



# Swan Supping

Campaign for Real Ale  
Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch  
[www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)

**FREE**

Issue 71

APR/MAY 2009



## RAISE A TOAST TO CASK ALE!



*National Cask Ale Week* runs from the 6th of April through to the 13th. The event is headed up by *Cask Marque* with support from national and regional brewers, countless pub companies, and, of course, the *Campaign for Real Ale*.

One of the ambitions for this week is to get into the *Guinness Book of Records* by encouraging thousands of drinkers in thousands of pubs to raise a toast, all at the same time, to cask ale!

All cask ale pubs can take part in this event which takes place at 7pm on Saturday 11th April. As the record currently stands at 485,000, it means that an awful lot of beer has to be drunk!

Landlords have to register by 3rd of April along with the names of two people who

NATIONAL  
Cask Ale  
WEEK  
6th - 13th APRIL 2009

will act as witnesses (and who are unable to take part in the toast). They need to be independent and prepared to testify that you've actually done what you claim. Both witnesses need to be over 18 and we'll need some evidence of their integrity (for example, they may have some standing in the local community, such as your local MP or be associated with a profession or association eg *CAMRA*).

Along with this event, the organisers will be calling for April 6th to be recognised as *National Beer Day* with a high profile launch at St Pancras station in London.

Along with a photocall featuring celebrities, there will be a mass sampling session as an attempt will be made to convert the French from their wine to cask ale as they arrive on Eurostar or as they are heading for the continent!

The week will also try and target the 65% of British adults who have never actually tried cask beer, so if you know one of these poor unfortunates, bring them along!

The forms for registering pubs and witnesses, plus a full list of pubs participating in *National Cask Ale Week* can be found at [www.caskaleweek.co.uk](http://www.caskaleweek.co.uk).

# REBELLION

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A newsletter with a print run of 5000 for the discerning drinkers of Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe

## Local News

## ASTON CLINTON

On a recent branch social in the village, all the pubs were offering real ale. There was *Adnams Bitter* at the **Rothschild Arms**, *Wadworth 6X* and *Fullers London Pride* at the **Duck In** which was followed at the **Partridge Arms** with *Greene King IPA*, *Courage Best* and *Fullers London Pride*. The **Oak** also featured *Fullers London Pride* (and *ESB*) and *Adnams Bitter*, plus *Morrissey Fox Blonde* which was tied into the Comic Relief charity. As an alternative to 'Happy Hours', the **Oak** offers a 'Grumpy Hour' each Tuesday and Thursday between 6pm and 7pm. Free nibbles are available on the bar and prices are at the 'Landlord's Whim'!

## AYLESBURY

The **Bell** is now run by Lindsey Adams and is offering *Greene King IPA*, *Old Speckled Hen*, and *Fullers London Pride*.

The **Broad Leys** was one of six finalists in the 'Tenanted/Leased Pub of the Year' section of the 'Publican Awards' run by the Publican magazine which covers the pub trade. Landlady, Helen Wood, was delighted to have been nominated, although disappointed not to have won. Food sales at the pub

have risen by 50%, helped by the decision to put Aylesbury duck on the menu permanently. This *Punch Taverns*' pub serves *Hancocks HB*, *Fuller's London Pride* and *Flowers Original*.

The **Buckinghamshire Yeoman** has recently started offering real ale. Jo, the landlady, plans to have *Greene King IPA* and *Wells & Young's Bombardier* on as standard, with one other according to popularity with the locals. The pub does great value meal deals.

Patrick Carroll, formerly at the **Emperors Lounge**, is the new manager at the **Grapes** which recently reopened on 18th of March. The pub had been closed for three weeks after a few months of very erratic opening hours and is now under the control of Paul Servi and it is intended to change the emphasis by introducing a dartboard and a pool table. The opening times are 11am - 11pm every day with an extension to 2am on Friday and Saturday nights. Food will consist of snacks to start off with and it is hoped that the sales of *Greene King IPA* will be sufficient to warrant adding an extra beer in the near future.

An application has been made for a premises licence at **G&C's** which used to be called **Hampden's**. Perhaps they will try some real ale this time around!

The **Hobgoblin** has reinstated its £1.50 price for a pint of beer before 7pm. They are currently offering *Wychwood Hobgoblin* plus a beer from the now closed **Archers** brewery. The later will be replaced by a *Marstons*' beer in the near future.

The **Hop Pole** will be holding their annual Easter Bank Holiday Beer Festival over the Easter weekend. There will be thirty beers available plus traditional ciders. We will be holding a branch social there on Good Friday and everyone is welcome to join us. Unfortunately, Stuart and Monia are going to say 'arrivederci' as they are moving to Italy after the festival. We will be sad to lose them as they have done a great job at the pub and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

**MyPlace**, formerly the **Lantern**, which closed shortly after Christmas, has reopened as **Mango**. It could become a members only bar and we have no news yet about the availability of any real ale.

The **Rockwood** was closed recently for three days to allow it to be repainted. There is a new menu available to go with the hand-pulled *Fullers London Pride* and the rotating guest beer which was *Black Sheep Best Bitter* at the last visit.

The **White Swan** has been offering *Wells & Young's Bombardier* for about nine months but this fact had escaped our intrepid local reporters. This is a great improvement for this pub, which was once a regular in the *Good Beer Guide* and has been keg only for a long time.

## BIERTON

For those of you still pining for Horndean's finest *Gales HSB*, get down to the **Bell** for a cracking pint of *Fuller's HSB* whilst it's still on.

As feared, the **Red Lion** has closed. Martin Mansell, the tenant of this *Punch Taverns* pub, told us that he had in the same post (i) an eviction notice and (ii) notification of a rent increase! So much for the pubcos' claims, as reported on the front page of the last *Swan Supping*, that 'they are offering financial assistance to

(Continued on page 23)

# The Wheel

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## UNIT PRICING

The topic of 'Unit Pricing' for alcohol has been in the news a lot recently.

**CAMRA** has branded the Prime Minister's recent claim that he does not wish to penalise the 'sensible majority of moderate drinkers' as hypocritical. Last year the Government increased tax on beer by an eye-watering 18%, a move which has penalised responsible drinkers and contributed to the loss of nearly 6 pubs a day.

**CAMRA** supports the introduction of a minimum price per unit of alcohol set at a level sufficient to prevent the major supermarkets selling alcohol at a loss and thereby encourage people to drink in the regulated and social environment of the pub.

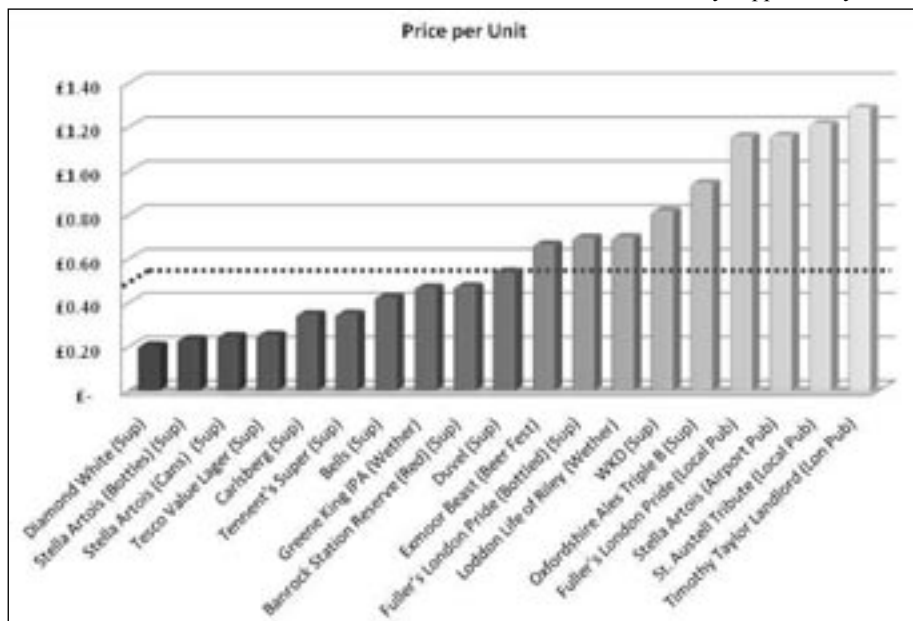
If the Prime Minister genuinely wishes to avoid penalising the majority of moderate drinkers then he must abandon plans for annual above inflation increases in the tax on beer and endorse action to prevent the major supermarkets undermining pubs by selling alcohol at a loss.

