

# NEWS AND BREWS

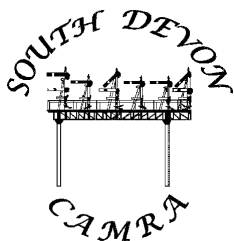
**SPRING  
2011**

**FREE**

*Free Magazine of  
The South Devon Branch of*  
**THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE**



*The Rugglestone Inn, Widecombe in the Moor.  
Contender for South Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year*



**South Devon  
CAMRA**

*Supporting Real Ale  
in the South West*

# *Welcome to* **NEWS AND BREWS**

**33RD EDITION**

**SPRING 2011**

We recently had a new friend to stay. We had met her at the Brugge Beer Festival, where it was evident that we were on the same wavelength when it came to our love of beer. So, when she was able to spend some time with us during her trip over from Boston, we were delighted to be able to show her a tiny sample of some of the good beer spots in South Devon. A beer judge, publisher of Boston Beer News and an avid home brewer, our guest knew her subject, and was receptive to everything we could show her in the weekend that she was with us.

One of the days we took her to Dartmouth, a tourist destination in its own right, and visited The Cherub Inn and The Royal Castle Hotel with a final stop at The Ship in Kingswear. The other was dedicated to breweries. Will Freeland at Bays Brewery gave us a comprehensive tour, then we dropped into Dartmoor Brewery on spec, and were lucky enough to get an insight into the brewing processes there. Lunch at The Rugglestone Inn, shopping at Tuckers Beer Shop and a quick stop at The Isaac Merritt, completed the day.

The very best bit of the tour was that we were able to see our familiar surroundings through new eyes. And what a superb place we live in. Get out there and enjoy it!

*Cheers, Tina Hemmings, Editor*



Colin and Heather welcome you to the Ship Inn. Our traditional Village Pub & Restaurant offers a selection of real ales, good food, together with a wide choice of popular drinks and first-class wines.

A dedicated Otter bar, Adnams Bitter, and a selection of guest beers.

The SHIP INN is a traditional village pub, with a restaurant serving fresh seafood and steaks, using varied, seasonal, local and very fresh produce.

Winner of the South Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year  
2006

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## PUB NEWS

May is Mild Month in the CAMRA calendar, and **Otter Mild** will be available at several outlets at that time. This is welcome news as it was thought that this gem was being deleted from the Otter Brewery portfolio after last winter. Happily, **The Ship at Kingswear** will be ahead of the game, stocking this beer from March.

The **George Inn at Blackawton** is holding its annual May Beer Festival from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May to coincide with the village's Worm Charming Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> May. There will be over 10 real ales and a selection of ciders and perrys. The car park will be used for seating and barbequing and their festival room – an attractive garage conversion – will be buzzing.

**Bays Brewery** are planning a Royal Wedding beer for the Spring. They won an award at the National SIBA Awards in November 2010 for Best Marketing and PR.

The **Royal Castle in Dartmouth** is having a Spring sale. Every day one of their beers is at £2 per pint. This includes their lager, Guinness and cream-flow beers, so it depends on the day you get there, but real ale is featured at the weekend. The sale, which started in January, is set to go on into early March. They will also be making changes to their beer range by offering **O'Hanlons Yellow Hammer** and two from the **Otter** stable, one of which will be **Amber**.

The **Tradesman's Arms in Scorriton** is currently having its roof replaced. They have recently been awarded a 4 star rating for their accommodation by the Dartmoor National Park authority. During February and March they are offering 20% off lunch time main meals.

The **Tradesman's Arms at Stokenham** is selling a guest ale at £2 per pint. I had a lovely pint of **St Austell's Tribute** earlier in the month.

**St Austell Brewery** will launch two new cask ales later this year. **Admirals Ale** (5% ABV), which was named the world's best bottled beer in 2008, will become a permanent addition to the brewery's cask range and will be joined by a brand new (and as yet unnamed) 3.8% ABV ale which was a big hit when trialled at the St Austell Brewery Celtic Beer Festival in November.

### The Cherub Inn



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Real Ales and Cider

Selected Red and White wines

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a la carte meals in the evening.



