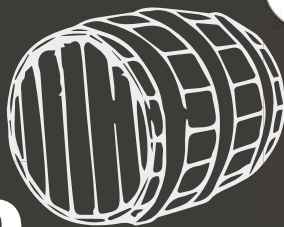


Barrel Organ



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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

May- July 2018

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Please
take one



IN THIS ISSUE

- WINTERFEST
2018
- PUBS OF THE
YEAR
- SALISBURY IS
OPEN

Plus much more...

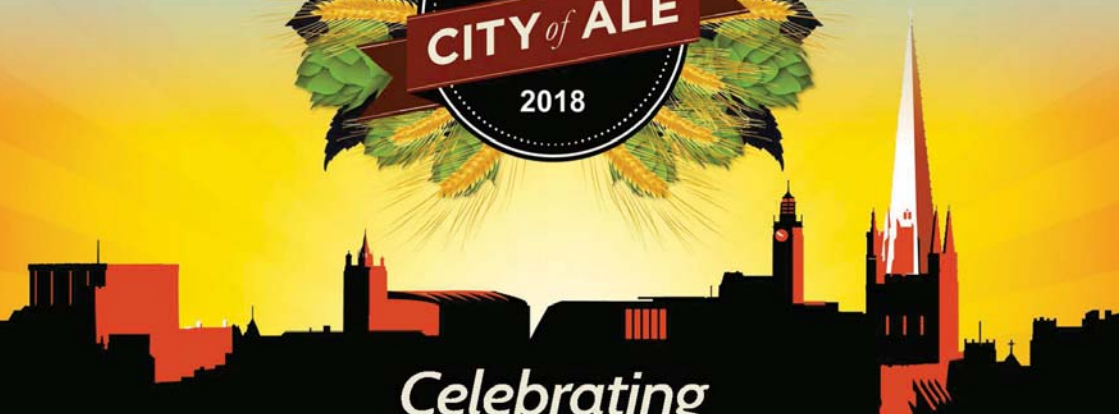
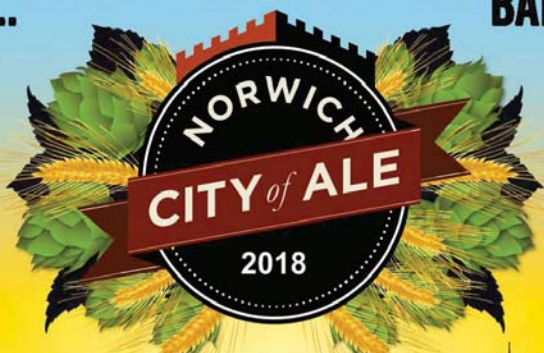
Salisbury

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FROM THE EDITOR

“Salisbury is open!” is the message we have been helping our area with in light of the recent events in March this year and Salisbury and South Wiltshire branch of CAMRA demonstrated its support for the campaign by visiting pubs in the city centre close to the Maltings. The front page picture shows our members enjoying a pint in the Bridge Tap, Salisbury, (with acknowledgement from the Salisbury Journal and Sprout design for the Salisbury is open logo). Salisbury CAMRA holds a city saunter on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and we welcome members and non-members to join us visiting some of the pubs in the city. See the branch diary for details.

In other news, the Victoria and Albert at Netherhampton has won the Salisbury & South Wiltshire pub of the year 2018, and the Benett Arms in Semley has won the Heart of Wessex pub of the year 2018. Many congratulations to them both.

If you would like to contribute to the August edition of Barrel Organ please do get in touch, you will be made most welcome.

Our next festival is Beerex at the Salisbury Arts Centre on 15th and 16th June. Tickets are available from 01722 320333 or on line salisburyartscentre.co.uk or in person from the Wiltshire Creative box office at Salisbury Playhouse. Buy in advance before June and save money with the early bird price of £10 (until 1st June, 2018).

Cheers.

