

# Swan Supping

FREE

Issue 23



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

APR/MAY 2001



## CAMRA LAUNCHES THE 'ASK IF IT'S CASK' ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN



**Olympia**  
31st July -  
4th August

Real ale stepped into the limelight when its £100,000 'Ask if it's Cask' poster campaign hit 200 sites in five key British cities.

This campaign is the result of two years' hard fundraising and the posters which appeared on Adshells in Edinburgh, Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle and Manchester are only the spearhead of a much wider effort.

'Ask if it's Cask' leaflets, beermats and other promotional material are being distributed to

10,000 pubs across the country, with the enthusiastic help of more than 50 brewers. As well as distributing campaign literature through their retail stockists, they have donated poster sites and, in many cases, made generous donations to the *Real Ale Fighting Fund*.

This is only the start as we try to fan the flames of a reawakening of public interest in real ale sparked off by schemes like *Cask Marque*, and pub groups like *JD Wetherspoon*. There will be a second national burst to the campaign in the summer.

*Book now for the  
Black Country  
Coach Trip*



*Saturday 23rd June  
See Page 15*

## The Bell



### Bierton

Dave & Vee White  
191 Aylesbury Road, Bierton,  
Aylesbury, Bucks  
Tel: 01296 436055

Listed in the 2001 Good Beer Guide  
Fuller's Award Winning Ales  
Guest beers, April: Bateman's XB  
May: King & Barnes Sussex Bitter

Vee and Dave have been serving customers over the past 13 years at the Bell, a traditional public house where you can always expect a warm welcome. A wide range of fresh home-cooked meals and award winning Fuller's ales are available at very affordable prices. As our regulars know, there are no gimmicks or gags, just honest value for money.

### LIVE MUSIC ON SUNDAY EVENINGS (8.30pm):

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sun 15 Apr | THE GINNY BROWN BAND<br>Country, Rock and Blues |
| Sun 6 May  | 'KEZ'<br>Rock and Pop Band                      |
| Sun 27 May | THE GOOD OLE BOYS<br>60s & 70s Blues and Rock   |



# Local News

## ASTON CLINTON

There is a beer festival planned for the summer at the **Oak**. It will take place at the weekend of July 12th – 15th. Full details in the next issue.

## AYLESBURY

The **Hobgoblin** is due to be closed for over two weeks at the end of May for a refit. It is planned to remove the side bar and extend the central one.

The **Hogshead** held a 'Meet the Brewer' session in March when we were treated to an excellent talk by David Waller from *Adnams*. It is planned to hold further events which should include brewery visits to both *Vale* and *Brakspears*.

**CAMRA** members should check their latest issue of *Whats Brewing* to see a large article on the **Kings Head**.

The **Lobster Pot** closed for three weeks, and reopened on the 1st of March as the **Rockwood**. It has had a £100k makeover and is now owned by *Concorde Inns*.

The most welcome sight in the pub is the two handpumps, one of which was serving *Wadworth 6X* when

visited. It is hoped by the new landlord, Colin Beland, that demand will warrant two real ales being available.

## BIERTON

Dave & Vee White, licensees at the **Bell** have renewed their lease with *Fullers* for another three years.

## BLEDLOW RIDGE

Seen outside the **Boot** recently was a big blackboard saying - 'Boot reopening in June, Watch this space' or words to that effect. Hopefully we will have more news next issue.

## CADMORE END

The **Old Ship** has reopened following some major surgery. The bar has been moved, the drinking area enlarged and handpumps have been fitted (although they are not in use and beer is still fetched from the cellar).

## HIGH WYCOMBE

The new owner of the **Queen** in Victoria Street has applied to convert it into accommodation for students. The planning application is numbered 01/05399/FUL ASLB if you wish to write to the

planning office and object to the change.

## MORETON

The owner of the **Royal Oak**, who lives abroad, has applied for change of use of the pub into a private house. Although the pub has been closed for over a year, it seemed to be profitable when it traded as **Paddy McGinty's**. The local villagers are campaigning to get it reopened for both ale and food.

## STOKE MANDEVILLE

**Bass Taverns** are planning major changes to the **Woolpack**. This will mean the removal of the popular drinking area at the front plus a lot of building work. This will result in the pub becoming solely a restaurant.

Needless to say, the regulars are trying to fight the plans and if you wish to help, a petition form can be obtained from the editor and there are further details in a letter elsewhere in this issue.

## WADDESDON

The **Bell** has recently received *Cask Marque* approval for its real ales which are currently *Fullers London Pride* and *Morlands Old*

*Speckled Hen*.

## WEEDON

Much progress has been made at the **Five Elms** in the last couple of months. The re-decoration of the bars is complete; it is now much smarter with re-upholstered seats and a simple, clean style of decoration. All the best features of the pub's character have been retained. The dining room has been decorated but not yet furnished and the kitchen refitted. There will probably be a temporary manager throughout April or until a permanent tenant is found, but no meals until then. Draught beers are *Hook Norton Best Bitter*, *Brakspear Bitter* and *Timothy Taylor's Landlord*.

## WHITCHURCH

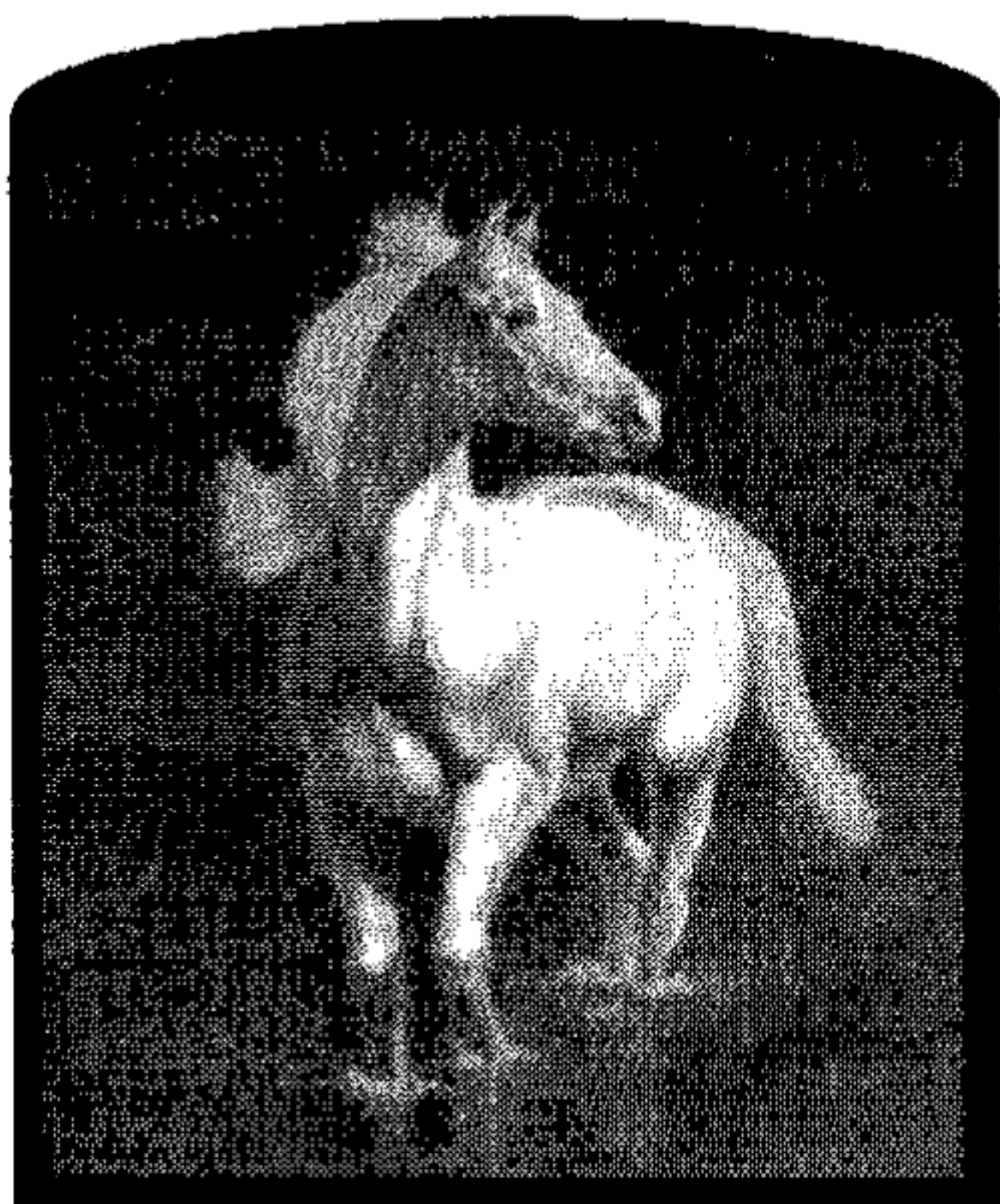
A beer festival offering a choice of twelve real ales will be held at the **White Horse** over the May Bank Holiday from Friday evening 4th May through to Monday 7th May.

