

The Tour Journals of the Sunday Afternoon Drinking Club At The Saxon S.A.D.C.A.T.S.

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VOLUME 5

The Kernow Krawl



Day 1 - Tuesday 21 October 2008

Start of the now Legendary '**Kernow Krawl**' previously known as the Tarky Trail.

Was it a good idea to send Kath & Teresa to Tunisia with the kids for a week? Well we thought so. Tony chauffeured them all to Hurn Airport on Monday morning at 6am and I went back to bed. At 07:45 I was woken by the phone. It's Teresa, to tell me she has just ordered a Newcastle Brown and been asked if she wants ice innit? Lord 'elpus!

So, Tarky (aka Tony, Mousebender, Dave Angel) and I set off on a week long trek to attend the Falmouth Beer Festival next Friday. We are not exactly in a hurry, and there are a lot of pubs to see in between.

First off we decide to share breakfast at Tarky's rather than pay Tuppence for a bacon roll at Eype! So I take sausages and mushrooms adding to what Tarky has and we invite Nick to join us. A pound of cheap Walls bangers from Tesco sees us in good stead for the rest of the day in fact.

10:00 hours and we are ready to warp out of orbit. Jaguar at the ready, although not fully fuelled. I decide to go via Blandford along the A354 to Dorchester and stop for fuel at Tesco, Blandford.

Now I wouldn't have gone that way.....

But I expect you would have remembered to stop for petrol??!! Traffic has been on the heavy side and we are falling behind schedule. We are also

running out of petrol and warning lights and bells try to attract my attention. We roll up to the garage entrance of Tesco, Dorchester to the delightful news that petrol has fallen to 94p a litre. Until recently the price had risen quickly to about 132p and the bastards have been all too slow to drop it back following the fall in world oil prices. Tossers, Wankers, Knobcheeses – you know the rest!!

So good is the news that the queue is also a mile long! Sod this, we need to get going as we are getting on for half an hour behind schedule. Anyway I think I can make it to Bridport. Dropping out of warp we freewheel down the hill into Bridport and straight into the Sommerfield garage. 100p has to be paid 'cause we ran out of road.

Climbing the hill we decide we'll give The Tarky Tearoom at Eype a miss and eat our cold sausages. First stop will be Kilmington just over the Devon border and we arrive dead on 11:30 which is actually quite good as that's when the pub opens not as per GBG 11am!!

① The New Inn, Kilmington

One of the so called 'Tenacious Ten' ~ A stalwart pub that has been in every Camra Good Beer Guide since the 1st issue in 1974.



Three hand pulls offering:

Palmer's, Copper Ale 3.7%

Palmer's, IPA 4.2%.

Palmer's, 200 5.0%

Not to be confused with The Old Inn at Kilmington on the main A35 which we visited on a previous tour. This pub was almost completely destroyed by fire in 2004. Landlord Brian and Palmers brewery have done a very tasteful job of returning the place to its former glory with new loos to boot. The garden is pretty with secluded areas under the willow and an aviary. I know you get good food portions here and with a Mixed Grill at £13-95 or 2 Jumbo sausages, beans etc £4-95 it will remain on route for another tour. The first beers off were also in good nick.

Time marches on and Cornwall here we come. It's 80+ miles to the next stop at East Looe. Famous for filming of the ITV soap Echo Beach/Moving Wallpaper. With 135 miles on the clock we roll up at the next pub just before 2pm. What we don't need here is to find they all shut at Three!! And they don't!

I've 5 pubs on the list for Looe, plus 2 spares (just in case!) and there are 8 that didn't make the cut.

② The Globe, East Looe

Large roadside pub finding it's way into the 2009 GBG as the only entry for Looe. We found 3 hand pulls offering:

Skinnners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%.
Wychwood, Hobgoblin 5.0%



The landlord is helpful & friendly and says he sometimes goes down to one beer in the week, 2 at weekend and back to 3 in season. A lot of small flat screen TVs around silently showing News and sound coming from music system. Pool table & Dartboard nicely tucked away in a corner area. Food is mainly snax except Sun Roast £7-95 and Sat night 8oz rump & pint for £6-95..... Loads of meals at £5-95 Bangers+Mash, Sausage, Egg & chips etc. You know the phrase! Great! And the toilet which features a tasty upmarket 'Mens Calendar' is so clean you could probably eat your dinner in there when they are busy. What's the Bog Score Tarky ? - DunnyMarque - 9

Probably the best pub in Looe, all it lacks for the perfect 10 is some olde worlde character, but then you can't have everything!

And this is the superb view it has:



We are out of season here as it isn't half term for the schools until next week. Eventually we abandon attempts to squeeze the Jag into the quayside car park and get a lucky spot in the one we passed near The Globe. What do the summer trippers do?

③ The Ship, East Looe

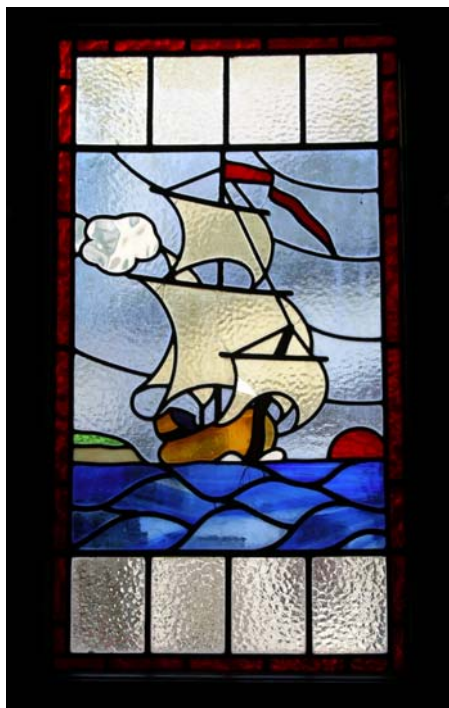


Five hand pulls offering:

St Austell, Tinnors 3.7%.
St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.
St Austell, HSD 5.0%.
St Austell, Rattler Cider 6.0%.

Deceptively large inside, our genuinely friendly Irish barman describes the place as being like a Tardis. Lots of separate areas, one for pool, and another like a ships deck. Quiz+Fruit machines, Big screen TV a feature. Food prices are good. Fish+Chips £6-95, Steak+Ale £7-50, Gammon £7-95, and Mixed Grill £12-50 but portions not tested. A busy pub, even out of season could hardly be described as having no atmosphere, but is a kid friendly one! Toilets surprisingly good, Tarky? DunnyMarque - 7

The Ship also features a nice little stain glass window which doubles as a corner pub sign:



④ Ye Olde Salutation Inne, East Looe

A classis back street non-GBG pub. Today the 3 hand pulls offer only *Sharp's, Doombar 4.0%*



Our barmaid is actually the daughter of the licensees and she is quick to pick up on my note making and we have a friendly chat. Apparently they have had various 2nd beers on the pumps but always over shadowed by the excellent Doom Bar which is actually on 2 of the hand pulls.

