



FARNHAM BEEREX EDITION

ONCE again it's Farnham Beer Exhibition time, and this year's, despite the recession, promises to be even more successful than usual (if that's possible!) Apologies to all those who applied for tickets unsuccessfully - in an unprecedented rush all Friday and Saturday night tickets were gone within hours of going on sale, Thursday night and Saturday lunchtime sessions selling out a week or so later. Those readers fortunate enough to have tickets can look forward to a range of more than 60 real ales, rare and not-so-rare, plus a range of traditional ciders. Music will be provided by Amity (Thursday), The Hogs Back Band (Friday) and the Old Swan Band (Saturday).

Beers new to the exhibition this year include Wild Boar Bitter from Yorkshire's Trough Brewery (!), Sussex County Ale, Jacobs Best Bitter from the Nailsea Brewery, Hermitage Best Bitter and a number of others, plus of course, many old favourites including a large consignment of Timothy Taylors!

Whilst the beers at the exhibition are not over-expensive (from 54p a pint), remember to take plenty of money with you to spend on the CAMRA stand, which will be selling a range of county real ale guides, T-shirts, badges, CAMRA ties, Good Beer Guides, etc, mostly at special low prices. Help branch and CAMRA's national funds by also purchasing some pontoon tickets (prizes of up to £20) and, for your collection, some of the unusual beeremats and breweriana which will be on sale.



"HE'S ABSOLUTELY DEVOTED TO HIS WIFE... DASHES HOME TO HER AS SOON AS IT'S HIS ROUND!"

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Campaign for Real Ale

Surrey/Hampshire Borders Branch

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ODDS &...

MARTLETT LOCALLY

Martlett Regency Bitter is apparently available in our area, but unfortunately not in a pub. The lucky customers of the R.A.E. Staff Mess in Farnborough can now sample the Sussex brew.

HINDHEAD BREWS

After a stiff walk over Gibbett Hill you can now refresh yourself with a pint of Old Chidham Bitter, Strong Country Bitter or Pompey Royal at the Punch Bowl Hotel, Hindhead.

British beer needs you



Membership form

I/We wish to become a member/members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

I enclose £7 (£10 Overseas) for full membership for a year
We enclose £7 for husband and wife membership
or I/We enclose completed standing order authority
(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation)

☐
☐
☐

FULL NAME(S) (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

SIGNATURE DATE

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

STANDING ORDER FORM

To (your Bank)
Please forward to Barclays Bank Ltd., 3 High Street, St Albans (20-74-09) for the credit of CAMRA Limited subscription account; A/c No. 50187887; now the sum of £7 and continue to pay this sum on the annually until further notice.

SIGNATURE DATE

NAME (Block capitals)

BANK A/C NO. AND ADDRESS



● All applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

...ENDS

PUB NEWS

GALES FOR ALDERSHOT

Good news for drinkers in the Aldershot area is that Gale's beers, after an absence of more than a year, are to return to the town. Since the lease expired on the Unicorn, which was then taken back by Courages (and suffered the indignity of having its handpumps removed) Gales have been searching for another outlet in the area. Their chance came when Watneys decided to dispose of the Albion in Waterloo Road, just a couple of hundred yards from the Royal Staff, a well known Good Beer Guide pub.

At the time of writing, Gales are working hard to renovate the pub, which had become rather run-down, and hope to re-open soon. Once the reopening date is known, we hope to organise a CAMRA meeting at the Albion. Check the back page of this newsletter for any "stop press" giving further news.

OTHER PUB NEWS

PUBS FOR SALE

We have heard reports that both the Volunteer in Aldershot High Street, and the Mount Pleasant, off Redan Hill, Aldershot are for sale with licence. Any further news would be appreciated.

GODALMING'S FREE HOUSE

A free house opened quietly in Godalming at the end of last year. It is the Anchor, which is currently selling Wethered S.P.A. and bitter, Draught Bass and Courage Directors Bitter. A CAMRA meeting has been arranged at the Anchor for Wednesday, May 19th.

