



Swan Supping

FREE

Issue 16



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

FEB/MAR 2000



HOW VIABLE IS YOUR LOCAL?



CAMRA, the *Campaign for Real Ale*, is set to launch its long-awaited Public House Viability Test as saving country pubs moves to the top of the political agenda.

The plight of country pubs was highlighted by the Countryside Agency's claim that six close every week.

The story hit national headlines and featured in many TV programs, acting as a curtain-raiser for a number of developments which could see Government action to help country pubs.

A White Paper on rural issues due out in the spring will lead to a new Countryside Act which may extend the mandatory business rate relief enjoyed by village shops to village pubs.



The Viability test has been worked on by CAMRA's *Pubs Group* for three years. It's an objective test designed to help councils and appeals inspectors eliminate variables such as the calibre of previous

landlords when deciding change of use applications.

It should identify which pubs have a future and which should be allowed to close, and it should take the heat out of planning disputes.

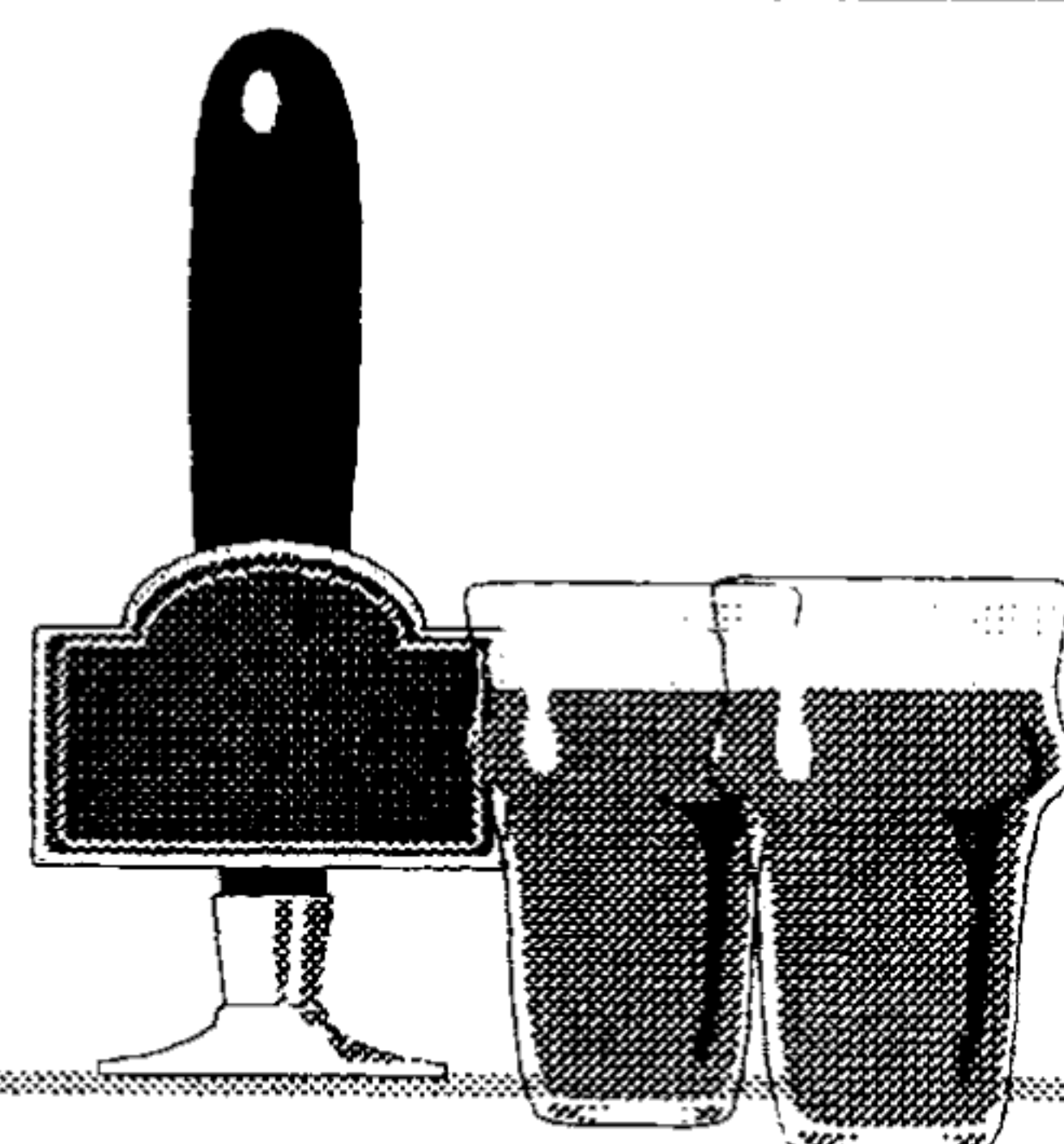
At the moment, these cases can be conducted in a very adversarial manner and they can get very emotional.

It also means councils and inspectors tend not to be presented with the facts in an unbiased and impartial way.

Trials of the Viability Test have already had some terrific feedback and it is hoped that the Department of the Environment, Transport, and the Regions will recommend its use to appeals inspectors.

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VALE EDGAR'S GOLDEN ALE 4.3%

BRAKSPEAR THREE SHEETS 5.0%

GREENE KING ABBOT 5.0%

MORLAND OLD SPECKLED HEN 5.2%



Local News

ASTON CLINTON

The Bell has been closed since before Christmas, and it has been taken over by *Vintage Inns*. It is expected to reopen in April.

AYLESBURY

Aylesbury has yet another pub! The latest is **Bar Med**, in Kingsbury Square, which opened just before Christmas. As expected, there is no real ale available.

The **Dairy Maid** was repainted last November and a lot of improvements made to the kitchen. Pete Jones is now the manager at this *Morrells* pub.

The **Hobgoblin** is hoping to expand the availability of its real ales in the near future by increasing the number of handpumps to nine. As a precursor to this, there will be a *beer festival* from the 30th January for one week. The beers on offer from the *Wychwood* brewery will be *Shires XXX*, *Special*, *Hobgoblin*, *Black Wych Stout* and *Fortune Teller*. There may also be guest beers but no decision had been made when we went to press.

There are various offers to be had at the **Hogshead**. They are offering their 'Featured Beer' (this was *Bateman's XB* in January) at £1 per pint during the day and a four pint jug for the price of three.

They are also doing a promotion for *Hoegaarden* drinkers, offering a free glass whilst stocks last.

BIERTON

The **Red Lion** has reverted to being an *Inn Business* tenancy after having been leased to *Eldridge Pope*.

The new tenants are Derek and Carol French. There are now four real ales available: *Tetley Bitter*, *Greene King IPA* and *Ind Coope Burton Ale*, plus a guest ale.

CUBLINGTON

The **Unicorn** was taken over by Alan Yates two days before Christmas, and will be run by Dan & Lorraine Kemp. The beers on offer when we visited were *Vale Wychert*, *Brakspear's Bitter*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and a guest ale.

The kitchen should be refurbished by March, and the intention is to offer traditional English home prepared food.

FORTY GREEN

The **Royal Standard of England** reopened in mid January after having been closed for over three months following a fire in the kitchen.

HADDENHAM

The **Green Dragon** is now being run by Peter & Sue Moffat since they took over towards the end of last year, with Paul Berry as the chef. They intend to provide both traditional and modern cooking as well as offering two real ales, namely *Vale Notley* and *Fullers London Pride*.

HAMBLEDEN

The **Stag and Huntsman** has had a lot of publicity following the use of the village in the making of the recent film *Sleepy Hollow*. Perhaps the Headless Horseman has found the ultimate hangover cure!

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Bricklayers Arms**, Downley, has had a new landlady in Nicola Barker since late November.

The **Dolphin**, Totteridge Road, has a new landlord, David Plevy.

