

WINTER 1998

Swan Supping



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Issue 4

FULL PINTS ON THE WAY!!!!

The Campaign for Real Ale is celebrating the success of Dennis Turner MP's Private Members Bill. The Bill had its second reading on December 12th without objection. It will now go to the standing committee hopefully in early January.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns said, "This is tremendous news for drinkers. It will hopefully be illegal to sell a short pint by the Spring Solstice. Our members have been campaigning for full pints for years and it's good to see all that hard work is finally coming to fruition."

"This will be very popular with consumers who are tired of being ripped off. Our recent survey showed that 84% of adults think a pint should be a pint of liquid. If the final stages of the Bill go well Trading Standards Officers will soon have the power to prosecute pubs who don't serve full pints."

Dennis Turner MP who initiated the Bill said today, "I am elated. The Bill received unanimous support from Members and I am confident it will progress through the remaining stages quickly. It's all down to fairness - it's a simple and honest measure for drinkers."

Aylesbury MP, David Liddington, is not so sure about the bill. In a reply to a

letter from Swan Supping's editor, Mr Liddington said that whilst he was keen to see fair trading maintained, he had 'severe doubts about whether Mr Turner's bill is an effective solution. The bill has overtones of the nanny state and a far more practical course of action is for customers simply to request that their pint is topped up once it has settled.'

He continued, 'If it were to become law, this bill would require the replacement of every pint glass in the country, a cost that would certainly be passed on to the consumer.' Mr Liddington's letter has been described by a CAMRA spokesman as 'the most negative letter from an MP' that he has seen.

**LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS**

A reply has been sent to Mr Liddington explaining that, as pubs replace their stock of glasses on average every 18 months, and if a two year phasing in period were allowed, then there would be no additional cost to the industry or the consumer.

Consumer Affairs Minister Nigel Griffiths fully supports

the Bill. Mr. Griffiths said, "I am determined to see that beer drinkers get a fair deal." Research by Trading Standards Officers and CAMRA earlier this year showed that 8 out of 10 pints are short and that 1 in 4 are less than the industry's own guidelines of 95% liquid.

CAMRA spokesman Mike Benner says, "CAMRA will not give up the fight for a full-pint."

NEW YEAR SALE

CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale, announced its disappointment at Bass's decision to sell 1428 tenanted pubs and called for government action to protect consumer choice.

The new owner is not a national brewer and is not legally bound to allow tenants to take a guest beer from a supplier of their choice.

Ben Wardle of CAMRA said, "This is bad news for beer lovers and for Britain's hundreds of small brewers. The guest beer law has been universally successful in promoting choice and opening up the beer market. Over 1400 pubs will now lose that right."

CAMRA saved the guest beer law earlier this year following a challenge from a small UK wholesaler. From April 1998 the law will be extended to

**Under 26?
New, Lower
Membership Rates-
See Page 12**

More Closures?

Whitbread are refusing to comment on rumours that it is about to close two of its five breweries.

The breweries thought to be under threat are Castle Eden in Durham and Flowers in Cheltenham.

include bottle-conditioned beers. CAMRA will be campaigning hard for an amendment to the Beer Orders legislation to force large pub chains to offer a guest beer.

Ben Wardle added, "We will be asking the Government to take a second look at the effects on choice following the purchase of IPCL by Nomura and now the sale of these Bass pubs to a pizza-chain entrepreneur. This development serves to undermine the spirit of the legislation and can only be bad for pub users. We think the effects on consumers of central beer supply agreements are the same regardless of who owns the pub."

"It appears that Bass is only concerned with investing in national themed chains. We

(Continued on page 3)



Ivinghoe Aston

Villagers in Ivinghoe Aston have clubbed together and bought the village local to save it from demolition. The **Swan** was turned into the Mermaid fish restaurant two years ago. When that business failed, an offer was put in for the pub by a developer who planned to knock down the pub and build houses on the site. A committee was set up by villagers and within 24 hours they raised £151,000. Their offer for the pub was beaten and so the villagers turned to Aylesbury Vale District Council to rule on planning permission. They won the case and after a further bidding war the villager's offer was accepted on November 11th. The first pint in the renamed **Village Swan** was pulled on 29th November. Ivinghoe Aston is just outside the branch area

Wendover

The **King & Queen** have given up the Tapsters Choice range of guest beers due to 'no demand for real ale'. Therefore it's back to just the Tetleys.

The **Office** was sold to Vintage Inn, a division of Bass Taverns, on 13th October. A £1.5 million facelift is planned to turn the pub into an old coaching inn. Last orders were called on December 19th and it will re-open at the beginning of May. It is also planned to change the name of the pub (again). Suggestions have included its old name, **The Halfway House**, **The Six Bells** and **The Dog and Partridge**. The new licensee has also applied for planning permission for an extension to the kitchen, beer cellar and car park. Wendover Parish Council objected to the changes to the Grade II listed building and urged Bucks County Council to consider the plans carefully. The application was due to be discussed on January 8th. Other changes include the provision of disabled facilities, an open fire and the widening of the London Road.

Weston Turville

The **Chequers** has been hit by the curse of the Good Beer Guide. The pub was an entry this year but as the guide was published things changed. This popular pub has been sold to Inn Business based in Whitchurch.

Long Crendon

Frank and Joyce Buckingham have left **The Star** and retired to Towcester. The new landlords are Sue and Dennis Hooper from Uxbridge.

Marlow

Fred and Doreen Boxall have left the **Two Brewers**. Roger and Carole Shippey have left the **Chequers** and the pub has become a managed house. The **Crown** has applied for planning permission to turn it into a theme pub. The lease for **The Ship** was on offer in October for £125,000. (See also p7)

Great Kimble

Prime Minister, Tony Blair, held a press conference in the **Bernard Arms**, while spending Christmas at Chequers. The pub has been used by many Prime Ministers over the years. It was also visited by Russian President Boris Yeltsin accompanied by John Major.

Aylesbury

The old **Muswells** bar reopened in October as Hampdens. There is no real ale on offer. Real ale briefly returned to the **Buckingham Arms** but now its back to keg only..

The **Queens Head** applied for and received planning permission for an extension into a neighbouring building.

The **Millwrights** in Aylesbury was the first pub in Aylesbury Vale to install one of the new **Pronto** pub lottery games. 2,000 of the controversial machines were installed in the first wave. 20% of the cost of a ticket goes to charity with a top prize of £25,000.

Pubs in bloom

Two local pubs won awards Vanguard Lease Company Pubs in Bloom Contest. The **Ship** in Aylesbury was judged to have the best hanging baskets in Bucks and the **Churchill Arms**, Long Crendon won the prize for best garden and patio in the county. The winning landlords received a certificate and bottle of champagne.

Bishopstone

The landlord and landlady of the **Harrow** left in October after three years.

Lacey Green

Dick and Brenda Williams have left **The Whip** after 21 years. Brenda says she may write a book about their time in the pub. The new landlords at **The Whip** are Richard and Karen Pither.

Whiteleaf

The 17th Century **Red Lion**, a favourite with walkers, was put on the market for around £350,000. Richard Howard, the licensee, bought the pub ten years ago and his son, Tony, has been running the business for him. The Howards have bought a pub in Exmoor, near the Somerset border because Richard wishes to retire to Exmoor to be close to the hunting community. The **Red Lion** is likely to remain a "free" house following the sale.

Prestwood

The **King's Head** has reopened selling Marston's Pedigree, Owd Roger and Bateman's Dark Mild.

Marsworth

The landlady of the **Red Lion**, Christine Brake, died while on holiday in Turkey.

Askett

The kitchen at **The Black Horse** was damaged by a fire late on Sunday 26th October.

Waddesdon

Aylesbury Vale District Council have given the go ahead for outbuildings at the **Five Arrows** to be converted into a function room. There will also be a new outdoor seating area.

Bierton

The landlord and landlady of the **Red Lion** have left following a letter campaign complaining to the brewery about a row over a cancelled darts match. Eldridge Pope say that Gary Folksman and Elizabeth Mansfield were not happy and they handed in their notice. They said that they "wanted to leave quickly". A former barmaid has said that the complaints originated because the couple would not agree to illegal late night opening and that the locals did not like people coming from other areas.

Old Luxters Brewery



Traditional
Ales
and Bottle
Conditioning

Tel 01491 638330



PORTFOLIO OF OVER 500
HANDPAINTED IN OILS

Web Page Design by
ROBERTEX
I.T. Limited
Tel : 01296 425764

HOGSHEAD

THE OLD BREWERY
MARLOW

UP TO 17 CASK ALES AVAILABLE
PLUS CASK CIDERS



SINGLE BREWER FESTIVALS



ABROAD COOPER - 6X - BODDINGTONS
GOOD ALE
GOOD ATMOSPHERE



COLIN AND BRENDA WHILEY
01628 478737



Swan Supping

Swan Supping is distributed free of charge to pubs in the branch area. Published by the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of the Campaign for Real Ale and printed by *Northridge Printing Services Limited*, Unit 13-14, Bessemer Crescent, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3TF.

Circulation 1500 copies.

Edited by Bryan Spink & David Roe.

Editorial Address :

15 Bedwyn Walk, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8EQ.

Tel/Fax : 01296 425764 (H) 0410 147528(M)

E-Mail : bryan_spink@bucks.net

Advertising rates are :- 1/16 page £5, 1/8 page £15, 1/4 page £25, 1/2 page £50. Add 10% for front page adverts. 10% Discounts for payment in advance.

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

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

©Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA 1998. Opinions expressed in *Swan Supping* are not necessarily those of the editor, or of the Campaign for Real Ale.

