

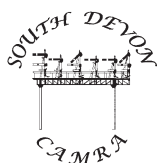
69TH EDITION

SPRING 2020



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WELCOME

69TH EDITION
SPRING 2020



Hello,

"We welcome that the Government has followed up its manifesto commitment in the Queens Speech and will look to reform business rates, as well as bringing in an additional discount for pubs. Pubs contribute positively to the UK, socially, culturally and economically. We look forward to working with Government and Parliament to ensure the reforms mean pubs are treated fairly. CAMRA will continue to push for a lower rate of tax on beer served in pubs. Finally, we urge the government to complete its statutory review of the Pubs Code and ensure that it is fit for purpose." (Nic Antona, CAMRA National Chairman).

Check out News & Brews Summer 2020 to see what the new government is doing to support the industry and us real ale drinkers - in a pub near you from mid-June.

Also in this edition:

- **What's on in the South Devon area** (page 5)
- **News about your pubs and breweries** (pages 7 - 9)
- **Pub in Focus - The Old Exeter Inn** (pages 10 - 11)
- **South Devon CAMRA on Tour
Salcombe Brewery** (page 14)
- **A paddle in Paphos** (pages 18 - 19)
- **News from CAMRA** (pages 24 - 25)
- **Grumpy at 100** (pages 28 - 29)



Cheers,
Andrew Thomson
Editor

Please enter your monthly What Pub scores by the **6th** of the following month for them to be included on that month's database. For a 'how to' description of scoring see southdevon.camra.org.uk





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WHAT'S ON

Branch Meetings and Social Events

Date	Time	Purpose	Location
10 Mar	20:00	Branch meeting - Pub of the Year choice	The Barn Owl Kingskerswell
18 Mar	11:50	Midweek to Ashburton	Bus 88 at 11:50 from Newton Abbot bus station
28 Mar	midday	Teignmouth social	Start at The Blue Anchor
3 - 5 Apr		CAMRA members weekend	University of York
14 Apr	20:00	Branch meeting	Torbay Inn, Paignton
18 Apr	midday	Social	SIBA (Tuckers), Osborne Park Newton Abbot
22 Apr	10:30	Midweek to Kingswear, Dartmouth and onwards	Start at Paignton bus station at 10:30h on bus 120
9 May	midday	Social	Staverton station
23 May	TBA	Reddaways Cider trip	

Beer Festivals

Date	Event	Location
21 Mar	Yeofest	Yeoford Village Hall
19 - 21 Mar	Bristol beer festival	Old Station, Temple Meads
25 Mar - 5 Apr	Wetherspoons spring real ale festival	
10 - 12 Apr	Sausage and cider festival	The Albert Inn, Totnes
10 - 13 Apr	Blue Anchor beer festival	Blue Anchor, Teignmouth
16 - 18 Apr	SIBA beer festival (Tuckers)	Osborne Park, Newton Abbot
May	Mild month	At a pub near you
7 - 10 May	Beer festival	Staverton station
7 - 10 May	Bay Horse Inn beer festival	Bay Horse Inn, Totnes
30 May	Music and beer festival	The Palk Arms, Hennock
18 - 20 June	Summer Moon beer festival	Church End Road, Kingskerswell
26 - 28 June	Beer festival	The Albert, Totnes
18 July	Ippletipple	Ipplepen village green
23 - 25 July	South Devon CAMRA Sunshine beer and cider festival	Teignmouth Rugby Club
28 - 31 Aug	Rails and Ales festival	Staverton station

Please check individual events prior to attending

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Every Friday is cheese night at **The Old Workshop** in **Bishopsteignton**. The Red Rock Brewery Tap Bar offers a cheese plate with a glass of Port for £7.00. The first Saturday of each month is live music night with their own beer from £2.50 per pint. Their annual Easter Sunday event has inflatable fun provided by Mane Events from 12noon, Easter bonnet competition at 1.30pm followed by the famous egg hunt at 2.30. Lamb roast is available in the beer garden.