Using prices found in Tesco (Broadfields) supermarket (Sup) whose *Stella Artois* was on special offer, *JD Wetherspoons* (Wether), local pubs and pubs at an airport and London (Lon pub), we have drawn up a chart showing where the 50p unit price would fall.

The only real ale drinkers that would be affected are those who have taken advantage of the 99p price for a pint of *Greene King IPA* that is currently on offer at *JD Wetherspoons* pubs and this cannot be expected to continue forever. However, if things continue as they have done, the responsible real ale drinkers (the vast majority that we know) who go out to enjoy a drink and not with the intention of

getting drunk, will all be affected by the steady loss of places to enjoy their favourite tipple.

Supermarkets can never offer its customers the possibility of good conversation, games of darts, pool or even cribbage and a nice quiz. If unit pricing can bring about a change in society so that drinking is done mainly in the responsible environment of the pub, then it should be wholeheartedly supported by all!



# THE FALCON

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## BEER FESTIVAL

Bank Holiday Weekend  
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Barbeque Available PLUS  
Live entertainment in the Evening from  
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## RUGBY THEMED BEER FESTIVAL

Members, friends and visitors enjoyed another innovative beer festival at the High Wycombe Rugby Club over the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th of March, in aid of the Chile Donation and Tour 2010.

Pints of *Knock On*, the club's special brew courtesy of *Rebellion Brewery*, *Rucking Mole* and many more rugby-themed labels were sampled and savoured.

Nick Kidby (pictured pouring a pint at the festival), Fundraising & Sponsorship Chairman, thanked supporters of this month's festival - the fourth so far! This is all part of a huge club effort to ensure the ground-breaking Latin American tour to Chile in May 2010 is a great success.

The club has its own Chilean connection, a member now for 8 years, Luis Antonio Collinao Pizarro, whose powers of persuasion have eventually paid off. It will not only be a fantastic opportunity for 45 players and social members to travel and play in such a far away land, but also HWRUFC will be taking coaches, match equipment and a lot of enthusiasm to share with disadvantaged children in schools in the capital Santiago, and Arica, in Chile's arid north. They hope to inspire

the children to play rugby and be part of Chile's dream of becoming a world rugby nation.

The Federation of Rugby in Chile (FERUCHI) is eagerly waiting to meet and support Tour 2010. Bidding to give this tour special impact and influence, Ross MacKerron, Club Chairman, has recently contacted the Chilean Embassy to inform it of the club's grand plans and to secure its advice and support.

Tour 2010 has united and inspired all strands of the club. The mini and youth sections have pledged to send new and used kit and

equipment. Glen Gavin is in the process of establishing links between Cressex Community School and one of the beneficiary schools in Chile as part of HWRUFC's ongoing community work and complementary tour activity. He hopes to establish a '21st century pen pal' programme and raise more local awareness for the cause.

Two more beer festivals are planned for the end of this year and for spring 2010 so if you haven't tried one yet it's not too late. You can follow the tour plans and progress at [www.hwrufc.com](http://www.hwrufc.com) and they hope to welcome you at their next event.



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### Rail Ale Beer Festival

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7pm till 11pm  
Sat 16th May  
12 noon till 11pm  
Sun 17th May  
12 noon till 3pm**

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- 2 ciders & 1 perry
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See website for Beer List

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## AYLESBURY'S FIRST SELF-SERVICE PUB



< It's not often that *Swan Supping* gets a scoop, but this report from our raving reporter, Louise, must surely qualify. Ed.>

Aylesbury is about to get its very own, first self-service pub. Because of tight commercial confidentiality, we have not yet been able to find out the exact location but we can at least give some details on how the concept will work. The pub should be up and running from early April, and the word on the street is that it will be a conversion of an existing pub in the town's 'northern quarter'.

Actually, the idea is not a new one. Extraordinarily it was invented in Yorkshire, not usually known for anything original – but the 'if tha does owt for nowt, do it fer thissen' mentality seems to have been the driving force behind it.

Drinks will be available on metered dispense. The traditional bar will be replaced by a row of swipe-card operated nozzles, not unlike petrol pumps.

But the really cool thing is that they will be entirely voice-activated and photo-interactive.

The technology is so advanced that only polite, distinctly enunciated orders will be taken – the aim being to refuse alcohol to people who slur their words or use offensive language like 'three quid for a pint, you must be bloody joking' or 'make sure you give me a full pint next time, you dalek'. The dispenser then automatically logs the details, takes a photo, and adds the customer to the national Pubwatch database. Computer generated voice responses can range from a simple, quiet 'I'm sorry...don't blame me...I'm only inhuman' to an annoyingly insistent, flat-toned 'I'm sorry...you have exceeded your units for this week...please try later' right up to a loud and menacing 'bog off, you're barred'.

The system can be programmed to suit local needs – the basic, *Yorkshosoft* dialect recognition and response 'idiometric' software can be switched to a variety of vernacular and language settings, although we understand there are still a number of glitches. For example, orders given in Lancashire or American immediately cause the system to crash.

The system also allows for light snacks to be dispensed, although again,

there have been a few teething problems reported, like cashew nuts clogging up the nozzles and crushed crisps.

Apparently, the Government has been taking a keen interest in the system. A leaked e-mail says it all 'Hi Alistair, the Otley trial shows that the self-service pub concept represents an ideal way to control drinking and raise revenue at the same time. We can log people's drinking habits, check up on who they are associating with, introduce variable excise duty and VAT to target binge drinkers or any group according to political affiliation, length of beard, body mass index, under-age, over-age...the possibilities are endless. Should we run it by Gordon? So long and thanks for all the fish, Jacqui.'

We interviewed a few people in Aylesbury pubs to test their reactions to the self-service idea:

Kathy 'wet-lips' Kirbygrip, the blonde bombshell from the **Stars & Garters**, said 'it'll never catch on, the darling boys won't want to wash their glasses up themselves'. Dave, from the same pub, was too love-struck on Kathy to say anything.

Neil Prickles, a visiting man-about-town, said 'that'll give the southern jessies summat to think abaht, tha knows'.

Alistair, a canny Scot in disguise in the **Rose and Clown**, said 'that'll give the Sassenach numpties something to think on, och aye the noo'.

A man in the street said he wasn't prepared to say anything 'cos it got him into trouble last time.

So there you have it, a cross-section of the public clearly welcomes the idea, and the Government backs it – that's self-serving democracy at work.

*Louise Dugalby*

**EASTER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

**JAZZ**

**AT THE ROCKWOOD**

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**SUN 12TH APRIL**

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## NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR



The pub consisted of a carpeted 'L' shaped bar with a separate room towards the rear and surprisingly an award winning tropical beer garden in the middle of all the industrial dereliction. Seating comprised comfortable benches round the walls with some free-standing tables and chairs.

The atmosphere in the pub was very friendly from both staff and customers - we spent some time talking to a chap who used to work for *Whitbread*.

The walls of the pub were covered in certificates from *CAMRA* and other pub related organisations, although the *National Pub of the Year* plaque was not yet displayed. On enquiring of the barman, he commented they were still looking at a way of firmly fixing it to the (outside?) wall in view of the large number of scrap merchants in the area!

After a very pleasant couple of hours we moved on to the *Harlequin*.

