

FREE

Swan Supping

Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

www.swansupping.org.uk

Issue 73

AUG/SEP 2009



OFT CALLED TO REVIEW BEER TIE!



CAMRA has exercised its 'super-complaint' power to require the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to fast-track consideration of anti-competitive practices in the UK pub market which are resulting in high prices in pubs, lower amenity, restricted choice and pub closures.

CAMRA's document 'A Fair Share for the Consumer', which can be downloaded from the **CAMRA** website (www.camra.org.uk), highlights that high rents and 'tied' beer prices are driving many good pub landlords out of business and contributing to the destruction of Britain's pubs through pub closures and chronic under investment in pub facilities. Currently more than seven pubs close every day.

More than half of the pubs in the UK are run under 'tie' arrangements which prevent pub landlords buying beer and other products on the open market meaning many pub landlords are forced to pay over the odds by around 50 pence a pint.

CAMRA is calling for the OFT to review the way in which pub rents are set as excessive rents translate into higher prices for

pub-goers. The current system is open to abuse as it is based on a whole range of entirely hypothetical assumptions and specifically ignores the fact that 'tied' pub landlords have to pay above market prices for beer and other products. This will increase beer choice and would secure access to the market for small brewers.

CAMRA is also calling for regulation to prevent pubs being sold with 'restrictive covenants' preventing them from being used as licensed premises in the future.

CAMRA is a designated consumer body within the Enterprise Act 2002 and a 'super-complaint' may submit views on 'any feature, or combination of features, of a market in the UK for goods or services is or appears to be significantly harming the interests of consumers'. The process is intended to be a fast-track system and the OFT has 90 days to respond to the 'super-complaint' and, if upheld, has the option of carrying out a market study, agreeing legally binding undertakings or a direct referral to the Competition Commission.

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Local News



AYLESBURY

The **Emperors Lounge** has closed and attempts to find a temporary manager to take it over are proving difficult, so the future of the pub, which was previously the **Buckingham Arms**, looks very uncertain.

The chequered history of the **Green Man** seems to have taken another twist as it is currently closed and is likely to reopen later this year as a wine bar/restaurant following a major refurbishment.

Karmen and Greig at the **Harrow** have gained **Cask Marque** accreditation. The 'Beer and Bands' festival will be in October.

Treats on draught at the **Kings Head** in the near future from the **Chiltern Brewery** will be *John Hampdens Ale* in August, *Lord-Lieutenants Porter* in September and *Bodgers Barley Wine* in October.

The **Litten Tree** has become the **Kingsbury**. More importantly, however, real ale has returned in the form of *Youngs Bitter* and *Wells Bombardier* (at a remarkable £1.49 a pint).

Pauline Klein is due to leave the **Millwrights** on the 3rd of August and she will take over at the **Prince of Wales**, Bromham, Bedfordshire. A

new couple will run the **Millwrights** until the end of September, but there are currently no plans past that date.

The **Old Plough & Harrow** has closed and been 'acquired for clients' who are thought to be turning it into an Indian restaurant!

The **Queens Head** reopened at the end of July and is now being run by Chris Upjohn who was previously running the **Green Man**. Two real ales are available but we had no details as we went to press.

The New Testament Church of God in Rickfords Hill has applied for planning permission to turn the **Saracens Head** into a church hall! Under the proposals for this pub that is owned by *Wells & Youngs*, the bar will be removed but no other structural alterations will be made. This follows on from the **Skinny Dog** being turned into an Islamic centre and mosque so it looks like another case of righteousness after thirst!

After countless years as a keg only pub, the **Punch Taverns** owned **Weavers** has finally started doing real ale again! This remarkable turnaround has been brought about by the new manager, Bob Perez, who was previously at the **Queens Head**. Since he took over on April 1st you are greeted as you walk in the pub with the sight of two

handpumps serving *Courage Best* and *Old Speckled Hen*. Food is available every day including specials and Sunday roasts. It is still dedicated to sport with two darts teams, three pool teams, a Sunday quiz, SKY sports and the occasional karaoke.

CROWELL

The **Shepherd's Crook** will be holding their 7th annual beer festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend (28th - 31st August) and over 20 real ales from all over the country will be available.

HADDENHAM

Haddenham holds a permanent beer festival with around twelve different real ales on offer all year around in the village's five pubs.

Green Dragon: *Sharp's Doom Bar* is a permanent fixture, with two guests - recently *Bombardier* and *Rebellion Smuggler*. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday lunches and dinners offer two courses for £11.95 and three courses for £13.95.

Kings Head: Permanently serving *Adnams Bitter* and *Wadworth 6X* plus one guest which recently was *London Pride*. Currently offering two steaks for £11 on Wednesday evenings and a poker league operates every Sunday

evening from 8pm.

Red Lion: Mick is currently recuperating from a partial leg amputation around shin level and the pub is being ably run by wife Cilla, assisted by daughters Jeanette and Lynne as well as staff Rob and Louise. Permanent fixtures are *Adnams Bitter*, *Tetley's Mild*, *Black Sheep Bitter* plus an occasional guest. Watch out for a dominoes tournament in September in memory of Roy Tipping. Men's (Thursdays) and ladies (Wednesdays) darts and dominoes, summer and winter.

Rising Sun: *Vale Pale Ale* is a permanent fixture with one other guest, frequently the Vale seasonal ale. Pool (Tuesday) and darts (Thursday) leagues; live band last Saturday in September.

Rose & Thistle: Permanent beers are *Olde Trip* and *IPA* from the **Greene King** stable with one guest that recently was the ever-delicious *Brains Reverend James*. Geoff recently won a prestigious award from **Greene King** for best kept **Greene King** beer in Bucks. Haddenham Rotary welcomes new members every Monday from 7.30pm and remember it's quiz night first Wednesday of the month.

(Continued on page 23)

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GOOD NEWS FROM THE BROAD LEYS

Helen Wood, licensee at the **Broad Leys** in Aylesbury, has purchased the freehold of the property from **Punch Taverns** for an undisclosed fee.

Helen has owned the lease of the **Broad Leys**, finalist in the Tenanted/Leasehold Pub of the Year category at the 2009 Publican Awards, since 2002 and her regeneration of the business means it is now one of the leading bars and restaurants in Aylesbury.

‘With the business doing so well, the opportunity to acquire the freehold was a chance not to be missed, despite the recession’ said Helen. ‘It took a lot of time and a lot of persuading to secure the finance, despite this being an outstandingly successful business but I was determined that this was the right thing to do. I now look forward to developing the business further under my own terms.’

Helen has been a licensee around Aylesbury for 20 years and was amazed at how difficult securing finance via the banks to buy the property was. ‘My business has gone from strength to strength over the last seven years and is currently trading better than ever. However, I had a real battle on my hands to find the right people to lend me the money. Having been following the issues of finance for pubs in the *Publican* and the *Morning Advertiser*, I



am shocked that banks have such a blinkered attitude to lending to business people who are clearly successful in what they do – and there are plenty of them out there.’