## WOOBURN

Work on the **Mother Redcap's** conversion to an Indian Restaurant continues and these works are now nearing completion.

## BEER FESTIVAL MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND 12 Real Ales

Friday evening 4 May through to Monday 7 May



The White Horse  
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*Morrells Varsity  
& Bitter*



## ASK IF IT'S CASK!

### Britain to cease brewing by 2020?

#### Consumers battle to save the Great British Pint

A study carried out by **CAMRA**, has predicted that if recent trends persist, over 90% of the British brewing industry will be in the hands of just two global brewers producing a handful of lager brands by 2020.

**CAMRA** has launched the biggest generic promotion of beer for fifty years in its battle to save the great British pint. Following two years of fundraising, especially the **Fighting Fund**, the consumer group is joining forces with dozens of real ale brewers and thousands of pubs to buck the trend and put real cask ales back on top.

Hundreds of advertising billboards will be launched throughout the country supported by leaflets and posters in pubs.

The study reveals that over 130 regional and national beer brands have been axed since 1990. Excluding those brewed by the 350 very small brewers (which collectively have only 1% of the total beer market), there are about 250 beers still in regular production.



If the trend continues it will take only 16 years to reduce the market to three or four mega beer brands.

Thirty three medium sized or national breweries have closed since 1990. Over fifty of these breweries remain in operation, but **CAMRA** fears if trends persist, there will be nothing but global operators left by 2020.

### The end of the great British pub?

**CAMRA** research in 2000 shows that twenty pubs a month are closing. This is approximately double the monthly closures only five years earlier. If that trend

continues then by 2020 eighty pubs a month will be closing, and many consumers will be faced with the grim prospect of supping at home or visiting big themed bars in town centres.

In January 2001 nearly 1,000 pubs were put up for sale by **Bass** and a further 3,000 by **Whitbread**. There is wide speculation that **Scottish & Newcastle** and **Wolverhampton & Dudley** may shortly put for sale signs on around 1,000 pubs each. Japanese investment bank **Nomura** recently bought 988 pubs from **Bass** and but were beaten to the **Whitbread** estate by the German owned bank, **Morgan Grenfell Private Equity** (now Britain's third biggest pub owner). Other major operators like **Enterprise Inns**, **Pubmaster** and **Punch Taverns** may now seek growth to maintain market share and power - further accelerating the loss of consumer choice.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "Consolidation in the pubs market means smaller brewers are not able to supply beer to such large estates. It goes without saying that these brewers will

(Continued on page 4)



## 1851 - 2001 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Formerly Brewers from Wendover, at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, Dayla the family owned Drinks Distributor is now one of the leading names in the Wholesale Drinks World.

"Thank you to all our trade friends both old and new for all their loyal support over many years, long may it continue. In return we shall endeavour to provide a first-class service matched with a portfolio second to none". Here's to the 200th.

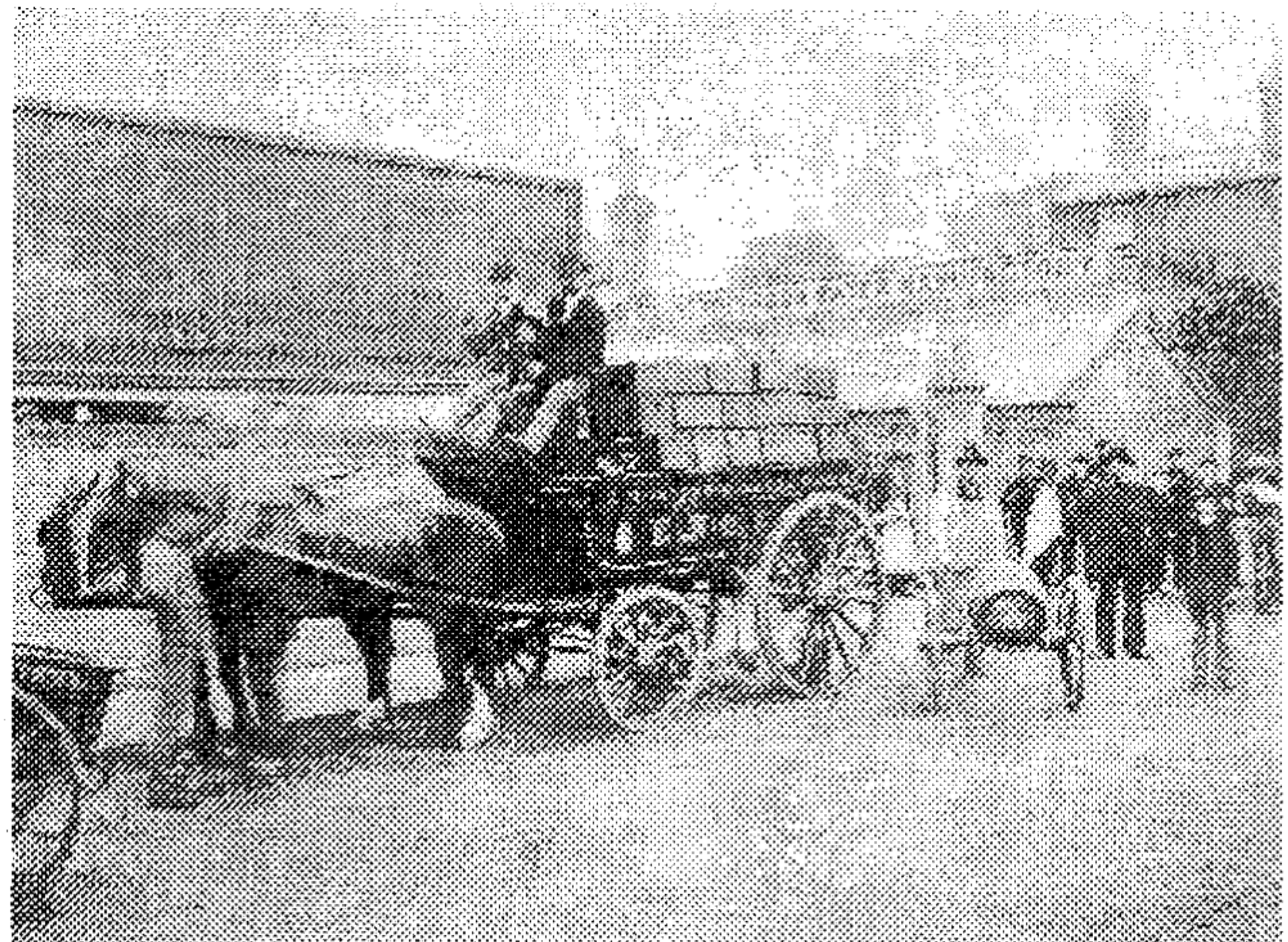
*John Cooper*

(Managing Director)

TEL: 01296 420261

FAX: 01296 397012

E-MAIL: [sales@dayladrinks.co.uk](mailto:sales@dayladrinks.co.uk)



The Drays are out on their rounds  
Dayla formerly North & Randall Ltd. est 1851



## CAMRA fights back!

(Continued from page 3)

be forced out of the market by their bigger competitors who can offer massive discounts and supply household name beers. That will lead to even less choice for Britain's 15 million beer drinkers."

But, it could be worse than that!

As consolidation in brewing and pub retailing continues the demise will accelerate. Belgian brewer *Interbrew* has 32% of the British beer market following its acquisition of *Bass Brewers* and *Whitbread Beer Company* last year. If it is successful in overcoming Stephen Byers' blockage of the *Bass* take over following its application for a judicial review, its discounting, marketing and distribution power may lead to big increases in market share. Other big brewers may respond aggressively to maintain market share through acquisitions, or quit brewing altogether.