The **Kelham Island Tavern** in Sheffield has recently been voted *CAMRA National Pub of the Year*, so following a successful visit to last year's winner, the **Old Spot** at Dursley, our intrepid trio of pensioners namely Bruce, Mike and myself plus Giles, our younger compatriot, set off to Sheffield on March 24 to make a visit.

After a pleasant 'on-time' railway journey, we were joined at Sheffield by Dave Thornhill, a fellow pensioner. After a brief stop to photograph 'Tornado' (Britain's new steam loco), which just happened to be at the station, we caught the tram out to the Shalesmoor stop.

We arrived at the **Kelham Island Tavern** about 14.30 after visits to the **Wellington** and **Fat Cat**. The pub was still very busy with approximately thirty customers. This tailed off a bit over the next couple of hours but a hard core of about ten customers still remained.

We had visited the pub before but that was several years ago, before the floods. Thirteen beers on handpump were available, mostly from local breweries but with a few from further afield.

The actual beers available were *Brew Company Frontier*, *Abbeydale Black Mass*, *Sheffield Sheffield Porter*, *Bradfield Farmers Blonde*, *Pictish Brewers Gold*, *Salamander War Hammer*, *Acorn Barnsley Bitter* & *Eggeracker*, *Thwaites Nutty Slack* & *Original*, *White Rose Brewnette*, *White Horse Sarcen Stone* and *Cottage Slumdog Jack*.

Good value food was also available up to 15.00, with filled rolls on the bar available for most of the day.

While walking between pubs, I noticed that one of the derelict factories had a notice attached, indicating a conversion into flats/apartments by 2010. Not a bad place to live with so many good pubs only a few yards away.

Going back to the other pubs visited, the first was the **Wellington** which had reverted to its original name after being named the **Cask & Cutler** for a few years.

Six beers on handpump including one from the on-site *Little Ale Cart Brewery* (clued up readers will remember the on-site brewery was named *Port Mahon* in *Cask & Cutler* days).





## IN THE VALLEY OF BEER



the *Prospect* brewery which is situated in a private residence in Wigan – smooth, dark and creamy with echoes of *Orkney Dark Island*. Another feature of this pub was the filled Barm Cakes for only £1.50. This pub is a great addition to the ‘valley of beer’.

Time was now up and I had to shepherd my flock back to the station for the return home. Another great day in Sheffield, and once again, another visit must be made to do some of the old favourites missed on this trip.

**Dick Moore**

< The Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of CAMRA is planning to organise a trip to Sheffield later on this year. Please check future issues of *Swan Supping* and our website ([www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)) for further developments as they happen - Ed >



The next hostelry was the legendary **Fat Cat** where the nine handpumps rather surprisingly (or perhaps annoyingly!) included *Vale Black Swan Mild*, *Tring Blonde* and two *Frog Island* beers. For us Southerners, the award winning *Kelham Island Pale Rider* was available.

Some members of the party took on some solids at this point from the varied selection of good value homemade food. The pub was full when we arrived, with nearly everyone availing themselves of lunch.

As I mentioned before, we then moved on to the **Kelham Island Tavern** followed by a ten minute walk to the **Harlequin**. This pub used to be called the **Manchester** and was a new pub for me.

It was a very comfortable pub with ten handpumps and very friendly staff. It was here that I had my beer of the day, namely *Big John* from



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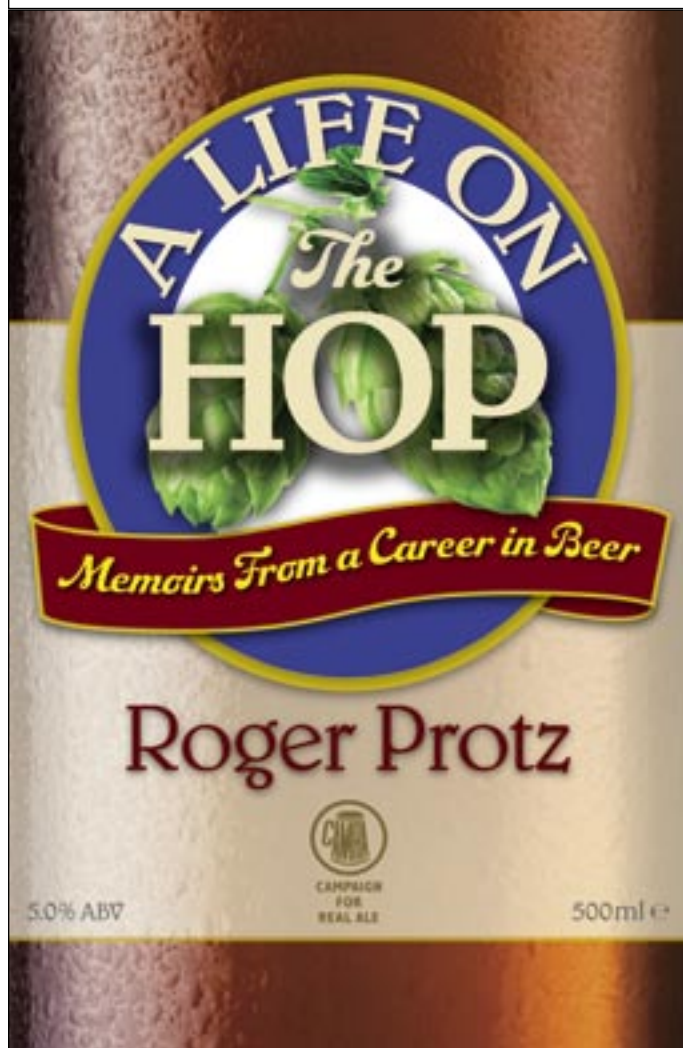
**Good Friday  
Beer Festival**

**10th April (12 - Midnight)**

**Ten real ales  
Three real ciders  
Food available all day  
Free entry**



## BOOK REVIEWS



**A Life on the Hop -Memoirs From a Career in Beer  
By Roger Protz**

**Published 9 March 2009**

£10.99 (members), £12.99 (non-members)

*A Life on the Hop - Memoirs from a Career in Beer* recounts the entertaining highlights and challenging low points of Roger Protz's busy and influential career in beer. Well-known and admired within the world of beer, Protz has written many indispensable books on the subject and these memoirs will provide fascinating reading not just to CAMRA members but to all lovers of good beer.

During his career, Protz has travelled to most of the great beer-drinking nations - from Britain, through Europe to Russia, Mexico and the USA. Starting in Britain in the 1970s, during the early days of the Campaign for Real Ale he was involved from early on in the battle to save traditional beer from giant brewers.

The book includes entertaining anecdotes from many trips to other parts of the world, including visits to Belgium. In St Petersburg, he sought out the traditional beers, such as Baltic Stouts and Porters, which are under threat from global brewers. During many visits to the USA he saw for himself the micro-brewing revolution bringing taste and flavour back to a country dominated by bland national brands. Among other experiences, he also recounts an hilarious trip on the QE2 for a beer tasting affloat!

It's the longest pub crawl in history. Leading beer writer Roger Protz has been trawling the world for more than 30 years in search of perfect

pints and pubs and has now written of his adventures in a book that will appeal to all who enjoy a glass of good beer.

Roger's journey started outside a pub in east London, nursing a ginger beer while his father and uncle enjoyed pints inside. The young Mr Protz observed:

*'As customers arrived and left, I would glimpse through the briefly open doors the secret, all-male world of the pub. These were utilitarian times. There were few creature comforts. The customers stood and drank. The floor was composed of bare boards and the air was wreathed in cigarette smoke. But I could hear laughter and conversation. It was a world I wanted to join.'*

Roger was first able to enter 'licensed premises' when he worked in the astonishingly boozy world of national newspapers in Fleet Street where so much alcohol was consumed by 'scribes' and 'inkies' that it was a miracle the papers ever appeared.