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*A real ale pub, just refurbished and welcomed back after 15 months. This very friendly local serves great food and fantastic Sunday lunches. Make this pub your stop as you walk or ride the Moor. ([www.beerinthevening.com](http://www.beerinthevening.com))*

#### **Good Beer Guide Listed**

*4 Real Ales. Local ciders.. Thursday Quiz night  
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[www.thetradesmansarms.co.uk](http://www.thetradesmansarms.co.uk)*



### **The Manor Inn**

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Devon TQ5 0NL

Tel: 01803 661101

**[www.manorinngalmpton.co.uk](http://www.manorinngalmpton.co.uk)**

#### **Good Beer Guide Listed.**

*Discount for card-carrying CAMRA members*

Good beers (Otter, Abbot, Sharp's Doom Bar, St. Austell's Dartmoor). Good food, function rooms, accommodation, patio, large car park, good company.

Quiz nights Thursday (general knowledge) and Sunday (music). Children and dogs welcomed in a real village pub.

**Red Rock** brewers have been working with Tim and Toby Hewison, who have a blueberry farm near Lustleigh and go under the name of the Blueberry Bros. Together they have made a **Blueberry Beer**, using blueberry juice, and which featured in the February beer festival at The Royal Oak in South Brent. It will also be available at the J D Wetherspoon Devon beer festival in 17 of their outlets. It is a 4.6% ale with a malty start followed by a dry citrus finish and a delicate flavour of blueberries. Planning permission has been applied for to convert a redundant workshop in a barn adjoining the brewery into a shop and hospitality area with bar, seating and a cosy woodburner.

The **Union Inn** at **Moreton H'stead** is selling all its **Red Rock** beers at £2.20/ pint.

There have been reports that the **Bull and Bush** in **Torquay** is worth a visit for its ale quality.

The **Ship Inn Teignmouth** had a good beer festival in December. Reports from the venue said the ale was in great condition.

The **Royal Oak** in **South Brent** have had a lot of interest from customers to their Real Ale Sale which has been going since the new year. Ales were on sale at £2.20 a pint, or 20 half pint tickets were on sale for £20. Andy Doree the landlord told me he hoped to be able to continue the sale into March if possible.

We have heard of a spate of closures recently. The **Smugglers** at **Totnes** is to be a vets practice. In **Chudleigh** the **Coach House** is under threat of redevelopment. Pending planning permission, The **Lifeboat Inn** at **Teignmouth** is destined to be a block of flats. The **White Hart Buckfast** is still closed.

# The Dartmoor Lodge

Pear Tree Cross  
Ashburton



Good Beer Guide Listed  
4 local real ales  
kept in excellent condition.  
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We can also cater for  
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conferences & outside bars.

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## ***New Head Brewer at Dartmoor***



There are a couple of new faces at Dartmoor Brewery out at Princetown. Mike Lunney has taken over as head brewer and has been there for over 18 months. His wife Karen is dealing with the office duties.

Mike started his brewing life at Gales, and had a few years at Arran Brewery before moving to Devon in June 2009.

Karen told me that living on the Isle of Arran was idyllic, and that at first they missed the life there. However, she and Mike are now thoroughly enjoying their new life, as are their dogs - two of them make a very enthusiastic welcoming committee for visitors.

Since joining Dartmoor Brewery, Mike was involved in the launch of Legend 4.4%abv several months ago, and when we dropped in last week we were able to try two other new beers that he has developed. Dragon's Breath another ale at 4.4% abv, is a dark golden-brown, hearty winter ale which is described as rich and smooth with a hint of autumn fruits. Friggins (4%abv) is amber, with a fruit hop aroma, and is nicely thirst quenching.

The brewery continues to supply its award-winning beers, Jail Ale and Dartmoor IPA, both which have been favourites in the West Country for many years.



