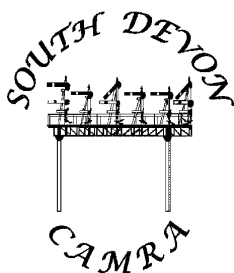


NEWS AND BREWS

***AUTUMN
2008***

FREE

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



***South Devon
CAMRA***

*Supporting Real Ale
in the South West*

Welcome to **NEWS AND BREWS**

24TH EDITION AUTUMN 2008

The Houses of Parliament saw a stream of South Devon visitors in June, just after the last News and Brews went to press. MPs can put forward a request for a guest ale from their local constituency to be served in The Stranger's Bar. Although a rare opportunity, this June two of the beers selected were from South Devon breweries. Red Rock's Back Beach, nominated by Richard Younger-Ross – followed by Bays Best, tabled by Adrian Sanders, were available for the delectation of our Lower House. The brewers from both these South Devon breweries went up to London, one week apart to taste their beers, but when the Red Rock boys got there for their photo-shoot the beer had sold out!

One week later I was lucky enough to accompany George, who had been invited to visit. I bet I saw more than the usual visitor, as George had been with the team of heating engineers who repaired the House in the 50's, so we were shown the boiler rooms, the duct work and the old steam engine in the bowels of the building! We followed that by a pint in the Stranger's Bar and I even left a couple of copies of last month's News and Brews. I rather hope that darling Alistair was able to read 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.

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PUB NEWS

The **Royal Oak** at **South Brent** was packed out at its reopening following their refurbishments, which include a new dining room, mini-conference room, a sun atrium and 5 letting bedrooms including one with a sumptuous four-poster bed.

The **Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton** now has 4 beers including Otter Bitter, Adnams Broadside, and O'Hanlons Yellow Hammer. In July it was taken over by Trevor Crouchen who was bar manager of the Great Western Hotel Exeter in its heyday, and who's first purchase for his new venture was a 8 gang tilting stillage – delivered on his first day.

Our roving reporter found that the **Anchor** at **Chudleigh Knighton** is selling a nice drop of London Pride.

Bays Brewery celebrated their first year of trading with style. They recently won Best New Business and Best Overall Business at the 2008 Annual Federation of Small Businesses Awards. This followed on from being voted the Best Bitter in Show at the Tamworth CAMRA Beer Festival and being awarded Silver medal for Bays Best and Bronze for Bays Breaker at the SIBA festival at Tucker's Maltings. Last month they won 'Beer of the Year' at the Kingskerswell Summer Moon Festival.

The beer at the **Wild Goose** in **Stokeinteignhead** is worth a detour – 'perfect' according to one of our correspondents.

The **Church House Inn** at **Harberton** has seen an upturn in trade recently following a change of hand on the tiller. David Wright is now back in charge after a gap of several years, and intelligence has it that the beers are better too. Last week you could drink Skinners Betty Stoggs or Knocker, or Dartmoor IPA. Next week might be quite different as this free house likes to ring the changes.

The ale at **Manor Inn, Galmpton** was in fine condition when I last called in. They were serving Sharp's Doombar, Old Speckled Hen, Abbot Ale and St Austell's Dartmoor Bitter.

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The Lost Inns of Teignmouth - 3

Part 5

The 1887 Map

The first detailed map of the parishes of East and West Teignmouth was prepared in 1887 to a scale of 10.56ft to 1 mile. This followed considerable expansion of the two parishes after the coming of the railway, and apart from the ravages of the war and the subsequent road-building programme shows a street and building layout, which is very close to the town layout of today.

A total of 30 licensed premises and 2 breweries can be identified from this map; the majority, 18, are listed by name. Another 11 are identified by the initials P H, and one can be identified by the position and size of the property; this is the ***Lifeboat*** (see Part 1 for further detail).

Twelve of the properties remain in use today, with nine of them still known by the name used in 1887. The names of three have been lost, the ***Half Moon***, ***Kangaroo*** and ***King William IV*** that are now known as the ***Brass Monkey***, ***Molloys*** and ***F & R's*** respectively (see Part 1 for further detail).

