



Issue 54



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

FREE

Swan Supping

JUNE/JULY 2006



THE SINKING OF THE SHIP!



Recently breaking news this week is that the **Ship Inn** on Walton Street, Aylesbury, has had a compulsory purchase order placed upon it and that it is to be demolished as part of the latest Aylesbury Basin redevelopment plan.

In the previous development the **Ship** was retained, but rumour has it that because the present development relies upon a local in-town supermarket to make it financially viable, the **Ship** must go to make way for a car park.

This is yet another example of AVDC's disdain for the town's heritage. The **Ship** has been serving beer to local residents and the narrow boat fraternity for over a hundred years, but this does not appear to be part of the Council's deliberations when the needs of big business enters the



equation.

Whilst the Ship's popularity amongst the beer drinking fraternity has fallen in recent years, partially due to the variability of beer quality and partially due to the lack of loyalty of beer drinkers who now prefer the new 'in places' (**Kings Head** and the **Hop Pole**), the destruction of yet

another Vale pub should be contested. If you wonder why it is worth fighting for an ordinary boozer which only sells three real ales, which the new landlords have restored to good quality, consider the poem by Martin Niemöller which finishes with lines 'When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.'

Some of the eclectic residents of the Ship are starting an action plan to try to fight the plans and as further information becomes available we will publish details in *Swan Supping*.

For the latest news or if you wish to comment on the situation or register your name on a petition opposing the loss of the **Ship**, please go to <http://www.swansupping.org.uk/petitions/ship/>



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Local News



AYLESBURY

A sign outside the **Bell** shows that **Pubmaster** are offering a 'Pub Business Opportunity - Available To Let'.

G & C's (formerly **Hampden's**) has closed and its future is uncertain. Perhaps they should have served some real ale!

At the end of May, the **Harrow** celebrated its second birthday with 'A Great British Beach Party' (complete with sand!). Real ales and a pig roast were planned - lets hope the weather was kind!

The **Hobgoblin** will be having some special World Cup beers during June. Planned beers are **Archers Germany Calling** (4%) and **World Cup 40** (4.3%) and **Wychwood England Ale** (4%) and **Hooray Henry** (4.5%). These will be available for the meagre sum of £1.70 before 8pm every day!

The **Kings Head**, which is our **Branch Pub of the Year**, has decided to be World Cup free over the next few weeks. You can avoid the football and drink **Chiltern Cobblestones** or **John Hampden's Ale** as well as the usual suspects on offer. Look out for mini beer festivals in July and August.

The **Lantern** was taken over by Danny Slater at the end of May. No decision

yet on getting some real ale in and we can assume that the return of the word 'Dark' is unlikely.

The **Ship** is under threat of demolition due to changes in the plans for the redevelopment of the Aylesbury Basin. A full article appears on the front page.

BIERTON

Bobs Barn is holding a beer festival over the weekend of Friday 30th June-Sunday 2nd July.

CADSDEN

The **Plough** has applied to build five letting bedrooms over the pub. This was considered by Wycombe council on 10th May but it appears the decision has been deferred. The intention is to provide much needed tourist bed and breakfast accommodation in the area - the pub is located directly on the Ridgeway National Trail. The plans can be seen online at the Wycombe council web site and a layman's view appears to be that the plans would not substantially change the character of the pub.

CUBLINGTON

The **Unicorn** held its third beer festival over the weekend of Friday 28th to Monday 1st May. Seven ales were on offer from the garden bar in addition to the four regulars inside the

pub. In spite of the somewhat dubious bank holiday weather attendance was such that when visited on the Sunday lunchtime two barrels had already expired, with another couple well on their way.

The outside menu consisted of: **Hydes Original** 3.8%, **Harviestoun Bitter and Twisted** 3.8%, **Tring Ridgeway** 4%, **Exmoor Gold** 4%, **Marstons Pheasantly Plucked** 4.2%, **Harviestoun Schiehallion** 4.8% and **Fullers ESB** 5.5%.

All that were tried were in fine form. The plan was to sell any remainder off at £1.00 pint after 6pm on the Monday so it was doubtful that there was any left. Thanks to Howard and the team and we look forward to the next one.

GREAT KIMBLE

As mentioned in the previous edition of **Swan Supping**, the **Bernard Arms** re-opened in March after a brief period of closure. It is now being run by a previous landlord of the **Clifden Arms** in Worminghall. Our information is that plans were being made to further improve the quality of the real ale. As of early March the beer range was **Deuchars IPA**, **Fuller's London Pride** and **Adnam's Broadside**.

GRENDON UNDERWOOD

Yet another change at the **Swan**! As

we were going to press, we have learnt that Nancy Taylor is to become the new manager. Full details next issue.

HADDENHAM

Clarence and Enid Robinson have left the **Red Lion** after having been there for nearly 35 years (see page 9). The new landlord is Mick Addley who has run many pubs including the **Crown**.

Geoff and Dawn Beavan have taken over the **Rose & Thistle**. Geoff has had 36 years in the trade, including the **Roebuck** in Warwick. They intend to run a 'child friendly' establishment serving 'pub grub' at reasonable prices. They are currently converting the pool room at the back into a small restaurant area. They are serving **Greene King IPA** and **Triumph**, with the latter beer changing with other guest beers from the **Greene King** stable.

LUDGERSHALL

Richard and Pat Crisp have recently taken over the **Bull and Butcher** after 10 months out of the trade. They were previously at the **Gatehangers**, Ashendon. Beers available at the time of visit were **Greene King IPA** and **St. Austell Tribute**.

KINGSWOOD

Building work should start shortly
(Continued on page 23)

THE RED LION WHITELEAF

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YOUNG'S BREWERY TO CLOSE!

Members of **CAMRA**, and real ale drinkers in general, were shocked following the announcement on May 23rd that 425 years of Young's London brewing heritage to be lost when **Young's** will close their brewery in central Wandsworth and move production to Bedford by October 2006.

Beer has been brewed at the Ram Brewery on the River Wandle since 1581, making it the oldest site in Britain for continuous beer production. It supplies more than 500 free-trade outlets and has a tied estate of 205 pubs. It entered into talks with Wandsworth Council in 2003 after the site was earmarked for redevelopment.

Young's has set up a joint venture with **Charles Wells Brewery** to brew its beers at the Eagle Brewery in Bedford, and despite assurances that the two companies will continue to operate their respective pub estates independently **CAMRA** is very concerned over the possible implications of the move.

However **CAMRA** takes some reassurance from the fact that Young's will remain a vertically integrated company.

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: 'We have known for some time that Young's could not continue at its present site, but we held out hope that efforts to find a suitable local alternative would bear fruit and not spell the death of more than four centuries of brewing tradition in Wandsworth.'



CAMRA wants assurances that every one of the beer brands produced by both **Young's** and **Charles Wells** will have a secure future, and that the identity of **Young's** 208-strong pub estate and **Charles Wells'** 248 pubs will be safeguarded.

Young's are urged to be upfront about where its beers are brewed and not try to pass itself off as a London brewery. It is a tremendous loss for London drinkers and a great shame that there is only one substantial real ale brewer left in the nation's capital in the form of **Fuller's**.

CAMRA's London Regional Director Steve Williams said: 'I am greatly

disappointed that London and Wandsworth will be losing their flagship brewery. Another great brewery that has produced fine beers for hundreds of years is lost in the name of progress. However, looking forward, I am hopeful that the **Young's** beers out of Bedford will prove to be as tasty and first rate as those that have quenched the thirst of London's beer drinkers for many years.'

Young's beers include *Young's Bitter*, *Young's Special*, *Special London Ale*, *Champion Live Ale*, *Waggledance* and *Winter Warmer*.

Charles Wells, the largest, independent family owned brewery in the country, was established in 1876 and has been at its current site since 1976. They own 248 pubs and supply a large number of other outlets. Their beers include *Eagle IPA* and *Bombardier*.

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2006 Good Beer Guide!
Fullers Traditional Ales



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Amber, a hint of grape & sweetness, a quaffable session ale

Beechwood Bitter ~ 4.3%abv
Pale brown & refreshing with a butter-toffee aroma, sweet & fruity

+ + +
Open Monday to Saturday ~ 9am to 5pm
The Chiltern Brewery
Terrick Aylesbury

PUB OF THE YEAR!

