

# ≡ | RISING TUN

Winter 2023.24

Issue 134

“When I wrote Last Orders I bemoaned the fact I could hardly find any images of the inside of pubs. I came across these recently and felt I had to share them with you, as to what a “Real” pub was like in the 1950’s .. a mere 75 years ago” Ed



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

PROUD TO BE YOUR

LOCAL BREWER

ARKELL'S

FAMILY BREWERS

ESTD 1843

*Quality*

REFINED THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

[www.arkells.com](http://www.arkells.com)

# From the Editor...

When I warned about the takeover of Marstons Brewing by Carlsberg, I said at the time, that this would spell the end of the independence of the many Marston brands that had been collected over the past years. You see, when accountants, especially overseas accountants, look at businesses, they understand the cost of everything and the value of nothing. This process had already been started by Marstons in fairness, with centralised purchasing of malted barley and hops already making the different Marston brands almost indistinguishable ... but the one thing they did continue to have as a distinctive element, was the different waters used and the skills of the long-time brewery heads, in both understanding and manipulating the recipes giving these beers the character that real ale aficionados countrywide, enjoyed.

And so the breweries began to fall, first the “painful decision” to close Jennings Cumberland Brewery, who had been in the Lake District in Cockermouth, since 1874, and brewed with fine Lake District waters drawn from the breweries own well, was moved to Burton on Trent.

Next to go was Hobgoblin, which had been brewed alongside Henley Beers in Witney, a facility going right back to 1841 when the Eagle Maltings was established by the famous Clinch Brewery. This was closed in December last year. Unsure at the moment where these beers will end up but it will either be Burton on Trent or Wolverhampton. Next was another Carlsberg decision “Not taken lightly”, (yeah right), as it was announced in January that the famous Ringwood Brewery (which incidentally taught the late Mark Wallington of Archers all he knew about brewing) was to close. “Priority to support colleagues, great workforce, very sad”, blah blah blah. Razorback, Forty Niner, and Boondoggle

will move to Banks in Wolverhampton, and Old Thumper will go to Burton on Trent, probably now indistinguishable from Pedigree! Previously of course they had moved the Thwaites brewing of Wainwright from the North West to Burton on Trent. So, if you go into Marston’s pub and all the beers taste very similar, you now know why. These are really sad events, lamented by all of us who value the diverse regional character of our island and the delightful subtlety that only British real ale can provide... And you heard it first, here!

**John Stooke**  
*Editor*

[www.swindon.camra.org.uk](http://www.swindon.camra.org.uk)  
[editor@swindon.camra.org.uk](mailto:editor@swindon.camra.org.uk)

## RISING TUN

**‘THE RISING TUN’ is the magazine of Swindon and North Wiltshire branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)**

### THE LOCAL DIARY

All meetings and social events are relaxed and friendly. Why not come along and join us? Members and non members are equally welcome to attend. Check the website before setting out in case of any last minute changes. Meetings usually begin at 8.00pm. Upcoming dates are:

#### FEBRUARY

Green Dragon, Marlborough, SN8 1AA.  
12 February, 8.00pm

#### MARCH

The Rat Trap Stratton St. Margaret. SN3 4QS  
11 March, 8.00pm

#### APRIL

The Ashford Road Club, Old Town SN1 3NT  
8 April AGM, 8.00pm

#### MAY

The Red Lion, Cricklade, SN6 6DD.  
13 May, 8.00pm

## JOKES

I've just got a new job, as a bellringer....  
it's my first day tomorrow, so they're just  
showing me the ropes.



# Ashford Road Club is CAMRA 'Club of the Year'



Jenny Brownley (Secretary), Sue Brunetti  
(Committee member), Mac Brownley  
(Committee member), Claire Adsley (Staff)

The Ashford Road Club in Swindon has been declared the winner in the Swindon & North Wilts CAMRA Club of the Year competition for 2023. It has gone on to be "highly commended" by CAMRA in competition with all other clubs in the South West.