Of the other nine only four, the ***Devon Arms***, ***King's Arms***, ***Lifeboat*** and ***Teign Brewery*** have always traded under the same name. Five have at times had other names; see Part 1 for details of the ***Dawlish Inn***, ***Jolly Sailor***, ***New Quay Inn***, and ***Ship***. In addition, the ***Blue Anchor*** has previously been known as the ***Anchor***.

The ***Devon Arms Hotel*** is an old coaching house that had extensive stables, and brewed its own beer until circa 1900. Early in the century, it was acquired by Arnold & Hancock of Wiveliscombe, who were taken over by Ushers of Trowbridge in 1955. Ushers were in turn taken over by Watney Mann in May 1960. The hotel is now a popular freehouse. The ***Kings Arms*** was a Plymouth Breweries house until this company was taken over by Courage in December 1970. Later it became one of a package of pubs handed over as part of a management buyout of the Watney brewery at Trowbridge. The new company took on the former name of Ushers, but circa 2000 the brewery closed and a pub company now runs the estate. The ***Teign Brewery*** was taken over by the Tamar Brewery of H & G Simonds Ltd in the 1930's. Simonds became part of the Courage empire in 1960, and the pub is now operated by Peninsula Inns.

The ***Blue Anchor*** dates from 1827 or earlier and was bought by Ross & Pidsey of the Wellpark Brewery, Alphington Road, Exeter on 21st July 1887. Aylwin & Snowden took over this brewery in 1913, and they in turn were taken over by Devenish and Co of Weymouth in 1925. Devenish sold the pub to the free trade in September 1985. ...continued overleaf

Lost Innscontinued

The loss of 12 of the identified pubs has been covered previously. The following three are relatively recent closures; the **London Hotel**, **Old Quay Inn**, and **Royal Hotel** (see Part 2). Six were lost as a result of road building programmes, the original **Golden Lion** at the corner of Bitton Park and Coombe Vale Roads, **Black Horse**, **Prince of Wales**, **Railway Hotel**, **Royal Oak** and **Sebastopol**, (see Part 3). Three were lost during the war years, the **Ring o' Bells**, **Market Inn**, and **Locomotive**, which by that time had been, renamed the **Custom House Inn** (see Part 4).

The remaining six pubs have been closed for many years. The **White Horse** stood at the corner of Teign Street and Saxe Street and closed circa 1900. The building was destroyed by enemy attack in January 1943 and the site now forms part of Pellew Arcade.

The **Commercial Hotel** at 47 Higher Brook Street closed its doors in 1902, and the site is now covered by the later road improvements.

The **Queens Hotel** in Wellington Street was opened in October 1844 and traded until circa 1914. The building is now used as shop and offices, known as Queens Buildings, and decorative entrance tiles are an attractive surviving feature.

The remaining three inns, **Beehive**, Bitton Street, **Bird in Hand**, Lower Brook Street and **White Hart**, Higher Brook Street were all licensed in 1939 but closed during the war years. The sites of the latter two are obliterated by road building.

The map also showed two breweries of significant size, the first housed in extensive outbuildings behind the Teign Brewery Inn. This was Teignmouth's last operating brewery trading as **Brown & Bishop** until circa 1931. The other is the Teignmouth Brewery in Mere Lane, which traded until circa 1914.

The village of Shaldon, on the south bank of the Teign Estuary was also covered in the same survey and eight public houses are identified, six by name and two by P H.

Five of these pubs still serve the village. The **Clifford Arms**, **London Inn**, **Royal Standard** and **Shipwrights Arms** still trade under their 1887 name. The **Crown Hotel**, had earlier been known as the **Crown & Anchor**, but for over half a century has been known as the **Ferryboat Inn**. The **Albion** in Albion Street and the **New Inn** on The Strand have long since closed for business and are now private houses. **James Green** at the **Commercial Inn** in Fore Street was still brewing his own beer until circa 1920 and the pub remained licensed at the outbreak of the Second World War. The premises are now the Londis Village Store.