The dartboard is closed, but could be accessed on a darts night. BiTe says there is a Pool table but we can't find it! Snack Menu only, with no steaks. But meals are well priced - Chilli £6-75, Steak+Ale £6-95. This is a nice friendly olde worlde pub with an oddly sloping terracotta tiled floor which probably had its last makeover in the 1970s going by the hammered copper inlay to the back of the bar and the piped music! This **could be** the best pub in Looe! DunnyMarque - 6

⑤ The Bullers Arms, East Looe

Described by the friendly and very knowledgeable young barman as 'A Licensed Alleyway'. Exactly! Non-GBG with 5 hand pulls offering:

Skinnors, Betty Stoggs 3.8%
Sharpe's, Doom Bar 4.0%
Doghouse, Seadog IPA 4.6%
Addlestones Cider



This long galley bar is more akin to a Surf Bar with overpowering smell from toilet. Jukebox, Live music, Darts area, pool table and hardly anywhere to sit. So no food. I imagine this is a very lively drinking house at the weekends! DunnyMarque - 4

⑥ The Fisherman's Arms, East Looe

Quickly round the narrow streets we find we have time to look up one of our spare pubs. Non GBG pub with 2 Hand pulls offering:-

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

The pump clip on the other was turned around. They also had Inch's Cider. Dart board.



Low beams, lovely high fire ambiance spoilt by a big smelly dog whose dirty bed takes up far too much of the limited seating as does the parrot. Obviously no food. Separate music room at back. DunnyMarque - 4

It's a long trek to the loo and had we looked apparently there's a sun trap beer garden out there somewhere. The two unfriendly Scotsmen running the place do little to make anyone welcome.

As we seem to be scraping the barrel it's time to move over the other side of the quay to West Looe.

⑦ The Jolly Sailor, West Looe

Non-GBG pub with 3 hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Cornish Coaster

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.



Arrived here about 4pm. Not busy but we were immediately made very welcome by barmaid Tina and three blokes at the bar, one of whom turned out to be the Landlord. A half each and were had a good laugh so we bought the shirts. I wanted another but Tarky insisted we moved on. Said our goodbyes and as it was pouring with rain had to stand in the porch. Tina did her very best to get us to have one for the road while we waited for the rain to stop! But Tarky remained firm. Looe is full of Cockanees!! *DunnyMarque - 6*

Pool in separate room, eating area used for B&B occasional live music. Didn't see a menu and forgot to ask. **Probably** The Best Pub in Looe!



Time to wander 5 miles or so up the road and find our B&B for tonight in the pretty fishing village of Polperro. One car park at the top of the hill and one very narrow street down to the quay. We did have private parking but only a short way down the hill and as you can imagine not easy to fit a Jag in!

⑧ The Old Mill House Inn, Polperro

Dating from The Manor Water Mill built in the late 16th century it became a guest house in the 1950's but did not become an Inn until gaining a full alcohol licence in the 1970's. The old mill leat still runs underneath the main bar and can be seen from the beer garden. In 1993 floodwaters reached the 1st floor and was derelict until refurbished in 95.



Not looking quite as grand as it did when freshly refurbished but it was a pleasant place to rest over. Dart board only accessible on darts nights, there was a pool table out the back. 5 hand pulls offering

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinners, Green Hop 4.2%

Skinners, Keel Over 4.2%.

Skinners, Old Mill House Ale 4.2%.

(A brewery mix just for them!)



All right there, Tarky?

A hearty breakfast 8/10. *DunnyMarque - 6*

9 The Crumplehorn Inn, Polperro

Historic 14th century GBG pub had 3 ales on:

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%



In a similar vein to The Old Mill, this corn mill was in use until the 1950's when its old wooden wheel collapsed. The wheel has been restored and is still turning today. The pub looks idyllic from the outside with beer garden beside the small river. Inside the main bar in the front has a modern refurb feel and the fairy lights all over the ceiling are a bit twee. Restaurant area to rear looks better. Steak+Ale Pie £8-95 but rest of menu expensive. Darts in main bar difficult to access.

Recently featured as THE No.1 pub on BiTe beerintheevening.com. We didn't feel at home here and the staff/customers were not particularly welcoming. If there were other hand pulls in the rear restaurant I didn't note them. Doom OK and I don't like Betty Stoggs. Funny really because we were going to stay here, but there are no 'Twin' rooms – thank god!

10 The Blue Peter, Polperro



Quote of the week:
Difference between A Woman & A Battery?
The Battery has a Positive side!



GBG Pub with 6 Hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%

O'Hanlons, Yellow Hammer 4.0%

Fullers, Polperro Pride 4.4%

Cornish Orchard, Scrumpy Cider

A quaint old building standing on the quayside with low beams and a welcoming atmosphere. The barman and locals were chatty and friendly and meals reasonably priced – Steak+Ale £8-95. So we decided to eat here and both had the tasty Lamb Shank at £10-95. Here it is folks! When the barman collected the plates he landed the gravy covered bones straight in Tony's lap....Ho Ho Ho!!



Shame about piped music but, easily **The Best Pub in Polperro**. There was another room above the bar and this leads to a terrace garden neither of which we visited. However, we both had to visit the gents and agreed a picture of the ornate porcelain was in order..... I've never seen one like that before Tarky!!!



DunnyMarque - 6

1 1 The Three Pilchards, Polperro



Historic building just off quay looks really inviting. This non-GBG pub has three hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Sharp's, Sharp's Own 4.4% (£2.95)

Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%

Idyllic enough but the inside belies the exterior. Purple fairy lights on the ceiling look out of place rather than twee here! (*Are these a Cornish thing?*) There was an overpowering smell. A mixture of the original problem and the excessive use of air freshener and even I can smell it! Outside loos up the back alley not unexpected, but actually in a poor state. Menu bargains: Bangers+Mash £6-95, Beef+Ale £8-45. The rest was expensive, but we couldn't eat here! The icing on the cake here was the charmless barman who wore the scowl of a 'Smacked Ass' (*Jane please note!*) as he trundled in and out re-stocking the soft drinks. No inviting conversation here and short pint to boot! There's a dart board, but only for use on darts night. *DunnyMarque - 3*

Thinking we can't do any worse than the Pilchard we wander along the quay and go a few yards up Lansallos Street for our next encounter! On the way we pass an unusually named cottage and Tarky is keen to take a picture. Apparently it's a holiday let and I should stay here next time!



1 2 Noughts & Crosses, Polperro



Looking warm & inviting we pass the first window and see about a dozen youngsters at the bar watching football on large TV. The average age is below 18 and this does not look inviting even to Tarky who likes football. Check out the comments on BiTe regarding foul mouthed youths.

Back to The Blue Peter for another decent Pint and watch the football..... *Bob?*

1 2 The Ship Inn, Polperro

Last stop on our way back to The Old Mill.....



Tucked away in a narrow street backing onto the river & Old Mill, it is difficult to photograph.



Courage Dark Mild is a rarity as I thought it had disappeared long ago. Anyway, it's a new beer!

The ship has 5 hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%

Wychwood, Hobgoblin 5.0%

Charles Wells, Courage Dark Mild 3.0%

Old Rosie's Cider

Snax menu is on an A-board outside. Chilli £5-25.

We found this pub friendly, sadly not from talking to the barstaff, but because we were chatting with Mike & Bob from Nantwich who had popped out for a takeaway for themselves and their wives who were patiently waiting back at the digs! Time for another? Yeah, why not! Tarky can smell the loo a bar length away !! *DunnyMarque - 3*

Then back 't Mill and we join in the regular Tue night Quiz and enjoy the **Scampi Fries**.

Day 2 - Wednesday 22 October 2008

The Lost Pub of Polperro



Over Tarky's left shoulder you can see The Ship which is attached to this nicer looking part of the building. Closed down now, there is evidence that this was once a Bar/Bistro called *The Buccaneer*.

