

**FREE**

# Swan Supping



**Issue 103**

**Aug/Sep 2014**

3	GENEER STRAIT STRAIT	4.27	12.90
4	SCARBOROUGH MILD	4.30	13.00
5	ENNVILLE GINGER	4.62	13.10
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13	MORRIS IPA	5.17	13.10
14			
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**Another  
successful trip  
to the Black  
Country!  
See page 9**

**Newsletter of the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of CAMRA**

**[www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk) Circulation 6000**



# SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL

LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS

A CELEBRATION OF BEERS FROM BREWERIES ALONG THE ROUTE

23RD, 24TH & 25TH AUGUST



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## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



As summer seems to be hanging on a bit longer this year, certainly longer than the England team did in Brazil, it seems that more and more people are getting out to the pub to enjoy the weather.

According to an article in the on-line version of the Morning Advertiser, pubs have seen the highest rate of quarterly growth in beer volume sales this century. This is from the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), who attribute the rise to the second consecutive cut in beer duty, the late date for Easter and, of course, the World Cup. Let's hope that England's determination to

get home early to enjoy some of the glorious beer we have on offer won't cause a massive slump in the figures for the following quarter!

Off-sales from supermarkets etc. also increased, so there is still an upward trend in the number of people drinking at home. Call me old-fashioned, but there is nothing better than getting out of the house to meet old friends and possibly making new friends on neutral territory, namely the pub. Not only do you get the best form of beer, namely straight from the handpump (that's one thing supermarkets have yet to provide) but you don't have to do the washing-up either.

If this latest issue we have various tributes to mark the start of the 'War to End All Wars' in 1914. As we featured in our last issue, Roger Protz, the editor of the *Good Beer Guide*, has collaborated with *Chiltern Brewery* to produce Flanders Pale Ale, which is a 6.2% bottled beer made to a recipe which includes Belgian hops from Poperinge and Vienna malt. This was launched on Tuesday, 29th of July, with a Belgian style breakfast at the brewery. This was a very enjoyable affair and I'd like to pass my thanks on to Roger and the whole of the Jenkinson family for a lovely way to start the day. A full report appears on page 13.

Our own, slightly less serious, effort to mark a hundred years since the start of the First World War is another wonderful cartoon from Colin Stanford and a special edition of the *Gravediggers* story.

Also in this issue, we have a report of the Black Country trip that the branch ran in July, which was slightly later than we normally do as we expected



that interest in the World Cup would last longer than two matches (do you start to detect a touch of disappointment in my editorial about something?). Look out for next year's trip as it will be our silver anniversary as we head to the West Midlands for the twenty-fifth time. A report appears on page 9 and our front cover shows some of the happy participants.

In our 100th issue we held two competitions. One was to win a 'Growler' which we can see being presented to the winner, Chris Tranter, at *Malt the Brewery*, to whom we are grateful for their offering of the prize. The second competition for a day's brewing at the *Aylesbury Brewery Company* behind the *Hop Pole* in Aylesbury has still not been arranged and our apologies once again to the winners.

Thanks once again to all the people who have given their free time to contribute to the production and circulation of *Swan Supping*. Please remember that we are all volunteers and we may not get it right all the time, but we always try and do our best. So if we slip up and you haven't been getting your regular editions of *Swan Supping*, please bear with us and give us a gentle reminder (or a free pint!).

Cheers! **David W. Roe - Swan Supping Editor**

## NATIONAL CAMRA NEWS

### *Pub Company Legislation Welcomed*

The government's push to halt the unfair practices of large pub companies has been broadly welcomed by many campaigners.

Simon Clarke of the *Fair Pint Campaign* said confirmation that the pub industry will finally have a statutory code and an adjudicator could see a new beginning for the prospects of the British pub.

However, there is still campaigning to be done. A lot will depend on the code's terms, and whether the adjudicator is truly independent.

The coalition government's realisation that only legislation will ensure a tied tenant is no worse off than if they are free of tie will offer a brighter future for pubs.

### *Search For a New Chief*

**CAMRA** is seeking a new chief executive to steer the organisation into the future, following the departure of Mike Benner at the start of June. The chief executive heads **CAMRA**'s senior paid staff, reporting to the National Executive, and through them representing the wider membership.

Working closely with volunteer led committees, they will be responsible for developing and delivering **CAMRA**'s five year strategy. The successful candidate will become the key external spokesperson for **CAMRA** to the industry, media, parliament and the highest levels of government. The right person will be able to influence key audience in order to deliver **CAMRA**'s strategic objectives. Visit the website [www.camra.org.uk/job-opportunities](http://www.camra.org.uk/job-opportunities) for more information and to apply.

### *Push to toughen up right to buy your local*

A committee of MPs has announced an inquiry into community rights intended to give more power to people, including the right to buy a threatened community pub. The committee will examine the "community right to bid", the community's right to bid to buy a building that has been listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV); a subject that we have written about for the last few issues. The move comes as more than 430 pubs have been listed as ACVs, and **CAMRA** are well on their way to exceed its national 500 target.

The inquiry gives **CAMRA** the opportunity to set

out ways the ACV scheme can be strengthened. ACVs have already saved pubs from being sold off and turned into houses, but so far the listing must occur before a pub is sold, so it is vital to list your local now. See [www.swansupping.org.uk/campaigns/acv](http://www.swansupping.org.uk/campaigns/acv) to find out how.



Olympia, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX

Tuesday 12th August to Saturday 16th August

Full details on page 15.

# LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



## Rebellion Brewery

**Rebellion** opened their brand new spacious modern shop on the 8th of July. They will be keeping the same high level of service and atmosphere found in the original as they are offering fresh and bottle beers as before and you can pour your own samples from a pub style hand pull (new opening hours, 8am - 7pm Monday – Saturday).

Besides beer and selected wine from the Laithwaites range, there is a larger selection of local fresh produce (scotch eggs, meat pies, sausage rolls), more sauces and marinades from carefully selected producers, plus bread from Lee's Bakery High Wycombe and Burgers Bakery in Marlow.

The first phase of development to the brewery that will be taking place over the coming year. Currently the brewery is at full capacity and the key aim is to increase brewing capacity taking it from a 30 barrel to a 50 barrel brewery.

