

FREE

Swan Supping



Issue 132

June/July 2019

THE GREEN MAN

**Is there any sadder
sight than a pub that
we look like losing
forever?
See Local News**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Newsletter of the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of CAMRA

avw.camra.org.uk

Circulation 6000

2nd-4th August 2019

ASTON CLINTON SCHOOL

ACBF8

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



In the middle of the turmoil over Brexit, elections to the European Parliament and the choosing of a new leader for the Conservative Party the sun has made an appearance so there is no excuse for not heading out to a local pub for a few drinks.

Better still, why not join the branch on the best day out of the year when we take the coach to the Black Country (for the 29th time) and visit some of the finest pubs in the country!

Enjoying the sun (and a few beers) is also the basic theme for the new Summer of Pub campaign (details below), so why not enjoy some of the many beer festivals we have on offer in our branch area, or just pop into your local!

CAMRA has increased its membership to over 191,000 and numbers like this count when we try to influence the government to implement changes to help many of our pubs as around fourteen close every week. From July, a new package of benefits of joining in has been announced and details will appear in our next issue.

A sad note to finish on as we send our heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of Dave Lewin who passed away after a long illness on Sunday 19th May. This was just three days after his 50th birthday and our love and thoughts go to his partner Liz who did such a fantastic job of looking after him and supporting him all the way.

Dave was a well respected and hard working member of the neighbouring **Mid Chilterns** branch of **CAMRA** and was one of the leading lights of the campaign to save the branch from collapse in 2002. He will be sadly missed!

The funeral will take place on Friday 7th of June (please contact me if you want further information - contact details are on page 14) and Liz has requested that people attending, if possible, wear red (Dave's favourite

colour) and something beer/brewery related. Also, no flowers, but donations to the Alzheimer's Society.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of *Swan Supping*, especially all those who contribute to our Local News section, and those who deliver the finished magazine to the pubs, breweries and festivals etc. Also, thanks once again to Colin Stanford for the cartoon.

David Roe, *Swan Supping* Editor

editor@avw.camra.org.uk

BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Saturday 22nd June 2019

Bookings are being taken and the cost is £34 per person. Members and non-members are all welcome to join us on the best day of the year.

The coach will pick up in Aylesbury at 9.40am and then at the following: Princes Risborough (9.55am), High Wycombe (10.10am) and Stokenchurch (10.20am). Please note that the timings after Aylesbury are approximate and depend on traffic and other pick-ups on route can be catered for. After the **Coach and Horses**, Weatheroak, we head to the Black Country to visit lots of old favourites, such as the **Bull & Bladder** (pictured), the **Beacon Hotel**, and the **Old Swan**, plus we plan another new brewery visit! Afterwards, the bus will drop off in reverse order, with the bus due to arrive back in Aylesbury before midnight!



Contact the editor (details on page 14) to book your place!
Space is limited, so make sure you don't miss out!

NATIONAL CAMRA NEWS



If your idea of a perfect British summer involves a pint and a pub garden, then you're in luck. **CAMRA** has announced a new national campaign this summer all about visiting your local (and getting involved is as easy as grabbing a pint!).

The **Summer of Pub** campaign kicked off during the last bank holiday weekend (24 May), with the simple aim to encourage pubgoing throughout the summer.

Thousands of pubs across the country have been written to encouraging them to host celebratory events to help more people rediscover their love for the great British local. Various events will follow, including special screenings of the Women's World Cup (6 June - 6 July) a toast for Beer Day Britain (15 June), and beer and cider tasting events showcasing local producers.

There are also plans to host fringe events across London to coincide with the **Great British Beer Festival** (6-10 August), bringing a clear pub campaigning element to **CAMRA's** flagship event for the first time.

CAMRA will be promoting participating events through its social media channels and the **Summer of Pub** platform to get the word out and encourage more people to get involved. It will also be providing marketing materials for participating pubs and encouraging its network of nearly 200,000 members to get their local pubs involved in the campaign.

Ben Wilkinson, **CAMRA's** National Director said: 'You don't have to go on a march or demonstration to be a pub campaigner – anyone can get involved. It's as simple as heading out for a pint this summer and encouraging your friends to join you. We want to remind the public what makes our nation's pubs so special. We want to encourage people to give the TV a break this summer and help them rediscover the unbeatable social network that is their local.'

'The clearest way we can all demonstrate how much we value our community pubs and want them to remain part of the social fabric of our country is by using them.'



SOUNDING (OFF) BOARD



Sounding (off) Board' is designed to encourage readers to respond with their thoughts and opinions on issues concerning pubs and real ale. Please send your comments to editor@avw.camra.org.uk.

The subject of our last issue's column was an appreciation of having dogs in pubs written by Giles du Boulay.

We received the following reply (printed below exactly as e-mailed) which shows that not everyone agrees!

'Good afternoon Giles.

I have just got around to reading the current edition of *Swan Supping* (I try to get hold of and read all local **CAMRA** branch magazines, I have them from over 120 branches) and your Sounding (Off) Board column.

Whilst I can understand all the points in favour of dogs in pubs that you have made I am against them for the following reasons:

I have seen a dog cock its leg and piss against a juke box.

Very recently I saw a dog crap on the carpet in a pub.

I have witnessed a viscous fight between two dogs in a pub.

I have seen dogs attack and bite people in pubs.

I don't want dogs rubbing against my clothes and leaving their hairs on them nor do I want to sit on a seat that is covered with dog hairs.

I don't want to sit in a beer garden and discover dog

mess under my feet.

Most of the above can be applied to children in pubs as well, I'll await your column on them!.'

Cheers, Dave Sheldon, Cheadle Hulme

Giles replies:

In chatting to locals in pubs in Aylesbury I received a number of favourable and supportive comments on my piece on dogs in pubs but as I acknowledged there are counter arguments, although instances of the bad behaviour of the dogs cited by Mr Sheldon in his e-mail must surely be uncommon with the exception perhaps of his well-made point about dog hairs on seats.

