



Issue 17



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Swan Supping

FREE

APL/MAY 2000



CAMRA ACTION ON LOSS OF RURAL PUBS AND THE 24 HOUR OPENING DEBATE



CAMRA, the *Campaign for Real Ale*, is leading the fight back by consumers to save the great British local.

New research by CAMRA shows that TWENTY pubs a month are closing!

These pubs are tending to be the rural pubs which used to be such a delight in the summer.

There are so many factors that are working against the rural pub. These include the scarcity of public transport, especially vital following the crack down on drinking and driving, the availability of cheap beer from the continent (it is estimated that 5% of all beer drunk in Britain is now bought in France - a trend

encouraged again by the Budget), and the high price that a rural pub can command if it is converted into a private house.

This issue of 'Swan Supping' has details of CAMRA's new Viability Test plus a new pamphlet produced in conjunction with the *Countryside Agency* called 'Rural Pubs - a route to success'.

Both these are available FREE from the branch and full details can be found inside the magazine.

It has been said before, but when it comes to saving our precious heritage it cannot be repeated too many times :-

USE IT OR LOSE IT!!

There is also the debate about the proposed changes to the licensing laws.

Is the country ready for all day drinking? Should we be treated as responsible citizens who know when we have had an ample sufficiency? As society seems to be moving to the twenty-four hour day for shops, is it not time that those people that have to work nights should be able to enjoy a drink after work?

Please read the articles in this issue and join in the debate by writing to us via the editor (address on the back page).

Or better still, why not write to your local MP and tell the people that shape our laws what you think!

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

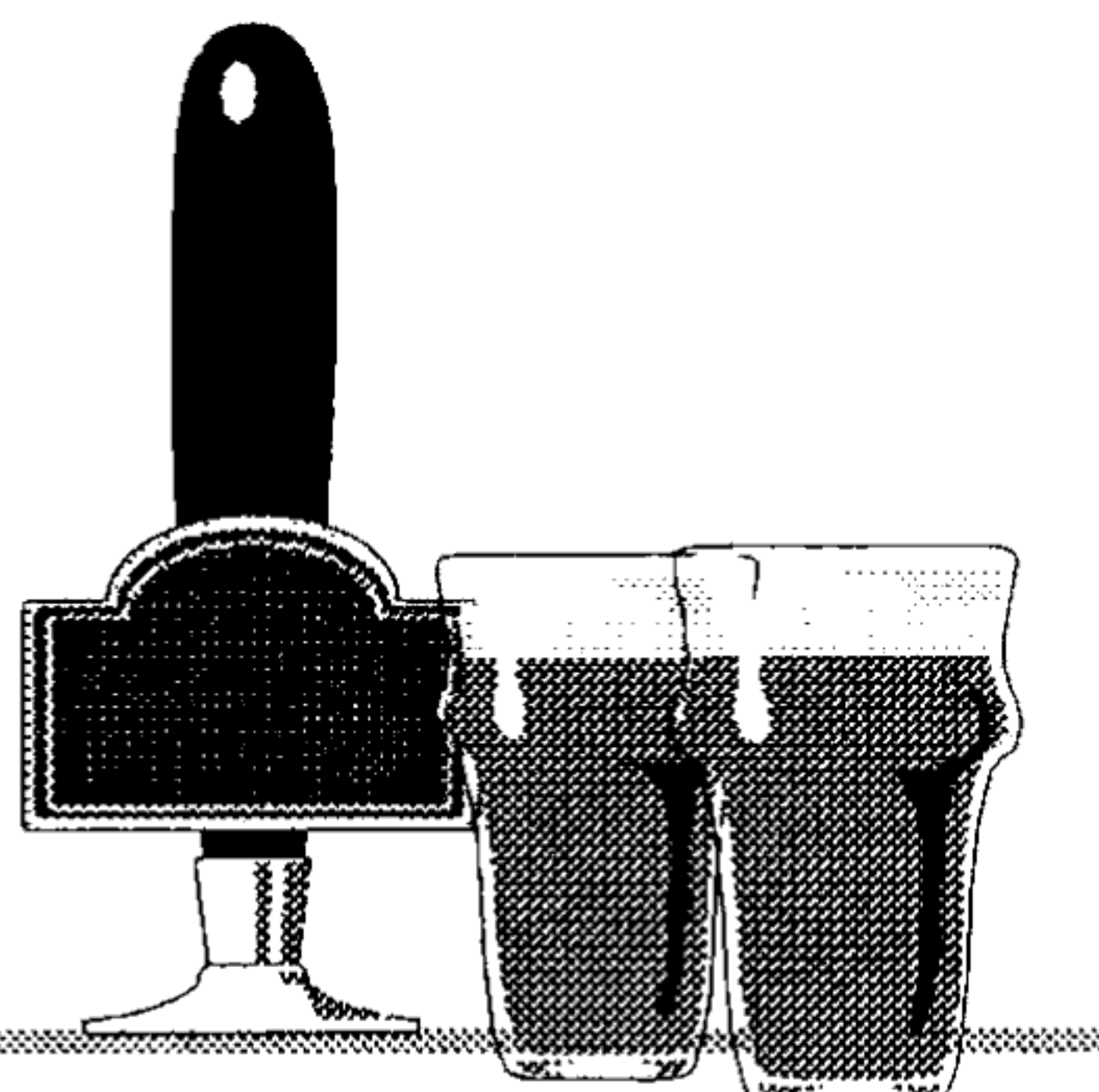


QUIZ NIGHT
EVERY WEDNESDAY

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION ON
WEEKLY EVENTS PLEASE CALL

01296 622299

STILL FROM
ONLY
£1.20
PER PINT



FIND US IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE
MILLENNIUM EDITION

BEERS AVAILABLE IN APRIL/MAY

BRAKSPEAR BITTER 3.4%

CONISTON BLUEBIRD 4.2%

MORRELLS VARSITY 4.3%

RUDDLES COUNTY 4.7%

BRAKSPEAR THREE SHEETS 5.0%

GREENE KING ABBOT 5.0%

MORLAND OLD SPECKLED HEN 5.2%



Local News

ASKETT

There is a new landlord at the **Black Horse**.

The **Three Crowns** has closed and its future is uncertain.

ASTON CLINTON

The **Bell**, which is now a **Vintage Inn**, will reopen as the **Duck Inn** on Tuesday May 2nd. It will be mainly food oriented, but with an informal atmosphere and no booking will be required.

AYLESBURY

From 8th April, the **Hobgoblin** is running another mini beer festival offering *Wychwood Alchemy Gold* and *Joker* as well as *Hobgoblin* and *Special Bitter*.

Also available will be *Woods Special*, *Hopping Mad* and *Old Sam*. Prices will start at £1.50 per pint and the beers on at any one time will vary.

They are also offering traditional cider in the form of *Westons Scrumpy*.

The **Kings Head** is still closed but further improvements are being made and the **National Trust** is actively seeking a leaseholder.

The site at the end of Kingsbury Square, **Kingsbury Place**, has had change of use approved for a public house/restaurant etc. If you have £800k, or can spare £80k per annum, it can be yours. However, the refurbishment may cost up to £200k.

BEACONSFIELD

The **White Horse** has closed and may be converted to a continental style café.