Ian Hemphill

Previous Instalments are soon to be found on our website

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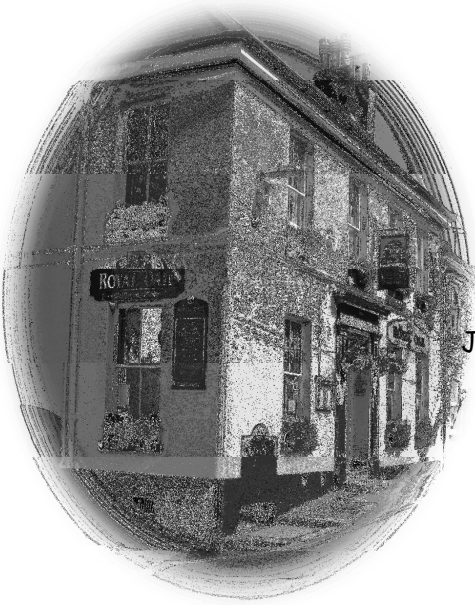
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Ski Party....a new concept for August

Although the weather hasn't been too kind to us all during the summer, spare a thought for the poor regulars of the Bay Horse Inn, Totnes, who had to contend with a snow blizzard!

Luckily for them, it wasn't real snow, just landlord Will Coles' idea of fun. After the success of his Beach Party in March to welcome in summer, he decided to hold a Ski Party to cheer everyone up and show them that it could be worse so they should stop moaning about the poor weather.

The bar resembled a ski lodge by the time he had finished decorating it with skis, snowboards and alpine posters, courtesy of a local who sells ski equipment (handy!) and the final embellishment was a new type of snow machine that belches out realistic looking foam snow that happily doesn't stain or leave residue all over the bar.

The pub's regulars pronounced the evening a great success after downing lots of Snowballs, Black Ice cocktails (invented by Will for the night) and Jagermeister shots as well as copious amounts of the guest beer of the evening – Piddle in the Snow.

Will and landlady Gina are now busy finalising the beer list for their Beer Festival on September 12, 13 and 14, when the musical entertainment includes top Bluegrass band The Morris Boys and rockabilly band The Bonnaville Barons. Full details are on their website www.bayhorsetotnes.com.



A GRUMPY OLD MAN LOOKS AT 'TRADITION'

The Oxford dictionary defines tradition as “opinion or belief or custom handed down from ancestors to posterity”. O.K. lets put this to the test with the modern English pub. Last month a female friend, and real ale drinker, drove me to a pub in Dorset. It was not my choice, but I as passenger I merely went along with the decision. Now the pub itself was remarkably fond of the word traditional. It advertised itself as a traditional pub and traditional free house with a traditional welcome and traditional food, but was this too good to be true?

Test 1 and the traditional welcome. I was hardly expecting to be greeted by a 21st century Falstaff or Sir Toby Belch, but did expect more than a minimum wage youth reading the Sun who looked up and uttered “yeah”. I am not from Dorset and it may well mean that this word translates as ‘good morning and what can I do for you’. Somehow, I fear not and unfortunately, this type of utterance may be becoming more and more traditional but clearly failed my traditional test.

Test 2 and the traditional free house. There were two draught beers on offer Marston’s Pedigree and Flower’s IPA. Now if I owned a genuine free house my imagination may have stretched a little bit further than this obvious dull pub co range. I would like to have discussed how this could, in any sense of the phrase, be called a free house, but considered that I would wasting my time by raising such philosophical issues with the aforesaid Sun-reading youth. A clear failure on the traditional scale compounded by a short measure that needed correcting, and incidentally the beer was poor.

Test 3 and the traditional pub. Basically, it had been given the pub co treatment. Clearly, once upon a time it was at least a two bar pub, but it was now one and resembled an up market tearoom from Eastbourne. It was heavily geared towards food (including my pet hate of the prominent chalkboard displaying the menu) and a lingering smell of chips was far too evident. This was an obvious failure and failed to reach anywhere near the bottom rung of my traditional scale.

Test 4 and the traditional food. Unfortunately, somebody with a low grade GCSE in Business Studies, but an even lower one in English Language, had been entrusted with the writing of the menu. There were ‘succulent sausages carefully grilled to perfection on a bed of gently (as opposed to violently) mashed potato’ and ‘succulent pieces of chicken tenderly marinated with a delicious (as opposed to horrible) selection of seasonal vegetables. The tosh continued with words and phrases like wholesome, natural and mouth watering. I could not believe the crassness and the cheek to call this rubbish traditional. Only minus marks to had in this category.

