

Issue 30



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Swan Supping ^{FREE}

JUNE/JULY 2002



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A DOUBLE CELEBRATION!



*Tickets still available
for the
Black Country Trip*



*Saturday 6th July
See Page 14
BOOK NOW!*

It seems like you wait ages for a big event, then two come along at once!

Not only do we have the Royal Jubilee, but we have the start of the football World Cup!

Licenses have been given allowing pubs to open in time for morning kick-offs, and various pubs are offering breakfast as well as a giant screen to watch the game. You can also wash down the breakfast with a

beer specially brewed for the competition.

There are also lots of special beers for the Jubilee, not to mention street parties, charity events and beer festivals!

There is no excuse for not having fun over the next few weeks!

So, lets raise a glass to Her Majesty and wish both England and Ireland all the best over in Japan and Korea!

*Great British
Beer Festival*



*Olympia
August 6th - 10th
Full details
on Page 12*

The Oak, Aston Clinton Beer Festival 11th - 14th July

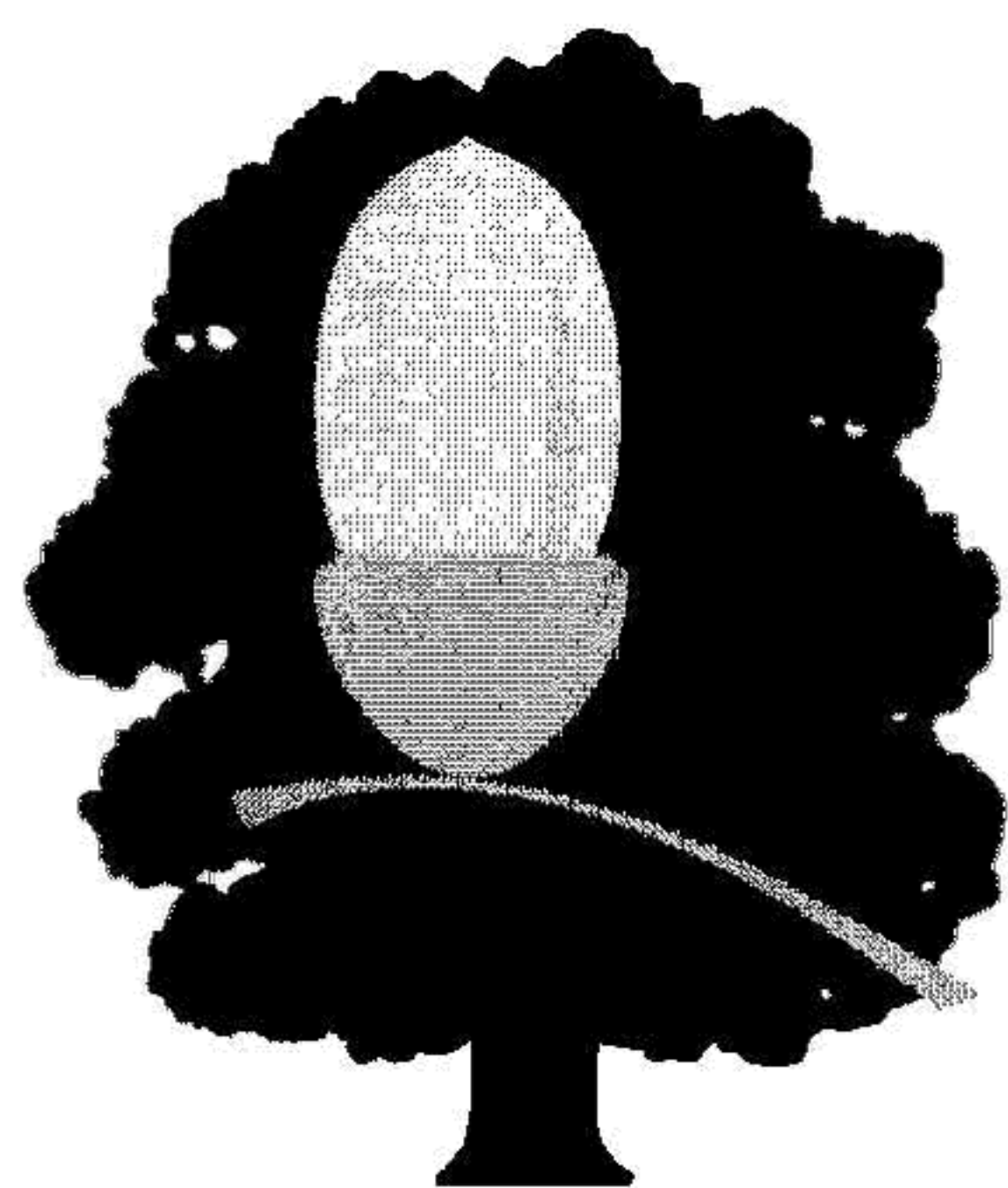


24 REAL ALES & 2 TRADITIONAL CIDERS

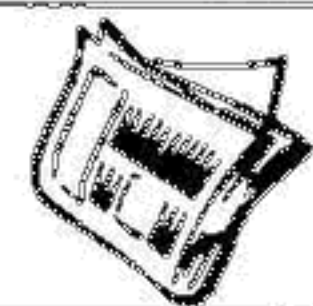
*Starts 6pm Thursday Evening
Food Available all sessions,
including a pig roast on Sunday lunchtime*

**GREAT FUN FOR ALL
INCLUDING MUSIC & CHARITY EVENTS**

*Bouncy Castle, Charity Tombola
Many other attractions*



NO ENTRY FEE, JUST BUY A PINT, OR TWO, OR



ASTON CLINTON

The **Bull** is closed and boarded up and the large site looks likely to be redeveloped for housing.

The **Oak** will be holding their annual **Beer Festival** from Thursday 11th until Sunday 14th July. There will be a pig roast on the Sunday and there will be many charity events and a bouncy castle for the kids. A marquee will house the range of beer and ciders from all over the country. The popular Passport scheme, where the purchaser is entitled to four pints and can keep their glass, will be available again.

AYLESBURY

As mentioned last issue, the Pine Shop on Buckingham Street has been refurbished to make it a bar. It now looks likely to become part of the **Toads Bar** arm of **Eldridge Pope** and will be in their 'Fever' style. We will endeavour to keep you up to date on this!

The exterior of **Big Hand Mo's** in Aylesbury was repainted mid May, and not before time! It will take more than a lick of paint to

improve the appearance of this hideous building. At least the broken bottles and litter were cleared up on the day the Queen visited Aylesbury. (No real ale here, needless to say).

The **Emperor** is holding a series of events over the Jubilee weekend. There will be a hog roast on the Sunday (2nd June) along with an inter pub tug of war (we will try for some pictures in our next issue). Among other events, there will be a D-Day celebration on Thursday the 6th when there will be promotions on the price of the **Brakspears Ordinary** - ration cards are being issued so you can take advantage of this. The **Brakspears** seasonal beers are also back in the pub with **Downpour** expected next along with **Jubilee 50**, a special beer brewed for the Jubilee which is only available in a few pubs.

The **Grapes** has metamorphosed during its six weeks closure during March and April. As you walk in, the first thing you see is the two wooden staircases leading to the brand new

upstairs seating areas, which are carpeted and offer comfortable armchairs and sofas. The downstairs has a wooden floor and there is a brand new bar, made from ash. The contemporary feel of the pub is added to by the modern art which adorns most of the walls. The intention with the new look is to make the establishment more 'female friendly', especially those who wish to partake of the large selection of wines available, plus the lunchtime food. When visited, there was only one real ale available, **Greene King IPA**, but **Abbot** is going to be added for a trial period in order to see if there is enough demand for two beers.

The **Hobgoblin** has received a licence to open early for the England and Ireland World Cup matches, along with matches in the later rounds. A big screen will be installed and you can book a reserved seat along with an English (or Irish) breakfast for £4.50. From June, the food will be handled by a franchise, **Christine's Kitchen**, which will

offer healthy options alongside traditional English fare. It is planned to offer take-aways and a delivery service to local firms.

The lease at the **Hop Pole** in Bicester Road is for sale. The pub, which is owned by **Enterprise Inns**, has B & B facilities for 16 people and a function room for music gigs. The current tenant, Anthony Angelo, has been there for over four years tried selling real ale at first but claims there was no demand for it.

The **Kings Head** may be holding a **beer festival** on the weekend of 13th July.

The **Market Tavern** is taking advantage of its early opening hours to offer big screen viewing of the World Cup matches. The screen will be installed in the upstairs area which is intended to become a dining area in the future.

