



Issue 26



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

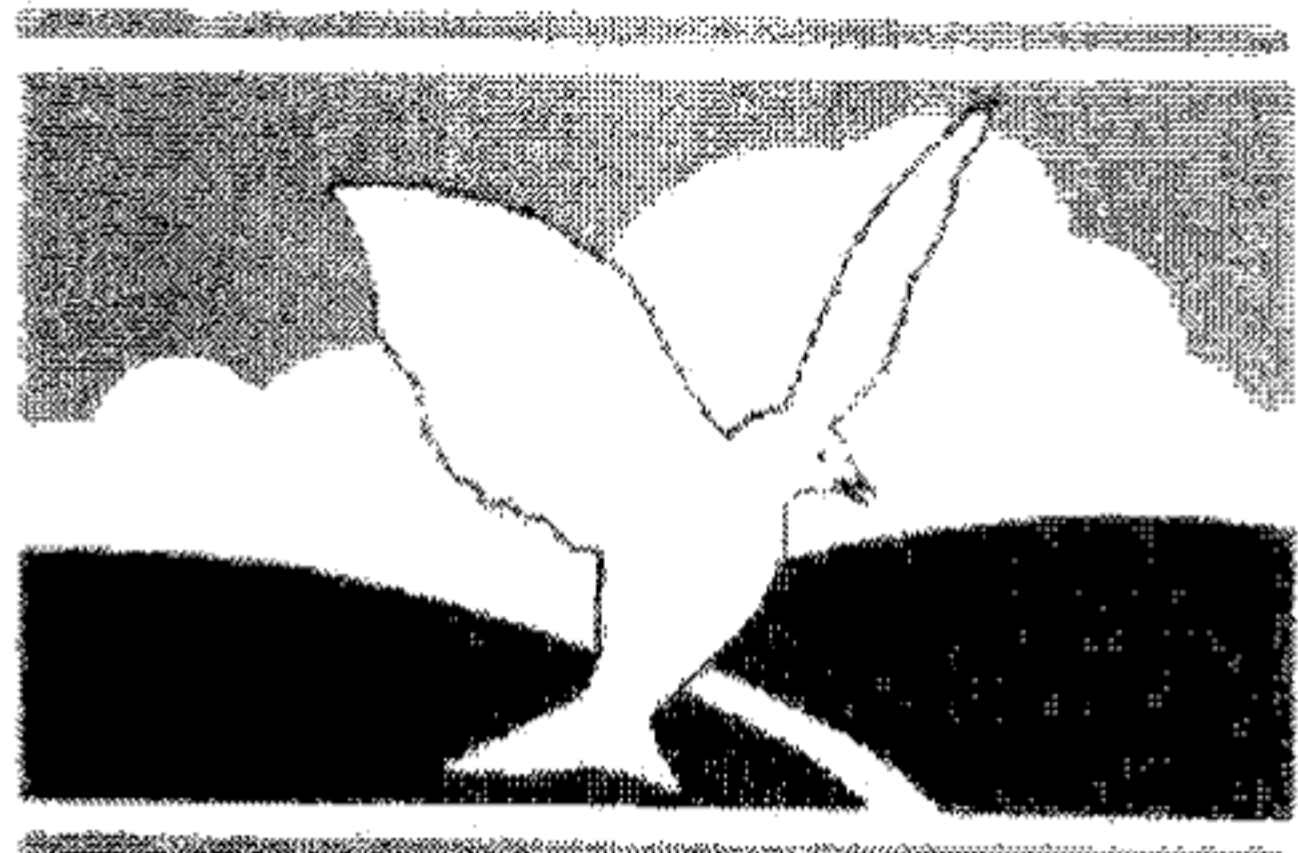
Swan Supping

FREE

OCT/NOV 2001



TWO TREATS FOR OCTOBER!



8th Vale of Aylesbury
Beer Festival

26th/27th October
Eskdale Road
Community Centre
Stoke Mandeville

Our annual beer festival takes place over the last weekend of October at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville.

As before, this is a charity beer festival held in conjunction with the *'Friends of Florence Nightingale House'* which supports the work and development of the Aylesbury Hospice.

There will be over thirty real ales on offer, plus ciders and perry. Hot and cold food will be available at all times. Please see page 14 for further details of the festival and a map.

Also, early October sees the publication of the indispensable guide for all beer lovers: the *CAMRA Good Beer Guide*.

The 2002 version has been redesigned from start to finish. There are longer and more useful pub descriptions, telling you about the beer, the food, the history and the amenities of each entry – but there are still 5,000 of the best cask ale pubs in the country.

The guide will be priced at £12.99 in the shops, but there are discounts for *CAMRA* members. For further details, please contact the editor.

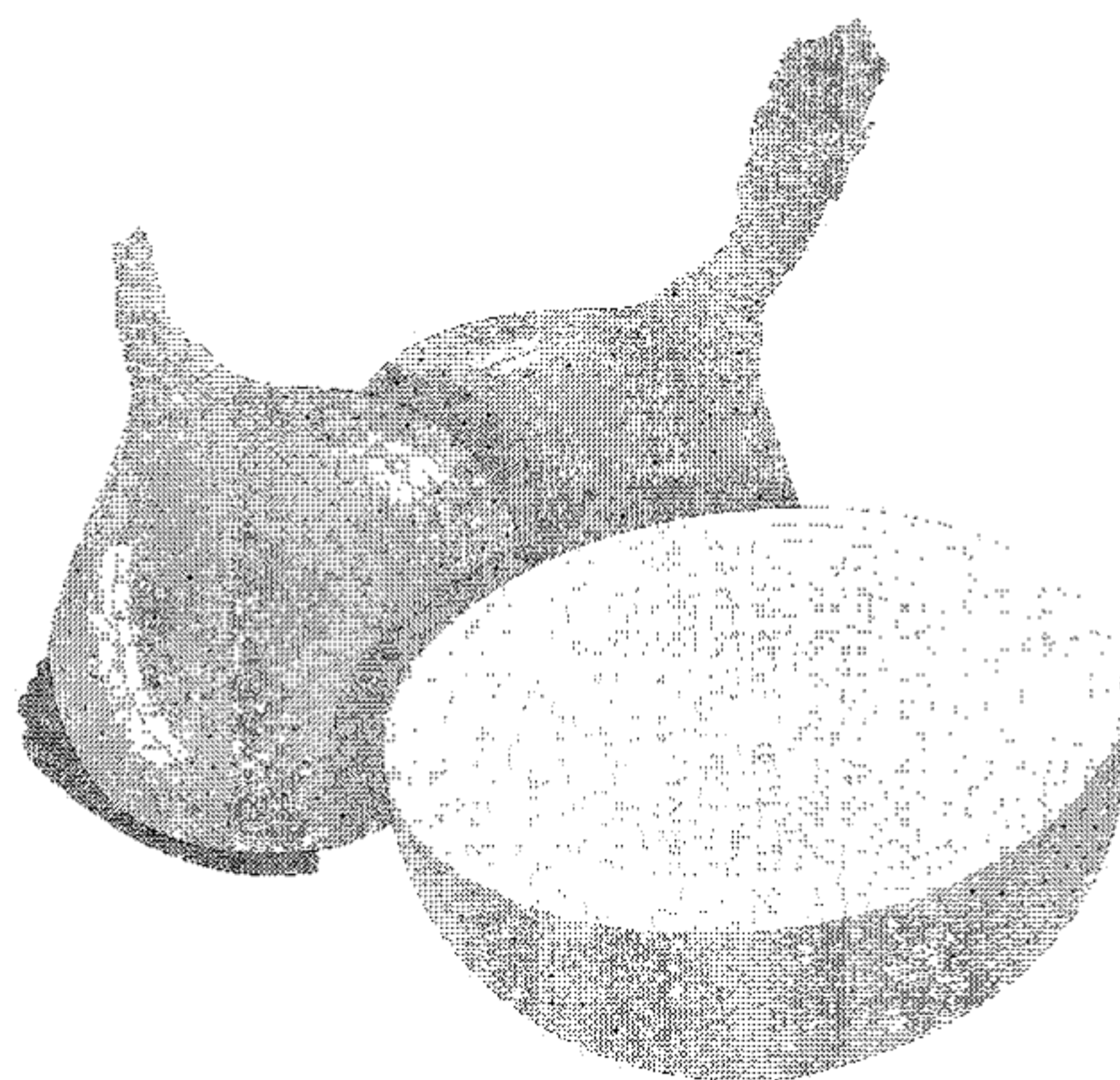
Good Beer Guide 2002

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Out in Early October!

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Local News



AYLESBURY

The **Boulevard** has closed and its future is uncertain.

The **Duck** on Bedgrove is closed for refurbishment and is due to re-open on Oct 6th.

The **Kings Head** held its first beer festival at the beginning of September. Many of the seventeen real ales available were served from barrels stored in the stables area and the good weather ensured that the festival was a roaring success with most of the beer running out by early Sunday evening. All the beers were the same price (£1 per half) so there was no reason not to try as many as you wanted!

Among the beers on offer were some old favourites brewed by the **Bass Museum** brewery. A personal favourite was *Russian Imperial Stout*, which is a strong (8% ABV) smooth stout, brewed to the original recipe that was shipped to the Czar's Imperial Court during the latter part of the 19th Century.

However, this was not the strongest beer available as *Bass No1 Barley Wine* came in at a whacking 10.5% ABV!

The first beer to run out was the *Joules 2B* which used to be brewed

in the old *John Joules* brewery in Staffordshire.

The festival was such a great success that there are now plans to hold another one in the spring as well as repeating the festival around the same time next year.

BEACONSFIELD

There are new managers at the **Old Hare** where Carl and Sally Pearce took over at the end of September.

BLEDLOW RIDGE

The long awaited reopening of the **Boot** finally took place on Thursday 2nd August with a private party for villagers only. Thirsty drinkers queued out of the door for up to 40 minutes for their free drink. The only real ale available on the night was Rebellion IPA and the first one barely touched the sides, so we were back in the queue for a refill within five minutes. Those outside in the drizzle, stood on the nice new paving slabs, could only guess where the party food had gone - probably to the dry ones inside! Since the opening night, *Brakspear's Bitter*, *Fullers London Pride*, and *Vale Wychert* have been available. At the time of

writing some ale is just £1.40 per pint. Bar snacks and restaurant meals are available at the normal hours.

BOLTER END

Peter and Janet Hodges are due to leave the **Peacock** during the first week of October. The pub is due to be taken over by the landlord and landlady of the **Eagle** in Amersham. More news next issue.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Desborough Arms** looks s though it is now permanently shut.

The **Falcon** is selling real cider (gravity dispense from a barrel). As usual, it was far too busy to ask anyone whether this was likely to continue or whether it was a one-off.

THAME

The **Market Square** now has no real ale.

WENDOVER

The **End of the World** was closed for three weeks recently to allow for essential maintenance. This consisted of a general

refurbishment including new carpets and curtains.

The **Shoulder of Mutton** is closed for refurbishment and is due to re-open in December

WING

The **Dove** held its first beer festival during August, with ten real ales from breweries such as *Tring* and *Hogsback*. The weekend of the festival was very busy and there are now plans to hold a similar festival twice a year with the first being a Spring Ale festival in March (watch this space for details!). The festival beers have been so popular with the locals that regular guest beers are to become a feature of the pub, the first one is due to be *Hogsback TEA*.

WINGRAVE

The **Rose & Crown** held their annual beer festival over the weekend of the 31st August to the 2nd September. This was even more successful than previous years with ten real ales and one traditional cider all selling well.

(Continued on page 19)

Tony & Lynne welcome you to
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Atmosphere

Bell, Aldworth, becomes Regional Pub of the Year

The **Bell Inn** at Aldworth, near Newbury in Berkshire, has fought off stiff competition to become the Pub of the Year for Central Southern Region of **CAMRA**.

One of the country's great traditional pubs; a 13th century 5-bay hall house which has been in the licensees' family for over 200 years.

Completely unspoiled, with an open outside gents (known as 'The Planetarium!'), two separate public rooms (one with a one-handed clock), and a central windowed servery. No carpets, fruit machines or piped music, and the only food is hot filled rolls and soup. There is a large garden, and the pub stands next to the cricket ground. It's the kind of pub more English villages should have.

The Bell, whose sign comes from the escutcheon of the de Ferrars family, Lords of the Manor in the 14th century, has won many awards, including **CAMRA Pub of the Year in 1990** and was a previous winner of the regional CAMRA Pub of the Year award in 1998.

Landlord Jack Macaulay achieved national fame in 1994 when he banned an



environmental health officer from the pub!

The **Bell** can be found off the B4009 in the centre of village and can be contacted on 01635 578272.

Arkell's 3B, Kingsdown; Crouch Vale Best Bitter; West Berkshire Maggs' Magnificent Mild, Old Tyler form the range of beers listed, but these will of course vary

Its opening times from Tuesday to Saturday are 11am-3pm, 6pm-11pm; Noon-3pm, 7pm-10.30pm on Sunday. Please note that it is closed on Mondays.

This year there are seven up for the coveted

award of 'best boozer' from the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Each local CAMRA committee submit their particular branch winner into a pool for the running of 'Regional Champion'.