The **Broad Leys** was originally a 16th century coaching inn called the **New Inn**. It was on the main route into Aylesbury on a toll road, in the Parish of Walton, which is now part of Aylesbury.

The **Broad Leys** is famous for being the only restaurant in Aylesbury to serve Aylesbury Duck, the bird which takes the town’s name. The local speciality makes the pub’s restaurant a popular visit for tourists and a regular haunt for local diners.

It is good to be able to report some good news from the pub industry instead of the usual doom and gloom about closures etc.

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PRESS CUTTINGS



Rumour had it that a new brewery was about to be opened in Aylesbury. It has even been reported in recent issues of the *New Imbiber*, but now the news has mysteriously been dropped from their authoritative listings. So what's going on?

Suspensions were aroused when a new beer called *Mafia* recently appeared in the **Kings Head** – nobody would say where it came from; apparently they had all been sworn to silence. Neil Prickles, a local part-time Clint Eastwood impersonator, happened to be in there at the time. Knowing how knowledgeable he is on beer matters, I asked him, but all I got was a sardonic smile, and a look that said, 'drink and learn' – it was an offer I couldn't refuse.

I wondered whether, with all the new dwellings planned for in and around Aylesbury, the council was showing some rare initiative by building in advance, essential infrastructure - local beer for local people. Determined to find out more, my next move was to check out the planning applications on the AVDC website – strangely, access was denied. I wondered whether they had found out how I voted at the recent elections. The Brewers National Party, when all's said and done, take their beers seriously... *we'll drink them on the beaches, we'll drink them in the streets, we'll drink them on the terraces, we'll never chunder...* (fade to sound of distant Polish Spitfires, *Land of Hop and Glory*, the *Horst Wessel Lied*...)

A man in the street wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the two strange questions **WITAWIA? WATOO?**, and being rather obviously a drinker, seemed a good person to ask, but all he kept saying was 'Why isn't there a *Wetherspoons* in Aylesbury? What about the *Old Odeon*?'

Speaking of chundering (Ozzy slang), there was a piece in the Times about the fact that **Castlemaine** has decided to call time on XXXX in the UK amid a continuing slump in sales of the lager brand. Even their



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MORE PRESS CUTTINGS

delivery trucks have had to be specially miniaturised in China. I asked another man in the street for his reaction to this earth-shattering news, but he just shrugged his shoulders and said 'he couldn't give a f...'

A few weeks ago, there was a snippet in *The Independent* about a bar in Madrid serving free beer and tapas to customers who insult its bartenders, as a way for them to let off steam during the recession. The ribbing must be good-natured, not mean, and the free drinks only go to those with really original wisecracks. Why not encourage your local to try it? *Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition...*

A Stockton-on-Tees based pub chain was reported earlier this year to be selling pints of **Tetley** at just 1p to customers buying a £1.99 spirit. The offer was criticised by the local Labour MP, the good Hedy Taylforth, and the campaign group Alcopop Concern. On a bad line to the BBC, Ms Taylforth was heard to have said 'This is totally and absolutely outrageous. This is one more example of how we are encouraging bilge-drinking'. A spokesman for Wetherspoons on the same bad line, said 'This is totally and absolutely outrageous, we sell **Greene King IPA** at 99p-a-pint, but now we'll be forced to sell two pints for a £1. This is one more

example of how we are encouraging bilge-drinking'.

The results of research by a study team from Leicester University attracted widespread press coverage recently when they found the age-old 'beer goggles' myth that drunkenness impairs vision so strongly that ugly people appear better-looking, is not true. Some 240 men and women in bars were given photos of women and asked to comment on their age and attractiveness.

Half of those quizzed were completely trousered, whilst the others were only given soft drinks. All 240 said the women in the photos were older than they actually were, although 120 of the responses were almost unintelligible. I asked the Dean, Professor Ben Dover how he could justify such a blatant misuse of University resources, but all I got was a slurred suggestion that if I let my hair down and took my glasses off, he would enrol me for special tutoring.

As I write, further press cuttings on beer related topics are proving hard to find due to the saturation coverage of the demise of the other Michael Jackson.

Louise Dugalby



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AYLESBURY RING - PART THREE



The previous two editions of Swan Supping have featured sections of the Aylesbury Ring walk – a 31 mile footpath that encircles Aylesbury. We start again where the preceding walk finished – in Dinton, on the main road between Aylesbury and Thame.

This article follows the Aylesbury Ring to Waddesdon, a village synonymous with the famous Rothschild manor house. However, an optional further extension is included to Quainton, a nearby village with a number of its own tourist attractions, not least a *Good Beer Guide* pub.

Dinton to Waddesdon is about five miles and the extension to Quainton is about a mile and a half.

As previously, the route is described in a clockwise direction (south to north in this case). However, if using public transport, it should be

considered that buses are much more frequent at the Dinton end, where the 280 and 261 buses operate a regular service until late every day of the week. Waddesdon and Quainton have reasonable rural bus services but these do not extend into the evening or run at all on Sundays. If using the bus, it may be more practical to start at the northern end, bearing in mind the better service from Dinton.

Much of the route crosses arable farmland and signposting and footpath maintenance can leave something to be desired, unlike the earlier sections nearer the Chilterns. The route in this section joins the North Bucks Way for most of its length and often this path is waymarked more predominantly.

Outline directions are given below but it is assumed that walkers are using an appropriate Ordnance Survey Map. The 1:25,000 series Explorer 181 'Chiltern Hills North' covers the route. Useful preparatory research can be done by looking at aerial mapping of the route, as can be found on the web: many footpaths can be discerned online with the help of the OS map.

All the pubs mentioned, as far as we're aware, have comprehensive opening hours but it may be worth phoning ahead if planning to visit at an off-peak time.

The route resumes at Dinton Castle (pictured left) on the A418 where side roads from Cuddington and Ford form a staggered crossroads. There are bus stops close in both directions.

There are no pubs en route until Waddesdon so a starting or ending pint in either of the pubs around Dinton might be considered – both the *Seven Stars* and *Bottle and Glass* are about half a mile away.

Dinton Castle (or Folly) does not just *look* ruined. It is actually in danger of falling down and is currently supported by some emergency

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THE INFLUENCE OF THE ROTHSCHILDS

scaffolding to ensure its condition does not deteriorate further. Its current owner wants to redevelop it as a habitable dwelling and is in discussion with the relevant authorities who wish to preserve it as a folly. It is a listed old building but perhaps not as mediaeval as it looks: it was built in 1769 as an 'eyecatcher' by the owner of Dinton Hall.

Take the signposted footpath by the castle and follow the edge of a wheat field downhill with a hedge to the right. After about a third of a mile there is a stile on the right leading into pastureland. Cross the pasture heading rightwards, heading downhill diagonally through the line of trees to another large arable field. This was planted with some unusual grass-like crop when we walked the route.

