

beerlines

the magazine of the North Hampshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

ISSUE 8 JANUARY-MARCH 2015

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copy

CAMRA members demonstrating outside parliament. Photo by Harmit Kambo.



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PUBLISHED BY capital.

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Editor's Shout

A warm welcome to you

Well, we've done it. By 'we' I mean the thousands of CAMRA members as well as the many other organisations including UNITE, Punch licensees' group and others who signed the petition to end the Great British Pub Scandal. What have we achieved? We helped defeat the government in a crucial Parliamentary vote on an amendment to a bill that should help secure the future for the Great British Pub. The coalition government was defeated in November by 284 votes to 259 as MPs from all parties voted to introduce a market rent only option for licensees tied to the big pub companies.

The bill should spell the end of the scandal of pubco licensees being forced out of business through high rents and tied over-the-top beer prices. The family brewers, who generally treat their licensees fairly, will not be affected.

However, pressure needs to be kept up on those MPs who supported the bill to continue to support it when it returns from the House of Lords. There is a lot of disinformation out there, put out by PubCo's and others with a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. It is intended to derail the process of reform. We must not let that happen. Sadly the two Tory MPs who represent constituencies in our branch area voted against the amendment.

*CAMRA membership rates are changing from January 2015; see the ad on page 23. A year's membership represents excellent value as Wetherspoon vouchers with a saving of 50p per pint are given to all members. Newly issued vouchers will cover real cider as well as Real Ale. CAMRA members get free or discounted admission to CAMRA beer festivals, receive a monthly newspaper 'What's Brewing' and a quarterly magazine 'BEER' plus many discounts with other companies. Gift memberships are also available. So, why wait?

And finally a Hoppy New Beer to all our readers. Did I get that right?

Cheers!

Jim Turner (Magazine Editor, North Hampshire CAMRA)

Peter, Fran and the team welcome you to The Fur & Feathers. A Victorian pub situated in the Hampshire countryside. You can while away the hours over a great pint complemented by some delicious home made food.

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Hampshire OctoberFest 2014

A report from the beers organiser



This year was the 6th year that North Hampshire CAMRA has been involved with Hampshire's OctoberFest and my 5th year of getting the beer and cider ordered and readied for the public's enjoyment. We had a new venue this time, having moved from Milestones Museum to a new site in the grounds of the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club. I hope John May approved of our efforts with our 'Bounty' of Beer.

As before we endeavoured to get every beer and cider available from Hampshire producers for your delight. That included 4 new breweries and numerous new beers alongside previous favourites, with a 130 different Hampshire beers in total.

Some of my highlights included Andwell King John in oak casks, a Kolsch style beer from Brewhouse & Kitchen, beer festival special Captain B from Irving's and Black Oktober from Vibrant Forest, our strongest beer at 9.5 per cent, that was dangerously drinkable.

There were more changes this year with a second tent, hosting a full line-up of music and beer from event sponsor Upham Brewery at their Punter

Bar. This bar can be seen at major events around Hampshire and had arrived direct from the Boat Show in Southampton.

CAMRA members were invited to register in our raffle for a chance to win something from a great selection of gifts donated by our generous local brewers and branch members.

And if you didn't see the Tweets from the festival the first casks to sell out on Friday night were Longdog Bunny Chaser at 21.41, followed by Oakleaf I Can't Believe It's Not Bitter, Itchen Valley Pure Gold and Andwell Gold Muddler.

Phil Myatt

OctoberFest Winners

We also ran a 'beer of the festival' vote, where everyone at OctoberFest had an opportunity to nominate their favourite four beers or ciders.

The winners were:

- 1st** Betteridge's Brewery *Serious Black* (new brewery) cream stout
- 2nd** Longdog Brewery *Lamplight Porter* (former winner)
- 3rd** Itchen Valley *Belgarum* (new beer) - golden beer with honey
- 4th** Red Cat *Mr M's Porter* (new brewery)

All winners will be presented with an award and will go forward to the next Hampshire Beer of the Year finals. Well done one and all and good luck.



CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival 2015

The Roundhouse, Derby, DE24 8JE

In 2015 CAMRA's flagship National Winter Ales Festival will return to Derby for the second year running, with over 400 beers available the Festival will showcase some of the very best ales, ciders, perries, bottled world beers and mead in three separate areas.

