



# Swan Supping

Campaign for Real Ale  
Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch  
www.swansupping.org.uk

FREE

Issue 74

OCT/NOV 2009



## NOW WE ARE 100,000!



Members of **CAMRA** were thrilled to announce a landmark moment in their 38 year history as their numbers have swelled to 100,000 members. This milestone was confirmed at the opening day of the **Great British Beer Festival**, which was held at the beginning of August (and the news was embargoed for our previous issue!).

Despite many campaigning successes over its 38 year history, **CAMRA** is pledging to push middle-age to one side as it steps up its campaigns to save Britain's pubs and get a fair deal for beer drinkers. As the UK heads for a general election next spring, **CAMRA** is pushing for reform of the beer tie, fair taxes on beer, minimum pricing regulations to stamp out loss-leaders in supermarkets, zero duty rate on low strength beers, planning law reforms to protect pubs and for a central Government policy framework to protect and promote well-run community pubs.

Mike Benner, **CAMRA** Chief Executive, said: 'We are overjoyed at reaching 100,000 members, brought together by our passion for great British beer and community pubs. But while we may relax and raise a glass or two to celebrate at the opening of the **Great British Beer Festival**, we are not complacent and tomorrow the hard work campaigning for drinkers' rights will continue.'

**CAMRA** was formed in 1971 by Michael Hardman, Jim Makin, Graham Lees and Bill Mellor, when an idea of a campaign arose whilst they were bemoaning the state of British beer and pubs during a holiday in Ireland. Popularity for the then-named **Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale** quickly grew, and membership levels rose, with **CAMRA** boasting over 5,000 members by the end of 1973.

In the early years of the organisation, **CAMRA** quickly formed three key campaigning tools, which remain integral to this day. The year 1974 saw **CAMRA** publish the **Good Beer Guide** for the first time, selling 30,000 copies in the first seven months of its release. In the same year, the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, played host to the first **CAMRA** beer festival, with half of the beer supply in the venue selling out in the first day. And lastly, **CAMRA**'s first national celebration of real ale in September 1975, the Covent Garden Beer Festival, a predecessor to the **Great British Beer Festival**.

In recent years, **CAMRA**'s rising membership figures have been attributed to an increasing number of consumers trying real ale for the first time. In the last year alone, membership numbers have increased by 9.7%, and since the beginning of the twenty-first century, numbers have almost doubled!



# Brill Beer!

Award winning ale



VISIT US AT OUR BREWERY SHOP  
Tramway Business Park, Ludgershall Road, Brill, HP18 9TY  
Tel: 01844 239237 e-mail: info@valebrewery.co.uk  
www.valebrewery.co.uk

Opening hours.  
Mon to Fri 9.30am to 5pm, Sat 9.30am to 11.30am.

## Coming Soon

A reddish brown special brew with an Autumnal feel & a hint of blackcurrant



## Local News



## ASTON ROWANT

The **Lambert Arms** feature in the finals of the **Publican** awards for Back of House Team and Gastro Pub of the Year.

## AYLESBURY

There seemed to be some confusion at the recent 'Hobble on the Cobbles' as to whether drinks could be taken into the square when listening to the music, especially with the restrictions on drinking in the town centre. To save problems next year which might spoil what should be an enjoyable festival which profits a lot of local trade, the authorities should all sing from the same hymn sheet and waive any restrictions which prevent sensible drinkers (perhaps using plastic glasses) enjoying a couple of drinks along with the bands.

Gary and Val Batey have been running the **Aristocrat** for two years and although the pub is big on live music and sport, there are always three real ales available (**Fullers London Pride**, **Discovery** and **Gales Seafarers** when last visited). The pub has a very loyal trade and runs league teams for darts, pool, poker and football and boasts one of the largest shelters for smokers in the area.

It appears that the **Bell** has been sold by **Punch** and it is currently closed. There seems to be no end to the rumours about what is going to happen to this historic pub, but as soon as we can find out anything definite, we will let you know!

The **Broad Leys** has reached the final of the **Publican** Back of House Team competition in their Food and Drink awards. Besides offering free range Aylesbury duck and other locally sourced food, **Loddon Hoppit**, **Vale IPA** and **Brains Reverend James** currently feature on handpump.

**Brakspear's** only pub in Aylesbury, the **Emperors Lounge**, is still closed.

Lauren Heffer has taken on the tenancy at the **Punch** owned **Green Man** for the next five years and will be running it as a pub with an upstairs restaurant. There has been a major refurbishment, but the handpumps have been retained and these are currently serving **Greene King IPA** and **Shepherd Neame Spitfire**. The pub will open at 7am on market days (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) when breakfast will be available, lunch will be served seven days a week from 12-3pm with dinner from 6.30-10pm Wednesday to Saturday. Live acoustic music will

be on offer at weekends.

The **Hobgoblin** has a guest beer on offer from 2-9pm for £1.50 a pint (currently **Marstons Pedigree**) with **Wychwood Hobgoblin** at £2.10 a pint all day until 9pm.

The **Hop Pole** will be holding their Winter Beer Festival from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th of November. There will be thirty real ales available plus 10 ciders and perries. If you fancy getting your favourite beer at the pub, or one you may have tried at a beer festival, you can now put your request into a large cup and saucer on the bar and they will do their best!

There is a holding manager running the **Millwrights** at least until Christmas and it is hoped that the kitchen will be reopened shortly. **Greene King IPA** and **Old Speckled Hen** are available on handpump.

The **Queens Head** is steadily trying to rebuild the real ale trade and hope to be offering an extra beer to go with the **Greene King IPA** and the **Fullers London Pride**.

There was a grand evening of punk music at the **White Swan** on Saturday 22nd August. Not much to report on

the music side but the pub sold out completely of the **Wells & Youngs Bombardier** (see, punks do have good taste!).

## BUTLERS CROSS

The **Russell** has regained its lost suffix under its new management, and is now once again the **Russell Arms**.

## CADMORE END

The **Old Ship** is currently shut and the pub has been sold, but we don't have any details regarding the new owners.

## CUBLINGTON

We visited the **Unicorn** on our social recently and saw this fascinating initiative advertised for the first weekend in September — 'The Cublington Feast': 24 hours of food festivities and fun. It seems like a very civilised method of 24 hour bingeing with hedonistic board games through the night (although we are sure the BMA and the government might not approve!)

## CUDDINGTON

The **Crown**, renowned for its food, always has **Fullers London Pride** and **Adnams Bitter** on. The guest is usually  
(Continued on page 23)

# THE WHIP INN

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH COUNTRY PUB

**Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA  
Pub of the Year 2009**

**FIVE REAL ALES AVAILABLE  
PLUS A RANGE OF CIDER & LAGER  
SOAK UP THE BEER WITH HOMEMADE PUB GRUB**

*Food Available lunchtime 12 - 2.30*

*Evenings Mon. 6pm to 8pm, Tue-Sat. 6.30pm - 9pm*

*Sunday Lunch 12-3pm*

**OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY**

**The 300 bus from Aylesbury & Wycombe stops at the Pub!**

*WHIP INN FOR A PINT*

**THE WHIP INN, PINK ROAD, LACEY GREEN, BUCKS. HP27 0PG 01844 344060**

## A SAD LOSS

As we were going to press, we heard about the untimely death of a long standing member of the *Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe CAMRA* branch, Dick Moore.

Dick was always willing to help in any way he could, despite suffering from ill health with great fortitude for many years, and his absence will be especially felt at our upcoming beer festival which he helped at for many years.

He also served on the branch committee for many years and contributed to, and delivered, *Swan Supping*, and featured in many articles including a trip to Belgium which was documented in issue 65, where the picture of Dick (right) was taken.

He loved his beer and was a regular at beer festivals, that won't be the same without him.

Dick was a man of many talents. He had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the railway system, locos, rail routes and timetables. Dick could also produce, at the drop of a hat, and with quiet authority, a wealth of detailed information about pubs or breweries in almost any corner of the UK, and the beers they sold or produced. Of course, he always did his homework thoroughly. All this made him the ideal guide on many a 'field trip' both rail and beer orientated, and even more so when the two were combined. Moreover, he was always strong in character, dependable, responsive, courteous and loyal to his pals. Those qualities, consistently shown throughout his working and retired life, were the touchstone of his many enduring friendships.

To lose a valuable member of the branch is bad enough, losing a friend is devastating. He will be greatly missed and we extend our condolences to Dick's son, Stuart, and to Dick's sister.

David Roe/Giles du Boulay



# ***The Hop Pole, Aylesbury***

## **Winter Beer Festival**

***Friday 13<sup>th</sup> -  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November***

**30 Real Ales and 10 Ciders / Perries**

**Food Available**

**Live Music Friday & Saturday**

**Open Mic Night Sunday**

Check our website closer to the date for more details: ***www.hop-pole.co.uk***

**The Hop Pole, 83 Bicester Road, Aylesbury, HP19 9AZ. Tel: 01296 482129**



## BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PUB GUIDE

**CAMRA** has launched the 37th edition of its annual *Good Beer Guide* which features the best 4,500 real ale pubs in Britain.