*Blonde* is still going strong this summer, and August's beer is *Silly Point* (4.2%), described as copper and refreshing.

Rebellion want to thank customers for their understanding with any inconvenience that has been cause with car parking or access over the past months. And furthermore thanks to the customers for any incontinence caused by the development over the coming months!

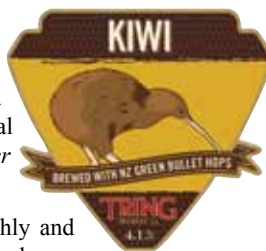
## Tring Brewery

It's been a busy few weeks at **Tring Brewery** with lots of regional events demanding lots of beer...over 5000 pints of *Side Pocket* and *Brock* went off to quench the thirst of Chilfest attendees for starters. It's not just about selling lots of beer though as the net result of a lot of these events is money raised for good causes. Over £2000 alone was raised on the first night of Tring Carnival for Chiltern MS.

The next few months will see monthly specials: *Kiwi* - brewed with New Zealand Green Bullet hops and *Armadillo* - brewed with Argentinian Cascade hops. The end of August will also see a change in seasonal specials from the much loved *Fanny Ebbs Summer Ale* to the always popular *Squadron Scramble*.



In addition to these monthly and seasonal specials, the brewery have just announced they have teamed up with Dacorum Council and will be producing a beer to commemorate the arrival of the Tour of Britain to the region in September. Plans are for all bottles of this commemorative beer to bear a unique 'raffle' number. Once all bottles are sold, a draw will take place to win a number of prizes including the regional stage winners jersey signed by, of course, the stage winner.



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## LOCAL NEWS

### AYLESBURY

Proposals to demolish the **Britannia** in Buckingham Street and build fourteen 'self contained apartments' in its place have been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council for approval.

We have featured the pub many times in recent issues as either it had been closed again or had yet another landlord. It most recently shut down in March and owners **Punch Taverns** then managed to sell the property, which had been on the market since 2012.

The 'Hobble on the Cobbles' music festival in August coincides with the fifth anniversary of Lauren taking over the **Green Man**, so they are celebrating with a music festival! You can enjoy the music by washing it down with a pint of **Sharps Doom Bar**, or of plans work out, an offering from the **ABC Brewery**.

The next 'takeover weekend' at the **Old Millwrights Arms** will see a joint venture from two breweries at opposite ends of the county as the pumps (now numbering nine following an additional hand pump being installed at the end of July) will be offering beers from **Malt the Brewery** and **Silverstone Brewery** over the weekend of the 15th - 17th of August. The following bank holiday weekend will see a national beer event as nine beers, each from a different county, will be available.

The council has approved plans to demolish the **Steeplechase** in Taylor Road, Southcourt, and turn it into a residential care home.

### BIERTON

**Fuller's ESB** must surely rank now as one of the classic beers since it was launched in 1971 - it has won many **CAMRA** and other awards. It's great that the **Bell** are now offering **ESB** regularly and in its special glass. At 5.5% it makes a superb accompaniment to savour with their English or Thai menus.

### CUBLINGTON

Cublington Feast and Beer Festival at the **Unicorn** commences at midday on Friday 22nd and runs to Monday 25th of August. Cublington Feast on Saturday 23rd from 7.30pm with live music from 'Gravity' from 8pm. Tickets to the feast are £20 per person or four tickets for £70 if purchased before 20th August or £25 per person on the day. Monday 25th

BBQ and live music from a superb eight piece Hungarian Ragtime band called 'Bohem' .....it all kicks off at midday!

### DOWNLEY

The **Le De Spencers Arms** had a very successful Beer Festival from Friday 4th to Sunday 7th July, with local **CAMRA** committee member, Pete Hoade, getting stuck (with great pleasure) on **Mordue Workie Ticket (Champion Beer of Britain 1997 and Great British Beer Festival Best Bitter 2013)**.

Cheese expert Les Root matched the ales on the Friday with superb British cheeses with a local emphasis.

### FRIETH

A consortium of determined residents who have been battling to protect their village pub are hoping to buy the currently vacant **Yew Tree**, which has served the village community for 160 years, and keep it as a going concern to stop it from undergoing a change of use.

The pub is still on the market, and could potentially be bought for redevelopment there is still a strong chance the building will remain a pub.

### GREAT HAMPDEN

The **Hampden Arms** held a beer festival over the weekend of 20th - 22nd June. The festival went really well and the favourites this year were: **Lock Keepers** from **Haresfoot Brewery**, Berkhamstead, **Punter** from **Upham Brewery**, Hampshire, **Betty's Brazilian** from **Skinner's** in Cornwall and **Blonde Ambition** from **Shepherd Neame** in Kent. Here's to next year!

### GREAT KIMBLE

Mick and Helen at the **Swan** are planning a beer festival in September but no date had been confirmed as we went to press.

### HADDENHAM

Refurbishment at the **Green Dragon** as it morphs into **The Twist at Haddenham** is continuing at speed with reopening rescheduled for early August.

At the **Kings Head**, surprises from the **Punch** list join regular offerings such as **London Pride** and **Doom Bar**.

At the **Rising Sun**, Rob and Miranda continue to surprise the regulars in Compost Corner with offerings from far-flung corners of the UK supplied by **Vale** or **XT** as swaps. Summer Locales are swiftly devoured with a firkin of



*Vale Gravitas* lasting barely an evening.

**Hawthorn Leisure** has bought 275 **Greene King** pubs including the **Rose & Thistle (RAT)**. They are tied to **Greene King** for three years so at the **RAT** you can once again find **Greene King IPA**, **Olde Trip** and **Hadders Tribe**. The back room is being converted into a restaurant and the fusion of Chinese, Malay, Thai and Japanese food from the kitchen is proving extremely popular.

### HAMBLEDEN

The **Stag and Huntsman** will be holding a beer festival on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of September, opening from 11am to 11pm. Twenty real ales and a selection of ciders will be on offer plus live music, an all day barbecue and a hog roast.

### LACEY GREEN

The **Black Horse** is running a beer festival over the weekend of 2nd to 4th of August in the garden pictured above. Twenty real ales and ciders will be available, food will be served each day, both lunchtime and evening, plus music and face painting for children on the Saturday.

