

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

The Historical Documents - Volume 7



## Kernow II



### Day 1 - Thursday 22 October 2009

Last year Tarky & I made our Legendary trip to the Falmouth Beer Festival - The '**Kernow Krawl**' took in 42 pubs and the festival over 6 days. Having bored everyone with 'How Good' the festival was and particularly the venue, this year we revisit with our wives and 4 more SADCATS – Roger & Gwyneth and Andy & Liz.

Andy & Liz are meeting us in Falmouth while Rog & Gwyn are heading for the B&B tonight in Bridestowe. So Tarky & Teresa, Kath & I set out in the Jag somewhat later than I had planned as we waited for the rain to stop before loading the car! If we still have enough time we are planning to visit the pub on Burgh Island on our way to The Moor.

With a '**Tarky's Tea Room Stop**' in mind I headed for Dorchester. Now I wouldn't have gone that way, but I know Tarky likes a cup of tea at Eype. As we're late getting away we don't have time to stop! But never mind us, The Jag is thirsty and needs a hefty drink. Traffic is as bad as the weather and we're held up by a 'Peter Green' truck. Finally we overtake on Askers. A moment none of us shall forget. As the Jag roared over the crest of the hill, Teresa calls us to look at the Plane off our port beam. At this speed I can't spare much of a glance, but I see no Plane. 'No! *Down there!*' she yells!

Oh my God! I'm doing xxMph and I'm looking **DOWN** on a fucking Hercules!! Unbelievable! Back to our plan - to be far enough ahead of the truck to do a Formula One pitstop at Bridport and rejoin the road ahead of 'Peter'. On a 'One-Stop strategy' we take on the minimum amount of fuel to finish the race. This year it's 105p a litre and as I pump in 40 quids worth, Kath & Teresa are in the shop waiting to pay while Tarky kicks the tyres and wipes the windscreen! We climb aboard in record time (about 3 mins) but back markers blocked the pit lane!! Forcing my way onto the road we see 'Peter' just ahead of us! *Shit!!!!*

Note to self: *Next time fill the car up the day before!*

We eventually overtake but little progress is made until the Honiton by-pass. Next time I'll definitely use the A303. With a powerful roar our Jaguar moves into the fast lane. Now we're moving! When Dad taught me to drive it was etiquette to move over if a faster car came up behind you, a lesson lost on today's drivers! So when a nice new Jaguar XK8 de-cloaked behind me I politely moved over then pulled back out behind him just in time to read the '**R-Type**' badge on the boot-lid as he engaged his warp drive!! We could hear the roar of his V8 engine above our CD player! And as if by magic he disappeared into the far distance!



Closely linked to Agatha Christie, serving as the inspirational setting for both *And Then There Were None*, and the Hercule Poirot mystery *Evil Under the Sun*, the 2002 TV adaptation of which used the island as its filming location. In 1994 an episode of the TV series 'Lovejoy' entitled '*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*' was set and filmed on the island. Luckily it was low tide when we arrived so we walked across the causeway to the pub.

## 1 The Pilchard Inn, Burgh Island



The pub sign proclaims it dates from 1336, a stone building with 2 bars and Four hand pulls offering:

*St.Austell, Pilchard Bitter 3.6%*

*South Hams, XSB 4.2%*

We were told the Pilchard is a re-badge but it was very good warranting a **CAMRA 3½**



Pilchard Inn from the back

With its setting, views and 14<sup>th</sup> century character this little pub should be right up there on our list of **Pubs To Visit Before You Die (PTVBYD)**. Sadly though, the whole place suffers from a strange social attitude problem.



The sign says it all and seems to have left a sour taste with several visitors according to [Beerintheevening.com](http://Beerintheevening.com)

My research on the net reveals that the Island was a friendly retreat for all when Tony Porter was the owner. However, fate played its hand in late 2001 when the Orchards chose the hotel for their honeymoon. These City of London business people bought the Island for £3m and everything changed. The Grade2 listed Hotel was built in 1929 and extended in 1932 and has been restored in full Art Deco tradition. The Orchards fought the Countryside 'Right to Roam' and closed all footpaths on the Island. Not surprising that the front bar in the pub is now reserved for their hotel guests. Rooms are upwards of £380 per night (£125 in 2001) for Dinner B&B. Apparently non-residents may dine for £55 per head but dress code is strictly Black Tie.

