

**FREE**

# Swan Supping



**Issue 90**

**June/July 2012**



**COVER STORY**

**The newest brewery in the branch  
is at our oldest free house!**

**See page 4**



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

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

**[www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)**

**Circulation 6000**



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## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



In our last issue, Nick Smith, landlord of the **Whip**, Lacey Green, took me slightly to task for harping on about the negative side of what is happening in pubs, when we should be trying to push the positive side.

Sorry, Nick (and everyone else), but I'm afraid I'm back on the negative side.

This might be due to the fact that two pubs that have been important to me have been affected. The first may surprise you, as it was just an estate pub which, for many years before it closed, only served keg beer.

This was the **Huntsman** on the Walton Court estate in Aylesbury. This pub has now been demolished as part of the redevelopment there and it does not appear that a pub will replace it despite there being a distinct lack of pubs in that area.

The **Huntsman** was where **Swan Supping** was born. In early 1997, the then landlord, Bryan Spink, offered two or three real ales which garnered a devoted set of drinkers who met there regularly to enjoy the ale, and they even clubbed together and sponsored a barrel at the charity beer festival we run every year in October. Bryan, who was a committee member, suggested that we start a branch magazine so we became joint editors and the rest, as they say, is history.

The point of this is that good pubs can go bad and bad pubs can become great pubs, but demolished pubs are lost forever and are no use to drinkers unless they are looking for somewhere to live or to park their cars!

The **Red Lion** in Haddenham is the other pub in question. This suddenly closed recently and its future does not look rosy at all, despite the fact that it faces the village green and church and would be a lovely place to sit outside and enjoy the summer. I was, for many years, one of the members of the **Red Lion's** formidable quiz team when it was run by Clarence and Enid Robinson. This was when it was a two-bar pub, each bar having its own individual identity, and I wonder how much the conversion to a one-bar pub has contributed to its decline as I believe it has had a detrimental effect on so many pubs that have been 'improved' in the same manner.

My stories about my pubs are echoed by lots of drinkers for every pub in the country. The loss of any pub personally affects its regulars whose lives are irreparably changed. We have to at least try and keep as many pubs open as possible! This does mean that time and effort must be made by the pub's locals to get involved and not just accept their fate.

We have just received news that the **Live & Let Live**, Booker Common has had a planning application for change of use to a private dwelling submitted. There is community support to reopen as a pub so this is a good cause, well worth supporting. Please write to Simon Parker at: Simon.Parker@wycombe.gov.uk. Simon is local to the pub, and also works in the planning department, and put the case forward for keeping the pub as a pub.

Also, as you are probably aware by now, **CAMRA** is backing a national E-petition calling for the end of the beer duty escalator.

We need 100,000 signatures by October to trigger a high profile Parliamentary debate and put pressure on the Government to scrap the escalator at Budget 2013.

This is not going to be easy so we really need your help to spread the word to as many people as possible in the hope of reaching 100,000.

We can only dream of having no tax at all on our favourite tippie! However, if we can't have that, at least make us pay a FAIR amount of tax. The diagram shows that over a third of what we pay for a pint goes to the government and we pay a disproportional amount for our beer, the vast majority of which is brewed in this country, and creates jobs in this country (especially for young people who seem to be doing very badly in the hunt for jobs at the moment).



Alex Wright, our chairman, has written a full article on page 18 which lays out the details of the beer escalator for tax and why it is imperative that you sign the **CAMRA E-petition** at [saveyourpint.co.uk](http://saveyourpint.co.uk). The effects of continued pressure on the pub trade are shown in Charlie Mackle's article in our centre spread where we take our Prime Minister on a tour round part of our branch to show the number of pub closures which have occurred due to successive governments not seeming to care about one of our most treasured institutions.

My heartfelt thanks, as usual, to all our contributors, without whom we couldn't produce **Swan Supping**, and yet another special thanks to Colin Stanford for the cartoon - I hope Her Majesty approves!

**David W. Roe - Swan Supping Editor**

## NATIONAL CAMRA NEWS

### CAMRA National Cider and Perry Champions 2012

The National Cider and Perry Championships, a competition held annually at the Reading Beer and Cider Festival, produced the following results:-

#### Cider

GOLD: Cornish Orchards, Farmhouse (Duloe, Cornwall)

SILVER: Perry Brothers, Sweet Vintage (Dowlsh Wake, Somerset)

BRONZE: Burrow Hill, Medium (Martock, Somerset)

#### Perry

GOLD: Gwatkin, Blakeney Red (Abbey Dore, Herefordshire)

SILVER: Butford Organics, Medium (Bodenham, Herefordshire)

BRONZE: Minchew, Stinking Bishop (Aston-on-Carrant, Gloucestershire)

The winner of the Cider Gold medal, **Cornish Orchards Farmhouse**, was described by the judges as 'a very light and easy drinking cider,

well balanced, and packed with flavour'.

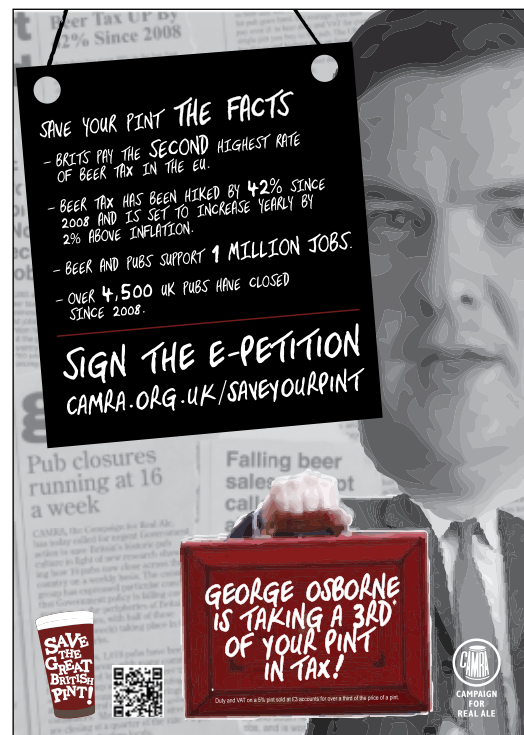
Winner of the Perry Gold medal, **Gwatkin Blakeney Red**, was described as having 'a sweet aroma, with a wonderful elderflower and spirit taste, and a satisfying bite in the finish.'

**CAMRA's National Cider and Perry Championships** featured ciders and perries from different regions of the UK, and assessed on factors such as aroma, flavour/taste, overall balance and finish by a judging panel consisting of publicans, drinks writers and **CAMRA** members.

Andrea Briers, **CAMRA** National Cider and Perry committee chairman, praised the quality of this year's entrants.

She said 'The competition once again brought together real cider and perry producers from across the country, and showcased some excellent variety and choice.

'The quality of the products coming through is testament to the hard work of Britain's producers.'





## OLDEST PUB - NEWEST BREWERY!



Despite other pubs trying to take the title of the oldest freehouse in the country, the **Royal Standard** now has a different claim to fame - it has now become the newest freehouse to open its own brewery!

Our front cover shows the brewer, Nick Aris, complete with his individually created hop paddle standing outside the one-barrel **Britannia Beers** brewery.

Both Nick and landlord Matthew O'Keeffe (featured behind the handpumps in the picture) freely admit that they are still learning the art of brewing, but they have started off with two beers, *Pale Ale* (4.0% ABV) and *Golden Ale* (4.2% ABV) which are available at the pub, at a very reasonable £2.90 per pint. Other local brewers will not be forgotten as the **Royal Standard** will continue to offer delights from brewers such as *Chiltern*, *Vale* and *Windsor & Eton*.