In my over fifty years of enjoying pubs far and wide I have personally rarely encountered such problems which anyway in my view reflect more on the owners' lack of control of their dogs than on the dogs themselves.

Giles du Boulay

Although not strictly a 'Sounding Off' item, we felt that the following had to be included somewhere:

Dear Editor,

There are many undoubted highlights in your magnificent organ but the prize must go to Sir Pol Foal's Millennial Makeover. The 'pint and a piercing' promotion is utterly inspired and I will be calling on my own snappily-titled *High Peak, Tameside & North East Cheshire* branch of **CAMRA** to institute an annual competition and certificate. Well done.

Your humble and obedient etc.

Steve Gwilt.



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HADDENHAM SUMMERFEST



Haddenham Summerfest on Saturday 6 July 2019 is probably the biggest one-day beer festival in the country! This year they will have an even greater selection of ales, lagers, ciders and other surprises along with a superb selection of artisan food and local music.

Over 130 ales from both local and national brewers will be joined by 40 ciders and a selection of gins and wines to be sampled and enjoyed while listening to eight great local bands in the glorious sunshine (well, they'll do their best for that one!)

This is a great family day out, not to be missed, with plenty for kids to do. If you don't live in Haddenham it's no problem - just jump on the 280 from either Oxford or Aylesbury (the bus stops right by the festival) or catch the Chiltern Railways line at your nearest station and get off at Haddenham and Thame Parkway where you can pick up the 280 or take a short walk to the festival.

All surpluses from the festivals are distributed to good community causes and organisations by the registered charity Haddenham Beer Festivals Trust.

The Festival is sited in the grounds of Haddenham Community Junior School, Woodways, Haddenham HP17 8DS and they are open from 12 noon through until 8pm (last entry at 6pm). Sorry, no dogs (except assistance) are allowed on the school grounds.

Tickets and beer vouchers can be purchased in advance online - look for the discounts and special offers. Just visit www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you there on Saturday 6 July 2019.

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LOCAL NEWS

ASHENDON

A welcome change of hours at the **Hundred of Ashendon**. The pub is now open on Monday evenings from 6.00pm so it's open every evening except Sunday and every lunchtime except Monday and Tuesday. See the website for full details. Now more time to enjoy some great, well-kept real ale, all LocAles. You will need to look hard to find this pub but will be pleased when you do.

ASTON CLINTON

Due to school term times, this year's **Aston Clinton Beer Festival** is to be held over the first weekend of August. With the village school not breaking up until Wednesday 24th July there wouldn't have been enough time to bring all the cask ale into the right condition for drinking.

The **ACBF** team have always managed to get hold of the best cask and keg beers in the country and this year will be no exception. The beer roster will cater for traditional and contemporary tastes alike and everything in between. A good selection of cider and perry will also be available and Craftyard will be present with their artisan gin bar. Of course, it wouldn't be **ACBF** if there wasn't Prosecco and Pimm's on tap as well!

Despite the slight change in timings which pushes **ACBF** into the mainstream festival season, the organisers have managed to book an amazing line up of musical acts. The most prominent of these being 'Love Distraction' the UK's foremost Human League tribute act who will open the festival on Friday 2nd August supported by firm **ACBF** favourites 'Soulmates'. Music from various bands will feature on the Saturday and Sunday of the festival. Kids won't miss out on the entertainment either with face painting, poetry and lots of other activities on site as usual. To finish off the line-up, there will be a wide variety of food concessions available.

ASTON ROWANT

Two real ales in the form of **Sharp's Doom Bar** and **Vale Red Kite** at the **Lambert Arms**, a hotel just off Junction 6 of the M40.

Aston Rowant Cricket Club is

planning another beer festival on the weekend of 21st and 22nd July, starting at 1pm on both days. A fundraiser for the cricket club, it will involve live music (Saturday only), a braai (South African-style BBQ) and most importantly 14-15 locAles from such luminaries as **Chadlington**, **Chiltern**, **Rebellion**, **Vale**, **West Berkshire** and **XT**. Early Bird tickets available for £5 a ticket, which includes weekend entry, glass and first pint.

AYLESBURY

A recent visit to **Craftworks** found nine craft beers on offer served from taps at the side of the bar. Several familiar names from craft brewers, mostly pale IPAs but also included a wheat beer, craft lager and one with lactose (a bit dodgy!). Generally fairly strong (4.5% to 5.0% ABV) and retailing around £5.00 per pint. Served chilled but not with any visible pressure (many Craft brewers use key-kegs). Those sampled included **Gypsy Hill Hecat** and **Tring Brewery Earl Grey** (not to be confused with the **Chiltern Brewery** cask seasonal bitter with the same name!).

Our cover photograph shows the **Green Man** which is still closed and looks to remain so for the foreseeable future. The building and some of its special features are listed and extensive work is required to bring the building up to a serviceable standard. We have also heard that all the bar fixtures and fittings have been removed from this pub that had been added to the list of **Assets of Community Value**.

The **Harrow** celebrated fifteen years since the pub was called the **Farmyard & Firkin** with an Indiana Jones themed party over the late May Bank Holiday. On offer were **Sharp's Doom Bar**, **Black Sheep Best Bitter** and **Laine Brew Co Breaker** (with their **Doubloon** waiting in the wings). The cider drinkers had a choice between **Westons Old Rosie** and **Rosie's Pig**.

The **King's Head** is delighted to announce that their Courtyard Bar is now open for the summer! Open every weekend (weather permitting), it is the perfect way to enjoy a fresh pint of award-winning real ale in their fantastic cobbled courtyard. Thanks to their new state-of-the-art till system, it is now possible to order the pub's full range of food and drinks and have them delivered to your table in the courtyard.