New landlord at **The Bullers Arms** in **Brixham**. Matt Stevens and team dispense Doom Bar, Tribute and a guest beer, sometimes London Pride.

New owner The Greenway Group has invested £250,000 in **The Prince William** on **Brixham** harbour marina side, reopening with a complete refurbishment and reconfiguration of the bar and restaurant area.

The **Queens Arms** in **Brixham** raised £5,572.11 at their December charity beer festival to fund the defibrillator in the phone box outside the pub (News & Brews Pub in Focus Autumn 2019). A packed pub (and road!) witnessed it commissioned on 31st January. The pub was acclaimed in the House by new Totnes MP Anthony Mangnall who lauded its community and charity focus. He had visited the pub during the charity beer festival as Totnes parliamentary candidate, with the then cabinet member Andrea Leadsom.

St Austell is the new owner of **The Royal Castle** in **Dartmouth**.

The Union Inn at **Denbury** has planned a series of Morris Dancing evenings for the spring and early summer on the historic and beautiful green outside. When our reporter visited, Proper Job was guest beer.

The Palk Arms in **Hennock** is looking for a chef to join the successful pub team. Aspiring applicants can contact the pub at: theonlypalkarms.co.uk. Meanwhile renovations continue for the lounge/restaurant area and are about to begin in the bar. Planning is also well advanced for the one-day music & beer festival at the pub on May 30th.

The Thatched Tavern in **Maidencombe** has reopened after the fire that closed it last year. New operators the Lyndon and Naylor families have carried out a complete refurbishment.

Ye Olde Cider Bar in **Newton Abbot** has new ownership. Julian Marsh and Mike and Sadie Rowland from The Palk Arms in Hennock have taken over. Their intention is to run it as the recognisable cider bar it has been for centuries. We wish them well with their new enterprise.

The 24 hour Scalextric challenge at **The Railway Brewhouse** in **Newton Abbot** raised £1,002.68 for Devon Air Ambulance. All the cars made it, although a bit battered at the end.

Henrys bar in **Paignton** has reopened after a winter refurbishment complete with new flooring.

The Isaac Merritt in **Paignton** has been sold by JD Wetherspoon. Supporting the real ale scene in The Bay since opening in 1998, most of their time saw the pub in the Good Beer Guide and gaining South Devon CAMRA Pub of the Year awards. The new owner keeps the pub name, reopening with 9 beers on the bar at £1.99 a pint. Our best wishes go to manager Chris Reece and team, though CAMRA members reckon they're off to a flying start with the beers. »

PUB NEWS CONTINUED

» Watch out for a new addition to the pub staff at **The Albert Inn** in **Totnes**. Pixie, a rescue dog, will shortly be accompanying Albert on his customary inspections of both the pub and its regulars.

The Bay Horse Inn in **Totnes** has announced a slight departure from their normal beer festival dates. The Easter Beer Festival is moving to the weekend of the first Spring Bank Holiday 7-10 May (from 1800h on 7th), and on 8th from 1100h to 2000h the pub will co-host a food and drink festival with The Kitchen Table in the Rotherfold (at the top of the main street just down from the Bay Horse pub) on the Friday.

Geetie Singh-Watson's first organic pub outside London is now open. **The Bull Inn** in **Totnes** has had an extensive renovation. On a recent visit our reporter enjoyed the organic Tom Long bitter from Stroud Brewery and his introduction to organic dining.

St Austell is the new owner of **The Royal Seven Stars** in **Totnes**.

BREWERY NEWS

Bays Brewery is delighted to be launching a second product to their 'Craft' Keg range this April. Following the huge success of their award winning 'Devon Rock Craft Lager', 'Devon Cove Pale Ale' is the ultimate modern pale ale, combining an array of English malts and five aromatic American hops creating a smooth, refreshingly balanced pale ale with hints of mango, passion fruit and pineapple.