WATNEYS VARIETY

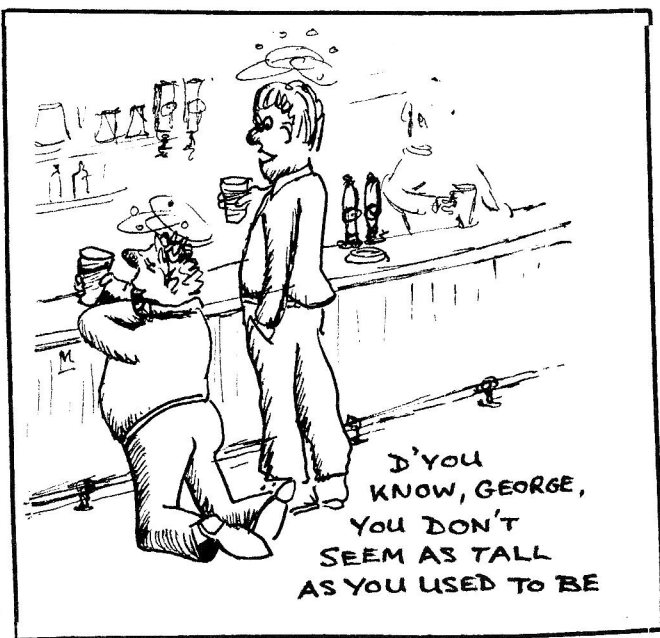
Following the introduction of Ushers Best Bitter at the Crown & Cushion, Minley, this beer is now also available at the Six Bells, Hale Road, Farnham, where it is served alongside Tamplins from traditional beer engines. Watneys obviously intend to make their regional beers more widely available, as the Ushers is now served from the strange converted kegs used normally in this area for Tamplins and Stag bitters. At least one Watney/Grand Met pub in the Middlesex area is now selling Websters and Manns draught beers alongside the more usual Watney offerings, so keep your eyes open, and let "News of the Booze" know of any further variety offered by Watney pubs in this area!

ANOTHER FREE HOUSE

The Passfield Oak, near Whitehill, is now a free house, having been sold by Friary Meux, with licence - a happier situation than the White Lion in Haslemere, a Good Beer Guide pub closed by Friary in March, and now for sale delicensed. The Passfield Oak, at the time of writing, is being "renovated", and is serving Ballard's Wassail (at 80p a pint) and Marston's Pedigree.



ABOVE: The White Lion, Haslemere, which was recently closed despite protests to the owners, Ind Coope. The 16th century building is to be sold delicensed. (Photo: M. Andrew)



LIONS' SHARE

Most local members realise that the Farnham Beerex is organised jointly by The Farnham Lions Club, The Farnham Maltings Association and ourselves, but how many realise just how much good they are doing by enjoying the Exhibition?

The fact is that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the profit from the Beerex goes to charities (mainly local ones) via the Lions Club. In recent years some examples of Lions' donations have been £6,000 for a heart monitoring machine and £500 towards a baby scanner at the Frimley Park Hospital, and £1,250 to the Bells Piece Cheshire Home for the mentally handicapped, in Farnham.

So, as you enjoy trying the different beers at Farnham Beerex, please don't begrudge the admission fee - it goes to a very worthwhile cause.

COACH TRIP

On Saturday, 31st July we are running a coach to visit some of the wonderfully unspoilt pubs of the South Oxfordshire countryside. This will be an evening visit, and seats will be reserved only on receipt of the fare, which will be refunded if the trip is under-subscribed. Book on the form below, or ring Farnham 723116 for further details.

To: M. Andrew, 13 St George's Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8NA.

Please reserve _____ seats on the coach @ £3.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____ (total).

Coach departs Farnham at 6.30pm and will pick up at main towns & villages in the Branch area as required. Receipt of postal applications will be acknowledged within 14 days.

Name Address

.....town/village of boarding, if different.....

Exact boarding point and time will be notified nearer to date of excursion.

ALTON BEER FESTIVAL

Following last year's successful Alton Beerex, a similar event is being organised for this year. The provisional date is Saturday, September 25th. Further details will be announced in a later edition of News of the Booze.