Continued.....

By way of contrast two days later, I went to a GBG listed pub in Surrey that was almost a reverse image of the above. We were greeted with the words "hello folks and what would you like" and given the choice of an obvious free house range including Holden's, Envill, Triple fff and Bowmans. The menu described itself as British classics included sausage and mash (without any reference to how violently, or otherwise, the potatoes had been treated). High marks so far, but was it a traditional pub? It had certainly been modernised, but still maintained a comfortable aura and the food did not predominate. However, the fact that there had been changes would make it non-traditional to the purists.

What does all this tell us? Firstly, the marketing boys have hijacked the word traditional to the extent that it has become a meaningless word. Secondly, the word traditional will mean different things to different people and it is unlikely that the vast majority of pubs will be able to meet all the criteria to satisfy the Oxford Dictionary definition of "opinion or belief or custom passed down from ancestors to posterity". There are some traditional pubs out there, but they are a dying breed and they are not generally run by pub companies.

Bob Southwell

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TRIP TO LOOE 19/8/08

Every summer, thanks to the adroitness of one of our members with bus timetables, S. Devon Camra has a day out exploring the pubs of Dartmoor. This year, though, Phil Stevens instead took us by train to a single destination - Looe, in Cornwall. A further dozen of us in Newton Abbot, joined two members who had boarded in Teignmouth on an overcrowded, under-carriaged train.....and not a commuter in sight!

Having negotiated the border, in Liskeard we changed trains (and tracks) to the more sedate Looe Valley Line, and thus on to our destination. As Looe has no Good Beer Guide listed pubs, we were guided by a pamphlet on the 'Looe Valley Ale Trail'. On arrival, we found what would have been our first pub of the day, the Ship Inn, had closed due to a landslide the previous evening from the garden of the house behind and above it. Undaunted, we struck out for The Bullers, which turned out to be a very basic one-bar Locals' pub - redeemed by the very drinkable Doghouse 'Seadog', along with the stronger Keltek 'King' and Doom Bar. Thence on to The Fishermans, and a half of Doom Bar - the only beer on offer in this beamed pub which was empty, save for the barman, a smelly dog, and a parakeet in a cage. One swift exit later, we repaired to the now-open Ship for lunch, washed down with well kept Tanners, Tribute, or H.S.D. in this busy St. Austell pub.

Suitably replete, four of us then took a taxi across the bridge into West Looe, and up a steep hill to the Tom Sawyers Tavern, with its magnificent views along the coast and to the off shore George's island. We tried a drinkable Tribute, but declined the Courage Best and ubiquitous Doom Bar.

Having walked back down the hill, we met another group from our party in the Jolly Sailor. This is the oldest pub in Looe, and probably the pick of the ones we visited; serving Sharps 'Cornish Coaster' along with - you guessed it - Doom Bar and Tribute. Around the corner, the Harbour Moon was no great shakes; so it was back over the river to the final stop of the day - the Globe, opposite the railway station and handy for a quick getaway. A bonus was two Skinners beers - Betty Stoggs and Keel Over, a pleasant change from the uniformity of a lot of the town.

In all, a very pleasant day out, and Phil Stevens is once again to be thanked for getting us there, and offering a range of times for the return journey.

Peter O'Nions

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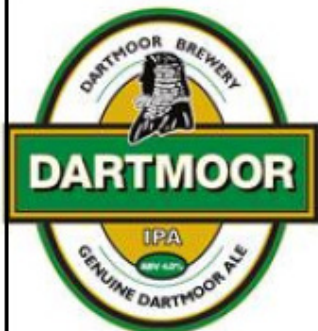
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Gerbil's Tails

Bridgetown brewery hope to have a third brew by the time you are reading this - namely Bridgetown Bitter at an abv of 4.2%, based on a brown ale type. Giles the brewer has also "tweaked" the current Albert Ale (3.8%) by altering the hop balance slightly. Watch out for these brews at our festival. Following some initial hiccups prior to opening, Bridgetown brews have become very popular with both locals and visitors and the brewery itself has been host to various visiting groups and individuals.

