



Issue 5

Swan Supping

FREE



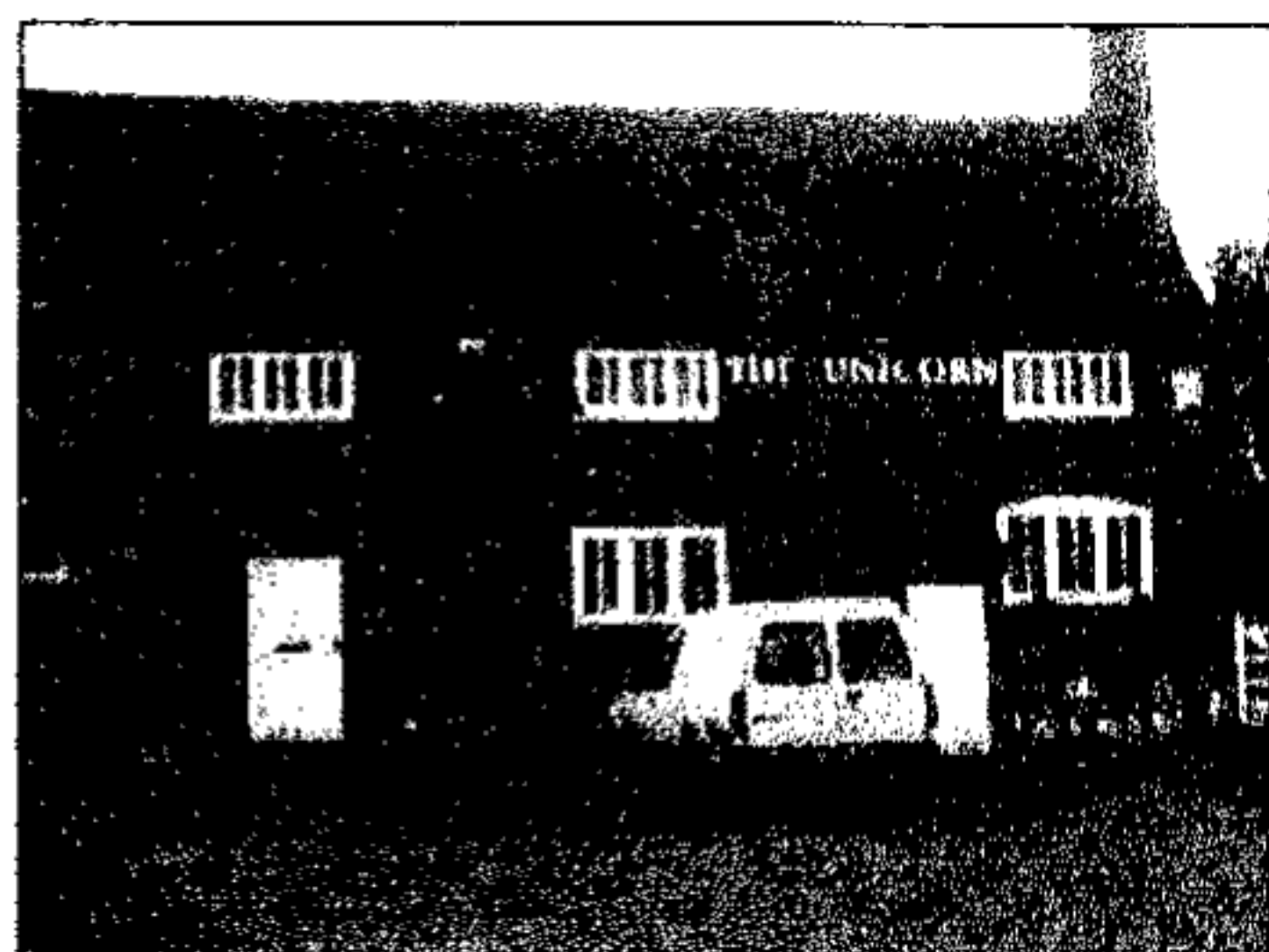
Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

APRIL/MAY 1998

LOCAL PUB STILL UNDER THREAT

The Unicorn, Cublington, has had a reprieve, following the turning down of a planning application to turn it into a private house. This may still be overturned on appeal. The **Unicorn** is listed in *The Good Beer Guide*.



A meeting was held on 13th January to set up a committee to fight the application. If the bid failed then the villagers hoped to raise enough money to buy the 400-year-old pub from the current owner David Rixon. Mr Rixon's father-in-law, Gordon Ibbotson, runs the pub. Mr Rixon has said that the pub is not commercially viable. He had applied for planning permission to add a small extension. Because the pub is a listed building,

permission was refused. Mr Ibbotson has told locals that they must "either use it or lose it".

The chairman of the campaign to save the **Unicorn** is David Ainsley. He has visited the **Village Swan** in Ivinghoe Aston, which was bought by villagers in November 1997, to see how they achieved it.

Aylesbury council has had four applications in the last two months to change pubs into houses. It would be a tragedy if the last pub in this large village would be lost to conflict between social need and the desire to make a quick profit. Surely it must be the duty of the local council to protect the last remaining pub in a village along with their already stated policy to protect the village shop and the church - any village which does not have a pub does not deserve the term village - perhaps they should be called hamlets or one-horse dumps!!

FULL PINT HICCUP

Dennis Turner's Private Members Bill to outlaw short measure pints returned to the House of Commons for consideration on 20th March. The Bill successfully made it through Committee stage on Wednesday 11 March with some opposition from Eric Forth MP and Nicholas Soames MP, two Conservative Members. **CAMRA**, the Campaign for Real Ale, condemned the objection to the so-called 'Honest Pint' Bill raised during its third reading in the Commons.