Club Secretary Jenny Brownley said *"The Ashford committee are truly honoured to have accepted the award, and it's a testament to all the hard work that's gone in to, not only the club, but also to the Ales we now sell which have achieved the highest standards from Cask Marque and the recognition of CAMRA ."*

Although the club is 127 years old the interior is smart and modern. Jenny explained that during COVID, the club was extensively refurbished and modernised. This work was mainly done by club members, many of whom are experienced trades people. The club is a 'Freehouse' that serves 3 real ales which change regularly. Paul New, local CAMRA Clubs Co-ordinator said that *"The quality of the real ales at the club is outstanding"*.

Guests are welcome. If you want to become a member, there is a £15 joining fee and then £7.50 in March each year. CAMRA members are welcome to come to The Ashford Club on a Monday and by showing their membership card will enjoy the same discounts offered to club Members. This month, the club had Wadworths 6X Classic ... 6% ABV, on the bar!!

PN

I couldn't resist adding this picture. My mother was a barmaid in the 1930's and met my father there. You might say Ashford Road Club is responsible for my very existence!!

Ed



1900 - Inside the Ashford Road Club

## JOKES

I need you to wish me luck. I have a meeting with the bank later that could sort out all my financial problems ... I'm so excited I can hardly pull down my ski mask ...



# Rusty Garage Relocates

The Rusty Garage Brewpub has now opened along Rodbourne Road after its owner built it and moved location from Rivermead Business Centre. Fans of the previous establishment flocked to the new pub early in December for its grand opening. The location on Rodbourne High Street was previously a convenience store but has now been transformed after Marek submitted a planning application in August to craft and sell his own ales from the site. Explaining why he decided to move from their previous location, Marek said: "My aim is to create a salary for myself, that's all I want. At the moment in my current location it's pretty bad, the mortgage has gone up, the electricity up, people don't really know I'm there – and with everyone struggling people aren't buying craft beer as it's considered a luxury product." Wife Magda said: "We hope that this location will be better for our business, we do not think about growing it, we would just like to find ourselves at home here and once it is set up properly we can think about the future". As well as Sump Oil, No Brakes, Stick Shift, Head Gasket, Noisy Engine and Oaky Honey Cider, Marek said he soon also hoped to sell pizza from the site.



"THE OLD GARAGE"

## BEERY BITS

... It's been reported that several brews have had their ABV downgraded to take account of the new duty rate which will peak at 3.4%. Do we know of any local beers originally around 4% + which now have dropped to 3.4%?

... The fabulous little pub at Ampney St Peter, the Red Lion, is now reopened. I don't think it's open every day so check first, it's the one on the V shaped corner as you go through the village and has been shut for a long time. It's not in our area but it's a good news story!



... Simon and Bev went to Ludlow Brewing Company in Shropshire, 28 miles south of Shrewsbury, for a brewery tour, which they described as a good day out and a bargain at £10 per person including sampling.

... Marstons are selling off 61 pubs in order to focus on "core venues". These are mainly in the Midlands, Yorkshire and Wales and are available to purchase individually or in small groups I'm also told Stonegate are in the process of selling 1000 pubs as a result of energy costs and their increasing debt burden. Wetherspoon's also have 40 pubs on the market due to changes in customer behaviour (unsure quite what that means? Ed)

... Also on the subject of Marstons, if you now buy Pedigree in bottles it's no longer bottle conditioned, although I have to say I didn't even notice when ever was?

---

# NO GBBF THIS YEAR!

---

The GBBF Working Party has taken a difficult decision not to go ahead with the festival in 2024 to the disappointment of many. Unfortunately, Olympia could not provide the dates requested plus there were difficulties with the ongoing building works. For me personally as the beer festival organiser - we felt we did not have confidence in the venue to be able to host our festival to the high standards we have always prided ourselves on.

I wanted to inform you as soon as possible, as I know many of you may be arranging time off to volunteer. I would encourage you to look at other CAMRA festivals taking place across the UK as your expertise would be invaluable in supporting these. The plans for 2025 are looking at a variety of options and venues.

**Catherine Tonry**  
*Organiser GBBF*

## CHRISTCHURCH BEER FESTIVAL

Chris Smith tells me the 11th Christchurch Beer Festival will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May. He tells me God usually brings them good weather (he's actually right about the weather?) so you need to

be respectful of the graves when sitting outside. Make a note in the diary. It is an excellent small festival and now well established.