Time for a little stroll round in the sunshine.



We are driving about 40 miles this morning to do our lunchtime pub stops on the outskirts of Falmouth before getting to our B&B in Helston.

Two other Rivers (Truro & Tresillian) join the River Fal and the Creeks of Restronguet and Mylor as they meet in Carrick Roads the estuary of Falmouth Harbour/Bay. This forms several small peninsulas and we will concentrate on the Mylor Bridge.

①③ Pandora Inn, Restronguet



A lovely 14th century inn nestling on the shoreline of Restronguet Creek estuary the pub is accessed down a steeply graded narrow track hardly wide enough for a Jaguar. Or if you are part of the Yotty Set just tie up alongside the jetty! The setting is idyllic beyond belief. Two bars each have a set of 5 hand pulls where Tribute & HSD are doubled up on each. So only 3 beers on offer in this tie

St Austell, Tinnars 3.7%.

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.

St Austell, HSD 5.0%.

Normally excellent beers, the condition was surprisingly good considering these were so cold I had to put my glass down after a couple of minutes! Not surprisingly Non-GBG. And at £2-90 a pint Tarky got his HSD in an F***ing lager glass. What's going on here?

DunnyMarque - 8

The ground floor bar areas are cosy and there are several log fires. The Loft area upstairs currently being refurbished to The Upper Deck Restaurant. Pub is tastefully decked out like a ship from whence the pub name comes:



The inn was re-named in memory of the legendary HMS Pandora, the ship sent to Tahiti to capture the mutineers of Captain Bligh's Bounty. Unfortunately the Pandora struck a remote part of the Great Barrier Reef in 1791 and sank with the loss of many crew and mutineers. Captain Edwards was court-martialled on his return to Cornwall and later bought this inn.

Sadly, pub has the usual 'Managed' feel about its staff. Food is the game. Short menu where Jacket Spuds start at £6-50 and Bangers+Mash is a whopping £11-50 even though the menu in the little glass box outside said a mere £10-75. I suppose they lost the key to it, or just couldn't be bothered. Well nor could we! What a shame 'cause here are the views.



The private pontoon Beer Garden



And you can sometimes get a Shag on the river!!



Looking down the estuary at the pontoon

Apparently there is also an Aquacab from Falmouth Pier. Difficult pub to score. Parking would be a nightmare in high season.

①④ Lemon Arms, Mylor Bridge



This GBG pub was quietly packed at lunchtime with an older generation enjoying nice looking good value meals: Mixed Grill £14-95, Gammon £8-95. 3 hand pulls offered us:

St Austell, Tinnars 3.7%.

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.

St Austell, HSD 5.0%.

Same beer range as last pub, but a much nicer pint! Worth an evening visit as there are 2 darts areas one of which also has a pool table and most likely the atmosphere is entirely different. Our lunchtime barmaid could have been a little more welcoming though. *DunnyMarque - 8*

The Quay, Flushing ~ view from Seven Stars



①⑤ Seven Stars, Flushing



This GBG traditional waterside pub dates back to 1763 and has 3 hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%
Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%
Skinners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%.

Refurbished by the Hewitts who took over in 2005 this pub gives a warm and friendly reception. Apart from main bar there is a separate snug where lovely wooden boxed sets of Monopoly, Cluedo, Chess and Donimoes are available. The Pool room doubles as a family room. The lunch menu is quite small but the Gammon Egg Chips+Peas is an enormous plateful at £6-95. Pasty £2-50 *ICPIOFT* More extensive evening menu. *DunnyMarque - 4*

We were also going to try the Royal Standard just around the corner but voted to deviate from The Plan, and stop at the 1st reasonable looking place we came across on route. Travelling along the A394 to Helston we passed a sign for Gweek. "Gweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeek!" cries Tony. I am swayed to head for the seal sanctuary at Gweek and search for the local pub. The Gweek Inn is a large village pub with 6 hand pumps and at 14:40 it was closed already! What a shame. So we decide to sweep by Porthleven to get the lie of the pubs in readiness for the bus ride tomorrow.

①⑥ Harbour Inn, Porthleven



That's the Jag sneaking into the picture taken from the edge of the quay. Large beer garden right on the quay must get packed in season. We visit the left hand Lounge Bar. 3 hand pulls offering:

St Austell, Tinnars 3.7%.
St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.
St Austell, HSD 5.0%.

Well furnished in keeping with its hotel style accommodation. The menu looks tempting too: Steak+Ale £6-95, Gammon £9-65, and Mixed Grill £16-50. I'm opting to eat here tomorrow night! We head for Helston to retire for the night.

①⑦ Blue Anchor, Helston



The green door is No.52 Coinagehall St and it's the restaurant + B&B belonging to The Blue Anchor. Very well appointed and superb breakfast.

The Pub is another of the 'Tenacious Ten' who have made it into every Camra Good Beer Guide since inception in 1974. That's 2 on this trip then!!!



5 Hand pulls but only sell their own home brew, the famous Spingo Ales. This time only 2 versions available :

Spingo Ales, Middle 5.0%
Spingo Ales, Special 6.5%

The Blue Anchor Inn dates back to the 15th century, when it was established as Monk's rest home. When the Monasteries were dissolved, it

became a village tavern and began brewing its own 'SPINGO' ale at the rear of the premises. That makes it the oldest home brew pub in the country.

Before soaking up the atmosphere in the Blue, we decided to sample some of the other hostelrys and eat. The menu in No.52 is good but we were looking for bargain basement. Turning right out of the Blue we go up hill a short way and my camera packs up (*a Sign if ever there was one!*) at

①⑧ The Seven Stars, Helston

3 Hand pulls offering:

Greene King, Morland Original 4.0%

Theakstons, Best 3.8%

Greene King, Old Speckled Hen 4.5%

One is a regular changing guest and Morland was replaced with Doom by the knowledgeable barmaid and at £2-20 it was cheap. I don't think they do food in this old pub turned glitzy with red pool table, fruit machines and disco babble. We move on!

①⑨ Red Lion, Helston

There are 6 hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Wychwood, Hobgoblin 5.0%

*Bass, 4.4% (who the f*** brews that now?)*

Greene King, Abbot Ale 5.0%

Addlestons Cider

Pool in back area, Darts, lovely old wood & flagstone floor and a 'Fireplace Restaurant' upstairs at the back. Looking for menus I ventured up and was rebuked by three staff chatting over a pool table. Set up for a disco. Menu included Steak+Ale £6-95, Rib Eye £8-95 but even with the nice barmaid we won't be eating here!

We walk in & out of the run down **Angel Hotel**. 2 hand pulls with just Betty Stoggs on which I don't like. Eating tables set out and trying to be trendy but doesn't seem to know what it is. We walk past the **Beehive Bar** which looks like a cross between a wine bar and a club and doesn't open until 8pm.

②⑩ Rodney Inn, Helston

The menu on the wall outside tempted us in –

Gammon £5-95. We were greeted by 5 hand pulls but only 1 beer ~ *St Austell, Tribute 4.3%*.

Pool area, large TVs, full of scruffy oiks and kids running around. Seating was rubbish. We move on

②① The Bell Inn, Helston

Large pub built around a decked terraced inner courtyard. Carpeted bar with cosy fire and separate pool area. Loos not good. 2 hand pulls offering:

Greene King, Old Speckled Hen 4.5%

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Kirsty was a nice friendly young barmaid and told us they didn't do food because basically they have no kitchen. Signs stating "*Bring Your Own Grub*"

were for real, mostly pizza or fish&chips. In this day and age I can't believe this!! The pub has so much potential, it could easily be the best pub in Helston.