Chairman	<i>David Roe</i>	01296 484551
Treasurer	<i>Tony Gabriel</i>	01494 527884
Secretary	<i>Bryan Spink</i>	As above
Bierton	<i>Nick Holt</i>	01296 483554
Aylesbury	<i>Mick White</i>	01296 428266
	<i>Stuart Cooke</i>	01296 392597
Beaconsfield	<i>Colin Staines</i>	01494 674427
Bledlow Ridge	<i>Ben Walter</i>	01494 481459
High Wycombe	<i>Elvis Evans</i>	01494 511248
Marlow	<i>John Williamson</i>	01628 486378
Stokenchurch	<i>John Bazin</i>	01494 483039
Wendover	<i>John & Tina Wood</i>	01296 625215

Neighbouring CAMRA Branch Contacts

Mid Chilterns	<i>Chris Pontin</i>	01442 380115
Reading & Mid Berkshire	<i>Janet Blurton</i>	0118 9619140 0118 931 2222
S Oxfordshire	<i>Graham Hards</i>	01491 835436
Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead	<i>Vic Powell</i>	01753 735765
South Bedfordshire	<i>Nick Oakley</i>	01525 875438
Milton Keynes & N Bucks	<i>Barry Mayles</i>	01908 370036
N Oxfordshire	<i>Clive Deacon</i>	0121 742 5420
Oxford City	<i>Neil Hoggarth</i>	01865 272461

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:

County Hall, Walton Street, HP20 1UP

Tel: 01296 383205

Advertising Standards Authority:

For complaints about deceptive advertising-

Advertising Standards Authority

Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place

London WC1E 7HN

Where to Find Swan Supping

Outlets for the last issue of *Swan Supping*.

Pubs & Off Licenses

Ashendon : Gatehangers; **Aylesbury :** Aristocrat, Buckinghamshire Yeoman, County Arms, Farmyard & Firkin, Grapes, Greyhound, Hobgoblin, Horse & Jockey, Huntsman, Plough & Harrow, Queens Head, Ship, Steeplechase, Yellow Parrot ; **Bennet End :** Three Horseshoes; **Bierton :** Bell ; **Bishopstone :** Harrow ; **Cadmore End :** Ship; **Chearsley :** Bell ; **Cublington :** Unicorn; **Frieth :** Prince Albert; **Haddenham :** Red Lion, Rising Sun; **Hartwell :** Bugle Horn ; **Hedgerley :** White Horse; **Henton :** Peacock; **High Wycombe :** Rose & Crown, Wycombe Wines; **Ickford :** Rising Sun; **Kingston Blount :** Cherry Tree; **Little Marlow :** Kings Head ; **Littleworth Common :** Blackwood Arms; **Loudwater :** General Havelock, Deerhams Inn; **Maidenhead :** Hand & Flowers; **Marlow :** Clayton Arms, Hogshead, Prince of Wales, Carpenters Arms, Plough; **Postcombe :** Feathers; **Radnage :** Crown; **Smokey Row :** Swan & Brewer; **Stewkley :** Swan ; **Stone :** County Arms, Rose & Crown, Waggon & Horses ; **Turville :** Bull & Butcher; **Waddesdon :** Five Arrows, Lion; **Wendover :** Shoulder of Mutton, Queen's Head, Red Lion Hotel, White Swan, George, Pack Horse, Victoria Wines ; **West Wycombe :** George & Dragon; **Wheeler End Common :** Chequers; **Whitchurch :** White Swan, White Horse; **Wing :** Cock; **Wingrave :** Rose & Crown; **Worlds End :** Marquis of Granby; **Worminghall :** Clifden Arms

Breweries

Rebellion, Luxters, Vale

If your pub would like copies of *Swan Supping*, please contact the Editor.

National News

(Continued from page 1)

challenge the new owners to do the right thing for drinkers and invest in these pubs as community assets rather than crass theme bars."

The new owners of the Bass pubs are Hugh Osmond, who made a fortune out of the Pizza Express chain, and Roger Myers, founder of Cafe Rouge Brasseries. they think that there is still money to be made from old-style tenanted pubs. At least £30 million has been set aside to renovate pubs over the next 3 years. They will be looking at new food concepts but the type of food offered will vary from pub to pub.

At the time of going to press, rumours were beginning to circulate that Bass were interested in buying the pub group and former brewer Greenalls.

Charles Wells

Charles Wells have opened a new pub, The Bombadier, in Paris selling cask ales. They already have several pubs abroad, mainly in Italy. It is hoped that the pub will attract French customers as well as British expatriates. The pub is a joint venture between Charles Wells and French drinks agency, Tradelink.

No Smoking?

Health minister, Tessa Jowell, is planning to legislate to force pubs into taking action to limit smoking in public. Breweries and pub operators in a bid to avoid legislation, are urging publicans to act to protect the interests of non-smokers. The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association (BLRA) has made a submission to the Department of Health. They say that pubs should look at the following:

- Non-smoking area or rooms especially in family rooms and restaurants
- Improved smoke extraction, ventilation and air quality

Adnams

Adnams is to drop its mild from regular production and turn into a seasonal brew after a long period of declining sales. Mild will now only be produced in February.

New Readers Start Here

The Campaign for Real Ale, is an independent, voluntary, consumer organisation. Membership is open to all individuals, but corporate entities such as breweries and pubs are not members.

CAMRA is financed through membership subscriptions, sales of products such as books and

sweatshirts, and from the proceeds of beer festivals. We receive no funding from the brewing industry other than a limited amount of advertising in our monthly newspaper "What's Brewing".

CAMRA's mission is to act as champion of the consumer in relation to the UK and European beer and drinks industry. **CAMRA** saved real ale, it is no exaggeration to say, and as a result saved many

independent breweries. No new ale breweries were set up in the UK for the fifty years before we were founded. There are now around 200 new brewers producing real ale, part of a massive real ale revival.

Membership has grown from around 20,000 in 1989 to over 50,000. So why not join us? See the back page for a membership form or come to one of our socials to find out more.



Local Brewery News



CHILTERN BREWERY

On 5th December the Brewery Liaison Officer for Chiltern, John Wood, was invited to the brewery for the launch of new brewery related products. This brewery has specialised in a number of adjunct products in addition to mainstream brewing of draught beers for consumption on site or at about 5 regular pub outlets. Three bottled beers are produced, one of them bottle conditioned. These are sold on site and are available through outlets such as Tescos.

Previous products, still available, include mustards, sausages, shampoo, cheeses, beer cakes and pickles, all of which contain one or other of the draught beers (albeit in small quantities). The brewery has a full on and off licence and also sells organic wines, various ciders (including at least one on draught - normally Old Rosie), and locally produced English table wine grown by a registered vineyard in the Hale Valley in Wendover.

The launch consisted of three further products:

- A painting of the brewery by well-known local Chiltern artist Gladys Crook. This will be made into cards and notelets etc. The artist was on hand during this evening to sign copies of her work. Many copies of her local paintings are sold as Christmas cards in the Bucks area.

- The brewery has for several months kept a flock of Jacobs Sheep in a field at the rear of the brewery buildings and the fleeces have now been spun by a West Country company into balls of wool for sale. A sample cardigan made from Jacobs Wool is displayed. Additionally three sheep related soaps are available: *Wool Fat Soap*, *Lanolin Fleece Soap* and *Wool Fat Shaving Soap*.

- In conjunction with a local producer of Belgian chocolates in Aylesbury (Rumsey's), two liqueur chocolates have been added to the range. One contains Three Hundreds Old Ale, and the other (to a different design), Bodgers Barley Wine. They are quite moreish.

The brewery site consists of two parallel former farm buildings with the shop at the front. Permission has now been obtained to convert the unused part of the site into self catering accommodation to rent out - presumably to occupants who will not mind brewing being undertaken at an early hour next door!

Brewery trips can be pre-booked (Phone 01296 613647 for details) and the regular non bookable tour for all-comers continues at 12 noon on Saturdays.

THE BEERS:

Chiltern Ale 3.7%, **Beechwood** 4.3%, **Three Hundred** 4.9%.

Bottled beers are Three Hundred. John Hampden and Bodgers Barley Wine (the latter is bottle conditioned)