FORD

The **Dinton Hermit** is still trading weekday evenings and at weekends. However, the owners have applied to the council for change of use to a private house.

If you wish to oppose this change, please write to the AVDC planning department (address on page 11) quoting the reference 99/2620/APP.

GREAT KIMBLE

The **Bernard Arms**, an **Oast House Inn**, is now offering *Benskins Bitter*, *Wadworth 6X*, *Hook Norton Best Bitter* and *Old Hooky*.

HADDENHAM

The **Crown** will be changing hands at the end of April. There is a strong probability that it will become an Indian Restaurant! Full details next issue.

The **Red Lion** is now offering *Bed & Breakfast*. There are two rooms available, one double and one treble. Their beers are currently *Ansells Mild*, *Flowers IPA*, *Marstons Pedigree* and *Youngs Bitter*.

HIGH WYCOMBE

Peter Sadler has taken over as the new landlord at the **Hogshead**.

The **Rose & Crown** has been offering *Bateman's Mild*. Maybe they can have it available during CAMRA's 'Make May a Mild Month' campaign.

HUGHENDEN VALLEY

The **Harrow** is under new management.

LITTLE KIMBLE

An Indian restaurant, **Kimble Tandoori**, has opened in what used to be the **Crown**.

MARLOW

The **Bank of England** has closed and is up for sale as a pub or a restaurant.

The **Hogshead** was closed recently for five days to be redecorated in the new contemporary company style. The expansion of the Belgian beers section has, unfortunately, reduced the number of gravity beers available. They will be holding another *Micro Beer Festival* from 13th-27th April.

PRESTWOOD

The **Kings Head** is now offering *Morlands Old Speckled Hen* instead of *Marstons Pedigree*.

SPEEN

The owners of the **King William**

IV have applied to Wycombe planning department for change of use to a private house. The local people are upset at the potential loss of a local amenity and intend to oppose the application. Objectors should quote the reference 00/05234/FUL.

WEST WYCOMBE

The **George & Dragon** no longer has *Courage BB* but now has *Director's*, *Marstons Pedigree* and *Fullers London Pride*.

The **Plough** has closed and there was a notice outside saying 'Lalbhag Indian bar & restaurant opening soon'. The owners of the pub, the **National Trust**, may yet have the final say in this matter. The **Swan** whose last barrel of *Morlands* was served in early March, now has *Brakspears Ordinary Bitter* and *Special*.

WESTON TURVILLE

The **Chequers** has had a new cooling system installed in the cellar to ensure that the beer is stored at constant temperature. As the cellar is at ground level, the correct temperature had been difficult to maintain, especially in summer.

The beers currently on offer are *Adnams Best Bitter*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Wadworth 6X* plus a regular guest beer.

WING

Steve Naghi, landlord of the **Cock Inn**, is due to leave soon, possibly at the end of April. As this was our **Branch Pub of the Year 1999**, this will be a sad loss, but we wish Steve all the best for the future. Further details next issue.

WINGRAVE

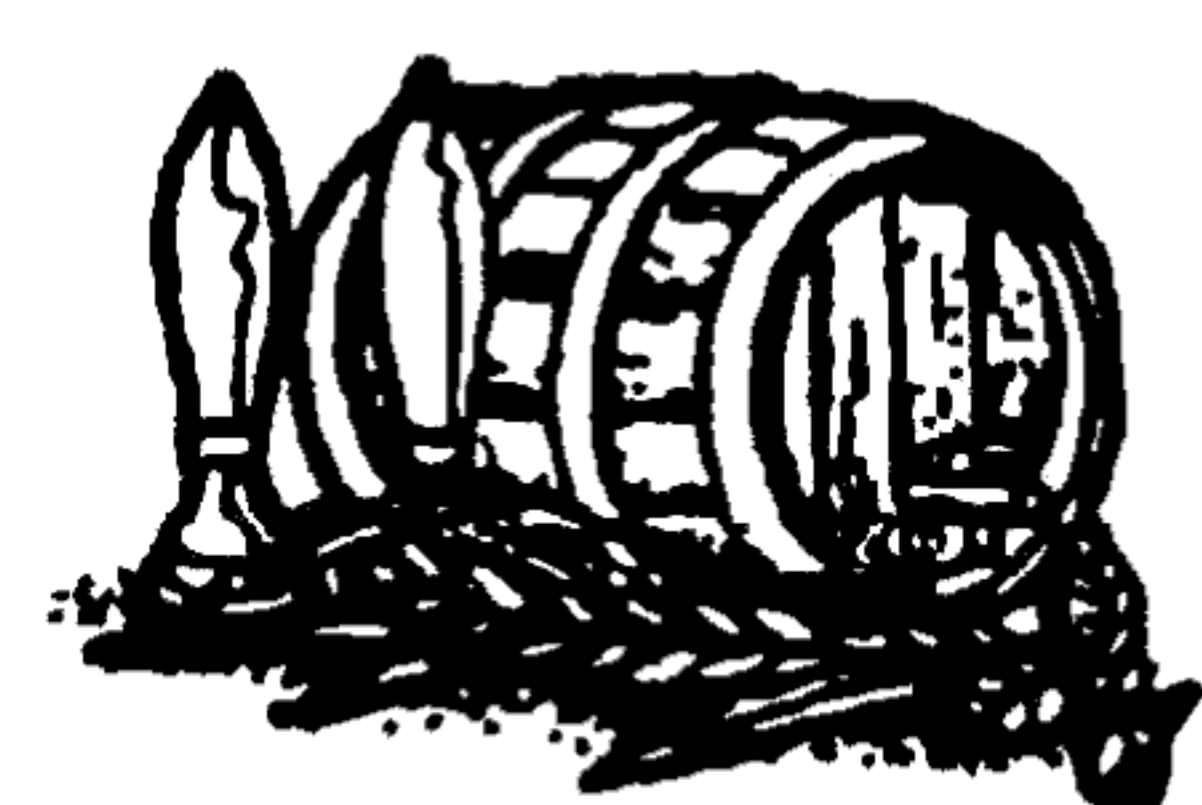
The **Rose & Crown** was runner-up in the *Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year* competition (won by the *Wheatsheaf*, Maids Moreton).

The beers currently on offer are *Adnams Bitter*, *Brains SA*, *Greene King IPA* and *Fullers London Pride*.

WORMINGHALL

The **Clifden Arms** is to hold a May Ball complete with marquee and dance bands.

In June, the pub will be central to the village Millennium Festivities including a mediaeval banquet.



Rose & Crown Wingrave

(Off A418 Aylesbury to Leighton Buzzard Road)

2000 Good Beer Guide
Cask Marque Approved



Runner-up in the
Aylesbury Vale
Pub of the Year Competition

HOME MADE FOOD A SPECIALITY

FOR DETAILS PHONE
GEOFF SMITH
(Member of the British
Institute of Inn Keeping)
01296 681257



DUTY ON BEER RISES AGAIN IN THE BUDGET

CAMRA has condemned the Budget for failing to deliver a fair system of beer excise duty to support Britain's 400 small breweries.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "We urged the Chancellor to introduce a progressive system of excise duty which would mean that very small brewing companies would pay a lower rate of beer tax. Such a system would cost the Treasury very little, but could be the difference between life and death for many small brewers who are struggling to survive in an increasingly competitive market."