BIERTON

The **Bell** will be holding a charity

(Continued on page 19)

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Price list (incl. VAT)	ABV	Fir.	Polypin	2 gal
Notley Ale	3.3%	72.00	42.00	22.00
Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	73.00	43.00	22.50
Vale Best Bitter	3.7%	73.50	43.50	22.75
Wychert Ale	3.9%	74.00	44.00	23.00
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	76.00	46.00	24.00
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	77.00	47.00	24.50
Hadda's Spring Gold	4.6%	78.00	48.00	25.00
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	78.00	48.00	25.00

Bottled Beers

Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	500ml
Wychert Ale	3.9%	500ml
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	500ml
Halcyon Daze	4.3%	500ml
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	500ml
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	500ml
Hadda's Head Banger	5.0%	500ml

**Buy a mixed
case for £20**

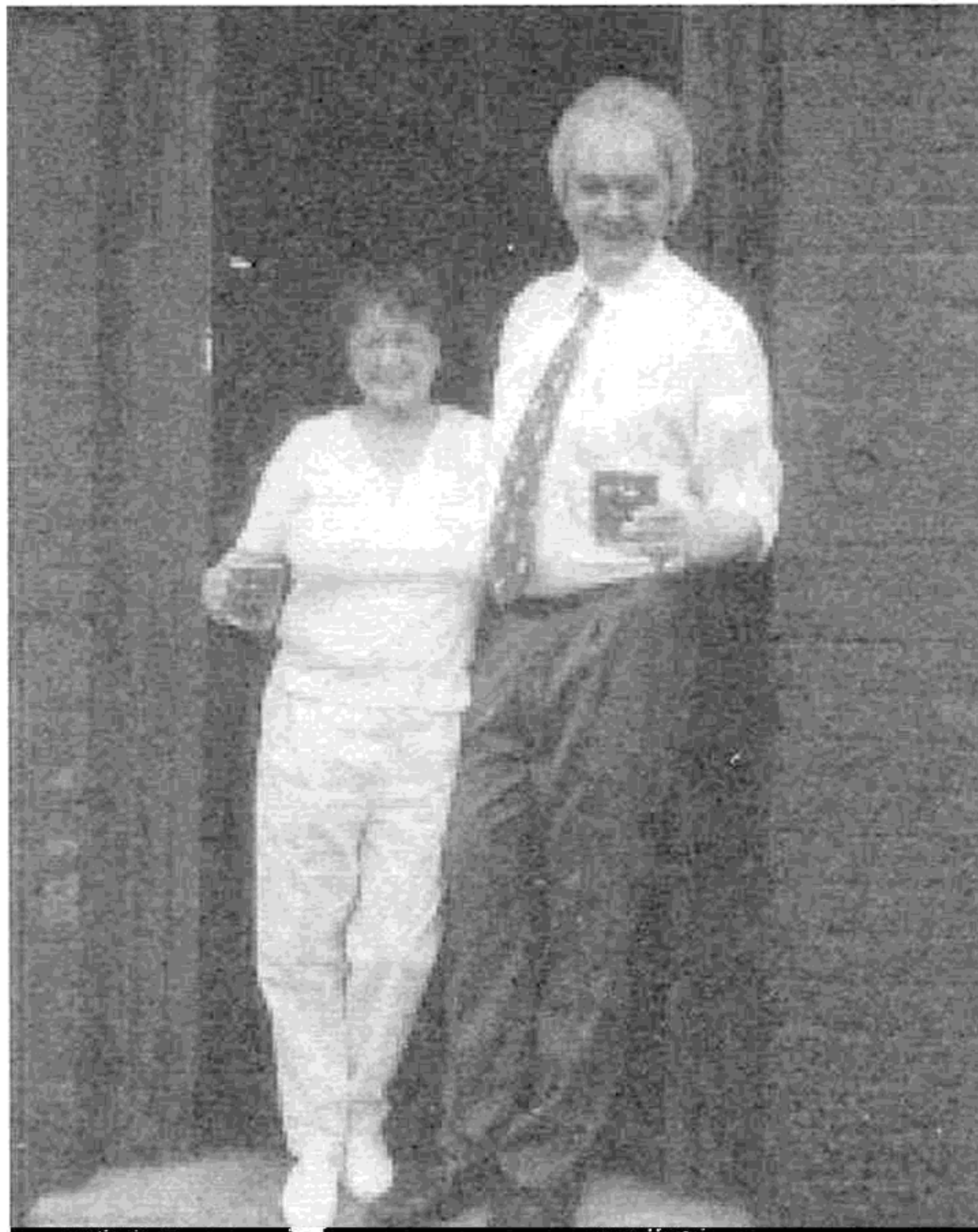
ANOTHER END OF AN ERA

Barry and Helen leave the Rose and Crown

Wycombe's traditional beer drinkers are sorry to see the departure of Barry and Helen Purkins from the **Rose & Crown** on Desborough Road, High Wycombe. They left the pub on Easter Monday, 1st April after 22 years at the pub. As *Swan Supping* commented two years ago, in these days of rapid licensee turnover, it is a notable achievement to have survived so long in the same pub.

At a farewell social on Easter Sunday, from 12 midday until 10.30 p.m., many former and current regulars turned up to congratulate Barry and Helen and to partake in substantial food and the usual range of traditional beers and other drinks.

Even more notable is the great variety of traditional beers served over the years, and the consistent high quality which has been recognised by the inclusion of the **Rose & Crown** in the *Good Beer Guide* every year since 1993. In the whole country, the *GBG* contains the top 10% of pubs.



Every year from 1998 until 2001 the **Rose & Crown** was the only public house selected for the *GBG* in the centre of High Wycombe, the only other entry being **Wycombe Wines** off-licence. In 2002, the **Rose & Crown** was joined by the **Bird in Hand**, whose landlord's

recent departure is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Hence, not only locals, but also travellers from all over the country, including many heading for Adams Park have enjoyed the hospitality of Barry and Helen.

When Helen and Barry took over the pub in 1980 it was fizz only - *Courage Tavern* keg, *JC "draught"* and *Simmons keg IPA*. In December 1980 *Courage Best Bitter* was introduced and it has been the standard best seller since.

In August 1981, the pub layout was altered and *Courage Director's* bitter joined *BB*. The **Rose & Crown** pioneered *Wychwood* beers in High Wycombe and more recently has been the main outlet for a variety of beers from the most local brewery, *Rebellion* of Marlow Bottom, *Blonde Bombshell* being the most popular brand. Hundreds of guest beers have been served, including *Hook Norton 12 Days*, *Burton Bridge Porter*, *Exmoor Beast* and *JohnWillie Lees Mild*.

(Continued on page 4)



REGULAR GUEST BEERS

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TUESDAY – CLASSIC ROCK NIGHT (OPEN 'TIL 1AM)

WEDNESDAY - 60'S, 70'S & 80'S (OPEN 'TIL 2AM)

THURSDAY – TOP BANANA (OPEN 'TIL 2AM)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – THE GATE (OPEN 'TIL 2AM)

SUNDAY – KRAZY, KICKING KARAOKE FROM 8PM



ROSE & CROWN

(Continued from page 3)

The *Rose & Crown* is a traditional pub in other ways, with bar billiards, ladies and men's darts teams, dominoes, crib and a football team which won the Sunday combination cup final in 1993.

A major concern for over ten years has been the fate of the pub in the varying plans of Wycombe's Western Sector development. Some versions suggested that the pub might be demolished, others including the "final" one have the pub on the edge of the first stage of the new development. For Barry and Helen to have maintained such high standards of beer quality and hospitality during such an uncertain period is another reason for congratulation.

The new owner of the pub has a number of other premises around the region and there may be some alterations at some time in the future. Amanda and Neil are the new couple in charge, currently serving *Courage Best Bitter*, *Fuller's London Pride* and *Greene King Abbot Ale*. It is to be hoped that any changes will maintain the traditional atmosphere at the pub, and if possible the range and quality of beer.

Finally, let's all raise a glass to Barry and Helen, many thanks for the past, and sincere best wishes to both of them for the future.

Nigel North

Book Review



THE LANDLORD'S TALE

Barrie Pepper

£ 6.99

(Member's Price

£ 4.99)

Fiction, Illustrated

Life in a typical Yorkshire pub during the 1950's wasn't all beer and skittles, but there were plenty of laughs along the way.

Author Barrie Pepper

believes that those were the days when beer tasted better than it does today, accountants were there to pay the bills and kept their noses out of the gentle art of making beer, brewers were held in high esteem and keg beer was practically unheard of!

In *The Landlord's Tale*, in addition to Alex Lowe and his family, you will meet Norman the cellarer, several ghosts, the Quality Street Gang, other licensees such as Bessie, Ma Gamp and Winco, the Oldford Prize Band and Councillor Alfred Percival Hetherington JP, twice Mayor of Oldford.

According to Sir Bernard Ingham who wrote the foreward to the book: 'It is the authentic drinking man's West Riding of the 1950's. Wilf Lowe, the publican's son, captures beautifully a past all us pensioners recognise from the brewery dray horses, one of which sadly expires climbing the hill to Calderthorpe, to the interminable verbosity of the chosen many to speak at the annual dinner of the Licensed Victualler's Association. As the old News of the World advert on a hoarding in Armley, Leeds put it 'All human life is there.' It certainly is in Wilf Lowe's Coach and Four. This is a very human tale - and entirely credible.'