The Five Elms

WEEDON, Nr Aylesbury

18th CENTURY THATCHED INN

FOOD 12 - 2pm & 7 - 8:30pm Mon to Sat

CASK ALES

Wadworth 6X

Greene King IPA

Ansells Best Bitter

Guest Ales



'Grandma's Quilt' at the KING'S HEAD

Prestwood

Marston's Real Ales

including

Owd Roger

Pedigree

Bateman's Dark Mild

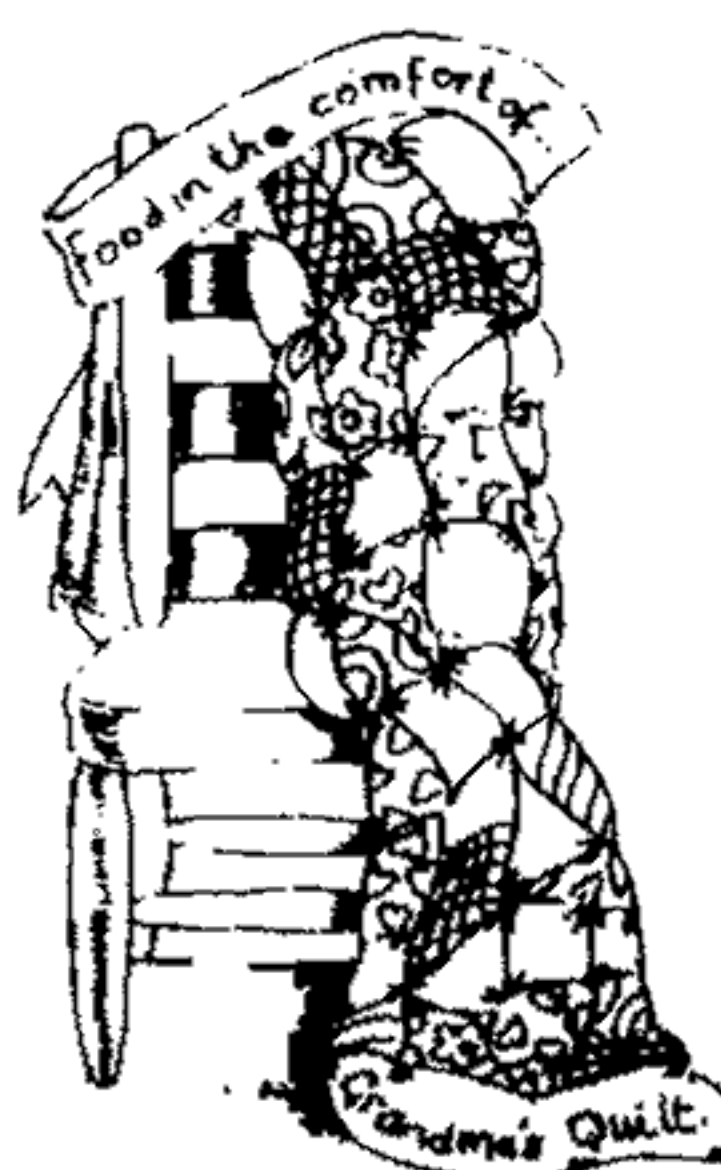
Finest Homestyle

rural American

and English Fare

ALL DAY

EVERY DAY



Comfort
and friendly
service with
a difference

01494 868101

The Black Horse, Lacey Green

**Gibbs Mew
Real Ales
Wiltshire Traditional
Bitter
Salisbury Best Bitter**

**Food
12 - 2pm
Mon - Sat
7pm-9pm
(not Thu/Sun)
Sunday Lunch
12-2.30pm
Two Course £4.95
Booking preferred**

**Beer Garden
Ample Parking
Open Fire
A good old fashioned
friendly local.
Tel 01844 345195**

VALE BREWERY



Following the success of Edgars Golden Ale in their pubs last year, J.D. Wetherspoons are having Wychert Ale as a guest beer until the end of June.

The next seasonal offering is the return of the popular Spring Gold which will be available in pubs from the first week of March until the end of May. This is brewed using the First Gold dwarf variety of hops, which add both bittering and aroma to the beer.

CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR

This branch didn't enter a Pub of the Year (POTY) in the 1997 competition. Actually we did make a selection, but withdrew it at the last minute when we heard the landord was changing. The regional winner of the 1997 POTY is the Bell at Aldworth in Berkshire, a wonderfully unspoilt country pub and well worth visiting. The national winner should be announced within the next few weeks.

For the 1998 competition, nominations for our branch POTY should be notified to Dave Roe by 31st March 1998

UNDER 26?



**CAMRA
NEEDS
YOU**

SEE PAGE 12

1997 - A Year of Change

1997 began, as it was to continue, with a long running take-over saga, the Bass bid for Carlsberg-Tetley. The Trade and Industry secretary, Margaret Becket eventually refused this, in June. The fall out from her decision was that 1,500 jobs were lost and two breweries are to close. Mrs Becket argues that more jobs would have been lost if permission had been granted. Finally, in November, Bass purchased Carlsberg-Tetley's Burton brewery.

Scottish and Newcastle (S&N) purchased Thistle Inns in July but the major pub sale of the year took place in October when Nomura bought the Intreprenur Pub Company and Spring Inns in a 5,000 pub deal worth £1.2billion. Again this was referred Margaret Becket but this was one sale that was allowed through. The pubs will be merged into the Grand Pub Company early this year and supply deals have been signed with Whitbread and S&N.

But all these dealings were nothing compared to the £24billion merger of Grand Met and Guinness. The merger

went through despite opposition from rival spirits companies and referrals to competition authorities in America and Europe. The new company is Diageo although Guinness will be retained as the name of the brewing operation. The other major players in the UK industry, Whitbread and Allied have been quiet this year but rumours persist about their future.

On the regional side both Eldridge Pope and Gibbs Mew quit brewing. Vaux and Wolverhampton & Dudley were urged to follow but have so far resisted. Greene King decided to remain in brewing. Morlands purchased Ruddles and an announcement on the future of the Rutland plant is expected soon. Welsh brewer S A Brain bought rival Crown Buckley.

More pub mergers and buyouts took place in 1997. Century Inns bought Royal Freehouses in March and followed that with the purchase of the managed pubs of Pubmaster. This included the Tap & Spile group. Enterprise Inns bought Discovery Inns

in May. Inn Business of Whitchurch bought the Hooden Horse Inns chain in April. New companies entered the pub market last year. Sirenia was formed in October with the backing of Firkin founder, David Bruce. Sirenia was later renamed Ambishus Pub Company. The latest idea from the creator of the Newt & Cucumber chain, Chris Hutt, is Wizard Inns. He has bought 30 pubs from Phoenix and plans another 50 pubs in the next couple of years. Avebury Taverns bought 147 pubs from Wolverhampton & Dudley. In November Grovebase bought 548 pubs from Phoenix and then last month another 1,428 pubs from Bass.

So what will 1998 bring? What's the future for cash strapped Greenalls and Wolverhampton & Dudley? The beer market continues to decline which will mean there will probably be more buyouts, mergers and closures in the pipeline. Japanese investment banks have only recently been investing in British pubs but with the current state of the South East Asian economies what does the future hold? Industry analysts predict that Jennings will buy a pub company in the near future and that Burtonwood will also make a major purchase. Greenalls could be restructured or sold and on the cider side, Merrydown is predicted to be sold. So 1998 looks to be an interesting year.

Formerly
North & Randall
established 1851



Still the original
family firm

THE GREAT DAYLA ALE TRAIL

DAYLA is privileged to be associated with many of the country's leading Regional Brewers as their appointed agents supplying their ales to the same high quality standards upon which they have built their own strong reputations.

DAYLA's association with Brewing is much longer than most would ever have imagined. Joseph Holland Senior, great Grandfather of today's Managing Director ran two Ale Houses, a Coaching Inn and a Brewery in the village of Wendover at the foot of the Chiltern Hills.

Having bought the Brewery from his father, Joseph the Younger continued brewing until the First World War after which he joined North & Randall Ltd Mineral Water Manufacturers of Aylesbury.

DAYLA is still very much the FAMILY business with the 3rd generation of the family at the helm.

DAYLA OF AYLESBURY, 80-100 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1QZ
Tel: 01296 20261 Fax: 01296 397012



**SWANNING
ABOUT**
(The guide to
pubs in the area)
will return in the
Spring issue

The Bell Inn

The Green, Chearsley



A traditional country pub

- * Real Welcome
- * Real Ales
- * Really Good Food
- * Reasonable Prices
- * Real Fires
- * Garden & Children's Play Area

Kitchen closed Sunday evening and all day Monday
except bank holiday lunchtimes

Sue & Peter Grimsdell
01844 298077

REAL ALE IN BUCKS



Available by mail at
£4.95 inc. postage &
packing from :-
John Wood
10 Warneford
Avenue, Halton,
Aylesbury, Bucks
HP23 5QD

Please make cheques
payable to
'CAMRA BUCKS
GUIDE'



OFF THE SHELF

Bottle-Conditioned Beers



As Christmas and the New Year approached, thoughts tended towards buying lots of drink to make the festivities go with a swing. If a barrel is too much to take to a party and real ale is important in your life, the only feasible option is to buy some bottle conditioned beer.

This 'Real Ale in a bottle' is, unlike canned or most bottled beer, non pasteurised and contains

yeast which allows the beer to condition further in the bottle (hence the name).

CAMRA have championed this type of beer since the start of the campaign, and things have improved dramatically since there were only a handful left. Now they are readily available in an ever-increasing variety in most supermarkets and off-licences. There will even be a version of the Champion Winter Beer of Britain, namely Nethergate Old Growler

(See page 11 for the full results of the competition).

The classic bottle conditioned beer was always Worthington White Shield, but Bass have decided to stop brewing it and the last brew will be on sale in February. White shield was revamped in the early 1990's with a new yeast which stuck to the bottom of the bottle, thereby removing the mystique on pouring it, a new bottle shape (so it didn't fit in the usual crates) to appeal to the younger drinker (it didn't) and an increase in price which alienated a lot of its older drinkers.

Guinness, who decided to axe their famous bottle conditioned stout just as interest in bottled beer was starting to increase, can only match this level of marketing expertise. Now instead of a Real Ale drinker having the option of loads of bottles on a large shelf groaning under the weight in every pub in the country, there are only a few bottles of pasteurised Guinness slowly freezing in the fridge.

In an attempt to find out the state of bottle conditioned beer in our branch area, we have done a survey of some of our supermarkets and off-licences. This has not been a thorough check and we may well have missed some gems of outlets, but the results do show some trends. (If you know of any good outlets, let us know).

We found that prices did not vary by any great amount, but the prices would have been a lot more attractive if the government came to its senses over the idiotic tax of beer in this country (where have we heard this before?). There are a lot of bottle conditioned foreign beers available but these were not considered this time (a future *Swan Supping* may feature them in a similar survey).