Britain's 400 small breweries have less than 2% of the beer market, but they produce some 2,000 real ales to match local tastes. The four biggest companies have around 85% of the market.

A progressive system of beer tax would:

1. Increase investment in small breweries which are often based in rural

or economically marginal areas

2. Improve cash flow - one of the biggest threats to small businesses
3. Create local jobs
4. Remove a major barrier to market entry
5. Be self-financing as multiplier effects come into play
6. Promote choice and diversity for consumers.

The plight of these important local businesses has been ignored despite calls from trade groups and consumers. Increased consolidation in brewing and pub retailing is forcing them out of the beer market and several will close before Mr. Brown reaches for the red box again.

CAMRA also criticised the Chancellor for failing to address the growing problem of beer smuggling.

Mike Benner said, "Yet another penny increase on beer tax is an open invitation to the growing army of

smugglers. These criminals are making huge profits selling cheap French fizz to anyone who has cash at the ready. Recent evidence shows that children as young as eleven are taking them up on their offer. The social consequences of this tax rise could be huge.

Over one million pints a day are now being brought into Britain by increasingly organised gangs of bootleggers. We all pay for Britain's high beer tax policy through increased alcohol related disorder, through pub closures and job losses and through lower amenity in pubs due to a lack of investment. This Budget has done nothing to help the 900,000 jobs this industry supports and the only winners are bootleggers and the French brewers."

A duty cut of only two pence would have been enough to significantly reduce the bootleggers' profit and make it less desirable. **CAMRA** will continue to campaign for duty to be reduced.

The Crown and Anchor, Marlow

The only place serving Sam Trueman's Beers

- ♦ *Bitter from our own brewery from only £ 1-40 per pint*
- ♦ *Three Traditional Guest Ales*
- ♦ *Live music every Friday and Saturday*

Special Events

*Sunday 23rd April – St. George's Day Celebrations
from 1.00pm with a special St. George's Mild!*

Monday 1st May – Free BBQ in the afternoon

Takeaway Prices for your Party Beer!

	4 pint	10 Litre	20 Litre	72 pints
Best (3.5%)	£5.00	£19.95	£39.90	£65.00
Bees Knees (4.3%)	£6.50	£21.90	£43.80	£78.50
Gold (5%)	£7.50	£24.90	£49.80	£88.50

Crown and Anchor, Oxford Road, Marlow 01491 576100

all prices include VAT @ 17.5%

THE 24 HOUR LICENSING DEBATE

Last month's press reports of the Government's 'leaked' white paper on liquor licensing made interesting reading. Editors throughout the country chose to make a snap decision on whether their publication is 'for' or 'against' proposals to let pubs open longer hours.

Headlines varied from "24 hour drinking shame" to "new proposals to end late night binge drinking". In great media tradition, neither of these two extremes represents the full picture of the government's efforts to reform our antiquated licensing laws.

The government is likely to take a more permissive view of opening hours and for many pubs this could offer the opportunity to finally be able to offer modern pub goers what they want. After all, is it fair that at 11.20pm each evening responsible adults are forced to leave the pub of their choice, sup up and go home or on to a rowdy nightclub to be surrounded by sweaty youths and overpriced fizzy beer?

The current laws date back to the first world war when Lloyd George (not renowned for enjoying a tippie) decided that munitions workers made better bombs when they were sober. A reasonable policy, but not one which applies to the average Joe (or Josephine) today.

The current system is messy, expensive and inconsistent and a more simple and transparent approach much surely represent progress.

But won't our streets be filled with drunks and hooligans all night long? Both common sense and the evidence would suggest not. Take the examples of 1988 when all day opening was introduced during the week. Or 1995 when we were finally allowed to have a refreshing beer after that heavy Sunday lunch. Despite the gloomy predictions of many, there was no significant increase in consumption or in alcohol related crime. In fact, it appeared that people were drinking more slowly...

Kicking everyone out onto the streets at the same time every night causes problems. People often knock back their final drinks too quickly and leave a little more tipsy than is good for them. They all queue up for the same taxis, buses and kebabs and that causes tension and often leads to trouble.

It is the concoction of restricted hours and circuit pubs that has turned many of our town centres into war zones on Friday and Saturday nights. While fun for certain groups of younger drinkers, it unfairly excludes older and the majority of more responsible younger pub-users.



WE PRESENT TWO OF WYCHWOOD'S SUPERB ALES,
ALCHEMY GOLD & JOKER

ALONGSIDE OUR REGULARS
HOBGOBLIN & SPECIAL BITTER

PLUS
WOOD'S SPECIAL, HOPPING MAD
& OLD SAM

ALL AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAY 8TH APRIL AT
KINGSBURY SQUARE, AYLESBURY
PRICES FROM £1-50 PER PINT



24 HOUR DRINKING?

If new laws allow pubs to stagger their closing times then it is fair to assume that people will not be in such a hurry to 'get a last one in' and the pressures on our valued public services will be relieved. Experiments in Scotland and the Netherlands show that to be the case.

The resulting more relaxed approach to enjoying alcohol is likely to benefit us all - not just pub-goers - through reduced alcohol-related crime and safer town centres.

Rest assured too that residents will be given protection. It is likely that local communities will have a say when it comes to dishing out longer hours for individual pubs. If the residents think it will cause major problems, the pub is unlikely to be able to open much beyond existing permitted hours.

Who knows, over the next decade or so perhaps a more permissive approach to opening hours will help us shake off the label of 'the lager louts of Europe'. It is quite reasonable to suggest that a more relaxed approach will eventually convince our young that they don't have to get as drunk as possible, as quickly as possible, in order to have a good time.

If you agree with this view, why don't you drop a line to your MP and them know? This could be a last ditch attempt to get a fair deal, so don't let fear of change stand in our way.



The Cock Inn Wing



- * *The Aylesbury Vale &* *
- * *Wycombe CAMRA* *
- * *Pub of the Year 1999* *

The *One* Pub with *Two* Bars and *Three* Menus (Blackboard, A la Carte & Carvery!) *Four* you!
Ales from *Four* different Micro Brewers, *Five* including the one on standby in the cellar, totalling *Six* Different Great Ales **always on** – *Seven* Days of the Week!

Telephone
01296 688214

The Bell



Bierton

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

Listed in the 2000 Good Beer Guide

Traditional village pub

Meals served 7 days a week:
Lunchtimes: 12.00 – 2.30pm
Evenings: 6.00 – 9.30pm

*All meals prepared and cooked
in our own kitchen (not frozen meals)*

Live **JAZZ** last Sunday of every month
(no food available on jazz evenings)

FULLER'S AWARD WINNING ALES
PLUS A DIFFERENT GUEST BEER EACH MONTH
FROM AN INDEPENDENT BREWER
APRIL: ARKELL'S 3B
MAY: BRAKSPEAR BITTER

THE FUTURE OF RURAL PUBS

Twenty pubs a month are closing with many being sold off as private houses according to new research released by **CAMRA**. That's the alarming message from the consumer watchdog on the day that two new initiatives are unveiled as well as stepping up calls for rate relief to help community pubs survive.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "We suspected the situation was gloomy, but we had no idea it was this bad. What's most depressing is the situation is almost certainly much worse than even **CAMRA** dare admit. Feedback at grassroots level from our 56,000 members would suggest that with pubs closing on a daily basis, effective monitoring has become almost impossible."