Despite many pubs struggling in today's current economic climate, with research showing that 52 pubs close permanently every week across the UK, this year's *Good Beer Guide* highlights that the real ale scene is thriving.

The guide, sponsored by industry accreditation body *Cask Marque*, features over 4,500 urban and rural pubs, giving details of the real ales, food, opening hours, beer gardens, accommodation, transport links, pub history, disabled access and facilities for families.

**CAMRA's** 100,000 strong membership fully update and revise the guide every year, thereby guaranteeing to supply the reader with the most up to date publication in helping to locate the best pint of real ale. There are a total of 1297 new entries in this year's guide, but this comes at a price as there a lot of pubs that have appeared in previous guides which, through no fault of their own, have been dropped to make way for new blood to keep the guide interesting and worthwhile buying every year.

The editor, Roger Protz, said: '**CAMRA's** *Good Beer Guide* remains the number-one, independent guide to good beer and pubs. It

is wonderful to see there are now over 700 breweries in Britain brewing far in excess of 2,500 different varieties of real ale, and so many fantastic pubs in which to drink this beer.

**CAMRA** members continue to work relentlessly throughout the year to ensure the reader gets the most up to date guide to the best pubs in Britain. Their tireless work is the reason why the *Good Beer Guide* remains Britain's best-selling pub guide, and I'd like to thank them personally for their hard work and support.'

Sat-Nav and SMS services have also been revised. **CAMRA's** *Good Beer Guide* POI file allows users of TomTom, Garmin and Navman Sat-Nav systems to see the locations of all the 4,500-plus **GBG** pubs up and down the country and plan routes to them.

Also, the *Good Beer Guide Mobile* makes the ideal companion to the printed *Good Beer Guide*. Wherever you are, or wherever you are going, get information on local **GBG** pubs and beers sent direct to your mobile phone. This indispensable service is free to trial for three days and costs just £10 for a year's subscription (plus your standard network Internet charges).

For further information on both services, visit the website at [www.camra.org.uk/gbg](http://www.camra.org.uk/gbg).



The *Good Beer Guide 2010* is available from all good retailers, and from the **CAMRA** shop. It is priced at £11 for **CAMRA** members (or as little as £10 if bought online) and £15.99 for non-members.

**Champion Chiltern Beers**  
brewed by the oldest independent  
Brewery in the Chilterns

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

The Chiltern Brewery, Terrick, Aylesbury  
Bucks, HP17 0TQ Tel: 01296 613647  
Established since 1980

## QUEENS HEAD

9 High St., Wing LU7 0NS  
Tel: 01296 688268

**WE ARE NOW A FREE HOUSE!**

**CHRISTMAS MENU AVAILABLE**  
Please book early to avoid disappointment!

- \* CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2010 Listed
- \* Cask Marque approved
- \* Four Regular Ales
- \* Large separate restaurant
- \* Huge garden and patio
- \* Car park.

## PETITION NOW!



The British Medical Association (BMA) has published a new report proposing a draconian clampdown on alcohol and pubs.

Rather than proposing targeted measures to help the small minority of people who misuse alcohol, the BMA have taken a heavy handed blanket approach that will harm responsible drinkers and community pubs.

The report proposes vastly increasing the tax on alcohol through above-inflation rises in alcohol duty and introducing a new alcohol levy. It further demands a reduction in pub

opening hours which could mean a return to a uniform 11pm, or earlier, closing time.

**CAMRA** has launched a petition to the Prime Minister calling on the Government to reject these proposals and to support the interests of the responsible, sensible majority of moderate drinkers.

It is vital that we get as many signatures as possible in order to ensure a government response on this important issue, so please ask your family, friends and fellow **CAMRA** members to show their support for the campaign.

The report and the link to the petition can most easily be accessed via the **CAMRA** HQ website ([www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)).

## **THE RED LION** **WHITELEAF**

**Nr PRINCES RISBOROUGH**

**TELEPHONE: 01844 344476**

**[www.theredlionwhiteleaf.co.uk](http://www.theredlionwhiteleaf.co.uk)**

*The Hibbert Family welcome you to the 17<sup>th</sup> century pub situated in the village of Whiteleaf.  
4 en-suite B & B rooms with TV  
and tea making facilities.*

**A function suite that accommodates  
up to 40 people enabling us to offer a local  
venue for all types of functions.**

***Open all day Friday, Saturday & Sunday!***

***Food served daily 12 noon - 2 p.m.  
and 7.00 p.m - 9 p.m.***

***Traditional Sunday Roasts 12 noon - 2.00 p.m.***

**3 real ales available together  
with a selection of lagers**

***CHRISTMAS MENU NOW AVAILABLE!***

# Knocked down by debt? We'll get you back on your feet

**DON'T put your  
home at risk  
by not paying  
your mortgage  
or rent.  
EuroDebt can  
help you...**

## **You are not alone**

**If your debt problems are getting  
out of hand, don't struggle on alone.**

***Stop worrying and start living again***

**Speak to us now on:**

**Freephone**

**0800 840 7167**

**EuroDebt**

**Financial Services**

***Light at the end of the tunnel***

**[www.eurodebt.com/ClarkA](http://www.eurodebt.com/ClarkA)**



## GET YOUR 'TICKS' ON 'ROUTE 76'

Isn't it great when a weather forecast is so gloriously wrong in your favour? Torrential rain threatened to engulf North Wales on Saturday 11th July, but in the event, the sun smiled down on what turned out to be a brilliant beer and cider festival in the stunningly beautiful Vale of Clwyd.



Six pubs on the Denbigh to Pentrecelyn bus route 76 participated in the festival: the **Three Pigeons Inn**, Graigfechan, the **Griffin Inn**, Llanbedr, the **Golden Lion Inn**, Llangynhafal, the **Golden**

**Lion**, Llandyrnog, The **White Horse**, Llandyrnog and the **Kinnel Arms**, Waen, Llandyrnog. M&H Coaches who operate the route, with the support of Denbighshire County Council, laid on an extended service, with a cheap rover ticket so that drinkers could get on and off whenever and wherever they pleased over the 12 miles or so, separating the northernmost from southernmost pubs. The buses ran in each direction every hour until late evening, stopping directly outside the pubs.

The comprehensive, sponsored, festival booklet included the bus times, pub locations, info on each of the pubs, including availability of food, and



*The Three Pigeons, Graigfechan*



*The Golden Lion, Llandyrnog*

entertainment – oh yes, and of course the beer and cider list with tasting notes. There were many superb local North Welsh ales from **Conwy**, **Facer's**, **Great Orme**, **Plassey**, and **Snowdonia** breweries and cider from **Llandegla**. Ales from a little further afield came from **Batham**, **Coach House**, **Cottage**, **Dunham Massey**, **Greene King**, **Hancock's**, **Holt**, **Hydes**, **Robinsons**, **Tetley**, **Theakston**, **Weetwood** and **Youngs**. Other ciders came from **Gwynt y Ddraig** and **Westons**.

By all accounts most of them were drunk dry! And, my goodness, the pub staff worked their socks off.

So why did I drive 200 miles to join in the fun? After all there were plenty of

**LODDON**  
BREWERY  
DUNSDEN OXFORDSHIRE  
EST. 2002

**Award winning ales  
brewed with pride and passion**

LODDON DRAGONFLY  
LODDON BAMBOO  
LODDON HOPPY  
LODDON HUBLE  
LODDON GOLDEN

Tel: 0116 948 1111  
www.loddonbrewery.com  
The Loddon Brewery Ltd, Dunsden Green Farm, Church Lane, Dunsden, Oxfordshire, RG4 9QD



### *The Harrow*

4 Cambridge Street,  
Aylesbury,  
Bucks. HP20 1RS  
Tel: 01296 336243

- *Historical 17th Century Building with a modern feel*
- *Three Great Real Ales on Handpump Cask Marque approved*
- *Large selection of world beers and wines*
  - *Superb Homecooked food*
- *Served Friday - Sunday 12 till 5*
- *Monday - Thursday 12 till 7*
- *Home Cooked Roasts Every Sunday*
- *Friendly and inviting atmosphere*
- *Improved & Heated Courtyard Garden*
- *SKY TV*

*The Harrow, 4 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1RS  
Tel: 01296 336243*

## MORE 'TICKS'



*The White Horse, Llandyrnog*

other beerfests going on much nearer to Aylesbury. Well, we had stayed at the **Golden Lion Inn**, Llangynhafal a few months earlier and really fell in love with the area. The pub has achieved a number of awards since Colin and Helen, from Manchester, took it over – not least Vale of Clwyd **Pub of the Year** 2007 and 2009



*The Kimmel Arms, Waen*

(the presentation for the latter took place on 11 July during the beerfest). We were made very welcome right from the off, on arrival, and by the end of the first evening we felt like locals. Mind you, Colin's a bit of a devil with his quiet, wind-up humour – I mean this is a landlord who, when visiting down south, will take a sparkler with him and ask for it to be put on...