Located beside the Pride Park exit of Derby Railway Station (just 93 minutes from London) Derby's historic Roundhouse could not be in a more convenient location.

Four Brewery Bars have been agreed: multi award winning Blue Monkey from Nottingham; innovative North Star from Derbyshire both in the Main Hall, Derby's very own Brunswick Brewing Company in the Music Marquee and Yorkshire's shining gem Brass Castle in the Carriage Room.

The National Winter Ales Festival is home to CAMRA's prestigious Champion Winter Beer of Britain Competition which sees the four winter-styles of beer (porters, stouts, old ales/strong milds and barley wine/strong old ales) being gathered from across the UK to be judged and a winner declared. The festival itself has lots of pale beers and golden ales to choose from too.

The website www.nwaf.org.uk will be updated regularly with details of admission prices, live entertainment, tutored tastings and special hotel rates thanks to our partners at www.visitderby.co.uk. There are no advance tickets as this is a pay on the door event. Well behaved and supervised under 18s are welcomed until 19:00

each evening, after which they must leave due to a licencing requirement.

The feedback from 2014 revealed that our customers loved the building, the beer quality and selection as well as the hot and cold food which was available. So why not join them and come and see Derby at its beery best?

Cheers!

Gillian Hough

Organiser National Winter Ales Festival

Where: The Roundhouse, Derby, DE24 8JE

When: Open from Wednesday 11th – Saturday 14th February 2015



The Roundhouse, Derby



@WinterAlesFest



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Bar Chat

News & gossip around the North Hampshire branch area

If you have any information about your pubs (closures, openings, changes of owner and so on), please contact the editor at beerlines@camrahantsnorth.org.uk

The **Railway Tavern**, Andover, closed at the time of going to press, is now set to become a 'Restaurant – Pub – Coffee Shop', well, according to social media. At least the word 'Pub' is in there. *Beer Lines* understands that the chef from the Essebourne Manor (Michelin Star) is going to be the head chef. The establishment is due to reopen in February 2015. It is rumoured that it will be called the 'Lunar Hare'. The last licensee, ex Lamb, Angel and lately the Tavern, Paul Moorhouse, has moved to the **George** at Thrupton. (PY/JB/MB)

The **Lamb**, Andover is now closed and will become the 'canteen' for 'Be Wiser' Insurance Co. (PY)

The **Greyhound**, Overton has new licensees. (PH)

The **Weyhill Fair** has dropped their beer prices. Fuller's **Chiswick Bitter** is £3.00 pint and Fuller's **Traitors Gate** £3.50. This represents a 45p drop on the dearest beer since the last incumbent. These prices were as of November 2014. (PY)

The **Eagle**, Abbots Ann had the following beers on towards the end of November: Skinner's **Betty Stogs**, Betteridge's **Jenny Wren**, Ramsbury **Black Ram Porter** and Caledonian **XPA**. (PY)

The **White Hart Hotel**, Overton, now owned by Upham Brewery is due to re-open in February this year. (PH)

Shortly after the closure of the Coronation Arms, St Mary Bourne in the Bourne Valley, the owners of the **Hurstbourne** at Hurstbourne Priors applied to turn it into a house. (JB)

The **Calleva Arms**, Silchester, has new tenants as of the end of November. Keren and Stuart Spratley - they're local people, and Keren has worked at the pub in the past, so she knows the regulars well. There's a new chef and menu and they are looking forward to a successful 2015. (MH)

Chris and Karen of the **Angel Inn**, Andover have taken a six-year tenancy from Greene King. With 15 years' experience in running pubs, Chris currently has other premises in the Swindon area and *Beer Lines* understands his intention is to run the Angel as a community-focused pub whilst emphasising the many historic features that the pub possesses. (MB)

At the recent Wadworth Brewery awards night, the **Town Mills**, Andover was presented with a Silver Award in the Tenanted Houses Perfect Pint 2014 category. Congratulations to Licensee Pete and his team, particularly Ian who looks after the cellar. (JB)

Quick Quiz For answers see page 13

Each clue has a double meaning with the same one-word answer. Rearrange the first letter of each answer to find a **Cornish beer drunk in a miserable pub** (7 letters).