Kathy and Paul

Editors, Barrel Organ magazine

*Map of the Branch Areas.
Map data ©Google 2017*



THE BOOT

Tisbury

Enduring dependable welcoming are the words that come to mind when I think of the Boot at Tisbury. They are also the words that come to mind about Ron and Ruth Turner the licensees who are by far the area's longest serving licensees having been at the Boot since 1976. The year that they took over Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, The Wurzels Combine Harvester was Top of the Pops and beer was 25p a pint (a blessed memory.) These days when the tenure of a licensee can often be measured in months they stand as a beacon of longevity.



You might be forgiven for thinking that their 41 years of service makes them relative newcomers compared to the life of the Boot which was first licensed in 1769. Ron's connection to Tisbury however predates even that. His family having been in Tisbury since the early 1400s. Ruth by contrast is a newbie, having been in Tisbury only 41 years ago.

Over the years the Boot has seen many changes. Ron told me that it was originally built long

before its first licence, had wattle and daub walls and it was not until 200 years later that the walls were encased with stone. In 1929 the pub was damaged by a fire which took away the upstairs and the stable block. Commemorating the event there is an interesting dialogue poem on the back of the pub's menus.

The couple met when serving as police officers in Brighton. Ruth, an accomplished horsewoman, was the first WPC to serve as a mounted police officer in the Sussex force. Her interest in horses did not stop when they moved to Tisbury. For many years she has taken part competitively, very competitively said Ron, in point-to-point events and dressage. The couple still have a keen interest in horses keeping their own and also having 3 racehorses in training. One of those racehorses is owned by a syndicate which comprises themselves and many of their customers. That involvement with customers echoes their involvement with the community as a whole. The pub hosts a number of charity events, has a cricket team and, surprisingly, a skiing community. Every year Ron and Ruth organise a ski trip for their customers. Ron said that they have had as many as 74 travelling with them.

Although Ron also rode most of his interests had his feet on the ground with football, rough shooting and golf. He indicated that these have changed over the years and when asked what his interests were now he grinned and said "surviving".

Before coming to the Boot they both underwent pub management training on a course at Donhead House. The Boot which was then

a tied house belonging to Eldridge Pope of Dorchester. At that time there must have been quite some competition in Tisbury as there were 6 pubs. Now there are 3 but one has just shut with its future in doubt. None of the pubs in 1976 provided food but as that came in the couple adapted and for many years the food at the Boot has had an excellent reputation (my favourites are the faggots). Although many things have altered one tradition remains with an eclectic, ever-changing range of beers drawn straight from the barrels on stillage behind the bar.

When Eldridge Pope closed and sold off their pubs Ron and Ruth tried to buy the Boot but while they were on holiday it was sold to Marstons who planned to build a 40 unit hotel in garden. Eventually that plan was dropped and the pub put up for sale. Again Ron and Ruth were interested but as before it was sold while they were on holiday. Eventually they were able to buy it and for over a decade now they have traded as a free house. Ron told me that over the years the pub has been visited by royalty, ex-ministers of state, and well-known celebrities who had been visiting friends or relatives at the nearby Clouds House treatment centre but I noticed he never let a name slip. Discretion is ever the watchword and everybody is treated just as the locals are.

Although they remain very much hands-on at pub these days they are helped by their sons Oliver and James. The tradition of good quality food and beer, being carried on to another generation.

As I left the pub having had a chat with Ron sleeves were being rolled up and paint brushes were brought out for some redecoration, time for me to get out of the way.

*Derek Blackshaw,
Salisbury & S. Wiltshire branch*



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WINTERFEST 2018

A revolution has swept through British brewing in recent years. So perhaps it was appropriate that the Old Sarum-based company Dark Revolution won the Beer of the Festival Award at Winterfest, the winter beer festival run by the Salisbury & South Wilts branch of CAMRA, was held for the 21st time on 26-27 January.