Black Tor are bringing back three popular limited edition beers in cask from April: Saison 4% abv, Spring Pale 4.4% abv & New Zealand IPA 5.2% abv. They will be serving their cask ales at the new Black Tor Bar at this year's Devon County Show. Raven 4.2% abv best bitter is being judged in the SIBA National Beer Competition at BeerEx in Liverpool in March.

George (Ed) Langabeer, head brewer at **Bridgetown Brewery's** latest creations - a Red Rye bitter and an Oatmeal Stout - were voted a success at the Albert Inn's Winter Beer Festival. More creations are on the way, including a mild - watch this space. Meanwhile the brewery - which has recently joined SIBA - is delighted that three of its beers - Albert Ale, Cheeky Blonde and Shark Island Stout - will be available at the forthcoming Maltings Beer Festival.

With **Otter Brewery** proudly celebrating 30 years as a Devon independent this summer, a steady flow of new brews, as well as the core range of ales and two award winning lagers, continue to keep South West drinkers happy. Say hello to New Wave, the latest Otterfest seasonal - a tasty and fresh range that celebrates their love of music & beer. Deep gold in colour, tangerine & peach on the nose, clean, crisp & fruity on the tongue.

This year sees the 28th SIBA Tuckers Maltings Beer Festival and as always, **Red Rock Brewery** are proud to be supporting the event. »

BREWERY NEWS ... CONTINUED

» This year they have their Traditional Red Rock Bitter, Capstan ESB, Award Winning Pilsner, Limited Edition Summer Daze and their Award-Winning Slow Honey. In addition, a one-off brew, brewed solely for this event, Watermelon and Lime Gosa, available in 330ml bottles.

Salcombe Brewery has won a silver medal at the European Beer Challenge for Island Street Porter. They are also delighted to announce the launch of Ocean Cider, a premium cider available from the 1st February on draught across the country and 1st March available in 500ml bottles. Ocean Cider (abv 4.5%) is a full-bodied traditional cider with a medium dry taste and a light sparkle. Ocean Cider is produced for Salcombe Brewery by Sheppy's, one of the oldest cider making families in the world and will be available across the country.

20th June is **South Hams Brewery** Mid-Summer Fayre which is a food and craft Fayre where they will be doing time slots for brewery tours and we are working with AONB (area of outstanding natural beauty). They will be again at Devon county show at the Contented Cow bar and brewing the show special ale celebrating 125 years of the show.

At **Summerskills Brewery** trade picked up during the autumn and they had a busy Christmas period. Tamar featured in the JD Wetherspoon National Guest Ale programme between January and March and has been popping up in their outlets far and wide, as well as some closer to home. Their Dragon Pioneer IPA has been well received in cask and EcoKegs and they are achieving a more consistent level of secondary fermentation in the latter format. Christmas beers Turkey's Delight and Christmouse sold well in cask, bottle and mini-keg. Indiana's Bones has been selling well as has Plymouth Porter, both of which featured alongside Bunker Hill at the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival Winter.

Since starting brewing in 2019, **Teignmouth Brewery's** brewer John has also introduced bottle conditioned beers from his existing range. He has a new beer called Devon Dipper and is planning another called Conversion aimed at the Six Nations Rugby championship season. Both these beers are around 4 - 4.5% ABV but other beers are planned. There are plans to expand the brewing equipment by addition of a conditioning tank and more casks and the current bottling arrangements are to be revised to enable greater production.

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PUB IN FOCUS – THE OLD EXETER INN, ASHBURTON

Landlord Dave Hattersley took over the pub in May 2019 from the previous owners who had been in residence for well over 30 years and a lot has changed since then. Let's start with the pub's history.

The Old Exeter Inn at Ashburton is old as the name suggests and one can only wonder at what has really gone on in a building of this age. It is very likely to be the 5th oldest Inn in the United Kingdom. Built in 1130 a.d. to house the workers of St Andrews Church, directly opposite, the Exeter was originally known as the Church House Inn and these properties were used by the Church to raise funds by brewing and selling ale. It is also the oldest building in the beautiful ancient stannary town. It later changed its name to Exeter Inn when the principle patron of the region became the Bishop of Exeter.