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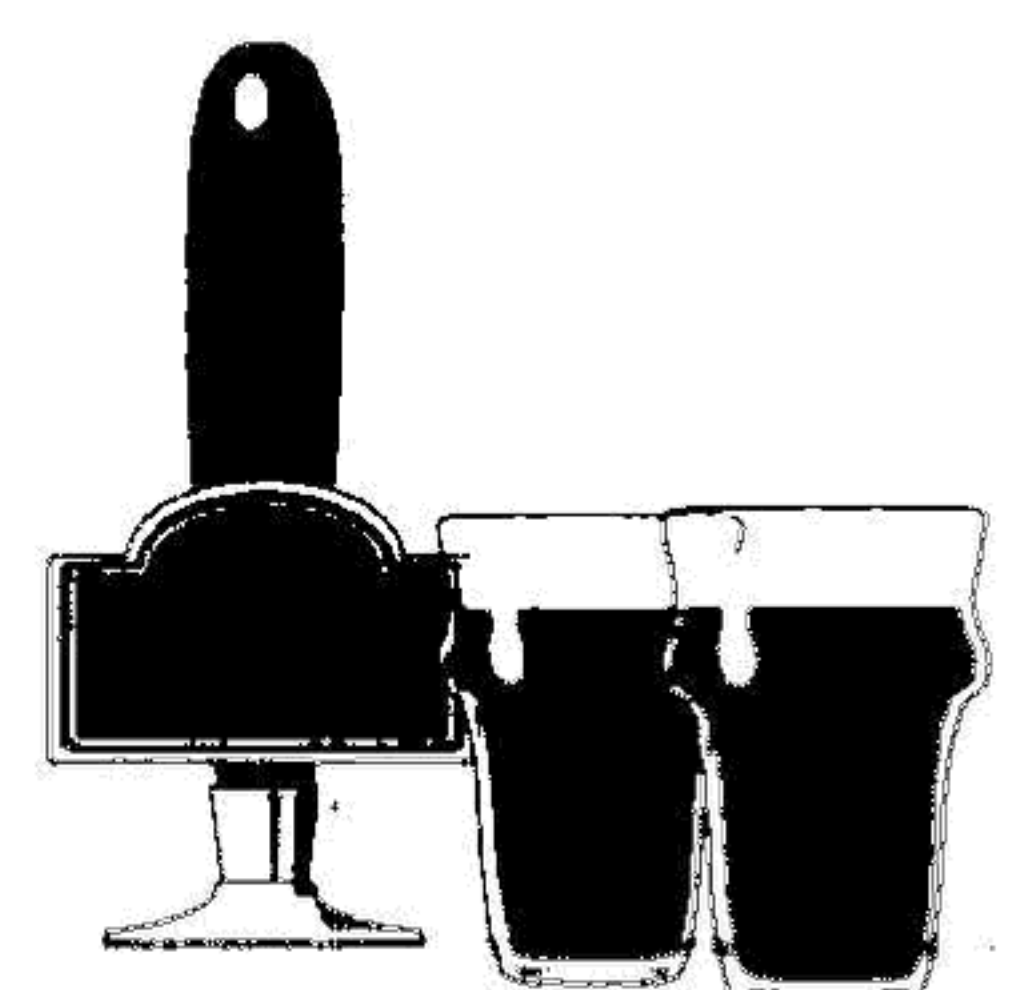
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NATIONAL NEWS

Micro Joy as Gordon Cuts Duty

Budget day was a day of celebration for Britain's 350 microbreweries as Chancellor Gordon Brown finally handed them the duty cut they have been fighting to get for over a decade.

From this summer – 'in time for the World Cup,' said Mr Brown – brewers who produce less than 3,000 barrels a year will get their duty cut by half – a saving of about £40 a barrel. Brewers producing up to 18,000 barrels will get a graded discount on duty that could save them £120,000 a year.

Society of Independent Brewers spokesman Nick Stafford of Yorkshire's *Hambleton Ales* said: 'This is excellent news. It's great – you can't say otherwise.'

'We actually argued for the limit to be set higher, but the Treasury wasn't having any of it. Still, we are finally going to reap the rewards of years and years of campaigning, and it will make a significant difference to the chances of survival and growth for hundreds of small breweries.'

Mr Stafford predicted that many micros would use the duty saving to buy pubs of their own. But he warned: 'Those that do will find that running pubs is very different from brewing and is very hard work indeed. *SIBA* will be on hand with commercial and professional advice on buying and running pubs and there is a lot of hard work ahead for us.'

He also predicted that many publicans would now look at starting up their own breweries. 'They'll find there

are many pitfalls, though,' he said. 'To sell their beer they'll have to brew better than their competitors.'

'Still, the best of luck to anyone who fancies setting up their own breweries – we look forward to the competition.'

One brewery that has already decided how to invest its saving is *Fisherrow* of Edinburgh, which plans to buy an additional dray and employ telesales staff.

Head brewer Iain Turnbull said: 'This long overdue concession will provide a level playing field to allow this section of the industry to compete with the large conglomerates and should ultimately provide increased employment opportunities and growth.'

And Bob Jenkins of Cardiff's *Bullmastiff Brewery* said: 'This is fantastic news. It will allow

us, for the first time, to compete with larger breweries on cost – we already beat them hands down on flavour!'

CAMRA hailed the duty cut as a move towards healthier competition and greater consumer choice. Head of Campaigns Mike Benner said the change would remove a major barrier to market entry for micros and added: 'Hopefully we will see a far more interesting range of locally-brewed beers on pub bars from now on.'

As well as the duty cut for micros, Mr Brown froze duty on beer, wine, and spirits for the second year running. He also cut duty on cider by a halfpenny a pint and raised it by 11p a bottle on spirit-based alcopops.

His freeze on petrol duty and vehicle excise and reforms to VAT and corporation tax will

Tony & Lynne welcome you to The Black Horse, Lacey Green



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Hook Norton Bitter

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Pub is open all day Sunday but no food in the evening

Lunches 12 – 2 every day (12 – 2.30 on Saturday)

Evening Meals Monday 6.30 – 8.30

Tuesday to Friday 7 – 9, Saturday 6.30 – 9

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DUTY CUT FOR SMALL BREWERS

also help smaller businesses.

CAMRA also welcomed the general freeze on beer duty.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, 'This is the second consecutive year that duty has been frozen which is effectively a small cut. We will continue to push for significant reductions in duty which will stamp out smuggling and help boost this important British industry.'

CAMRA had called for a duty cut of only two pence in the budget which would have been enough to significantly reduce the bootleggers' profit.

Local Brewery reaction to the cut in duty

We allowed a period of, hopefully, sober reflection on the changes to beer duty for

micro breweries, then asked some of our local small breweries for their thoughts!

Brakspear sees Gordon Brown's budget changes on beer duty as the worst possible news for small independent brewers. The feeling is that many of the country's classic, small regional independent breweries could now face a further threat to their existence.

Almost all Britain's classic small breweries brew too much to beer to qualify for the duty handout but are too small to have the economies of scale of the major beer factories.

Capping the concession at 18,330 barrels, rather than the higher 122,205 barrels European limit, will seriously damage a significant number of historic British regional

brewers and the company is urging Mr Brown to act and increase the duty rebate level to the European limit before it is too late.

Tim Coombes of **Rebellion Brewery** said that the change was a double edged sword.

Although it was good news for small brewers such as **Rebellion** and they will get a degree of benefit, the way the change has been promoted in the press has led to lots of drinkers expecting a drop in the price of beer of around 14p a pint. Sadly this will not be the case as, despite the spin put on the news by the Government, the micro brewers only produce around 1% of the beer in the market.

The change in duty will be used as a lifeline for the small brewers to allow them, initially, to survive, invest in the business and in some

cases allow the brewers to take a wage! After this, the micro brewing sector can start to grow, although the present level of duty relief offered will mean that they may not be able to grow too much as they will then lose their benefits.

Mark Stevens of **Vale Brewery** generally welcomed to change, but felt that when combined with the increase in National Insurance contributions, the overall benefit was negligible! He was also still awaiting the letter confirming the arrangements from Customs and Excise and wondered what their reaction would be if he sent them only half the duty!

As for losing the cut in the duty when the brewery reached the production levels of a regional brewer, he felt that it would not stop him trying to get **Vale** to that level!

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

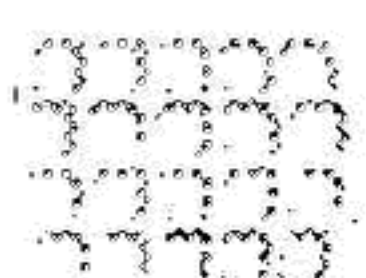
(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

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Local Brewery News

BRAKSPEARS

There has been a lot of speculation in the press about the future of *Brakspears*.

It was announced at their AGM in April by company chairman Mike Foster that a 'review of operations' will be carried out using consultants, which may result in them no longer brewing its own beer.

A press release from the brewery said the following:-

Brakspear is not stopping the brewing of beer and its product range and activities continue as normal.

However, like many well-established and historic brewing companies, Brakspear does have to face the modern realities of a continually changing and ever more competitive beer market.

As a result of this, the company has instituted a strategic review of its operations including its

brewing, but no changes in beers or a decision to change brewing have been made.

The company's strategic review will take place over the next few months before any decisions are made on the future direction or activities of the company.

Many will naturally be very concerned with any possible threat to this much loved brewery. To register your concern go to the *Save Brakspear website* at savebrakspear.com and sign an online petition or add your comments for publication on the bulletin board

On a lighter note, *Brakspear* has produced a special beer for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. *Jubilee 50* is a 5% ABV, strong draught bitter based on its famous *Brakspear Bitter* recipe.

It has been produced as a single brew and is being

distributed to pre-order customers only comprising 55 of the company's pub estate and a similar number of Free Trade customers.

Brakspear's head brewer Peter Scholey said: 'If you really like *Brakspear Bitter* and *Brakspear Special*, then you will like this.

'It has been deliberately created as a 'stronger dose' for local addicts of our classic draught beers.'

Pubs in our branch area which are known to have ordered the beer are the *Emperor*, Aylesbury and the *Chequers* in Marlow.

CHILTERN

As part of her visit to Aylesbury, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, visited the *Chiltern Brewery*. She was presented with a bottle of the special beer brewed for the

Jubilee, *Golden Sovereign*, by the brewer Richard Jenkinson. Bottles of the 3.7% ABV English Light Ale are available from the brewery.

Chiltern Brewery also now offers Own Label bottled beers for customers who chose a name or supply a design.

REBELLION

A special beer has been brewed to celebrate the World Cup. This is a 4% brew with the unlikely name of *Sven You're Smiling!*

They have also produced a 4% ABV beer for the Royal Jubilee called *Nifty Fifty*.