Colin told us about the first 'Route 76' festival in 2008. He put on a mystery 'guess the guest' beer, offering a night's B&B for the correct answer. He was quite surprised when three people guessed correctly – **Batham's Best Bitter**. No doubt the prizewinners would have been equally surprised if they had had to share the night's B&B! So many of his locals liked the beer, that it is now one of his standard beers, along with **Coach House Gunpowder Mild** and **Holt's Bitter**.

It was clear from all that Colin told us just how much effort had been put into the organisation of the 'Route 76' festival, and what a great concept it is – so it didn't take much persuasion to book the weekend again in July and join in the fun.



*The Griffin Inn, Llanbedr*

I'm looking forward to getting a few more ticks on 'Route 76' in 2010 – and even some kicks. Look out for the ad in **What's Brewing**. Meanwhile how about a few enterprising pubs teaming up to arrange something similar in our area?

*Giles du Boulay*



*The Golden Lion, Llangynhafal*

# REBELLION

## BREWERY SHOP

### REAL ALE FROM MARLOW

**Drink Real Ale at home!**

**FREE** tasting of all our beers available in the shop

**FREE** glass hire

Shop open 6 days a week



**No need to pre-order.**  
**Real Ale from**  
**£1.30 per pint**

**Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm**  
**Sat 9am - 6pm**

Further information about our beers, map and prices, visit  
[www.rebellionbeer.co.uk](http://www.rebellionbeer.co.uk)

Collect **fresh** from the brewery  
in 3 / 5 / 9 / 18 / 36 / 72  
pint containers

**Visit the shop**  
**see the brewery**  
**try the beers**

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

Rebellion Beer Company  
Bencombe Farm  
Marlow Bottom, SL7 3LT

# 01628 476594

Fancy a drink at home? Real Ale in a Bottle always hits the spot!



## FREE POETRY - FREE POETRY

*Poetryinpubs* is a FREE service to pubs where original, unpublished poems are provided free of charge to be placed in a prominent position around the premises.



They act as a topic of conversation and already have attracted the attention of the likes of Rolf Harris.

LIVE readings of the poems can be performed at your venue.

For more poems see

<http://poetryinpubs.blogspot.com/>

For FREE reprints send a

SAE, A4 envelope to:-

PHOTOPOEMS, 43 Dean Close,  
High Wycombe, HP12 3NS

For A5 Framed PhotoPoems in Black  
Wood Frame, Double Card Inlay,  
please send number required + cheque  
for £20.00 each + P&P with your  
name/delivery address.

Cheques made payable to M Cooke.

Indicate title and number of prints  
(see sample photopoems)



ITEM/TITLE    PPOEM001/And I Awake    PPOEM002/And We Were Kings    PPOEM003/And We Were Boys  
Call 07901 980 918 or email [Mervyn\\_cooke@hotmail.com](mailto:Mervyn_cooke@hotmail.com) for more details.

Constantine & Louise Lucas welcome you to

# The Hampden Arms

Great Hampden, Great Missenden HP16 9RQ Tel: 01494 488255  
email [louise@thehampdenarms.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:louise@thehampdenarms.fsnet.co.uk)

Full À La Carte and Set menus plus blackboard specials

Lunchtime snack menu

Sunday roasts

Food served 7 days - lunch & dinner

CHRISTMAS MENU NOW AVAILABLE!

Well kept ale & extensive wine list

Large beer garden

Beautiful rural setting



## TRING BREWERY VISIT

On 19th September, the *Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch* held a joint social at *Tring Brewery* with *Milton Keynes and North Bucks Branch*.

We were greeted by Andrew Jackson, who gave an update of the latest developments at the brewery. Demand for their real ales is currently so buoyant that they are brewing eight times a week. The brewery is literally bursting at the seams to the extent that there are plans to relocate to a larger site elsewhere in the town. Like other local breweries, such as *Rebellion* and *Chiltern*, *Tring Brewery* is finding there is strong demand for its products from direct retail customers – nine pint metal mini-casks are popular but various other quantities of beer can be bought direct from the brewery shop.

The 10.30am start meant the vital job of sampling the brewery's beer had to be done at an unearthly hour but the volunteers stuck valiantly to the task. Five beers were on offer and all were, unsurprisingly, in excellent condition. Four were from the regular repertoire: *Side Pocket For A Toad*, *Blonde*, *Jack O'Legs* and the strong, malty *Colley's Dog*. The September seasonal ale, *Doc Dimsdale*, was also available. This dark



beer has a distinctive flavour derived from chocolate and Vienna malts.

From the brewery it was a short stroll to one of Tring's *Good Beer Guide* recommended pubs, the *King's Arms*. This has long been a beer lovers' Mecca with several ales on handpump. On our visit these included *Hop Back Summer Lightning* and *Warwickshire Darling Buds*.

Having had lunch at the *King's Head* the doughty drinkers took the bus to the nearby village for some fun in Marsworth which is blessed with two *Good Beer Guide* pubs.

Both are close to the Grand Union canal and have watery associations. Among other treats the *Red Lion* had *Brain's Dark*, *Vale Wychert* and *Everard Equinox* on offer. A short stroll around the canal towpath, the *Angler's Retreat* had on offer, amongst others, the latest *Bateman's* seasonal brew, as well as a very friendly landlady.

Many thanks to Kevin Mak, social secretary of the *Milton Keynes and North Bucks Branch of CAMRA* for organising the trip and allowing our branch to tag along.

*Mike Clarke*



# ENJOY LOCAL REAL ALE

**REAL ALE SHOP**  
NOW OPEN

Check website for opening times



- CAMRA & SIBA Award-winning Ales
- Perfect for Weddings, BBQs & Parties...
- Brewed using only natural ingredients
- 3-72pt containers





Visit the new Brewery Shop or place your order by calling Lynne on

**01442 890721**

Info@tringbrewery.co.uk | www.tringbrewery.co.uk



## George & Dragon, Quainton

**5 real ales. Good Beer Guide listed**

*Food served at all sessions except Sunday evening & Monday Lunch*

**Open 12-2.30; 5-11 Monday and Tuesday**  
**12-11 Wednesday-Saturday, 12-10.30 Sunday**

*Number 16 bus stops outside*

**The Green, Quainton, Bucks. HP22 4AR**  
**Tel: (01296) 655436**



## THE GRAVEDIGGERS - PART ONE

Chris pulled up outside the Gravediggers Arms in his Post Office van. He picked up a bundle of mail and pushed at the heavy wooden door. A little surprised to find it open, he walked into the public bar. His boots stuck slightly to the floorboards as he strode and a sickly aroma hung in the air.

‘Evening Chris,’ Old Pete called from his barstool.

‘It’s only half-twelve,’ said Chris looking at his watch.

‘Would have finished and been down the pub an hour ago when I was doing the job. Those were the days, weren’t they Joe?’

‘So they were, so they were,’ said Joe, sitting next to Old Pete by the bar. Ruddy-faced Pete and rotund Joe were the only two customers in the pub.

‘Tony around?’ asked Chris.

‘Hidin’ round the back, watching telly as usual,’ Old Pete said. He raised his voice: ‘Shop!’

After several seconds of grunting and snorting emanating from the room behind the bar, Tony walked out dressed in a stained vest.

‘What do yer want?’ he asked.

‘Got something here you have to sign for, Tony,’ Chris said offering Tony a pen. ‘Not just the normal bills and junk mail today.’

Tony snatched the small white envelope from Chris and inspected it carefully. He began to smile. ‘Been waitin’ for this for a few days,’ he said, grinning. ‘Do you a fancy a quick half on the house, Chris.’

Old Pete and Joe stopped dead and dropped their glasses to the bar in amazement.

‘Blimey, I’ve not heard those words in at least five years. What’s come over him?’ asked Old Pete.

‘I’ve got this nice vintage real ale here, been maturing for three months now. Fancy a taste?’ Tony asked, pointing at a row of five handpumps and proudly skimming the layer of dust off the pump nearest to him.

‘Sorry Tony. Still got my round to do. Can’t drink on duty and all that,’ said Chris backing out towards the door.

‘Suit yerself,’ Tony called after Chris as he disappeared out of the door.

Tony opened the envelope, read the letter inside, then brought the paper to his lips and kissed it. ‘I’m going to be rich,’ he said to himself but then his volume increased. ‘I’m going to be rich, rich, rich!’

‘He really *has* taken leave of his senses this time,’ muttered Joe, swilling back his pint of Stella Artois.

Tony lifted the hatch of the bar counter and walked out into the public bar. He flung his arms wide and sang at the top of his voice ‘If I Ruled the World...’

‘Flaming Norah,’ said Old Pete. ‘There’s only two explanations for that. One is he’s won the lottery.’

‘Nah, he’s too mean to ever enter,’ said Joe.

‘Or he’s sold the pub,’ said Old Pete.

Tony climbed on to one of the bar’s rickety tables to continue his celebration. The thin table legs wobbled and started to buckle under the mass of his considerable beer belly and the whole piece of furniture soon collapsed under his weight.

‘Only ever good for firewood anyway’ said Tony, picking himself up and dusting himself down.

‘You said last week only when my missus fell off and cracked her hip that they’d be good for another twenty year,’ complained Old Pete.