Ben Wardle, **CAMRA** Press and Public Affairs Manager said

"8 in 10 pints sold at the moment are short measures and the public are short-changed by £5 million every week as a result. This Bill will put an end to this rip-off once and for all."

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns said, "I am shocked that an individual MP has objected to a Bill that would result in legal certainty on this issue and would protect consumers from being ripped off. The Bill would mean drinkers would get what they pay for - a full liquid pint every time. Despite this hiccup we will continue the fight for an honest pint."

The Beer and Pubs industry is already split on the issue. Several pub companies already offer full pints and licensees organisations disagree with the views of the brewers.

Mike Benner added, "Certain sectors of the industry are claiming that

the Bill is unworkable and will lead to higher prices in pubs, but the facts don't support this view."

Pubs set their prices based on a number of variables including rent, salaries, overheads and amenity levels. This is why prices vary so much from pub to pub - full pints would only be a small part of this process.

Several pub chains already offer full liquid pints and have not put prices up

It would be up to individual pubs to decide if their market would bear price increases. If drinkers weren't getting ripped off they might even go to the pub more

often!

The enforcement of the legislation would be phased in. Pubs would not have to replace all their glasses in one go, but over a period of 2 -3 years, within which they would have to replace their existing glasses anyway due to wear and tear

CAMRA's own research has shown that:

84% of people want full liquid pints

80% of pints are short

1 in 4 pints are less than 95% - the industry's own guidelines

The Bill will now move to Report Stage on 24th April.

LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS

WHITE SHIELD SAVED!

In December Bass announced the axing of **Worthington White Shield**, the biggest selling bottle conditioned beer in the country.

The market for bottle conditioned beers has shown unprecedented growth in recent years, but despite this, Bass preferred to leave the market to small brewers while it concentrated on a few mega-brands.



White Shield will now be brewed by independant brewer King & Barnes of Horsham. **White Shield** is an India Pale Ale, a style perfected in Burton-on-Trent in the last century. **CAMRA** campaigned to try to persuade Bass to change their minds and continue to brew **White Shield** or to have it contract brewed by a smaller brewery.

Due to the success of the first year of publication **SWAN SUPPING** is now published **bi-monthly!**



Local News

AYLESBURY

The County Arms has had a lick of paint and the landlady, Sue Banks, has got married.

A planning application has been made to open a **Yates Wine Lodge** on the old Cattle Market car park site as part of the redevelopment.

The **Huntsman** is still awaiting a new tenant but is now selling Fullers London Pride and guest beers from the Whitbread range including Boddingtons, Brakspears and Brains.

A new family pub is planned on the corner of Bicester Road and Jackson Road although local residents are opposing the plans. They say that a pub will increase traffic and noise in the area and cause accidents on an already busy road.

POSTCOMBE

The **Feathers** has been renamed **England's Rose** in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales. Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, has refused to support the name change saying that Diana would not have supported the move as she disapproved of alcohol. The Earl had written to landlady Sheila Guinnane.

WENDOVER

A new name has been chosen for **The Office** after a competition organised by new owners Vintage Inns. When it reopens it will be called **The Firecrest** after the rare bird that is to be found in Wendover Woods. Extensive works underway include the widening of the A413 to provide a turning lane from the Wendover direction.

PIDDINGTON

The **Dashwood Arms** has a new landlord and is now owned by the Dorchester brewer Eldridge Pope.

LITTLE KIMBLE

The Crown is now the Crown Diner and has had all the old beer fonts removed.

WINSLOW

The landlord of **The Devil in the Boot** has applied to Aylesbury Vale District Council's development control committee for permission to convert the pub into a house. Mr Hickin wants to sell the pub to concentrate on his foreign business interests. He lives in Spain.

WENDOVER

Winkles and the **End of the World** have both been sold by the previous co-owner. **Winkles** closed just before Christmas and is undergoing a 'major rebuild'. The **End of the World** was sold last year and the 3 handpumps now serve Flowers IPA, Mansfield Bitter and Wadworths 6X all in good condition when last sampled by one of our team.

KINGSWOOD

The **Plough & Anchor** has Tring Ridgeway Bitter, Wychwood Shires and Vale Brewery Wychert and Hadda's Spring Gold on sale, and the **Crooked Billet**, also in Kingswood, has Greene King IPA, Fullers London Pride and Wadworth 6X available.

WORLD'S END

The **Marquis of Granby** continues to have one guest ale plus one beer from Vale brewery in addition to its standard 4 beers (Wadworth 6X, Tetley, Adnams, and Greene King IPA). The **End of the World** at Worlds End, has Brakspears Bitter and Special and Fullers London Pride for sale with one beer on offer at £1.20.

WINSLOW

The owner of the **Devil in the Boot**, Brian Hinkin, has applied for planning permission to turn the pub into a private residence and then plans to sell it on following trouble in the pub before Christmas. Mr Hinkin is of course the former long time manager of the **Red Lion Hotel** in Wendover.

WHITCHURCH

The **Crown and Thistle** now appears to be a private house.

BIERTON

The **Red Lion** has a new landlord and is now owned by Eldridge Pope.

BUCKLAND

The **Rothschild Arms** is now a private house, but confusingly it still has the pub sign displayed outside!

HIGH WYCOMBE

We now have what is probably our first Irish theme pub. It is what used to be the **White Lion** in Crendon street (the bottom bit of Amersham hill) in Wycombe. It now rejoices in the name **Finn O'Coul** and has had a major refit inside to render it fit for its new role in life. The only strange note is that it is generally thought in the brewing industry that the craze for Irish theme pubs is probably already over. Buckinghamshire may be leaving it late to jump on the bandwagon.