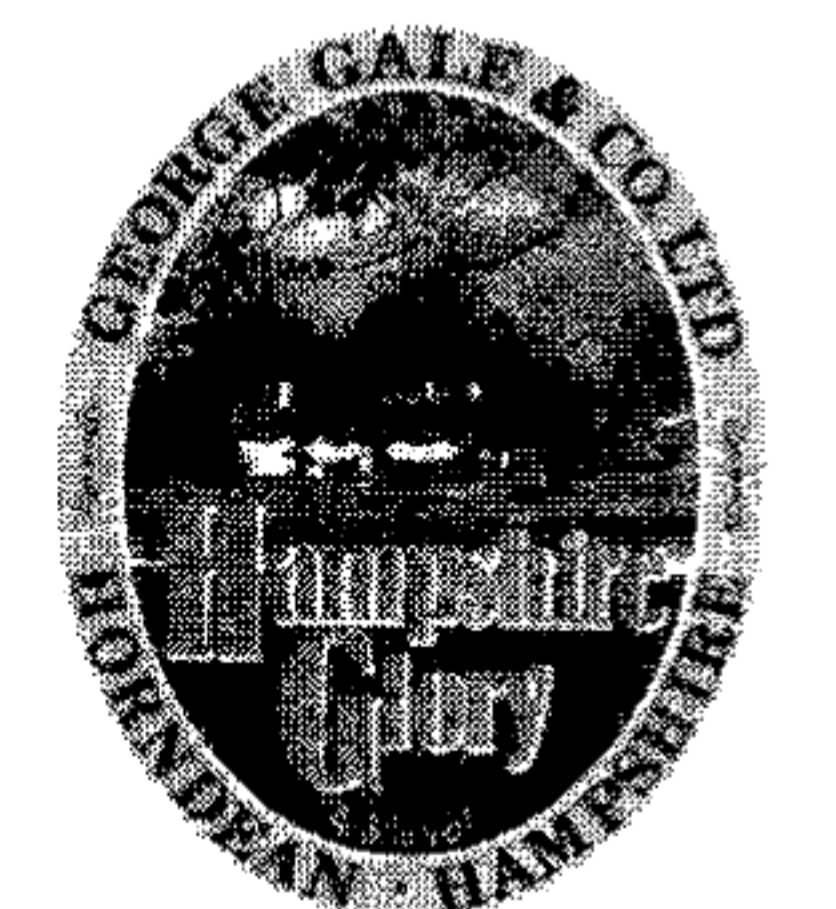
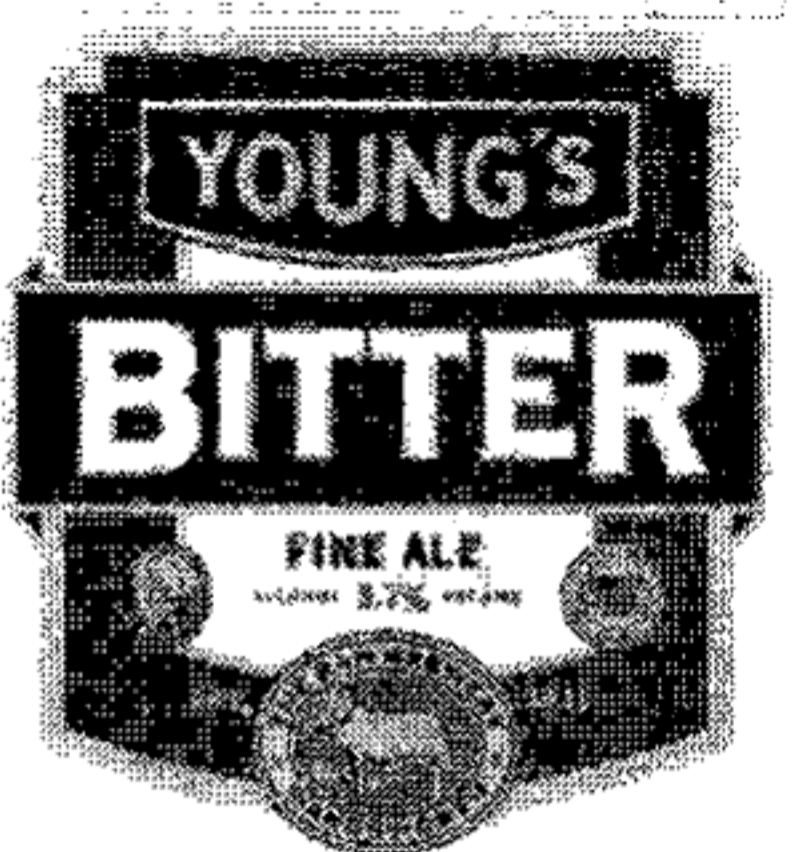
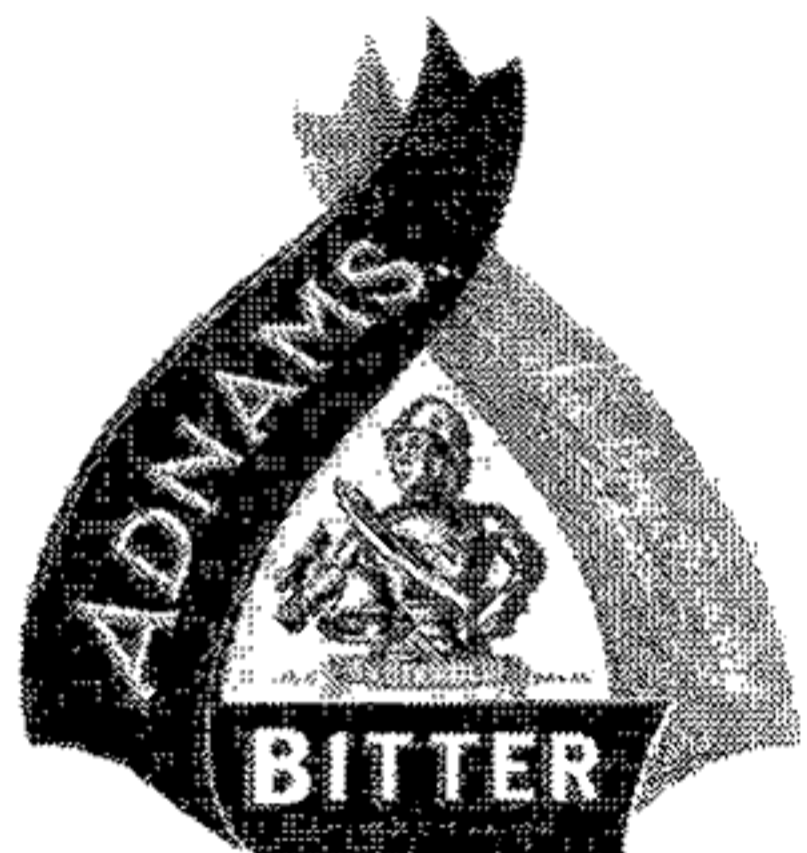
The six pubs who won in the local branches and were the runners up for the regional honour are;

Clifton Arms, Worminghall
Hobgoblin, Oxford
Hop Leaf, Reading
Horse & Groom, Caulcott
Lamb Inn, West Hanney
White Horse, Hedgerley

The range and excellence of the beers is not the whole criterion of the contest. Scoring was divided up into seven categories; Community Focus, Atmosphere, Campaigning, Quality of Beer/Cider, Style/Décor, Service/Welcome and Value for Money.

The details of the **Bell** have been adapted from the information provided by the West Berks branch of **CAMRA** which can be found on www.camrawestberks.freeuk.com.

Other contributions from *Alan Sheppard*.



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TRAPPIST BEER



the generously high side (4 -11% ABV) and all are bottle conditioned (they undergo secondary fermentation in the bottle). The larger breweries export their beers internationally, some only locally and others in the monastery itself although they are usually on draught.

Historically the term 'Trappist' (as in beer) refers to a brewery in a monastery of Trappists who were originally a breakaway from the Benedictine order. Founded in 1098 they were called the Cistercians and followed a stricter religion. The trappists themselves broke away in 1664 but during the turbulence of the Napoleonic period and the French revolution, monasticism was almost completely destroyed and the remnants forced to flee north.

Most of today's abbeys were formed in 19th and 20th centuries when they began to brew again. This brewing heritage stemmed from the fact that during medieval times water from wells was not safe to drink and because of vows of not eating meat, beer was considered a form of nutrition together with making cheese, baking and growing vegetables.

The trappist style has a number of sub styles that you might come across when quaffing one at a your local Belgian café (or British off-licence if you're lucky enough) although they are not necessarily shown on the bottles. They are the 'Double' and the 'Triple'. The former is lightly hopped with a strong malt component and contains caramelised sugars. The latter is a form pioneered by the *Westmalle* brewery (see later) containing Pils malts and candy sugar and is generously hopped - but they are not bitter beers and are usually have a much higher ABV. The 'Single' is rare, much weaker in strength and is essentially table beer, not produced for commercial purposes only for the monks themselves.

What follows now is a brief description of each of the Belgian Trappist breweries. Bear in mind that although the breweries are relatively 'new', their brewing history actually goes back many 100's of years only broken by the Napoleonic era.

ACHEL

The abbey of St Benedict's, 'Achelse Kluis' was founded in 1845, but did not start brewing until February 1999. Two blond top

True Trappist beer is only found in Belgium. In Belgian law the appellation 'Trappist' and its derivatives may only be used by any one of the six brewing monasteries in Belgium - but this stylistic designation is much harder to pin down. What exactly are they? (And hence what is the article about).

First and foremost they are gloriously tasty and often quite strong beers. They can be drunk all year round but quench your thirst they do not. They have an alcohol content on

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BOTTLED HEAVEN



fermented beers (4 & 6% ABV) are available; a dark beer was added in June 1999. The brewery is very small.

CHIMAY

The abbey Notre Dame de Scourmont is found near the town of Chimay, built in 1850 it was the first abbey to brew commercially. The brewery opened in 1862 and was followed later by a cheese factory. Three strong tasting brews are available, the 'Red' at 7.2% (available at Tesco's), the dry hoppy 'White' at 8% and the yeasty 'Blue' at 9%.

ORVAL

Originally a Benedictine then in 1132 a Cistercian monastery, it was ruined during the French revolution. Rebuilt as Notre

Dame d'Orval between 1929 and 1936 alongside the original one it began to brew in 1931. This was primarily as a source of income and now produces over 39000 hectolitres annually. Unusually for a Trappist monastery it only produces the 6.2% hoppy 'Orval'.

ROCHEFORT

Origins of the Saint Remy abbey can be traced to 1230 when nuns occupied it. Later in 1464 monks inhabited it. It brewed in 1595 and the current brewery has been brewing since 1899. Three dark complex and chocolaty beers are brewed: 'Red'/'6 at 7.5%, 'White'/'8 at 9.2% and the 'Blue'/'10 at 11.3%.

WESTMALLE

The abbey, 'Our Lady of the sacred Heart' was founded at Westmalle in 1794 and also is run in conjunction with a dairy. The brewery opened in 1836 and has brewed commercially since the 1920's. The two brews are the Dark 6.5% 'Double' and the pale 9% 'Triple'.

WESTVLETEREN

One of the smallest of the Trappist breweries, the St Sixtus abbey was founded

in 1831, the brewery following a few years later. It produces sweet and spicy brews, from the abbey they are called 'Westvleteren' and under licence 'St Sixtus'. The later is confusingly called an 'abbey beer' – it is not a trappist beer, it is not produced by the monks themselves but by a contractor and by law cannot be called 'Trappist'. The beers are the 'Red' or Special at 6%, 'Blue/Extra' at 8% and the 'Yellow/Abt' at 11%.