### **GEORGE INN, BLACKAWTON** Devon Village Inn

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## ***Best Pubs on the South West Coast Path***

During my recent walk of the South West Coast Path from Poole Harbour to Minehead, I visited over 110 pubs most of which were on, or close to, the South West Coast Path itself; the remaining few being at transport interchanges en route to & from South Devon. During this time, I enjoyed sampling 130 different ales from 70 breweries. These totals exclude the beers that I tried on my final day at the superb Minehead Beer Festival, after I had finished the walk. The great majority of the pubs were well worth visiting, with a friendly welcome and a range of well kept real ales. Some were disappointing, and a small minority were poor. Looking at this in retrospect, if the well known 80:20 rule is applied, 104 pubs should have been worth visiting, and 26 lacking in some way or other, and in retrospect, this statistical breakdown appears to fit well. If we then break the "Good" sector down on the basis that 20% of the "Good" sector will be the "Top" pubs this gives a total of 21 "Top" pubs. All of these should expect to be considered for the Good Beer Guide (GBG). Similarly if we break the "Poor" sector down on a similar basis we would expect that 20% of these pubs would be the "Very Poor" pubs, which means that 5 of them should be classified as "never to be visited again". This calculated average is in agreement with my memory of 4 to 6 very poor pubs. I will not cause embarrassment by naming the worst pub, but it was in Weymouth and sold very poor Wadworth 6X in dire surroundings.

I had intended this article to be called the "Best Ten Pubs on the South West Coast Path". However, when I started my selection, I easily came up with a short list of eight and then found it difficult to select another comparable two from the rest of the pack. Out of these eight, there were two pairs of pubs which were very close geographically whereas the remainder were well spread around the coast. As a result, I decided to select the "Best Five Pubs on the South West Coast Path" as my theme. This by coincidence gave a good geographical spread by giving coverage to Dorset, South Devon, South Cornwall, North Cornwall and North Devon.

Whilst it was not practicable to visit every pub on or close to the path because of the number of them in the larger towns and villages, there were several of the more remote pubs that I would have loved to visit but was not able to do so as they were not open at the time of my passing. There were at least 10 of these and included the GBG listed, Bush Inn at Morwenstow, Clovelly Bay Inn at Turnchapel, Five Pilchards at Porthallow and Gurnards Head at Treen. I have listed my choices geographically rather than in any order of merit. They are all excellent and it is no surprise that four out of five were selected for the 2011 Good Beer Guide.

Of my top five, my first choice is the **Square & Compass at Worth Maltravers**, which lies three quarters of a mile inland from the coast path. It is one of the few pubs that have appeared in every edition of the Good Beer Guide and is a classic multi roomed pub, with a range of guest beers and ciders served by gravity at a single hatch straight from the casks which are on a stillage behind. At the time of my visit four ales were on, and I chose Downton Welter.

.....continued.....





## Swans Nest Beer Festival Exminster

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10 Real Ales £2.50 per pint or £10 for 5 pints

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Selection of Wines

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## ***Coast Path Favourites.....cont***

The pub is popular with both locals and walkers, and dogs are said to outnumber humans at times. It can be reached by the 144 bus from Swanage, allowing one and a half hours drinking time at lunchtime. Alternatively there is a fairly tough seven mile walk along the coast from Swanage or a choice of car or taxi. If you choose the latter there is the option of a pleasant three and a half mile circular walk around St Aldhelm's Head between rounds. This walk provides spectacular coastal views, both to the East and the West, which include the dramatic semi circular Chapman's Pool. Something strange may happen if your mobile is on the O2 network, after being out of range for a while you are likely to receive a message welcoming you to a French network!

Moving on through East and South Devon, my next choice is the GBG listed **Boringdon Arms in Turnchapel**. I had been aware of this local CAMRA favourite for many years but had never had the chance to visit. I had previously admired the pretty houses, which include the Boringdon, when looking across the River Plym from the Barbican and vowed to make a visit some time. This had to wait until I reached it on my coastal walk, and then it was impossible to miss since it lies directly on the path and I have returned twice since! This inn which offers good food and accommodation provides a welcome to all, and has three regular beers plus typically three guests which are often from local breweries. I tried the Summerskills Bravo Zulu which was excellent. Turnchapel is easily accessible by either ferry or bus from Plymouth and is a good starting point for either a short or long walk.

