

# NEWS AND BREWS

**WINTER  
2008**

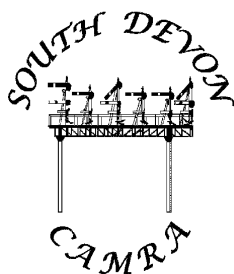
**FREE**

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

*Season's Greetings*



*To All Our Readers*



**South Devon**

**CAMRA**

*Supporting Real Ale  
in the South West*

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

**25TH EDITION    WINTER 2008**

We are currently being advised that 5 pubs per day are being closed in Britain. This certainly appears to reflect the situation in our area—at our last branch meeting members brought details of 8 pubs between Kingsbridge and Bovey Tracey shutting their doors. The industry could certainly do with some help from the government.

However news is not all bad, as we have heard of 2 pubs reopening in our area, both of them expected to provide good real ale. From November our current Pub of the Year team from The Bay Horse in Totnes have taken over The Pig and Whistle at Littlehempston in conjunction with their daughter and son-in-law. And in Scorrington a group of 4 businessmen hope to have the Tradesman's Arms up and running in the New Year. All of them are real ale drinkers, and they are currently renovating the pub, one of only six free houses in the South Hams, so we look forward to great things. South Devon CAMRA sends its best wishes to both teams.

With Christmas close by we are also looking forward to trying a new crop of specially brewed winter beers - our researcher reports within.

*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.

Otter Ale, Adnams Bitter, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Green King IPA and a selection of guest beers.

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Winner of the South Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year  
2006

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## ***PUB NEWS***

The **Royal Oak** at **South Brent** now gives a discount of 10p per pint (5p on halves) on ales on the bar for all CAMRA members who show their current up to date membership card. This does not apply to their many beer festivals as these are discounted already.

At the GBBF in August you might have spotted **Quercus's** Shingle Bay at 4.2% featuring on the Bar Nouveau. Upstairs on The Volunteer Bar, where there was free beer for all workers, they had the new brew Origin 5.0%.

There will be Carols by Candlelight at the **Bay Horse, Totnes**, on the 19thj December this year, featuring the choir, Notoriety.

**Newton Abbot's Cider Bar** had a small fire in October when a wooden surround casing the pub's gas fire caught alight. Some hot embers had got up inside the fire surround and it was smouldering when the fire crew attended, so the firefighters cut away the area and used one hose reel to extinguish the fire. Regulars were not asked to leave during all this, so got a rather more interesting floorshow than normal.

The **Carey Arms** at **Babbacombe** is reopening soon. The **Snooty Fox** in **Torquay** has changed hands, as has the **Cromwell** in **Bovey Tracey**.

The **Abbey Inn** at **Buckfast**, which overlooks the River Dart and has 8 letting rooms, has been taken over by the family team who also run the **Buccaneer** at **Babbacombe**. Both of these St Austell houses have their Cask Marque certificate and Gold Award of British Beer.

**Bays Brewery** has recently won the Best New Business Award at the South Devon Excellence Awards.

We have been dismayed to learn of many of the pubs in our area closing down. I am sure this is not a complete list, but it shows how difficult things are becoming for our publicans at present. One thing is certain – **your local needs you.** These are the pubs we have heard of; The Kingsbridge Inn, Totnes; The Ship, and The Plough and Harrow, Newton Abbot; The Royal Standard and The Shipwright, Shaldon, The King of Prussia and The Bell, Bovey Tracey.

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# ***The Lost Inns of Teignmouth -4***

## Part 6

## Early Closures

This final part is concerned with early inns, which closed before the 1887 map was published. Prior to Licensing changes in 1822 it was relatively easy to obtain a licence to sell beer and record keeping of that time left a lot to be desired; as a result it is difficult to ensure that all outlets have been traced.

Before this date, we only have press reports, traveller's diaries, deeds and other written works to give us references to the early inns. After this date, a combination of licensing records and directory entries make the task much simpler.

