

BARREL



ORGAN



Salisbury & South Wiltshire Campaign for Real Ale

Autumn 1998

Circulation 1000

FREE Newsletter

Stop Selling Real Ale

Unless you can do it justice

In the famous old city of Salisbury we are lucky to have many pubs and bars. Lots of the new or refitted establishments are managed and are owned by various conglomerates and national breweries.

Obviously these new bars are looking to attract custom from a broad range of drinkers. To achieve this they offer a wide range of apparently tempting beers, as well as chemical brews and infantopops (I think that's what they're called). A range of firkins behind the bar combined with pump clips from prize winning breweries leads the naïve drinker to assume an evening of delight is in store. My recent experience in one of these establishments may serve as a warning, but, to be fair, I have had an excellent pint or two at some of these places.

In early August staunch CAMRA members set out on a crawl around a few of Salisbury's pubs. A few of us called at an allegedly 'Famous' ale house, so famous it has changed it's name at least twice in the last few years. Optimistically we tried various beers and stouts; all reputable and some well praised at beer festivals. Having assisted the bar staff by first finding the odd two pence- just a thought but why do

(Continued on page 4)

Come Inside For:

The Roving Reporter

Old Money Bags

Pork Pie Report

GBBF Report

The Death of Puffing Billy

Confessions of a Committee member

AND MUCH MUCH MORE

Pub regularly selling short measures?- Contact Wiltshire Trading Standards 50 Bedwin St Salisbury
(01722) 328367

For your information :

At present, Barrel Organ is published Quarterly, entirely by unpaid volunteers. It is distributed free to over 70 pubs, clubs and other institutions in the area. If you wish to receive copies, or to place advertisements, contact the editor. (A small charge may be made for postal deliveries).

We would love to have articles, news, comments, puzzle entries, etc., from you. * Please send to :

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* The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions

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Branch Contact is
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01722 333839



CAMRA's Aims

We aim to



maintain consumer rights



*promote quality, choice
and value for money*



support the public house



*and campaign for greater
appreciation of traditional
beers, ciders and perries*

We welcome new members! Why not join?

CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, AL1 4LW
Tel: 01727 867201 Fax: 01727 867670
E-mail: camra@camra.org.uk

Why isn't your name **HERE** ?

Advertise in Barrel Or-
gan, get your name
known and support
CAMRA.

Contact Steve Korbey
01722 500680

1/4 page £10, 1/2 page £18,
full page £35 per edition. Back
cover £70

Discount for booking more
than one edition at a time.

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA or Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch of CAMRA. © Salisbury & South Wiltshire Branch 3/98.

Passing Away of Puffing Billy

“Death of Puffing Billy” was the name given to this year’s beer festival at the Blackbird. For the past three years, the steam engine has been involved in the naming of the festival, and I was worried that this was also the demise of the festival. One of the organisers, Adrian Leonard, assured Barrel Organ that the festival would carry on, but it was time to change the theme.

The event, held on 11/12/13 July, was a marked success, with little beer being left over. Indeed, the pub (almost) ran out of beer shortly after the event, as the dray turned up late! The beers featured were rude, crude, and lewd, featuring such enchanting names as Piddle in the



In the Restaurant, in the Bar
or by the River in our Garden,
you can relax in our warm atmosphere.



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selected fresh food.

Real Ale and Good Wine.

We constantly strive to maintain
our reputation.

En-suite Accommodation available



The Prince Leopold

Upton Lovell

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Hole, Strip and At
It, and How’s Your
Father. Hairy
Helmet and Mary
Hinge were the two
most favoured by
the customers, with
the Hairy Helmet
just taking the lead.
The strong beers,
Knicker Dropper
Glory (5.5%), Brew
69 (5.6%), Son of a
Bitch (6.0%) and
Moor Moor Moor
(7.3%) went
surprisingly well,
and the 7.3 %
turned out to be real
treat - a classic
porter, which tasted

(Continued from page 3)

strong, but not as sickly sweet as one would imagine.

Adrian explained that next year, the festival was likely to be held later in July, due to some minor organisational problems, but planning is already under way.....