This year's "CAMRA under CANVAS" event is at the earlier date of Whitsun Bank Holiday (Late Spring Bank Holiday if you insist on its dreadful modern title), Friday evening 28th May until Monday 31st May. Bring your tent and enjoy a weekend visiting the pubs of East Sussex, ending up the evenings at a Harveys pub next to the campsite. Subject to confirmation, that pub is to be the Sussex Ox at Milton Street, Alfriston. If you wish to join us, please ring Alan Davies (see page 2), so that he can arrange a site for you. If the weekend is half as enjoyable as last year's it will have been well spent!

ads...

Rates: 10p per word; first 20 words free to members. Display rates on application.

HAMPSHIRE CIDER - try Selborne Gold at Farnham Beerex or the Sandrock, Farnham.

COLLECTORS... Unusual bottled beers for exchange or sale. SAE for list: M. Andrew, 13 St Georges Rd, Farnham.

REAL ALE at discount prices to CAMRA members: F.W.Francis, 75-9, Stoke Road, Guildford.

For a few months the Farnham Herald has been running a fascinating series of Photographs and stories under the title "The United Saga". The illustrations have shown the pubs of the former Farnham United Brewery in its heyday. The story on the right is, I am sure, of great interest to CAMRA members, as it concerns two of the most popular "Good Beer Guide" pubs in the area. Many thanks are due to the Farnham Herald both for allowing the reproduction of the article and for publishing such an interesting series in the first place. Thanks also, to Geoff Dye for allowing the use of photographs from his collection.



brewery visit

Our next brewery visit is to Fullers at 3pm on Thurs. November 25th. Numbers are strictly limited, so reserve your place now (members only) with Martin Cave, 11 Park Road, Guildford. (Telephone Guildford 77068)

'PUNCH' PEEPS INTO THE PUBS

IN this week's episode of the "United saga," one man links two pubs which stand only a five-minute walk apart.

That man is 78-year-old Frank "Punch" Parratt, who lives close to the Bat and Ball in Upper Bourne Lane, Farnham, and has been a regular commuter to the Sandrock in Sandrock Hill Road as well during his many years as customer and connoisseur of beer.

Frank's wealth of memories, generally delivered with a dry chuckle, go back to his first drink in "The Bat" in 1917, when the pub was run by Arthur Fisher — the period during which our photograph was taken.

Horse-drawn beer

Verbal notes passed back and forth from Frank to another "Bat" regular, Reg Farr, reveal that the beer used to be hauled along the stream from Sandrock Hill by means of horses, which walked through the water itself rather than by the more normal barge process where the horse remained on the bank.

The varieties of beer available at the time included mild, bitter and stout drawn straight from the barrel ("from the wood").

Frank's connection with the pub is deeper than that of a purely academic drinker, however, because his grandfather, Esau Parratt, was its licensee in 1865. Purely by coincidence, Esau's twin brother Jonathan was licensee of the Royal Oak, Wrecclesham, at the same time.

This is another Farnham United Breweries pub which will shortly be appearing in "Peeps".

Tally-man

Harry Mosey, the current licensee of the pub, points to its origins as a tally man's office in the centre of a hop field. Payment for hops picked was eventually augmented by a supply of beer and the pub began an illustrious business life which the return to real ale in the 1970s did nothing to inhibit.

Like the "Bat," the Sandrock is now a haven for "real ale" drinkers and, like the "Bat," its connection with local Parratts and sporting events goes back to the days when it was an annual Boxing Day event to stage a Sandrock "Parratts versus the rest" darts match.