1. Mouse and Most
2. Cricket pitch in the round
3. Heavy duty fastening ran off suddenly
4. Rate a bad smell
5. Boringly noisy unmanned plane
6. Coming up for more pay
7. Heart of a musical instrument

Brenda Cross

West Berkshire Brewery

A neighbouring brewery set to build on its success

In 1995 Dave and Helen Maggs established a local Berkshire brewery behind the Pot Kiln pub in Frilsham, Berkshire with the mission statement to brew beers of the highest quality using ingredients as local as feasible. Due to the popularity of their beers, the original site was soon too small, so in 1998 they decided to incorporate the Company, bringing on board their good friends Helen and Andrew Baum, who injected further finance into the Company, enabling their first move to larger premises. Further growth necessitated another move in 2012 to their current premises at the Flour Barn, Frilsham Home Farm in Yattendon – a few miles outside Reading. Since 2001, the Company has an average annual growth rate of 20 per cent, which is pretty phenomenal.

This constant growth means that the current premises are already becoming a bit cramped and the founding shareholders are soon to be approaching retirement age. They had no intention of selling off and severing their ties with 'their baby' so it was time for a strategic review to explore their options. As a result of this review, they decided to sell off part of the Company. They also wanted an experienced Chairman who would help drive their plans for further development. They found someone who has been brewing and selling beer for his entire 47 year career – David Bruce, founder of the original Firkin home-brew pub chain.

One of David's first jobs was to set up the offer for sale for part of the Company. This attracted 278 new shareholders, the vast majority of whom attended the inaugural AGM. This was an interesting and very friendly affair – made all the more pleasurable by the bar being open before I arrived at 10.30 am. David was on excellent form, greeting me enthusiastically on arrival then going on to give full and frank answers to all questions raised during the meeting and quite a detailed description of the Company's exciting expansion plans. He will be bringing to bear his experience of raising over £66 million of investments in his various companies over the years by setting up a

further share issue. It is the intention to structure this to qualify for Enterprise Investment Support. If you are a member of the CAMRA Members Investment Club, you will already have an interest in this brewery as the Club are amongst the new shareholders.

After the AGM had been concluded, the shareholders were taken on a tour of the brewery in several groups. I was lucky enough to be on the group taken around by Dave Maggs – the founder, Life President and original brewer. Over the years I have been on quite a few brewery tours, but the knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of Dave made this tour special.

What are the plans for the Company? Well, they currently run one tied house in a little village. Despite all efforts, it has just not proved possible to successfully run this as a tied house, so they plan to divest themselves of this and take on a town pub. If this proves successful, and David Bruce has plenty of past successes in this area, then other town pubs will also be acquired.

Following their next share issue, they will move to a bigger site and increase capacity further, and also install a bottling plant, as they currently have to ship around the country at significant expense to get their beer bottled. This does not mean the draught side will be overlooked however so you can still all look forward to enjoying a pint of Good Old Boy at a pub near you soon!

Catweazle

Adapted from an article first published in SPBW's publication *Pint in Hand*. Reproduced with the kind permission of Editor, Roger Jacobson.



(Catweazle is the nickname of CAMRA member Derek Legg)

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The Yew Tree

Pub Focus

Tim's Yew Tree

Hidden in the folds of the Wessex countryside is a rural gem of a pub, the **Yew Tree**, a 300 year old building set in the tiny village of Lower Wildfield, Hampshire. For a number of reasons the well-kept secret of The Yew Tree is worth seeking out. The drive or, perhaps for the more energetic, the cycle ride, takes you up through rolling chalk hills carved straight from a Thomas Hardy novel to catch up with the wit and culinary skills of landlord Tim Gray and his enthusiastic team of helpers.

For the Real Ale crowd there's a small surprise, as The Yew Tree has a policy of both keeping Yew Tree Bitter (Triple fff Alton's Pride) at 3.8 per cent and a rotating locally-sourced alternative. On our

visit the choice was the 4 per cent Punter from Upham - a brewery that has come from nowhere to become a firm favourite with the C A M R A crowd, so an excellent choice. Oh, the 'small surprise'?