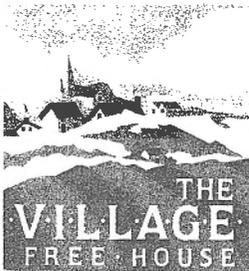
Richard Godwin

(Continued from page 1)

all chain pubs charge silly prices, such as £1.02 for a half, when most tenants and freeholders manage to round their prices to five or ten pence? I digress, so we pay for the beer, get the glasses topped up and then find that we have bought ale that is old, vinegary, and in no fit condition to be served. Discussion with the bar staff is fruitless. There is nothing in a cask that resembles the product that the brewer made in the building. We left, without more than tasting the beers.

Never being one to jump to conclusions I went back a week or so later.

(Continued on page 5)



The Village Freehouse

Wilton Rd - Salisbury

(01722) 329707

*A Selection of Quality Cask Ales from Local
Brewers including*

Abbey Ales Bellringer Black Magic Stout
Oakhill Mendip Gold

Ever Changing Guest Ales

A Friendly Welcome Awaits You

Sunday Night is Quiz Night

**Westons Scrumpy Supreme
Cider**

Hot Bacon Rolls

Freshly Made Filled Rolls

Sunday Lunchtime Meat draw

Joe's Below **Downstairs at
The Village**

Intimate private bar
Suitable for up to fifty people
Available for hire
Reasonable rates

Ray - Julie - Kevin - A Warm Welcome Always

HOGSHEAD

GOOD ALES

**WADWORTH
6X
COURAGE
BEST**

BREW XI

Wilton Road
Salisbury

Tel (01722) 500955

*ENJOY FINE
WINES*

**GOOD
FOOD**

**7 Days a
week**

**Bookings
Taken**

(Continued from page 4)

The same beer was still being sold, and the condition of it defies description.

I believe these pubs have a responsibility to the drinking public, as well as to the trade. By selling such awful kept beer to a clientele who are probably trying to grow out of the lager and 'safe' and are willing to try cask conditioned ale is likely to put a good percentage of them off for a long time. My suggestion to managers and proprietors of these establishments is to ask yourself a few questions.

Firstly, do you know how to store and serve cask conditioned beers? Secondly, does your staff have the training and support to ensure that the product is correctly served and any complaint dealt with courteously?

Thirdly, are you going to sell sufficient volumes to use the beers while they are in a fit condition? It may be tempting to offer many different beers, but unless you sell the volume you may be better sticking to two or three firkins

If you have any doubt about your answers to these questions then perhaps you should stop selling real ales until you can do them justice. Courses in cellar management are readily available, and if your bar

The Pork Pie Challenge

On July 19th I arrived at Chaffyn Grove to meet the motley teams that were to compete in a twenty over game between the Wyndham Arms and Salisbury and South Wilts CAMRA. The day was dry and sunny, and I looked forward to a few hours of entertainment watching a bunch of drunken amateurs thrash an innocent ball while drinking a pint or seven of G.F.B.

My illusions were shattered by Pete Wood telling me that I was needed on the team. A potentially happy childhood had been traumatised by sadistic sports masters obliging me to do things with balls, sticks, boots etceteras that involved sweat, pain and frequent ridicule due to being a total lack of coordination. Now, more than thirty years later, it all came flooding back. I was to bat as number three, but was also required to bowl two overs. Asking the Queen Mum to enter in a wet tee shirt competition might have been more appropriate.

As luck I was saved from the barracking I dreaded by the quality of the rest of the team. They sacrificed any hope of winning in order to play nearly as badly as me. The sight of Pete Wood being run out

(Continued on page 7)

The Cuckoo Inn



The Cuckoo Inn at Hamptworth is a warm, friendly and traditional pub run by the Proudley family. Situated just to the north of the New Forest boundary accessible from the A36 at Landford.

It is well known for providing a good selection of beers, i.e Hopback, Pots etc., all served straight from the barrel. The Cuckoo also serves excellent food and snacks. Children and dogs are welcome and can be accommodated within the enclosed garden that surrounds this pleasant English pub.

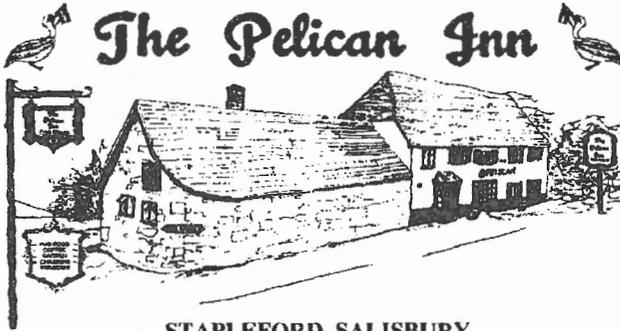
Private garden with barbecue and Petanque terrains available by arrangement.