## The White Hart put up for sale by Butcombe Brewery

The Grade II-listed White Hart on Wroughton High Street is managed and owned by Butcombe Brewery, but the firm is looking to offload the property. The pub, which boasts a distinctive thatched roof, is listed on Rightmove for £925,000. There are 10 en-suite letting bedrooms in purpose built block and a pub/restaurant in the stunning 19th Century thatched building. It has many character features in the bar/restaurant for over 100, a large car park in over one acre plot and a three-bedroom self-contained apartment. So if you have a spare £mil?



## CAMRA CARDS

CAMRA has taken the decision to move away from plastic cards and move to recyclable compressed-cardboard material, removing 150,000+ pieces of plastic from circulation annually at a stroke. The new cards are environmentally a benefit and better economically. They have reviewed the print quality and are satisfied (as are the National Trust and Caravan Club who already use them) that they are a good alternative. There is some stock of plastic cards to finish and then will move over

to the new material cards. Members will have them over the next twelve months at the point of renewal. They are also looking at developing a digital membership card later this year whereby we will be able to download a digital card on a smart device. This will initially serve to replace the 1200 replacement cards issued each year at a cost of £1500 to CAMRA. (Lots of aggravation from members over this last idea, digital cards, remember 'Whats Brewing' went digital. Ed).

# PUB NEWS...

## SWINDON AND NORTH WILTSHIRE BRANCH

The **Rat Trap in Stratton** is under new management.

The **Drink Valley Brew Pub** had a successful beer festival and received a lot of positive publicity.

There are new people at **The Barleycorn Inn, Collingbourne Kingston**.

At **The Fox & Hounds in Wroughton** the landlord will now be staying.

There is scaffolding up at the **Crown Hotel, Royal Wootton Bassett**.

The **Brown Jack in Wroughton** have launched a GoFundMe appeal to pay a large outstanding utility bill. If this cannot be paid the Landlady, Tracey may have to leave the pub. The page is <https://gofund.me/58f2aefd>.

The **Harrow Wanborough** is now closed. The pub's landlord, Sanjay Dogra took over the pub

along the village's High Street in April 2022. Many locals were disappointed to learn the historic pub would close after only being open for 18 months under the new management.

The **Cross Keys Wanborough** is still a Wadworth pub and now have a new couple to take over from Karianne and Nathan Lee, who famously said in 2022 that they had "given it a go". It will re-open soon under the stewardship of Sonja Travers and husband Adam who are moving to the village.

**Rudis** in the Town Centre, no longer serves real ale.

Darren Turner, ex of the Angel, Clifton, Fox and Hounds, and Kings Arms is the new landlord at **The Crown in Broad Hinton**.

The **Royal Oak in Marlborough** and the **Goddard Hotel** offer decent CAMRA discounts.

# THE GLUE POT

01793 497420

5 Emlyn Square, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 5BP

Situated in the heart of Brunel's railway village, the Glue Pot is a fantastic small traditional pub.

The pub is named for the glue pots nearby coachbuilders would bring into the pub at lunchtime and place on the central stove to keep warm.

✉ [gluepot@hopback.co.uk](mailto:gluepot@hopback.co.uk)

f [gluepotswindon](#)

t [gluepothopback](#)



5 Regular ales  
and 2 changing ales

### Opening Times

Monday:  
4.30pm to 11pm

Tues-Thurs:  
12 noon to 11pm

Fri and Sat:  
11.30am to 11pm

Sunday:  
12noon to 10.30pm



---

# The Glue Pot

## ‘A Literary Magnet’

---

There is no other pub in Swindon, probably no other pub in the whole UK, which is mentioned so regularly in literature and with such affection as Swindon's Glue Pot. Why would authors of global repute choose this modest corner alehouse to feature so frequently in their stories?

I can't begin to offer a precise answer. Speculating, it could just be the rather special ambience that authors have experienced on visits. Who can say? Having taken an almost cursory look through 100 years of publishing however, I've already discovered such fine authors as JB Priestley, Mary Vivian Hughes (known usually as Molly Hughes) Edward Marston and more recently Robert Townsend, or seem to hold this backstreet community pub in high esteem.

I'll share some of their words here but I commend you to continue this rich vein of research as I imagine there will be many more references to uncover.