Devon County records of 1822 list an inn called **The Bottle** with a licensee by the name of James Martin. Between that time and 1851, the name of the inn changed to the **Brewery Inn**, and by 1866 had become **The Sebastopol**. The same records also note that James Martin kept a **Sun Inn**, formerly known as **The Rising Sun**, which was situated at the corner of Old Market Street (now Teign Street) and Sun Lane. This inn does not appear in later records so presumably James Martin developed his business at The Brewery Inn in Myrtle Hill. Other lost inns in Old Market Street are the **Eagle Tavern**, which is only referred to in the licensing records for 1838, and the **Turks Head Inn**. The latter was offered for sale in December 1852 being described as "*all that freehold messuage and dwelling house formerly occupied as a public house*".

A **Brittania Inn** in Bitton Street is listed in the licensing records of 1838 and 1844. This may well have been the same premises as The **Victory Inn**, which is listed in the records of 1857 to 1878. A **Wellington Inn** was listed in 1822 and 1824 with a landlord named Joseph Stockford. The 1825 records list Joseph Stockford as licensee of **The Bunch of Grapes**. This is presumed to be a change of name of the Inn, but was short lived, as there are no further references in the records.

A **Compass Inn** also known as the **Mariners Compass** in Mulberry Street appears to have been a characterful inn as the following extract from the Exeter Flying Post of February 1851 illustrates.

*An alarming fire broke out at the Compass Inn in Mulberry Street, West Teignmouth, on Thursday morning by which three houses were destroyed, and one of the girls residing in the inn very much burnt. The engines were prompt in attendance, and every assistance was rendered by the firemen and inhabitants, but for whose praiseworthy exertion the calamity would have been much more serious. The Compass has long been a disgrace to the town, having been the resort of the worst characters, and although heavy has been the penalty attached to the removal of the nuisance, the accident will not be without its good. The landlord of the inn had, it is said, 250 sovereigns, nearly the whole of which was found in the ruins. We understand the houses are insured,*

Another inn that was reported in 1784 to have a bad reputation was the **Globe Tavern**, which was probably on the site of the recently closed Conservative Club. An **Exeter Inn** at the corner of Fore Street and Higher Brook Street is referred to in the Exeter Flying Post of 6<sup>th</sup> October 1797, and traded until 1861 when it was removed for road improvements and replaced by the **Prince of Wales**. Little is known of the **Gardeners Arms** in Lower Brook Street. There is a licensing record for 1881 and the property was advertised for sale in June 1908.

..... Continued overleaf.....

## ***Christmas Ales - the best thing about Winter.***

There may be a lot of things to be gloomy about, but beer is not one of them! And at this time of the year we are treated to the delights of Winter Ales, a fine institution going back to pagan times to commemorate the winter solstice. This long-standing tradition continues as a Christmas celebration by breweries, wishing to treat their customers to a stronger and more flavoursome ale. Not to be outdone, our local breweries have thrown themselves into the spirit of things and come up with the following.

**Bays, Merry Bays 5.2abv.** A light coloured warming ale with spicy flavours and a sweet malty finish.

**Bridgetown Brewery, Realaltnativity 4.2abv.** A dark brew only available at The Albert Inn, Totnes.

**Quercus, Festive Cheers 8.0abv.** Dark beer which will be on sale at The Bridge, Topsham and Isaac Merritt, Paignton.

**Red Rock, Christmas Cheer 5.2abv.** A balanced strong ale with an aroma of Christmas pudding.

**Ringmore Craft Brewery, Santa's Little Helper 5.7abv.** A black beer, only available at the Clifford Arms, Shaldon. Also available in bottles a Belgian style **Ringmore Bells 5.0abv** and **Secret Santa 4.0abv** a spicy pale ale.

**South Hams Brewery, Porter and Knickadroppa Glory both abv 5.0**

**Teignworthy, Christmas Cracker abv 6.0** A rich full bodied favourite.

Outside our immediate region, look out for **O'Hanlon's Port Stout abv 4.8** (a prize-winner many times over), and **Otter, Otter Claus abv 5.0**



## ***Lost Inns .....continued***

The **Horse and Groom** in Old Market Street was licensed in 1838 and the name was changed to the **White Horse** in 1852. It ceased to trade circa 1881 (see Part 5). **Lipscombe's Royal & Marine Family Hotel & Tavern** situated on The Esplanade was renamed the **Marine Hotel** and traded until 1852. A **York Hotel** on The Den is only listed in the 1822 licensing records.