②② Thurleys Fish & Chip Restaurant 9 Meneage St, Helston

Not having found a decent pub, let alone one to eat in, we settle for the fish & chip shop round the corner which had a nice restaurant upstairs. Great Fish chips battered sausage and slice of bread to make the '*has to be done*' chip sandwich. As usual I'm oblivious to all going on around me and Tony nearly had to punch the woman on an opposite table who commented to her husband on the fact that I had made a chip sarnie!! DREADFUL.....

①⑦ Blue Anchor, Helston

It was nice to get back to the Blue and find it quiet enough to sit and relax, but by now we are so knackered we can only manage one pint of middle!



Day 3 - Thursday 23 October 2008

09:00 Hrs A late breakfast served by a nice lady who waited on us hand and foot! Not the biggest I've ever had, but obviously quality produce.

1st job of the day is to use Kath's Sat Nav (*Jane*) to do a drive by of the Atlantic Inn, Porthleven so we know how to find it on foot tonight – rain expected! Jane is a very naughty girl and tries to direct me the wrong way down a one way street. Not once, but twice! I'm sure we'll think of an award for her later! '*One Job to Do...*'

Today's lunch session touring the Lizard Peninsula brings us to Cadgwith Cove around 11am only to find pub opens at 12. Too nice to miss, so we decide to push on, do a circular trip and come back later. Heading up to Lizard Point we visit the Lighthouse and Point for the usual photos and then have a quick nose around the various gift shops while we wait for the pub to open. This was when we discovered a second, unlisted pub!!!

②② The Witch Ball, The Lizard

This 15th century building was a tearoom-restaurant for last 50yrs until last year when it obtained a full license and takes the title of most southerly pub on mainland Britain from the one round the corner.



3 hand pulls offering:

Organic Brewhouse, Lizard Point 4.0%
Organic Brewhouse, Witch Ball 4.7%
St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.

Still not looking quite a pub inside, it's definitely on the up. Good range of well kept beer, if a tad cold. Menu has cheaper lunch options: Ham, Egg+chips £5-95 & 2 for 1 winter lunch offer. Scampi £6-95 and £8-95 eve. Lasagne £8-50. Two ghosts so they keep the Witch Ball dating from 1721 in the window. Have Euchre table and currently bottom in 2nd of 2 local leagues of 18 pubs! *DunnyMarque - 9*



②③ The Top House, The Lizard

Originally a farmhouse, licensed now for 200 years and formerly the most southerly pub on mainland UK, but non-GBG .



The Top House has 3 hand pulls offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%
Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%
Greene King, IPA 3.6%

Menu isn't bad – Jumbo sausage, chips+beans £5. The Cottage Pie we saw was a good value portion at £6-50, but no gravy?

Very busy and obviously has a deal with Shearings Coaches as 3 were tied up outside and the place was with a friendly bunch of older people on a day trip out from Weymouth! So we had a chat. Asked the barmaid why on earth they sell Greene King – owned by Punch Taverns and policy precludes many local ales. Watch out Punch complacency is waiting round the corner!

The Lizard Point and Lighthouse



24 Cadgwith Cove Inn.



Surprisingly a non-GBG pub with 4 hand pulls:

St Austell, Tribute 4.3% - Guest

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%

Otter, Otter Bitter 3.8%

This Inn has remained unspoilt for over 300 years since the cove's old smuggling days. Beers good, bars are full of atmosphere and relics adorn the walls collected from a rich seafaring history. Main bar had nice log fire giving it that homely feeling and the barmaid and not so local 'locals' were all friendly. There are 2 adjoining rooms. Reasonable menu and bargain of the day had to be Pasty, chips and salad £4-95. *ICPIOFT. DunnyMarque - 5*



After a few pints there were grand ideas of making it to *Mouse Hole* and working our way back early evening. Luckily common sense prevailed and we stuck to our well laid plan. Having done the main two of the day plus a nice bonus we head back via Mullion where there are 2 worth a look.

25 The Old Inn, Mullion



Large rambling old pub with lots of nooks & crannies. The original thatched part dates to 16th century. A clean pub- open plan kitchen where you can watch the Chef prepare Pie of the Day £8-95, Gammon £10-95, Pasty+Chips £6-95 and Fri night is 2 pie meals for £12. Tony is impressed with the fish of the day board as today they have 2 Mullet £10-95 & Gurnard which is caught near Gweeeeek!



Four hand pulls offering:

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.

St Austell, IPA 3.4%.

St Austell, Rattler Cider 6.0%.

B&B, 1st Prize Mullion in Bloom, Tarky's "Top Banana" Pub has a dartboard, but loos are surprisingly basic. *DunnyMarque - 6*

We drove by The Mounts Bay but did not find it inviting enough to stop as we were up against 3pm closing and The Old Inn was a must. We head back to The Blue Anchor B&B for a short rest and get ourselves ready for tonight's trek by bus to the 3 pubs in Porthleven. Tarky goes into the inner sanctum to download his bowels while I download the No.2A Bus Timetable. A fine time to discover that in our windowless shithouse, the extractor has failed!! Grabbing my gas mask I toss Tarky the emergency canister of Airfreshener brought specially for such occasions! Sorted! But I'm getting out of here anyway!!!!

We roll up at the bus stop outside the Blue but our bus isn't listed. I phone the number on the sign and the girl says she can't help me – not their route!

16 Harbour Inn, Porthleven



For £1-90 it's an 8 minute bus ride to the bridge in Porthleven. Not far to walk to the pub, but by now it's blowing a gale and I'm glad I put my new weatherproof on. We decide to try the right hand public bar this time and arrive dripping wet. This bar has an extra hand pull – 4 in total: So add

St Austell, Proper Job 4.5%

We manage to procure a set of odd darts and some chalk from the lad behind the bar and settle in for some serious practice. Tarky is not best pleased with his Proper Job so I take it back and the young lad is unexpectedly knowledgeable and helpful. He brings a crystal clear new pint over after changing and pulling through. Well done!

It's quite early so the darts continues a while as we watch the pub gradually fill up with the strangest bunch of blokes you've seen in a while. It's an old knackered staple dartboard and the arrows bounce out more than they go in. Darts came to an unexpected end due to injury when one of my ricochets stuck in Tarky's knee. Oh Shit!!!!

By now we have decided not to eat here, but not before we had bought a pub shirt for the 2008 Tour on which we drank the harbour dry – well nearly! Waiting for a gap in the storm we leave for the Ship

②⑥ The Ship Inn, Porthleven



This is the photo that started this trip for me. A random pub image downloaded from the net and I had no idea where it was, until I showed it to Clive! I've put it in here because it wasn't that sunny when we were there. And tonight it is dark & wet!



My best shot from yesterday while searching for The Atlantic – the Inn that is!!!



They have 5 hand pulls offering:

Courage, Best 3.8%

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinners, Sharp's Own 4.4%

The extra two pumps repeat Doom & Courage!