The short option passes the marina and goes around Mount Batten Point before beginning an easy climb up to Jennycliff Bay where, should you have taken the car, there is convenient car park, and also public toilets. A further short climb leads up to the fort at Staddon Point. There are superb views over Plymouth Sound across to Kingsand and Cawsand, and back to Mount Edgcumb and the mouth of the Tamar River, from Jennycliff and Staddon Point. The longer walk of 6 miles continues past Bovisand Bay (buses in the holiday season only) and on through Heybrook Bay to Wembury, from where there is a regular bus service back to Plymouth.

The next leg of the Coast Path involves a circuitous route to New Laira Bridge and then on through Cattedown to The Barbican, The Hoe, and Stonehouse to reach the ferry to Cremyll. On leaving Cremyll the Cornish coast is followed through Kingsand and Cawsand to Rame Head. This section of the walk mirrors the previous views over Plymouth Sound with great views over to the Devon coastline. My next choice was reached four walking days later and is the

**Rashleigh Inn at Polkerris**, which is two hours walk from Fowey. This GBG listed freehouse was formerly an 18<sup>th</sup> century boathouse serving the pilchard industry and is located by a secluded beach. It is everything the walker and/or drinker can wish for with atmospheric bar, restaurant and sheltered terrace providing panoramic views of St Austell Bay.



.....continued.....

# THE KENTS

Kents Pub, 1 Ilsham Road, Wellswood, Torquay. TQ1 2JG

Tel: 01803 292522 Email: [info@kentsstorquay.co.uk](mailto:info@kentsstorquay.co.uk)

Website: [www.kentsstorquay.co.uk](http://www.kentsstorquay.co.uk)



The Kents is a local pub that is part of a small family run group of pub restaurants.

5+ Ales specialising in local brews. Plus a local still cider on draught. Good food using local produce.

Come and see what you think. On weekdays your CAMRA card gives you 50p off a pint on all draught.



## Summer Moon Festival

After 3 very successful years the 4th Kingskerswell Summer Moon Festival will be held at the Parish Centre Kingskerswell from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June. There will be over 60 different beers plus cider and wines. This is a family event and local bands will be playing on the Saturday. Over £21,000 has so far been given to local organisations and charities. Details will be on the web site in due course. See [www.summermoon.co.uk](http://www.summermoon.co.uk)

This newsletter is published by the  
South Devon Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.  
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Thanks to all our contributors - including Peter O'Nions, Bob Southwell,  
Ian Hemphill, Anthony Woodwark, and George Hemmings.

**Last date for submission for the Summer magazine– 13th May 2011.**

## ***Coast Path Favourites.....cont***

On my visit four beers were on offer, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Sharps Doom Bar, St Austell Proper Job and Wooden Hand Cornish Buccaneer; I chose the latter which was in excellent condition and recharged my batteries for the walk onwards to Charlestown. An ideal way to experience this pub and exercise is to take the train to Par and catch the hourly bus to Fowey which picks up outside the station. The 4.5 mile cliff walk on to Polkerris via Gribbin Head is quite hard going at first but eases after passing the prominent red and white Gribbin Daymark. After visiting the Rashleigh, another mile of Coast Path takes you to Polmear from where Par Station and the conveniently placed Royal Hotel are a mile walk away along the A3082. Alternatively if you want to sample the pubs of Fowey with their stunning estuary views try the walk the other way round with a lunchtime stop at the Rashleigh and a pub crawl in late afternoon/early evening.

My fourth choice lies on the North Cornwall coast and is the **Driftwood Spars at Trevaunance Cove**, CAMRA Cornwall pub of the year 2009 and home of the Driftwood Brewery. This is a not to be missed pub, the location at this former major industrial port is stunning as is the pub itself with its dog friendly traditional bar with seven handpumps serving mainly Cornish beers. The pub offers good accommodation, has a modern dining room with exquisite sea views and plentiful outdoor drinking areas. Despite its remoteness it always seems busy and on summer weekends the crowds throng outside. A short walk over the next cliff to Trevellas Combe takes you to a working opencast tin mine where you can view the various processes used to produce a small quantity of tin from a vast amount of ore. A longer walk of 4 miles continues to Perranporth; alternatively you can walk to the West around St Agnes Head to Porthtowan (4.5 miles). There are regular bus services from outside Truro station to Porthtowan, and also to St Agnes and Perranporth. Trevaunance Cove is a short downhill walk from St Agnes; it is a steep descent so allow plenty of time to get back up for your bus!