Their current seasonal beer is the 4.4% ABV *Hammered* and this will be followed by a 4.2% ABV golden ale called *Beered Up*.

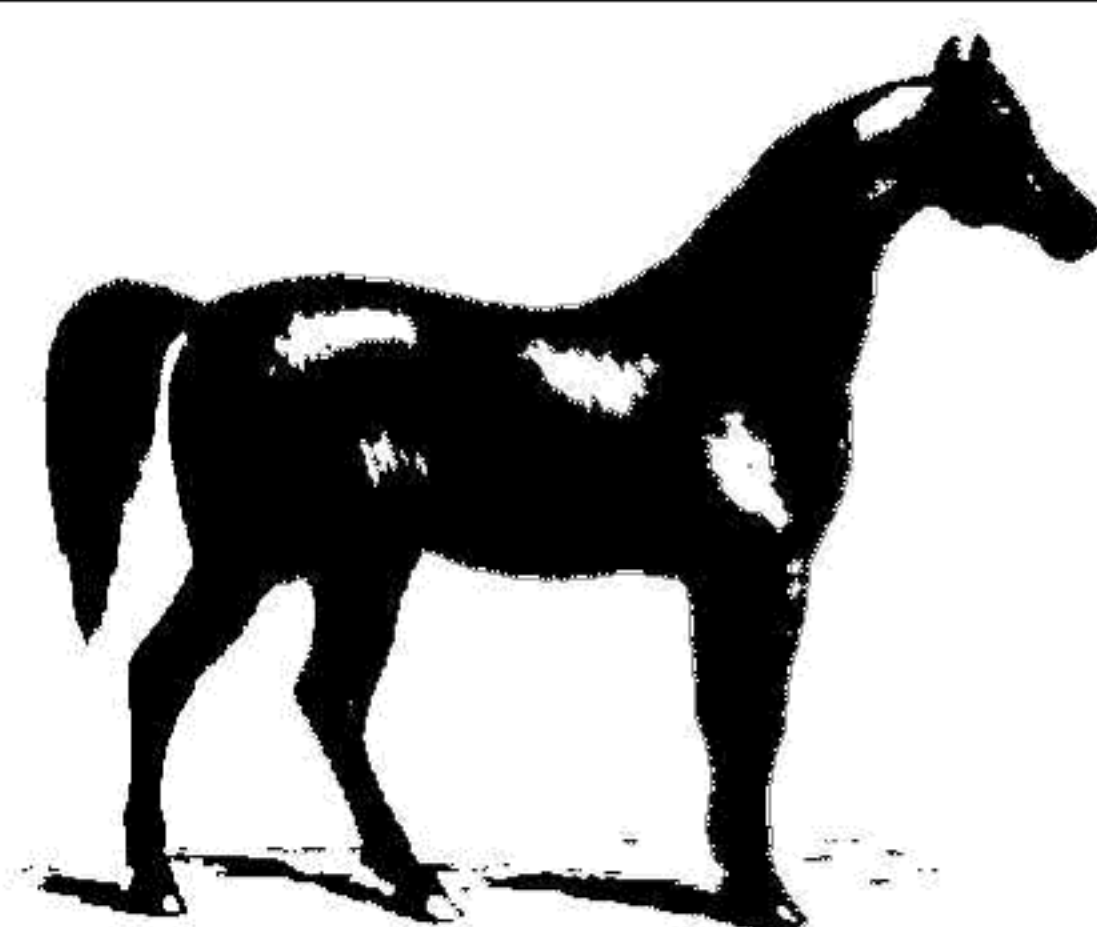
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Friday 31st May – Tuesday 4th June**

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PUB COMPETITION

2002 WYCOMBE DISTRICT VILLAGE PUB COMPETITION RESULTS

The final results for the *2002 Wycombe District Village Pub Competition* have finally been decided after a rigorous judging process. The 'Overall Winner' was **The Old Ship**, Cadmore End. The pub was nominated by proud patrons who submitted entry forms into the council offices and gave comments on its unique character and atmosphere.

The council received a large number of responses through the post and website, detailing the special role the local pubs have in supporting the local economy and bringing residents together.

The contest was run to emphasise the unique qualities of local village pubs in the area and to help stimulate the rural economy. The final results will be published in a leaflet called 'Guide to Wycombe District Award Winning Village Pubs 2002' to be produced soon. Copies of the leaflet will be available in all the Tourist Information Centres and libraries district-wide.

Other winners are the 'Highly Commended' pubs of:

Chequers Inn and Restaurant, Wooburn Common, **The Gate**, Bryants Bottom, **The Royal Standard**, Wooburn Common and **The Walnut Tree**, Fawley.

The 'Top Family Pub' is **The Golden Cross**, Saunderton.

The 'Top Community Pub' is **The Bird in Hand**, Princes Risborough.

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THE BEST IN PUB DESIGN

Top design award for London Pub

CAMRA and *English Heritage* have announced the winners of the national *Pub Design Awards* and the winning pubs are situated in London, Edinburgh, Staffordshire, Henley on Thames and Bristol with a further two pubs being Highly Commended from Liverpool and Leeds.

Conversion to Pub Use Category

Winner in the *Conversion to Pub Use Category* was the impressive **Porterhouse**, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London WC2.

The pub was designed by Frank Ennis and is a brave, bold and most importantly, original updating of the traditional virtues of pub design. Dr Steven Parissien, from the *CAMRA Pub Design Awards* judging panel, said 'The many-roomed and multi-level interior is dominated by bright copperware, which gives the pub a vibrant and contemporary yet appropriate pubby feel.'

Dr Parissien continued 'In a era of cookie-cutter faked history, these bright and welcoming interiors serve as a shining beacon to more fainthearted patrons.'

Refurbishment Award

The judges found it impossible to separate two impressive entries in the Refurbishment section, and made a joint award to

two very different but equally successful schemes - The **Burton Bridge Inn** in Burton-upon-Trent and **Thomson's Bar** in Edinburgh.

The **Burton Bridge Inn** was refurbished by GC Mumford and JB Wilkins using local craftsmen and is situated in the heart of the capital of British Brewing.

Dr Steve Parissien said 'The intimacy of the pub has been carefully retained through use of reclaimed and recycled materials. There is a now a servery in the newly created rear, and each of the bars has a separate identity.'

He continued 'The re-used wall panelling, former church pews and reclaimed beams help give the interiors a sense of continuity and place. A deserved winner!'

Thomson's Bar also uses salvaged materials, but with a different result. This success is mainly down to the imagination of pub designer Ian Whyte who has been responsible for three award-winning Edinburgh pub schemes over the last decade.

Parissien commented '**Thomson's** has been reworked in an inventive and assured way, using quality materials which will undoubtedly last far longer than the cheap, catalogue-sourced fittings that bedeck the majority of our refurbished pubs.'

He continued 'It is such a pleasure to drink in this pub and admire its High Victorian doorcases, bench plywood bench seating, period advertisements and Art Deco door furniture.'



Beer Festival

Saturday 22nd / Sunday 23rd June, 2002

Over 20 Cask Ales

Bar-B-Q

Live Music

zen baseball return by popular demand

Saturday 7pm.

Open all day



The Falcon

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 thefalcon@talk21.com

CONSERVATION AWARD FOR BRANCH PUB

CAMRA/English Heritage Conservation Award

This was awarded to The **Bull and Butcher**, Turville, near Henley on Thames. This splendid country pub is set in the Chiltern Hills and owned by independent brewer *Brakspears*.

Dr Parissien said 'There is much to commend about this pub, notably the duck-egg-green panelling and window joinery, the simple clay tiles on the floor, the mix-and-match wooden chairs, the good, solid tables - and shelves full, for a change, of proper books to read.'

'The carefully-designed semicircular table with a glass centre, which enables you to peer down into the old well, is a good talking point.'

2001 Joe Goodwin Award

The fifth winning prize, the *Joe Goodwin award*, was awarded to the **Merchants Arms** (*Bath Ales Brewery*) for the best-restored local. This award is named in honour of a former Chairman of *CAMRA* who died at an early age while in office.

The **Merchants Arms** is a former provisions shop-turned-pub and exterior still retains fine interwar tiling. Praised in the judges report - 'The two small bars are dominated by splendid, chocolate-painted and beaded tongue-and-groove panelling, and above the dado, cream painted anaglypta. The newly commissioned etched glass for front windows is a welcome sight. This is an excellent job by *Bath Ales*. Much has been done here

recently, yet it looks as if the **Merchants Arms** has been this way for decades - a fitting testimony to the success of this conservation-minded refurbishment.'

