were five ales on tap, one brewed by Gordon's own 'Shed Ales' brewery, plus four others. For non beer drinkers, there's also wine and soft drinks available. But aside from the drinks on offer and its unique style, one of the most positive attributes is the welcome you receive. Not only from landlords, Gordon



and Sam Edwards, but from the other shed dwellers. The faces may be unfamiliar when you first walk in, but thanks to the intimacy of the Shed, be assured they won't remain strangers for long - there's a certain feeling of camaraderie among the drinkers, unlike anything you'll find elsewhere.

The local reaction to the Shed Alehouse has been above and beyond what Gord and Sam could have ever envisaged. To find out what all the fuss is about, go pay them a visit - you won't be disappointed. **The Shed currently opens Wednesdays & Thursdays (5pm-9.30pm), Friday & Saturdays (Midday-10.00pm) and Sundays (Midday-4.00pm).**

OUT & ABOUT

Twisted Brewing Co.



Throughout the year, the local CAMRA branch arrange a number of social events, usually comprising of a brewery tour and a visit to pubs in the surrounding area. Back at the end of March, Social Secretary Alex Harkness arranged for us to visit the Twisted Brewing Company.

These events are always well attended and with 38 people on board, we set off from Swindon on 1970's vintage bus heading to the brewery's base in Westbury, Wiltshire, where we were welcomed by brewer Andrew Murray .

The team is made up of Andrew, who has a long history of commercial operations and is the main brewer, Ollie who spent a lifetime in the British Army and Mark, who is also an ex-serviceman.



With 4 beers on offer, Andrew chatted about the history and brewing process and it was evident there was a good sense of humour in the brewery with Laurel & Hardy films being played on a large screen while we enjoyed the beer. After the brewery tour the day out was completed by visiting several pubs in the area including the Fox & hounds Warminster, the Organ Inn Warminster, the Three Daggers at Edington , the British Lion and The Vaults in Devizes, before heading back into Swindon in the evening. We would like to thank Andrew and staff at Twisted Brewery , Stroud RE group for the bus and everyone else who came along for the day out. A recent visit was also made to Wickwar Brewery - more details can be found on page 9!

PUB NEWS



Swindon & North Wiltshire Branch

Arkell's Brewery have recently purchased **The Southbrook** in Swindon and it has a new manager. (See page 6).

The Calley Arms at Hodson has a new landlord.

The Fox and Hounds in Wroughton has undergone a major refurbishment and has a new licensee.

Shed Alehouse, North Street, Pewsey has recently opened (see page 4).

A new bar has opened on Victoria Road in Old Town, Swindon called the **1801 Bar**.

The Royal Oak, Old Town in Swindon, has been bought recently. The roof and first floor is currently being refurbished.

Zen Bar which was the old Plessey Social Club has been sold.

The Cellar Bar in Highworth is now called **Roan's Bar**.

The Mail Coach on Fleet Street in Swindon, has been split into two and the front half has gone back to its old name of **The Locomotive**. The rear is still called the **Mail Coach**. Both serve real ale.

Longs Bar in Old Town in Swindon has undergone a minor refurbishment.

The Old Nick in Royal Wootton Bassett, has closed.

We understand that **The True Heart** at Bishopstone is to be converted to residential use.

Chris James, pub correspondent

Swindon and North Wiltshire Branch



Enjoying the beer at Twisted

A vertical advertisement for Ramsbury Brewery. At the top is a ram's head logo above a red banner with the word 'Ramsbury' in white cursive. The background is a repeating pattern of various beer labels from the Ramsbury range, including 'RUM TRUFFLE', 'CHALK STREAM', 'KNOBBER', 'SILVER PIGS STOUT', and '25 YEARS OLD'. In the center is a large circular logo with a ram's head and the text 'THE BEST WAY TO BUY 30 MILE CLUB OUR BEER ONLINE'. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.RAMSBURYBREWERY.CO.UK' and phone number '01672 541407' are listed, along with Facebook and Twitter social media icons.