The path cuts diagonally across the corner of the field and then follows the edge of the field with a hedge to the left. Follow the path into the next field and towards Starveall Farm. The route skirts the farm buildings to the left and heads out on a track which follows the edge of a field. The path then heads diagonally to the right across a couple of meadows until joining a lane at a stile. This section is waymarked and not hard to follow.

From now on until Waddesdon the influence of the Rothschild family is tangible. The lane is an access road to Eythrope Manor, a country house remodelled by the Rothschilds. The house, and its estate, were retained as privately by the family after Waddesdon Manor was donated to the National Trust in the 1950s.

The lane actually extends right through Eythrope Park to the public road at Winchendon. For most of its distance it is a public right of way and cyclists unofficially use the whole length for training routes.

Pass through gates and over a bridge. The route bends to cross a second, elegant bridge over a further branch of the River Thames as it enters the landscaped park grounds.

Until Waddesdon the Aylesbury Ring now shares its route with both the North Bucks Way and the lesser known Bernwood Jubilee Way, which is a circular walk starting and finishing in Brill marking the ancient royal Bernwood Forest hunting ground. In fact, six long distance paths converge on this river crossing, including the Thames Valley Walk.

After the bridge bear to the left and follow the driveway across a lawned area towards Beachendon Cottages. Bear left to the side of the cottages.

The route follows the side of a field gently uphill with a hedge to the right. The path enters a copse, then descends across pastureland to rejoin the lane at a stile. Turn left along the lane for a couple of hundred yards. Then take a grassed path to the right, which is bordered by hedges as it climbs uphill. After about a third of a mile the path opens into a field with a wood to the left. The path eventually joins a tarmac road with a couple of cottages to the left.

Follow this lane for about half a mile until it joins the unclassified road between Winchendon and the A41. Almost opposite the junction is Waddesdon Stud, owned, surprisingly, by Lord Rothschild. Pass through the stile to the left of the distinctive gate. Follow the driveway with the stables to the right. The path then enters a small stretch of woodland, emerging briefly to cross a field, then entering another small wood. The route then descends steeply, keeping arable fields to the left until emerging onto a farm access drive.

Head across the drive into some more woodland then take a left turn to follow a narrow passage next to buildings at Wormstone Farm. Then head straight over the farm track into another wood, to emerge soon on the edge of arable fields.

Follow the path at the edge of the field then turn right into a fenced, grassy lane with Waddesdon school playing fields to your left. Turn



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AYLESBURY RING COMPLETED



left when the path reaches the back of houses and then right soon afterwards, passing allotments. Follow a passageway on to Baker Street in Waddesdon.

The **Baker's Arms** is a short walk to the left. On our Saturday afternoon visit the pub was shut although we peered through the window and could not spot any real ale on offer. Fortunately there are more pubs to try.

Turn right on to Baker Street and turn left on to the busy A41 High Street. Cross the road and, if intending to continue on the Quainton extension, remember the North Bucks Way signpost to the right.

Walk up the High Street. The **Lion** (pictured above) is a pleasant, red-brick building with a number of tables at the front and a patio decked with hanging baskets at the rear. The left hand side of the pub is dedicated to a restaurant. A more traditional bar area is to the right, extending to the rear with a wall-mounted television. The pub also does accommodation.

We enjoyed *Fullers London Pride* and *St. Austell Tribute*, although the Rothschild influence appears to be apparent as the prices weren't the cheapest we'd paid recently.

Almost opposite the **Lion** is the **Five Arrows Hotel**. This is a very ornate building, part of the Rothschild's Waddesdon estate. It is marketed as an upmarket restaurant and we didn't attempt to go in for just a drink but it has served real ale in the past so may be worth a try – but probably not with muddy boots.

Further up the High Street, almost at the end of the village, is the **Bell**. This pub has been refurbished fairly recently and sports stripped boards and comfy leather furniture in the more drinking orientated area to the right. The left has plenty of tables for dining. The pub has had some interesting real ales – *Titanic Iceberg* was on offer as well as *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*.

Waddesdon marks the end of this section of the Aylesbury Ring but the diversion to Quainton using the North Bucks Way is well worthwhile. To do this, return to the signpost at the south of the village and follow the road until it turns into an alleyway passing behind houses, emerging at a stile on to a meadow. Cross the field towards a footbridge in a hedgerow opposite.

After the bridge (and enclosing stiles) the path has recently been diverted to take it about 100 yards further away from Glebe Farm. The new route can be figured out as a robust new gate serves as a landmark on the far side of the field. However, the new path is not distinct as yet and we had to wade through long grass as we crossed the field. The path continues through a matching gate on the other side of a farm track. The diverted path heads diagonally downhill across the next field, eventually joining another farm track with trees to the left.

Follow this track for a couple of hundred yards until it bends to the right. The North Bucks Way continues into the field ahead which, depending on the season, may prove something of a challenge. Firstly, when we walked the route, the field was bounded by a live electric fence, which seems odd as the vegetable occupants of the field didn't appear to be planning a spectacular escape bid. There is a stile but it was very overgrown with nettles.

The field was planted with maize, which was not a problem in early summer when the corn was a foot or so tall but could be a serious impediment by August when the plants are around five feet high.

The route on the map crosses the corner of field diagonally. Alternatively, it would be probably possible to skirt around the edge of the field but it is disappointing that it appeared that a long-distance path had been ploughed up and planted without being re-instated. Most farmers realise that they have legal obligations to preserve rights of way by re-rolling the path through crops and this also helps to retain the goodwill of the public. Perhaps this has been done here since we visited. However, it seems the council need to be vigilant and be prepared to take more vigorous enforcement action.

This is a large field and the path eventually follows its left margins before emerging, via a stile, to cross the Aylesbury to Verney Junction railway line. This is now only regularly used by waste trains carrying London's rubbish to the Calvert landfill site, although there are long term plans to re-open it to connect Aylesbury to the proposed Oxford-Cambridge east-west rail link.

The line is also used by the Buckinghamshire Railway centre at Quainton which is half a mile or so up the track. Some carriages and locomotives in sidings at the centre can be seen from the North Bucks Way.

Once the vegetation on the other side of the railway line has been negotiated, there is a clear view of Quainton about three quarters of a mile ahead. A transmitting mast stands on a hill above the village. The windmill that stands above the village green can also be seen clearly. It is the tallest windmill in Buckinghamshire, completed in 1832.

The **George and Dragon** (pictured below) stands on the right hand side of the green. This is a welcoming, traditional two-bar village pub. It has a lower-level carpeted lounge to the right with the public bar, furnished with large rustic wooden tables, to the left. It has been a *Good Beer Guide* entry for several years and normally serves four real ales. On offer on our visit were *Hook Norton Hooky Bitter*, *Woodfordes Wherry*, *Morrissey Fox Blonde Ale* and *Fuller's London Pride*.