The *Pub of the Year (POTY) 2006* for the *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch* of *CAMRA* is the **Kings Head** in Aylesbury.

The fact that the pub had won came as a surprise to both the **Kings Head** and **Chiltern Brewery** as it was announced live on radio! **Chiltern** had kindly invited me to say a few things about the local **CAMRA** branch to BBC Three Counties Radio as they were doing a feature on the brewery.

I'm not sure if the listeners could imagine the surprised look that George Jenkinson, son of the founder of the brewery, had on his face when the radio announcer asked him to comment two seconds after the announcement had been made!

Chiltern Brewery only took over the **Farmers Bar** in the **Kings Head** at the request of the National Trust in February last year. After a refurbishment, the pub reopened as a place with no-smoking, no piped music and no fruit machines. This approach, which attracted a lot of attention from both local and national press, has proved popular with a



lot of people who felt that this type of bar didn't exist!

The emphasis with both the food and drink is to locally source as much of it as possible. Chiltern do a range of cheeses and sausages made using their own beer and these have proved very popular.

There are three **Chiltern Brewery** beers available on handpump plus a fourth beer from either **Chiltern** or another micro brewery. Occasional beer festivals have increased the choice.

The picture shows the **POTY** certificate being presented by Branch

Chairman David Roe to Claire Bignall on Friday 19th May. Looking on in the picture are George Jenkinson from **Chiltern Brewery** and as many of the staff as could fit behind the bar!

The previous two winners of the award were the **Three Horseshoes**, Burroughs Grove, and the **Shepherd's Crook**, Crowell.

David Roe

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OXFORDSHIRE BREWERY VISIT



The sun shone bright and warm as my family and I walked to the station where we were to meet the minibus. The trip to *Oxfordshire Ales* had been organised by branch member (and brewery liaison) Dick Moore, and he could not have picked a nicer day.

Surprisingly, the branch chairman arrived with seconds to spare, and we set out for Marsh Gibbon on time. *Oxfordshire Ales* started life in the back of a drinks distributor's warehouse, so, as a building, it's not much to look at.

We arranged ourselves for a group photo none the less!

The brewery itself is tucked away in the back corner of the warehouse and is comprised of

a small number of fermenting vessels, a wort boiler and other paraphernalia used in brewing, typical for a small independent brewery. Our guide took us through the brewing process; basically the ingredients are boiled together allowed to cool, yeast is added, it ferments, and is barrelled! The process is simple, and the wide range of ales available are due entirely to the brewer's art and variations in the proportion and variety of hops, malt and water.

Oxfordshire Ales have just bought

a new (for them) bottling plant, with a view to bottling not only their own fine ales, but also to provide bottling services to other microbrewers. Sadly the ales will not be bottle conditioned at this point in time, as the process is apparently rather complicated, and difficult to get right, though they did not rule it out for the future.

This concluded our tour, and after a few questions, we walked to the *Plough* to enjoy a fine lunch

and ale provided by the brewery. The *Plough* is a lovely village pub, with two bars, a pool room, and gardens from where hog roasts and such like are served from time to time during the summer.

Shortly after we arrived, it started raining, so we just had to spend the afternoon partaking of the wonderful ale. There was both *Triple B* and *Marshmellow* available, though once I had sipped, I exclusively drank the very smooth *Marshmellow*. Recommended!

Thus a very happy group of *CAMRA* members staggered onto the minibus home some hours later. A very enjoyable day out.

Alexander Wright



50 Years 50 Beers Festival

THE WHIP INN

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THE TELL-TALE SIGNS OF A GASTROPUB!

The sign 'Please Don't Ask For Credit As A Refusal Often Offends' sits behind countless pub bars up and down the country. This sign is a remarkably useful tool for the hard-pressed landlord. It prevents an embarrassing situation whereby a foolish customer might make an idiot of himself and, into the bargain, mistakenly think that the landlord was being gratuitously offensive.

Such signs also continue a great British tradition of written workplace witticisms – maybe the classic being 'You don't HAVE to be mad to work here – but it helps.' This sign is particularly apt to hang behind the bar of a gastropub where the landlord must often think himself certifiable to have to shed so much blood, sweat and tears for his ungrateful and ignorant punters.

Don't even THINK about getting served by me

I am talking to my mates

The February/March issue of *Swan Supping* gave some helpful hints for landlords running a particularly familiar type of gastropub. This article gives some practical help in tricky situations by offering some useful signs inspired by the classics above.

Every landlord knows there are three types of customer.

Firstly – your mates. These are the people you really want to impress by playing 'mine host'. What is this business about if it isn't treating your friends and acquaintances to some great hospitality in your own boozer?

Secondly, there are the decent punters. These are the people who come into your pub, have a drink and a bit of food and then go without any complaint. You rarely remember having seen any of them before but that's a good sign as it shows they've never given you trouble in the past.

Thirdly, there are the awkward squad. This ignorant bunch never appreciates your hard work and is always complaining about your service, your food, the quality of your beer, etc., etc. As the credit refusal example shows, some similarly well-selected signs displayed in your pub should serve to shut this lot up even before they start their whingeing – and might put them off coming altogether.

Children

KEEP OUT!

(Except with a dining adult consuming a restaurant meal)

You want to enjoy a bit of well-earned personal time chatting at the bar with your mates and, understandably, want to devote your time to persons who appreciate your bonhomie and generosity. Of course, if your mates from way back happen to drop in then it would be rude not to give your undivided attention. Frankly, this is why you came into the job rather than to kow-tow to Joe Public.

Accordingly, to avoid giving unnecessary offence to the punters, display the '**Don't expect me to serve you**' sign at appropriate times to avoid giving a reply that might disappoint the more persistent customer.

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MORE SIGNS

For the convenience of its staff, this pub operates a SELF CLEAR SYSTEM

When you've finished your meal, do us a favour and clear your rubbish off the table for our next customers.

One of the biggest problems for a gastropub landlord is that the customers behave like lemmings. They all want to descend on you at the same time. Don't these people know that you are open at other times than weekend or Bank Holiday lunchtimes?

It is one of life's injustices that on a sunny summer's Bank Holiday weekend the hordes will arrive and catch you unprepared. Why don't the fickle beasts realise you'd have much more time for them on a wet January Wednesday? (OK so you don't actually open in the evenings much, if at all, in winter but it's the principle that's at stake).

By turning the tables quickly the gastropub landlord can fit as many customers in as possible on the days when they deem to come. Some so-called experts don't like the concept of meal sittings. They can't live in the real world. Your gastropub fayre is so delicious anyway that it should disappear off the plates in double-quick time.

Use the **Handy Clock Sign** to tell the diners exactly how long you expect them to occupy their table – after which time they must clear off and allow the next customers to be seated. (Make sure they pay for their food up front, of course). Simply print off a few of these blank clock faces and draw the clock hands on according to their deadline – 45 minutes should be adequate, which allows you three sittings in a busy lunchtime.

Some customers will inevitably dawdle over their food. On busy days this costs you lost food sales. They need to be hurried up and a football referee-style system of cards can be used. The **Yellow Card Sign** can be discreetly presented to lingerers ten minutes before their table is needed.

If they don't take the hint, the **Red Card Sign** can be brandished when their time is up. Too bad if they've not yet had their dessert. There are

plenty of picnic benches in the garden.

McDonald's introduced the great idea of customer self-clearing to the UK restaurant trade. Why not introduce the same concept to your pub and save a bit on waiting costs? When it's busy, it's hard enough to clear all the dirty crockery off customers' tables anyway and, after staring at the detritus of their meal for half an hour, many customers take a hint and clear away the dirty pots themselves.

The 'Self Clearing System' sign can be placed on the tables at busy times to encourage the punters to do you a favour and clear up after themselves (it should also free up their tables more quickly). You can allocate part of the bar for returned plates.