The best selection (a bumper eleven!!!) was found at Wycombe Wines



Tom & Carol Welcome You To
THE CROWN INN
CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 1998



AT SYDENHAM
(2 miles from Chinnor. M40 Junction 6)

A real village pub on your doorstep
01844 351634

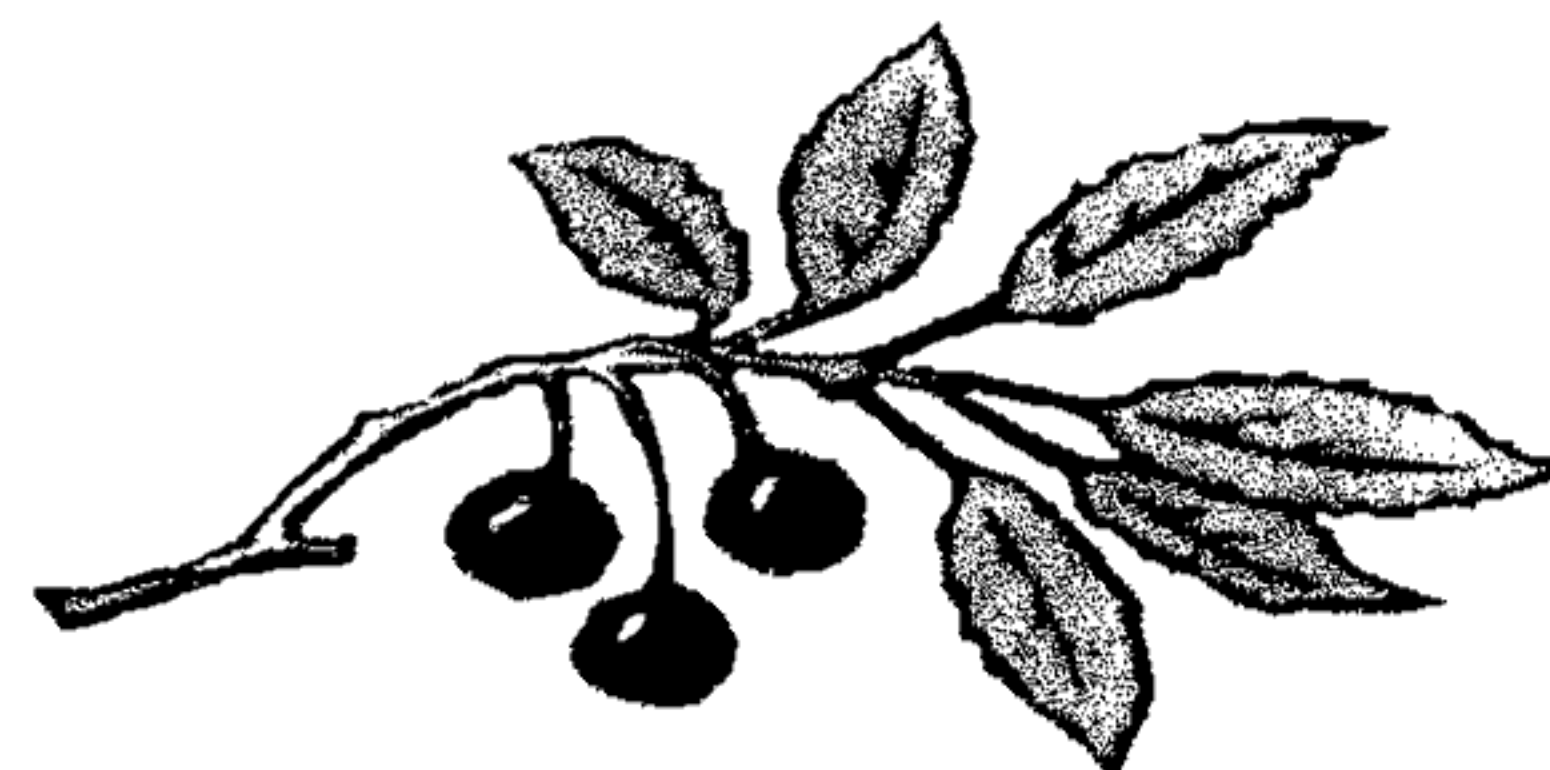
Sunday Roasts, Bar Food & Full A la Carte, Good Veggie menu,
Daily Blackboard Specials, Many Home Made Dishes from £3.75
Small Parties & Wedding Receptions a Speciality
Open for Lunch ever day 12 - 2pm, Dinner 6.30 - 9.15pm (Not Sunday)

Bar Area available for your Club/Society meetings
on Sundays or Mondays
A LOVELY PUB & GOOD FOOD

OXFORD BITTER 3.7%, VARSITY 4.3%
also **PROCTOR 5.8%**

The Cherry Tree

Kingston Blount Tel: 01844 352273



**Our friendly intimate country
restaurant now open.**
**Ideal for celebrations and
gatherings**

**Graham and Caroline Welcome
Customers Old & New**

Home Cooked Food & Fine Ales.
Recently Refurbished.

**Cellar & Bar Management Courses by
arrangement**

OFF THE SHELF

Bottle-Conditioned Beers



which has featured as our only off-licence in the Buckinghamshire section of the *Good Beer Guide*, and the best supermarkets appear to be *Tescos* and *Waitrose*. All the places surveyed had at least one beer available, so why not take some home the next time you have to do some shopping?!

The following list shows what was found in descending order of number of beers available:

WYCOMBE WINES, High Wycombe – 11 (Brakspears 1996 Vintage Ale; Dorothy Goodbody's Winter Tipple, Wholemeal Stout, Christmas Ale; Fraoch Grozet Gooseberry and Wheat Ale; Fullers 1845; Gilbey's Gold; Old Luxters Barn Ale, Farmhouse Dark Roast; Shepherd Neame Spitfire; Wye Valley Brewery 69)

TESCO, Aylesbury – 5 (Fullers 1845; Normans Conquest Extra Strong Ale; Shepherd Neame Spitfire; Tesco Select IPA, Stout)

WAITROSE, Marlow – 4 (Ash Vine Hop & Glory; Freeminers Bottle Conditioned Bitter; Fullers 1845; Shepherd Neame Spitfire)

TESCO, High Wycombe – 3 (Fullers 1845; Shepherd Neame Spitfire; Tesco Select IPA)

SAFEWAY, Aylesbury – 2 (Fullers 1845, Vintage Ale)

ASDA, Handy Cross – 1 (Marstons Oyster Stout)

SAINSBURYS, Aylesbury – 1 (Marstons Oyster Stout)

SAINSBURYS, High Wycombe – 1 (Fullers 1845)



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*

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

ABC Bitter

Fullers London Pride, Wadworth 6X,
Guest Beers

Evening meals served until 21:00
(Not Mon or Thu).

Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

Bed & Breakfast £25.00 p.p.p.n (inc V.A.T)
En Suite Room/Colour T.V./Tea/Coffee
English Tourist Board Approved (2 Crowns)

4 The Strand,
Quainton
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP22 4AS

Tel : 01296 655234

Aylesbury Vale

Village Pub Competition

The final judging for the competition to find the best village pub in Aylesbury Vale took place at the beginning of October. Amongst the judges were councillors and representatives from the Bucks Herald, Mix 96, the British Institute of Innkeeping and CAMRA. From the original list of pubs chosen by customer votes a final shortlist was drawn up at the meeting and the judges had the task of visiting all the pubs again before a final decision was made.

After much discussion the final result was:

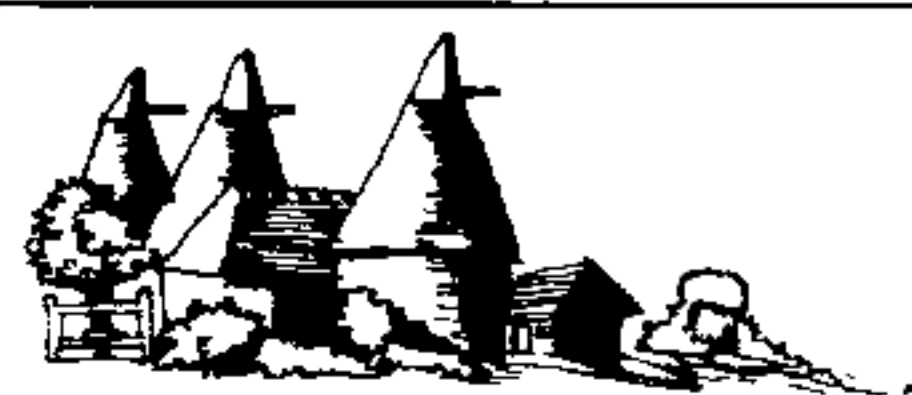
1st - The Black Boy, Oving:

2nd - The Cock Inn, Wing:

3rd - The Bell, Chearsley.

The winning pub was presented with a specially designed trophy showing scenes from Aylesbury Vale. The competition, which is expected to become an annual event, was held to commemorate the memory of local councillor Ted Payne.

It is with much sadness that we report the death of popular local landlord Ron Green of the Clayton Arms in Marlow. After a short illness, Ron died on 8th November aged 68. He had been a licensee for thirty years, including times in Bracknell, Burnham and Seer Green as well as the last three and a half years in Marlow. Our sympathy goes to his wife Rita who will continue business as usual at the Clayton ably assisted by daughter Lisa and her husband, Nick.



GOOD BEER GUIDE

1999 APPROACHES



We've just celebrated the New Year and already it's *Good Beer Guide* time again! No sooner has one edition been published than we have to start thinking about the next. The 1998 guide came out in October – publication always takes place at that time of year to catch pre-Christmas sales.

The selection process for the 1999 guide has to be complete by mid March so *now* is the time for all CAMRA members to be giving this some serious thought.

We are often asked who chooses the pubs and how they are selected. The first thing to bear in mind is that each CAMRA branch has a fixed allocation for its area based on the total number of pubs and the population of that area. Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe contains about 380 pubs (340 in Buckinghamshire and 40 in Oxfordshire) and our *Good Beer Guide* allocation is 34 pubs (31 in Bucks and 3 in Oxon). Thus the final choice represents about the best 10% of local pubs. Branches must not exceed their allocation, but are under no obligation to use all their allocation if they don't consider enough pubs are up to standard.