WOOBURN MOOR

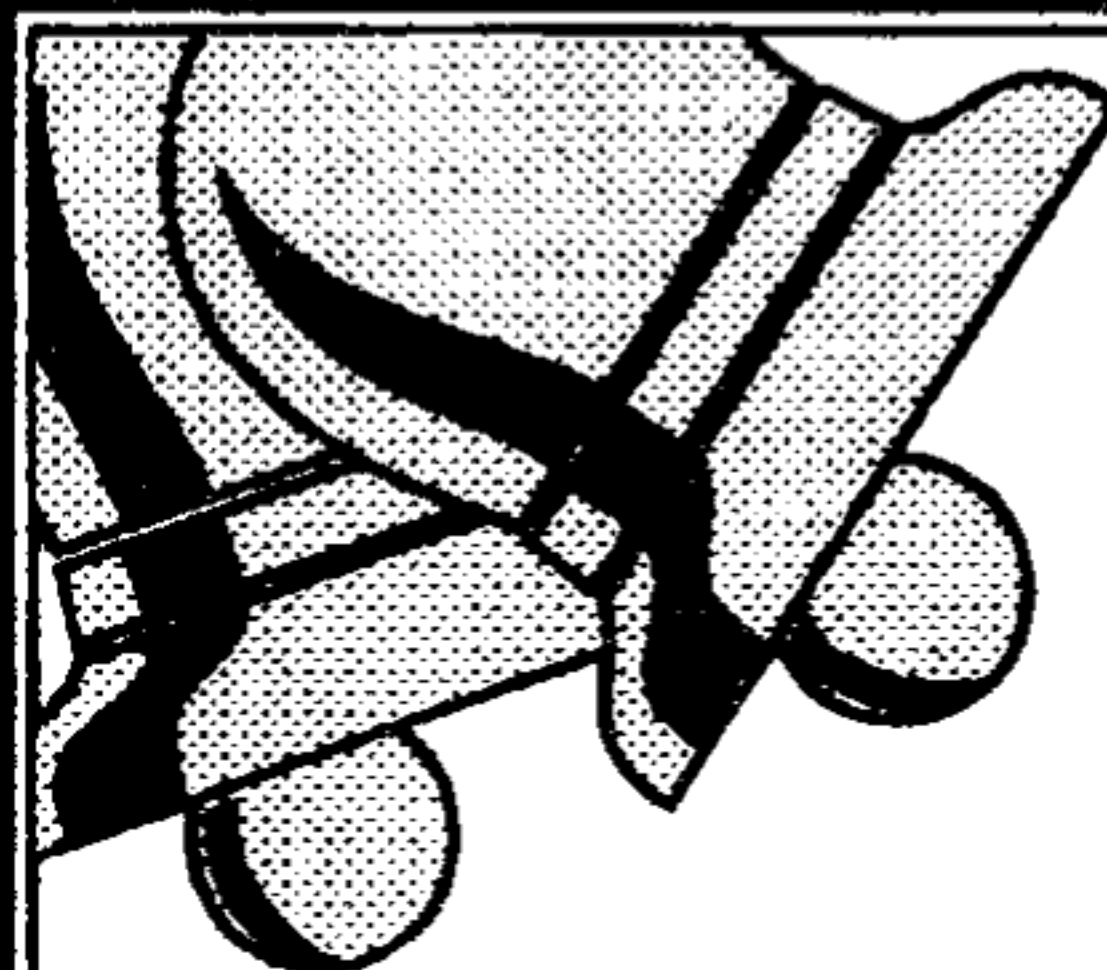
The **Falcon** at Woburn Moor has become a Hooden Horse theme pub. The Hooden Horse chain started as a small independent group in Kent and has now been bought out by a national group who are spreading the theme. As far as can be ascertained the main thrust of the theme seems to be Mexican food. Will this lead to a whole host of Mexican theme pubs to replace the Irish ones?

AYLESBURY VALE

Aylesbury Vale District Council is to hold its second Village Pub Competition this year. Entry forms will be available in all eligible pubs in May. Last year's winner was the **Black Boy** in Oving. The winning landlord and landlady will be sitting on the judging panel for this year's contest. The panel also consists of local councillors and representatives from MIX 96, the Bucks Herald, the British Institute of Innkeepers and CAMRA.

HENTON

The **Peacock** does not now sell real ale.



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Edgar's Golden	4.3%	£74.00	£44.00	£22.00

Hadda's Seasonal Ales are available throughout the year.



Local News

KINGSWOOD

The Plough & Anchor has Tring Ridgeway Bitter, Wychwood Shires and Vale Brewery Wychert and Hadda's Spring Gold on sale, and the Crooked Billet, also in Kingswood, has Greene King IPA, Fullers London Pride and Wadworth 6X available.

ABC

Following the takeover by Bass of Carlsberg-Tetley's Burton brewery, what is the future for ABC Bitter? The beer has been brewed in Burton since 1936 when the owners decided to contract out the brewing rather than renovate the Walton Brewery in Aylesbury.

DRIVING FOR A RECORD

A local CAMRA member is attempting to get into the Guinness Book of Records by attempting to break the world record for the longest taxi fare. Geoff Smith is a retired taxi driver who was disabled 33 years ago after being knocked down by a taxi. To break the record he has to get a fare of over £40,210 or around 21,000 miles. He intends to raise £250,000 for the Spinal Injuries Unit in the process.

The current record breaking attempt is planned to start in London on 23rd May and he plans to return just before Christmas. To break the record he will need at least one passenger all the way and two witnesses to check the meter at the start and end of the journey. The meter is being specially made.