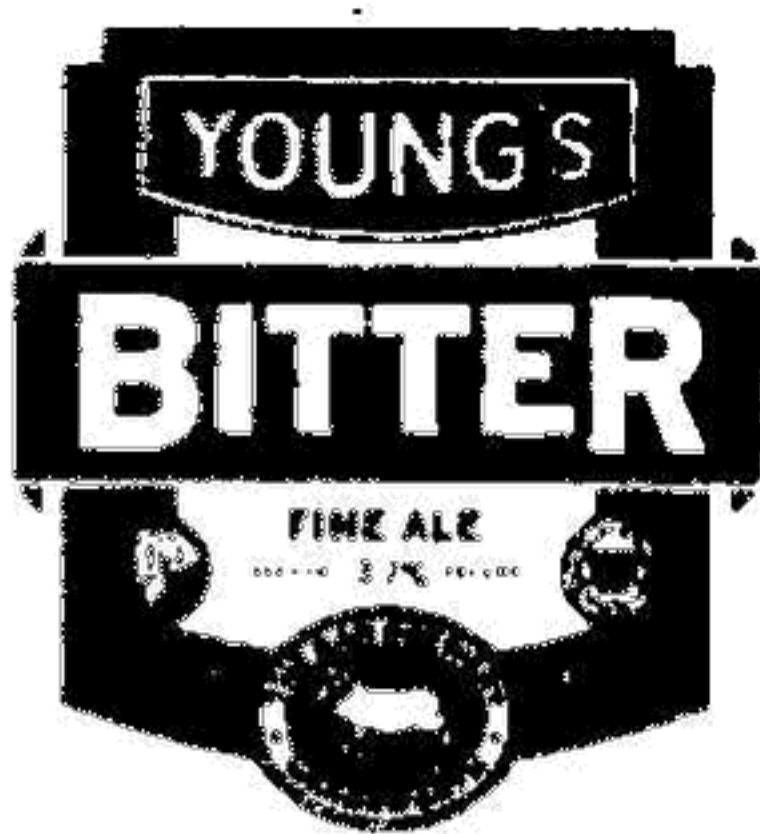
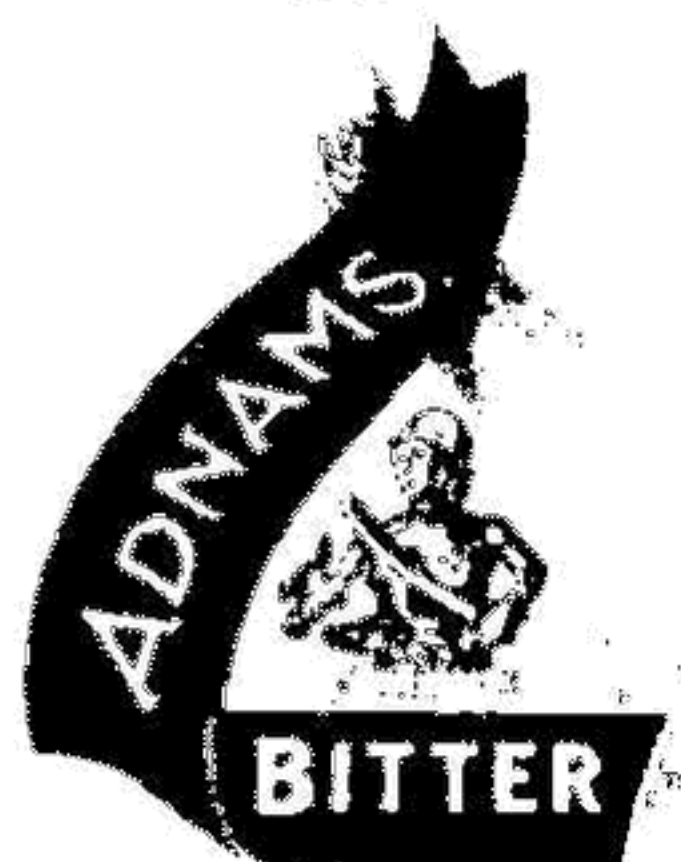
Highly Commended

Two other pubs were *Highly Commended* in the Conversion Category. The **Head of Steam**, Liverpool was praised by the judges for bringing back the important derelict interior of the former North Western Hotel back into daily use and described their efforts as 'a largely successful attempt to revive a crucial urban site by inserting a lively and welcoming new pub as a catalyst for regeneration.'

The **Angel**, Leeds was described to have had 'simple furniture, boarded floor in the public bar that should be applauded and décor which is subtle and appropriate: light-coloured walls above brown painted woodwork.'

Dr Steve Parissien concluded the judges report 'Altogether these winning pubs represent the best modern design - whether used to revitalise a neglected urban site or to enhance an old rural favourite. They show what pub interiors can become if imaginatively and sensitively replanned. And their evident commercial success since opening demonstrates that clever, thoughtful and original pub design can bring great financial rewards.'

The award ceremony took place on 16th May 2002 at the Porterhouse, Covent Garden, London.



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GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL



The Great British Beer Festival is the Biggest Pub in the World and runs from August 6th-10th 2002 and is held at London Olympia.

microbrewers in addition to some of Britain's best-known beers.

As well as real ale, ranging from wheat beers to some tasty bitters you can also sample cider, perry and beer from around the world including some fantastic real lagers from Europe and North America.

There is a mouth-watering selection of food available throughout the festival, including food styles from around the world. As well as eating and drinking there is a great atmosphere with plenty to entertain you ranging from pub quizzes, traditional pub games including skittles, roving entertainers, live music, tombolas and auctions.

There is also a Family Room but please remember that youngsters under 18 must be supervised by a family member.

If you want to find out more about beer you should attend one of our tutored tastings hosted by beer experts which run throughout the festival and cover a number of different beer styles.

There is a wide variety of food available at the festival, not only is it tasty but it helps to soak up the alcohol! There are a number of food stands, representing food styles from around the world including Mexican, Thai and the Caribbean as well as traditional pub favourites including Cornish pasties, sausages, baked potatoes and pork scratchings.

It's easy to get to London Olympia in Kensington, West London by public transport and we strongly recommend that you leave your car behind.

Kensington Olympia is on the District Line and other nearby underground stations include Barons Court, Earls Court, High Street Kensington and Hammersmith.

Buses to Olympia include numbers 9, 10, 27, 28, 49 and 391.

Live music throughout sponsored by Safeway

Tuesday evening, Chaminade String Quartet

Wednesday evening, Humphrey Lyttelton & Band

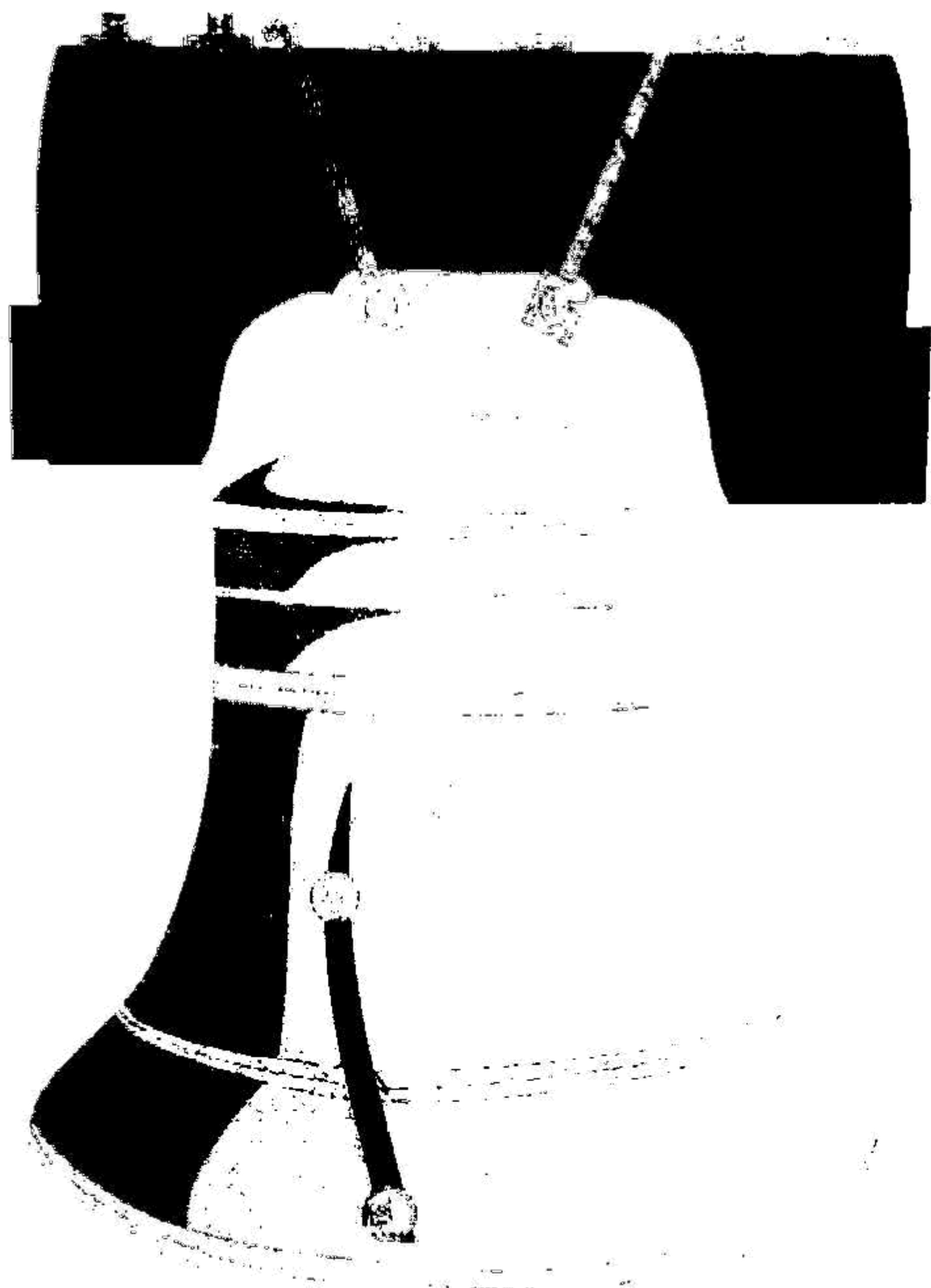
Thursday lunchtime, Paul Jones and Dave Kelly (Blues Band)

Thursday evening, Kit Packham and One Jump Ahead

Friday lunchtime, ZigaZag! Cajun band

Friday evening, the John Otway Band

Saturday lunchtime, the Fulham Brass Band



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Nigel on 01296 651320

GBBF TIMES & PRICES

CAMRA members prices are given in brackets.