The **Nags Head**, London Road is now **The Pride**. Owned by *Fiddlers Inns*, it is advertised as Wycombe's friendly gay pub. There is no traditional beer although some reasonable bottled beer (*Budvar*) may be possible. The landlady, since early December, is Sharon Evans, formerly of the **Gate** and the **Chairmakers Arms**, Lane End, the **Bell** and the **Skinners Arms**.

The **Queen** has had a new landlord Mickey Devlin, from 15th December. He has had a lot of experience in the licensed trade over 27 years. Previously at the **Red Lion**, a *Courage* pub at Appledode in Kent.

KNOTTY GREEN

The **Red Lion** has had a new landlord since the 7th of December. Frank Hindle has taken over the *Pubmaster* owned pub and is trying to make the most of the two

handpumps by offering *Tetley Bitter* as well as rotating *Marston's Pedigree*, *Wadworth 6X* and *Flowers Original*.

LANE END

Our apologies go to the **Osborne Arms** which we reported in the last issue as having been sold.

This is not the case and it was a complete mix-up on our part. We hope that our mistake did not cause too much inconvenience.

LITTLE HAMPDEN

Plans have been sent to Wycombe Council transform the **Rising Sun** which, along with so many of our country pubs, has been struggling recently. One plan would retain the pub and build two houses on the site. The other would close the pub to build three houses. If changes have to be made, surely the first plan is the only acceptable option!

LONG CRENDON

Monique Knight has retired as licensee at the **Churchill Arms** in order to run a guest house. The new manager, Andy Lockwood, and chef Heather Gilroy, plan to concentrate on British food.

MARLOW

It is not only our rural pubs that are under threat! The regulars of the **Bank of England** are fighting to keep it open. *Greene King* have said that they are considering selling the pub, so please go and sign the petition asking to have it kept as a pub.

Jessie Frew, landlady of the **Carpenters Arms** was taken into hospital in January following a stroke. All those associated with 'Swan Supping' send her their love and trust that she will soon make a full recovery.

The controversial remodelling of the **Clayton Arms** is due to start at the end of February.

The **Hand and Flowers** has applied for permission for a single-storey extension and the re-siting of its petanque court.

MORETON

The **Royal Oak** closed in early January. No news yet on its future.

EST. 1979

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(Continued on page 11)

BIERTON UPDATE

Recent changes are bringing wider choice in both the real ale and the food that is available in and around the village of Bierton, which is north east of Aylesbury on the Leighton Buzzard road.

OLD MOAT HOUSE

Firstly at nearby Broughton Crossing, the **Prince of Wales**, which had been closed for most of the summer, reopened on the 1st of October as **The Old Moat House**.

Part of a small pub group called *My Kinda Pub*, it is run by Dave and Jenny Matthews, ably assisted by Charmaine, all previously from Kent.

The emphasis here is on the food that can only be described as superb. All dishes are home prepared and cooked using top quality ingredients with fine attention to detail. There is a wide choice of menu with many traditional favourites, Sunday roasts and specials, complimented by an excellent wine list. Space is limited, so booking is recommended.

Dave is trying to develop the range of ales as the business develops and currently has two on offer: *Bass and Youngs Bitter* which replaces the previous *Worthingtons*. Both are on handpump.

Plans for the near future include new toilets downstairs, a new restaurant at the back of the pub and removal of two large pillars that have invaded the bar area. This will ensure that the existing bar remains the main drinking area and is separate from the restaurant. The log fire in there has been particularly welcoming on recent cold evenings.

BELL

Next, the ever-popular **Bell** in Bierton has increased its range of ales to five since October. In addition to the *Fullers* range of four ales, there is a different guest beer each month from an independent brewer. So far these have been: *Gales' GB*, *Morrells' Oxford Blue*, *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* and *Bateman's Hair of the Dog*. All are on handpump.

This pub, run by Dave and Vee White, has become a *CAMRA Good Beer Guide* regular. In addition to the beer, there is a wide range of food available seven days and nights a week (except jazz nights). All meals are home prepared and cooked; not frozen, the menu varies regularly with vegetarian options and specials of the day, and all this at prices which will surprise and delight the wallet.

Pub games have a strong following here and there teams in darts, crib, dominoes and football. Also on the last Sunday evening of each month live Jazz is a regular feature at the pub.

RED LION

The most recent change (but not the last) is at the **Red Lion**, which after several management changes in the recent past has reverted to tenancy once again. Whereas it was leased to *Eldridge Pope* by *Inn Business* this is the case no longer and it is now a tenancy for *Inn Business*.

New landlord and landlady are Derek and Carol French. Although new to the pub they are no strangers to Bierton as they ran the restaurant and

bar at the golf club, **Bob's Barn**. Taking over on Monday 13th December seems fairly daunting being so close to all the seasonal activities, especially as Carol was still working at their previous franchise in Redbourn. However, a lot of hard work has resulted in a wider range of ales and an extensive range of bar snacks being available before the end of the first week. A completely new restaurant menu is now available, with weekly specials and Sunday roasts, all home prepared.

There are now three regular ales: *Tetley Bitter*, *Greene King IPA* and *Ind Coope Burton Ale*. There is also a guest ale and to date this has been *Gales GB* and *Adnams Millennium*, and the next one is *Wells Bombadier*. It is planned to have the exterior repainted, very shortly to be followed by interior redecoration. The pub will also now be open all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

BOB'S BARN

The last change takes place on February the 1st when Derek French's son Michael takes over the bar and restaurant franchise at the golf club, **Bob's Barn**. More news of this in future issues. Meanwhile, we trust that this can only help the range of choice of real ale and food in the village.

That is a total of eleven different ales in the three pubs (not yet counting **Bob's Barn**). This must be the best range for many a year and makes me glad I moved to Bierton!

Mick White



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THE BLACK WYCH STOUT
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FROM
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The Carpenters Arms, Marlow



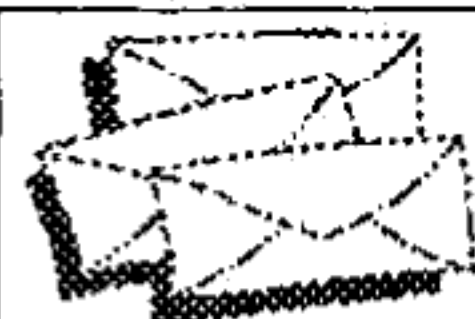
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Letters

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letters to the
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address.

As a great travel enthusiast I often spend my weekends away from Buckinghamshire and drink in other parts of the country or overseas.

However, on the weekend before Christmas an old friend had arranged to come and see me.

Like most of my old friends he enjoys his pubs and his beer so after an enjoyable excursion to Aylesbury to take in a football match, and naturally one or two beers we were keen to have a few more jars in the evening but within staggering distance of my home in central Wycombe.

I had been advised that apart from the large town centre pubs there were one or two nice little locals where it would be possible to catch up and reminisce over a quiet pint.

We found the **Hogshead** to be mobbed, the **Litten Tree** to be booming like a disco (which I had half expected) and the **Wetherspoon's** (the **Falcon**) to be quiet but very busy.

So having looked at the larger pubs we moved on to the "quiet locals". The **Bell** had loud amplified music (which at least was better than that coming from the **Litten Tree**), the **Mason's Arms** also had loud music and the **Belle Vue** which is quite a

small pub, was so loud that we did not get within 50 yards of it! Fortunately a refuge was found in the **Iron Duke** which had a pleasant burble in the bar and three well kept ales on tap.

I enjoy my music as much as the next person and often attend rock/pop concerts locally at the Wycombe Swan and elsewhere.

However I thought it was a shame that we had to hunt high and low to find a nice corner local to discuss the football, old times and the price of cheese!

Alistair Blackett

*(It seems that the managers of town centre pubs feel that they have to have loud music to attract an audience. It is nice to read that the **Falcon** was very busy without the use resorting to this tactic.*

*Music, especially very loud music, in pubs has been a subject of a lot of debate over the years, and the **Q** symbol (for a quiet pub) is all too rare in the **Good Beer Guide**.*

If any of our readers have any strong opinions on this (or any other) subject, why not write to 'Swan Supping' to air your views? - Ed.)