In order to get the attempt moving Geoff needs sponsors for accessories such as tyres and oil. Sponsor's names will be displayed on the black cab as it journeys around Europe. He is also looking for a passenger. If you can help, Geoff can be contacted at:

33 Giffard Way, Long Crendon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 9DW. Tel 01844 208933.

SWANNING ABOUT... in Princes Risborough

Princes Risborough is a pleasant little mediaeval market town that has fared less well than some of its Chiltern neighbours. The Market Square and Church Street remain almost intact however and there is a semblance of the old town in Bell Street also. The 17th century manor (NT) survives, together with an attractive Norman church. The name 'Princes' derives from its association with the Duchy of Cornwall.



Our first stop after leaving the railway station was the **Bird in Hand**. A cosy cottage pub which was beginning to undergo a refurbishment inside and out, hence the scaffolding. Greene King beers on offer were Abbot (£2) and IPA (£1.70). Sometimes there will also be a guest beer. Food is available (except Sun & Mon) including 'freshly baked pizza' for £3.

Heading towards the centre of town our next stop was the **Bell**. Like the previous pub, the landlord and landlady have only recently moved in. This is a small, friendly village style pub which has been opened out into one bar with a games area at one end. There is a large garden with childrens play equipment. The beers were Tetleys (£1.85) and



Wadworth 6X (£1.85). There are regular 'happy hours' and between 11 and 1, Monday to Saturday OAPs can get a pint for £1.25.

Into the centre of town and the first stop is the **Whiteleaf Cross**, a town tavern overlooking the restored Market House with its arcades and surmounted clock. The pub sign depicts the chalk cross on a nearby hill. Meals are available 12-2, Monday to Saturday with pensioners specials on offer Monday to Thursday. **Morlands**



beers are on sale here including Bitter (£1.70), Old Speckled Hen (£2.10) and on this visit the seasonal beer Bill's Spring Brew (£1.80).

Not so long ago there would have been another stop just down the road, but the **Buckingham Arms** was demolished to make way for a superstore.

Turning back down the High Street the next stop was the **George and Dragon**. This is an old (possibly 16th century) coaching inn with cobbled yard and a candlelit restaurant. There's a choice of three beers. Benskins (£1.75), Bass (£1.80) or Marston's Pedigree (£1.95).

The final port of call before heading back to the railway station was the



Black Prince. On the Wycombe Road, this is a small urban hotel/free house with an imposing frontage. A free house it may be but there's a **Courage** sign outside and the only beers on sale are from Courage. There's Best (£1.85) and Directors (£2.00). Dark mild is also available but in keg form only.

Leaving the Black Prince and heading back to the station we passed the Bird in Hand again and popped in for one final pint of IPA before catching the train home.



Swan Supping

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

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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

Trading Standards:

For complaints about short measure, price lists, strength lists (Alcohol by volume), 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)

Planning Department

For comments, complaints or objections about pub alterations or developments -

Aylesbury:

AVDC Planing Dept, Exchange St, Aylesbury
HP20 1UB Tel: 01296 585400

Advertising Standards Authority:

For complaints about deceptive advertising-
Advertising Standards Authority
Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place
London WC1E 7HN



APPLE Cider and Perry

MATTHEW CLARK

Matthew Clark has denied that it is to be sold off or split into separate divisions. The share price has fallen from 801p to around 200p in the last 2 years.

BULMERS

After a warning of a slump in profits, Bulmers are said to be in financial trouble. It has been blamed on the purchase of White Lightning from Inch's last year. Merrydown and Matthew Clark had previously issued profits warnings.

UNDER 26?
NEW LOW MEMBERSHIP
RATES. SEE PAGE 8.



Letters

Send your letters to the editorial address on page 3.

From Elvis Evans, High Wycombe.

What is going on at the **Mother Redcap**? It was threatened by the proposal to widen the M40 to 6 lanes each way. With the change of government the M40 is still being widened but not by so much. So is the **Mother Redcap** still in danger from the motorway?

The **Redcap** closed a few weeks ago. It looked as though the closure was permanent. Then one evening as I was passing, I saw that it was open for business and had customers inside. So a few days later I went there to find out what was going on and the place had that very closed look about it. Neither the landlord nor the brewery has notified the local **CAMRA** branch as to what is happening so we are as much in the dark as the pub's potential customers are.

We seem to have lost the **White Blackbird** pub. It has ended as a

pub and is now a night-club. I hear that MacDonalds is after the site to flatten it and replace it with a burger bar. The other site that Ronald is looking at is a site much nearer to Wycombe that is next to a petrol station. The previous use for this site is that it used to deal in caravans. The **White Blackbird** site is preferred however.



There is a new "pub" in the area. The **Papermill** is an imposing building overlooking the A40 and is part of the Whitbread Brewers Fayre (sic) chain. It is really more of a licenced restaurant. The food looks to be reasonable but it is not the sort of place for an evening's beer quaffing. The famous quote from the original **Good Beer**

Guide might suffice. Very cold beer, swan-necks and sparklers and an uninspiring range of beer. In vain did I look for the mild and the porter, of course.