Mike Benner added, "The '*Ask if it's Cask*' campaign is a consumer fight back against the disease caused by consolidation, closures, mergers and sell-offs in this great British industry. We want to convince beer

drinkers that nothing beats a pint of real cask ale in a local pub. If people start drinking the taste and shun big-brand marketing, the British beer market will be safe for future generations to enjoy."

The real ale market has been in decline since it peaked at 17.5% of the total beer

market in 1994. It is now less than 10% as consumers are bombarded with global lager brands and smoothflow processed ales.

The '*Ask if it's Cask*' campaign, launched on March 1st, aims to get the message across that real cask ales meet the needs of modern cultured beer drinkers. *CAMRA* is urging drinkers to '*Ask if it's Cask*' next time they visit the pub, in an attempt to get lager lovers and smoothflow drinkers to discover the taste of real ale.

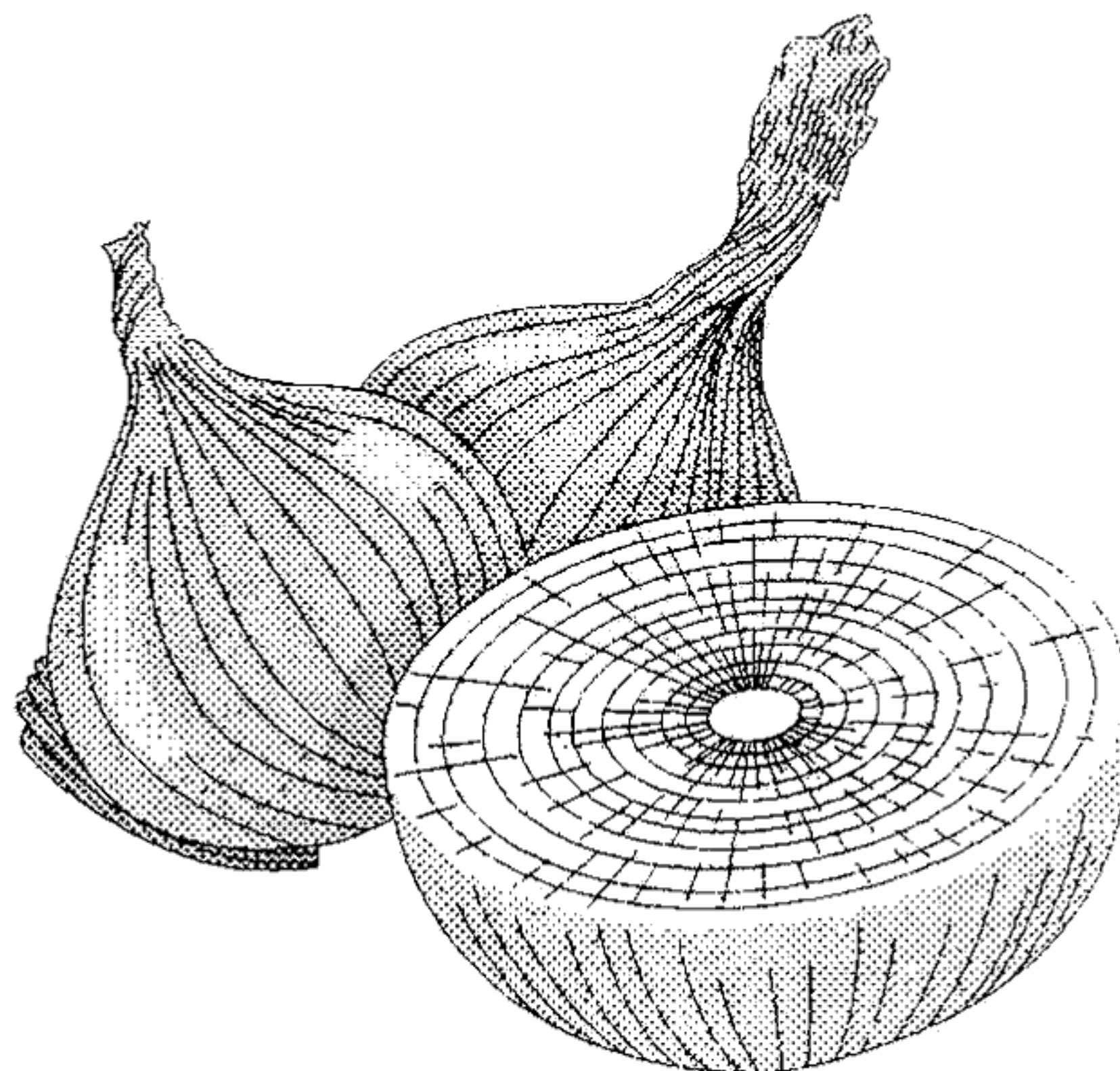
Mr. Benner added, "The city's obsession with quick, high growth technology industries has eroded our brewing and pubs industry and led to the loss of thousands of pubs, hundreds of beer brands and dozens of long-standing breweries. Today marks a momentous occasion when consumers, independent brewers and publicans across the land unite to fight back against city short-termism and mega-brand marketing. Before it's too late."

To join in the '*Ask if it's Cask*' campaign, please contact the editor (address on the back page) for posters, leaflets, beermats etc.



# Derek Pigott

## Wholesale greengrocer to the catering trade



**Tel: 01296 482379**

**Fax 01296 423800**



## Save Our Woolpack!!

A planning application (no. 00/02474/APP & 00/02475/ALB (amended)) has been put forward by **Bass Taverns** for the **Woolpack**, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville.

The pub used to be one of the most popular pubs in the Aylesbury area and featured in the **Good Beer Guide** from 1981 through to 1987. The locals have had to put up with a lot of changes already and they are very unhappy (to say the least) about the plans to effectively kill it off as a place to go out to for a drink, a game of darts and generally use it as a centre for socialising and meeting friends. What follows is part of a letter written to the planning office laying out the general feelings of why the pub should be retained in its present form.

*The proposals seek to change a local village pub into a form of restaurant only thinly disguised as a pub. The **Woolpack** at present is a focal point of the village community in a way that an impersonal fast-food outlet can never be. The pub is a recreational facility of importance to people in the village and beyond and makes a significant contribution to the health and vitality of the community.*

*The **Woolpack** has been extended on several occasions in the past, and the cumulative impact has not been beneficial to the building or to the street scene. The proposals include another extension that would further detract from the appearance of the building and the area in general, resulting in the intrusion of service areas into the rear and side gardens. This would result in harm to the visual amenities of the area and would significantly reduce the*

*attractiveness of these areas as summer sitting-out areas, ideal in particular for those with young children. The garden areas have been neglected in recent years, but could once again be used to full potential given the will to do so.*

*The **Woolpack** is a Grade II Listed Building. The historic core of the building dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The proposed internal alterations would have a devastating and destructive impact on the fabric and structure of the oldest parts of the building. The removal of (probably 17<sup>th</sup> Century) walls on either side of the ancient fireplace surely represents gross detriment to the special interest of the building. In addition the traditional and impressive fireplace would be left without its historic context, and would be an isolated feature with empty space all around. I believe that no argument has been put forward to state that the works are necessary to the retention of the **Woolpack**.*

*The removal of more recent internal walls to open out the interior is perhaps of lesser significance in Listed Building terms but would result in a cavernous and characterless environment very different to the intimacy of the bar area at present. The combination of low ceiling height and enormous horizontal distances would be incongruous and out of character.*

If you wish to send your own letter to the planning department, you can find the address on page 15. If you feel that a letter involves too much work, you can still help by contacting the editor (see details on page 16) and we will send you a copy of the 'Save Our Woolpack' petition form.