The Friday evening session proved the most popular this year with 125 people attending, closely followed by Saturday lunchtime with 117 and Saturday evening some way behind with 66. The overall total of 308 was down on the 2017 attendance which was 341. Almost exactly half of those who came (155) were members of CAMRA.

Beers came from all over the country. Gold Digger, a citra hopped blonde beer bursting with flavour brewed by Black Wolf, had survived its journey from Stirling in Scotland in fine fettle, as had Greedy Duck, a light copper ale produced by Rudgate in North Yorkshire. Although many of the breweries represented are recent start-ups, the venerable Harveys from East Sussex – founded in 1790 and still family-run – sent its superb dark brown Sussex XX Mild which proved a hit with Winterfest-goers.

However there were plenty of local brews on offer. The Hop Back Brewery, founded in the Wyndham Arms in Salisbury and now brewing a few miles away in Downton, produced a rare and wonderful Ginger Stout especially for Winterfest. This South Wiltshire community, which has a population of just 3,000, is home to two breweries, the other simply called Downton. The latter's brewer, Martin Strawbridge, provided a chestnut coloured premium bitter called Cerberus for Winterfest.



The local roll of honour did not stop there. Six breweries from within 30 miles of Salisbury took part in Winterfest, making them part of CAMRA's LocAle Campaign, which promotes pubs that have locally brewed beer on tap. As well as the two Downton-based companies, Stonehenge from Netheravon, Eight Arch from Wimborne, Sixpenny, which moved to rural surroundings near Cranborne in 2016 and Dark Revolution, which set up its brewery in the Old Sarum Business Park, just outside Salisbury, only last November, were all represented at Winterfest. All three ciders on offer at the festival were from Wiltshire or Dorset.

Those attending the festival are asked to choose their favourite beer and this year the winner was Dark Revolution's Velvetene, a silky smooth milk stout that seduced almost everyone who tried it. For Dark Revolution's owners, Greg and Tanya Hughes, it was vindication of their decision to set up the brewery.

For everyone else it was a truly memorable drink that had travelled only a few miles from Old Sarum to the festival in the Royal British Legion Club in the centre of Salisbury. The runner-up was Werrrd!, an American Pale Ale-style beer brewed by last year's winners Electric Bear from Bath.

This year we welcomed a number of milds so we had fewer stouts and porters which some of you missed. But fear not, next year the stronger dark beers, including stouts, porters and specials will be back.





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PUB & BREWERY NEWS

Good news

In our last edition we shared good news about the reopening of 6 pubs in the area one of which, The George at Codford, had reopened after 5 1/2 years. In this edition we can go one better with a reopening after 7 years closure. In Fovant the pub that was formerly the Pembroke Arms has reopened as The Greater Good.



There has been an impressive restoration both internally and externally. The four real ales being served at the time of survey were Boondoggle, Hobgoblin, Butcombe Bitter and Sheep Dip. Both lunchtime and evening meals will be served from April 10.

If this trend keeps up we are in for a very happy summer.

The Gritchie Brewery

The newly formed Gritchie Brewing Company is based at Ashmore Farm, not far from Tollard Royal and just south of the boundary for the Heart of Wessex CAMRA branch.



Gritchie Brewing Company is the idea of film director and avid beer lover, Guy Ritchie, who has built a brewery on his Wiltshire estate. The new 20-barrel brew kit has potential to produce 4000 barrels per year.

The brewery has launched its first beer - English Lore - a 4% ABV traditional British cask ale made with Maris Otter barley grown on the estate and a combination of old and new English hop varieties.

Ritchie explains his latest initiative, "I've always been a big cask ale fan and a regular pub goer and I've been wanting to brew my own beer for years. Yes, this is a hobby, but it is a passion-led project and feels like the next natural step was to build a brewery. I love the full spectrum of different beer styles but especially real ale because it is so unique to England. I'm fascinated by the historical origins of the beer brewing culture within the UK and wish to draw from that heritage."