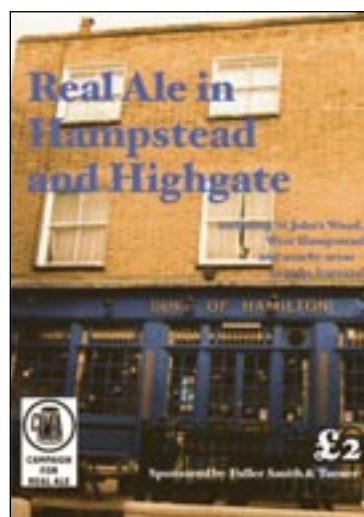
In the mid-1970s, Roger turned his beer-drinking hobby into a career when he went to work for the **Campaign for Real Ale**. Roger recalls the job interview with his ex-Evening Standard colleague and later CAMRA co-founder, Michael Hardman:

*'I applied for the post of assistant editor of publications with the campaign and went to its head office in St Albans for an interview with Hardman. It was a brief meeting. 'I was on the Standard, you were on the Standard, so you'll do,' he said. 'So you'll do' - three fateful words that launched me on a new career as a full-time beer writer.'*

Roger's beer-related travels have taken him to the United States, where craft brewers have brought back choice and diversity to a country ravaged by Prohibition. He recalls his first visit to Czechoslovakia in the 1980s, where getting information from the communist authorities was difficult: at one brewery in Prague he was chased away by a guard with a machine gun and a snarling dog. To Germany, and on one of many visits to the world-famous Oktoberfest, Roger was horrified to find himself sitting on Hitler's favourite bench in the **Hofbrauhaus** beer hall.

Belgium is also high on his radar and he details such amazing styles as sour red beer, lambic beer made by spontaneous fermentation, using wild yeasts in the atmosphere, the struggle to save the great ales brewed by Trappist monks, and the successful campaign to rescue Hoegaarden from the tender mercies of the world's biggest brewer, **InBev**, whose name means something extremely rude in Brussels slang.

*A Life on the Hop* is an amusing romp around the beer world and is devoid of beery jargon. It will be enjoyed not only by beer lovers but also by those who enjoy travel writing.



**Real Ale in Hampstead  
and Highgate**

Published by the **North London Branch** of **CAMRA** and sponsored by **Fullers Brewery**, this surprisingly cheap (only £2) guide gives full information on pubs worth visiting in Hampstead and Highgate districts and also includes St. John's Wood, West Hampstead and other nearby areas.

Both books can be ordered at [www.camra.org.uk/shop](http://www.camra.org.uk/shop) or by ringing 01727 867201.



# LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

## VALE BREWERY

The monthly special beer for April from *Vale Brewery* is *Brunhelle*.

*Brunhelle* is the name for Brill in the Domesday Book and will be a 4.2% ABV mid-brown coloured best bitter.

It is described as a smooth malty English ale with subtle bitterness from Progress, First Gold, Goldings & Northdown hops, and should be a St George's English Ale to enjoy all month long.

It will be possible to try the beer at the Open Day that *Vale* are running on the 4th of April. The brewery will be open between 11am and 4pm, a wide range of beers will be available to try, or buy, and they will be conducting guided tours throughout the day. Their seasonal brew, *Hadda's Spring Gold* will also be available to try. A BBQ will also be available so you can make a day of it. so lets hope for some good weather!

The monthly special beer for May will be *Castle Bitter*, which is named after the Saxon castle in Brill which was abandoned in 1327. No firm details were available from *Vale* on this beer but they did say that they will 'play' with different hops again, and it will be amber coloured and quite heavy on the hops.

The *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch* of *CAMRA* are having a brewery visit to *Vale* on Saturday 2nd of May. Please contact the editor (details on page 22) to book your place. It is intended to run a mini-bus (or larger) from Aylesbury town centre to arrive at the brewery about 12.30pm, returning to the *Hop Pole* for more drinks and a buffet. The price (for transport and buffet) will depend on numbers involved.

## LODDON BREWERY

Major building work is continuing at *Loddon Brewery* which should be finished by the summer. Despite this, the brewery has been running at full capacity for over a year and sales have increased by nearly 14% over the previous year, and February this year was their best month ever.

Profits have also increased, not only due to the increase in sales, but due to changes in the policies for buying ingredients and cutting out any unnecessary expenses.

When the building work has been completed, the branch intends to pay a visit to the brewery. As it can easily be reached using public transport, there will be no excuse for local *CAMRA* members (and anyone else who loves their beer) not to come along. Details will be announced in a future issue of *Swan Supping*.



## 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.
- **MARKS & SPENCERS** – We were selected as one of only four breweries to produce a real ale in bottle for M&S.



Our Brill brewed beers are available:

Bottled Real Ale. £20 a case, mixed to your taste.

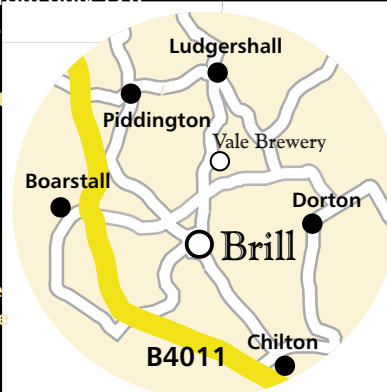
Beer Boxes – From only £1.38 a pint. Polypins (35 pints) or Minipins (17 pints) of real ale ready to drink at home from only £26.

Please call in advance to order 01844 239237.

### OUR BEERS:

Vale Best Bitter 3.7% ABV - Light copper hoppy bitter  
Vale Pale Ale 4.2% ABV - Dry hoppy golden ale  
Vale Special 4.5% ABV - Bronze Premium Bitter  
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  
Wychert 3.9% - Rich malty auburn bitter  
Edgars Golden Ale 4.3% - English golden best bitter  
Gumpling Old Ale 4.6% - Ruby brown premium ale

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



Tramway Business Park, Ludgershall Road, Brill, HP18 9TY  
Tel: 01844 239237 e-mail: [info@valebrewery.co.uk](mailto:info@valebrewery.co.uk)  
Opening hours. Mon to Fri 9.30am to 5pm, Sat 9.30am to 11.30am.



# The Red Lion

3 High Street, Chinnor (☎01844 353468)

*CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2009  
listed with four real ales*

Home-Cooked Pub Food  
Available Every Day

**Quiz - Monday 6th April**

**Wednesday - Steak Night**  
**Steak, Chips & Salad £6-95**

*Need an outside bar? - Please call!*

**Cask Marque Approved**

## BREWERY NEWS



The following message was posted on the *Archers Brewery* website at the time of going to press. 'We are sad to announce that *Archers The Brewers* affairs, business and property are being managed, in administration, by insolvency practitioners...*Archers The Brewers* are actively seeking a buyer to keep the beers in production.'

*Archers* beers are reasonably well distributed in the branch area and are well liked so many devotees will hope that the brewery re-emerges from administration. However, it was only two years ago that the brewery was in a similar position, according to the *Publican* newspaper.

Similarly, the *Ventnor Brewery* on the Isle of Wight was reported to have had to close this month, despite brewing the local *CAMRA* branch's *Beer of the Year*, *Ventnor Gold*. The brewery manager said that tough economic times in the credit crunch as well as poor weather in the last two summers had put the brewery in difficulty. Extra help from the bank was not forthcoming.

*Reading CAMRA's* website have also announced that Mark Butler from *Butlers Brewery* in Mapledurham has packed his business up, because he is running at a loss, and owed so much money.

It just goes to show that although we are blessed with a lot of excellent local breweries around our branch area, we should not take them for granted, so support them whenever you can!

## THE THREE HORSESHOES

Burroughs Grove Hill, (Old Wycombe Road),  
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*Six Rebellion Ales (including Mild)*

*Quality Wines from Laithwaites/  
Direct Wines*

*Extensive Lunchtime menu*

*Sunday Roasts 12-3pm*

*Fantastic Evening Menu  
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*Monday Night Specials*

*Open all Bank Holiday Weekends!*

*Large Garden and Car Park*

*2 Log Fires*

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## MEMBERS/NON-MEMBERS

All of **CAMRA**'s members are highly valued. Without you the organisation would not exist, but did you know that **CAMRA** membership can mean so much more than your monthly copy of What's Brewing, reading *Swan Supping*, or the occasional trip to the local beer festival?

