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in our quest to reach 200,000 members!

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Single Membership (UK & EU) £20 £22

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For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit: www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in this form and send to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society: _____

Organisation Identification Number: 9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society.

Membership Number: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debit from the account detailed on the accompanying Direct Debit Guarantee. The Direct Debit Guarantee is provided for the convenience of our members and is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The Direct Debit Guarantee

• This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. It means that if your payment is not made on the date agreed, you will be notified immediately and you will be able to cancel the payment.

• If you are not paid by CAMRA on the date agreed, you will be notified immediately and you will be able to cancel the payment.

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 <p>CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE</p>	<p>The Giant Dingle</p>
	<p>Beerex 2011 Issue</p>



Welcome to the third issue of the Giant Dingle.

In this issue we look forward to.



Once again **Dorset Piddle Brewery** is the main sponsor for this year's **Dorchester Beerex**, which is taking place at the **Corn Exchange on 4/5 February 2011**.

Beerex is organised jointly by Dorchester Round Table and West Dorset CAMRA.

Beerex will be open for the following **ticket-only** sessions:

- Fri 4 Feb, 11:00 - 15:00 (£3)**
- Fri 5 Feb, 18:00 - 23:30 (£5)**
- Sat 5 Feb, 11:00 - 15:00 (£4)**
- Sat 5 Feb, 18:00 - 23:30 (£5)**

Tickets are available from **Tourist Information Centre and Blue Riddle in Dorchester**, or the **Boot in Weymouth**, but hurry as they are selling out fast!

Like last year, there will be 80+ real ales plus cider and perry, with live music from local bands during the evening sessions.

Proceeds from the event are donated to local charities and good causes. Please get in touch if you're interested in sponsoring a barrel of beer. For more info, see www.beerex.co.uk or search for Dorchester Beerex on Facebook

A festival not to be missed! (Ed)

Straws in the Wind

At last something is stirring at the Giant Pot. Maybe the hoarding proclaiming re-opening in Spring 2011 really means what it says.

Rumour says that Champion Beer of Britain - Castle Rock brewery's "Harvest Pale" - will be available at Beerex.

RNLI Beer Festival for Weymouth?

A Cleveland publican and Guest Beer distributor, Neil Readman, is attempting to organise 40 beer festivals at different locations with lifeboat stations over the next couple of years and Weymouth is on his hit list. Neil aims to raise at least £1,000 for the RNLI from each festival - £40,000 plus in total.

The first festival was in Whitby. Neil says it was well received and that he has gathered a following of people who are interested in supporting his aims. Sensibly he wants to avoid clashes with other local beer festivals - Beerex, Wykefest and Octoberfest.

He is looking for a venue to hold 150-300 people, ideally a church hall, community centre or other charitable organisation so he can help the local community as well as donating to the RNLI. If you can offer a venue please let us know and we'll pass the information to Neil.

Pub Grub, Alcohol and Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs)

Christmas and New Year are well past and Beerex is upon us. Time maybe to think about our intakes - both food and booze.

As "responsible" Real ale drinkers we know that beer is good for us, but those recommended daily and weekly limits are a bit worrying. The UK government plucked a figure of 21 units of alcohol a week out of the air and it became a mantra. The Italian government went for 30 units, but then they've got Silvio and we've had Gordon.

Pub food though, I'm not so sure. Wetherspoons have shown amazing honesty in publishing "Our food, Your nutrition".

Portland Holiday Ale Festival 1-5 December 2010

More than 50 potent winter Ales (including 16 specials) from 47 brewers. Beer styles ranging from Belgians and Barley Wines to Porters and Stouts, all rich, robust and full of complex flavours. A large warm and dry tent with gas heaters and Christmas trees producing a cosy ambience.

How on Earth did I miss it? It was in Portland, Oregon – that's how!

Portland Roads Hotel – This is in Dorset

Portland member Neil tells us that the Portland Roads, in recent times a Real Ale desert, "is now selling a pleasant best bitter called Devon Dympsy at £2.50 a pint, with excellent live jazz sessions every Sunday, 2-4pm. Thanks Neil".

Who'd have thought that one (healthy) Jacket potato with baked beans would give you more than your carbohydrate GDA?