FIND US IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE



### BEERS AVAILABLE IN APRIL & MAY

MORRELLS VARSITY 4.3%  
MORRELLS GRADUATE 4.8%  
BRAKSPEARS 2.5 2.5%  
BRAKSPEARS OLD ALE 4.3%  
BRAKSPEARS TED & BEN'S ORGANIC 4.7%  
GREENE KING ABBOT 5.0%  
MORLANDS OLD SPECKLED HEN 5.2%  
MARSTON'S PEDIGREE 4.5%  
HOOK NORTON OLD HOOKY 4.6%

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**IDEAL FOR DRIVERS!!**

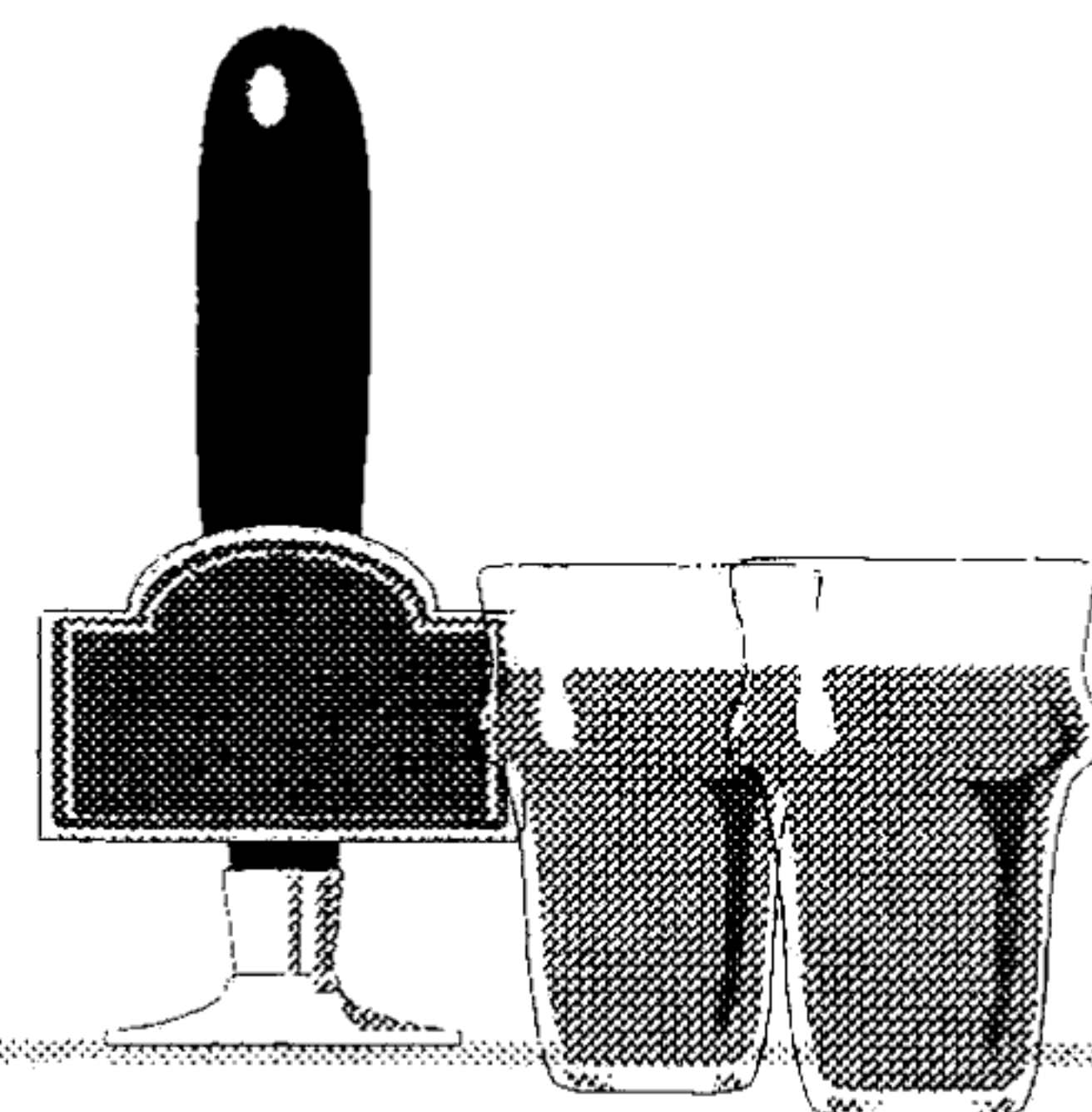
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PER PINT





## LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



### Vale Brewery

*Vale Brewery* have reintroduced *Grumpling Ale*. It is now called *Grumpling Premium Old Ale* (4.6% ABV) and is a full bodied, full flavoured, dark reddish brown beer with roast malt flavours. It is made with Maris Otter and Crystal malts, roasted barley and uses Fuggles and Worcestershire Challenger hops. Some of the places where you might be lucky enough to find it in our branch area are the **Hogshead**, Aylesbury, **Pink & Lily**, Lacey Green, and the **Cock in Wing**.

As we announced last issue, *Vale* have installed their own bottling line. They are offering bottle conditioned versions of their own beers and are also doing bottles for other small breweries.

However, if you want to do special bottles of beer for company promotions, product launches, or for anniversaries of any type, this is now available for everyone. A full range of different style ales are available and the minimum order quantity is just six dozen 500ml bottles. Prices start from only £1.30 per bottle and this includes all labelling and packaging costs (artwork can be arranged if required).

Commemorative ales can also be brewed to order representing great value for corporate promotions and individuals alike as prices start from as little as £1.40 per bottle.

*Vale* have also launched their own web site which, when it is completed, will offer further information on what they can offer. The website can be found on [www.valebrewery.co.uk](http://www.valebrewery.co.uk).

### Old Luxters

*Old Luxters* report that they are the busiest they have ever been! They are now in their 21st year and are planning a celebratory ale called *Luxters 2121*. We hope to be able to give you more details of this in the next issue.

Currently, they are brewing two beers on contract for the *Tipperary Brewery* of Ireland. These are two bottles beers: *Rich Ruby Stout* (4.5% ABV) and *An Dubhain* (5% ABV) which translates as 'The Dark One'.

Besides brewing *Fortnums Ale* (5% ABV) for *Fortnum and Mason* they are also doing *Reel Ayle* (5.4% ABV) for *Aylesford Newsprint* in Kent and a special *Damson Ale* which is made with fresh damson juice.

All the bottles of beer mentioned should be able to be bought at the shop at the brewery.



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THURSDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT





## Go West, Young Man!

It's an early 10 am start at the **Crown and Anchor**, Marlow, for Sunday morning bacon rolls and coffee before thirty plus ale thirsty regulars clamber aboard our transport to the wilds of West Berkshire to visit its namesake's brewery. With Messrs Banfield and Trueman in close attendance to test the water, so to speak, of a fellow brewer, the coach shortly arrives at its destination of Frilsham in Berkshire.

We are soon honouring a pint of the two brews on offer straight from the cask, while holding Sunday mass in an old farm barn like construction, housing the various tuns, coppers and other brewing idiosyncrasies required to produce the connoisseur's holy water. Owner and brewer, Dave Maggs, provided an informative talk on the brewing process as well as the ups and downs of running a microbrewery in the 21st Century.

Whilst invited to ask any questions or queries on the West Berkshire Brewery and beer making in general, we sample his *Mr Chubbs Lunchtime Bitter*, a 3.7 ABV session beer and brand new *March Hair*, a fine and flavoursome 4.6 ABV seasonal brew for the month of March. With the classic **Pot Kiln** public house only yards



away the vast majority enjoy the sunshine, the beer garden and especially the brewery's *Brick Kiln Bitter*, a 4.0 ABV gem with a unique taste, which is brewed solely for this countryside outpost. I've frequented this pub once before for some of this nectar and I will be returning soon I can promise.

It's all aboard the coach for a short drive down the picturesque country lanes to the **Bell** at Aldworth. More of the local brew can be enjoyed here with a pint of *Maggs Magnificent Mild*, aptly named, a 3.8 ABV dark offering of the highest order, along with *Old Tyler* 4.0 ABV. This beer is named after Dave Maggs previous trade (he

actually re-tiled the pub's roof), and is a modified version of the *Good Old Boy*, with hops added late in its creation to vary the flavour. After a three pint consumption and a good natter to the regulars, which included some bikers, at this bustling boozier, a true hub of village life local.

Next port of call, the **Black Horse** at Checkenden for a pint of the original *Good Old Boy* 4.0 ABV, which was a good old pint, another from the *West Berkshire* portfolio. All three of these vintage public houses visited served Dave's beer and are also all entrants in the **CAMRA** national inventory.