‘What a difference a week makes,’ Tony said and smiled.

The three heard the catch on the front door being lifted. A jolly man walked through the door wearing a full beard that contained plenty of clues about what he’d had for breakfast. A mousy woman in a woolly hat followed him in. The three men glared, gurned and



“A pint of the usual, Bert.”

glowered at them as they approached the bar.

‘Ah. Landlord. What are the finest ales you have to offer me this lunchtime?’ he bellowed.

‘Well, if you took the trouble to read the pump clips you’d see. Look, there’s Septic Fleabite, Old Knackers’ Yard, Undescended Gonad, Lobotomised Blonde and Rabid Rat’s Arse,’ Tony muttered as he pointed at the row of pumps.

‘A fine selection,’ said the real ale enthusiast. He took a small notebook out of an old satchel he was carrying on his shoulder and eagerly scribbled the names of the beer. ‘I don’t think I can resist a Lobotomised Blonde, ha, ha.. Two pints please.’

‘Best sort there is,’ Old Pete called out while sipping his Southern Comfort and Coke.

‘And what’s the lady having?’ asked Tony.

‘One of those pints is for her, of course.’

‘No woman drinks a pint in my pub. You can have a pint and a half.’

‘I can’t believe it,’ said the woman in the woolly hat. ‘You’re not going to let him get away with that are you Conrad?’

‘What if I buy a pint and two halves instead?’ the man asked.

‘S’alright, I s’pose,’ Tony grunted.

Tony strained at the handpump, gradually filling the pint glass with small increments of opaque yellow liquid until he gave up and handed over the glass filled about three-quarters full.

‘Seven quid,’ he demanded.

‘Would you mind topping it up please?’ asked the customer.

Old Pete and Joe whistled in unison and Tony’s eyes looked up to the ceiling. ‘You’ll be wanting the shirt off my back next.’ He reluctantly topped up the glass, filled the two halves in silence and then slammed them in front of the customer and turned his back to speak to Old Pete and Joe.

‘Whatever’s happened, I hope it don’t last coz smilin’ don’t suit yer,’ said Joe. ‘Aren’t you going to share the news with your regulars?’

‘Is it anything to do with those men in suits with tape measures that you had in here last week?’ asked Old Pete.

‘Might have but I can’t say, it’s what they call a commercial secret,’ Tony said, tapping his nose.

‘A bit rich that, comin’ from someone who only last month was sayin’ they’d have to carry him out of his dear, beloved pub in a box,’ said Old Pete.

‘Pub trade’s a mug’s game. No one wants ‘em any more. Those that do are miserable, ungrateful bleeders,’ Tony said.

They were interrupted by the real ale drinker.

‘Excuse me, landlord. I think this pint is off,’ he called.

Tony turned to face the drinker with arms folded.

‘No, it’s not,’ Tony said.

## MORE DIGGING

'It's rather astringent and acetic,' said the woman.

'Don't start using funny long words with me. That's what it's meant to taste like.'

'It's got bits floating in it as well,' protested the man.

'Show's it's natural,' said Tony.

'Look, I've visited the brewery and their others taste nothing...'

Tony cut him off. 'Oi, hoppit. I'm the landlord. It's my job to know about beer. You're the just the customer. If you choose to insult my beer, then you know what you can do.'

The man angrily packed his notebook into his satchel and stormed off, muttering to himself and the woman trailing behind him. Tony returned to the regulars at the bar.

'See what I mean, we just get troublemakers.'

'They was probably some of them **CAMRA** nutters,' said Joe.

'Don't want their sort in here,' said Old Pete.

'Yes, boys. Business *is* slow,' said Tony.

'Out of interest, when was the last time you served one of them real ales to anyone, Tony?' asked Joe.

'Dunno, maybe three days ago. I've had some of the barrels open down in the cellar for six months – maturing. But do the customers come? No. It's the death of a great English tradition.' Tony shook his head. Shafts of sunlight shining through the windows picked out the fug of dust circulating in the stale bar room air.

'You've tried everything haven't you Tony?' asked Joe. 'Even food.'

'Yup. Bought a freezer and a microwave. Got some plastic flowers to put on the tables.'

'I told you £15 was a bit steep for frozen spag bol,' said Old Pete.

'I have to cover me costs, Pete, mate,' said Tony. 'And people who

eat food in pubs are loaded. But sod them if they don't know a good thing when they taste it. I've still got those frozen meals to get through five years on.'

'And you extended your opening hours,' said Joe.

'Too right. Opened at five rather than half-past one Friday and no-one came in. Not one customer. I won't be wasting my electricity like that again.'

'You know some pubs, these days, let children in,' Old Pete said.

'Don't know what the world's coming to,' said Joe.

'That's where I draw the line,' said Tony. 'Kids? What next? What's wrong with a bottle of coke and a packet of crisps in the car outside?'

'Yeah, didn't do us any 'arm did it?' said Joe.

'Suppose you could put a lick of paint around the place. Those window frames have flaked off so much you could bag the peelings and sell 'em as crisps,' suggested Old Pete.

'Tempting, tempting...but what's the point. The whole lot will be smashed down and carted off in a skip before long. Then a dozen commuter hutches at half a million quid a go will bloom up in place of this dump. If I don't do it, someone else will,' said Pete.

'But you're the last pub in the village,' Old Pete said.

'So?' asked Tony.

'You won't get planning till you prove you're not viable.'

'Have a look around Pete. I don't see many villagers in here, do you?' asked Tony.

'Yeah but course you're viable while you've got loyal, regular customers like us – the amount we drink –' said Joe.

'That's easy to deal with,' Tony said, cutting Joe short. He walked to the door and opened it wide. 'You're both barred.'

*To Be Continued...*

*Charlie Mackle*



**CROSS KEYS**  
(FREE HOUSE)

Serving an ever-changing  
choice of 6 cask ales, from  
a wide selection of  
independent breweries

**300 Different Ales  
served in last  
7 months**

**Thame Brewery  
Coming soon**

**Cross Keys - 1 Park St. - Thame**  
01844 218202



## BRILL BEER GETS NATIONAL RECOGNITION!

In August each year at the *Great British Beer Festival*, the winners of their national awards are announced. Members of the *Vale Brewery* team were present at Earls Court on the Tuesday Trade Day and were delighted to hear that *V.P.A.* had won Bronze in the Best Bitter category.

*V.P.A.* was first brewed in 2007 and has developed to become one of the brewery's best selling beers. The beer uses traditional English Maris Otter malted barley, but the hops come from the USA. These whole cone hops work with the malt to produce a stunning beer with a strong citrus fragrance when smelt and when tasted, powerful flavours such as grapefruit, and lemon are apparent.

Ian Mackey, *Vale Brewery* General Manager said 'The beer obviously appealed to the judges, since it came third out of over 3000 beers of a similar strength available in the UK. This is a beer that appeals to many tastes, at our open days lager drinkers have been know to convert to real ale after tasting this superb brew.'

The monthly special beers have been selling extremely well, and the October offering is **Poore's Brickyard**. This is a 4.2% dark reddish brown bitter. The name is derived from Brill's old brickyard at the foot of the common, and these bricks were used in the 1870's to build Waddesdon Manor.

This full bodied bitter is brewed using three English hop varieties: Fuggles, Golding and Brambling Cross, creating a perfect balance of juicy malt flavours with a hint of blackcurrant for a satisfying autumnal ale.

Later in October another special will be available. *Something Wicked* a 4.8% dark

brew which was tested in 2008 and sold extremely well (one local pub, sold a full cask in less than three hours). A dark brew with a welcome bitterness should go well at Halloween.

The November special beer will be *Battle of Brill*. This will be 4.4% but we await the Head Brewer, David Renton's deliberations on the malt and hop combinations.

A group of over twenty new and existing drinkers from the **Hop Pole** in Aylesbury visited the brewery on the 5th of September. After a quick drink, David gave his usual amusing and detailed discussion on brewing, pubs and other topic of interest or amusement.

For anyone who missed this performance another is planned for November the 28th when *Vale* will be holding another Brewery Open Day at Brill. Samples of most beers will be available, or pints can be purchased at a very reasonable rate. This is a great occasion to have a guided tour of the brewery and try several of the special brews. One not to be missed!

In July *Vale Brewery* bought another pub. The **Chequers** at Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes was taken over from *Admiral Taverns* as a going concern, leaving tenant John Shaddick in situ, running his business as before. The only notable difference is the addition of the *Vale Brewery* range of beers.

And finally they will be brewing *Good King Senseless* in early October. This brew is destined for bottling, and allowing time to mature this will be available for sales in late November.



# real ale talk for real ale people

## forums

## real ale news

## beer festival calendar

## UK breweries & beers database

# www.aletalk.co.uk



## LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

### Hook Norton

At the **2009 International Beer Challenge**, four beers from **Hook Norton** won Gold: *Double Stout*, *Twelve Days*, *Haymaker* and *Old Hooky* (more than any other entrant).



Two more picked up bronze awards: *Hooky Bitter* and *Hooky Gold*, and all six beers won medals for the quality of their bottle design and labelling.

