

Issue 22



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

# Swan Supping

FREE

FEB/MAR 2001



## CAMRA HELPS PREVENT A CHILLY RECEPTION AT A CASK MARQUE PUB



The *Cask Marque* quality scheme for pubs, which is sponsoring the *Good Beer Guide* for the next three years, was set up to ensure

the highest quality possible for cask conditioned beer.

However, there has been a lot of criticism from *CAMRA* members that although accreditation is not available to licensees who serve beer above 60°F, there was no lower limit specified. Extra cold serving temperatures can mask a range of quality issues as well as taking away all the subtle flavours and aroma which make cask beer so special.

Now, following a year of discussion with *CAMRA* National Chairman, Dave Goodwin, *Cask Marque* has agreed a minimum of 50°F, allowing its team of assessors more discretion to give a truer reflection of the character of the beers served.

*Cask Marque* director Paul Nunny said "Ideally, cask ale should be served at cellar temperature, or 53-56°F. Originally *Cask Marque* identified temperatures over

60°F as the major issue. But serving cask beer too cold can also have a damaging effect. Now there is equipment in cellars to give the licensee complete control over temperature, so there is no excuse for cask ale to be too warm or too cold."

Dave Goodwin said "While we always welcomed the *Cask Marque* initiative, we couldn't support it as actively as we wanted until this issue was resolved."



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

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*John Cooper*

(Managing Director)

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





## Local News

### AYLESBURY

The **Whistlin Duck** has had an extra handpump installed. Until they build up the real ale trade, they are serving using one at a time with the other cleaned and ready to serve when the first has run out. The beers served recently have been *Charles Wells Bombardier*, *Wadworth 6X*, *Morland's Old Speckled Hen*, *Theakston's Old Peculier*, *Courage Directors* and *Ruddles County*.

### CADMORE END

The **Old Ship** has gone into Dry Dock!. It closed on 14th January so that internal work can be carried out to increase the size of the bar and to conform with safety requirements. The work is expected to take six to eight weeks to be completed.

### EMMINGTON

The **Inn at Emmington** has a new owner and is currently serving *Adnams Bitter* and *Broadside*.

### FORD

The **Dinton Hermit** is now back in business. When visited, the pub seemed to be thriving with the experienced hand of Johnny Chick at the helm. There were plenty of

people enjoying lunch and the main impression is that it now seems more of a restaurant than a pub. The wall between the original two bars has been removed but, unlike many other examples, this has enhanced the pub interior.

There was a blazing log fire and good standard of decor which created a pleasant atmosphere. Behind the bar there are some dummy barrel ends from which the real ale is drawn. The *Morrell's Advent*, which was on draught, was dispensed by 'Flojet' a method approved of by CAMRA.

Johnny's policy on real ale is to stick to one beer for the time being although different beers will be tried. Perhaps additional beers will be added later if sales increase.

Johnny's father in law, Dick Williams, sometimes helps in the bar. Dick ran the **Whip** at Lacey Green for many years and was active in the local branch of CAMRA in the 1970s.

### GAWCOTT

The **Cuckoo's Nest** has been voted Buckinghamshire Real fire Pub of the Year, in a competition jointly organised by the Solid Fuel Association and the Coal

Merchants Federation.

They received a certificate, a cheque for £200, and half a tonne of free fuel.

### HIGH WYCOMBE

*Eldridge Pope* have applied to turn the old Parker Knoll building in Frogmore into a pub. Further details will follow when available.

A small sample of pubs reveals the great variety of traditional beers now available around the Wycombe area.

The **Swan** at West Wycombe has *Brakspear's Ordinary* and *Special* plus *Rebellion IPA*.

Roy Gibson, landlord since August 1999 at the **Jolly Bodger** on Chairborough Road, has just added *Brakspear's Bitter* to his ever popular *Fuller's London Pride*. Roy's guest beers during the last year include *Coniston Blackbird*, *Moles Best Bitter*, *Oakhill Bitter*, *Ridley's IPA*, *Jennings Bitter*, *Black Sheep Bitter*, *Bateman's XB* and *Brain's Dark mild*.

In mid January, the **Rose & Crown** on Desborough Road had *Bass*, *Courage BB*, *Wells Bombardier*, *Brakspear's Bitter* and *Young's Special* - five beers from

five different breweries, what used to be called a mini beer festival.

### LACEY GREEN

Richard and Karen Pither have taken over as the new landlords at the **Pink & Lily**.

### MARLOW

The **Hogshead** will be holding a mini beer festival featuring the full range of *Rebellion Brewery* beers in the week commencing 12th of February.

Also on the Tuesday evening of the festival, there will be a 'Tutored Tasting' session.

### RADNAGE

After a fire last year, the **Crown** is hoping to restart serving food by the end of February.

### THAME

The **Birdcage** has gained a late license which allows the pub to be open until midnight on Wednesday and Thursday and until one in the morning on Friday and Saturday. However, this facility is only available to bona fide diners and

(Continued on page 15)



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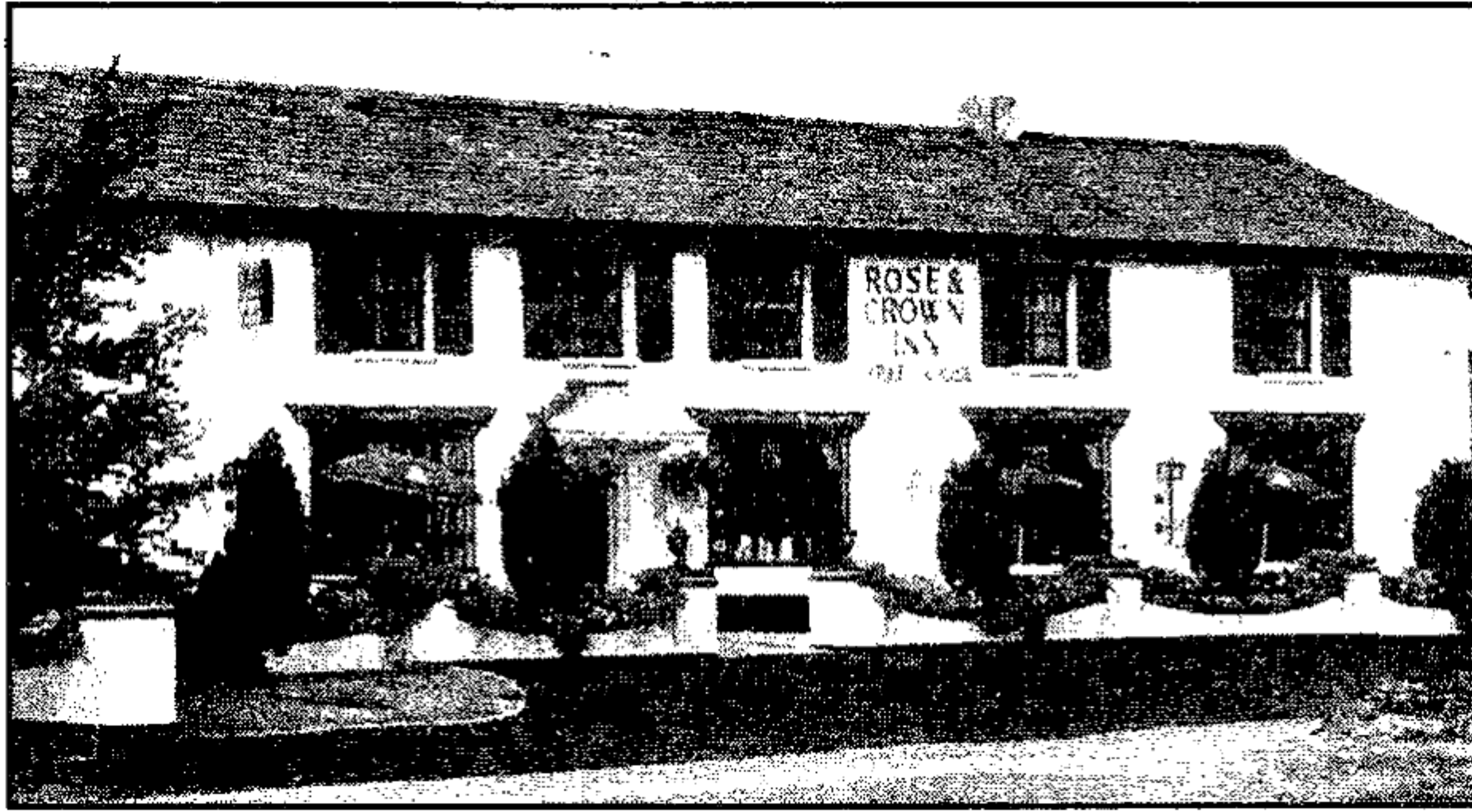
FREE POOL ON TUESDAYS





## The Rose and Crown at Saunderton

An era came to an end when on 6<sup>th</sup> December last year ownership of the **Rose and Crown** at Saunderton passed from the Watson family to Musketeer Inns.