Or that gammon, eggs, chips and pineapple give you 9.9 grams of salt (165% of GDA) – I've eaten that, more than once and enjoyed it!

As expected the worst offender is the large mixed grill with salad and creamy dressing: 1,995 calories (98% of GDA), 244% of your protein GDA, 158% of your fat GDA, 198% of your saturated fat GDA and 123% of your salt GDA

I'm going for a pint, and a lettuce leaf - no dressing thanks.

The Ghosts of Beerex Past



Campaign Pain and Political Pint Scoring

A couple of years ago CAMRA triumphantly announced its designation as a “Super Complainant”, which it claimed would give it greater influence with the government, regulatory bodies such as the Office for Fair Trading (OFT) and other decision makers. This enhanced status was expected to facilitate the achievement of CAMRA’s campaigning objectives. In reality this does not appear to have happened, and to date “Super Complainant” seems to equate more to “Super Whinger” than “Super Man”.

CAMRA has twice attempted to persuade the OFT to take action on the beer tie, but on both occasions CAMRA’s Super Complaint has been rejected. November’s “What’s Brewing” stated that CAMRA had vowed to keep up the pressure to secure reform of the beer tie. It now seems to be putting its trust in discredited Business Secretary Vince Cable. Apparently Cable has said that the pubcos are on probation and have until the end of June to put their houses in order. No doubt Messrs Cameron and Clegg said something similar to Vince following the B-Sky-B debacle. Still Cameron has spoken of his wish to deliver a “Pub Friendly government” – whatever that means.

Subsequently we have been informed that CAMRA backed pressure group “The Independent Pub Confederation” has told Parliament’s “Business, Innovations and Skills Committee” that pubcos are failing to introduce codes of practice (detailing their relationships with tenants) in a timely manner. The Committee has stated that if the industry cannot deliver it will be necessary for the Government to intervene. I won’t be holding my breath.

On the plus side, both Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns (the UK’s biggest pubcos) have stated that they will not seek to use restrictive covenants (forcing

change of use) when selling off pubs. This will be particularly important if rumours that Punch is thinking of divesting of some 6,000 pubs (yes - 6,000!) to leave itself with only 800 managed pubs (Guardian - 8 December 2010) prove to be true. Last month a Government Minister announced that the Government is considering outlawing such covenants, which are used by sellers of pubs to restrict local competition to their remaining pubs. Locally Palmers has announced it will auction off the Old Swan at Toller Porcorum free of a beer tie and with a covenant requiring the Swan to remain a pub.

The same issue of What’s Brewing trumpeted winning a “Minister for Pubs”. CAMRA claimed that “the appointment was in no small part due to members”, 2,000 of whom had contacted their MPs on this issue. Presumably the remaining 115,000 plus members had not felt moved to get involved. Bob Neil MP, the minister concerned, is in fact a Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Communities and Local Government with a rag bag of responsibilities including the Fire Service, Thames Gateway, the Olympics, local government, planning and - oh yes - pubs. I can guess where he’ll be putting his priority until summer 2012.

In October the Government completed its review of alcohol taxation, having previously honoured its pledge on cider tax. It had given a commitment not to unfairly penalise pubs, responsible drinkers or local industry. Given the wider financial climate, there was never a realistic likelihood of an over all reduction in beer taxes (or alcohol taxes generally). However, a reduced rate of excise duty will be introduced for beers up to 2.8% abv (for which CAMRA can take some credit). The Government was unable to set a higher abv level for this reduced rate due to EU regulation – no

“**Dear Dongle**”: We really do want to hear from you, members of CAMRA or not. Tell us which beers and pubs make you happy, and what bugs you. We’d also like a bit of rumour and gossip (as long as it’s printable). Email: giantdongle@hotmail.com

Yo Dongle –Da Gazmeister ‘ere. I agrees that Big Can be Beautiful - The Delicious Sophie Dhal – Respect, know what I mean like. But that Phil Livsey - wot’s ‘e like? I mean the CAMRA massive, all in “Socks wiv Sandals” OMG! My Old Man’s been in CAMRA for about 100 years, and Mum says she can never get him to wear socks let alone sandals. Talking of Mum, she asked what I was reading like, and I told her the Giant Dongle, and she said I weren’t to bring no top shelf under the counter brown paper bag porn mags into ‘er ‘ouse. I were like duhh? ‘Ow can a mag be top shelf and under the counter at the same time, but, cos she always says I ain’t too big for a clip round the lugole, I didn’t argue - know what I mean. Any ‘ow, I don’t care what size the brewery is s’long as the pints are all the same size. “Fair Pints!” right? Later – Gaz.