WWW.RAMSBURYBREWERY.CO.UK

01672 541407  

Bitesize Beer

News

GBBF

Don't despair if you made the trip to Olympia for this year's Great British Beer Festival and have post GBBF blues. The dates have already been announced for next year's big event, so get it in your diary and make sure the family holiday doesn't clash! August 9th - August 13th 2016.

HANS HANDOVER

We mentioned in an earlier edition that Hans Hoffbauer stepped down as chairman of the Swindon and North Wiltshire branch of CAMRA. An engraved tankard was recently presented to Hans in recognition of his services to the branch.



We'll introduce the new chairman, Vince Chilcott, in a special piece in the next edition.

HOME BREWED

The title has nothing to do with homebrewing, but relates to a beer brewed by the Belmont Brewery who were based in Devizes Road, Swindon, many moons ago. Anyone who likes the history of pubs and breweries may be interested to know the local CAMRA branch have recently reprinted David Backhouse's book on the subject. You can find out more on page 8.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Box Steam kindly invited CAMRA members to the launch of one of their new ales 'Sand Cask' Ale (abv 4.2%) A full bodied, malty, deep copper ale. Based just outside Bath in the Village of Holt, the brewery which was founded in 2004 and relocated in 2011

is presently owned by the Roberts family. The brewery boasts a Fulton steam-fired copper, which gave inspiration for the brewery name and they achieved guest ale listing in the Houses of Commons in 2014.



ARKELLS'S ACQUIRE ANOTHER

Arkell's Brewery recently announced the purchase of The Southbrook pub, on Southbrook Street, Swindon. The brewery is only the third owner of the pub since it was converted from a farmhouse some time during the mid 20th century. Arkell's bought The Southbrook from Bob and Gina Downing who have retired after 27 years.



The new landlord is 29-year old Dave Kearns, who has lived in West Swindon for most of his life. There are two large bars and a spacious function room at the back, often used as a pool hall, but it's also available for parties and events.

BEER TOKENS AT THE READY

CAMRA members receive a number of Wetherspoon real ale vouchers as part of their membership, so it's worth reminding members that the latest Wetherspoon Beer festival will kick off on October 16th, featuring up to 40 beers from the UK. In addition, a number of International brewers will be coming over to brew at various locations in the UK especially for this

event, which runs until November 1st.

BOTTLING BOTHER FOR DOOM BAR

Despite the bottled version of Doom Bar having 'Rock Cornwall' plastered all over the label, it's not actually brewed in Cornwall. It's brewed by Molson Coors at their plant in Burton-On-Trent and this caused a bit of a stir in some quarters. The draught version, however, is still only brewed at Rock. Whether Molson Coors will do anything about the misleading bottle labels remains to be seen.

KINGSDOWN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Arkell's have announced it will host a brand new event for the brewery and for Swindon in 2015: A Christmas Market at its Kingsdown Brewery on Saturday December 12th. Brewery managing director, George Arkell, said: "Arkell's Brewery is a magical place at Christmas and we want to share it with everyone this Christmas 2015."

Arkell's is inviting independent stallholders to set up shop at the one-day fair, selling their wares alongside the brewery offering other seasonal activities.

OH DEER

And finally, a story which shows that brewers will put just about anything into beer, to try and stay one step ahead of the competition. In Wellington, New Zealand, a brew pub has launched a Milk Stout with an added measure of 'export quality' deer semen. Although many brewers riding the 'craft ale' bandwagon are kegging their beer, it's good to note that this particular delight will be served on a handpump, rather than being force carbonated. Apparently the brewer suggested 'there's only one way to serve semen stout and that's handpulling it'. You'll be forgiven for thinking it's the beginning of April. And you may be relieved to know that you shan't find this delight at this year's Swindon Beer Festival.

Fooling Around In Brittany



As much as I love our annual vacation to the heart of Brittany, I do miss a decent pint of beer. So imagine my surprise when we heard of a quaint pub called 'Les Fous' (Google translation 'Crazy People'!) where they serve proper ale, brewed on the premises.