Tim Gray, licensee

Simply put: Tim's budget beer prices that start at a very reasonable £2.50 per pint!

On the subject of Tim, it must be said that he must be the prime reason for visiting the Yew Tree where he can often be heard merrily singing away in the kitchen as he prepares what he calls 'good pub fare at a reasonable price' for his eclectic regulars and visitors alike. Tim has been the landlord here for ten years and comes from a management background, but decided to 'put his money where his mouth is' and fulfil his dream of running a successful pub and being his own boss.

The Yew Tree has been a regular feature in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* and has recently graced the pages of *Country Life* magazine as well as having the accolade of an award from Hampshire Life magazine.

Time then to dig out the maps and search out the irrepressible Tim and the lovely Yew Tree pub.

David Dry

Photos: David Dry



The Yew Tree

What's Happening?

North Hampshire Branch Diary & other events

Tuesday 20th January

CAMRA North Hampshire first Good Beer Guide selection meeting for 2016 publication. Basingstoke Sports & Social Club 8.00 pm.

Saturday 24th January

West of branch area first Good Beer Guide selection meeting for 2016 publication. Town Mills, Andover, 12.00 noon.

Tuesday 27th January

Branch meeting Maidenhead Inn, Basingstoke, 8.00pm

Friday 30th - Saturday 31st January

CAMRA Salisbury Winterfest XVIII, Royal British Legion Club, 11 Endless Street, Salisbury SP1 1DL. Open Friday 18:30 – 23:00, Saturday 11:00 – 15:30 and 18:30 – 23:00. All tickets £5, including glass & souvenir programme. Call 01722 355140 with ticket enquiries.

Friday 6th – Saturday 7th February

27th CAMRA Dorchester Beerex, Corn Exchange, North Square, Dorchester DT1 1HF

Open Friday & Saturday 11:00 – 15:30 and 18:00 – 23:30. All sessions £10. Admission includes commemorative glass plus three ½ pints.

Wednesday 11th – Saturday 14th February

National Winter Ales Festival, the Roundhouse, Derby. See page 6.

Tuesday 17th February

Good Beer Guide selection 2nd meeting. www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk

Wednesday 18th February

Beer Lines mop up and publishing meeting. The Bounty, Basingstoke at 7pm. All welcome.

Tuesday 3rd March

Talk by Phil and Lisa Robins of Longdog Brewery. They will take us on a 'Real Ale Journey' from the

creation of the brewery to the brewing process. Basingstoke Discovery Centre (Library) 2.00pm. £3.00 per person. www.longdogbrewery.co.uk

Friday 20th – Saturday 21st March

5th CAMRA Winchester Real Ale & Cider Festival, Winchester Guildhall, High Street, Winchester SO23 9GH. Advance notice: Four sessions Fri. 11:30 – 16:00 & 18:30 – 23:00, Sat. 11:30 – 16:00 & 18:30 – 23:00. Tickets £5, £10, £7 & £8 respectively, available early February.

Tuesday 31st March

Branch meeting, Basingstoke Conservative Club, Bounty Road, 8.00pm.

Friday 17th – Sunday 19th April

CAMRA members' weekend AGM in Nottingham. See www.camraagm.org.uk

Tuesday 28th April

'Brewing in Hampshire', a talk by David Williams from the Brewing History Society. From the start of brewing in the Ancient World to the growth of giant national brewers, the story of brewing in Hampshire has a colourful history. David will lead us on a journey describing how the number and size of breweries have changed over the centuries and of course, there'll be mention of the infamous Basingstoke Riots! Basingstoke Discovery Centre (Library) 2.00pm. £3.00 per person. Details available at www.breweryhistory.com

Events may well have been added to or clarified since Beer Lines went to press. For up-to-date information please contact **social@camrahantsnorth.org.uk** or visit our main website www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk. If you would like to have your real ale-related event published here please contact the editor at beerlines@camrahantsnorth.org.uk for magazine deadlines.

Wanted...

We need a North Hampshire CAMRA member willing to organise a Saturday or perhaps a mid-week public bus tour/drinking route once a month. And, maybe in the summer months, to arrange group pub tours by bicycle. Also, can anyone facilitate other social events for the branch? The current lack of a Social Secretary is limiting our opportunities to engage in relevant drinking activities. We welcome suggestions for visits but need people to volunteer to run them.