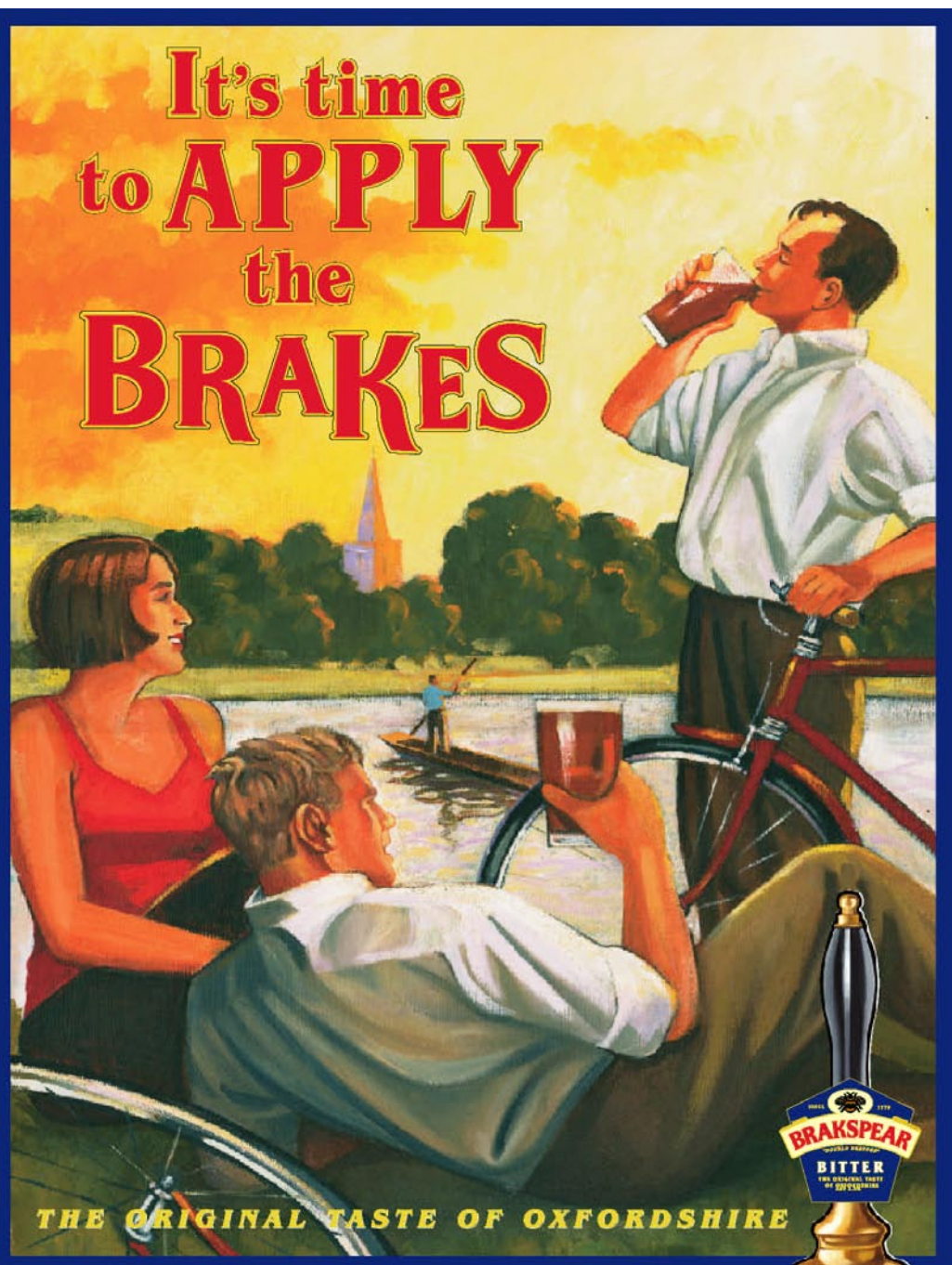
Hurry Up

You have 10 minutes to go

Your Time's Up

You can finish your meal in the garden

One of the banes of the serious publican's life is the supposedly modern attitude to children. Once the pub was a welcome refuge for the working man to have a well-earned smoke and a pint – away from the chaos at home.



THE FINAL SIGN

In the good old days when families visited the pub, parents parked their kids outside in the garden, whatever the weather, with a packet of crisps and a bottle of pop with a straw in it.

Nowadays, parents seem to think that pub goers will coo over the screeching and shrieking

of their hyperactive little darlings. The new licensing laws and the outrageous smoking ban are going to make this even worse. Take a stand against having to install evermore nappy changing facilities and high chairs.

The only place for children in a pub is quietly



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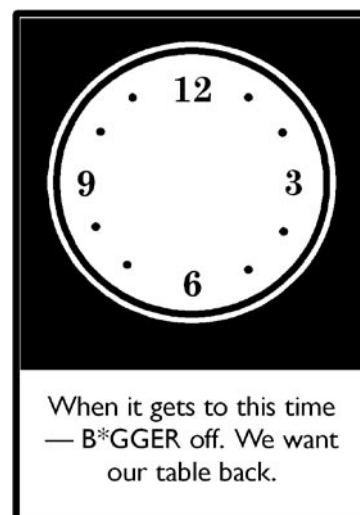
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eating their deep-fried 'special meal' of turkey twizzlers and chips – on which you can make a tidy profit. Put up the 'Children – Keep Out!' sign on your door and tell the non-dining happy families to go and take a hike.

As with all these signs, you're doing them a favour by setting out the ground rules anyway – as, of course, a refusal often offends.

Charlie Mackle

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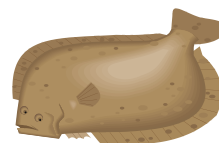
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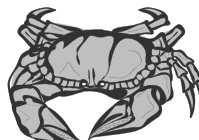
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THE END OF AN ERA!



Clarence and Enid Robinson have retired from the **Red Lion** in Haddenham after having run it for nearly 35 years.

Clarence was only the fourth landlord that the pub has had since it was built in 1939. He took over on December 6th 1971 when the pub was part of the **ABC Brewery** estate. The beers that they had on offer then were **ABC Best Bitter** which cost the princely sum of 11 pence a pint and **Ind Coope Mild** (10 pence!). The two beer engines they used are still there, plus the two others that were added later.

After twenty years, the pub was taken over by **Pubmaster**, then it became part of the **London & Edinburgh** group.

The **Red Lion** has been very much a locals' pub with a lot of regulars who have become friends as well as customers. Whilst Enid says that she will not miss having to watch the clock all the time, she will miss the lovely view of the village green, duckpond and church.

They have built up an active pub by encouraging and supporting lots of dominoes, cribbage and darts teams. You only have to look around the two bars in the pub to see evidence of how well they have done with all the trophies on display. Also for many years, they had a quiz team that was very successful in the Oxford Mail Quiz league despite the editor of *Swan Supping* being a member!

Connections between the local **CAMRA** branch and Clarence and Enid are many. Not only have they featured in the **Good Beer Guide** for many years, they have hosted our A.G.M. for many years and more than one Regional Meeting.

The **Red Lion** has been one of the few places in our branch where you can get a pint of mild. The current one is **Theakston's Dark Mild**, which is served alongside **Adnams Bitter**, **Youngs Bitter** and **Brains Reverend James**.

Their plans are to have their first real holiday for many years in order to recharge the batteries. They intend to stay in the village and are maintaining their links with beer by sponsoring a barrel at the **Haddenham Beer Festival** which takes place on July 1st.

We all wish Clarence and Enid a long and happy retirement and we hope to see them on the other side of the bar in the near future.

David Roe

A large advertisement for Wadworth 6X beer. It features three glasses of beer in the foreground, with the Wadworth 6X logo prominently displayed on the central glass. The logo includes the text 'WADWORTH 6X' and 'Handmade in Devizes'. Overlaid on the image is the word 'objects' in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, the text 'Ask for one at the bar.' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the website 'www.wadworth.co.uk' is listed.

WADWORTH 6X[®] Handmade in Devizes

objects

Ask for one at the bar.

www.wadworth.co.uk

HOOK NORTON BREWERY VISIT



After a rather dreary, cold few months, we were fortunate to have a warm day, with just a few drops of rain, for our planned trip to **Hook Norton** brewery which fortunately coincided with the Banbury Beer Festival. In fact that slight outer dampening was good preparation for the anticipated inner moisture as we made our way by bus and train.