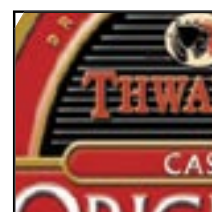
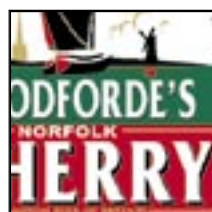
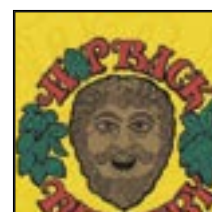
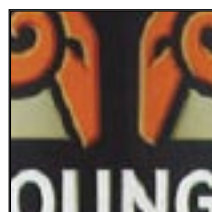
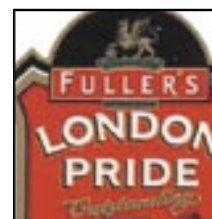
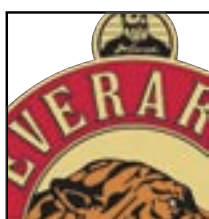
There are tables outside the pub which make a perfect place to sip a pint and look back at the views you've walked through below while awaiting the bus back.

Mike Clarke





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BRANCH SOCIALS JUNE/JULY 2009



June's branch meeting was held at the excellent **Three Horseshoes** in Burroughs Grove, just outside Marlow. The pub functions as nearby **Rebellion's** brewery tap and features six handpumps featuring the current range of ales which were all in great condition when we visited. The pub also does a brisk food trade with famously generous portions. They also show us great hospitality whenever we visit, for which we are very grateful.

In the heady days of June, when we enjoyed our short summer, we headed up to Brill to investigate the refurbished **Pheasant**. The pub has been quite radically changed with structural alterations made to open the previous multi-roomed layout into a larger, open space, decorated in a modern style. The bar, which

happily still serves a selection of real ales, also appears to have been re-located. Work has also modernised the outdoor drinking area and garden below which have spectacular views of the Brill windmill and the countryside below.

We also visited the **Red Lion** in Brill which, in addition to its normal **Greene King** range of ales, also offered the popular **Brains' Reverend James**. The **Royal Oak** at Oakley is just down the hill from Brill. This **Vale** house has a reputation for real ale and on our visit we noted the extra handpumps recently installed.

In June we also made another visit to the transformed **Half Moon** in High Wycombe, which served us a very nice pint of **Timothy Taylor's Landlord**. Wycombe is also the only place in the branch where **CAMRA** members can use their **J.D. Wetherspoon** coupons. As these expire every quarter we organised a 'use up your vouchers' social at the end of June. We went to both the **Falcon** and the **William Robert Loosely** to take full advantage.

At the end of June we had our annual coach trip to the Black Country. Despite torrential rain which nearly flooded the **Jolly Crispin**, we had our usual superb day's drinking as the picture from the **Beacon Hotel** above shows. If you missed it, we'll be back next year!

Our July branch meeting was held at the **Cross Keys** in Thame. This pub has undergone a

spectacular transformation in the last few months – from down-at-heel, fizz-only boozer into a six-real ale drinking emporium. At the end of July the pub hosted the Thame beer festival (pictured below) which many members also attended.

The **Black Horse** in Lacey Green was visited in July. The pub is in an attractive cottage-style building with beamed rooms and a spacious garden with an Aunt Sally pitch. Four real ales are on offer.

Finally at the end of July, when the rains had temporarily relented, we strayed out of our local area to the **Carrier's Arms** in Watlington for Aunt Sally practice. The phrase 'the pub is the hub' seemed to have been invented for this busy free-house which was very busy even on a Wednesday night – notwithstanding a visit from the ladies darts team.



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BLACK SEA ODYSSEY

My friend and I sampled a few brews on our cruise round the Black Sea last year. I wasn't expecting much but 'seek and you shall find' as they say. We flew to Istanbul and started our cruise on the MV Discovery in an anti-clockwise direction, the ship itself had six bars but they all sold pretty much the same stuff so a ship bar crawl wasn't really appealing. They had two interesting bottled beers; *Marston's Pedigree* and the aptly titled *Fullers Discovery*, useful in a sea of keg beers and lagers, but the *Pedigree* was too chewy for the weather so we stuck to the wine more often than not.

Our first stop was Trabzon in East Turkey and there we found a bar, incredibly showing Championship football in the form of Reading vs. Birmingham! The beer was from the highly ubiquitous *Efes* brewery and we tried a litre of the strong (5%) but rather bland *Pilsner* which worked out to be about £1.50/pint. The tastier bottled *Efes Dark* had something more going for it so we stuck to that.

Our next port of call was Sochi in Russia but this was a guided tour, visas for individual trips are very pricey and so the option of hitting a bar was gone, however we did visit Stalin's dacha and got a few free glasses of wine - nice.

We made several ports of call in the Ukraine at Yalta (we found a wine bar owned by a local winery Massandra and this was clearly the better option than being in the rain), Sevastopol and Odessa. We found a bar at Sevastopol that did (we weren't actually looking for it by the way and it tasted better than it sounds) *Chernigivske Bile* - this was nothing like the label as it was in Cyrillic but I knew a little bit of Russian and therefore I could look at the list of Ukrainian breweries on the internet and pick it out. The description had it as an unfiltered wheat beer and it had a slight smell of bananas at the time which I attribute to wheat beers. This brewery is part of the *Inbev* portfolio. Oh well. A pleasant 'quaff' all the same.



Odessa was a big surprise, in that we stumbled across a brewery by taking a short cut (in a sightseeing sense) through a park and voila! There it was. This appeared to be a German operation and research has shown it to be called; *Die Familiare Brauerei* - and we were quite impressed with the beer list: Monastic 'Wheaten red'; Copper Burgher 'Barley red'; Seven Forty 'Barley light' and Gavannaya 6 'Wheaten White'. The prices were rather high, probably up to western standards but there were good views of the brewery in the back and we did enjoy the beer. A shame we did not see it earlier but then the tourism bit was priority...

At Nessabar in Bulgaria we tried *Bypracko*, a rather hoppy Czech number at 4.4%, but I can't get any information from the internet about this.



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MORE OF THE ODYSSEY

At Constanta in Romania (give this place a miss if you can, I have been there twice and it's rather 'shabby' to put it lightly) we found a row of temporary bars consisting of help yourself fridges under flimsy transparent plastic 'greenhouses' but at least we had more of choice this time: *Ursus Timisoreana*, a rather bland 5% lager and part of the **SAB Miller** group; *Silva Dark* at 7%, very tasty and part of the **Heineken** group and *Miercurea Ciuc*, a decent(ish) beer and also part of the **Heineken** group.

And so on to Istanbul we went and our flight back. A good range of beers was had, ultimately a few were rather bland lagers and a shame that a lot of them are owned by big multinationals. If you can, go for the dark beers, the *Silva Dark* at 7% approximated to a Belgian beer but the highlight was the **Odessa brewery** where every beer was brewed just yards away.

Lemon Snail 21 July 2009



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HADDENHAM FESTIVAL



The sixth annual Haddenham Real Ale Festival was held at the Youth and Community Centre on American Independence day, 4th July. As promised there was no American beer on offer, but in honour of our cousins across the pond, we had three British-brewed beers called *Barack's Best Bitter*, *Ma Belle Michelle*, and *Hawaii Five-O*.

