



Swan Supping

FREE

Issue 12



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe

JUNE/JULY 1999



RIGHT TO HAVE GUEST ALES THREATENED



Win FREE Entry Tickets
for Britain's Biggest Beer
Festival

See Page 4

The right of pubs to take a guest beer from another brewery, which was earned following the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report, is under attack from various fronts.

Whitbread are bidding to acquire the pub estate belonging to Allied-Domecq, which would make them the country's biggest pub retailer with more than 7,000 outlets. If the plan succeeds, they will have to sell off their few remaining breweries to comply with the current Beer Orders.

They would then be able to follow the letter of the law, but not the spirit, by cancelling the guest ale rights enjoyed by Whitbread Pub Partnership tenants and Vanguard lessees.

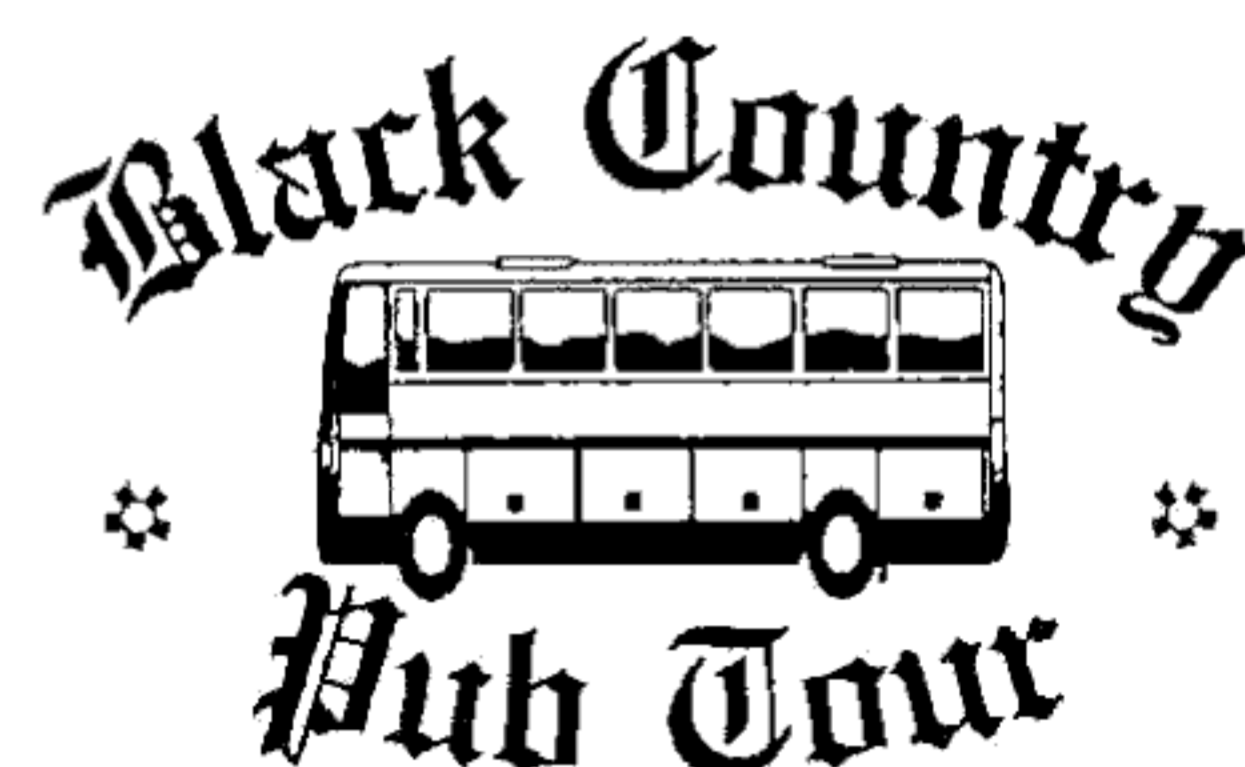
CAMRA's National Chairman, Dave Goodwin, spoke of the concern felt about the knock-on effect for regional and microbrewers who currently sell guest beers to these pubs.

'It's the biggest single threat to micros we've seen,' he said. 'The guest beer market is a vital lifeline for many of them. It's their only way into the pub market and many of them could go out of business if Whitbread refuse to take guest beers'.

It is not only Whitbread that are causing concern. Before the closure of Morrells brewery in Oxford, their tied estate of 132 pubs were allowed to have guest beers, despite not being forced to do so under the Beer Orders.

However, the new pub group have revoked this right and some of their landlords have contacted us and voiced their worries about this development. Guest beers ADD to the popularity of the pub and make the pubs more viable by increasing overall beer sales.

**WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO
TOLERATE THIS RESTRICTION
OF CONSUMER CHOICE?**



Saturday
26th June

Why not join us on our
annual visit to some of the
best pubs in the country?

Spaces still available
See Page 10 for full details



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

EXCITING NEW RESTAURANT MENUS

LARGE & PLEASANT BEER GARDENS

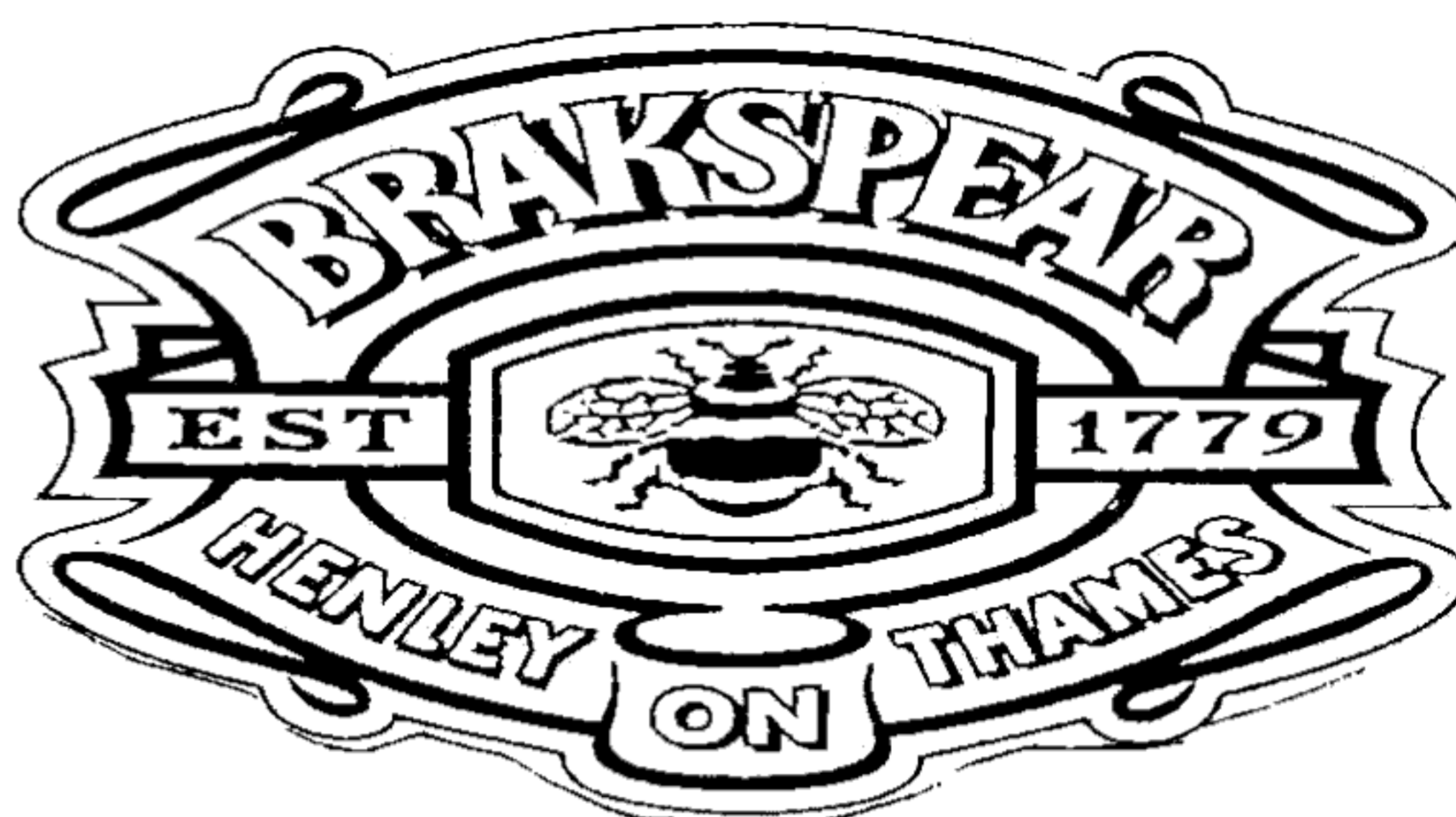
EXTENSIVE BAR FOOD MENU

RESTAURANT OPEN SUNDAY EVENINGS

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION
ON WEEKLY EVENTS PLEASE CALL

01296 622299

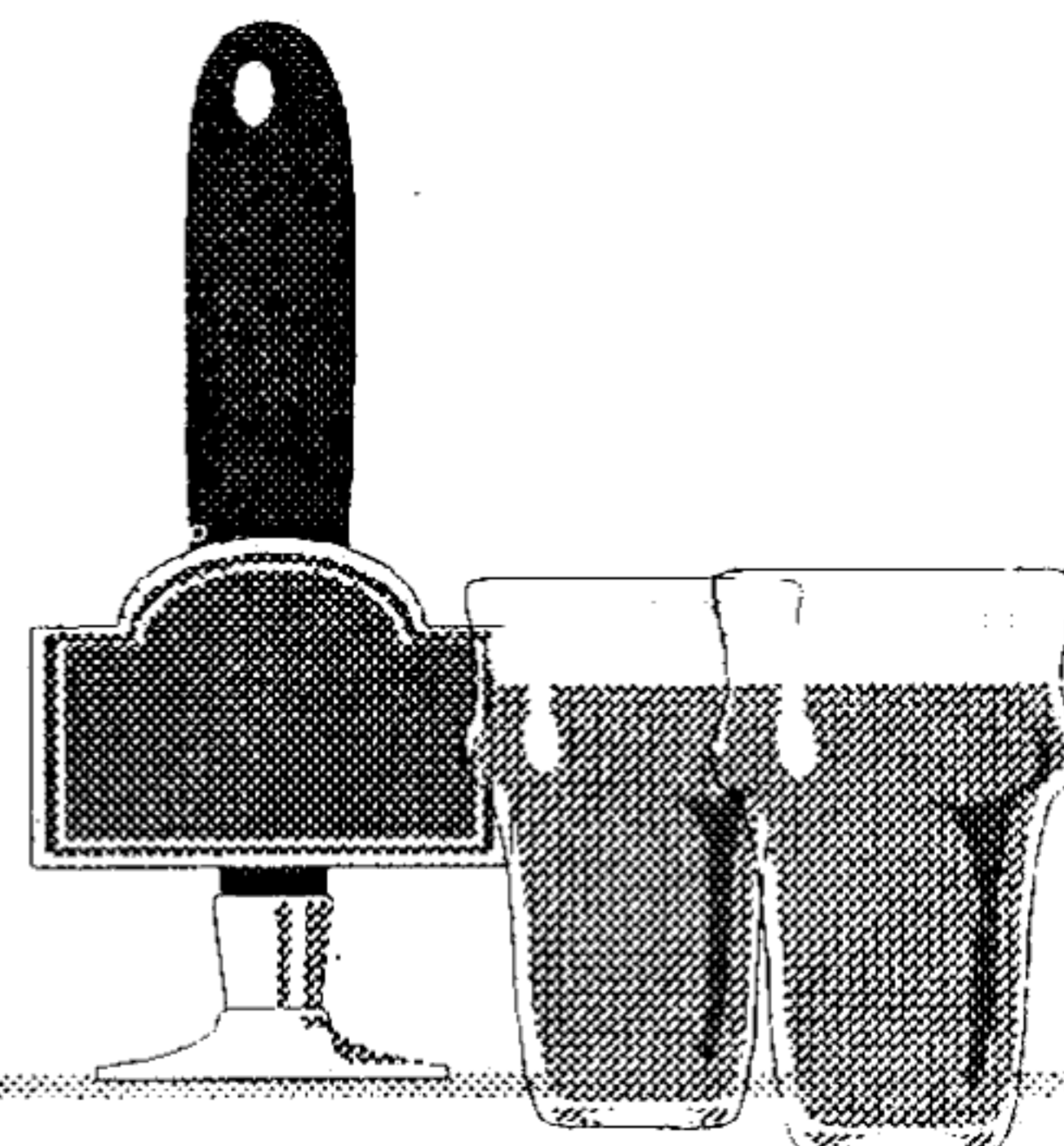
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BRAKSPEAR BEE STING 4.7%
BRAKSPEAR OLD ALE 4.1%
REBELLION SMUGGLER 4.3%

