

BARREL



ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

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FREE Newsletter

Festival Fever

Over the past weeks there have been plenty of local beer festivals to sink a pint at

The branch visited the **Cuckoo at Hamptworth** on 13th Sept, the beer order had been increased from 50 to 60 before the festival and the were plenty missing by the Saturday night - but still a great choice. Mine were all in excellent condition and I really enjoyed the Woodfordes Nelsons Revenge.

The following weekend saw the first festival at the **Yew Tree Inn in Odstock** the 10 real ales were a good range of local and more distant brews. It was fairly quiet on the Friday but I'm told it was busy on Saturday - the beer quality certainly deserved a good attendance. Get there next time!

Langford festival at the **Cricket club** provided a chance to mellow in the afternoon sun with a choice of 38 excellently kept ales and gentle piano music in the background. The Cornish Buccaneer from Wooden Hand and Late Red from Shepherd Neame were my favourites.

I have been to lots of pub and club festivals this year and been delighted with the choice and condition of the ales. Now I'm just looking forward to the **Winchester Gate** festival on **12th & 13th December**.



Salisbury Food & Drink Festival

On Sunday 21st September the Market square was filled with local producers selling everything related to quality food & drink. Once again CAMRA helped Abbey Stores with the Beer & wine Tent making a great opportunity to talk to people about real ale and what CAMRA is all about.

In the 6 hours we were open 80 gallons of Wiltshire brewed real ale and 40 gallons of craft cider & perry were sold much of it to people who usually drink cans at home or keg products in the pub. If you enjoyed it - try some more at your local pub.



A well earned break at the Food & Drink Fest

Trouble at the Pub

With the much talked about problems with the economy, it seems hardly surprising that many pubs are closing, hopefully temporarily as the breweries and pub companies find it difficult to find tenants for them. Last year's figure of 58 pubs a month closing permanently seems set to rise with long term consequences when the economy improves and demand increases again.

One of my greatest concerns is the number of tales I hear about Pub companies and breweries stinging their tenants with massive rent increases and well as increases in beer supply prices. You may not be aware, but the tied house lessee pays far more for their beer from their pubs owning company than a free house pays when buying from a brewery or wholesaler.

I'll be told its all about business and nothing to do with me but I can't help thinking that if you own pubs you are better off having them open and some rent coming in (and income from beer sold to the pub) than having them shut with no income and the regulars settling in nicely at another pub down the road - or worse - switching to drinking at home.

They are trying to sell the pub for housing you say but the housing market has slumped and Salisbury District, and other councils, are doing a magnificent job in refusing change of use applications.

My Plea to pub owning companies is -

Take a long term view, help your tenants through the hard times with lower rents and beer prices so they are still there making you money when things improve.

My Plea to you is - Don't be tempted to drink cheap beer from the supermarket, support your local instead. You'll enjoy the beer more and keep the pubs alive and well.

On another note - I have seen several pub leases advertised as free of tie. This could be a bonus for our local brewers and greater choice for us.

The Rai D'Or Salisbury CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008

Continuing to sell Real Ales
from local Microbreweries
frequently Downton

Budweiser Budvar on tap

Authentic Thai food

5 pm - 11 pm Mon - Sat

69 Brown St 01722 327137

Still treating CAMRA members
to a 50p per pint Real Ale
discount
(excluding 1st of eve)



Hop Back Brewery

Supplying award-winning ales

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BREWERS OF SUMMER LIGHTNING

**THE
VILLAGE
FREE HOUSE**

Wilton Rd - Salisbury
(01722) 329707

Selection of Quality Cask Ales

Downton Quadhop

Timothy Taylor Landlord

Three Changing Guest Ales
including an ever present
Mild, Stout or Porter

A Friendly Welcome Awaits You

**Salisbury & Sth Wilts CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2001 & 2004**

Open 12:00 - 12:00 Daily



QuadHop 3.9%

A very hoppy crisply refreshing lower gravity bitter.

Chimera IPA 6.8%

Award-winning real IPA with the alcohol and hops to survive at trip to India (we believe). Available in bottles.



Also a range of monthly specials contact Martin 01722 322890

Instead of an account of yet another CAMRA pub crawl we're off to Poland & Lithuania.....
Too far for the Beer..

There's no shortage of bars and restaurants in Warsaw and the most prominent beer names - Tyskie, Okocim, Lech and Zywiec - are owned by the big boys Heineken and Carlsberg so it's no surprise that they are characterless: bland and sweetish with the only virtue of high alcohol at 5.5%-5.7%. Krolewski is a pleasant pilsner of more moderate strength - ok as a thirst quencher. Zubra is a 6% offering and nothing to write home about (apart from the delightful label depicting the rare European Bison). Its more famous counterpart, the Bison Grass vodka, has an interesting grassy/coconut flavour and well worth a try.

I tried the brewpub Bierhalle and the Pilsner looked and smelt the part but it faded into a rather unpleasant and unclean aftertaste. At 8 zloty (around £2 for 500ml), this was rather more than the city average of 6zl. Thank goodness to be able to fall back upon widely available Pilsner Urquell. At least I left the country on a high by sampling a small bottle of Zywiec Porter: not the best thing for a sultry summer evening at 9.5% but a delicious, complex beer well worth a punt if you see it on the shelves of some Polish delicatessen.

Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, promised more variety and unknown names. Svyturys the national brewery offered a drinkable Pilsner Extra but the best draught beer by far of the whole trip was Baltas - an unfiltered sour and refreshing orange-hued beer served with a wedge of lemon. Just the trick for a summer evening gazing down on the beautiful and unspoilt Baroque capital - bright, fresh and affluent with a youthful outdoor cafe culture among the cobbles.

Conclusion: I wouldn't go to either country just for the beer (what is Prague for?) But if you're going there anyway, or passing through, no doubt there are ample hidden possibilities to try out.

Derek Williams

Branch Events

October
Sat 11th
Wed 22nd

Barrel Organ Out
Minibus trip to Chalke Valley
Wilton Crawl
Names to Chris
8pm Wheatsheaf, 8.30 Greyhound,
9pm Bell, 9.30 Bear

November
Wed 5th
Sat 8th
Wed 19th

Branch Meeting
Minibus to Chutes, Weyhill Fair
Fisherton St Crawl
8pm Winchester Gate
Names to Chris
8pm Railway Tavern 9pm Bar 44,
10pm Deacons

December
Wed 3rd
Fri 12th

Branch Meeting
Visit to Winchester Gate Beer Festival
8pm Village Freehouse
7.30pm

Make a date for Winterfest 30th - 31st Jan 2009
and Beerex 19th - 20th June 2009

Items for Barrel Organ hiliary.bird@salisburycamra.org.uk 01722 333839
Minibus details from Chris 07989185049

Join CAMRA Online

www.camra.org.uk

The most successful
consumer organisation EV-
ER

Current membership 90,000

Support Pubs

Support Real Ale Brewers

Support Quality

Support Choice

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 10/08.

Pub regularly selling short measures? - Contact Wiltshire Trading Standards (01722) 328367



The Old Mill
Netheravon
01980 670631

Regular Beers

Spire Ale 3.8% ABV

Pigswill 4.0% ABV

Heel Stone 4.3% ABV

Great Bustard 4.8% ABV

Danish Dynamite 5.0% ABV

Seasonal Beers

Sign of Spring 4.6% ABV

(Feb - May)

Eye-Opener 4.5% ABV

(June - August)

Old Smokey 5.0% ABV

(Sept. - Nov.)

Rudolph 5.0% ABV

(December - January)

www.stonehengeales.co.uk