A **Union Inn** in Dawlish Road was referred to in Woolmer's Exeter & Plymouth Gazette of 19<sup>th</sup> August 1843 on account of a pair of runaway horses being stopped outside.

*"One gentleman was thrown out a few paces above the East Church fortunately only scratched and bruised a little. The horses were stopt by some men who were standing near the Union Inn. The whole party were much inebriated"*

The only licensing records are for 1838 and 1844 and name the landlord as John Brook.

In the preparation of these articles, I would like to acknowledge the assistance given by the staff of the Teignmouth & Shaldon Museum, in particular Pat Warner.

Ian Hemphill

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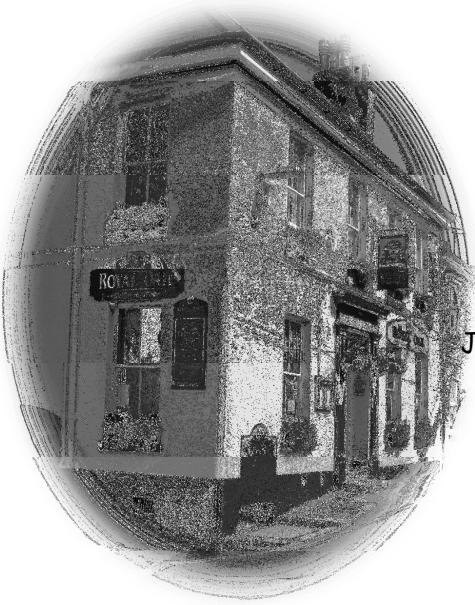
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## ***Why is beer our National drink?***

The Duke of Wellington said his famous Peninsula Army had only enlisted for drink. He should know for, when on the retreat from Burgos in 1812, some 12,000 troops broke into the wine vats at Torquemada in Spain and drank themselves unconscious; they “lay in rows like skittles” write all the historians. Over 1,000 had to be left for the French to capture, as they could not be roused in time. In the U.K at this time, gin was cheaper than beer or cider.

When he became Prime Minister, he believed drinkers should have good quality, modest priced ale and beer, they should not be heavily taxed and big breweries should not be able to drive up the prices and restrict availability of beers; something unfortunately we are all too familiar with nowadays.

Gin at two pence a quart was then the national tipple with obviously ruinous results. How to proceed when everyone before had failed was the question? His solution as a distinguished soldier was simple and direct. Under his Ministry, King William IV passed the 1830 Beerhouse Act. This enabled anyone to brew ale, beer, perry and cider, either in a public house or in their homes, and sell it on the premises. The license price to open a pub was drastically reduced to only £2.00 for beer or £1.00 for cider. It had previously been difficult and expensive to obtain permission from the Magistrates; now one of the provisions was that a license could not reasonably be refused.

This meant that within six months over 25,000 licensed premises had opened for business, thus the Act succeeded beyond measure in achieving every one of its aims. The consumption of gin drastically dropped never to recover, the tax receipts on beer soared, drunkenness decreased, employment rose, property values of licensed premises increased and beer started to take on the form we drink today (real ale that is).

The other result you can see all around you: rows of cottages had a public house open in them where previously there where there had been none. You can see the result in East Street in Newton Abbot, all up the Totnes, Kingsbridge and Teignmouth High Streets, and other towns and villages throughout the land. In fact, the chances are you are reading this in one of these ‘new’ pubs.

Now you know why there are so many William IV public houses, as the grateful populace named many new premises after him when he signed the Act into law. So next time you enjoy a pint, raise your glass to the Duke and hope modern politicians see the error of their ways and follow his wise example.