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The Clifden Arms



Beer Quiz



Just a quick quiz to help shake loose the cobwebs that will have gathered over the recent festivities.

There are no prizes, it is just for fun. **Answers on Page 6.**

1. What do labologists collect?
2. In terms of volume drunk, which is the worlds top selling beer?
3. In which county is the coastal resort called "Beer"?
4. What common surname refers to a maker of beer barrels?
5. Which beer had us believe it 'worked wonders'?
6. Which Watney's beer was reclassified to be sold without licence in the 70's?
7. Which European president used his official powers to prevent a takeover of his favourite brewery?
8. Which decade saw the introduction of keg beer to Britain?
9. Which brewery produces a beer called Barnstormer?
10. In the beer trade, for what is the abbreviation IPA?
11. The average British consumption of beer per capita is, 13.4, 32.8, 45.0 or 62.8 pints per year?
12. One of the strongest beers, brewed by Frog and Parrot in Sheffield, at 12.5 per cent proof, what's its name?
13. The expression of alcoholic proof is the percentage by volume at which temperature?
14. In the bible reference is made to prostitutes and publicans, what were publicans in those days?
15. From which country does Staropramen beer originate?
16. What is the literal translation of a German stein?
17. Holy Ail, a new beer launched by the Black Sheep brewery is made to commemorate 30 year of what?
18. From which country does Anchor Steam Beer and Porter come from?
19. At the turn of the century 'beer street' was held up as an example to a healthier lifestyle than which type of establishment?
20. In which London borough is Young's brewery?

*Questions supplied by Quizlink, suppliers of pub quizzes via the Internet at <http://www.quizlink.co.uk>
[Free Quizzes to registered charities for special events]*



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- * *Wycombe CAMRA* *
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Greene King IPA

Tetley Bitter

Ind Coope Burton Ale

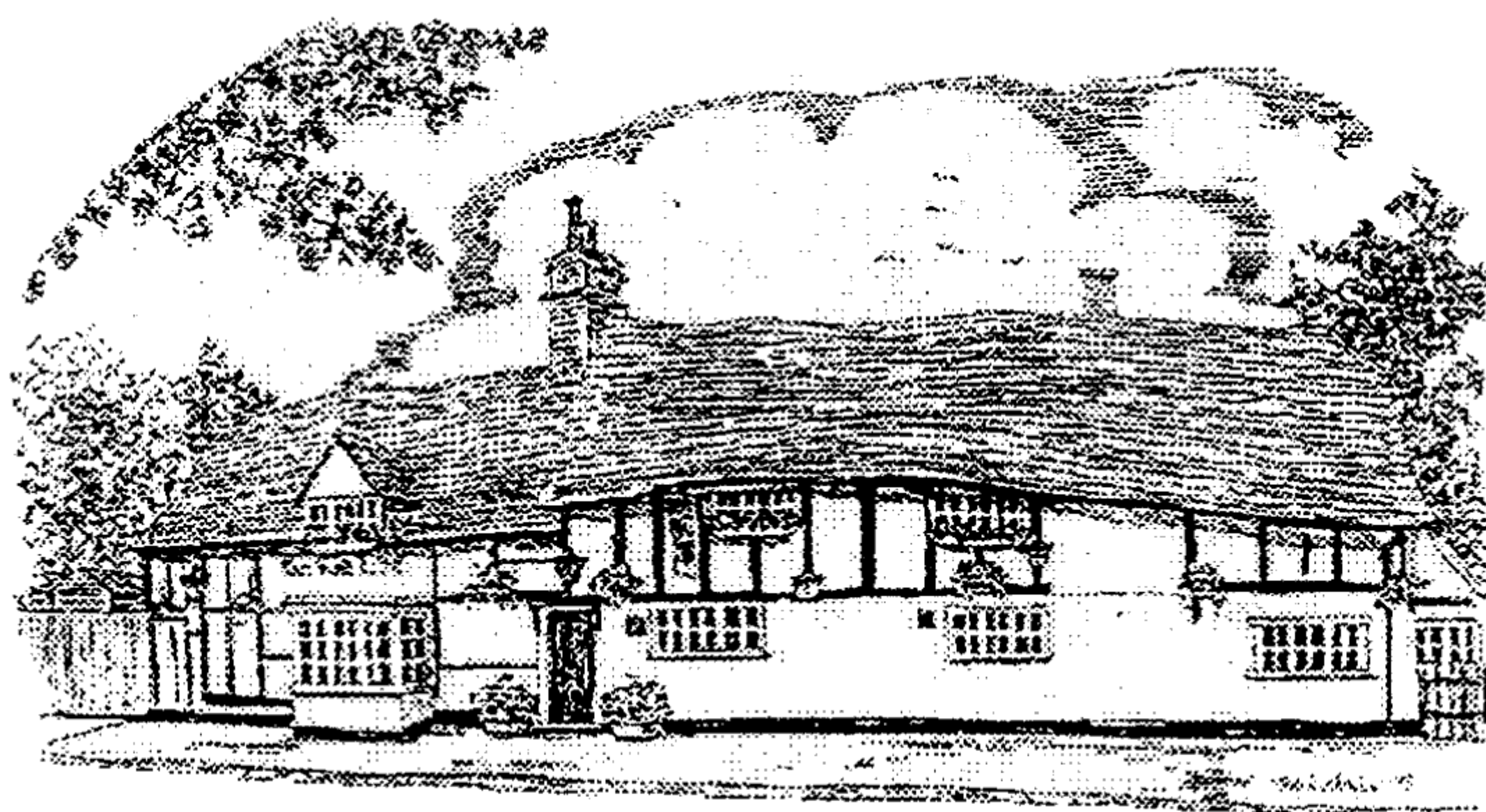
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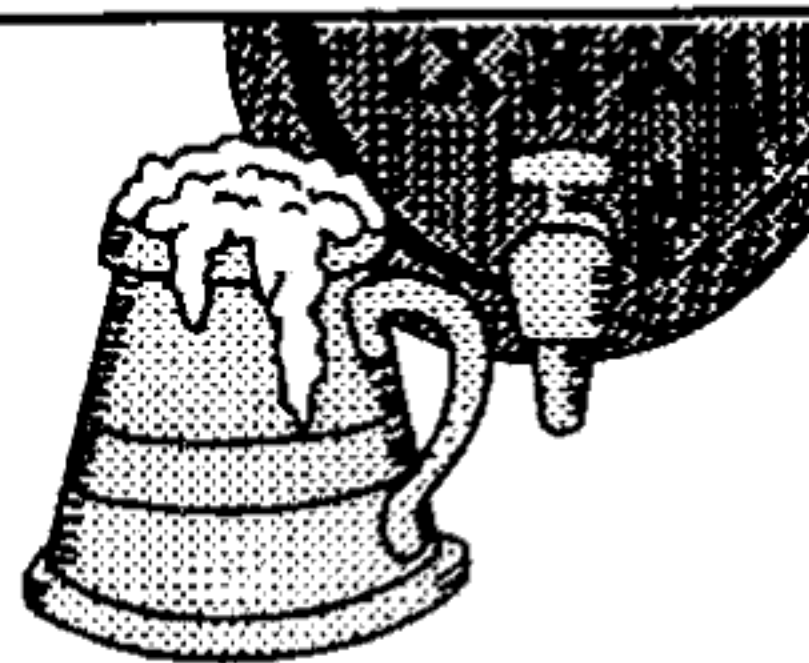
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BRAKSPEAR

We have heard that *Brakspear* are stopping doing their own deliveries.

These are going to be carried out by *Courage* and the existing draymen have been told that they are due to be made redundant on May 1st.

There have been constant rumours in the past about the transport problems the brewery has with access to their site in the centre of Henley.

These recent moves have fueled speculation that the unthinkable might happen and the historic brewery may close and a new brewery built outside the town.