Needs more effort on beer selection to get in GBG. Pub does have a great atmosphere even if you just sit on your own and soak it up which is more or less what we did as the Landlord was monopolised by his Brummie Locals at the bar. Tarque had the Mussels £11-95 and said they were overcooked; my Chilli was expensive at £9-95. Shame. But we discovered that our table had a secret drawer containing cards, dominoes etc. We played donimoes and despite Tarky's expertise and counting, I still won and I had no idea what was going on! It was an easy decision not to go to the Atlantic as the only thing it seems to have going for it on BITE, is the view and it's dark out there! Landlord doesn't want to make much effort to get us a taxi so we head for bus and hide from the rain in the shelter. Will it see us? We are joined by an ex-naval guy who assures us we'll be OK. Even so I pushed Tarky out in front of the bus to make sure especially after our new friend had warned us about The Queer Wolf. A legendary beast found south of Bodmin Moor preying on unsuspecting souls on nights such as these. The poor men he catches are well bugged! We bus back to The Blue and imbibe several pints of Middle in The Gun Room on our last night here and it's packed!! We missed the Fitzsimmons Arms named after the famous boxer. Oh well.....



The Atlantic Inn

More views of The Ship, Porthleven



And the view eastward



Day 4 - Friday 24 October 2008

The Chef arrived late and placated us with an even bigger breakfast than yesterday – excellent! So we set off about 10am for the short drive into Falmouth and decide to give *Jane* a chance to redeem herself! She immediately tries to send me the wrong way – ‘Turn Left, 1st exit’ when clearly we have to go right! That’s it young lady! You’ve had your chance!

After giving *Jane* a good telling off we reflect on our stay in Helston. B&B was great, The Blue is full of atmosphere but I’m not sure I’d want it for my local. We decide the average rating for this bunch of useless pubs is 3, although I’m sure Craig Revel-Hallwood would say ‘Nought!’ Our waitress confided that RNAS Culdrose (the largest helicopter base in Europe) had a lot to do with it with ratings getting wrecked on Saturday nights and pay days.

Statement of The Week



Helston

Twinned with Shepton Mallet

(another shit hole)

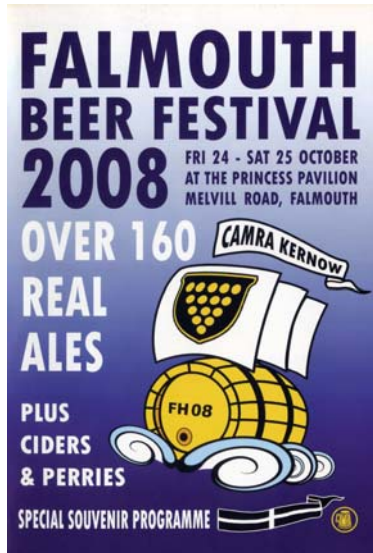
Helston is actually twinned with Sasso Marconi a town and comune of the province of Bologna in northern Italy named after Guglielmo Marconi, the radio pioneer, who was born in the nearby city of Bologna. He developed the first high power radio transmitter and built a station on the cliffs at Poldhu, Cornwall to demonstrate that radio waves were capable of bridging the Atlantic. On the 12th Dec 1901, Marconi heard the signals from Poldhu at a temporary station in St. Johns, Newfoundland and the age of communication was born. The monument to this fact on the site of his old station is in fact nowhere near Helston! It’s a stones throw from the Old Inn at Mullion. Clubs!

Despite *Jane*’s best efforts we arrive at the Falmouth B&B in good time. We got this one off laterooms.com With half term around the corner most places were full and we later learn it’s because Camra have to put up staff from all over Cornwall.



www.chellowdene.co.uk

②⑦ Falmouth Beer Festival



12 Beers sampled

8 New Beers

3 New Breweries

I decide to take a relaxed approach here and leave my Beer Book and highlighter back at the digs. We enjoy a leisurely session and have to delay departure several times while we soak up the exceptionally pleasant atmosphere and get more soaked ourselves! This is the best beer festival I have ever been to, and I've been to shed loads! A guy over-hears me saying this and the next thing you know "Can I just say this is the first time I've been on television?"



The beers are set up behind the marquee in an area reminiscent of the old Liverpool Cavern club. The garden was idyllic with its Victorian architecture so we soaked it up some more!



At the end of the session I've sampled around 12 beers (no idea how many new ones) made some new friends and committed to returning again next year. We also bought the shirts which Pam from East Dorset Camra kindly looked after for us.



②⑧ The Chainlocker & Shipwrights

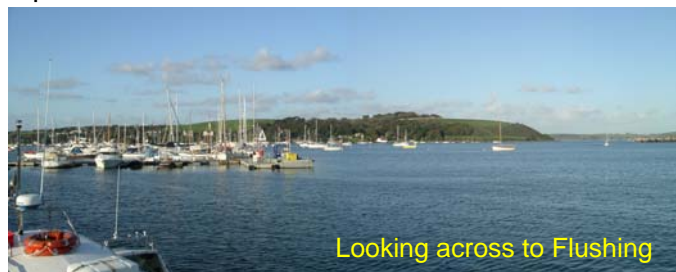


The Chainlocker bar is downstairs in smaller building on the left. Shipwrights bar is under the main sign on the right and only open at peak times. The non-GBG C-L has 5 hand pumps offering:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%
Sharp's, Special 5.2%
Skinners, Spriggin Ale 3.8%
Skinners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%
Skinners, Heligan Honey 4.0%

That's Doom, Knocker and 3 guests. We decide we must eat and Gammon+2eggs @ £6-50 is excellent value. Established in 1742 it's the 2nd

oldest pub in town and 'local' to Messrs Branson & Windsor! Central bar serves 2 areas, plus another bar up half a level at the back. They share quayside seating with pub next door. Wood planked walls gives ship feel, lots of old photos. They host a Sea Shanty Festival in June and Chainlocker Cup – Working Boat Race in summer. **Possibly** the best pub in Falmouth. Branson was expected tomorrow after Atlantic record but failed!



Looking across to Flushing

② ⑨ The Oddfellows Arms, Falmouth



Proper little GBG back street boozer tucked away just up the hill from the last. 2 hand pulls and an extra Otter beer on gravity stillage behind bar:

Sharp's, Eden 4.2%

Sharp's, Special 5.2%

Otter, Otter Witch 5.0%

Run by a friendly ex-fireman with a bunch of friendly locals who chatted to me about their Cornish Pilot Gig team. Lots of Gig memorabilia. Good beer. Darts & Euchre. No food *DunnyMarque - I*

③ ⑩ The Grapes Inn, Falmouth



Having walked in & out of the clinical Kings Head with three beers on we arrive here.

Non-GBG with 4 Hand pulls and beer is not great:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Skinnners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%

Skinnners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%.

Panoramic window at back gives you more a view of Church St car park rather than the harbour. The window seats are filthy and need refurbishing. No one wearing white could sit here! Menu has interesting items: Bangers+Mash £5-95, Gammon £10-95, Mix Grill £14-95, Chilli Lasagne Cottage Pie all £6-95. Cleanliness issues, couldn't eat here!

③ ① Nancy's, Falmouth



Warm, but just another bar really. Pool & TV upstairs in a separate bar aimed at younger element. No food? When we passed by later this was packed! Non-GBG pub, 3 Hand pulls offering:

Skinnners, Green Hop 4.2%

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%.

Greene King, Abbot Ale 5.0%

③ ② The Seven Stars, Falmouth



The oldest pub in Falmouth and Cornwall's only entry in the Camra National Inventory of Historical Pub Interiors. There are no hand pumps, but basic gravity stillage behind bar. Great GBG pub.