Departure from Oxfordshire signalled a quick top off at **Trueman's** brewery in Medmenham to try a John Trueman ale and have a peek at his brewery before returning to his **Crown and Anchor** hostelry for some much needed hot supper to round off an enjoyably spent Sabbath.

Alan Sheppard

## The Clifden Arms



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## Barbara & Tony invite you to The Clifden Arms Worminghall.

Take in the atmosphere of a fine English country pub. Our food is as appealing as the setting with a large garden and fun play area for the children.

Enjoy a traditional pub lunch in the bar or choose from our comprehensive menu in the comfort of the restaurant. A children's menu is always available.

At the weekend, why not bring the family and enjoy our traditional Sunday lunch.

**Special lunch board every Monday to Thursday (plus Wednesday evening), offering two meals for the price of one.**

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**Real ales on tap including weekly guests**

Meals served from 12 – 2pm & 7 – 9pm

# The Clifden Arms



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Beer Drinkers frozen out

Consumers have vowed to keep up the fight for a fair level of beer duty for Britain's fifteen million drinkers said **CAMRA**, following the Chancellor's 'freezing' of excise duty on beer in the latest Budget.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "Although it's preferable to an increase, this freeze will do nothing to reduce smuggling of cheap Euro fizz which is being sold on to whoever has the cash, including children. Mr. Brown has offered no support for the 900,000 British jobs supported by the beer and pubs industry. Millions of pints will continue to flood our shores and hundreds of British jobs will continue being exported to France."

Over one million pints a day are now being smuggled into Britain by increasingly organised criminal gangs. **CAMRA** called for a duty cut of only two pence in this budget which would have been enough to significantly reduce the bootleggers' profit, making it less desirable.

**CAMRA** is urging drinkers to partake in its 'Ask if it's Cask' campaign the next time they visit the pub in an effort to boost sales of real cask ale brewed by Britain's 400 independent brewers.

Mr. Benner added, "Pubs are closing directly as a result of high beer tax. Smuggling and related criminal activity are on the increase and the social problems related with the uncontrolled purchase of alcohol can only get worse. The Chancellor has ignored the evidence that a cut in duty would benefit the industry, consumers and the government within two years."

**CAMRA** will continue to campaign for duty to be reduced to the EU mean level in order to revitalise this important British industry.

There was, however, a ray of hope for small brewers when the small print of the Budget was published. It announced that the Government was 'minded' to introduce a reduced rate of duty on beer produced by small breweries and would be considering the scope for doing so over the coming year.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

### MPs back full pint campaign Parliamentary support for Government proposals grows

Over 100 MPs have put their weight behind Government proposals to stop beer drinkers being served short measures in pubs, but **CAMRA** today criticised the Better Regulation Task Force for failing to consult consumers.

A parliamentary motion tabled by West Lancashire MP Colin Pickthall supports **CAMRA**'s calls for a fair deal on pub measures. 107 MPs have signed the EDM. The National Consumer Council today pledged its support for the proposals.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "We are aware that the Better Regulation Task Force has met industry representatives to discuss the Government's proposals, but it has not



Vale Brewery of Haddenham offer Award Winning local ales, made from only the finest malted barley and whole English hops, in ready to drink party packs. To order, telephone 01844 290008 giving a minimum 24 hours notice for "bright" beer.

	(72 pt.)	(36 pt.)	(16 pt.)
Price List (Inc. VAT)	ABV Firkin	Poly-pin	2 Gal
Notley Ale	3.3% £72.00*	£42.00	£22.00
Wychert Ale	3.9% £74.00*	£44.00	£23.00
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3% £75.00*	£45.00	£24.00

(Free Silver Swan T-shirt with every order over £40!)

#### 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 of wine & numerous Guest Ales

Budweiser Budvar 24 x 333ml £24.00 per case



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## NATIONAL NEWS

consulted CAMRA despite repeated requests for a hearing. It is wrong that consumers are not being given the opportunity to overcome the objections of certain sectors of the industry to these very sensible and fair proposals."

CAMRA is concerned that the Task Force may present a view on the proposals to the Government without properly considering the consumer's view. Lord Haskins, Chairman of the Task Force, has previously expressed his personal objections to the proposals.

Mike Benner added, "Lord Haskins has claimed that the proposals to ensure full pints are disproportionate to the number of complaints the DTI has received from consumers, but customers do not complain to the DTI - they complain to pub staff. Every time a consumer asks for a top-up in a pub it is effectively a complaint. It is important that consumers are given the opportunity to challenge the industry's assertions."

CAMRA research carried out in December 2000 demonstrates overwhelming consumer support for full pints. The results show that well over 80% of people think a pint should be 100% liquid and 73% think new laws should be introduced to ensure full measures.

Mike Benner said, "The industry is split on this issue, with large companies like Wolverhampton and Dudley supporting it and some trade associations condemning reform. The more blinkered sectors have attempted to scupper legislation through unsubstantiated objections based on costs to the industry and low levels of consumer support. It is the duty of the Better Regulation Task Force to balance the debate by allowing us to overcome these objections."

## BEER FESTIVAL AWARD



Steve Banfield, of **Banfield Ales** was presented with a certificate for the '**Beer of the Festival**' which was won by his unique brew, **Mandeville Mild**. This was especially created for the **Aylesbury Vale Beer Festival** last October, which is run as a charitable event in aid of the **Friends of Florence Nightingale House**, and Steve kindly donated two barrels.

Steve is currently not brewing as he has left his brewery at Burrough-on-the-Hill, and his new premises are on a farm which is closed during the foot and mouth crisis. He still hopes to brew for this year's festival at the Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th of October.

The presentation, which took place at the **Greyhound**, Beaconsfield, was carried out by David Roe, chairman of the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch of CAMRA and the editor of '**Swan Supping**'.

*Derek and Carol French  
welcome customers both old & new*

## *The Red Lion, Bierton*

*Sponsors of the Vale of Aylesbury Junior Athletic Club*

### *Opening Times*

*Monday – Friday 11am – 3pm; 5pm – 11pm*

*Open all day Saturday & Sunday*

### *New Extensive Menu*

### *Daily & Weekend Specials*

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Regular Guest Beer (Charles Wells Bombardier  
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*Quiz night every Wednesday  
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*For more information or updates  
please visit us on our web site  
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or ring 01296 394857*



## A Hogshead of Rebellion, please!

After a hard day's toil what better way to unwind than by taking advantage of an invitation to attend the launch of a new **Rebellion** brew and sample some old and new bottled editions in the 'tutored tastings' promotion at my local **Hogshead** in Marlow.

The latest dispatch from the local Marlow bottom brewery is a deep brown mystic offering titled **Landlords Choice** (4.3 ABV). Which was not just the landlord's choice but mine too. It was the type of beer that I always seek to track down at beer festivals with its deep woody undertones, silky smooth palate and satisfying finish. An ale to warm the winter cockles on a chilly Tuesday night in mid-February

Next on the agenda was the latest monthly brew which is called **Skinflint** (4.4 ABV). This is lighter in colour and taste the latter, but has a very good clean refreshing palate which lasts well into the aftertaste, two contrasting bitters both very pleasing to the ale connoisseur taste buds.

At this point in the proceedings I was joined by JJ a learned gent settled here from his native Chesterfield and always a source of varied info. Together we cast our esteemed opinions over the new bottled **Wheat Beer** (4.5 ABV), brewed to be put forward into a competition. A big fan of wheat beer, this was a nice balance, not too sharp or cloudy with a fruity vanilla flavour.

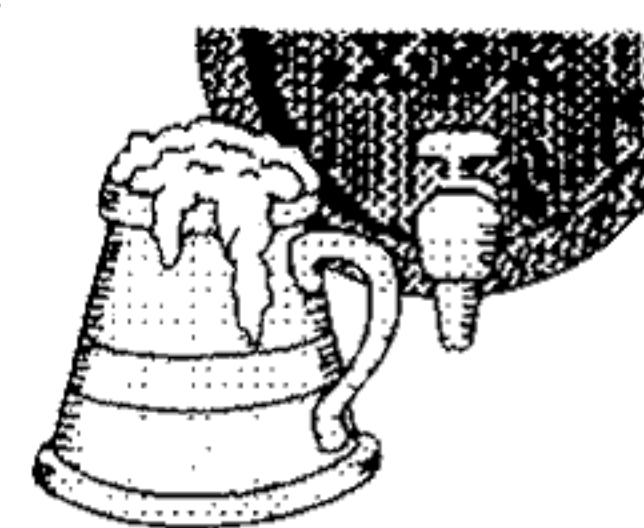
A bottled brew **Cherry Kriek** was also put into the testing pint pot, which was certainly different, not my personal tippie, but good in its particular field. The **Blonde** (4.3 ABV) and **Red** (4.7 ABV) were

poured from the bottle and put through their paces, which they both passed with honours.