Head Brewer, Adrian Peskin added, "I'm very excited to be working at Gritchie Brewing Company alongside people with the same vision for making quality beer. It's great to work at a brewery that farms its own barley and taps into its own aquifer. I think it is most brewers' dream to see the product from grain to glass."

Initially, English Lore is available to local pubs in the vicinity of the brewery and has been on

sale at the Beckford Arms (Fonthill Gifford), The Horseshoe (Ebbesbourne Wake), The King John (Tollard Royal), The Talbot (Berwick St John), and 10 Castle Street in Cranborne.

This is the first of a planned series of articles on breweries from outside our area but selling their beers in local pubs and clubs.

*Neil Beagrie,
Salisbury & South Wiltshire CAMRA*

Hop Back Brewery

Founder John Gilbert retired from the Company in January but remains on the Board of Directors as non-executive Chairman. His retirement party was held at the Duck in Laverstock and was attended by past and present members of the brewery, and good friends including a number of CAMRA members. Two awards for Summer Lightning and Entire Stout were presented by the latter.

Day to day running of the brewery is now in the hands of Managing Director Paul Sullivan and Head Brewer Steve Wright. The company announced good results at the AGM in March which was held at the Waterloo Arms in Shirley, another of the Hop Back Houses. Paul commented that “we were living in interesting times with CAMRAs revitalisation project SIBA’s struggle to meet the needs of their various members and beer being more engaging than ever before.”

The forthcoming seasonal ales are as follows:

April / May – Minstrel ABV 4.3% An English hop variety that imparts spiced berries, orange and herbal notes to the luscious golden ale.

May / June – Mayfly ABV 4.1% contains an American hop Belma, which has been added late-copper to this amber golden ale. Belma imports floral tropical fruit tones, with strawberry and pineapple resonances and a bittersweet finish.

June / July – Groovy Mover ABV 4.6% A clean refreshing and more-ish golden ale with a strong bitterness. It has a rich and hoppy flavour leading to a perfect dry finish.

July / August – Yakima Blonde ABV 4.2% a quaffable pale ale bursting with sweet nectar and citrus fruit.

Stonehenge Brewery

This year has got off to a great start with the perennial seasonal offering “Sign of Spring” producing record orders from far and wide. A new deal had been done with the J D Wetherspoon chain for Danish Dynamite to be available across the estate for the months of April, May and June.

Sixpenny Brewery

The Spring seasonal beer, “Cranborne Chaser”, at ABV 4% is a best bitter which became available in mid-March and will be replaced by the Summer special, “Rushmore Gold”, at the end of May/early June. For Autumn and Winter, Sixpenny Black should become available from late October. The ABV of Sixpenny IPA has increased from 5.2% to 5.4%.

A Summer Open Day and an Oktoberfest are planned but no dates have been decided yet. The Sixpenny Tap can now be hired for private events outside of its normal opening hours.

Lyall Dew is now officially the Brewery Manager and Scott Wayland is less involved in routine brewery operations. (Lyall’s email is lyall.dew@sixpennybrewery.co.uk)

Downton Brewery

Seasonal beers due out

May -Slovenian Bitter a 5% golden bitter with Dragon Golding hops

June- Russian Roulette a 4% Red Beer with hops from around the world

July– Bogus Buffalo a 4.6% a Golden American Pale Ale featuring American hops

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SALISBURY BEEREX 38

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We are planning to focus on Cornwall this year and bring you some more unusual offerings from new breweries there. CAMRA now list 39 breweries in Cornwall so we won't have space to feature them all but do expect to be able to 'head West'.

Last year we increased the range of ciders so again we are calling Beerex a Beer & Cider Festival with an increased variety on offer. We also had 1/3 pint measures as well as 1/2 pint which proved popular and will be back again.

We've also ordered good weather so let's hope that arrives as well...

Tickets are on sale by phone 01722 320333 or on line salisburyartscentre.co.uk or in person from the Wiltshire Creative box office at Salisbury Playhouse. Buy in advance before June and save money with the early bird price of £10 until 1st June.