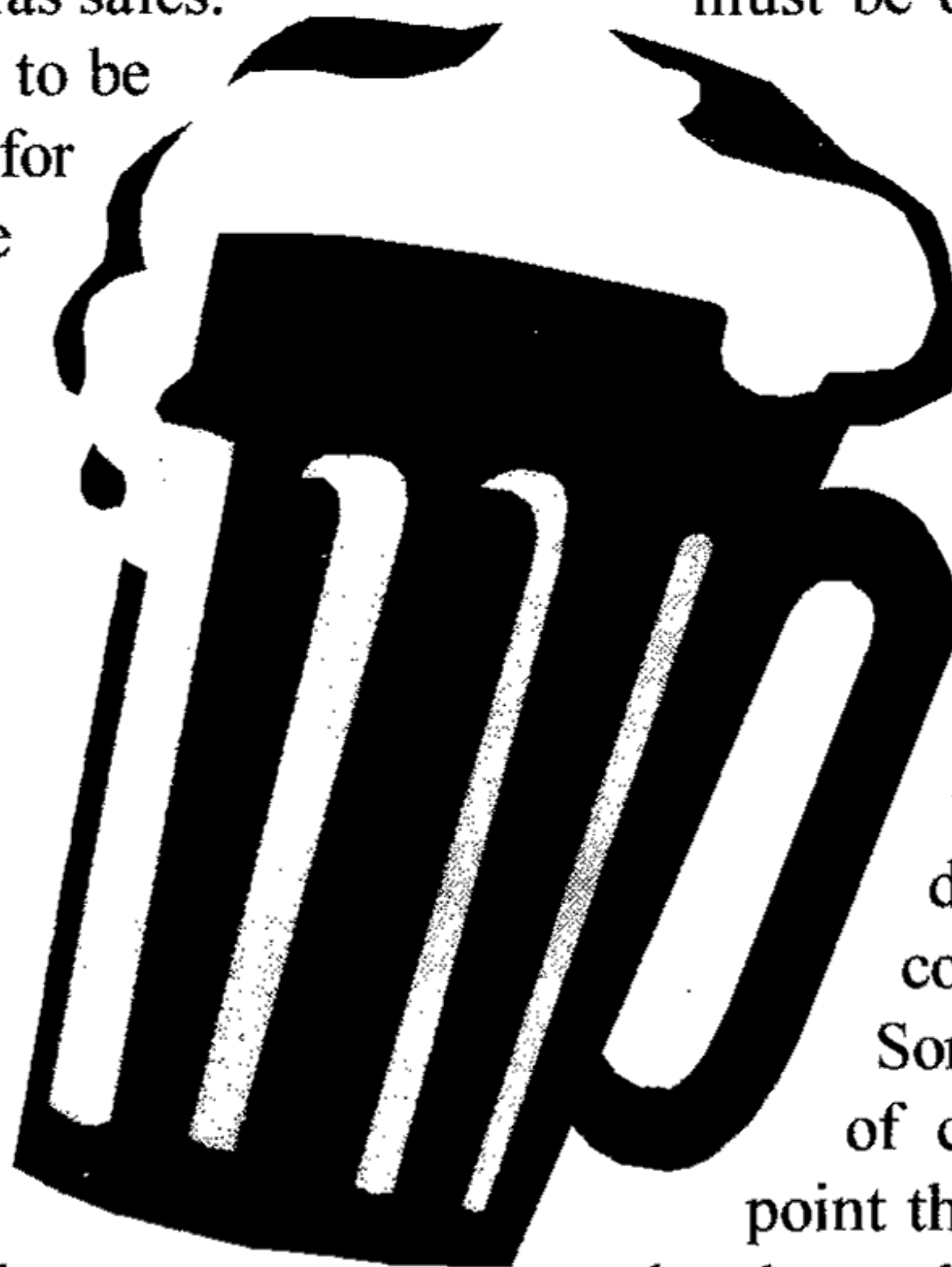
CAMRA doesn't use paid inspectors to survey pubs; nor can pubs pay to get in the guide. All surveys are done by unpaid CAMRA volunteers. These are usually members

of the local committee or active members but we would always welcome suggestions for new contenders or help with surveying.

Which pubs qualify? Obviously they must sell real ale and it must be of excellent quality. Additionally pubs have to fulfil certain criteria of CAMRA national policy – for example pubs selling beer or cider by misleading dispense methods will not qualify. Throughout the year we monitor quality by keeping records of beers we have tasted. The tasting scores are recorded on a computer database which usually generates a shortlist of about 50 pubs which reach the minimum standard. This list has to be reduced to 34 pubs (as already mentioned earlier) and is decided by a vote being taken by the local committee.

Sometimes a worthy pub will be overlooked – this, of course, is very regrettable but illustrates the point that we need input from a far wider spectrum of local members who are prepared to submit tasting scores throughout the year or to make recommendations of particular pubs or to assist the experienced members with the surveying.

If you would like to help in any of these ways just contact one of the members listed on page three of this newsletter.



The Cock Inn

at
Wing

Telephone 01296 688214

***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 ***

***A Great Restaurant (60 covers) serving A la Carte Meals & The Best Carvery FOR MILES Around. Open 7 Days a Week. ***

***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!

The Yellow Parrot

OFF LICENCE

For a Wide Selection
of Beer and Wine

*** Barrels to Order ***

*** Case Discounts ***

*** Free Glass Loan ***

Kingsbury Square
AYLESBURY

01296 - 428648

(WE DO STOCK LAGER)



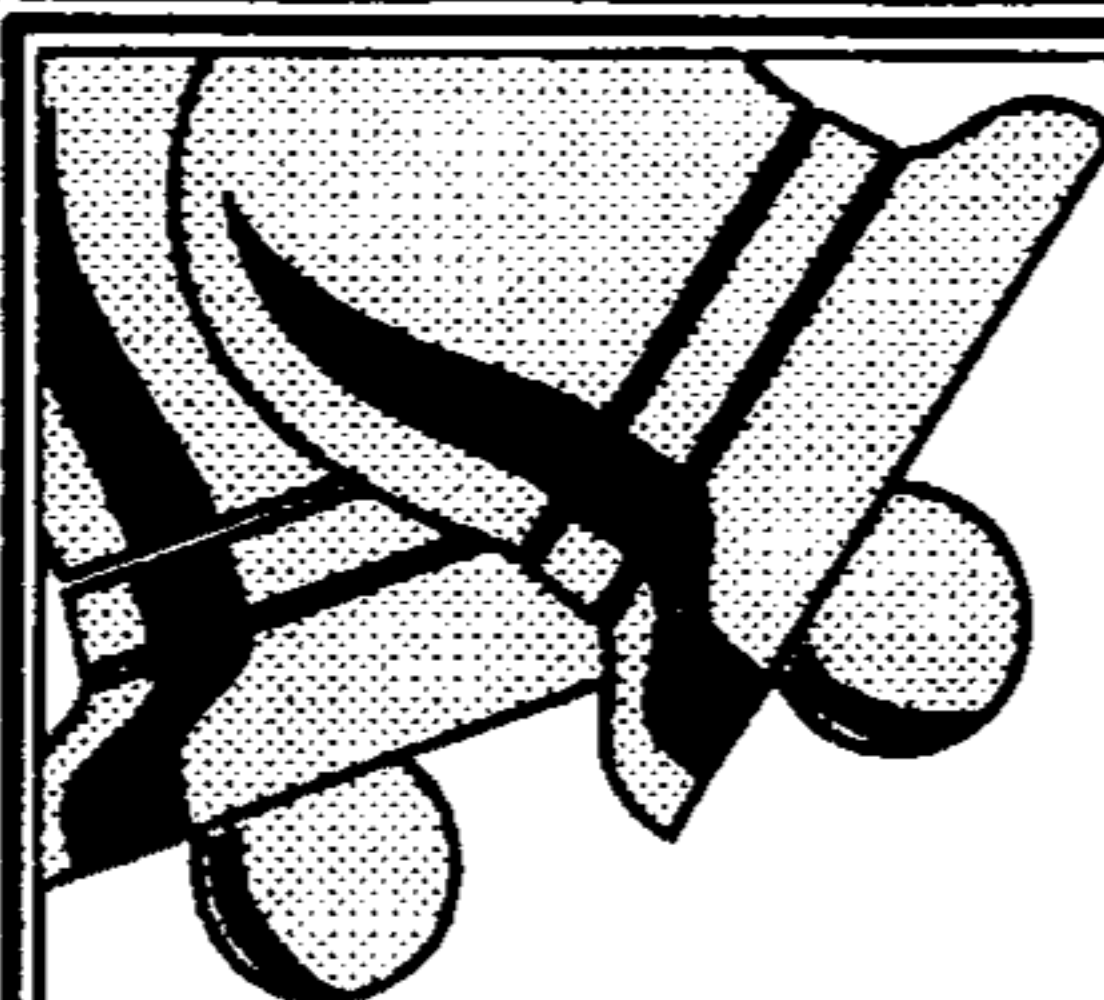
APPLE

Cider and Perry

As well as the Chiltern Brewery selling draught real cider (See page 4), the wholefood shop at the nearby Worlds End Garden Centre sells up to three ciders on draught for take away consumption. At the last visit they had Weston's Old Rosie, Inch's Perry and Weston's Great Weston Revival available. The garden centre can be found on the Aylesbury Roaad at the junction with Nash Lee Road.

POST VACANT CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Nick Holt has recently resigned as CAMRA's Regional Director (RD) for Central Southern Region. The region covers all of Bucks, Berks & Oxon, also a small part of Herts (around Tring and Hemel Hempstead. Nick was Regional Director for three years but a volunteer is now urgently required. If anyone wants to know what the role entails, please contact Nick on 01296 483554



The Bell, Bierton

Traditional village pub

Meals served 7 days a week:

Lunchtimes: 12.00 - 2.30pm

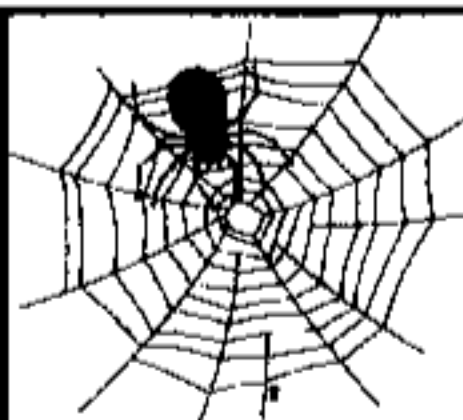
Evenings: 6.00 - 9.30pm

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

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

**191 Aylesbury Rd, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks
Tel: 01296 436055**

***Listed in the 1998 Good Beer Guide
FULLER'S ALES***



INTERNET

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

CAMRA's web pages got a new look towards the end of 1997 and the branch pages will also be getting a refurbishment for the new year.