In the book, *Never Go Back*, which is a rollicking adventure story by Robert Goddard, a large part of the dialogue unfolds inside *"The beckoning bright yellow frontage of the Glue Pot"*. Fictional Barchase Motors is a Swindon car dealership, a joint venture between hero Harry Barnett and wheeler-dealer Barry Chipchase. On page 272 we read *"You know"*, Chipchase announced after the first swallow of the first pint of Monkeys Revenge pulled at the Glue Pot that morning, *"I was pretty sure last night I drunk enough of this stuff to guarantee a steam-hammer hangover. Instead my head is as clear as a bell. Must be down to all that night air I got the benefit of. How are you feeling?"*

*"Great"* Harry replied *"just great"* ... *"you don't look it"* ... yes fascinating stuff but it is really a damn good read, and I've no idea who brewed Monkeys Revenge!

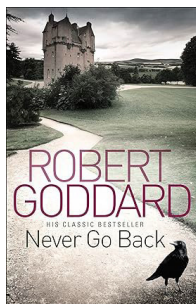
Goddard returns to the pub in another fascinating novel *'Out of the Sun'*

Page 331 revealed that *"Harry saw in the New Year with desperate gusto at the Glue Pot, and spent the first day of it to hangover to speak much let alone concentrate on the challenges awaiting him back in London"* later on page 388; *"He (Harry Barnett) maintained*

*a jovial front to the best of his ability retreating to the glue pot in even more eagerly than usual, but no more frequently than he was used to"* and further, *"Harry was soaking gently at the bar of the Glue Pot, trying to achieve the level of mild intoxication he deemed necessary for an afternoon of his mother's undiluted company, when just about the last person he ever expected to see on the premises walk through the door"*. All of Goddard's novels are without question, great reads!

In Edward Marston's *'A Christmas Railway Mystery'* we discover a person that is so unpleasant that he is permanently banned from the Glue Pot and forced to drink in the Queens Tap, opposite the station... and this was before the days of JC!

The literary works of Molly Hughes can be described as like listening to your granny talk about her childhood. Her books (there were at least three) depict the gradual change in middle-class life in England over the course the years, as Victoria's reign comes to an end through to the period of George VI. Interestingly her work contains no political opinion or social commentary, just simple accounts of family experiences and observations on life. In her book *'America's England'* written and published in 1930 in New York, the author calls into the Glue Pot and observes, *"Down by the works of the Great Western Railway in Swindon there is an inn of no great distinction outwardly; and so overcome by smoke the grime that no name is discernible, but it is the unofficial headquarters of a loosely formed club of some of the most distinguished engineers in the town. It is known locally as the Glue Pot or alternatively the Clutch and Gearbox. Any night of the week will find the front or public bar filled with men from the great railway works opposite. The initiate push through the smoke and beer fumes to a narrow passage behind the bar, order a pint, and with a nod to the assembled company squeeze into a seat on the stairs which lead from the bare little passage to the darkened rooms of the house above. Here could be heard great talk of locomotives, of steam pressure is and of the very latest thing in engineering fashion; here are men home on leave from running railways in ungody places: here you will listen to a man from South America telling an engineer on the staff of an Indian railway, just what he ought to have done with that 'hot bearing'. They*



*drink their beer, they argue it out, then they consult the oracle - some expert or other from the works who has just 'pushed his way in for a nightcap'*

The book dates from 1930 and refers to the pub the Glue Pot whilst in fact it was still the London Stout Tavern at that time but it demonstrates just how colloquial terminology had taken over.

It's rumoured that JB Priestley in his 1934 book, 'English Journey' mentioned calling into the Glue Pot. I have interrogated all 351 pages and sadly can find no direct indication he was ever in the pub during his visit. Frankly, trying to match his descriptions of our town (many of which were simplistic and exceedingly derogatory) with my grassroots knowledge of Swindon in the 1950s, it's hard to reconcile what Priestley wrote in any way to the physicality I would have recognise. Ignoring one particular unnecessary and spiteful comment, (*"the people who planned the streets must have been thinking and dreaming hard about the next world not this one"*) his description of the Playhouse Theatre, located as it was in the centre of the great Mechanics Institute building in Emlyn Square, makes one wonder how credible the rest of his descriptions really are.