The **Rockwood** is currently closed but a sign in the window says that a 'new and improved **Rockwood**' is due to open in July. Hopefully there will be more news next issue.

The **White Swan** held a successful mini beer festival, 'Swanfest', over the late May Bank Holiday featuring several local breweries and some from much further afield plus **Millwhites Rum Cask Cider**.

BEACONSFIELD

The **Bunning and Price** pub, the **White Horse**, held a 'Champion Beer Week' in May which showcased only award-winning beers from the **Great British Beer Festival**.

BLEDLOW

Trips to the **Lions of Bledlow** during April saw plenty of beers on rotation including locAles **Vale Beam Me Up**, **Scotty**, **Loose Cannon Hop Back Mountain**, **Hook Norton Hooky** and **Haresfoot Lock Keepers**. There are the occasional Quiz and Karaoke night - call the pub for further details. This pub comes into its own in the summer month with walkers and cyclists from the nearby Icknield Way and the green out front and beet garden are great spots to watch the red kites circling above.

BOOKER

The **Squirrel** has been ranked as Buckinghamshire's best pub on review website TripAdvisor, two and a half years after being closed down in November 2016. The pub was purchased and reopened by the local couple John and Tanya Murray, who must be congratulated on having done a fantastic job.

CHINNOR

Chinnor's oldest pub, the **Red Lion**, still has three beers permanently on rotation and has included several beers from the **Rebellion** camp in April and May. The Quiz and Karaoke nights continue (check Facebook page for details) and the ninth annual Rebel Lion has been planned for Sunday 28th July. Starting at midday and following previous years' format, expect live music from ten bands in the car park from 12 till 10 with at least six locAles and real ciders available in 'Sladey's Shed' as well as in the pub itself. **CAMRA** members can enjoy a free pint from the 'Shed' upon presentation of a valid membership card. After last years' scare, Ian and Mary are praying for good weather again.

The **Chinnor Community Pavilion (CCP)** celebrated a successful Good Friday Beer Festival, blessed with good weather, a great turnaround and all nineteen locAles from **Bond Brews**, **Chiltern**, **Rebellion**, **Tring**, **Vale** and **XT** as well as nine real ciders and perries sold out by 5pm. An Open Air Cinema was held on Friday 10th May showing the Queen biopic **Bohemian Rhapsody** and **Ska In The Park** is planned for Saturday 20th July which will include bands such as **Skasouls**, **Soul City** and **Hope & Glory** along with hot food and most importantly a well-stocked bar. Chinnor Cricket Club has been resurrected and has rejoined the Oxfordshire Cricket Association, so a weekend visit should guarantee a chance to see and hear

leather against willow from the outside terrace. In addition, the **CCP** is now on **WhatPub** so you can score the beers now when you make a visit.

Saturday evening 15th June at the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, a gin and rail ale night takes place with at least five locAle beers will be available. Trains depart Chinnor at 19.00 and Princes Risborough at 19.30. The final return journey to Risborough will arrive for the connecting train back to Aylesbury. Cost is £22 which includes three pints, or six halves, of beer. If fish and chips are required, this should be booked in advance at a cost of £7.50. Orders received on the night cannot be guaranteed. Booking not essential, but advised. See website for booking instructions and for all other details including beers.

CROWELL

Just **Rebellion IPA** and **Timothy Taylor Landlord** on at the **Shepherd's Crook** of late, but still plenty going on. As the summer approaches, the weekend barbecues will return as well as live music and themed events. Check their Facebook page for more details.

EMMINGTON

Plenty of locAles have been spotted in the **Inn at Emmington** over the last couple of months, including beers from **Animal/XT**, **Loddon**, **Loose Cannon**, **Vale** and **Windsor & Eton**. The pub is gearing up for a busy June/July starting on 1st June when the popular Sydenham Fayre takes place in the village. The **Inn** will be hosting live music during the evening following the success of their monthly live bands that have included local favourites **Mutts Nutts** and **MFU** as well as popular London covers band **Leech**. Food continues to be served each evening as well as Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. The Aunt Sally season begins on 1st June with an early local derby against locals rivals, the **Crown**. Sydenham and the **Inn** is also looking to enact revenge on the **Crown** after last year's Tug-o-War defeat at Sydenham Fayre.

HENTON

Sharp's Doom Bar and **Tring Side Pocket for a Toad** remain as the two session ales on at the **Peacock**, a pub/hotel/restaurant near Chinnor.

MARLOW

At the **Marlow RBL Club** (Station Approach) a very successful annual **Springfest** beer festival was hosted over the Mayday Bank Holiday weekend, with **CAMRA AV&W** and **SW&M** branches staging a Saturday social at the festival alongside some ten members, mostly from London, from the **SPBW (Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood)**, some of whom were members of **CAMAL (Campaign for Authentic Lager)** too.

Among the rare brews showcased were **Bad Joke Peroxide** (4.2%), **Heist Craft Ain't No City Quite Like Mine** (6.0%) and **Made of Stone Metamorphic Pale** (4.3%). A wooden cask of **Hoptimist** (4.4%), a single hop brew using Target hops, from the ever reliable **Leighton Buzzard** brewery was well received and polished off rapidly, with all twenty

beers selling out by Tuesday night! The next beery extravaganza to be held at the **RBL Club** is **Summerfest 2019** starting on Thursday evening 22nd August through to Bank Holiday Monday 26th August. Beer from the wood from the **Chiltern** brewery will be in attendance amid some circa sixteen eclectic real ales on offer.

A visit to the **Oarsman** (aka **Cross Keys**) for their 'soft opening' revealed a very smart transformation and obviously a lot of time, effort and money has been put into the refurbishment! From the beers point of view there was a varied choice of goodies from a variety of brewers but all craft keg and bottled, no real ale, although this might change over time.