Following consultation with planning departments across the land, **CAMRA** unveils its long awaited Public House Viability Test. The test offers planning departments advice on judging the

economic viability of a pub threatened with closure following an application for change of use to a private house.

Mr Benner went on to say, "It's all too easy for unscrupulous pub owners to run down a business, de-licence the pub and sell it off for a fat profit as a private house. This is an increasingly common practice, particularly in pretty rural areas. The loss of the local pub is a disaster for village communities and our test aims to bring some consistency to planning processes across the country. We hope it will be supported and adopted throughout the planning fraternity."

Copies of the document have been sent to planning officers this week and early signs are that it will be an effective tool in helping to keep viable pubs alive.

Mr. Benner added, "We are not trying to keep truly unviable pubs open. Rather we want to put an end to the practice of letting pubs which could be viable in the

right hands be lost to the community forever because of a lack of procedures."

CAMRA, in association with the Countryside Agency, have released a new booklet offering ideas to rural publicans. 'Rural Pubs: A Route to Success' includes sections on beer choice and quality, dual-use, tourism and in-house brewing.

There is no attempt to tell publicans how to do their job, but some ideas from consumers might just give them an edge in building their businesses to meet the needs of today's customers.

Tony Dadoun of the Countryside Agency said, "The pubs booklet will raise awareness of the many opportunities which exist to strengthen and diversify the range of services public houses can offer to their customers. The public house is a focal point of the rural community and if it is to continue to provide what the customer wants, services must change to

KING'S HEAD

Prestwood

Three Real Ales:

*Greene King's I.P.A., Abbot
Morland Old Speckled Hen*

FOOD SERVED

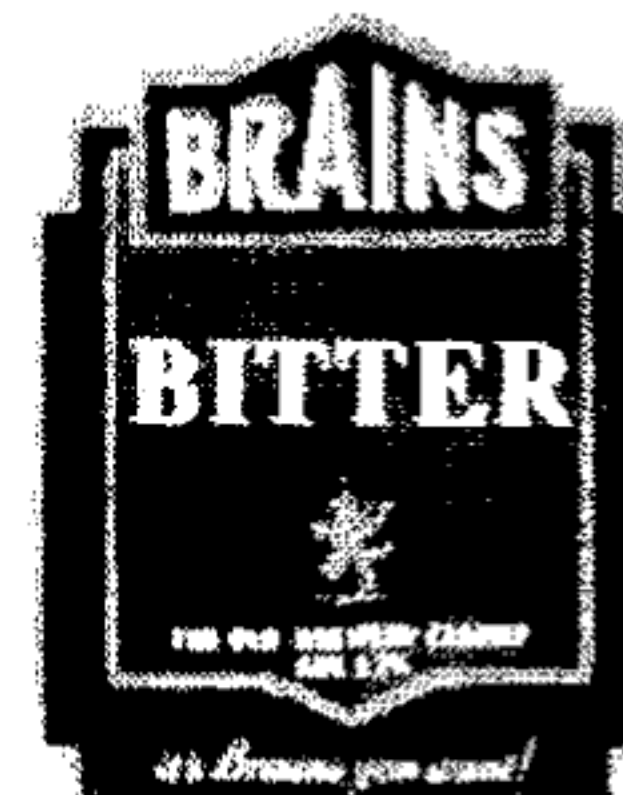
Noon – 10pm

EVERY DAY

3 Course Sunday Lunch – £7-95

*Comfort and friendly service
with a difference*

01494 868101



Formerly Brewers and now the leading Independent Distributor of CASK CONDITIONED Ales in the Thames Valley.

COOPER'S CHOICE of Guest Beers each & every month.

Beer Festivals a Speciality including hire of Stillages • Bunting • Banners • Blackboards and insulating jackets.

A Family Firm

~ since 1851 ~

80-100 High St., Aylesbury, Bucks
HP20 1QZ

Tel: 01296 420261

Fax: 01296 397012

Email: Sales@dayladrinks.co.uk

RURAL PUBS

keep up with the demand of modern consumers. The booklet suggests ways this change might come about without losing the traditional appeal and essential qualities the pub has to offer."

CAMRA is stepping up its calls for 50% mandatory rate relief to be extended to village pubs in the Countryside White paper expected this spring.

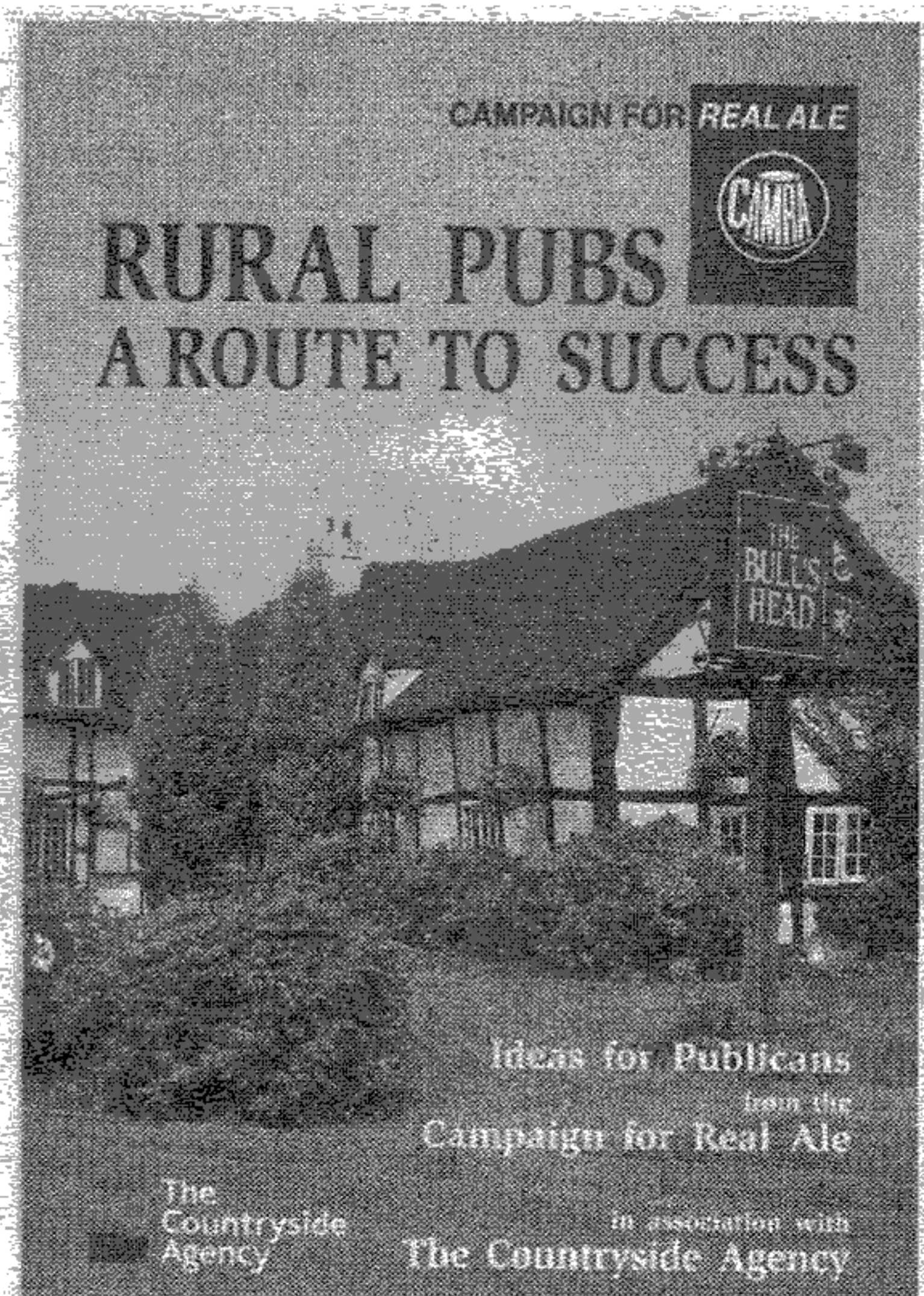
Pubs should be treated in the same way as village shops and post offices. The government has to recognise the value of pubs as rural community amenities on a par with shops, post offices and village halls and introduce mandatory rate relief at the earliest opportunity.