For something a bit different why not try a look at the pages of CAMRA's counterpart in Poland, **Bracto Pivne**. The only problem is, you need to know a bit of Polish!

Bracto Pivne

<http://www.prapiw.ikki.com.pl/>

CAMRA

<http://camra.org.uk/>



Brewers of Award Winning Ale

Calling all beer lovers. Vale Brewery offer Award Winning Traditional Ales, made from only the finest malted barley and whole English hops, in ready to drink polypins and party packs.

To order, telephone 01844 290008 giving a minimum 24 hours notice.

Price List (Inc. VAT)

Bright beer unless otherwise requested

BEER	ABV	FIRKIN	POLYPIN	POLYBOX
Notley Ale	3.3%	£70.00	£40.00	£20.00
Wychert Ale	3.9%	£72.00	£42.00	£21.00
Edgar's Golden	4.3%	£74.00	£44.00	£22.00

Hadda's Seasonal Ales are available throughout the year.



Wycombe Wines



**Specialists in Real
Ale to take home.**



**20 Crendon Street
High Wycombe
Bucks**

Telephone : 01494 437228



4th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival - Diary

Monday - A trip to CAMRA HQ in St. Albans is organised to pick up taps, chocks, glasses and other paraphernalia necessary to run the festival.

Tuesday - The beer arrives and is chocked up on the scaffolding.

Wednesday - Time to vent the barrels. This involves knocking in the plug at the top and inserting a spile for the uninitiated. The Peddlers Pride is a bit lively and a bucket and mop are soon at hand. The taps are cleaned in preparation for tapping.

Thursday - A large rubber mallet and one good hit knocks in the tap and (hopefully) no beer is lost. Time to sample the beers for the first time. If the beer is in as good condition for the festival as it is now then there should be no problems. The soft spiles are replaced by hard spiles to prevent the beer from losing its condition.

Friday - Before the festival opens its time to decorate the hall and put the final touches to the bar including adding the sponsors names to the end of the barrels. (All the 24 beers and the 2 ciders were sponsored this year.) Time for one last check on the quality of the beers and then the doors are opened and the crowds start to arrive. Soon it's standing room only and panic as the reserve stocks of glasses are deployed. The planned entertainment was cancelled at the last minute so we were able to squeeze a few more people in. By the end of the night one of the 24 barrels had been drunk dry (Wobbly Bob) and some others were looking low. Although there should be enough for Saturday phone calls were made to local brewers and eventually extra stock for Saturday was found.

Saturday - An early start for staff and drinkers. The festival opened at 11am. Steady sales followed a slow start and the beers began to slowly disappear. Two new brews were added to from Rebellion in Marlow (IPA and Mutiny) By early evening the ciders are starting to run out and the perry follows shortly afterwards. By the end of the festival there were still around ten beers available if any one was still capable. When the 'time' is called at 11pm, it was time to start to clear up and prepare the barrels and other equipment for return to the suppliers.

Sunday - A day of rest (almost). Time to take stock and count up the votes for the Beer of the Festival. (It was Woodfordes Wherry!)

Monday - The scaffolding is taken down, the now empty barrels are taken back by Dayla and the hall is cleaned. Time to think about next year!

A Warm Welcome To The Clayton Arms

16 Oxford Road
Marlow
Bucks. SL7 2NL
Tel : 01628 - 478620

Traditional Family Run Pub Offering :-

Home Cooked Lunches & Snacks

Finest Brakspears' Ales

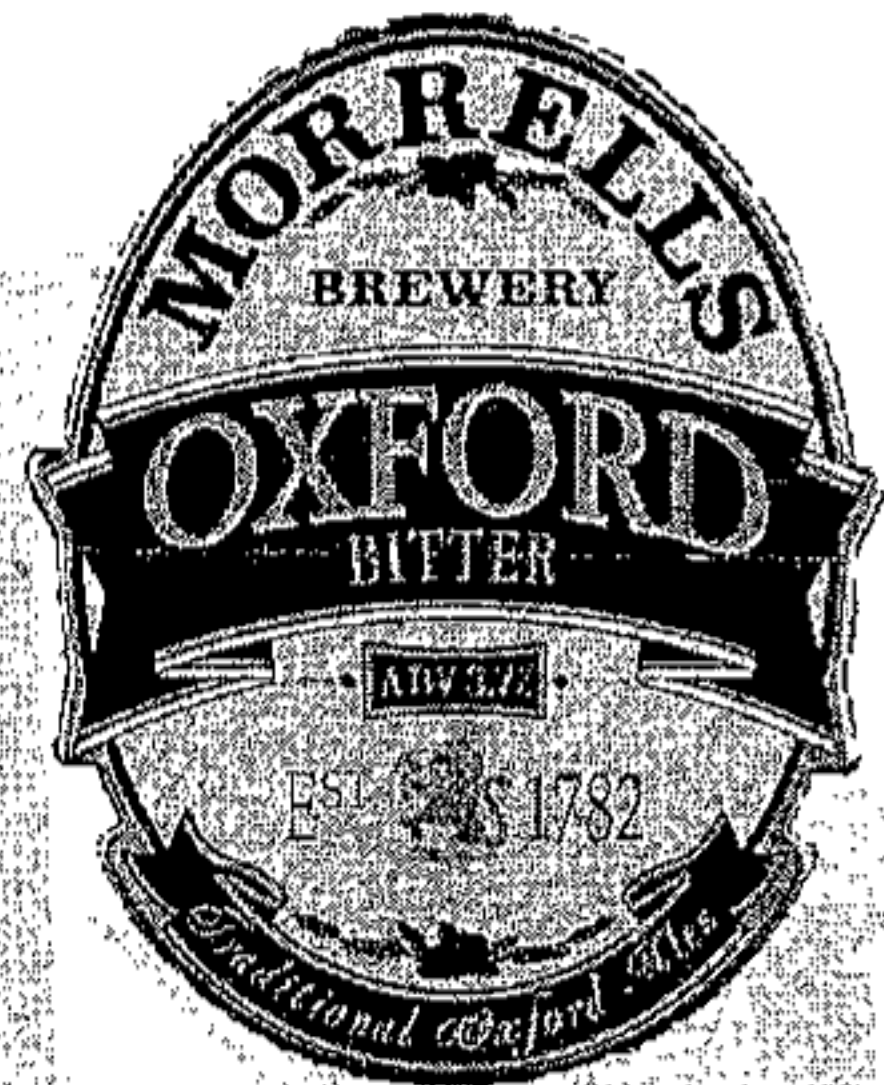
Summertime Patio Area

**Non-Smoking Dining Area
Suitable For Families**

AS SEEN IN THE 'GOOD BEER GUIDE'