Cricket connection

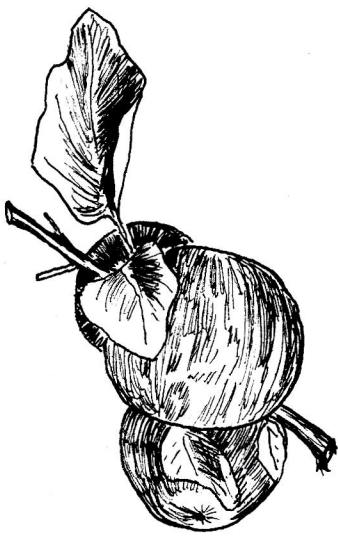
Andy Bujok, the pub's licensee, helped in closing the gap between the two pubs even further when he and a team drawn from regulars challenged the Bat and Ball to a cricket match, which was played off in August 1981, with the proceeds going to charity.

Gentlemen and ruffians

So prestigious was this match between "Eleven gentlemen of the Bat and Ball and eleven ruffians of the Sandrock" (so the posters proclaimed) that John Ebdon, formerly a resident of Rowledge and now a well-known broadcaster and lover of cricketing England, included the match in his Radio 4 series, "Ebdon's England".

At one point during the match, just after someone had put a "six" through the pavilion window, Punch was heard to remark in his rich rural brogue: "I remember 'ol "Bandy" Crow did that in 1923 — rang the church bell. 'e did."

Traditional Cider



Following the revival of interest in traditional British beer, the decline of our other traditional drink, cider, has been reversed. Last year, in fact, our first local cider manufacturer for many years began trading - the Hampshire Cider Company's "Selborne Gold" can be sampled at the Sandrock, near Farnham. A much bigger supplier is, of course, Bulmers, infamous for their keg Woodpecker and Strongbow. Bulmers seem to have seen the light now, though, for they supply traditional cider to a large number of pubs in this area, as you can see from the list of known outlets in the Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA branch area:

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE LIST:

Con. Bulmers Conditioned Cider.

Conditioning is achieved from a secondary fermentation in the cask. An unfiltered cider with alcoholic content of 4.25% (increasing by 0.25% during secondary fermentation).

W.C. Bulmers West Country Cider.

Inherited by Bulmers from the Gloucester Cider Co, this cider has an alcoholic content of 5.4%.

Still. Bulmers Still Cider.

Whilst Conditioned Cider is available in sweet/medium/dry varieties, and West Country is available in medium/dry/extra dry varieties, still cider is free of added sugar or yeast and is therefore available in only a medium - sweet variety with an alcoholic content of 4.75%.

(G). Served direct from the cask by gravity.

(H). Served by handpump.

THREE HORSESHOES

Long Sutton.

Con. - med.
(G)

DOG & PARTRIDGE

Yateley.

Con. - med.
(G)

CROWN

Arford, Headley.

Con. - med.
(G)

PASSFIELD OAK,

Liphook.

Con. - med.
(G)

CODY'S TREE

Farnborough.

W.C. - dry
(H)

GREYFRIAR

Chawton.

Con. - dry
(G)

COACH & HORSES

Farnham.

Con. - med.
(H)

JOLLY FARMER

Blacknest.

Con. - med.
(H)

CROWN & CUSHION

Farnborough.

Con. - sweet
Con. - dry

(H) in Meade Hall only

WHITE SWAN

North Lane, Aldershot.

Con. - med.
(G)

QUEENS HEAD

North Lane, Aldershot.

Con. - med.
(G)

OLD WHITE HART

Hook

Still (G)

HOP BLOSSOM

Farnham

Con - med.
(H)

BARLEY MOW

Normandy St, Alton.

Con. - med.
(G)

(And don't forget the Ram cider house in Godalming - Ed.)



Book Review

"MINE'S A PINT - WHAT'S YOURS?" by Bill Tidy.

Well known for his strip cartoons, including the Fosdyke Saga in the Daily Mirror, and Kegbuster in the CAMRA newspaper, What's Brewing, Bill's Farnham Beer Exhibition programme covers have made the programme a collectors' item in recent years.

Mine's a Pint - What's Yours? is a collection of the best of the Kegbuster cartoons, made available to the general public for the first time, having been enjoyed by CAMRA members for some years now. The presentation of the book has divided the cartoons by subject rather than showing them in chronological order - this does not appear to have any advantage, but has, in my opinion, the disadvantage of showing Bill's recent, more stylised cartoons sitting almost uncomfortably alongside earlier, more detailed work such as can be seen on page 19 of the book. This presentation is probably also the cause of the duplication of one strip. It has been said that 'Kegbuster' is an acquired taste, but it is one that is easy to acquire, particularly if you appreciate some of the inventive pub names which crop up in some of the cartoon strips, such as the 'Boil & Poultrice' and the 'Barmaid's Buttock'.