As their skill increases, different styles of beer will be brewed, all of which will add to the range of beers currently served. If there is enough beer produced to service

The **Royal Standard of England** in Forty Green is claimed to be the oldest freehouse in the county, with records dating back over 900 years. In fact, extensive research, has found that there was a record in the Domesday Book showing that there was something at the site back then.

It's the only pub in the country to bear this full title, a name change from the **Ship** allegedly in gratitude for King Charles I having visited there after escaping from Oxford in April 1646. The pub has always been a freehouse throughout its existence, meaning it is independently owned rather than being attached to a brewery.

more than the thirsty pilgrims can drink, the beers will be available at the other pub that Matthew runs, the **Red Lion**, which is also in Forty Green. Perhaps they can also go on and win awards for their beer to go alongside the many awards the pub has won for its food, its history and its support for the local community.

Nick will not remain a brewer as he is training to become a doctor. Perhaps he can go on to counter all the anti-drinking hype the medical profession tends to churn out at every opportunity.

*David Roe*

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Camra Good Beer Guide 2012

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## LOCAL NEWS

### ASHENDON

The **Gatechangers**, a free house, is satisfying its beer aficionados with offerings such as **XT 53**, their Jubilee beer, **Vale Gold** and **Red Kite**, and **Cottage Riley**. Regulars still love their **Greene King IPA**, and **IPA Gold** has been a success. Next on is **XT 6**.

### ASTON CLINTON

The first Aston Clinton Beer Festival will be held 23rd and 24th June at the Anthony Hall, London Road. Organised by and in support of the Aston Clinton Pre-School, there will be a selection of 20 beers all from brewers within 20 miles of the village. There will also be six ciders from Millwhites plus two 'Meet the Brewer' sessions.

### AYLESBURY

To celebrate the historic Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the **Broad Leys** have a BBQ, Live Music and Cider Festival happening all weekend from the 1st to 5th June.

Over the Father's Day weekend from Friday 15th June, they also have a beer festival offering a range of beers for you to treat your Dad to! Plus taster 1/3 pints available to sample all of your favourites.

**XT Brewery** beers have featured recently in the pub, 2 and 4 were shortly followed by number 6.

The members only **Victoria Club** has doubled its provision of real ale. Following a reorganisation in the cellar, they now have enough storage at the

correct temperature to offer a guest beer (probably over 4.5% ABV) alongside **Courage Directors**. Recent guest, **Pendle Porter**, absolutely flew out!

### BIERTON

The new tenants, Amanda and Martin have now taken over at the **Bell**. Their opening night on the 14th April was a great success. Top quality **Fuller's** ales - Martin is a stickler for clean lines - and good value pub grub, including a special sausage menu are available daily. In addition coffee and cake (Tue-Fri from 9.00am) to have there or take away plus free WiFi and live band nights are welcome innovations.

### BUTLERS CROSS

The locals of the **Russell Arms** have succeeded in raising the target funds, and a grant is awaited. This has not stopped the refurbishment progress, with the pub due to be reopened early July. A new tenant has been selected, and will hopefully be signed up shortly. Finally, the team will be running a bar in the village hall for the Jubilee, with profits shared between the local council and the **Russell**.

### CADMORE END

The **Tree Hotel** (formerly the **Blue Flag**) is inviting the local community to join in the celebrations with a special outdoors BBQ on the Monday, 4th of June and delicious extra Jubilee dishes from the 3rd to 5th June. The 'Best of British' BBQ will be on Saturday 2nd of June from 12 - 3pm and will include delicious home-made juicy beef burgers and grilled spicy pork sausage with roasted tomato salsa.

Father's Day, Sunday 17th June 12 to 3.00pm sees a 'Speciality Sunday Buffet' including a free pint of real ale (or glass of wine) for all dads.

There is also a special Olympic dinner on Friday 20th July and over 60s can enjoy two for the price of one on main meals every Monday between 12-3pm.

### CHEARSLEY

The **Bell** serves **Fullers Chiswick**, **London Pride** and **Hope & Glory**.

### CROWELL

The **Shepherd's Crook** is currently closed and the fate of this much loved **GBG** regular is in doubt!

### CUDDINGTON

The **Crown** serves the **Adnam's Southwold Bitter** which is supported by **Fullers London Pride** and **Summer Ale**.

### DINTON

The **Seven Stars** is serving three real ales. Landlady Stephanie Guiraut maintains one real ale at £2.75 and a lager at under £3.00. Two other ales, one local, and one 'Branded' are available. **Vale Wychert**, **Hook Norton Hooky Gold** and several from **XT** have all featured recently.

### DOWNLEY

New publican, Jackie, at the Bricklayers Arms had two real ales on handpumps, previously you were lucky to get one. **Bombardier** is their regular now with a changing ale alongside - currently **Courage Directors**, before it was **Fullers London Pride**.

### EMMINGTON

The **Inn at Emmington** is sticking with its clientele's favourites, namely **Fullers**

**London Pride** and **Brakspear Bitter**. As an alternative a **Rebellion**, **Vale** or **XT** is on the third hand pump.

### FORD

The **Dinton Hermit** serves **Vale** beers. **Best Bitter** is always available and **Hop Pocket** was in superb condition when visited recently. The planning application to expand the restaurant and change the car park entrance is in. The large well enclosed garden is great for families with children. The 13 letting rooms are doing well.

### GIBRALTER

The **Bottle and Glass** keeps **Greene King Morland Original Bitter** and **Ale Fresco**. The tie does not allow Locales.

### GRENDON UNDERWOOD

Grendon Festival takes place on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th of June. The festival combines comedy, live music and a huge real ale bar featuring at least 45 ales, ciders and perries, from numerous local breweries and around the country.

The festival starts on Friday evening at 6.30pm. Apart from the range of ales, ciders and perries there will be the opportunity to watch the England vs. Sweden football match. Alternatively if you fancy a change the comedy tent will feature many local artists and four professional stand-up acts.

Saturday features some of the country's best known tribute bands as well as top local musical talent. This year, there will also be many food outlets and activities for kids of all ages including face-painting, sports cage, bungee running and bouncy castles.

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Keep an eye on the website ([www.grendonfestival.co.uk](http://www.grendonfestival.co.uk)) for latest news, beer lists and updates to the line-up.

## HADDENHAM

Diary Date – Summer Beer Festival is on Saturday 7th July 2011 from 11 am to late (or early if too many people come and drink the place dry by tea time – shock/horror – surely not) – see [www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk](http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk).

The **Rising Sun** continues to serve all the **Loucaes** and other intriguing offerings from around the country straight from the barrel at £2.85 a pint. Congratulations to Rob and Miranda on the arrival of Jessica. The plan is to have three real ales on through the summer and a guest cider.

At the **Green Dragon**, Adam and Emma have themselves taken on a three year tenancy, buying two of their three hand-pumped beers through **Enterprise** and the third free-of-tie is likely to be **XT**, **Vale** etc. When visited recently **Sharp's Doom Bar**, **Courage Directors** and **XT 2** were available.

The **Kings Head** serves **Fullers London Pride** and **Sharp's Doom Bar** plus one off **Punch's** Finest Cask List, recently **Elbow Build a Rocket Boys**.

The **Red Lion** is closed – but 'For Rent with Accommodation'. Rumours abound. Rents of £2,000 a week are reported but not confirmed – no wonder no one is in there.

The **Rose & Thistle** is serving **Greene King IPA** and **Hardys & Hansons Olde Trip** and **Ale Fresco**. Get texted or tweeted by Spaz as to 'What's happening at the RAT'. Listen to or join in with Haddenham Shamrocks 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

## HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Junction** is holding a beer festival over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend (2nd - 4th June). Nine real ales plus ciders and lager.