Tuesday 6th August 5pm – 10.30pm £6.00 (£5.00)

Wednesday 7th August 11.30am – 3pm £2.00 (£1.00)

5pm – 10.30pm £6.00 (£5.00)

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th August Noon– 10.30pm £6.00 (£5.00)

Saturday 10th August 11am–7pm £5.00 (£4.00)

Season Tickets that cover all sessions £17.50 (£15.00)

However, if you want to get in for NOTHING, you can enter our competition to win one of three pairs of tickets for the trade session (Tuesday afternoon) and be present when the *CAMRA Beer of the Year* is announced! Just write to the editor and give the year that the *GBBF* was first held at Olympia!

Branch Contacts

Chairman	David Roe	01296 484551
Treasurer	Tony Gabriel	01494 527884
Secretary	Nick Holt	01296 483554
Bierton	Mick White	01296 428266
Beaconsfield	Colin Staines	01494 674427
Bledlow Ridge	Dave Thompson	01494 481492
High Wycombe	Elvis Evans	01494 511248
Marlow	Alan Sheppard	01628 476367
Stokenchurch	John Bazin	01494 483039
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Regional Organiser	Colin Lanham	01344 481305

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Monday to Friday and 12 – 3.30pm & 5.30 – 9.30pm (9pm Sunday) at Weekends

The Clifden Arms

BLACK COUNTRY TRIP



Black Country Trip
Saturday 6th July

This popular annual event is rapidly running out of tickets so if you want to join in you will have to act now! It costs £20 per head (the increase has been made to upgrade the facilities on the coach) and tickets and further information can be obtained by ringing **Tony Gabriel** on **01494 527884**.

Pickups will be made from Aylesbury, near Wendover, High Wycombe and Stokenchurch. Set downs at the end of the trip will be in the reverse order. The start time will be at 10am in Aylesbury and it is hoped that we will be back around midnight.

We will be starting at the **Weatheroak Inn**, Weatheroak, which we have been to for the last few years. Besides having its own brewery, they can also cope with providing a whole coach load of people with a selection of tasty dishes in a remarkably quick time!

We will then finish the drive to the Black Country where we will sample the delights of the **Bull & Bladder**, Brierley Hill, **Beacon**

Hotel, Sedgely, and the ever popular **Waggon & Horses** in Halesowen.

In between, we are also intending to have a full visit to the brewery at the **Old Swan (Ma Pardoes)** in Netherton, with the brewer available for questions.

Plus, we are hoping to take a trip to the **CAMRA Club of the Year**, namely **Summers Club** in Halesowen.

How can you afford to miss the event of the year! Book now to avoid disappointment!

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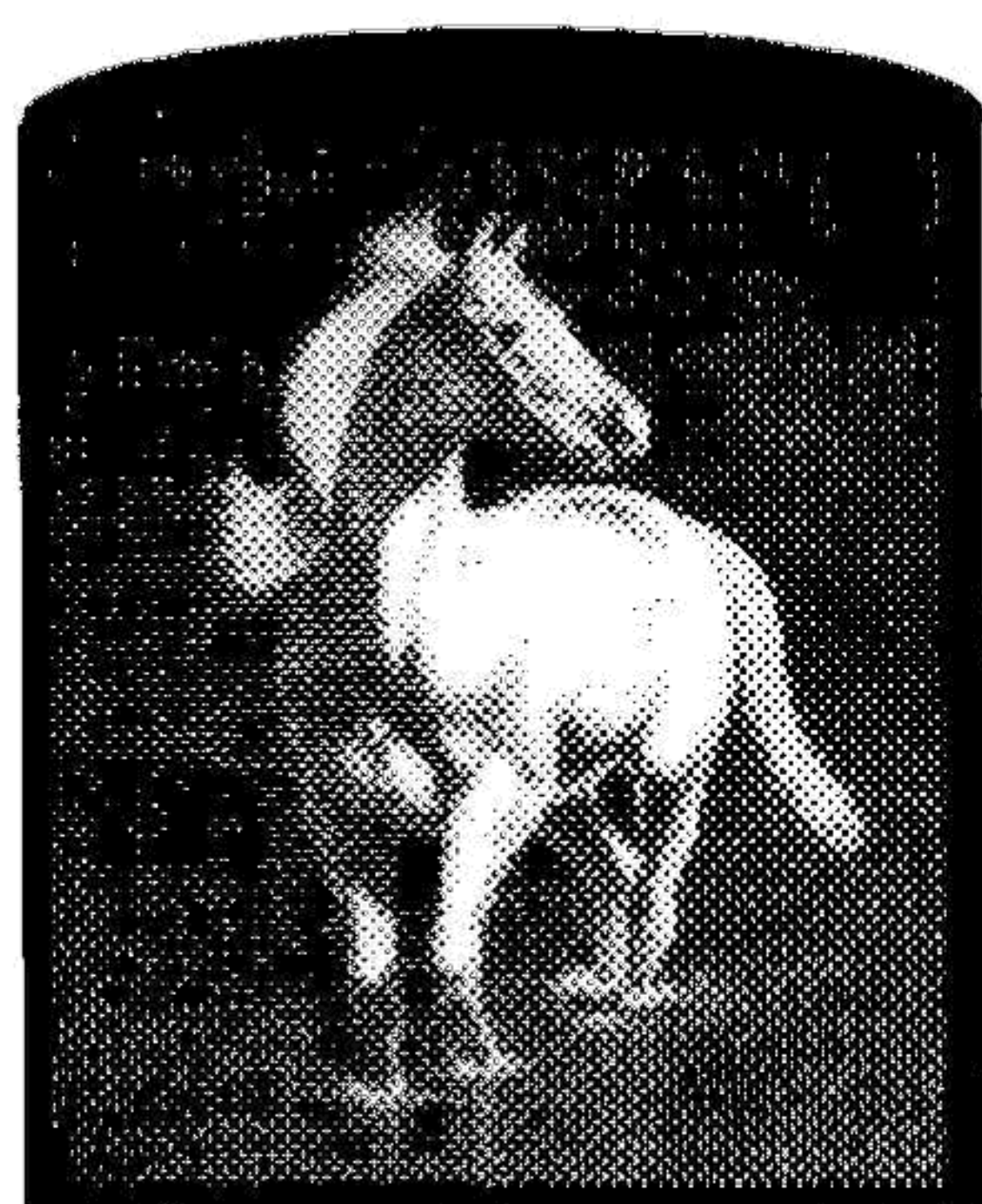


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Bombay Aloo, Channa
Massalla, Pillau Rice,
Nan and Green Salad
Adult £ 7.50
Child (under 12) £ 4.50

Beerscratcher Crossword Competition Winner

Last issue, we offered the chance for one lucky winner to win FIVE bottles of Bottle Conditioned Beer.

All they had to do was send in a correct solution to our *Beerscratcher Crossword Competition* and following a record number of entries for one of our competitions, the winner was :-

Max Ingram, of Quainton, Bucks.

Many congratulations to Max who should have received his prize by the time this magazine appears in the pubs (if not – please contact the Editor!!).

Commiserations to all the other people who sent in the correct answers: better luck next time!

The solution for those who struggled last month is printed here and our thanks go once again to **John Williamson** for setting the puzzle.

We hope to have another puzzle for you in a later issue of *Swan Supping* and if you fancy writing one yourself, why not contact the Editor!

W	O	R	L	D	H	A	M	S		Q		O		F
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Meet the Brewer

Adnams comes Broadside to Wooburn

Having recently seen a poster advertising "Meet the Brewer" adorn the walls of Wooburn Common's **Royal Standard** while I was enjoying a pint of *Caledonian Six Nations*, I duly accepted this invitation. **Adnams** Head Brewer, David Waller, addressed twenty or so beer enthusiasts, on the brewing process generally and that what has been adopted by **Adnams** Sole Bay Brewery.

The landlord and landlady were the perfect hosts as Mick Dunton supplied everyone with a free pint of both *Adnams Bitter* and *Broadside* to coincide with a tasting experiment during Mr. Waller's talk. His wife, Cora, instigated a variety of finger food delights which was popular with all during a brief interlude in proceedings.

After the conclusion of the Head Brewer's verbal rendition on **Adnams** brewing, a quiz was held on the talk with various prizes being issued to the lucky winners. In fact, just about everyone got a gift of **Adnams** merchandise to be precise.

Praise goes to **Adnams'** Head Brewer, David Waller and Sales Director Sydney on their informative account of brewing tactics at the Sole Bay Brewery in Southwold, and also to the Duntons as enthusiastic hosts to this enjoyable evening.

Alan Sheppard

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

Just fill in the form below and send your remittance (made payable to CAMRA) to
Membership Secretary, CAMRA,
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

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Joint OAP £12 (at same address)
Under 26 £9 Date of birth _____
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Name(s).....

Address

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and agree to abide by the Rules.



I enclose a cheque for £.....

Signature Date
AYL (Swan Supping)

Cambridge Trip

Following the success of our first coach trip to Cambridge last year, we have decided to do it again!

The date for your diary is Saturday 21st of September when the coach will take you from High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Birtton to the delights of **St. Radegund**, the **Champion of the Thames**, **Free Press**, **Cricketers**, **Elm Tree**, **Cambridge Blue** and the **Kingston Arms**!

Other stopovers to break up the journey have not been decided on, although we will try to get you back home earlier than we did last year!

The price has not yet been agreed – please see next issue for further details!