The Old Exeter Inn

Sir Francis Drake was a regular drinker at the Exeter. He was also a friend of Sir Walter Raleigh. They enjoyed regular drinking sessions together beside the huge fireplace in the front room. Walter Raleigh was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1585 however, when the Queen discovered that he had married one of her ladies-in-waiting without her permission, she sent him to the Tower of London. She only released him when one of his ships returned with a huge treasure from the New World! In 1603 Queen Elizabeth died and was succeeded by King James I. Sir Walter then became embroiled in a plot against the new King and after a huge manhunt, was tracked down to the Exeter Inn at Ashburton on 19th July, 1603. He was arrested inside the Inn on a charge of Treason against the King.

The pub was given a new frontage and raised roof in Georgian times (around 1750 a.d.) but much of the original interior remains, including the large granite chimney piece with its chamfered lintel on big round corbels. There are small, dark rooms with low ceilings to the front and back of the Inn which hold the mysteries of time, but buildings like these are never 'pickled in time'. They are living, breathing things that evolve and should be loved and cared for. The Old Exeter Inn is a haunted house. Hardly surprising given its age and history. It is said that the ghost of a child walks the staircase of the Exeter, often on stormy nights. Dressed in a white silk nightdress holding what appears to be a small book, the girl is no older than eight or nine years. 'The White Child' was last seen by the Landlord's wife in May 2019 on the top floor. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a regular client at the Exeter Inn when he was writing the Hound of the Baskervilles. »

THE OLD EXETER INN CONTINUED

» The layout of the Inn has changed over the years. As recently as the 1920's, horses used to be brought through the front door of the Inn, all the way to the back where stables were in the high-walled garden! There were a number of rooms, a lounge in the back room, a bar and bottle shop at the front. The shop was a hatch in the corridor that was used as a 'takeaway' for beer and cider. You would often bring your own bottle to be refilled. The Inn is still family owned as a private business. There is no evidence that



Dave Hattersley behind the bar

the Old Exeter Inn has even been associated with, or owned by, a Brewery (with the exception of the Church a very long time ago!). They are proud that the true 'Free House' lives on. The old building is being restored in parts with the bar and seating areas largely complete together with flagstone flooring in the corridor. The updated kitchen and a new garden room will be added soon as well as refurbished letting accommodation.

Real Ale is a huge part of the business with the pub being in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide every year since 2003. Dave is passionate about his ales and to be true to the roots of this Inn, which is celebrating its 890th birthday this year, he wanted to have real ales right in front of you, straight from the cask. So a granite stillage was built into the medieval fireplace and he is very proud of it. Sales have doubled since the stillage was put in. Out of the taps come Dartmoor Legend and Draught Bass. Beer does taste better from the barrel, no doubt about it. Dave didn't drink Legend before, preferring Dartmoor IPA, which will still be sold. But from the barrel it's superb. The pub and its staff are about doing different things. The local Guest Ales often include Otter Brewery and Bays with an occasional from further afield. Real Cider and Perry is also being taken very seriously and soon up to four real local ciders and one real perry from Somerset will be available giving a variety of tastes to suit the seasoned real cider and perry drinkers and for visitors to the area to carefully try. Also simple food will be introduced in the near future in the form of stews and casseroles with crusty bread together with a range of sandwiches, pasties and sausage rolls.

Ian Packham



The Heart of **DARTMOOR**

Dartmoor Brewery is the second largest Brewery in Devon, officially the highest brewery in England at 1,465ft above sea level. The Brewery is still located in Princetown, just a few steps away from the Prince of Wales pub where it all began in 1994.