*"A turning at the bottom of the main street directed me to the Playhouse. It was not a bad building and would*

*make an excellent little theatre"*? Did Priestley ever come to Swindon at all? I assume if he did, he certainly never visited the magnificent Mechanics Institute in its heyday, which tends then tend to mitigate against the veracity of his best-known comment linking a possible presence with the Glue Pot *"I followed a group of railway workers around the corner where I found a dismal little beer house. Only two of them were inside with their bread and meat but here I met a philosopher, a ghostly old scrap of humanity"*. Could this really been a lunchtime visit to the Glue Pot? My conclusion is 'unlikely'.

I've tried without success to relate his rather depressing and unkind assessment of our splendid town to anything I recognise ... I wondering if perhaps the old chap got off the train at Didcot and just became terminally confused?

## JOKES

The guy at DFS said the sofa would fit 5 people without any problems, then it occurred to me ... I don't know 5 people without any problems ...

## AN OUTSTANDING FEST

This years, the 6th Wanborough Beer and Cider Festival, takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

The event returns to the village's New Calley Arms pub over the Friday and Saturday. Beer and cider lovers will have the chance to drink over 30 different tipples, 20 beers and 10 ciders from breweries and cider farms all around the country. On the Friday evening they will be show the start of the Euros as it's Scotland's first game. If you are Scottish where better to watch your team, than a beer festival? On Saturday there will be live music to keep people entertained while they enjoy a drink (or three!) Mike Thompson looks like he's started already!



## PETERBOROUGH ARMS

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust have announced that Holly Gauci is the new tenant at The Peterborough Arms, in partnership with her father Kevin Graham. They have been busy in the darker nights, improving the inside, making the venue a lovely place to visit, and it is now re-opened for drinks only, but any time soon the new food menu will be available. Check out their social media. How you get there from here?? Who knows.



To Advertise: Paper Red Media - [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com) or [paperrmedia@outlook.com](mailto:paperrmedia@outlook.com)

# CHRIS ARNADE ON “WHAT IS IT ABOUT WETHERSPOONS”

Until I walked across England, from Liverpool to Hull, I'd never heard of Wetherspoon. I certainly had no idea that, as a well-educated person, I was supposed to be scornful of the chain of pubs. When I discovered it, I liked it, for the same simple reasons that everyone I met in a Wetherspoon liked it: they are almost always open; have absurdly inexpensive, great beer; and are inviting spaces filled with interesting people who like to talk.

The first Wetherspoon I went into was The Cherry Tree in Huddersfield. Even at 10.30am, it was buzzing. At first glance, it appeared to be filled with more outwardly broken people per square foot than almost anywhere I've been in the world: alcoholics (functioning and not), people with disabilities (mental or physical), and the very poor. As I sheltered in The Cherry Tree, what I saw were hundreds of warm, human and moving scenes of otherwise lonely people not being alone.

The table directly next to mine catered to an evolving mix of mostly elderly people who seemed to all know each other. They would come, hug, sit, sip, gossip, get up, hug again, then move on. It ebbed and flowed like that through lunchtime, until by 2.00pm the table sat only a single couple, across from each other. They eventually invited me to join them. When they introduced themselves, they explained they were not a couple. Not like

that, you see. Just friends, drawn a little closer now, because each had recently lost their spouse, and they were more alone than they'd ever been.

She had lost her Oliver eight months before, after 53 years of marriage. He was everything to her, and her to him. Oliver had been a builder, she had been a dinner lady, and after they raised a family, they retired to live their dream of travelling the world. Nashville, Italy, Spain, Vegas. Then he passed away. She tried to tell me more, but kept teetering on the edge of tears. Her tablemate, a retired military man, had a similar story, although instead of tears there was a measured stoicism. A lost spouse of 22 years, and now confusion. Life wasn't supposed to be lived without her.

So, they both came to The Cherry Tree daily, to forget and connect. After The Cherry Tree, I would go into a Wetherspoon whenever I was near one, and I came to respect them even more than I respect McDonald's. Partly because they are so pleasant: there is no blasting music or blinding lights. They have comfortable chairs with actual fabric.