Londis - The Store with a Lot of Bottle

By Rich Gabe

Let’s face it with the recent snow and ice it’s not the ideal time for everyone to be able to get to their local pub or brewery to stock up with those vital winter provisions. You know what I mean - the odd porter, stout or barley wine. Well fortunately for people living in the Weymouth area there is a great alternative at number 28 Westham Rd, more commonly known as the local Londis convenience store, just off the seafront.

The first time I ventured into the shop I was amazed at the diverse range of beers on sale. I don’t just mean the excellent local range from Dorset’s finest breweries, or the vast selections of dark ales like milds, stouts and porter, or even the complementing range of golden ales and bitters from the Isle of Skye and Orkney, the wilds of Yorkshire and the heart of England, or come to that the session bitters from the Home counties. Let’s not forget the Aussies, Yanks or our E.U counterpart’s representation. No, what I’m trying to say is I was amazed at the shops manager Dave Haircut’s commitment and enthusiasm to stocking some of the world’s best beers.

Londis is a convenience store, primarily selling basic essentials - newspapers, light groceries, fruit et. However this is the best bottled beer selection I have ever seen outside of a specialist beer shop. It’s definitely worth a return visit, because on my Xmas visit there was a change of beers to the autumn line up. Dave told me he’s keen on giving customers an ever- changing range!

Further more CAMRA members benefit from a 10% discount on the price; yet another benefit of joining one of the UK’s biggest consumer pressure groups. Having bought beer on line in the past several times, by the time you take into account the cost of postage which is easily off set at Londis by our CAMRA discount, the range is very competitive. So next time you fancy staying in for a take-away, you know where to go for the accompanying Ale.

Apparently CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner is very impressed with the **West Dorset Pub Guide**. Nothing to do with him having got his copy free of course.....

THE WEST DORSET PUB GUIDE IS ON SALE AT THE FOLLOWING

Bridport - Palmers Wine Shop and selected pubs

Dorchester - The Blue Raddle, 9 Church St.

Lyme Regis - Tourist Information Centre, Town Mill Brewery and selected pubs

Portland - Royal Portland Arms, Fortuneswell

Weymouth – FJ Bradbury, St Edmund St.; Londis, Westham Rd. and the Railway Station News Kiosk

Or Buy Mail Order from:

West Dorset CAMRA, 32 Mellstock Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2 BQ
Price £5 (inc. P&P) or £4 if quoting CAMRA membership number

Branch Christmas Meal at the Blue Raddle

27 Branch members gathered at the Blue Raddle for fine ales and very fine food. A menu designed to accommodate vegetarians as well as carnivores included a choice of 4 starters, 5 main courses and 3 sweets (or cheeses). I started with the superb Coconut Butterfly Shrimps, followed by traditional roast turkey and finally the amazing coffee crème brulee.

We expect good food at the Raddle (why else go there for our Christmas meal - apart from the beer of course, of which more later). The clever bit was feeding 27 people pretty much at the same time from a pub kitchen set up to serve individuals, couples and small groups.

The beer list for the evening was: Plain Ales - Sheep Dip, Sharps – Doombar, Otter – Bitter, Dark Star - Hophead, Saltaire – Chocoholic Stout and (when the Hop Head ran out) Crouch Vale – Amarillo. All served in excellent condition.

A big thank you and well done to Chris, Rick and the team, particularly with Lou having defected to the customer side of the bar for the evening.

The Blue Raddle is a dog friendly child free haven open 11am (Sunday Noon) - 3pm and 7pm – 11pm (later on Fridays & Saturday). Closed Monday lunchtimes. It is known for its ever changing range of Ales and the quality of its home cooked food – available most lunchtimes and Thursday - Saturday evenings. Don't miss the Sunday roasts!