Simon Allen



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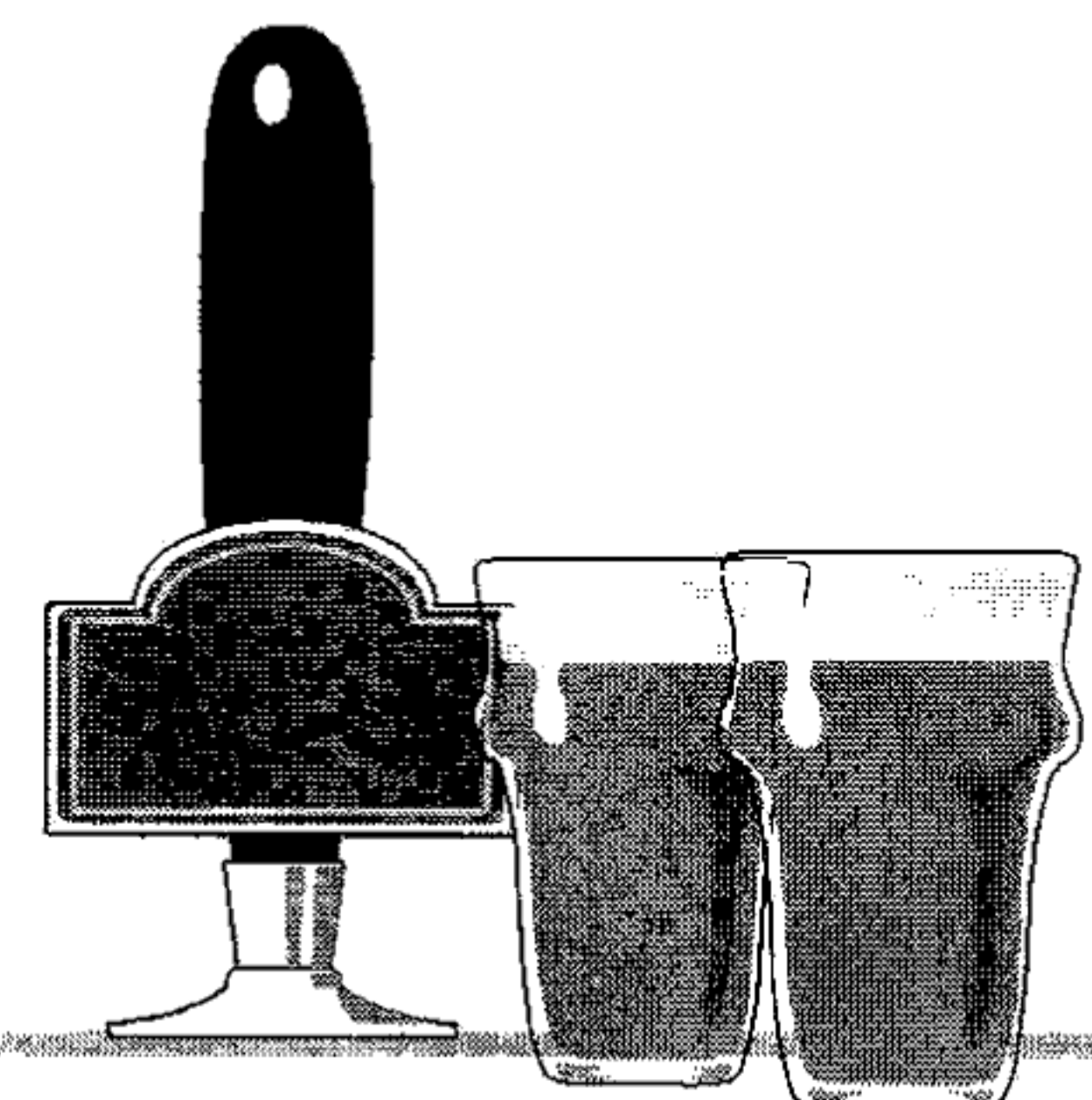
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Local Brewery News

REBELLION

The **Rebellion** Brewery are offering two new special beers over the next two months.

During October the beer is *Cash Free* (4.3% ABV) which is a pale golden ale with a well balanced yet distinctive hop flavour.

In November, they are offering *Padlock Pouch* (4.2% ABV), a nut brown bitter seasoned with American hops.

VALE

Vale Brewery have bought their second pub! This is the **Carpenters Arms** in Slapton and the take-over was completed during September!

They will be doing the full range of **Vale Brewery** beers plus a range of varying guest beers from independent breweries all over the country.

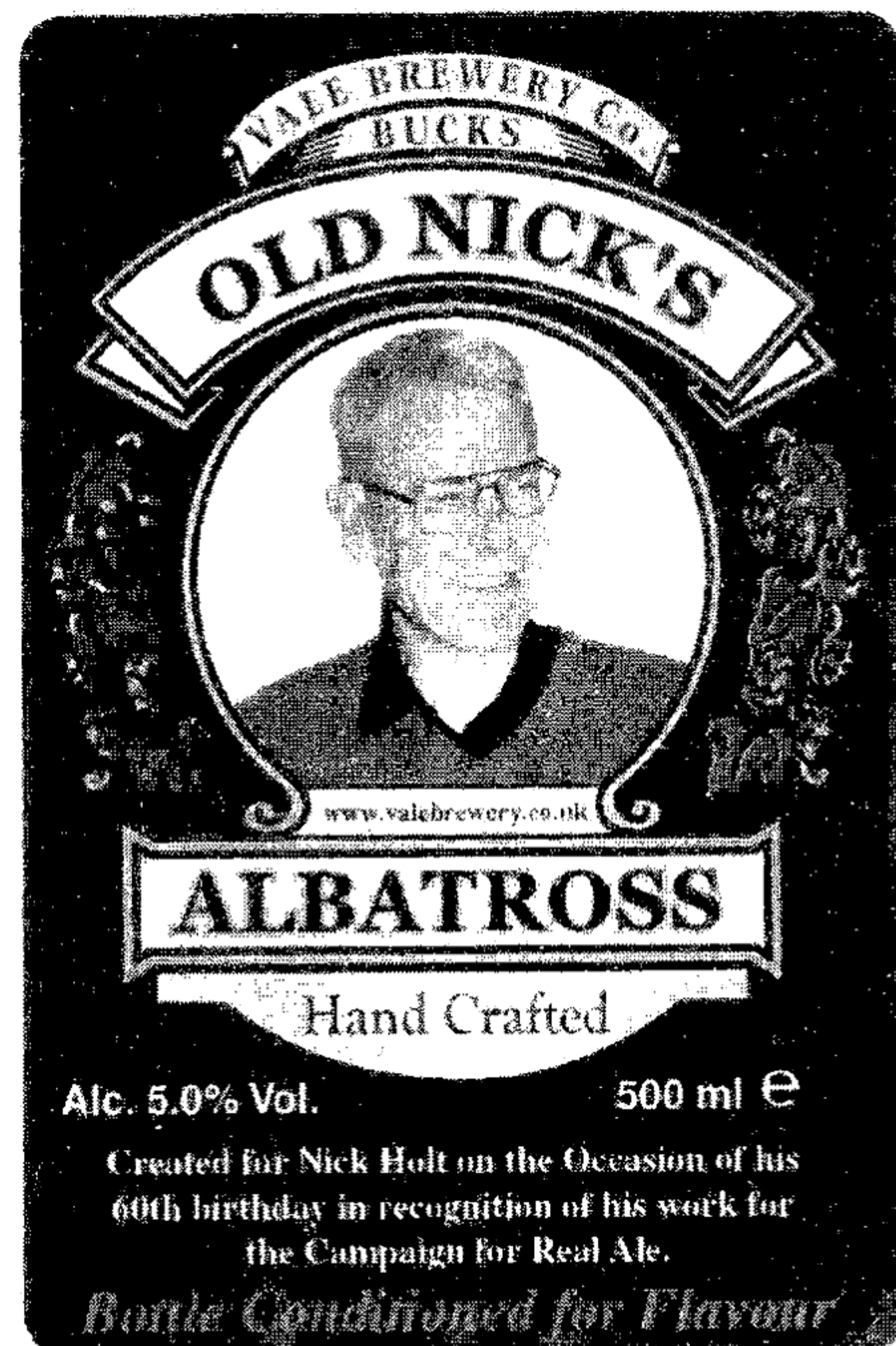
The **Carpenters Arms** used to be part of the *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch* of **CAMRA** until a boundary change in the eighties. A double shame, as their other pub, the **Cuckoos Nest** in Gawcott, is also outside of the branch!

Nick Holt, who in his time with the branch has been Chairman, Treasurer and his current position of Secretary, Regional Organiser, Brewery Liaison Officer for ABC, editor and contributor to numerous local guides plus being a member of **CAMRA** Books Committee etc., etc., reached the milestone of sixty years of age in the middle of September!

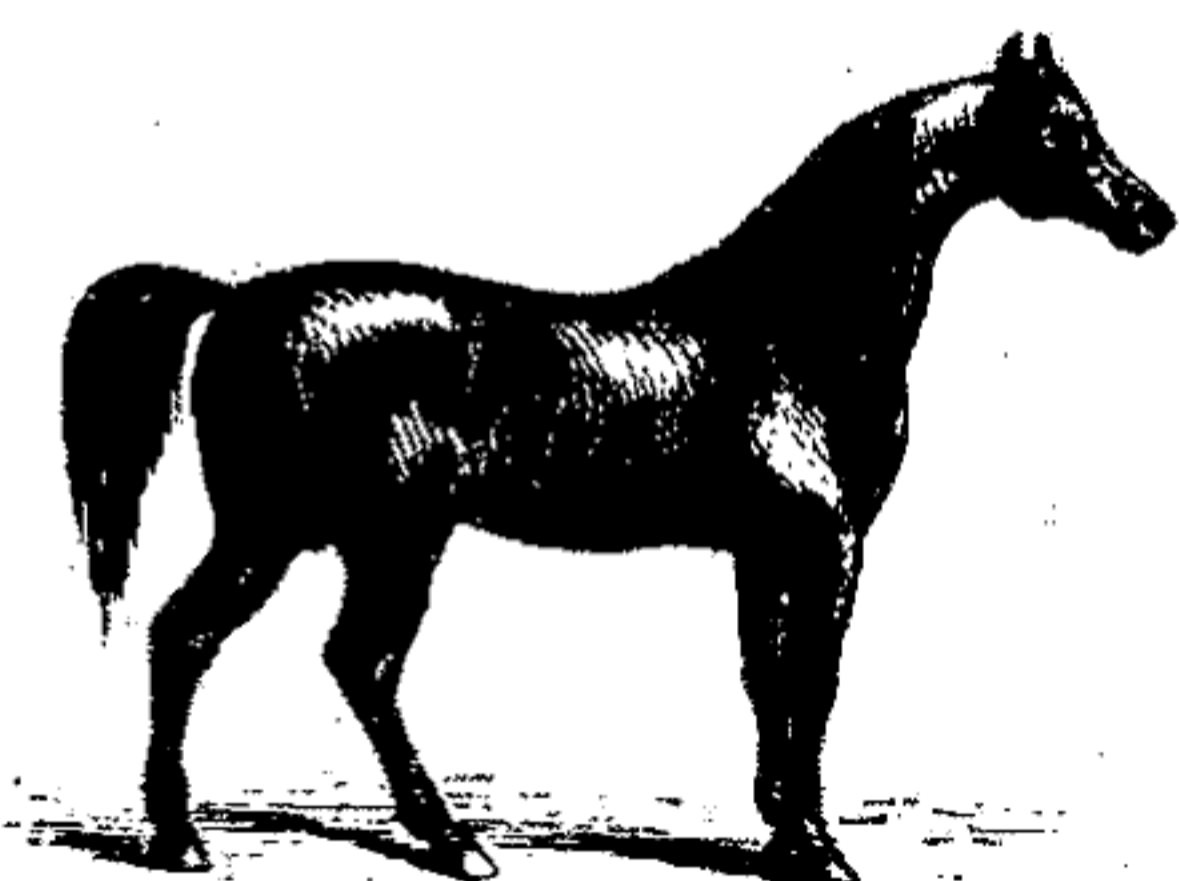
To commemorate the occasion, we took advantage of **Vale Brewery's** special service of creating special labels for bottles of their beer. This turned *Hadda's Headbanger* (5% ABV) into *Old Nick's Albatross* (so named as to reflect his love of golf and we thought that this was his only chance to get one!).

Nick was presented with the bottles at the branch meeting in September. The surprise was total (and, we hope, pleasant!) as he had no idea of our plans, even though three cases of bottles were transported in the car taking him to the meeting! He did not suspect that the radio was on so loud in order to cover up the clinking noise coming from the boot!

A few bottles of *Old Nick's Albatross* should be available at the *Aylesbury Beer Festival*!



The label for
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THOUGHTS OF BAMBERG



Brauerei Fassla

Germany was a country I always wanted to visit but until last year never managed to get for one reason or another. I was therefore very interested when Dave Roe and Nick Holt started talking of 'another beer trip to Bamberg' as they had several times before a few years back.

When I heard talk of 'The Bamberg area once having more breweries than churches', 'Epicentre of German Brewing' and Bamberg still having nine breweries, I was even more interested, enough to reach deep into the pocket for the necessary air fare and beer tokens.

Four of us went in mid May last year; Dave

Roe, Nick Holt, Simon Allen (who had also been before) and myself. We flew to Munich and then got a train to Bamberg.

I was not disappointed. Bamberg is situated in the area known as Franconia in North Bavaria and is a picturesque medieval town on the banks of the river Regnitz. Full of ancient steep roofed timbered buildings with cobbled streets it was fortunately missed by Bomber Harris during the war unlike Munich. Unforgettable and probably the most photographed building in the town is the Altes Rathous or Old Town Hall which appears to balance on a stone bridge over the river.

Records show that Benedictine monks were brewing here as far back as 1122 and a brewery museum is located in the vaulted cellars used by monk brewers at Michaelberg castle. Only nine breweries remain today in a town of 75000 people. A tenth closed in 1991. Bamberg's speciality is Rauchbier or smoked beer originally created by drying germinated barley over a Beechwood fire. Nowadays three breweries in Bamberg produce Rauchbier; *Kaiserdom*, *Spezial* and *Heller*.

Many traditional taverns remain in Bamberg characterized by their timber-paneled walls,

scrubbed tables and old ceramic tiled stoves. Rather than pay as you order over a bar, waitress service is the norm and as the Bavarians take their drinking quite seriously it is perhaps not surprising that some of the waitresses look as if they might play rugby as well. Meals are available at most pubs, the menus revolving mainly around pork. Sausages and sauerkraut with dumplings or roast knuckle joint are typically popular and go well with all beer types.