My final choice is in North Devon and is the **Grampus Inn at Lee**, which is West of Ilfracombe (not the Lee Bay which is to the West of Lynton). This lovely hidden away village pub, with large unspoilt garden, also serves as the village shop and serves four beers on handpump together with Sams Medium Devon Cider. I had Sharps 6 Hop IPA and Wizard Old Combe which were both excellent; Wizard Druid's Fluid was also on and I just missed a Quantock Brewery beer that had run out earlier. I would have liked to spend longer there but having started at Woolacombe, I had to continue on to Ilfracombe for a bus back to Barnstaple to catch my train home. There are only four buses a day from Ilfracombe to Lee so if you are walking there from Woolacombe or Morteohoe (5 miles) or Ilfracombe (3.5 miles) you need to get your timing right for the bus ride back. If you do not want to walk either way, you need to get the 12:30 bus from Ilfracombe to Lee and 14:38 bus back to enjoy a lunch time session.

I hope I have encouraged some of you to try not only the pubs, but also the walks. I have suggested some shorter walks, but why not consider walking the whole 630 miles from Poole Harbour to Minehead, remembering of course to finish at the Minehead Beer Festival. Alternatively, If you prefer to follow any of my suggested shorter walks please allow plenty of time, I suggest you work on an average of 2 to 2.5 miles per hour.

lan Hemphill

*Ed—The unabridged article, including 'try-alsos' will be posted on our website soon.*

# Everyday's a Bays day

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## ***Brewery Open Days at Hunters***

Hunters Brewery near the pretty village of Ipplepen recently held two open days, which were well attended and enjoyed by all who came. On the Wednesday there were over 70 members of the public and landlords all sampling the full range of beers which were on gravity dispense. The session beer Denbury Dreamer at 4% abv was well received, and Paul Walker, the brewer, gave us all a preview of his new beer which he describes as a light stout, Black Jack. At 6%abv with one of the ingredients being honey, it had a rounded finish and was not cloying on the palate like some stouts. This beer will be exclusive to a few outlets and beer festivals, and has a very distinctive pump clip made from pewter.

On both Wednesday and Saturday we were shown where the new 20 barrel plant is going, because in order to cope with increasing demand the brewery is undergoing expansion. Hunters also have bottling facilities to reach places other than draught real ale pubs. On Saturday, visitors from the Falmouth 5 Degrees West Pub were sampling the beers to work out which ones to add to their range. Hunters ales do have a wide coverage as their beers have appeared in Manchester and Peterborough, and they are regularly deliver as far as Truro and Tiverton. In addition to the beer, on both days we enjoyed a decent hot sausage bap to help round off an excellent visit.

Tony Woodwork

<b>Ad Size</b>	<b>1 issue</b>	<b>2 issues</b>	<b>3 issues</b>	<b>Year</b>
1/4 page	40	55	70	80
1/2 page	50	75	100	120
Full page	70	110	150	190
Back page				250

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Brewing from a brand new, purpose-built brewery in Princetown, our beers are becoming more popular than ever. We are the highest brewery in England and we believe the best! Our mission is to consistently brew top quality cask conditioned real ale. Ask for Jail Ale, or Dartmoor IPA.

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Contact them if you are dissatisfied with service or quantities and are unable to resolve this with the service provider.

### **Contact Us.**

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Visit our award-winning Web Site at [www.southdevoncamra.com](http://www.southdevoncamra.com)



# What's On

## Branch Meetings and Social Events

Date	Time	Purpose	Location
Tues 8 March 11	20:00	Branch Meeting	Crown & Sceptre, St Marychurch
Tues 12 April 11	20.00	Branch Meeting	Kestor Inn, Moretonhampstead
Tues 10 May 11	20:00	Branch Meeting	The Bottle Shop, Tuckers Maltings
Tues 14 June 11	20:00	Branch AGM	Crown & Sceptre, St Marychurch
Wed 16 March 11	11:00	Bus Crawl (no.88 bus)	Ashburton, Buckfast, Totnes contact Bob Southwell
Sat 21 May 11	12:00	Dartmouth/Kingswear Crawl	starting at Steam Packet, Kingswear
Sun 26 June 11	TBA	Dartmoor Rover	our annual trip to moor destinations!