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Local News

ASTON CLINTON

The **Oak** is to celebrate being 500 years old by holding a *beer festival* between **Friday 6th and Sunday 8th of August**. A marquee will be erected over the patio area and, weather permitting, there will be seating for over 100 people in their award winning garden. There will be a pig roast on the Saturday. The list of beers was undecided at the time of going to press.

AYLESBURY

The **Aylesbury Duck**, the new *Morlands* pub with the **Family & Friends** theme on Jackson Road, opened on the 22nd of May.

This seems to be an excellent compromise between a community pub and a place to take a family.

There is a separate bar for the 'over 18s' with a raised area for a pool table, a separate darts playing area and the ubiquitous large TV showing all the sports events.

The other bar caters solely for families eating and drinking. There is a padded climbing frame in the Children's play area and a large TV in the 'Cinema' showing the Disney channel.

They have three real ales on the handpump at present: *Morlands*

Independent IPA, Old Speckled Hen and Ruddles County.

There has been a lot of controversy due to the pub sign. The first one showed a Mallard, not an Aylesbury Duck and will be auctioned off for charity. *Morlands* arranged for a replacement, but duck fanciers have pointed out that the new one is a picture of a Pekin Duck. Lets hope that the sign is sorted out before we all go quackers!

John and Julie Burrell have become the new managers at the **Farmyard & Firkin**.

The **Huntsman** has had a new landlord since April. Although the pub has been painted green and had what looks to the layman like shamrock logos (it is actually clover!) all round, it is essentially the same as before. When visited, there were three real ales: *Fullers London Pride, Ruddles Best*, and most surprisingly *Harveys Bitter*.

The tenancy of **Queens Head** has changed hands. Ian Brown left at the end of April and two local businessmen, Les Shardlow and John Haydon (well known for

organising the Haddenham Ceilidhs), have taken it over with the express intention of keeping the pub exactly the same as it is.

Christina Smith will become the joint licensee and will be in charge of the day to day running of the pub. Upcoming guest beers include *Tisbury Old Wardour, Beartown Bearskinful* and *Caledonian Golden Promise*.

One minor change is that the pub opens half an hour later each day at 11:30am.

CADMORE END

At the **Blue Flag**, Vicki Chevis, the widow of Ken Chevis, who sadly died in March, is determined to carry on the business despite her loss, and has said that the combined pub, restaurant and hotel is not up for sale.

It did not, however, take too long after the death for the vultures to begin making inquiries. They started ringing up about it on the day after the funeral!

The tragedy at the **Blue Flag** caused us to miss out the changes at the **Old Ship** last issue. Ray Court and Sue Hewitson have replaced Ken Smith who left in February.

FORD

The **Dinton Hermit** is being advertised for sale at £350,000. Looks like a visit to the Lottery Ticket shop is in order!!

GREAT KIMBLE

The **Bernard Arms** has reopened after having been closed for less than a week when the landlord left after being unable to meet his VAT bill. It is now an **Oast House Inn** run by Fraser Shackelton who was previously at the **Three Horeshoes** in Watford. They are currently serving *Adnams Best Bitter, Benskins Bitter, Fullers London Pride* and a guest beer which was *Hook Norton Old Hooky* when last visited.

HADDENHAM

The **Green Dragon** is being advertised in 'The Licensee' as being for sale.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The plastic coating has come off the **Beaconsfield Arms**. Despite objections from the regulars, it has become a **Mr. Q's**, but there is a ray of hope with a solitary handpump that has been spotted.

The **Bell**, Frogmore, is under new management. They are still selling *Fullers London Pride* and *ESB*.

The **Litton Tree**, the new all purpose pub opposite the **Bell**, will be opening shortly. I trust they are not counting on too much trade from the building next door - it's the Salvation Army Hall.

The **Roundabout** is currently being refurbished.

KINGSWOOD

The **Plough & Anchor** reopened on April 16th after having been closed since January. Major work inside includes the ceiling being raised at one end to expose the oak and elm beams and an open fireplace being installed. Work is continuing as the pub is being extended into the barn adjoining the pub. Although the landlords, Paul Ring and Duncan Harris, intend to concentrate on the food side, offering freshly prepared food, home made bread and pasta.

Drinkers will be welcome and they have two real ales, *Ruddles County* and *Morlands Old Speckled Hen*, both of which are served on gravity.

LITTLE KIMBLE

Planning permission has been applied for to build two houses on the site of the **Kimble Diner**, previously the **Crown**, which we reported as closed last issue.

LOUDWATER

The **White Blackbird** has reopened as a pub and is currently serving one real ale: *Courage Best*.

MARLOW

Colin Wiley, the landlord of the **Hogshead**, is offering twenty pence a pint off cask conditioned beers as long as they are not part of any other promotion. This is only available to CAMRA members on production of their membership cards.

OVING

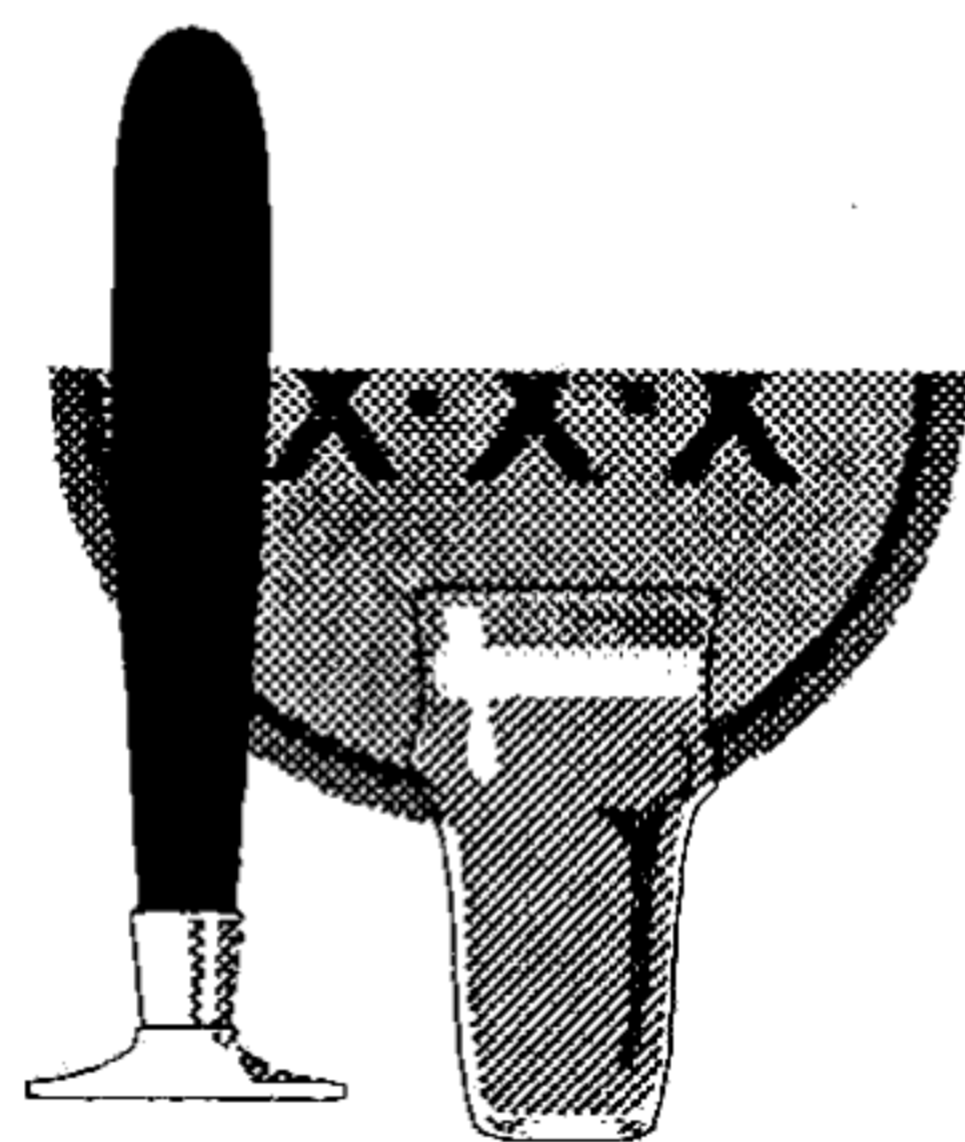
Danny and Pat Kinnard left the **Black Boy** at the end of May. They are taking over the **Fox & Hounds** at Whittlebury, Northants. The **Black Boy**, which belongs to Tudor Inns & Taverns, was the AVDC pub of the year in 1997. There were no details on the new landlord at the time of going to press.

POSTCOMBE

There is to be a *beer festival* at the **England's Rose** pub over the weekend of July 16th - July 18th. There will be 20 real ales on offer.