At Haddenham's Festival the question is always 'when will the beer run out?' A record 1800 visitors got stuck in to 56 beers, 8 lagers, and 25 ciders, to say nothing of 100 bottles of wine and 180 litres of Pimms and we lasted until 8.30 p.m. when only water remained! The most popular beer was *Full Throttle* (4.3%) from *Vale Brewery*.

The committee thanked all the many individuals and groups who made the day such a success and contributed to raising well over £15,000.

The Winterfest is at the Manor Farm Barn on Saturday 21st November, and the Real Ale Festival will be back on Saturday 3rd July 2010.

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

DAYLA REWARDED

At the first *National Drinks Distributors Awards* dinner recently, *Dayla*, from Aylesbury were delighted be voted the overall winner of 'Drinks Wholesaler of the Year'. They were runners up in both the categories of 'Cask Ale Wholesaler' and 'Wine Merchants of the Year' and managing director, Tim Cooper, said that praise must be given to the loyal and hard working Dayla Family Team.

Having acquired three businesses in the last four years, they are committed to growing their operations into the leading Drinks Distributor across the Thames Valley and the Home Counties. Working closely with brewers, wine owners and the leading international drinks brands they aim to provide a unique package of service, support and a portfolio second to none.

Tim Cooper's family's involvement in the drinks trade stretches over four generations (with number five currently at university) and the picture below shows the entrance to his grandfather's brewery in Wendover High Street.



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WORLD CUP WINNER WINS THE BOAT RACE!

The first ever Beaconsfield Rugby Football Club, Real Ale Festival was officially opened by rugby star, Andy Gomarsall, from England's 2003 Rugby World Cup winning squad.

The Festival ran over Friday 3rd July and Saturday 4th July, with a 'family and friends day' on Sunday 5th July. It was a great success and gave an opportunity to the many visitors to enjoy some unusual and tasty ales, ciders and lagers from around the UK and Europe.



As part of the official opening ceremony, Peter Miles, the Club Chairman, suggested to the Mayor of Beaconsfield, Andy Gomarsall and the event organiser, Raimonds Pikelis, that the four of them take part in a Boat Race (that's a beer race to all non-rugby types) in order to officially mark the opening of the festival. There were no surprises when Andy Gomarsall won that challenge, ever competitive!

The purpose of the event was to try to do something different to raise funds for two new pitches for the Junior

The festival showcased 30 traditional award-winning ales from breweries around the UK, including some from Cornwall, Sussex, Surrey, West Yorkshire, Kent and Wiltshire. Locally sourced ales from the *Chiltern*, *Loddon*, *Lovibonds*, *Tring* and *Vale* breweries were also available, giving real ale aficionados a number of new choices to try and converting many newcomers to the delights of beer from the cask.

Over the baking hot three days, golden summer ales such as *Rebellion's Blonde*, *Lovibonds Gold* and *Chiltern's Cobblestones* were firm favourites. Other light and refreshing ales including *Hydler Blonde* from Brighton's *Dark Star* brewery and *Crop Circle* from Salisbury's *Hophead* brewery also proved to be very popular.

section, whilst raising the profile of the Rugby Club in the community. Everything, from an organisational point of view was fantastic, including the food the decor, the flowers, the entertainment and the large screen TV's, which showed the Lions Tour and the rest of the weekend sport. A further write up of the festival with photos of the fun, can be found at www.brfevents.com.

On the back of this year's resounding success, next year's festival is already being planned. *CAMRA* members are encouraged to contact the Beaconsfield Rugby Football Club 2010 Festival Committee with any ideas they may have about ales, ciders and activities for inclusion in the programme of events. Please contact Mike Sands (Aylesbury Vale and High Wycombe branch member) on 0789 408 3201 for details.

THE ROSE AND CROWN BEER FESTIVAL AND FAMILY FUN EVENT

Friday 21st,
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Friday & Saturday 12 - 11pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm

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The restaurant will be open as usual offering a full service!

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**Jazz - First Sunday
Night in the Month**

THE OLD POET'S CORNER, ASHOVER, DERBYSHIRE

The last time my wife and I had a holiday in Derbyshire was some fifteen years ago, so we thought it was high time we revisited the county, particularly as we had such happy memories of exploring both the Dark and White Peak areas.

After consulting the *Good Beer Guide* we decided to book the Spring Bank Holiday week at the **Old Poets' Corner**, Ashover. The facts that the **Ashover Brewery** is located in its car park and that the pub has once again won **CAMRA** Chesterfield & District branch's **Pub of the Year** competition this year (previously won in 2006), clinched the decision. Even better, their comprehensive website revealed that **CAMRA** members get 10% discount off the already reasonable B&B rates.



On travelling up through Derbyshire, the first thing we noticed was how much more crowded it has become since we last visited. As my wife is a teacher we have to take our holidays during the school breaks, so we are used to the crowds, but Matlock should now really be renamed Gridlock! Also there are signs along all the main roads saying 'Think Biker' and warning of the high number of tragic biking accidents. It was almost impossible NOT to 'think biker' – they were everywhere in their hundreds on their magnificent machines and, with few exceptions, being driven very responsibly. It was after all a sunny Bank Holiday Monday, and we heard that the area is similarly crowded over weekends.

We arrived at the **Poets'** just in time for a brewery talk given by the landlord Kim Beresford. I hardly had time to study the numerous handpumps as is my usual first task. I asked Kim how long the brewery talk would take – '*it depends whether I have my waffling head on*' was his reply. He didn't waffle (well, not too much), and the talk was most informative.

Kim explained how the previous owners of the pub (then the **Red Lion**, renamed later simply the **Red**) had run the place down to the point that it was no longer viable. In 2004, Kim and his wife Jackie took the pub over and it has gone from strength to strength since. Kim was previously the landlord of the **Dead Poets Inn** at Holbrook (**GBG**-listed) and by agreement with them, he decided to rename the **Old Poets' Corner** when he discovered a poet had lived close by (more of that later).

The spotlessly clean and compact **Ashover Brewery** is located in a converted garage off the car park. It was started in 2006 when Kim suggested to a local beer lover, Roy Shorrocks, that '*all we need to make this a perfect pub is its own brewery!*'

Incredibly, the brewery kit was bought on eBay from Scotland, it having been used in a **Firkin** brewpub, and by a brewing enthusiast previously. Five regular beers are brewed (see **GBG** and below) mainly to supply the free house **Poets'** and Kim's recent joint venture with **Everards Brewery**, the **Poet and Castle** at Codnor.

There is an extensive and constantly changing range of beers, ciders and perries on offer. How about this for the list on my arrival:

- the beers (all served without the sparklers fitted): **Ashover Light Rale** (3.7%), **Ashover Poets Tipple** (4.0%), **Oakham Inferno** (4.0%), **Titanic Anchor Bitter** (4.1%), **Maggie Thieving Rogue** (4.5%), **Phoenix White Monk** (4.5%), **Ashover Rainbows End** (4.5%), **Greene King Abbot Ale** (5.0%), **Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby** (6.0%). On average £2.55 a pint.