## Beer Festivals

14-16 April 11	SIBA Festival	Tuckers Maltings, Newton Abbot
23 April 11	St George's Day mini Festival	Royal Oak, South Brent
22 April– 2 May 11	May Day Beer Festival	George Inn, Blackawton
22 –28 April 11	Swan's Nest Beer Festival	Swans Nest, Exminster
27-30 May 11	Oak Apple Festival (20 ales, 5 real ciders)	Royal Oak, South Brent
28-30 May 2011	Cider Festival	Diesel Society, Staverton Railway
26-29 Aug 2011	Rails & Ales Beer & Cider Festival	Diesel Society, Staverton Railway



# Hole in the Wall



*6 Park Lane, Torquay TQ1 2AU*  
*01803 200755*

Tucked away in the centre of Torquay, only a few yards from the harbour is Torquay's oldest inn.

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**Abbot Ale, Adnams, Bombardier and Guest Ales**

Fine food, our chef having worked on the QE2

## ***The Grumpy Old Man and pub measures.***

Hallelujah. Praise the Lord and the Coalition Government.

On my travels along the length and breadth of Britain the clamour for a change has become irresistible with regard to pub measurements. Out go the measures designed from the days when men wore suits of armour and embarked upon Crusades and in come the days of the bankers, city financiers and marketing babble. You wanted it and you have got it – the official **schooner**, or 2/3rds of a pint and it clearly proves that downward democracy is alive and flourishing. Now I do admit that there is obviously scope for some confusion here. Schooners are relatively small measures for dispensing sherry and much loved by women of a certain age. Could this become an addition to the town centre 'carnage' on Saturday nights with Daily Mail twitters and warblers running amok as a result of the vastly increased size of schooners?

Mind you not everybody sees the change in such a favourable light. When I mentioned this to a local licensee his reply was straight to the point – "This government does not want us to run pubs and we might as well all lock up and go home". He then raised the issue of increased costs associated with new glasses, endemic over serving and all round confusion from both sides of the bar. I would hope that the 2/3rds pint would be a separate glass rather than a pint marked with an additional line. What with a third, a half, two thirds and a pint line on the same glass there would be more notches than on the average teenager's bed post. Anyone who has ever tried to serve these different measures from a pint glass with any degree of exactness is a very skilled, or lucky, person indeed. A new glass it will have to be and here is the opportunity for the marketing brigade to enter stage right and design a new dreadful flower vase or equivalent to incorporate the new dynamic schooner image.

I want to be more positive about the changes although possibly for selfish reasons. A famous 18<sup>th</sup> century cleric with a penchant for gastronomic excess once described a goose as "a remarkably silly animal being too much for one person, but not enough for two" As a regular traveller on public transport a lot of my trains and buses go at half hourly intervals. Now, and using the cleric's line of thought, in that time a pint would be too much, but a half too little. Bingo. A schooner would be ideal, but preferably in a sensible glass without marketing excesses. Thank you coalition for solving my transport/drinking problems. It was also pointed out to me that the schooner might also be more female friendly than the more macho pint. Possibly true, but don't tell the marketing brigade as they will be designing all kinds of daft glasses with a 'feminine touch' which would make flower vase glasses look entirely sensible.

The question still remains as to why make the changes at all. Is it the entirely laudable issue of seeking to improve the health of us all and to discourage drinking? You do not have to be a PhD economist to work out that if alcohol is potentially harmful, then a schooner

...continued...