When Robert Lionel (Bob) Watson bought the pub 43 years ago in 1957, it was a small public house on the Wycombe to Aylesbury road and **CAMRA** wasn't even a drop in a pint pot. Part of the inventory was a **CAMRA** clock that hung on the wall behind the bar, along with the tankard presented to Robert Watson on his retirement as treasurer of the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch. This evidence, together with many years entry in the *Good Beer Guide*, suggests that though the **Rose and Crown** has grown into a 16 bedroom hotel, at heart it remains a hostelry that cares for its real ale.

Lionel Watson didn't buy the **Rose and Crown** without a fight. He'd been selling furniture in the South Bucks area for an East London company when the opportunity to buy the **Rose and Crown** came up. It had been his local since the Second World War. Lionel shook hands with a bigwig from *H and G Simmonds* on the sale and that should have been that.

However, John Coggins a good friend of Lionel's who already owned the **Brickmakers** at Cadmore End, the **Three Horseshoes** at Saunderton and the **Lions** at Bledlow, gazumped Lionel in an

attempt to expand Bucks' own pubco before pubcos had been invented. Lionel went to Reading to see the biggest bigwig of all at *Simmonds* and insisted that they should hold to their gentleman's agreement. The BBW agreed. Lionel got his pub and amazingly remained friends with John Coggins.

The pub grew and grew through the next four decades though the scenery around hardly changed at all despite the stalled attempts of Bucks County Council to create a bypass which would have made the Rose a traffic island. Currently Central Railways are proposing 24 hour freight movements on the railtrack behind but so far this threat has also been seen off.

In 1973 Robert joined his father as licensee. His brother John was to join later. Also in 1973, Robert became a co-founder of the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch of **CAMRA**. This might have been foreseen as the previous year the last keg beer was served at the Rose amid national media coverage (well, the Daily Mail and Evening Standard).

Dick Williams was chairman and Pip Elton the secretary. Not long after, the Mid Chiltern branch (or Mad Children as some knew it), broke away from Aylesbury and Wycombe. Until this time **Bass**

(Continued on page 4)

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

SPECIAL MENU FOR  
VALENTINES DAY  
February 14th

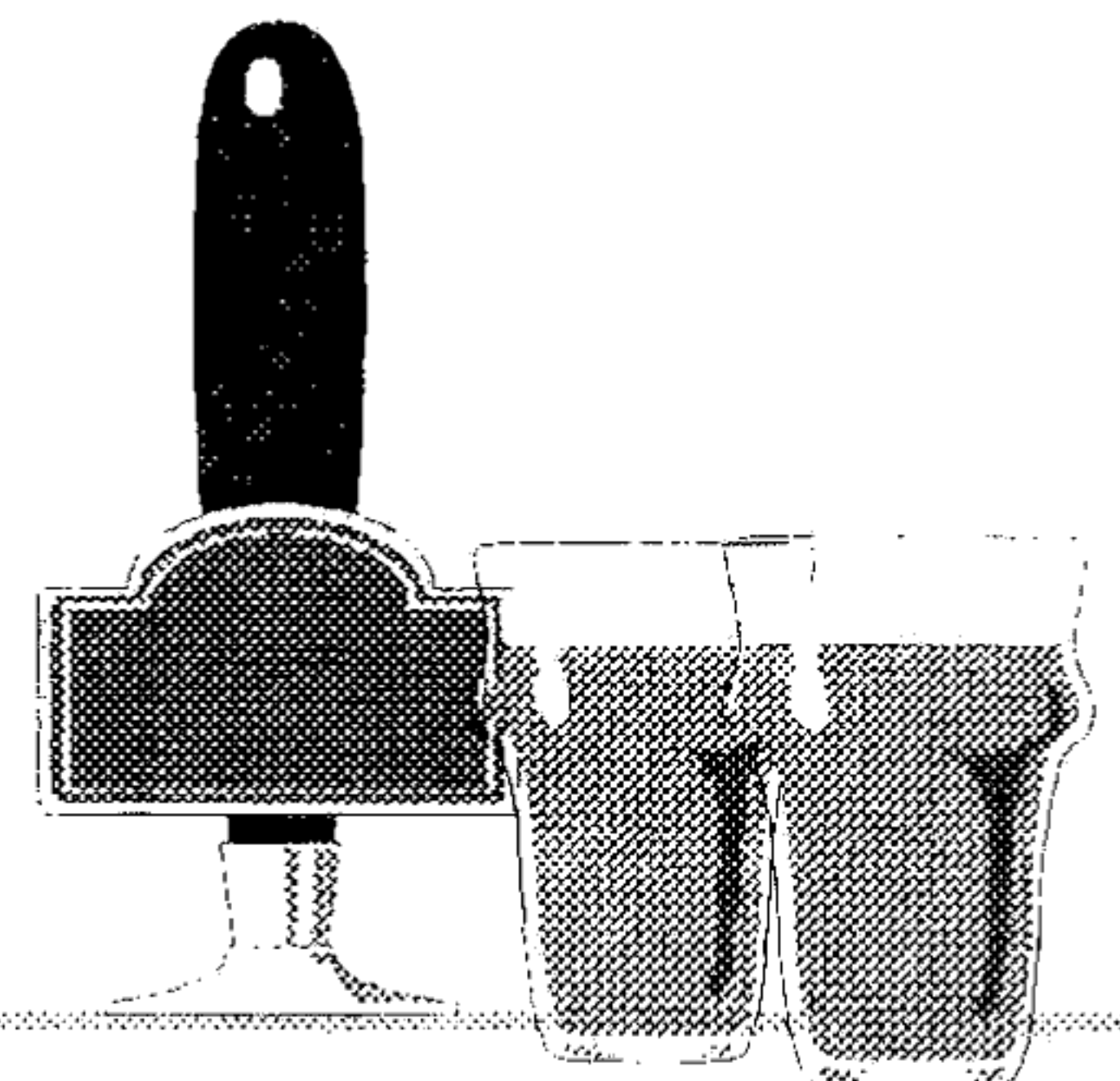
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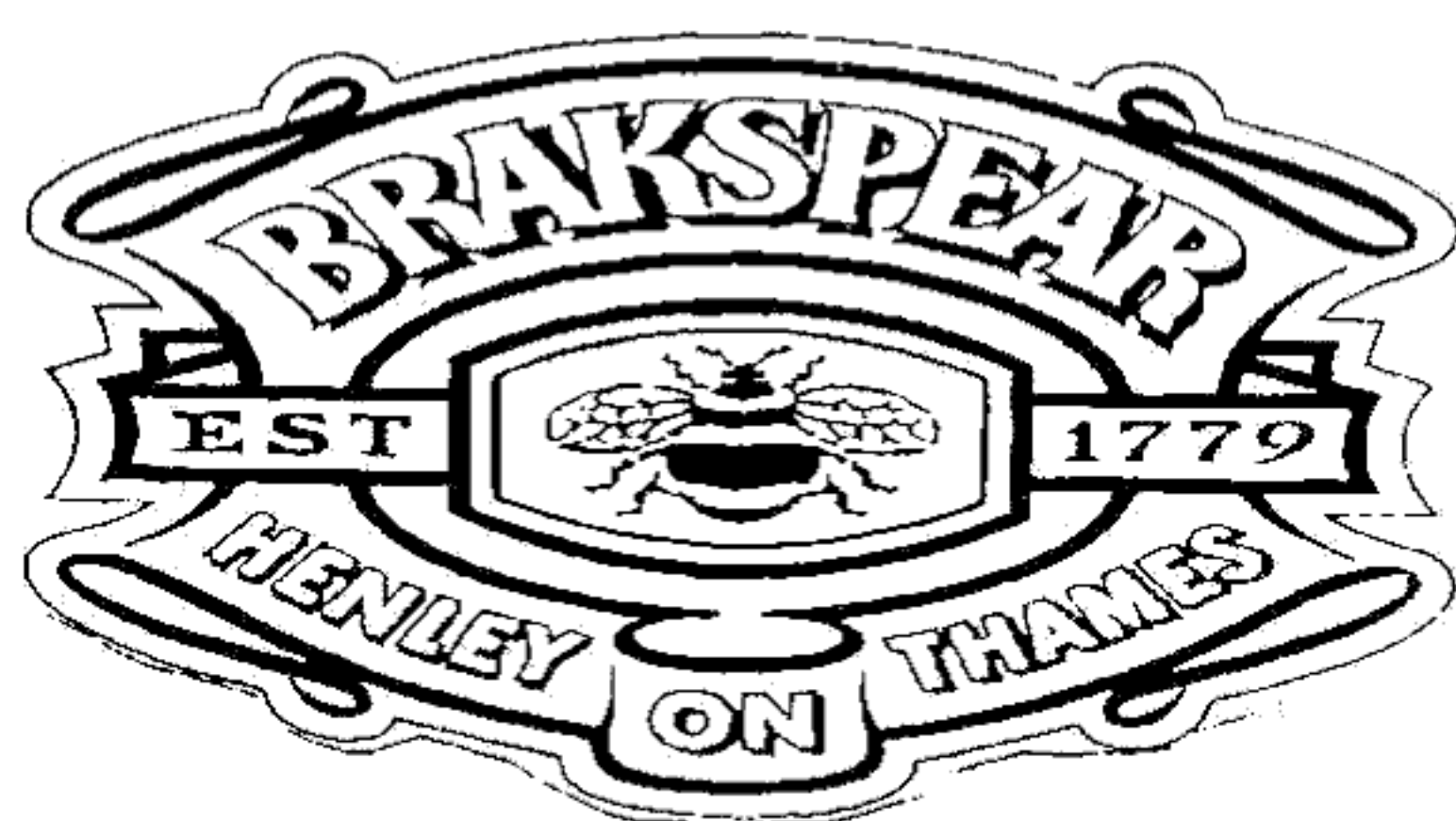
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MORRELLS GRADUATE 4.8%  
BRAKSPEARS RESOLUTION 4.4%  
BRAKSPEARS TED & BEN'S ORGANIC 4.7%  
GREENE KING ABBOT 5.0%  
MORLANDS OLD SPECKLED HEN 5.2%  
MARSTON'S PEDIGREE 4.5%