Large and small private functions can be catered for at your choice of venue.

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Marion and Chris Pitcher
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Home-cooked foods

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Ales

Large garden
good childrens play
area

Families welcome
Special childrens
menu

*Old, friendly, comfortable pub with warming inglenook and staff.
Excellent value for money. Special offers on pitcher of ale
Otter and Ringwood Ales served regularly + weekly guests*

(Continued from page 6)

(not) and Wurzel using his head to stop a cracking throw will stay with me for many years.

To be fair CAMRA does have a couple of half decent players and the Wyndham Arms field a team with a range of talents from the sublime to the ridiculous. Congratulations to them for winning and many thanks too for the wonderful buffet and beer.

Now for a campaign point. We at CAMRA are willing to make prats of ourselves, if it is for a good cause. I know that a few publicans read this so if you think you would like to take us on at any pub type game contact Pete Wood. The petanque evening at the Cuckoo was a great evening, and the Pork Pie has become an institution. We may not be the best, and we depend on our members turning out, so team numbers can be tight but for a good social the format is excellent. Don't forget, the challenge continues. Be at the Wyndham Arms on 25th November and help us even the score. Your Branch needs you!!



*The
Royal
George*

Bedwin Street
Salisbury
01722 327782

REAL ALES

BEER GARDEN

B & B

POPULAR LUNCHTIME FOOD

JAZZ 1st SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

*All reasons to visit
The Royal George
the friendly 'Country Pub' in the City.*

Pool - Darts - Crib

City Crawl Report

We started this City Crawl at the Greyfisher in Harnham, uncertain what to expect now that Gibbs Mew no longer exist. We needn't have been worried, both the Greene King IPA and the Draught Bass we tried were both good.

We had planned to move on to the Kings Arms St John's St via either the Crown & Anchor or the Old Bell but the Crown & Anchor had sold out of Real Ale and the Old Bell is a restaurant now. We diverted to the Bakers Arms where we enjoyed Draught Bass and Wadworth's 6X, again both in good condition.

So, on to the Kings Arms where we met another of our party leaving, having not enjoyed his pint of Flowers Original there.

Our next port of call was the Wig & Quill in New Street but a few of us popped into Cloisters on the way. Here the 6X and Draught Bass were very indifferent. With hopeful hearts and trusting palates we headed to the Wig & Quill. Our trust was misguided, the Palmer's IPA and Wadworth's Henry's IPA were as disappointing as the beer in Cloisters.

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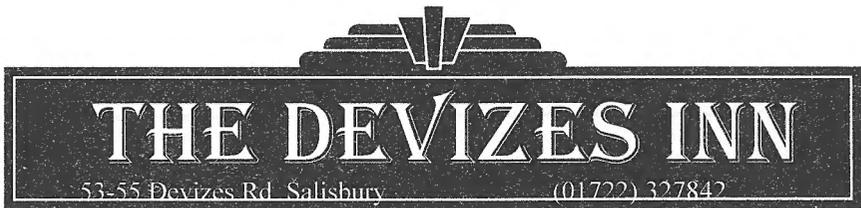
(Continued from page 8)

After this discouraging evening, several of us decided to try out the Old Ale House (now the Famous Old Ale House) There we were greeted by an impressive line up of beers including one of my favourites – Orkney Dragonhead Stout, and Mordue Workie Ticket – 1997 Champion Beer of Britain. Both appeared to have been supplied by Sarsons, tasting as if they had sat in a very hot place for months. Time was late, we were desperate so we retreated to the safer premises of the Village and Wyndham Arms.

From the evening – **Congratulations - Greyfisher and Bakers Arms.**

- Booby Prize - Famous Old Vinegar House

The worst beer was not from a back street local with low turnover but from a pub claiming to be a premier Ale house and in a prime position to attract visitors to try Britain's traditional tipple. No wonder foreigners and non-Ale drinkers think Real Ale is like vinegar if this is what is on offer. And no, it wasn't a one off, the Workie Ticket was as bad 10 days later – probably still the same cask.