CAMRA has voiced its support for John Grogan MP's Early day Motion (No. 255) which now has the support of over 100 MPs keen to see rural pubs protected.

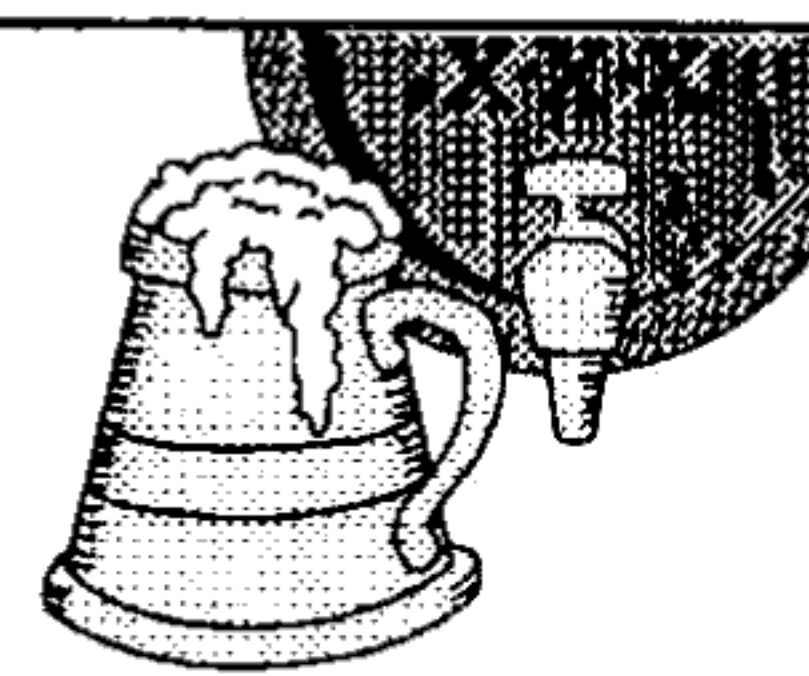
Tony Payne, Chief Executive of the *Federation of Licensed Victuallers*

welcomed the move, "The *FVLA* fully supports the work of *CAMRA* regarding the plight of rural pubs and looks forward to working with licensees to achieve the aim of assisting in making their businesses more viable."

The '*Rural Pubs: A Route to Success*' booklet is available free of charge from the editor (address on back page) on request.



Real Ales
to Take Home



Firkins, Polypins
& Polycasks available
Call in or phone for price lists

01494 437228

ORDER NOW

Up to SIX real ales available on draught
with over 50 British Bottled Beers in stock
plus a fine range of wines
All you need for any celebration from

WYCOMBE WINES
20 Crendon Street
High Wycombe

**Greene King
IPA & Abbot**



now available at

**The End of The World,
Worlds End, Wendover**
01296 622299



Hogshead



High Street, Marlow
Tel: 01628 478737

**Micro Beer Festival
13 – 27 April 2000**

All Festival Ales @ £1-70 Pint

Arkells – 3B 4.0%

Ringwood – Fortyniner 4.9%

Smiles – Golden Brew 3.8%

Hoskins – Toms Gold 4.4%

Hampshire – Lionheart 5.0%

Wychwood – Joker 5.0%

Otter – Bitter 3.6%

Ringwood – Old Thumper 5.8%

25 ALES AVAILABLE OVER 2 WEEKS

Plus £1 off all Wines currently
featured on our Wine Menu

LONDON DRINKER BEER FESTIVAL

BLACK COUNTRY

I popped down to the **London Drinker Beer Festival** on 22nd March. The festival is held at the Camden Centre in Bidborough Street near to King's Cross and St Pancras Railway stations.

There was a branch social there on that night and I soon ran into Alan from Marlow. It was some while before we met anyone else from the branch although a number of old friends from my days in London also turned up for a chat.

Eventually our esteemed Branch chairman turned up and joined in the lively discussion, which focussed on beer (naturally) but often drifted on to football, music and other topics of the day.

The festival was well patronised. Indeed we decided to retire to the side bar where an excellent range of draught and bottled foreign beers were on sale as well as substantial good honest food

(sausage and mash etc) plus specials (including vegetarian) each day.

The selection of beers was very good with a vaguely witchcraft theme. The majority of the beers came from micros with a good selection of regional brews available. As usual I concentrated on the milds before moving on to German dunkel and rauch beers.

The Festival was well managed with a lot of familiar faces behind the bars and doing the numerous other jobs that are carried out at a beer festival (rubbish clearance, stewarding, issue of glasses etc).

Alas Thursday was a working day and I had to head home at around 9:00 pm. however I had enjoyed some interesting beers and lively conversation without breaking the bank and was in bed by 11:00 pm.

Alistair Blackett



We are holding our annual trip to the Black Country on Saturday 24th June. This popular trip is limited in numbers so it will be first come first served!

We will be revisiting the *CAMRA Pub of the Year*, the *Rising Sun*, Tipton, (perhaps Nick can stay awake long enough to try it this time – Ed.) as well as the usual favourites: **The Waggon & Horses**, Halesowen, **Beacon Hotel**, Sedgeley and the ever popular **Bull & Bladder**, Brierley Hill, and the Delph Locks walkabout.

We will be picking up in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Stokenchurch.

It only costs £17 per head and tickets and more information can be obtained by ringing **Tony Gabriel** on 01494 527884.