A trip to Hook Norton may seem more of a minibus job - but the public transport worked

so well that it may be worth giving the details. Six of us took the 280 bus from Aylesbury to Haddenham and Thame Parkway to join five others coming from High Wycombe and Princes Risborough on the Banbury train. At Banbury it is but a short walk to the bus station to catch the 488 to Hook Norton. The overall travelling time from Aylesbury was about two hours. The cost per head varied according to the type of tickets purchased, and place of joining but for me the return travel cost just £14.10. I was impressed by the *Stagecoach* 488 bus drivers who were happy to drop us off or pick us up at non-scheduled points; furthermore the outgoing driver took the trouble to point out a good place for us to get off on the return trip in order to be closer to the Banbury Territorial Army centre for the Beer Fest thus avoiding a half-mile slog up the hill from the bus station.

The main bus stop in Hook Norton has thoughtfully been placed directly outside

the **Sun Inn**. I rather think we caught the landlord with his pumps down as we all dived in mob-handed just on opening time. The **Hook Norton Hooky Dark** (3.2%) mild was a most welcome foretaste of good things to come. On to the **Pear Tree Inn**, the Hook Norton brewery tap, for lunch and a selection of *Hooky Bitter* (3.6%), *Old Hooky* (4.6%) and *303 AD* (4.0%) - 303 AD being the year of St. George according to the blurb. We were lucky enough also to find the superb *Double Stout* 4.8% usually only available from January to March.



Why not join CAMRA Now?

Just fill in the form below and send your remittance (made payable to CAMRA) to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

Rates are Single £18, Joint £21 (at same address), Student/Unemployed/Disabled £10 OAP £10, Joint OAP £13 (at same address) Under 26 £10 Date of birth _____
For Life/Overseas rates, please ask for details.

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Address

.....

.....

..... Postcode

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Rules.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Signature

Date



Swan Supping
(Aylesbury Vale &
Wycombe Branch)



Join by Direct Debit
and get
Three Months FREE!



		<small>Instruction to your Bank or Building Society Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and if so, will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society. Note: Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.</small>	
To: The Manager		Bank/Building Society	
Address			
Postcode			
Name(s) of Account Holder(s)			
Bank/Building Society account number		Originator's Identification Number	
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Signature(s)			
Date			

BANBURY BEER FESTIVAL



A tour round the independent (and proud of it) Hook Norton Brewery is always a pleasure.

Quite apart from its lovely rural Cotswolds setting, the buildings both inside and out, continuously adapted to meet demand and needs over the brewery's 150 year history, are a joy to behold. Of particular note are the Victorian tower specifically providing gravity to the brewing process in more ways than one, and a remarkable 25hp stationary steam engine, installed in 1899, which still supplies the main motive power to pumps, hoists, mashing rake and grist mill *via* a series of belts, pulleys, shafts and iron or hornbeam toothed cogs. The plant also provides steam for heating and hot water for cask washing. Sadly the engine was not in operation at the time of our visit so we had to content ourselves with its lovely oily and steamy aroma mixing with that of the brews in progress.

Our guide gave us a lucid and entertaining tour, his commentary clearly honed to perfection over the years - in fact Tony Gabriel brought photos from a previous visit in 1997 by members of the branch when they had the same guide. In the hospitality suite after the tour we were able to try the full range of beers as well as a new brew *Hooky Gold* (4.5%) - pale, crisp and dry which I found had quite a bite. All the details of how to book for a tour round the brewery can be found on their website (www.hooky.co.uk).

After the tour some of us went on to the 6th annual Banbury Beer Festival which this year was located in an outbuilding rather than the main building of the Territorial Army Centre, providing more room for casks, but a little less in comfortable seating. Some 68 beers, four ciders and two perries were on offer including the new *Hooky Gold*. Understandably we could hardly do justice to such a great array - but amongst those I enjoyed were *Warwickshire Lady Godiva*, *Highgate Fox's Nob*, *North Cotswold Brown Ale*, *Copper Dragon Black Gold* and *Pot Belly Beijing Black* (any similarity

between the name of the last-named brewery and the appearance of the author is purely a

matter of degree and entirely fortuitous).

Giles du Boulay



VILLAGE FETE FESTIVITIES PIG ROAST SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

In our beautiful Beer Garden 7.30 onwards

7.00 Friendly Tug of War - Create your own team and challenge those around you

Accompanied by a live band during the evening 8.30 onwards *Everyone welcome*

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE FATHERS DAY

- Book now to avoid disappointment A special menu design for the Daddy.....

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT - THE UNICORN FUN QUIZ
starting at 8.30 finishes around 10.00. Everyone welcome to take part

Last winning teams to win the Jackpot took £271.00 £1 per player - 6 per team

FOOD SERVED: MONDAY TO THURSDAY 12.00 TO 2.30 & 6.30 TO 9.00

FRIDAY 12.00 TO 2.30 & 6.30 TO 9.30

SATURDAY 12.00 TO 4.00 & 6.30 TO 9.30

SUNDAY 12.00 TO 6.30

TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE PLEASE CALL US ON 01296 681 261
THE UNICORN, HIGH STREET, CUBLINGTON, NR. LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS, LU7 0LQ

OUR FIRST OVERSEAS BRANCH SOCIAL!



I promise that this won't be a list of every pub visited on our recent German trip and every beer tasted. There were eight of us: six from the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe, one from Devon and one from Yorkshire. We converged on Munich on a glorious afternoon in mid May. After lunch near the main station we strolled down to the Marienplatz, in the heart of Munich. We soon needed a thirst quenching drink at an outside bar in the middle of the Vittelmarkt, a picturesque fruit and vegetable market where at this time of year, asparagus is the speciality. We had asparagus several times during the week, either as soup or a side vegetable. Later on we visited three of Munich's unmissable pubs: **Altes Hackerhaus**, **Augustiner** and the world famous **Hofbräuhaus**. They are all rather cavernous but have superb beer in many styles.

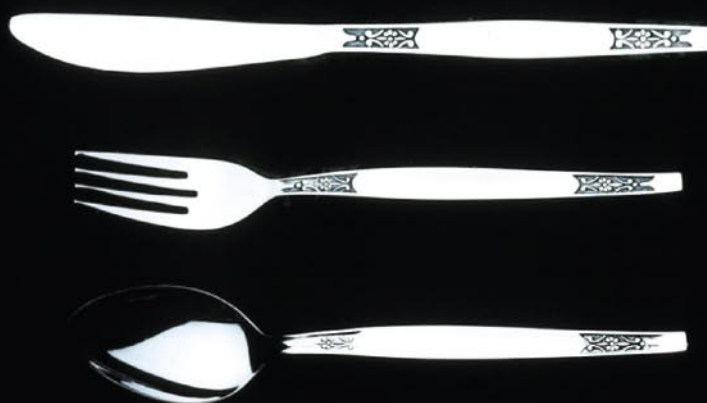
The next day we set off for Bamberg, about 200km to the north. Because

we had bought a flexible train ticket, 'Das Bayern-Ticket', we were able to stop for lunch at Nurnberg. This ticket is amazing value: a group of five people can travel anywhere in Bavaria for one day, Monday to Friday 0900 to 0300 for 27 euros. This is less than £5 each! At Nurnberg we visited a couple of pubs. The **Barfüsser** is another cavernous place with its own in-house brewery where you can watch the process while enjoying your drink. The various drinking areas had old English pub signs hanging above them, some from defunct breweries like **Friary Meux**.

By early evening we reached Bamberg, dumped our bags at the hotel and headed straight for **Schlenkerla**, where we had announced in the **CAMRA** newspaper, *What's Brewing*, (and *Swan Supping*) that we were having dinner and a few drinks. This was **AV&W CAMRA's** first



what better plan is there; a pint of superb real ale & fine local cuisine?
the bell, waddesdon. a gastro-pub amongst gastro-pubs.
opening end of may 2006. a day to be remembered.



launch party:
from midday till 6pm
sat June 10th 2006



high street, waddesdon, bucks.
t: 01296 651320
e: info@thebellwaddesdon.co.uk
w: www.thebellwaddesdon.co.uk

LUCKY ACCIDENT!

overseas social! Needless to say, no one else turned up that we knew, but it didn't matter. **Schlenkerla** is best known for its dark smoked beer.