## LOUDWATER

The **Derehams Inn** is holding their sixth 'Fag n Firkin' Beer Festival over the weekend of Friday 6th - 8th July. Along with twenty local real ales, four ciders and food available all weekend, there is also live music both Friday (Beverley Cassidy) and Saturday (The Retros in the afternoon and the Kickback in the evening). Details and beer tasting notes are available for viewing and download from [www.derehamsinn.co.uk](http://www.derehamsinn.co.uk)

## QUANTON

The **George & Dragon** held a double celebration party on Sunday 6th May. Darren and Charlotte have now been ten years in this **GBG** regular and have just bought the freehold. Many thanks to them both for an excellent evening. See article on page 10 for more details.

More excellent news at the **Swan & Castle** where Darren and Jo have been released from the **Greene King** tie on their guest ale. They are looking at keeping more local brews – Darren wore a **Rebellion** T-shirt last time we visited.

## STEWKLEY

**Carpenters Arms** landlord Keith Stephenson is selling the lease and

taking up a semi-retirement role after nearly five years at the pub. Taking over are the owners of the Lassan Indian restaurant which occupies the old saloon bar. They have asked Keith to remain as bar manager, keeping this popular public bar separate from the successful restaurant.

To celebrate this move a big party will be held over five days of the Jubilee weekend, with a fourteen ale beer festival starting Friday June 1st. A barbeque, live bands and DJ will also feature.

The **Swan** will celebrate the Jubilee with a Barbeque, Pig Roast and three live bands on Monday 4th June. Top of the bill will be Maxwell, Hammer and Smith. Two further music festivals are planned – both featuring three live bands plus barbeque (Saturday 8th July and Saturday 7th August) in the large rear garden. Stewkley Ball is planned for Saturday 15th September. Breakfasts are now served from 9 till 3 in addition to the normal 12 till 3 Lunch menu.

## THAME

The **Spread Eagle Hotel** still has three pumps but only one offering real ale. At present it is **Rebellion Smugglers**. Opposite at the **Birdcage**, you can normally get a choice of two beers also from the **Rebellion Brewery**. Last visit it was **Smugglers** and **IPA**. At the **Black Horse** they presently have **Greene King IPA**, **Hooky Bitter** and **Spitfire**. Nice to see, as not so long ago they were a fizz only pub. The **Hooky Bitter** was in excellent condition recently.

The **Nags Head** has **Greene King IPA** and with all the televisions, it will be the place to see Euro 2012 and the Olympics whilst having a drink.

The **Thatch** is serving **Sharps Doom Bar** and **Vale Wychert**, whilst at the **James Figg** they have **Sharps Doom Bar**, **Oxfordshire Brewery Churchill** at 4.5, **Vale Best** and **Mad Goose Purity**.

Looking ahead to September 29th, it is the Thame Food Festival, where there will be a 'pop up' bar run by the **James Figg** and hopefully stalls from local brewers such as **Vale** and **Chiltern**. Together with all the pubs in town, it should be a good day for sampling ale.

The **Six Bells**, the **Fullers** pub, has **Pride** and **HSB** on all the time. The other three pumps have other **Fullers'** beers and guest beers from local breweries. Coming in the next few weeks will be **Oxfordshire Marshmellow** (4.7) and **Pride of Oxford** (4.2), **Fullers Jubilee** (3.9) and **Chiltern Jubilee** (3.9). Guest beers however, do tend to be more expensive than the **Fullers** beers.

At the **Rising Sun** you can always get **Brakspear Bitter** with a regularly changing two other beers. Presently it is **Ringwood Forrester** (4.2) and **Wychwood Hobgoblin**.

At the top end of town there is the **Falcon** serving **Hook Norton** beers. At the last visit, they had **Hooky Bitter**, **Old Hooky** and their seasonal ale **Cotswold Lion** – perfectly balanced, fresh and fruity – so it said on the pump clip. It didn't taste bad either.

Down at the **Cross Keys**, there is still the ever changing selection of eight beers, sometimes some from the brewery itself. Visitors and regulars should be aware that it is now compulsory to touch one's forelock when being served by Peter or Trudi. Peter became Deputy Mayor of Thame in May and Trudi is therefore Deputy Mayoress. Failure to abide by this will result in offenders being thrown to the mercy of the rampant hop – which is growing apace.

Get on the 280 and come and visit the great variety of pubs that Thame has to offer. Don't forget, the last bus back to Aylesbury is 11.30 approx from the Town Hall. Late enough for most, but probably too early for some

Finally, it appears that the **Swan** will be reopening within the next couple of

months. More news in the next **Swan Supping**.

## WADDESDON

The **Bakers Arms** has now been converted into two private dwellings. Another one bites the dust.

## WHITCHURCH

The conversion of the former **White Horse** to housing is complete, with just the Inn sign remaining (at last visit).. Another one.....

At the **White Swan** an extensive refurbishment programme has just been completed. A completely new ladies toilet facility has been built at the rear, with the gents now at the front. Alterations at the rear have made access to the restaurant and function room much easier for both customers and staff serving meals. It also gives a more spacious appeal.

On the outside the already large rear garden has been transformed into a truly massive one. Much work has been done to clear encroaching undergrowth to unleash great potential in a tranquil setting. Hopefully villagers will take full advantage of this facility this summer.

## WINDSOR

The third Windsor Locale Fest from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd of July at the Windsor Farm Shop, Datchet Rd, SL4 2RQ (20min walk from Datchet rail station or 71 bus from Windsor, ample free parking). Over 45 ales, plus cider/perry bar. Food available Saturday and Sunday. Open: 11am – 5.30pm each day with free admission at all times. Free half pint token for all card carrying **CAMRA** members. Commemorative glass £3, refundable. Disabled access/toilets.

## WOOBURN COMMON

The **Royal Standard** will be staging a **Blue Monkey** beer event over the weekend 30th June to 1st July where at least eight of the brewery's beers will be on offer alongside the pub's usual range.

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## GRAVEDIGGERS - PART SEVENTEEN

James looked at the local newspaper spread out on the bar at the Gravediggers, ruminating.

'The Diamond Jubilee's coming up and every other pub seems to be doing something,' he said to Mazz, who was clearing the orange sludge from the beer engines.

'We need to do something individual at the Diggers,' she said. 'Seems like every pub's having some sort of beer festival or fancy dress competition.'

'Sixty years, eh?' James said. 'I bet the Queen's seen so much change in the country since 1952.'

'And 'ardly any of it for the better!' Old Moses shouted as he hobbled back from the gents with his walking stick. He was the pub's oldest customer, approaching ninety. 'I remember listening to the coronation on the wireless in this here bar. In the days when beer put hairs on your chest.' He wheezed. 'I've got it,' Mazz said. 'We'll take the pub back to 1952.'

'Brilliant idea,' James said. 'And the real ale drinkers will love that – no lager or alcopops or that sort of rubbish. We'll invite the local chairman of CAMRA to drink the first pint.'

\*\*\*\*

On Jubilee Day the CAMRA chairman arrived a few minutes late to do the honours.

'Sorry, but I couldn't find your car park,' he said. 'Seems to have been turned into a vegetable patch.'

'We're still digging for victory, young man,' Old Moses said. 'Cars – new-fangled inventions.'

'So where's the selection of your finest vintage real ales?' the Chairman asked, surveying the bar, which was bare apart from two handpumps.

'We've got a choice for you,' Mazz said. 'Average Filthneys and Filthneys Best.'

'What's the difference between them?' the Chairman asked.

'Average is 1035 OG and Best is 1038 OG – both are dark brown and completely flat.'