CA

*This description mirrors the Savoy, 10 real ales at £2.77 a pint or less, a curry and drink for £7 on a Tuesday and all the tea you can drink.*

## Brewery News...

**Arkells** tell us Kingsdown now available in casks.

**Broadtown** are brewing Kettle Betty 6.5%, Framboise Memoirs 5.0% (a Raspberry Porter), and planning a Steam Rally in June.

At **Drink Valley** the second anniversary festival at Christmas went very well.

**Hop Kettle** have the new bar in Gloucester Docks now open and busy.

**Plain Ales** have not resumed brewing at present.

**Ramsbury Brewery** have brewed Blindsight again for the 6 Nations Rugby, which will be available

in pubs from the beginning of February. Robust and light like a good number 6 should be. Brewed with Simcoe hops and dry-hopped with Chinook. Previously this ale was 3.9% Abv but this brew will be a lower Abv at 3.6%.

**Rusty Garage** are hoping to move their brewing kit into new premises in Rodbourne this month.

**Worlds End** in Pewsey are brewing Gurt (4.3%) and Ale of Pewsey but only available in The Crown.

**Shed Ales** are not brewing but have a range of bought in ales on the bar.



# OUR FESTIVAL REVIEW



*Jason at Broad Town Brewery receives Beer of the Show Award for his Triple Bassett Ale*

The Swindon and North Wilts Beer Festival Charity donation to Asthma Relief Swindon, enabled them to fund 3 nebuliser compressors in our local area. Their Charity Manager wrote "I just wanted to give you an update and some feedback regarding your recent generous donation. This donation enabled us to fund 3 nebulisers compressors which were donated as follows; an 81 year old palliative patient at the Prospect Hospice, Wroughton, an 87 year palliative patient at Moredon Medical Centre, Swindon, and a 41 year old asthma patient at Eldene Surgery, Swindon. Thankyou"

The attendance was impacted by the weather. 73% of the beer ordered was sold but attendance was down 22% on the 2022 numbers, partly because of the weather and also Intel cancelled their normal staff event. The average pints per customer was 4.5 and the brewery bars mostly sold out of beer. The beers that were substituted after the programme was printed, sold significantly less. Stronger beers sold better and in total 560 gallons were drunk over the 3 days with 200 gallons remaining in barrels at the end. Profit was down as the beer prices increase was not wholly reflected in the

selling prices. Thanks to Sam for the detailed and professional analysis. Ideas put forward for this year festival were bottled beers, imported beers, a suggestion we should call the festival "Octoberfest" was dismissed as people might expect it to be Steins and Oopmah bands. A complaint came in from a member that too many beers were of a similar style. The card payments worked well. Food was felt to be restrictive and perhaps 2 smaller caterers may be better as we pay for the tent now. Quiz went down well, should we have more?

Planning for next years festival is underway for October, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. Make a note it in the diary.



**STONE HENGE** ALES

BEERS OF MONUMENTAL TASTE

WWW.STONEHENGEALES.CO.UK | 01980 670631

To Advertise: Paper Red Media - [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com) or [paperredmedia@outlook.com](mailto:paperredmedia@outlook.com)

# KING BARNEY BAULU



On The King's Official Birthday last year around 500 people in the little village of All Cannings, near Devizes, staged a thank you party to mark the 20th anniversary of their "King of The King's" running their local pub, The King's Arms. In the 20 years since Richard "Barney" Baulu took on the Wadsworth Brewery Inn, he has transformed it into one of Wiltshire's most popular dining pubs and has raised £thousands for the village's primary school, pre-school and numerous community amenities. Barney put the tiny hidden-away village

on the map by staging the annual "Concert At The King's Rock Shows" in the beer garden. Organised by Barney and fellow cancer survivors, John Callis and Andy Scott [lead guitarist with The Sweet rock band] saw performances by top bands including: Brian May and Roger Taylor of Queen, Midge Ure, Squeeze, 10cc, Steve Harley, The Boomtown Rats, Suzi Quatro, The Stranglers and Billy Ocean. "Every part of the All Cannings community has benefitted from Barney's generosity over the last 20 years and so we all wanted to say thank you with this party," said village resident Simon Collier, co-organiser of the event.