Anthony Woodwark

## ***IN PRAISE OF BEER FESTIVALS***

Each Beer Festival is different and has its own unique attraction. The South Devon Beer Festival was held at Newton Abbot Racecourse back in late September and nearly 2000 of you enjoyed the variety of beers and ciders on offer. The weather was kind to us again and, although not as hot as last year, was still more than pleasant enough for alfresco drinking. The unique thing about this venue is the racecourse itself that can be admired from the grandstand whilst enjoying a pint. Harviestoun's Schiehallion was judged beer of the festival and is as close as you can get to a draught lager. The alcoholic ginger beer (that is ginger beer with alcohol and not a beer with ginger) went down extremely well but its designated title of 'weapons grade' gives you some idea of the potency of the ginger! As usual, ciders and perries sold very well and each year we have had to expand the order from little more than half a dozen to nearly 30 tubs. Live bands performed on both Friday and Saturday nights and there was no doubt that they were both strongly supported and enjoyed. However, music is always a fraught issue at other beer festivals with some people preferring to have no music at all whilst others would like a different type of sound. As a Beer Festival organiser, I know only too well that you please as many people as you upset with whatever form of music you put on.

Other beer festivals are held in a variety of locations including at least one other at a racecourse. The festival held at Ascot was different from ours in that the racing was actually taking place during the event and apparently, the bars were very hectic. The Nottingham Festival is held in the castle (actually a marquee in the grounds) with superb views over the city. Community centres feature prominently and the Leicester Festival is held in a Hindu community centre with a virtually unpronounceable name, but as you might expect did excellent curries, whilst Falmouth takes place at the Princess Pavilion - albeit with the aid of a marquee. Bristol hold theirs in Brunel's old train station adjoining the modern Temple Meads station whilst Swindon make use of the Steam Museum and for one year actually had a class 50 diesel for the drinkers to admire. The Somerset Beer Festival is held on Minehead Railway Station with the steam engines coming and going and is a regular September outing for the South Devon branch. Town Halls are also common venues as at Stoke on Trent (and many others including Battersea and Stockport) at the excellent King's Hall with all its rich Victorian decoration. According to the programme, they had 29 beers above 6 degrees strength and 9 of these above 10! Not sure about the wisdom of that. Leisure centres also feature as at Woking. Whilst these buildings tend to lack character they can accommodate larger numbers with the atmosphere improved by means of a canopy hiding the breezeblock style architecture. The unique thing about this festival is the Wurlitzer organ in an adjoining hall, which becomes packed with drinkers singing along to the music. Universities also feature given their size and the Exeter Winter Ale Festival now takes place at the university in early January. Elsewhere a variety of village halls, schools and sports/social clubs are pressed into service. Finally, there is the Great British Beer Festival held at Earls Court in August. As the venue would suggest it is enormous with some local beer festivals able to fit into just *one* of their bar areas!

To some extent, the 'ingredients' are always the same with a range of beers and ciders usually served by gravity directly from the barrel or occasionally at the larger festivals by hand pumps. However, as the above would indicate they are all different and diversity is certainly the name of the game.

Bob Southwell

## ***Hat Trick for Schiehallion***

For a third year, Schiehallion has won the Champion Beer of the Festival at the South Devon Beer Festival at the Racecourse. Our competition, which has been running for 9 years, has seen Schehallion win in 2002, 2005 and 2008, and it has been the only beer to have multiple victories in this blind tasting of over 100 beers. Even so, this year the competition was tough, as the two leading beers in the final tasting were equal in points right up to the end. The final panel of six judges were split down the middle and could not agree a winner, so a second team of judges was appointed to make the final decision.

Bath Gem, abv 4.1%, made a worthy runner-up.

See our website at <http://www.southdevoncamra.com> for all winner's details.

## ***Money Back for Landlords?***

Legal advice recently given to the Valuation Office suggests that publicans may be able to claim that there **has** been a material change in the way their pub is being used since the smoking ban was introduced in July 2007. This means that landlords finding that the smoking ban has affected their trade can make it the basis of a claim to lower the rateable value of their business, and may be able to claim a refund in their business rates.

### **Contact Us.**

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## ***George Orwell (1903-1950) - The Moon Under Water pub. Part 1***

Best known for his novels (1984, Road to Wigan Beer, Down and Out In London and Paris et al), and as a socialist who fought in the Spanish Civil War he was born Eric Blair in India, and succumbed to T.B. in 1950. He also knew a thing or two about beer and gave the inspiration for Wetherspoons to use the Moon Under Water name for some of their pubs and notably one of the largest in their chain in Manchester. The following is his essay which appeared in the Evening Standard in 1946 and describes his criteria for the perfect pub. It also contains some interesting snippets of social history from the immediate post war years just over 60 years ago.