### LONG CRENDON

Plans for the **Eight Bells** summer festival on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of August are coming together. The theme is 'Land's End to John O'Groats' a celebration of beers from breweries along the route, more info on the beers, live music and other activities will be posted nearer the time on their website [www.8bellspub.com](http://www.8bellspub.com). Rotating guest beers have proven to be incredibly popular and over the next couple of months will include beers from **XT**, **Animal Brewing Company**,

**Malt**, **Chiltern**, **Jennings** and many more.

### MARLOW

The **Coach & Horses** serves its last pint under landlady Ling Poon's management on Saturday 2nd of August before having new owners. Two-star Michelin chef, Tom Kerridge is taking over the West Street pub. The **C & H**, which even its most loyal patrons would agree is rather run down and tatty, will get a complete makeover, which will include a rear extension and a new kitchen. The pub will also be completely refitted to include a new bar, flooring, decoration and seating.

The **Hare & Hounds** seems doomed to be another housing project in the town!

Although not much seems to be going on at the moment, it looks like restoration work may be beginning on the **Two Brewers**.

The **Marlow Royal British Legion** is hosting their annual Summerfest Beer Festival from Friday 22nd of August through the bank holiday until Monday 26th of August. Sixteen real ales and real cider will be on offer with Derbyshire beers headlining as usual. All real ales are £2.50 a pint to celebrate the Legion's 10th beer festival to date.

### MEDMENHAM

The 'To Let' signs have come off the **Dog and Badger** and following planning and Listed Building applications in with Wycombe District Council for demolition and replacement of the existing flat roof extension and single storey rear building so as to provide for a new bar, work has now got under way with lights controlling the traffic on the



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Marlow-Henley road, as preliminary work is undertaken on the road-facing facade and roof.

## OAKLEY

Piers and Sandra are running the **Chandos Arms**, which is owned by **Punch Taverns**. Piers has been sticking with **Sharp's Doom Bar** and **Greene King IPA** since taking over in April, but is committed to experimenting with some of the interesting offerings on the **Punch** list. Locales such as **Tring's Side Pocket for a Toad**, which proved popular under the previous management, may be on offer soon. The kitchen is up and running and this important pub is once again a hive of activity.

## POUNDON

The **Sow and Pigs** opens at 4pm Monday to Thursday – most welcoming when finishing work in a hot warehouse at the same time – making the **Brakspears Bitter** all the more enjoyable. It opens all day Friday and Saturday. The pub will be hosting a Classic Car event on bank holiday Sunday 24th August.

## QUAINTON

The **George and Dragon** opened its Coffee Shop and Tea Room in early July. Located in a two storey outbuilding to one side of the pub (pictured top right) it serves breakfasts, hot and cold drinks and snacks throughout the day from 10am. Designed to appeal to the many walkers, cyclists and tourists passing through this picturesque village it also brings more space to the pub itself as not all visitors want alcohol. The ground floor comprises of a well-equipped servery with some tables and seating

whilst upstairs is a much larger dining room also suitable for functions. There is additional seating outside at the front overlooking the green as climate allows.

Coming up shortly is a Classic Car and Bike Day on Sunday 17th August from 2-4pm, then a Bingo Night on Sunday 7th September from 7.30pm.

## THAME

The **Black Horse** continues with its real ale for £3 on Thursdays. They normally have **Hobgoblin**, **London Pride** and **Doom Bar**.

**Brakspear Bitter** and **Vale Wyche** are available at **Chinnor RFC**. Don't miss the Oktoberfest on 4th October 2014.

At the **Cross Keys**, there is the imminent arrival of **Mr Splodge** mild, followed by a **Hoppiness**. Hopefully we will see a regular supply of **Thame Brewery** beers in the coming months.

Meanwhile, at the **Rising Sun**, Jay Kansikam and Aay Phanthamat, better known to all as Jay and Patsy, and all the staff, have received the **Brakspear** 2014 Hospitality award. Congratulations to all involved in helping the pub to be recognised in this way. The **Riser** provides Thai food and beers from the **Brakspear/Marston** range. The quiz isn't bad either on Tuesdays!

## WADDESDON

The **Lion** will be holding its popular annual Sausage and Beer Festival over the bank holiday weekend.

## WHITCHURCH

At the **White Swan** the previously mentioned balloon into space launch



took place as planned on Saturday 5th July. The pint of **Fullers London Pride** was successfully taken up to the edge of space to an altitude of about 30 kilometres before returning to earth. It was tracked and recovered from a field near Cambridge and the beer, now frozen solid, brought back to the pub. Sadly the eagerly anticipated pictures have not materialised.

Examination of the photographic equipment indicates that solar flare damage is the likely cause, a common problem in such ventures. However it is intended to repeat the operation as soon as clearance is obtained and weather conditions permit.

On Saturday 23rd August 'Whitstock Music Festival' kicks off from 12noon with a disco and live music from 3-4

bands starting at 3pm. A pig roast or similar will also support the event. Also in the planning stages for the autumn are an Oktoberfest Beer Festival and a 007 James Bond Casino Night, dates to be arranged. Quiz nights are every third Wednesday.

## WORMINGHALL

Sarah Cox and Steve Pauling have taken on the **Clifden Arms**, an **Enterprise** pub, and are looking at the long term. The improved, fenced and children-friendly garden has new giant games. Steve is from **Hook Norton** land and currently **Hooky** is being served along with **Fullers London Pride** and **Sharp's Doom Bar**. A Locale from **Vale** or **XT** is on the cards as is an ale and cider festival in the Autumn. The kitchen is also up and running.

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## CAMPAIGNING GIANT DIES

Bob Jones, who died in July, was a fanatical lover of real ale, and one of the oldest members of **CAMRA**.

An active member from the start, he has attended many marches against the closing of pubs and breweries. Serving a record 18 years on the National Executive, elected in 1994, Bob, pictured on the right with Roger Protz, editor of the *Good Beer Guide*, had worked with four national chairmen. With strong views on the beer industry, he was chairman of the Industry Campaigns committee which later became the Campaign Strategy committee.

Bob's insight and political connections were invaluable in enabling **CAMRA** to secure major campaigning wins in reform of licensing hours and the hugely successful introduction of the small brewers duty relief, a policy that has seen the numbers of brewers in the country grow from a tiny handful to more than 1300 today, thus creating many thousands of jobs, as well as giving the country's drinkers outstanding choice.