Existing favourites **Smuggler 4.1** and **Zebedee 4.7**, the seasonal spring beer, were also enjoyed before the curtain was drawn on a thoroughly tasteful evening.

Alan Sheppard

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## The Bell at Waddesdon

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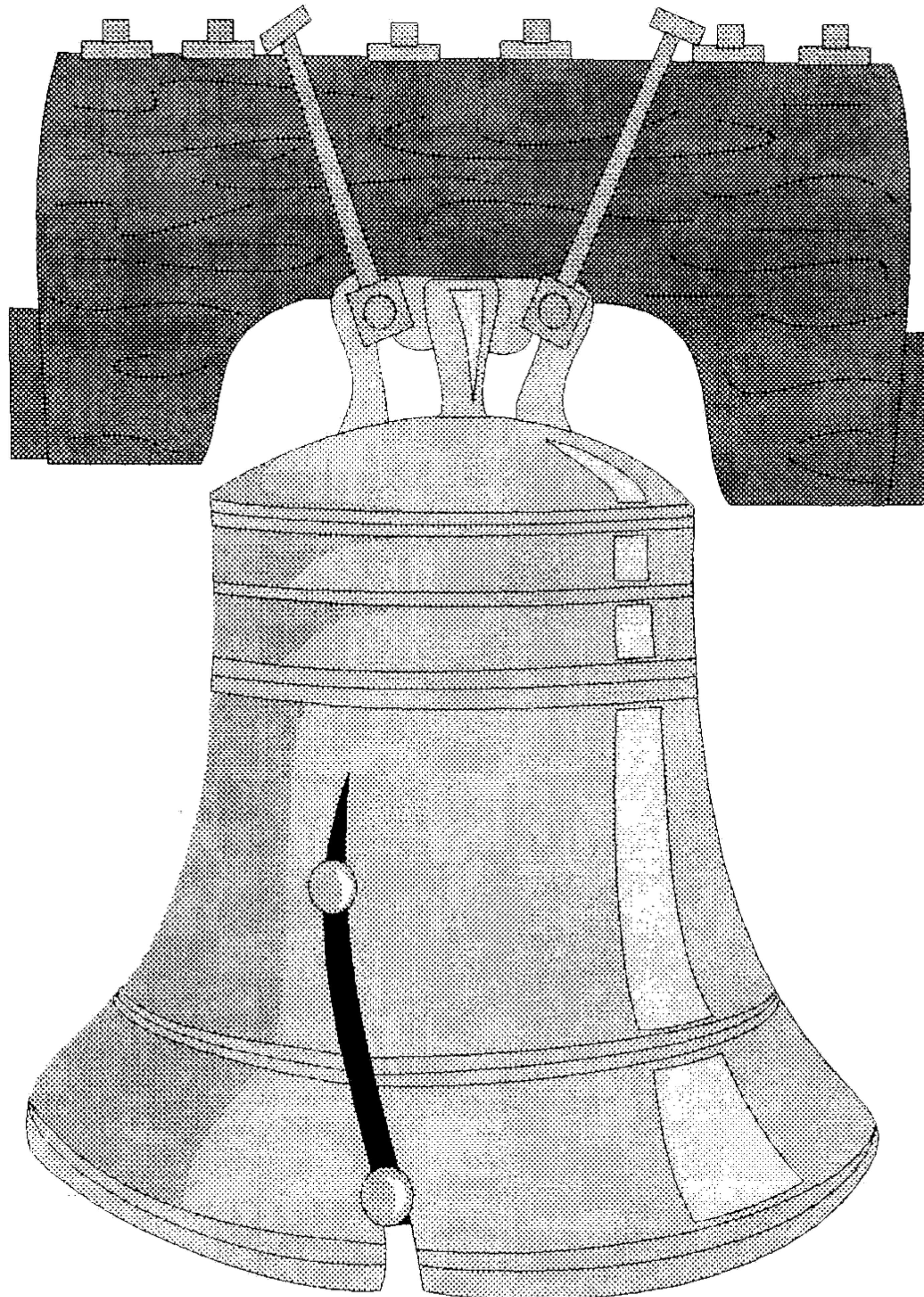
*Real Ales*

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special occasion, try our stylish restaurant  
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please contact Nigel on*

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## Final Quiz League Details

As we have reported in our last two issues, eight pub quiz teams have played in their own quiz league as there was no longer one run by the *Oxford Mail* and they could not let a Thursday night go by without having their brains exercised! However, a new summer league has been set up by the *Oxford Mail* and it is hoped that this will be a success and they will run a similar league next winter.

After the last set of results, here is the final table for the *Thame and District Pub Quiz League* :

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Eight Bells	14	12	0	2	735	622	855
2. Rising Sun Thame	14	8	2	4	682	617	772
3. Ex-Lambs	14	8	0	6	689	642	769
4. Red Loin	14	7	1	6	686	639	761
5. Chandos Arms	14	6	1	7	651	634	716
6. Rising Sun Ickford	14	7	0	7	633	667	703
7. Clifden Arms	14	5	0	9	557	698	607
8. King's Head	14	1	0	13	519	678	529

After six weeks of seeing no change in the league table positions, this week we saw the **Rising Sun** of Thame storm up the table from fourth place to second. Many congratulations to them, particularly as they did not compete in the Oxford Mail Quiz League in the past.

Their victory coincided with defeats for both the **Ex-Lambs** and the **Red Loin**, who both dropped two places as a result. The **Ex-Lambs** lost their last two games on the trot, both away from home, whilst the **Red Loin** notched up their worst score of the season.

It appears that the **Eight Bells** are our only representatives in the newly formed Oxford Mail Quiz League - so good luck to them, and may I take this opportunity in thanking Frank Hughes and family of the **Eight Bells** for all his help in getting this league off the ground.

I'm very much looking forward already to seeing you all again in the autumn! Cheers now!