The trouble with rural France is that you need to drive to get anywhere. However, the wife was understanding enough about my desire for a decent pint, that she offered to be the designated driver should we decide to pay the pub a visit. As the French drive on the wrong side of the road, I thought that it would suit my other half's driving to a tee, so who was I to decline such an offer?

The pub did not disappoint. Run by Don and Tricia, the pair are obsessed. They drink beer. They talk about beer.

They brew beer. Sometimes they do other stuff. But mostly, with them, it's all about the beer.

The pair of them descended on Brittany 12 years ago and it was never their intention to brew themselves. However, after receiving blank looks from the locals after enquiring about a supply of beer for their pub which had 'a bit more character' Don decided to return to his homebrew roots and brew himself and so 'Orson Ale' was born.

At the time of our visit there were two ales on (bear in mind we're in rural France where demand isn't quite at the same level as it is back home in Blighty).

The beers are also casked in pins (4.5 gallons) rather than in the usual Firkin to ensure the ale is always at its best. There was a Pale Ale, a blonde beer at 4.0% abv and a lovely amber bitter at 4.1% abv. It was the latter that tickled my taste buds, a gorgeous amber beer, generously hopped with Fuggles and Goldings (the hops are all imported of course, as are the malts, as there are currently no maltsters in the whole of Brittany).



Don also bottles his beers, which makes them more accessible to the locals, who aren't always as receptive to a pint of (what they would consider) warm, flat ale, from the handpump. Although the bottles are force carbonated, Don is gradually reducing the carbonation levels, so he'll get them hooked on proper ale sooner or later!

If you ever find yourself in Brittany, do make the effort to track down the 'fools' at Carnoet. It's well worth the trip. <http://www.les-fous.com>

Mark Nelson



VOLUNTEERING - GBBF

The Great British Beer Festival is the biggest in the UK with 60,000 people drinking 250,000 pints of 900 different beers, ciders and perrys. The event is staffed by volunteers, just like the Swindon festival and all CAMRA beer festivals. Although it's hard work, it's also great fun and volunteers are well looked after. There is free accommodation available in student halls in London and a free meal for each day worked. Best of all at the end of their shifts staff can enjoy a few free pints in the

Volunteer Arms bar at the festival. Brewers sending beer to the festival add in an extra firkin free of charge to thank the staff for their hard work. GBBF is a great opportunity to meet new friends and there is usually a couple of Young Members events during the week. If you can spend the whole week I recommend applying for the Bar Manager training course. This course will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about storing and serving beer enabling you to run your own local beer festival.



Bryan Jones

SWINDON BEER FESTIVAL

The week after this edition of the 'Tun' comes off the press, it's time for the annual Swindon Beer Festival, which is taking place once again at the STEAM museum.

Sessions

Please note that the **Friday evening** session (6pm-11pm) is by advanced ticket only and this often sells out, so do not turn up for this session if you don't already have a ticket.

All other sessions are pay on the door and it kicks off on **Thursday evening** (6pm-11pm) and admission is £5.00 **Friday lunchtime** session (11am-3.30pm) is also £5.00 for admission, whereas the **Saturday** session (11am-7pm) entry is £4.00

Bars

Remember that the casks will be lined up in alphabetical order by brewery name. The only exception to this are the three separate bars for the **Ramsbury Brewery**, and a bar for both the **Hop Kettle** and **XT** breweries. Swindon & North Wilts CAMRA are most grateful to Arkells and Ramsbury for their sponsorship of the T-Shirts & glasses, so do make sure you seek out their beers while at the Festival.



Home Brewed

Finally, anyone who likes the history of pubs and breweries may be interested to know the local CAMRA branch have recently reprinted David Backhouse's book on the subject. 'Home Brewed' is a history of breweries and public houses in the Swindon Area and was written by the late chairman of the Swindon & North Wiltshire CAMRA branch in 1984. It was revised and reprinted in 1992, but stocks had run out. The 1992 version has now been reprinted complete with old adverts, giving the publication a real authentic feel and is available for £5.00 - this can be purchased at the beer festival and if you are not attending, you can e-mail contact@swindoncamra.org.uk if you would like to purchase a copy.