(Continued on page 8)

BEER FESTIVAL



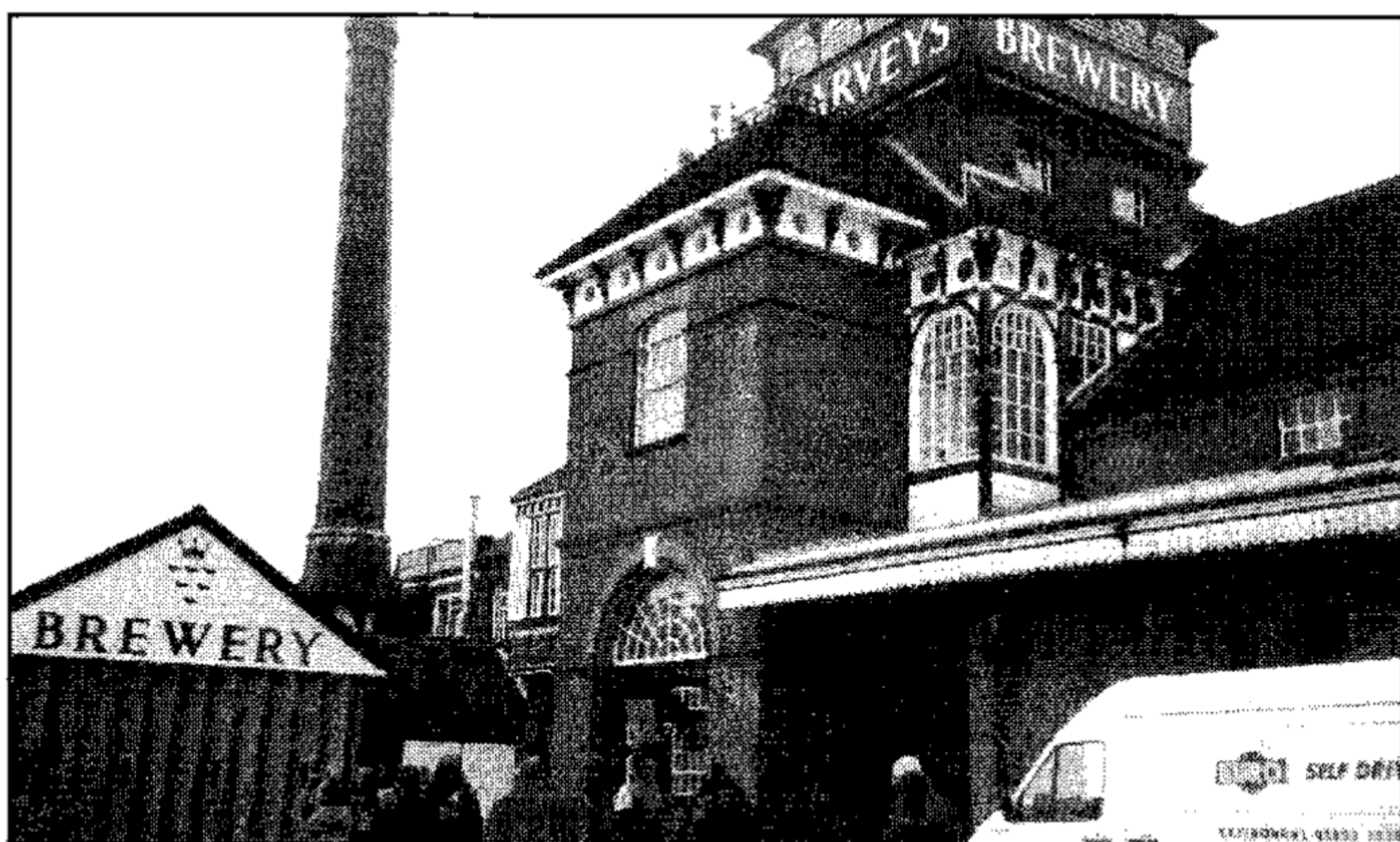
July 16th - July 18th
20 Real Ales
Free Camping Available

England's Rose
London Road
Postcombe

Tel: 01844 281383
for details



BRANCH VISIT TO CAMRA A.G.M. & HARVEYS BREWERY



CAMRA held its national AGM and conference in April and one of the highlights of a busy weekend was a trip to **Harvey's Brewery**. The AGM took place in Hove and there were plenty of fine pubs to be visited both there and in nearby Brighton.

A sunny Friday afternoon got off to a fine start with a couple of excellent pints at the **Evening Star**, just a stone's throw from Brighton Station. Most notable was their *Skinners Dark Mild* brewed on the premises, one of nine real ales from microbreweries available at this beer drinker's mecca.

Many other excellent Brighton pubs

were tried that evening, mostly off the main tourist beat. I particularly liked the **Prestonville**, a **Gales** pub in a quiet neighbourhood.

Most of Saturday was taken up with business sessions at Hove town hall, debates and seminars. The lunch break allowed the chance to taste a range of **Harveys** beers at the **Eclipse**, a very pleasant nineteenth century urban pub with horseracing connections.

Some of us had to leave a seminar about the future of country pubs halfway through in order to catch the double decker bus which had been laid on for our trip to Lewes, 10 miles east

of Hove. What wasn't appreciated by those on the tour was that one of speakers at the aforementioned seminar was Miles Jenner, the head brewer of **Harveys** and that he should have been on the bus as well! So the brewery tour commenced somewhat late after Mr Jenner was brought to Lewes by taxi while the visitors awaited his arrival at a nearby pub.

Miles Jenner is obviously very proud of his brewery, its products, and its adherence to traditional methods. The company was established in 1790 beside the river Ouse at a time when the malt could be brought to Lewes by river and unloaded at the brewery on the wharf. The process would have been steam powered then and **Harveys** even ran a coal haulage business as a sideline for a time. The present brewhouse and tower are of Victorian origin and the tower is such a prominent local feature that its local nickname is 'Lewes Cathedral'.

After our tour, we retired to the sample area to try the full range of the beers. A sign above the door says 'God Bless us Everyone' - I'll drink to that!

Harveys have over 40 tied pubs and many more free trade outlets and along with **Gales** and **King & Barnes** are one

of the main established independent brewers supplying the south coast. It was a fascinating tour for the 50 members who attended. Many thanks to Miles Jenner, especially for the intriguing brewery history.

We don't often see **Harveys** beers in Buckinghamshire, but if you come across them at a beer festival or in Sussex do try them - there are some really tasty milds, bitters, stronger ales as well as seasonal beers such as *1859 Porter*. Do try them!

Harveys Bitter was even spotted at an unlikely location two weeks ago - the **Huntsman**, an estate pub on the outskirts of Aylesbury.

Nick Holt

**Old Luxters
Brewery**



Traditional
Ales
and Bottle
Conditioning

Tel 01491 638330

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

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Courage Best,
Guest Beers**

Evening meals served until 21:00
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Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

Bed & Breakfast £25.00 p.p.p.n (inc V.A.T)
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Sydenham Road, Sydenham, Oxon.
Near Thame (off M40 Junction 6)

MORRELLS BEERS
Oxford and Varsity Bitter

Fine Pub Food
Served Every Lunchtime
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(Booking is advisable)

1999 CAMRA Good Beer Guide
1999 Good Pub Guide

Tom & Carol Burton look forward to welcoming you

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Fax: 01844 355 905

Email: tom_burton@btconnect.com

WIN TICKETS TO THE BEER FESTIVAL AT OLYMPIA

Beer, the Choice of the British

Every year, CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, organises hundreds of beer festivals all around the country. They are all run by volunteers who give up their time and energy to show the public the wealth of variety and flavour that represents what we know as beer but in particular, real ale.

Beer is first thought to have been brewed by the Egyptians. It has spread around the world and developed various styles. In Belgium for example, there are beers called Lambics which are brewed with wild yeast producing an acidic beer. In Britain, the yeast is traditionally cultivated and each brewer will safeguard the quality of their yeast by careful cleaning and control.

Yeast is very important to beer, as it is responsible for turning the malt (which is roasted barley) into alcohol. The malt gives the colour to a beer and can vary from very pale to black according to how much roasting has taken place. Black malt is used in beers such as stouts and porters. The latter beer got its name from being a favourite tipple of London street porters. Porter was particularly brewed in London because

the water was suitable for this type of beer. Burton became a famous brewing town because of the quality of its water.

All beer festivals like to pride themselves on the variety of beers presented and the largest that CAMRA runs is the Great British Beer Festival which is held every year in August. There the visitor is treated to over 300 different real ales plus hundreds of beers from all over the world. So why not take a visit to the Festival and compare British beer to others and see how beer has developed in far-flung corners of the world.

This year's festival is to be held at Olympia, from Tuesday, August 3rd to Saturday 7th August.

Tickets can be bought on the day or why not try and win a pair of tickets for the Saturday session by entering our simple crossword competition.

Season tickets covering all sessions are available costing £16 or £13.50 for CAMRA members (plus 50p booking charge per order to cover p&p) by phoning 01727 867201.

Of course, if you are a CAMRA member, you can go and work at the festival and get in for nothing!

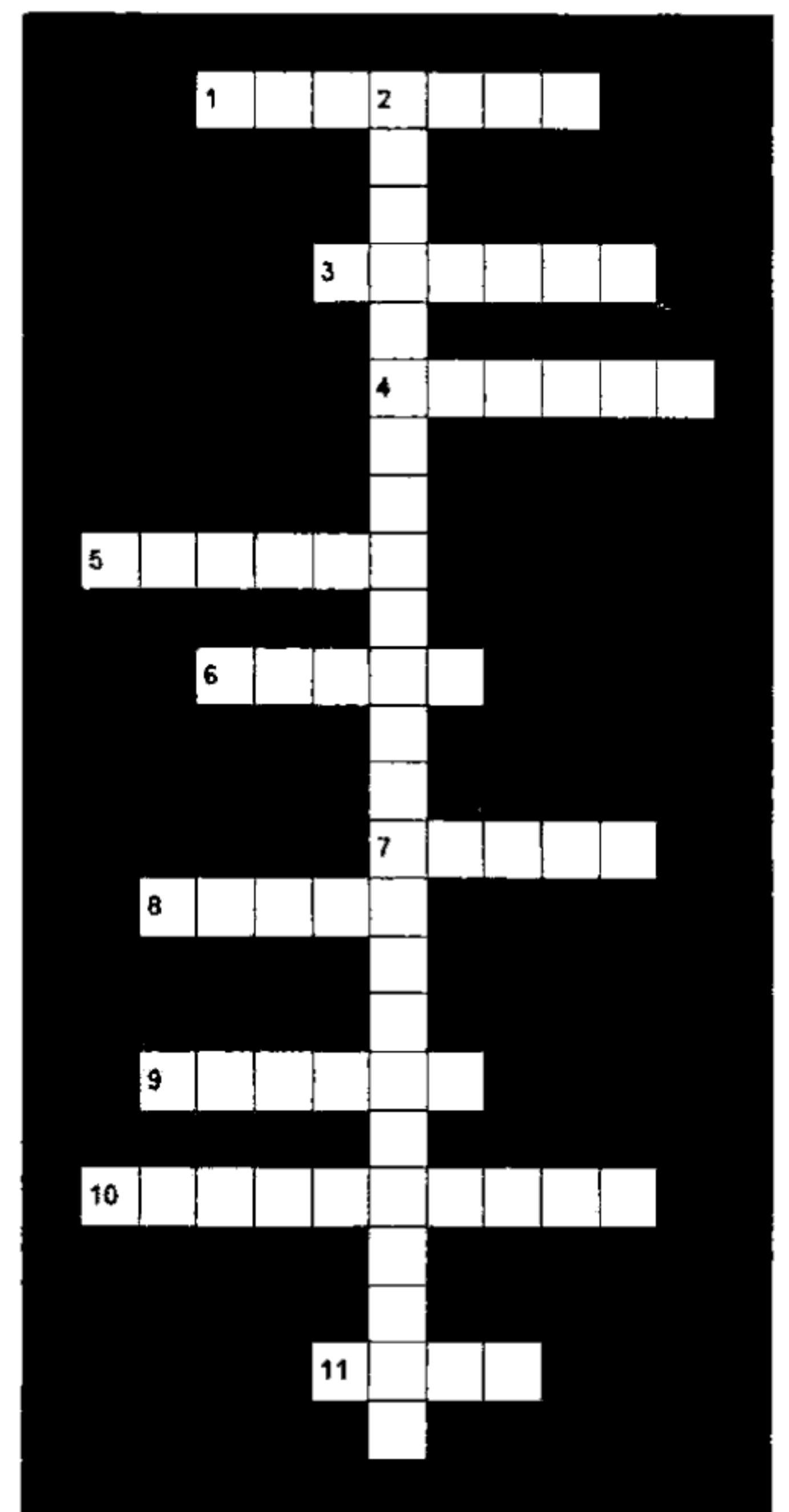
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF FIVE PAIRS OF TICKETS TO JOIN IN THE FUN ON THE SATURDAY SESSION