The wonders of Bamberg were brilliantly described by Mick White in *Swan Supping* 51. In a nutshell, it is a beautiful unspoilt city with many fine baroque and renaissance buildings. And what is more, ten breweries and some of the best bars in the world. So over the few days we revisited all our old favourites (this was my sixth visit) and made a few discoveries as well. One of these was **Wienstube Pizzini** – a strange late-night bar with dark panelling, unusual paintings and retro music. The landlady has been there for 40 years and if Marlene Dietrich had walked in I don't think we would have been surprised!

To make a change from the city, we took a couple trips to outlying villages by public transport. The intention was to visit Buttenheim, but when the train pulled up we couldn't get the door open. Within a few seconds the train moved off so we had to get off at the next station, Eggolsheim. Luckily there was a recommended brew-pub there, **Schwarzes Kreuz** and a very tasty red-brown beer that we had not come across before. At 1.50 euros per half litre it was also the cheapest we found on the holiday. Most of the beers elsewhere cost about 2.00 to 2.50 euros and a bit more in Munich. After a hearty lunch we decided to walk 5km back to our original destination, Buttenheim. This small town houses two breweries: **St. Georgen** and **Löwenbräu**. (This is not the famous **Löwenbräu**, there are several breweries of that name). Each brewery there has a gaststätte which is the main bar (usually attached to the brewery) and a keller which is an outdoor drinking area, usually on the edge of towns and villages. After a drink of very bitter beer at the **Löwenbräu** keller we went to the town centre bar of the **St. Georgen Brewery**. This is a wonderful bar with typical Bavarian décor and their **Keller Bier** (4.9%) in stone mugs was among the best we tasted.



Our other trip was to the small village of Herrnsdorf. At **Barnikel** brew-pub we tried their lager-bier and a bottled smoked beer (rauchbier). The latter had been reported on some web-sites as being better than Bamberg's more famous rauchbiers; none of us agreed with that opinion, however.

We had used the bus from Bamberg to Herrnsdorf, but the return bus was very late and we began to be a bit concerned. Simon decided to take advantage of some exercise started walking back (well, it was only 9km!). Luckily for the rest of us, the bus turned up half an hour late, but the miserable driver wouldn't give Simon a 'toot' as we passed him.

Nick Holt

ACCLAIMED *for high quality...*

Kite Mild (3.2% ABV):

A traditional medium dark mild. An aroma of roast malt and a smooth body. Tasty for its strength.

Hoppit Classic Bitter (3.5% ABV):

Moderate in strength, but packed with flavour.

Hullabaloo (4.2% ABV):

A copper coloured Best Bitter with a rich, nutty malt balanced by the dry herby flavour of English Fuggle hops.

Ferryman's Gold (4.4% ABV):

Golden, smooth body with masses of zesty, aromatic Styrian Golding hops.

Bamboozle (4.8% ABV):

A straw coloured strong pale ale with a pure malty body and a smack of refreshing hops. Have you been Bamboozled?

Get our beers from:

WaverleyTBS, Nationwide, 01635 40136.

East West Ales, Kent & Nationwide, 01892 834040.

AVS Wholesale, South East, 01474 537767.

Brewers Wholesale, Wales, North West, 01384 374050.

Baby Bottles, Coventry, Midlands, 024 7636 1518.

Inn Express, Alcester, West Midlands, 01789 488008.

MWS Wholesale, Stoke, North West, 01782 847755.

Dayla, Aylesbury, Thames Valley, 01296 420261.

Middleton Wholesale, Midlands, 01604 750040.

Hamblin Ales, South, 01256 896985.

Tring Brewery, Home Counties, 01442 890721.



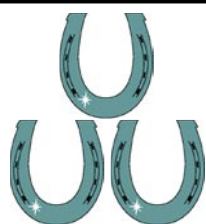
The Loddon Brewery Ltd

Dunsden Green Farm, Church Lane, Dunsden
Oxfordshire RG4 9QT



Telephone: +44 (0)118 948 1111

www.loddonbrewery.co.uk



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THE THREE HORSESHOES

Burroughs Grove Hill, (Old Wycombe Road), Marlow

Six Rebellion Real Ales (including Mild!)

Quality Wines by Laithwaites/Direct Wines

Extensive Lunchtime Menu Sunday Roasts 12 – 4pm (£10-95 per adult including free dessert)

Fantastic Evening Menu (Tuesday to Saturday) – Everything freshly prepared!

Monday Night Specials from £7-95

(One pint of Rebellion or Glass of House Wine free with each meal)

Open all Bank Holiday Weekends!

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2005

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AV & W
PUB OF THE YEAR
2005

Good sized garden & car park

REBELLION BREWERY SHOP

TAKE HOME BEER PRICING 2006

Having a party? Need some real ale at home? All our beer is served racked bright, ready to take home and drink immediately, and is available in the following sizes, pre-ordering is optional.

Cask Ales	Firkin	Polypin	Polycask	2 litre Jug	3 litre Jug	5 litre Cask
	72 Pints (£50 deposit)	36 Pints (disposable)	18 Pints (disposable)	3.5 Pints (disposable)	5.25 Pints (disposable)	9 Pints (disposable)
IPA - 3.7%	£77.45	£42.95	£22.95	£5.00	£7.50	£14.00
SMUGGLER - 4.1%	£80.95	£45.45	£24.45	£5.25	£7.78	£14.50
SEASONAL - 4.2% - 4.5%	£84.95	£47.95	£25.95	£5.50	£8.25	£15.00
SEASONAL - 4.6% and above	£89.95	£50.95	£27.45	£6.00	£9.00	£16.00

Free glass hire available • Plastic pint glasses £5.00 per 100 •

CASK INFO AND SHELF LIFE

- All beer comes racked bright, ready to drink.
- Polypins/casks will last 7 days unopened and should be consumed within 7 days of opening.
- All firkins are supplied with a tap & stillage and have a shelf life of 3 days.
- 2, 3 and 5 Litre disposable jugs have a shelf life of 7 days unopened then 3 days after opening.

Beer by mail order - £39.95 for 20 bottle case - case can be mixed

Shop opening hours Mon - Fri 8am - 5.30pm Saturday 9am - 5.00pm

ask about becoming a Rebellion Beer Club Member, 600 people can't be wrong!

Payment. Can be accepted by cash, cheque or debit card. Deposits are required for glasses and firkins.

VISIT THE SHOP, SEE THE BREWERY, TRY THE BEERS!

BOTTLED BEER

Bottled Blonde

£1.70 per Bottle

£18.00 for 12

Bottled Red/White

£1.75 per Bottle

£18.50 for 12

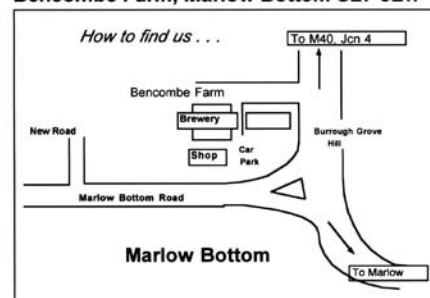
All bottled beer can be bought on a sale or return basis

2 bottle/1 glass presentation pack £6.00

To place an order, or for further information please call:

01628 476594

Site Address: Rebellion Beer Company
Bencombe Farm, Marlow Bottom SL7 3LT.



Visit our website: www.rebellionbeer.co.uk

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 2006

The *Great British Beer Festival* will be hosted this year at Earls Court between 1st – 5th August, following 14 successful years at London Olympia.

Over 47,000 people attended last year's 'Showcase of British Beer'. This event has now outgrown the London Olympia venue and will move to Earls Court allowing us to offer more choice, variety and beer than ever before!

Tony Jerome, *CAMRA* Marketing Manager said, 'We are all looking forward to moving the *Great British Beer Festival* to Earls Court. We have had some very successful festivals at Olympia over the recent years and following last year's record attendance we felt this was the ideal time to move to a bigger venue. This success is a testament to how hard the 1000 volunteers work at the *Great British Beer Festival*.'

Over 700 tasty tipples from the smallest microbreweries and large regional brewers have been handpicked for visitors to try. More than ever before! These include wheat beers, ciders, golden ales, stouts, porters, bitters, milds, bottle-conditioned beers, perries and real lagers from all over the world.