NORTH MARSTON

The **Pilgrim** in the northern reaches of this branch had three local ales in the form of **XT 4**, **Animal Albatross** and **Chiltern Beechwood Bitter** along with a real cider from **Saxby's**. Further down the road, a former pub the **Wheatsheaf**, which closed in 1957 and has been a private residence ever since, is for sale for a cool £850,000.

POSTCOMBE

England's **Rose**, formerly the **Feathers**, had a single ale in the form of **Loose Cannon Gunner's Gold** as well as several real ale in a bottle options. Offering B&B accommodation, the pub is open from 7.30am in the morning for breakfast (until 2.30pm), as well as a popular Sunday carvery, 12pm till 2.30pm, including four meats and all the trimmings. There is also a two-acre beer

garden out back.

PRESTWOOD

Following a long closure, the **Polecat Inn** reopened over the Easter weekend. The original listed building has been restored throughout following the major refurbishment works which has resulted in a restaurant seating 65 customers, a terrace and an enlarged car park. Real ales available have included **Fullers London Pride**, **Dark Star Hophead** and a local ale from **Malt the Brewery**.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

The **Bell** continues to offer a selection of two and sometimes three real ales.

The newly refurbished **Bird in Hand** usually serves at least four real ales. These often include locales such as **Thame Brewery's Hoppiness** (brewed by **XT**) and **XT 4**. **Chiltern Brewery's Beechwood** is also a regular. There's also usually a changing guest ale from further afield.

Dukes Wine Bar has extended next door and now also operates a wine merchants business. They have also built a new function room. **Rebellion** beers are served at **Dukes**, although not currently via handpump.

Swan Supping is proving to be a popular read with Princes Risborough commuters and steam train buffs with copies disappearing from the station waiting room almost as soon as they appear.

SOULBURY

Sharp's Doom Bar and **Black Sheep Holy Grail** from two out of three pumps on a Monday night visit to the **Boot**,



which saw this gastropub pleasingly busy with drinkers and diners.

SYDENHAM

A warm **Swan Supping** greeting to Pete and Tina who have recently taken over at the **Crown**, reopening on Mother's Day after a week getting to grips behind the scenes. Pete previously worked for **Rebellion** and Tina is late of the **Dashwood Arms** in Piddington and the **Gate** at Bryants Bottom. They are now open every day for lunch and dinner, except Monday (dinner only) and Sunday (lunch only) with food cooked freshly to order. They continue to support local breweries as previous incumbents Will and Pippa did and an April introductory **Swan Supping** visit saw **Rebellion IPA** and **Windsor & Eton Koh-i-Noor** as well as **Rebellion Lager** on a keg fount. Sydenham Fayre returns on Saturday 1st June and the **Crown** hopes to retain its title from last year over friendly neighbours the **Inn at Emmington**. The **Crown** will have

classic cars and bikes out front during the Fayre and are looking to have bands play in the afternoon. Please check their Facebook page for upcoming events as the old website no longer works. Pete and Tina are pictured on the left in a classic pose behind their handpumps!

TETSWORTH

Morland Old Speckled Hen and **XT 4** on the pumps at the **Old Red Lion**, which doubles up as a village store - the latter open from 7.30am each day until the pub closes. A B&B, they have three letting rooms and are open for breakfast from 7.30am Monday to Friday, from 8.30am on Saturday and 9.30 on Sunday, until 11.30am all week. Traditional pub meals are also served.

THAME

The **Falcon** has all ales at £3.20 a pint. This **Hook Norton** pub had **Hooky Gold**, **Old Hooky** and **Amarillo**, a **Hook Norton** special brew, which is a 4.5% gold beer.

At the **Bird Cage** in the centre of town, they had **Long Man Brewery Copper Hop**, a 4.2% hoppy amber ale, but at £4.40 a pint, slightly tempered by the **CAMRA** 10% discount. Also on was **Timothy Taylors Landlord** and **Doom Bar**.

The **James Figg**, opposite, had **Doom Bar**, **Greene King IPA**, the ever popular **Purity Mad Goose** and from the **XT Animal** range, **Gecko**, a 4.6% amber ale and in excellent condition.

TIDDINGTON

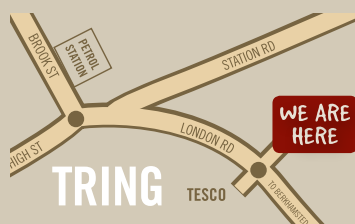
The **Fox & Goat** is under the new management of Andrew Miles. More details next issue.

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A snug, dimly-lit bar that's tucked away in medieval vaults merely a stone's throw from the Baltic Sea is not where you'd expect to find an exotic beer inspired by one of Britain's most lauded thespians. *Cucumbersbatch*, seemingly inspired by the star of *Sherlock*, and apparently made with real cucumbers, was one of the many beers advertised by posters on the wall of the **Koht** bar (pictured above and centre-page) in Tallinn's Old Town.

Koht means place in Estonia and this small, hard-to-find drinking hole is arguably the best place in the Estonian capital for beer tickers. It serves up to twenty beers on draught and the bottle selection runs into three figures, helped by the bottle shop attached to the bar which faces on to the street.

Despite the possible health benefits of cucurbits in my beer, I instead opted for another rare draught beer – *Two Suns* by the local **Pühaste Brewery** – which was a collaboration with **Pipeworks Brewery** of Chicago. It's described as a juicy double IPA, although its cloudy, beige appearance rather resembled the dirty water left over in a washing up bowl after the Fairy Liquid has expended its best efforts on a fat encrusted roasting tin after a good Sunday lunch. As with many similar craft 'IPAs', despite its

murky manifestation, the taste of the beer was actually quite pleasant – hoppy and fruity.