What's Your Real Ale Name?

As a bit of fun as you sit and enjoy your beer at this year's Swindon Beer Festival, or even if you're down your local for that matter, why not work out your own Real Ale name?

Simply take your Surname (make it plural) and then add the following names based on your initials and birth month. So for me, born in March, my Real Ale name would be **Nelson's Huge Toad Slurper Ale!**

Mark Nelson

Surname (plural) + 1 + 2 + 3 Ale!

1. First Initial

A - Golden	N - Special
B - Ruby	O - Light
C - Dark	P - Belgian
D - Nutty	Q - German
E - Sweet	R - Brown
F - Best	S - Old
G - Stout	T - Bitter
H - Strong	U - Smokey
I - American	V - Sour
J - Pale	W - Vintage
K - Tasty	X - Fruity
L - Amber	Y - English
M - Huge	Z - Blonde

2. Birth Month

Jan - Rat
Feb - Rabbit
Mar - Toad
Apr - Pheasant
May - Cock
Jun - Ferret
Jul - Cow
Aug - Goat
Sept - Donkey
Oct - Dog
Nov - Rat
Dec - Sheep

3. Last Initial

A - Plucker	N - Slurper
B - Worrier	O - Biter
C - Botherer	P - Muncher
D - Fighter	Q - Ticker
E - Wobbler	R - Stroker
F - Teaser	S - Sniffer
G - Dodger	T - Fiddler
H - Choker	U - Hunter
I - Snapper	V - Tosser
J - Licker	W - Fixer
K - Shagger	X - Kisser
L - Fancier	Y - Puller
M - Chaser	Z - Beater



CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is extremely proud of its hugely diverse membership. Over 160,000 individuals of all ages, backgrounds and both sexes enjoy their CAMRA membership. 11% of the total national membership is aged between 18-30 years old; these are CAMRA's Young Members'. Several from Swindon took a trip to Bath in the summer and **Kat Dixon** tells the tale; The sun rose on a lovely Saturday in June. It had been a tough week at work but that didn't matter for today was Bath pub crawl day! As the young members representative for Swindon and North Wilts it was my job to make sure everyone had a good day and hopefully by the time you've finished reading this, you'll agree that they did! The day started with a train ride to

Bath and as soon as we left the station we decided where we were going - The Graze. Now anyone who knows Bath will know that this establishment is practically in the station, so there were no prizes awarded for imagination! After a rather pricey pint of Spa we moved on in need of solid sustenance. The Raven was the obvious next stop and here we enjoyed both pies (don't forget to choose your gravy!) and more pints. I hear there are other places to grab lunch in Bath but I've never found one!

After this we made it two doors up the road to the Salamander where it was time for another pint by Bath Ales. By this point our numbers had grown to include some non-CAMRA members (I know! I was surprised they still existed as well) and we felt it time to show these yahoos how it was done. Onwards to the Hall and Woodhouse and another pint. This time it was the turn of Badger Brewery, and standing on the rooftop terrace with a pint and my beer buddies I thought 'yep, this is why I joined CAMRA'. Now, I must admit the rest of the day is a tad hazy but I'll do my best!

If memory serves, we went to the Crystal Palace next where we sampled the delights of a honey beer on their patio.

The Saracens Head was where we strayed from the ale and started on the shots. Special shout out goes to Andy here who gallantly did the shot of tequila that I had the misfortune of finding in front of me. 'Enough of this hard liquor' we thought at this point, it's time to get back to our mission so the Green Tree was our next, final and quite frankly, most memorable spot, though this is more down to the pictures we took than my actual recall! Needless to say, an Uncle Albert Mask, Benedict Cumberbatch's brother, two birthday boys and a cake hat provided a perfect end to a perfect afternoon. So... having read about our Bath adventure, do you think we had a good time?

Kat Dixon

If you fancy joining CAMRA and partaking in the next Young Members' outing, pick up an application form at the Beer Festival!

OUT & ABOUT

Saturday 11th July was a glorious day. Of course it was - we were going to drink beer. The weather was quite nice too.