**It's a Public House, Jim. But not as we know it!** Perhaps some kind soul will bring this up with the authorities when it's time to renew the License!!!!



The Slipway Bar is the less atmospheric, no fire, admittedly served from the same central servery but the bar is nearly shoulder high which makes it more like a serving hatch than a place to stand (no stools either!) Shall we have another beer, some food and buy a T-shirt, guys? "P\*\*\* Off!"

And that's what we did, but not by Sea Tractor III because that's £2 a go – for *non-residents*!



I was really disappointed by my visit here and doubly so because Tarky is a 'Lovejoy' fan. Luckily I had a plan B, just up the road.....



## ② The Dolphin, Kingston



Main part of this GBG listed pub is formed from 3 cottages dating from 16<sup>th</sup> century. Similar buildings on other side of road provide B&B, family room, storage, toilets, nice beer garden and large car park behind. Low beams, log fires make a pleasant atmosphere in this character pub and we were made very welcome by Liza. 4 hand pulls:

*Courage, Best 3.8%*

*Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0% (CAMRA 4)*

*Skinners, Betty Stoggs 3.8%(Guest)*

The locals have to put up with large influxes of tourists in the summer but Liza says the pub looks after both! Good pub menu – Cottage pie £7-95. Pub has a winter darts league, not open all day.



Thanks **Liza** for making us welcome and taking our photo. You are obviously proud of your pub and we loved it too, so it goes in **The Book – No.190**



Suitably refreshed we set off to meet Rog & Gwyn at the next pub and our stopover for the night. This takes us nearly into Plymouth before we take the A386 for Tavistock & Bridestowe. Desperate for the loo by now I make the next best stop in an out of town shopping area. Best option for a dunny, so I am told, is the Kentucky. A good idea but I couldn't possibly come out without buying some chicken. I went for '2 Pieces' and dutifully shared them with a drooling Tarky who I would swear says he never buys Kentucky. Oh, that's right then!!!!

## ③ The Fox & Hounds Hotel, Bridestowe

This non-GBG old coaching Inn was much liked by the crew on previous visits



Now has Three hand pulls offering:

*St Austell, Dartmoor Best 3.9%*

*St Austell, Tribute 4.3%*

*Princetown, Jail Ale 4.8%*

The Landlord has been in residence for some 37 years and our friendly Barmaid **Sarah** remembers us from our previous visits! I need food before much more beer and The Fox Grill (£11-50) sounds like it fits the bill. Remembering our 'Burra Tor' visit in Nov'07 Teresa has another go at The Fox Whopper. A burger bun split in half - each with good homemade burger, thick rashers of bacon and topped with cheese! + Bowl of chips to come! How do you eat that? With difficulty. It's certainly a plateful and still only £4-95. Now that's what we call value for money grub and speaks volumes for the pubs reputation. Lots of meals under £7 and the Gammon is only £7-95. Beers **CAMRA 3½**

Wish I knew more of the history. 2 bars, separate dining room, games room for pool & darts hidden away behind main room. 6 B&B rooms, plus 3 room cottage, Bunk barn at rear, & camping. When we booked our 3 rooms there were only 'family' ones left but Sarah gave us a good deal!

Can't see why this isn't in the GBG? More of a pub than the one listed up the road at Lake! and its in **The Book – No.3**





Room 4 – Bob & Kath

In our usual fashion, having eaten, we retire to the Pool room where we have the normal Farting Competition with a 3-a-side girls against boys pool match. The Girls were really Smokin' but we won in the end and Tarky retained The Air Gold Cup!



Is that a Fag in yer ear Gwyn?



Kath & Teresa give Gwyn some coaching



Which colour are we on Tony?



## Day 2 - Friday 23 October 2009

After a very hearty breakfast where I ate everyone's left over sausages (5 in all) we set off at 9am for the 70 mile drive to Falmouth which took 2 hours!



[www.tregennafalmouth.co.uk](http://www.tregennafalmouth.co.uk)

We are welcomed by Steve & Jayne who are very accommodating. Parked cars, dumped bags, collected keys and headed for the festival. Cheers!

### ④ Falmouth Beer Festival



16 Beers sampled

New Beers

New Breweries

Staying relaxed again I haven't brought my Beer Book with me this year!





**Will the Real BETTY STOGGS please stand up!**



Weather not quite as good as last year but we still soak up the atmosphere on the ornate veranda



Thanks to the Bar staff for taking this Half Crew shot just before the girl from *The Falmouth Packet* got a full one!