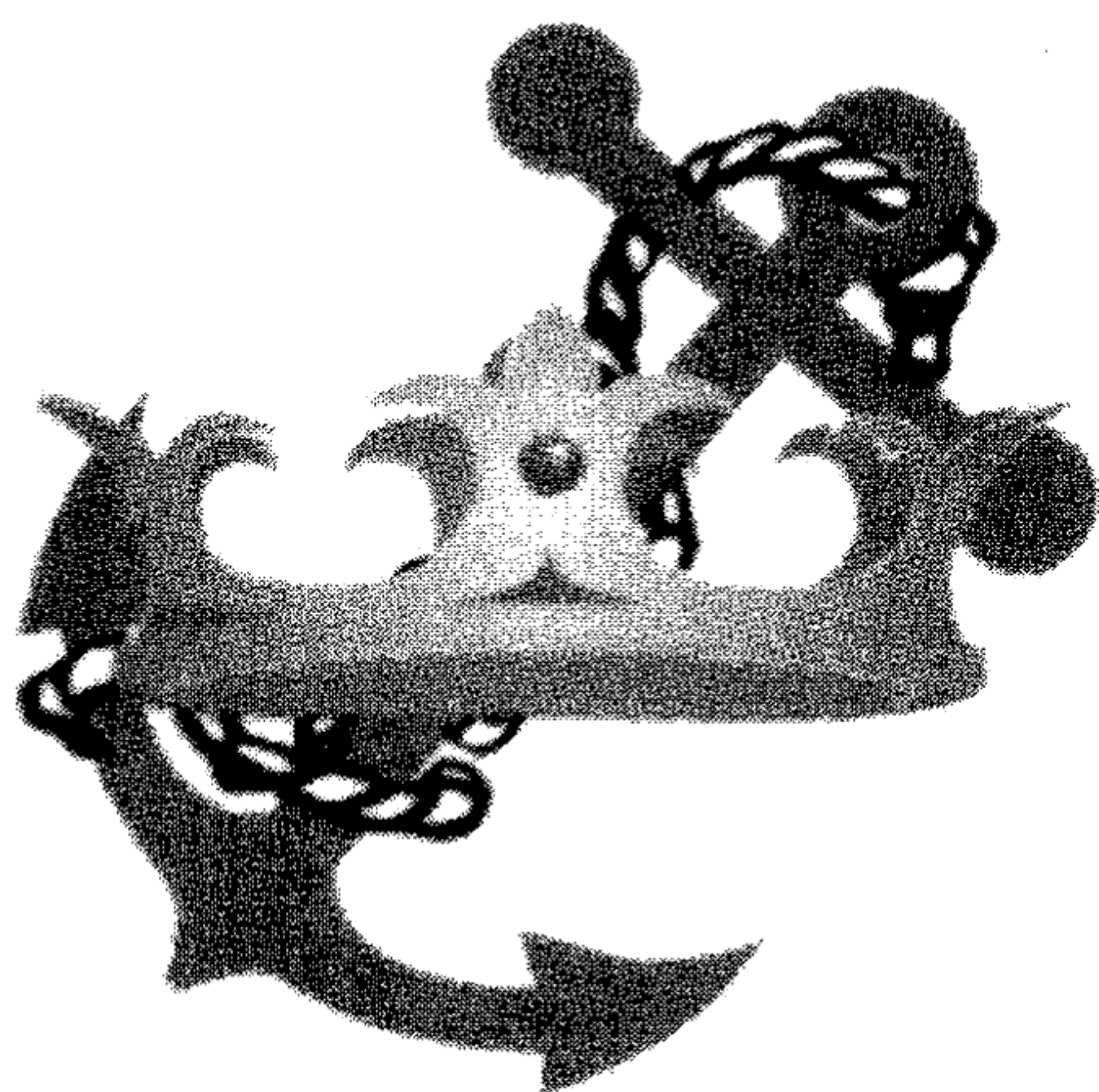
Neil O'Donovan

While the *Thame and District Pub Quiz League* has been running, there has been a similar league based in Waddesdon. The first season of the *Waddesdon & District Village Quiz League* finished on 12th March and I am pleased to say that it has been a great success. The final results were as follows:

1. Chandos Arms	26	(857)
2. Westcott Club	19	(733)
3. Gatehangers	13	(673)
4. White Swan	13	(642)
5. Pats @ The Bell	11	(549)
6. The Bell, Waddesdon	10	(695)
7. The Bell, Chearsley	10	(668)
8. The Lion	10	(662)

The league will take a break for the summer and will recommence in September. Any village pub within a six mile radius of Waddesdon interested in joining the league should contact the Secretary, Nigel Bradshaw on 01296 651320.

Nigel Bradshaw



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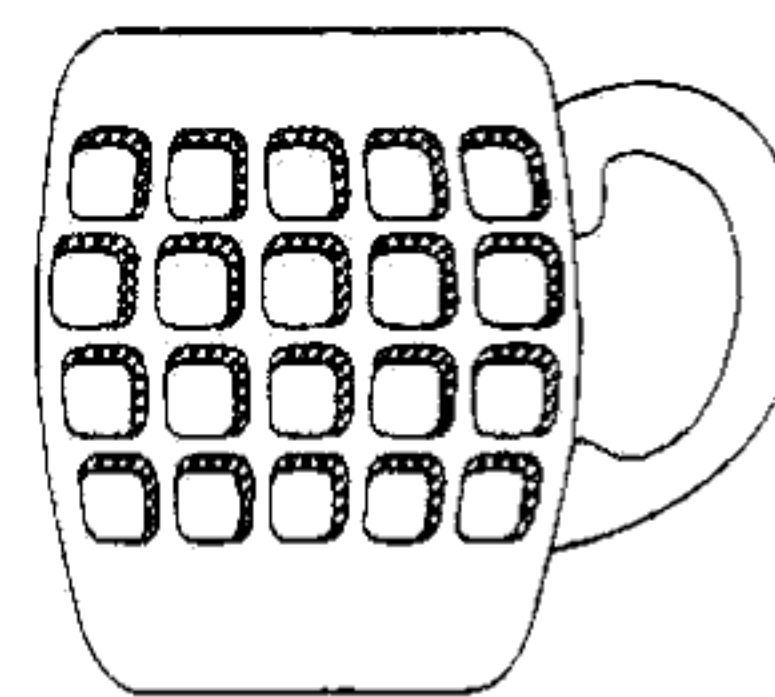
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## Can't Handle It??

Beer drinkers will soon no longer have the option of asking for a glass with a handle! They will have to say goodbye to the traditional dimpled pint pot following the closure of the factory which makes them.



**Ravenhead Glass**, based in St Helens, Merseyside, which was the last factory to make the old-style glass, shut down in March. The company had been making beer and wine glasses for more than 150 years but ran into financial trouble last November. The historic firm went into receivership after suffering a slump in its export market, which was blamed on the strength of the pound.

The handled pint pot, which has served generations of drinkers, will soon be replaced altogether by the straight glass now favoured by many of today's customers.

The handled glasses were first introduced to bars in the 1920s, and the dimples were added to cut the cost of the glass. The handle kept the beer cooler, but as glass-making techniques improved it was possible to make more robust glasses with less glass.

Beer drinkers these days prefer to wrap their hands around their glass and that's why the straight glass has become more popular. Straight glasses are also more popular with pub owners as they are easier to store and more can be carried by the staff when clearing up. They are also a lot cheaper!

A total of 130 jobs were lost with the closure of the company.

Vic & Sue Hinde  
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Home Made Meals  
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## CAMRA CRAWL OF HAZLEMERE AND TERRIERS

On a wet Friday night in March a number of stalwarts from the local **CAMRA** branch met in the **Queen's Head** at Hazlemere namely Nigel, Jean, Elvis myself, along with Nigel's friend and colleague Brian from Aylesbury. We sat down in the warm and friendly small bar chatting and enjoying our beers (in my case a *Greene King IPA*) and were soon joined by John and Andrew two previously inactive members of the branch who were made welcome.

A short walk took us to the **Three Horseshoes** where again we sat in the small bar that we had almost to ourselves. I believe that I had another *IPA* as we discussed football and the state of the health service. Brian remembered where he had seen Andrew before (they used to be next door neighbours!). Meanwhile Jean's boss, Dave, who had popped out for a take away, joined us briefly. It just shows that you never know who you will run into in a local pub.

Fortified by another pint (*IPA* again, I think in my case) we walked on to the **Crown**. The **Crown** was busy. We met a lady of John and Andrew's acquaintance whom they knew from watching Wycombe Wanderers play. Consequently the conversation revolved round the forthcoming FA Cup Semi Final between Wycombe and Liverpool to be held at Aston Villa's ground on a Sunday in April. It will be great to see the 'Chairboys' live on TV!

The weather relented a little as we walked on to the **Beech Tree**. Someone took the view that this pub may be a disappointment but I thought it was a gem. The conversation had somehow moved on to the pubs and other facilities in Kingston Upon Thames which Elvis and Andrew knew quite well. Having only been to Kingston about three times I listened for the most part but did mention a couple of pubs which I recalled.

The last pub of the night was the **Terriers**. We weren't sure whether it was named after the area or because of the landlord's liking for terrier dogs. Either way the atmosphere was pleasant. We settled down to discuss the merits of the *Good Beer Guide* amongst other things. I think I had a pint of *Brakspears* here. I certainly had one somewhere!

It was soon 11:00. We left Andrew, who lives near the pub, to finish his beer and took a taxi into Wycombe for a curry at the Bombay Palace, which I washed down with a pint of *Kingfisher* before we all headed off home.

*Alistair Blackett*

Mick and Wendy Rolley

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Menu changes every week

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## Cask Marque



Despite its sponsorship of the latest *Good Beer Guide*, many beer drinkers seem to be unaware of *Cask Marque*, so maybe a brief explanation will help.

It is a quality assurance scheme funded by brewers with the aim of raising the standard

of cask ale served to the customer. It is a national non-profit making organisation which, although it shares many of *CAMRA*'s aims, is not part of *CAMRA* itself.

Each licensee that is awarded the *Cask Marque* plaque has received two unannounced visits by their assessor who will have checked all cask ales for temperature, appearance, taste and aroma. Regular inspections will follow to ensure the standards are maintained.