A coach load of like minded folk set off from Swindon bus station at around 11.30 heading for Wickwar Brewery. The coach meandered through some splendid countryside before arriving at the 'Old Cooperage' which is where the Wickwar Brewing Company started brewing back in 1990. We kicked off with pints of 'Bob' all round. A golden brown, well balanced beer. Next up was 'Cotswold Way', a rich amber beer, slightly stronger than Bob, although that first beer was this writer's favourite. After generous top-ups, we were led across the road to the brewery itself. Built on a natural spring, the building dates back to

1860 when it had been purposely built to house the Arnold Perret & Co brewery. It's original water wheel supplied power not only to the brewery, but electricity for the street lights - making 'Wickwar Village' the very first village in the country to have electric street lights.

After the brewery tour it was back to the shop for more beer and the next one was a brand new offering called 'Falling Star' and our group were the first customers to taste it, prior to its official launch.

This was another cracking outing and if you'd like to get involved and come along on the next one, keep an eye on our Facebook page (Swindon and North Wilts CAMRA) and if you're not a CAMRA member, why not join up using the form on page 14?

Wickwar Brewing Co.





The Red Lion

The Red Lion Inn is situated just off the Thames path as it passes through historic Cricklade. The pub dates back to the early 1600's and there are still many historic features playing a part in creating the perfect British pub atmosphere.

The Red Lion combines contemporary features in its stand alone restaurant with all the things that make pubs so much of an institution.

Roaring log fire

10 daily changing real ales

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BEER FESTIVALS

The following is a selection of beer festivals over the coming months and the local(ish) festivals are shown in bold. This is not intended to be a comprehensive guide. For a more complete list of festivals, please visit the main CAMRA website; <http://www.camra.org.uk/events>

October

Thu 15th - Sat 17th	18th Oxford Beer & Cider Fest - Town Hall, St.Aldate's Street, Oxford
Fri 16th - Sun 18th	The Blue Boar October Fest - Blue Boar, Aldbourne SN8 2EN
Fri 16th - Sun 1st Nov	Wetherspoons Beer Festival
Thu 22nd - Sat 24th	29th Swindon Beer Festival - STEAM Museum, Swindon SN2 2EY
Thu 22 nd - Sat 24 th	15th Twickenham Beer & Cider Fest - York House, Richmond Rd, Twickenham TW1 3AA
Mon 26 th - Sat 31 st	38th Norwich Beer Fest - St Andrews & Blackfriars Halls, NR3 1AU
Fri 30 th - Sat 31 st	17th Poole Beer Fest - St Aldhelms Centre, Poole Road, Branksome, Poole BH12 1AD

November

Thu 5 th - Sat 7 th	1 st Watford Beer Fest - West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave Watford WD18 7HP
Fri 6 th - Sat 7 th	22 nd Woking Beer Fest - Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA
Thu 12 th - Sat 14 th	2 nd Grimsby Beer Fest - Matrix Club, 29a Bethlehem Street, Grimsby DN31 1JN
Thu 12 th - Sat 14 th	1 st Rochdale Beer Fest - Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale OL16 1AB
Fri 13 th - Sat 14 th	6 th Saltburn Beer Fest - Community & Arts Centre, Albion Terrace, Saltburn TS12 1JW
Tues 17 th - Sat 21 st	36 th Rochford Beer & Cider Fest - Freight House, Rochford, Essex SS4 1BU

January

Fri 29th - Sat 30th	Salisbury Winterfest - British Legion, Endless Street, Salisbury SP1 1DL
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YOUR BEER FESTIVAL NOT FEATURED?

If your pub is planning a beer festival, no matter how big or small and you'd like us to list it free of charge on our Beer Festivals page, then please email the details to editor@swindoncamra.org.uk in good time, bearing in mind the Rising Tun is only published quarterly. Please see page 2 for further details of the publication dates.