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SOUTH DEVON CAMRA ON TOUR – SALCOMBE BREWERY

We did a tour of Salcombe brewery a year previous, it was such a great success that we decided to do it again. So when I approached Mark and Annie at Salcombe they were up for it straight away. So on a dull rainy day (last time we had a sunny day) some fourteen of us met and departed from Newton Abbot Railway station at 10.30am using our tour bus. To be fair it did brighten up a bit for our first stop of the day at the ever reliable Old Inn at Halwell which was on our planned route. They had four beers on in good condition and as ever I went for the dark one being Exeter Darkness, lovely. With a fire in the grate we lingered for an hour before we moved on to keep our appointment at the brewery for 12.30pm.

We were greeted by Sam and Chris, the two brewers, plus Mark and had a starter beer (Island Street Porter, gorgeous!) before going for the tour around their impressive new establishment. But first Mark gave us an introductory presentation about the history of the brewery, a good start. The tour proper then started. Has to be said the two brewer guys have an infectious enthusiasm for what they do and the facts and statistics came thick and fast. They also took several questions of a beer anorak nature! We then moved back to the bar for a light lunch and more beer tastings such hard work?! No, the beer was absolutely great, apart from the Porter we also tried the Pale Ale, Lifesaver, Shingle Bay, Seahorse, Devon Amber and Gold. The jugs of beer kept coming so we kept drinking them, why not would be rude not to? Seriously we were in beer heaven and finished with Island Street Porter coupled with chocolate cake wow! At this stage we were joined by three of the brewery Directors namely John, Tim and Mike which was a great opportunity to discuss progress of the brewery business and in turn they received our feedback from a CAMRA perspective. We were then taken to the cellars for a tour around and general discussion. Being adjacent, we finished in the brewery shop to stock up for Xmas. By now after several hours we decided not to over stay our visit and leave some beer for the next visitors. So many thanks to everyone at Salcombe brewery for another truly memorable visit.

Being a Friday we were restricted as to which pubs were open mid-afternoon so our next port of call was the ever reliable Tally Ho in Littlehempston. They had three beers on in very good condition I had the Dartmoor Legend, perfect. After lingering for a good hour we moved on to the Two Mile Oak Ipplepen which is a much under rated pub in my view. They had three beers on again in very good condition and I had Bass, an old favourite given my working background. With another fire in the grate we stayed awhile but had to leave so we could return by 6.30pm as planned. Some went into the Railway Tavern and the rest made their way home. Another great day out to an excellent brewery and solid South Devon pubs. Roll on the next tour I say!



*Ray toasts Salcombes Sam,
Chris and Mark*

Ray Ellmore

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A PADDLE IN PAPHOS



Suddenly, towards the end of 2018 the decision was made and a holiday booked - 3 weeks in Paphos, Cyprus. Now I could relax and during the cold, dark days of December and January, I could look forward to the warm days of the coming March. Suddenly it was the middle of February and panic sets in; what on earth am I going to drink for 3 weeks in the lager land of Cyprus. Urgent help required, so I turn to everyone's little helper - Google. Surprise, surprise; googling 'real ale in Cyprus' throws up two pubs and a brewery! Panic recedes, but still there's a nagging worry - can it really be true?

At the end of February the day of departure arrives; Birmingham Airport comes and goes surprisingly easily and eventually a taxi deposits us at our hotel; all good so far.



Next day, time for exploration. Conveniently the two pubs listed are both within a 5 minute walk of our hotel; we decide to try The Old Fishing Shack first. It's a couple of streets back from the sea, on, what we later find is called 'Bar Street', however virtually all the bars appear to be either closed for winter or derelict, including The Old Fishing Shack. Not a good start!

Oh well, don't give up, let's try the other one. This is facing the harbour, is called The Wooden Pub and, hooray, it's open! Really it's just a bar with a couple of small rooms

and some outside tables and chairs with a splendid view across the harbour. There is an impressive printed drinks menu in full colour. Lots of bottles and tins including some by Brew Dog, there's also various lagers, including the local one, brewed on the island, called Keo. But, hang on, what's this in the bottom corner something called 'Yorkshire Rose' at '€3.90 a pint' - a pint, not 500ml. - brewed by the island's own brewery called Aphrodite's Rock. Well, it couldn't have been better for me; a malty English style bitter at 3.8% in fine form, if a little on the cool side. It was a joy to behold and drink! The only downside I later realised was that the bar only had John Smith's pint glasses. I could just image passers by looking over and thinking 'look at that poor bugger drinking John Smiths Smooth Flow'.....