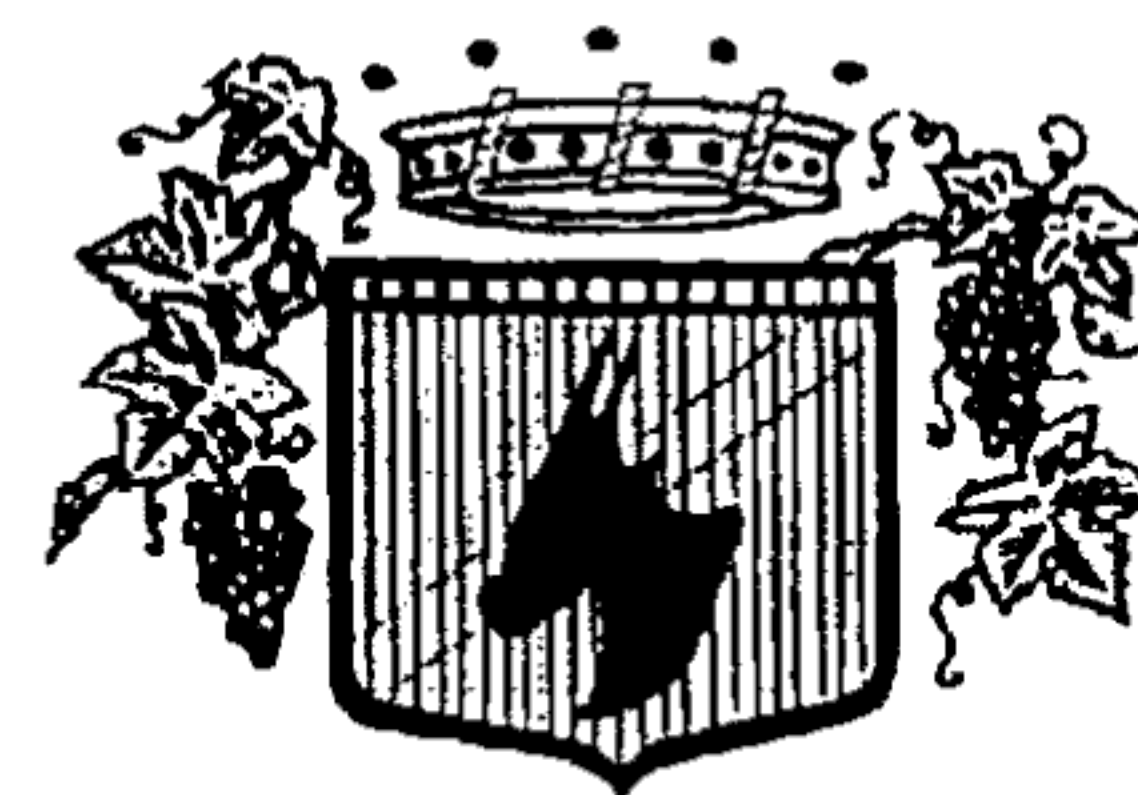
Needless to say, we will keep you up to date with any news that we receive.

OLD LUXTERS

The new Brewery Cellar/Shop should be open by Easter. This will more than double the amount of space available for sales.

They are also producing a new bottled beer called *Luxters Gold*.

This is a light coloured beer with an ABV of 5%. It is available in 33cl bottles.



REBELLION

The Marlow based brewers are due to take delivery of a new thirty barrel fermenter in February. This will take the brewing capacity up to about 100

barrels per week.

Available over the next few weeks are the new beers *Overdraught Ale* (4.3% ABV) and *Hammerhead* (4.5% ABV).

Sales of their bottled beer, *Rebellion Blonde* have gone very well, especially during the festivities, and they are hoping to be start exporting it in the near future.

? Quiz Answers ?

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Beer Labels | 9. Brakspear | 16. Stone |
| 2. Budweiser | 10. Indian Pale Ale | 17. Monty Python |
| 3. Devon | 11. 13.4 | [From the Holy Grail] |
| 4. Cooper | 12. Roger and Out | 18. America [San |
| 5. Double Diamond | 13. 20 Deg.C | Francisco] |
| 6. Red Barrel | [68 Deg.F] | 19. Gin Palaces |
| 7. Vaclav Havel | 14. Tax Collectors | 20. Wandsworth |
| 8. The 50's | 15. Czech Republic | |



Hogshead

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Beers available February/March

Harviestoun - Storm Force 4.2%

Tom Wood Lincolnshire Legend 4.2%

Smiles - Old Tosser 4.3%

Bunces - Sign Of Spring 5.2%

Hop Back - Flint Knapper 5.0%

Wychwood - Black Wych Stout 5.0%

Thwaites - Winter Warmer 4.6%

Hall & Woodhouse - Tanglefoot 5.1%

**Plus our Regular Ales - Brakspear,
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'Grandma's Quilt'

at the

KING'S HEAD

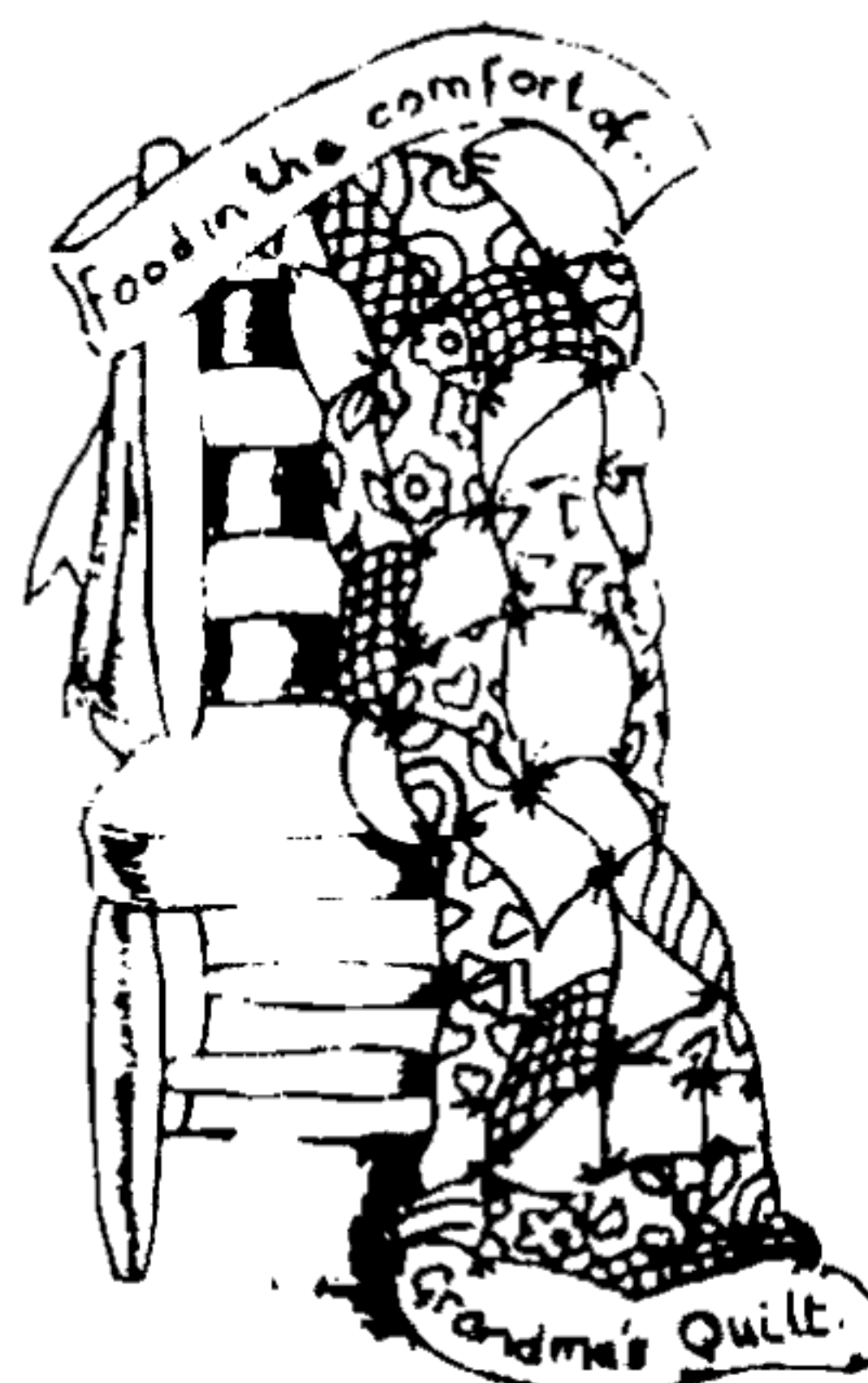
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Marston's Pedigree

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Book Review



THE REAL ALE PUB GUIDE 2000

I picked up a copy of "The Real Ale Pub Guide 2000" last week. The guide has been written by Graham Titcombe, landlord of the renowned **Bell Inn** at Pensax in Worcestershire and Nicholas Andrews a "Times" journalist and real ale enthusiast and lists over 2000 pubs selling beer from independent and micro breweries.