I only met Bob Jones a few times in my six years of active **CAMRA** membership. I have worked in the *Great British Beer Festival* Press office for the last four years, of which Bob was the manager. The Press office is a diverse mix of volunteers with distinct things to do, staff members, and general volunteers. Bob kept quiet control of this sometimes chaotic seeming diverse group of people.

While holding strong personal views, he could, none the less, argue reasonably with those with differing views, always urging, but not demanding. Something I experienced myself when discussing the (then



current) Labour government's policies with him one night after hours in the press office.

Bob's quiet questioning of my thought and opinions were an effective way of putting forward his views. It was this personal side that enabled Bob to quietly recruit large numbers to the cause and activate many existing members across the country. His other great passion was for politics, a stalwart Labour man, and specifically policing.

He served as a Labour councillor from 1980 to 2013 for Blakenhall in Wolverhampton. He was previously a member of West Midlands Police Authority from 1986 to 2012, and chaired the authority from 1995

through to 2000.

When this was abolished, he stood for and was elected to the newly created post of Police and Crime Commissioner, despite believing that the role should not be carried out by one person alone, believing that he was the best person to do it. Which of course, he was.

A member of the Technical Advisory Group and spells as finance director - he was notoriously careful with campaign money - Bob could bring his skills and a safe pair of hands to any role, organising a dedicated team to help him.

A giant of a man, with his feet firmly on the ground, he will be sorely missed.

Both **CAMRA** and Policing in the West Midlands will be diminished without him.

*Alexander Wright*

## THE MARLOW ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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*(our 10th Beer Festival)*

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## BLACK COUNTRY TRIP 2014

Saturday 12th of July was the date of the latest Black Country Coach trip. This was our twenty-fourth trip and coincidentally there were twenty-four people on the trip, so we must be doing something right!

This year's trip was dedicated to two people who had regularly joined us on the coach in the past and who are sadly no longer with us: John Bazin and Roger Olney.

As usual we started off at the **Coach & Horses** in Weatheroak (pictured below), not only due to its fantastic range of beer (mainly from their own brewery) but also to the food (the favourite seemed to be faggots, peas and chips) which was soon appearing despite the number of people that had just descended on the pub.



We next went, by a roundabout route courtesy of our bus driver to the **Waggon & Horses** in Halesowen, where we took advantage of the fourteen



handpumps pictured on the left. The full range of beer available that afternoon can be read on our front cover.

Our next stop is the only pub that has featured on every one of our trips, the **Vine (Bull & Bladder)** in Brierley Hill. This multi-roomed **Bathams** only sells mild and bitter, but you could settle in to drink them all day, only taking time to partake of their wonderful pork pies, pork scratchings and rolls.

This is a very relaxing pub and is usually an excuse to get the cards out for a game of cribbage as a group of the

usual suspects are demonstrating in the picture below.



After another favourite, the **Olde Swan** in Netherton (right) where we enjoyed the beer brewed in the Victorian brewery at the rear, we visited the **Fountain** in Lower Gornal,



which we haven't been to for a few years. There we met up with some familiar faces from the local branch of **CAMRA**, some of whom had kindly helped in the organisation of the trip.

We next hit the **Holdens** brewery tap, the Park Inn (below) in Woodsetton. We had a stroke of luck here as there has been a 'do' held there and a lot of food had remained after the guests had left. I'm afraid there wasn't much left when we moved on to the **Cottage Spring**, also in Woodsetton. This was a newly reopened pub, now run by **Black Country Ales**.

To finish the trip, as we have done many times, we ended up at the **Beacon Hotel** in Sedgley, home of the famous **Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild** and the **Sedgley Surprise** which were both enjoyed in equal measure.



Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, so don't worry if you missed the trip this year, we will be doing it all again next year. I've just got to think of beers and pubs with silver in them...

**David Roe**



### FRESH NEW LOOK, SAME GREAT TASTE!



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## LOCALISM? BIG SOCIETY?

### *Real or Imagined Power to the People?*

The deck appears to be stacked against local communities being able to safeguard their heritage and community assets despite encouraging noises from those in authority!

What chance do communities have when confronted by large Pubcos, Major Supermarket Chains, inappropriate and unfair planning processes and lip-service to 'Localism' by the Government?

Did you know that converting a pub into a Morrison's (or anyone else's) convenience store is invisible to local communities until too late to resist? That's what has happened in the village of Downley! The **Downley Donkey** closed some weeks ago, with talk beforehand of renovation by a new landlord and great ideas for revitalising the pub, but had already been sold by *Enterprise Inns* to Morrison's unbeknown to all.

It transpires that a 'retail to retail' change of use doesn't require planning approval i.e. the sale can become a fait accompli without any exposure to the planning processes. These only kick in when an application is made to make changes to the site – too late for localism to play its part.

The only weapon available to communities to safeguard pubs/shops etc. that are valuable public amenities, other than making sure they are well frequented, is to register them as ACVs (Assets of Community Value). This is a simple process where Parish Councils, groups of 21 local residents and other relevant local bodies can, without any financial implications, register such amenities with their local council. This acts as a deterrent to speculators and other predatory acquisitions by providing time for the local community to, if they so wish, to bid to take the pub on if a change of use is planned.



This can stop a pub being turned into a residence as in this instance planning permission is necessary and the planning authorities will use the registration as material consideration when reviewing the planning submission.

Unfortunately, however, it's of little or no use currently when 'retail to retail' is involved. What we need is for community pubs to be listed in their own use class, which would render planning permission to be necessary and visible for a change to retail use. This does appear belatedly to be supported by all three political parties but needs us to lobby our MPs in numbers to

get it addressed with some urgency.

The **Downley Donkey** story is made even sadder when reviewing the inaction of the last twelve months. The parish council was asked by a letter from our local **CAMRA** committee in May last year to put the protection of the village pubs by ACV registration on the agenda. It didn't take place until after further prompting from us in late February and after the sale of the **Donkey** had already been effected. Downley was one of many parish councils who have not given this issue the priority it deserves. Let's all encourage them to do the necessary to safeguard our remaining pubs!