Main beer types in the Franconia area are:

Dunkel – a dark lager brewed with local aromatic hops and Munich malt. 5-6% ABV.

Helles or Hell – a pale lager of 4.5% - 5.3% ABV often called Vollbier light and refreshing.

Pilsner – A deeper more golden coloured beer originally from the town of Pilsen in nearby Bohemia 4.7-5.4% ABV.

Marzen or March Beer – Very old beer style, so called because in March a strong hoppy beer was brewed in large quantity to last through the hotter summer months when brewing was more difficult. Reddish brown or amber in colour 5.5 – 6% ABV.

Bock – is a strong seasonal beer developed

The Cock Inn at Wing



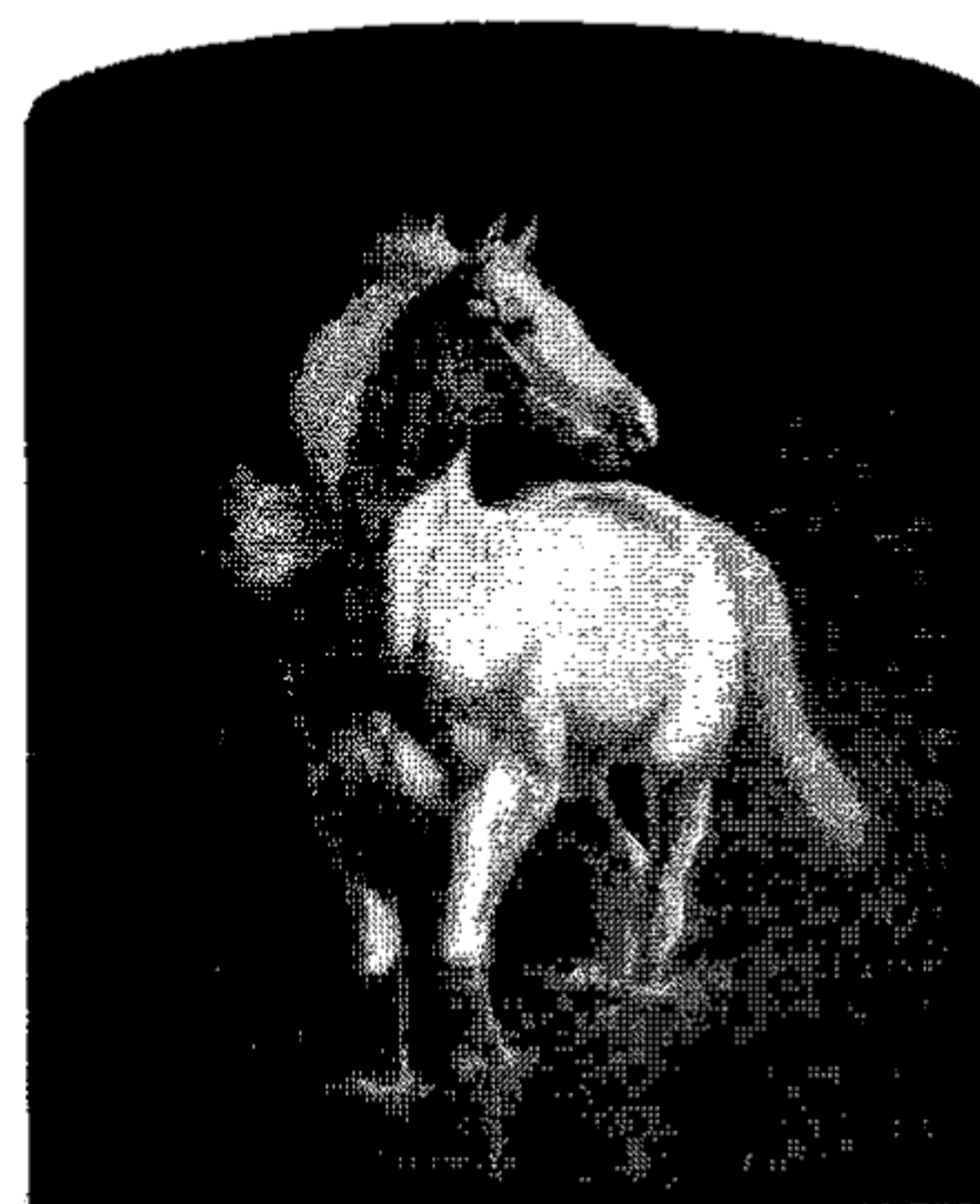
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LONG LIVE THE REINHEITSGEBOT!

by monks and called liquid bread to help sustain them during Lent. Today there are many types, different in colours, seasonal variations and range from 6-8% ABV.

Rauchbier – Bamberg speciality brewed after smoking barley malt over Beachwood fires. Dark Brown 4.8 – 5%.

Last year we stayed at Bamburgs oldest family run brewery, the Brauereigastatte **Fassla**, which has excellent value rooms over the pub. Renovated in the 80s with wood paneling it has great character.

The brewery is located behind an internal courtyard and produces *Fassla Lagerbier* and *Pilsner* on draught, bottled *Marzen* called *Zergla*, a *Weissbier* and *Bambergator*, a doppelbock at 7.5% (Nov – May only).

Opposite the **Fassla** is another brewery the Brauereigastatte **Spezial**. With its long wood scrubbed tables and old tiled stove it has atmosphere which can be significantly augmented by the lightly smoked *lagerbier* (or *Rauchbier*) at 4.8%. Bottled *Marzen* and a seasonal Bock are also available

Two other breweries produce *Rauchbier*, **Schlenkerla** in the old town centre produces *Hiller Marzen* on draught and the strongest

Rauchbier – **Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbier** at 5%. A very dark brown colour strong in flavour.

The **Burgerbrau** – **Kaiserdom** brewery at the edge of town does a wide range of ales but its speciality is a 4.8 amber coloured *Rauchbier*.

The Brauerei **Mahrs Brau** has an excellent brewery tap adjacent to the brewery court yard and produces a full range of beers, but after exhaustive testing, over many hours, we can strongly recommend the *Doppel Bock* at 7.5%, (at least we think that's what it was).

The Brauerei **Keesman** produces *Bamberger Herren Pilsner*, *Keesman Helles* (pale lager), a bottled *Weissbier* and a mid October *Bock*.

The **Griefenklaue** Brauerei produces a *lagerbier*, and has a beer garden behind it with views over the town catering for up to five hundred people.

Next is the **Braunbierstubla** or **Klosterbrau Brauerei** which despite the name does not produce brown beer. The name comes from the sixteenth century when it was owned by the Bishopric and the monks brewed Braunbier, common at the time. This and the



Klosterbrau Brauerei

final brewery **Maisel's**, both produce a range similar to those above.

Thanks to the Reinheitsgebot, the sixteenth century Bavarian 'pure beer pledge' still in force throughout the country, Germany has seen little of imported beers. This states that beer can only be produced with malted barley and wheat, hops, yeast and water. No additives are permitted.

To be continued...

Mick White

MOWCHAK

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| Wychert Ale | 3.9% £74.00* | £44.00 | £23.00 |
| Edgar's Golden Ale | 4.3% £76.00* | £46.00 | £24.00 |

Speciality Beers

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| Black Swan – Dark Mild | 3.3% £73.00* | £43.00 | £22.50 |
| Black Beauty – Porter | 4.3% £77.00* | £47.00 | £24.50 |

The range of Hadda's Seasonal Beers are also available!!

Others

Mixed Cases 12 x 500 ml from our range of 8 different
bottle conditioned beers (3.3% to 5% ABV) £20 per case

Please phone for further details

A CROYDON CAPER

Driven to Drink by Tram!

It was all Dick Moore's fault, really!

We were on the train to last year's *Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)* and we had been discussing trams and the new tram systems that are being developed. Dick mentioned that he had been to Croydon to experience the new tram system and also enjoyed a few nice pints! Imagine my surprise when I was looking over one of the *CAMRA* stands at the *GBBF* and I discovered a leaflet masterminded by the local *CAMRA* branch extolling the virtues of a real ale crawl by tram!

Time passed by and I thought that a trip to Croydon was due. I searched everywhere at home but my document retrieval system failed me. Yup, I'd lost it! By now I was determined to make the trip so I looked in the '*Whats Brewing*' and found that Paul Everitt was the contact person for the Croydon and Sutton branch. In fact, I found that Paul was the branch Chairman.

Paul sent me a leaflet and asked if I wanted to 'go it alone' or would I like a guided tour? He felt in need of a day off and would be happy to do the honours. I accepted the

generous offer with great speed and so it was that a Friday saw me pointing my beak towards Victoria Station and ultimately Croydon.

I hadn't been able to coerce any of my usual companions to join me (pressure of work etc.-oh the joys of retirement!) so coming up to midday I was to be seen striding into the *Porter and Sorter* where Paul had suggested that we met, which is in easy reach of the station. I admit to dragging my feet for a few minutes while I watched the sleek, modern trams glide past.

The first pint of the day slipped down very quickly – it was *Hogsback TEA*. The name of the pub seemed strange 'til a few brain cells woke up. Presumably the porter was due to the nearby station and the sorter was due to the postal sorting office next door. Our next call was the *Claret Free House* in Addiscombe. A very pleasant establishment where I tried a nice pint of *Eccleshall States Bitter*; most enjoyable especially as I had not encountered that one before.

Then followed some much needed exercise! My guide and mentor enquired if I minded a walk for 15 minutes or so and on getting an enthusiastic response pointed us to the

Portmanor in Portland Road. *Robinson's Robin Bitter* was taken first of all. I'm familiar with Robo's beers but this was a new one for me-very tasty. As we were pausing for a while we took another drop here and I went for the *Wolf Werewolf*.

Time to move on so we made for George Street and the *George* pub. This is a *Weatherspoons* establishment originally a furniture store, decorated in the familiar *Weatherspoon* style. I went for some *Elgood's Reindeer* – another new one which I much enjoyed.

Our next port of call was the *Pitlake Arms* a *Greene King* house in Whadden New Road. I took a very acceptable pint of *IPA*. Time came to move on so off we went to the *Royal Standard* in Sheldon Street. There we took a fine drop of *Fuller's Jack Frost*. This is a fine back street local where you are made to feel really welcome.

After this our researches took us to Surrey Street where my trusty guide sought out the *Dog and Bull*, a very pleasant pub which was the Greater London *CAMRA Pub of the Year 1994*. An excellent pint of *Youngs Bitter* was consumed here.

Derek and Carol French
welcome customers both old & new

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For more information or updates

please visit us on our web site

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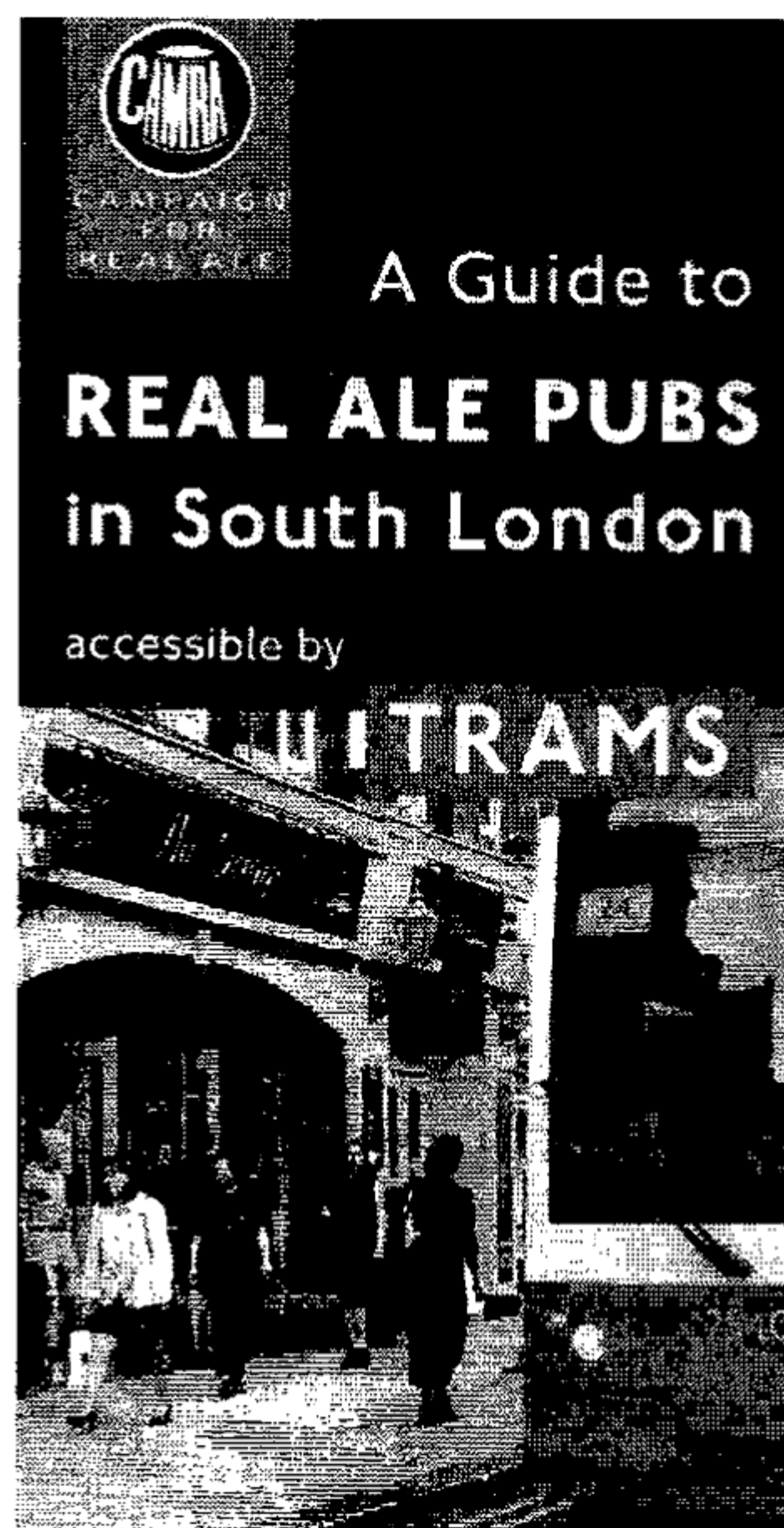


ADVENTURES IN SOUTH LONDON

On we went from here to our final pub for the day. This was the **Ship of Fools** in London Road. Strangely enough my consumption had begun to taper off a little! This is a *Weatherspoon* establishment, a conversion of a former shop. Imagine my surprise when my eyes lit upon a handpump proclaiming *Robinson's Old Tom*. I reluctantly decided that as this wonder juice is 8%, discretion is the better part of valour, so I restricted myself to a half! It was in very fine nick and as I have always imagined it would be on draught. I've saved quite a few bottles of this brew from going bad but never, until then, have I sampled it from a handpump.