Hook Norton's Managing Director James Clarke said: 'I am delighted with the awards. We are a local brewer, who now has an international reputation for the quality of its beers and the bottles they are sold in. To win so many awards

reflects the hard work and commitment of all the staff who work at the brewery.'

*Flagship*, at 5.3 per cent ABV, returns to the bar for one month only in October after an absence of two years. The beer was originally brewed in 2005 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Pale in colour, it is a fulsome and robust beer and the perfect drink to toast the architect of the victory at Trafalgar, Lord Horatio Nelson who died on 21 October, in 1805.

A wonderfully hoppy beer, it is brewed using one of the new dwarf hop varieties – which is called Admiral of course!

### Compass Brewery

In August 2009 a new brewery opened in Oxford called **Compass Brewery**. Their website implies that there is a strong European influence on the brewing techniques used.

At the moment they are producing *Baltic Night Stout*, OG 1046, 4.8% ABV. It is currently available only in bottled-conditioned form, but it is hoped to start selling it in casks soon. An *IPA* is planned for November this year and it is likely to be released in bottle-conditioned form first. The OG is probably going to be 1055 with an ABV of around 6% but this is yet to be confirmed.

### Loose Cannon

We have heard that there is a new brewery planning to open in Abingdon. The owner is Will Laithwaite, son of the mail-order wine company family, Laithwaites. It is expected to be operating by the end of the year.

If it goes ahead, **Loose Cannon Brewery** will be the first brewery in Abingdon since Morlands closed in 1999.



## HWRUFC RUGBY WINTER BEER FESTIVAL

**Friday 23rd October, 2009**  
starts 6.30pm until late

**Saturday 24th October, 2009**  
starts 12 noon until beer  
runs dry possibly Sunday

£5 entry includes  
Glass and 2 half pints  
of your choice

**Good Food**  
all day  
and

**Live Music**  
from 7.30pm  
with James Henton  
on Saturday

Fundraising for the  
**Chile Donation &  
Tour 2010**

**High Wycombe Rugby Union Football Club**  
Kingsmead Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP11 1JB  
Telephone (01494) 524407  
Bus routes : 1, A40, 35, 37



**www.rnsalerts.co.uk**

**Stock market news to  
your mobile phone while  
you enjoy your pint.**

**Get alerts for all FTSE and AIM traded stocks  
on your mobile.**

**Text RNS EPICCODE to 60300**

**For example to get news alerts for British  
Airways PLC text**

**RNS BAY to 60300**

**To unsubscribe send RNS BAY STOP to 60300**

**For full terms and conditions,  
please visit the website**

*The small(ish) print:*

*All news alert messages sent by RNSAlerts are charged at £1.00. The maximum charge per day is £30.00 to comply with UK regulations. We will send you a free message informing you each time you have received 20 premium messages from RNSAlerts and on a monthly basis to remind you that you are subscribed. If you wish to unsubscribe from all RNSAlerts services send RNS STOP to 60300.*

## MIDSOMER MURDERS BOOK



In recent *Swan Suppings* we published articles that featured the many local pubs that had been used as locations for the popular television series, *Midsomer Murders*. A very useful website [www.midsomermurdersonlocation.com](http://www.midsomermurdersonlocation.com) was mentioned in the articles as an excellent source of further information.

This website has proved so popular with devotees of the series that it has led to the publication of a book. 'Midsomer Murders on Location' was published in June and covers many of the picturesque locations, complete with filming anecdotes. It concentrates primarily on the historical aspects of each site and includes details of the many pubs used for filming in addition to churches and stately homes. It is extensively illustrated and contains maps to assist in planning a visit. It can be purchased from bookshops or from the website above.

One of the most frequently used locations in *Midsomer Murders* is the village of Bledlow and the local pub, the **Lions** (pictured), is regularly seen on camera.

## The Wheel

*A Traditional English Pub*

**100 Main Road, Naphill, HP14 4QA. 01494 562 210**

**[www.thewheelnaphill.com](http://www.thewheelnaphill.com)**

**A guaranteed warm welcome from  
Mark, Claire and all the staff**

- ❖ **Four Real Ales (Good Beer Guide 2008, 2009 & 2010)**
- ❖ **Beer Festivals**
- ❖ **Traditional Pub Grub**
- ❖ **Live Music and regular Quiz Nights**
- ❖ **Open All Day Tuesday/Sunday**  
(Mondays from 4.30pm and All Day on Bank Holidays)
- ❖ **Children and Dog friendly**

**Real Ale - Real Food - Real Pub**



## NEW BREWERY

Just as a teaser for our next issue of what we hope will be the new-improved version of *Swan Supping* (boasting a full page photo cover plus some other changes), when we will be featuring the brewery in detail, we offer you our first two pictures of the new *Thame Brewery* which is nearing completion at the *Cross Keys* in Thame.

Peter and Trudi at the pub are hopeful that the beer will be available shortly and we are trying to persuade them to let us have a barrel for our annual beer festival at Stoke Mandeville in October (full details on page 17).



# WEAVERS

*Two Real Ales*

*Home-made pub grub*

Food available at the following times

Monday-Saturday 12 - 7pm

Sunday Lunch 12 - 4pm

Accompanied Children welcome (until 7pm)

**OPEN ALL DAY EVERY DAY**

**POOL, DARTS,  
PLUS SKY SPORTS AND ESPN**

Local bus No.4 and Leighton Buzzard/Aylesbury  
buses (100 & 150) stop at the pub

**Two Large Car Parks**

The Weavers, 1 Park Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1BX  
Tel: 01296 482210

## THE THREE HORSESHOES

Burroughs Grove Hill, (Old Wycombe Road),  
Marlow SL7 3RA



*Large Garden and Car Park*

*2 Log Fires*

**01628 483109**

*Six Rebellion Ales (including Mild)*

*Quality Wines from Laithwaites/  
Direct Wines*

*Extensive Lunchtime menu*

*Sunday Roasts 12-3pm*

*Fantastic Evening Menu  
Tuesday-Saturday*

*Monday Night Specials*

*Open all Bank Holiday Weekends!*

### *Time's up at the bar*

**All change at the Bell Hotel, Market Square, Aylesbury: The Grapes, 36 Market Square: The Red Lion, Bierton and The Bell, Stoke Mandeville.**

Steve and Nicki Kenvyn are making some fundamental changes to their business but the good news is that it is all happening in Aylesbury.

Sixteen months ago they opened the Bell Hotel after it had traded on and off for a period of 18 months. After a major refurbishment the hotel opened offering a number of quality hotel bedrooms and a great venue for partying and live music. Managed for the past 6 months by Lyndsey Adams the place has had some fantastic events and even a couple of 24 hour karaoke events. Punch Taverns who own the freehold have sold the business and Steve and Nicki have had to find a new home in the town centre.

Trading over the last few weeks has been extremely difficult and they would like to thank their customers for their patience and loyalty. This is not the standard of building that they want to put their names to, but collapsed drainage under the toilets and other major issues have forced them to move on.

Greene King has offered them the Grapes and they are delighted with this as only the court separates the Bell Hotel and the Grapes.

Customer opinion is that the Grapes should be given a new lease of life and a new name and the preferred name chosen is:



**Stars  
Café – Bar**

Stars by Day: we are a relaxing Cafe Bar welcoming you for a coffee, light lunch or just a drink while shopping. The intention is also to open the front of the building that is currently closed and was known to some as the barbers shop.

Come 6pm though...

Stars at Night: we offer a varied and unique style of entertainment every night. You can join Dan Blaze at Friday Karaoke. The Observers will be our resident group and will welcome you all frequently on a Saturday night. You can test the lengths of your knowledge and skills in our interactive quiz or you can rock out with guitar hero rock band and a selection of Wii games on our Games night...

We're keeping our popular entertainment and extending to 7 nights a week with a broad music policy catering for all ages but focusing on the party classics and modern pop aiming to provide a great night out to get your feet tapping get you singing along and hopefully even get you up and dancing.

We'll be running regular theme nights, with areas for groups and parties to book to claim a space reserved exclusively for them, for a fun party night out without the worries of attitude and trouble.

With the addition of the new open kitchen serving a great menu to eat in or take away, the re-fit is going to be quite a hefty project including a second bar and DJ Booth / Dance Floor with performance area for our list of top local bands.

This will be an ongoing project that will be completed by the end of the year. We do have a website so please visit :-

***[www.stars-bar.co.uk](http://www.stars-bar.co.uk)***

As well as the town centre venues Steve and Nicki also run two country pubs in Stoke Mandeville and Bierton.



The **Bell** at Stoke Mandeville was recently bought from Punch by Charles Wells and is currently under discussion for a face lift.

The locals want them to ensure that the real traditional country pub atmosphere is not lost and that teams and drinking are as important as the food and dining. There is a large piece of land at the back of the pub and discussions are in place as to how Steve and Nicki want to market this space.

Beers available: [Bombardier](#), [London Pride](#), [Courage Directors](#) and [Eagle IPA](#).



The **Red Lion** in Bierton was a project that Punch asked them to care take for a six week period; however they fell in love with the place and their 22 year old daughter Janine manages the place having grown up herself in the pub trade.