Interested? Contact Secretary Mike Hodson - see front inside page for contact details.

Answers to Quick Quiz [on page 8]

1. Mickey; 2. Oval; 3. Bolted; 4. Rank; 5. Drone;
6. Arise; 7. Organ. The 'Cornish beer drunk in a miserable pub' is Sharp's DOOMBAR.




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The Cider Binn

A bit of cider history

5 BC What have the Romans done for us? Everyone knows that line from Life of Brian. Well they didn't bring us cider. Wine yes, cider, no. When they invaded, the English cider tradition was in place and it is rumoured that Julius Caesar became a cider fan. Under Roman rule cider production flourished in Britain.

400 AD After the Romans left in the mid Dark Ages and Britain was hit by raids from the Danes, Vikings and Saxons our orchards fell into disuse. And then ...?

1066 AD What have the Normans done for us? Well when William of Falaise beat King Harold somewhere in Sussex and became William the Conqueror he brought the Norman tradition of cider making back into Britain which then flourished under Norman rule. It started in Kent and then moved back into the traditional areas of Somerset, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Hampshire.

18th century cider making as a commercial enterprise, rather than being home- or farm-based started just after beer brewing. Our oldest recorded commercial cider brewer is Aspoll founded in 1728. Aspoll was founded by the Chevallier family from Jersey.

There is a tenuous connection between Aspoll of Kent and Hampshire. Lord Kitchener, he of the famous 'England Needs You' Great War recruiting poster was the son of Frances Anne Chevallier. He died when the HMS Hampshire struck a German mine and sank on 5th June 1916.

2014 AD By the time you read this our UK cider and perry makers will have come to the end of their pressing season that starts in October each year and we can look forward to the finished product when it is released to the market. In Hampshire our cider producers include **Mr Whitehead**, **146 Cider Company** and **New**

Forest Cider. Moving into Berkshire, just over the border we have **Tutts Clump Cider** and **Lambourn Valley Cider**.

Tutts Clump Cider are setting up a new cider shop at the Travellers Rest Farm in Bradfield which will be worth a visit.

Finding any of these ciders on sale in NW Hampshire region pubs is a challenge but they do appear at our local Beer and Cider festivals.

Tony Binns

Local Pub Update

Pubs in our region regularly selling real cider are still the **Purefoy Arms**, Preston Candover, New Inn, Tadley and the **Swan** in Sherborne St John.

Our local Wetherspoons pubs haven't had a real cider available for quite sometime although the **John Russell Fox** in Andover had Gwynt y Ddraig Black Dragon on sale recently. Another pub in the Andover area, the **Eagle** in Abbots Ann has Old Rosie on tap.

For those of you who work in London or maybe visiting, these cider pubs may be worth a try:-

- **Cider Tap**, 190 Euston Road
- **The Harp**, 47 Chandos Place, Covent Garden
- **Green Man**, 36 Riding House Street, Fitzrovia

If you know of a pub in our branch area, or even just outside it, please email the editor with details. www.beerlines@camrahantsnorth.org.uk

In Our Next Issue...

A major South of England brewery has made the unprecedented decision to plant its own hop field close to their brewery. What is important is that they have reintroduced a long disappeared hop variety from the area that, in its time was more popular than hops from the Kent area.

Who is the brewery and what is the hop strain? Read all about it in our next issue.

Also in the next issue...

A feature on North Hampshire's newest brewery - Betteridge's of Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Pick up a free copy available in April, May & June from your friendly local real ale pub!