During a conversation at the Wooden Pub, it was mentioned that Aphrodite's Rock Brewery had a Brewery Tap, open every day, so an expedition was immediately planned. Now the brewery offers 'Experience Packages' which include a minibus there and back, plus some beers and food, but it's more of a challenge to use public transport, isn't it?

The brewery is near to a village called Tsada about 15Km NE of Paphos Harbour. A little research soon showed that all we had to do was walk for 10 minutes to the »

A PADDLE IN PAPHOS CONTINUED

» Harbour Bus Station, catch the local bus to the Old Town Bus Station and get the 645 bus for Polis which goes along the main road by Tsada. Buses around Paphos are easy and cheap to use, €1.50 for a single, any distance, or €5 for an all day ticket. I planned our adventure to arrive at the brewery for about 11.30, this meant the 11am bus from Old Town which dropped us at Tsada for about 11.20. It was then a 15 minute walk down a quiet lane to the brewery, which is in fact close to the main road, but, of course, the buses don't stop there.



We had arrived just after opening time and were met by a cheerful lady with broad Yorkshire accent who made us immediately feel at home. The best way to start is to have a paddle – a paddle in Paphos see?... five sample glasses, ours did not include Yorkshire Rose, giving the opportunity to try the rest of the current range: Rock Premium Helles-Style Lager 4.8%, ESB Ale 5%, Oktoberfest Marzenbier Malty Lager, West Coast IPA 6% and London Porter 4.5%. The ESB and the Porter were my choices, so over the rest of the afternoon several pints of each were consumed along with an excellent pizza.

Alan Cooke

Continued in Summer 2020 News & Brews - as Alan and Rose join other holidaymakers for 'The Experience'.

Please enter your monthly What Pub scores by the **6th** of the following month for them to be included on that month's database. For a 'how to' description of scoring see **southdevon.camra.org.uk**



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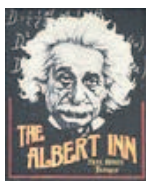
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Bridgetown Brewery brews Albert Ale 3.8% abv; Bridgetown Bitter 4.2% abv; Shark Island Stout 4.5% abv and recently introduced Totnes Hemp Beer, Green Leaf 4% abv. There is also a selection of craft ales from around the world.



Yes, it is a pub with a darts team, a weekly quiz, people resolving their crosswords, people talking, joking, arguing and putting the world to rights. Our own ales brewed on the premises, traditional home made pies, curries, Sunday roasts etc.

However, it also provides a sheltered beer garden overlooking the Dart. Free WiFi. Regular live music, an open mic night for the adventurous or enthusiasts.

Would you expect culinary theme nights, an elaborate lunch menu; a wine list that will surprise you by variety and price? A large range of malt whisky; calvados and brandy to please the connoisseur? Give us a try you will be surprised.

drinkaware.co.uk
for the facts

THE SUPERIOR PALE ALE



QUALITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

The Campaign for Real Ale has launched a campaign to promote the important role that pubs play in tackling loneliness and social isolation, such as offering free dinners for the elderly or hosting chatty table schemes.

Dozens of pubs have shared their initiatives, including examples such as:

- The Brook Inn, Plymouth hosts 'TLC Thursdays' (Tea, Laughter and Company) where anyone can join in for a free cake, a cup of tea and entertainment
- The Harbour Bar, Gourdon, Montrose (Scotland) provides a free BBQ to anyone who collects a bag of rubbish from the beach
- The New Inn, Ceredigion (Wales) boasts a cinema club, community meeting space and a library area
- The Butlers Arms outside Preston runs a 'Brewing Good Cheer' initiative in which they host a Christmas meal for 45 people from the local Social Inclusion Football League, which addresses isolation and mental health issues amongst young men

Critically acclaimed stand-up comedian John Robins has applauded the initiative, saying: "With so many community assets lost due to a lack of funding, government cuts and the move from high street shopping to the internet, our pubs are a more important resource than ever before.