Questions

1. The country from which Lambic comes
2. The name of CAMRA's largest beer festival
3. What malt is made from
4. The English town famous for brewing
5. The month CAMRA's largest festival takes place
6. What turns malt into alcohol
7. The country that is thought to be the first to brew beer
8. The number of hundreds of real ales present at CAMRA's largest beer festival
9. The dark beer that was a favourite tipple of some Londoners
10. Who CAMRA's festivals are run by
11. Roasted barley

Send your completed crosswords (a photocopy is acceptable) to :-
GBBF Competition
16 Jasmine Close,
Aylesbury,
Bucks. HP21 9SH

Closing date 30th June 1999 Winners notified by 7th July



All correct entries will be put into the draw, and five lucky winners will each receive two tickets for the session on Saturday, August 7th



The Cock Inn at Wing



Supporting YOUR local CAMRA Branch with this advert. Are YOU – as a member?

- * No Gimmicks! No Pool Tables! No Loud Music! No Television! No 20th century 'gizmos'

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* Blah Blah Blah *

- * Situated nearer to Leighton Buzzard than Aylesbury but STILL in Buckinghamshire! *

26 High Street, Wing. Tel 01296 688214 24hr for information & bookings



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Meals served 7 days a week:
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All meals prepared and cooked in our own kitchen (not frozen meals)

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Listed in the 1999 Good Beer Guide

FULLER'S AWARD WINNING ALES

The Crown and Anchor at Marlow

An inn dating back to 1757 which has been refurbished to the highest standards and now offers

Accommodation

We have two delightful en-suite rooms available throughout the year for £60 per night. This includes full English breakfast and VAT.

Home Cooked Food

Home cooked ham and beef salads and baguettes, together with hot food is available at all openings except Sunday lunch and Thursday evening. At Sunday lunch the traditional roast dinner is served.

Splendid Garden



Home of Sam Trueman's Beers

Beers for June are

Best Bitter (3.5%) £1.40 per pint

We will maintain the price of Sam's Best bitter at £1.40. This hoppy beer has already created a following. Whether the price is making people ask for another pint of Best or it is the quality, the fact is we sell more Best than any other beer. We now only use 22 gallon casks to rack Sam's Best for the pub.

Marlow Lager (5%) £1.50 per pint

As part of a market test we have brewed a 5% lager following the German beer purity laws where no chemicals are used. Marlow lager is brewed from brewing liquor, lager malt, saaz hops and yeast. It is fined with isinglass then left to lager for 3 weeks at -1 deg C.

Bees Knees (4.3%) £1.80 per pint

Tipple will be replaced over the Summer months with the lighter Bees Knees (4.3%). If you think it should taste of honey, what should Dogs Bollocks taste of?

Gold (5%) £2.00 per pint

This will continue throughout the year. Voted the best beer this year by the landlord.

Scoop swap

We were asked by Ash Vine brewery to swap some beer. We can now offer Ash Vine Best at the same price as Sam Trueman's Best. At £1.40 it must be the cheapest Ash Vine in the country.

Having a BBQ or party? These are the takeaway prices

	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 SL7 2NN

Tel: 01491 576100
sales@CrownAndAnchor.Co.Uk

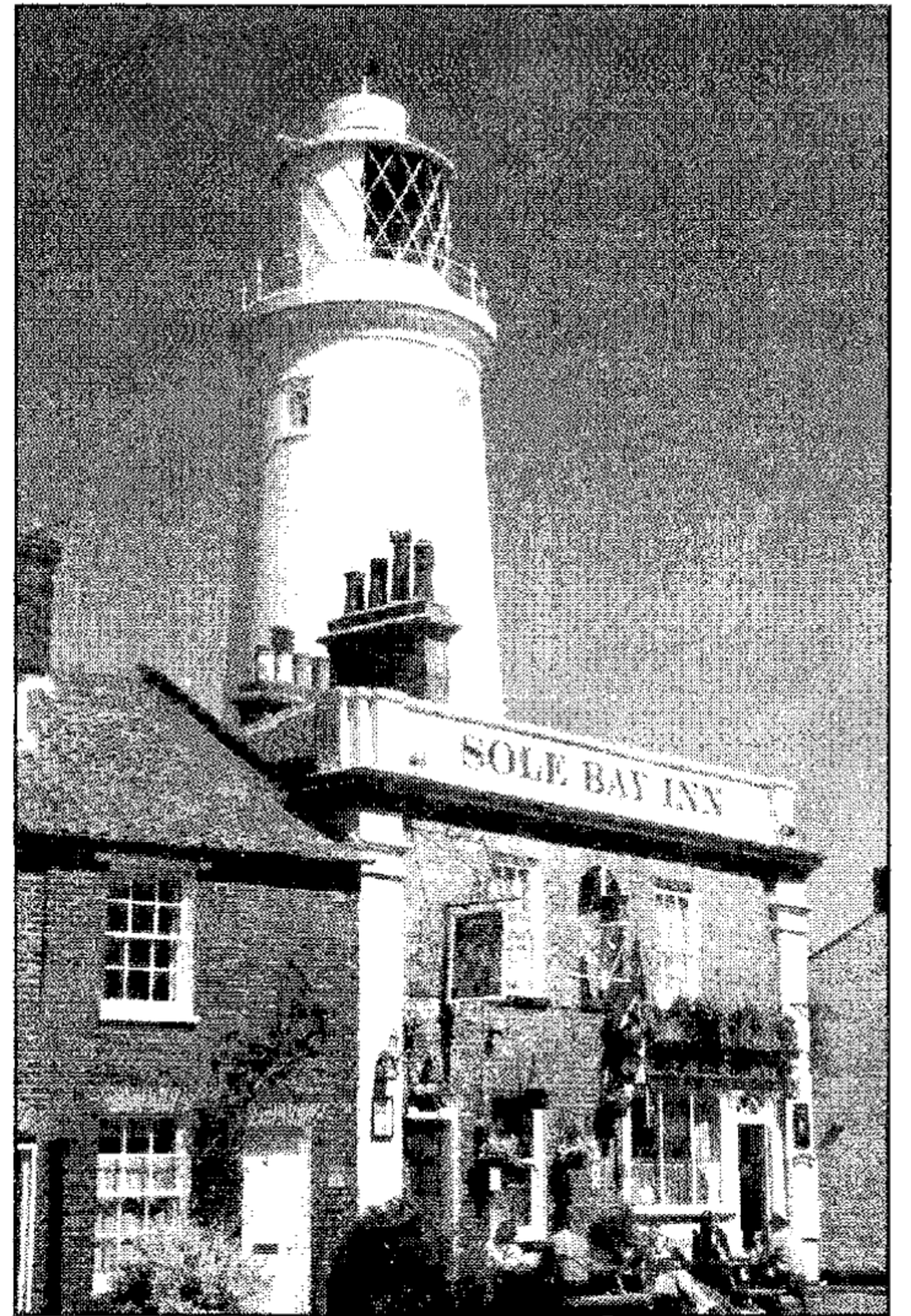
BRANCH TRIP TO SOUTHWOLD AND ADNAMS BREWERY



Adnams Brewery

The Lord Nelson, Sole Bay Inn, Red Lion, Crown Hotel and Swan Hotel all had excellent bars and beer.

Other outlying pubs such as the Harbour Inn were tried on the second day, as well as a couple in Walberswick across the river, which, to save a four mile



The Sole Bay Inn

Last month the local branch paid a visit to the picturesque Suffolk seaside town of Southwold. This, as all beer lovers should know, is the home of Adnams Brewery – one the truly great breweries of Britain.

Twelve members including four wives enjoyed a wonderful weekend visiting the pubs, a guided tour of the brewery and just enjoying the scenery and the relaxing atmosphere.

The weekend began with a pub crawl of the town. For once lack of choice didn't matter – who cares that all the pubs only sell Adnams? With five of their superb beers to choose from, what more choice could one need? There were three regular beers: *Southwold Bitter* (abv 3.7%), *Extra* (4.3%), *Broadside* (4.7%) and two seasonal beers *Regatta* (4.3%) and *May Day* (5.0%).

Some members regretted the absence of *Mild*, but this is now only available in February as a seasonal ale.

walk, had to be reached by rowing boat!

On Saturday morning our host for the brewery tour was Ian Swell (a member of the marketing team and based in Abingdon) and our guide Denis Ball, now retired, who was chief engineer for many years. Denis gave us a most thorough tour with particular emphasis on all the plant and machinery much of which had been purchased from other breweries such as Charles Wells, Greenalls and Thwaites – usually at bargain prices!

It was gratifying to hear from Denis that Adnams' considerable growth in the 1970s and 1980s was to a large extent due to the formation of CAMRA in the early 70s and the national revival of interest in real ale.

