

**FREE**

# Swan Supping



**Issue 137**

**Summer 2022**

**THE BELL HOTEL**



**The Bell in Aylesbury  
is due to reopen under  
new ownership on  
Friday 27th of May!**

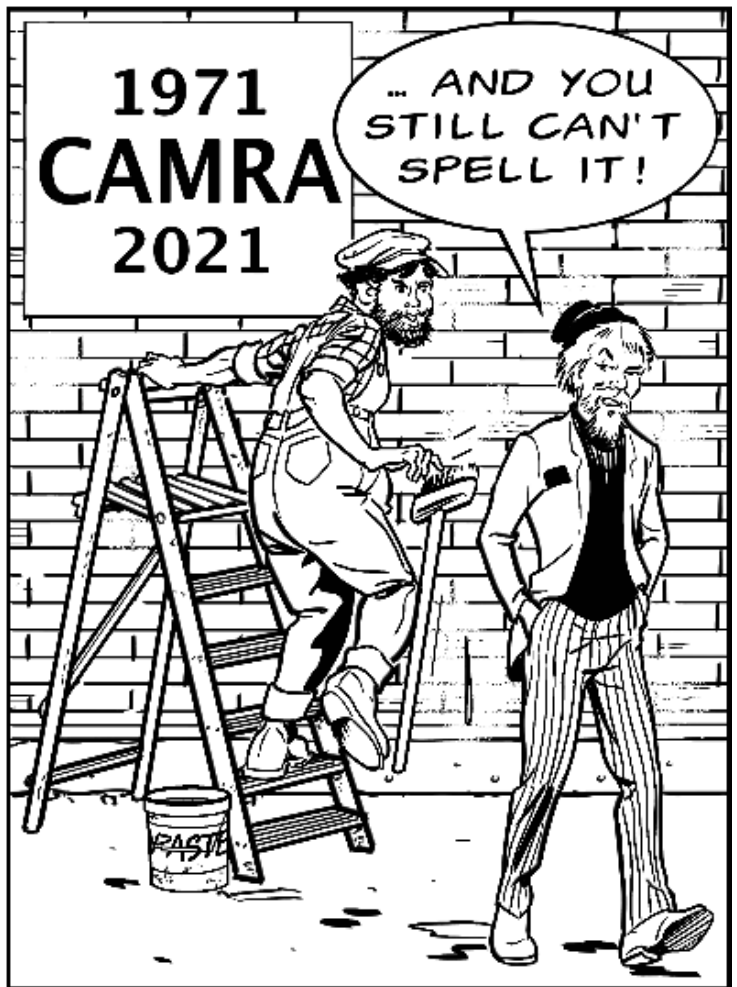
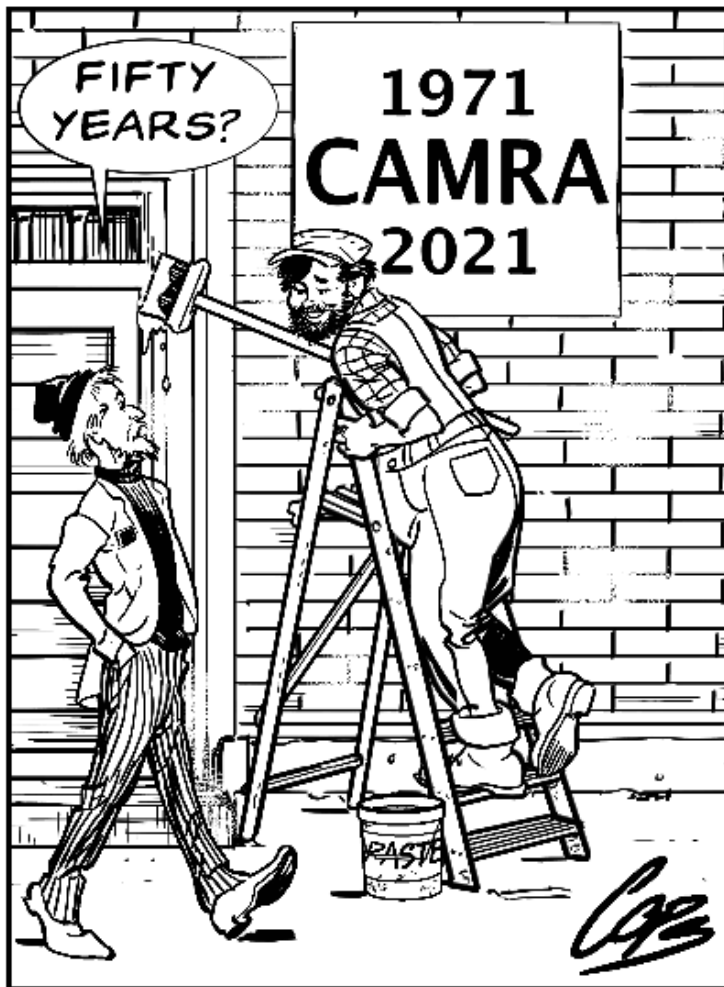
**See Local News**



**Newsletter of the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of CAMRA**

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**Est. Readership 6000**



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## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the relaunch of *Swan Supping*! Due to circumstances way beyond our control, we have been unable to produce an issue since the February/March issue of 2019.

In the editorial for that issue I said that we were all in for a very interesting year! Out of the mouths of babes and **CAMRA** Newsletter editors....!

We are relaunching as a quarterly magazine as the interest in advertising in print media in this area is at a very low ebb and we hope for a better response in three months time.

We would like to start by remembering three people closely associated with the branch who sadly passed away during the lockdown and its aftermath.

Edwin Taylor's convivial company will be missed by all the active members and committee members in the branch. He was **Brewery Liaison Officer** for **Thame Brewery** and volunteered for several years to be the 'examiner' of the branch's accounts. His fellow devotee of the **King's Head**, Aylesbury, Giles du Boulay has offered the following memories: 'Edwin kept meticulous printed records in tabulated form of the beers he had enjoyed on his travels. These were regularly reprinted in ever-decreasing point sizes to keep them within the bounds of the pocket-sized quadruple-folded sheets he would produce 'like a rabbit out of a hat' whenever we encountered a 'new' beer in the **King's Head** or elsewhere.'