The guide seems to have been compiled by collating information received from the pubs themselves and is presumably therefore largely taken on trust.

However the pubs are often selected from recommendations sent to the authors indeed there are a large number of listed pubs which have been recommended by the public but where they have "heard favourable reports but have been unable to verify first hand".

I am not certain how Mr Titcombe and Mr Andrews verify these reports. I can't believe that they have visited all 2000 plus listed pubs personally! Suffice to say I know a fair proportion of those that are listed and concur with the write up of these

particular pubs. I also know many that fall into the "You tell us" (a sort of "Try also" in Good Beer Guide speak) and have to agree with the individuals that recommended them for inclusion. Local entries include **The Prince of Wales** in Marlow, **Derehams Inn** in Loudwater and **The King's Head** in Prestwood.

Inevitably, as with the *Good Beer Guide*, there may be the odd dud as ownership or management has changes. Interestingly enough this guide tells readers the name of the landlord of nearly all of the pubs. Sadly the guide lacks easy to read symbols popularised by the *Good Beer Guide* and other CAMRA publications and you have to glean all of the available information from the text.

The guide has an attractive red and white cover and is easy to use with pubs listed by town and county.

At £9.99 it is reasonable value and complements rather than replaces the *Good Beer Guide*.

It is published by Foulsham and the ISBN is 0-572-02555-6.

Alistair Blackett

Vic & Sue Hinde
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Sunday	Now Open on Sunday Evenings

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Crown and Anchor, Oxford Road, Marlow 01491 576100

all prices include VAT @ 17.5%

DEPARTURE OF AN OLD STAGER

The Nags Head has closed.

Such a short sentence to end a magnificent era. A name found in the memory of nearly anyone who was anyone in the music business.

So many great names have walked through those doors. From *Jimi Hendrix* to *John Otway*. The sublime to the ridiculous, perhaps.

It began in the second half of the Sixties when the Blues was a very popular form of music and the local Blues music club needed a new venue.

They decided to move the club to the Nags Head on the understanding that this might only be a temporary location. Well, after 30 years of the liveliest music scene imaginable, it did prove to be temporary.

The Blues Loft seemed at one time to be unstoppable. It survived everything from landlord changes to the departure of the controversial, larger-than-life figure of Ron Watts. Before long the downstairs bar also started to play host to bands.

It became possible for the big names to play upstairs and charge a set rate on the door and for lesser bands to play down-stairs and pass a hat round (usually it was a glass tankard). This did create the problem that an unknown band would start off playing downstairs; then get well enough known to move upstairs. There then always followed a period when people would refuse to pay to see the band upstairs "I saw them last week for free" but it did allow the good names to move up the ladder of success (Howard Jones?) and provide a venue for the local pub bands downstairs.

And what bands there were that became the local house-band at the Nags. Such names as the *Blues Shakers*, *Harlequin*, *Mafia*, *Travelling Shoes* and the first of them all, the one and only *Brewers Droop*. In the good times there was live music at the Nags five evenings and one lunch-time in one week. A truly permanent rock festival on our door-steps. It was also the stage where I once appeared in one of the worst bands to ever visit the pub.

The Nags also appealed to a wide variety of people. There were the office workers who went there for lunch-time refreshment (and who sometimes also came in there for extra after-work refreshment). In the evenings it was the music people. Bikers also made it their home.

The local branch of the Motorcycle Action Group met there. The doors were also open for the National Chopper Club and the (now defunct) and strangely named Herpes Motor Cycle Club (there's a story behind the name but it's nothing to do with the Nags Head).

On Sunday lunch-times families went there. In all, it was widely focussed.

Admittedly the music side had slipped a little. The big names stopped coming to the Nags something like twenty years ago. But it was a good venue, with its separate upstairs bar, and could have become great again. Good bands could have been brought back to the pub. The Nags need not have died.

So what have we got instead? The mighty Nags Head has become a gay bar called **The Pride**.

It is a matter of record that the previous two attempts at setting up gay bars in Wycombe were both failures. The town does not need a gay bar. The gay people that I've asked say that they are perfectly happy to go into a straight pub.

So what becomes of the place? If, as seems likely from past experience, the **Pride** will not attract enough custom to be viable then its future as a pub of any sort will be in jeopardy.

There is a strong feeling of anger in the town that somebody is going to get rich selling the site for development after it has been "proved" that it isn't viable as a pub. There are even some who believe that the owners hope that the pub will fail so it can then be sold. Although this seems unlikely to me, these cynics point to the fate of the **Morning Star** which was also once a successful music pub, then became a gay bar, then was sold as a redevelopment site.

As I say, I do not accept such a cynical view and I hope that the **Pride** becomes a success. But why kill off the live music?

So it's a sad goodbye to the Nags Head. Will the ghosts continue to haunt it? Listen closely. Could that be Bob Walker complaining about the cost of Guinness? Was that Paul Sharman's gravelly voice? Or has someone just shouted "Go for the beam, John."?

Elvis Evans

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 an ever-changing **Guest Beer**, lagers and wines, a food area and a real fire in winter.

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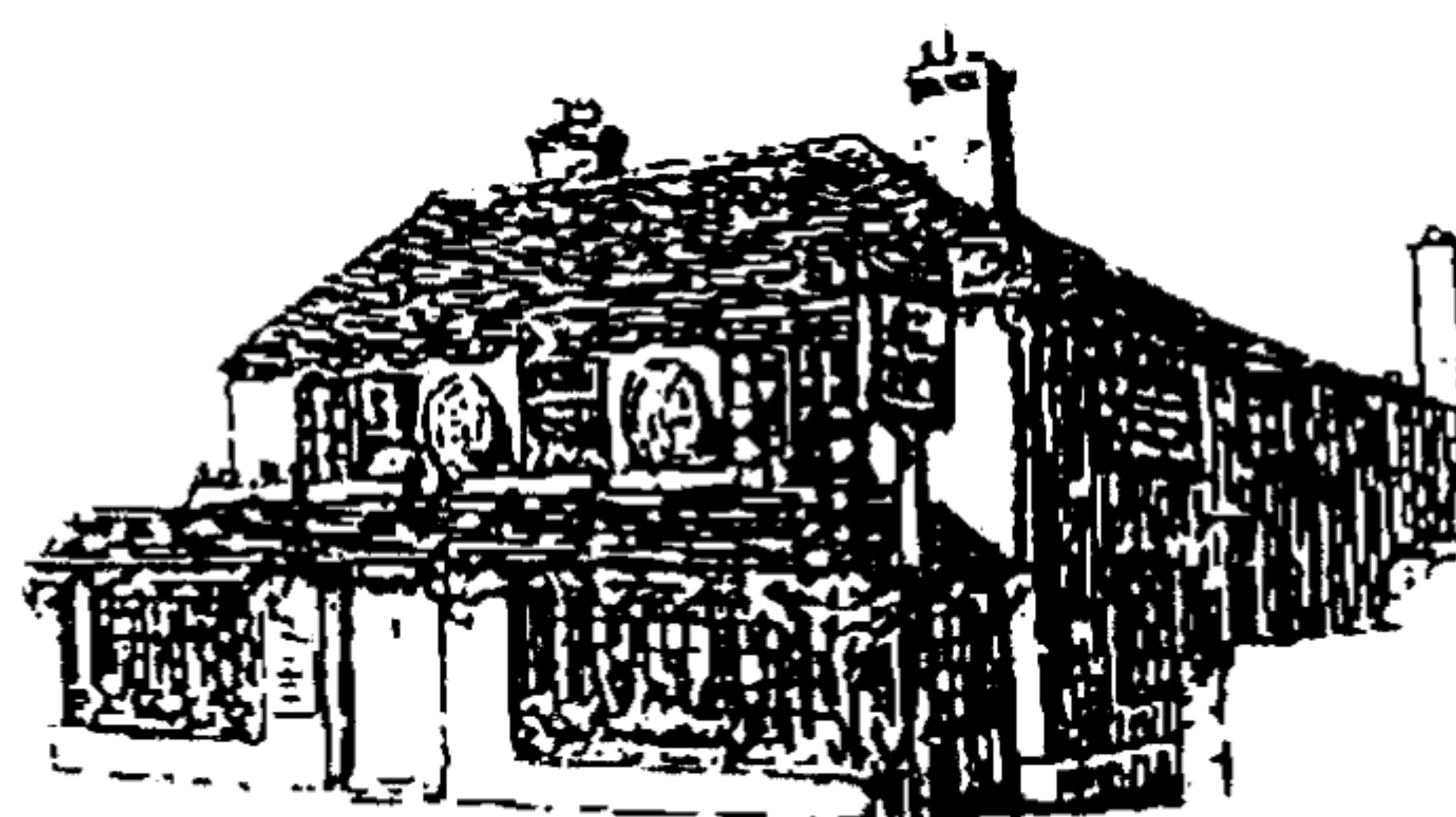
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THE BRICKMAKERS ARMS