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

**Adnams Bitter
Youngs Bitter
Guest Beers**

Evening meals served until 21:00

(except Thursday)

Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

Bed & Breakfast £25.00 p.p.p.n (inc V.A.T)

*En Suite Room/Colour T.V./Tea/Coffee
English Tourist Board Approved (2 Crowns)*

4 The Strand,
Quainton, Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 4AS

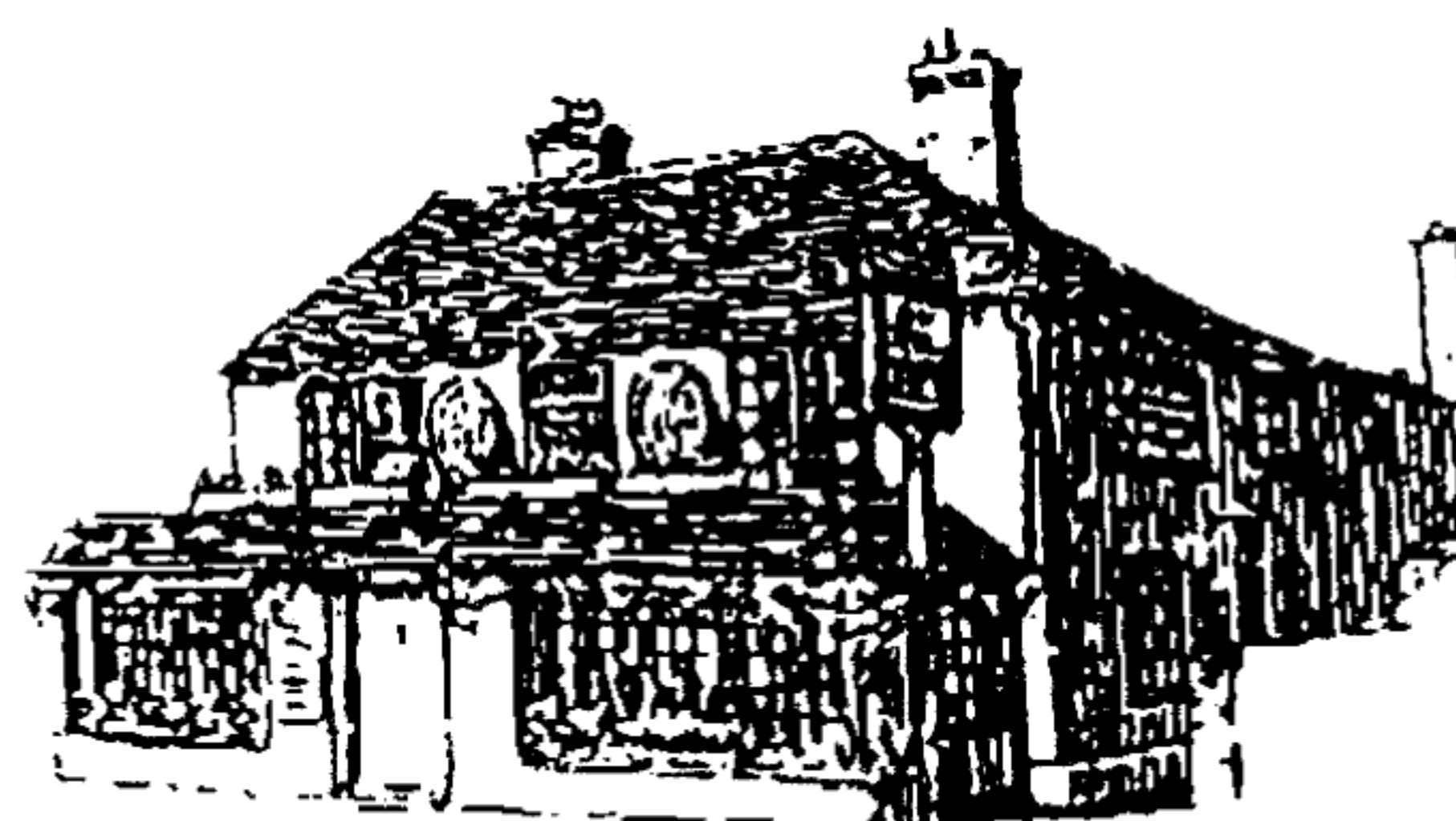
Tel : 01296 655234

**Please note: We are closed for
Thursday Lunchtimes**

THE BRICKMAKERS ARMS

**Wheeler End Common, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP14 3ND**

Telephone & Fax : (01494) 881526



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

***Full range of real ales including:
Brakspears, Morrells & Adnams
and Fullers London Pride
Plus Draught Budvar***

**A family pub run by
Gary and Jules Bishop**

MAY IS MILD MONTH

Every year **CAMRA** makes Country Coach Trip).
'May a Mild Month'.

Mild is one of the oldest beer styles in the world and was the most popular beer in Britain until after the Second World War. Since then it has declined at an alarming rate but its popularity is gradually on the increase again.

They vary in colour from a light golden to a dark ruby hue and can vary in strength from around 3% by volume to a massive 6% (**Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild** so enjoyed by the people on our Black

To celebrate the month we have organised trips to some of the few pubs in our area that still give their patrons the choice.

The **Red Lion** on the Haddenham crawl on 28th April (well it's nearly May!!), **Prince Albert**, Frieth and the **Bull and Butcher**, Turville on May 5th, and the **Old Ship** on our Cadmore End social on 31st of May.

Please try and join us – everyone is welcome.

AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Our annual beer festival, held in conjunction with 'The Friends of Florence Nightingale Hospice' will take place at the Stoke

Mandeville Community Centre on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th of October. Further details will appear in the next issue.

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

New licensees, 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 two ever-changing **Guest Beers**,

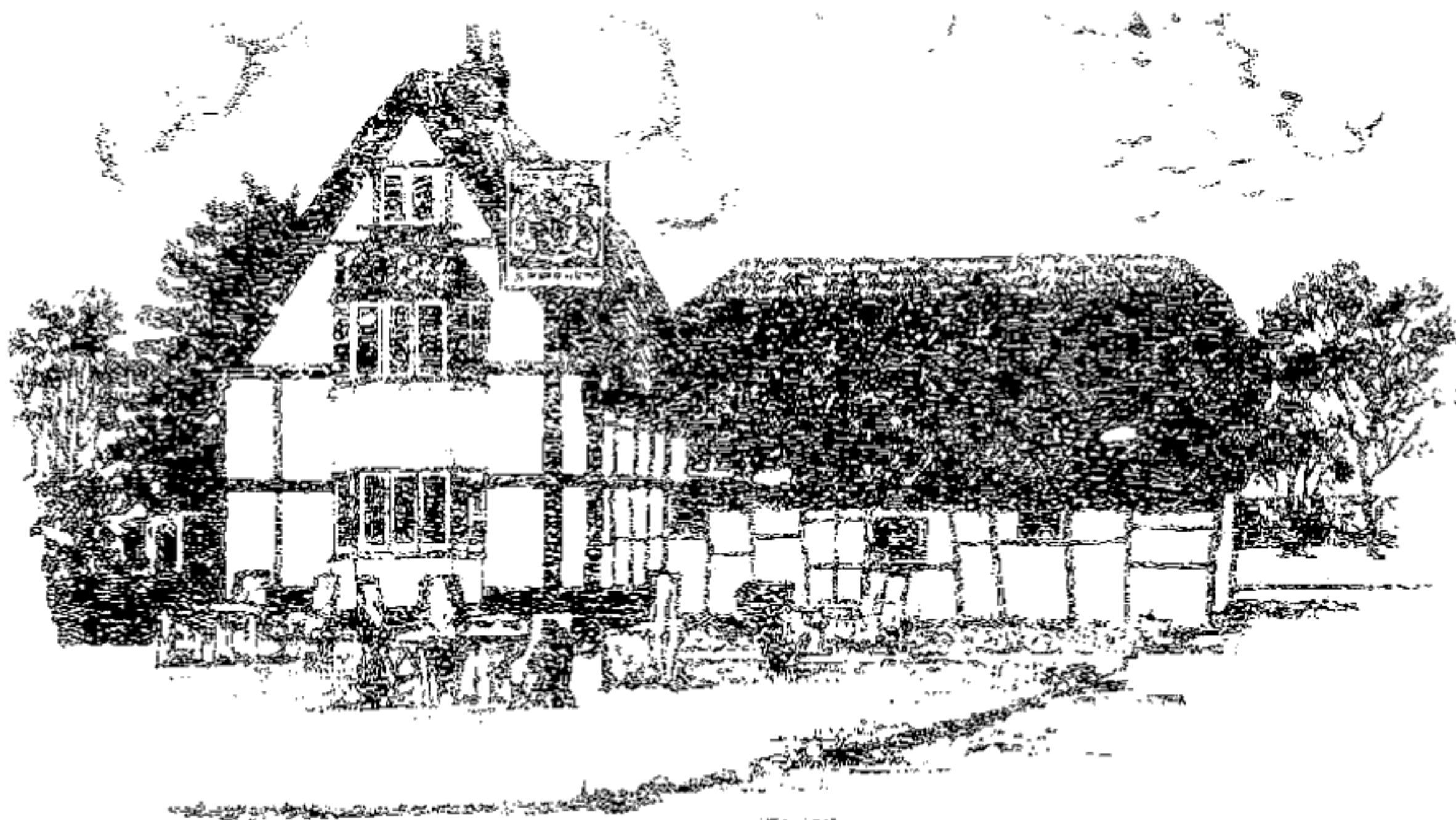
lagers and wines, a food area and a real fire in winter.