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## ***Grumpy Old Man ....continued***

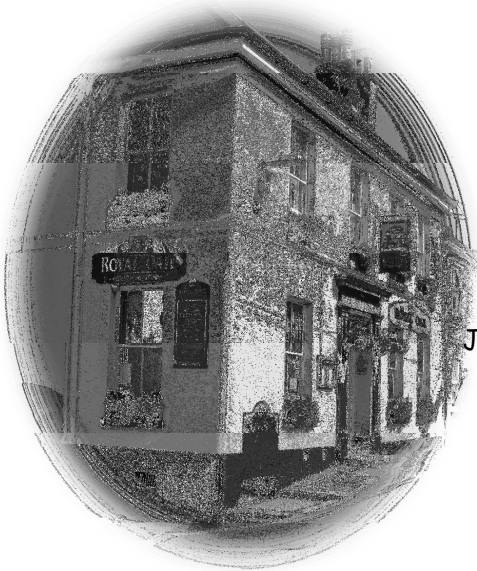
(notice how quickly you settle into the vernacular) is less harmful than a pint. However, pints are not disappearing and what is the difference between 4 pints and 6 schooners apart from 2 extra visits to the bar? Here may well lie the point of the issue and the disincentive to visit the bar too often. The coalition is also legalising 75ml wine measures (1/10 of a bottle) but little chance of health damage here as by the time you get it back to your table it is likely to have evaporated!

Another possible motive is potentially more worrying. During the 1980s in economics we became over imbued with the ideas of the New Liberalism or neo classical economics. Basically, one strand of this approach was to 'liberate' markets from regulation and 'red tape' etc. thereby giving incentives to entrepreneurs to create new goods and services. All very logical, but you have only to look at the local High Street to see the plethora of fast food joints, bars and clubs with all their inherent problems to realise all the difficulties that de-regulation can achieve. Changing measures is more de-regulation, liberating more excesses and marketing zeal. If we create the *schooner* then what next for the other weights and measures? Here are some possibilities.

Apparently the smallest measure is a ***splash*** (3.7ml) and hopefully not a beer measure except to the most extreme anti drink campaigner. The brave new world of new marketing ideas will not accept a splash as it sounds very much like an accident in the gentlemen's toilets. *Angel's Teardrops* has a much nicer and palatable ring to it. So be it. Then we come to a ***pony*** (25ml) which has to go as it sounds like it came from the 1980s lips of Del Trotter and also has an unfortunate cockney rhyming slang connotation. Let's call it a *cherub* for no better reason than it is very stupid and therefore ideal for marketing purposes. Next up is the ***jigger*** (35ml) which sounds too much like a product of excessive caffeine or other recreational drugs and is replaced by the more heavenly sounding *seraphim*. Now for the ***gill or noggin*** (1/4 pint or 142ml) which are just not sexy enough for the new dynamic world. Keeping alive the maritime theme of the schooner this might be called a *cruiser* although it does have a gay association. The ***half pint*** (284 ml) is positively mediaeval and becomes a *battleship*. Now for the flagship of the beer world (pardon the pun) and the ***pint*** (468 ml) which is now a *dreadnought*, but the name flagship itself would seem perfectly reasonable. We have now created the new lexicon of beer drinking measures all of which will need their own distinctive glasses. It is all meaningless of course, but so is much of marketing, branding and image creation. You can now look forward to entering the Ali Baba pub of the future awash with beautiful displays of glasses of different shapes, sizes and colours and a bewildering range of measures. It might be choice, but is utterly meaningless. You will have to get used to an order at the bar along the lines of a dreadnought of bitter, two battleships of mild, a cruiser of stout and a gin with an angel's teardrop.

Hallelujah. Praise the Lord and the Coalition Government.

Bob Southwell aka *the grumpy old man* and with help from the Guardian 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011



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**PUB OF THE YEAR**

**2009 and 2007**

Sharp's Brewery which started over 16 years ago, and is one of the two biggest ale producers in the South-West, was recently sold to Moulson-Coors for around £2m. The latter, whose portfolio includes Carling and Grolsch say they are keen to preserve the special appeal of Sharp's brands. Let us hope that Sharp's flagship beer, Doom Bar, is not altered to fit accountant's requirements, as there is a chance it will end up diminished like other popular beers such as Boddington's Bitter..

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## ***PUB OF THE YEAR 2011***

Three pubs are contenders for the title of South Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year 2011. These are **The Pigs Nose** at **East Prawle**, **The Royal Oak** at **South Brent** and **The Ruggleston Inn** at **Widcombe in the Moor**.

The winner will be featured in our next magazine.

## ***Christmas Excesses with The Roving Group***

The Roving Group went on two trips before Christmas to visit pubs and try out their winter ales; well we convinced ourselves this was the reason.