HOPBACK GFB & SUMMER LIGHTNING

DRAUGHT BASS

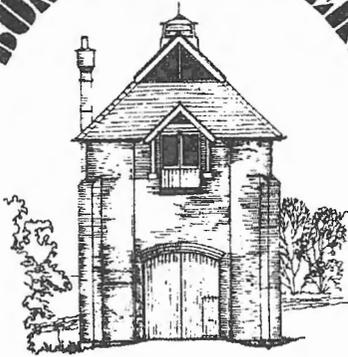
SUNDAY LUNCHEES  EXTENSIVE WINE LIST

(FULL MENU AVAILABLE 12 - 4 P.M.)

EN SUITE B & B * TOURIST BOARD APPROVED

OUTSIDE BARS ** FUNCTION ROOM

BUNCES BREWERY



**BREWERS OF TRADITIONAL
CASK CONDITIONED BEERS**

The Old Mill
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Regular Beers

Benchmark 3.5% ABV
Pigswill 4.0% ABV
Best Bitter 4.1% ABV
Old Smokey 5.0% ABV
Danish Dynamite 5.0% ABV

Seasonal Beers

Sign of Spring 4.6% ABV
(March - May)
Second to None 4.6% ABV
(June - August)
Stig Swig 5.0% ABV
(Sept. - Nov.)
Rudolph 5.0% ABV
(December - January)

The Roving Reporter

Beer Report From Kuwait.....There is no beer in Kuwait

So, as I spent 14 weeks there earlier this year my mind turned to the beer at home. Many of the letters I received contained tales of beers tasted around the country and it certainly seemed that I was missing a bumper crop of excellent ales in Salisbury.

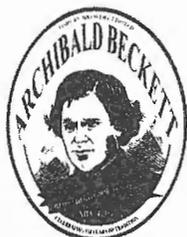
Adnams Oyster Stout at the Village, Brew XI at the Hogshead, Wadworth's Easter brew and Wychwood Shires in the Wig and Quill not to mention the Badger in the Tollgate and 6X in the Dust Hole. Made me think that life for those back at home was just one long beer festival.

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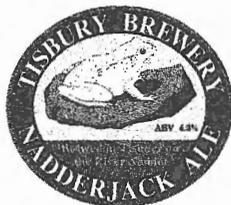
TISBURY BREWERY

LIMITED

A fine range of distinctive traditional beers



4.3%
A Beautifully Coloured,
Beautifully Balanced
Premium Bitter



4.3%
Pale in Colour,
Bittersweet Character with
a Spicy finish



4.0%
Light Refreshment,
from Barley, Wheat and
Goldings



3.8%
A good honest Session Bitter,
Full of Flavour



4.8%
Strong, Dark, Rich
and Mysterious:
A Masterpiece!

*Available at Real Free Houses in
The Nadder & Wylde Valleys.*

'THE SMALL BREWERY WITH THE BIG TASTE'

Bird in Hand

North Street Salisbury
(01722) 327238

A warm welcome from Mike & Jo



REAL ALE BAR FOOD

DARTS BAR GAMES POOL

MUSIC NIGHTS

IRISH MUSIC & DISCOS

(Continued from page 10)

Then came tales of how good the Tisbury Best had been in the Blackbird, there's a brewery which now turns out some excellent beers.

To cap it all, for May is Mild Month, several of the pubs had a range of milds available, I was missing some of my favourite beers. Batemans Dark Mild, Coach House Gunpowder Mild, Everards Old Bill Mild and all reported to be in superb condition.

They say it's only when you are without something that you really appreciate it and that was certainly the case with Real Ale in Kuwait. Never again will I be complacent about the fantastic range of excellent beers available to us in Britain.

REMEMBER – Drink it, Enjoy it, tell you friends about it. If you don't we may not have it in the future!

On my return Never before have a pint of Batemans Dark Mild and a ham sandwich tasted so good.

BLACKBIRD

INN

CHURCHFIELDS

01722 502828

*We're In
The Good Beer Guide!*



Now with over 250 Guest Ales

Coming Attractions

16th to 18th October Wine and Cheese
Festival

Wines From around the world

Tickets £3.00 admission and two glasses of
wine

Wednesday 28th October Hampshire Brewery
Trip

Come in and ask for details

October 31st Halloween Beer Festival

Find us in the GBG

Coming of Age at Olympia

What have Salisbury, Norwich, and “The World’s Biggest Pub” got in common? They are all 21 and three of the Beer Festivals we try to visit every year. Olympia and the GBBF this year were as good as ever with a pleasant relaxed atmosphere and plenty of good beer.