- the ciders: - from the cellar – **Perry's Farm House** (6.0%), **Torkard Floppy Tabs** (6.0%), **O Sir Maes Edwy** (7.1%), **Rosie's Rampant Ram** (7.2%), **Broad oak KB** (8.4%), **Broad oak Moonshine** (8.4%); - from the pump – **Westons Stowford Press** (4.5%), **Thatchers Gold** (4.8%), **Westons Old Rosie** (7.3%).

- the perries: **Troggi** (7.1%), **Broad oak** (7.5%). The ciders and perries all at £2.95 a pint.

+ a small range of continental beers.



Being a beer rather than a cider or perry drinker, I only 'monitored' (that's a technical term for 'I had at least one pint of every one, and several of several') the changing beers over the four nights we were there. The turnover was brisk. Others that appeared were **Castle Rock Elsie Mo** (4.7%), **Alehouse Robust Porter** (4.3%), **Phoenix White Tornado** (4.3%), **Kelham Island Easy Rider** (4.3%) and **Fuller's ESB** (5.5%).

As can be seen from the list of the beers on offer, the medium strength golden ales predominate, as Kim has found that most of his customers prefer them to the darker and stronger beers.

The **Poets'** is clearly thriving with a very strong following of locals and many holiday visitors. They are attracted not only by the excellent beers and good food at reasonable prices, and the friendly and helpful staff, but also for the varied events and entertainments.

These include the Sunday lunchtime carvery, Sunday night curries (a range of 'proper' curries), quiz nights, open acoustic and other live music sessions, poetry readings (of course), and beer festivals. There is a brilliant relaxed, community atmosphere about this large and busy pub. Something for everyone.

It's no wonder that not only has the pub been voted local **CAMRA POTY** twice (as mentioned above), but it has also twice been voted local **Pub of the Season**, and **CAMRA National Cider & Perry POTY** in 2006 - and all this since 2004.

Despite all the attractions of the pub, the main reason for our being there was to get out walking and bird-watching (in the glorious Goyt Valley for example, west of Buxton, quite a distance from the pub). Breakfast was served from 9am, which was a bit late for us, as we wanted to get our walking-boots on early.

We've encountered this problem many times before in other pubs, so we were particularly pleased to find at the **Poets'** that there was a fully-

THEY THINK IT'S ASHOVER - IT IS NOW!

equipped kitchen opposite our room. Cereals, milk, fruit juice, bread, tea and coffee were provided without problem.

The B&B rooms are named after various poets, one of whom was a local jack-of-all-trades: Leonard Wheatcroft (1627-1706/7), yeoman, sometime tailor, parish clerk, registrar, sexton, local militia man, SELLER OF ALE (and apparently prodigious consumer of same), garden planner, planter of hedges and orchards, carpenter, school keeper, farmer and prolific writer! He had eleven children by his wife of 32 years Elizabeth Hawley, and was three times imprisoned for debt. Now I reckon that's a man worth naming a pub after. So let's raise our glasses to both him and his good wife, and enjoy one of his courtship poems – 'The Price of Love' –

*True love is a precious pleasure
Rich delights, unvalued treasure;
Two firm hearts in one heart meeting,
Grasping hand in hand, ne'er fleeting;
Wreath-like, like amazed entwining,
Foe to faithless vows perfidious
True love is a knot religious;
Dead to sins that flaming rise
Through beauteous soul-seducing eyes;
Deaf to gold, enchanting witches,
Love for ever, not for riches,
Love me, proud me, still in measure,
For true love is a precious treasure.*

The **Old Poets' Corner** pub sign also has a couple of apt quotations on either side:

- From 'Beer Street' (Rev. James Townley)

*We quaff thy balmy juice with glee,
And water leave to France.*

- English proverb

*Bread is the Staff of Life,
But Beer is life itself.*



There are two other pubs in the village of Ashover, once famous for its light railway, and used for a time as a location for the ITV drama series *Peak Practice*. A short walk up the lane past the church is the **Crispin Inn** where, during the English Civil War, the landlord refused entry to the Roundheads, telling them they had had too much to drink; but they threw him out and drank his ale.

The incident is commemorated on a large board on the front of the pub. I didn't have an opportunity to try this pub, but by peering through the window at a time it was closed, I could make out handpumps for **Marstons** and **Jennings** beers.



A further short step up the lane brings you to another **GBG**-listed pub, the **Black Swan**. I popped in hoping for one of the **Thornbridge** beers mentioned in the **GBG**, but was disappointed, having to take my choice instead from **Black Sheep Best Bitter** (3.8%), **Copper Dragon Best Bitter** (3.8%), **Bradfield Farmers Blonde** (4.0%), **Shepherd Neame Spitfire** (4.5%), **Greene King Abbot Ale** (5.0%) or **Kelham Island Pale Rider** (5.2%). I found a way of getting over my disappointment.

In conclusion, it has to be said that the **Old Poets' Corner** is a credit to Kim and Jackie. It just shows what can be done by active, friendly, imaginative and quality-driven management and dedication to real ale and cider. We'll be back.

Giles du Boulay

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

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LOCAL BEERS IN LOCAL PUBS

CAMRA LocAle is a new scheme building on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of 'green' issues.

The **LocAle** scheme was created in 2007 by **CAMRA**'s Nottingham branch that wanted to help support the tradition of brewing within Nottinghamshire, following the demise of local brewer **Hardy and Hansons**.

The initiative, run nationally, but organised on a local level, aims to encourage pubs to source at least one real ale from a local producer. The increased availability of local beers places both pub and brewer in the heart of the community, giving a real sense of local identity, and helping the local economy. The

environment also benefits due to fewer 'beer miles' resulting in less road congestion and pollution.

In the **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe** branch, membership of the scheme is open to any pub which regularly stocks at least one beer which has travelled at most twenty five miles from the brewery. Pubs accredited under the **LocAle** scheme can display the **LocAle** logo, and are promoted here in **Swan Supping**, and on the branch website.

Launching the **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe LocAle** scheme are: The **Cross Keys**, Thame; the **Eight Bells**, Long Crendon; the **Three Horseshoes**, Burroughs Grove; the **Royal Oak**, Oakley; the **Kings Head** and the **Hop**



Pole in Aylesbury. With luck, and your campaigning, these will be quickly be joined by many more. A complete list is available on the **LocAle** page of the branch website: www.swansupping.org.uk.

What you can do?

If you are a real ale drinker, ask your local to regularly stock a beer from one of our local breweries. There are lots to choose from! We're not asking to only stock local ales - far from it. Some pubs are tied to chains that don't allow them to stock other beers. In this case, write to their chain's head office or brewery, and ask that they be allowed to. Your publican should be able to supply you with details.