## END OF AN ERA

(Continued from page 3)

**Charrington** beers had been served from the wood, which by now, was already a throwback to times of yore.

A licence to sell liquor from the premises has existed since 1850 when the then farmer saw an opportunity to sell ale to the navvies building the new railway from Wycombe to Aylesbury. The railway featured again in the history of the **Rose** in the mid 1970's when a railway maintenance crew would jump over the fence and refresh themselves at lunchtime with a few choice ales. '**Real ale stops commuter trains**', now there's a headline to conjure with!

Inevitably crime too has played its part in the story of the **Rose**. The father of the previous landlady would take farm produce into High Wycombe for sale. In order to avoid the footpads on the crime ridden roads of the day he would return by train to Princes Risborough and then make his way back to Saunderton by road. The farm takings would be put into a leather pouch and thrown out of the window as the train passed the **Rose** on it's way to Risborough. His daughter would be waiting by the track to safely gather in the 'harvest'.

Needless to say there are many other stories about the **Rose and Crown** but if you want to hear about Morgan drivers, the Archers and the naked woman you'd better ask them yourselves.

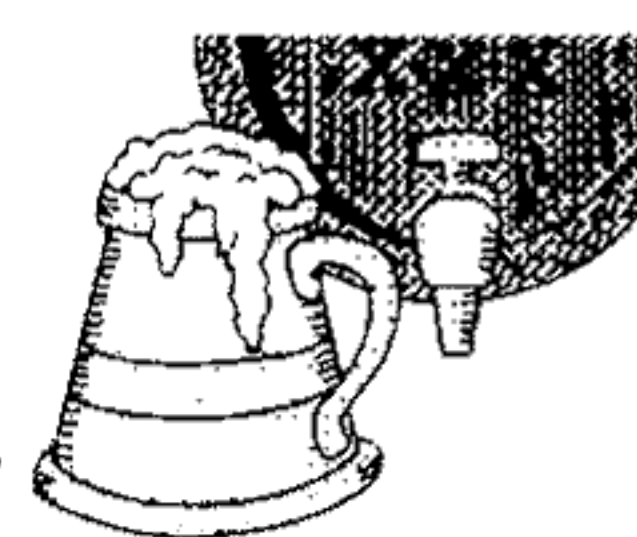
Robert and John and their respective families have now decided to call it a day at the **Rose**. At the time of their departure, real ales available at the **Rose** were *Brakspears Bitter*, *Morrells Varsity* and *Rebellion Smuggler*.

Good luck and thank you to the Watson's for, amongst other things, keeping the real ale flowing at the **Rose and Crown**.

For the present, Tim Spittles, Regional Manager, will be running the **Rose** until a permanent manager is appointed. A new exotic menu is in place and represents quite a change for the **Rose**. Real ales on tap are *Buchanan*, *Bombardier* and *Directors* though these are liable to change according to demand.

David Thompson

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## ROYAL OAK, GREAT KINGSHILL, UPDATE

On the front cover of issue 14 (October/November 1999) of *Swan Supping*, we highlighted the plight of the **Royal Oak**, Great Kingshill. Since then, there have been many developments (some of which we have reported in the local news section), so we felt it was time for an update of the current situation:-

Following the appeal by McKenzie Developments of Slough against the refusal by Wycombe District Planners to allow the development of seven dwellings (five detached & a pair of semis) on the site of the **Royal Oak** Great Kingshill, McKenzie appealed to the Department of the Environment.

The appeal was heard over two days (Nov 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>) at Wycombe Council Chamber. Evidence was given by the McKenzies' Planning Consultants, **Morrells Brewery** (former owner) in support of the development, and Wycombe District Council and Great Kingshill Residents Assn. (GKRA) against the development.

The decision was published on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the appeal was **dismissed** by the inspector (Clive Hughes).

He stated that (among other things) that: -

"I consider that the loss of the Public House would harm the social wellbeing of Great Kingshill."

In response to the issue of using a pub in a neighbouring village, "a



local village pub provides a community service that cannot be replaced effectively in another settlement."

With respect to the viability, "any decline in sales could be the result of many factors such as the way the pub was run and the clear lack of investment in the premises."

Mackenzie Developments Ltd had six weeks to appeal to the High Court at the Crown Office. This expired 19<sup>th</sup> January and no such appeal has been lodged.

Great Kingshill Residents Association have tried to make contact with Mackenzie to see what his future plans for the site are and to offer support for any suitable development that includes a public house and is sympathetic to the village environment and style. To date there has been no response from Mackenzie and the GKRA will be putting their situation in writing to him in the next day or so.

Additionally GKRA have been approached by a representative of a local pub chain who are interested in acquiring the site and reopening it as a community pub and restaurant. This party has also tried to make contact with Mackenzie but similarly has had no response.

The pub remains closed as it has since September 1999.