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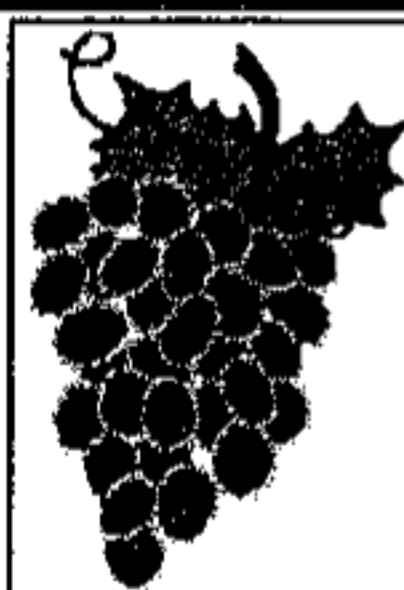
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**BUDGET
COMMENT**

CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale, has vowed to continue its campaign for fair beer duty for British drinkers following the Chancellor's decision to increase excise duty on beer by 1 pence from January 1999. This will mean the price of a pint will rise by 2 pence.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns said, "This increase is very bad news for drinkers who are still reeling from the penny on a pint announced in the last Budget. Mr. Brown has offered no support for the 900,000 British jobs supported by the beer and pubs industry. Pubs are closing directly as a result of high beer tax. The Chancellor has ignored the evidence that a cut in duty would benefit the industry, consumers and the government within two years."

13% of beer brewed in France is now brought over to the UK by personal shoppers and smugglers. Without substantial duty cuts, the level of cross-border shopping for beer is predicted to increase from 1 in 20 pints today to 1 in 5 pints by 2006.

While CAMRA supports a reduction in duty on all alcoholic products, a cut in beer duty would have been far more effective in helping British pubs. 60% of the turnover of an average pub is beer; spirits account for only a small percentage of turnover.

Confusingly, it was later announced that the duty on weaker sparkling wines is being reduced by 36p a bottle following pressure from the European wine industry. It seems the chancellor will listen to the French but not the British.

Mr. Benner added, "Mr. Brown has promised action to clamp down on smuggling, but has failed to use the one weapon in his arsenal that is guaranteed to work - cut duty."

The Campaign for Real Ale has lent its support to Kent brewer Shepherd Neame in its continuing campaign to cut beer tax and save the British brewing industry.

Mike Benner, said that despite the High Court decision against Shepherd Neame in January, "The campaign for fair beer duty is not over. Through their challenge, Shep's have helped put the issue of tax into the minds of millions of beer drinker who are starting to realise how much it costs them - a third of the price of a pint in tax" (includes Excise duty and VAT).

Mr Benner added, "Several pub companies are setting the right example by not increasing prices, but this position is not sustainable. the only long term solution to protect Britain's pubs and breweries from closure is to even out the playing field with the French by slashing beer duty."

CAMRA is calling for a reduction in beer excise duty to the EU median rate (approximately 10 pence) staggered over three years and starting with a substantial reduction in the March budget.

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, today welcomed the decision to give Shepherd Neame leave to appeal against unfair levels of beer duty.

"Britain's beer drinkers have moved a step closer to getting a fair deal on duty", said Ben Wardle, CAMRA's Press & Public affairs Manager.

In a hearing, that apparently lasted just seconds, Vice Chancellor Sir Richard Scott gave the all clear. Cherie Booth QC will put the case at the Court of Appeal for the matter to be referred to the European Court of Justice. Shepherd Neame's case is that high rates in the UK are in breach of European laws requiring states to harmonise duty levels across the EU.



MILD DAY OF ACTION

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, have decreed that Saturday May 16th will be a MILD day!

The football followers among our readers will realize that this clashes with the FA Cup Final! However, as this will be on all the TV's in the pubs in our area, this will mean that you will have no excuse for not supporting the day by trying a pint of mild during the game!

Mild has developed a "cloth cap" and "whippet" image over the years when it used to be the starting point for most young drinkers due to its (generally) lower strength and lower price. Nowadays, the newer drinkers have a larger disposable income and are unduly affected by the massive advertising budgets for lager and fancy bottles of foreign beer (even if they have to have a slice of lime or some lemonade to make it drinkable).

Of the more than 400 pubs in our branch area, there are only the following pubs (please correct us if we are wrong!) that still serve mild :-

Dairy Maid, Aylesbury,
Old Ship, Cadmore End,
Kings Head, Chinnor,
Prince Albert, Frieth,
Bottle & Glass, Gibralter,
Red Lion, Haddenham,
Bull & Butcher, Turville,
Chequers, Wheeler End
Common.



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MORRELLS

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A pub by any other name

I am sure that many Society members share my concern about what is happening to the town's pubs. Either they are having their names changed or they are disappearing altogether.

Recently, in and around Wycombe the old **Three Tuns**, **The Angel**, **The Turnpike** and **The Morning Star** have been given silly new names (you might well know more) while **The Gate** is under threat of demolition, and at the time of writing this, **The Bell** in Frogmore is closed with no sign of renovation going on. It's enough to drive you to drink!

This name changing is particularly annoying when an historic association is lost as in the case of **The Turnpike** at Cressex (now the **Hungry Horse**), which stands at the corner of Turnpike Road, where, presumably, there was once a turnpike. Pubs and their names are deeply entrenched in our culture. I bet even people who never watch Coronation Street or Eastenders have heard of the **Rovers Return** and the **Queen Vic**!

Dumbing down is a phrase we hear a lot these days, and it seems to me that this is exactly what many of the large brewery chains want to do to our old pubs - kick out local associations, forget the past, erode individuality and character and attract younger drinkers. It is patronisingly assumed that these younger drinkers are not interested in their local history: maybe, when they are full of lager this is true. But we all grow up eventually, and the significance of the past should not be thrown out like flat beer.

This problem is nation-wide, of course, and growing. There can hardly be a town untouched by a gaudily decorated **Slug and Lettuce/Rat and Carrot/Firkin and Something-or-other**. If the pub is a Victorian or Edwardian building, the true original Name can often be spotted carved in the stonework at the top, and I always look for it if I find such a pub.