'Isn't there a wonderful selection of milds, porters and old ales – just like the good old days?' the Chairman asked?

'In the good old days you got what you were given – and you didn't complain,' Old Moses muttered, sipping his Filthneys.

'We might put a mild on when we've collected the enough slops from the other two,' Mazz said, cheerfully.

The Chairman looked around the public bar. Men in flat caps played darts and dominoes.

'Well, it's good to see all the fruit machines and that rubbish have gone.' He stuck his head around the door into the lounge bar. Men in flat caps were playing cribbage. 'But there seems to be something missing in here – from the clientele. Where are the women?'

'Banned...Only women in a pub should be the barmaids and them of ill repute,' Old Moses chuckled. 'And as for children!'

James pointed through the window at a bench outside with a row of bored children eating Salt'n'Shake crisps and drinking coke.

The Chairman took a swig of his Filthneys Best and tried not to spit it straight out. It was rancid.

'Now I'm here I think I'll have a bite to eat,' he said.

'Pickled egg or pork scratchings,' Mazz asked.

'I was thinking more like a mixed grill or a huge fry up,' the Chairman said.

'You must be joking – this is 1952,' Mazz said.

'This is a drinking man's pub,' coughed Old Moses. 'Food's the worst thing that's ever happened to pubs, apart from mobile phones.'

'And letting women in, eh, Moses?' Mazz said.



A cloud of smoke blew into the public bar from the lounge, making the Chairman cough.

'Hold on a minute,' the Chairman said. 'I thought that smoke was from the Jubilee bonfire outside but everyone's smoking in here!'

Old Moses blew a smoke ring towards him.

'We had to make it authentic,' James said.

There was a sudden sound of cheering outside and a Lycra clad athlete ran through the pub's front door holding a metallic gold cone.

'Quick, anyone got a light? The Olympic torch has gone out,' the athlete gasped.

Old Moses held his fag end over the torch and it burst into a huge column of flame. The athlete took a look at the selection of beer on the bar and sprinted away.

'I'm getting out of here,' said the CAMRA chairman, pointing at the make-do and mend bunting made from newspaper that the Olympic torch had set smouldering.

'Someone call the fire brigade,' James said.

'We can't – you banned all the mobile phones,' Mazz said.

\*\*\*\*

Old Moses sat with the children on the bench outside the Gravediggers watching the fire-engine douse the flames.

'Those were the days,' he said. 'Those were the days.'

Charlie Mackle



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## NOW A FREE HOUSE!



The **George & Dragon** at Quainton is now a free house!

Darren and Charlotte Curtis bought the freehold from **Punch Taverns** in early March. This is great news for all concerned - village businesses, suppliers and customers as well as a great relief to Darren and Charlotte. The purchase combined with 2012 being their 10th year in the pub led to a double celebration party on Sunday 6th May. Over 200 regulars and guests enjoyed an excellent afternoon and evening with a pig roast and wonderful salad selection. A pictorial history of events over the years accompanied the event with varied and lively musical support. Six ales and a real cider were available.

The lower part of the current pub can be traced back to the 1740s when it was known as the **George**, the upper part joining it in the 1800s from whence it became called the **George and Dragon**. By the end of the 19th century it was owned by **Halls Brewery** of Oxford. In 1951 it passed to **ABC** and the first landlord was Frank Ricketts. His son is Derek Ricketts, a legend in the world of show jumping to this day and grandson Sam plays football for Bolton Wanderers whilst his uncle is another legend – jockey



John Francome. Frank also ran a coal business from a shop in the pub car park. After **ABC** the pub had another **Allied** incarnation, **Ind Coope**, before passing to pubco **Sycamore**, next **Inn Business** and eventually **Punch**.

Darren had worked in both pubs in the village prior to becoming landlord of the **George & Dragon** when previous tenants Tony and Fiona Bove retired in 2002. At this time it was still **Inn Business** and Darren managed to get one of the last old-style tenancies, rather than a crippling lease. Charlotte also worked at the pub and they married six years ago. They now have three boys, Jack 5, Harry 3 and William 2. Running the pub is very much a family affair. Darren's mum Sue and Aunt Janet, Charlotte's mum Fiona and brother Matt all perform duties behind the bar or elsewhere. Three part-time bar staff complete the picture, Joy, June and Sammy.

A true hub-of-the-community village pub the two bars consist of a traditional public bar and a separate restaurant bar catering for all tastes. Five ales are normally available plus real cider. Always in fine condition so no surprise it has become a **CAMRA Good Beer Guide** regular. There is always a warm and friendly welcome from both staff and regulars in this popular local. A huge menu tempts diners from afar, breakfasts and other specials are also offered. Darts and domino teams are active here, with Aunt Sally played in the garden. Regular quiz nights are held, various groups including the football club hold meetings here. A lunch club is held monthly on Wednesdays and OAP lunches every Tuesday. On Wednesday lunchtime the public bar becomes the village Post Office. At least two beer festivals are held each year and are usually arranged in league with special events at the close-by Buckinghamshire Steam Railway Centre at Quainton Road Station. Traction engines parade their way from the station to the village green outside the pub and stay awhile before making their return journey.

Now that they are free of the tie Darren and Charlotte are more able to follow their own ambitions for the next ten years and beyond. Plans for the future are already taking shape with new signage including 'FREE HOUSE' over the door. Darren plans to keep the existing format of two regular ales – **St Austell Tribute** and **Hook Norton Hooky Bitter** alternating with **Shepherd Neame Spitfire**, and three guests from local breweries, currently **Oxfordshire Chocox**, **Vale St Georges** and **XT 4**. However now there is no tie, these can all be reviewed to suit any circumstances. On the lager side the Spanish Estrella has been introduced and Thatcher's Gold is the keg cider. There is also a new wine list. Food is all from local suppliers with meat from Lloyds Farm Butchers next door, local farm vegetables and flour from the nearby windmill when possible. Nearing completion is the conversion of the upper floor over the garage to a function room for up to twenty persons.

Events coming up:-

Bingo night,  
Saturday 2nd  
June, eyes  
down 9pm.

From Sunday  
3rd June:  
Diamond  
Jubilee Beer  
Festival with  
Jubilee themed  
ales and cider.

Saturday 30th  
June: Aunt Sally, 8pm.

Sunday 19th August: Classic Car Event, 2pm – 6pm, - (Darren is an enthusiast himself and has an immaculate mk1 Mini-Cooper).

October: date to be finalised, Harvest Auction – to raise money for village projects such as the senior citizens Christmas party.

Please call 01296 655436 for details on any event or visit [www.georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk](http://www.georgeanddragonquainton.co.uk)

Ales for the Jubilee festival include – **XT 53 Jubilee 4.2%**, **Oxfordshire Ales Maypole 4.1%**, **Adnams Diamond Ale 4.1%** and **Vale Diamond Reign 4.4%**. **Westons Celebration Cider 5%** and jugs of Pimms will also be available. See you there!

Mick White





## George & Dragon, Quainton

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**REGULAR GOOD BEER GUIDE ENTRY**

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**The 300 bus from Aylesbury & Wycombe stops at the pub**

*WHIP INN FOR A PINT*



## CAMERON'S TOUR OF DESTRUCTION

*Our pub-loving tour guide welcomes the Prime Minister on to a charabanc at the gates of Chequers for a magical mystery tour through the heart of the CAMRA Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe Branch.*

Hurry up there Prime Minister – we've got plenty to see on our excursion. I know you're busy flitting between here and Westminster and your celebrity set in Chipping Norton but, just for an hour or so, we'd like to show you the effects of your misguided policies. You'll see how your unfair taxes are ripping the soul out of an institution that's endured five hundred times longer than your government will – the great, but wounded, British pub.