Useful Addresses

CAMRA HQ:
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts
AL1 4LW.
Tel: 01727 867201
Fax: 01727 867670
E-mail: camra@camra.org.uk
Internet: <http://www.camra.org.uk>

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Aylesbury
HP20 1UB
Tel: 01296 585406

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1UP Tel: 01296 383212
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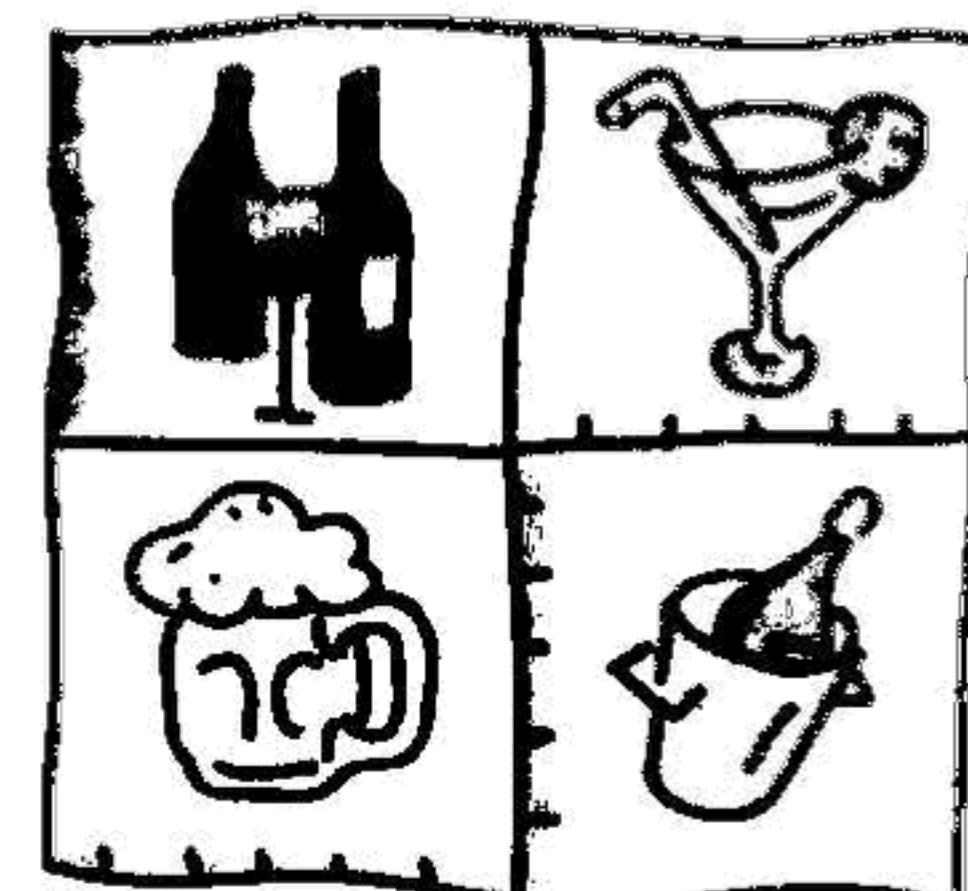
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BRIGHTON BREW AT THE DOUBLE

Last summer, after scanning my local football teams league fixtures, the third Saturday in March pitted Marlow away in East Sussex at Lewes, home of *Harveys Brewery*. Although the lure of their excellent beers should be reason enough to meander around this brewery town, I had another agenda in mind.

An early train was boarded, destination London's Victoria station, change onto another diesel locomotive terminating at Brighton, where two brew-pubs were waiting my impending arrival. After disembarking from the Brighton station concourse, the first port of call was a couple of minutes walk down a side-street to the *Evening Star*, home of the *Dark Star* beers. Seven handpumps greeted me with two further *Dark Star* lager/wheat beer brews adorning keg dispenses.

Deciding to consume a half pint of each, I started to negotiate the local brew. *Dark Star Hophead* (3.8) was a very popular session beer, very hoppy, the hoppiest that I have had the pleasure of tasting. *Hophead* by name and by nature. *Landlord's Wit* (4.1) a fine best bitter with plenty of flavour, and *Golden Gate* (4.3) an amber coloured offering were further *Dark Star* delights.

With Brighton and Hove Albion playing host to Notts County later in the afternoons football match, the pub was fast filling with the 'Seagull' brethren, all of whom were there for the real ale as much as for the conversation. A nearby blackboard paraded today's beer menu with another blackboard advertising future brews gracing this basic bare-boarded, no frills brew-pub, where drinkers revel in the large choice of ale to be purchased.

Of the guest beers residing at the bar were *Crouch Vale's Essex Boys Bitter* (3.5) a thin session beer, *Burntwood Bitter* (4.0), a good solid tasty bitter from another Essex brewery, *Mighty Oak*, and a strong black stout titled *Mr. Perrett's* (5.9) from *Wickwar* in Gloucestershire. All of these were experienced before the final of the seven was obtained, aptly *Dark Star's Dark Star*, a 5.0 dark award-winning brew and the possible flagship ale from this inspiring micro-brewery.

I said my farewells, queued for a cab at the stations taxi-rank before leaving for another brew-pub, the *Hand in Hand*, residence of the *Kempton* brewery and brew tap. It was one of those street-corner gems with one bar and resembles someone's front parlour. Again I struck up conversation with another group of soccer goers, this time five Nottingham gents here to sample the 'local liquid'. Unfortunately the *Black Moggy Mild* (3.6) wasn't available and the *S.I.D. (Staggering in the Dark)* (5.2) was 'on the turn'. Still, the *Kempton Bitter* (4.0), a standard beer and the *Dragon's Blood* (5.2), a tangy red brew, were welcome enough but the piece de resistance was *Ye Old Trout* (4.5), a mid-strength premium ale which warranted a second pint. I was not alone in this beer's praise as the Notts' five were in agreement that this was a very fine ale. Their acumen with all their Nottinghamshire ale tasting prowess was good enough judgement for me.

More farewells were observed as we departed our various ways to our afternoon's entertainment. Incidentally both matches resulted in scoring draws but the brew-pubs real ale was the real victor today.

The Marlow Maverick.

Derek Pigott

Wholesale greengrocer to the catering trade



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Local News

(Continued from page 2)

auction on Sunday 2nd June from 4pm onwards in aid of the Park School for children with special needs.

BOURNE END

The **Black Lion** has a board outside showing "*Avebury Taverns - To Let*". Current manager, Kim Bennett, has tried to take over the lease and has received support from the regular customers including a petition signed by 260 people. However, this is unlikely to happen following the arduous nature of the negotiations.

The **Heart in Hand** has shut as a pub and about to reopen as an Indian Restaurant.

CADMORE END

The **Old Ship** has won this year's *Wycombe District Village Pub Competition*. Full details elsewhere in this issue.

HIGH WYCOMBE

Graham Curzon-Thompson, licensee of **Wycombe Cricket Club** is taking over the **Bird in Hand** on West Wycombe Road from late May. He plans to continue to provide bed and breakfast accommodation, there are currently six rooms, also a restaurant in the conservatory. The most popular beer at the pub is *Courage Best Bitter*, and Graham will continue to sell *Director's* and a *Vale Brewery* beer. Graham's daughter will join him on the licence and Graham will also carry on running the cricket club bar.

The former licensee, Derek Ansell, is retiring from the business after twenty years at the **Bird in Hand** and previously about ten years at the **Belle Vue**. We wish him all the best for the future and congratulations on his hospitality in running a traditional beer drinker's pub over all those years.

Support for the *Make May a Mild Month* campaign came from Wycombe's *Wetherspoon's* pub, the **Falcon**, which served *Bateman's Dark Mild* at 99p per pint from May 11th (National Mild Day).

Roy Gibson at the **Jolly Bodger** is maintaining the tradition of varying his guest beers. The middle of May saw *Badger IPA* accompanying the ever present *Fuller's London Pride*, then *Elgood's Black Dog* mild appeared on the weekend of 18th/19th. This was in support of the annual *Make May a Mild Month* campaign. The hill that the pub is built on (it won an architect's award

in 1970 for being the being the best new building built on a slope) has been altered to allow the creation of two petanque pistes and it is intended to compete against local pubs.

Barry and Helen Purkins have left the **Rose & Crown**. See the article on Page 3 for further details.

ICKFORD

Carol and Eddie Buy took over the **Royal Oak** in January, and this is their first experience in running a pub except for a short period of relief work. The previous landlord, Carol Bonney, is still working occasionally there, which meant that for a long time we didn't realise that a change had happened! They are currently offering *Morrells Oxford Blue* as well as a guest beer which at the moment is *Marstons Pedigree*.

MARLOW

Local drinkers were horrified to find a notice on the door of the **Crown & Anchor** saying that it was closed and would be turned into a private house.

The shock of losing a *Good Beer Guide* regular has not yet fully sunk in, but we will get full details and do what will be a very sad piece in our next issue about the pub.

The builders are now in, the bar has gone and new internal walls have been built!

We believe the previous owner, Mr Skinner, already had planning permission to convert to a private house so John Trueman may now have sold it or is about to.

The notice did say that the closure was in no small part due to lack of support from local drinkers. We shall keep saying it until people get the message – USE IT OR LOSE IT!!

PENN

The **Horse & Groom** is under threat as its owners *Greene King* want to 'improve' it by converting it to a gastro-pub and are threatening to close it because the locals have objected to a planning application for the changes needed.

SOULBURY

The **Boot** is due to reopen on 4th June after a minor refurbishment.

TURVILLE

The **Bull & Butcher** has won a *CAMRA/National Heritage Conservation Award*. Full details on the awards are given in the article on Page 10.