As soon as we walked through the doors into the main hall we were greeted by the sight of beers we had never even heard of before, let alone drunk. We settled in with Hyde’s Billy Westwoods Bitter and Anvil Maris Gold while we set to the job of searching the programme for the beers we really wanted to try.

As with many festivals, not all of the beers are available all of the time. There may have been several kils (18 gallon casks) of some beers but just a few firkins (9 gallon casks) of others so as well as setting a wish list from the programme you have to be prepared to just take what is available. Our list complete we decided to finish off the Hyde’s stand with some Anvil bitter and move on to South East England for some Goachers Light Ale. Then with glasses in hand we moved on around the stillage to search out milds and stouts (amongst our favourite beer styles). We arrived at the Mild promotion stand to find it gone. We asked for Mallard Waddlers Mild, Riverhead Sparth Mild and Mitchell’s dark mild – but to no avail. We were limited (not that you can really call the range of beers limited) to a host of bitters. All the ones we tried were in excellent condition, and we tried a fair few between 11am and 7 pm!?! There were even only 2 we didn’t like the taste of. The faves of the day were: Hanby Shropshire Stout – dry

(Continued on page 16)

Branch Diary

- October 3rd** Hop Back Brewery trip and presentation retiring to Bull Hotel - Depart 10:00 am
- October 17th** City Crawl of *newer* pubs e.g. Slurping Toad Clocktower
- October 31st** Social and Skittles with S. Hants branch at Mill Arms Dunbridge - Depart Boathouse at 7pm
- November 7th** City Crawl of *Wine bars* e.g. Cactus Jacks, Cafe Prague
- November 14th** ***MYSTERY COACH TRIP*** to a pub in another town or city - Depart 12 noon Boathouse Passports not required
- November 25th** 2nd Leg of Pork Pie Cup- Wyndham Arms V CAMRA
- December 5th** Whiteparish Walkabout and Cuckoo Crawl
- December 12th** Christmas Social

For further information, as well as updating and booking please contact Pete (Social Secretary) on Salisbury 501481

Pete is also keen to hear of any other activities planned locally

WIG and QUILL

NEW STREET SALISBURY

A warm welcome from Gordon and his staff

BEER GARDEN

ALES FROM THE WOOD

GUEST ALES

An excellent range of hand-pulled real ales

(Continued from page 14)

with nutty, malty flavours; Judges Verdict – a wheat beer without some of the overly wheat beer flavours; Freeminer Shakemantle – with enough ginger but not too much. The only disappointment was that they had run out of so many milds – maybe this style is more popular than the management realise. At the time I was moved to write a poem about it but on reflection will spare you my efforts! Before we headed home there was plenty of time to display a Bear Ass, have a Hairy Helmet and reach our Bearskinful.

22nd GBBF 1999 – We'll see you there.

Mike and Hilary Bird

ENGLISH ALES

SCOTTISH MEASURES

IRISH CRAIC

All at the

DEACON'S ALMS

FISHERTON STREET

PLUS A WARM WELCOME FROM FRANK, ANNIE AND STAFF

You may recall that I promised to cajole the members of the committee to tell us a little about them. Richard has kindly offered this word picture. In exchange I will not embarrass him with stories of the Moles Brewery trip and the effect of the falling over juice. Thank you Richard. Now who's next?

Old Money - Bags

No, the title does not imply that I am wealthy! Its this absurd idea that our new "Barrel Organ" editor has that everybody should write and introduce themselves, so here goes -

I'm me. I have been me for some 50 years now, so I'm just out of my teens. If there ever was (which there isn't) a typical CAMRA member, I am IT. My pen picture runs : "Balding, bearded, beer bellied, perpetually in sandals (with socks!) and a complete and utter beer bore who remembers Grotneys Red Barrel and the delights of the automatic slops dispensing machine. Constantly complaining about full pints, known to get spirit levels out on

the bar surface to check I'm not being diddled, and on and on and on...."