If you are a publican, look into the possibility of stocking a locally brewed beer! We recognise that some pub landlords have their hands tied. Please encourage your customers to write to your head office to ask that you be allowed to source beers from other suppliers. We can supply posters, and window stickers to pubs joining the scheme.

For further information on joining the scheme please send an email to locale@swansupping.org.uk.



We are always looking for help from other **CAMRA** members in our branch area to run schemes like **LocAle** especially now that there are over 600 of you!

All **CAMRA** members are welcome at our socials (see the Branch Diary on page 22) and even if you can't get there for the start you can catch up with the members during socials with the branch mobile phone 0792 215 8971.

For the latest information on what is happening in the branch, from pub and brewery news, beer festivals and our socials please check the branch website: www.swansupping.org.uk

THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK

at

Crowell, Nr. Chinnor

7TH ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL

August Bank Holiday Weekend

28th - 31st August

Over **20** real ales from all over the country

Traditional pub food served all day every day throughout the weekend

Friday Night - **Ferret Racing**

Sunday - **Pig Roast**

Mystery Beer competition - all weekend

Vote for the **Champion Beer** of the Festival



Telephone

01844 351 431

for further details

Let us quote you on your outside bar, barbeque or pig roast!

LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

CHILTERN

Chiltern are having their best year ever and the last two weeks of June were their best ever weeks outside Christmas.

They were also very proud to be asked to supply 2,400 pints of *Cobblestones* to the local Armed Forces Day celebration at Fawley Hill, near Henley, which was a terrific success.

REBELLION



The August offering from *Rebellion* is a 4.2% ABV amber and refreshing brew called *Stockbroker Blues*.

VALE

The next monthly specials from *Vale Brewery* are to be called *Hay Loader* and *King Ludd*. The *Hay Loader* (ABV 4.4%) is described as being made with pale malt with a touch of Crystal malt from Maris Otter combined with a blend of four different hop varieties to create a superb rich golden harvest time ale.

The name of the beer celebrates the hay loaders that were first made in England by Wm. Fenemore at the Hay Loader works, Brill, Buckinghamshire in 1901.

The monthly specials have proven extremely successful. They have increased the number of pubs taking *Vale* beers with this project, and many pubs have increased their sales as a result of the variety of beers available.

The July special beer from *Vale* was brewed to commemorate the completion of the restoration of the historic windmill on Brill Hill. Flour was last milled in this ancient Post Mill in 1919, by the last miller, Mr Nixey. *Nixey's Mill* was a 4.1% mid strength traditional English bitter, dark copper in colour and brewed with a variety of different hops to provide a long lasting bitter finish.

The bottling of *Nixey's Mill* went

exceptionally well. The last bottle was sold in the second week of July, and as a part of the publicity surrounding the reopening of the Windmill, the brewery has had mentions on several local radio stations.

All the information about the special for September (*King Ludd*) is that it will be 4%.

After their capacity increase in June they can now confirm that although they have 20% greater brewing capacity, they are back up to brewing six days a week. The beers continue to sell well locally, but they now have bottles available, where before supply was intermittent, and the brewery swaps are increasing so they have a better and larger range of guest beers on offer in their pubs.



Brill Beer

Award winning beers available direct from the brewery.

- **SIBA GOLD Medal** – Gravitas our highly hopped premium ale was voted the best Premium Ale by the Independent Brewers Association this year.
- **SPECIALS** – A unique new brew each month named after local characters or landmarks plus the Hadda's Seasonal beer.

Our Brill brewed beers are available:

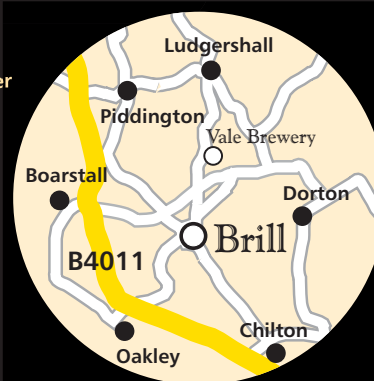
Bottled Real Ale. £21 a case, mixed to your taste.

Beer Boxes – From only £1.43 a pint. Polypins (35 pints) or Minipins (17 pints) of real ale ready to drink at home from only £26. Please call in advance to order 01844 239237.

OUR BEERS:

Vale Best Bitter 3.7% ABV - Light copper hoppy bitter
 Wychert 3.9% - Rich malty auburn bitter
 Vale Pale Ale 4.2% ABV - Dry hoppy golden ale
 Edgars Golden Ale 4.3% - English golden best bitter
 Vale Special 4.5% ABV - Bronze Premium Bitter
 Grumpling Old Ale 4.6% - Ruby brown premium ale
 Gravitas 4.8% - Pale Premium hoppy bitter
 Black Swan Mild 3.9% - Dark smooth rich mild
 Black Beauty Porter 4.3% - Full bodied dark porter

A worldwide selection of wines are available, along with bottled Thatchers cider.



VISIT US AT OUR BREWERY SHOP

Tramway Business Park, Ludgershall Road, Brill, HP18 9TY

Tel: 01844 239237 e-mail: info@valebrewery.co.uk

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



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

AUGUST

Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd Marlow Donkey Beer Festival

Tuesday 4th/Saturday 8th GBBF FESTIVAL

Earls Court, London

Thursday 6th BRANCH GBBF SOCIAL

5.30pm Earls Court, London

Wednesday 12th TWO PUB SOCIAL

8.45pm Royal Oak, Aston Abbots, 9.30pm Unicorn, Cublington

12th-16th Windsor Beer and Jazz Festival

Wednesday 19th WESTON TURVILLE SOCIAL

8.30pm, Five Bells, 9.15pm Chandos, 10pm Chequers

Saturday 22nd BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Rose and Crown, Saunderton

Saturday 29th BANK HOLIDAY BEER FEST SOCIAL

12 noon, Horse and Jockey, Tylers Green

Bank Holiday Weekend – Beer Festivals also at Shepherd's Crook, Crowell; Blackwood Arms, Littleworth Common; Royal Standard, Wooburn Common; Brill Beer Festival

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2nd CHINNOR SOCIAL

8.45pm Wheatsheaf, 9.30pm Red Lion

Saturday 5th INTER BRANCH SOCIAL

Join in for Aunt Sally and a beer festival!

12 noon Masons Arms, Headington, Oxford

5th/6th Stag and Huntsman, Hambleden, Beer Festival

Monday 7th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm, Rose and Thistle, Haddenham

Thursday 17th SOCIAL

9pm Clifden Arms, Worminghall, 10pm Rising Sun, Ickford

Saturday 19th A GRAND DAY OUT!

Joint Brewery Visit and Social with Mid-Chilterns

Tring Brewery visit followed by Pub Crawl

Please contact the editor (details below) to book your place

Wednesday 23rd STOKE MANDEVILLE SOCIAL

9pm Bell, 10pm Bull

Fri/Sat 25th/26th Sep – Ascot beer festival

25th-27th September – Penn Street Beer Festival

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st SOCIAL

8.45pm Stag, Flackwell Heath, 9.30pm Crooked Billet, Flackwell

Heath/Little Marlow

Saturday 3rd OXFORD PUB CRAWL

Full details in the next *Swan Supping*

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'.