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Bucks, HP14 3ND

Telephone & Fax : (01494) 881526



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

*Full range of real ales including:
Brakspears, Morrells & Adnams
and a regular Guest Beer
Plus Draught Budvar*

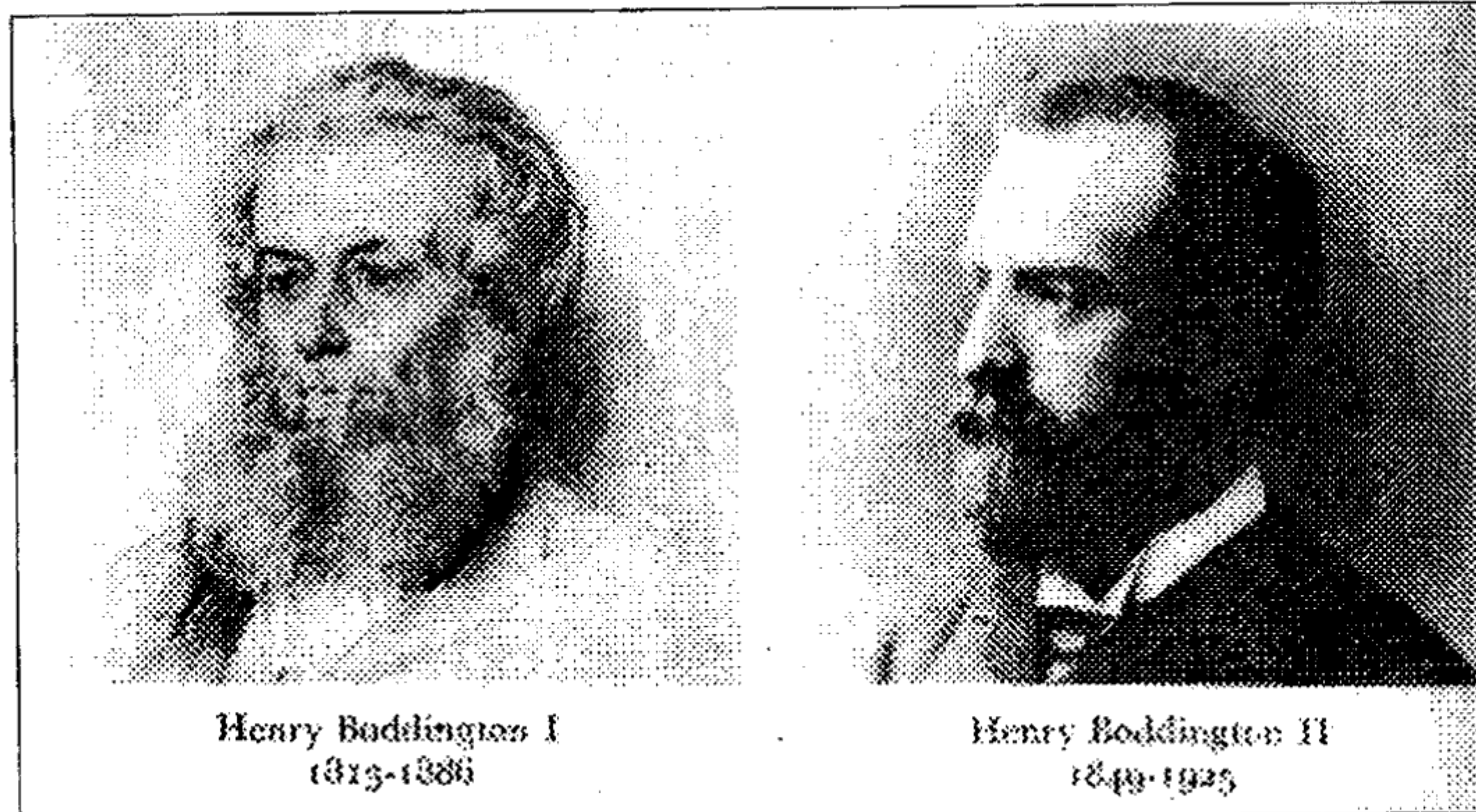
**A family pub run by
Gary and Jules Bishop**

BODDINGTONS - The Local Connection

The Strangeways Brewery famous for its *Boddingtons* beers was founded in 1778 by two men, Messrs. Caister and Fray.

Little is known about them but they had probably been connected with malting in some way. Manchester's population was increasing rapidly at the time due to the industrial revolution. Between 1773 and 1788 it increased from 22,000 to 43,000. The previous 21 years had seen a rise of only 2,000.

The new brewery was built on a site just past New Bridge Street, outside the town boundaries in order to avoid a tax on grain imposed by Manchester Grammar School. Mr Caister left the brewery and the new partners were



Henry Boddingtons I
1813-1886

Henry Boddingtons II
1849-1925

Messrs. Fray, Hole and Potter. Samuel Hole was from the Newark-on-Trent area and worked at the brewery for a time before becoming a partner. Mr Fray departed in 1809 and the brewery changed its name to Hole & Potter.

John Boddington started work at the brewery as a cashier/bookkeeper in 1831. His brother, Henry, joined at about the time of his 19th birthday in 1833. The Boddington family were corn-millers of some standing in their community for at least five generations, possibly back into mediaeval times. The first known in the direct line was Timothy Boddington who died in 1736 at Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire.

He was Timothy's great-great-grandfather. Timothy's eldest son John, took over the mill at Cuddington, Bucks, around 1712 together with its 84-acre farm. This produced high quality butter which was famed in Aylesbury. The property was still owned by his descendants before the First World War. John's three younger brothers stayed at the Steeple Barton mill.

After John's death in 1746, Cuddington mill was run by his son and grandson. John Boddington, Henry's father, was born there in 1777. On marrying in 1803, he bought the water mill at Thame and settled as a miller, farmer and corn dealer. Elizabeth, his wife, was the daughter of a Little Marlow farmer. Henry's education was at the local Dame School where he was the only boy. He was then sent to a school in a room in the Town Hall. This was near the Greyhound Inn at Thame where John Hampden died after the battle of Chalgrove Field.