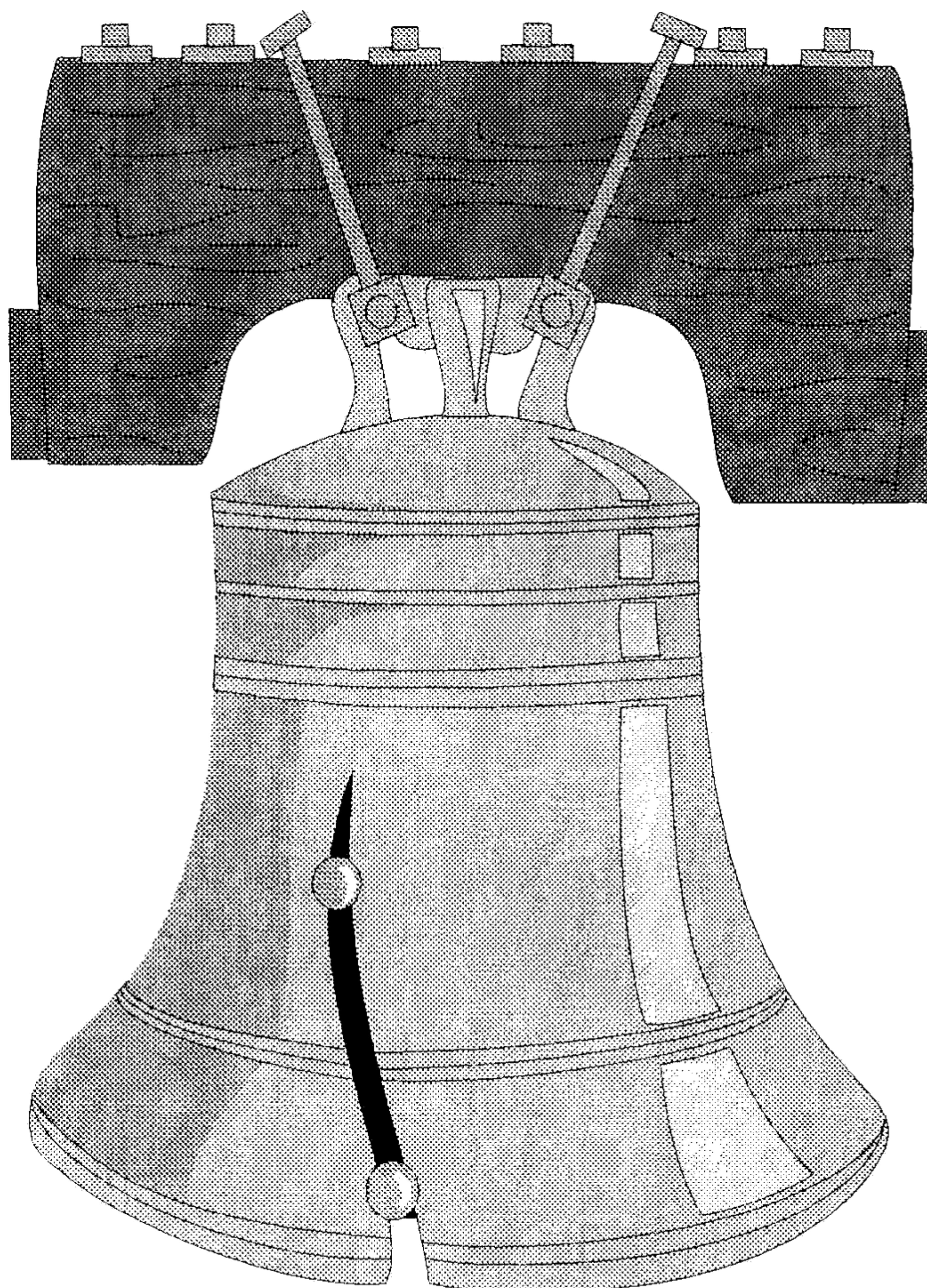
*Nick Cave*

### ***The Bell at Waddesdon*** ***Traditional Country*** ***Public House & Restaurant*** ***Close to Waddesdon Manor***

***Real Ales***  
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***We offer an extremely popular bar menu,***  
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***To make your reservation,***  
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## LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



### Vale Brewery

*Vale Brewery* held their annual fishing competition at Biggin Pond in Dinton. The winners for this year were Ian and Shaker who represented the **Hartwell Conservative Club**, Northants. They will hold the challenge trophy for the next twelve months. Previous winners include the **White Hart**, Sherrington, **Bull**, Newport Pagnall and the **Ship**, Aylesbury.

*Hadda's Winter Solstice* (4.1% ABV) will be available until the end of February, from which time, *Hadda's Spring Gold* (4.6% ABV) will be on sale. This is a golden ale made with Maris Otter malt and the dwarf hop First Gold.

*Vale* have also produced a one-off brew of *Hadda's Headbanger*

(5.0% ABV). They are intending to produce further one-off brews as capacity allows in the future, with the possibility of *Grumpling* being produced again.

By the end of March, *Vale* will have had installed a bottling line. They are aiming to produce short runs of bottle conditioned beers both for themselves and other breweries.

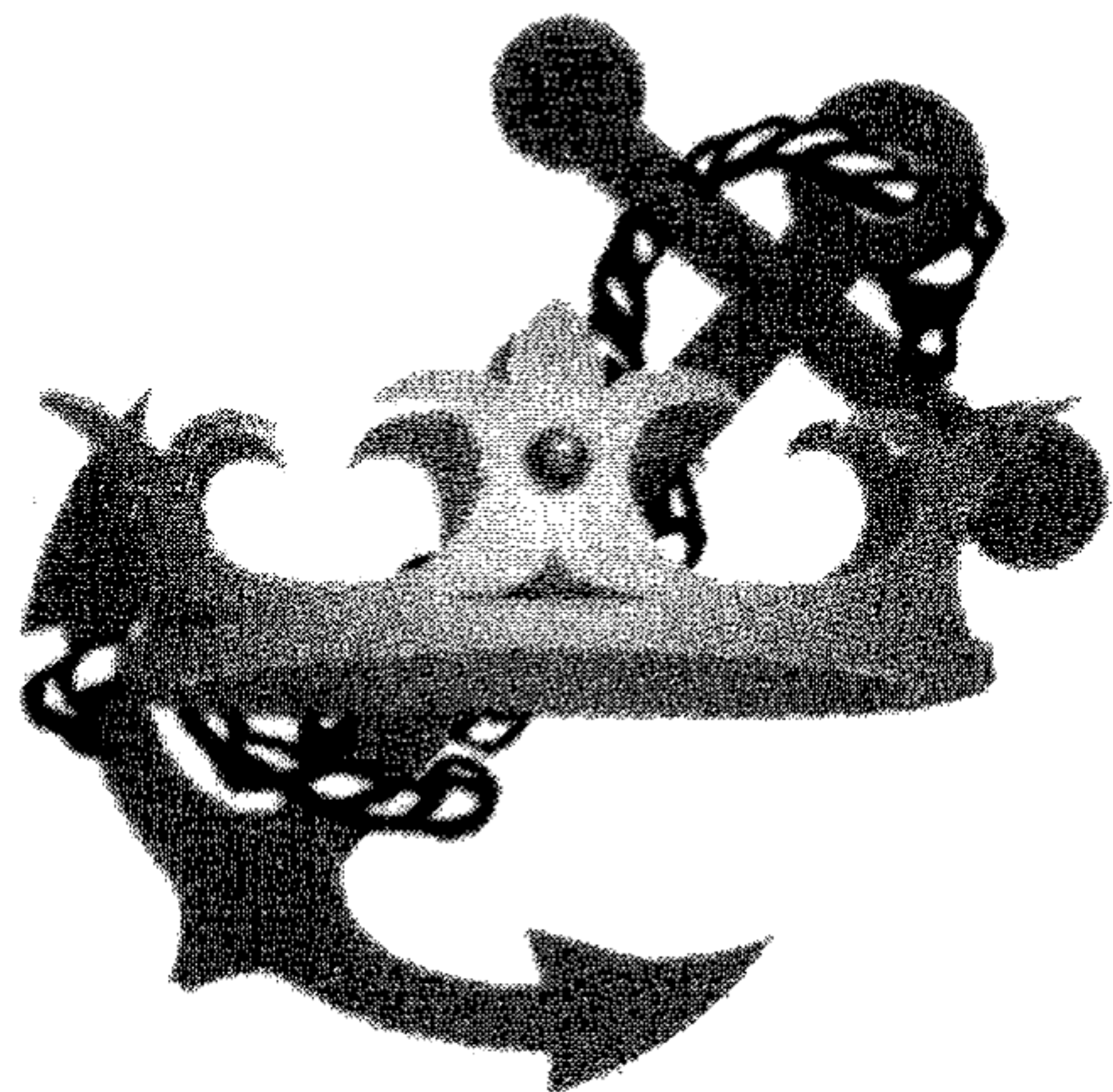
### Trueman's Brewery

*Truemans* have produced another new ale, called *Bakers Best Bitter*. This ale was brewed by a Dennis Baker a loyal customer of the **Crown and Anchor** in Marlow. He wanted to brew a session beer which could be drank in quantity, but having the taste of a premium bitter. Using pale, wheat and crystal malt with lashings of Northdown hops he has produced a remarkable brew.

An interesting combination is to top a bottle of *No Name* bottled conditioned beer (7%) with *Bakers Bitter Beer*. Called a *Don top*, it is named after the person who discovered this potent mix, the body of *No Name* combined with bitterness of *BBB* produces a satisfying drink.

### Rebellion Brewery

The *Rebellion Brewery* will be showcasing their beers at a mini beer festival at the **Hogshead** in Marlow. This will take place during the week starting 12th February.



[www.CrownAndAnchor.co.uk](http://www.CrownAndAnchor.co.uk)

**Crown and Anchor  
Marlow  
Bucks  
01628 891161**

**Baker's Bitter Beer (3%)  
Lots and lots of hops.**

**85p per pint**

**Don top (7%)**

**£2.50 per pint**




## LOCAL BREWERIES

In addition to the full range of their beers being available, *Rebellion* will be holding a 'Tutored Tasting' session on Tuesday 13th February, from 7:30pm.

The range of their individually crafted beers will continue over the next two months with *Skinflint* (4.4% ABV), which is a dark beer, made with Cascade hops, with a floral, fruity flavour, and *Penny Pincher* (4.3% ABV).

Following the success of their open weekend last year, they are intending to do the same in June or July. Full details will appear in 'Swan Supping' as soon as they become available.



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Price List (Inc. VAT)	(72 pt.) ABV Firkin	(36 pt.) Poly-pin	(16 pt.) 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	£23.00

### 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 of wine & numerous Guest Ales

Budweiser Budvar 24 x 333ml £24.00 per case  
(Free T-shirt with every case!!)

