

WHERE THERE'S HOPE, THERE'S LIFE



Wetherspoon enthusiast and UK leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party Alan Hope has released his autobiography.

The book, *The Great White Hope: The Life and Times of Alan 'Howling Laud' Hope*, documents the story of the longest-serving political leader in the history of Great Britain, as well as of the well-known regular customer of the Wetherspoon pub The Prince Arthur (Fleet) – his local.

The autobiography covers Alan's life as a father, grandfather, rock and roll star, hotelier, publican, Mayor of Ashburton and politician, an immensely colourful character with a lifetime of stories to share. There is also a whole chapter dedicated to his love of Wetherspoon pubs.

Alan writes: "I admire Tim Martin and J D Wetherspoon for saving so many historic and loved high-street buildings for future generations to appreciate, by converting them into pubs for the community, while, at the same time, preserving and enhancing their internal and external features."

In addition, there is a chapter devoted to Alan's Co-ALE-ition brand of beers, with plenty of references and stories about Wetherspoon's pubs, where many of the beer launches and celebrations took place.

Alan's friend, Derrill Carr, remembers: "At the launch event at The Prince Arthur, Alan bought a cask of ale from Longdog Brewery and went around with a tray giving his 350 guests a sample of his ale.

"It was the smallest sample possible, in the smallest glass available, which made people laugh, but nobody could have forecast the number of people who would turn up at the event."

Finally, there is a chapter about Alan's 77th birthday and the celebration, at The Prince Arthur, in 2019, of his 20 years as leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party.

Alan, who has visited 709 Wetherspoon pubs, recalls: "Wetherspoon's staff brought over to my table a large birthday cake in Loony Party colours, with a lit number 77 candle.

"The cake was engraved and everybody in the pub sang Happy Birthday, as I blew out the number 77 candle in one go.

"Stuart Merricks, the pub manager at The Prince Arthur, also presented me, on behalf of Wetherspoon, with a specially inscribed glass tankard to commemorate the occasion."

He laughs: "Well, as it says on the T-shirt: 'I don't know how I got to 77, but I'm sure somebody somewhere lost a bet.'"

Alan has lived his life to the full, or better, has lived all of his lives to the full.

Some might say that he takes the 'P' out of 'Politics', but Alan would just say: "It's all been 'Sutch' good fun!"

● **Independently published and available in both paperback and Kindle version from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)**