A fine visit was concluded with some splendid hospitality, beer tasting and lunch. The head brewer, Mike Powell-Evans, joined us at the tasting and one of the subjects we discussed was the lack of

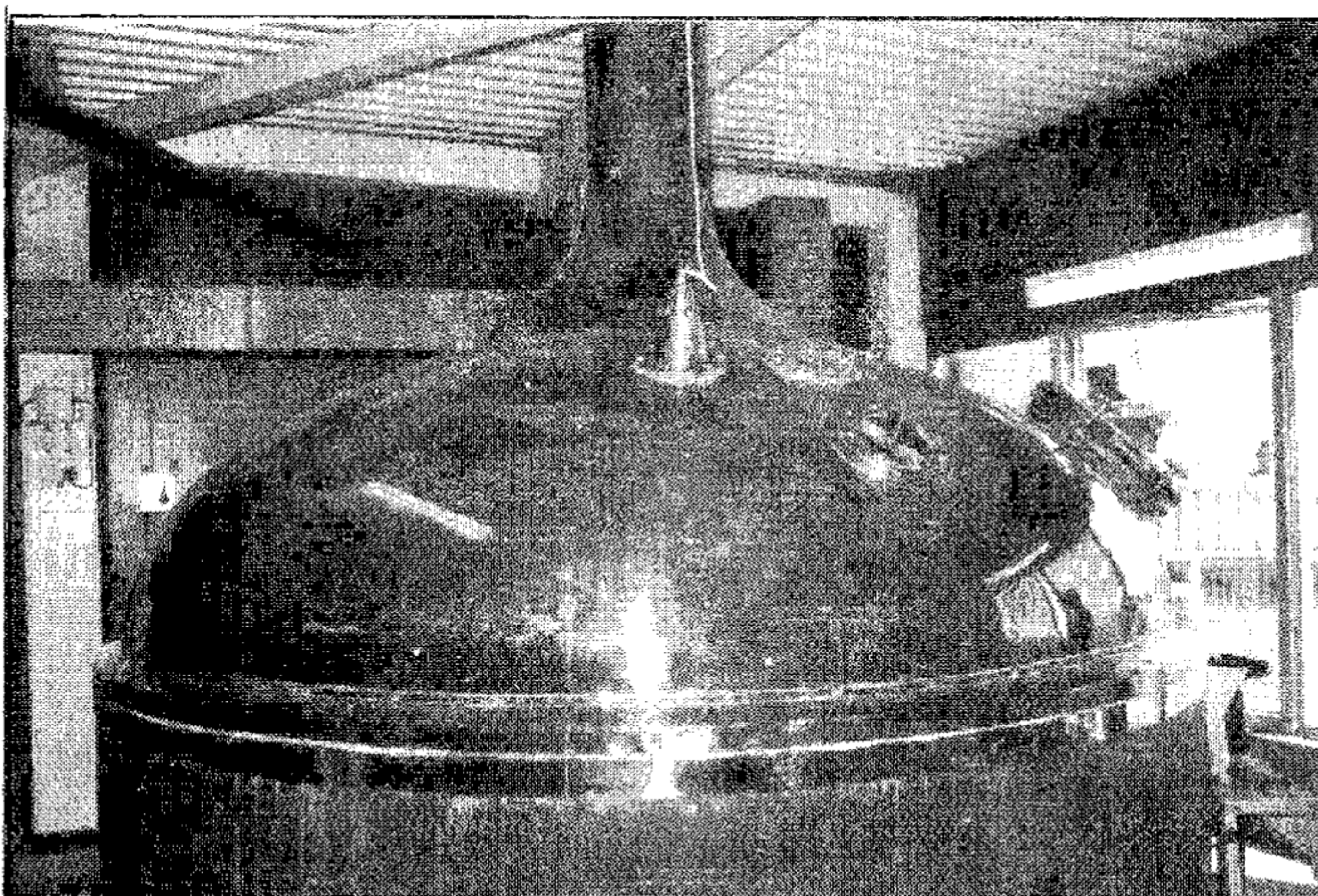
availability of *Extra*.

This is a delicious and much underrated beer. Perhaps the rather uninspiring pumpclip is one of the reasons for this. Apparently a new image was being planned in 1993 but then *Extra* was voted *Champion Beer of Britain*, so the old image had to stay.

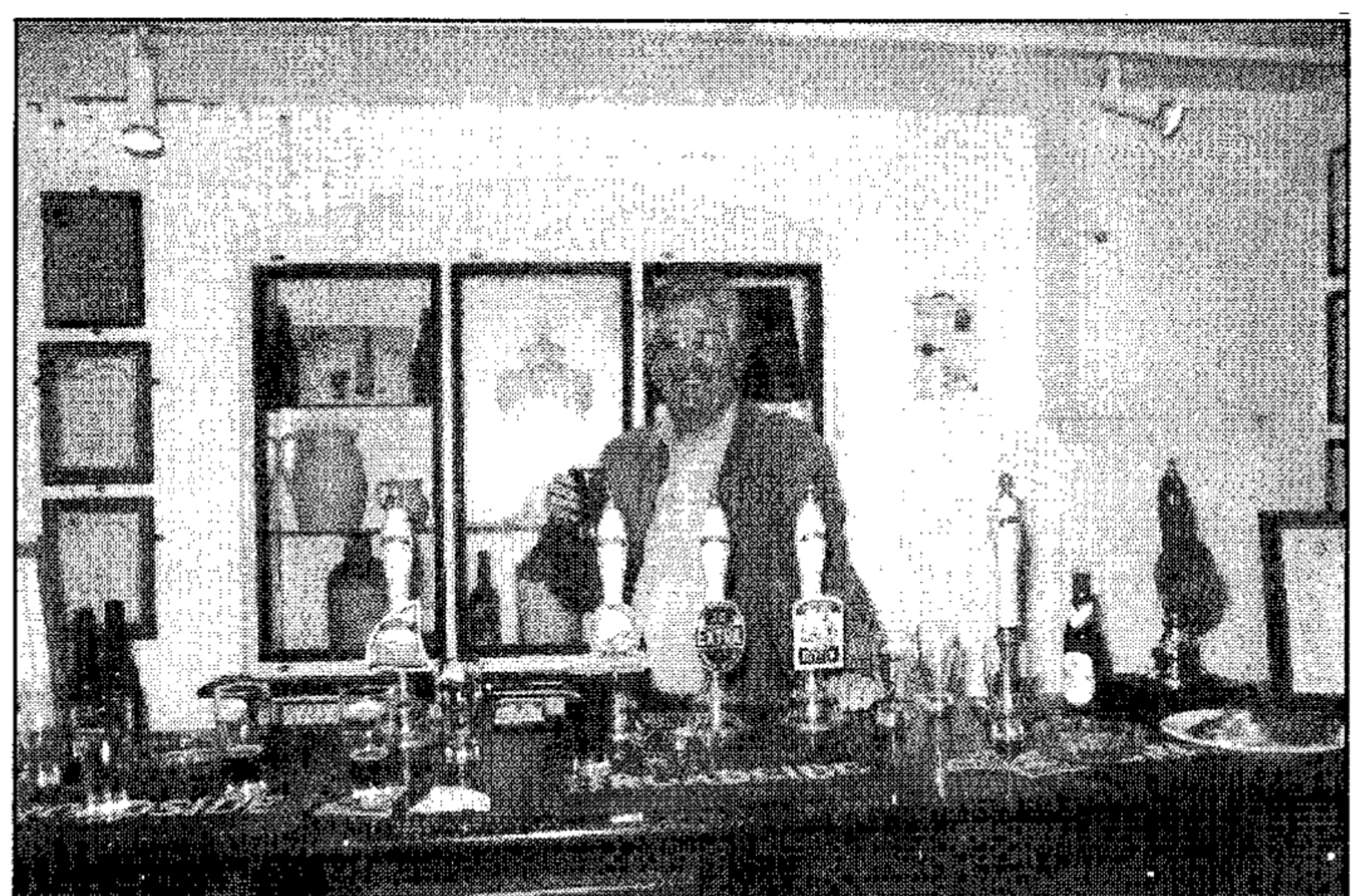
There are currently plans to completely revamp the corporate design so perhaps we shall see a new range of pumpclips and pub signs in the near future.

Southwold is recommended as a lovely place to visit, even if you can't get a tour round the brewery!

Nick Holt



One of the magnificent coppers inside the brewery



The editor enjoying himself in the sample room

LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

OLD LUXTERS



David Ealand, Jilly Goolden and Roger Protz
Each raise a glass during the launch

St. George's Day saw the launch of a new range of English wines and a bottle conditioned beer called *Traders Ale*.

The wines and the beer had been commissioned by the **World Trade Centre UK**, who had been impressed by the quality of the English wines produced

by the **Old Luxters** winery which is owned by *David Ealand*.

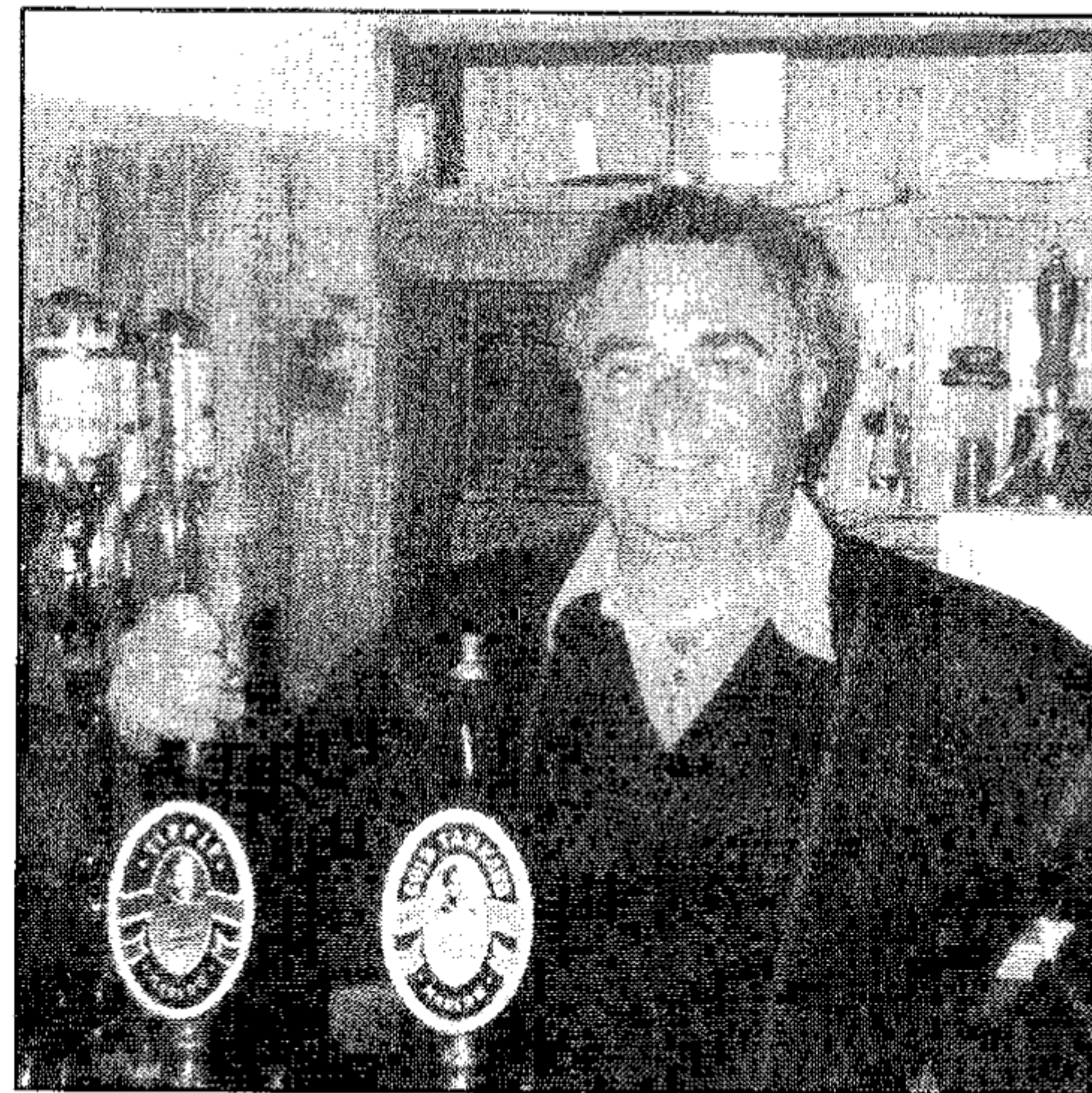
Jilly Goolden, BBC Food & Drink's wine expert, took the assembled crowd through a wine tasting session of some of the eight wines in the range.