Mick and Wendy Rolley

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(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

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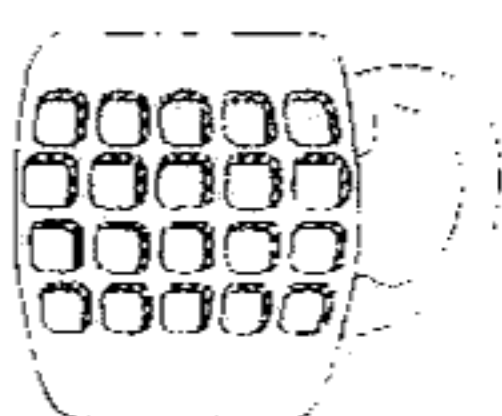
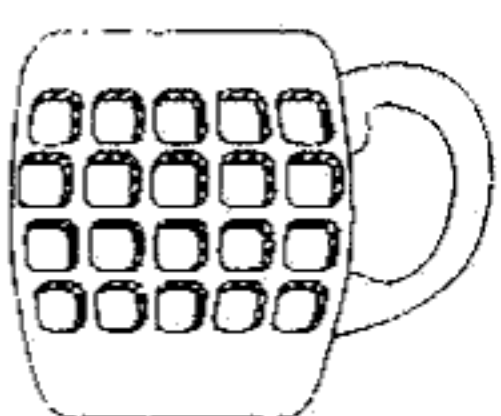
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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Skullsplitter smashes the competition

#### Scottish favourite is Supreme CAMRA Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2001

*Skullsplitter* from *Orkney Brewery* has been named the *Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2001* by a panel of judges at CAMRA's national winter celebration of beer.

The fruity, 8.5% ABV barley wine took the gong from a final selection of over twenty old ales, strong milds, stouts and porters. At the announcement, CAMRA Scottish Director Colin Valentine congratulated *Orkney* on their ability to produce beers to perform on the national stage with companies a hundred times their size. He said, "This is tremendous news for *Orkney Brewery* and a shot in the arm for Scottish brewing. It's the first time a Scottish brewer has taken the gold medal and it's a just reward for *Orkney's* commitment to brewing original and distinctive beers."

On hearing the news Rob Hill, Head Brewer said, "We're ecstatic. This is fantastic news for the brewery. *Skullsplitter* is a barley wine, but is more like a bitter in character due to the hop balance. It's this quality which I think has made it stand out from the crowd."

*Orkney Brewery* was set up in 1988 in an old school building and is Britain's second most northerly brewery. *Skullsplitter* is named after Thorfin, the first Viking Earl of Orkney. *Orkney Brewery* also won the silver award in the Strong Mild and Old Ale category of the

competition with their *Dark Island* beer.

The silver prize went to *Sarah Hughes Brewery* from Sedgeley with their superb *Dark Ruby Mild* and the Bronze award went to *O'Hanlons Brewery* in Devon for their splendid *Port Stout*.

### British real ale is hot on the heels of fake foreign lagers 30% of men would most like to be seen drinking real ale in a pub

30% of men would most like to be seen drinking real ale in a pub according to a new survey of the pub-going habits of British people launched at the National Winter Ales Festival. 31% of men prefer lager, but real ale appears to be growing in popularity.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "The market share of real ale has been falling for the last six years, but this survey indicates that beer drinkers are starting to turn their backs on bland fizzy lagers and head for tastier real ales, despite the lack of marketing they receive from big brewers. Hundreds of beer lovers will be joining us at the National Winter Ales Festival to try just some of those available."

The survey, commissioned by CAMRA, also reveals that pub going is still one of the most popular British pastimes with 26% of adults visiting a pub at least once a week.

Other findings include:

17% of people would use pubs more if they had a play area for the

## The Clifden Arms



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

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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.**

Take-away fish & chips Monday to Friday, 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

**Real ales on tap including weekly guest beers**

Meals served from 12 – 2pm & 6.30 – 9pm

# The Clifden Arms



## NATIONAL NEWS

(Continued from page 8)

children.

25% of people choose a pub based on the price of drinks  
50% of people prefer country pubs, compared to only 16% who favour themed town centre bars

Nearly a fifth (17%) of pub goers would most like to be seen drinking real ale, but 22% prefer lager.

65% of beer drinkers prefer pints to halves - and one in four women prefer pints!

53% of people choose a particular pub because of the people who use it.

Mike Benner said, "It's great to see that going to the pub is still a popular pastime. But the survey reveals some important lessons for pub companies; to build a successful business it is increasingly important to meet the needs of a wide cross-section of people through offering meeting rooms, play areas and other facilities like cash withdrawal and internet access."

"It also shows that value for money is important with a quarter of people choosing a pub on price. Despite high investment in town centre themed pubs, half of all adults prefer country pubs and a third prefer community pubs, yet it is these pubs which generally receive the least investment."

"Interestingly enough, real ale drinkers are still very important to the pub trade; 49% of them use pubs at least once a week. This compares with 26% of all people. Real ale is also the drink that 17% of people would most like to be seen drinking."

## THE BRICKMAKERS ARMS

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& all day Saturday & Sunday**

*Full range of real ales including:*

*Adnams Bitter & Broadside,*

*Brakspear's Bitter*

*and Fullers London Pride*

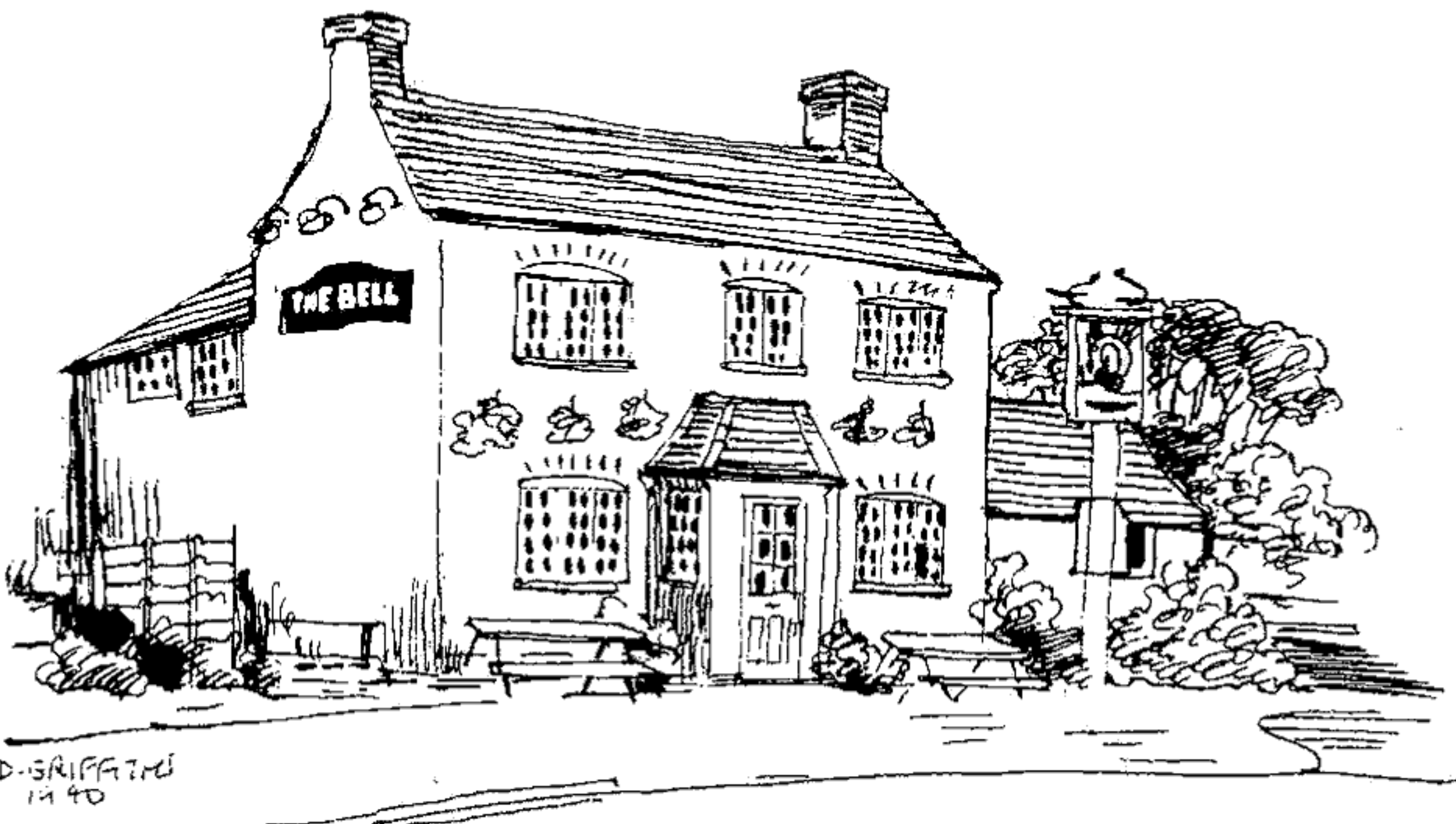
**Live Music every Tuesday**

**Function Room Available**

*Special Valentines Day Menu*

*Bookings now being taken*

## 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*

*February guest beer: Adnams Bitter*

*March guest beer: Brakspear 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

(8.00pm):

Sun 4 Feb	'KEZ'
	60' & 70s Rock Band
Sun 18 Feb	THE GOOD OLE BOYS
	60s & 70s Blues and R&B
Sun 4 Mar	to be advised
Sun 18 Mar	to be advised



## INTERNET ADVERTISING

### LINK UP WITH PREMIER AYLESBURY VALE WEB SITE

The Internet is now universally accepted as the fastest growing information medium, with phenomenal growth predicted over the next few years. Everywhere you look there are **www** addresses and Aylesbury Vale is no exception.