### **THE MOON UNDER WATER**

My favourite public house, the Moon Under Water, is only two minutes from a bus stop, but is on a side street, and drunks and rowdies never seem to find their way there, even on Saturday nights. Its clientele, though fairly large, consists of "regulars" who occupy the same chair every evening and go there for conversation as much as for the beer.

If asked why you favour a particular public house, it would seem natural to put the beer first, but the thing that most appeals to me about the Moon Under Water is what people call its "atmosphere".

To begin with, the whole architecture and fittings are uncompromisingly Victorian. It has no glass topped tables or other modern miseries, and, on the other hand, no sham roof beams, inglenooks or plastic panels masquerading as oak. The grain woodwork, the ornamental mirrors behind the bar, the cast iron fireplaces, the florid ceiling stained dark yellow by tobacco-smoke, the stuffed bull's head over the mantelpiece - everything has the solid comfortable ugliness of the C19.

In winter there is generally a good fire burning in at least two of the bars, and the Victorian lay-out gives one plenty of elbow room. There is a public bar, a saloon bar, a ladies' bar, a bottle-and-jug for those who are too bashful to buy their supper beer publicly, and upstairs, a dining room.

Games are only played in the public, so that in the other bars you can walk about without constantly ducking to avoid flying darts.

In the Moon Under Water it is always quiet enough to talk. The house possesses neither a radio nor a piano, and even on Christmas eve and such occasions the singing that happens is of a decorous kind. The barmaids know most of their customers by name, and take a personal interest in everyone. They are all middle-aged women-two of them have their hair dyed in quite surprising shades-and call everyone "dear", irrespective of age or sex. ("Dear", not "Ducky": pubs where the barmaids call you "Ducky" always have a disagreeable raffish atmosphere.)

(Originally printed in the Evening Standard, 9<sup>th</sup> February 1946)

.....*continued page 20*

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## ***History repeats itself at The Union.***

The Union Inn at Moretonhampstead dates from the sixteenth century, and until the early 19C was called The Swan. It was renamed to commemorate the Act of Union in 1801, which united Ireland with England, Scotland and Wales.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, The Union was an important tavern providing stabling and refreshment for travellers from Newton Abbot to Okehampton and Bideford, and the original 17<sup>th</sup> C stables are still at the rear of the premises. They have been converted into the Stable Room, a new dining area and function/meeting room, which has been fitted out in a traditional manner retaining its oak beamed rafters.

Inside the pub, most of the tongue and groove panelling around the walls dates from the late nineteenth century. It is possible to see the framework of the oak panelled wall, that previously separated the bar area from the lounge, and which was removed after the Second World War. The fireplace, which probably dates from the early twentieth century, has recently been uncovered from behind a small modern fireback.

Amongst the memorabilia on display is a set of original horse brasses dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and most interestingly, documents showing the incumbent landlord is the great, great, great, grandson of John Colridge, the landlord from 1828-1830.

# What's On

## Branch Meetings and Social Events

Date	Time	Purpose	Location
Sat 13 Dec 2008	20.00	Christmas Social	Dartmoor Lodge Ashburton
Tues 13 Jan 2009	20.00	Branch Meeting	Manor Inn, Galmpton
Sat 17 Jan 2009	10.45	Bus Crawl	Newton Abbot Bus Station
Sat 7 Feb 2009	TBA	Mini Bus Tour of the South Hams - details to follow	
Tues 10 Feb 2009	20.00	Branch Meeting	Wild Goose, Coombeinteignhead
Tues 10 March 09	20.00	Branch Meeting	Pig and Whistle, Littlehempston

## Beer Festivals

9-10 Jan 2009	Exeter Winter Ales Festival	Lower Exhibition Hall, University of Exeter
23-25 Jan 2009	Smugglers Inn, Holcombe	Dawlish (Theme Devon vs. Cornwall)
10-12 April 2009	Paignton Rugby Club	Queens Road Paignton

**17-19 Sep 2009**

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### ***And Will The Government Help?.....***

Fuller, Smith & Turner, brewer of London Pride saw pre-tax profit fall 6% to £12m in the 6 months to September but said it was confident it could cope well even though the UK economic outlook did not look good. Fullers said it had increased its share in the UK beer market, which has seen industry-wide sales fall 6%. Pubs run by tenants were being given support through the 'difficult times', though it said cutting rents was not part of its plan.