Published by Pavilion Publishing Ltd, price £1.95 (available from the CAMRA stall at Farnham Beer Exhibition for only £1.50, or from News of the Booze price £1.70 inc. P&P.)

BEER GUIDES

There has been much discussion at recent branch meetings on the topic of beer guides and in particular on the subject of the national Good Beer Guide and the proposed 3rd Surrey Guide. At the last A.G.M. Steve Harrison was elected to represent the Surrey/Hants Borders Branch on the committee responsible for the preparation of the Surrey Guide.

Steve would like as much help as possible and it would be most helpful if members could let him have their views on the pubs and clubs of the Surrey/Hampshire Borders area. He is interested in finding out if pubs are serving good beer or whether the beer is bad, any new real ale outlets, any outlets which have been lost to real ale, what the pubs are like, whether expensive or cheap, the range of beers they are selling, in fact any information concerning the pubs of our area.

This type of information will prove invaluable when both the national guide and local guide entries are being prepared. In view of the size of the area covered by our branch it has not proved possible for Steve to drink in every pub in the area (although he does his best) and he is therefore relying on as much help as possible from the branch members especially when the time comes to complete the survey forms. So please let Steve have as much news as possible.

- Alan Davies.

Please send information to:

Steve Harrison,
23 Austen Road,
Guildford.

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER POSTED

NEWS OF THE BOOZE is normally published as a monthly news sheet, with larger editions such as this published to coincide with Farnham Beer Exhibition, Alton Beer Festival and at Christmas. News of the Booze is available at CAMRA meetings, or can be sent to you on receipt of this form.

To: Newsletter, 13 St Georges Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8NA.

PLEASE SEND ME THE NEXT ____ EDITIONS OF NEWS OF THE BOOZE. I ENCLOSE A S.A.E. FOR EACH COPY.

Name.....Address.....

SURREY/HANTS BORDERS CAMRA Branch Meetings

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Meetings begin at 8.30pm unless otherwise stated.

MAY

Weds. 5th. CLUB SOCIAL. A chance to try the new Trumans cask mild and bitter at the Railway Staff Association Club, Goldsworth Road, Woking. The club can be found opposite Woking market place and is well worth a visit. Thanks are due to Ray Henbest for organising this meeting, and to the club's committee for welcoming us.

13th - 15th. FARNHAM BEER EXHIBITION. All tickets sold.

Fri. 21st. GOOD BEER GUIDE 1983: Special Committee meeting. All Inspection forms and nominations for additions/deletions to Chairman prior to this meeting please. Details: Farnham 723116.

28th - 31st. CAMPING WEEKEND in Sussex. See page 4 for details.

JUNE

Weds. 2nd. THE SEAHORSE, Shalford. A social at this Gales pub south of Guildford.

Sat. 5th. PUTTENHAM FAYRE. A beer tent is being planned at this event. Ring Farnham 723116 after May 20th for details.

* Weds. 16th. THE PRINCE OF WALES, Hammer Vale. Our annual pilgrimage to the Prince, which is most easily found (in my opinion) by taking the A3 from Hindhead towards Liphook, turning left at the signpost to Woolmer Hill sports ground, and right at the end of the road. Gales beers direct from the cask in a highly recommended pub.

* Weds. 23rd. THE CHEQUERS, Crookham village. A favourite free house.

! JULY 31st - EXCURSION BY COACH TO SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE FOR THE EVENING - SEE PAGE 4. !



STOP PRESS

The Albion, Waterloo Road, Aldershot re-opens at midday on May 6th as a Gales house (see page 3). The new tenants are Mr & Mrs C Keeling - give them a big welcome!



* meeting to be confirmed - check on Farnham 723116