We were also very saddened to hear that active member Bill Piers from Haddenham, and a stalwart of the **Rising Sun**, suffered the loss of his wife, Janet. We will fondly remember Janet's support for the local branch, particularly Janet's good-humoured observations on a less-than-Michelin-starred branch Christmas dinner at a local **Wetherspoons** that had more in common with Fawlty Towers than Cordon Bleu.

We were also saddened recently by the loss of Mary Bazin, the wife of John Bazin, a stalwart member of the committee for over 30 years who passed

away in 2013 and is still sadly missed.

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. Special thanks to Colin Stanford for the two cartoons.

Enjoy the Jubilee as we send our best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen.

David Roe, *Swan Supping* Editor

editor@avw.camra.org.uk

### BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Saturday 25th June 2022

Bookings are being taken for our 30th trip and the cost is £37 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 (pictured), 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 may 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

Actor Anna Maxwell Martin has poured the first pint of *Thank Brew* at the **Old Queen's Head Pub** in London marking the launch of the new limited-edition beer brewed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

All *Thank Brew* profits will go to help build stronger communities through Eden Project communities (which runs the Big Lunch), /together Coalition (which runs Thank You Day), and to support Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK (through Reset Communities and Refugees).

Anna Maxwell Martin said: 'Thank You Day is a day for us all to come together – and for millions of us across the UK the very best place to do that is down the local. At their best, pubs can sit at the very heart of our lives, creating friendships and strengthening communities. So it's absolutely brilliant to see the whole industry getting involved to create a campaign everyone can get behind – from the pubs to the brewers to the alcohol-free beers – as we get ready for the big jubilee weekend.'

**CAMRA** is working with *Thank Brew* to encourage every pub and brewery across Britain to take part in the campaign as part of its Summer of Pub



campaign to promote pub-going over the warmer months.

To date, 35 breweries – including **Adnams**, **St Austell** and **Budweiser Brewing Group** – and up to 5,000 pubs – including **Punch** and **Greene King** – have signed up to brew and serve the beer and host events.

Consumers can search for pubs and brewers running events and stocking the beer using **CAMRA's** new interactive map. *Thank Brew* is available in both cask and keg format.

**CAMRA's** *National Chairman* Nik Antona said:

'We're expecting a record number of events to take place across the long Jubilee Weekend, which will also see extended licensing hours for pubs. This is a fantastic opportunity to support your local over the long weekend and raise a glass to pubs – and each other – after a difficult few years of lockdowns and restrictions.'

**CAMRA** will be inviting *Thank Brew* organisers to the **Great British Beer Festival** trade day on the 2nd of August to raise a glass to their fantastic efforts over the Jubilee Weekend. **Adnams'** Head Brewer Fergus Fitzgerald will also attend, showcasing their *Thank Brew* on tap for festival-goers.



## THE RETURN OF THE ROTHS!



In our last issue we reported that the **Rothschild Arms** in Aston Clinton had been saved from development!

This followed a long campaign by locals which even got television coverage, alongside which, Liz Tubb had, on behalf of the pub, taken the matter to court. Having succeeded in getting the matter to the High Court, the owners, **Punch Taverns**, agreed to start negotiations with landlords Stuart and Gemma Ladyman, and the case was withdrawn once **Punch** agreed to sell them the pub. This is probably one of the first cases of its kind and shows how cases like this can be fought.

Stuart and Gemma had taken over the pub as landlords on the 6th

of May 2016 and it had closed in November 2019. After contracts were exchanged on 15th January 2020 the pub was signed over in February and the locals were looking forward to the reopening.

Following some refurbishments the pub was ready, the beer had been ordered and everything was set up for a successful celebration as the doors opened again only for the government to close everything down due to the Covid-19 pandemic!

Stuart and Gemma used the lockdown period to do further refurbishment and they plan to have a display of 'before' and 'after' photographs in the near future.

The pub has three separate areas. The front bar, which features SKY and BT Sport for the fans, tempts drinkers with two handpumps which were serving **Timothy Taylor Landlord** and **Rebellion IPA** when visited. This leads onto a seated area which is an 'American Diner' themed movie room with seating that came from a Ben & Jerry's in Edinburgh and walls that are covered with movie posters and 3700 VHS videos which are securely wedged together.

Despite being one of the furthest pubs from the sea, the beer garden at the rear has a beach theme with sand, surf boards, boats and an outdoors beach bar.

They have a very active Facebook site which posts out up to date events including live music twice a month (bands are planned for the Jubilee) plus pool and darts. If you are hungry, they have a street food kitchen that is open Wednesday to Sunday 3pm until 9pm.

The **Roths** is located at 82 Weston Road, Aston Clinton HP22 5EJ. Telephone: 01296 792697

David W. Roe. Photo: Mike Clarke

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## WHERE DOES THE BUCKS STOP WITH ACVS?



The local **CAMRA** branch attended a long-awaited meeting at the end of February with Buckinghamshire Council and other interested parties about their recent handling of pub *Asset of Community Value* (**ACV**) applications over the past couple of years.

Note: The listing of a pub as an **ACV** gives local groups a period of time to try to raise funds to buy a pub listed as an **ACV** but does not place any obligation on the owner to sell to the local groups.

This was attended by Paul Ainsworth (**CAMRA** national planning lead), council officials, Councillor Steve Bowles, chairman of the localism committee, the Chiltern Society and a group seeking to buy the **King William IV** in Speen, currently closed (pictured above), for the local community. The Buckingham MP, Greg Smith, also joined the meeting, which demonstrates that the local branch's voice is heard in parliament.

The meeting was requested in a letter to the council from Nik Antona, **CAMRA National Chairman** to Bucks Council leader, Martin Tett. This followed the council's response to the application to re-list as an *Asset of Community Value* a pub in our branch area.

The application was prompted by a local campaign launched independently of **CAMRA** by local residents when its previous listing (submitted by the local **CAMRA** branch) expired last year. Despite the support of the local town council in making the application and no material change in the way the community used the pub, Buckinghamshire Council refused the application.