I have also been known to wear silly hats, and more importantly, sell them. That's me pretending to be Auntie Wainwright, at the CAMRA stalls at both Beerex and Winterfest. It's part of my job. Fund raising, and then clinging to the money as tightly as possible. Ebenezer Scrooge ? Bah - Humbug! A mere novice. You should see the other Committee members trying to get money out of me!

And if you haven't guessed my name by now, I'm not going to tell you. It could be a competition, guessing it, eh? What do you mean, you want money for prizes? Put the words "over", "hell", "freezes" and "when" into a well known phrase or saying. See you in the pub. Your round.

Richard Godwin
Treasurer

VERY SERIOUS NOTICE

**ERNIE THE AARDVARK'S RETIREMENT
HOME FOR DESTITUTE TEDDY BEARS
HAS NOW RELOCATED TO THE BULL IN
FISHERTON STREET. 100% WARDEN
CONTROLLED.**

**WE ALSO SERVE GOOD BEER AND
ABNORMALLY GOOD FOOD.**

**VISIT US BEFORE WE BECOME TOO
FAMOUS!**

Campaign Topics

A few statistics have been supplied to us to enable us to go prepared into the cold long dark nights that approach as winter draws in. Armed with a few facts it will be possible to enjoy a pint while fighting the cause. You may be able to convince your partner, wife, gerbil, significant other that your trip to the pub is not purely to seek escape from them, the mortgage, the repairs, the decorating, the spider that *you* are not going to touch that has taken up residence in the bath, but is indeed an act of true altruism. All really important campaigns are based on this urge - to get out of the house, flat, lodging, cardboard box or wherever the next mind numbingly boring household task is lurking. Whatever historians tell us we must study the evidence. Columbus legged it to the USA to dodge a trip to Texas. Poland was invaded to avoid washing the car. Even William the Conqueror only wanted to see some decent football and avoid putting up some shelves. In order to ensure world peace I am willing to pay for Bill Clinton to have membership of our branch. That way, as a bona fide CAMRA member he'll be able to go to the pub when the heat is on, instead of firing off loads of expensive and phallic cruise missiles, and Hillary will be none the wiser.

Did you know that 53% of the general public visit the pub each month, compared with 74% of real ale drinkers?

Or that only 3% of real ale drinkers do not go to the pub- compared with 20% of the general public?

Real Ale is synonymous with handpumps, has lots of flavour and is for the person who does not feel obliged to follow the crowd.

Around Salisbury and south Wilts we have many fine pubs and clubs serving well made beers in good condition. The range of brews on offer is incredible, especially when you consider the work that goes in to brewing. We are talking about a labour of love, a vocation. Good quality traditional cask conditioned beer needs drinking when it is fit. Don't be afraid to ask the landlord if you can try a taste if it's a beer you haven't tried before. Don't expect to fall in love at first sip (although this can happen). You may have been drinking a pasteurised keg that has had most of the flavour knocked out of it, and the taste may be a little more than you are used to. Remember those little processed cheese wedges you had as a child? Real ale is like real cheese - it has flavour and taste.

CAMRA offers real beer lovers a chance to do what they enjoy and to do it in a good cause. So if you aren't yet a member fill in the form on the back of this magazine or see page 2 for who to contact.

Back Chat - Your Chance to get even!!

Well, here we are again on the back page. In the last issue I suggested that some people were a little apathetic, tempted to go for the quiet life and let others do the deciding for them. I was even a little provocative, taunting CAMRA members as well as the rest of our readers to put pen to paper. Now I would like to give you a little feedback.

Competition entries- nil (unless you count one verbal suggestion that CAMRA stands for 'Come and meet real a***holes') This means tickets for the GBBF went begging. If you read the report from Mike and Hilary you will have some idea of the chance you missed. So, if I put in a competition in the next issue, enter it.

Articles for 'Back Chat'- nil (other than one hard working landlord, who hasn't finished his yet because he is very busy)

Pete Wood has organised some superb social functions. Whats Brewing advertises our Branch meetings etc. Let's see some new faces and hear a few new points of view, even if it is just to let us know that you think we are a load of

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

Fill in the form and send it with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans HERTS AL1 4LW.

Rates: Single £14 Joint £17

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by its rules.

Signature.....

Date.....

Salisbury and South Wilts Branch BO Autumn 98
Barrel Organ