In co-operation with Aylesbury Vale District Council, the NetIndex Group is developing the largest, most comprehensive guide to Aylesbury & The Vale on the Internet. It will ultimately provide almost everything that local residents and the world at large, might want to know about the area. With others, this covers the towns of **Aylesbury, Wendover, Princes Risborough and Thame**, which are within our branch area. Each town has its individual presence within the site with separate sections full of local information.

NetIndex were one of the sponsors in last year's Aylesbury Vale Village Pub Competition, the winner being The **Bell Inn** at Chearsley, a local **CAMRA** favourite. The winner and runners-up are all promoted on the Internet by NetIndex.

The Aylesbury & The Vale web site at [www.aylesburyvale.net](http://www.aylesburyvale.net) incorporates a permanent **Food & Drink** section for each town which will include pages dedicated to **CAMRA** activities and feature a map of the area with each promoted pub identified.

Visitors to the **CAMRA** sections of the web site will, by clicking on the map, find individual sub-sections devoted to each pub. This can

include an overview of the establishment, opening times, photographs of the pub exterior and interior, photographs of key personnel, a pub sign (or logo) and descriptions of the products and facilities offered. Special events, offers and new products can also be featured. This comprehensive coverage, in full colour, on [www.aylesburyvale.net](http://www.aylesburyvale.net), with photographs, contact information and product details, costs from £99 + VAT a year and can be viewed by potential customers continuously for the whole year.

The basic options are:

#### **BRONZE Local Promotional Package**

Full colour, up to 200 words of text + Pub Logo + 2 graphics + Local Classified Directory entry with Hypertext link to advertisement + Town **CAMRA** Section entry with Hypertext link to advertisement + changes to advertisement during the year.

**Price: £99 + VAT per annum**

#### **SILVER Local Promotional Package**

Full Colour, up to 750 words of text + Pub Logo + 4 graphics + Local Classified Directory entry with Hypertext link to advertisement + Town **CAMRA** Section entry with Hypertext link to advertisement + Hosted web address + e-mail address + changes to advertisement during the year.

**Price: £299 + VAT per annum**

#### **GOLD Local Magazine Promotional Package**

As **SILVER** + 1000 words of Editorial with 2 graphics in relevant Food & Drink Section, 4 times a year + changes to advertisements during the year.

**Price: £499 + VAT per annum**

#### **Optional Extras (per annum (excluding VAT)):**

Response Form:	£50
Additional Entry in Local Classified Directory plus link	£50
E-mail link (where not included)	£25
Additional Graphics (Each)	£25

Real Ale pubs taking advantage of any one of the above promotional packages will be offered a **FREE** advertisement in the next issue of "Swan Supping" as follows:

**BRONZE** - Eighth of a page (worth £15)

**SILVER** - Half page (worth £50)

**GOLD** - Full page (worth £90)

The Internet never sleeps. Information is permanently available for scrutiny and can be instantly updated to keep it up-to-the-minute.

Currently [www.aylesburyvale.net](http://www.aylesburyvale.net) averages about 40,000 "hits" per week, and visitors to the "Places to Stay" section have averaged 3,700 a week since January 2000. A broad cross-section of people, both within and outside the region, access the site to discover what's happening or what's available throughout Aylesbury Vale.

You can telephone the organisers, the locally-based NetIndex Group, on 01296 611462 for more information or e-mail them at [camra@aylesburyvale.net](mailto:camra@aylesburyvale.net). They'll produce a personalised presentation especially for your establishment and, if you need it, they can help with photographs, special artwork, design and meaningful copy writing too.

If you can, do take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with the Aylesbury & The Vale site at: [www.aylesburyvale.net](http://www.aylesburyvale.net)

*Alan Creek, NetIndex Group*

### Greene King Abbot, Old Speckled Hen & Ruddles County



now available at

### The End of The World, Worlds End, Wendover

01296 622299





If you're not using the **Internet**  
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the  
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Professional Web Site design and build specific to your requirements

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For more information contact Alan Creek at:

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Alternatively, visit us at [www.netindex.tm](http://www.netindex.tm) or [www.aylesburyvale.net](http://www.aylesburyvale.net)



## 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  
Evenings 6.30-9 PM

Licencees, Alan & Pam Sandell, welcome you to a pub with good food, good beer & good company.

An English country pub, set in the Buckinghamshire countryside, full of character and offering a fine selection of real ales,

**Bass, Adnams, Ringwood Best Bitter**  
plus **Guest Beers** that change weekly,

lagers and wines, a food area and a real fire in winter.

An extensive range of home cooked dishes is available every day for lunch or dinner, including home-made soups, main courses, snacks, vegetarian and sweets at reasonable prices.

**SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH – EVERY WEDNESDAY**

*Phone 01494 862397*

*Voted Buckinghamshire's Real Fire Pub of the year - 2000*

## The Cuckoos Nest

### at Gawcott

Following our inclusion in this years CAMRA Good Beer Guide we were delighted to receive the accolade of Berks and Bucks Real Fire Pub of the year.

*So join us in drinking award winning Ale in a award winning Pub !*

#### Vale Beers:-

Notley Ale

Edgar's Golden

Hadda's Head Banger

Hadda's Winter Solstice

#### Feb/Mar Guest Breweries:-

Mighty Oak, Buffys,

Crouch Vale, Lidstones,

Nethergate, Icen, Border,

Flagship & Burton Bridge.

**Guest Ales - ONLY £1.60 pint !**

plus *Budweiser Budvar* On Draught

**Sunday Roasts - Buffets / Theme Nights**

*Real Ales*

*Real Food*

*Real Fires*

Back Street, Gawcott, Nr. Buckingham, Bucks - Tel: 01280 812092

## Letters

Last Issue (December/January), we published a letter from Mick Dunton, licensee of the **Royal Standard**, Wooburn Common. He raised an objection regarding the treatment of **Whitbread** pubs in the **Good Beer Guide**. Here is the reply from the editor of the guide:-

I congratulate Mick on his splendid guest beer policy and his support for independent brewers. I think, however, he misunderstands the role of **CAMRA**. We're not a beer appreciation society, the Ancient Order of Frothblowers, but a vigorous consumer movement campaigning for beer drinkers' rights on a wide variety of issues.

We do talk to brewers but they do not always talk to us. If Mick thinks we are high-handed, how about **Whitbread** -- did they consult us when they decided to sell their breweries and pubs? No, they acted solely in the interests of the City institutions that control most of their shares.

**CAMRA** has had talks with **Interbrew** at European level and we won an agreement that **Interbrew** would positively promote **Draught Bass**. However, that has been kicked into touch now that the British government has blocked the sale of **Bass** to the Belgian company.

**CAMRA's** main aim is to save the independent brewing sector, which offers the best guarantee of providing quality cask beers. If Mick cannot get his guest beers from **Interbrew**, there is no shortage of suppliers who will do the job for him.

**ROGER PROTZ**

**THE ROSE & CROWN**  
**THE GREEN, WINGRAVE**  
Tel 01296 681257



### FOOD THEME NIGHTS IN FEBRUARY

Mon 5th, Tues 6th

~ INDIAN CURRY NIGHT

Monday 14th ~ VALENTINES NIGHT

Mon 26th, Tues 27th ~ BIG STEAK NIGHT

### SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR FEBRUARY

Between 6 and 7.30 Sunday to Thursday

Buy one meal receive 2nd meal free

(further details from The Rose and Crown)

**OPENING TIMES :-** Saturday & Sunday - Open All Day  
Monday To Friday 11.30-3.00 & 5.30 - 11.00 p.m.  
Food served Every Day, Including Sunday Evenings  
Lunchtimes & Evenings 12-2.00 p.m. & 6.00 - 9.30 p.m.



## CHELMSFORD AND CAMBRIDGE WINTER ALE FESTIVALS

The drinking year commenced in fine style by visiting two Winter Ale Festivals on the first two Saturdays in January. The first was at Chelmsford and was held in the Anglia Polytechnic University Student Union, which is a short walk from the town's railway station.

I arrived with my drinking colleagues Martin from East London and Robert from Basingstoke at around 12:30. The festival was already quite busy. It was held in the Students Union bar and all the available beers (around 40) were listed on blackboards above the bar. I am not really a 'winter ale' enthusiast and was relieved to see that there was plenty of lower gravity beers available including four dark milds, which is probably my favourite British Beer style. The bar manager kept a strict eye on the blackboard deleting beers as they ran out or adding them as they became available.

The venue was busy with around 200 drinkers chatting and enjoying themselves. I ran into several old friends from various parts of Essex, Herts and London, both by arrangement and by chance.