Undeterred, the local residents' association organised a survey, which found overwhelming local support for the application. They and the town council are continuing to make another attempt to protect their local pub.

Nik Antona's letter, which referenced legislation and case law that has been determined in other parts of the country, stated that it was **CAMRA's** view at a local and national level that Buckinghamshire Council were requesting an unreasonable amount of evidence regarding a pub's support for community activities, especially

compared with evidence submitted in a previously successful listing.

This was despite the legislation not being changed, nor the way a community uses pubs. In the letter and the following meeting, **CAMRA** argued that there was no reason for an application to renew the listing to be refused provided it is properly submitted (by a council or similar body or by a group of twenty-one people on the electoral roll).

Paul Ainsworth has reported from other areas of the country that solicitors acting for property developers have tried to pressure councils with the threat of potentially expensive legal proceedings if they don't approve their plans to turn **ACV** listed pubs into lucrative private housing. Councils have also been presented with misrepresented and out-of-context information that supposedly undermines the importance of community assets from a tribunal case that actually ruled against developers in favour of the community.

**CAMRA's** points about **ACV** legislation and the listing process were clearly communicated to the council in the meeting, which was conducted in a constructive and positive fashion. The council officers still maintained their position towards **ACVs** in general. At the time of writing, the **CAMRA** national planning representative is still awaiting the council's evidence to support this position. However, it was **CAMRA's** understanding that it was agreed that **ACV** listings for two pubs cited as examples would be reconsidered if new applications to relist were resubmitted.

It was acknowledged that there were some deficiencies in the existing Localism legislation which deals with the **ACV** process. These were noted by Greg Smith MP who promised to work to remedy these.

On another positive note, **CAMRA's** input towards Buckinghamshire Council's local plan was also positively welcomed. We had previously worked with the now-defunct Wycombe Council on their local plan to ensure that pubs, particularly rural pubs, had explicit recognition as community facilities.

The Wycombe Plan states in sections 6.86 to 6.90: 'In rural areas, pubs serve a unique, and pre-eminent, role as community facilities. In all cases the onus is on the developer to evidence that their removal will not reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs for social, recreational or cultural facilities or services. The Council will therefore normally resist the loss of community facilities and land.'

One of the most important statements in the plan is particularly relevant in the current post-pandemic and inflationary climate in that it emphasises that invaluable community facilities (such as pubs) should not be lost due to arguments made about business viability in the short term: 'For that reason, the viability of the current enterprise is not of great relevance, and it will not justify the release of a site to uses other than community uses.'

Councillor Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader of Bucks Council and Cabinet member for Planning and Regeneration, has welcomed **CAMRA** proposal to work with the council to extend the provisions of Wycombe's plan to the whole of Buckinghamshire. We raise a toast to working with the council more closely to support pubs.

There are still  
14 pubs closing a week  
according to the latest  
statistics from CAMRA





## LOCAL NEWS

### ASHENDON

The **Hundred of Ashendon** recently hosted the annual Gatehangers' Dinner. This is an event which has been held on the third Friday of May each year since 1962 to celebrate the hanging of a gate on the village allotments. Maybe not a great feat to celebrate but a wonderful excuse to have a superb meal and drink lots of beer.

Real ale at the pub is exclusively from local breweries and, of late, has included offerings from **Chiltern**, **Tring** and **Rebellion**. The pub is hidden away at the end of a short lane but it is always worth the effort of locating it.

### AYLESBURY

The new manager at the **Aristocrat** is Lee Cutting and the pub now opens every day at 12 noon and offers food from Tuesday to Sunday. The two beers available when visited were **Fullers London Pride** and **Dark Star Hophead**.

**Wetherspoons** have sold the **Bell** to the **Redcat** pub company. It is due to reopen as we go to press and is one of three pubs acquired by the group in our branch.

The second business they have bought is the **Broad Leys**, and they are featuring it as a 'destination dining' pub. It opens for breakfast at 9am and offers top quality, freshly cooked food all day. Three ales were on show: **Sharps Doom Bar**, **Vale Red Kite** and **Timothy Taylor Landlord**. The pub also offers seven boutique bedrooms, but the previously owned cottage is no longer available.

The previous landlady, Helen Wood, who was Aylesbury's longest serving host, and was at the **Broad Leys** for around twenty years. Lets all wish Helen a well-deserved retirement and let others get the drinks for her!

It is also time to say goodbye to the **Harrow** (formerly **Farmyard & Firkin**, **BarleyCORN** and **Ye Olde Harrow Inn**) as Karman and Greig are off to pastures new. Their last day is Sunday 29th May after nearly twenty years of good times running an excellent pub. They will be missed and we wish them all the best for the future.

Tom Davies and Liz Hind have left the **Old Millwrights Arms** after a number of very successful years and gaining a number of entries in the **Good Beer Guide (GBG)**. We wish them well for the future, but sadly it doesn't appear to be in our branch area!

The new person in charge is Victoria who used to be at the **Dairy Maid**. She took over on Friday 15th of April and although the range of beers won't change as often as in the past, there was an impressive line-up when visited. On show were **Greene King IPA**, **Abbot** and **Top Dogs Pale Ale**, **Black Sheep Pale Ale**, **Hardy & Hansons Olde Trip** and **Timothy Taylor Landlord**. Barrel & Stone pizzas, PieMaster meals and Cheese & Bacon burgers feature on the menu along with daily specials and Sunday lunches.

The **White Swan** remains closed and its future grows more uncertain every day!



### BEACONSFIELD

**Wetherspoons** chain has acquired the former cinema in Beaconsfield New Town. Opening date as yet unconfirmed.

It has been reported in the Bucks Free Press that the **White Hart** is going to be turned into a **Browns** restaurant after owners **Mitchells and Butlers** put forward plans for a major revamp for this pub which is currently one of their 'Vintage Inns' family.

### BISHOPSTONE

The village beer festival was successfully held at the end of April and featured beers from many local breweries, including **Vale** and **Tring**. The **Harrow** in the village has further enhanced its extensive outdoor seating areas and serves two real ales, usually from **Chiltern Brewery**.