**CAMRA** is a very active organisation full of vibrant personalities getting involved in many different ways. From taking part in local pub surveys, distributing membership leaflets to running local and national beer festivals, the work is varied, challenging, but most of all, enjoyable. There is of course an element of commitment to volunteering but ultimately it is like-minded individuals working together and having fun that really encourages members to keep giving their valuable time.

Why bother? Well without more individuals getting involved actively, **CAMRA** will struggle to continue to grow and develop. Local branches are always looking for new faces to join in at meetings or social events and would be very happy to hear from you. So why not become a more active part of **CAMRA**? It is rewarding, fun and will no doubt at some point involve having a few pints. What could be better?

So how do you find out more? Contacting your local branch is a great start. This can be done by either getting in touch with the editor or by going to our website ([www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)).

You can also use the same route if you are currently a **CAMRA** member and help us to understand why so many members of our branch remain unwilling to get involved.

If you are not already a **CAMRA** member, there is always a membership form in *Swan Supping*. This is on page 21 and the contact details for the editor, plus the branch diary which shows events to which all are welcome, can be found on page 22.

## 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**

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**

**Well kept ale & extensive wine list**

**Large beer garden**

**Beautiful rural setting**

## BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR



**Eight Bells, Long Crendon**

It is time again to vote for the *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Pub of the Year!*

If you are a **CAMRA** member, you can have your say in one of the most important decisions we have to make every year.



**Shepherd's Crook, Crowell**

The four pubs that have made it to the final are the **Eight Bells**, Long Crendon, the **Shepherd's Crook**, Crowell, the **Wheel** in Naphill and the **Whip**, Lacey Green.

If you wish to have your say, please contact the editor before Friday 24th of April when the decision will be made.

The result will be announced on the branch website and a date for the presentation of the **POTY** certificate will be found there as well.

The winner will also be featured in the next issue of *Swan Supping* along with a picture of the presentation.

The winner of this competition will go forward to a regional competition against other **POTYs** from the Central Southern region of **CAMRA** and if successful in that, go forward to compete for the title of *National Pub of the Year*, which was won this year by the **Kelham Island Tavern** in Sheffield.

Before you say 'Why isn't the ..... (fill in the blank) pub being considered?', you must remember that the pubs have been selected by the active local members of the *Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe* branch of **CAMRA** and if you want to help choose next year you are very welcome to get involved!

Also, winners from the past five years are not eligible to compete as we like to spread the



**Wheel, Naphill**

title around and give as many of our pubs a chance. This means that the **Kings Head** and **Hop Pole** in Aylesbury, the **Royal Standard**, Wooburn, **Stag & Huntsman**, Hambleden, and the **Three Horseshoes**, Marlow Bottom, were not considered this year.



**Whip, Lacey Green**



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- CAMRA & SIBA Award-winning Ales
- Brewed using only natural ingredients
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- Available "bright" and ready to drink
- New BREWERY SHOP now open Weekdays 9-6\* and Saturdays 9-12

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# Save up to 70% on CAMRA books

## New reductions!!!!


<p><b>Appetite for Ale</b> CAMRA members £17.99 now £10 RRP £19.99 now £12</p> <p><b>Good Beer Guide Prague and Czech Republic</b> CAMRA members £10.99 now £9 RRP £12.99 now £11</p> <p><b>Good Cider Guide</b> CAMRA members £8.99 now £5 RRP £10.99 now £7</p>	<p><b>The Little Book of Beer</b> CAMRA members £2.95 now £2.50 RRP £3.95 now £3</p> <p><b>London Pub Walks</b> CAMRA members £6.99 now £5 RRP £8.99</p> <p><b>50 More Pub Crawls</b> CAMRA members £5.99 now £5 RRP £7.99</p>
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**Book of Beer Knowledge**  
CAMRA members £7.99 now £5  
RRP £9.99 now £3.99




**Fuzzy Logic**  
CAMRA members £7.99 now £5  
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**Good Beer Guide Germany**  
CAMRA members £14.99 now £5.99  
RRP £16.99 now £6.50



**The Beer Lover's Guide to Cricket**  
CAMRA members £14.99 now £5.99  
RRP £16.99 now £6.50



**Beer, Bed & Breakfast**  
CAMRA members £11.99 now £8.99  
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Buy both books ~~£10.99~~ CAMRA members £12.99 non members

Postage £1.50 plus £1 per book. Buy CAMRA books at [www.camra.org.uk/shop](http://www.camra.org.uk/shop) or by phone 01727 867201, or by sending a cheque made payable to CAMRA to: CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Postage and packaging charges are applicable. Orders will normally be dispatched within 10 working days. This could extend to 15 days in peak periods. Prices correct at time of publication.



## LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



### REBELLION BREWERY

**Rebellion Brewery** will be opening their doors to the public for their two yearly open weekend on 4th/5th July this year. The aim of the weekend is to say thank you to all their customers and to raise money for the local hospital scannappeal.

The brewery will be open between 11:00am and 5:00pm both days, with tours running continuously throughout both days every half hour. The tours are free and cover briefly the

history of brewing and the **Rebellion Beer Company**, and how beer is made. You will be free to try all their current range of cask conditioned and bottled beers, and there will be soft drinks for those unfortunate enough not to like beer, are too young or draw the short straw and have the car keys. There will also be a barbecue and local bands will provide entertainment for those wishing to stay a while and relax with a cool pint.

**Rebellion** have invited the trustees of the Wycombe Hospital Scannappeal to help during the weekend, and they will be promoting their



latest worthwhile appeal. The visit to the brewery is totally free (except the barbecue and the soft drinks), however any donations to the Scannappeal would be gratefully received.

**Rebellion Brewery's** monthly specials which have a 'Financial Crisis' theme will continue with the 4.2% ABV amber and floral *Meltdown* in April and May will see the launch of the 4.4% ABV, red and full bodied *Fat Cat*.

*Market Collapse*, a copper and hoppy 4.4% ABV beer will follow in June.



### *The Harrow*

4 Cambridge Street,  
Aylesbury,  
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Tel: 01296 336243

- *Historical 17th Century Building with a modern feel*
- *Three Great Real Ales on Handpump*
- *Large selection of world beers and wines*
  - *Superb Homecooked food*
- *Served Friday - Sunday 12 till 5*
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*The Harrow, 4 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1RS*  
Tel: 01296 336243

## NEW

**Discover a new hobby this New Year and Brew Your Own British Real Ale**

**By Graham Wheeler**

This new edition of *Brew Your Own British Real Ale* provides practical help and information for novices and experienced home brewers alike. It contains detailed brewing instructions as well as comprehensive

recipes for a wide range of beers. Graham Wheeler has fully updated this classic home brew book with recipes for contemporary and award-winning beers as well as many old favourites. This is the ideal book for home brewers, get your copy today and start brewing your own real ale.

**Published January 2009,**  
**RRP £14.99 CAMRA members' price £12.99**  
**208 pages 978-1-85249-258-8**

Postage £1.50 plus £1 per book. Buy CAMRA books at [www.camra.org.uk/shop](http://www.camra.org.uk/shop) or by phone 01727 867201, or by sending a cheque made payable to CAMRA to: CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Postage and packaging charges are applicable. Orders will normally be dispatched within 10 working days. This could extend to 15 days in peak periods. Prices correct at time of publication.