So, what is to be done? As individuals we can keep writing to newspapers, MPs, breweries; anything which keeps the problem in the public eye. I once wrote in the newsletter that I believe if a pub has had its name for 50 years or more it should be kept, and I wish somebody in authority would implement this rule. If so, when the newly-opened **Hogshead** pub in Oxford Road (not a real pub in my opinion) turns into **The Pig's Ear** halfway through the next century, there will be a storm of protest from our successors. *Cheers!*

This article by Denise Lindsay originally appeared in the newsletter of The High Wycombe Society and is reproduced with permission. For further details about the society contact Jon Gore, 30 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2UR. (Tel 01494 526671).

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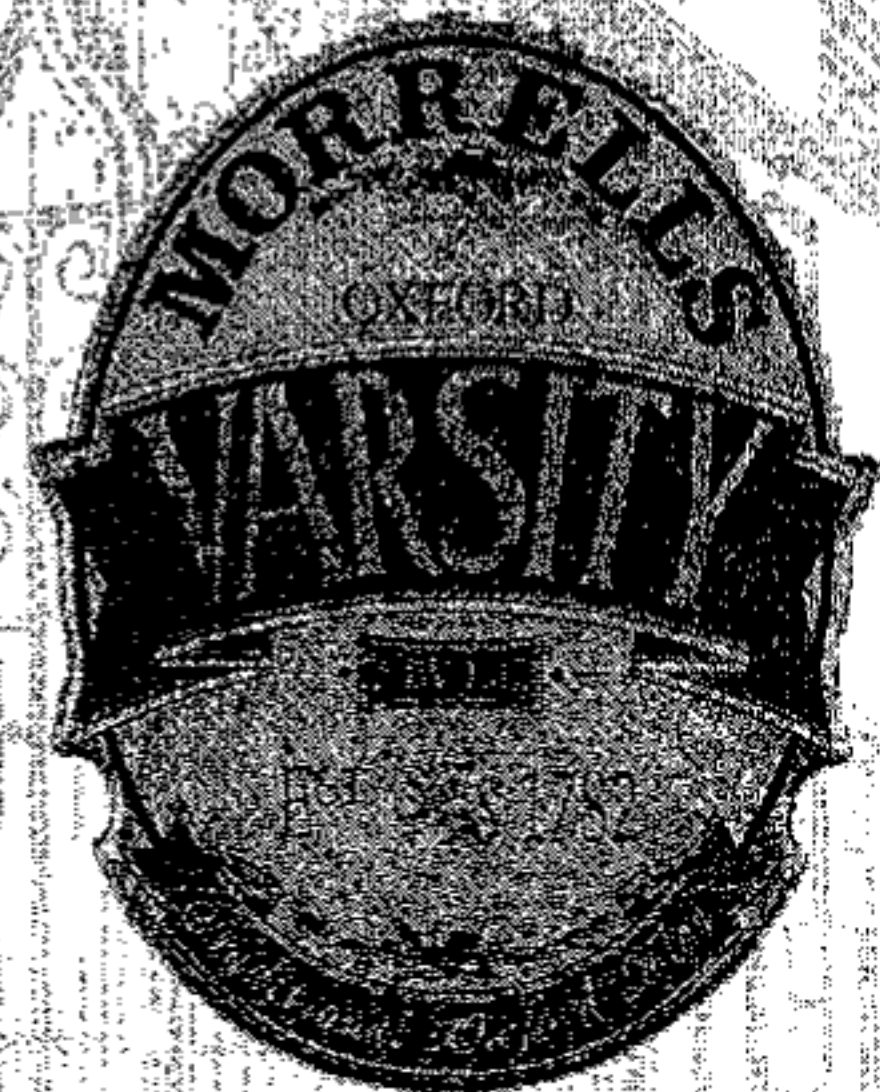
OXFORD BITTER
(ALC. 5.7% VOL.)

This beer has for some time been our greatest volume seller. Golden brown in colour with a dominant malty odour and fruity overtones.



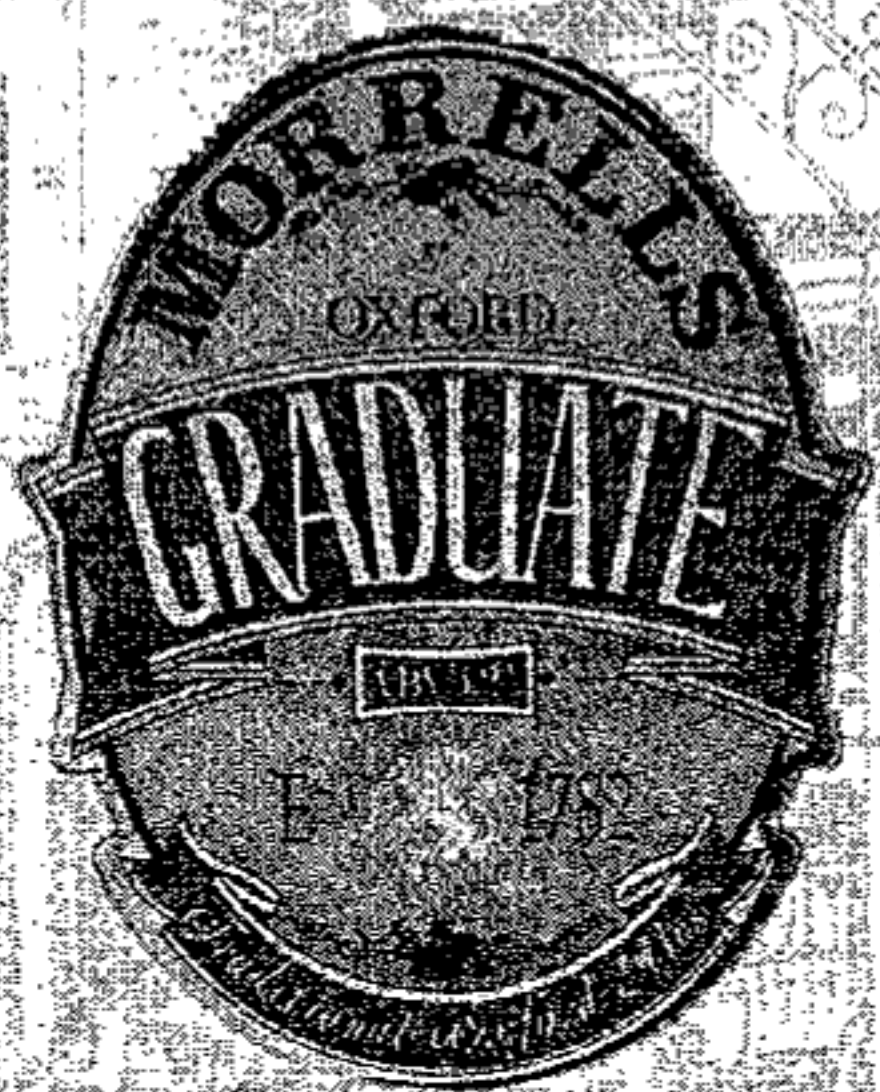
OXFORD MILD
(ALC. 5.7% VOL.)