Come on driver, let's go. First stop Great Kimble, just down the road.

The **Bernard Arms** is famous for having been the occasional watering hole of Prime Ministers past – many much more distinguished than recent Chequers residents. We could have shown you the photographs of Winston Churchill outside the pub with President Eisenhower – if the pub wasn't boarded up. The **Bernard Arms** was the scene of Boris Yeltsin's infamous drinking session with John Major – but the pub has been closed since the end of August and, as you can see, the only evidence of any activity since then has been the evident removal of fixtures and fittings into that a huge skip in the car park.

Who knows what's happening – but you certainly won't be able to nip out of the back gate of Chequers for a pint of your favourite Guinness any time soon.

Here's a pub in fine walking country in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's on a main road in a picture-postcard setting by the village church. At least in the summer it should be pulling in punters from all around but it's shut.

The once beautifully hedged garden with magnificent views is now overgrown – a very sad sight for a Prime Minister who'll no doubt invoke the image of the village pub as an enduring symbol of great British culture during the Jubilee or Olympics at some point. But then again, it might make a nifty

property development site when you relax the planning rules and let cowboys plaster monstrosities all over the countryside.

Of course we don't know the exact reasons why the licensees called it a day and why the owners haven't installed replacements but, as we'll see, the **Bernard Arms** is by no means the only pub in a similar situation. While unknown, individual circumstances will apply to the closure of all the pubs on our route, there's no mistaking that, since your government's election, there's evidence of a devastating trend.

Driver, turn left in Monk's Risborough, up the hill past Whiteleaf Cross. Now we're approaching the **Pink and Lily** – dead since February – the sign on the door mentions insolvency. It was in the **Good Beer Guide** only a couple of years ago.

Again, in a beautiful location – in woodland on the edge of the Chiltern escarpment – it's a historic pub. The name goes back two hundred years. Inside is the wonderful Brooke Bar – a room preserved exactly as it would have been a hundred years ago, when it was a favoured haunt of the war poet Rupert Brooke.

We'd like to take you inside – the room evokes an era when pubs were the focal point of their local communities. Like many pubs, the **Pink and Lily** preserved a living monument to our country's history – and without a penny of direct subsidy. The thanks they receive is to have their products taxed to unaffordable levels.

Onwards towards Lacey Green and Naphill. Happily there are a number of pubs along this road that have managed to thrive despite the obstacles thrown in their way.

Note that large blue and white vehicle on the road ahead. It's called a public bus. I doubt you've ever been on one in your life but the regular 300 line service on this road between Aylesbury and Wycombe can't have done the pubs any harm. I'll whisper it but the service is covered at weekends and late in the evening by public subsidy. And it lets those of us who aren't millionaires with chauffeurs get to and from the pub without drink driving.



Now down the hill past Strike Command towards Bradenham – the childhood home of one of your more illustrious predecessors – Benjamin Disraeli. The sign in the window promises that the owners, the National Trust, will reopen the pub soon but it's been closed for at least a couple of months.

As we travel now through Wycombe, you can admire the Eden shopping centre – one of the places your government seems desperate to support even though most of what's sold there is imported, unlike pubs which sustain a British supply chain.



Ah, Handy Cross and a place that must warm the depths of your well-lobbied soul more than any pub – a huge out-of-town supermarket. If you like we could stop here for a second while you dash in to snap up the sixty cans of high-strength lager that are perpetually on offer for twenty-quid?

After all, this is where all our pubs' displaced customers seem to be going. The supermarkets' loss-leading alcohol promotions are a fraction of the price of the pint in the pub – which is saddled with extortionate business rates, utility prices, servicing pubco debts and so on.

Into Marlow – the **Plough** is on your right. This went the way of many pubs a few years ago and became an Indian restaurant, the **Plough Masala**, before reverting to a pub – and closing. We like a good Indian meal as much as the next ale drinker but economics (remember that?) dictates that there's a limit to the number of tikka masalas the population can eat.

And while we're here in Marlow, one of the most affluent towns in the country, we hear the **Hare and**

We know that the economic situation means life's going to be tough for all businesses – and we can't pretend that all pubs are efficiently managed.

But your government and, it must be conceded, its puritanical predecessor have hardly given the licensed trade a level playing field. Beer duty has gone up by 42% since 2008 and a third of the price of each pint of beer is skimmed off by your buddy, George Osborne. And he's committed to putting up beer duty by 2% above the rate of inflation. And how does that compare with the rise, if any, in personal incomes?

Driver, take a detour around Walton Court in Aylesbury so we can see the building site that used to be the **Huntsman** – a humble estate pub but fondly remembered by the local **CAMRA** branch as the place where the first edition of *Swan Supping* was produced.

Not long until we get you back to Chequers now – just time to see the closed **Bull** at Stoke Mandeville. This was a stalwart of the *Good Beer Guide* for many years – an unpretentious, two-room boozer that was a pillar of its community.

In our tour we've passed at least a dozen pubs that have shut down since you were elected. If you don't value their tradition and value to the community, think of all the jobs that have been lost – and how publicans are largely the sort of entrepreneurs you claim to support.

But there is a glimmer of hope before we finish. The **Russell Arms**, almost within strolling distance of your country bolt-hole, has been bought by the villagers of Butler's Cross, who banded together to purchase the hub of their community. If it's currently closed it's because they're awaiting new tenants.

You should take note – the preservation of the **Russell Arms** could be an example of this baffling Big Society idea of yours. And next time you're next riding with your horse, Bollinger-swilling clique, just remember, all us British drinkers are asking for is a fair crack of the whip.

Sign the **CAMRA** e-petition at [saveyourpint.co.uk](http://saveyourpint.co.uk)

**Note that all the pubs mentioned were closed to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to press. While several of these pubs look likely to be lost forever there's a good prospect that some that are mentioned will re-open – so be vigilant and support any that do so and keep informed via future *Swan Suppings*.**

Charlie Mackle

**Hounds** is also shut.

Time to cross the Chilterns again as we head north. I'd point out the spectacular views but we know how government likes to respond to beautiful countryside – by planning a 250mph railway line through it.

We come close to Booker Common on the right – where the **Live and Let Live** has given up the ghost in the past year or two. For pubs in the current climate, it's more like live and let die.

Through Lane End, we pass the **Old Ship** at Cadmore End – a tiny pub full of individuality that's currently shut, but we hear hopeful rumours it will re-open one day. Through Stokenchurch, you see the sad sight on your left of the boarded-up **Four Horseshoes**.

Down the hill into the vale again and we come across the **Cherry Tree** in Kingston Blount – closed – and like many that we've seen – the only pub in the village. The advertising hoarding suggests that the owners, **Brakspear's**, are advertising for new tenants so let's try to be optimistic about that one.

Into Chinnor – where the **Royal Oak** has recently been felled – and on to Thame where the **Two Brewers** has been boarded up by **Greene King** for several months.

Into Haddenham – routinely used by film and television crews as a location that evokes the English idyll – duck pond, church, thatched cottages and pubs nestling around the village green. But gritty reality has intruded for the **Red Lion** – shut for a few weeks now and subject to a planning application.

What's that you're saying – 'We're all in this together'? Sorry but **CAMRA** begs to disagree.





# LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

## Aylesbury Brewhouse



**Vale Brewery's** sister brewery, based at the **Hop Pole** in Aylesbury, has just celebrated its first award with *H202 Blonde* (4.1%) winning the LocAle Best Bitter Category at this years Reading Beer Festival, so to celebrate this success and to allow

more of their customers to enjoy this limited edition, sharp and sassy blonde beer, they are brewing it again.