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

Swan Supping

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Copy deadline for next issue, due out 1st October, is 14th September 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).

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

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

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Nr PRINCES RISBOROUGH

TELEPHONE: 01844 344476

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*4 en-suite B & B rooms with TV
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**A function suite that accommodates
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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**



More Local News



(Continued from page 2)

HAMBLEDEN

The **Stag & Huntsman** will be holding their annual beer festival on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of September. There will be twelve cask ales plus traditional ciders.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Bell**, which shut on the 10th of May, reopened on the 27th of the same month. They are still offering Thai food to accompany the **Fullers** beers and the manager, Natasha, is still there.

The **Bird**, previously the **Bird in Hand**, which was managed by partners Mark Anderson and Sheila Tole, was due to be handed back to **Enterprise Inns** on the 29th of July. Mark and Sheila are moving to the **Bell** in Princes Risborough where they will take over as managers.

Following their successful beer festival in March, **High Wycombe Rugby Club** are running another one in October (Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th). Full details will be in our next issue.

LACEY GREEN

At a recent Aunt Sally practice at the **Black Horse**, we found **Brakspears Bitter**, **Adnams Regatta**, **Marston's Ashes Ale** and **Hook Norton Old Hooky**.

The **Whip** will be hosting the South of England beers at their joint beer festival with the **Wheel**, Naphill, over the weekend of 18th/19th of September.

MARLOW

The **Hare & Hounds** on Henley Road reopened in July with its new restaurant the **Cheerful Soul**. The bar and restaurant open hours are displayed on their front wall notice board - be aware that they are closed on Mondays and on Sunday evenings. A recent visit showed their current real ale is **Rebellion IPA**.

We hope you read your new **Swan Supping** in time to pop along to the **Marlow Donkey** over the weekend of Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August, as they are holding their annual beer festival where you will be able to sample from a fair range of goodies in store.

The new owners at the **Plough** are Rodney and Emma Bennett ably assisted by deputy manager Samantha Bunni. They have put together a very tempting food menu and their range of beers include **St. Austell Tribute** and **Rebellion IPA** and **Blonde**.

And talking of **Rebellion Brewery** we trust you managed to attend their biennial open weekend in July to

partake of their unceasing hospitality and contribute toward the staggering sum of £19,584 raised for the Wycombe Scanner Appeal. Here's to another open weekend in the summer of 2011.

NAPHILL

The **Wheel** will be hosting the Nouth of England beers at their joint beer festival with the **Whip**, Lacey Green, over the weekend of 18th/19th of September.

OAKLEY

The managers of the **Royal Oak** have now changed. New in are Bill and Dee, locals from nearby Chilton. Bill and Dee have a background in running a corporate hospitality company, focussing on event management. Running a village pub will be different, but they plan to continue and develop on the work started by Andy and Ruth, great beer and good honest locally sourced quality food. The six cask ale pumps will remain with **Vale** beer always present and a wide range of ever changing guest ales.

PENN STREET

The Chiltern District Council Pub of the Year Awards 2009/2010 went to the **Hit or Miss** for Best Food Pub and to the **Squirrel** for Best Family Pub. Both pubs are teaming up for an autumn bier fest for 2009 over the weekend of Friday 18th to Sunday 20th of September.

QUAINTON

The **George & Dragon** will be holding a beer festival on Saturday 26th of September which will run from noon until midnight. There will be ten real ales available plus two traditional ciders.

This is to coincide with a grand steam and vintage vehicle rally being held at the nearby Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. There will be a procession of vehicles from the centre to the green outside the pub from 4pm to 7pm.

SAUNDERTON

The **Rose and Crown** will be holding a beer festival and a family fun event over the weekend of Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd of August when there will be 25 real ales plus five ciders and perries.

STOKE MANDEVILLE

The **Bell** has been bought by **Wells & Youngs** brewery as well as the **Chandos** in Weston Turville.

THAME

The **Abingdon Arms** has been shut for three weeks after suddenly closing without any notice. At present, there is

a 'For Let' sign above the pub and no sign of any life within the pub.

Chinnor Rugby Football Club, who play their games in Thame, are now offering two real ales at their ground. Following a successful trial of **Vale Wychert** at the end of last season, for the forthcoming season in National League 3 South West, Brian Taylor, the clubhouse manager, has decided to serve **Wychert** alongside the ever popular **Brakspears Bitter**. CRFC welcomes visitors and new members and is open throughout weekends and every evening except Monday.

Thame Round Table held a beer festival at the **Cross Keys** at the end of July. This was very well received and the first beer to sell out was the **Vale Brewery's Thame Tabler's Tipple** which was a 4.3% beer especially brewed by **Vale** for the festival.

At a recent visit to the **Falcon**, the award winning **Castle Rock Screech Owl** was spotted alongside the offerings from **Hook Norton: Hooky Bitter** and **Haymaker**.

TYLERS GREEN

The **Horse & Jockey** will be holding a summer beer festival from Friday 28th August to Monday 31st of August. Twenty real ales plus two ciders will be available and there will

be a barbecue on the Saturday and a hog-roast on the Sunday.

WADDESDON

The **Lion** is holding a beer and sausage festival over the August bank holiday.

WESTON TURVILLE

The **Chandos Arms** has been bought by **Wells & Youngs** brewery.

WING

The **Queens Head** is holding three days of special events over the August Bank Holiday. This will include a Black Tie evening meal on the Saturday evening and daytime barbeque on Monday. Live music throughout the weekend will include Jazz and a duo.

WOOBURN COMMON

The **Royal Standard** is holding its second beer festival over the August Bank holiday weekend. They will have about 60 real ales and ciders available and will be specialise in breweries from the Black Country including **Enville**, **Kinver**, **Windsor Castle**, **Toll End**, **Olde Swan**, **Holdens** and **Black Country** plus other favourites such as **Dark Star**, **Hopback**, **Castle Rock** etc. Barbecue food available on the Saturday and a hog-roast on Sunday.

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**

“LAST ONE BACK GETS THEM IN.”



THE 3RD ASCOT RACECOURSE BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September 2009

- Exclusive HALF PRICE admission for CAMRA members – prices from just £4.89 on Friday and £9.79 on Saturday.
- Excellent programme of racing.
- Over 150 real ales, ciders and perries to sample supplied predominantly from local craft brewers. All at £1.25 per half pint and £2.50 per pint. Free tasting notes provided.
- Hot and cold food available all day.
- Gates and Bars open at 11am. Last orders 4.55pm on Friday and 5.30pm on Saturday.
- Live music on both days.
- Free parking or a 7 minute walk from Ascot Railway Station.

To book tickets, call **0870 727 1234** or visit ascot.co.uk quoting **CAMRA09**.



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