Come & see
Swindon's
favourite Local
50 yards behind Regent Circus



Local Real Ales & Craft Beers
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W bee-hive.co.uk



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Hare & Hounds Street, Devizes. SN10 1LZ

BREWERY NEWS

ARKELL'S

Following the success of August's 'Perfect Promise' (abv 3.6%) September's special is 'Mighty Maris' (abv 3.6%) which celebrates 50 years of Maris Otter barley. This will be followed by 'Rugbeer' (abv 4.2%) for the Rugby World Cup and then 'Noel Ale' (abv 5.0%). There has been further investment at the



brewery with a new bespoke automated Cask Racker replacing the 30 year old system they were using. They have also just brought a new bottle labeller which means they can offer a larger range of labelling options for contract bottling and their own range. Aside from beer, the Arkell's brewery will be hosting a Christmas Trade Fair on Saturday 12th December featuring real Reindeer! As well as beer there will be other stalls to hopefully create a traditional Christmas market feel.

XT

Our friends across the border at XT are expanding. Building work to double the size of the brewery is well underway, incorporating a new tasting room where visitors can try samples and buy beers, from bottles through to full size cask beers, along with other beer goodies.

The brewing team will be kicking off a rugby special beer with the team from Wheatley Rugby club. The beer called 'Scrum' (abv 4.2%) is the inspiration of the Wheatley boys and girls who wanted a special beer to mark the world cup plus the opening of their refurbished club facilities.

The Animal beers have been flowing fast and the latest little critter is Squirrel (abv 4.6%) a Belgian-American Style Amber Ale - brewed with American Chinook and Columbus hops giving citrus, pine and grapefruit flavours - blended with a Belgian Malt base adding raisin and plum notes.

Every year the team visit the hop farms in Herefordshire to collect harvest fresh hops. The 'beerjolais nouveau' XT-Fresh Hop One is a beer brewed with brand spanking new hops, as fresh as humanly (and van speed) possible. The hops are picked and rushed straight back to the brewery to be used

in this annual beer delight - get it while you can and drink it fresh to enjoy all those juicy new hops! Details are hazy as we go to press but it looks like XT will be having 6 beers available at the Swindon Beer Festival, so don't miss them.

RAMSBURY

Ramsbury have been busy this year with seasonal and occasion based beers available throughout the summer. These include the likes of "Grand Slam" (Six Nations), Over the Sticks (Cheltenham Gold Cup), Sticky Wicket (the Ashes) and Tackle Down Under (Rugby World Cup). On top of this there have been the summer ales Chalk Stream (abv 5.0%) and Sunsplash (abv 4.0%) to name but a few. Their latest venture is to add raspberry to make Raspberry Ale (abv 4.2%), and vodka from the distillery is hoped to be available by the end of the year.

At the South West SIBA awards earlier in the year they had great success. Ramsbury Gold took silver in the Premium Bitter & Pale Ale category, Hell's Highway took gold for Standard Mild Ale and Brown Ales, and Red Ram lager took gold in Small Pack Premium Lager & Pilsners.

HOP KETTLE

Based at the Red Lion pub in Cricklade, head brewer Tom has been keeping busy since retuning from holiday with several new beers including Respect Your Elders (abv 5.3%) and a new session pale ale Centennial (abv 4.1%) which despite the name, features a trio of hops, Centennial, Mosaic and Chinook. Tom is also brewing a keg lager named Hop In Pils (abv 5.5%).

The Hop Kettle will be well represented at the Swindon Beer Festival with up to six ales including Apricoat (abv 4.4%), a belgian style tripel (abv 9.4%), Dawn til Dusk (abv 4.8%) a flavoursome session IPA, Solstice (abv 4.4%) a 100% English hopped golden ale, Flapjack Black (abv 7.6%) breakfast stout and Riddle de Dum (abv 5.1%) generously hopped with Jester.

WORLD'S END

Worlds End Brewery is based at The Crown Inn at Pewsey and have been brewing a new Pale Ale (abv 4.2%) along with Bitterus Magnus (abv 4.2%) F.I.P.A. (abv 4.7%) Quaff Ale (abv 3.7%) a blonde bitter and Mot d'Or (4.6%) plus an India Pale Ale (IPA), recently. Their Winter Solstice Beer Festival will run this year from Wednesday December 16th.

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