"Whilst it would be wrong to link alcohol consumption with positive mental health, many pubs are about much more than alcohol. In some villages and towns, they are now the only communal area, where regulars, neighbours and visitors can check in on each other. Even a polite two-minute chat can be a vital source of contact for those who would otherwise be isolated and lonely.

"Pubs are not just places to drink, they are places to eat together, talk, and provide fascinating links to our local history. Though your old bank may now be a Costa, the town hall a new branch of Costa, and the public library a flagship Costa, your local pub could easily date back five hundred years, they are our meeting rooms, our debating halls, our museums. And they must be supported, protected and most of all, used."

The Campaign to End Loneliness has also thrown its support behind the campaign, providing resources and materials for both pub-goers and licensees looking to organise events.

Robin Hewings, Director of Campaigns, Policy and Research at the Campaign to End Loneliness said: "There are nine million lonely people in the UK, and about four million of those are older people. They lack the companionship, friendship and support we all need.

In our own polling, we found that pubs are the place that people feel most comfortable starting conversations in. Pubs are a great space for people to connect. Even just a small chat can make a big difference to someone who feels lonely." »

NEWS FROM CAMRA ... CONTINUED

» CAMRA is encouraging pub-goers to share what their local means to them using the hashtag #mypubstory. It aims to shine a light on how important pubs are to local communities while breaking down the taboos around mental health.

CAMRA's National Chairman Nik Antona said: "There's something about the colder months when it is harder to enjoy the outdoors that makes winter particularly isolating for some. Christmas can exacerbate this for those without local friends or family, making the festive period an uncomfortably stark reminder of what they're missing out on.

"That's why we want to highlight the role that pubs play in providing social networks for so many while connecting people to events happening in their area. It's easy to get involved – if you're a licensee, just drop us a line and we will do our best to spread the word about your events.

"If you're somebody who's looking to make new friends this winter, visit our website to find valuable resources and events near you. We hope to make a real difference this winter and the more people who get involved the greater impact we can have - so start sharing your stories and events today."



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**BEST PUBS
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MONEY**

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Campaign
for
Real Ale

THE GRUMPY OLD MAN REACHES 100 AND CELEBRATES HIS BIRTHDAY

It's my birthday and quite a milestone as you would agree and it obviously deserved a trip to the local pub with some like-minded real ale drinkers. On arrival I blinked a dozen times and stood there totally unable to believe my eyes. It was clearly the same pub, but some comedian had changed its name from the Wagon and Horses to the Tiger and Tortoise. The names of most pubs have some sort of sensible historical derivation, but this could only be justified had it been on the site of a zoo or an exotic veterinary practice which it had not.

Oh, and now it falls into place as some sort of birthday windup, but where was the entrance? Eventually, an illuminated button is identified operating an invisible door opening with a gentle swish so reminiscent of modern railway carriages, and there he stood. His corporate badge identified him as Roland and he was the maître d' although his official title was as Director of Consumer Affairs and he immediately started to utter marketing twaddle and really was an approximation of Uriah Heap on speed with all his obsequiousness. "I trust your day as been one of successful endeavours and we are here to enhance that even further" he opined. However, as you know I am required to do a few safeguarding checks as there will children on the premises. "Good to hear that I am being safeguarded from the children" was my reply which clearly did not go down very well. I was then required to proffer my palm to be read by some electronic process which also identified me as old enough to drink alcohol. Apparently, that age had been reduced to 10. Only recently I had heard that half of all 7 year olds possessed a smart phone and I can now update with some more frightening information from the future where over 80 percent of 10 year olds now visit the pub more than 3 times a week! I was indeed serious in the need to be protected from the antics of children, but it appears to have gone the other way. "We have a number of specially tailored areas for you and the choice is all yours. There is a children's activities area – no thank you whilst dying to know as to what sort of activities were involved (swings, roundabouts and see-saws and I kid you not as I have actually witnessed these in a pub). We also have a thrilling entertainment and amusement zone with all the latest games and film releases or an exciting restaurant with a world-wide delicatessen menu. No thank you to either whilst wondering what all this had to do with a traditional pub. Then of course we have our very own and renowned drinking emporium which is what you are probably seeking. Yes please, but expressed without alacrity whilst wondering what on earth was meant by emporium and on what basis it was renowned. There was a dreadful harbinger hidden in those words