A ruby brown mild with a smokey but dominantly sweet aroma leading to a nutty, roast malt flavour and hoppy finish.



VARSITY
(ALC. 4.3% VOL.)

The flagship premium bitter which is enjoying tremendous sales growth. A full bodied pint with a malty taste and characteristic hoppy aroma.



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ENTERPRISE INNS

In February Enterprise Inns launched a £48m-agreed offer for pubs group Gibbs Mew. The enlarged pub group will own more than 1500 pubs.

MARSTONS

Rumours are mounting that Marstons is to sell off all of its 625 tenanted pubs. Their managing Director, David Gordon, quit in February. He is known to be in favour of traditional tenancies. A spokesman said that talk of a mass pub sale was "premature to say the least". Marstons also has a managed estate of 253 pubs.

FULL PINTS

A working party has been formed to draw up a timetable for the introduction of oversized and toughened glasses in all pubs. A deadline of 31st March was set for the group to report to the government. A recent CAMRA survey showed that 60 out of 66 pubs in Cumbria served short pints.

BOTTLES OUT?

The government licensing minister George Howarth has announced plans to allow magistrates to ban bottles in pubs because they can be used as weapons. Bottled beer producers have reacted with concern. Mr Howarth welcomed the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association's agreement to help in the voluntary introduction of toughened glass.

STEAM BEER

Cheshire's Burtonwood brewery has donated a 40 tonne steam train to the Llangollen Railway in North Wales.

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE

Scottish & Newcastle (S&N) plans to buy 311 pubs from Grand Pub Company that was set up by Nomura to buy the Innkeeper & Spring Inn chains. They plan to convert them into Chef & Brewer, Rat & Parrot or John Barras theme pubs. Most of the pubs are inside the M25. The deal will give S&N 23,500 managed pubs by April 2000. CAMRA welcomed the deal because the IPC pubs would have lost their guest ale rights after March.

S&N has teamed up with Tesco's Clubcard to offer 'pints for points'. A pilot scheme is running for 3 months in 30 pub around Edinburgh, Reading and Sunderland. Customers will receive one point on their card for every pound spent at an S&N outlet.

COMPETITION??

A group of Essex boys have set up an anti-real ale group, GOLD, Good Old Lager Drinkers!

FOREIGN

Belgian Trappist beers including La Trappe and Chimay are facing competition from look-alike beers. Eight of the monasteries producing Trappist beers have grouped together to form the International Trappist Association to devise a common logo. This will appear on bottles of genuine Trappist beer brewed by Trappist monks or nuns or under their supervision.

CURRIED BEER!

A new category was added to the 1998 Beauty of Hops, English Ale Awards. Twenty breweries attempted to brew the ideal beer to be served with a medium hot curry.

CROWN BUCKLEY

Real ale supporters from CAMRA laid a coffin and wreath at the gates of the Crown Buckley brewery when it close dlast month. S A Brains who bought the brewery have said they will continue to brew the beers in Cardiff. Fifty jobs and a 230 year old brewing tradition have been lost.

PUB DESIGN AWARDS

The 1997 CAMRA/English Heritage Pub Design Awards were presented in February.

The Best Pub Refurbishment Award goes to the Bread & Roses run by the Workers Beer Company in London. Avoiding the usual tired design solutions, the architects have employed an inspired, but sensitive contemporary approach to revitalise a run-down community pub.

Frazer's Bar in Edinburgh is the clear winner of the award for Conversion to Pub Use. Housed in the former offices of the Royal Bank of Scotland the design of the bar evokes an Art-Deco yet unmistakably contemporary feel. the bar is the result of good design with a simplicity of touch from previous award winner Ian Whyte.

Whilst there was much to celebrate in the field of exciting pub design the judges, once again, felt unable to present any award in the Newbuild category. Worryingly there was no pub of a standard to win the English Heritage Conservation award. The judges commented "A depressingly large proportion of the entries were bedecked with over-familiar 'heritage' paraphernalia - Disneyesque travesties straight out of a catalogue rather than the back of the attic."

The 1998 awards were also launched at the presentations for pub opened or reopened in 1997.

NEW DAWN FOR GUEST BEERS

CAMRA is celebrating the extension of the popular guest beer law to include bottle-conditioned beers.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns said, "This is a just reward for our members who campaigned hard for the guest beer law to include bottled real ales. Now pub tenants of national brewers can take both a draught and bottled guest ale from a supplier of their choice."