Before this, **Roger Protz**, editor of the *Good Beer Guide* and famous writer and speaker on Real Ale, gave a wonderful talk on the joys of drinking bottle conditioned beer. After showing how to pour it properly, he launched the new beer.

Traders Ale is a 5% abv hand crafted English Farmhouse Ale, which is brewed using traditional methods and ingredients.

Old Luxters specialise in producing traditional bottle conditioned ales had have produced special beers for many famous establishments and restaurants, including many embassies, **Fortnum & Mason**, **The Compleat Angler**, and **Albert Roux's** restaurant, **Bertie's**, in Paris.

SAM TRUEMANS



John Trueman behind the handpumps at the Crown & Anchor, Marlow

To complement their range of real ales, **Trueman's** are now brewing *Marlow Lager*.

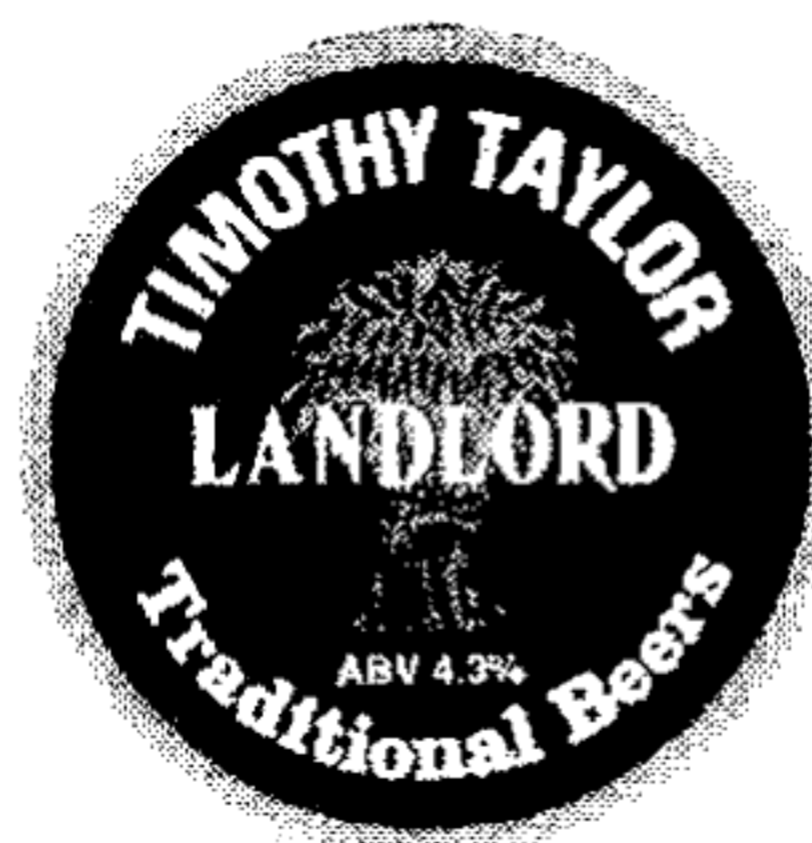
This is a 5% abv lager brewed to the standards of the German beer purity laws which specify only natural ingredients are to be used.

Vic & Sue Hinde
welcome you to
The White Swan

10 High Street
Whitchurch
Tel: 01296 641228

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Large Attractive Beer Garden

1999 Good Beer Guide
Fullers Traditional Ales



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The Thames Valley

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HP20 1QZ



APPLE

Cider and Perry

LAMBOURNE VALLEY CIDER

Lambourne Valley Cider was formed in December 1995 by Roy & Alice Bailey, to produce real Berkshire cider from local apples.

Roy Bailey will be a familiar name to a lot of our local CAMRA members as he has been involved with the campaign for many years in many capacities.

Although various varieties are used to produce their cider, they all come from trees which are unsullied by pesticides and free of artificial fertilisers and agrochemicals.

Culinary apples are used instead of cider apples and this produces a drink more in the tradition of Kent and East

Anglia, rather than the West Country. The ciders tend to be fruitier and less astringent than those of Somerset and Herefordshire. Genuine perry pears are, however, used to produce their perry.

The cider and perry is available in bottles which may be available at the **Chiltern Brewery** and the **Bucks Goat Centre**, Stoke Mandeville.

The bottles are *Royal County* (7 %), *Lambourne Valley Gold* (7 %), *Kings Ransom* (5.5 %) and *Perry* (6%).

The ciders also available wholesale in 5 gallon returnable polycasks or 4½ gallon non-returnable polypins.

For more information, ring 01488 648441.

LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



VALE

Vale brewery have announced that they have acquired their first pub.

This is the **Cuckoo's Nest**, in Gawcott, which is less than two miles from Buckingham.

Described in the award winning guide *'Real Ale in Bucks'* as a welcoming turn of the century two-bar village local, it has been a regular in the *'Good Beer Guide'*, having appeared continuously from 1988 through to 1998.

Vale have taken over after the long serving landlord retired.

REBELLION

Rebellion Brewery of Marlow, are gradually settling in to their new home at Bencombe Farm, which they moved to earlier on this year.

Besides producing their usual range, they have recently produced some new beers including *Gold Digger*, a golden coloured 4.3% abv beer for the **Beauty of Hops Award** celebrations which were run by the **Hop Growers Association**.

They have also produced *Mussel Man* (4.7%), which was brewed for **Whitbread**.

They will also be brewing *Soul Searcher* which is a 4.5% beer made with *Cascade* hops, and *Blonde Bombshell* (4.3%), their summer ale.

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*

Local News

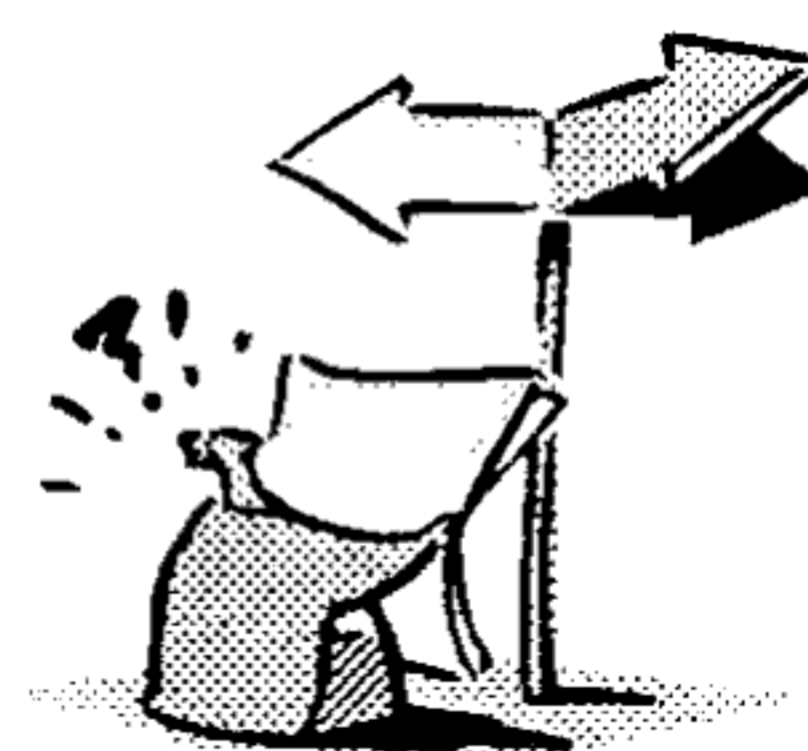
(Continued from page 2)

PRESTWOOD

There has been a recent change at the **Green Man** where Bob McIntyre has taken over in conjunction with Linda Grace who previously worked at the **Bird in Hand**, Princes Risborough.

SKIRMETT

The sign outside the site of the defunct **Old Crown** says 'Period Cottages for Sale'. Obviously there is not much hope of it becoming a pub again!



STOKENCHURCH

Many readers were fooled by our April Fools Day stunt when we reported that **Charlie Bartholomews** was in **Saunderton**. Most of the other information was wrong as well, so here is the news as it should have been printed!

(Actually it was not a joke – it was a total **keg-up** by the editor – Ed).

Charlie Bartholomews, formerly the **Raven**, is now known as the **Mowchak Bar & Indian Restaurant**. A takeaway menu is available but the 10% discount probably only applies to the food! The previous landlord, **Mike Childs**, is advising the current one who is serving *Morlands Original* and *Flowers Original*.

The **Four Horseshoes** has a free access to the Internet facility in the bar, as long as you purchase a drink or food. Unfortunately the only handpump on the bar is not in use and only pressurised beer is sold. Is this the first **Cyber-Pub** in Bucks?

WINGRAVE

The **Rose & Crown** received *Cask Marque* approval in May and is now serving *ABC Bitter*, *Greene King IPA*, *Tapster's Choice* and a guest beer.

WESTON TURVILLE

There has been a change of landlord at the **Plough**.

WORLDS END

The **Marquis of Granby** is no longer leased to **Green Belt Inns** and is now being operated by **Oast House Inns**. It stocks *Hook Norton* as well as *Vale*.

NATIONAL NEWS

A Fair Deal for New Year Revellers

CAMRA has welcomed the Government's progress on the relaxation of pub opening hour restrictions on New Year's Eve starting with the Millennium celebrations. The draft order now goes to Committee stage, the Committee having sixty days to make a formal report.

If the order goes through 'on the nod' pubs will be allowed to stay open from 11am on New Year's Eve through to 11pm on New Year's Day.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "This is a major step forward towards a sensible and permissive approach to pub opening hours and we are confident of its success. Responsible drinkers who want to celebrate the Millennium in their favourite local pub will hopefully be able to do so without being forced to sup up and go home or go to a night club which doesn't meet their needs."

Mr. Benner added, "This deregulation will help combat the problems associated with binge drinking on the run up to closing time and will help relieve the strains on public services caused by drinkers being forced to leave pubs at the same time."

CAMRA supports liberalisation of pub opening hours subject to proper controls to protect the public from nuisance. The Government is committed to a full review of liquor licensing law, but we are unlikely to see new legislation until 2001.

Mr. Benner said, "A prohibitive approach to licensing is not an effective way to target problem drinkers and we support a more

permissive system which does not penalise the majority of responsible drinkers just to try to control a few alcohol abusers. Liberating measures introduced in 1988 and 1995 have not seen a significant increase in consumption and I believe this measure will demonstrate the benefits to all of a more liberal approach."

Courage loses its bottle

CAMRA has condemned the announcement made by **Scottish & Newcastle** that they are to close one of the oldest breweries in the country. The **Courage** Brewery in Bristol will close in 6 months with the loss of 71 jobs.

Ian Woolverton, CAMRA's Press Officer said, "This is absolutely devastating news. We are outraged at this decision. There has been a brewery on this site since 1702. Its closure will be a great loss to English brewing heritage."

Mr Woolverton went on to say, "The greatest loser in all this madness will be the consumer. Many traditional ales will be lost forever reducing consumer choice. Beers under threat include its famous *Directors*, *Best Bitter* and *Georges Bitter*, popular in many Bristol pubs.

CAMRA is committed to the survival of small and regional breweries up and down the country.

Mr Woolverton continued, "Repeatedly large brewers argue that there is no demand for real ale, but this is simply not true. Many national breweries have starved their real ale products of the investment that they need. The multi million pound marketing budgets that can help to create a strong brand have been awarded to nitro-keg beers at the expense of traditional real ale. That is the real reason for the lack of demand in the real ale market."