I drove on both trips so I sampled a wide variety of ginger beers, and my only disappointment was when I was served a warm flat drink from a pop bottle and charged nearly £3.00. When will some Landlords realise that just because you are not drinking alcohol you aren't a total idiot.

**Trip One.** We started off by going around the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh area as there are several pubs serving excellent beer in this area so we were looking forward to this trip.

First up was the Church House Inn at Holne, a lovely pub which like all the ones we visited that night was warm and welcoming. The beer was good and well worth the drive out. The Tradesmans Arms at Scorriton was next; this pub which in the Good Beer Guide, is always worth a visit and the drinking members of our party confirmed that the ale warranted its GBG listing. We next went to the Abbey Inn at Buckfast, and the Tribute in this St. Austell pub was excellent. We moved on to that perennial Good Beer Guide entrant the Exeter Inn Ashburton. The beer here once again was superb. Finally, was the night's final destination The Silent Whistle, Ashburton, chosen because the pizzas had been recommended. On entering, we saw why; a large proper wood-fired pizza-oven; all the fresh ingredients and they even make their own dough. Sitting down with with a clean, refreshing pint of Tribute and the pizzas, thin crusted and tasty, was a really good way to round off an evening.

**Trip Two.** On the coldest night of the year I drove us to The Bishop John de Grandisson in Bishopsteignton. This super Good Beer Guide Regular gave us a lovely warm welcome and quality winter ale. Suitably refreshed we went onwards to Shaldon to the Clifford Arms and this pub didn't disappoint us either, serving the local Ringmore Brewery beers, and jolly good they were. We then left for a fish and chip supper at the Wild Goose Coombeinteignhead. Here we had the best beer we had had for a long while, my O'Hanlon's Port Stout was a definite 5 out of 5.

Suitably refreshed we set out again even though we would have liked to have spent the rest of the evening in the Wild Goose. Our last visit of the night reminds me of the saying 'into every life a little rain must fall'. The pub (which will remain nameless) was serving its beer through a chiller on such a cold night, and it was not in the best condition anyway.

Oh well, you can't win 'em all!

Anthony Woodwark

SOUTH DEVON CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2001

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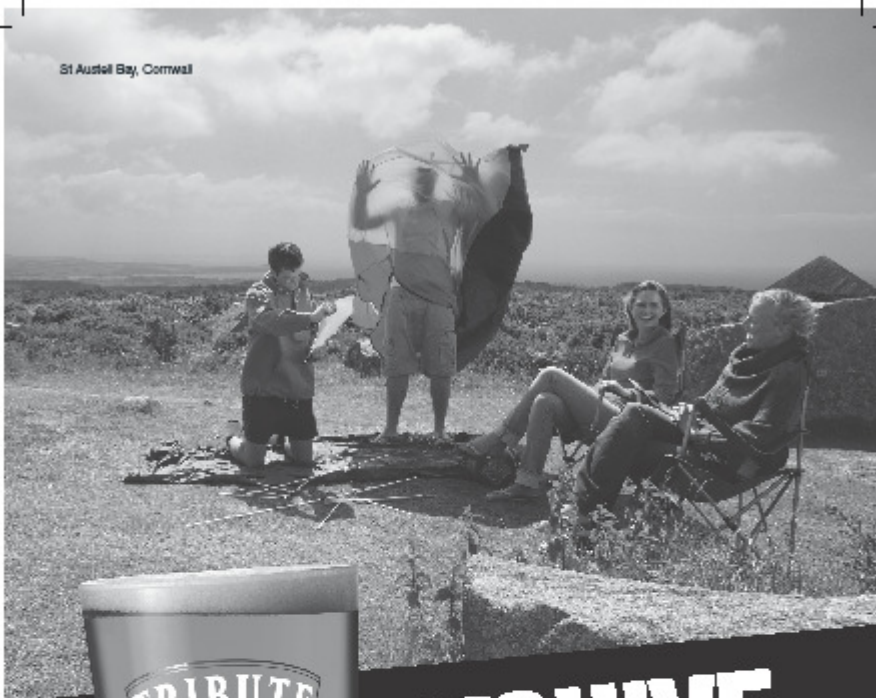
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