This was a really fitting end to a truly wonderful day and I really owe Paul a great vote of thanks for giving up his day to guide me round. This trip was made last year - hence the occasional seasonal beer. Unfortunately although my drinking notes were helpful in bringing back the memory of the day I did not record the tram rides we took! I'll try to do better next time.

This is really an excellent way to spend a day - and the travel was very economical - a travel card from Aylesbury covers the whole journey and includes the travel on the trams.



Tramlink 
Because Trams beat Jams

A copy of the guide used on this trip (shown above) can be obtained by sending a stamped and addressed envelope to the editor (see details on the back page).

Mike Clemence

BEER FESTIVALS

OXFORD BEER FESTIVAL

OXFORD TOWN HALL,
ST ALDATES ST, OXFORD

Thursday 18th - Saturday 20th October

Open Thursday 5-11pm, Friday/Saturday 11-11pm. Around 120 real ales, foreign bottled beers, real cider/perry. Admission £2.50 (£1.50 CAMRA members.)

CAMRA volunteers welcome all days and to help in setting up on Wednesday. Please contact Neil Hoggarth on 01865 794438 or email njh@physiol.ox.ac.uk

BEER ON BROADWAY XIV (EALING BEER FESTIVAL)

EALING TOWN HALL,
NEW BROADWAY, EALING W5.

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd November

Open Thursday noon-11pm; Friday/Saturday 11am-11pm. Over 40 ales, Ciders and Perries, featuring small micros and usual home county beers and old favourites. There will also be foreign beers including 6 draught beers.

The Bell at Waddesdon

Traditional Country

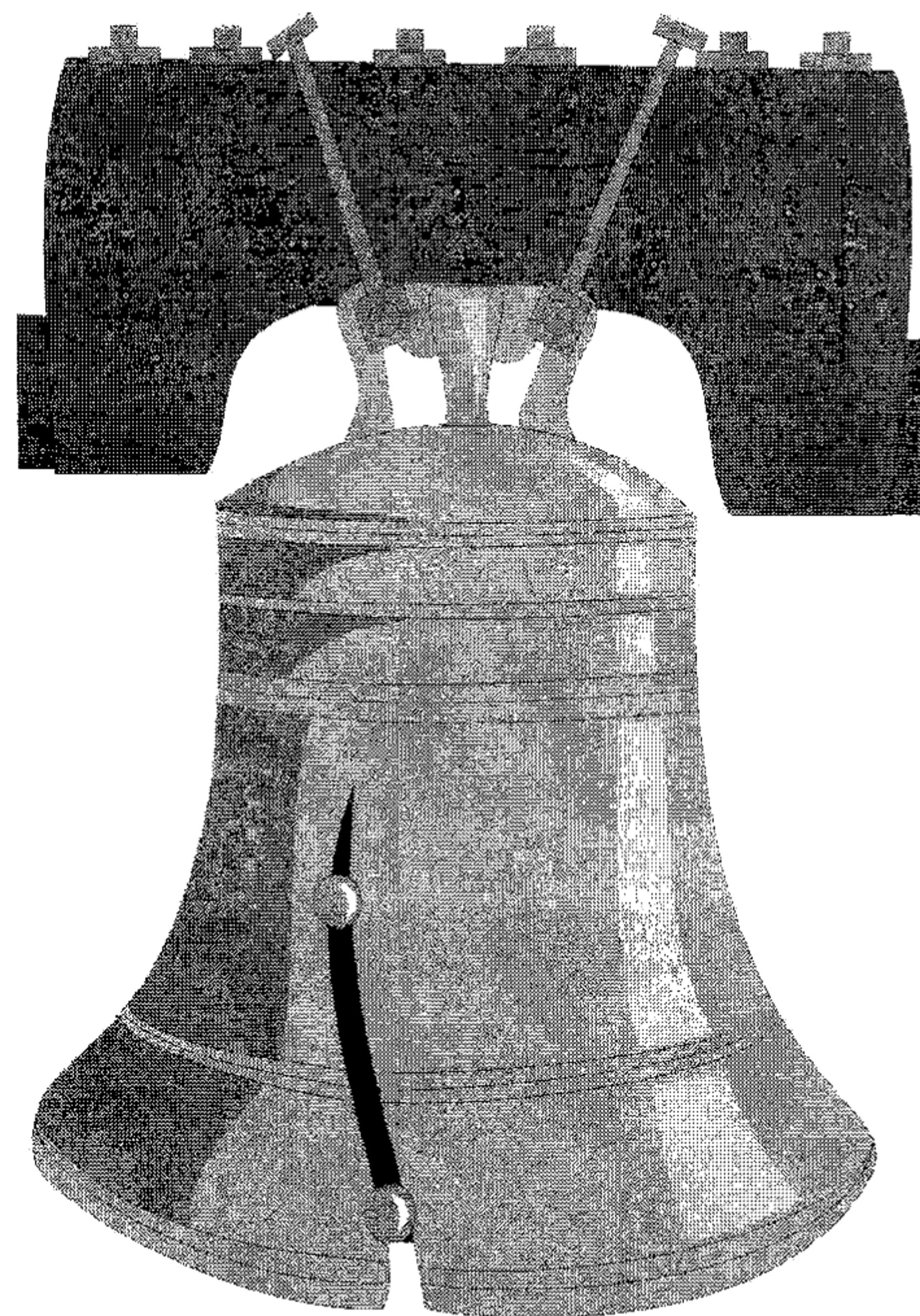
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Cask Marque approved

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*including Fullers London Pride
and Morland's Old Speckled Hen*



Christmas bookings now being taken

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To make your reservation, please contact Nigel on 01296 651320

THWAITES BREWERY VISIT

Tuesday July 7th saw me setting off to Blackburn to visit *Thwaites Brewery* courtesy of the *CAMRA Investment Club*.

Leaving home about 7.00 am and after several changes of train I eventually arrived in Blackburn at 13.15. A long journey but the cheapest way of getting there – good thing I like train travel.

The brewery is about a five minute walk from the station which was just as well as it was pouring with rain. The party consisted of 33 people and we met in the small museum that contained various bottles and publicity from past brews. It also contained the original deeds for the brewery buildings.

The tour did not start off too well as the lift that would take us to the eighth floor of the tower block at 182 feet was out of order. Another lift took us to floor three and we had to climb the stairs the rest of the way to floor eight.

The ninth floor, which we did not visit, contained the water supplies that came direct from the mains, an original bore hole no longer being used.

Floor eight contained the malt silos and the grinding mills. 15 tons of malt was used for each brew, producing 360 x 36 gallon casks or 103,000 pints. Brewing took place between 6 am and 8 pm.

We gradually worked our way down the tower block inspecting the mash tuns followed by the coppers below and the open fermenters further down. All the vessels in the brewery were made of stainless steel. One of the floors contained the hop stores, all air conditioned and holding a two year supply to guard against crop failure.

The brewery also contained a large number of conical fermenters for brewing the dreaded lager. Finally at the bottom of the tower were the conditioning tanks for holding the fermented beer – some of these had only been commissioned last year and had been opened by Jack Straw the then Home Secretary.

All operations in the brewery were computer controlled with an impressive 'flight deck' on one of the higher floors.

From one of the higher floors the stables for the Shire Horses were pointed out. The

horses are still used for local deliveries being used in the morning only.

We were then taken to see a state of the art cask washing and filling line all done automatically and put in at a cost of over a million pounds. The final visit was to the high speed canning plant in which over 800 cans a minute can be filled, which for lovers of automated machinery was most impressive. A lot of contract canning was done to keep the line working. One of the current contracts is for Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries.

After a tour, which lasted about an hour and three quarters instead of the anticipated hour, we finally retired to the sampling room, which was housed in the cellar of the nearby brewery tap. Beers on offer were Daniel's Hammer, Reward, Mild and Best Bitter. A buffet was also available.

The final part of the visit was a talk by the head brewer followed by a question and answer session. Unfortunately I had to leave early to start my long journey home, still in the pouring rain.

Dick Moore

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A WYCOMBE VIEW

Badger Tanglefoot (5.1%)
Bass (4.4%)
Boddington's Bitter (3.8%)
Brakspear's Bitter (3.4%)
Courage Best Bitter (3.8%)
Courage Directors (4.8%)
Fuller's London Pride (4.1%)
Fuller's ESB (5.5%)
Greene King Abbot (5.0%)
Hook Norton Old Hooky (4.6%)
Hop Back Summer Lightning (5.0%)
Inch's Stonehouse Dry cider (app 6%)
Marston's Pedigree (4.5%)
Rebellion IPA (3.7%)
Rebellion Tight Fisted (4.2%)
Shepherd Neame Spitfire (4.5%)
Theakston's Best Bitter (3.6%)
Weston's Old Rosie (app 6%)
Wadworth's 6X (4.3%)
Wychwood Fiddlers Elbow (4.0%)
Wychwood Hobgoblin (4.5%)
Young's Special (4.6%)

Not the list for a forthcoming beer festival but a selection of traditional beers on sale in a handful of pubs on or near the High Street in High Wycombe on a quiet Tuesday night in early September.

O.K. so the pubs are generally grim, cavernous, stereotyped if not themed, characterless and noisy, AND several of the beers are too cold and way past their best (in years rather than days) AND there's no mild, no porter and no stout (not drinkable anyway); AND the council's idea of environmental improvement is to turn Frogmore into a car park.

But it's an impressive range of bitters from small and big brewers, with a couple of traditional ciders for variety. In the 'good old days' (say 24 years ago), Wycombe had far more pubs but far fewer beers and even fewer served in traditional form, just *Courage*, *Wethered* and *ABC*. From the list of beers above, about six had not been invented and ten were famous but only to be dreamed about in the centre of Wycombe. It's a pity that four of those ten have a mere whiff of their former taste, but the others are as good as ever.

In detail; the *Hobgoblin* has *Young's*, *6X*, *Pedigree*, *Bass*, *Fiddler's Elbow* and its namesake; the *Antelope* has *Courage* and *Rebellion IPA* (at £1 per pint on Tuesdays and Thursdays), the *Falcon* has *Summer Lightning*, *Tanglefoot*, *Spitfire*, *6X*, *Director's*, *Abbot* and *Theakston's*; the

Hogshead has *Pedigree*, *Tight Fisted*, *Boddington's*, *Brakspear's*, *Old Hooky*, and the ciders; and the *Bell* has both *Fuller's* beers.

P.S. Further research revealed three more interesting bitters – *Cooper's Ordinary*, *Moles' Landlord* and *Rebellion Red* – all in the usual excellent condition at the *Rose & Crown* on Desborough Road.