Henry's parents fell on hard times and for a while they lived in London. A relative of theirs kept an inn. Henry's older brother, John, helped to maintain them and he subsequently advertised for a post as a mill foreman. He found one in Stockport and his next move was to Strangeways Brewery. John and Henry's father returned to Thame as parish overseer and surveyor of the parish roads as well as master of the workhouse. When he fell ill, Henry was taken from school aged 13, to look after these duties. Then he stayed on as his father's assistant. When he was 16 he made out the local auctioneer's Excise Returns and in 1831 he was appointed to carry out a census on the Thame population for which he was rewarded with a payment of £5. He was soon being offered other work, such as helping tradesmen with their accounts. He then moved to Manchester to work at the Strangeways Brewery with his brother.

Within a few weeks of starting work he had made his mark. One of the company's salesman/collecting clerks, a Mr Lockwood, had diverted sums of money for his own use. Henry was sent

out as a temporary replacement and given the task of quantifying the extent of the money embezzled. He was soon made permanent. His elder brother married in 1841 and Henry lived with them in Strangeways. John entered the hop trade but encountered financial difficulties. He became bankrupt and moved to the United States where he died in 1868.

Henry's rise at the brewery continued. Samuel Hole retired from the brewery. When junior partner Robert Harrison retired in 1842 his elder son took over and the company was renamed John Harrison & Co. John Harrison took Henry into partnership in the same year together with Harrison's younger brother, James.

Henry married Martha Slater in July 1847 and they had a son, Walter the following year. Walter died when he was 12 and another son died at the age of 20. Martha died at the age of 51 in 1871 leaving Henry with four children. He married Eliza Nanson from Sheffield in 1873. Together they had four more children.

Business began to decline as a result of the 1830 Beer House Act introduced by the Duke of Wellington. This gave anyone the right to sell beer for an annual licence fee of 2 guineas. The Harrisons withdrew from the business in 1852-3 and Henry Boddington became the sole proprietor. He lived "over the shop" and introduced many changes to the brewing practices such as brewing daily. Eventually up to ten brews were made in a single day. Slowly he managed to raise the brewer's output and by 1872 his sales had trebled. He bought the Bridge Brewery in Burton-on-Trent in 1869 in order to make the fashionable pale beers of the time. Henry's son, also Henry, was put in charge of the new acquisition. In 1873 Henry senior took his son into partnership and gave him full management of the business at the age of 23.

The company now traded as Henry Boddington & Son and the company continued to expand. It produced 25% more than its nearest rivals, *Threlfalls* and *Deakins*. By 1877 30 firms had annual production in excess of 100,000 barrels. These included *Bass*, *Guinness*, *Truman*, *Ind Coope*, *Watneys*, *Flowers*, *Tetleys*, *Youngers*, *Charrington*, *Worthington*, *Whitbread* and *Boddingtons*. So the company continued to expand until its eventual takeover by *Whitbread* in the 1980s.

Bryan Spink

Source Book - "200 Years of Beer" by Michael Jacobson. Published 1978 by *Boddingtons Breweries Ltd*.

Old Luxters
Brewery



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Ales
and Bottle
Conditioning

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Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

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Youngs Bitter
Guest Beers

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Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

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Please note: We are closed for
Thursday Lunchtimes

London Events

11th BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL

February 9-12 (Wednesday-Saturday): Battersea Town Hall, Town Hall Road (at rear of Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill), London SW11 (near Clapham Junction BR).

110 kils of beer from around the country, plus traditional ciders and perries, Gales country wines, together with Dutch, Belgian and German beers. Food available at lunchtimes and evenings.

Free LA beer and soft drinks for drivers. Family room available on Saturday. Open Wednesday 5-11pm; Thursday and Friday 12-11pm; Saturday 11-6pm. Admission £2 (£1 before 7pm on Wednesday & £2.50 after 4pm on Friday).

£1 discount for CAMRA members at all times.

LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

March 22-24 (Wednesday-Friday), at the Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 (close to Kings Cross/St Pancras). Open Wednesday and Thursday 12-3pm, 5-10.30pm; Friday 12-10.30. Last admission 10pm.

CAMRA members admitted free Wednesday & Thursday lunchtime, and for 50p up to 1pm on Friday, at £1.50 all other times (non-members £2.50).

A range of regional beers, beers rarely seen in London, cider, perry and imported beers. Hot and cold food.

Live music from Wolfie Witcher and his Brew on Friday evening.

Breweriana auction Wednesday evening.

Thursday quiet night.



EC4 Explore Friday 18th February

The route of the City of London pub crawl is as follows:-

5.30 - 6 **Lamb**, Leadenhall market,

6.10 **Bell**, Bush Lane, near Cannon Street station

6.45 **Sea Horse**, 92 Queen Victoria Street

7.15 **Cockpit**, 7 St Andrews Hill

7.45 **Blackfriars**, 174 Queen Victoria Street

8.30 **Harrow**, 22 Whitefriars Street

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

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

.....

.....

..... 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)

The Bell



Birtton

Dave & Vee White
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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

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UNTIL MARCH**

*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

FEBRUARY: SHEPHERD NEAME MASTER BREW BITTER

The Bell, Aston Clinton

The **Bell** at Aston Clinton has been closed since before Christmas.

Rumours were circulating that it had been sold to **Bass**. This seemed unbelievable at first, but it has turned out to be true!

The **Bell** was a free house for years, run by the Harris family, father Gerard and then son Michael. At one time it had an envious reputation as a superb restaurant, lauded in food guides and magazines and frequented by world famous celebrities. Unfortunately it was never noted for its beer; occasionally they used to sell bitter from a lukewarm cask or polypin behind the bar with a price intended to discourage serious beer drinkers.

What of the future? It will be run by

Vintage Inns which is a division of the brewing giant **Bass**. **Vintage Inns** specialise in food but do also sell real ale.

Nearby pubs in the same chain are the **Firecrest** near Wendover and the **Five Bells** at Weston Turville.

The **Bell** is expected to re-open on the 25th April according a spokesman from **Vintage Inn's** head office in St Albans. The hotel part of the business will remain with family.

Three other **Vintage Inns** (just outside our area) will be opening this summer: The **Dragonfly** at Edlesborough, the **Minnow** at Leighton Buzzard and the **Fox & Hounds** at Woburn, Beds.

Nick Holt

Inn Business

Inn Business pubs now have a wider choice of guest beers.

Under the trading agreement to sell beers from **Carlsberg-Tetley**, the 'Tapsters Choice' scheme has until recently meant that only one beer at a time was available throughout the estate. Sometimes this was a beer from **Carlsberg-Tetley** themselves, sometimes something on C-T's approved guest list. (*Adnams Broadside* was the 'Choice' a month or so back).

Now their pubs can choose from a list of about a dozen real ales.

There are several **Inn Business** pubs near Aylesbury, e.g. **White Hart** at Quainton, **Rose & Crown** at Wingrave, **Carpenters Arms** at Stewkley.

Punch Taverns have now taken over **Inn Business** as well as **Allied Domecq's** pub estate.

Perhaps we shall see changes to **Allied's** theme pubs such as **Big Steak**, **Mr Q's**, and **Firkin**. We have heard that **Inn Business's** head office at the Firs in Whitchurch is to be closed in mid May with, no doubt, numerous redundancies.

Nick Holt

Local News (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

NORTHEND

Regulars at the **White Hart** are worried about their pub and have held meetings in the village hall to discuss its future. We will keep you up to date with any developments.

However, there was a chimney fire in January that resulted in the landlord having to be rescued from the roof by the fire brigade. Necessary repairs have been carried out by the brewery.

THAME

The **Birdcage**, owned by the **Unique Pub Company**, has been closed for refurbishment and it is due to reopen on the 1st of February. There will be three real ales on offer, **Marston's Pedigree**, **Old Speckled Hen**, and **John Smith's Bitter**, although these will probably change on a regular basis.

TYLERS GREEN

Yet again, there is a sign outside the **Queens Head** saying 'Under New Management'

WADDESDON

The **Bell** has a new tenant, Nigel Bradshaw, who arrived in January. There were fears for the pub after the previous landlady breached her contract by selling beer not supplied by **Inn Business**.