### CHINNOR

Long-serving licensees Doris & Den left the **Crown** late last year after an admirable 22-year stint for well-earned retirement. They had moved to the village from Wycombe's **King George V** in 1999. The reins were handed to local couple Craig & Jodie who have swiftly made their mark, converting the lower bar into a Sports Bar with pool table, dartboard, TV screens and local sporting memorabilia as well as bolstering the kitchen offerings and continuing the 3-ale line-up at the bar. Quiz nights, karaoke and bingo nights are frequent events, transforming Chinnor's largest pub into its busiest.

### CUDDINGTON

Glyn Jones has taken over at the **Crown**, a **Fuller's** village local. He says he is keen to show local **CAMRA** members that he keeps a good pint

### DINTON

The seventh annual **Dinton Beer Festival** will be held this year on Saturday 20th August, in the garden of the **Seven Stars** pub, from noon to 6pm. There will be a selection of real ales, cider and Pimm's, with live music and a barbecue hosted by Steph and her team. All proceeds go towards parish projects and so far the beer festival has distributed over £7000 with further donations pledged from last year's festival amounting to another £3000 covering the playground, a bench to

mark the Queen's Jubilee and another kissing gate. So, please put the date in your diary and come along to the **Seven Stars** to enjoy a family day out. They are always looking for sponsors and if you would like to sponsor a barrel or some cider or Pimm's, please contact Dick O'Driscoll on 07711 731740.

### EMMINGTON

At the end of March, David and Sharon celebrated five years at the **Inn at Emmington** with local band MFU playing to a packed house.

The **Inn** continues to serve three local real ales as well as four real ciders and is open seven days a week - opening from 4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 12 noon from Wednesday onwards. Happy hour between 4pm and 5pm Monday to Thursday sees all pints served at £3.50.

Food is served every evening from 6pm and lunchtimes from Wednesday onwards as well as all day at weekends.

The **Inn's** large pub garden with Aunt Sally throw now benefits from a covered seating area for 50 people that was constructed during lockdown and is the perfect spot for al fresco eating and drinking - dogs and children welcome.

Large car parking, cycle racks and being a stone's throw from several public footpaths make a visit a must if you have been absent for a while

### FORD

Two real ales were available on a recent visit to the **Dinton Hermit**, one of the

four local **Moogie's** pubs, including the unusual **Springtime** by **Listers Brewery**.

### GREAT KIMBLE

The **Swan** in Great Kimble is currently only opening four days a week (Thursday to Sunday). Fortunately, these days coincide with celebrations planned by the local village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including a quiz night and street party. Most of the events involve the pub, which shows its place at the heart of the local community. **Tring Sidepocket** for a Toad and **Moongazing** are regular beers.

### HADDENHAM

This year's **Haddenham Summerfest**, sadly missed for two years, is now at a new location! It is at Tibbs Road Recreation Area, Pegasus Way, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8FJ and will be held on Saturday 2nd July 2022 from 12noon to 8pm. 100+ real ales and other drinks, food, music and fun for all the family! Tickets available online at <http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk/summerfest>.

### HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Chiltern Taps** is the third pub in our branch to be taken over by the **Redcat** pub group. No noticeable changes to the pub so far!

The **Masons Arms** and the **Pheasant** are still closed and their futures are uncertain.

The **Phoenix** is closing and is due to become the **Station Sports Bar**.

### LOUDWATER

A double tragedy has resulted in the current closure of the **Derehams Inn**, (pictured above). Since our last issue, the landlady, Maggie Sturgess, passed away following a stroke at the far too young age of 61, in December 2020. Her husband, Graham, passed away in March this year following a long fight with cancer.

The couple ran many pubs between them before buying the freehold of the **Derehams** which became very popular and featured in many editions of the **Good Beer Guide**. They will be sorely missed and our heartfelt condolences go out to their family and many friends.

### LACEY GREEN

After a period of closure, the **Whip Inn** opened in the spring, serving a selection of **Rebellion** ales.

**Haddenham Summerfest**

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**Family Fun**  
A day out for all generations, with crafts, games and entertainment for the children. Areas set aside for those who want to bring a Gazebo and create their own base camp.

**New location:** Tibbs Road Recreation Area, Pegasus Way, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8FJ  
**Buy your tickets at:** [www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk](http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk)

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**Join The Party!**



## MAIDENHEAD

*Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Branch* are looking for volunteers to help at their **9th Maidenhead CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival**. It will be held at the NMCC Sports Bar, Summerleaze Park, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 8SP on the 8th and 9th of July 2022. Please contact the editor for further details.

## MARSH

The **Prince of Wales** has a sign outside advertising it for sale as a pub. The pub was the definition of unspoilt before it closed in 2017, having been run by landlord Horace King for over fifty years with little change.

## PRINCES RISBOROUGH

The **Bird in Hand** continues to go from strength to strength under **Oak Taverns**. Pop-up kitchen takeovers and street food vans, including Ethiopian and Greek cuisines, have been popular. Three or four real ales are usually available, including local breweries such as **Chiltern** and **XT**.

The **George and Dragon** which reopened after a long period of closure between lockdowns, has sadly closed again due to staffing issues. According to social media posts the management may reopen at some point in the future.

The local branch held a social earlier this year visiting all pubs in Princes Risborough and found a good selection of real ale in all of the four pubs.

## STOKE MANDEVILLE

The **Woolpack** has reopened after being closed for refurbishment.

## THAME

**Thame Music Festival** takes place on 9th July featuring over 65 Acts, with many playing in the pubs across Thame.

The **Thame Food Festival** takes place on the Thame Show Ground on 24th and 25th of September and regularly has a pop up bar with ales from **XT**, **West Berkshire**, **Rebellion** and **Hook Norton** breweries, and cider from **Cotswold**.

The **Birdcage** takes **CAMRA** discount vouchers on pints of real ale.

The **Swan Hotel** remains closed.

## TYLERS GREEN

The Bucks Free Press have announced that the **Horse and Jockey** closed at the end of March after the landlords decided to move on. A popular village pub, owned by **Star Pubs** and part of Heineken UK who are now looking for someone new to take up the reins.