Current Pubs in our area

- Barley Mow, Oakley
- Bourne Valley Inn, St Mary Bourne
- The Crown Inn, Upton
- Derby, North Warnborough
- Eagle Inn, Abbotts Ann
- The Fox, North Waltham
- Fur and Feathers, Herriard
- Leather Bottle, Mattingley, near Hook
- Mill House, North Warnborough
- Northbrook Arms, East Stratton
- Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club
- Plough, Grateley
- Plough Inn, Little London near Silchester
- Prince Regent, Whitechurch
- Red Lion, Overton
- Sun Inn, Dummer
- Watership Down Inn, Freefolk
- White Hart, Charter Alley
- White Hart, Hook
- Wonston Arms, Wonston, Sutton Scotney
- The Woolpack Inn, Totford
- Y Knot Inn, Water End near Hook

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Morris Dancers and punters at the White Lion, Arreton

The Wight Way To The Pub

Classic bus weekend on the island

Trains, buses, ferries and beer seem to go well together and the first Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer and Walks Weekend confirmed this. The event was organised jointly by the local CAMRA branch and the island bus museum. About twenty vintage buses operated seven routes accessing in excess of thirty pubs. So on Saturday 18th October three intrepid North Hampshire Branch members caught a train to Southampton shortly before 0900, boarded the 1015 ferry and disembarked a mere 23 minutes later at West Cowes just in time to catch the first classic bus to Newport (a 1969 Bristol RE). Newport Quay was the centre of operations where a large and colourful contingent of visiting buses complimented home-based vehicles and a bus museum. Perusal of the bus timetable revealed an almost limitless number of drinking options and with difficulty we compiled a basic plan.

Surprisingly we largely managed to stick to this schedule ultimately visiting seven pubs and

enjoying almost a dozen different beers. At two adjacent pubs in Arreton we were treated to Morris dancing displays by the same troupe of ladies! At Shanklin there was just time to look inside the railway station where one of the ex-London Underground 1938 design tube trains was resting between duties. The day was blessed with fair weather enabling the fine scenery to be admired. As darkness descended we returned to Newport and enjoyed a couple of beers in the **Newport Ale House**. Here we met up with old friends from the Alton Bus Running Day. By now we were starting to slow down but still managed to enjoy a final drink in the **Cowes Ale House** before returning to the mainland aboard the 2115 ferry. A timely bus connection from the ferry terminal to Southampton railway station enabled us to catch the 2200 back to Basingstoke in time for last bus home. Thus ended a very pleasant good day out and if the event is repeated next year we will make a full weekend of it.

Doug Cross



Morris Dancers and an Isle of Wight brew



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Pub Walk

Around Tadley

Start/Finish: Rowan Road, Tadley. RG26 3RG
(OS Ref. SU 604614)

Total distance: 2 miles.

This easy 2-mile walk on pavement & gravel is best started from Basingstoke. Catch a number 2 (Baughurst) bus, alight at Rowan Road roundabout, cross road and go right to the roundabout, turn left on Rowan Road after 100 yards you will find the **New Inn** which is a friendly cosy local pub the origins of which can be traced back to 1806. A one-room bar with TV & darts for entertainment, there's a real fire in the winter months and a beer garden for the summer, two handpumps serve Sharp's *Doom Bar* permanently, and an ever changing guest ale. On the day of the walk this was *Arundel Sussex Gold* and was in excellent condition. Weston's *Old Rosie* cider is also available.

On leaving the pub turn left and after 100 yards turn left up Giles Road. Continue for 200 yards to Stephens Road, turn right continue across playing field. On leaving the playing field turn left heading for Ludlow Place, continue pass Ludlow Place, and James Place onto a gravel track, you are now on Broad Halfpenny Lane. At Y-junction take the right fork still on Broad Halfpenny Lane. On reaching the road the **Broomsquires Hotel** (formerly the Treacle Mine) is on your left. This hotel has seven en-suite rooms and a restaurant,

unfortunately it was closed for refurbishment on the day of the walk and has been for several weeks. Hopefully it will be re-opened by the time this magazine is published as they usually serve a local real ale.

On leaving turn left and continue passing a set of traffic lights, continue to main road, (the A340), turn left, cross road and continue for 200 yards to the **Fox & Hounds**. A large well-furnished welcoming pub with one large bar containing several wide-screen TVs, showing mostly sport. There's also a pool table, excellent food is served all day and there is a large beer garden. The two handpumps serve two continuously changing real ales, often local. On the day of walk these were Adnam's *Broadside* and Hardy's & Hanson's *Rocking Rudolph*, (while it was coming up to Christmas), the cider was Weston's *Rosie's Pig*. On leaving the pub turn right on to main road, cross road, continue for 600 yards to the bus stop at end of Rowan Road and the bus back to Basingstoke, or better still return back around the corner to the **New Inn** for another beer.