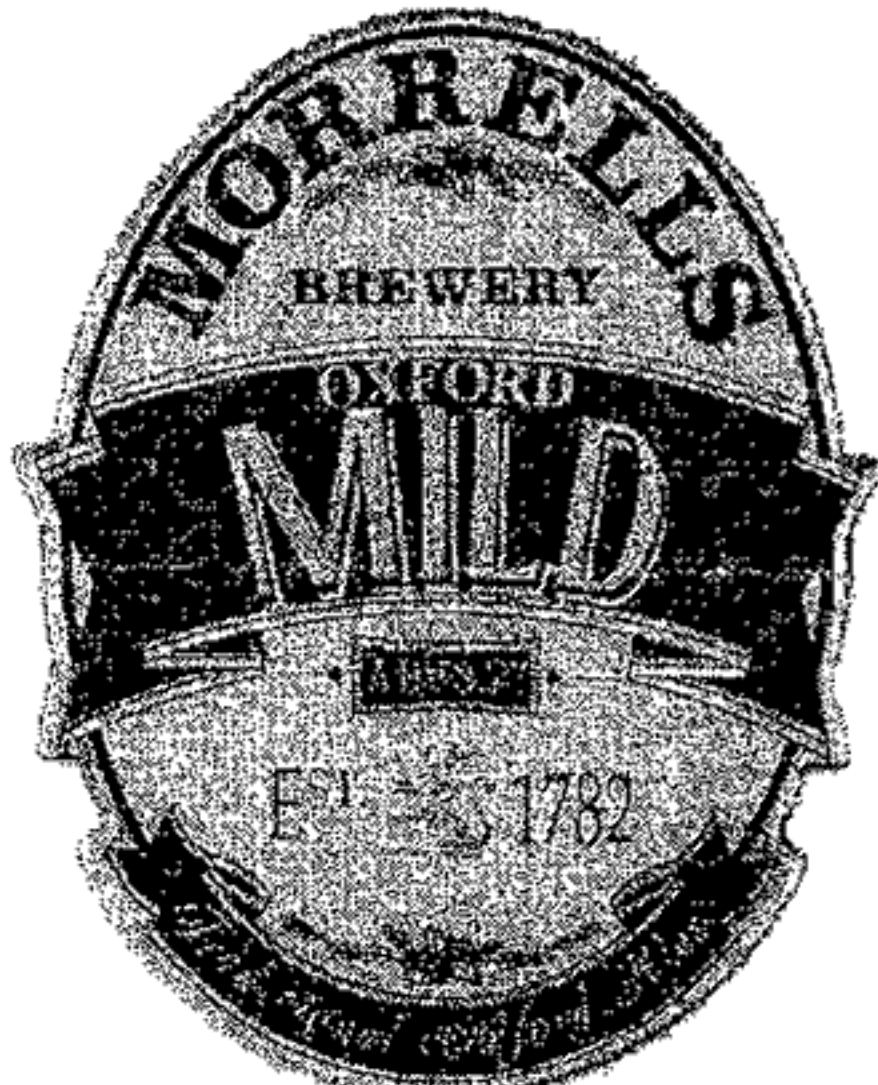
MORRELLS BREWERY

*Presents Oxford's
Finest*



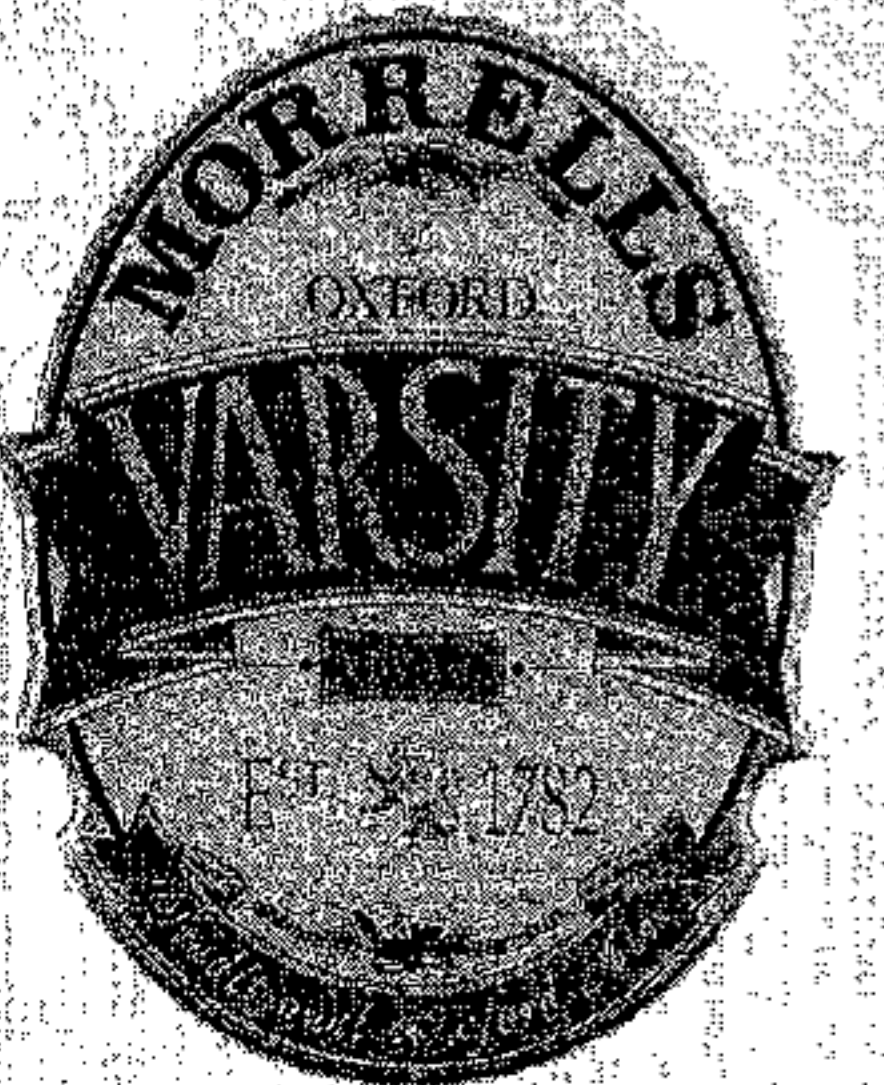
OXFORD BITTER
(ALC. 3.7% VOL.)

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



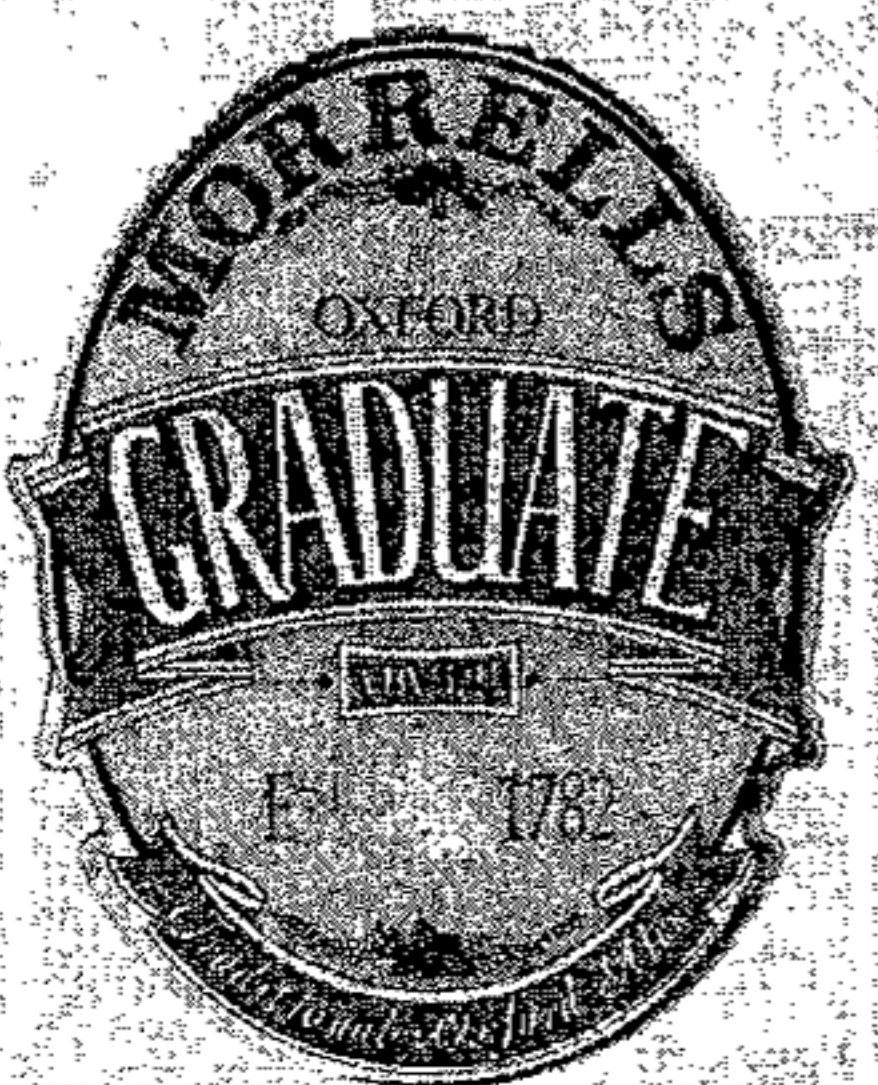
OXFORD MILD
(ALC. 3.7% VOL.)

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.



GRADUATE
(ALC. 5.2% VOL.)

An intense malt aroma complemented by a full bodied, well balanced, nutty taste. Soft and warming in the mouth leading to a pleasant bitter finish.

Independent family brewers for over 200 years



Beer Festival Diary

January

22nd-24th St Neots Winter Ale Festival
St Neots Town Football Club
Tel : 01480 395505

29th-31st Bent & Bongs Beer Bash
Formby Hall, High St, Atherton, Manchester
Tel : 01942 840658
<http://www.eclipseweb.com/bbbb.html>

30th-31st 1st Harlow Festival of Real Ale
Moot Hall, Moot House, The Stow, Harlow
Tel : 01279 680233 (w) 415895 (h)
<http://easy-web.easynet.co.uk/~sothcott-bheb-1.html>

February

6th-8th Tewkesbury Winter Ale Festival
The White Bear, Bredon Road, Tewkesbury, Glos.
Tel 01684 292598

6th-7th 10th Dorchester Beerex
The Corn Exchange, Dorchester

6th-7th White Cliffs Festival
Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Dover
Tel : 01304 202489

13th-14th Salisbury & S Wilts Winterfest. Street Social Club, Scots Lane, Salisbury. Tel : 01722 328949 (Limited tickets)

13th-15th Mansfield & Ashfield
Country Inn, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts
Tel : 01773 712410

18th-21st Liverpool
St. George's Hotel, Lime St., Opp Lime St Stn.
Entrance by ticket only.

18th-21st Rotherham Oakwood Festival. Oakwood School, Rotherham.
Tel : 01709 518175

19th-21st 16th Fleetwood Festival
Marine Hall, Esplanade, Fleetwood.
Tel : 01253 404143

19th-21st Rugby 15th Annual Festival
Newbold Rugby Club, Newbold, Nr Rugby, Warwickshire

20th-21st First Stourbridge Festival
Town Hall, Market Street
Tel : 0121 4225394

20th-21st Burton Winter Beer Festival
Town Hall, Burton upon Trent
Tel : 01253 569310

20th-22nd Bristol
Council House, College Green, Bristol. Tel : 0117 966 2083

26th-28th Bradford
Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley, Bradford. Tel : 01274 735875

March

7th-9th 11th Wigan Beer Festival
The Mill at the Pier, Wigan
Tel : 01942 840658

19th-21st Leeds Beer, Cider & Perry
Pudsey Civic Hall.

19th-22nd Darlington Spring Thing
Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington
Tel : 01325 388606

25th-27th London Drinker
Camden Centre, London WC1. Close to King's Cross/St Pancras.

Festival Ale House

The Festival Ale House chain has promised to give drinkers another pint or their money back if they don't like the beer they have bought as part of a campaign to promote real ale.

Guinness

Guinness are offering a colder version of their stout to attract lager drinkers. The temperature will be reduced from 7C to 3C.

Yates Wine Lodge

The Manchester based Yates Wine lodge pub chain are pegging the cost of a pint of Boddingtons Bitter to £1.25 and Carling Black Label at £1.40 across the country, ignoring the North-South beer divide. CAMRA hopes that big brewers will be forced to follow and that what many claim is regional price rigging may come to an end. The move has been welcomed by the Consumer Affairs Minister, Nigel Griffiths.

Frog & Parrot

The Frog & Parrot in Sheffield is giving tins of baked beans to students buying rounds in order to make sure that they get something to eat.