The festival is not only about the ale! You will also be able to enjoy food, live music, entertainment, games, tombolas, and quizzes in the comfort of a family friendly atmosphere. Why not catch up and socialise with friends, unwind after work, or just soak up the festival atmosphere!

Other Festival Highlights

- Family Room – all those under the age of 18 must remain in the Family Room throughout the festival and must be supervised by a family member
- Tutored Beer Tastings – why not learn to appreciate the different tastes and flavours by attending one of our tutored beer tastings – But be warned - places sell out fast!
- Corporate Hospitality – For work colleagues or clients, we are able to offer a variety of packages to suit most tastes and budgets. Please contact georgina.rudman@camra.org.uk

Win a pair of Great British Beer Festival tickets!

CAMRA is offering 25 lucky winners a pair of *Great British Beer Festival* tickets. All you need to do to enter this competition is email or post your answer to this simple question by Friday 7th July.

Where is the Great British Beer Festival moving to in August 2006?

Please email your answers to tony.jerome@camra.org.uk or post to Tony Jerome, Marketing Manager, *CAMRA*, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Winners will be notified and sent their tickets before Friday 14th July.

Opening Times & Prices

Tuesday 1st August 5pm – 10.30pm
Members £5 Non-Members £7
Wednesday 2nd August 12 noon – 10.30pm
Members £5 Non-Members £7
Thursday 3rd August 12 noon – 10.30pm
Members £5 Non-Members £7

Friday 4th August 12 noon – 10.30pm

Members £5 Non-Members £7

Saturday 5th August 11am – 7pm

Members £4 Non-Members £6

A further discount of £1 on any single session ticket ordered before 21st July 2006.

Season tickets valid for duration of the festival.

Members £15 Non-Members £17.50 (there is no advance booking discount for season ticket holders).

For more up to date information on the *Great British Beer Festival* please visit - www.gbbf.org.

The Falcon

Watery Lane, Wooburn Moor.
Telephone 01628 522752



Beer Festival 17th & 18th June

Over 20 different cask ales to try,
BBQ Lunch and Evening on Saturday and Sunday

Saturday early evening live music
Sunday afternoon games for all the family from egg and spoon races to barrel rolling.

Please phone or pop into the pub for more details

See you on the 17th & 18th - Kate, James and the team!

HADDENHAM BEER FESTIVAL



Following the sell-out success of the first two *Haddenham Real Ale Festivals* in 2004 & 2005 we're back for a third and this year, we're determined not to run out of beer! The 2006 festival will boast by far the biggest variety of ales yet with 36+ firkins plus ciders.

Last year's event was enjoyed by a huge number of people in the village and attracted many visitors from all over the UK. This year's Festival will take place on Saturday 1st July and is planned to run from 11:00am to 11:00pm. If anything like previous year's, it should be great fun for all, not just serious beer aficionados but families also. There will be a selection of entertainment throughout the event including a Jazz band, Towersey Morris Men, Haddenham Hoofers (Appalachian step dancing) and World Cup football coverage. In addition to food throughout the day there will also be a barbecue in the evening.

The previous two festivals have raised thousands of pounds for local charities. This year we hope to raise more than ever before for our

chosen beneficiary, the Upward Bound Trust (www.ubt.org.uk).

Gliders have been a common sight over Haddenham for as long as many can remember, but the future of the Trust is currently in jeopardy. Due to a requirement for a new road to the industrial estate near Haddenham airfield, the Trust is being forced to move its hanger. The estimated £40-50,000 required is beyond the means of the Trust and an appeal has been mounted to save this institution for future generations.

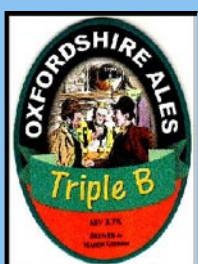
The Upward Bound Trust (a registered charity) has, for 40-years, taught 16-21 year olds to fly at Haddenham airfield. It all began when, in 1965 under the guidance of Brigadier George Chatterton who commanded the Glider Pilot Regiment during the Second World War, a small group of volunteers brought the dream of flying to reality for young men and women from all over the country. It is now a living memorial to the Regiment, the first of whose pilots trained at Haddenham.

Initially staffed mainly by ex-Glider Regiment pilots, today the Upward Bound Trust allows young people to gain their A & B certificates at less than 1/10th of the cost of similar training at a commercial club. The Trust also offers a limited number of Air Experience flights to the general public in exchange for a small donation to the Trust. This helps to subsidise the training of pupils.

Participating in the training offered by the Trust not only introduces young people to the adventure of flying, it also develops self-reliance, self-discipline and courage - to say nothing of mastering airmanship, air navigation, ground discipline and maintenance. This opportunity for youth of the future is now at risk so *Haddenham Real Ale Festival* aims to do all it can to assist in raising the funds required to secure the future of the Upward Bound Trust.

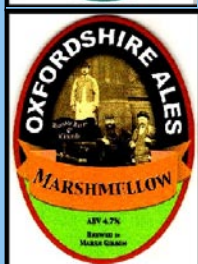
For the latest Festival information please visit www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk.

OXFORDSHIRE ALES



Triple B – 3.7%

An Autumn leaf brown session bitter, well hopped, with Styrian and English Golding Hops. **Available in bottles from the end of February!**



Marshmellow – 4.7%

A classic, deep amber, strong beer with a generous, warming flavour. The taste is deliciously fruity and malty with a lingering bitter aftertaste.

Available in bottles from the end of February!

IPA – 4.1%

A full flavoured, well balanced mid range chestnut coloured quality IPA.

It's both thirst quenching and moreish at the same time, making it a superb quality ale to be enjoyed by the connoisseur.



All of the above beers are available racked bright and in different barrel sizes, ranging from polypins to 18 gallons, thus making them perfect for any party or celebration.

Please contact the brewery to discuss these options.

Oxfordshire Ales & Bicester Beers & Minerals,

Unit 12, Peartree Industrial Units, Bicester Rd, Marsh Gibbon OX27 0GB

Tel 01869 278 765

Fax 01869 278 768

Email bicesterbeers@tiscali.co.uk

FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The 12th Reading CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival was yet another record breaker.

13156 people came through the doors (up over 1,000), and between them they drank:

- 47,500 pints of real ale; (up 2,500)
- 13,500 pints of cider and Perry; (up an amazing 7,500)
- 3,300 bottles of foreign beer plus 940 litres on draught; sales of German beer were up 20% while the order for Belgium/Dutch was the same as last year and sold out again.
- 1,800 bottles of English wine (up over 500).

They signed up a large number of new members for CAMRA, just a few down from last year, and had 268 staff volunteer to work on site during the week (up 20%) with 118 staff who didn't work last year. Staff who did work in 2005 on average increased their number of sessions by just over one. Overall staff worked an average of over five sessions each. Once again it was easily the most successful Festival ever, and without the efforts of the volunteers it simply wouldn't have happened.



KARAOKE
EVERY SUNDAY
-FUNCTION ROOM TO LET-

"A" BOARDS
MENU
-ETC-
INSIDE
OR
OUT

BLACKBOARDS WRITTEN
WHITE
ON
BLACK
SOME
COLOUR
IF
NEEDED

MOTHERS
DAY
MARCH

HOMEMADE SOUP
HOT DISH OF THE DAY
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Great Food!

Great Restaurant!

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Real Ale available!**

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and see for yourself?*

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The Red Lion

3 High Street, Chinnor (☎01844 353468)

*CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2006 listed
with four real ales*

**Steak Nights: Wednesday & Saturday
8oz Sirloin Steak**

with chips & salad for £5.95

Home-Cooked Pub Food Available Every Day

New Plasma TV Screen in Main Bar

All World Cup matches will be shown!

Cask Marque Approved

GERMANY BECKONS!

Just in time, but just too late!

CAMRA's first guide to the whole of Germany is now published – in good time for the World Cup, but just after I got back from a week's holiday in Germany.

I have visited Bavaria many times and thought I knew plenty of the best pubs in Munich and Bamberg. No visit to Bamberg is advisable without reference to John Conen's *Bamberg and Franconia: Germany's Brewing Heartland*. Having just got back, it is somewhat frustrating to read in the new **CAMRA** book about places we have missed. Maybe another trip will be necessary.

