



"NEWS OF THE BOOZE"
newsletter of
SURREY - HAMPSHIRE BORDERS BRANCH
of
CAMRA

SEPTEMBER
1980
edition

EDITORIAL...?

Phil Harries, the newsletter's usual editor is unable, for this month, to bring you the usual high quality publication. Phil hopes to have the next edition available in early October, but in the meantime this interim edition has been prepared in order to keep you up to date with meetings. Having Phil out of the editorial 'chair' gives me a chance to give him a verbal 'pat on the back' for his efforts; few people realise that apart from being editor and main contributor, Phil also organises the printing of the newsletter and its distribution to the 'volunteer postmen'. I believe that the typing is normally done by his wife, Jan, so many thanks to her, too.

-Mike Andrew

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THURS. 11th. SEPTEMBER, 8pm.

ROYAL OAK, Pirbright.

Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and decide future structure of the branch. See elsewhere in newsletter.

TUES. 16th. SEPTEMBER, 8.30

BEAUCLEERK ARMS, Winchfield

A social evening at this excellent pub near the station.

THURS. 18th. SEPTEMBER, 8pm.

A joint social with North Sussex Branch at the BLUE SHIP, The Haven, near Alford. Described in the Good Beer Guide as a "simple, timbered country pub", serving King & Barnes ales, straight from the cask. It sounds good!

THURS. 25th. SEPTEMBER, 8.30pm

ROYAL STAFF, Aldershot

Committee Meeting, open to anyone interested, of course.

WEDS. 1st OCTOBER, 8pm.

October 1st is the official launch date for the new FRIARY-MEUX bitter, details of which appeared in last month's newsletter. In association with Friary Meux we are arranging for tonight a special 'sampling' evening at which a speaker from the company will be telling us more about the new beer. The venue for this event has yet to be confirmed, so come to a September meeting or contact David Brittain for details.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (cont'd)

THURS. 2nd. OCTOBER, 8pm.

PRINCE ALBERT, Guildford.

A social evening. The 'Prince' can be found in Stoke Road, to the north-west of the city centre.

FRI. 10th. OCTOBER, 8pm.

RAMSNEST, Ramsnest Common.

A SKITTLES EVENING is being arranged - book in advance through Colin Severn (see "Committee"). The Ramsnest Inn is on the A283 just south of Chiddingfold.

THURS. 16th. OCTOBER, 8.30

A social evening at the FIR TREE, Farnborough. This pub is in Lynchford Road, near North Camp station. The Landlord hopes to have both Friary Meux and Ind Coope bitters in addition to Burton Ale, so if you missed October 1st, you can now try the new beer AND compare it with that which it replaces in most local pubs.

SATURDAY 18th. OCTOBER.

Another "CYCLE BEER CRAWL", this time starting at the JOLLY FARMER, Blacknest, which is 1 mile south of Bentley Station. We will meet from 11am onwards, setting off from the Jolly Farmer at 11.45am for a leisurely ride through the Hampshire countryside, stopping at a couple of other pubs, before returning home. Don't forget that cycles travel free on trains, cheap returns are valid all day on Saturdays

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (cont'd)

and that trains to Bentley run every half-hour from Woking with connections from Guildford at Aldershot. This means that even the laziest cyclists amongst us can take part!

THURS. 30th OCTOBER, 8.30pm.

THE BLUE BOY, Farnham is a small hotel near the station and is a 1981 Good Beer Guide entry, due to its pleasantly comfortable surroundings and consistently good beer. A chance for all you Farnham members to introduce yourselves and tell the committee what you think.

COMMITTEE:

contact any of the following for further information about CAMRA activities or if you have any news such as pub closures, real ale pubs going 'fizzy', etc.

