

BARREL



ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

March 2004

Circulation 1000

FREE Newsletter

Downton Brewery Company's First Flight of Fantasy

A new brewery in Wiltshire has brewed its first beer, Chimera Gold, a 4.3% amber gold best bitter brewed with organic First Gold hops and organic Optic Pole and crystal malts (malted at the Warminster Floor Maltings). It is described as a 'hoppy bitter with citric fruit notes and some malty undertones, ending in a long, clean, hoppy aftertaste'.

Salisbury's first taste of 'Gold' fever arrived in January 2004 at 'The Village Freehouse' to a very appreciative audience, who are now looking forward to a possible trial bottling within the next few months.



The Downton Brewery Company was formed in April 2003 and is located in an industrial unit in Downton near Salisbury. The purpose-built microbrewery is leased from the nearby Hop-Back Brewery, and, indeed, Downton's Brewer, Martin Strawbridge, was trained by Hop-Back and has previously worked for Fullers.

A Chimera is a mythical creature; a hybrid of a lion, a goat and a serpent, Director Martin Howard says the company intends to use 'Chimera' as a brand name for a series of beers starting with Chimera Gold. This has recently been followed by Chimera Red at 4.6%; other beers planned include Chimera Wheat, a vegan beer and one using gluten free ingredients. Martin, and Alison Freezer, his fellow Director and Shareholder, intend to use organic ingredients whenever possible and are aiming for Certified Organic Processor status within the next few months.

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Pub and Brewery News & Views

Although the first battle to save the **Butt of Ale** appeared to have been won it is not over. The developers have appealed against the refused permission for 10 dwellings on the site and have submitted an application for 7 dwellings. Although one of the reasons for rejection of the original application was loss of social amenity, it seems that they feel it worth continuing to try and develop it.

The **Rai D'Or** and the **Frothblowers** are both regularly stocking **Stonehenge Ales** and whether it is planned or not the mainly have different ones available so you can get a choice of 4 of Stig's beers in Salisbury at the moment.

Following the success of **Stonehenge LTS** last summer - the only local pub regularly selling a 2.5% ABV beer, the **Village Freehouse** are planning a summer beer festival with all beers below 4% ABV.

Keith & Linda have moved from the Bell at Wylde to the **Royal Oak** at **Great Wishford**. The Bell is in the 2004 Good Beer Guide and with Linda running the cellar and Keith the kitchen the Royal Oak merits a visit. If you have any Pub or Brewery News please let us know as we do try to keep up with what is going on .

The Cuckoo Inn



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

Situated just to the north of the New Forest boundary accessible from the A36 at Landford.

It is well known for providing a good selection of beers, i.e Hopback, Pots etc., all served straight from the barrel. The Cuckoo also serves excellent food and snacks. Children are welcome and can be accommodated within the enclosed garden that surrounds this pleasant English pub.

Private garden with barbecue and Petanque terrains available by arrangement.

Hamptworth, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2DU
Tel: 01794 390302

5th Twickenham Beer festival Oct 2003:

I have been attending this festival for the past three years because I have an old friend who lives out that way thus making it a jolly congenial way of seeing a mate and guaranteeing good and unusual beer. Also the fact that I'm in the process of persuading said friend to join the Campaign. And I have a sister up that way as well, who has been persuaded to join.

There were 41 breweries represented, several with more than one contribution, and between us we managed to try 12 of them. The breweries ranged from local to as far away as Orkney, and on previous occasions have been selected on the basis of some vaguely tenuous link to rugby union eg: Happy Hooker. Despite taking place in a World Cup year, on this occasion this was not the case. OTT perhaps. Another convention which did seem still to hold however was that of a tendency toward dark beers and a lack of wimpishness about some fairly hefty ABV s! Which is all to the good the way I see it.

Some nearby microbreweries then (some possibly even femto or pico-breweries) included the co-sponsor (with Fullers) the Grand Union brewery in Hayes (Middx), and also Battersea Brewery, Flagship from Chatham in Kent, WJ. King from Horsham, W.Sussex (the old King & Barnes, I think), Tring Brewery from Herts, Dark Star from W. Sussex, and a couple from Beds, and Bucks. From rather more distance were Caledonian brewery (Edinburgh), Cropton, Goose-eye, and York breweries (Yorks), and Mordue (Tyne and Wear). From our sort of area were Oakleaf, Stonehenge, and Cottage breweries. Once again for the innumerablest time in a row since they won Best brew at GBBF, I was unable to get a pint of Workie Ticket from Mordue. There appears to be some sort of conspiracy; it's always either 'not yet on' or 'just run out' whenever I track the damn stuff down! On the other hand, I did get to sample a good few favourites, uncommon brews, and several new ones. For instance, there was White Dwarf (Oakham), 1845 (Fullers) which I have never had from other than the bottle, and Colley's Dog (Tring) to name an example from each category. And in the strong ale/barley-wine sort of category, there were the 1845 (6.3%), Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby (6%), Tower of Strength (7.6% and from the Tower brewery in Staffs).