In June they have, *Not Euro Fizz* (4.5)% ABV) a pilsner style beer, *Sunspot* (4.9% ABV) Summer Rye, a fruity pale ale brewed using rye malt and *Channel Surfing* (5.0%) a high definition stout.



Finally with a great sporting summer ahead they are cheering on team Great Britain with *Swifter*, *Higher* and *Stronger* available in July and August: *Swifter* (3.8%) a bronze bitter, *Higher* (4.2%) a hoppy pale ale and *Stronger* (4.9%) a golden bitter.

## Loddon Brewery



After launching their new branding (which we featured in the last issue of *Swan Supping*) and extended bottled beer range in February, **Loddon Brewery** sent out their new bottles to a number of beer bloggers to ask their opinions. Marverine Cole (AKA Beer Beauty), journalist, presenter and Beer writer, enjoyed their bottled *Ferryman's Gold* so much that when invited to do a beer tasting on ITV's This Morning, she decided to feature it!

The focus of the tasting was beers that women would enjoy and presenter Holly Willoughby was certainly very impressed. Phillip Schofield also enjoyed the beer with both of them commenting on how 'easy drinking' it was and Holly remarked, 'I really like that!'. Marverine Cole praised **Loddon's** new branding and used the *Ferryman's Gold* to make a beer Mojito

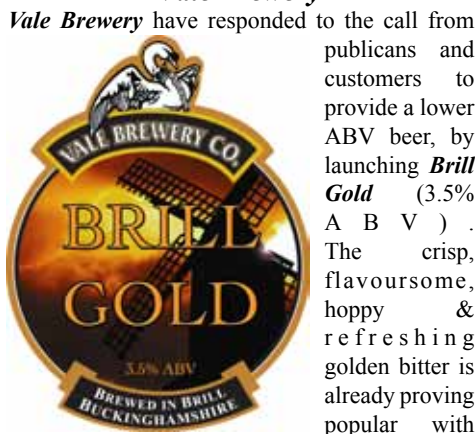
which was also a hit. Other beer styles the 'Beer Beauty' featured were an imperial stout, a champagne beer and an IPA.

## Tring Brewery



Just as we were going to press, we heard that **Tring Brewery** are going to be providing a permanent special beer which will be available in the **Bell**, Aylesbury. As the pub is part of the **JD Wetherspoons** empire, the new beer is to be called *Bells & Spoons* and is a 4% ABV golden ale which will be available from the beginning of June.

## Vale Brewery



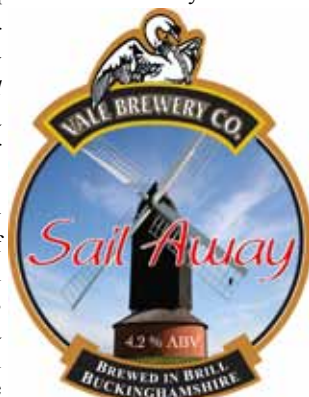
**Vale Brewery** have responded to the call from publicans and customers to provide a lower ABV beer, by launching **Brill Gold** (3.5% A B V ). The crisp, flavoursome, hoppy & refreshing golden bitter is already proving popular with

all, so much so that the first brew sold out in double quick time.

As we announced last issue, from mid May onwards they have offered *Diamond Reign* (4.4% ABV) a sparkling golden ale to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

To kick-off the European Championships in June their monthly special will be *Two Halves* (4.0% ABV), a straw coloured ale and they continue their support for this summer of sport with *Decathlon* (4.3% ABV) a golden beer brewed with ten UK hops available mid July.

Finally their July monthly special is *Sail Away* (4.2%), a bronze summer ale.



which was also a hit. Other beer styles the 'Beer Beauty' featured were an imperial stout, a champagne beer and an IPA.

The kick off time is 12 noon and they close around 4.30. Advance booking is not required. If you are a Club member bring along up to two guests too as you will each get your first pint free!

## XT Brewery



Saturday 19th May saw their second open day at the brewery. It proved to be very popular and the keen drinkers even came by the coach load and it was a great chance for them to talk to people about their beers. The open day raised several hundred pounds for a local charity: Thame Safari which provides support for people with learning difficulties. The main attraction of the day was the Jubilee beer which was brewed using a recipe developed in collaboration with the Oxford Brewers homebrew group.

They have now brewed their seventh beer brand since starting up in November last year. In addition to the core beers they have also brewed a very tasty collaborative brew with **Thame Brewery**. Look out for more collaborative brews in the next few months with other breweries from around the country.

Sales are rising steadily as they grow trade into Oxon, Bucks and Herts, and to help keep up with demand a new fermenting vessel arrived in May which will increase their capacity by 50%. Sales of the beers in their special oak casks are going great guns at beer festivals and devoted beer pubs.

Their beers are now on permanently at about 15 pubs including the **Cross Keys** in Thame, and as a guest beer in many more. The limited edition Jubilee beer 53 - named for the Coronation year has proved very popular, shame we have to wait for a another Jubilee before they can make it again.

**XT** featured at Thame Music in the Park on 13th May, where their beers all sold out very quickly. The next event at the brewery will be the Vale Harvest food festival – where a wide variety of locally produced food and drink will be available to sample and buy on Sat 14th July, including chutney and mustard made with **XT** beers, which is also now available in the Saturday Morning Brewery Shop.





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Constantine & Louise Lucas welcome you to

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22nd July BBQ from 5pm with live music with acoustic duo

29th July Cream teas 3.30-5pm £5 cup of tea and scone with clotted cream & jam



## A BREWSTERS' CHALLENGE

We think, mistakenly, that brewing is a male dominated industry.

Brewsters, or female brewers, have played a crucial role in beer making from the middle ages onwards and undoubtedly even further back in history. George Jenkinson of the **Chiltern Brewery** wants to increase our awareness of these unsung heroines from past and present. The big question is of course 'Do Brewsters brew better beer than their male counterparts?'

George and his team at the **Farmers' Bar** in the historic **King's Head** pub in Aylesbury, which is the brewery tap for **Chiltern** are asking you, the public, to decide. Under the heading 'Can Women Really Brew Better Beer?' from 18th June they will be launching a 'Celebration of Brewster Beers'.

George and head brewer brother Tom have carefully selected the choices representing virtually every style of beer, from English pale ales to thundering American inspired IPAs; from blonde beers to black; from malty to hoppy flavours and from palates described as 'floral and delicate' to 'citrus punch'. The qualifying criteria are that each of the beers is brewed by a 'Brewster'.

An increasing number of breweries now have Brewsters in the role of Head Brewer and both George and Tom, who make high quality ales themselves, see it as a fantastically positive industry trend that brings a welcome and different emphasis to the flavour and style of beer.

The breweries featured include **Welbeck Abbey**, Claire Monk's micro brewery situated in the

## Visit The Farmers' Bar

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Savour fresh regional recipes from our seasonal Bill of Fare



[www.farmersbar.co.uk](http://www.farmersbar.co.uk)

at The King's Head, Market Square, HP20 2RW

### THE FARMERS' BAR at The King's Head, Aylesbury



#### BREWSTERS v BREWERS

Can women really brew better beer? You decide!



Beers available from June 18th

The King's Head, Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2RW  
Tel: 01296 718812 Email: [info@farmersbar.co.uk](mailto:info@farmersbar.co.uk)  
[www.farmersbar.co.uk](http://www.farmersbar.co.uk)

heart of Nottinghamshire's Welbeck Estates, who will be putting her light, golden, delicate and refreshing *Henrietta* into the frame. This is the fourth beer from the establishment that is crammed full of wonderful character from the Challenger, Cascade, Hallertauer and Brewers Gold hops that are used.