The old coaching house has suffered through a number of licensee changes and it is now time for villagers to reclaim it and make it the heart of the village once again. With an extensive food offering and of course six real ales (including [Adnams Bitter](#), [Bombardier](#), [Old Speckled Hen](#), [Spitfire](#) and [London Pride](#)) this is the place to be and with the introduction of a locals loyalty card offering a selection of discounts. With a £50 prize for the quiz on a Wednesday and live music on Saturday nights and indeed two football teams and the requirement for darts players for the teams, it really is all happening.

**For further details, please contact  
Steve & Nicki Kenvyn  
Tel: 07809 646050**

## DRINKING FOR CHARITY

**FLORENCE  
NIGHTINGALE  
HOSPICE CHARITY**

Halloween will again be celebrated at the *Aylesbury Vale Beer Festival* which is run in conjunction with the **Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity** who raise money for the Aylesbury Hospice.

The aim of the Hospice is to provide

a first class specialist palliative care service which is accessible and free of charge to those with a life-limiting illness. Hospice care is all about the person being more than a patient and finding ways to improve quality of life through symptom control, pain relief, emotional and spiritual support. Families and close friends are also involved as they are often central to the well-being of those in their care.

The festival will be held at the Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville, over the weekend of Friday 30th and Saturday 31st of October.

There will be around 30 real ales plus traditional ciders and perries. The festival will be open from 6:00pm - 11:00pm on Friday and 11:00am - 11:00pm on Saturday. Hot and cold food will be available both days.

In a change to previous years, we are intending to offer live music on the Saturday evening

This is our 16th festival that we have raised money for the Hospice and the beer tends to taste better when you know that the money you have paid is going to a worthwhile cause.

All profits will go to the charity and if you wish to sponsor a barrel, please contact the editor (details on page 22) or Andrea Maggs on 01296 429975.

Local **CAMRA** volunteers are required for this festival. Please contact the editor if you wish to help either in the setting up, serving or helping to take down the barrels at the end. We can guarantee a great time (plus free entry!) and the more people that help, the less arduous the work will be.

### *Haddenham Real Ale Winterfest*

The **Haddenham Real Ale Winterfest** will be held at the Tithe Barn, Manor Farm, Haddenham HP17 8AH, by kind permission of Tom Bucknell and his family, on Saturday 21st November from 12 noon to 5.00 p.m.

A wide variety of real ales, many of them winter brews and ciders will be on offer, together with mulled wine. There will be a barbecue and hot pies, and continuous seasonal entertainment.

The committee in charge of running the festival has addressed the problems of overcrowding caused last year by the popularity of the event, by a greater space being available, and using more covered areas.

Tickets will be £5.00 in advance, or £6.00 on the door, and all proceeds to Florence Nightingale Hospice, and local good causes.

Full details, including transport, are available on the website: [www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk](http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk).



**The Red Lion**  
public house and restaurant  
Bradenham Village, Bucks HP14 4HF  
01494 562212  
Web: [www.redlionbradenham.co.uk](http://www.redlionbradenham.co.uk)

*We are in the Good Pub Guide and  
the 2009 Good Beer Guide!*

## *THE RED LION BRADENHAM*

*A friendly warm welcome waits  
for you here in this refurbished  
establishment.*

*The management pride themselves  
on the provision of high quality home  
cooked lunches and evening meals.*

*They offer a good selection of real  
ales, draught lagers and cider  
complemented by a wide choice of  
wines.*

*Sunday lunches are a speciality with  
food being served until 3pm.*

*Jazz - First Sunday  
Night in the Month*



## AYLESBURY RING - PART FOUR



### *Just follow the arrow!*

Recent *Swan Suppings* have featured a thirsty journey around the Aylesbury Ring. Progress has been quite sedate in the quest so far, which started in Wendover and has got as far as Waddesdon. This may have been something to do with the abundance of good pubs on the more populous southern and western sections of the ring's 31 mile length.

The northern and eastern arcs of the route are sadly less blessed with alehouses en route so this instalment races between Waddesdon and Aston Clinton – almost half the footpath's length. This section is approximately fifteen miles long but can be walked quite easily in a day even with a pub stop for lunch, although it's something of a slog.

Alternatively the route can be broken into three sections of around five miles each where the path intersects with major roads. These all have public transport, albeit limited in some cases to daytimes on weekdays and Saturdays.

Unlike the previous sections, which have passed through Rothschild estates or the foothills of the Chilterns, this section is not on any tourist trail and mainly crosses working agricultural land, which can pose a few challenges for the Rambler.

With little rain in August and September this year, the paths were dry and could be walked in stout shoes but after prolonged rain some of the route is likely to be wet and muddy.

No attempt is given to provide detailed directions: many of the fields are so large that there are few landmarks that can be pointed out and paths can be quite indistinct (or ploughed up). The most effective navigational tactic proved to be establishing a plausible direction from the map and waymarker on entering a field. Then a course across the field could be adjusted as an exit point of a gate or stile gradually comes into view.



### *Aylesbury from a distance*

This technique is surprisingly effective.

The Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 series sheet Explorer 181 'Chiltern Hills North' is essential and a GPS locator is quite handy as well. Despite the caveats, it is a very satisfying walk and long periods of rural peace and tranquillity are virtually guaranteed.

An Aylesbury Ring footpath sign marks the start of the route at the southern end of Waddesdon village. The path passes behind a housing development, curiously named Little Britain. It then heads north-east over several grassy fields.

The route follows a track for a while and then crosses a field which in mid-September was planted with six-foot high sweet corn. Farmers know that this crop forms a near-impenetrable jungle as some create their own maize mazes for the paying public to get lost in – there's one in Lacey Green.

If some farmers can create elaborate labyrinths through the crop then it shouldn't be beyond their wit of others to mark out the straight line of a footpath in their fields. It is illegal to create such a barrier across a public footpath and it is disappointing that the local authority does not enforce this aspect of the highways law. However, the crop should have been harvested by the time Swan Supping goes to press.



### *The Olde Jug, Hardwick*

It was just about possible to navigate across the field, from where the route joined Blackgrove Road towards Quainton for roughly half a mile and crossed the railway line. The path then heads uphill across several pastures, with walkers accompanied by the otherworldly sound of howling dogs from nearby Blackberry Farm Animal centre. At one point it enters a small, overgrown thicket which suggests this part of the route is not walked very often.

After crossing a road, the route passes through several more large pastures. In one field a herd of bullocks took such an interest in the presence of a stray human that I could see them stampeding en masse towards me – but luckily it was a big field and I was glad to get to the other side of the gate. Bullocks are normally docile animals but it showed that confidence in dealing with livestock is valuable on this part of the Aylesbury Ring.

The path continues to Folly Farm and then joins a minor road for nearly a mile towards Hardwick. I had started at 10.30am and walked nearly two hours and so was eager for the first pint of the day.

I bounded over the A413 road to Buckingham, salivating at the prospect of a nice glass of ale, and sprinted the short distance to the **Olde Jug** where I found that it was shut. This was a shame as on previous visits I've found it a cosy pub with decent beer – a salutary lesson to ring

# WADDESDON TO ASTON CLINTON

ahead to check opening times.

Fortunately, the next pub was only a mile or so away. The Aylesbury Ring goes past Hardwick church, across a few fields and into the village of Weedon. The front door of the **Five Elms** was happily open and a friendly welcome awaited inside. The pub is long and narrow with low beams. The main bar has two distinct areas – a snug with comfortable seating to the right and a flagstoned section next to a large fireplace. A restaurant adjoins in a connecting room.

Three real ales were on offer: **Brakspears** and **Adnams Bitters** and **Wells and Youngs' Bombardier**, if memory serves correctly. The food was good and quickly served, making a very congenial stop.

From Weedon the Aylesbury Ring heads east along the Aston Abbots road for the best part of a mile. The path follows a ridge of high land and good views can be had of Aylesbury in the distance. It then heads over some pasture land and arable fields, which were being tilled by tractors as I crossed. A few more meadows then follow before the route emerges next to a double-glazing window factory in Rowsham.

This village, very sadly, has no pub, although it has a road called Brewery Lane. However, the main A418 to Milton Keynes road passes through and the 100 and 150 bus routes provide a decent service to Aylesbury (half hourly during weekdays and Saturdays during the day).



**Five Elms, Weedon**

Bierton, with its two pubs, is only about a mile and a half down the road so thirsty walkers could easily make a quick diversion for a couple of well-earned pints or the walk could be split into two at this point.

The **Bell** is the closest pub. It is a **Fuller's** house which recently had **London Pride**, **ESB** and **Gale's HSB** on offer. The **Red Lion** is a little further through the village and has recently featured a choice of three or four real ales.

The section from Rowsham to Aston Clinton crosses one of the flattest parts of the Aylesbury Vale, allowing speedy progress. The route skirts the Hamlet of Hulcott, following an impressively constructed moat and then across more meadowland.

A huge plantation of maize was planted across the path in the arable fields beyond. However, there was a substantial area of uncultivated land at the field margin which made it possible to go around the perimeter and pick up the official path at a brick footbridge, although this makes the walk longer.