Towards the rear of the festival venue a Belgian Beer bar which provided me with the opportunity to have a kriek (cherry) and frambozen (raspberry beer). Although these may seem strange to those of you not familiar with Belgian beer they really are quite delicious and have a reviving property. Do try them if the opportunity comes along but note that, as with most Belgian beer styles they should be sipped and not gulped.

The festival closed down at around 16:00 to give the staff a rest and to allow stocks to be replenished so we adjourned to various local hostelrys starting with the **Railway Tavern**. This is a small and friendly pub, not surprisingly with a railway theme where the *Greene King IPA* was well kept. We crossed the road and popped into the **Original Plough** a larger and slightly brasher pub where again I believe I had *IPA* which was fine. I also managed to catch the football results.

We then moved on to the **Queen's Head** which I recall from when I lived in Chelmsford in the late 80s was known as **Partners**. It was the best pub in the town then and still is now. There were around six ales on including another mild. The pub was friendly and comfortable with a roaring fire and had perhaps the cleanest toilet I have ever seen in a pub.

There was time to pop back briefly to the festival after leaving the **Queen's Head** before catching the train south but only for one stop as the drinking had not quite finished. The nearby village of Ingatestone has some pleasant bars the best of which is the **Star**. This is another *Greene King* pub with an excellent cellar, a roaring fire and a warm welcome from the staff. After that it really was time to go home.

The following Saturday there was more drinking to be done. Again in the company of Robert and Martin I visited the **Cambridge Winter Ale Festival** which is also hosted by Anglia Polytechnic University. The venue at Cambridge was slightly larger and there were perhaps slightly fewer people in attendance. However this gave drinkers a bit more room to walk round and circulate. The beer range was slightly smaller here and there was no Belgian or other European beer available. We were told that a number of beers had been finished the previous evening nonetheless there were still around 25 available. Fortunately for me this included a couple of milds and some bitters around the 1040-1045 mark.

Again partly by chance and partly by arrangement old friends were found and news and views exchanged. Interestingly we were told that Attila the Stockbroker would be performing that evening, alas our plans did not include staying for the evening session as the pubs of Cambridge (or at least some of them) beckoned.

On leaving the festival the first port of call was the near by Tram Depot. A large and quiet pub with mostly *Everard's* beers. To be different I had the *Adnam's Bitter* which was quite tasty. A feature of this pub is the handpumps, which tell you the temperature at which the beer was being served. Next port of call was the **Kingston Arms**, *Lidstones Brewery's* first pub. I had the "award winning" *Rowley Mild*. All I will say is that it was not to my taste. Furthermore I was advised that the bitter was "a bit home brewish". Taste in beer, as with all things, is a personal thing. There was nothing wrong with the beer, it was just not to our liking.

Things picked up at the nearby **Live and Let Live**. A friendly local with good beer including the excellent *Bateman's Mild*. Next port of call was the **Cambridge Blue**. Another pleasant little local where the *Brakspear's Bitter* was in good form.

We concluded our mini pub crawl with a visit to 'the Ian Smith' as we jocularly refer to the **Salisbury Arms**. It is perhaps a little more 'commercial' than some of the other pubs and perhaps appeals to slightly younger clientele. However it is comfortable, had good music on the jukebox/tape and the *Tiger* was in fine form. Perhaps even more importantly we always finish in the **Salisbury** when visiting Cambridge. After that, once again, it was time to go home.

Alistair Blackett

### The Carpenters Arms, Marlow



Home Made Sandwiches available  
Pub Games, Real Fire, Patio

15 Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks  
Telephone : 01628 473649



*Morrells Varsity  
& Bitter*



# MOWCHAK

**Bar & Indian Restaurant**  
**Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch**  
**01494 485005**



**Not just a pub**  
**Not just an Indian**

**2 Real Ales**

**Sunday Lunch Buffet**  
**E.A.M.A.Y.L**  
**£7.50 Adult, £4.50 Child**  
**Menu changes every week**  
**Takeaway service**  
**available**

## Quiz League

As we said last issue, we will continue to show the table of results from the *Thame and District Pub Quiz League* (originally called the *Long Crendon Quiz League*) until the league is picked up by a local newspaper.

At the half-way stage of the season, here is the league table (with one result outstanding):

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Eight Bells	7	7	0	0	372	318	442
2. Ex-Lambs	7	5	0	2	368	303	418
3. Red Loin	7	3	0	4	346	326	376
4. Rising Sun Ickford	7	4	0	3	314	353	354
5. Rising Sun Thame	6	3	0	3	279	267	309
6. Clifden Arms	7	2	0	4	280	345	300
7. Chandos Arms	6	2	0	4	266	284	286
8. King's Head	7	1	0	6	257	331	267

Congratulations go to the **Ex-Lambs** who scored 60 points in their latest match - the highest score recorded in the (albeit brief) history of the Thame and District Pub Quiz League.

The **Eight Bells** are to be congratulated on their 100% record so far. However, it was a close run thing in their last match against the **King's Head**. Although the **Eight Bells** led the 'David versus Goliath' battle for most of the match, the **King's Head** stormed back and, for a brief time, led by 44 - 42 in the final round. Sadly they were not to win another point as the **Eight Bells** kept up their unbeaten record. Their lead at the top was trimmed by nine points, however, following the **Ex-Lambs** fine win.

*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*

*Sunday Roast £ 4-95*  
*Choice of 4 meats & fresh vegetables*



**WATCH OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL OFFERS**

***Four Real Ales***  
***Greene King IPA, Tetley Bitter***  
***Draught Bass***  
***Regular Guest Beer (London Pride @ £1-60)***

***Quiz night every Wednesday***  
***Folk Music every other Sunday***  
***Traditional Homemade Pies***  
***every Weekday***

***Darts, Dominoes & Crib***

***For more information or updates***  
***please visit us on our web site***  
***www.theredlionbierton.co.uk***  
***or ring 01296 394857***



## Local News

(Continued from page 2)

members of a new 'Diners Club Gold Card' scheme. This card costs £10 and membership is limited to 200, of which over 100 have already been sold. After the initial membership quota has been filled, it will be only available by referrals.

### WEEDON

Chris Birks, his wife and Richard and Mandie Fairhurst have bought the **Five Elms**. This pub was a tenanted **ABC** house which was passed over to **Pubmaster** who, in turn, sold it to a company called **Redwith** in December 1999. The new owners bought it from Redwith and completion took place on November 16th. The tenant of the past five years has now left and it is being run by an interim manager for the next few months.

The pub has suffered from poor management over the past five years and chronic under-investment in the

fabric of the building (particularly in the tenants accommodation).

They are planning a major refurbishment of the tenants area, the kitchen, the toilets and a re-decoration of the bar areas. It is their intention to preserve and enhance the charming, unspoilt, country feel of the pub, while updating essential areas to ensure that they eventually get a permanent tenant and start serving pub food again.

The pub is now a Free House committed to selling a good range of real ales (at the moment they are buying exclusively from **Dayla** in Aylesbury). At the moment they are selling **Fullers London Pride**, **Brakspears Bitter** and **Hook Norton Bitter**. It is intended to rotate these from time to time with similar ales such as **Adnams/Timothy Taylor** etc.

They intend to keep the pub open during the refurbishment - although until the kitchens are refitted, they will not be serving food.

## Branch Contacts

<b>Chairman</b>	<i>David Roe</i>	01296 484551
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Tony Gabriel</i>	01494 527884
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Nick Holt</i>	01296 483554
<b>Bierton</b>	<i>Mick White</i>	01296 428266
<b>Beaconsfield</b>	<i>Colin Staines</i>	01494 674427
<b>Bledlow Ridge</b>	<i>Dave Thompson</i>	01494 481492
<b>High Wycombe</b>	<i>Elvis Evans</i>	01494 511248
<b>Marlow</b>	<i>John Williamson</i>	01628 486378
<b>Stokenchurch</b>	<i>John Bazin</i>	01494 483039
<b>Wendover</b>	<i>John &amp; Tina Wood</i>	01296 625215
<b>Regional Organiser</b>	<i>Colin Lanham</i>	01344 481305

## JOIN CAMRA TODAY

Just fill in the form below and send your remittance (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 .....

Name(s).....

Address .....

Postcode .....

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

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... Date .....

Signature .....