## WADDESdon

The Bucks Herald reported that the owners of the **Long Dog** had sadly decided to close the business earlier this year. We await further news of what may happen to the pub.

## WENDOVER

The **King and Queen** is organising several events over the Platinum Jubilee. These include on Sunday 5th June 5-7pm a comedy night (actually a late-afternoon/early evening) with MC Andy Gleeke, who was featured in a past **Swan Supping** as host of Comedy Ladder at the **Cross Keys** in Thame. On the bill is Bunny Hopkyns, a legend of the blues in his own lunchtime.

This is our first chance to record the death of Pat Gower, landlady of the **Packhorse** for some 57 years, who passed away in May 2020. She and Bert took over the pub on 17th May 1963, and despite the fact that Bert died in August 1992, his name still appeared above the entrance door.

A long time entry in the **GBG** and although owned by the family, the pub has always had a deal with one brewer; **Morrells**, then **Greene King** and latterly **Fullers**. The family also own the **White Swan** in the High Street, which is run by a long time manager and is also tied to **Fullers**.

## WESTCOTT

A new brewery started up within the branch area at the end of 2021. **Booby Trap Brewery** is based in Westcott, north west of Aylesbury, and brews a range of beers on a 5-barrel kit (approx. 800l). They have a taproom that is advertised as opening Thursday to Saturdays. See their Facebook page for more details.

## WESTON TURVILLE

The **Chandos Arms**, pictured below, have been crowned the 'best community pub' by its parent company, **Wells & Co**, in the 2022 Pub Partner Awards.

The judges were very impressed with the pub's commitment to their locals, not just through the pandemic, but ever since. Judges said the team at the **Chandos** 'went above and beyond' and 'consistently engage with their locals making them a real asset to all that visit.'

Sponsored by Coca-Cola, this award recognises pubs that look after their locals, whether it be charity events, supporting local groups, and host events and giving reasons for different people in communities to visit their pubs.

# THE PAPER LANTERN

The paperback version of a book set in a Chilterns pub and the surrounding countryside will be published shortly on 9th June. *The Paper Lantern* by Will Burns is set in a fictional pub in village not entirely unlike Wendover. By strange coincidence Will's parents have run the **King and Queen**, a popular local in Wendover for the last few years.

The novel starts in a closed pub - the **Paper Lantern** - during the spring 2020 lockdown in a fictional village close to the Chequers estate. For pub lovers, there are sad and moving evocations of how the community has been locked out of the pub and the pub remains stuck in time like a 'perpetual Sunday morning' and how the waves of laughter of the locals are suddenly absent.

The narrator, who has worked part-time at the pub, is left to contemplation on many walks around the local Chilterns landscape, which is lyrically described, especially in the light of the beautiful spring weather, which coincided with the sudden disruption of everyday life. There are plenty of recognisable descriptions of local landmarks such as Coombe Hill and the canal and the Anne Boleyn cottages which are adjacent to the Pack Horse, another Wendover pub. The book also references the wildlife of the area, with red kites, buzzards, rabbits and badgers all encountered on the walks.

There's even description of the local market town with a couple of 'ugly shopping centres' that were used for filming Kubrick's 'A Clockwork Orange'. I wonder where that might be?

The walks set the narrator off at unexpected tangents, part memoir, part local history lesson, part contemplation of modern life. It's all beautifully written - the author is an accomplished poet - but one who enjoys the importance of good beer.

The book was so well reviewed when published in hardback last year that Will Burns was nominated as one of the Observer's best new novelists of 2021. And in an unusual literary honour **Tring Brewery** made a special *Paper Lantern Ale* pumpclip (see photo) for the book's launch in the King and Queen.

'The Paper Lantern' is published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson and available online and in all good local bookshops. It's great that Chilterns pubs are making a mark on the literary map.

Mike Clarke



# NEWS FROM OAK TAVERNS

I am not going to look backwards over the difficult time for all of us through the pandemic it. The only reference I will mention of the past two years or so is the fact we have bought three tied pubs and made them wet led, cask beer focussed Freehouses. In two cases we have bought the freeholds, one from a national pub co and one from a regional brewer. They are the **Red Lion**, Chinnor (March 2020) which is now managed by Nichola Dixon ably supported by her daughters. The **Greyhound**, Whitchurch-on-Thames (July 2021) managed by Lottie Mitchell and the **Cross Keys**, Wallingford (May 2022) managed by Dave and Emma Howse.

We have invested heavily in our existing pubs by developing the outside drinking areas. As for cask beer we have seen our volumes hold well since re-opening and are seeing none of this downturn in volumes which the national press have been reporting. It is clear to us that the specialists in cask beer (traditional pubs) have been holding on to their volumes. It looks to me that the National pub restaurant chains are the ones abandoning cask and so the national volumes are being driven down. At the same time the cask drinkers are being driven to pubs that specialise in cask beer!

We have also been focussing on good quality breweries over the last three months. February saw us focus on **Rebellion Brewery**, Marlow, March - **Portobello Brewery**, London, April - **Vale Brewery**, Brill and in May we had a focus on our good friends at **XT Brewery**.

Simon Collinson

Director Oak Taverns Ltd



During lockdown the branch emailed local members to nominate 'Lockdown Heroes' – local brewers or licensees who had made outstanding efforts to either keep their customers supplied with real ale when unable to trade normally or, as was the case in the last lockdown, using their pubs as community assets when not allowed to sell alcohol on or off the premises.

Three local businesses were awarded a lockdown hero certificate. **CAMRA** branch officials and local members were finally able to present the well-deserved winners of the awards with their certificates at the start of the year.

On Thursday 27th January 2021, local **CAMRA** branch members joined then chairman, Simon Isted to award Ian Matthews, landlord of the **Hop Pole** in Aylesbury with his lockdown heroes certificate.

In an extremely tough couple of years for local pubs, the branch also wanted to recognise the efforts made by Ian and his team at the **Hop Pole** to make real ale available during national lockdowns, operating a takeaway click-and-collect service when it was legally possible to do so. The pub also made all possible efforts to reopen as quickly as possible in April last year, with outdoor table service being provided at the earliest opportunity. Fortunately, the branch members were able to toast the pub's success in the warmth inside with no Coronavirus restrictions in place.