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SALISBURY IS OPEN

Pub closures are not uncommon these days but we doubt if one has closed in circumstances similar to that which closed The Mill in Salisbury in March.

The poisoning of ex Soviet intelligence officer Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the Maltings shopping area certainly put Salisbury in the world headlines but unfortunately the publicity had a negative effect on businesses in the city centre. To counter this City Council and Salisbury BID started a campaign to let people know that Salisbury is open for business.

On Wednesday evening 21st March Salisbury and South Wiltshire branch of CAMRA demonstrated its

support for the campaign by visiting pubs in the city centre close to the Maltings. Among the pubs visited were The Boathouse, The Bridge Tap, Qudos and The Haunch of Venison.

Derek Blackshaw, chair of CAMRA locally, said “It was the largest group that I have ever experienced on one of our city saunters. As a local organisation we feel it is important to do what we can to our support local businesses and demonstrate that they are most certainly open for business. We hope other local organisations will make similar efforts in their sphere of interest and everybody will turn out and show that Salisbury is in business”.

Salisbury CAMRA holds a city saunter on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and welcomes members and nonmembers alike to join them in visiting some of the fine pubs in the town. See branch diary for details.





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Salisbury & South Wilts Pub Of The
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SALISBURY PUBS OF THE YEAR

Salisbury & S. Wiltshire Town pub of the year Rai d'Or, Salisbury

CAMRA members in South Wiltshire voted the Rai d'Or as Town Pub of the Year 2018. Derek Blackshaw, chairman of the branch, presented licensee Simon Wheeler with a certificate to mark the occasion. This is the 12th year that the Rai d'Or has been in the good beer guide. In response Simon thanked the branch for their unfailing support for pubs in the district. Following the presentation branch members enjoyed Rai d'Or excellent hospitality.



Victoria & Albert wins Salisbury & South Wilts CAMRA pub of the year award

The Victoria & Albert in Netherhampton, just outside Salisbury, has been voted 2018 Pub of the Year by members of the Salisbury & South Wilts branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). As well as winning the overall title for the southern part of the county, the historic thatched pub, parts of which date

back to 1545, won the ballot for local Country Pub of the Year among CAMRA members.

Landlady Maggie Scott, who has been at the Victoria & Albert for 15 years, and her sons Taylor and Duncan, who run the pub with her, were presented with their winner's certificate by Derek Blackshaw, Chairman of the Salisbury & South Wilts branch of CAMRA.



Derek Blackshaw presents the CAMRA award to landlady Maggie Scott and her sons Taylor (centre) and Duncan (right)

"It is fantastic to win this award and wonderful to get such recognition from CAMRA members," said Maggie. "Although we have a solid core of local customers, we also have people who come to the Victoria & Albert from as far away as Cornwall and Kent."

Derek Blackshaw said: "CAMRA's Good Beer Guide describes the Victoria & Albert as 'quintessential England' and that is absolutely correct. They serve a good selection of real ales, which are properly looked after, and there is always a friendly welcome. No wonder our members rate this classic pub so highly."

It is the fifth time that the Victoria & Albert has won a Salisbury & South Wilts Pub of the Year award since the millennium. In 2012 it was Pub of the Year for the whole of Wessex.

*Will Bennett,
Branch Publicity Officer*

DIARY DATES *Salisbury & South Wiltshire*



MAY 2018

- 2nd OPEN BRANCH MEETING**
- 8pm Cloisters Catherine St, Salisbury.
7:30pm for Tasting Panel

**16th SOCIAL TISBURY
TODDLE -**

Benett Arms, Boot Inn, Tisbury Sports
& social club (if real ale available)

25th MINIBUS TRIP -

Landford Poacher Landford, Lamb Inn
Nomansland, Kings Head Redlynch,
Woodfalls Inn Woodfalls From Salisbury
Coach Park 7pm