Hilton

Coming Soon - The Latest Guide to:

Real Ale in Salisbury & South Wiltshire

All the Pubs in South Wiltshire. Details of those selling Real Ale.
Bus Routes Car Park Opening Hours Food
Gardens Phone number

All you need to find your way to the next pint

Crawling the City

Once a month we hold a Pub crawl around Salisbury, Tisbury or Wilton. In January we started at Quidhampton, getting the Wilton bus out to the pub and the same bus back on its return journey. The White Horse welcome and beer were as good as ever. We got off the bus at Skew Bridge and popped into Tom Brown's and a pint of Flashman's later said farewell to Ivor and headed to the Hogshead. Ray was pleased to see us again and we were pleased to try the Deuchars IPA - Champion Beer of Britain 2002.

Finally we wandered into the Village Freehouse where we had 6 Real ales to choose from including Timothy Taylors Landlord and Abbey Ales Bellringer. Keep an eye on the diary we publish to find out where we are crawling next, we look forward to seeing you.

Summerfest 1

2nd & 3rd July 2004

Fri 6.30—11.00

Sat 11.00—3.30

Sat 6.30—11.00

**Castle Street Social Club
Scots Lane
Salisbury**

Tickets £4 on sale in May

From Ottakars, Village Freehouse, Wyndham Arms, Salisbury, or 'Winterfest' 32 Linkway, Salisbury, SP1 3EP. Send SAE, state which session contact phone number and enclose cheque payable to Salisbury & S. Wilts CAMRA



Ray McEnhill Stadium

(in Large Marquee)

Saturday May 29th 11— 11

£6 *includes glass and programme*

2nd SALISBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Sponsored by

**Hop
Back
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**G.
F.
G.**

25 Ales + Cider

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also (01980) 610250 & 610233

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Depart: 11; 1; 3; 5; 7 Return: 4.30; 6.30; 9.30; 11.30

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THE VILLAGE FREE HOUSE

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Timothy Taylor Landlord
Three Ever-Changing Guest Ales

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12:00 - 10:30 Sun

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welcome you to



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good children's play
area

Families welcome
Special children's
menu

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accommodation.
Otter and Ringwood Ales served regularly + weekly guests*

The Roving Reporter - Or The Accidental Immigrant

A year or so ago I left the wet miserable tarmac of Gatwick airport en route to Toronto. Originally the recuperative trip was intended to last three weeks, but this being me, nothing is straightforward, and I am now a resident of Mississauga, Canada's sixth largest city. Our illustrious mayor, the indomitable Hazel McCallion is in her tenth term of office and her 84th year. I am one of a large population of immigrants, and one of the luckier ones, as I have security, a home and am able to speak the language. In the area are many 'British' pubs, offering Guinness, Boddingtons and the occasional Sam Smiths. They seem to cater for some nostalgic archetype based on Dickens, Mary Poppins and 'The Swinging Sixties'. In other words nothing to get excited about. So what do the locals do, and what do they drink?

The local pub going fraternity here are a friendly bunch, and they drink the usual chemical wiz provided by an effective commercial behemoth. These brews are insipid offerings, and with Molson, Labatts and Coors you have a triumph of commerce over taste. It seems that there is an analogy here with the UK industry, as they also spend hours debating various sports, while watching grown men on skates fighting. – This is called 'Hockey'.

Luckily some small regional breweries and many microbreweries thrive. So a broad range of beers is available, if you don't mind looking around. The strangest 'surviving brewery' is the redundant Molson brewery at Barrie, 45 miles north of Toronto. Closed three years ago it has been producing huge quantities of hydroponically grown marijuana. The provincial police are having a great time, trumpeting their find and, at last, Molson have a product produced on their premises that is so popular it needs no advertising.

The archaic and strange laws governing the sale of alcoholic drinks are different, but no smarter, than the UK system. The only places you can buy beer is from the government regulated, but superbly run 'Beer Store' or the LCBO (Liquor Control Board of Ontario), a government run system of what we would call off-licences. Only approved beers wines and spirits that are 'on the list' are sold. No shop, supermarket etc can sell alcoholic drinks. Only pubs that are also breweries can sell beer for consumption off the premises. Patio drinking is heavily controlled.

The privately owned 'Beer Store' chain is excellent. They provide a complete service with beers from around the world, as well as domestic and micro breweries. They reuse all bottles, and accept other returned packaging free of charge. Most beers are cold filtered and refrigerated, so the stores are also refrigerated, or have their own huge cold store.