Sadly, I didn't get the opportunity to try more of **Koht's** selection of weird and wonderful beers as Tallinn is a beer drinker's paradise and so I had to press on. The beautiful medieval Old Town's narrow cobbled streets host a concentration of bars and restaurants.

In common with many other Eastern European cities, Tallinn has had a reputation of being blighted in the past by an influx of stag parties, one of Britain's most overlooked exports, who look for cheap-as-chips beer and chips and gravy to go with it. Factors such as the country's booming digital economy and the recent depreciation of the pound against the Euro means booze prices in Tallinn are no longer bargain basement – perhaps slightly lower than London. I saw no evidence of the city being a magnet for middle-England's morons and the Estonian capital is now cultivating a deserved reputation as a gastronomic destination.

For those whose geographical knowledge needs a jog, Estonia is the most northerly of the three Baltic states – Helsinki is just a two-hour ferry journey away. Its culinary influences are a combination of nearby Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and Russia.

Tallinn is home to one of Lonely Planet's 'Top Ten Weirdest Bars in the World' – the **DM Baar** (pictured below). DM stands for *Depêche Mode*, the electro-synth rock group who originate from Basildon in Essex. The underground **DM Baar** is a shrine to the group — *Depêche Mode* music and videos play constantly (it's not a place to Enjoy the Silence). The place is stuffed with memorabilia and



The Shepherd's Crook
PUB AND RESTAURANT

Positioned in the heart of Crowell, Chinnor, we are a Traditional British Free House, with Polish Influences. Not being tied to any pub chain means we are delighted to offer a wide selection of the finest Beers, Ales, Wines and Spirits including locally brewed and independent products that you are less likely to find elsewhere. Of course we also stock the national brands you know and love.

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cocktails are named after the band's songs. (I avoided the absinthe dominated Master and Servant!). Photos are proudly displayed of the members of the group giving the bar their blessing with a personal visit.

The bar serves its own exclusive *DM Baar Beer*, brewed by **Tanker Brewery**, which comes in light and dark versions, complete with the bar's motif, the rose from the band's *Violator* album cover. I opted for the light beer, a

THE BALTIC



refreshing pilsner style. While I'd like to say I just couldn't get enough of it, it was time again to move on.

Like all large cities, Tallinn has its share of identikit Irish bars and traditional Olde English pubs. There's even a bar called **Scotland Yard** with red telephone boxes where the staff dress as British bobbies. I gave that a miss when I read that the toilets were rather distastefully styled there as electric chairs. What a historical inaccuracy! For true British capital punishment authenticity there should have been a gallows theme instead – a noose for a toilet chain at the very least?

Less common in the cultural appropriation of beer drinking establishments is the Bavarian beer hall of which Tallinn has a spectacular example. Simply called **Beer House** (pictured below), this is a vast bar with many German style large wooden benches and its own brewery with copper fermenting vessels right in the middle. Its more of a foodie place – serving up hearty German food to soak up the beer – but offers a selection of its own teutonic-inspired brews.

I ordered a stein of *Dunkles Extra*, a competently brewed dunkel with a rich malt character. It could have been served

dating back to the immediate post-Communist era of 1993. The name means Gentle Wolf in Estonian. This lupine passivity is illustrated in the bar's logo, which features a wolf with a blissfully trusting female passenger riding rather Lady Godiva-like on his back. While its design (pictured below) might not look out of place illustrating an Angela Carter short story, it's unlikely you'd see something similar on a pump clip by British breweries these days.

Hell Hunt is a convivial, airy place with a large bar running along the left side of the room serving an extensive selection of beers, including several house beers produced by Estonian brewer *Viru Ölu*. I had a glass of *Hell Hunt Ale*, a strong, malty red ale.

As it slipped comfortably down, I reflected that my short Estonian crawl had been far from a Hell Hunt – Tallinn's bars had offered a taste of beer heaven.

Charlie Mackle



respectably in Bamberg, in the heart of German dark beer country. When in Tallinn, though, I wanted to make my last stop rather more locally inspired. After all, Estonians like their beer. They're ninth in the world league table of per-capita beer consumption.

As in most European countries, the local market is dominated by a couple of large breweries with established brands, dominated by light pilsner style beers. The biggest is in Estonia is *A. Le Coq*, whose beers are widely found and are owned by a Finnish brewery. The other is *Saku Õlletehase*, part of *Carlsberg*.

Nevertheless, there's a thriving craft brewery scene and the supermarket shelves have plenty of interesting local bottles. Among others, I sampled a tasty *Muddis Golden Ale* by the *Õllefabrik* brewery and *Öö* by *Põhjala Brewery*, a tremendously tasty Imperial Baltic Porter at 10.5%, with a lingering chocolate taste.

Last stop was the curiously named **Hell Hunt**. It describes itself as Tallinn's oldest pub,



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LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

Chiltern Brewery

Chiltern Brewery have been enjoying the recent return of sunny weather, made even better by their most recent seasonal beers - *Earl Grey IPA*, *Colombian Coffee Porter*, *Nut Brown Mild* and the brand new *Hop, Spring & Jump*.

Hop, Spring & Jump was a particularly exciting ale as it was brewed with a new trial, British dwarf hop that gave the beer a delightful loganberry and lime profile. Tom Jenkinson, Partner and Head Brewer, told us that as a family brewery with nearly 40 years brewing heritage, it is extremely important to them that they continue to brew new and exciting beers that really showcase the best of British hops and malt.



Tom also told us about **Chiltern's** upcoming seasonal beers: For June and July, *Session IPA* will be returning as the perfect partner for those long, sunny, summer days. First brewed in 2018 with Olicana hops, *Session IPA* offers drinkers an extremely rewarding and thirst-quenching mango taste. In August they will bring back one of their most popular beers... *Chiltern Gold*!