UK pubs overall have been hit by the economic downturn, with drinkers being more careful with their money. It comes on the back increases in duty on alcohol and competition from supermarkets. The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has claimed that one in eight pubs faces closure in the next four years and has written to the chancellor asking for tax cuts for pubs, and calling on supermarkets to be stopped from selling alcohol at a loss.

Ad Rates	1 Issue	2 Issues	3 Issues	4 Issues
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 2,000.*



## **DAY IN TOPSHAM**

On Saturday, 30th August, S. Devon Camra was invited by the Exeter branch to join them for a day exploring the pubs of Topsham. Eight of our members made their various ways to the first stop of the day - the historic Bridge Inn, which had opened early especially for the occasion. Here we met with 12 members from Exeter Camra to sample the 10 beers available, all on gravity dispense. Alongside plenty of local favourites, these included the powerful Woodlands IPA at 6.4% - a belter of a beer from this Cheshire brewery. Luckily, one of the Bridge's many virtues is that it is prepared to serve its ales in 1/3 pint 'nip' glasses - a sensible amount of this heady brew, on what was a baking hot day.

Our intention then was to catch the ferry down to the Turf Locks at the mouth of the estuary, but too low a tide prevented the ferry from getting upstream as far as us. So, we instead walked into Topsham itself, and the Globe Hotel, where Doom Bar, Butcombe, Otter Ale, and (a favourite of us all) St. Austell's Proper Job, accompanied lunch. The multi - roomed GBG - listed pub has hops along the bar, and pride of place goes to an old Seafarers - type globe in the main bar area.

Around the corner is the Passage House, with picnic tables by the river proving very popular on one of the few hot days this summer. The range of four beers on offer was testimony to this being a Heavitree House, although one of them was served direct from the barrel.

Rounding off the afternoon was Topsham's third GBG - listed pub, the Exeter Inn, originally a 17<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn. On offer were well kept Cotleigh Blue Jay, Cottage Temple Meads, and Teignworthy Beachcomber, alongside the same Brewery's Walnut Brown - at 6.5% a rich, smoky brew more reminiscent of a Winter Ale.

All that then remained was the trip back into Exeter to catch the Express bus service home. Having a 40 minute wait, though, it seemed churlish for the six of us not to pop into the GBG - listed Old Firehouse to sample from the 5 or 6 beers available out of the barrel, including the organic 'Avocet Ale' from Exeter Brewery. Peter O'Nions

Advertising Feature

### ***The Authoritative Guide to Morris Dancing.***

Morris Dancing generally involves dancing around a pub. In fact, bells are worn to warn the landlord that we're on our way. We dance with wavers (handkerchiefs) and sticks. Look out for the man with the broken stick and bleeding knuckles. He generally has to buy the next round. Dancers should be light of foot and dance on the balls (of the feet). As we consume more ale, the lighter we think we dance, the harder it is to pinpoint where those balls are. Look out for intricate moves such as the 'hey' (where we invariably collide with each other) and the galley (a spectacular twist of the free leg and a collapse of the supporting one).

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# Hole in the Wall



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## ***George Orwell .....cont***

Dear George,

With the advantage of a 2008 viewpoint I would like to make a few comments about your vision of the perfect pub. I am afraid that what you describe is, in many ways, now consigned to the history book.