The *Good Beer Guide Germany* is a sturdy tome at 576 pages and no lightweight either. The author, Steve Thomas, has conducted an incredible amount of research over about the last fifteen years and decided to compile this book in 2001. There is an enormous brewery section listing over 1250 breweries and 7500 beers. Each entry lists the beers brewed, alcoholic strengths (where known) and a brief description. The brewery 'tap' (i.e. nearest pub) is also named, with information on opening times, accommodation and transport links.

So much of the book is taken up by the brewery section that the pub section only runs to 76 pages covering twelve cities. This is

The completely independent guide to more than 1250 German breweries, 7500 German beers plus great places to try them



not a problem, however, as the pub listings are clearly laid out and highly informative, showing details of both draught and bottled beers amongst other things.

The book also contains useful chapters on German beer styles, beer garden culture and a list of useful words and phrases (handy for understanding food menus).

The author highlights his 'Top Five' in eleven categories, e.g. best breweries, best pubs, best dark beers, best speciality beers etc. I am pleased to say that I have visited or tasted nearly half of them.

This book is a triumph. It is probably the only book of its kind in English. As with all recent books from **CAMRA** it is well designed and well printed in four colours throughout.

It is highly recommended to any sensible drinkers going to the World Cup and as an essential guide for years to come.

Nick Holt

Good Beer Guide Germany

by Steve Thomas

CAMRA Books

ISBN 1-85249-219-8

£16.99

Bamberg and Franconia: Germany's Brewing Heartland

by John Conen

ISBN 0-9544426-0-1

£9.99

The Swan, Stewkley

Chapel Square, High Street North
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New chef! New exciting menu!
Daily specials, Sunday roasts etc

Large garden
Families welcome

Two real ales
(regularly changing guest ale)!

Grand Summer Ball in aid of Willen Hospice
Sat 16th September - Please ring for details

BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

There are still some limited places available for the trip of the year!

Our annual coach tour of the Black Country will take place on Saturday 8th of July. This is the sixteenth time the branch has taken advantage of the great beer and pubs (and prices) that this mecca for drinkers can offer.

The coach will make pick-ups in Bierton, Aylesbury, Princes Risborough, High Wycombe and Saunderton. Drop-offs will take place in reverse order, aiming to be back in the Aylesbury area by midnight.

The price is expected to be £22 per person - a bargain!

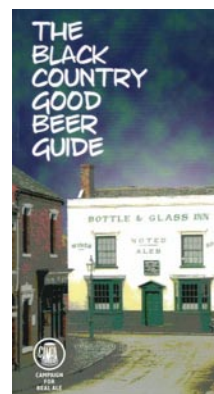
Please contact Tony Gabriel on 01494 527884 for tickets and further information.

Although not compulsory, all people coming along on the trip would benefit from having the brand new *Black Country Good Beer Guide*!

Priced at £4.95, the guide covers nearly 200 pubs across the region, all of which offer real ale. There are full details of breweries in the area, with tasting descriptions of their best selling real ales.

Full details are also given on public transport and you can find out about the local folklore.

Orders for the book can be made by contacting the editor of *Swan Supping* (contact details are given on page 22) or by going directly to the *CAMRA* HQ website on <http://www.camra.org.uk/>



OTHER BITS!



The *Mid Chilterns Branch* of *CAMRA* are holding their third *Boxmoor Beer Festival* over the weekend of 14th-16th July.

This will be held at the Camelot Rugby Club, Chaulden Lane, Boxmoor, near Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 2BS.

There will be 30 real ales and ciders and the festival will open from 12-10.30 on both Friday and Saturday. It will only be open on Sunday lunchtime if there is beer remaining. Cost of entry is £2 (£1 for *CAMRA* members).

We will be holding a branch social at the festival on Saturday 15th from 12 noon onwards. People wishing to attend should check out the timetable for the 500 bus from Aylesbury!

Merton Summer Beer Festival

Merton Village Hall, Merton near Bicester, Oxon, OX25 2NL.

The festival will be taking place this year on Friday July 7th (7pm-11pm) and Saturday July 8th (11am - 11pm).

We are not certain of the amount of beer available but are fairly sure that it will be increasing to 30 or so beers, ciders and perries. There will music with four bands playing outside throughout the afternoon and evening, free camping and lots of stalls and games for all ages.

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LETTERS PAGE

THE RED LION, ROWSHAM

Do you remember the **Red Lion** public house in Rowsham that used to stand on the left hand before the bend going from Aylesbury?

It was a part thatched building which lay back from the road and it had a gravelled frontage. There was also an adjoining thatched house and barn. All the beer came from tapped barrels in the cellar and every pint was brought up the stairs by the barman.

Unfortunately it was closed and demolished in the mid 1950's, the last tenant publican being a Percy Higgs.

I mention the foregoing because Percy Higgs was my wife's uncle and I am in the process of researching her family tree and would welcome any information from readers that would enable me to produce a narrative to go with that part of the family's history. Does anyone remember Percy or do you have any recollections of life at the **Red Lion** in Rowsham before the last pint was drawn 50 years ago.

Any useful contribution would be gratefully received as I am a little short on detail at the present time. Does anyone have a photograph of the **Red Lion**?

If you can help in some way please send your contributions to the address below. All replies will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Thank you.

David Pither

3 Wood Lane

Stretham

Ely, Cambs CB6 3JN

CLOSURE OF YOUNG'S BREWERY

As a longstanding **CAMRA** member and committee member of a local branch I am horrified by the pusillanimous reaction by **CAMRA** to the news that **Young's** is to voluntarily close its historic brewery in exchange for development money. How many tirades has **CAMRA** launched against similar previous brewery closures - a close parallel being **Brakspears** where **CAMRA** campaigned successfully for the restoration of brewing in the same county or witness the vitriolic campaign against the closure of **Boddington's**.

What has happened to the campaigning? Either this action by **Young's** demands a campaign to demonstrate that decision is contrary to all that **CAMRA** has stood for in the last 35 years or, alternatively, **CAMRA** is exposed as an ageing, middle-class bourgeoisie coterie of craft boutique beer tasters.

To accept the brewery closure and actually look forward to tasting the Bedford based brews (as is attributed in your press release to **CAMRA's** London Regional Director Steve Williams) is complete hypocrisy and betrayal of the aims and objectives of nearly 80,000 members. **CAMRA** cannot on the one hand berate the likes of **Greene King** and **W&D** for brewery closures while letting those who were more **CAMRA**-friendly in the past off the hook, like new brewery vandals **Young's** and **Fullers**.

Let's see the **CAMRA** executive show some leadership and vigorously campaign against this appallingly destructive decision and hit **Young's** in the wallet - which is seemingly the only language they understand.

Michael Clarke

< Further details on the closure of Young's Brewery appear on page three - Ed.>



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Price list (incl. VAT)	ABV	Fir.	Polypin	2 gal
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Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	78.00	45.50	24.00
Vale Best Bitter	3.7%	78.50	45.50	24.25
Wychert Ale	3.9%	79.00	46.50	24.50
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	81.00	48.50	25.50
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	82.00	49.50	26.00
Vale Special	4.5%	83.00	50.00	26.25
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	83.50	50.50	26.50
Hadda's Head Banger	5.0%	86.00	51.50	27.25

Bottle Conditioned Beers

Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	500ml
Wychert Ale	3.9%	500ml
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	500ml
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	500ml
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	500ml
Hadda's Head Banger	5.0%	500ml

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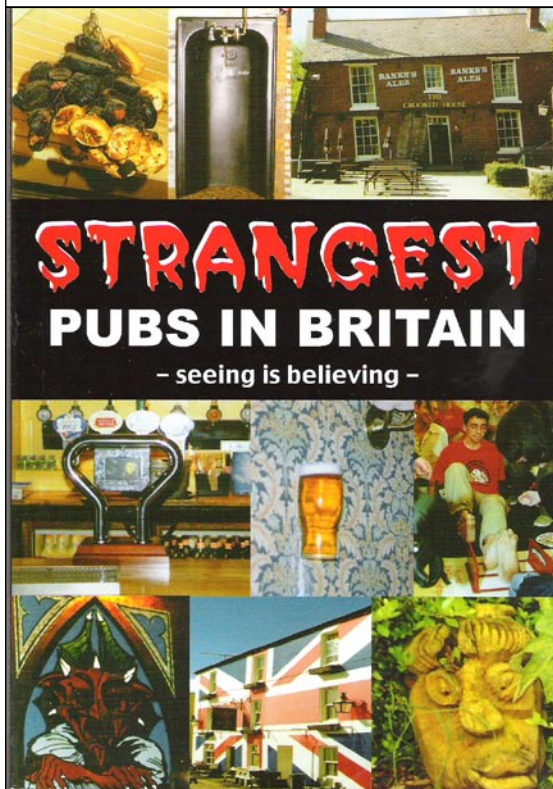
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THE STRANGEST PUBS IN BRITAIN!