Villagers made 34 celebration cakes for the party and the afternoon included limbo dancing, yard of ale competition, hoopla, wet sponge throwing and 'pin the crown on Barney', a version of 'pin the tail on the donkey', which had to be done with a bucket over the head. Charles Bartholomew, Chairman of the Wadsworth Brewery, (see above) unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion at which beer was sold at 2003 prices. One of those pints of 6X, pulled by Barney for customer Paul Swann, (from The Wirral), was calculated to be the 1,000,000th pint pulled at the pub in his 20 years.

## 79 AND NOT SO STRONG?



Lots of speculation around about Humphrey Smith and the future of the Samuel Smith brewery and his pub chain. Rumours are that he may retire on his 80th birthday next December and hand over to a much younger relative? It is suggested that possibly half the pub estate is currently closed? Also rumours about the declining financial status of the business; which publishes little about itself. Will there be anything left to hand over? The London Smith pubs are thought to be propping up its decaying northern base.

No doubt these rumours are hurtful to the pretty eccentric Humphrey Smith and his Tadcaster-based fiefdom. His pub rules include no phones, no juke boxes and absolutely no laptops. If you

have to take a call, you must go outside to answer, just like a smoker would to have a cigarette. In 2000, the "publicity-shy" Smith began removing the branding from his pubs and delivery vehicles, making it difficult to determine the exact number it operates but it is thought to be between 100 and 200? He has poured large amounts of money into his 20 London pubs, and many are now superb examples of refurbished Victorian pubs. Just a bit of a shame about the single beer as he will never allow guests, (he only brews one ale) He treats his employees badly and occasionally, illegally, famous for capriciously firing pub managers for infractions as petty as failing to serve his favourite dessert. Humphrey Smith has managed to preserve this weirdness far longer than I could have imagined, and I think the world of real ale is more interesting because of it.

Ed

# ARKELL'S NEW RELEASES

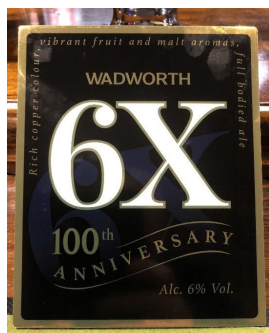
For 2024, Arkells are introducing a number of brand new, one off beers alongside a few returning favourites, celebrating the changing seasons throughout this year. Spring Hopper has cemented itself as a regular seasonal favourite, but we kick off the year with the timeless Kingsdown making a comeback. First brewed in the late 1960's, it remains perennially popular.

Next is Summer Saison, first brewed in 2022. Saison is a traditional style of beer which utilises wild natural yeasts to ferment the sugars, giving the beer unusual spicy and intense fruity flavours.

As the weather turns, our Winter Warmer will appear, a chocolaty, velvety and indulgent, perfect for sipping by the pub fires. To add a twist to this dark stout some chocolate orange has been added.

Between these two seasonal brews, a collaborative brew with Johnny Arkell at Donnington Brewery is planned. Donnington has a unique spring water, giving their beers a distinctive character. The beer style will be a dark lager and will be badged Donkels.

## 100 YEARS OF 6X



December 2023 saw Wadworth Brewery celebrate a major anniversary for their most iconic pint.

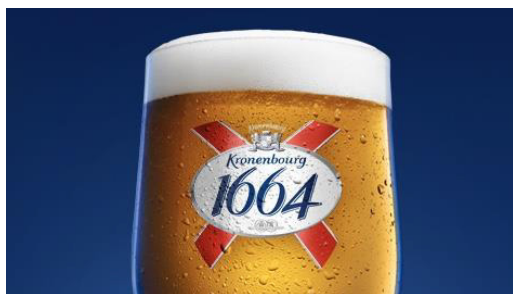
It marked the 100th anniversary of their traditional cask ale 6X. Managing director Toby Bartholomew and head brewer Andy Weaver both gave speeches at the event while samples of a special edition 6 per cent 6X were also available. The first 6X was brewed on December 5, 1923, and the ale remains a popular pint in pubs across the country. It got its name from the marking denoting the strength of the drink on the barrels it was stored in, although the original 6 per cent ABV has since been reduced to 4.1 per cent. Its big anniversary comes at the end of a momentous year for the brewers, who finally said goodbye to their historic Northgate Street site to open the Folly Road Brewhouse in September.