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

The Clifden Arms



Why not celebrate your wedding, birthday, christening or other special occasion in the delightful surroundings of The Clifden Arms. A marquee is available for larger functions. Call us on 01844 339273.

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.

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

The Joys of Drinking in Peterborough!

I'd never seen any articles about drinking in Peterborough, shopping and the Cathedral, being the only reasons for going there. Why Peterborough? Well having relatives to stay overnight helped, but meeting a friend from Scarborough made it a good halfway point (more or less).

Regularly served by trains from Kings Cross, it is an easy location to get to, trains leave every half hour - all day, taking just 45 minutes to the city, and one hour back to Kings Cross. This allows a departure from Aylesbury at say 9am and a return back by midnight - a good nine hours to survey all those pubs.

Our first stop, conveniently located between the train and bus stations, and visible from both, was the **Brewery Tap**, owned by the **Oakham** brewery. This large pub, a former dole office has two floors and plenty of standing room. Twelve ales are on tap (yes, twelve), the local brews plus lots of guests.

We resisted the Thai food (far too much beer!) and started with the **Oakham** beers: **White Dwarf** (4.3%), a hoppy wheat beer, **Bishops Farewell** (4.6%) and the malty **Four Horseman** (5%). Next we got our teeth into

Black Pig Porter from the **Nethergate** brewery in Suffolk and **Rameo and Eweliet** from the **Dent** brewery in Cumbria.


A few yards from the pub and close to the main centre was the **Wortley Almshouses**, also down Westgate, a Sam Smiths pub converted from some Almshouses built in 1837. After a pint of the **Old Brewery Bitter** (the only one on offer) we moved onto a long running Good Beer Guide entry called **Bogarts**, a plain 'locals' pub with six ales on offer. We chose a local brew, **Grain Store, Triple B** (4.2%) brewed in Oakham, Rutland since 1995.

In the main shopping area we popped in to a **JD Wetherspoons** pub - **College Arms** for food and a pint of **Batemans XXXB** (5%), another four ales were on offer here but time and human physiology were against us here! So we moved on to our 'final pub', a simple matter of following the downhill gradient to the Nene river across the Tower Bridge and on the floating barge / pub that was **Charters Cafe Bar**. Owned by the same person who owns **Oakhams Brewery**, it boasted six ales, of which we sampled **Oakhams Old Tossport** (5.2%), not available in the **Brewery Tap**.

Sadly it was time to call it a day and take the bus home, although clearly we had more than our fill. We found ourselves by the bus station staring at the pub we started at - time for a swift pint we thought.

We knew of at least another half dozen decent pubs around the centre, **Glass Onion, Hand & Heart** and the **Palmerston Arms** to name but a few, but the ever changing beer guest list in the **Brewery Tap**, means its always worth repeated visits. It's easy to stay there the whole afternoon, which tends to limit the number of pubs you visit later on in the day - another crawl soon I think!

Simon Allen



**Old Luxters
Brewery**

Traditional
Ales
and Bottle
Conditioning

Tel 01491 638330

Derek and Carol French welcome customers both old and new to **The Red Lion, Bierton**

New Extensive Menu

Daily & Weekend Specials

Sunday Roast £ 4-95

Opening Times

Monday to Thursday 11.30-3, 5-11

Open all day Friday to Sunday

Four Real Ales

Greene King IPA

Tetley Bitter

Ind Coope Burton Ale

Regular Guest Beer

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



Nearby Beer Festivals

READING

On April 27th-30th (Thursday-Sunday), the 6th Reading Beer Festival will be held at King's Meadow, Reading (4 minutes walk from Reading Rail & Bus Stations). Over 150 real ales, cider & perry, English Wine, German Beer & good food. Live music lunchtimes & evenings, quiet area available at all times. Children's facilities at lunchtime sessions. Open Thursday 4.30-11pm; Friday & Saturday 11-3pm & 4.30-11pm; Sunday 12-5pm (if the beer lasts). Entry £1 on Thursday; £2 Friday + 11pm; Friday & Saturday noon-Saturday lunchtime, £4 11pm. Admission £1 Thursday evenings; free on Sunday. £1 of free beer tokens to CAMRA and EBCU members each session except Sunday. Tickets by post from Andy Church, 22 Derby St, Reading RG1 7NX or phone 0118 950 8013. Please make cheques payable to Reading Roy Chatto on 01582 600611.

CAMRA. Or by e-mail: tickets@readingcamra.org.uk. Reading Beer Festival is also on the web - find more details including complete beer list on www.readingcamra.org.uk

DUNSTABLE

On May 4th-6th (Thursday-Saturday) the 6th Dunstable Beer Festival will be held at the Dunstable Young Persons Centre, Manchester Place, Dunstable (off High St North, behind Union Bingo Hall in town centre). Open Thursday 6-11pm; Friday & Saturday noon-11pm. Admission £1 Thursday evenings; free on Sunday. £1 of free beer tokens to CAMRA and EBCU members each session except Sunday. Tickets by post from Andy Church, 22 Derby St, Reading RG1 7NX or phone 0118 950 8013. Please make cheques payable to Reading Roy Chatto on 01582 600611.