A final note – the **Donkey** has now been listed as an ACV but is of no use in saving the pub as you can see from Wycombe Council's information: Having assessed the nomination of the **Downley Donkey** in Downley for inclusion on the list of Assets of Community Value, I can confirm that the asset will be listed for the next five years. The list will be published on the Council's website but note that this does not prevent a change of use from a public house to a local shop as both uses fall within the Planning definition of a community facility. What can one say in response to that!

*Peter Hoade*

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## AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

The 21st annual Aylesbury Beer Festival in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice, will be taking place on Friday 24th (6pm-11pm) and Saturday 25th (11am-11pm) October, at the Bucks CC Sports & Social Club, Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville. This will bring the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Hospice to a close with a selection of real ales, cider and perry to really whet the appetite!

You can buy a ticket from all **Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Shops**, by contacting the Charity directly or through Aylesbury Tourist Office. All profits will go to the charity, which needs to raise half a million pounds each year, and if you wish to sponsor a barrel, please contact the **Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity** on 01296 429975.

Local **CAMRA** volunteers are required for the festival. Please get in touch (contact details on page 22) if you wish to help either in the setting up, serving or helping to take down the barrels at the end. We can guarantee a great time (plus free entry!) and the more people that help, the less arduous the work will be.

The venue is opposite the Ambulance Station at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and regular buses (9, 300) run past the venue, so there is no need to drink and drive. This is our latest festival that we have raised money for the Hospice and the beer

tends to taste better when you know that the money you have paid is going to a worthwhile cause.

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## FLANDERS PALE ALE LAUNCH

The **Chiltern Brewery** take particular pride in their special limited edition beers and *Flanders Pale Ale*, released on Tuesday 29th July, has been a true labour of love and inspiration. The ale was launched by Roger Protz at the brewery in Terrick.

Award winning beer writer and editor of **CAMRA's Good Beer Guide** Roger Protz first suggested the brewing of a Flanders Ale to mark the centenary of the start of the World War One and the close brewing links between Belgium and Britain. Following the success of their collaboration on *Ruby Ale* to celebrate 40 years of the **GBG**, Head Brewer Tom Jenkinson and Roger devised a recipe for a beer that uses pale and Vienna malts, along with a Belgian version of the English Challenger hop from Poperinge, close to Ypres in Flanders. The use of Belgian hops is a first for the brewery.

The result is *Flanders Pale Ale* 6.2% vol, a truly special limited edition and bottle conditioned beer, deep golden in colour with a smooth palate, a subtle burnt toffee flavour and a well balanced hop note.

'Belgium and Britain are united by a love of pale ale – a passion cemented by Britain's support for Belgian independence during World War One. Flanders Ale, based on authentic recipes from that period, salutes a great beer style', says Roger Protz.

'We really hope that *Flanders Pale Ale* will be a fitting memorial to the spirit and bravery of the soldiers of 1914 and a celebration of this wonderful beer style and the many links between the Belgian and British brewers', says Tom Jenkinson.

On Wednesday 29th July 1914 an Austrian bombardment of Belgrade began and at 11pm on



Tuesday 4th August 1914 Britain 'commenced hostilities'. The low-lying and agriculturally fertile northern part of Belgium known as Flanders was a scene of heavy fighting in WW1. The poppies that covered the landscape came to symbolize the war dead.

Pale ale was a style of beer reminiscent of home and close to the hearts of British soldiers, although pale ales had been imported into Belgium before the war. In addition, a number of Belgian breweries produced their interpretations of British pale ale before, during and after the war and they continue to this day. It is in this spirit that *Flanders Pale Ale* has been created.

Roger Protz is editor of **CAMRA's Good Beer Guide**, twice winner of the Glenfiddich Drink Writer Award and **Fuller's ESB** Gold Award for Best Writing for Beer and Pub Trade Press 2013.



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# WORLD'S BIGGEST PUB

## Roll Up! Roll Up! To Britain's Biggest Beer Festival

The UK's biggest beer festival, which this year has a circus theme complete with live action performers, will once again be taking place at London's Olympia exhibition arena from the 12th-16th of August.

The **Great British Beer Festival**, which is in its 37th year, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the **Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)** and will showcase over 900 real ales, ciders and perries from across the UK plus specially chosen international beers that are rarely seen on these shores.

Over 55,000 people are expected to attend the week long event, which will this year feature more than 350 British Breweries alongside fantastic international brews. The World famous Hat Day will also be taking place again this year on Thursday (14th), with free pints and other prizes being given out around the festival for the most inventive hats and an overall winner taking away a top prize.

Ideally placed in the centre of London, and easily accessible by public transport, it is the perfect setting for the UK's biggest beer festival. During the festival's duration Olympia will host over 55,000 thirsty drinkers across two halls; the larger, and aptly named, 'Olympia Grand' - and the slightly smaller, but equally impressive, 'Olympia National'.

Each hall will have a number of bars serving real ale from hundreds of breweries of all shapes and sizes across the UK, as well as brewery bars where you can try both well-known brews and limited edition beers from some of the UK's biggest and best real ale brewers.

As well as that there will be some fantastic international draught and bottled beers from the likes of Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic, and the always hugely popular American Cask bar.

Both halls will also have expanded seating areas in 2014, plus some fantastic food and merchandise stalls hand-picked for the festival.

**GBBF** tickets are now on sale, with single tickets for each full day and 'season tickets' available for purchase - all at cheaper rates than paying on the door. **CAMRA** members receive an additional discount on all tickets. Go to the website [www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets](http://www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets) or ring 0844 412 4640

Trade Session tickets for licensees, brewers and other industry representatives are now available via the trade page on the website.

Olympia London is the only venue in London with a dedicated rail station - Kensington (Olympia).

Transport For London (TFL) have confirmed that a special service will once again be running from Earl's Court Tube Station to Kensington (Olympia) Tube Station to service the **Great British Beer Festival**.

The Earl's Court to Olympia train can be very busy at peak times, so don't forget that Olympia

London also has six other tube stations nearby within walking distance.