## Carlsberg Marston's Brewing signs deal to acquires UK rights for Kronenbourg from Heineken

The deal, which transfers the licence of the French beer brand from 1 June 2023, will see Carlsberg produce and distribute Kronenbourg 1664 in the UK. Heineken UK will continue to brew and pack Kronenbourg 1664 under contract, before moving to Carlsberg in 2024.

A three-year period has been agreed to continue to provide the brand to Heineken UK's Star Pubs & Bars.

(I'm forced to say, WHO BLOODY CARES? Ed)



## JOKES

I'm presently reading a horror story in braille, something bad is going to happen ... I can just feel it

To Advertise: Paper Red Media - [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com) or [paperrmedia@outlook.com](mailto:paperrmedia@outlook.com)



JOIN US AT CAMRA....COME ALONG, MEET NEW FRIENDS, GET INVOLVED...

You perhaps pick up the 'Tun' occasionally, or maybe this is your first time, and you get to this last bit and think ... Why should I bother to join? What's the offer ... terrific fresh real ale, chance to get away and chat, the company of warm, welcoming, like minded friends, and knowing you play a part in one of the biggest and

most successful pressure groups in UK history. We meet monthly and organise lots of social events. Give it some serious thought. If you are still not quite sure, why not call Richard on Swindon 618921 and chat it over.

# Be part of the CAMRA story

*Real ale is just the start...*

**Our story is your story.**  
So join us in supporting  
everything from pubs and  
drinkers rights, to licensees  
and breweries, uniting us  
in the story we all love.

To thank you for being a hero  
in our story, you receive great  
membership benefits, such as  
**£30 of beer vouchers**, quarterly  
**BEER magazine**, access to the  
online news platform **What's  
Brewing**, partner **benefits and  
discounts...** just a few perks  
of joining us.

Join the CAMRA story  
[camra.org.uk/join](http://camra.org.uk/join)



Campaign  
for  
Real Ale

Real stories, real people, **real ale**



Stay connected with CAMRA

### WHAT'S BREWING

Our dynamic online news platform is updated daily with stories from the pub & brewing industries, Campaign news & opinion pieces

[wb.camra.org.uk](http://wb.camra.org.uk)



PUBS PINTS PEOPLE



Tune in via Spotify or Apple Podcasts for great chat about pubs, clubs, beer and cider

[camra.org.uk/podcast](http://camra.org.uk/podcast)

### BEER

Our colourful quarterly magazine is full of interesting features from the biggest voices in the trade



Available in print and online

## THE BEEHIVE

Swindon's Favourite Local

- Local real ales and craft beers -
- Locally made Pies, Mash and Gravy -
- Regular live music -
- Local art on display around the pub -
- Free Wi-Fi -

Open all day from noon - 7 Days



The Beehive Pub

55 Prospect Hill, Swindon SN1 3JS  
T: 01793 523187 E: [post@bee-hive.co.uk](mailto:post@bee-hive.co.uk)  
[www.bee-hive.co.uk](http://www.bee-hive.co.uk)

## PAPER RED MEDIA

Would you like to advertise  
in the next edition?

Pre-book your space by contacting us below

We provide advertising & design for a variety  
of CAMRA branch magazines around the Country

Contact us for details on our competitive rates or if you are  
interested in us designing and publishing a magazine for you

**Paper Red Media**

Tel: 01536 358670

Email/s: [papperredmedia@outlook.com](mailto:papperredmedia@outlook.com)

[n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com)

Web: [www.papperredmedia.weebly.com](http://www.papperredmedia.weebly.com)

Contact us  
via QR code



A man with glasses, wearing a tan cap and a brown apron over a red t-shirt, is smiling broadly while holding a large, silver metal cask. He is standing in what appears to be a brewery or industrial setting with pipes and equipment in the background.

**LWC**

# THE UK'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT CASK WHOLESALER

**& Official supplier to CAMRA**

LWC is the UK's largest composite drinks wholesaler, we have the largest selection of beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks, along with a designated cask coordinator & wine specialist at every depot.

We pride ourselves on our product range and service.

To find out more about LWC and our product range, please get in touch with us:  
**01249 474230 | [wiltshire@lwc-drinks.co.uk](mailto:wiltshire@lwc-drinks.co.uk)**