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)



Useful Addresses

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
For comments, complaints or 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
Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place
London WC1E 7HN

Vic & Sue Hinde
welcome you to

The White Swan

10 High Street
Whitchurch
Tel: 01296 641228

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

2000 Good Beer Guide
Fullers Traditional Ales



The Carpenters Arms, Marlow



Home Made Sandwiches available
Pub Games
Real Fire, Patio

15 Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks
Telephone : 01628 473649



MORRELLS

Oxfords Finest Beers
Morrells Varsity & Bitter



Beer Festival Diary

April

5-8 (Wed-Sat): 24th NEWCASTLE BEER FESTIVAL, at Students Union, Newcastle University, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne (2 mins walk from Haymarket Metro).
6-8 (Thu-Sat): BURY ST EDMUNDS BEER FESTIVAL, at the Corn Exchange (town centre)
7-9 (Fri-Sun): THE 9th MANSFIELD CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL 2000, at Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Rd, Mansfield (1/2 mile from bus + rail stns)
13-16 (Thu-Sun): DONCASTER BEEREX 2000, at the Doncaster Racecourse Exhibition Centre, Leger way (frequent bus service from Town Centre)
13-15 (Thu-Sat): WALSALL BEER FESTIVAL, at the Walsall Town Hall, Leicester St, Walsall (only 4 mins walk from rail stn, 2 mins from main bus stn)
19-22 (Wed-Sat): THE EAST LANCs MILLENNIUM BEER FESTIVAL & FOLK EXTRAVAGANZA, at King Georges Hall, Blackburn (4 mins from bus + rail stn)
20-22 (Thu-Sat): PAISLEY BEER FESTIVAL
27-29 (Thu-Sat): KINGDOM OF FIFE CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL & GUZZLE 2000, at the Rothies Halls, Glenrothes, Fife (adjacent to bus station/Kingdom shopping centre)
27-29 (Thu-Sat): 13th ONGAR FESTIVAL OF REAL ALE, at Budworth Hall, Chipping, Ongar, Essex
27-30 (Thu-Sun): 6th READING BEER FESTIVAL, at King's Meadow, Reading (4 mins walk from Reading Rail + Bus Stns)
28-29 (Fri-Sat): BASINGSTOKE BEER FESTIVAL 2000, at The Vyne School, Vyne Rd, Basingstoke (close to rail stn)
28-29 (Fri-Sat): CHIPPENHAM BEER FESTIVAL, at the Studio Hall, Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham (5 mins BR + Bus Stn)
28-29 (Fri-Sat): COVENTRY CITY BEER FESTIVAL, at the Coventry City Football Ground, East Stand Mall, Swan Lane
28-29 (Fri-Sat): 14th OLDHAM CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham

May

4-6 (Thu-Sat): 6th DUNSTABLE BEER FESTIVAL, at the Dunstable Young Persons Ctr, Manchester Place, Dunstable (off High St North, behind Bingo Hall in town centre)
11-13 (Thu-Sat): SOUTHPORT & DISTRICT 1st SANDGROUNDER BEER FESTIVAL, at the Southport Arts Centre, Lord St (2 mins walk from rail stn)
12-14 (Fri-Sun): 11th YAPTON BEEREX - WEST SUSSEX, near Arundel, (1.6 miles east from Barnham main line rail station on B2233 at Yapton + Ford village Hall)
16-19 (Tue-Fri): COLCHESTER REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL, at the Arts Centre, St Mary's St, Colchester (near Jumbo the water tower).
18-20 (Thu-Sat): CHESTER CHARITY BEER FESTIVAL, at the Chester Rugby Club, Hare Lane, Vicars Cross, Chester
19-20 (Fri-Sat): 14th ALLOA BEER FESTIVAL, in the Town Hall, Alloa
22-27 (Mon-Sat): 27th CAMBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL, at the Cambridge City Football Ground, behind the Westbrook Centre, off Milton Rd, Cambridge
26-27 (Fri-Sat): 8th FRODSHAM BEER FESTIVAL (joint with Rowlands Care), Community Centre, Fluin Lane
26-28 (Fri-Sun): NEWARK'S 5th BEER FESTIVAL, Riverside Park



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

April

Tuesday 4th BRANCH MEETING
 8:00pm Swan, West Wycombe
Friday 14th - Sunday 16th NATIONAL AGM IN DERBY
Sunday 23rd EASTER MIDDAY SOCIAL
 Noon at Clifden Arms, Worminghall
Friday 28th HADDENHAM PUB CRAWL
 Starts 7:00pm at Rising Sun - contact editor for full list of pub times

May

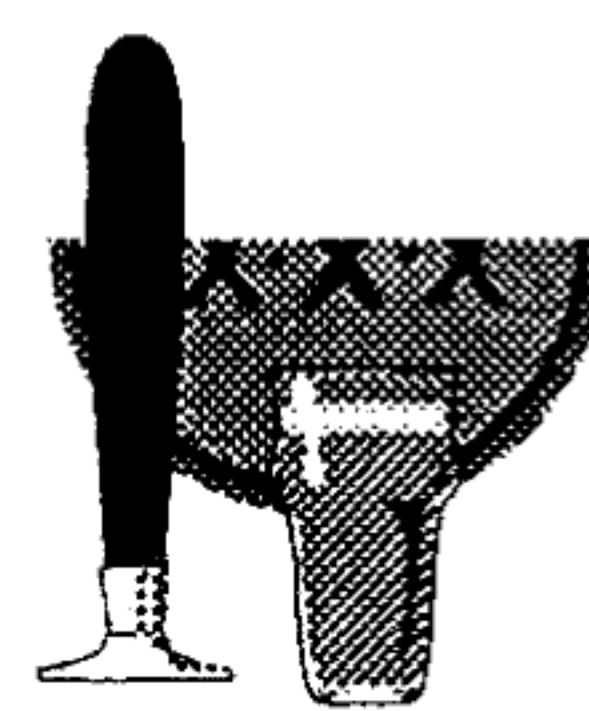
Friday 5th MILD SOCIAL
 9:00pm Prince Albert, Frieth, 10:00pm Bull & Butcher, Turville
Wednesday 10th MINI CRAWL OF ASTON CLINTON
 Starts 8:00pm at Rothschild Arms - contact editor for full list of pub times
Wednesday 31st CADMORE END SOCIAL
 9:00pm Blue Flag, 10:00pm Old Ship

June

Saturday 24th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP
 Only £17 to enjoy the best trip of the year! See page 8 for details
 Full Itinerary in the June/July Issue of *Swan Supping*

October

Friday 27th/Saturday 28th VALE OF AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL
 Stoke Mandeville Community Centre
 This is a charity beer festival held in conjunction with the 'Friends of Florence Nightingale House'



CAMRA GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 2000

1st - 5th August, London Olympia



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/box
Notley Ale	3.3%	£71.00*	£41.00 £21.00
Wychert Ale	3.9%	£73.00*	£43.00 £22.00
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	£75.00*	£45.00 £23.00

CAMRA Double Gold Medal winner! FINALIST! GBBF 1997.

Speciality Beers

Black Swan - Dark Mild	3.3%	£72.00*	£42.00 £21.00
CAMRA Double Gold Medal winner!			
Black Beauty - Porter	4.3%	£76.00*	£46.00 £23.00

Bottled Beers

Halcyon Daze - English Ale.	4.3%	12 x 500ml Case	£18.00
Good King Senseless	5.2%	12 x 500ml Case	£20.00

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 3TF.

Circulation 2700 copies.

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.

Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st June 2000 is 14th May.

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

©Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA 2000.

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.