**The Blackwood Arms Country Pub & Restaurant**  
Common Lane Littleworth Common Burnham Bucks SL1 8PP. Reservations  
Tel. 01753 642169 ~ [www.blackwoodarms.com](http://www.blackwoodarms.com)  
**A selection of real ales, great restaurant menu featuring fresh fish, steaks & specials**  
**Lunch 12-3 pm & Dinner 6-9 pm daily**

*A cozy informal pub ~ unique country cottage design ~  
extensive garden & patio, to enjoy the sun, or dine al fresco*

**Invitation to our ... Weekly Dinner Specials**

Tuesday is Wok night :

*Full on flavor and healthy stir-fry's with noodles, rice, chillies and spice. Dessert  
and a pint of our real ale, cider, lager or a glass of wine. All for only £10*

Wednesday is Steak night :

*Prime cut Aberdeen Angus Sirloin or Ribeye steaks, grilled to your liking. Served with a jacket potato and  
salad. Dessert and a pint of our real ale, cider, lager or a glass of wine. All for only £10.*

*Blackwood Arms beginners bridge club meets from 8.30 - 10.30 pm, new players always welcome.*

Thursday is Fish night :

*Enjoy a delicious fish supper, fresh beer battered haddock /cod, chips and mushy peas.  
Dessert of your choice and a pint of our real ale, cider, lager or a glass of wine. All for only £10*

*Why not join in the fun with our pub quiz from 8.30-10.30 pm*

Fridays & Saturdays:

*Book your table in our restaurant and enjoy a selection of fresh fish, steaks and  
our weekend specials. Occasionally we feature live music on a Friday night*

Sundays :

*In keeping with tradition on a Sunday, we serve our ever popular Sunday Roasts, along side a  
selection from our special's board, from 12 noon - 4 pm. Reservations recommended.*

**EASTER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND BEER FESTIVAL 10-13 APR ... SEE OUR WEBSITE**



**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 2.30pm.*

**Sunday Night Jazz**  
**every fortnight**



## LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS



### 15th Reading Beer and Cider Festival

The **15th Reading Beer & Cider Festival** will be held at Kings Meadow, Reading from Thursday 30th April to Sunday 3rd May. The venue is very close to Reading station and the use of public transport is encouraged!

#### Times & Price details:

**Thursday 30th April** 4:30pm - 11:00pm £5

**Friday 1st May** 11:00am - 11:00pm £7

**Saturday 2nd May:** 11:00am - 11:00pm £7

**Sunday 3rd May:** 12:00pm - 7:00pm £5

Admission is free for under 18s. However, under the terms of their licence, under 18s

must be accompanied by an adult and are allowed on site only until 8pm.

Admission £2 at all times for card-carrying members of **CAMRA**, **EBCU** or **RURACS**. Glass Hire £2 (refundable).

There will be over 450 real ales, 150 ciders and perries, 140 plus foreign beers and more than 45 English wines.

There will be a LocAle Bar, showcasing beers from breweries within 25 miles of the festival and the **National CAMRA Cider & Perry Awards** will take place there on the Saturday.

Thursday will be a quiet day and there will be music in one tent on the other days.

### 9th Banbury Beer Festival

The **9th Banbury Beer Festival** will take place at the Territorial Army Centre (10-15 minute walk from the town centre and bus and rail stations), Oxford Road, Banbury OX16 9AN from Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th of May.

The organisers say that they have improved the facilities this year, including more seats.

The festival will feature up to 90 real ales with approximately 30 East Anglian beers-most not seen in the area, plus around 18 Ciders and Perries. Plus (new for 2009) there will be a foreign beer bar!



#### Times and Price details:

Thursday 5-11pm (£1); Friday Midday-Midnight (£2 until 5pm, £4 after 5pm); Saturday 11am-11pm (£3 until 5pm, £1 after 5pm).

Free admission to **CAMRA** members with a valid membership card.

Food is available at all sessions, with a popular pig roast on Saturday afternoon.

There will be live entertainment on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

More information is available on their website ([www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk/festivals/](http://www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk/festivals/)).

# THE WHIP INN

## TRADITIONAL ENGLISH COUNTRY PUB

### BEER FESTIVAL

**Friday 8th & Saturday 9th May 2009**

**25+ Ales, Ciders & Perry**

**Microbreweries from across the U.K. plus Local breweries**

**Free Pint Glass**

**Afternoon Jazz**

**Food Available**

**Beer Tent Open**

**Fri 4-11pm**

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**Don't Drink & Drive! The 300 bus from Wycombe, Risborough & Aylesbury stops outside the pub.**

### WHIP INN FOR A PINT

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

**Swan Supping is free, but remember the charity box!**

## 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**

## BLACK COUNTRY TRIP



Our annual coach trip to the Black Country, known to a lot of people as the 'Highlight of the Year', is on Saturday 27th of June.

We will be visiting a lot of old favourites including the **Old Swan** in Netherton, which was once home to the fabled *Ma Pardoes* brewery and has recently reopened the brewery, **which we visited on a previous trip**. The pub is pictured above and we will also try to add a few different stops which have included brewery visits in the past.

The cost last year was a bargain at £25 per person and we hope that the price this year will be similar. The number of tickets will be limited to 35 (we don't want to totally overwhelm the pubs), so book now.

Tickets and further information can be obtained from the editor (contact details are shown on page 22).

### The Pink & Lily

The Pink & Lily, Pink Road, Parslows Hillock  
Lacey Green, Princes Risborough  
Bucks HP27 0RJ Tel: 01494 488308  
[www.pinkandlily.co.uk](http://www.pinkandlily.co.uk)

### The Plough Marlow

3 Little Marlow Road, Marlow,  
Buckinghamshire SL7 1HA  
Tel: 01628 482442  
Email: [the.ploughmarlow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:the.ploughmarlow@yahoo.co.uk)

**Both pubs are owned & run by  
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*You will be guaranteed a friendly smile & a warm  
welcome whichever destination you choose.*

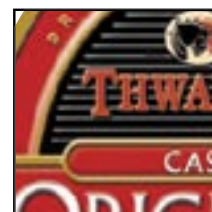
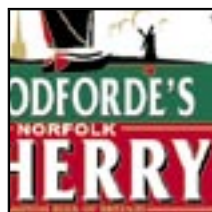
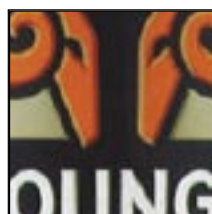
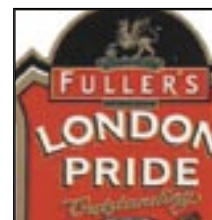
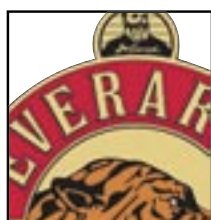
**Serving a wide range of real ales, wines by the glass &  
lagers along with freshly cooked English fare, so please support your  
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**Take this advert along with you to either pub to receive  
TWO Sunday Lunches for the price of ONE!**





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**Breakfast 9 - 11:30 Tuesday - Friday**

**Lunches 12 - 2.30 Tuesday - Sunday**

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

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

***Sunday Lunch ~ £8-75 for two courses (Children under 6 free!)***

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

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

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*Excellent Choice of 4 Quality Real ales*

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

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*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***



## THE AYLESBURY RING



### WENDOVER TO GREAT KIMBLE

The Aylesbury Ring is a 31 mile circular footpath that circumnavigates Bucks' county town. It passes through open countryside, taking in occasional villages, but is never more than five miles away from the centre of Aylesbury.

One of the best aspects of walking in the country is the prospect of a welcoming alehouse on the route. There are a number of interesting country pubs, either on the route of the Aylesbury ring itself or in distance of a small detour. Therefore we plan to describe the footpath route from the ale-drinker's perspective in this and future editions of *Swan Supping*.

As might be expected, there is a larger concentration of pubs on the

southern, more populated, side of the Aylesbury Ring. Therefore, we start with a relatively short walk that takes in a healthy number of pubs-per-mile – from Wendover to Great Kimble. This is around a three-and-a-half mile walk along the foot of the Chilterns but can be turned into a more energetic circular walk of around eight miles by linking with the higher-level Ridgeway long-distance footpath which also links Wendover and Great Kimble.