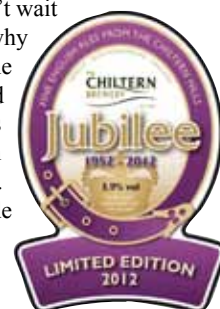
Derby's **Dancing Duck Brewery** is run by wife and husband team Rachel and Ian, with Rachel very much the driving force behind the setting-up and day-to-day running of the brewery. Her *Dark Drake* is a delicious malty beer with caramel and liquorice flavours that creates a velvet smooth drinking stout.

George sees it as a bit of fun and as a way of encouraging new customers, especially women, to try new and different beers. But that sense of fun does also disguise a burning passion that is the ethos of the **Farmers' Bar**, to generate as much interest as possible in top flight beers served in the best possible condition and by knowledgeable and friendly staff.

There will be only one cask of each beer and only one served at a time so you will need to be quick if you want to try something specific. The full mouth-watering menu of beers is available on the website [www.chilternbrewery.co.uk](http://www.chilternbrewery.co.uk) To avoid missing any you can follow them on twitter @Kings\_Head You can also sign up to a monthly newsletter on the website.

So, who has the true art of the master brewer - Brewer or Brewster? You decide. Let the games begin.

However, if you can't wait for that event, why not go along to the **Farmers' Bar** and join in the Queen's celebrations with **Chiltern Jubilee**. As the sign outside the pub says 'Keep Calm and Reign On!'





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*GRENDON UNDERWOOD*  
*15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012*

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# STOP THE ESCALATOR - WE WANT TO GET OFF!

I'm sure you are aware that over a pound of every pint bought in a pub is paid to the treasury in tax. Successive governments have massively increased tax on beer, while only imposing modest increases on wine and spirits. But the government's policy is even worse than leaving tax rates at their current high level. In the mistaken belief that increasing the tax on beer will reduce binge-drinking, the government is increasing tax above inflation year on year.

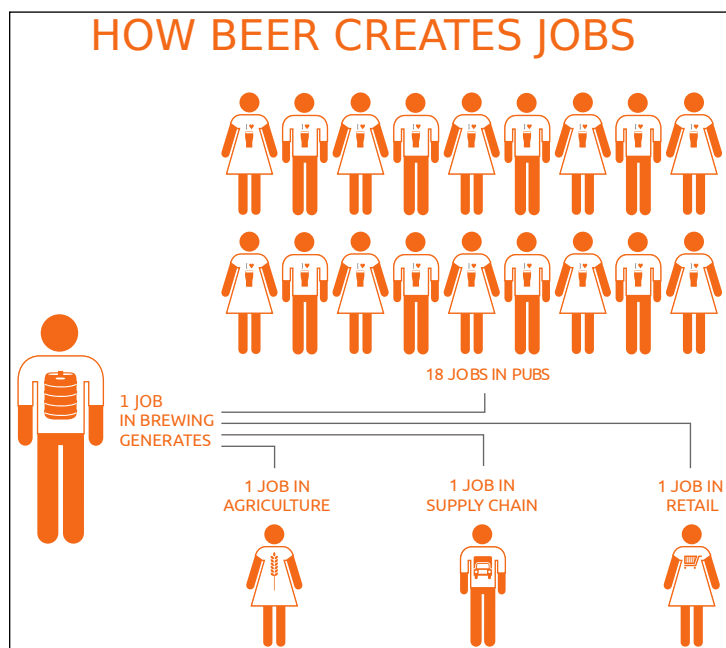
As a result, tax on beer has gone up by over 40% since 2008. You now pay over a third of your pint on tax.

This is complete madness!

We are in a recession, as I'm sure you will have noticed. Unemployment is very high running at 8.2%, but with a staggering 20% of young people looking for work.

This is where local pubs can help. Unlike supermarkets, where few jobs are created per pint served, pubs provide a large number of jobs, both in the pub and in the brewery. Further, these jobs are exactly in the area of need, as pubs provide great jobs for young people, as well as providing a valuable resource for local communities.

The production and sale of beer creates jobs in agriculture, brewing, pubs, hospitality, shops and supermarkets. In total the beer and pub sector supports almost 1 million UK jobs. 46% of those employed in the sector are 16 to 24 year olds.



Why is it, then, that our government is throwing all of this away?

**SINCE 2004:**

**Beer duty rates have increased by over 50%**

**Beer duty revenue increased by only 10%**

**Beer consumption has fallen by 23%**

**7,800 pubs have closed**

**78,000 jobs have been lost**

Just as a high top rate of tax failed to significantly increase revenue, higher duty on beer has also failed to significantly increase revenue. Instead of buying expensive pints in pubs, people are spending the same amount of money in supermarkets buying cheap spirits and wine instead of our national drink, beer.



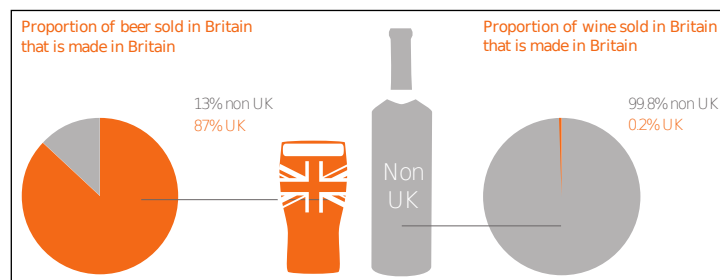
People, and not just the young, are now pre-loading at home before a night out, often drinking spirits far faster than they can stand. It's no wonder that trouble happens when fuelled with a stomach full of vodka!



So, rather than decrease the level of binge-drinking, the high levels of taxation are having little effect. The Office for National Statistics has data showing that drinking levels have not changed significantly since 1992 and have declined in some groups in recent years. 9% of men aged between 16-24 admitted drinking more than 50 units a week, compared to a figure of 7% in 2008. Binge-drinking also fails to show any definitive trend.

There is another important reason to support our national drink: beer is a British product and a major tax contributor. Beer generates £8bn in tax

revenue. Beer and pubs contribute £21bn to UK GDP.



Why is the government not taxing imported wine and spirits, and reducing the tax on our home-produced beer, made with British barley, brewed in Britain by British-owned breweries?

We should be supporting our local pubs and breweries, not taxing them out of existence!

So what can you do? There is strong cross-party support for pubs and brewing.

In January, following the Government's rejection of proposals by the Business Select Committee, Parliament unanimously passed a motion in support of fair deals for pubs. Over 5,000 **CAMRA** members had individually contacted their local MPs asking them to support the motion. Furthermore there had been extensive campaigning by organisations including Federation of Small Businesses, Forum for Private Business, licensee groups and the Parliamentary Save the Pub Group.

We can make a difference, especially with a large group of MPs on our side.

The first thing to do is to sign the E-Petition. We are almost halfway to the 100,000 votes needed to force a full debate in Parliament. You do not need to be a **CAMRA** member, anyone can sign.

Publicans: please encourage your staff and customers to sign! All that's required is that you are a British citizen.

**Alexander Wright**

**Chairman, Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA**



Produced with information from the **British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA)** in partnership with the **Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA)** and the **Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)**.

For more information please contact David Wilson or Neil Williams on 0207 627 9191 or visit [www.beerandpub.com](http://www.beerandpub.com), [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk), and [www.siba.co.uk](http://www.siba.co.uk).