CHAIRMAN: Alan Mason

Woking 20671 (home)

01-242 0982 (work)

SECRETARY: David Britain

Woking 71680 (home)

Guildford 33811 (work)

TREASURER: Colin Severn

57 Agraria Road

Guildford 77972 (home)

" 68121

ext 420 (work)

MEMBERS: Mike Roberts

Aldershot 28631 (home)

01-215 5470 or

01-215 5463 (work)

Bill Moore

Aldershot 23935 (home)

Reg Blaver

Hindhead 4114 (work)

ODDS & ENDS...

Rowledge has lost the Hare and Hounds to pressurised beer, but the Cherry Tree, just round the corner now serves Directors properly and may soon sell their bitter by handpump.

A photo in the local paper shows a handpump at the Alma in Heath End, which wasn't there recently.

Although the Surrey branch -es' latest edition of "Real Ale in Surrey" is an excellent reference book it contains, of course, a few errors. The cleverest mistake of all, though is the pub that suffered a sex-change...the Spotted Cow, Lower Bourne, Farnham which is listed as "The Bull"!

Despite any errors, the book is very handy and some copies are still available at meetings from Committee members, at £1.00 (75p to CAMRA members)

Which beers are the best or worst value for money in our area? In Farnham, at least, Courage Best Bitter at 42p a pint in the saloon bar of the Forest Inn is exceptionally good, while the Queen's Head offers Gale's dark mild at 40p.

Devenish ordinary bitter, with an O.G. of only 1032 is expensive at 50p a pint (in the Hop Blossom), yet stronger beers are the same price.

The few of us who made the journey down to the branch's "wild west" on Saturday the 9th of August were treated to one of the most enjoyable CAMRA socials for a long time, when Roland Edwards organised the "cycle beer crawl" of four widely differing pubs in the Alton area. We began with the Eight Bells in Church Street, now a free house selling Badger Best Bitter. A five minute ride brought us to the Greyfriar at Chawton where we enjoyed the Pompey Royal and some excellent Strong Country Bitter. Chawton has become a quiet and sleepy village since the by-pass was built, and the Greyfriar makes an excellent alternative to a visit to Jane Austen's house, almost opposite the pub.

After a couple of drinks we set off in the sunshine past Chawton House along the old A32, now a quiet cul-de-sac. A short stretch of main road followed by some lanes through the village of Farringdon brought us to the Rose and Crown, where we were tempted by Marston's Pedigree, Fuller's E.S.B, Bass and Directors bitter. From here, our journey took us along narrow lanes through the fields to the Three Horseshoes at East Worldham where we tried the various Gales beers.

Time had flown by, and after a few drinks and a ploughmans lunch it was closing time and we set off back to Alton.

Although the event was not as well supported as it could have been, those of us who went enjoyed ourselves so much that a similar ride, visiting different pubs, is being organised for Saturday, October the 18th. Do yourself a favour by giving yourself some fresh autumn air! If you haven't a bike and can't borrow one, join us anyway and travel by car - if its raining hard, I will probably do the same!

- Mike Andrew

ADVERTISEMENT:

£1 offered for a 1977
Farnham Beer Exhibition
glass.....M.Andrew,
13 St Georges Rd,
Farnham.
(tel. 723116)

ANOTHER COURAGE CLOSURE

Having found ourselves trying to adjust to the different taste of Courage's Best bitter from Bristol after the closure of their Reading brewery, we now hear that their London brewery is also to shut, and that our Directors bitter will probably come from Bristol, too. Isn't Directors expensive enough, without the extra fuel bills?

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

As can be seen from the forthcoming events column, the Chairman has called an E.G.M. for September 11th. Some members of the committee feel that the branch does not fulfil its objectives in some areas and that a redefinition of the boundaries or even a division into two separate branches would help. Your views are needed and we urge you to please attend, even if the venue (the Royal Oak, on the A324 Ash-Woking road) is out of the way for you.

A trip to Young's brewery, Wandsworth is being arranged for November. Details can be obtained from Alan Mason. Brewery trips tend to sell out very quickly, so don't wait until the last minute!