S&N Retail

Scottish & Newcastle Retail have closed two of its four home brew pubs, Abington Park in Northampton and the Greyhound, Streatham.

Special Brews

Fullers released a limited edition of its 1997 Vintage Ale (8.5%). Only 4,000 cases were brewed.

The Somerset brewery, Ash Vine, celebrated its 10th birthday with X-traordinary (4.8%)

The Hobgoblin in Reading had a cask lager specially brewed to celebrate its 1664th guest Ale. Wychwood 1664 at 5.6% is unlikely to be repeated.

Wiltshire's Tisbury Brewery's winter ale available until the end of January is Old Mulled Ale (4.5%).

Banbury Brewery was planning a 6% winter warmer to be brewed with chocolate and smoked malts and sold in polypins.

Cask Marque

Britain's brewers are to launch a scheme aimed at improving the quality of real ale in pubs. A plaque, the Cask Marque, is at the heart of the scheme which will be awarded to publicans whose real ales withstand repeated tests by qualified inspectors. The aim is to involve 1,000 pubs in a pilot scheme to run between January and April with up to 2,500 plaques being awarded by the end of the year. Ten brewers are taking part in the pilot including founders Whitbread, Carlsberg-Tetley, Vaux, Mansfield, Fullers and McMullen.

Champion Winter Beer

Nethergate's Old Growler has won CAMRA's prestigious Champion Winter Beer of Britain Awards.

Brewed in the medieval Suffolk wool-town of Clare, Old Growler is named after the head brewer's dog. The beer is currently available in the brewery's one tied house, The Bell, and about 180 free trade outlets. CAMRA's latest Good Beer Guide describes it as "A complex and satisfying porter, smooth and distinctive. Sweetness, roast malt and fruit feature in the palate, with bitter chocolate lingering. The finish is powerfully hoppy."

Dick Burge, MD of the Suffolk Brewery said "It's wonderful news, I'm dumbstruck. I'm delighted for the brewing staff who are dedicated to quality"

Whitbread

Whitbread have axed nine of their cask ale brands from its national portfolio including Fremlins, Wethereds, Chesters and Winter Royal. Warrington's Burtonwood brewery will be brewing Higsons Bitter for Whitbread.

Speculation is mounting that Whitbread is planning to sell off its brewing division, Whitbread Beer Company, to its managing director, Miles Templeman. He is said to be seeking finance from Heineken to buy the division.

Beer Duty

The Labour government has announced it is keen to lower the British drink-drive limit from 80 mg of alcohol to 50mg to bring it in line with other European countries. There are, however, no plans to harmonise duty on beer to bring that in line with our partners. At present Britain pays duty rates five times higher than those in France. Kent brewer, Shepherd Neame, is taking the government to court claiming that, by not harmonising duty, the government is in breach of the Treaty of Rome. Article 99 of the treaty says that member states must harmonise taxes, including excise duty. Article 102 stresses members must take no steps to distort trade between countries in the EU. The chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced a 1p duty rise from January 1st which will mean a price rise of up to 3p.

The society of Small Independent Brewers (SIBA) has stepped up its campaign for a sliding scale of beer duty. The government has been conducting a review of excise levels. Members of SIBA lobbied parliament on November 5th to press for lower rates of duty for smaller producers. They say that the 1989 Monopolies Commission report said that the industry was anti-competitive and suggested a sliding scale of duty to help small brewers. SIBA set up their own web site where supporters were encouraged to enter their names. (<http://www.brewworld.com/siba/pr1.html>)

Hogshead

The Hogshead chain is to expand with an investment programme costing £50 million. The company plans to add an extra 40 pubs to its existing 123 over the next 12 months.

Brewery News

Salopian Brewery of Shrewsbury has gone into liquidation.

Ushers of Trowbridge are investing £4 million to cope with its expanding brewing contracts including Gibbs Mew.

Six weeks after the closure of

Cambrian brewery in North Wales a new micro-brewery came on stream. While the plant was being installed, Brecknock Brewery was having its beers brewed by Warrington's CoachHouse. The new brewery is 12 miles from Swansea and the founder, Iceldander Hordur Baldvinsson, is producing his own 3.8% ABV Original and 5% Premium.

Britain's most northerly brewery was due to go into production in December. The title was previously owned by Orkney brewery but a new brewery on the Shetland island of Unst has taken the title. The planned brew is Auld Rock (4.5%) after the name expats give the Shetlands.

Ossan's Ale (4.1%) is the third beer from Scotland's Inveralmond brewery.

Everards have withdrawn its cask winter warmer Daredevil and replaced it with the seasonal special, Nutcracker (5%).

Morrells has axed College Ale and produced a new weaker brew, Proctor (5.8%).

The Cumbria based brewer Jennings is rumoured to be about to buy the Devonshire Pub Company who own about 85 pubs.

Millenium Party?

The Government has drawn up plans to allow pubs to open for 24 hours a day from Christmas Eve 1999 to New Years Day 2000. A six month consultation period will give interested parties a chance to make their views known. The Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association (BLRA) and Federation of Licensed Victuallers are supporting the proposal. Extended licensing hours were allowed in Manchester and Liverpool during Euro 96. The police, courts, councils and other interested parties are invited to make their views known to the Home Office. The view of the police is that, whatever decision is made, it should be applied nationally.





Membership News

A big welcome to the following new members who have recently joined CAMRA or moved into our area:

Wendover - Mr J Ainsworth, Mr B Moorhouse; **Bourne End** - Mr A Bellamy; **Quainton** - Mr R Bleasdale, Mr M Tymms; **High Wycombe** - Mr & Mrs J Bruce, Mr C Downing, Mr G Edwards, Mr M Griffiths, Mr R Lang, Mr R Harris, Mr & Mrs Royal, Mr & Mrs Williams; **Seer Green** - Mr R Couser, Mr A Cawte, Mr R Clyne; **Aylesbury** - Mr R Saunders, Mr H Crompton, Mr M Roberts, Mr R Grappons, Mr M Longstone, Mr D McLelland; **Woolmer End** - Mr L Ghoo; **Holtspur** - Mr M Jordan; **Speen** - Mr O Otter; **Thame** - Mr & Mrs V Thompson, Mr A Summers; **Lacey Green** - Mr I Kelloway; **Princes Risborough** - Mr M Timmis; **Wingrave** - Mr G Turner; **Wing** - Mr D Birch, Mr K Chapman; **Cadmore End** - Mr T Chapman, Mr K Smith; **Bledlow Ridge** - Mr D Thompson; **Cuddington** - Mr R Turner; **Beaconsfield** - Mr A Short
Martin and Flora had their farewell to Aylesbury party at the **Bricklayers** on Friday 9th January. We wish them luck in Singapore - Any chance of a new branch of CAMRA out there???

NEW DEAL FOR THE UNDER 26s

CAMRA has launched a new membership category aimed at drinkers under 26. Dave Roe, (Branch Chairman) said 'Lots of younger drinkers come to our beer festivals every year and we want them to know that CAMRA is a lively, fun organisation as well as a serious campaigning body. The bearded beer belly is a thing of the distant past.' He added 'The message to younger beer drinkers and pub goers is clear. Join CAMRA and help protect great beer and pubs for the future.'

The new Under 26 membership rate is £8 per year. To join complete the form below.

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!

January

Friday 23rd LONDON CITY and BOROUGH NEW YEAR PUB CRAWL

5:30pm Lamb, Leadenhall Market (Youngs)
6:10pm Swan, Ship Tavern Passage (Fullers)
7:00pm George Inn, 77 Borough High Street (National Trust)
7:30pm Market Porter, 9 Stoney Street (Free House)
8:00pm Wheatsheaf, 6 Stoney Street (Guest Beers)

Thursday 29th 9:00pm Social

Chequers, Fingest : Friendly 15th century pub opposite church.
Brakspears Mild, Bitter, Special, Old

February

Monday 2nd 8:30pm Branch Meeting

Chequers, Wheeler End Common : 300 year old country pub. Hard to find. *Adnams Broadside, Fullers London Pride, Brakspears Bitter, Bass, Greene King IPA.*

Monday 9th 9:00pm Social

County Arms, Aylesbury : Traditional 1890's pub.
ABC Bitter, Greene King Abbot, Marstons Pedigree, Wadworth 6X

Wednesday 18th 9:00pm Social

Royal Standard of England, Forty Green : Ancient, Rambling, Historic Pub
Vale Notley, Brakspears Bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Owd Roger, Morlands Old Speckled Hen, Adnams Bitter.

Tuesday 24th 9:00pm Stewkley Social

9:00pm Swan : Fine Georgian pub in village centre. Beamed interior.
Courage Directors, Best, Theakstons Best
10:00pm Carpenters Arms : Low ceilinged two bar pub.
Boddingtons Bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Bass

March

Wednesday 4th 9:00pm Social

Rose and Crown, High Wycombe : L shaped corner pub.

Monday 9th 8:30pm Branch Meeting

Rothschild Arms, Aston Clinton : Mid terrace local on road to Weston Turville. *Worthington Bitter, Tetley Imperial, plus either Allsops Brierly Court or St Modwyns.*

Tuesday 17th 8:30pm Social

Fox, Tiddington : 17th Century village pub.
Marstons Pedigree, Flowers IPA, Tetley Bitter, Guest Beer.

Tuesday 24th 9:00pm Kingswood Social

9:00pm Crooked Billet : Deceptively large 17th Century pub.
Friary Meux Best Bitter, Guest Beers.
10:00pm Plough and Anchor : Pleasant roomy 16th Century Inn.
Tring Ridgeway, Wardens Chaser, Guest Beers plus possibly a Belgian beer!

Monday 30th 8:30pm Social

King's Head, Prestwood : Recently reopened.
Marstons Pedigree, Owd Roger, Batemans Dark Mild.

October

Friday 23rd - Saturday 24th

5th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival to be held again 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.

Beer lists subject to change