Fisher's Brewery

Fisher's have just taken on a new member of staff, Jacob. He will be focusing on our events and marketing exercises going forward so lots of new events are in the pipeline.



They are doing a pop-up bar at Jungs in Gerrards Cross from June 5th-8th where we will be showcasing our beers alongside Jungs food menu to give Gerrards Cross something a bit different for the week. If successful, they'll be doing more in the future. Expect live music on Wednesday at their VIP night and Saturday afternoon plus music and a live DJ on the Thursday and Friday. More info at fshbrw.co/jungs.

They have made some changes to their beer range including a 4% *Red Rye* taking the place of the *Honey Amber* in their cask range.

Their next event at the brewery is on Friday June 7th with a quiz night on June 12th and a student night on 13th June.

Rebellion Brewery

Monthly beers coming up from Rebellion in their Aviator series are as follows:-



In June, *Overshoot* (4.2%). Copper and citrus.

In July, *Barrel Roll* (4.2%). Tawny and hoppy.

These will be followed in August by *Sonic Boom* (4.2%). This is described as being amber and fruity.



Blonde will return as their summer seasonal from early June. It is a light golden Summer beer, with a citrusy hop character. If you serve it chilled, you'll bring out the crisp and refreshing qualities. It goes well with spicy food or marinated barbeque meat.



In their bottled beers range alongside *Red*, *Blonde* and *Lager*, their *White* is back in stock.

This is **Rebellion's** seasonal wheat beer, which they describe as offering you spicy, clove and banana aromas with a distinctive citrus character. Probably a fantastic beer for summer when served chilled.

Rebellion's biennial charity weekend is fast approaching. The dates are the 29th and 30th of June. In 2017 the weekend raised £65,000 for the local charity, Scannappeal. The money was donated by visitors as they entered and staff who could donate their wages for the day. Check the website for further event details or join the branch when we hold a social at the event on the Saturday.

After extensive trials and testing **Rebellion** have made some significant improvements to their 22 pint mini barrel system, increasing their reliability and consistency as well as improving the quality of pour!

Tring Brewery

Every year **Tring Brewery** collaborates with a worthwhile local charity or non-profit organisation, to inspire monthly special beer names and to help the community.

Bletchley Park and the National Museum Of Computing forged an amazing partnership with the brewery last year, producing ales such as *Cipher* and *Lorenz* on a monthly basis, to be served to cask ale drinkers in the home counties and beyond. **Tring Brewery** are proud to announce that £1,827 was raised throughout the year, mostly at the biannual members' nights held within the brewhouse.

Monies raised will prove vital to the National Museum Of Computing, which works all year round to preserve the world's largest collection of working historic computers, in the hope that it will inspire future generations of computer scientists and engineers.

Bletchley Park itself stands to benefit from the generous contributions of the public. Bletchley Park is the home of British codebreaking and the intelligence produced onsite proved pivotal in outcome of World War Two. It is through both grants and donations that the historic Bletchley Park is able to remain a place of national heritage today. **Tring Brewery** would like to thank all of its members and extended community for their support of a worthwhile local cause throughout 2018.

In September 2017 **Tring** launched Member's Brew, a beer by their membership, for their drinkers. Since launching the Member's Brew competition, they have crowned two grand champions, each suggested by members of their **Golden Toad Club**.

Salted Caramel Milk Stout and *Grapefruit IPA* have both enjoyed brews on their 200L pilot kit and now it's now time



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MORE LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

for a third champion.

Raspberry Wheat (4.5%), suggested by Karin Hing, came out head and shoulders above four other nominees to claim victory in the competition held in early March. Hundreds of votes were cast using cash donations, all proceeds were given directly to **Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled**.

After conditioning in the brewhouse, it was released on Friday May 24th, so best of luck trying to find it – this brew will not be around for long!

Vale Brewery

Vale will be hosting an Open Day over the summer for you to enjoy great award-winning ales, food and entertainment - date and details to be announced! Please keep an eye on their website for updates www.valebrewery.co.uk.

Vale's Pickled Swan members are eligible for an Open Day preview session with a free pour bar! To become a Pickled Swan (free membership) please email kate@valebrewery.co.uk with your email address or you can visit their website.

The brewery shop and tap room are offering brewery tours and are held on the first Saturday of every month and can be booked with the office by calling 01844 239237.

A number of new brews are on the horizon, to be enjoyed throughout the summer months:



Pieces of Eight (4.0%). Golden Summer Beer with tropical fruit flavours, blending mango and passionfruit. Dry Finish.

SPS (4.2%). Red Rye beer with all English hops. Toffee malt flavour, fresh hop aromas with hints of lime, peach and orange.

Field of Dreams (3.9%). Pale gold with strong hints of blackcurrant and spice.

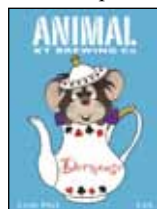
XT Brewery

XT were heavily involved in the Oxford Beer Week, which was bigger and bolder this year. The 'Big Beer Event' which was held over the May bank holiday weekend saw ten different, interactive brewery bars selling a whole host of local beers all accompanied by a range of street food and live music.

It's a new kind of beer festival which has a lot of great potential in the future. The rest of the beer week also saw the Oxford Brewers Alliance showcasing their beers in pub events across the city, including a 'Meet the Tank Drivers' evening hosted by XT at the new **Plough** pub with its freshly filled beer tanks. The beer week will be back in May 2020.

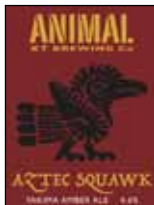
The very latest new Animal Beers from the farm are:

Hop Hound (4.6%). A single hop IPA. The hound has been sniffing out the hop stores around the world and has singled out his latest favourite: Rakau from New Zealand – with an intensity of aromas and the dominant fruitiness of fresh apricot all on a light pale malty beer.