This was a joint celebration as the **Hop Pole** had also been awarded the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch's coveted **Pub of the Year** award for 2021.

The local branch said 'The **Hop Pole** has been a long-standing entry in **CAMRA's** national bible, the **Good Beer Guide**, for many years now due to having one of the widest selections of real ales in the local

area. It's also an excellent community pub that supports events such as quizzes and live music and hosts regular beer festivals.'

On Thursday 3rd February, the branch made a presentation of a Lockdown Heroes Award certificate to the **Chiltern Brewery** and its pub, the **King's Head**, in Aylesbury town centre.

In a ceremony at the **King's Head**, a long-standing entry in **CAMRA's Good Beer Guide**, the certificate was presented to George and Tom Jenkinson of Terrick-based **Chiltern Brewery** by **CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer** for **Chiltern**, Giles du Boulay.

Giles said while presenting the award: 'In March 2020 the sudden arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic was both life and livelihood threatening. After two tragic and very difficult years we are all now hoping that the worst is over. Businesses of all types were faced with stark choices. Pubs and breweries were particularly hard hit.'

Like several other of the excellent breweries in the Aylesbury Vale area, **Chiltern** offered delivery and click-and-collect services to real ale drinkers during the lockdowns. Additionally, with the **King's Head** forced to stop trading as a pub, **Chiltern Brewery** converted one of the fifteenth century pub's outbuildings into a popular grocery shop, also offering home-baked bread and other brewery products. A coffee bar was also opened in the pub's courtyard.

Giles commended the brewery for maintaining its investment plans during the pandemic. 'At both the **Chiltern Brewery** and their brewery tap, the historic **King's Head** here in Aylesbury, considerable commitments for growth had already been entered into before lockdown restrictions came into force.'

'It is remarkable just how magnificently these businesses rose to the challenge. Fully complying with all the restrictions, they both



# D PUB OF THE YEAR 2021

made outstanding efforts to maintain and indeed enhance their services to provide real ale during very difficult circumstances. On top of this to our great admiration they took the heroic decision to press ahead with their significant investments demonstrating their vision for the future.'

'For these reasons the *Aylesbury Vale and High Wycombe branch of CAMRA*, the *Campaign for Real Ale*, has decided to show their appreciation by presenting the *Chiltern Brewery* and *King's Head* jointly with a 'Lockdown Heroes' award. It is my honour as *CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer* for the *Chiltern Brewery* to present the award today.'



Giles concluded with a toast, with the local *CAMRA* members 'raising our glasses to George and Tom Jenkinson, to the *King's Head* and the *Chiltern Brewery*. May they remain equally lively and strong and continue to bring us joy in our community.'

On Friday 11th February, local member Nick Cottman presented Stephanie Guiraute with a lockdown heroes certificate at her pub, the *Seven Stars* at Dinton.

The presentation was an excellently attended village event, with over a hundred local drinkers attending the presentation at the community-owned pub.

In his nomination, Nick said: 'Steph has done her utmost to keep the pub open during the various lockdowns. When she was allowed to, she sold take away draught ale (normally from the *Vale Brewery*) in either two- or four-pint plastic milk bottles, or you could take your own 'growler'. In the third lockdown at the start of 2021, she was not able to sell draught beer, but remained open selling takeaway food on Friday, Saturday and Sundays.

'She also arranged special takeaway events such a Beaujolais takeaway meal and bottle of wine in

November and also a Valentine's evening takeaway meal. Despite what must have been an incredibly challenging time for her, she always remained cheerful. The village spent many months longing for the pub to be open again so we would be able to all socialise in the *Stars* again.'

The presentations were covered extensively by the local press both online and in print. The branch congratulates all the winners and wishes them a successful and less traumatic year in 2022.





# LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

## REBELLION BREWERY

The Jubilee Monthly Special is *Monarch* (Copper and Floral 4.2%). A copper-coloured easy drinking ale with a floral hop character. They've used British hops in this beer with most of its aroma coming from the variety Olicana. Olicana is a great modern hop variety that has been developed to require less pesticide and fertilizer than more traditional British hops, which makes this delicious beer a great choice for the environmentally minded drinker.

July Monthly – *Excalibur* (Pale and Hoppy, 4.2%). A golden pale ale with fruity hop aroma.

The hop Callista, which means most beautiful in Greek, is used in this brew. It has got lots of fruity character including strawberry and passionfruit but also low bitterness making this an ideal thirst quencher.

August Monthly- *The Bard*, (Amber and Citrus, 4.2%). A beautiful amber ale with a distinct orange/citrus fruit character. Using the hop Mandarin Bavaria, which as the name suggests, is a German hop with a mandarin orange character. Carrying on the Bavarian theme, they use Munich malt to add a lovely, toasted note.



**Rebellion's Tap Yard** is becoming more and more popular, with their full range of draught ales and keg beers to choose from. The beers on offer include *Black*, their nitro stout and *White*, their wheat beer, both exclusive to the Tap Yard.

Tap Yard opening times: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday - 11.30 - 6.00. Thursday - 11.30 - 7.00. Friday & Saturday 11.30 - 8.00. Sunday Closed

## TRING BREWERY



*Alchemist* is Hertfordshire's new independent premium lager and is crafted using the finest hops from the Czech Republic and Germany, blended with quality malts and authentic lager yeast for a refreshingly crisp finish.

**Tring's** summer seasonal special is *Fanny Ebbs Summer Ale* (3.9%). Named after the legendary philanthropist who owned an enchanting little sweet shop in Lilley, Hertfordshire. It is amazingly crisp with low bitterness and citrus aroma from a combination of Saaz and Cascade hops.

Their June monthly special is *Little Bird* (3.3%) and raises money in support of Rennie Grove Hospice Care. Celebrating 30 years of Tring Brewery, this beer was first brewed in 2017. Described as 'Little in strength, big on flavour. A table beer with a solid backbone courtesy of Munich and Vienna malts. Hop flavour is built and layered by the addition of hops throughout the boil. Dry hopping with Amarillo adds the final touch.'