Another of our newer breweries Devon Earth, is also coming along well. Penruddock's Uprising 4%, went down well at a recent Cambridge festival, and Grounded 5.2%, should be at our racecourse festival this year.

After much effort by management at Wetherspoon's Isaac Merritt in Paignton, the pub has secured an outside patio area. This is a designated smoking area soon to be surrounded by flowering climbers, which should give a white/pinkish flower in our summers and autumns.

I recently had a weekend trip to Plymouth, where I went on a tour with a fellow Camra man "Grizzly Adams". The idea was to visit some Plymouth GBG public houses, and the Saturday evening commenced with a visit to the Fawn Private Members Club (open to CAMRA members with membership cards) and an excellent pint of Sharps Fawn Ale 4.8%. Atlantic IPA & Eden Ale was also on offer and the club supports Bays Best & Gold on occasions. Following a convivial hour we left and proceeded to the Providence. Although not in the Good Beer Guide, the two South Hams brews (XSB & Wild Blonde), plus Everard's Sunchaser & Summerskills BB went down well in this tied house. For some reason time had already flown by, so next was the Fortescue where we were greeted by 8 different ales, including Old Empire, Landlord, Fox's Nob & the famous Spingo. Sunday morning commenced with a ten mile dog walk with Grizzly and his pet friendly monster before a visit to the Prince Maurice for a refreshing Crouch Vale First Gold and an Everard's Old Bill's Mild 3.3% (2 of 5 to be had). A quickie in the Clifton Arms followed - Jail Ale and a roast beef at the Fortescue with Spingo gravy and a 4-pint carryout. No doubt I will be back! **Kevin the Gerbil.**

What's On

Branch Meetings and Social Events

Date	Time	Purpose	Location
Tues 14th Oct	8.00pm	Branch Meeting	The Golden Lion, Brixham
Tues 11 Nov	8.00pm	Branch Meeting	Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton
Sat 13 Sept		Social to Somerset Beer Festival	
Sat 15 Nov		Newton Abbot pub crawl from 12:00. Start at the Woolborough	
Sat 13 Dec		Proposed date for Christmas Social - To be Advised	

Beer Festivals

12-14 Sept 2008	Annual Beer and Cider Festival	The Bay Horse, Totnes
13-14 Sept 2008	S D Railway Transport Gala	The Station Buckfastleigh
18-20 Sept 2008	South Devon CAMRA's 26th Beer Festival	The Racecourse Newton Abbot
26-28th Sept 2008	5th Abbfest Beer & Food Festival	Fermoy's Newton Abbot
24-25 Oct 2008	Cornwall CAMRA Beer Festival	Princess Pavilion, Falmouth



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Whatever Next?

A woman was arrested after police found a fully functioning bar, with price lists, snacks, a jukebox and a fruit machine, in a garage on Teesside. Neighbours in Alford Street in Brotton, near Saltburn, complained about anti-social behaviour and noise from the house, owned by a woman in her 50s. When police raided the property, they discovered several young people in the converted garage. The woman is being questioned for offences under the 2003 Licensing Act

Source: BBC News

Ad Rates	1 Issue	2 Issues	3 Issues	4 Issues
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Ye Olde Cider Bar, Newton Abbot has again won the prestigious title of **CAMRA South West Regional Cider Pub of the Year** in this year's competition.

The region stretches from Gloucestershire and parts of Wiltshire to Cornwall in the far South West, and Ye Olde Cider Bar was up against very stiff competition for this award from other pubs within the South West Region, one of the main regions for cider and perry production. The other pubs nominated were: Off The Rails, Weston-Super-Mare; The Apple, Bristol; Railway Inn, Newnham-on-Sea; and the Cellar Bar, Swindon.

It is like stepping back thirty or forty years when you enter Ye Olde Cider Bar. It is a fine example of an old fashioned 'cider house' of which there are only four left in the whole of Great Britain. The bar is clad with cask staves, as is much of the furniture, and along with settles and the lack of carpets it provides a truly rustic atmosphere. Behind the bar is an array of large oak cider casks. Despite its old traditional appearance and the lack of beer and spirits, it is a thriving meeting place, just like the best pubs, where locals and visitors alike come to chat over a few pints, in a friendly atmosphere.