Dormouse (4.6%). A Chai pale. This spicy IPA is accented with warming Chai spices that add distinct cinnamon and clove flavours. A hint of sweetness balances the hoppy notes from Columbus and Green Bullet, then the spicy flavour with a touch of cardamom adds to the beer's complex taste.

Aztec Squawk (4.6%). Yakima amber beer. Amber malty base with a generous topping of hops from the Yakima Valley in the American North West including: Simcoe, Cascade and Mosaic.



Look out for XT beers in these great local upcoming events: Beacon Festival 21 – 22 June, Haddenham Beer Festival 6 July, Thame Music Festival 12 – 13 July.



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THE CASKITEERS - PART SIX

Jacob and Harry's craft beer bar and microbrewery, **Eaten Trifles**, was thriving on Shackney High Street. It was approaching Strokies beard oil emporium and Magenta de Crimson's Multi-Coloured Leg Wrapping Depot in the numbers of hipsters flocking through its artfully distressed-wood doors.

Thea, Jacob's girlfriend glided into the bar. She wore a sleeveless gilet over her long dress, with her exposed, slender bicep covered in clingfilm. 'Look what I've got to show you, Jakey-poops!'

'Oh, Thea darling, I know you're divinely delicious but you don't need to offer up your body parts for microwaving,' Jacob said. 'We've bought in oodles of artisan rare-breed pork scratchings at £35 a packet.'

'Oh, Jake, you silly old stick.' Thea tossed her long, blonde ponytail. 'We all know I'd give an arm and a leg to get hold of your inheritance but this cling-film is covering my brand-new tattoo.'

'Jeepers! I must say that's über Shackney!' Jacob said, friskily. 'What did you have inked?'

'Obviously it could only be what's most precious to me,' Thea declared. 'Something that sets my pulse racing more than anything.'

'I entrust the tattoo artist drew my visage sans spectacles,' Jacob said.

'It wasn't you, old noodle!' Thea replied.

'Erm, money then?' Jacob guessed. Thea shook her head. Jacob peered through his thin-rimmed glasses at the tattoo. 'A pair of high-heeled shoes!'

'Not any old shoes, My Louboutins!' she declared. 'Two thousand pounds a pair. To help you sell enough of your beer to buy me another pair for my birthday, I've put together a marketing plan for **Eaten Trifles**.' She whipped her MacBook out of her handbag.

'Marketing? Isn't that awfully common?' Jacob protested. 'Surely word-of-mouth among one's boarding school chums is all that's required in Shackney?'

'Word-of-mouth? Are you stuck in the twentieth century?' Thea complained.

'Erm, the nineteenth, actually,' Jacob said.

'Techy Tristan would be ashamed of you. It's all online now. No one talks to each other any more!' She opened her sleek computer. 'Now here's the guerrilla social media campaign for our first viral event – the Eaten Trifles comedy night – *Stand Up Till You Fall Over*.'

'Humour? Isn't that a risible displacement activity that distracts poor people from the misery of their inherently futile and worthless lives?' Jacob mused.

'Yes, exactly like your salted-caramel, twenty-eight-day-hung dried loganberry IPAs ease the tedium for our social set as we wait interminably for our gargantuan inheritances,' Thea replied. 'Besides every microbrewery in Shackney now does a comedy night. It's *de rigeur*. **Pebbledashers** hosts one every single night of the week.'

'But who'll do the comedy,' Jacob asked.

'As it happens, my fourth-cousin, thrice-deprecated, Tarquin Strand, is making rather a name for himself on the comedy circuit. He's being lined up for a panel show on Radio Bore.'

'Tarquin, who bribed the referee at the Eton Wall Game?' Jacob asked.

'The very same fellow.' Thea's rosy cheeks blushed. 'He said he'll do mates' rates – only two-thousand guineas for a ten-minute set.'

'Sounds jolly reasonable,' Jacob agreed. 'Platinum infused porters all round!'

Ruthie the brewer, who'd been heaving sacks of Chernobyl Blaster hops from the cellar, caught a glimpse of Thea's MacBook screen,

'Comedy night! Great idea. I got a friend who's a banging comedian, Danny Pustule from the Gorbals. He's a riot. Or was he arrested in a riot? Never mind, he's down here that night.'

Thea wrinkled her up-turned nose. 'We have a very tight budget for the acts.'

'Danny'll do it for nae money. Aye, just pay him in beer. I'll book him in now.'

The **Eaten Trifles** comedy night soon rolled around. A packed bar of bearded, checked-shirted hipsters and their girlfriends with cardigans and luridly patterned leggings whooped and cheered as the night's MC, Hattie Hedge-Fund, warmed up the audience. Ruthie sweated as she opened an unprecedented third keg of Silver-Plated Saison, such was the crowd's manic thirst.

Harry and Jacob stood to the side of the stage, anticipating the two acts.

'Jakes, old bean. The funny thing is that I don't remember old Tarquin as being that funny at our alma mater. In fact, he was a prize rotter,' Harry whispered.

'Ah, Thea explained to me. Tarquin doesn't actually perform a comedy act *per se*,' Jacob said. 'He merely stands there and addresses the audience with his genuinely obnoxious, over-privileged personality. The plebs think

no one could be such an insufferably elitist prig and convince themselves he's being side-splittingly ironic – but he doesn't even know the definition of the word.'

True to Thea's prediction, the hipster crowd guffawed and chuckled at Tarquin's outrageous snobbery. 'You know the feeling when you realise your third of Golden IPA isn't infused with genuine gold leaf,' Tarquin asked the audience. 'Yeah – that!' How the audience laughed at his sharp observational comedy.