Normal precautions apply, as with any walk in this area. The walk crosses agricultural ground, including arable fields, so may be muddy in wet weather. The route is fairly well waymarked with distinctive Aylesbury Ring waymarkers. Some rudimentary directions are given below but walkers are strongly advised to use an appropriate Ordnance Survey Map. The 1:25,000 series Explorer 181 'Chiltern Hills North' covers the whole of the Aylesbury Ring route.

We start at the Tourist Information Centre at the clock tower in Wendover High Street, which is at about the five o'clock position on the Aylesbury Ring as a whole. Therefore, moving clockwise we head up the High Street a full fifty yards at most before encountering our first pub – the **Red Lion**.

The **Red Lion** is a historic coaching inn that was substantially refurbished by its owners, *Marston's Inns*, in the last couple of years. While its primary business is food and accommodation, the **Red Lion** offers a selection of three or four real ales for drinkers. On our visit *Marston's Pedigree* and *Sweet Chariot* seasonal beer were on offer as well as *Jenning's Cumberland Ale* and *Brakspear's Bitter*.



### Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover

Almost opposite the **Red Lion** on the High Street is the **White Swan**. A good selection of ales from the *Fuller's* portfolio is always on offer here.

Continue up the High Street towards the station. A diversion could be made down South Street at the mini-roundabout to visit the **King and Queen** to sample their real ales.

Slap bang on the route, however, is the **Shoulder of Mutton**. This is a large *Chef and Brewer* restaurant-pub next to the station entrance. We were mightily impressed to be greeted with no less than six real ales on offer. These comprised three fairly well known beers: *Courage Best*, *Fuller's London Pride* and *Theakston's XB*. However, three spring themed beers from regional brewers were also on offer: *Vale Spring Gold*, *Bateman's Bloomin' Marvellous* and *Elgood's Golden Newt*. The pub has a large garden to the rear, which isn't immediately obvious from the front of the building.

After all these marvellous pubs, it's now time to get on with the serious



### Red Lion, Wendover

## THE FOLLOWSHIP OF THE RING



***Russell, Butlers Cross***

business of walking the route. From the **Shoulder of Mutton**, cross the high level bridge which traverses both the railway line and the Wendover by-pass.

Immediately after the bridge, a turn is signposted to the right before a row of houses. Follow the track to the point where it emerges on to a very large arable field. When we walked the route the path was clearly rolled out across between the cereal crops. After crossing this field, the route crosses a couple of stiles and then follows the side of a further field. A little further on the path takes a sharp right turn to follow a small embankment in the direction of Wellwick Farm, which is a small hamlet of buildings.

The route is not particularly well signposted through the hamlet but basically heads through the gap in the middle of the buildings and then turns left to skirt behind a large house. The path briefly enters the house's garden and then continues between two fences into some pasture land. The route continues through an arable field which, when we walked it, had recently been ploughed and the public footpath had not been reinstated. Fortunately we were able to identify the stile at the other end of the field and head directly across the field towards it. Walking across a ploughed field is quite hard going and should rarely be necessary as farmers should be legally obliged to reinstate the footpath if their activities occasionally obliterate the route.

The village of Butler's Cross soon comes into view and is reached by walking across some smaller grassed fields. The Aylesbury Ring emerges on to Chalkshire Road with the **Russell** only a quarter-of-a-mile detour away.



***Ellesborough Church***

This pub was recently closed for a short period but has thankfully been given a new lease of life by new, locally-based proprietors. Three real ales were on offer on our visit: **Greene King IPA**, **Fuller's London Pride** and **Morland Old Speckled Hen**.

After whetting the taste buds in the **Russell**, steps need to be retraced to where the Aylesbury Ring crosses Chalkshire Road. The route is generally quite easy to follow, giving very picturesque views of Ellesborough church and the Chiltern Hills behind, as it passes through meadow and pasture land.

The path passes the Springs Farm, which is appropriately named as, at this point, the Aylesbury Ring quite closely follows the spring line of the Chiltern escarpment at which point the chalk geology gives way to the clay of the Aylesbury Vale. At this point many springs emerge, which may explain why so many prehistoric settlements have been found around this area.

After passing through another sizeable arable field the path progresses between a pair of fences behind some back gardens and eventually emerges on to Ellesborough Road in Little Kimble.

Follow the road downhill, passing All Saints Church which has some incredibly historic medieval wall paintings. The main A4010 Aylesbury to High Wycombe Road is just around the corner. Cross this and walk up the hill towards the **Bernard Arms**.



***Bernard Arms, Great Kimble***

As the most convenient pub for Chequers, the **Bernard Arms** has a long and distinguished history of slaking the thirst of Prime Ministers and foreign statesmen alike, although visits from our most recent incumbents of the prime-ministerial office have been sadly lacking – which seems to typify the current government's attitude towards support of the pub industry. The **Bernard Arms** serves three real ales, including a decent pint of **Adnam's Bitter** on our visit.

This marks the end of this section of the Aylesbury Ring. Arriva 300 buses frequently pass the **Bernard Arms** for either Aylesbury or High Wycombe. Little Kimble station is also less than a half mile stroll away down the A4010.

For energetic walkers looking to head back to Wendover, a circular walk can be made by taking the path that is clearly signposted towards Pulpit Hill and the Ridgeway from the lay-by slightly further on from the **Bernard Arms**. Towards the top of the hill the path intercepts the Ridgeway, which then is clearly signposted back towards Wendover.

*Mike Clarke*



## DOUBLE AWARD WINNER

A rare double win for one of England's oldest pubs - the **Royal Standard of England** has been awarded the national title of **Best Pub of The Year** and **Freehouse of the Year 2009** at the Publican awards ceremony in March.

The owner Matthew O'Keeffe was suitably delighted and said 'This is fantastic for the pub, as the last time the pub gained any national recognition was in 1663 when King Charles II rewarded the landlord for his support in the English Civil War against the Roundheads.'

The **Royal Standard of England** pub has remained constant in an ever-changing world and visitors can really feel the atmosphere of its historic past when walking through the pub.

The pub is hidden away between Beaconsfield and Penn and has a loyal following of supporters who appreciate the pub's simple classic food menu and award winning speciality beers, and resistance to changes of fashion.



Part of the award meant the pub has been filmed by Visit England to make a video to promote English pubs and tourism for the local area. The Chilterns pub will feature all over the world as one of the best of England's attractions for visitors outside the area. 'This will be a great boost to the local economy' says Matthew, 'I am grateful for the support of local councillors and from Chilterns tourist board.'

The awards were presented by local Gerrards Cross resident Des O'Connor.

Des O'Connor announced to the audience of 1,600 pub trade guests at the awards ceremony 'The Royal Standard of England was his local, I hope it does well tonight'. He told Matthew O'Keeffe after the pub's win he will come down for lunch and celebrate with the staff.

**Matthew O'Keeffe**  
**Royal Standard of England**

## It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

## Join CAMRA today...

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.

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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 ..... Mem Form 0108

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

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230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



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This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.



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# Branch Diary



*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

## APRIL

### Saturday 4th BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Wheel, Naphill.

### Monday 6th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm – Queen's Head, Aylesbury.

### Friday 10th GOOD FRIDAY BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12 noon, Hop Pole, Aylesbury

### Wednesday 15th MARLOW SOCIAL

8.30pm Hare and Hounds, 9.30pm Duke of Cambridge

### Wednesday 22nd HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIAL

8.30pm, Sausage Tree, 9.15pm Falcon,

10pm William Robert Loosley

### Wednesday 29th CADSDEN/WHITELEAF SOCIAL

9pm Plough, Cadsden, 10pm Red Lion, Whiteleaf.

## MAY

### Saturday 2nd VALE BREWERY VISIT

We are planning a mini-bus (or similar) from Aylesbury town centre to get to Brill by 12.30, returning to the Hop Pole for more drinks and food. Please book your place with the editor.