WEST WYCOMBE

The **Old Plough** is to be under new management from the end of January. Its lease from the **National Trust** has been sold, but we have no news yet about who is to be taking over.

WOOBURN GREEN

There is a new landlord at the **Rose & Crown**.

Branch Contacts

Chairman	David Roe	01296 484551
Treasurer	Tony Gabriel	01494 527884
Secretary	Nick Holt	01296 483554
Bierton	Mick White	01296 428266
Beaconsfield	Colin Staines	01494 674427
Bledlow Ridge	Ben Walter	01494 481459
High Wycombe	Elvis Evans	01494 511248
Marlow	John Williamson	01628 486378
Stokenchurch	John Bazin	01494 483039
Wendover	John & Tina Wood	01296 625215

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



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.

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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	



Beer Festival Diary

February

4-5 (Fri-Sat): CHESTERFIELD BEER FESTIVAL, at the Winding Wheel, 13 Holywell Street, Chesterfield
4-5 (Fri-Sat): DORCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL 2000, at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester
4-6 (Fri-Sun): TEWKESBURY MILLENNIUM WINTER ALE FESTIVAL, at the White Bear, Bredon Road, Tewkesbury
4-5 (Fri-Sat): 7th WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES, at the Maison Dieu, Town Hall, Dover
9-12 (Wed-Sat): 11th BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL, Battersea Town Hall, Town Hall Road (at rear of Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill), London SW11 (nr Clapham Junction BR). See Page 10 for further details.
11-12 (Fri-Sat): SALISBURY WINTERFEST III -- CAMRA's smallest beer fest, at Castle St Social Club, Salisbury
17-19 (Thu-Sat): 3rd BRISTOL BEER FESTIVAL, at the Council House, College Green, Bristol
17-20 (Thu-Sun): 2nd GAINSBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL, at the Eight Jolly Brewers, Ship Crt, Gainsborough
17-19 (Thu-Sat): 10th SUSSEX BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, at Hove Town Hall, Norton Rd, Hove (10 mins walk from Hove Stn).
23-26 (Wed-Sat): LIVERPOOL BEER FESTIVAL, at the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt Hall, Brownlow Hill.
23-26 (Wed-Sat): 8th ROTHERHAM OAKWOOD REAL ALE & MUSIC FESTIVAL, at Oakwood School on Moorgate Road
24-26 (Thu-Sat): BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL, at the Victoria Hall, Saltaire
24-26 (Thu-Sat): 18th FLEETWOOD BEER FESTIVAL, at the Marine Hall, The Esplanade, Fleetwood
24-26 (Thu-Sat): 17th RUGBY CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL, at the Railway (LMRCA) Club, Hillmorton Rd
24-26 (Thu-Sat): THE 3rd STOURBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL, at the Stourbridge Town Hall
25-26 (Fri-Sat) WINTERFEST VIII -- Gosport's Winter Beer Festival, at Thorngate Halls, Bury Road, Gosport

March

10-11 (Fri-Sat): SOUTH DEVON BEER FESTIVAL, at the St Johns Ambulance Hall, East Street, Newton Abbott
16-19 (Thu-Sun): DARLINGTON SPRING THING BEER FESTIVAL 2000, at the Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington
16-18 (Thu-Sat): LEEDS BEER, CIDER & PERRY FESTIVAL in association with Yorkshire Evening Post, at Pudsey Civic Hall
16-18 (Thu-Sat): 13th WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL, at the Mill at the Pier, Wigan
22-24 (Wed-Fri): LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, at the Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 See Page 10 for further details.
24-25 (Fri-Sat): HITCHIN BEER FESTIVAL, at the Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin (1 mile from Hitchin Stn)



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

February

Tuesday 1st TYLERS GREEN TODDLE
 8:00pm Horse & Groom, 9:00pm Old Queen's Head,
 10:00pm Horse & Jockey
Thursday 10th BIERTON & BROUGHTON SOCIAL
 8:45pm Old Moat House (Broughton Crossing), 9:30pm Red Lion, 10:15pm Bell
Friday 18th EC4 EXPLORE (CITY OF LONDON PUB CRAWL)
 Start 5:30pm Lamb, Leadenhall Market
 Full details on Page 10
Wednesday 23rd BRANCH AND GBG SELECTION MEETING
 8:30pm Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover
Monday 28th LOUDWATER SOCIAL
 9:00pm Happy Union, 9:40pm White Blackbird, 10:15pm Dereham's Inn

March

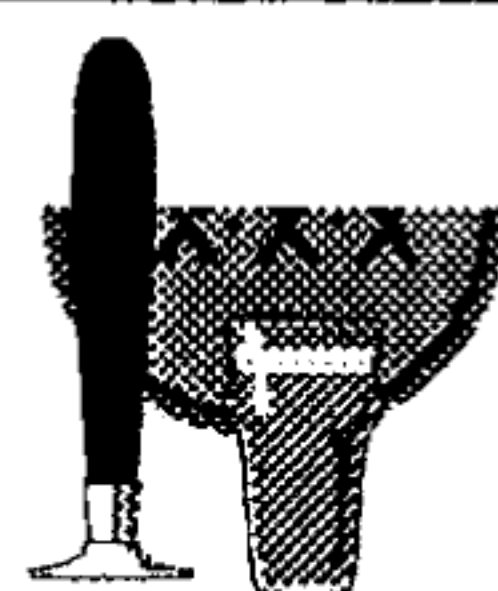
Monday 6th AYLESBURY SOCIAL (AND FURTHER GBG SELECTIONS)
 9:00pm Hogshead (off Market Square)
Monday 13th FINAL GBG SELECTION MEETING
 9:00pm Rose & Crown, Saunderton
Wednesday 22nd LONDON DRINKER SOCIAL
 Informal social at London Drinker Beer Festival -- let us know when you can get there!
Tuesday 28th LACEY GREEN MEANDER
 8:00pm Pink & Lily, 9:00pm Whip, 10:00pm Black Horse

April

Friday 14th -- Sunday 16th NATIONAL AGM IN DERBY

June

Saturday 24th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP
 Full Details in the April/May Issue of *Swan Supping*



**CAMRA
 GREAT BRITISH BEER
 FESTIVAL 2000**
 1st - 5th August, London Olympia

Swan Supping

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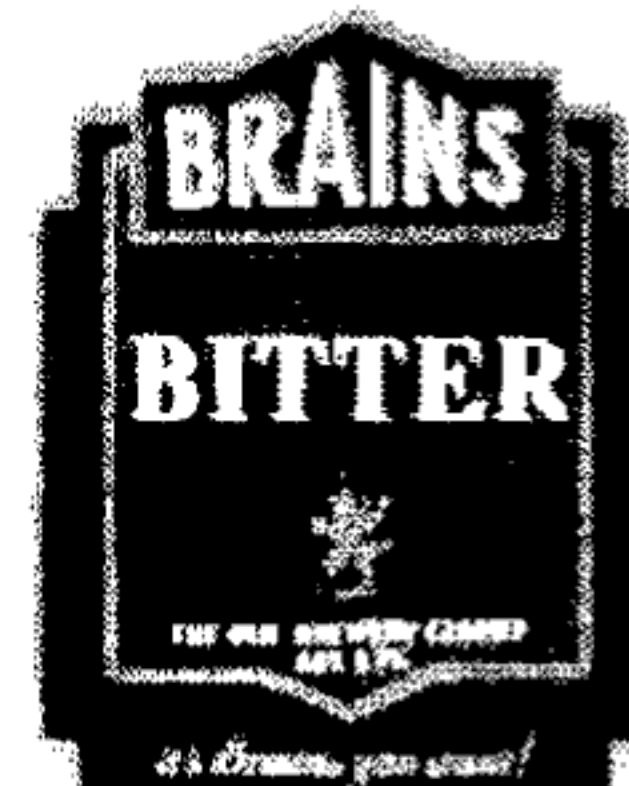
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