Until quite recently *CAMRA* and *Cask Marque* did not see eye to eye about the serving temperatures of beers, but as was reported on the cover of the last issue of *Swan Supping* these differences have now been resolved.


A check on the *Cask Marque* website ([www.cask-marque.co.uk](http://www.cask-marque.co.uk)) reveals that there are only ten accredited publicans in our branch area. They are at the following pubs:

**Oak**, Aston Clinton  
**Bell**, Chearsley  
**Crown**, Cuddington  
**Falcon**, High Wycombe

**Chequers**, Marlow  
**Whiteleaf Cross**, Princes Risborough  
**Frog**, Skirmett  
**Six Bells**, Thame  
**Bell**, Waddesdon  
**Rose & Crown**, Wingrave

If any other publicans have accreditation that we do not know about, please contact the editor and we shall be pleased to name them in the next issue.

Nick Holt



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## Black Country Pub Trip

We are holding our annual trip to the **Black Country** on Saturday 23rd June. This popular trip is limited in numbers and tickets are starting to sell very quickly!



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.

All the old favourites will be included on the trip, plus a few new pubs which we hope will become favourites in the future.

It costs £18 per head and tickets and further information can be obtained by ringing **Tony Gabriel** on **01494 527884**.

## London Pub Crawl



We are continuing our pub crawl around London on Friday 27th of April.

As is the custom, we will start at the last pub of the previous crawl. Everyone is welcome, but those with an A-Z of London will be especially popular!

5:30pm **Marquis of Granby**  
51 Chandos Place WC2

6:15pm **Ship & Shovell**  
1 - 3 Craven Passage WC2

7:00pm **Sherlock Holmes**  
10 Northumberland St. WC2

7:45pm **Westminster Arms**  
9 Storeys Gate SW1

8:30pm **Sanctuary House**  
33 Tothill Street SW1

9:15pm **Buckingham Arms**  
62 Petty France SW1

## Branch Contacts

<b>Chairman</b>	David Roe	01296 484551
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Gabriel	01494 527884
<b>Secretary</b>	Nick Holt	01296 483554
<b>Bierton</b>	Mick White	01296 428266
<b>Beaconsfield</b>	Colin Staines	01494 674427
<b>Bledlow Ridge</b>	Dave Thompson	01494 481492
<b>High Wycombe</b>	Elvis Evans	01494 511248
<b>Marlow</b>	John Williamson	01628 486378
<b>Stokenchurch</b>	John Bazin	01494 483039
<b>Wendover</b>	John & Tina Wood	01296 625215
<b>Regional Organiser</b>	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](mailto:camra@camra.org.uk)  
Internet: <http://www.camra.org.uk>

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

For comments, complaints or objections about pub alterations or developments -  
Aylesbury:  
AVDC Planning Dept, Exchange St, Aylesbury  
HP20 1UB  
Tel: 01296 585406

### TRADING STANDARDS

For complaints about short measure, price lists, strength lists (ABV), etc.

#### Aylesbury:

County Hall, Walton Street, HP20 1UP  
Tel: 01296 383212

#### Oxford:

PO Box 618, County Hall, OX1 1DX  
Tel: 01865 815000 (Mon - Fri 8:30am-5pm)

### ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY

For complaints about deceptive advertising-  
Advertising Standards Authority  
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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  
Joint OAP £11 (at same address)  
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 £.....

Signature ..... Date .....

AYL (Swan Supping)





## Beer Festival Diary

### APRIL

**4-7 (Wed-Sat):** 25th NEWCASTLE BEER FESTIVAL, at Students Union, Newcastle University, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne (2 min walk from Haymarket Metro).  
**5-7 (Thu-Sat):** WALSALL BEER FESTIVAL, at Walsall Town Hall, Leicester St, Walsall  
**6-9 (Fri-Sun):** 10th MANSFIELD CAMRA BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2001, at Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Rd, Mansfield  
**6-7 (Fri-Sat):** 15th OLDHAM CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, West St, Oldham  
**6-7 (Fri-Sat):** 1st BANBURY BEER FESTIVAL, at Banbury Town Hall, Banbury  
**11-14 (Wed-Sat):** PAISLEY BEER FESTIVAL 2001 -- the REAL Millennium ALE Festival, at the Town Hall, Abbey Close, Paisley  
**20-21 (Fri-Sat):** COVENTRY CITY BEER FESTIVAL, at Coventry City Football Ground, East Stand Mall, Swan Ln  
**25-28 (Wed-Sat):** BURY ST EDMUNDS BEER FESTIVAL, at the Corn Exchange (town centre).  
**27-28 (Fri-Sat):** 10th CHIPPENHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Studio Hall, Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham

### MAY

**3-6 (Thu-Sat):** 7th READING BEER FESTIVAL, King's Meadow, Reading (5 minutes from Reading rail and bus stations)  
**10-12 (Thu-Sat):** 2nd SANDGROUNDER BEER FESTIVAL, at Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street, Southport  
**11-13 (Fri-Sun):** 12th YAPTON BEEREX -- WEST SUSSEX, near Arundel  
**17-20 (Thu-Sun):** DONCASTER BEEREX 2001, at the Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Doncaster Racecourse  
**22-26 (Tue-Sat):** 16th COLCHESTER REAL ALE + CIDER FESTIVAL 2001.  
**25-26 (Fri-Sat):** 9th FRODSHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Community Centre, Fluin Ln (in association with Rowlands Care).  
**31-JUNE 2 (Thu-Sat):** NUNN-SUCH ISLAND BEER FESTIVAL, Becketts Park (opposite St John's car park) Northampton



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BRITISH  
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[www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org)



## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### April

**Tuesday 3rd WENDOVER SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm George & Dragon, 10:00pm White Swan.  
**Tuesday 10th SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm Full Moon, Little Kingshill, 10:00pm Green Man, Prestwood.  
**Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd NATIONAL CAMRA AGM**  
 Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne  
**Friday 27th LONDON PUB CRAWL**  
 Starts 5:30pm Marquis of Granby, Charing Cross (full itinerary on Page 15)

### May

**Wednesday 2nd BRANCH MEETING**  
 8:30pm Red Lion, Haddenham (*Make May a Mild Month with Ansells Mild*)  
**Monday 7th BANK HOLIDAY LUNCHTIME SOCIAL**  
 Noon onwards – End of the World and Marquis of Granby, World's End, near Wendover  
**Saturday 12th REGIONAL MEETING (CAMRA members only)**  
 Milton Keynes area, venue to be announced  
**Thursday 17th JOINT SOCIAL WITH SLOUGH BRANCH**  
 8:30pm Royal Standard, Wooburn Common  
**Thursday 24th TURVILLE SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm Bull & Butcher, Turville (*Make May a Mild Month with Brakspears Mild*)

### June

**Saturday 23rd BLACK COUNTRY TRIP**  
 Bookings (£18 per person) are now being taken for our very popular annual coach trip to the Black Country.  
 The bus will pick up from Aylesbury at 10:00am, Wendover, High Wycombe at 10:30am and Saunderton, finally returning to Aylesbury around midnight (details on Page 15).

### July

**Tuesday 31st – Saturday 4th August GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL**  
 Olympia, London (Full details next issue)

### October

**Friday 26th and Saturday 27th AYLESBURY VALE BEER FESTIVAL**  
 Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville

## 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 Northridge Printing Services Limited, Unit 13-14, Bessemer Crescent, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8TF. Tel: 01296 424796

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**Edited by David Roe**

**Editorial Address:** 16 Jasmine Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9SH.

**Tel/Fax:** 01296 484551

**E-Mail:** DWRSS@aol.com

**Advertising rates are :-** 1/16 page £5, 1/8 page £15, 1/4 page £25, 1/2 page £50, full page £90. Add 10% for front page adverts. 10% discounts for payment in advance. All bookings are taken as run-of-paper.

**Copy deadline** for next issue, due to be published on 1st June 2001 is 14th May 2001.

**Subscriptions :-** To receive editions of Swan Supping by post, please send SAEs to the Editor.

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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.

## The Full Moon

*Hare Lane, Little Kingshill*

**Opening Hours**  
**Mon-Sat:** 12-3, 6-11  
**Sun:** 12-3, 7-10



**Food Times**  
**Lunchtimes** 12-2 PM  
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