**Tring's** complete brewery shop opening times for the Jubilee weekend are as follows:

Thursday 2nd - 9-5, Friday 3rd - 9-2, Saturday 4th - 9-5, Sunday 5th - Closed, Monday 6th - Open As Usual

However you're spending it, have the best weekend!

## VALE BREWERY

Brothers Jimmy and Joe Brouder (pictured), who previously worked directly for **Carlsberg UK**, **Timothy Taylor's**, **Heineken UK** and **Star Pubs & Bars**, and since co-founding sales and marketing agency 2EM in January 2019, they have worked with many more breweries at various stages of growth, have taken over the brewing side at Vale.

**Vale Brewery** are proud to announce that two of their ales have been awarded Bronze in the **SIBA Midlands Independent Beer Awards 2022** - *Red Kite* (4.3%) and *VPA* (4.2%).

Both beers are available in firkin as well as bottle and are available be purchased from the brewery taproom and shop, open every Friday 12 - 6pm, and the last Saturday of the month 12 - 6pm.

They are also delighted to be once again hosting monthly brewery tours, as well as taking bookings for private events. For more information and to place your booking please visit [www.valebrewery.co.uk](http://www.valebrewery.co.uk)

As we welcome the warmer months of summer, keep your eyes peeled for a range of exciting new brews to become

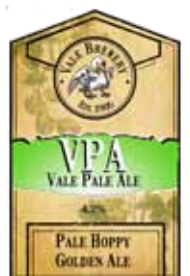
available, including:

*Amity* - (3.9%)

A light copper coloured ale with citrus notes and a crisp finish.

*Good Day Sunshine* - (4.0%)

A summer straw beer with passionfruit, grapefruit and blackberry aromas.







# VALE BREWERY

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## CHANDOS ARMS - COMMUNITY OWNED!



At the end of 2021, Oakley Parish Council purchased their village pub, the **Chandos Arms**, from **Punch Taverns**. A couple of local branch members visited the pub to talk to parish councillors about how they made this remarkable and impressive achievement for their local community. We understand parish councils elsewhere in the country have purchased pubs but it's a first for our county or branch.

The councillors were keen to pass on some very useful practical information that they think would be extremely valuable for other communities in a similar position. When the opportunity to buy the pub arose, the council had to act very quickly and it was fortunate they could draw on some local expertise to assist with the purchasing process. The council was able to fund the acquisition via a Public

Works Loan. They were assisted in accessing this by the Plunkett Foundation who support local communities, including helping save community pubs.

The councillors would be happy to give information to other villages and local communities if their local pub is under threat and available to buy. The ability for community groups and councils to make an offer for a local pub is mandated by law if the pub has been designated as an **Asset of Community Value (ACVs)**. Many **ACVs** in Buckinghamshire have lapsed in the last year or two and now have no such protection.

The **Chandos Arms** closed for refurbishment in the new year but has now reopened, as confirmed by a recent visit on a **CAMRA** branch social when it offered three real ales supplied by **XT** and a wide range of locally produced ingredients on the menu.

*Mike Clarke*



## MARLOW ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



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## THE CASKITEERS - PART ELEVEN

Jacob and Harry's Shoreditch craft beer bar, **Eaten Trifles**, had been struggling to keep trading during the first lockdown in 2020.

All their regular hipster customers had driven up to their parents' country estates to escape the pandemic among the Grouse moors, all claiming there was something mysteriously wrong with their eyes. Optical problems were common enough after sinking the craft bar's *Quadruple Hopped Cloudy IPA* at 11.5% – but that had been illegal to sell on tap during lockdown. There must have been some other explanation as **Eaten Trifle's** own craft beers couldn't be delivered or sold on takeaway as they corroded any container after thirty minutes' contact.

The losses were such that even Jacob's monthly allowance from his father of a hundred thousand pounds from his tax haven account wasn't enough to compensate for the lack of trade. Their finances had been dicey ever since pair had signed up for an extortionate rent in the good times from one of their property developer chums for the über-trendiest spot on the Shoreditch circuit.

Ruthie, the Scottish brewer at **Eaten Trifles** microbrewery had used her initiative and showed a community spirit completely baffling to Jacob and Harry during the first lockdown.

'Wi' a wee adjustment we can use ours brewing kit to make hand sanitizer,' she'd suggested. 'It's only a wee dram stronger in alcohol than our *Beard Bomber IPA* and we can give it away free to the local hospital.'

'On condition that NHS staff don't patronize our premises,' Jacob agreed reluctantly. 'We only want customers from respectable professions, like social media influencers or politicians' special advisers.'

Ruthie's hand sanitizer had a limited take up in the NHS, smelling as it did of a combination of Special Brew and Buckfast wine. When **Eaten Trifles** was permitted to reopen under social distancing conditions, Jacob insisted on reusing the remaining stock of sanitizer by blending it into the microbrewery's beers: 'a presidentially brilliant idea, sanitising customers from the inside out'.

When the bar's first few customers were subsequently diagnosed with poisoning, Jacob had no hesitation in putting his hand up to put all the blame on Ruthie, saying 'She won't mind a few months in prison, it's the natural condition for her sort'.

\*\*\*\*

An extremely dark and dispiriting afternoon in the desperate days of social distancing once the first lockdown had lifted became even more dark and dispiriting when Jennie, a public health inspector, arrived at the bar with Sgt. Brown-Envelope from the Metropolitan Police.

Jennie was soon on the warpath, despite the bar complying with all the many restrictions and social distancing regulations (not that these were necessary as all the bar's customers were still shooting grouse or hosting virtual Zoom raves).

'Don't you realise that this street in London moved into Zone 243.67 from midnight?' she shouted, furiously looking at the spaced-out old-school desks and reconditioned church pews covered in 'Do

Not Sit Here' signs. 'There are significant differences to the previous Zone 243.66, enforceable by fixed penalty notices. I need to inspect your substantial meals.'

Harry was pleased to show Jennie the vegan rillettes du bouche that were mandatory for each customer. Each dish was the size of a postage stamp but cost a substantial twenty-five pounds.