Wycombe Wanderer

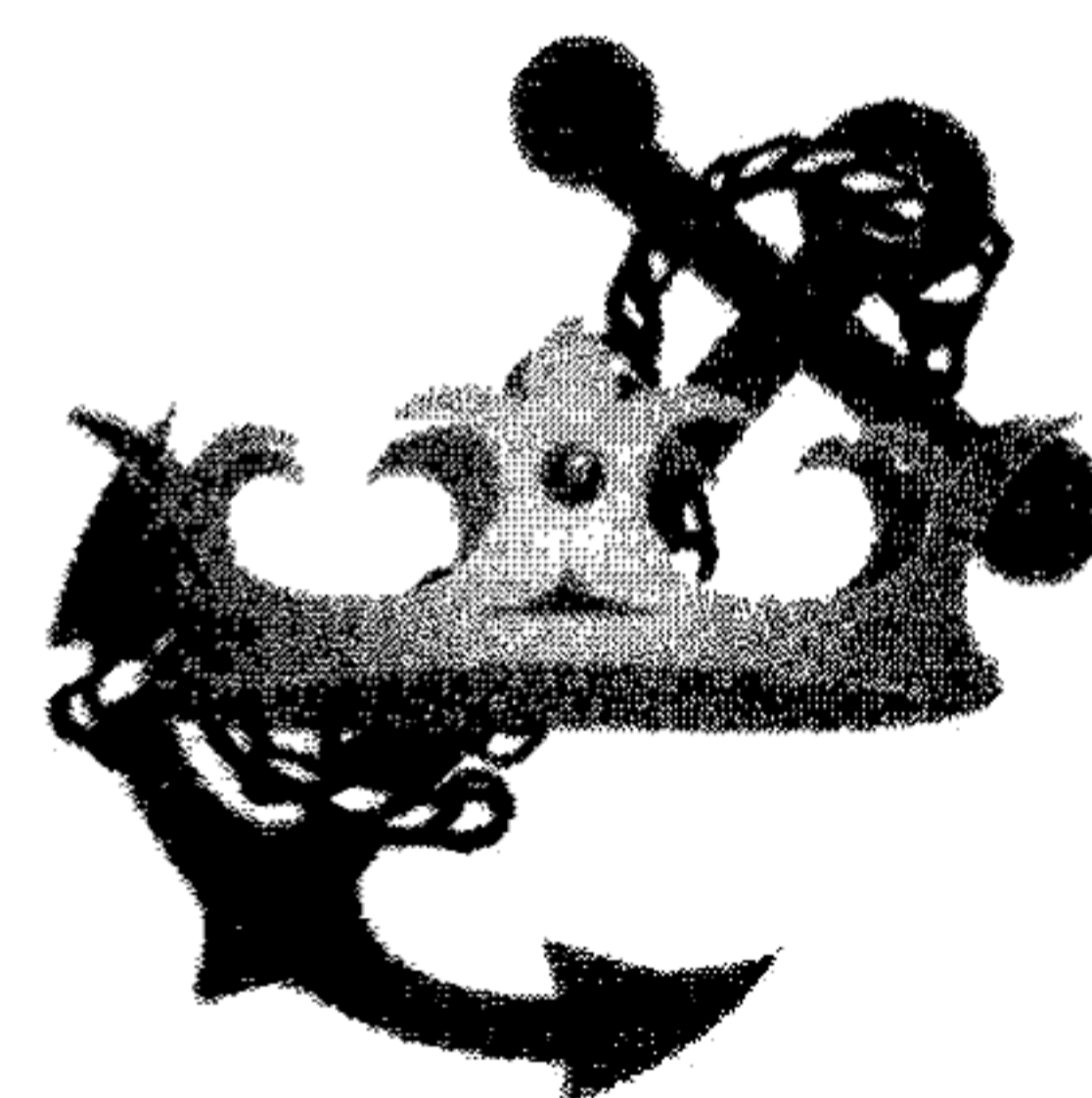
Plea for Info

The *Brewery History Society* is updating its archive records with a view to subsequent publication on the history of breweries in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

If any *Swan Supping* readers have any information, old photographs etc - for example on the four breweries known to have existed in Haddenham etc - please contact :-

Mike Brown on 01933-675931.

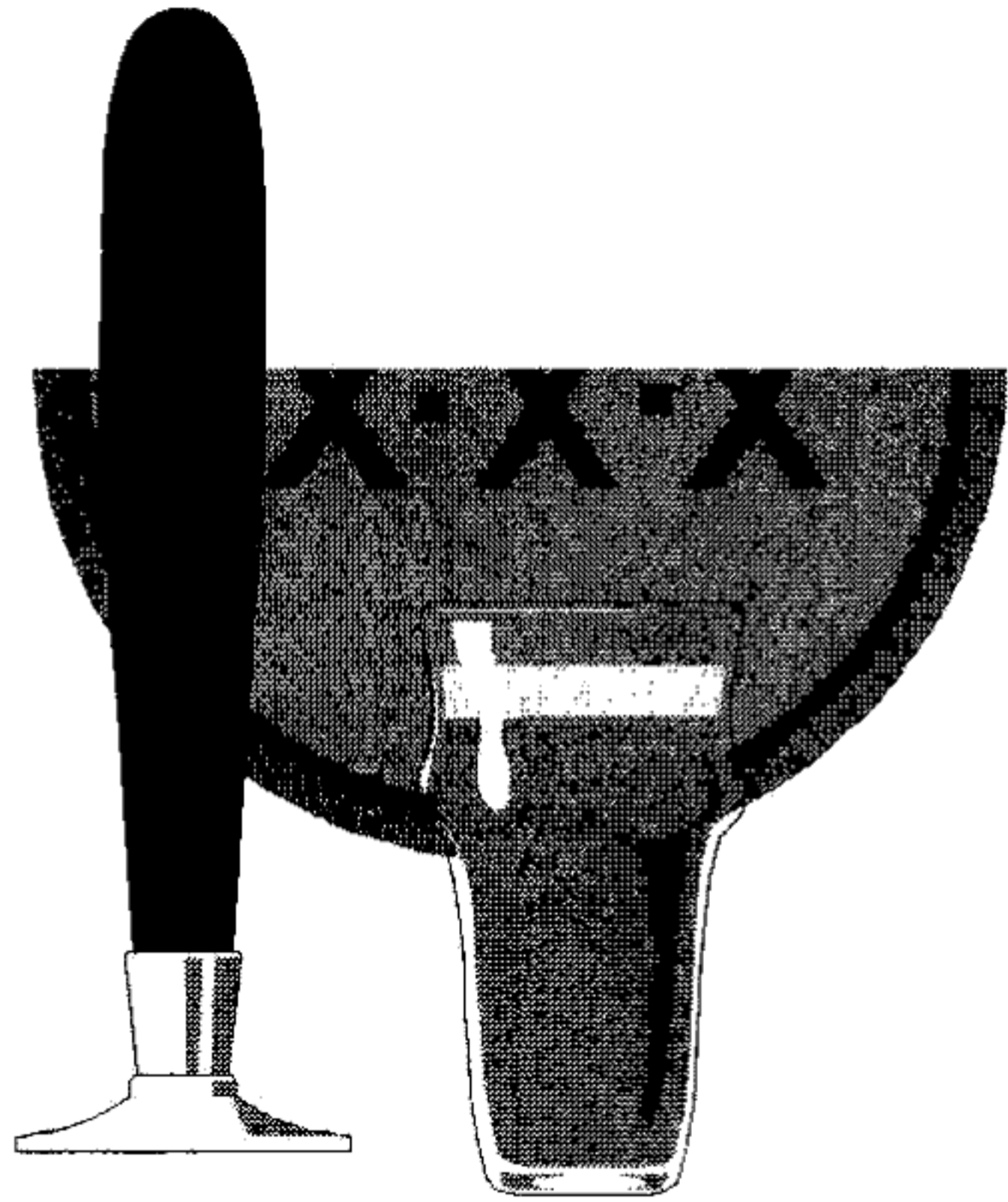
- ◆ REAL ALES AND FINE WINES
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MARLOW

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AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL



The 8th Annual

Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival

*Friday 26th October 6pm–11pm
& All Day Saturday 27th October*

*Eskdale Rd. Community Centre,
Stoke Mandeville*

*Tickets £4 at the door
or £3 in advance*

*(ticket includes £2 worth of
beer tokens)*

Strictly Over 18s only

Hot & Cold food available

Once again, the *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe* branch of *CAMRA* is pleased to team up with the *Friends of Florence Nightingale House* to present their annual beer festival.

For the third time, the festival will be held at the Community Centre in Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville (a map is shown on the page opposite) following our move there from the *Guttmann Centre* last year because of its renovation.

There are plans to have a celebrity to open the festival on the Friday night, and it is hoped that *John Junkin* will fill that role!

There will be thirty real ales available including many prize winners from the *Great British Beer Festival*. One of the beers on

order this year is the National Winner – *Oakham's Jeffery Hudson Bitter (JHB)*

Some of the other beers that it is planned to have available (with prices starting at £1-40 per pint) are:

*Moorhouses' Black Cat Mild
Mauldens Whiteadder
Springhead Leveller
Hop Back Summer Lightning
Orkney Dark Island
Harviestoun Schiehallion*

*and a beer specially brewed for the
festival!*

For the non beer drinkers, we are hoping to have four *traditional ciders* and two *perries*.

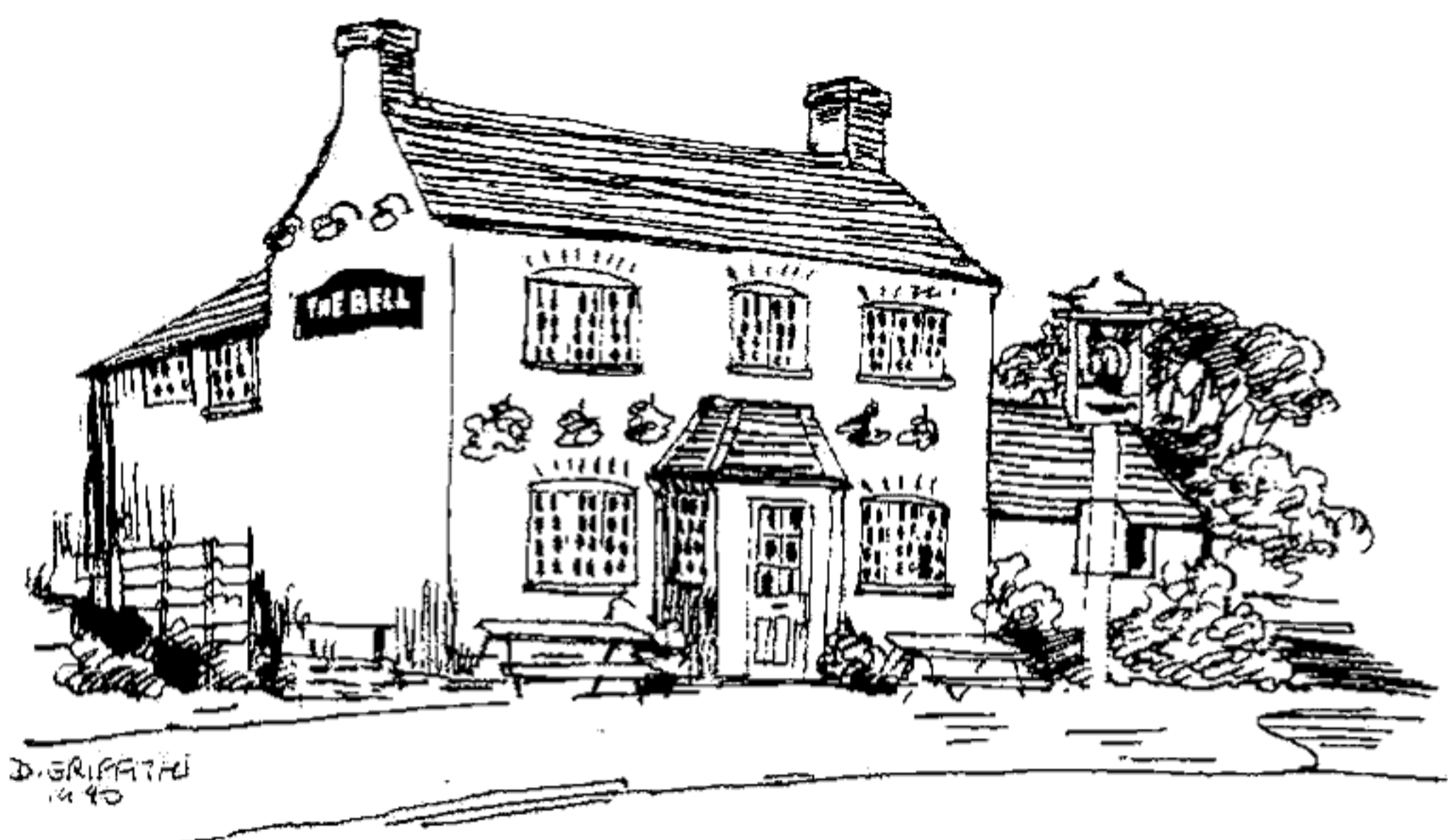
A bar will be open serving non-alcoholic drinks for the drivers amongst you, and lager will be available for those whose taste buds have not yet matured!

The *Good Beer Guide* will also be on sale and we will again be running a '*Beer of the Festival*' competition.

A full report will appear next issue!

The Bell, Berton

Listed in the 2001 Good Beer Guide



Dave & Vee White
191 Aylesbury Road, Berton,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5DS
Tel: 01296 436055

A traditional village pub serving a wide range of Fuller's award winning ales.