This part of the walk feels wonderfully isolated but every so often the walker comes across reminders that Aylesbury is not far away (and will be even nearer within a few years with the planned construction of 10,000 houses to the east of the town). Three electricity pylons carrying the town's power supply cross the footpath in fairly quick succession.



**The Bell, Bierton**

They make a handy navigational aid.

The route also crosses reputedly the oldest railway branch line in the world – the former Aylesbury Railway which linked the town with London Midland line at Cheddington. The original station was close to the modern Wilkinson's store. The line was dismantled in the Beeching era and there's now little to show for it apart from a straight line of bushes and trees.

The path eventually reaches a minor road in the hamlet of Puttenham; here the Aylesbury Rings strays into Hertfordshire (where, ironically, it is signposted better than in Bucks). Nearby Long Marston is worth a detour as it has a pub within striking distance and it has been a long walk since the last pint. The **Queen's Head** is a **Fuller's** house on the crossroads at the middle of the village. Check opening times with the pub before making the detour.

From Puttenham the path follows the curved edge of a large arable field before crossing some paddocks with horses. It then joins a minor road to cross the canal by a lock on the Grand Union Canal. Constructed in the late eighteenth century, the canal and another contrasting communication route, the 2003 Aston Clinton bypass, dominate this section of the walk.

This is a peaceful spot with a number of houseboats but it is also the site of a misleading signpost that suggests the Ring follows the canal towpath. It doesn't, as I found to my frustration, having walked a fair distance up the canal. Instead it crosses more fields before the original route is blocked by the A41 dual carriageway.

(Continued on page 21)



**Red Lion, Bierton**



JAN & MIKE WELCOME YOU TO  
**THE CARRIERS ARMS**  
**FREE HOUSE**

Hill Road, Watlington, Oxon OX49 5AD Tel: 01491 - 613470

*Open All Day*

*Home made meals served daily*

*Sunday Roasts Served 12 - 4.30 PM*

*Excellent Choice of 4 Quality Real ales*

*Large Beer Garden, with views to the Chiltern hills and Watlington's red kites*

*Saturday night curry night.*

*Thursday night quiz night - 8.30pm*

*We are also available to supply Outside Bars. Please ring for further details.*

*South Oxfordshire CAMRA's Pub of the Season for Spring 2008*

**Sean and Fi welcome you to**  
*The White Lion*



**Open All Day**

**Food**

**Monday to Friday 11.30 - 2.30**

**Saturday 12.00 - 4.00**

**Sunday Lunch 12.30 - 2.30**

**GREAT PUB GRUB**

**Cask Ales: Courage Best and  
London Pride**

**Cryers Hill  
High Wycombe  
Bucks. HP15 6JP**

**Tel: (01494) 712 303**

*The Harrow*



**Open All Day**

**Food**

**Monday Evening 7.00 - 9.00**

**Tuesday to Saturday 12.30-2.30, 6.30-9.30**

**Sunday Lunch 12.30 - 3.00**

**FINE ENGLISH CUISINE**

**Cask Ales: Courage Best, London Pride  
and a weekly changing guest beer**

**FULL DISABLED FACILITIES**

**Warrendene Road, Hughenden Valley,  
High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4LW**

**Tel: (01494) 564 105**



# ASTON CLINTON



*Queens Head, Long Marston*

(Continued from page 19)

The path continues on the opposite side of the road but walkers must detour up a farm track to a road bridge about a third of a mile north and then walk the same distance back along a new footpath on the other side of the busy road to resume the route. It's quite a diversion but safer than trying to cross the road, especially if a few pints have been had on the way.

The path then crosses more pastureland and reaches Buckland churchyard in about half a mile. There's a similar distance of road walking to be done to reach Aston Clinton.

Don't get too excited when approaching London Road, what looks like a pub on the corner is actually an Indian restaurant. All is not lost as the

**Duck In** (that's how it's meant to be spelt) can be found a few minutes walk down the road on the right.

This is a *Vintage Inns* pub and majors on its restaurant side but it also has a *Cask Marque* for its real ales. *Fuller's London Pride*, *Wadworth 6X* and *Wells Bombardier* make regular appearances. It is also open all day, which makes it particularly hospitable at the end of this walk.

Aston Clinton has three other pubs which will be investigated in the final instalment of this saga. This will complete the circle and bring us back full circle to our starting point in Wendover.

*Mike Clarke*



*The Duck In, Aston Clinton*

**CELEBRATING 100,000 MEMBERS!**

**Join CAMRA today...**

**in our quest to reach 200,000 members!**

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free 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](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

**Your Details** Applications will be processed within 21 days

Title ..... Surname .....

Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Email address .....

Tel No (s) .....

**Partner's Details (if joint Membership)**

Title ..... Surname .....

Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? ..... Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership (UK & EU) £20 ☐ £22 ☐

Joint Membership (Partner at the same address) £25 ☐ £27 ☐

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

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 ..... 0709

Signed ..... Date .....

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit**

Please fill in the form and send to:  
**Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.**  
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

**Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society**

To the Manager ..... Bank or Building Society

Address .....

Postcode .....

**Name(s) of Account Holder** .....

**Bank or Building Society Account Number** ..... **Branch Sort Code** .....

**Reference Number** .....

**Originators Identification Number** 9 2 6 1 2 9

**FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY** This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

**Membership Number** ..... **Name** ..... **Postcode** .....

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and it is to be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

**Signature(s)** ..... **Date** .....

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

**The Direct Debit Guarantee**

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme.
- The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



# Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

## OCTOBER

### Thursday 1st SOCIAL

8.45pm Stag, Flackwell Heath, 9.30pm Crooked Billet, Flackwell Heath/Little Marlow

### Saturday 3rd OXFORD PUB CRAWL

12pm, Far From the Madding Crowd; 12.30pm, Four Candles; 1pm, Lamb and Flag; 1.45pm, Eagle and Child; 2.45pm Royal Blenheim (new GBG entry, 10 real ales); 4pm, Bear; 4.45pm, Turf Tavern; 5.30pm, King's Arms; 6.15pm, White Horse.

### Tuesday 6th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm King William IV, Speen

### Friday 16th EARLY EVENING SOCIAL

6pm, King's Head, Aylesbury

### Tuesday 20th PRESTWOOD SOCIAL

8.45pm Polecat, 9.30pm Green Man

### Wednesday 28th BEER FESTIVAL SET-UP SOCIAL

7pm Eskdale Road C.C. Setting up barrels etc

8.30pm Bull (for drinks!)

### Friday 30th/Saturday 31st AYLESBURY BEER FEST

Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville

Our annual charity beer festival held in conjunction with the 'Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity'.

## NOVEMBER

### Tuesday 3rd BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm, Eight Bells, Long Crendon (tbc)

### Friday 13th BRANCH DINNER

7 for 7.30pm, Three Horseshoes, Burrough's Grove.

Please book in advance with the editor (contact details are below) so we have an idea of numbers involved.

### Saturday 14th BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Hop Pole, Aylesbury

### Thursday 19th HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIAL

7.30pm Belle Vue; 8.45pm Falcon; 9.45pm William Robert Loosely

### Saturday 21st BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Haddenham Real Ale Winterfest (see page 17).

### Tuesday 24th OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLE

8.30pm Lambert Arms, Aston Rowant; 9.15pm Cherry Tree, Kingston Blount; 10pm Red Lion, Chinnor

### Friday 27th PRE-ADVENT LONDON CRAWL

Start at Lamb, Lambs Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, 5 pm to 5.45. Finish at Princess Louise by 7.45.

The full crawl will be available on our website nearer the date.

*Further details can be found on our website*

[www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.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 5500 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 :-** 1/4 page £40 (Colour £60), 1/2 page £80 (Colour £120), full page £135 (Colour £200). 10% discounts for payment in advance. Add 10% for front page adverts. We can even create the advert for you at no extra charge! All bookings are taken as run-of-paper and colour adverts are on a first come, first served basis. Please make all cheques payable to **CAMRA AV & W**.

**Copy deadline** for next issue, due out 1st December, is 14th November 2009.

**Subscriptions :-** Swan Supping is distributed to over 250 pubs 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 2009

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.

Published by the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of the *Campaign for Real Ale* and printed by *Driftgate Press*, 12 Faraday Road, Rabans Lane Industrial Area, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 8RY Tel: 01296 484552

## The Cock Inn at Wing



*Great Food!*

*Great Restaurant!*

**Always a wide range of  
Real Ale available!**

*Why not come  
and see for yourself?*

**For further details phone  
01296 688214**



## More Local News



(Continued from page 2)

another **Fullers** beer such as **Fullers IPA** or their seasonal offering.

### DINTON

The **Seven Stars** closed its doors yet again on the 1st of September with a note on the door thanking 'Guests' for their support over the last three years. Rumours abound with extortion by **Punch** most likely a major contributor to a splendid refurbishment's downfall.