Geoff King



New Inn

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Brewery News

Local brewery updates



Andwell Brewing Company

01256 761044
www.andwells.com

Sales are very good with the *Porter* both bottle conditioned and cask doing particularly well. Five Little Fishes is the seasonal beer now on sale. The brewery is waiting for planning permission for the redevelopment of the cask store and a new Function Facility.



Longdog Brewery

01256 324286
www.longdogbrewery.co.uk

The Christmas brew, *Tinker's Tipple* should still be available into the New Year. The brewery was, in brewer Phil Robin's words "... brewing like crazy to build up stocks for the Christmas rush." New pump clips should now be in the pubs, look out for them and let the brewery know your thoughts.



Mash Brewery

01962 795023
 Twitter @MashBrewery
www.mashbrewery.com

Bottled *Monster Mash* (MASH Gold) has now completely sold out. The brewery will have a stall at Winchester Farmer's Market twice a month in 2015 and will be at the Romsey Farmers' Market once a month. Mash is also a regular at the Wednesday Winchester 'Produce of the South' market.



Betteridge's Brewery

07771 966058
www.betteridgesbrewery.co.uk

The brewery has extended its reach into some more free houses in the area including The 3 Tuns in Great Bedwyn, The Eagle in Abbot's

Ann and the Fox and Hounds in Crawley. Jenny Wren has remained a firm favourite despite beer preferences moving toward darker ales during the winter. The popular house ale, *HBT*, at the George and Dragon in Hurstbourne Tarrant has been renamed *Old Chap*, a fine session ale at 3.8%.



Sherfield Village Brewery

07906 060429
www.sherfieldvillagebrewery.co.uk

Following 2013's successful collaboration with students from Reading University's Real Ale Society, SVB has repeated the exercise.

Ten students, including several freshers, visited the brewery in November 2014, creating a very tasty 3.9% abv best bitter, not named as we went to press. A new 6.5% Christmas beer appeared in pubs in December.



Wild Weather Ales

0118 970 1837
www.wildweatherales.com

A new 8.0% winter ale *Blizzard* has been available since the end of November. It is amber in colour, very smooth, and not too sweet or hoppy. All the other beers are doing very well, especially the new 6.0% *Cumulo Citrus* wheat IPA, and the ginger-flavoured 3.6% *Warm Front*.

The new beers are now available direct from the brewery in 'growler' 2-litre re-usable glass bottles with ceramic stoppers, and also in 'key keg' 30 litre inflatable casks.

Brewer and owner Mike Tempest has now installed his 4th fermenter vessel, which will come on stream during 2015. He is also building a mezzanine floor in the Silchester industrial unit, to cope with the increased inventory and cask storage requirements.



Co-ALE-ition

The facts exposed!

Editor's note: CAMRA does not condone the policy of 'rebadging' beers under different names. Notwithstanding, I have decided to publish the following article as it features local breweries and pubs and is therefore of interest to local beer drinkers.

Co-ALE-ition as a brand name first originated from a social event in July 2013 when CAMRA member Derrill Carr [author of this article], Alan (Howling Laud) Hope - Leader of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party (OMRLP) - and Phil Robins of **Longdog** brewery in Basingstoke, were at a 'Meet The Brewer' event. Derrill suggested to Phil that Longdog should produce a real ale to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the OMRLP's first appearance at a general

election. Phil was interested and very supportive so work began on designing a pump clip for this new ale which was to be a rebranded version of an existing Longdog ale. After a tasting session at Longdog brewery the excellent award-winning *Brindle Bitter* was chosen as the first ever Co-ALE-ition ale. The beer was renamed 'Winning Co-ALE-ition' and successfully launched in mid-September 2013 at both the Longdog brewery the *Good Beer Guide* listed *Prince Arthur* in Fleet at an event attended by more than 300 people.

Longdog's 'Winning Co-ALE-ition' was an outstanding success and a decision was taken in November of that year to expand the Co-ALE-ition range of ales. Other local microbreweries were approached and all were keen to get involved. There was a fun element with the pump clips depicting that the ALE in Co-ALE-ition stood for 'Another Loony Experience', IPA stood for 'Insanity Prevents Austerity' and GOLD stood for 'George Osborne Lowers Duty'.