Another joke had the punchline: '*Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet* – and if you don't understand that then you're too stupid or not drunk enough!'

Mightily unamused, Danny Pustule stood at the back with Ruthie. He heckled: 'That translates as "death wish" in the Gorbals and I'll make it come true for ye.'

Tarquin continued with his suave performance. 'I had to ask for my friend Jake's weakest IPA tonight – a mere nine-percenter. You know why? Some people complain about tripping over poor people on the way out of the opera. I'd be more concerned about stumbling over them on my way out of this bar if I was too legless on my mates' IPA! Thank you Shackney and good night'. Tarquin exited the stage to backslaps from Jake and Harry.

'Oh, such exquisite irony,' the hipster audience tittered, toasting Tarquin with cloudy jackfruit IPA.

'I'm not sure what's sae funny about all that,' Ruthie said, picking up a glass. 'Some of my best friends sleep on park benches in Glasgow.'

'Yes, like me,' Danny said, storming to the stage, his face as red as his curly hair. He launched into his act: 'There's an Englishman, a Hipster and a Scotsman in a craft beer bar.'

'Oh dear, these hackneyed stereotypes are so passé,' Thea whispered to her bestie, Camilla.

'The Englishman says "Jolly nice pint of IPA", the hipster says "I really must Instagram the stylish contours of my third-of-a-pint tasting glasses" and the Scotsman says "If you don't drink your beer rather than make an art gallery of it then I'll ram those wee tasting glasses somewhere that the "I" doesnae "PA"!'. '

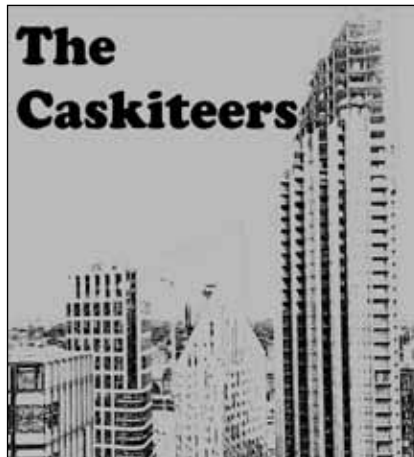
'I say, dear chap, punchlines are so twentieth century,' Tarquin heckled from the side, swilling a Soya Saison. 'Regardless, I'd venture that particular punchline needs a modicum of honing.'

'It wasnae a joke. It was a prophecy about what's going to happen in about ten minutes' time, when there's going to be more punches than lines.' Danny waved a can of **Renters' Extra Stupid Strength** around his head, ready to aim it at Tarquin.

'I just remembered, I need to iron my collection of cravats,' Tarquin shouted as he ran to the door.

'Oh, how wonderful, a working-class character comedian,' Camilla cooed to Thea. 'How deliciously ironic. Double beeswax and pine nut IPAs all round.'

Charlie Mackle



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

June

Thursday 6th BOURNE END SOCIAL

7.30pm Black Horse, 8.30pm Keg, 9.30pm Garibaldi

Monday 10th BRANCH MEETING

7.00pm, James Figg, Thame.

Saturday 15th STEAM AND ALE

Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Real Ale and Steam Trip

Saturday 22nd BLACK COUNTRY TRIP

Bookings are now being taken and the cost is £34 per person. Members and non-members are all welcome to join us on the best day of the year.

The coach will pick up in Aylesbury at 9.40am and then at the following: Princes Risborough (9.55am), High Wycombe (10.10am) and Stokenchurch (10.20am). Please note that the timings after Aylesbury are approximate and depend on traffic and other pick-ups on route can be catered for. After the **Coach and Horses**, Weatheroak, we head to the Black Country to visit lots of old favourites, such as the **Bull & Bladder**, the **Beacon Hotel**, and the **Old Swan**, plus we plan another new brewery visit! Afterwards, the bus will drop off in reverse order, with the bus due to arrive back in Aylesbury before midnight! Contact the editor (details below) to book your place!

Saturday 29th REBELLION OPEN WEEKEND SOCIAL

12 noon, Rebellion Brewery, Marlow. Their biennial charity weekend is not to be missed and in 2017 it raised £65,000 for Scannapeal.

July

Monday 1st BRANCH MEETING

7.00pm, Belle Vue, High Wycombe

Saturday 6th HADDENHAM BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Haddenham Community Junior School

Wednesday 17th WALKING SOCIAL

6.30pm Bird in Hand, Princes Risborough, 8.00pm Red Lion, Whiteleaf (9.00pm finish for connecting with 300 buses to High Wycombe/Aylesbury)

Wednesday 24th SOCIAL

7.00pm, Swan, Great Kimble

August

Thursday 8th GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

6.00pm, GBBF, Olympia, London

November

Friday 1st/Saturday 2nd AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

26th annual beer festival raising money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity held at the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, HP21 7QY

Further details on www.avw.camra.org.uk and facebook

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Swan Supping

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Copy deadline for next issue (due out 31st July) is 12th July 2019.

Subscriptions :- *Swan Supping* is distributed to over 250 pubs and many other locations in our area but if you would prefer to receive your copy by post we can mail it to you immediately it is published. All you have to do is send £1.50 for each edition you wish to receive to the Editor at the address above (please make all cheques payable to **CAMRA AV & W**) and leave the rest to us! This applies to single copies to UK addresses only. We can mail overseas, but the price will vary depending on the country to which it is to be delivered. Remember that all issues of *Swan Supping* can be downloaded from our website (avw.camra.org.uk).

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- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back within 10 working days of the date of the refund.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

*Price of single membership when paying by Direct Debit. *Call from landline charged at local rates, cost may vary from mobile phones. New Direct Debit members will receive a 12 month supply of vouchers in their first 15 months of membership.

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5 mins CAMRA CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE f www.mbcf.camra.org.uk CAMRA CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

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