### FORD

Landlady Mary O'Hara is doing a TukTuk drive for charity from Nepal to southern India, 2,500 km in 16 days, and will be holding several theme dinners at the **Dinton Hermit** to raise funds for her charity. Watch the local press for details. She has **Vale Best** at all times supported by a **Chiltern** beer such as **Beechwood** or **Copper Beech** and B&B is available with 13 rooms from £90 to £130 for four posters.

### FORTY GREEN

The **Royal Standard of England** features in three finals of the **Publican** awards this year: Beer Range, Drinks Pub of the Year and Classic Food Pub of the Year.

### GIBRALTAR

The **Bottle and Glass** serves **Greene King IPA** and a **Greene King** guest such as **Bonkers Conkers**. Meals deals at lunch times and before 7pm Monday through Saturday - 1 course £7.95; 2 courses £11.95 & 3 Courses £13.95.

### HADDENHAM

The village holds a permanent beer festival with around 12 different real ales on offer all year around in the village's five pubs, but don't forget their Winterfest on 21st November 2009 (please check [www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk/winter](http://www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk/winter) for further details).

**Sharpe's Doom Bar**, **Rebellion Smuggler** and **Vale Wychert** or similar are regularly available at the **Green Dragon**. Monday through Thursday lunches and dinners available at 2 courses for £11.95 and 3 courses £14.95.

The **Kings Head** permanently serves **Adnam's Bitter** and **Wadworths 6X** plus one guest which frequently is **Fullers London Pride**. Two steaks for £11 are available on Wednesday evenings and why not try the Poker League every Sunday evening from 8pm.

Mick at the **Red Lion** is about to get his new leg! The pub is being ably run by wife Cilla, assisted by daughters Jeanette and Lynne as well as staff Rob & Louise. Permanent fixtures are **Adnams Bitter**, **Tetley's Mild**, **Black Sheep Bitter** plus one rotating **Vale** guest - recently **Autumn Gold** that was very popular - and don't forget you can get **Double Diamond** here too. Men's (Thursdays) and ladies (Wednesdays) darts and dominoes, summer and winter.

The **Rising Sun** is under new management! Katie Lambert and Ray Patrick are keen real ale people and offer a warm welcome to those of similar ilk. This is their first pub, although they have been trained in pub management by **Mitchells and Butlers**. As it is an **Oak Taverns'** pub (as is the **Cross Keys** in Thame), we can only hope that the trend will continue. Beers on offer at present are **Vale Best** and **IPA**. It is hoped to introduce a third pump featuring a guest beer in the foreseeable future. Pool (Tuesday) and darts (Thursday) leagues.

At the **Rose & Thistle** the permanent beers are **Olde Trip** and **Greene King IPA** with one quest such as **St Austell Proper Job** or **Ridley's Witch Finder**. Remember it's Quiz Night first Wednesday of the month. Haddenham Rotary welcomes new members every Monday from 7.30pm. Marsh Gibbon brass band for a Carols evening on Friday 11th December. Two steaks and a bottle of wine for £19.95 on Saturday nights and 2 course Sunday lunch for £10.

### HIGH WYCOMBE

Mike Nicholls, landlord of the **Beech Tree**, offers either **Dark Mild** or **Best Bitter** from **Theakstons** (and **Old Peculier**) plus **Caledonian Deuchars IPA** at his pub and also ran a beer festival there over August bank holiday.

There are new people in charge at the **Flint Cottage** since August. They want to build up the real ale side of the pub if they can and will be increasing the frequency of live music if possible. When visited recently there were three real ales available: **Jennings Cumberland Ale**, **Greene King Speckled Hen** and **Brains Reverend James** (which is proving most popular).

The **Fullers** owned **General Havelock** have recently offered **Titanic Steerage** and **Fyne Ales Scotland Pipers Gold** alongside their usual range of **London Pride**, **Discovery**, **ESB** and **Gales HSB**.

The **Half Moon** has had **Harveys Sussex Best Bitter** as a guest beer recently.

**High Wycombe Rugby Union Football Club** have a beer festival on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October.

**Wetherspoon** owned **William Robert Loosley** will be holding a **Rebellion Brewery Beer Festival** from Monday 5th to Sunday 11th October with all beers at £1.95 per pint and the opportunity to go on a visit to the brewery. Nationally. **Wetherspoon's** 30th Anniversary Beer Festival will run from Wednesday 28th October to Sunday 15th November with each of their pubs having 50 beers over the festival period and this will include both the **Falcon** and the **William Robert Loosley**.

### LANE END

On the 3rd and 4th of October the **Old Sun** will be holding a charity weekend in aid of Help for Heroes. On the Saturday they will be having face painting, Wycome fire station will be sending a fire engine (subject to availability), plus a magician, barbecue and a bouncy castle. On Sunday there will be face painting, a raffle, an auction and the barbecue. Both days will start at Noon and finish late. All are welcome and disabled toilets and parking will be available. Currently **Sharps Doom Bar** and **Shepherd Neame Master Brew** are the real ales but these are rotated on a regular basis.

### MARLOW

The **Duke of Cambridge** are holding their Bavarian Evening Oktoberfest on Friday 2nd October. Tickets are £10 each to include the evening's musical entertainment. Bavarian costume optional but bring your own stein for table banging. **Ascot Ales Oktoberfest Ale** will be amongst the goodies available at the bar.

### OAKLEY

There will be a beer festival at the **Royal Oak** over the weekend of 16th to 18th of October.

### PRINCES RISBOROUGH

**Hop Back Summer Lightning** was spotted at the **Bell** in August in addition to its usual **Greene King IPA**. The pub is under new management and the landlord is enthusiastic about increasing their range of real ale.

The **Bird in Hand** held a beer festival over the August Bank Holiday. All five pubs in the town were serving real ale when recently surveyed.

### THAME

The **Abingdon Arms** remains closed, although there are rumours that it might reopen soon.

The **Cross Keys** goes from strength to strength, they are now up to 250 different beers since Pete and Trudie took over in January. They serve **Vale Best** as the featured ale and a further five ever changing beers. They are also selling **Cotswold Premium Lager** (5.0%) for the lager drinkers as well as **Thatchams** cider straight from the barrel.

The **Falcon** continues with its four hand pumps with beers from **Hook Norton** and rotating guest beers.

Spotted recently, **Vale Wychert** being served in the **Spread Eagle Hotel**, the first time in many years that real ale has featured in this hotel in the town. However, it is a case of win one, lose one, as the nearby **Black Horse Hotel** has dispensed with real ale and now serves **Greene King IPA** in keg form.

### WEST WYCOMBE

The **Plough** now features **Rebellion Smuggler** alongside their **Greene King IPA**.

### WHEELER END COMMON

The **Brickmakers Arms** has reopened under the new ownership of Kim Shipton, Kim Wheatley and Mary Ashby. They plan to serve homemade food, with locally sourced ingredients, and local real ales will also be available.

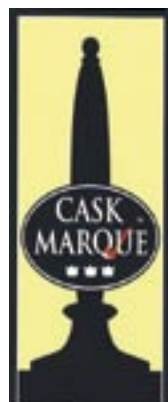
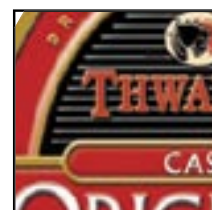
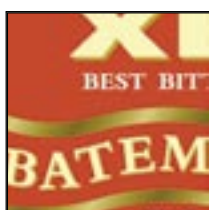
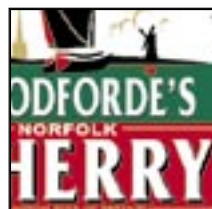
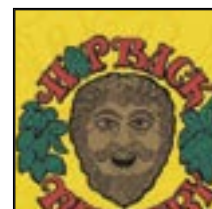
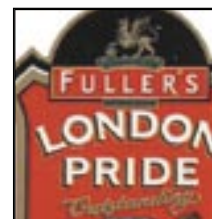
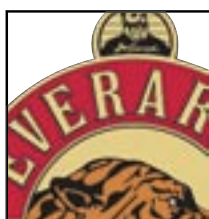
### WYCOMBE MARSH

The **King George V** closed in August as the landlord, Peter Clarke, was told to leave by the owners, **Scottish & Newcastle**. The pub was closed for three weeks and has now reopened. Wycombe Marsh once had four pubs as the **Rifle Butts** re-opened a couple of months ago (the **Halfway House** is currently closed) and the general opinion amongst some of the local landlords is that this is too many. We tend to feel that this is not the case and that the main problem is that the pubs are all too similar. If one of the four were to be turned into an ale house and had the televisions removed it would stand a better chance of survival. The **King George V** is on a main road, has a large car park, a river-side garden, three handpumps, and a separate function room. With some TLC it could be a very good pub indeed especially if a more equitable arrangement could be made regarding the rent and the purchase of beer, especially for the first year - nobody seems to think long term these days.





*“The Perfect Guests....that you want to stay”*



**Plus**

**COOPER'S CHOICE OF GUEST BEERS AVAILABLE MONTHLY**

*Formerly Brewers - Now the leading Independent Supplier of  
Cask Ales across the Thames Valley & beyond.*

**Dayla Ltd . 80-100 High St . Aylesbury . Buckinghamshire . HP20 1QZ**

**Tel: 01296 420261**