### Saturday 9th WHIP INN BEER FESTIVAL

12 noon, Whip Inn, Lacey Green

### Monday 11th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm, Swan, Great Kimble

### Friday 22nd THAME CRAWL

Starts 7.30pm Cross Keys, then Falcon, etc.

## Tuesday 26th SPEEN/LACEY GREEN SOCIAL

8.45pm King William IV Speen, 9.45pm Pink and Lily, Parslow's Hillock, Lacey Green.

## JUNE

### Saturday 27th BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Our annual trip - See page 16 for further details.

## OCTOBER

### 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'.

**CATCH UP WITH THE MEMBERS DURING SOCIALS WITH  
THE BRANCH MOBILE PHONE 0792 215 8971  
FOR THE LATEST ON BRANCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES,  
CHECK OUR WEBSITE: [www.swansupping.org.uk](http://www.swansupping.org.uk)**

## DON'T MISS OUT!

If you want to be kept up with the latest local pub news, be given beer festival information including the up to date listings of the beer available 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

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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)

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**Copy deadline** for next issue, due out 1st June 2009, is 14th May 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 75p 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)).

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## TIPPLEFAIR 2009

SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY

(Beer, Spirits and Drink Related Collectables)

(Established Event since 1999)

### Buckingham Community Centre

Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP

75 + Stalls

Early Admission 9am - £4.00

General Admission 10.30am - £1.50

(Finishes at 2.30pm)

Visit our Website - [www.tipples.net](http://www.tipples.net)

For Booking Details

Telephone

07818 810896/01908 262039

All items on sale will be connected to the Manufacture, distribution, promotion of Drink related products

### WHISKY & SPIRIT ITEMS BREWERY ITEMS

(BOTTLES & LABELS, WATER JUGS, BAR FIGURES, PLAYING CARDS, ASHTRAYS, PUMP CLIMPS, BAR FONTS, OPENERS, BEERMATS, BOOKS, SHOWCARDS AND MANY OTHER RELATED ITEMS)

come and join like minded Collectors for A Social Gathering







## More Local News



(Continued from page 2)

tenants to help them through their financial difficulties'.

### CADMORE END

The **Blue Flag** is now called the **Tree!**

### EMMINGTON

**Skinners Cornish Knocker Ale** can now be found at the **Inn at Emmington**.

### FORD

February saw the completion and launch of the newly refurbished bedrooms at the **Dinton Hermit Inn**. The **Dinton Hermit** was rescued from the receivers in May 2008 by Roger and Mariko Pratap, residents of Dinton and since then, they have been making improvements throughout the historic inn, including redecorating of all the public areas and the completion of this first phase of bedroom refurbishment, in which the six barn rooms have been completely refurbished.

### FORTY GREEN

The **Royal Standard of England** has been crowned both 'Freehouse of the Year 2009' and 'Best Pub of the Year' by the **Publican** magazine.

### HADDENHAM

The **Green Dragon** when visited recently had **Sharp's Doom Bar**, **Timothy Taylor Landlord** and **Brakspears Bitter** on offer.

The **Kings Head** is continuing with their fortnightly Quiz Nights, with the next one on the 2nd of April.

Joe and Brenda, the licensees at the **Rising Sun**, are not now running the **Cross Keys** in Thame. However, they had both **Spring Gold** and **Black Swan** (both **Vale** of course) in superb form at their own pub during a recent visit.

### HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Bird** (formerly the **Bird in Hand**) is currently closed.

### KINGSTON BLOUNT

The **Cherry Tree** is closed and its future is uncertain.

### KINGSWOOD

The **Plough & Anchor** is closed and currently boarded up. This is particularly sad as this pub has had a lot of money spent on it during a recent refurbishment and has featured in the **Good Beer Guide** for many years!

### LACEY GREEN

The **Whip** will be holding a beer festival on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th

of May. They will be featuring over 25 ales from microbreweries across the U.K. and from local breweries, plus traditional ciders and perries.

### MARLOW

**Greene King Brewery's** pub the **Carpenter's Arms** is still undergoing refurbishment as we go to press and is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday 8th April as **O'Donoghue's Irish Ale House**. Hopefully the new management will utilise any retained handpumps to offer delights from Irish Craft microbreweries - fingers crossed!

Former **Brakspear's** High Street pub the **Chequers** remains boarded up with no sign yet as to the future of the premises.

The **Duke of Cambridge** continues to offer an excellent choice to the real ale drinker and April will see goodies from breweries as diverse as **Dunham Massey**, **Allgates**, **Coach House**, and **Tudor** of Abergavenny. Further ahead make a note now in your diary for their Summer Solstice weekend beer festival from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st June.

At a recent social at the **Hare and Hounds** we enjoyed a superb pint or two of **Rebellion Zebedee**. Other beers on offer include **Fullers London Pride** and **Brakspear Bitter**. Partner John Trueman has reportedly sold his brewery equipment so **RIP Sam Trueman's Brewery** - unless he starts up again in the future.

### NAPHILL

The **Wheel** is holding a beer festival from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th of April. They will be featuring a selection of ales from local breweries including **Grim's Ditch** (4.3% ABV) from **Tring Brewery**, and **Chairmaker's Mead** (4.3%) which is infused with Local Honey by **Vale Brewery**, both of which have been brewed especially for the festival.

### OAKLEY

The cask beer range on offer at the **Royal Oak** has increased and they now have five handpumps. In addition to **Vale Brewery** beers they now have guest beers available, with the choice of beers changing frequently. The food offering at the pub remains as strong as ever and if the sunshine makes a welcome return, where better to enjoy local ales than Andy & Ruth's beer garden.

### PIDDINGTON

The **Dashwood Arms** has a 'To Let' sign outside it. Surely it must be possible for the sole remaining

pub between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch to be a good going concern!

### PRESTWOOD

The **Kings Head** has reopened under new management.

### QUAINTON

The **George & Dragon** is holding their third beer festival on Good Friday (10th April). There will be ten real ales available plus three traditional ciders. The pub will be open from noon until midnight, food will be on offer and entry to the festival is free.

### THAME

The **Cross Keys** now has five handpumps and is offering a range of guest ales plus beer from **Vale Brewery**.

The **Falcon** has undergone a refurbishment which has included the addition of another bank of handpumps. They are holding a beer festival over the bank holiday weekend (2nd - 4th of May) when they will be offering in excess of ten real ales and there will be a barbecue and live entertainment on the Sunday.

### TOWERSEY

The **Three Horseshoes** is now

offering **Shepherd Neame Spitfire** instead of **Wadworth 6X**.

### WENDOVER

The **Marquis of Granby** which has been closed recently except for private functions, is due to reopen fully in the near future.

The **Shoulder of Mutton** has no less than six real ales on offer. These comprise three fairly well known beers: **Courage Best**, **Fullers London Pride** and **Theakston's XB**. However, three spring-themed beers from regional brewers were also on offer: **Vale Spring Gold**, **Bateman's Bloomin' Marvellous** and **Elgood's Golden Newt**.

### WEST WYCOMBE

The **George & Dragon**, which we announced as having closed in our last issue, has reopened! It is now run by the **Wycombe Pub Group** which looks after a lot of pubs in the High Wycombe area. They had four beers on offer when visited: **Brakspears Bitter**, **Courage Best**, **St Austell Tribute** and **Hall & Woodhouse Tangle Foot**.

### WHEELER END COMMON

The **Chequers** is under new management.



*The  
Queens  
Head*

*Temple Square  
Aylesbury HP20 2QA  
Tel: 01296 415484*

### Six Real Ales

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**Rolling selection @ £1.80 per pint**

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*Live music every Saturday*

*Jam Night - Last Sunday each month*

*Five minutes walk from  
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# “LAST ONE BACK GETS THEM IN.”



## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASCOT RACECOURSE BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.
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To book tickets, call **0870 727 1234** or visit **ascot.co.uk** quoting **CAMRA09**.



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