AYL (SWAN SUPPING)



*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!*

Tony & Lynne welcome you to

# The Black Horse, Lacey Green



**Brakspear's Bitter**

**Tel: 01844 345195**

**Wadworth 6X**

**Hot & Cold Bar Meals Daily – Steaks a Speciality**

**Sunday Lunches (2 Courses) - £ 5.25**

**Children under 10 – Free (Booking Advisable)**

**Restaurant now open on Sunday Night (Closed Monday Night)**

**Children Welcome**

**Large Car Park**

**Friendly Atmosphere**

**Children's Play Area and Garden**

**Outside Functions Catered For**





## Beer Festival Diary

### FEBRUARY

1-2 (Fri-Sat): **WEST CUMBRIA & WESTERN LAKES 3rd COCKERMOUTH**  
 2-4 (Fri-Sun): **6th ASHFIELD CAMRA WINTER BEER FESTIVAL**, at Kirkby Leisure Centre, Hodgkinson St, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts  
 2-3 (Fri-Sat): **CHESTERFIELD BEER FESTIVAL**, at The Winding Wheel, Holywell St, Chesterfield  
 2-3 (Fri-Sat): **DORCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL**, Corn Exchange, Dorchester.  
 2-4 (Fri-Sun): **6th TEWKESBURY WINTER ALE FESTIVAL**, at the White Bear, Bredon Rd, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.  
 FEB 2-3 (Fri-Sat): **8th WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES**, Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Dover.  
 14-17 (Wed-Sat): **WEAR VALLEY CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL**, at Bishop Auckland Town Hall  
 15-17 (Thu-Sat): **11th SUSSEX BEER FESTIVAL**, Town Hall, Norton Rd, Hove  
 16-17 (Fri-Sat): **SALISBURY WINTERFEST 2001**, Castle St Social Club, Scots Lane, Salisbury City Centre.  
 21-24 (Wed-Sat): **LIVERPOOL BEER FESTIVAL**, at The Crypt Hall, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool.  
 21-24 (Wed-Sat): **ROTHERHAM OAKWOOD REAL ALE and MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Oakwood School, Moorgate Road, Rotherham (next to General Hospital).  
 22-24 (Thu-Sat): **19th FLEETWOOD BEER FESTIVAL**, Marine Hall, The Esplanade, Fleetwood.  
 22-25 (Thu-Sun): **3rd GAINSBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL**, at the St John Ambulance Hall, Spital Terrace, Gainsborough.  
 22-24 (Thu-Sat): **18th RUGBY CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL**, Newbold Rugby Club, Parkfield Rd, Rugby.  
 22-24 (Thu-Sat): **1st STOCKTON-ON-TEES BEER FESTIVAL**, Dovecot St, Stockton-on-Tees  
 22-24 (Thu-Sat): **5th STOURBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL**, at Stourbridge Town Hall, Crown Centre, Market St, Stourbridge, West Midlands.  
 23-24 (Fri-Sat): **WINTERFEST IX -- GOSPORT'S WINTER BEER FESTIVAL**, at Thorngate Halls, Bury Rd, Gosport.

### MARCH

1-3 (Thu-Sat): **BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL**, at the Victoria Hall, Saltaire  
 1-3 (Thu-Sat): **4th BRISTOL BEER FESTIVAL**, at the Council House, College Green, Bristol.  
 2-4 (Fri-Sun): **PLYMOUTH BEER FESTIVAL**, at Plymouth Guildhall.  
 8-10 (Thu-Sat): **14th WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL**, at the Mill at the Pier, Wigan  
 15-18 (Thu-Sun): **DARLINGTON SPRING THING FESTIVAL 2001**, Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington.  
 15-17 (Thu-Sat): **LEEDS BEER, CIDER & PERRY FESTIVAL**, Pudsey Civic Hall  
 21-23 (Wed-Fri): **LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**, at the Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1  
 28-31 (Wed-Sat): **LEICESTER BEER FESTIVAL**, at the Charotar Patidar Samaj, South Churchgate



## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### February

**Tuesday 6th WEST WYCOMBE SOCIAL**  
 9:30pm George & Dragon  
**Monday 12th CUDDINGTON/CHEARSLEY SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm Crown, Cuddington; 10:00pm Bell, Chearsley  
**Monday 19th CADSDEN/WHITELEAF SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm Plough, Cadsden; 10:00 Red Lion, Whiteleaf  
**Tuesday 27th BRANCH MEETING**  
 8:30pm Greyhound, Beaconsfield (snug bar)

### March

**Monday 5th SOCIAL & GOOD BEER GUIDE SELECTION MEETING**  
 9:00pm Rising Sun, Haddenham  
**Monday 12th FINAL SELECTION MEETING FOR GOOD BEER GUIDE**  
 9:00pm Bird in Hand, Princes Risborough  
**Friday 16th HAZLEMERE & TERRIERS CRAWL**  
 8:00pm Queens Head, 8:30pm Three Horseshoes, 9:00pm Crown, 9:45pm Beech Tree, 10:15pm Terriers (previously called the Black Boy)  
**Wednesday 21st BRANCH MEETING**  
 9:00pm Lions, Bledlow  
**Thursday 22nd SOCIAL AT LONDON DRINKER BEER FESTIVAL**  
 Any time after 5:30pm London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre WC1  
**Wednesday 28th SKIRMETT SOCIAL**  
 9:00pm Frog, Skirmett

### April

**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 details next issue)

### June

**Saturday 23rd PROVISIONAL DATE FOR BLACK COUNTRY TRIP**

### 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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**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.

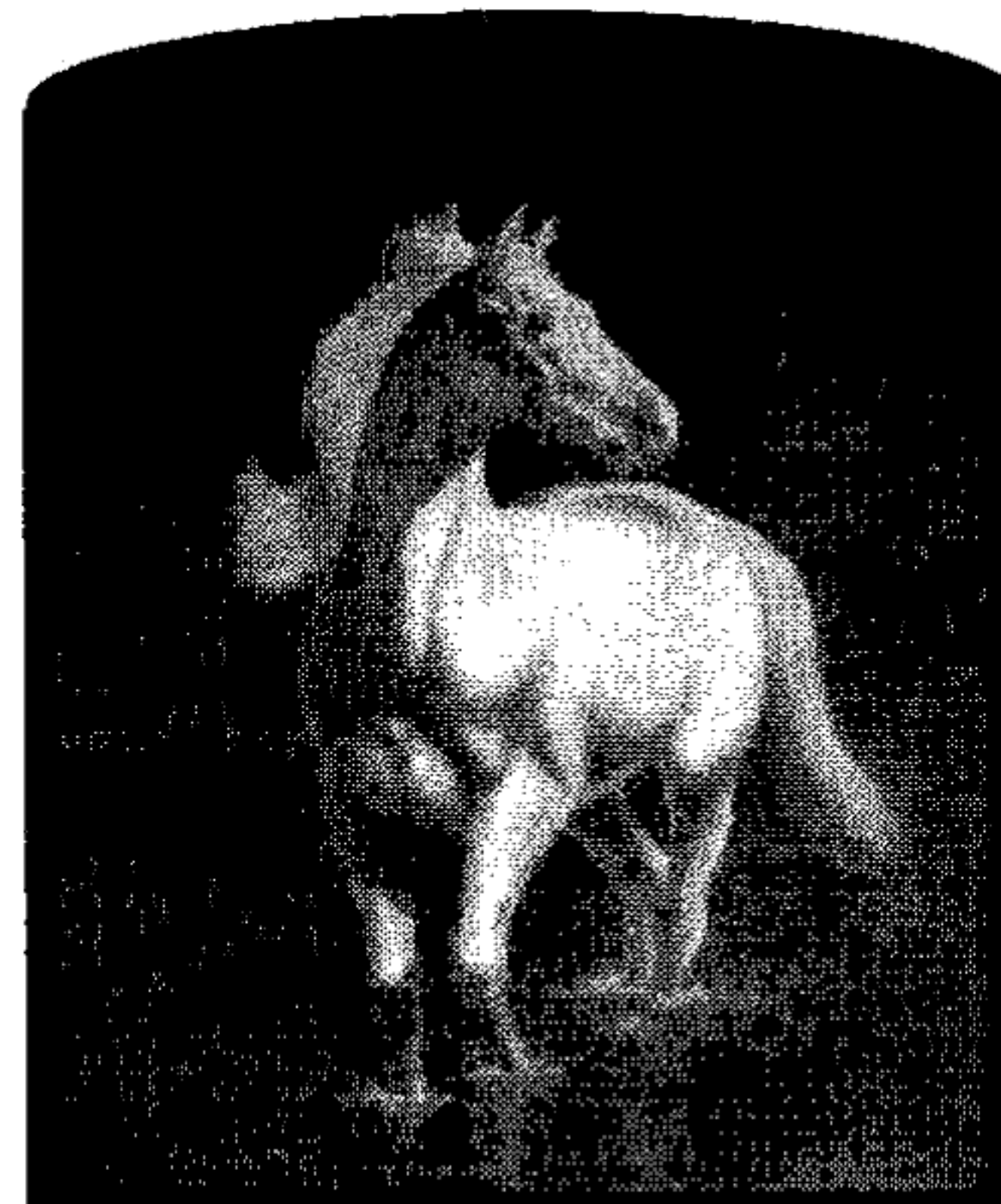
**Copy deadline** for next issue, due to be published on 1st April 2001 is 14th March 2001.

**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 White Horse Whitchurch

01296 641377

for the best steaks  
in the area