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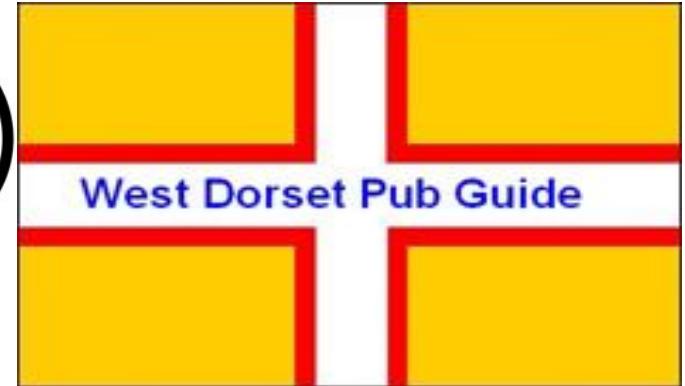
Editor's note: Opinions expressed in the Giant Dongle are those of its contributors and do not purport to be or necessarily conform to official CAMRA policy

West Dorset Pub Guide

On sale at
Dorchester Beerex



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**



Fully Revised Newly Published Third Edition

**64 Pages, Information on 273 Pubs and Bars plus 7
Breweries, Maps showing locations of pubs
Articles of interest**

**Alternatively buy from local outlets RRP £3.99
(See panel opposite)**



Researched and Published by Pub Users for Pub Users

Well worth a visit:

Winterfest XIX - Gosport's Winter Beer Fest

At Thorngate Halls, Bury Rd., Gosport

A bit pricey at £8 per session, but 80+ Real Ales and ciders, perries and foreign beers..Admission by ticket only, which includes souvenir ½ pint glass, ½ pint of beer and programme. Card carrying CAMRA members also get £1 in beer tokens.

Friday 25 & Saturday 26 February.
Open 6.30-11pm Friday, and 11am – 3.30pm & 6.30 – 11pm Saturday

For more information go to www.psehcamra.org.uk

Tickets email: tickets@psehcamra.org.uk or call 023 9229 8180.

The Maltings Beer Festival

At Tuckers Maltings, Teign Road, Newton Abbot on 14- 16 April

One of the UK's premier beer festivals held in a historic venue, still producing malt in the traditional way. For more information call 01626 334734.

Winchester Real Ale & Cider Fest

At Winchester Guildhall, High St., Winchester

70+ Real Ales plus ciders, perries and foreign bottled beers. Tickets include souvenir pint glass and programme. Card carrying CAMRA members also get £2 in beer tokens. For ticket and other information go to www.winchesterbeerfestival.org.uk

Friday 25 & Saturday 26 March.
Open Noon-4.30pm (Quiet session - £2) & 6.30 - 11pm(£8) Friday and Noon-4.30pm (£4) & 6.30-11pm (£8) Saturday

Saturday lunchtime features traditional folk music, Morris dancers and brass band. Evening sessions have (louder?) live music. Food available at all sessions.

Subscribe to the Giant Dongle on line

To receive the Giant Dongle on line send your email address to the giantdongle@hotmail.com. Your email address will be used for subscription only and not disclosed to any other party. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Branch diary

Business meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at locations around the branch area. All members are welcome to any of these meetings.

February	Wed 9 th	8 pm	Litton Cheney. The White Horse + Puncknowle, The Crown.
March	Wed 9 th	8 pm	Buckland Newton. The Gaggles of Geese + Plush, The Brace of Pheasants
April	Wed 13 th	8 pm	Evershot. The Acorn + Melbury, The Travellers Rest

surprise there. Creating and selling a quality Ale at 2.8% abv will pose a challenge to brewers and pubs, but the reduced duty is an incentive to do so. Quite reasonably the Government will increase duty on beers above 7.5% - how many pints of these would a responsible drinker consume in one session? The afore mentioned minister has said the Government is "stopping loss-leading sales of alcohol, will be making it easier to play live music and is to give local communities new powers to save pubs" and that pubs "don't want state handouts but they do want to compete on a level playing field without reams of red tape" - sounds like most of us. More recently the Home Office has said that legislation to ban below cost sales will only be introduced "if necessary" and certainly not before May 2012. Of course, any regulation of alcohol pricing to deal with binge drinking will have to comply with EU requirements – competition policy on price fixing in particular. Ho hum.