**The 09 Crew: Andy, Rog, Bob, Tony, Gwyn, Teresa, Kath, Liz**  
We also bought 09 Festival Shirts which Pam from East Dorset Camra kindly looked after for us.



## 5 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. Established in 1742 it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest pub in town! 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. We all ate here but the good value meals we sampled last year have gone up – 2Bangers+Mash £7-95.

## 6 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. Lots of Gig memorabilia. Good beer, Darts & Euchre. No food. *DunnyMarque - I*

## 7 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's 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 Rev. Barrington Bennetts

## 8 Jacob's Ladder

This year we ventured to the top of the steps. The Pub has mixed reviews on BiTe. You either like it or don't. Our consensus was a resounding:-

**"Don't like it!"**







Who ever heard of a Chip Shop closing at 9.30pm on a Friday night!! Won't bother with them again either!

## Day 3 - Saturday 24 October 2009

After a hearty breakfast we said goodbye to Steve & Jayne Gray at Tregenna and headed for town

### ③a The Quayside Inn, Falmouth



Rog&Gwyn took a drive to Land's End, all we can manage is Coffee in pub we missed last night!



View from Quayside Inn – GIGs away, and the small yacht needed the lifeboat soon after this shot!

### ⑨ The Blisland Inn, Blisland



Formerly The Royal Oak, a brilliant GBG pub which Gary & Margaret Marshall have run for last 15 years since Gary retired as a stoker in the Navy. Wondered why he always wears shorts, even in the middle of winter! Tucked away down narrow lanes in a small village, the only Cornish pub on a village green. 8 hand pulls offer a good range of ales:

*Sharp's, Blisland Bulldog 5.0%*

*Penpont, Blisland Bitter*

*Penpont, Blisland Special*

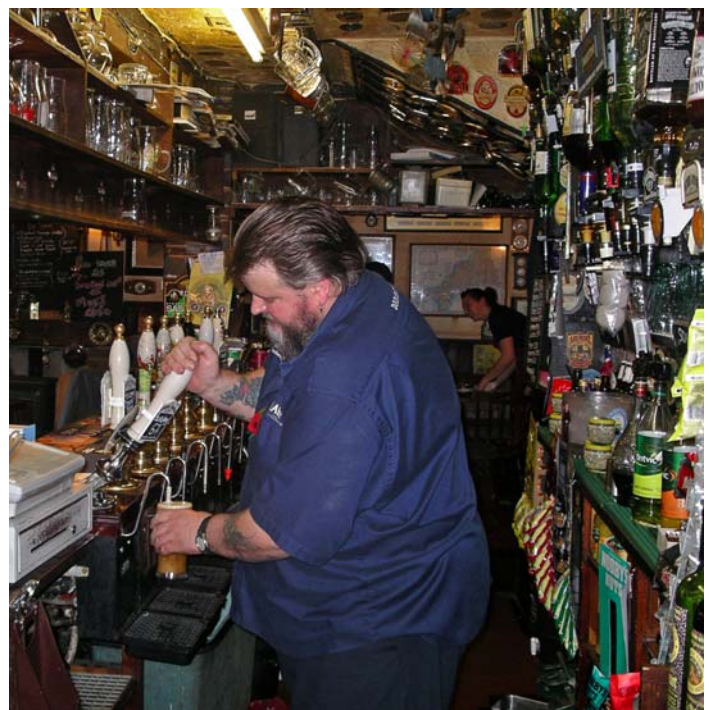
*Bass, Bass bitter 4.4%*

*Coastal, Winnie's, Honey Heaven 4.3%*

*Autumn Devon Scrumpy 7.5%*

Gary had 2 other beers on but I don't seem to have made any notes!!!!

The max price is £2-50/pint but there is always one beer at £1-80 and today this was Blisland Bitter. The meals are good value too, but after a large breakfast we take advantage of the sign behind the bar ~ Pork Pies or Scotch Eggs 60p! , and its in *The Book* – No.191



Landlord of the Trip, Gary, pulling our round!





Rog & Gwyn arrive back from Lands End and I try for a Group photo. Not sure why Teresa leaned out of the shot? Never mind, got a close up anyway!!!!



The Group with that famous fire!