It is possible to drink English style beers, served on a hand pump. Go to the Granite Brewery in Toronto to sample beers that taste just like Ringwood. Go to the Bier Markt in downtown Toronto and you can sample a huge range of bottled and draft beers from North America, Europe and beyond. In a later article I will give you some tasting notes, but for now, as I sit in a warm basement on a crisp (-30C) January morning I'll leave you to plan your visit.

Steve

**ENGLISH ALES
SCOTTISH MEASURES
IRISH CRAIC**

DEACONS

**FISHERTON STREET
Salisbury
01722 504723**

PLUS A WARM WELCOME FROM FRANK, ANNIE AND STAFF

We're in the Good Beer Guide



**The Old Mill
Netheravon
(01980) 670631**

Regular Beers

Benchmark 3.5% ABV
Pigswill 4.0% ABV
Bodyline 4.3% ABV
Heel Stone 4.3% ABV
Great Bustard 4.8% ABV
Danish Dynamite 5.0% ABV

Seasonal Beers

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

Wish I had a job like yours.....

I've said to people in the past, 'it's alright for you, you're doing what you want to do' (unlike myself) their reply was, 'well what do you want to do'. At that time I didn't know but I'm now doing something which I really enjoy as I get to meet lots of people - delivering flowers.

By and large you make people happy, you travel round our interesting countryside and visit places you would not normally go. Mind you, a lot of detective work is required, some addresses are nonexistent, some houses have no numbers or names, are not on the phone, or ex-directory. Even when you get there, be it a little quaint village or like South Newton situated on the busy A36 your head is twisting from side to side looking for the address (it's harder when it's dark). Maybe you can't quite read the sign, so you park up trot back and discover, Beware of the Dog or Please shut the gate. If you have no luck at all, it requires a visit to the local Post Office, newsagent or pub.

If they are open (even if not) I try the pub first. In my days of being more involved with the local branch of CAMRA, I made friends with many a local landlord/lady, so it's nice to meet old acquaintances.

One who I visited recently, when I arrived was very busy (all by himself) as it was near Christmas and he had a party of 26 or more in the other bar. As he dashed back and forth seemingly to crack a joke every time he served the throng, I didn't want to interrupt his flow, but as he was pouring another large round he served me up one on the house. 'I've a van outside' I remarked - whereby sarnies and a packet of crisps appeared. Two of the three beers occupying the handpumps I had not tried, so samples were presented. He also had the information I required (when I remembered what I had gone in there for).

I reminisce as I drive down the country lanes of the old CAMRA bike rides, pub crawls or when our children were young with our next door neighbours and their two young 'uns we would visit country pubs. Sadly many have gone, like the Poplars, Fovant; Bell, Bowerchalke; Maypole, Ansty or the Black Horse, Teffont. The other day while delivering at Dinton, I chanced upon, Wheatsheaf Cottage. Unfortunately the owners were not at home but I gleamed that it had been a pub 80 years ago and the inside was possibly not much changed from then. Must try and visit.

As in my old Salisbury Beerex days (when we used to collect beer ourselves). I seem to be prone to discovering females (of all ages, shapes and sizes) answering the door, very scantily attired. On ringing the bell at one address, I was just about to look next door when, a shape appeared behind the frosted glass and a voice said, 'Is there someone there?' at the same time as opening the door. She had next to nothing on and all in one very quick movement she gasped (as I did) and grabbed what ever was at hand. It turned out to be a tea-towel (well that hardly covered anything) I smiled at her problem (a true gentleman) and said 'these are for you'. She then had a bigger problem, as I needed a signature as well. We managed it though and it beats drying up. It's a PINK (yes PINK) van I drive. Once as I climbed out from the cab in Winterslow to asked directions, he said 'me and my mate said, the bloke driving that van is probably the hardest person in Wiltshire' I laughed with him, and remarked that I did have a tattoo. He rolled up his sleeve revealing an arm full!! Happy days.

Cheers - *old Woody*.

Stouts, Porters, Mild's and Warmers

Winter Ales and Winterfest

Salisbury Winterfest 7 was another successful festival with plenty of good quality Real Ale being drunk by plenty of visitors. With a choice of 21 beers ranging from the tasty dark Lidstones Rowley Mild at 3.2% through light coloured beers such as O'Hanlon's Royal Oak (5%) to the heavier Wickwar Station Porter (6.1%) and the festive Hop Back Pickled Santa (6%) there was plenty to choose from and plenty to vote for.