The full address of the venue is: Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, London W14 8UX

## Festival Opening Times

Tuesday 12th August – 12 noon-5pm (Trade Session) followed by 5pm-10:30pm,

Wednesday 13th August to Friday 15th August 12 noon-10:30pm,

Saturday 16th August – 11am-7:00pm

## Some beers to try at the Great British Beer Festival

**Rother Valley Black Ops** (3.8%). This session strength black IPA punches well above its weight, with big hop flavour atop dark malt. (Clown bar-B04)

**B & T Fruit Bat** (4.3%). A malty, lightly hopped, fruit beer with strong flavours of raspberry, using Pale and Wheat malts and Challenger and Golding hops. (Lion Tamer bar- B01)

**Saltaire Triple Chocoholic** (4.8%). A speciality stout made with three dark malts, cocoa, chocolate syrups and essence for a full on chocolate flavour. (Ringmaster bar- B18)

**Lancaster Cherry Crush** (4.2%). A deep red beer. Delicate cherry undertones infused with Styrian Golding hops. (Fire breather bar- B09)

**Fuller's Vintage 2014** (8.5%). This year's release of vintage ale- we are expecting spicy citrus fruit with malty sweet biscuit but we won't know until the casks are opened. (Fuller's bar -B02)

Why not join the branch at their social at the festival on the Thursday evening (from 6pm) as we make our annual pilgrimage to the world's biggest pub!





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## MORE LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

### ABC Brewery

The **Brewhouse** specials have been very well received. In addition to *Pure Gold*, which is a permanent, coming up are *Occultation* (a 4.6% light zesty bitter, with a sweetish malty finish), and *AMt ERIC* which is a tribute to Icelandic explorer Lief Ericson, the founder of AmtEric or America. This is brewed with Nordic hops in an American style pale ale.

Paradox a 5% dark hoppy bitter (a true paradox) follows along with *The Beer with No Name*, a 4.8% brew with a wild west theme. Golden in colour with Mexican hops and a hint of Chilli.



### Malt the Brewery

The brewery is proud to be on tap at the **Polecat** (pictured bottom right) in Prestwood, which is their closest pub. Visitors can enjoy *Prestwood's Best* alongside a changing selection of other **Malt** ales.

Over the weekend of 16th and 17th of August, the **Malt the Brewery** 'Pump Take Over' will take place at the **Old Millwrights Arms** in Aylesbury, and you can enjoy their full range of ales outside the brewery tasting bar.

On Saturday 27th September, **Malt the Brewery** will be at **Thame Food Festival** sampling ale and selling their 'Real Ale in a bottle'.

On October 12th they celebrate two years of brewing. The brewery will be open on a rare Sunday, and the day will feature local music and dancing, food stalls and local attractions to make it a great day out for the ale lover. The farmer on Collingshanger farm, where **Malt the Brewery** is based will also be doing farm walks to meet the pigs who enjoy their spent grains. The event will start at 12pm.

August will be the last month of their successful **Malt Summer Daze**. It's really caught them by surprise this year and has outstripped **Malt IPA** which was previously their best seller.



**Malt Harvest Ale** will return for the third time in September. It was the first ale Nick commercially brewed and so it will be part of their birthday celebrations. It's a light amber ale full of flavour and is so named because it was brewed as the fields behind the brewery were being harvested.

In addition, **Malt** have just taken on an apprentice on the government backed scheme as a Brewery Operative.

### Vale Brewery

The monthly special brew for August is *SPS - Self Preservation Society*. As the brewer, David Renton, said 'Hang on lads. I've a great idea'. This is an English summer beer, but with a difference, an American style, Rye Malt and fruity fragrant Citra hops create a cracking pint at 4.2%

In September, *Barleycorn* is a 3.8% harvest ale as the evenings become shorter, featuring traditional maris otter malts with soft earthy hops.



Also worth looking out for is *VPA* in your local **Greene King** pub. If it is not on then if you ask they should be able to get it in on their guest program.

Both **Vale** and **ABC** beers will be available at the Bucks County Show on the 28th August in the food and drink marquee.



Then well worth a visit is the Thame Food festival on the 27th September. Among other **Vale** and **Aylesbury** beers there will be a reappearance of the popular *Thame 'In of The Brew*. Beers will be available to taste and take away on the day.

### XT Brewery

The **XT Saison 14** has been a very popular summer choice having now been brewed several times to keep up with the demand. Interestingly the natural haze of the Saison yeast hasn't put drinkers off, showing how tastes have changed over recent years.

The newest **Animal** beer is the *Squeek!* – a 4.6% Amber Ale brewed with an aromatic malt from Bamberg and Waimea hops from New Zealand.

**XT** have made a collaboration beer with the **Elephant School Brewery**. It's a wheat beer made with additions of orange and elderflower. At 4.2% it's a great summer barbecue beer and has a natural haze from the wheat malt. This was available in July and will continue through August while stocks last.

**XT** made some unique fruit beer specials – brewed up in small batches for Haddenham, Ealing, Watford and Cricklade festivals, these were some of the first beers to sell out. **XT** beers will be at the **Great British Beer Festival** from 12th to 16th August in Olympia.

With the growing popularity of their beers, **XT** have been investing in new equipment and expanding the brewing team. More news on the expansion plans should be available from the next edition.

The July open day was very well attended – seven different **XT** beers plus Long Crendon ciders were available all at just £2 a pint including a one off *OD-IPA* at 5%. Their next open day is on Saturday October 18th.





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## INN OFF THE POST

Are British pub landlords just too lazy?

To 'retire and go and run a pub' is one of those oft quoted life aspirations that those still working hard for a living will say when prompted to speculate on how they might like to spend their declining years. For it is seen as idyllic, sanguine, something to aim for where one can take life a little easier.

To be fair, I'm sure that if you're a top brain surgeon, a high profile barrister or the chap who cleans the bird poo off the top of lamp posts, it would indeed be an easier life. But on the whole, from my observations, running a pub is not for the faint-hearted or the work-shy. It's long hours, hard work and comes with that onerous of challenges, that of dealing with the public, some of whom might not always be as sober as one might like.

It takes a special kind of person to be a publican or landlord or landlady or landperson or whatever this week's politically correct job title happens to be.

So my heart-felt plea to wanna-be publicans is this, please don't do it, if your heart's not in it. For you will be expected to provide a community service, a service which the community, most probably, your local community, will come to both expect and rely upon. So if you can't be bothered to provide that service, then please don't try. Go and run a widget stall at the monthly market, or seek employment in the pizza shop, inserting the free little model plastic garden table into each pizza box that passes you (has anyone ever got the chairs to make a full set)?