We know that an elderly local lady makes a Witch puppet for the Pub every year. She is currently in hospital and The SADCATS send her our very best wishes!

Andy & Liz set off home while the rest head to.....



And Roger has a Ghost looking over his shoulder!

## ⑩ The Warren House, Postbridge



Kath takes the helm of my Jaguar and pilots us safely over The Moor – *it's just over the next hill Kath!* Sat all on its own in the middle of nowhere, it's the 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

This cosy little GBG pub opens all day and four hand pulls give us:

*Sharp's, Doom Bar 4.0%*

*Otter, Otter Ale 4.5%*

*Teignworthy, Beachcomber 4.5%*

Small but deceptive it has a separate pool room and darts room. Steak+Ale pie now £10-50. Very friendly, we felt welcome and enjoyed the company we loved it too, so it goes in **The Book – No.192** and goes on the list of **PTVBYD**

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





## 1 1 The Dartmoor Inn, Merrivale Bridge



Originally The Merrivale Inn when converted from 3 cottages around 1840. This 17<sup>th</sup> century inn and freehouse which is now a GBG entry, stands at 1000ft above sea level. Four hand pulls offering:

*Palmers, Best Bitter (IPA) 4.2%*

*Skidders, Green Hop 4.2%.*

*Skidders, Heligan Honey 4.0%*

*Blackawton, Exhibition 4.7%*

Eating area, log fire & bar, another seating area Dart board, and B&B at £55 prpn sharing bath. £65 e/s. 2 menus – Bar Snacks or Restaurant and you can choose off either. Sunday Carvery. Food is reasonably priced and we enjoyed our meals. I, of course, had the mixed grill £15-95. Nice beer garden out front, splendid views and good parking. An odd place though, doesn't seem to know if it's a Pub or Restaurant and clearly nor do the locals as at 9pm we were the only customers.

DunnyMarque - 5

## Day 4 – Sunday 25 October 2009

We didn't forget to put our clocks back this year!



Is Gwyn lost on The Moor?



DREADFUL!

## 1 2 Hunters Moon, Middlemarsh



A mid 18<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn (formerly The White Horse) tastefully renovated in Jun'07. Wood floor at ornate stone bar, log fires, and a friendly Landlord make a very cosy & welcoming atmosphere. Food is excellent and some good value dishes, although some seem oddly over priced – Lasagne £9-25. Carvery great value £8-95. High std B&B chalets from £55prpn. Large beer garden, the A352 not really noticeable.

This lovely GBG pub has 4 hand pulls offering:

*Butcombe, Butcombe Bitter 4.0%*

*Adnams, Explorer 4.3% (Guest)*

*Ringwood, Best Bitter 3.8% (Guest)*

*Addlestones, Cloudy Cider*

Guest ales change by the cask. The waitresses are a shining example of how this job should be done and a real credit to this fine pub and it's Landlord. Another one for *The Book* – No.194

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

Sadly a lack of concentration this trip and I simply forgot to get any stamps! Several of the places visited were on the list!



*Rupert of the Bushveld*  
**Editor**

DunnyMarque ®

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



## 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:**

	2009	2008
Non-GBG Pubs visited –	8	28
GBG Pubs visited –	4	14
Total Pubs visited –	12	42
New Beers for Bob –	xx	18

## AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

### **Chairmen's Award for Best Pub:**

The Blisland Inn, Blisland

### **Chairmen's Award for Best Beer:**

Penzance Brewing Co, Potion No.9 4.0%  
(@Falmouth Beer Festival)

### **Explorer's Award for Barperson of the Tour:**

Liza at Dolphin, Kingston  
Sarah at Fox & Hounds, Bridestowe

### **Captain's Award for Landlord of the Tour:**

Gary at Blisland Inn, Blisland

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

*No Nominations*

### **Tony's Top Tea-room:**

*No Nominations*

### **Watney's Red Barrel Award Worst Pub of Tour:**



Pilchard Inn, Burgh Island

### **Bar Trout Award for Worst Barperson of the Tour:**

Girls serving at Jacobs Ladder



### **Additional Award (Again!)**

#### **The WOODEN HAND Award**

Given In the time honoured fashion to:-



**Navigation Jane**

## **NEXT STOP !**

**Maltings Beer Festival**

**April 2010**

Check out the Crew's webpage

[www.sadcats.co.uk](http://www.sadcats.co.uk)

Or contact Bob the Editor via

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