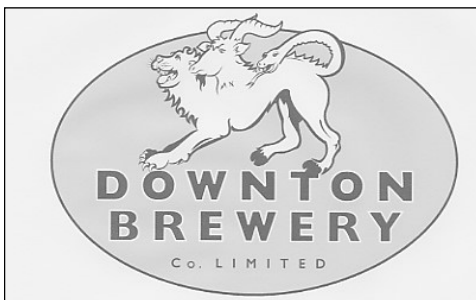
Beer of the Festival was Skinners Pennycomequick (4.5%) a full flavoured stout and runners up were St Austell Tribute (4.2%) traditional well hopped bitter and Roosters Hooligan (4.3%) light and refreshing. With two winners in Cornwall, some of the branch will be heading west for their holidays.

The same weekend saw the National Winter Ales Festival where a panel of experts taste several beers and award the national Winter Ale titles.

Champion Winter Ale is Moor Old Freddy Walker (7.3%), second is Gales Festival Mild (4.8%) and third Shepherd Neame Original Porter (4.8%). Not exactly a session beer, Old Freddy Walker is not as sweet as you might expect. My memory of it is a rich but dry malty beer with some fruity flavours and very moreish!

Chimera Wheat ABV 4.7%

A golden wheat beer, brewed using East Kent Goldings, Poiner Hops and pale wheat malt. Soft tasting with slight citric fruit flavours and a pleasingly clean aftertaste



Chimera Gold ABV 4.3%

Brewed using organic First Gold Hops, and organic pale and crystal Optic malts. Amber gold in colour, with a pleasant hoppy bitterness and citric fruit flavours and a pleasing hoppy, bitter aftertaste.

Chimera Red ABV 4.6%

Brewed with Tettnang and East Kent Goldings, Chimera Red is a copper-coloured beer with a delicious malty bitterness and a subtle floral finish.

HIDDEN BREWERY

	ABV	
OLD SARUM	4.1 %	REGULAR
HIDDEN PINT	3.8 %	SEASONAL
HIDDEN QUEST	4.2 %	REGULAR
HIDDEN DEPTHS	4.5 %	SEASONAL
HIDDEN TREASURE	4.8 %	SEASONAL
HIDDEN POTENTIAL	?? %	SEASONAL



01722 716440

WWW.THEHIDDENBREWERY.CO.UK

National Pubs Week

From 21st to 28th Feb CAMRA celebrated National Pubs Week. Following the success of the first National Pubs Week in 2003 when over 15,000 pubs took part, another successful campaign is anticipated. The aim is to promote the simple pleasure of going to the pub as with more people drinking at home and fewer going to the pub, many pubs are closing - on average 20 per month.

With the theme of **There's a Pub For Everyone** the huge diversity of pubs was promoted with ideas and information available free to pubs so they could promote National Pubs Week themselves.

"We hope everybody will pop down to their local to help celebrate British pubs throughout the last week of February 2004. This support will go a long way to reducing the number of unique British pubs we are losing every month."

Did you visit the Pub in National Pubs Week? If not why not as it is only by using our pubs that we safeguard their future.

The Pub for Everyone I recently visited was the Brewery Tap in Peterborough. The largest brew pub in Europe it is Oakham Ales brewery. There are 10 Real Ales, from Oakham and other breweries a good range of wine and bottles. It can be you local Thai restaurant - excellent food, your place for a quiet drink, or on Friday and Saturday night your late license nightclub. Well worth a visit if you are ever in need of a drink in Peterborough. It is a fine example of what a pub can be and how pubs can cater for all tastes.

Branch Diary

March 2004

Sat 13 th	Coach Trip Edge of Forest	19.00 Coach Station
Wed 17 th	Tisbury Crawl	18.50 Station, 19.30 Boot

April 2004

Wed 7 th	Branch Meeting	20.00 Winchester Gate
Sat 17 th or 24 th	Hop Back Brewery	0930 Bus Station
Wed 21 st	City Crawl	20.00 Cat Tavern 21.00 Kings Arms (Fisherton St) 22.00 Deacons

May 2004

Wed 5 th	Branch Meeting	20.00 Wyndham Arms
Wed 19 th	City Crawl	Exeter St/New St
Sat 22 nd	Mystery Trip	

Further dates to be arranged but the branch meeting open to all members is on the first Wednesday of every month. We also have a monthly pub crawl around Salisbury, Wilton or Tisbury and regular coach trips to country pubs. We also arrange trips out on public transport and visits to breweries

For further information and bookings for coach trips contact Hilary Bird on 01722 333839

Another way to know what we are doing is to join CAMRA and see it all in What's Brewing the monthly newspaper FREE to CAMRA members.

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

Fill in the form and send it with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to:
Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans HERTS AL1 4LW.
Rates: Single £16 Joint £19 per year (Concessions available)

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by its rules.

Signature.....

Date.....

Salisbury and South Wilts Branch BO March 2004

Cheers!

1988 - 2003

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REFRESHINGLY HOPPY BEERS

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA or Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch of CAMRA. © Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch 03/04.

Printed & Supported by Speedyprint, Salisbury (01722) 413222