You see dear reader, late one recent Sunday afternoon, after a hard day's work, I decided to do, what is for me, a rare thing – I simply fancied a long cold pint of lager (oh come on, pick yourselves up, you know full well someone somewhere drinks the stuff so don't pretend that you don't).

Picture the scene if you will and I hope you will. The family all assembled into the car, off we set for a short drive to a nice little local village pub, for a quite Sunday afternoon / evening drink. The sun was shining, the birds were singing and I was gasping.

We arrived at the **Dinton Hermit** to find that it was shut. Not only shut, but it didn't even have the courtesy to display its opening hours so that we could see what time it opened – or perhaps, on what day it opened. Or if it opened.

Never mind thought I, we shall head for that other famous Dinton pub (that isn't actually in Dinton but who's counting) the **Seven Stars**. Now surely our luck was in, for there beside the main road (the A418 for those who care about such matters and I hope you do) was a blackboard proudly advertising the **Seven Stars** at Dinton (that still isn't actually in Dinton but again, who's counting).

They too were shut and from the look of the 'Opening Times' courteously displayed, are not really interested in being a proper pub anyway now, favouring the far-more till jangling restaurant approach. Anyway, I just wanted a drink and tough, they were shut.

Finally, I realised our mistake. We had been trying to get a drink in locally owned 'independent' pubs. Fatal. If you want to guarantee that a pub is open in the UK, head for a big chain. I opted for the welcoming hostelry which is the **Bugle Horn** in Stone.

They win my unending appreciation and more importantly, my custom.

So landlords, really? If you're just too darn lazy to run a pub properly then go and do something else. Yes I know it's hard work, but then so should you before you take it on.

Anyway, cheers and here endeth today's rant. Good morrow.

### Name & address supplied

*<Well, if that doesn't get a response from somewhere I will be very surprised! The writer should have read **Swan Supping** a bit more carefully as we noted in the Local news section that the **Dinton Hermit** (which is in Ford) closed at the end of last year, but then again, sometimes it is not obvious from the outside of the pub why it is closed. The **Seven Stars** (which, as far as anyone knows, is in Dinton) is a community-owned pub so it should be serving that community, so we look forward to a reply from them. We get far too little response from our readers, so we look forward to this email stirring up some controversy (and nothing more needs to be said about local geography). Please email (or send snail mail) to me - the contact details are on page 22 - Ed.>*

## WHIP INN



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Tring Colleys Dog & Mansion Mild - Thwaites Lancaster Bomber  
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## GRAVEDIGGERS: PART THIRTY

Towards the end of July a mini-heatwave hit the **Gravediggers**. In addition to laying out the regulars in the bar in an even more acute state of suspended torpor than usual, temperatures in the cellar rose to dangerous levels – precipitating unpredictable chemical reactions in the barrels. Inevitably a cask exploded with such violent force it hurtled shrapnel straight through the bar floor, narrowly missing Old Joe (whose snooze remained fortunately undisturbed) before blasting a puncture through the ‘antique’

tobacco-stained wooden panelling that had lined that part of the public bar for as long as anyone could remember – even old Moses.

Mazz peered through the gaping hole at the even more ancient stonework behind the panelling, wondering how to retrieve the projectile. Huge translucent arachnids and a menagerie of insects as yet unknown to etymologists scampered away from the light into the darkest recesses of the remaining void.

‘There’s massive spiders hiding in the place you want me to put my hand to find that piece of metal,’ Mazz complained to James.

‘Excellent. If you find any juicy dead ones we’ll put them aside to ferment for our Hallowe’en brew,’ James replied.

‘Hold on,’ Mazz said, stretching her hand inside the gap between panelling and wall. ‘This doesn’t feel like a piece of barrel – or an insect – it feels like a picture frame. It must have been here for years.’

‘Just under a hundred,’ Old Joe said, waking up. ‘My great-great-uncle put in this panelling after the Great *IPA* Eruption of 1919.’

‘That would figure,’ Mazz said, sweeping dust off the picture that she’d extracted from the hole. ‘It’s an framed, old black and white photograph – of a line of about twenty men with pints in their hands outside the pub – and it’s dated August 1914.’

‘Looks like the first time any of them have tried to stand up straight in their lives,’ James said, laughing at the motley band in the photograph. ‘If it wasn’t for the old fashions, I could swear

it’s the spitting image of the regulars who prop up our bar these days – or at least those who aren’t on the floor.’

‘Not surprising. They’s all our forefathers or fore-uncles– sort of,’ Old Moses said. ‘If that’s the photo I was told about – the day they all enlisted – then there was only two of them came back. The rest of them’s just names on the memorial.’

\*\*\*\*

August 1914

Young Joe and Young Pete laid down their scythes in the sweltering cornfield and ambled towards the **Gravediggers’ Arms** for a few pints of much-needed, mid-afternoon refreshment. Covered in straw, they sat on the hard, wooden benches while Jimmy brought a jug of foaming green ale upstairs from the cellar. Mary cut two thick slices of gritty bread, laid a festering off-cut of stinking cheese on each and passed the food to the drinkers in exchange for a farthing. They were already downing their third pint.

Jimmy spotted two figures on horseback galloping towards the pub across the peaceful landscape. ‘Well I never, it’s the squire and his brother heading right our way. Better look smart.’

‘The idiot brother who’s an army general?’ Old Joe asked just before the two moustachioed men, Lord Digger of Gravely and Major General Coq-Up, sauntered through the **Gravediggers’** door.

The locals all doffed their caps in unison while Mary curtsied.

‘What ho! Good line of business for you chaps to be in with all this nonsense brewing over the Channel,’ General Coq-Up shouted. ‘Your

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skills will be in mighty demand for the trenches as well as the, ahem, obvious.'

'They're not all gravediggers themselves, you clot,' Lord Digger said, correcting his brother. 'No. This drunken rabble is the men who work my estate – farmhands, gamekeepers, shepherds – and, by the look of it, professional layouts.'

'A spell in the army will knock them into shape.' General Coq-Up surveyed the assorted collection of drunken regulars.

'To what do we owe the honour, your lordship,' Jimmy asked, tugging his forelock.

'We're not here for a social call, my good man,' Lord Digger said. 'No. We're on top secret military-related business.'