2 Guest ales at the top and three 18s of Bass!

Bass 4.4%

Sharp's, Own 4.4%

Skinners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%. and

Grandma'a Weapons Grade Ginger Beer 5.5%

Probably the oldest proper old boozer I've ever seen! No food of course, but they do amazing Ham + Cheese rolls at lunchtime and use the old opening hours. We were made welcome by the Landlord, wife, son and several customers. The next day the Landlord even said hello to us in the street!



Agent X-2-zero, what a miserable



That's Better!

③③ The Masons Arms, Falmouth

1 refugee from the Beer Festival at the bar and friendly barmaid. Another guy came in after we sat down and then seemingly the landlord came in. Music was turned up so we went back to The Stars.

③④ The Quayside Inn, Falmouth



We actually went in the quay level bar straight from The Chainlocker and deemed it to be a Disco Wine Bar with no atmosphere so walked out again. On our way back to B&B we have entered the upper level bar from the Arwenack St. This has a slightly better feel with **6 hand pulls** offering 5 beers from the Skinners/Sharps range. We had Doom Bar. We were quite well oiled by now I didn't check the menu and this is all I can remember! I'd probably use the quayside seating and get my beer in The Chainlocker.



We couldn't make it up here to The Jacobs Ladder but we stopped at the Harbour Lights chippy. I dunked my sausage in Tarkys curry sauce nicked his chips and he spilt the sauce down his jeans! But we got to our B&B room without letting ourselves down further.

Day 5 - Saturday 25 October 2008



Sunrise from our bedroom window!

After a hearty breakfast we said goodbye to Troy & Julie McCann at Chellowdene and headed for Dartmoor. But first a walk round Falmouth to get some daylight shots of last night's pubs!



Good apology!

We were going to stop somewhere for coffee/tea but Truro & St Austell are bigger than you think and we ended up on the by-pass.

③⑤ The Blisland Inn, Blisland



Brilliant GBG pub which Gary & Margaret Marshall have run for last 14 years since Gary retired as a stoker in the Navy. Wondered why he always wears shorts, even in the middle of winter!

I've stopped here twice in recent years each time I go this way. The first was only by accident when Kath suddenly asked if I wanted to have a lunchtime pint somewhere!! Heading west for Bodmin on the A30 and having done no research whatsoever, I suddenly saw one of those Brown signs and swung the Jag across the carriageway and down some tight little lanes. Found by accident, we always go back!



Current total Real Ales sold: 2,492

Tucked away down narrow lanes in a small village 8 hand pulls offer a good range of ales:

Sharp's, Blisland Bulldog 5.0%
Skinners, Penny Come Quick 4.5%
Exmoor, Ale 3.8%
Bays, Best Bitter 3.7%
St.Austell, Proper Job 4.5%
Cains, Autumn Leaf 4.0%
St.Austell, HSD 5.0%
Autumn Devon Scrumpy 7.5%

The max price is £2-50/pint but there is always one beer at £1-80 and today this was Proper Job at 4.5%!! The meals look to be good value too: 2 sausage, 2 eggs, chips £6-25 and Sirloin steak £10-95. A sign behind the bar says Pork Pies or Scotch Eggs 60p. I ordered a Pork Pie and Gary duly slapped it down in front of me, wrapped in cling film. Well what do you expect for 60p. Tarky wanted the imaginary trap door below his bar stool to open when I said "Any chance of a knife and some Musturd?" They also sell shoe laces and snuff!

We were made very welcome by Gary and the locals at the bar. At that point someone comes in and says he has made the Daily Telegraph Pint to Pint column today! So with due credit I thought it would be good to reprint the column herewith as part of the daily log.....



Our guide to British Pubs. This week:

The Blisland Inn, Bodmin, Cornwall

The Blisland Inn on rugged Bodmin Moor is a real pub where real men drink real ale. It's a pub for serious drinkers and the pork pies and Scotch eggs are not so much bar snacks as essential ballast.

When a meaty titbit was slapped on the bar beside my pint, I thought it was a macho swizzle stick, until I realised it was for the dog. And for entertainment there are tins of snuff and those naughty-lady nut dispensers where each packet removed is like a ready salted dance of the seven veils.

Keeping it real are Gary Marshall, front of house, and his wife Margaret, who runs the kitchen and village post office. An ex-stoker in the Royal Navy, Gary, who exults in the nickname King Buddha, sports a large tattoo of the deity as a badge of pride on his belly.

The bar is festooned with evocatively branded beer mats - Black Dog, Pigswill, Ridley's Big Tackle - and the couple's collection of mugs (300) and barometers (200). Dusting must be a nightmare.

This pub is well lived-in and well loved, and it wins CAMRA awards for fun: National Pub of the Year 2000 and Cornish Pub of the Year 2001, 2004 and 2005. There's a mini-blackboard behind the bar showing the number of different beers sold since the Marshalls rolled into town 14 years ago - 2,483 when we called in. The pub serves seven real ales and one real scrumpy, or "mingmong juice" as it's known locally.

Three of the beers, Exmoor Ale, King Buddha Special (both 3.8%) and dark, malty Blisland Bulldog (5%), are permanent fixtures, the latter two brewed by Sharp's in Cornwall. Other Cornish brewers, notably Skinner's and St Austell, are also well represented.

With a drinks/food sales ration of 70/30, The Blisland turns the standard country pub formula on its head, although there are man-size morsels to devour, including rump steak in a bap or a cold meat platter with egg and chips. If you've got the missus in tow, a Malibu and pineapple sundae off the pudding board should keep her happy.

I suspect there are quite a few ale widows in the area. Dad's gone to Blisland.

Jonathan Goodall

On the run down to the mostly real pub & real ale desert of Tavistock we decide to take pot luck of the next pub on the road. Mistake!!!

③⑥ The Edgumbe Arms, Milton Abbot

A 2 bar roadside pub on the A384 Launceston-Tavistock road. Dart board. 2 beers - Courage Best, Youngs Special. Both are abysmal. Ham Egg + Chips £4-50. Looks to be on its last legs. Not in any guide, can't be bothered inserting picture

③⑦ The Trout & Tipple, Tavistock



We are heartened to see the blackboard outside announcing it's their beer festival! Eagerly we quickened our pace to the bar. A string of 10 year old kids hold us up while they order Cokes individually despite the sign 'No Children At Bar'. 10 mins later when they are out of the way, and before the barwoman (Mrs Bucket) serves me, she quickly rings her bell and shouts 'Last Orders!'. I venture to ask when closing time is and she says quite bluntly it was 10 mins ago at 2-30 but I'll serve you a quick one! 10 mins later 'local' arrives, gets pint & conversation without further ado!

This had been our 1st pub stop on the now Legendary 'Widecombe Tour' and I remember a similar air to the place as we were 'a bit late for food!'. GBG and Plymouth Camra Pub of the Year 2007 getting complacent I feel. However hand pumps have gone from 6 to 8 serving:

Church End, Pooh Beer 4.3%
Teignworthy, Walnut Brown 6.5%
Coastal, Merry Maidens Mild 4.0%
Titanic, Stout 4.5%
Town House, Adleyweisse 4.5%
O'Hanlons, Goldblade 4.0%
Princetown, Jail Ale 4.8%
 + 3 real Ciders

Sausage chips beans £8-50 a bit expensive I think!



Despite plethora of real ales, I think there are friendlier pubs around for next time!

We decide to keep to the B3357 by-passing Princetown for the moment and have a quick look at the Warren House at Postbridge for photo purposes as the weather is closing in for tomorrow! This takes us along a bit of road we always miss by going straight to Princetown and we find a pub we have previously missed!!!!