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**Good Beer Guide Listed**

**Quiz Night 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the month**





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## BUFFETS

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**SUNDAY**

**LUNCH SPECIAL BUFFET**

**From 12pm to 3pm**

## MENU

**Shahi Kebab**  
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**Vegetable Curry**  
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**Adult.....£9.95**

**Child (Under 12).....£5.95**

# HADDENHAM FESTIVAL

The highly anticipated Haddenham Real Ale Festival is on the horizon and this year the organisers are hoping for yet another successful and enjoyable day. Taking place on Saturday July 7th at the by now familiar setting of Haddenham Junior School the Summer Festival will be the seventh run by Haddenham Beer Festivals Trust.



Last year saw record numbers and this year the organisers are planning an additional beer tent away from the main beer hall stocked full of local brews from across the county. There will be the usual spread of international and specialist lagers as well as a quantity of ciders. In fact the festival is fast making a name for itself amongst cider lovers. On the day there is also wine and Pimms available.

It is a great family day out with a wide variety of music, dancing and food on offer.

Sponsorship plays a vital part in the success of the fundraising, if you are interested in being involved in sponsorship then email [haddenhambeerfestival@gmail.com](mailto:haddenhambeerfestival@gmail.com)

Typically a sponsor will receive a listing in our tasting notes, a mention on the item sponsored (i.e. barrel of beer) and a listing and separate page on the Trust's web site. All this and the knowledge that every penny of sponsorship goes towards the charity's fundraising.

Doors open at 11am with the last entry at 6pm, depending on beer stocks.

The Trust is a registered charity which raises money for deserving causes in Haddenham and the surrounding area. For more information and to find out where to buy tickets visit [www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk](http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk)

# Ian & Lynne welcome you to The Black Horse, Lacey Green

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***We are in the 2012 GOOD FOOD and GOOD BEER Guides!***

**Breakfast 9 - 11 Tues - Sat (5 items £4.50, 8 items £6.50 (both incl. tea or coffee))**

**Lunches 12 - 2.30 Tuesday - Sunday**

**Evening Meals: 6.30 - 9.30 Tuesday to Saturday**

**Pub open all day Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays**

**Please note: The pub is closed Monday until 5pm**

***Sunday Lunch ~ £9-25 for two courses (Children under 6 free!)***

***Please book early to avoid disappointment***

**Last Sunday of month - Quiz night (Free to enter)**

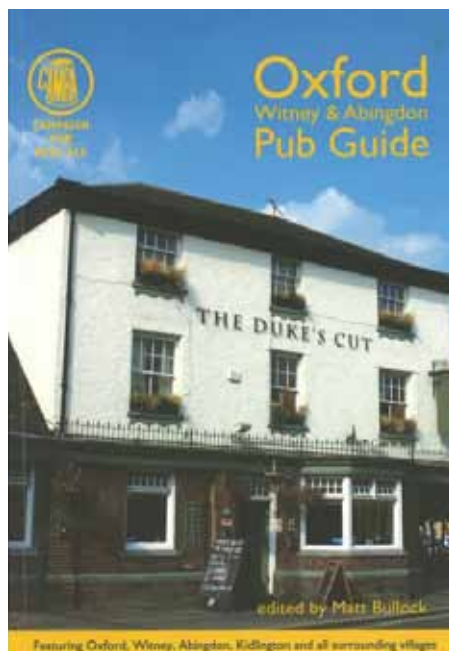
**Wi Fi now available!**

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**Check for further details on - [www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk](http://www.blackhorse-pub.co.uk)**

**or email: [lynnecomley@btconnect.com](mailto:lynnecomley@btconnect.com)**

## OXFORD PUB GUIDE



This recent (2011) Guide, compiled by the Oxford Branch of **CAMRA** covers all the pubs and bars selling 'real ale' beer in Oxford and the adjacent towns of Abingdon, Kidlington and Witney; it also lists other pubs that, at the time of this survey, did not sell real ale.

Each pub has a short description, vital statistics and a good number with a colour photo. Good colour coded maps of the various areas are included plus two indexes of pubs and of places. It is a handsome attractive pub guide, edited by Matt Bullock, and is a vital weapon in the armoury of any devotee of real ale in the area.

This is the definitive guide to the pubs, bars and hotel bars in Oxford, Witney, Abingdon and all the surrounding villages.

Comprehensively researched by volunteer members of the Oxford branch of **CAMRA** to give an independent review of all the region's pubs.

ISBN 978-1-85249-301-1

Published Date October 2011

RRP £5.99. Available from **CAMRA Books** via the website ([www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)).

## GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

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Bencombe Farm  
Marlow Bottom, SL7 3LT

# 01628 476594



## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### June

#### Thursday 7th PUB SOCIAL

8.30pm Bird in Hand, Princes Risborough

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a change from the social announced in What's Brewing as it appears unlikely that the Russell Arms, Butler's Cross, will be open for business by then!**

#### Thursday 14th DOWNLEY-NAPHILL WALK SOCIAL

6.45pm Downley Donkey, 7.30pm Bricklayers' Arms, Downley, 8.15pm Le De Spencer Arms, Downley, 9.30pm Black Lion, Naphill

#### Monday 18th BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Royal Standard of England, Forty Green (walking possible from Beaconsfield Railway station).

#### Wednesday 20th LONDON PUB CRAWL

Starts 6.00pm Morpeth Arms, Pimlico (tbc – see website)

#### Saturday 30th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Enjoy the best day of the year as we make our annual pilgrimage to one of the finest areas of the country for enjoying beer. Picking up from Aylesbury (9.45am), Princes Risborough, High Wycombe and Stokenchurch and returning before midnight. £27 per head. Booking essential as spaces are limited. Tickets are available from the editor (contact details below).

### July

#### Saturday 7th BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Junior School, Woodways, Haddenham

#### Wednesday 11th BRILL SOCIAL

8.30pm Pheasant, 9.15pm Red Lion.

#### Monday 16th BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm, Swan, Great Kimble (half a mile walk from the 300 bus route).

#### Tuesday 24th TYLERS GREEN SOCIAL

7.30pm Horse and Jockey.

#### Friday 27th DRINKING OLYMPICS,

Thame Modern Pentathlon, start 7.00pm Six Bells, via three other High Street pubs, ending at the Cross Keys

### October

Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival, Bucks County Council Sports & Social Club, Lower Road, Aylesbury, Friday 26th & Saturday 27th of October.

Further details can be found on our website  
[www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)

CATCH UP DURING BRANCH SOCIALS:-  
PHONE 0792 215 8971



Buckinghamshire County Council Trading Standards  
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Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards  
PO Box 618, County Hall, Oxford, Oxon. OX1 1ND  
t: 0845 0510845 f: 01865 783106  
e: [trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.swansupping.org.uk/joinin](http://www.swansupping.org.uk/joinin)

## Swan Supping

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

Circulation **6000** copies.

Edited by David Roe

Editorial Address : 16 Jasmine Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9SH.

Tel : 01296 484551

E-Mail : [editor@swansupping.org.uk](mailto:editor@swansupping.org.uk)

Advertising rates are from :- 1/4 page £60, 1/2 page £120, full page £200.

10% discounts for payment in advance. Block bookings for six issues available.

We can even create the advert for you at no extra charge! All bookings are taken as run-of-paper. You can now pay for a year of adverts in advance and avoid any possible price increases! Please make all cheques payable to **CAMRA V & W**.

Copy deadline for next issue, due out 1st August, is 14th July 2012.

**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 for each edition you wish to receive to the Editor 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 most issues of *Swan Supping* can be downloaded from our website ([www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)).

## ©Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA 2012

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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### Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

#### Your Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership £23 ☐ £25 ☐  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Partner at the same address)  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

#### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association  
I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Applications will be processed within 21 days

01/06

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**Enjoying Real Ale  
& Pubs**

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