'During tiffin at half-time in our polo match I noticed a sinister purple column of smoke emanating from this hostelry,' General Coq-Up added. 'And as I've been tasked by the Field Marshall to stay in Blighty and investigate new-fangled methods of waging merciless carnage in these jolly exciting hostilities, I took it as my duty to make further investigations.'

'Ah, that'll be our new brew – *Purple Poisoner*,' Jimmy said. 'It's such powerful stuff it's gone down a storm with the locals. I brewed a second batch this morning but you're welcome to try a pint of the first brew.'

Mary skipped down to the cellar and returned with a jug. Lord Digger and General Coq-Up looked on gingerly as a noxious-smelling, purple gas curled from the liquid's bubbling surface towards the ceiling.

'Can it fell a man at a hundred feet?' General Coq-Up asked.

'Undoubtedly – the smell alone is lethal if they're not used to the sort of beer we brew round these parts,' Jimmy said, pouring a small quantity into a pewter mug.

General Coq-Up guardedly sniffed the beer. He immediately grimaced in shock and collapsed on the floor.

'Good grief, man. We're British. I'm afraid we can't stoop to using cowardly weapons like that on man nor beast,' Lord Digger said. 'You can keep this noxious liquid for your working-class selves.'

'Shall I give the General the antidote?' Mary asked.

'No need – he suffered far worse at our boarding school,' Lord Digger tried to step around his flattened brother but his riding boots had stuck fast to the beer-covered floor.

'We'll get Old Roger to chisel him free when he comes round,' Jimmy said.

'Excuse me for my impertinence my lord but did you say something about a war?' Young Joe asked.

'Oh yes. Matter of days after that Archduke Ferdinand business in Sarajevo.'

'Is that in over the hills in Silageshire?' Young Joe asked. 'You see we've never travelled further than the next village.'

'Balkans, man!' Lord Digger replied impatiently.

'Sorry if he's caused offence,' Young Pete said.

'Haven't you men read about this in the newspapers?' Lord Digger asked.

'Us? Read?' Young Joe glanced at Young Pete in amazement at the suggestion.



Lord Digger cast his eyes around the **Gravediggers**, surveying the sweaty farmhands who were half-comatose with the effects of the home-brewed ale. He took his watch from his waistcoat pocket.

'Good Lord. It's only four-thirty. You're all going to find it a shock in the army,' Lord Digger said.

The locals looked at each other, confused.

'I've promised my friend Lord Kitchener that at least half of my men will enthusiastically sign up straight away – and we'll make the rest of you work harder by shutting the pubs in the afternoons and watering down your beer – by law.'

'But why should the boys fight for watered down beer?' Very Old Pete shouted from his stool at the bar, shocked enough to become emboldened.

'Because, dear fellow, if Fritz was to win then he'd replace all the traditional brown beer in the country with the yellow, fizzy stuff that Johnny Foreigner is rumoured to swill.'

\*\*\*\*

A few weeks later, a group of a dozen young regulars all ready to enlist, assembled outside the **Diggers** for a final pint before being taken to the station in Very Old Pete's horse and cart.

Intrigued by seeing a camera for the first time in their lives they posed for a photograph, pints held aloft. Young Rupert and Young Wilf jotted their thoughts into notebooks.

'You might find something more dramatic in France to write your silly poetry about. More action than when you go for walks on the hills round here,' Young Pete taunted the scribblers.

Mary gave Jimmy a hug as he downed his pint of *Purple Poisoner*. 'Are you sure about going? You're not one of Lord Digger's farmhands,' she asked.

'It'll be over before Christmas – and most of our customers are joining up too,' Jimmy said. 'And if our traditional way of life – of enjoying a few pints of English ale in a village pub – isn't worth defending, then I don't know what is. Even when we're long gone in a hundred years' time, I want our descendants to be free to stand at the **Gravediggers** bar. That's the sort of simple thing we ought to be fighting for.'

'If this bunch are their ancestors, those drinkers of the next century won't be standing, they'll be rolling on the floor,' Mary said, downing a pint of *Purple Poisoner* as the cart creaked away down the track.

**Charlie Mackle**

## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### August

#### Tuesday 5th WOOBURN GREEN SOCIAL

8.00pm Queen and Albert, 8.45pm Red Lion, 9.30pm Old Bell.

#### Thursday 14th GBBF SOCIAL

6.00pm Olympia, London call social mobile (below) for our location

#### Thursday 21st BRANCH SOCIAL

8.00pm Whip Inn, Lacey Green.

### September

#### Monday 1st BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Hop Pole, Aylesbury.

#### Saturday 6th AUNT SALLY AND BEER FESTIVAL

12 noon Mason's Arms, Headington, Oxford (short walk from 280 route from Aylesbury and Thame)

#### Tuesday 9th SOCIAL

8.00pm Boot, Soulbury, 8.45pm Swan, Stewkley, 9.45pm Carpenter's Arms, Stewkley.

#### Thursday 18th LOUDWATER/WYCOMBE MARSH SOCIAL

7.30pm Happy Union, 8.00pm King George V, 8.30pm General Havelock.

#### Wednesday 24th TAX EQUITY SOCIAL

7.00pm White Hart, Aylesbury, 8.30pm Bell. This is to support the Tax Equity day when the prices are lowered by 7.5% to simulate a VAT rate of 5% in an attempt to highlight the inequality of tax rates for pubs.

### Saturday 27th LONDON OVERGROUND/OLYMPIC PARK TRIP

Start 12 noon, Tap East, Stratford, 1.30pm Crate Brewery, Hackney Wick, 3.00pm People's Park Tavern, Homerton, 4.30pm Cock Tavern, Hackney, 5.30pm Duke of Wellington, Dalston Kingsland, 6.30pm Southampton Arms, Kentish Town

### Monday 29th BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Britannia, Marlow

### October

#### Friday 24th & Saturday 25th BEER FESTIVAL

21st Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival, Bucks County Council Sports & Social Club, Lower Road, Aylesbury

### November

#### Monday 3rd BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Wheel, Naphill

### December

#### Monday 8th BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Hop Pole, Aylesbury

Further details can be found on our website

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## Swan Supping

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Copy deadline for next issue (due out 1st October) is 12th September 2014.

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