③⑧ The Dartmoor Inn, Merrivale Bridge



A 17th century inn and freehouse at 1000ft above sea level which surprisingly doesn't feature in any of the guides. Quite a find.

Four hand pulls offering:

Skinnners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%

Skinnners, Cornish Knocker 4.5%.

Bays, Best Bitter 3.7%

Bays, Gold 4.3%

Eating area, log fire & bar, another seating area and B&B starting at £55 prpn sharing bath. £65 e/s. Ham or Sausage Egg Chips Peas £5-00 and Mixed Grill £14-95. This is the business. Nice beer garden out front, splendid views and good parking. Non-GBG but definitely the one for next time folks!

③⑨ The Warren House, Postbridge



We stopped to consult the map, then just over the brow of the hill there it was sat all on its own in the middle of nowhere! The 4th Highest Pub in England at 1,420 ft above sea level. Originally built as the New House Inn in 1760 on the opposite side of the road. The slate plaque on the gable records the opening of the present building (still called the New House Inn) on 18-Sep-1845 and the fire in the main bar has reputedly not gone out since!



And this old postcard shows little else has changed except the name in 1850.



We really didn't expect it to be open at 4pm! GBG pub with four hand pulls giving us:

Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%

Otter, Otter Ale 4.5%

Teignworthy, Beachcomber 4.5%

Summerskills, Tamar Best Bitter 4.3%

Small but deceptive it has a separate pool room and darts room. Steak+Ale pie £9-95. We found we had been invaded by Germans all drinking tea. Best not mention The War then!

④⑩ The Prince of Wales, Princetown



The Prince is a GBG re-entry for 2008 but the

Four hand pulls only offer 2 beers:

Princetown, IPA 4.0%

Princetown, Jail Ale 4.8%

Terry still the happy cheerful Landlord but I thought there was some fraying at the edges. Only 2 beers, breakfast a shadow of its former self and the heating not working in my part of room 3. Having told him he didn't really do anything about it, go to look, or check with me if I was happy until I was leaving the next day. I felt cold and damp all night. No offer of a reduction or anything either!

Fairly well oiled come late evening so I couldn't be bothered to chase him about heating any more. We played darts all night while 2 young kids were on the adjacent pool table. There was a strange group of people in the bar having a Letterbox Meeting. They all wanted copies of each others stamps, even mine when I *'came out'*!

Meanwhile Tarky was engulfed by a party of around 20 girls in their twenties done up to the nines and heading for a good plastering in near-by Plymouth! **DREADEFUL!** Don't know where to look!

'Bob, get back 'ere!!'

4 1 The Plume of Feathers, Princetown

We had to pop in for a pint to see if it's any better than last time. Tony thought it had new owners, but no so. The current bar manager however seems to be doing a better job. 3 Hand pulls and:

Princetown, IPA 4.0%

Princetown, Jail Ale 4.8%

St Austell, Tribute 4.3%

This pub is on the up and their other premises (The Railway) definitely has remedial work under way. A case of Watch this space – Terry!

Day 6 - Sunday 26 October 2008

We wake early haven't completely forgotten about putting our clocks back! After the no longer trademark breakfast we got on the road early and got so far ahead of ourselves with little traffic in the pouring rain we had to completely revise the lunch pubstop.

Tarky remembers a pub but not the name or really where it is but wants me to find it!!!! Apparently last time he mentioned it I knew it straight away. Well my head doesn't work that well anymore!!

After dragging the Jag up and down tiny tracks with moss & grass growing down the centre and adding about 100 miles to our journey we eventually find:-

4 2 The Marquis of Lorne, Nettlecombe



Ex-GBG (2006) pub tucked away in Heart of Dorset
Three hand pulls in this Palmers tied house:

Palmers, Copper Ale 3.7%

Palmers, IPA 4.0%

Palmers, 200 5.0%

A 16th century farmhouse turned Inn has a bar and log fire plus 3 extra eating areas and a lovely beer garden. Sunday Roast £8-95, Ham egg & chips £9-80 makes this a little expensive when you eventually find it. Nevertheless a nice little pub which is friendly and well worth the search. But on a Sunday lunchtime watch out for the "Hoorah 4x4 club" with Gemima etc in tow!

I don't think I've forgotten anything...Hang On!

"Got any more spare pants, Tony ? Time for one more rendition of our favourite Tour Song"

As I was walking through the woods,

*I S**t myself, I knew I would*

I cried for help, but no help came

*And so, I S**t myself again*

R. Sole



Rob of the Bushveld & Tarquin Mousebender
Co-Editors

DunnyMarque ®

Is the registered Trade Mark of **Tarky** - our intrepid Toilet specialist who can smell toilet disinfectant blocks at a 'Bars Length' !!

A Post Script from The Moor

During this trip I added another stamp to the:

S.A.D.C.A.T.S. LETTERBOX ALBUM

No.4 The Plume of Feathers, Princetown



Kernow Post Script

For many years I have been a member of the **R**ead **A**le **T**asting **S**ociety (The R.A.T.S.) and occasionally submit an article for their monthly newsletter. This Tour was, I thought, worthy of such an effort which was gratefully received by Dave Jones the Editor. I have appended a copy (Appendix II) in the format used by The RATS in all its Glory!! Tony earned himself Honorary RATS membership for his contribution to this Tour and we were invited by Dave to join The RATS at The Portcullis Inn, Bristol for a ceremonial 'Laying-on-of-Hands' at their Beer Festival on Saturday 13 December 2008. And so that Tarky can collect his Badge of Office.

Well done Tarky!



Club News

I have been talking to Dave Jones at The RATS about their splendid little badges and he has put me in touch with Black Dragon who produced them.

Andy at Black Dragon was very taken with our logo and was delighted to be able to produce a sample keeping 'Sooty's' tail outside the main circle. I have ordered an initial supply and this is how they should look. They will come with a choice of usual locking pin, or the stud & clasp fixings and I hope to be able to issue these to all members in time for Xmas.



And in case you hadn't noticed, this logo now features on the header panes of The Journals. It will also appear on the new calling cards.

Don't forget to check out our new website.

www.sadcats.co.uk

APPENDIX I

The usual stats are attached on the next page

APPENDIX II

The last 3 pages (in green) are a copy of our report as it appeared in the R.A.T.S. Newsletter.

APPENDIX I

In accordance with our normal practice on these trips here are the black & white statistics and our nominations for those who deserve special mention.

The Statistics:

Non-GBG Pubs visited – 28
GBG Pubs visited – 14
Total Pubs visited – 42

New Beers for Bob – 18
(Inc 8 at Festival with 3 new Breweries)

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Chairmen's Award for Best Pub:

The Blisland Inn, Blisland

Chairmen's Award for Best Beer:

Organic Brewhouse, Downton 4.2%
(@Falmouth Beer Festival)

Explorer's Award for Barperson of the Tour:

Gary at Blisland Inn, Blisland

The See it, Shoot it, Eat it Award for Best Eatery:

Not enough samples

Tony's Top Tea-room:

Eype!