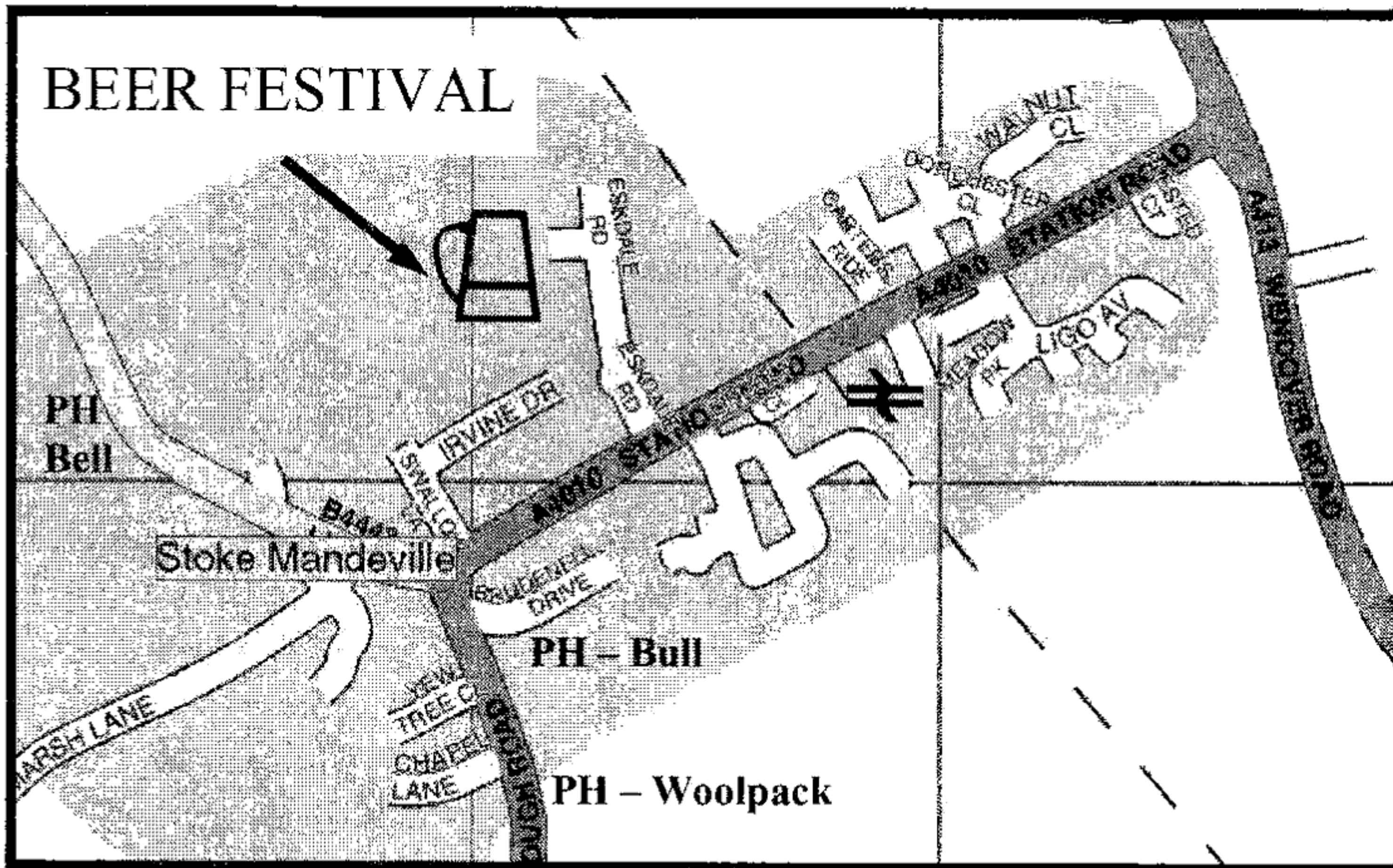
Meals served lunchtime and evening, seven days a week.

Extensive menu including traditional fayre, fish dishes and steaks.

Live Music – see local press for details

*A selection of Christmas menus is available
– bookings now being taken*

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th October



Why not help the Hospice by sponsoring a barrel of beer for the festival?

Ninety pounds gets your company details in the programme, two tickets to the festival and your name or your company logo displayed on the end of the barrel.

**Please contact
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on 01296 429975**

*Tickets are on sale at
Aylesbury Tourist Information,
and
Aylesbury & Wendover
Hospice Shops*

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NATIONAL NEWS

CAMRA celebrates W&D victory

Raising a pint to a future for brewing in the Midlands, *CAMRA* has warmly welcomed the failure of *Pubmistress's* hostile bid for *Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries (W&DB)*. The *Campaign for Real Ale* has been campaigning to keep *W&DB* independent since last year.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, 'This is great news for beer drinkers in the Midlands and for the real ale industry as a whole. We look forward to working with the *W&DB* board to make sure competition, value and choice continue throughout the Midlands.'

But *CAMRA* has also sent a stern warning to directors of *W&DB* to take action to protect the company from further hostile bids and also to consider seriously any proposals to purchase *Mansfield Brewery* as a going concern.

Mr. Benner added, 'While we firmly believe that *W&DB* is in the best hands, there needs to be an assurance that the Board of *W&DB* will make every effort to sell *Mansfield*

Brewery on as a viable going concern with its own estate of tied pubs.'

CAMRA has called for the Government to investigate the whole beer and pubs industry leading to a strategy to maintain and promote competition and consumer choice.

Mr. Benner said, "We may have won this battle, but the war against consolidation is not over. We need the Government to step in and take action to prevent further takeovers and mergers from eroding this important British industry."

Beer of the Year

As we announced last issue, *JHB* brewed by *Oakham* of Peterborough has been judged to be the best beer in Britain by a panel of brewers, beer writers and journalists.

The beer is described in the 2001 edition of the *Good Beer Guide* as, 'Impressive straw-coloured quaffing bitter with bold floral, grassy hop, grapefruit and kiwi fruit and a little sweetness followed by a long, dry aftertaste.'

The Oakham brewed beer was chosen as the

overall winner from over fifty finalists in eight categories including beers from tiny micros to major regional brewers.

Roger Protz, one of the finalist judges and Editor of the *Good Beer Guide* said 'For the first time ever the judges were unanimous in their decision. We were all astonished by the richness and complexity of the beer, with a beautiful balance between malt and hops, stunning aroma and a long bitter sweet finish.'

Jake Douglas, Manager of *Oakham Ales* said 'It is a life time ambition and shows that the time and effort that goes into the brewing is all worthwhile. Let's hope it will help to stave off the compulsory purchase that is threatening our brewery.'

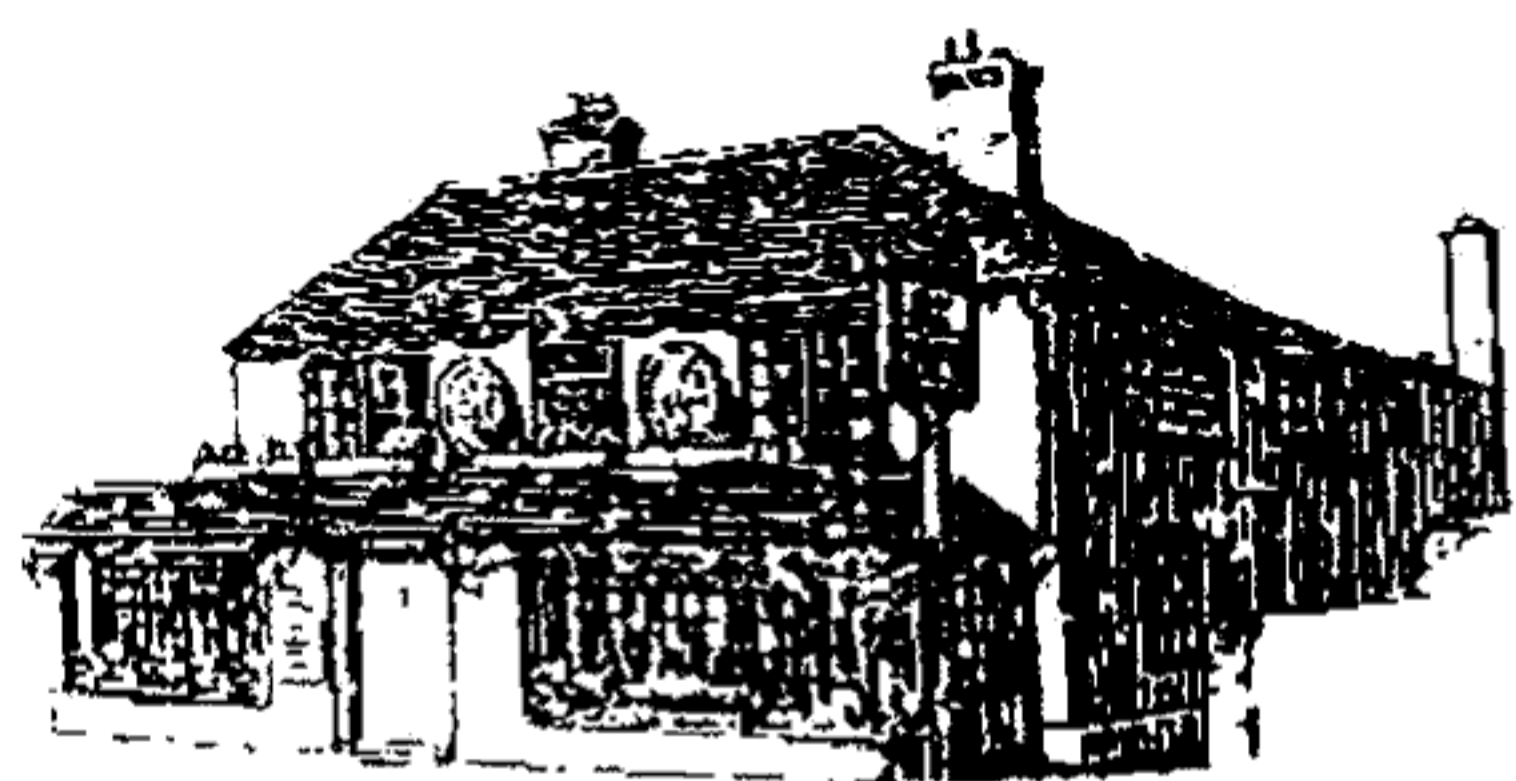
The Silver award went to *Hop Back Summer Lightning* from Salisbury. Bronze went to *Brains Dark* from Cardiff.

It is hoped that we can get at least two of the three medal winners at the *Aylesbury Beer Festival!* Look out for further details on page 14.

THE BRICKMAKERS ARMS

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Bucks, HP14 3ND

Telephone & Fax : (01494) 881526



Open 12 – 3, 5.30 – 11 Weekdays
& all day Saturday & Sunday

Full range of real ales including:

Timothy Taylor Landlord,

Brakspear's Bitter

and Fullers London Pride

Function Room Available

Big Garden with Children's Play Area

Large Car Park at rear

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

*Adnams Bitter
Benskins Bitter
Regular Guest Beer*

Evening meals served until 21:00

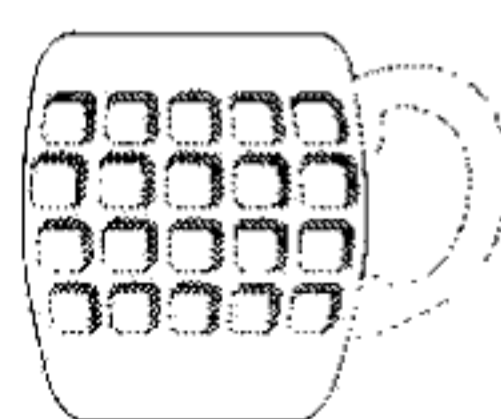
(except Thursday)

Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

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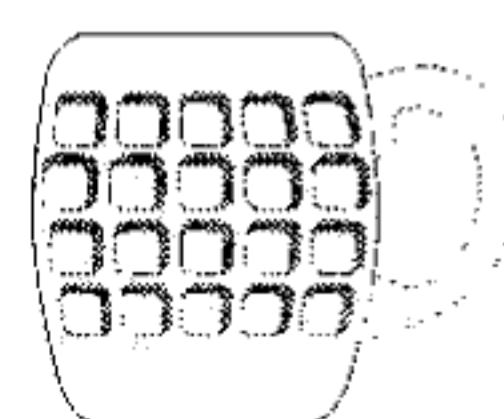
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Quiz night every Monday (not Bank Holidays)

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From Beaconsfield, follow the A40 west. Take the left turn (Broad Lane) signed towards Taplow & Maidenhead. Follow the road for about a mile and turn left into Wooburn Common Road.

You will find us on the left.

From Burnham, follow Dropmore Road towards Beaconsfield. When you reach Dropmore School, turn left into Wooburn Common Road. You will find us on the right, about a mile down.