WESTON TURVILLE

New people have taken over at the **Plough**. Following relief work at the **Rose & Crown**, Wingrave, Sue and Tracy took over on 21st May. When visited there were three beers on offer, *Ridleys Prospect*, *Greene King IPA* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, but the choice may change in the near future. They are hoping to offer food soon and intend to build up the trade which has dwindled over recent times, especially as the road to Aston Clinton has been closed for three months (thankfully it has recently reopened!).

An initial planning application has been made by its owners, *Unicorn Pub Management*, to turn the pub into a private house and build six houses in the grounds has been made, so it is important to support the pub and keep it open and prevent the sorry sight of yet another pub closure.

WHITCHURCH

The **White Horse** staged a successful beer festival over the May bank holiday weekend. Twelve beers were on tap and all were sold. 'No thanks to *CAMRA* members. Where were you?' said landlord David Hayles. The most popular beers were *Young's Waggle Dance* and *Jenning's Sneek Lifter* which

were the first ones to sell out, followed by anything of 5% ABV or more.

WOOBURN COMMON

The **Royal Standard** has won a 'highly commended' award in this year's *Wycombe District Village Pub Competition*.

Over 20 different village pubs were nominated by their customers and were subsequently judged. The **Royal Standard** scored high marks for external and internal appearance, friendliness of staff, and quality, value and variety of food and drinks. Nominating customer comments included: 'Excellent beers; a glorious range of guest ales; and a well chosen menu of very well prepared food.'

WOOBURN MOOR

The **Falcon** is holding a beer festival on the weekend of the 21st/22nd of June.

WORLDS END

The **End of the World** is offering a special breakfast for those football fans wanting to watch the World Cup with a pint in their hands.

Plans are also being made for a beer festival in August - watch this space!

Swan Supping

Swan Supping is distributed free of charge to pubs in the branch area. Published by the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by *Computer Press (Oxford) Limited*, Harrow Road Cowley, Oxford OX4 6NP Tel: 01865 747464

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Edited by David Roe

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Tel/Fax : 01296 484551

E-Mail : DWRSS@aol.com

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Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st August 2002 is 14th July 2002.

Subscriptions :- *Swan Supping* is distributed to over 200 pubs in our area, but if you would prefer to receive a copy by post, we can mail it to you immediately it is published. All you need to do is send a supply of A4 size envelopes stamped 33p to:

Nick Holt, The Old Star, 163 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury Bucks. HP22 5DW.

This applies to single copies to UK addresses only. We can mail overseas, so just send a cheque and we'll let you know when it runs out. (We actually have a regular reader in Austria! Thanks for your support, Reinhard!)

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Opinions expressed in *Swan Supping* are not necessarily those of the editor, or the Campaign for Real Ale.

Acceptance of an advertisement in *Swan Supping* by a pub or its availability there does not guarantee CAMRA approval of the outlet.



Beer Festival Diary

JUNE

1-3 (Sat-Mon): STALYBRIDGE CANAL FESTIVAL, High Peak & NE Cheshire Branch, Stalybridge Canal Festival Beer Tent, Huddersfield Rd, Stalybridge, Greater Manchester.

3-8 (Mon-Sat): 17TH COLCHESTER REAL ALE AND CIDER FESTIVAL, Colchester Arts Centre, Church St (close to the Mercury Theatre and Jumbo the ex water tower). Please note change of date.

10-15 (Mon-Sat): THURROCK BEER FESTIVAL, Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, Essex, (nearest stn, Grays, London Tilbury & Southend line)

13-15 (Thu-Sat): 25TH SALISBURY BEEREX, Salisbury Arts Ctr (SAC),

Bedwin St, Salisbury, Wilts. 63 Ales, 14 new breweries with 3 further new ales

19-22 (Wed-Sat): 10TH CATFORD BEER FESTIVAL, The Broadway Theatre (formerly Lewisham Theatre), Rushey Grn, Catford, London SE6.

20-22 (Thu-Sat): 6TH SOUTHAMPTON BEER FESTIVAL, Guildhall, West

Marlands Rd, Southampton (5 mins walk from Southampton Central stn).

28-29 (Fri-Sat): 3RD KINGSTON BEER FESTIVAL, Surrey County Staff Club,

Penrhyn Rd, Kingston upon Thames (nr Crown Court + County Hall)

28-29 (Fri-Sat): 6TH SOUTHDOWNS REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL, The Old Corn & Hop Exchange, Lewes Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex

JULY

6 (Sat): 4TH DEVIZES BEER FESTIVAL, THE WHARF, DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE

10-14 (Wed-Sun): 25TH DERBY BEER FESTIVAL, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby (Rly stn 15 mins, bus stn 5 mins)

12-14 (Fri-Sun): CAMRA WOODCOTE FESTIVAL OF ALES, Tidmore Ln, Woodcote, Oxfordshire

12-14 (Fri-Sun): FENLAND BRANCH BEER FESTIVAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL'S 'PARTY IN THE PARK' GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, Central Park, Boston

25-27 (Thu-Sat): 28TH KENT BEER FESTIVAL, The Cowshed Merton Farm, Merton Ln, Canterbury

26-28 (Fri-Sun): 26TH COTSWOLD BEER FESTIVAL, Postlip Hall, Nr Winchcombe, Glos



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

JUNE

Wednesday 5th WORLDS END SOCIAL

9:00pm Marquis of Granby, 10:00pm End of the World

Monday 10th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Lions of Bledlow.

Friday 21st LONG CRENDON CRAWL

Details from Mick White 01296 428266.

Tuesday 25th JOINT SOCIAL WITH MID CHILTERN BRANCH

9:00pm Carpenters Arms, Slapton.

JULY

Monday 1st JOINT SOCIAL WITH SOUTH OXON BRANCH

9:30pm Fox & Hounds, Christmas Common

Saturday 6th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Reserve seats with Tony Gabriel, Phone 01494 527884. Full details are given on Page 14

Tuesday 16th JOINT SOCIAL WITH MK & NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

9:00pm Cuckoo's Nest, Gawcott

Monday 22nd BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Bell, Waddesdon

Wednesday 31st BRANCH SOCIAL

9:30pm Royal Standard, Wooburn Common

AUGUST

Tuesday 6th - Saturday 10th GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

Olympia, London

Tuesday 13th BRANCH SOCIAL

9:00pm Crown, Cuddington, 10:00pm Bell, Chearsley

Wednesday 21st AUNT SALLY MATCH (PROVISIONAL)

Red Lion, Stoke Talmage

Tuesday 27th STEWKLEY SOCIAL

9:00pm Carpenters Arms, 10:00pm Swan

SEPTEMBER

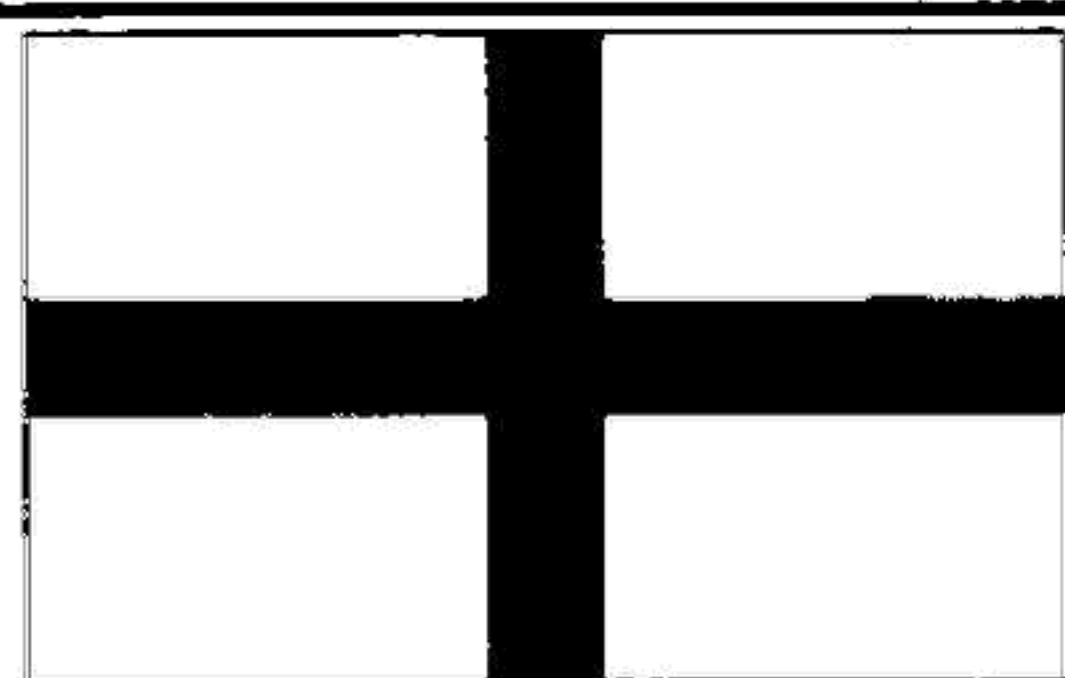
Saturday 21st CAMBRIDGE COACH TRIP

Further details on Page 16.

OCTOBER

Friday 25th - Saturday 26th AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville



THE END OF THE WORLD BAR & RESTAURANT WORLDS END, WENDOVER

Tel: 01296 622299 Fax: 01296 625545

World Cup 2002

We Will Be Open and Licensed for the Early Games
from 7.00 a.m.

We are also serving a choice of Breakfasts
Lots of Prizes to be Won Only During the Matches
Cheer on England Live on Sunday 2nd June
at 10.30 a.m., then we have a Jubilee Pig Roast
in the Evening

We are showing all the matches LIVE
Highlights are shown at night... Ring for more details