JUNE 2018

- 6th OPEN BRANCH MEETING**
- 8pm Horse & Groom Wilton Road;
7:30pm for Tasting Panel

15th BEEREX -

&16th 6pm-11pm both days and 11am-3pm
Saturday 17th

29th MINIBUS TRIP -

Ram Tidworth, Crown Ludgershall,
Queen's Head Ludgershall, Hatchet
Chute

JULY 2018

14th BRANCH AGM -

2pm Salisbury Rugby Club Castle Road
Salisbury

**18th SOCIAL SALISBURY CITY
SAUNTER**

8pm Cloisters, Wig & Quill, Cosy Club,
New Inn

27th MINIBUS TRIP -

King's Head Chitterne, Rose and Crown
Tillshead, Plume of Feathers Shrewton,
Solstice Rest Winterbourne Stoke
From Salisbury Coach Park 7pm

DIARY DATES *Heart Of Wessex Branch*

MAY 2018

- 2nd OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING -**
the Nog Inn, Wincanton 7.30pm

- 16th SOCIAL TO THE TALBOT -**
Berwick St John (8.15pm) then to the
Grove Arms, Ludwell (9.15pm).

JUNE 2018

- 5th OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING -**
at the George, Mere 7.30pm

- 20th SOCIAL TO THE THREE
HORSEHOES -**
Batcombe 8.15pm

JULY 2018

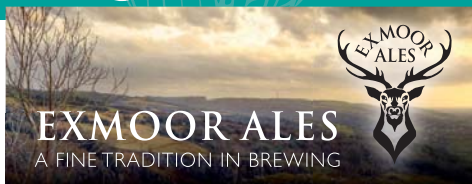
- 3rd COMMITTEE MEETING -**
at the Bird in Hand, Henstridge 7.30pm

- 18th SOCIAL TO THE BULL -**
on the Hardway (8.00pm) then to the Sun
Inn and the Bruton Castle, Bruton

AUGUST 2018

- 7th COMMITTEE MEETING -**
at the Benett Arms, Semley 7.30pm

NOTE: From June the Committee meetings are on a
Tuesday, socials remaining on Wednesdays.
Please see website www.heartofwessex.camra.org.uk for
any updates and excursions.



Exmoor Ale founded in 1979, based in the historic brewing town of Wiveliscombe on the fringes of Exmoor National Park, is now the largest brewery in Somerset.

EXMOOR ALE • ABV 3.8%
The brewery's first beer and winner at GBBF 1980, Best Bitter. Pale brown beer, with a malty aroma, a full dry taste and malty bitter finish. A classic session bitter.

EXMOOR FOX • ABV 4.2%
Cunningly crafted from a blend of several hops and malts to produce a mid-brown beer of unusual subtlety and taste. Slight maltness on the tongue is followed by a burst of hops and a lingering bitter-sweet aftertaste.

EXMOOR GOLD • ABV 4.5%
The original and first single malt "Golden Ale". Golden in colour with a malty aroma and flavour, a slight sweetness is complemented by its long hoppiness resulting in a remarkably well rounded beer.

EXMOOR STAG • ABV 5.2%
Strong copper-coloured premium bitter, with a good malty taste, full hopped aroma and long dry finish. Originally brewed for Somerset County Cricket Clubs Centenary celebrations... so popular the brew became permanent.

EXMOOR BEAST • ABV 6.6%
Remarkably drinkable strong "Porter" style ale. Once a "Winter Warmer", now year round. Brewed making liberal use of chocolate and crystal malts. A smooth and complex beer with hints of fruitcake, rum, coffee and chocolate.

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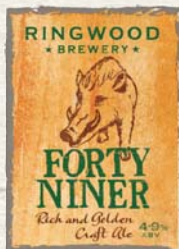
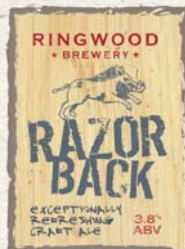
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