Bottle-conditioned beers represent a growth area in the beer market as today's consumers demand a range of interesting and distinctive beers. Many of Britain's 500 brewers now produce bottled beers.

Mike Benner added, "Supermarket shelves are filling up with exciting bottled real ales and now more pubs

can share in their success. The public sees these beers as quality premium products and any eligible publican who does not take up the opportunity to stock one must be an April Fool."

CAMRA continues to campaign for non-brewing pub chains to allow their tenants to offer a guest bottled and draught real ale.

CLOSING DOWN?

Rumours are mounting that the Samuel Allsopp Brewery based in the former Carlsberg-Tetley brewery is to close in the next few weeks. The brewery was bought by Bass in January

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***In the '97 Beer Guide Again. Always having 6 Real Ales 'On' & Changing Often (Plus, if its not too busy, ask the bar staff what's ready for 'blast off' in the cellar - that's another 3 ales at least !!)**

*

*** Ample Car Parking. Disabled Facilities ***
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***ALTERNATIVELY MORE INFORMAL ~ VALUE FOR MONEY ~ TRADITIONALLY HOME COOKED BAR FOOD ***

Sounds Good eh?

FUNNILLY ENOUGH WING IS 'COVERED' BY THE SWAN SUPPING PAPER SO WHY NOT COME TO A PUB THAT ALWAYS OFFERING A 'MINI FESTIVAL' & NOT A MILLION MILES AWAY!





Membership News

At the end of 1997 CAMRA membership was up to over 51,000 and we would like to extend a big welcome to the following new members who have recently joined CAMRA or moved into our area:

High Wycombe - Ms S Hamilton, J & D Lancaster, Mr R Flynn, Mr C P Mainstone; **Bourne End** - Mr D Paul, Mr N Hughes; **Speen** - Mr D Vale; **Holmer Green** - Mr C Padley; **Hazlemere** - Mr P Forster; **Rowsham** - Mr M Catherwood; **Bradenham** - Mr & Mrs D M Tudor; **Medmenham** - Mr M French; **Radnage** - Mr & Mrs M P Hodges.



INTERNET

[HTTP://homepages.bucks.net/~bryan_spink/](http://homepages.bucks.net/~bryan_spink/)

As mentioned in this issue, Horsham brewers **King & Barnes** are now brewing *Worthington's White Shield* under contract. They have their own web site which gives information about their range of beers and pubs, a brewery history, the pubs and ales trail and brewery tours. There is also details of the brewery gift shop. (<http://www.kingandbarnes.co.uk>)

If you're interested in foreign beer bottle labels try this site. (<http://www.wins.uva.nl/~frank/beer/dejean/labels.html>) or if its a vareer in the pub trade you're after then try the new *Barzone* site set up to encourage young people to enter the trade (<http://www.barzone.co.uk>). Some pubs have their own web pages. Middle Barton in Oxfordshire has its own site with pages dedicated to locals. (<http://www.middlebarton.demon.co.uk/pubs.html>)

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

Rates are Single £14, Joint £17 (at same address),
Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £8
Joint OAP £11 (at same address)
Under 26 £8 date of birth _____
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)



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all meetings!

April

Sunday 12th 12 Noon Easter Sunday Social

Cock, Wing Restored, one-bar free house. Good beer range.

Tuesday 21st 9:00pm Social

Dashwood Arms, Piddington. Large comfortable bar with games area

May

Tuesday 5th Brill Social

9:00pm Pheasant, 9:45pm Red Lion, 10:30pm Sun Inn

Friday 8th Southwark Pub Crawl

Start at 5:30/6pm Royal Oak, (Harveys) near Borough underground then (6:40pm) Blue Eyed Maid {Try Also Kings Head}, (7.10pm) Grapes (7:30pm) George, (8:00pm) Ye Olde Kings Head {Try Also Bunch of Grapes}, (8.30pm) Wheatsheaf

Monday 11th 8:30pm Branch Meeting

Clayton Arms, Marlow Town centre gem with two small bars.

Wednesday 20th 9:00pm World's End Social

9:00pm End of the World, 10:00pm Marquis of Granby

Thursday 28th 9:00pm Long Crendon Social

9:00pm Churchill Arms, 10:00pm Eight Bells



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Beer Festival Diary

April

16th - 18th Bury St Edmunds Corn Exchange (Town centre)

16th - 18th Dunstable Dunstable Young Persons Centre

16th - 19th Doncaster Beerex 98 Doncaster Exhibition Centre

17th - 18th Basingstoke Vyne School, Vyne Road (5 mn from trains, bus)

17th - 18th Mansfield Mansfield Leisure Centre

23rd - 25th Walsall Walsall Town Hall

24th - 25th Chippenham Studio Hall, Olympiad Leisure Centre (5 mn BR)

30th - May 1st Ongar The Budworth Hall, High Street

<http://easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~sothcott-b/ongar.html>

30th - May 3rd Reading Kings Meadow, Reading

May

14th - 16th Barnsley Premier Barnsley Football Ground

15th - 17th Yapton Beerex Yapton & Ford Village Hall

22nd - 23rd Frodsham, Cheshire Frodsham Community Centre

28th - 30th Oxford Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates

5 mins walk from bus station, 10 mins from rail station. Thu 5-11pm, Fri 11-11pm, Sat 11-11pm.

October

Friday 23rd - Saturday 24th

5th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival to be held at The Ranch House, Aylesbury. This is a charity beer festival, organised by the Friends of Florence Nightingale House with assistance from the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST PUB



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FOR
REAL ALE

21st GREAT BRITISH
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4th-8th AUGUST 1998