South Devon CAMRA is delighted for Richard Knibb and his team and we wish him all the best for the national competition.



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****Allo John. Know a good pub?***

The aim of every CAMRA branch is to gain recognition for those pubs that are the best in their region by putting them in the Good Beer Guide. This publication has been going for 36 years and is Britain's original and best guide to good beer and good pubs. CAMRA members research and recommend the entries, and our membership currently stands at over 90,000. It is a truly independent guide because there is no charge for entry, so unlike some similar books, you know that pubs cannot just pay to get in it.

South Devon CAMRA is no exception. We can put forward a small allocation of 29 pubs to represent the large area we cover - from Kingsbridge to Chudleigh, Chagford and Moretonhampstead to Torbay. The difficulty in that, is trying to ensure we catch the pubs that deserve a mention. As volunteers, many of us work, and on a Friday night, a trip to the local 100 yards away is often more appealing than a journey out, often requiring the car.

However, we have bravely accepted the challenge and our Pub Liaison Coordinator devised a plan that with the help of the club should catch a fair majority of the good pubs out there. For every pub we visit, we complete a score sheet, which gives credit for good ale and enables us to comment of the pub's suitability for consideration for our Pub of the Year. The various scores are merged and at every monthly meeting, we can see the overall picture.

Currently, there are 26 pubs with a 100% score, but some of them have had 6 visits by different members and some have had only 1. Later on in the selection process, those high-scoring, low-visited pubs will need to be called on by as many of us as possible to ensure that the club as a whole agrees the club's merit. Occasionally, we hear about a new gem when a member makes a chance visit to an unfamiliar town or village, and often we hear reports from visitors to our region – all this is valuable in putting together a worthwhile list for our allocation.

So, if you know of a pub worthy of a mention, please don't keep it to yourself! Drop a line to Pub Liaison Coordinator, Mike Fitzmaurice, or any active CAMRA member to ensure the word gets round. Alternatively, if you are a CAMRA member, contact Mike for a supply of score sheets and be a part of the selection process.

The Golden Lion in Brixham recently raised over £800 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Derriford Hospital. On August Bank holiday weekend, they held a Chilli Cook-Off Competition, where five regulars each made a chilli that was judged by all the customers. At the end of the judging, you could buy a bowl of your favourite for your lunch. Skinners Betty Stoggs was the charity ale at £2 a pint, and there was entertainment and karaoke laid on. Another of the regulars was sponsored on a ½-marathon event, and money from this went to the same worthwhile cause. This was so successful it looks like being an annual charity event.

The Elizabethan at Luton is the only pub I know named after our current Queen. Originally The Albert, it was renamed in 1953, and when I visited recently was serving Teignworthy Reel Ale and Otter Bitter – both in very good order.

(Do you know of a Queen Elizabeth II or similar? Let me know - Ed)



The Maltsters Arms

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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).

BUT SERIOUSLY!

Newton Bushel Morris Men perform Cotswold style Morris and strongly believe in the importance of keeping our traditions alive. **We welcome new members, beginners or experienced.**

We practice on Thursday evenings, September to May.

If interested please contact Tony on 01803 607987.

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Casque Mark Awards

I had some insight into Casque Mark deliberations recently when a friend went through the system. Following being invited to call, the Casque Mark representative makes a surprise visit, and awards points to the real ales on offer in the pub. Twenty marks are available, five each for temperature, clarity, taste and aroma. To gain the Casque Mark Award, a score of 15 must be exceeded for each beer tested and the temperature must be within 10-14C.

Casque Mark has been criticized in the past for recommending pubs where the beer is too cold, as at the lower end of this scale, ale may lose many of its complex flavours. CAMRA recommended temperatures according to the Cellarmanship Guide are 13-14C.

To ensure that the pub has not pulled out all the stops for a one-off visit, the Casque Mark judge comes back again unannounced within the next couple of weeks, and judges the beers all over again.

And my friend? All her beers scored 20/20 with a temperature of 13.5C on each visit.

And the pub? The Cannon Inn at Newton Poppleford.

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