DunnyMarque - Best Loo Award

Globe, East Looe

Joint Watney's Red Barrel Award Worst Pub of Tour:



Edgecombe Arms, Milton Abbot
&
Most of the pubs in Helston

Bar Trout Award for Worst Barperson of the Tour:

Mrs Buckett, Trout & Tipple, Tavistock



Special Additional Award

The WOODEN HAND Award

Given In the time honoured fashion to:-



Navigation Jane

NEXT STOP !

t.b.a

Maltings Beer Festival

April 2009

Check out the Crew's new webpage

www.sadcats.co.uk

Or contact Bob the Editor via

Bob@sadcats.co.uk

Date : Friday 24th October 2008

Venue : Princess Pavillion

Location : Falmouth, Cornwall

Reason : 'On Tour' but mainly for the Falmouth Beer Festival

R.A.T.S. Attending / Spotted in pubs : 1

BEERS TASTED : *in drinking order (possibly?)*

BREWERY	BEER	ABV
Thornbridge	Wild Swan	3.5%
Ales of Scilly	Scuppered	4.6%
Penzance Brewing Co	Gopher Gold	4.9%
Forgotten Corner	Trust Ale	4.0%
RCH	Steam Fair	4.5%
Lizard	Kernow Gold	3.7%
Organic Brewhouse	Downdraught	4.2%
Penzance Brewing Co	Crowlass Bitter	3.8%
Coastal	Golden Hinde	4.3%
Driftwood	Blue Hills Bitter	4.2%
Wooden Hand	Cornish Mutiny	4.8%
St Austell	HSD (Hicks Special Draught)	5.0%

FOOD :

Although we'd had an excellent breakfast at our B&B 'The Blue Anchor Helston', we were still tempted by the snacks on sale in the Pavillion Bar/Cafeteria – Roast Pork Bap with stuffing & apple sauce £3.50 ... OK but nothing to get too excited about! I don't think the festival organizers have much control over this and it's the only bit that lets this fine festival down.

COMMENTS :

My friend Tony & I sent our wives & his kids on holiday for a week in Tunisia while we went off on a week long trek to visit the Falmouth Beer Festival. We set off from Child Okeford in North Dorset on Tue 21 Oct with a view to doing the Friday lunchtime session at the festival (while you were all at the Otley Beer Festival). Various Good Beer Guide (GBG) pubs to be sampled along the way with B&B's in Polperro Tue night, The Blue Anchor in Helston Wed & Thur. Then B&B in Falmouth Friday night and a stop on Dartmoor on the way home – Prince of Wales at Princetown.

The festival operates two 11am-11pm sessions on the Friday & Saturday. I checked that advance tickets were not required and it seemed obvious that 11am Friday was the best time to

arrive. Not much of a queue and within minutes we were paid (£2 for CAMRA members) loaded with tokens (£1-25 per half) and had our coats looked after for 20p. 😊

182 Beers on Offer:-

55 Cornish beers

28 Beers from 'Down South'

31 Beers from 'Up North'

26 Celtic Beers 'Wales, Scotland, IOM'

42 'Rest of the West' beers

35 Draught Ciders

Various other bottled beers, perrys, and fruit wines.

There were six bars laid out as above. 5 in part of the pavilion that borders the rear garden best described as a cross between The Cavern Club and an old beam style pub, with curved Perspex roofing panels and a wall of patio doors into the garden. Adjacent to this in the garden was the marquee containing the Cider Bar, various games and some seating. While inside there was lots of seating available in the Pavillion's own bar/cafe/teria where they were selling the baps, and seemingly various keg beers! We didn't try those of course!

The CAMRA volunteers did a great job. They were very knowledgeable as to the different styles of beers and helpful in making selections and letting us have tasting sips. All the firkins had been 'colour' coded with general categories: Gold beers, Black Beers/Stouts, and general Mid Brown beers.

Exiting through the marquee into the garden I found the bandstand (an Edwardian listed building) in the middle of the lawn and flower beds. The rear of the 100 year old Pavilion surrounds the bandstand garden in a horseshoe complete with a Victorian style ornate glass roofed verandah. The combination of the Bar area, Marquee, Gardens and Verandah make this a unique venue which I have yet to see bettered at any Beer Festival. Coupled with the fact that the weather on Friday lunchtime was hot & sunny made this an event not to be missed. We spent a very pleasant 5 or so hours sipping fine beers in that superb beer garden. Even if the weather had turned, there was ample seating under the verandah to enjoy the view and surroundings.

The Venue of any beer festival is crucial to the ambience and general atmosphere created. For the past few years I have enjoyed The Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt in Liverpool as a venue with character, atmosphere and plenty of 'Wow' factor. The Princess Pavillion tops this by a mile! I was so taken by this event that I had to seek out those responsible and tell them how much I enjoyed their efforts. At this point a guy says 'Can I get you on camera saying that?'. So look out for me on a screen near you! Tony and I were both wearing our yellow drinking shirts with our pub club logo – **SADCATS** – that's The Sunday Afternoon Drinking Club At **The Saxon** (our local in Child Okeford).

This is an event not to be missed, but the best time to attend is Friday lunch/afternoon. We met one of the volunteers on Saturday morning who told us they had been packed in the evening and had completely sold out of 35 ciders, and several beers!

To round off the day we wandered into town and trawled round some of the better pubs :

BEERS TASTED :

PUB	BREWERY / BEER	ABV
Chainlocker & Shipwrights	SKINNERS – ‘Heligan Honey’	4.0%
Oddfellows Arms	OTTER – ‘Otter Witch’	5.0%
Grapes Inn	SHARP’S – ‘Doom Bar’	4.0%
Nancy’s	ST AUSTELL – ‘Tribute’	4.3%
Seven Stars	BASS (<i>who brews this now?</i>)	4.4%
Masons Arms	ST AUSTELL – ‘Dartmoor Ale’	3.9%
Seven Stars	SKINNERS – ‘Cornish Knocker’	4.5%
Seven Stars	SHARP’S – ‘Own’	4.4%
Quayside Inn	SHARP’S – ‘Doom Bar’	4.0%

Beer of the Day was the **Organic Brewhouse 'Downdraught'**. After that we're not sure!

FOOD :

On the way back to our B&B we felt the urge to soak up some beer and stopped for take-away **cod, chips, curry sauce, & battered sausage** at The Harbour Lights, Arwenack St. Seemed pretty good and Tony managed to get the curry sauce all down his jeans!

Another great day on our Tour!

On our way back to Dorset via Princetown we stopped for lunch at **The Blisland Inn**, Blisland near Bodmin. While we sat there talking to Landlord **Gary**, enjoying his 7 well kept beers and a real cider, a regular came in with the news that the pub featured in that mornings Daily Telegraph, Pint to Pint. A well written review and well deserved praise. This is a pub to visit before you die! **Gary** has been there for 14 years and sold 2,492 different real ales. 8 hand pumps offering:

- Sharp's, Blisland Bulldog 5.0%
- Skinnners, Penny Come Quick 4.5%
- Exmoor, Ale 3.8%
- Bays, Best Bitter 3.7%
- St.Austell, Proper Job 4.5%
- Cains, Autumn Leaf 4.0%
- St.Austell, HSD 5.0%
- Autumn Devon Scrumpy 7.5%

The max price is £2-50/pint but there is always 1 beer at £1-80 and this was Proper Job at 4.5%!! Meals are good value too:- eg 2 sausage, 2 eggs & chips £6-25. Pork Pie or Scotch Egg 60p. We were made very welcome by **Gary** and the locals at the bar.

In all **Tony** & I visited 42 pubs on our 6 day crawl to Falmouth and now we are resting!

(Bob Rosenthal – The Saxon Scooper – Child Okeford, Dorset)