



Edition 13

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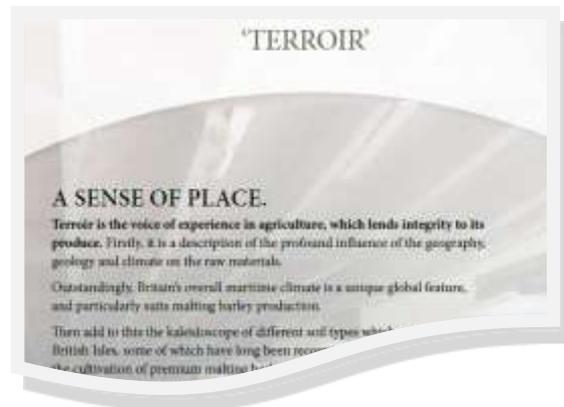
FRIENDS *of* WARMINSTER MALTINGS

Imitation Leads to High Hopes

If “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery”, then Warminster Maltings can feel quite good about a very recent edition of ‘Waitrose weekend’ (26th October), the in-store newspaper, and it’s 8-page pull out supplement “Sip & Savour”, reviewing the store’s latest offerings from some of Britain’s best brewers.



Waitrose Newspaper



Warminster Brochure

Did Waitrose lift their words from one of our brochures, or is it just an extraordinary coincidence? We would like to think the former, because further down the page the supplement goes on to highlight Maris Otter barley (nothing very new about that), but ...**“Maris Otter...mainly grown on a stretch of land known as the Icknield Series...”** From all my reading of brewing media and publications, until we at Warminster Maltings began highlighting the significance of the Icknield Series soil type in terms of barley production

(Warminster sits on it's most westerly tip), nobody else within the industry appeared to regard this of any significance.

At last! Perhaps others like us are now beginning to recognise that some of Britain's finest ales could, by encompassing more of the whole story of barley and malt, offer all the provenance and status of fine wines. It's a message that we have been promoting at Warminster for a long time, and one we will go on enthusiastically repeating. It's a bit like that rather amusing song recorded years ago by Frank Sinatra, the second verse of which runs "Once there was a silly old ram, who thought he could punch a hole in a dam" Well, like that ram, I think, now, we justifiably also have "High Hopes"!

On another musical note...

... if Warminster Maltings was to have a theme tune, it would be "Fields of Gold", as recorded by Eva Cassidy. This haunting melody's repetition of the words "...among the fields of barley" in isolation, almost describes the maltings' geographical status, although in context, the words are a far cry from any barley crop inspections I have ever been involved in! We actually used an orchestrated version of this song as the background music to a DVD we distributed at the Society of Independent Brewers annual conference in 2011.

Warminster Maltings Supports 'CHILDREN IN NEED'

That the BBC have chosen Katie Melua's new recording of "Fields of Gold" as the theme tune for this year's "Children in Need Appeal" has inevitably challenged us to join this worthy campaign. We would like to do this by offering our 'Friends' another opportunity to support this high profile event, by inviting you to bid (alone or collectively) for the following prizes:

1. Maltings Tour for Gourmets



A tour of the maltings for up to 25 people, including a buffet lunch or supper with foods (fish, meat, dessert and cheese) all matched to beers.
(Guide: From 2018, basic tours with buffet lunch/supper will be charged at £17.50 per head.)

2. Maltings Rummer



Our heavy cut glass rummer, based on an original design from the Royal Brierley catalogue of 1875, engraved with barley and hops, and made exclusively for us by Dartington Crystal.

(Guide: Sells from our 'shop' for £90.00 each, including display box.)

3. 25kgs 'Maris Otter' Pale Ale Malt



This is one for the 'home brewers' amongst you. 2017 crop, an exceptional harvest for Maris Otter, supplied whole or crushed.

(Guide: Cost from a Home Brew shop would be from £40.00.)

All bids should be e-mailed to me Robin.Appel@robin-appel.com by **Friday 24th November**. The winners and their bids will be published in the next Newsletter (January 2018), and **Warminster Maltings will match the successful bids proportionately**, and all the monies raised will be forwarded to "Children in Need" immediately

CHRISTMAS ALES

Talking of matching foods to beer, I am often asked, so may I be so bold as to take this opportunity to offer my personal recommendations of Christmas and other ales for the forthcoming festive season.

I will begin by matching beers to your Christmas feast. This is what I will be doing at home:

To go with Smoked salmon

Hoegaarden Wheat Beer 5.0% ABV

Belgian wheat beer that is naturally cloudy and richly aromatic. The subtle spiced-citrus flavour with hints of coriander are a great compliment to the salmon. Serve chilled, and pour carefully.

Available from most supermarkets.



To go with Roast Turkey

Samuel Smith's Organic Pale Ale 5.0% ABV



From Yorkshire's oldest brewery, brewed the traditional way with **Warminster Organic Malt**, fermented in 'stone Yorkshire squares', this beer delivers a full rounded flavour and after taste. Serve at cellar temperature.

SamuelSmithshop.co.uk

To go with Christmas Pudding

Titanic Brewery's Plum Porter 4.9% ABV

This sumptuous beer is dark, strong and well rounded, with a pronounced natural plum flavouring. Serve at cellar temperature.

titanicbrewery.co.uk



To go with Stilton Cheese

J W Lees Harvest Ale 11.5% ABV



This is an outstanding vintage barley wine from Manchester. Harvest 2016 has just been released, but I recommend you buy as early as you can get hold of. Ten years ago at a celebration dinner in New York where wine was pitched against beer for the best compliment to food, the beer sommelier triumphed by matching J W Lees Harvest Ale 1997 with Cropwell Bishop Stilton. The combination is divine!

jwlees.co.uk

Or, for just sipping by the fireside

Hook Norton Twelve Days 5.5% ABV

From Oxfordshire, and described as Christmas in a bottle. This is a dark brown strong beer, finely balanced, with a strong malt and nutty flavour. The hop character can be detected in the aftertaste which has a pleasing sweetness.

Hooky.co.uk



Harveys Christmas Ale 8.1% ABV



From Sussex, this is more of a traditional barley wine. The biscuit malt and wine flavours are balanced by a pronounced hop bitterness. It is rich and warming, and perfect with mince pies.

Harveys.org.uk

The next newsletter (No. 14) will be in the New Year, but between now and then may I wish you all lots of festive fun. And drink responsibly!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Appel." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robin Appel