Well, where do I start? We still have some back street locals although they are now considerably more scarce compared to in your day. We also still have drunks and rowdies, but you would be surprised to know that they are often women. Unfortunately, drinking too much mild is unlikely to be their forte and instead it is wine and strange coloured cocktails producing a degree of bacchanalia on Saturday nights. It is not just their behaviour, but also their apparel, with some of their sparse clothing enough to give the average decent Victorian apoplexy. As for your beloved conversation, this is becoming an endangered species and in many modern establishments rendered impossible by electronic music and the television (yes, it did catch on, unfortunately) replacing your beloved radio and piano. They seem to assume that we all like football, and other sports, on giant screens accompanied by moronic commentaries, but I am not sure that this is any worse than the false jollity of screaming/shouting along with the piano. As for your regulars, would these be the same people who block the bar, get privileged treatment and generally treat the visitor with the same respect as the bubonic plague? Possession is still the name of the game and woe betides the person who attempts to sit on the seat of any old duffer such as Old Arthur or Old Harry.

As for the architecture - much of it was vandalised in the 1960s by 'progressive' companies such as Watney's or Whitbread, with their keen sense of heritage, knocking out individual bars and consolidating them into one. I had never heard of a Ladies' bar, but on reflection it might be a good idea to confine the more raucous elements and shied from our eyes their sinful apparel. We still have plenty of sham roof beams and brewer's timber, but the cast iron fire places and the "good fire burning" are increasingly things of the past and replaced by central heating (What's that you ask). You are going to find this difficult to believe, but smoking is now banned in all pubs, but that quaint yellow tingeing of those florid ceilings still survives. At least we can now see the bar at a distance of more than five yards! What's all this rubbish about a stuffed bull's head and what part does that play in local culture? Did they once wander free on the prairie plains rolling away from the Thames? Perhaps the stuffed bulls heads is the 1940s are the equivalent of the shelf of books that nobody reads or the proliferation of horse brasses adorning the bar.

Dear me, you are not going to like what has happened to the pub games. They can be electronic (don't ask) and we seem to have imported pool from the USA which is often associated with some seedier elements and potential trouble. Unfortunately, we have also imported some of their beers and it is to your 1940s credit, and advantage, that you have never heard of Budweiser. Darts still survives and appears to be a little less dangerous to modern generations, but is still accompanied by weird incantations, regularly uttered, such as "arrows". Finally, the barmaids. They are no longer all middle aged, call you by your name or take a personal interest in everyone. Often they are minimum wage youth of either gender (yes I know you, and the Independent Labour Party, suggested that in the 1920s) where civilities and greetings are hard to find being replaced by the grunts of modern communication. The term "Dear" still gets used, but I have to agree with you that "Ducky" does have that disagreeable raffish tone and is best left to previous generations.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Southwell aka the grumpy old man



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## ***Forge Brewery . a Hit at Abbfest***

The sun certainly shone on us for Abbfest this year and no doubt encouraged the drinking. Based on the number of glasses sold, we had about 3,000 drinkers over the weekend who consumed about 10,000 pints of beer and cider. Drinkers were invited to name their favourite beer of the festival and well over a hundred entry forms were submitted. Although this represented only about 4% of the attendance, there was a wide variety of taste – 56 different beers from 22 of the 27 Devon breweries received at least one vote.



The most popular beer, according to the competition entries, was 'Maid in Devon' from the new Forge Brewery in Hartland. However, O'Hanlon's Yellow Hammer was the first beer to sell out on the Friday night, putting it at a distinct disadvantage since it was not available to taste on the Saturday. In second place was Otter Head (a favourite with some Norwegian visitors), while the unnamed dark beer from the Forge Brewery (the subject of a competition to choose a name for the beer) was the third most popular. Four beers tied for fourth place: Dartmoor Jail Ale; Exe Valley Mr Sheppard's Crook; Quercus Storm Brew and Red Rock's Dark Ness.

The ten most popular breweries were Forge, Otter, O'Hanlon's, Red Rock, Teignworthy, Quercus, Exe Valley, Scattor Rock, Wizard and Summerskills.

The competition to name the new dark beer from the Forge Brewery in Hartland attracted many entries that were forwarded to the brewer to select the winner. He has chosen the name 'Devonshire Dumpling', and as the winner had nominated the Wild Goose in Combeinteignhead, it received the free firkin of Maid in Devon.

I understand from the Wild Goose that it is going very well.  
David Lockley

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