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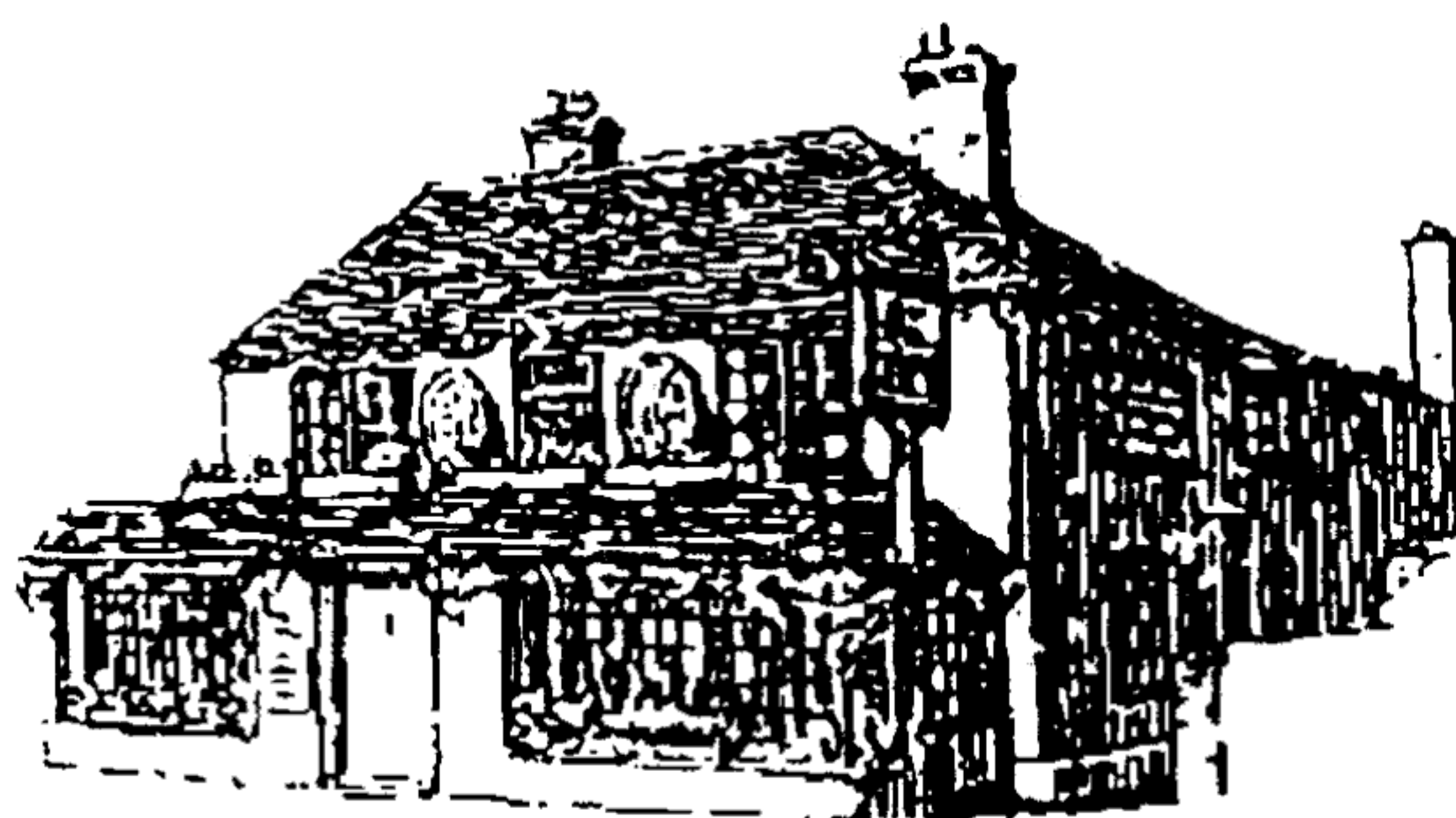
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BEER FESTIVAL NEWS

ASTON CLINTON

A beer festival will be held at the **Oak** between the 6th & 8th of August as part of their celebrations for being 500 years old.

AYLESBURY

The **6th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival**, which is organised by the *Friends of Florence Nightingale House*, will be held at the **Guttmann Centre, Stoke Mandeville**.

This will be held on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd of October.

Full details of times and a map will appear next issue.

MILTON KEYNES

On June 9th-12th (Wednesday to Saturday) the **7th Milton Keynes & North Bucks Beer & Cider Festival** will be held in a large marquee at the **National Hockey Stadium, Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes**.

This is 5 minutes walk from MK central BR and bus station with level access for wheelchairs.

Admission times are as follows: Wednesday 5-10.30pm, Thursday and Friday 12-10.30pm, Saturday 12-7.30pm.

Admission prices (card carrying CAMRA members' in brackets). Wednesday £1 (free), Thursday and Friday lunchtime free, 4pm onwards £4 (£2), Saturday £2 (free).

There will be over 100 different beers, ciders & perries. Soft and low alcoholic drinks will also be available. Food will also be on sale at all sessions.

On the entertainment front they have folk band Nelson's Arm Band on Thursday evening and rock group PT & The Shakers on Friday evening. It is possible there will be entertainment on Saturday as well, but Wednesday will be a quiet night.

Children are welcome until 8pm, but not in the marquee and must be under the supervision of a responsible adult (there is no creche available). Coach parties are welcome.

For further information contact Jim Scott 01908 668751 or Barry Mayles 01908 370036, e-mail barry.mayles@lineone.net.

OLYMPIA

Don't forget the *Great British Beer Festival*, August 3rd - 7th. There is a competition for free tickets on Page 4.

POSTCOMBE

There is to be a *beer festival* at the **England's Rose** pub over the weekend of July 16th - July 18th. There will be 20 real ales on offer.

WINGRAVE

The **3rd Wingrave Beer Festival** will be held at the **Rose & Crown** from Friday 24th to Saturday 26th of September. It is planned to have 15 beers available.

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)



BLACK COUNTRY TRIP



Our annual coach trip to the **Black Country** is on Saturday June 26th.

This very popular event takes happy people round some of the best pubs in the country to sample some of the best beer at amazingly good prices.

As last year, we will making a detour off the M42 in order to visit the **Coach & Horses, Weatheroak**.

We may be able to take another look at the brewery where the pub produces *Weatheroak Bitter*.

After a short while here, we will move on to another pub for lunch (not yet

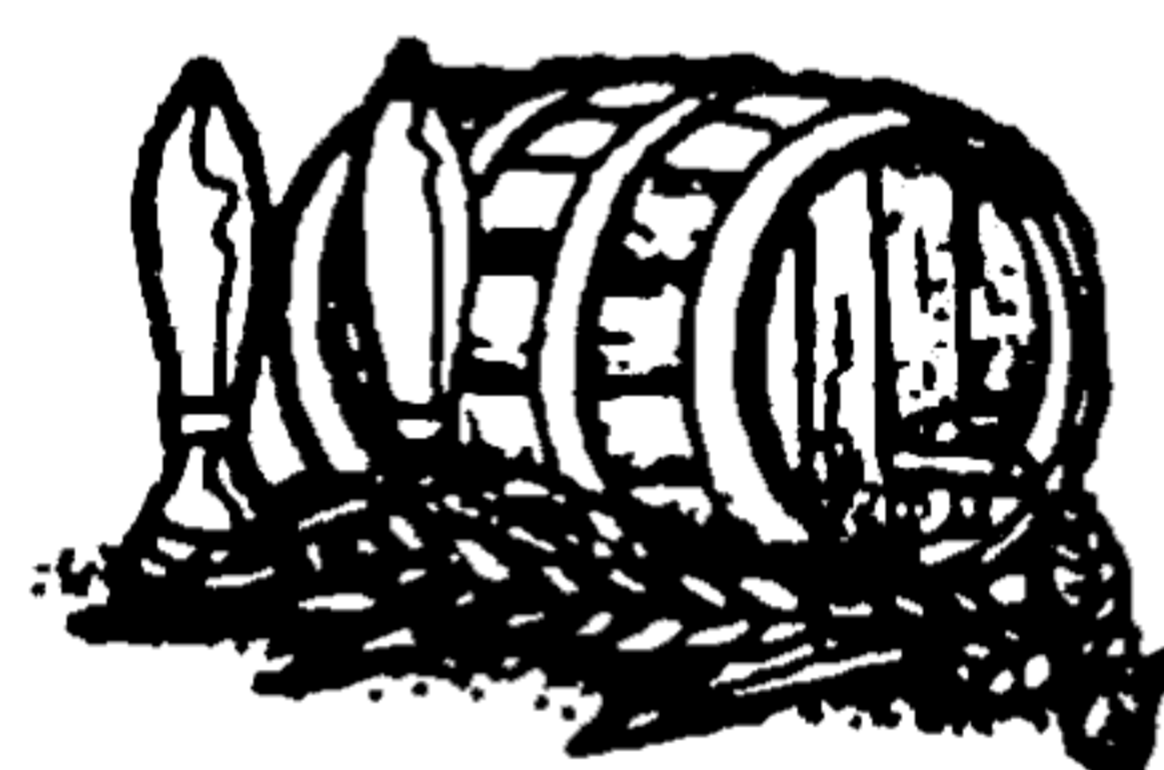
decided). No **Black Country** trip would be complete without a visit to the **Bull & Bladder**, home of *Bathams Mild and Bitter*, or to have a walk alongside the Delph Locks.

Also, there would be a riot if we did not go to the **Beacon Hotel**, in Sedgley to drink the *Sedgley Surprise* and the *Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild*. This time will be no different.

After a few other pubs we shall return home via the ever popular **Coach & Horses, Halesowen**, to end up back in Aylesbury at midnight.