We were now escorted to an area which did not appear to have a bar, but it did have Melanie whose corporate badge identified her as beverage provision consultant. She ushered us to our cubby hole whilst issuing more and more meaningless banalities which made "have a good day" seem somewhat intellectual by comparison. Apparently, we were there for our "discernment and pleasure in a stimulating and invigorating environment which we would remember for many a day to come." All very well, but how do we get a pint of beer, but this phrase did not appear to register. All ordering was to be done via a computer terminal which turned out to be an electronic Aladdin's Cave including all kinds of adverts for »

GRUMPY CONTINUED

» holidays and funeral protection plans etc. Naturally, there was a food section including a grill for the children which I very unkindly misread as children on the grill and quickly started to tell myself off for having such cruel thoughts. Then at very moment a football rolled past and I thought again on this issue. Now where is the beer section? Having ploughed through much marketing nonsense with more superlatives than I thought existed (fantastic, amazing, incredible and all the rest) here it was, but no sign of any mention of a pint of beer. Eventually, I found a section entitled traditional beer and hit the tab accordingly. A number of different menus appeared and I tried the first. All these beers were unavailable or discontinued as we were now re-joining the EU with Boris' Brussels Blonde Buster being no longer appropriate. The second option produced a variety of craft beers which could be individually concocted, but was somewhat difficult when you are buying in a round. Terry, do you want marsh mellow or marmite flavourings and what type of glass to you require and in what volume? You could also chose the temperature of your beer between 1 and 10 degrees (8 was recommended!!!) as well as the bitter or sweetness level. Finally, you could not complete the ordering process without rating your experiences. Normally, I hate all of this intrusive marketing nonsense, but on this occasion I relished the prospect. Surely, this is capitalism at its final stage of destruction where it goes around and around and eventually disappears up its backside. Fortunately, I then woke up from this dystopic existence and realised that it all was only a dream or rather a nightmare.

It was all so vivid that I had to verify that the Wagon and Horses still existed and sure enough it did. I ordered a pint of Porter without any of convolutions above and started to talk to the publican about nothing in particular when he suddenly said "I've been thinking about making some changes and thought I might run these past you first....." You have been warned!!

Bob Southwell Aka the Grumpy Old Man

CAMRA MEMBER PUB DISCOUNTS

The following pubs give discounts to card carrying CAMRA members

Pub	Location	Scheme
The Monks Retreat Inn	Broadhempston	10p off a pint
The Drum Inn	Cockington	20p off a pint
The Cherub Inn	Dartmouth	60p off a pint
The Palk Arms	Hennock	15% off a pint Monday-Friday
The Sloop	Kingskerswell	10% off cask beers
Waterside Inn	Paignton	10% off a pint
The Castle Inn	Stoke Gabriel	40p off a pint
The Kents	Torquay	50p off a pint Monday-Friday
The Old Engine House	Torquay	10% off cask beers
Yates	Torquay	10% off a pint
Totnes Brewing Co	Totnes	10% off TBC brews

Thanks to all our contributors:

Grizzly Adams, Dave Buckler, Alan Cooke, Ray Ellmore, Philip German, Billy Kidd, Clive Mackriell, Pete McArthur, John Noakes, Ian Packham, Dave Preece, Colin Staines, Phil Stevens, Bob Southwell, and Lawrence Stringer.

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Ad Size	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Year
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Last copy date for Summer 2020 is 15th May 2020

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