

Garlic Festival and the Scooter Rally, they all drunk in record at the Island Ales Brewery bars. Cowes Week, in particular was a great success, with the ever popular stand gaining more prominence this year with a three sided bar; **Wight Gold** and **Vectis Venom** topping the sales". Steve goes on to say: "overall though, the most popular beer has been **Yachtsman**, a confident statement of malt and hops, quenching and refreshing, it seems to reach places that other beers can't", he laughs.

Congratulations are in order to the Brewery and the Brewer in the recognition of **Earl's RDA** at the SIBA South-East Regional awards this year, where it won silver in the Porters, Stouts, Old Ales and Strong Milds class, a truly marvellous achievement for

what was Chris's home brew recipe some 15 years ago or more, before his first job as brewer. Winning an award from SIBA, or Small Independent Brewer's Association, is a great accolade for any brewer, as they are judged by their professional peers. It took me over 15 years to convince Chris that his beer was a real winner and should be brewed commercially!

For those who have never tried it, it is a real aficionados experience, rich in flavour and texture, with roasted malt dryness, if you count to five after you swallow, it will hit you straight in the back of the nose with pure espresso. It is, indeed, craft brewing at its best, understated, with the flavour continuing and expanding in the aftertaste. It avoids that trap that so many other stouts fall into with their direct assault on your taste buds, leaving you numbed before you finish your pint. RDA, is a sipping

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beer to be savoured, but its flavour does not deplete. It is sort of a beer equivalent of enjoying a complex single malt. I like to drink mine from a stemmed glass.

With Christmas coming on the horizon (it really does start earlier every year, with Weatherspoons now

advertising to book your Christmas dinner, before the summer has even gone to bed!), Island Brewery have started brewing for the season. The demand, last year, for **Wight Christmas** was so great that they ran out! So, this year they are bottling more and building up a stock of casks too.

Cllr. John Nicholson, Goddards BLO

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Yates' Brewery Report

On my arrival at the brewery everything was in full swing for the big move to the new premises. On having a quick nose it looks fantastic and congratulations to Jed for doing a marvellous job.

On the beer front **Golden Bitter** 4% abv on the bar at the Great British Beer Festival was very well received with a lot of interest shown. All the beers at the August Bank Holiday Steam Fair were supplied by the brewery and were a huge success. At the time of writing the brewery has supplied Blakemore Ales which are on sale in Island pubs and L.W.C. North (wholesalers) have been supplied with Yates' Ales.

All in all a really busy summer and looking forward to running the new brewery and getting ready for the winter months ahead.

Lorraine Daish, Yates' BLO

Hop Picking at Ventnor

The 10th September proved to be a perfect day for hop-picking. A couple of dozen Friends of Ventnor Botanical Society turned out to help collect this years crop which turned out to be a very good one. Boadicea is an aromatic hop which Goddards will use in their Wight Squirrel.



Pictured below, Nigel and Xav from Goddards and John Curtis of VBG just doing some quality control



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