* Lunches served every day except Monday

** Evening meals available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

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10 High Street
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Home Made Meals
Sunday Roast Lunches
Special Parties catered for
Large Attractive Beer Garden

2001 Good Beer Guide



Pub Competition

The Aylesbury Vale Village Pub Competition is now in the last stages and the winner will come from the following list of pubs, most of which will feature in a future Tourist Guide:-

Oak, Aston Clinton
Harrow, Bishopstone
Red Lion, Brill
Queens Head, Chackmore
Old Swan, Cheddington
Crown Cuddington

Seven Stars, Dinton
Bull & Butcher, Ludgershall
Wheatsheaf, Maids Morton
The Stag, Mentmore
Chandos Arms, Oakley
White Hart, Preston Bisset
Carpenters Arms, Stewkley
Clifden Arms, Worminghall
Rose and Crown, Wingrave

It is hoped to have pictures of the presentation to the winner in our next issue.

London Pub Crawl

We are continuing our merry way around the capital! The latest stage starts at 5:30pm on Friday 16th of November at the **Buckingham Arms** near St. James Park underground station. The full crawl is as follows:-

5:30 Buckingham Arms
62 Petty France
6:15 Cask & Glass
37-41 Palace Street
7:00 The Stage Door
3 Allington Street

7:45 Jugged Hare
172 Vauxhall Bridge Road
8:30 Orange Brewery
37-39 Pimlico Road
9:15 Fox & Hounds
29 Passmore Street

Everyone is welcome to join us and it is highly recommended that you use public transport!

A copy of the London A-Z is also recommended just in case you get separated from the rest of the pack!



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LATE LICENCE MONDAY - SATURDAY

KARAOKE SUNDAY, QUIZ NIGHT MONDAY TIL 1AM

POOL TEAMS NIGHT ON TUESDAYS TIL 1AM

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS ARE MUSIC NIGHTS TIL 2AM



Local News

(Continued from page 2)

WOOBURN

The **Rose & Crown** was redecorated in bright yellow in August. Len Welch, the landlord since 1998, continues to serve *Courage Best* and *Fuller's London Pride*. There are pool and darts teams, food 12-2 and 5-7, and Karaoke on Saturdays (if you like that sort of thing).

The **Old Bell** has *Brakspear's Ordinary*, *Fuller's London Pride* and *Stonehenge Pigswill* as a guest. It also has a restaurant serving Thai, Chinese and Malaysian food.

WOOBURN MOOR

Phil and Kate, in charge of **The Falcon** on Watery Lane since March 2001, have a variety of beers. Often *Robinson's Best Bitter* and *Adnam's Broadside*, sometimes one from *Rebellion* and maybe *Brakspear's Ordinary* soon, also usually *Addleston's* cloudy cider. They serve food 12 - 2.30 every day and 6 - 9.30 except Sundays. There is occasional

live music and they had a beer festival at the end of June with 20 cask ales.

WORMINGHALL

The **Clifden Arms** has changed its opening times. It is now open 12 till 3 and 5.30 - 11 during the week and all day at weekends. Food is available during all the sessions.

WYCOMBE MARSH

The **King George the Fifth** is under new management (yet again).

The **Red Lion** reopened on 1st September with new landlord & landlady, Sid & Helen, formerly at the **Desborough Arms**. The pub has been smartly redecorated, and includes a snug area, pool table, traditional jukebox, three real fires and five rooms available for accommodation. The aim is to attract all age groups. *Courage Best Bitter* is available on handpump, *Fuller's London Pride* is to be added, and other possibilities include *Timothy Taylor's Landlord*.



Advertising in Swan Supping is the best way to get your message across to landlords and pub goers in the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe area!

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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

Rates are Single £14, Joint £17 (at same address),
Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £8
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Under 26 £8 Date of birth _____
For Life/Overseas rates, please ask for details.

Name(s).....

Address

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..... Postcode

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale,
and agree to abide by the Rules.



I enclose a cheque for £.....

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AYL (Swan Supping)

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| 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 | John Williamson | 01628 440200 |
| Stokenchurch | John Bazin | 01494 483039 |
| Wendover | John & Tina Wood | 01296 625215 |
| Regional Organiser | Colin Lanham | 01344 481305 |

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>

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
*For comments, complaints or
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Aylesbury:
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Aylesbury
HP20 1UB
Tel: 01296 585406

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Oxford:
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Tel: 01865 815000 (Mon - Fri
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**ADVERTISING STANDARDS
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advertising-*
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London WC1E 7HN



Beer Festival Diary

October

3-6 (Wed-Sat): 24TH BEDFORD BEER FESTIVAL, CORN EXCHANGE, ST PAUL'S SQUARE, BEDFORD.
 4-6 (Thu-Sat): GREAT WELSH BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL.
 New venue and name for the popular Cardiff Beer & Cider festival. City Hall Cardiff.
 4-6 (Thu-Sat): 3RD TWICKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL at York House, Richmond Rd, Twickenham
 5-6 (Fri-Sat): WORTHING BEER FESTIVAL, Richmond Room (rear of Town Hall), Worthing (10 min walk fm Worthing Rly Stn).
 5-6 (Fri-Sat): HUDDERSFIELD OKTOBERFEST BEER FESTIVAL, GREENHEAD HALL, GREENHEAD RD, HUDDERSFIELD (near the park).
 11-13 (Thu-Sat): 7TH CARMARTHEN BEER FESTIVAL, ST PETERS CIVIC HALL, NOTT SQUARE, CARMARTHEN.
 11-13 (Thu-Sat): 8TH CROYDON & SUTTON BEER FESTIVAL, Wallington Halls, Stafford Road, Wallington (10 mins walk from Wallington Station)
 11-14 (Thu-Sun): 11th WAKEFIELD BEER FESTIVAL AT THE TOWNHALL, WOOD ST, WAKEFIELD.
 12-13 (Fri-Sat): BATH BEER FESTIVAL, THE PAVILION, NORTH PARADE RD, BATH. 5 mins walk from Bath Spa Station.
 18-20 (Thu-Sat): 16TH SWINDON BEEREX, THE TERRITORIAL ARMY DRILL HALL, CHURCH PLACE, SWINDON.
 18-20 (Thu-Sat): OXFORD CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL, OXFORD TOWN HALL, ST ALDATES ST, OXFORD. (See Page 11)
 18-20 (Thu-Sat): 7TH BIRKENHEAD BEER FESTIVAL, PACIFIC ROAD, BIRKENHEAD.
 19-20 (Fri-Sat): 18TH EASTLEIGH BEER FESTIVAL, the Nightingale Centre, Nightingale Avenue.
 25-27 (Thu-Sat): HARLOW BEER FESTIVAL, THE OLD SKI SLOPE CLUBHOUSE. (NEW VENUE!). Harlow Town Rail Station 400 metres away.
 25-27 (Thu-Sat): JERSEY BEER FESTIVAL, THE ROYAL HOTEL, DAVID PLACE, ST HELIER, HERSEY.
 26-27 (Fri-Sat): 3rd POOLE BEER FESTIVAL, St Aldhelms Centre, Poole Rd. Branksome, Poole.
 26-27 (Fri-Sat): 10TH ALLOA WINTERFEST, THE TOWN HALL, ALLOA
 26-27 (Fri-Sat): HAMPSHIRE DOWNS (OVERTON) BEER FESTIVAL. ST LUKE'S HALL, OVERTON, HAMPSHIRE. A 20 min walk downhill from Overton Rail Station

November

1-3 (Thu-Sat): 2001 ABERDEEN + NORTH EAST BEER FESTIVAL - 'The Blue Leopard' (aka 15th Great Grampian).
 1-3 (Thu-Sat): 2001 HULL BEER FESTIVAL, THE MORTIMER SUITE, HULL CITY HALL, PARAGON ST ENTRANCE (near Bus & Rail stns)
 1-3 (Thu-Sat): BEER ON BROADWAY XIV (EALING BEER FESTIVAL). EALING TOWN HALL, NEW BROADWAY, EALING W5. (See Page 11)
 9-10 (Fri-Sat): 8th WOKING BEER FESTIVAL, Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park (10 mins fm Woking Rly Stn)
 22-24 (Thu-Sat): 20TH LUTON BEER FESTIVAL, The Drill Hall, Old Bedford Road, Luton.
 30-DEC 1 (Fri-Sat): WEST CUMBRIA AND WESTERN LAKES 4TH COCKERMOUTH BEER FESTIVAL, KIRKGATE CENTRE, KIRKGATE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA.

Swan Supping

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Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

October

Tuesday 2nd – LUDGERSHALL & ASHENDON SOCIAL

9:00pm Bull & Butcher, Ludgershall, 10:00 Gatehangers, Ashendon

Tuesday 9th – Oving & North Marston Social

9:00pm Black Boy, Oving; 10:00pm Bell, North Marston.

Monday 15th – BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm, Prince Albert, Frieth.

Friday 26th and Saturday 27th AYLESBURY VALE BEER FESTIVAL

Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville

Helpers wanted, please! Please contact the editor.

Further details and a map for the festival are shown on Page 14.

November

Monday 1st – MARSH GIBBON & POUNDEN SOCIAL

9:00pm Plough, Marsh Gibbon; 9.30pm Greyhound, Marsh Gibbon;

10:00pm Sow & Pigs, Poundon.

Tuesday 6th – BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm, Kings Head, Aylesbury.

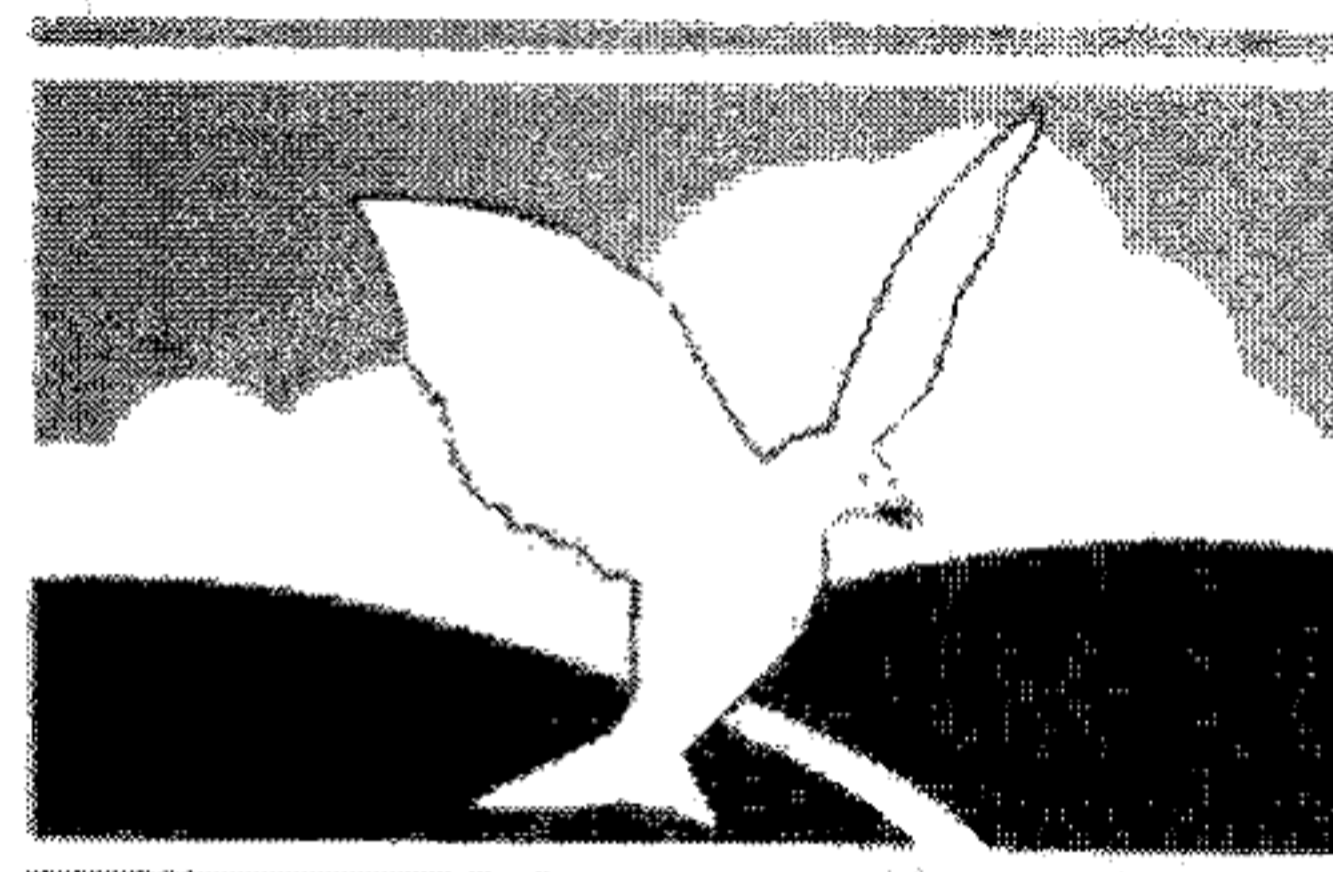
Friday 16th – LONDON PUB CRAWL

Starts 5:30pm Buckingham Arms, Petty France

Full itinerary details are given on Page 18.

Thursday 22nd – WYCOMBE MARSH SOCIAL

9:00pm Red Lion, 10:00pm General Havelock.



8th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival

26th/27th October
 Eskdale Road Community Centre
 Stoke Mandeville



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