'That's nowhere near substantial enough,' Jennie thundered. 'The law says that will need to be deep fried in breadcrumbs like a Scotch egg and be served with a huge portion of chips.'

'But won't that make the meal extremely, er, unhealthy?' Harry asked.

'Who's interested in health?' Jennie replied. 'There are rules to be enforced.'

She went on to fail the bar's one-way system. Even though they operated an 'in through the front door and out through the back' system via the fire exit, even after visiting the one inadequate but posh and gender-neutral loo, Jenny insisted that customers needed to take an additional detour of no less than four miles, including roads no less than four lanes wide and also traversing at least two public parks.

'As of tomorrow, we will introduce a rule of 0.5, meaning only half a person can be seated at any one table,' she announced.

'If I may venture, it sounds like you're making ridiculous rules with no logic to them whatsoever to pretend you're allowing us to open for business while making it utterly impossible for us to make our living,' Jacob said.

'And you're just singling out bars. You're not stopping hundreds of customers rubbing shoulders and going into Boozeburys supermarket over the road and buying dozens of cases of *Blandneys*,' Harry added.

'Ah but you run a life-threatening business,' Jennie's mean eyes surveyed the bar and range of dry taps on the distressed brick wall. 'You invite people into your premises to *socialise*. Don't you realise that people enjoying themselves is bad for them? Even a sniff of beer on someone's breath turns every customer into a crazed lunatic with no common sense or self-control – and a source of any kind of contamination? Look at this news story on the BBC website: 'Man tests positive after walking within half a mile of a pub!' QED.'

'But it goes on to say he was A&E doctor who'd been working with completely inadequate PPE for a month,' Harry replied. 'And we're not a pub, we're a craft beer bar.'

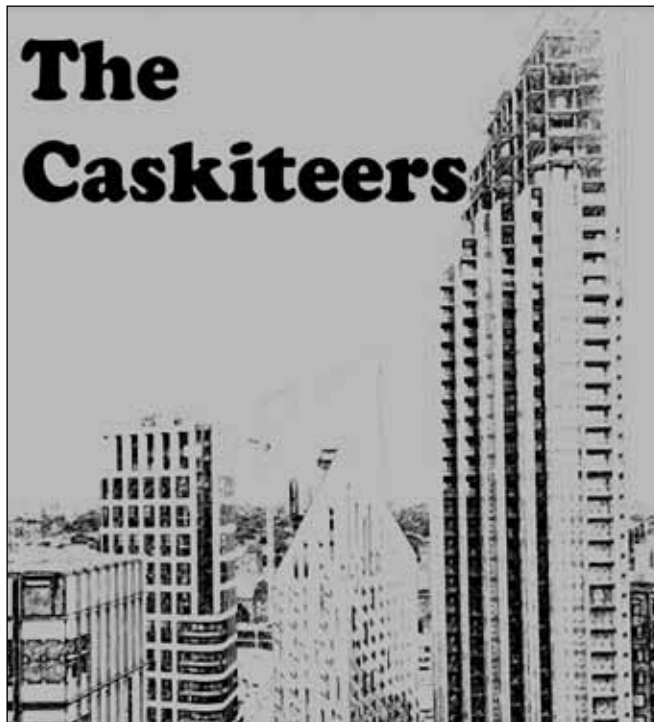
'Tell that to the Prime Minister!' Jennie replied.

'Actually, I may just do that. My pater went to school with the PM and taught him all he needed to know about the Eton Wall Game.'

Sgt. Brown-Envelope suddenly intervened. 'Oh, sir, you should have said earlier. If you're a friend of the PM, forget all those ridiculous regulations. Pour me a pint of your best *IPA*. It's going to be standing room only in here tonight. I'm going to invite the whole cabinet and every superintendent in the Metropolitan Police.'

'Suitcases of booze all round!' Jennie shouted, helping herself to a pint of *Partygate IPA*.

**Charlie Mackle**



## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### June

#### Saturday 4th AYLESBURY SOCIAL

1.00pm start, Old Millwrights, then Broad Leys, Aristocrat, Bricklayers Arms and towards centre.

#### Sunday 5th COMEDY EVENING

5.00pm King and Queen, Wendover

#### Wednesday 8th WALKING SOCIAL

6.30pm Russell Arms, Butler's Cross, 8.00pm Swan, Great Kimble

#### Monday 20th INFORMAL BRANCH MEETING

6.30pm Three Horseshoes, Burrough's Grove, Marlow (note early start due to location and transport)

#### Saturday 25th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Details are given on page 3.

### July

#### Saturday 2nd FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Haddenham Summer Beer Festival

#### Sunday 10th SUNDAY SOCIAL

2.00pm, Royal Standard of England, Forty Green

#### Monday 18th BRANCH MEETING

7.00pm Hop Pole, Aylesbury

#### Sunday 24th WOOBURN COMMON AND MOOR SOCIAL

Start 12 noon, Royal Standard and descend downhill

#### Thursday 28th SOCIAL

7.00pm, Harrow, Hughenden Valley

### August

#### Thursday 4th GBBF SOCIAL

6.00pm Great British Beer

Festival, Olympia.

Meet at glass collection point or every hour thereafter



#### Wednesday 16th BEACONSFIELD SOCIAL

Start 6.30pm White Horse (tbc)

**Further details can be found on**

**www.avw.camra.org.uk and facebook**

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Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards Service

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e: trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

## DON'T MISS OUT!

Keep up with the latest local pub news, be given beer festival information plus the latest social details, please join our e-mailing list by going to:-

**www.avw.camra.org.uk**

## Swan Supping

Swan Supping is distributed free of charge to pubs in the branch area.

**Estimated Readership 6000.**

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Tel : 01296 484551 E-Mail : editor@avw.camra.org.uk

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Copy deadline for next issue (due out 31st August) is 12th August 2022.

**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 £2.00 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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Opinions expressed in *Swan Supping* are not necessarily those of the editor, or the *Campaign for Real Ale*.

Acceptance of an advertisement in *Swan Supping* by a pub or its availability there does not guarantee CAMRA approval.

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