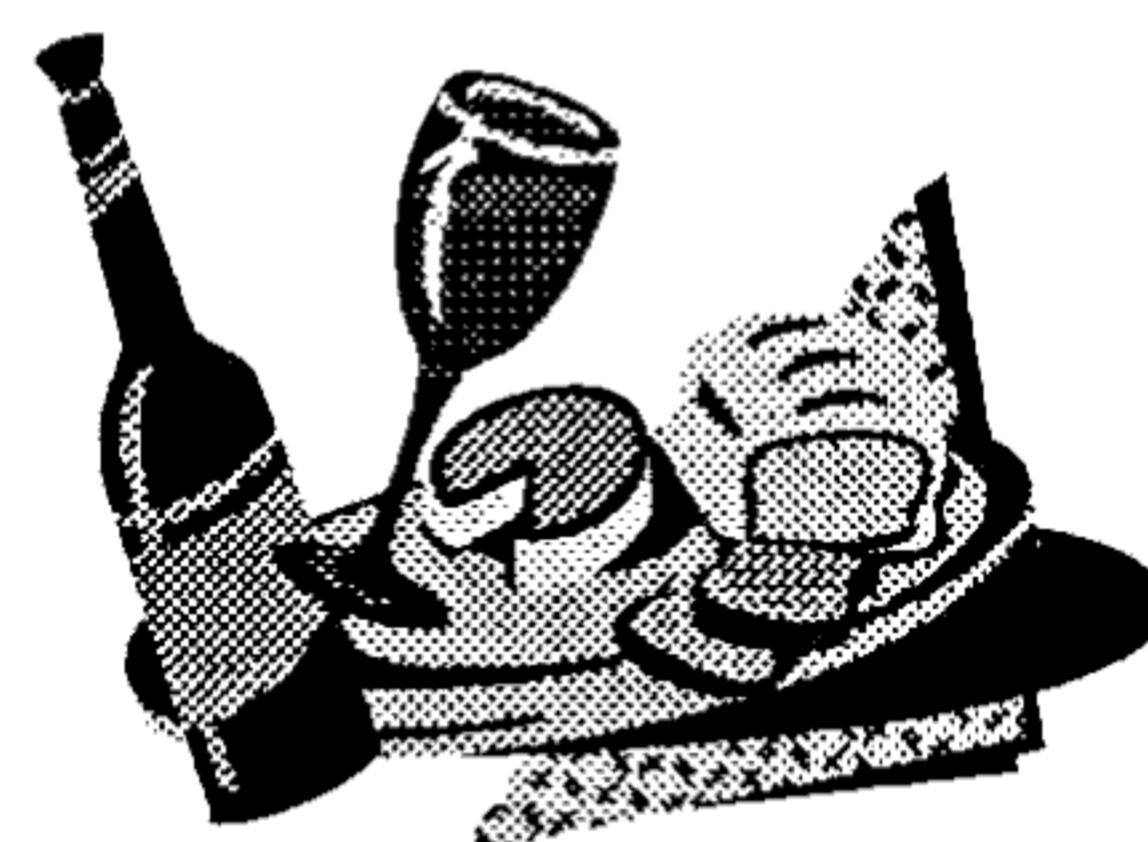
We shall be making pickups from Aylesbury (10am Broad Leys), Wendover, High Wycombe (Tesco) and Stokenchurch.

It costs only £16 and tickets and more information can be obtained by ringing Tony Gabriel on 01494 527884.



Rose & Crown Wingrave

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BRANCH MEMBERS ABROAD

Two branch members explore the delights of Edinburgh

My friend Mike and I decided to take advantage of a cheap rail offer to revisit the Edinburgh pubs that we used to frequent on an annual basis in the early nineties.

Leaving Kings Cross at 13:00, we experienced several delays including a flock of sheep on the line at Doncaster and could see valuable drinking time wasting away, however we were only 38 minutes late into Edinburgh.

A quick check into the nearby hotel, then off on the bus to the **Homes Bar** in Leith. A very pleasant pub with a selection of five beers on handpump. I had *Dent Rameo & Eweliet* and Mike had the *Caledonian Deuchars IPA*.



Next stop was a new pub for us called **Port O'Leith**. A locals pub with flags covering the ceiling and only one beer on air fount which was *Caledonian 80 Shillings*.

After sampling this we moved round the corner to a bar called the **Carriers Quarters** which we used to frequent when it was called **Todds Tap** and then renamed **The Merman** before the latest name change – three names in about five years. About six beers on handpump of which we sampled the *MacLays Oat Malt Stout*. The pub has a quiet back room with a lovely fire and the change of names had not changed the quality of the beers or the atmosphere.

Just round the corner was another one new to us called **The Shore**. This was an upmarket pub, but had two beers on air fount. We sampled the *MacLays 80 Shillings*.

The next pub was some distance and due to the lack of buses at that time of night we enjoyed the luxury of a cab ride to the **Old Chain Pier**. Another good selection of beers on handpump of which I had an old favourite of mine, *Burton Ale* while Mike sampled the *Landlord*. It was very nice to sit at the window and look out over the Firth of Forth to the lights of Burntisland on the other side. This was certainly one of the busiest pubs we visited.

The next stop was **The Starbank** which was a 100 yards away and was an old favourite of ours. About ten beers on handpump and we both sampled the

Orkney Red McGregor – a lovely beer, but then I am biased towards **Orkney** beers. The pub was very quiet and were even giving leftover rolls away free!

We were now heading for the grand finale to the evening – a visit to the **Guildford Arms** back in the city centre for a pint of our number one beer *Orkney Dark Island*. We managed to find a bus and burst into the **Guildford Arms** about 22:00 and ordered two pints of the lovely liquid, but on the first pull of the handpump, we heard to our great dismay, the unmistakable sound of an empty barrel. No amount of pleading with the landlord would make him put a new barrel on before closing time but he assured us a new one would be ready for the following lunchtime. We were forced to try another new beer – *Harviestoun Black Lager* which was very tasty.



After being ejected from the pub at 23:20 which is a very unsociable time for Scottish pubs, we proceeded to the **Theatre Royal** which according to my *Edinburgh & Lothians Guide* sold

Dark Island but a quick circumnavigation of the island bar revealed no such delicacy, so we exited stage left!



Orkney Brewery

Still suffering from despair, we decided to have a nightcap at the **Cask & Barrel** which was open until midnight. We arrived about 23:40 to find the pub thronged with people. We both sampled the *Old Mill Blackjack* out of the eight beers on offer. They were still serving at 12:30, but feeling a bit weary we retired to the hotel in order to be fit to face the challenge of the following day.

In the morning before breakfast, I phoned the **Caledonian Brewery** as they do tours up to three times a day. However, it appeared that the exhibition centre was shut that day and they were not running any official tours, but the chap on the other end of the phone said that for the two of us he would give us a personal unofficial tour – perhaps it was my Bucks accent that made him take pity on us!

We duly arrived at the appointed time of 11:00 to be met by a very pleasant chap called Ron Davies, the Brewery Tours Officer. We had a very thorough tour and saw the unique direct-fired open coppers steaming away including the new one which had just been installed after their latest fire.

Ron was a real *Caledonian Ale* enthusiast admitting that if the *Deuchars IPA* was not on in his local he would drink red wine!

When the tour had finished we visited the hospitality for a free pint of *Deuchars IPA* – you cannot get it much fresher than that.

We thanked him very much, then walked short distance to the **Caledonian Sampling Rooms** where they sell the complete range of regular **Caledonian** beers.

Mike spotted the *Golden Promise* which he had only tried in bottled form, so we ordered two pints only to find that another barrel had just run out. We said we would wait for the new barrel and were offered a free pint of *Deuchars IPA* while we waited. The *Golden Promise* was worth waiting for.

Next stop in our busy schedule was the **Cloisters Bar** in the Tollcross district, which was a bus ride away. Here we tried the *Dent Aviator* from the eight beers on offer.

Time was now moving on towards our train at 16:00 and we still had one more pub to visit before our grand finale at the **Guildford Arms**.

The next pub was another untried one called **Carters Bar**. Nothing special, but a nice pint of *Belhaven St Andrews Ale* was taken.

A final bus ride took us to the **Guildford Arms** about 14:45. As we hurried through the revolving door, we observed the landlord hastily turning the *Dark Island* pumpclip round with a mischievous grin on his face. Not to be fooled by this merry jape, we ordered up two pints of the dark delight and the first taste made the whole trip worthwhile.

A further pint was consumed before we rushed to catch the train back to Kings Cross and have a well earned sleep on the way.

It certainly was a very pleasant 24 hours with all the beers in top condition but the prices in the area are very similar to our local prices – ranging from about £1.90 to £2.20.

Mike and I pondered on the way home about a Branch weekend in Edinburgh with a trip to the **Caledonian** brewery thrown in – any takers?

Dick Moore



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CAMRA Double Gold Medal winner ! FINALIST ! GBBF 1997.				
Speciality Beers				
Black Swan – Dark Mild	3.3%	£72.00*	£42.00	£21.00
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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	



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

June

Tuesday 1st WORMINGHALL SOCIAL

9:30pm Clifden Arms

Wednesday 9th CADSDEN & ASKETT SOCIAL

9:00pm Plough, 10:00pm Three Crowns

Wednesday 16th VALE BREWERY CERTIFICATE AWARD

6:30pm Presentation with South Beds Branch, Vale Brewery, Haddenham
Food available at £4 per head. Space limited - Contact the Editor

Thursday 17th WHEELER END SOCIAL

9:00pm Brickmakers Arms

Saturday 26th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

10:00am pickup from outside Broad Leys, Aylesbury, then Wendover, outside Tesco's in High Wycombe, then Stokenchurch. Price £16. Details on page 10.

July

Thursday 1st BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Queen and Albert, Wooburn

Tuesday 6th WADDESDON WADDLE

8:00pm Bakers Arms, 8:45pm Five Arrows, 9:30pm Bell, 10:15pm Lion

Sunday 11th MIDDAY SUMMER SOCIAL

12 Noon Bounty, Bourne End (on riverbank over bridge behind BR station)

Thursday 15th OAKLEY SOCIAL

9:00pm Chandos Arms

Wednesday 21st BRADENHAM SOCIAL

9:00pm Red Lion

Tuesday 27th LONG CRENDON CRAWL

8:00pm Chandos Arms, 8:45pm Star, 9:30pm Churchill Arms,

10:15pm Eight Bells

August

Sunday 1st MIDDAY SUMMER SOCIAL

12 Noon Lions, Bledlow

Tuesday 3rd - Saturday 7th GBBF

Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London W8

Monday 7th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Swan, Thame

October

Friday 22nd - Saturday 23rd AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Guttmann Sports & Leisure Centre, Stoke Mandeville

This is a charity beer festival, organised by the Friends of Florence Nightingale House with assistance from the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of CAMRA. Further details on page 10



Beer Festival Diary

June

3rd - 5th Nunn Such Island Beer Festival, Becketts Park, Northampton

3rd - 5th 13th Stockport Beer & Cider Festival, Stockport Town Hall, Wellington Road South (A6)

3rd - 5th Wolverhampton Beer Festival, Wulfrun Hall, Mitre Fold

9th - 12th Milton Keynes & North Bucks, National Hockey Stadium, Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes

10th - 12th Dudley Beer Festival, under canvas at Dudley Castle & Zoo

10th - 12th 22nd Salisbury Beerex, Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin St.

11th - 12th Exeter Beer & Cider Festival, Coaver Club, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter

15th - 19th Thurrock, Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, Essex

16th - 19th Catford Beer Festival, Lewisham Theatre, Rushey Green, SE6

23rd - 26th Accrington Beer Festival, Town Hall, Accrington

25th - 26th Southampton Beer Festival, Guildhall, West Marlands Road

26th - 27th Beer in Britain Festival, Hop Farm Country Park, Beltring, near Paddock Wood, Kent

July

7th - 11th Derby Beer Festival, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby

9th - 11th Louth & District, Woolpack Inn, Riverhead, Louth

10th - 11th Ardingly Beer Festival, South of England Showground

13th - 17th Chelmsford, Sports Hall, Anglia University, Park Rd, Chelmsford

16th - 18th Postcombe Beer Festival, Englands Rose, Postcombe (see Page 2)

22nd - 24th Kent Beer Festival, Merton Farm, Merton Lane, Canterbury

23rd - 25th 23rd Cotswold Beer Festival, Postlip Hall, nr Winchcombe, Glos.

23rd - 25th Somerset, Taunton Rugby Club, Priory Road, Taunton

August

3rd - 7th Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London W8 - See Page 4

October

22nd - 23rd Aylesbury, Guttmann Sports & Leisure Centre, Stoke Mandeville

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