There was a flurry of activity in 2014 with three more Co-ALE-ition ales being successfully launched by local breweries including *Wild Weather* in Silchester who rebranded their *Black Night* mild as *HowlinGale* in April just in time for CAMRA's Make May a Mild Month campaign. In May the *Mash* brewery in East Stratton rebranded their 4% golden ale *Mash Gold* as *Monster Mash* and this proved to be a Halloween favourite. In



Phil Robins

late July a bottle-conditioned version of *Monster Mash* was launched by Mash brewery - it was limited to 1000 bottles all of which completely sold out in the first month.

Mike Tempest of Wild Weather brewery and Dr Graham Turner of Mash brewery, organised launch events for *HowlinGale* and *Monster Mash* which also involved visits to several local pubs which were selling Co-ALE-ition ales including the *Waggon & Horses*, Hartley Wintney. Landlord Niall Scott was presented with a special certificate for becoming the first pub to sell all six Co-ALE-ition ales.

There have been many highlights in the first year of Co-ALE-ition, some of which are:

- **Ascot Ales** from Camberley rebranded their *Single Hop IPA*, *Anastasia's Exile Stout* and *Penguin Porter* as *Hope & Glory*, *Monsters In the Dark* and *Ebony & Ivory*.
- Longdog's 'Winning Co-ALE-ition' was launched in the Strangers Bar in the Houses of Parliament in June. Five casks of 'Winning Co-ALE-ition' were sold in less than a week.
- Co-ALE-ition ales have already featured at 12 real ale festivals including the Fleet Lions Ale Festival in August which had its most successful year ever with record crowds and donations made to charities up 40 per cent. Jon Coward, Landlord of the *Northbrook Arms* in East Stratton, erected a special Co-ALE-ition Ale stand at the East Stratton Ale Festival in May when three different Co-ALE-ition ales were on sale including *Monster Mash* and *HowlinGale*.

There is a dedicated Co-ALE-ition section on www.omrlp.com for anybody who wants to follow this success story which will continue with further launches of a new Porter and a new Bitter to be distributed nationally.

Derrill Carr



East Stratton stand

Niall Scott



Graham Turner



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Mike Tempest

Beer Scoring

A vital part of the Good Beer

Guide selection process

All CAMRA members are urged to 'score' the real ales they drink, in whatever pub or club they are in, anywhere in the country. These scores play an important part in the choice of pubs that are included in the Good Beer Guide, year by year. Scores can be input online at www.whatpub.com, a database that lists over 35,000 real ale pubs in this country. Members should enter their CAMRA membership number and password which is your postcode without any spaces. If you have joint membership it may be your surname.

You can then search for your pub by name. Be careful here as there are many pubs in the country which share the same name. It might be better to search by town name and click on the pub name that appears on a drop-down list. The 'What Pub' smart phone web page also gives you the option to search for real ale pubs nearby, very useful if you are in an unfamiliar town.

Once you have found your pub a 'Submit Beer Scores' box will appear on the left-hand side of the screen. If you are using a smart phone it will appear on the tab bar underneath the pub photo.

Simply fill in the date (the default is today's date) and your score. As you begin typing the brewery name it should automatically appear underneath where you are typing. You do not have to enter the name of the beer you are drinking but if you wish to do so once you have entered the brewery name you should be able to click on the arrow in the Beer box and a drop-down list of that brewery's beers should appear. In some cases the beer you are drinking may be new or a one-off by the brewery so may not appear on the list, if this is the case you can simply type in the beer name. Select the correct one click 'submit score' and your score will be entered into the database.

It is as simple as that. An added bonus is that it will keep a record of your scores so you can look back to see what beers you have had and how you rated them if you want.



Scoring should be based on the following table. Remember that your personal likes or dislikes should not enter into the scoring process. It should reflect the quality of the beer, regardless of whether or not you actually like the taste.

This article has been adapted from one originally submitted by **Sonia James-Henry**.

Scoring Table

0 = UNDRINKABLE

No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

1 = POOR

Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2 = AVERAGE

Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3 = GOOD

Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4 = VERY GOOD

Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5 = PERFECT

Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Half points can also be awarded.



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