One MP (Andrew Griffiths, Burton on Trent) has shown a bit of initiative and "Tabled an Early Day Motion" (No. 821). This is not a bodily function, but an arcane parliamentary procedure by which MPs attempt to influence legislation. EDM 821 says that banning below cost sales of alcohol would be a positive change. At the time of writing this motion has been signed by 100 MPs spread across the Coalition, the Opposition and the minor parties (including 100% of the Green Party). Sadly neither Richard Drax nor Oliver Letwin appears in the list.

Meanwhile the SNP Government in Scotland's attempt to introduce a minimum price of 45p per unit of alcohol has recently been rejected by the Scottish parliament.

An earlier EDM (No. 210), tabled by Parliamentary Save the Pub Group Chairman Greg Mulholland MP, urges the Government to implement policies to help secure the futures of viable and well run

community pubs. This has attracted support from 238 MPs - more than any other current EDM (of which there are well over 1000) - not least due to the efforts of CAMRA members.

Given that the Guardian (among others) says that 38 pubs a week are closing, mostly because the owners can no longer make a profit (the John Gregory in Weymouth in December being a recent local example), any move to support community pubs is very welcome.

Specialist research shows a 40% fall in pub values since 2007 (considerably larger than the fall in house prices), reflecting factors such as the smoking ban (much as I appreciate it personally), and cheap supermarket and convenience store sales, as well problems with the beer tie and unmanageable rents. In addition, experts claim that there are simply too many pubs – the Guardian was told that "A lot of pubs on the market are closed and will never be a pub again" and that some 3,000 of the UK's 55,000 pubs will have to close eventually.

Looking forward ,a Private Members Bill "Protection of Local Services (Planning) Bill gets its 2nd reading on 21 January. CAMRA sees this as a major opportunity to empower local communities to protect pubs and other community assets and services. If the Bill is enacted councils will gain the power to close planning loopholes. Fortunately the Bill has support from a wide range of community organisations as well as cross party backing in Parliament. Its Conservative proposer Nigel Adams says the Bill could give people "a greater say in the fate of their local services and community buildings" and Labour's David Lammy claims "Buildings that form the fabric of the community and the identity of the local area are in danger of being subsumed by big business. This bill protects them". CAMRA asks its members to ask their local MPs to support it. . So Oliver, Richard – shall we see?

The Ghosts of Beerex Past



2009 - Mayor and Carnival Queen. No prizes for guessing which is which.



Our Hero:
Rich Gabe

CELEBRATING 100,000 MEMBERS!

Join CAMRA today in our quest to reach 200,000 members!

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is delighted to announce for the first time in our 38 year history that we have 100,000 members signed up to our organisation.

Despite this success, we still have plenty more campaigns to fight. Recent figures show that 39 pubs close every week, so our next target is to reach 200,000 members as quickly as possible. This figure will give us even more lobbying influence over the government.

For as little as £29* a year, which is less than 40p a week, you can join our 100,000 other members to help us campaign for consumer rights e.g. decreasing beer duty, improving the quality of real ale and reducing the number of pub closures.

Join CAMRA and you will also receive the following benefits:

- £20 worth of JD Wetherspoon real ale vouchers**
- 10% discount on holidays with cottages4you
- 6% discount on holidays with Thomas Cook Holiday Service
- 3% discount with www.hirecanalboat.co.uk
- Competitive household insurance prices with INSURANCE for you
- Discounted Membership of the CAMRA Beer Club – www.camrabeerclub.co.uk
- The opportunity to join CAMRA brewery Complimentary Clubs which offer promotions throughout the year including free joint vouchers, brewery tours, exclusive competitions and discounts on merchandise.

JOIN BY DIRECT DEBIT!
If you decide to join by Direct Debit then we will also:

- Give you a £2 discount on your membership subscription
- Give you three months' membership free!

Help us make a difference and join CAMRA today!

* For non Direct Debit prices and consequential rates please read further on this membership or visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

** The £20 worth of real ale vouchers are divided into 20p of a pint into joint Memberships will receive £20 worth of vouchers to share.

wetherspoon cottages4you Thomas Cook for you INSURANCE for you CAMRA FOR REAL ALE