I got given this interesting book as a present. It's not one of the run-of-the-mill established pub guides but one of a projected series of 'Strangest ... in Britain' books of which Strangest Tours and Strangest Underground Places appear to have been published.

The anonymous authors' definition of strangeness includes odd architecture, historical curiosities, unusual customs and, of course, plenty of references to pubs with ghosts or poltergeists.

There are well over a hundred strange pubs listed, although only one lies within the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe branch area. This is the **Bernard Arms** at Great Kimble. Its strangeness is attributed to its occasional clientele of world leaders, prime-ministers and various other statesmen – including Presidents Eisenhower, Bush, Reagan and Mitterand. The famous occasion is recounted when John Major invited Boris Yeltsin to the **Bernard Arms** for what turned out to be more than the odd half. Photos and newspaper clippings of many of these events are on display in the pub itself.

Another strange pub lies just outside the branch area – a few hundred yards on the other side of the M40. This is the **Nut Tree** in in Murcott, in Otmoor. I visited this few years ago when it was a very food-orientated pub. I failed to notice the strange gargoyles which are apparently distributed around the pub garden. These were carved into likenesses of locals by a nearby sculptor.

I've also visited the strange **Bell Inn** in Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex. This pub has hung a hot-cross bun on string from the ceiling every Easter since 1903. Visit the pub to see decaying buns from years past. Among the many other strange artefacts in pubs is the mummified hand of an 18th century card player (the **Haunch of Venison**, Salisbury).

The book is a great reminder of how pubs propagate and maintain British eccentricities. Would faceless pubco chains encourage such strange events based at pubs include the

World Black Pudding throwing championship (**Corner Pin**, Ramsbottom), the Bog Snorkelling Championships (**Neuadd Arms**, Llanwrtyd Wells) or the International Festival of Wormcharming (**Normandy Arms**, Blackawton)?

The Strangest Pubs in Britain, published by Strangest Books. £6.99.

Mike Clarke

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Swan Supping

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Nick Holt, The Old Star, 163 Aylesbury Road,
Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5DW.

This applies to single copies to UK addresses only. We can mail overseas, so just send us some money and we'll let you know when it runs out.

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

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Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

JUNE

Saturday 3rd FAMILY SOCIAL (ALL AGES WELCOME)

12:00 noon Bull, Stoke Mandeville.

Tuesday 6th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Swan, West Wycombe (This was announced in What's Brewing, but may be changed! Please check website to confirm!).

Wednesday 14th WYCOMBE SOCIAL

9:00pm Belle Vue, High Wycombe.

Friday 23rd NICK HOLT'S RETIREMENT

1:00pm onwards - Hop Pole, Aylesbury.

Thursday 29th BRANCH TWO-PUB SOCIAL

9:00pm Olde Jug, Hardwick, 10:00pm White Swan, Whitchurch.

JULY

Saturday 1st HADDENHAM BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

12:00 noon onwards Haddenham village beer festival at Youth & Community Centre (see page 16 for details).

Saturday 8th ANNUAL BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Some places still available! Book your place with Tony Gabriel, tel 01494 527884. Probable cost £22 each.

Saturday 15th BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

Boxmoor Beer Festival, near Hemel Hempstead 12.00 noon onwards.

Friday 21st THAME PUB CRAWL

Starts 6:00pm Six Bells

Wednesday 26th July BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Probable Venue - Oak, Aston Clinton (Please check website).

**FOR THE LATEST ON BRANCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES,
CHECK ON THE BRANCH WEBSITE:**

www.swansupping.org.uk

BRILL VILLAGE 3rd ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL August Bank Holiday Weekend



Opens Saturday 26th August from 7pm

(featuring Live Music, Pig Roast)

Sunday 27th August from Midday

(featuring Classic Car Rally, Motorcycles, BBQ & more)

Monday 28th August from 2pm

(Brill Fete plus £1 a pint if there's any left !)

Venue - Brill Sports & Social Club

More info on <http://www.brill.uk.net/>

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Sunday Buffet Menu

(Noon - 3pm)

Onion Bhaji, Sheek Kebab, Aloo

Vora, Chicken Tikka Massalla,

Lamb Rogon, Bombay Aloo,

Channa Massalla, Pillau Rice,

Nan and Green Salad

Adult £ 7.50,

Child (under 12) £ 4.50



More Local News



(Continued from page 2)

at the **Plough and Anchor** to provide hotel accommodation. This means that only one beer may be available, still on gravity, but possibly two if handpumps are used.

LACEY GREEN

The **Whip** held a very successful beer festival in May which required – not surprising when the barrel of **Sharps Own Bitter** only lasted 45 minutes. Landlord Nick will celebrate his 50th birthday with another beer festival! 50 beers in a week (Monday 24th – Sunday 30th July).

LONGWICK

Sadly the **Red Lion** is now the only pub left in the village. Fortunately it serves a choice of three real ales comprising **Hook Norton Best**, **Fullers London Pride** and **Tetley Bitter**.

MARLOW

Cedric and Elaine Boules of the **Carpenters Arms** have become the new landlord and landlady of the **Old White Horse**, Henley, South Oxfordshire. This **Brakspear** public house has more scope on the cuisine front for Cedric's culinary forte. The 'Carps' will still be run by the Boules, with a new bar manager overseeing trade.

The **Duke of Cambridge** still flourishes, with the real ale building a stronger contingent of drinkers of late. Recent imbibes include, **St. Austell Dartmoor Best Bitter** (3.9), **Tring Ridgeway Bitter** (4.0), **Loddon Dragonfly** (4.0), **Harviestoun Bitter and Twisted** (3.8) and **Oxfordshire Ales Triple B** (3.7). Ales for early June are **Caledonian Dr. Bob's** (3.5) and **St. Austell Tinnars Ale** (3.7). A second hand pump may be introduced if the real ale percentages increase in the near future. So **GET DRINKING!**

Little Marlow Road watering hole the **Plough** is set to become an Indian restaurant. Last orders were reputedly Friday 26th May. The lounge bar is allegedly to be kept as a drinking bar at the request of owners **Enterprise**. Hopefully real ale will be maintained as well! Further details in the next issue of **Swan Supping**.

PRESTWOOD

The **Green Man** will be holding a funday on Sunday 16th July to raise money for the Cancer Care and Haematology Unit at SMH. There will be a fete, tug of war and real ale!

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

The **Bell** continues its steady development. A second real ale, **Butcombe Bitter**, was available at the end of May in addition to its well-kept **Greene King IPA**. The **Bell** was also due to hold its second annual beer festival (with 14 real ales) over the Spring Bank Holiday.

The **George and Dragon** continues to offer some welcome variety by featuring a changing list of real ales. **Black Sheep Bitter** and **Flowers IPA** are the latest ales and the list has also included **J.W. Lees Greengate** and **Adnam's Explorer**.

SPEEN

The **De-Wanium** (formerly the **King William IV**) has closed and its future is uncertain.

STEWKLEY

The **Carpenters Arms** will have **Caledonian Deuchars IPA** 3.8% from the beginning of June. This will accompany the **Hook Norton Bitter** 3.4% and **Jennings Cumberland Ale** 4%.

TWYFORD

The **Seven Stars** is permanently closed and has been or will be de-licensed.

WADDESDON

The **Bell** was due to reopen at the end of May. It's now run by the **Gourmet Pub Company**, and the emphasis will be on food. However, they intend to feature traditional beer from local breweries.

The main bar at the **Five Arrows** has been moved to the back in order to give more space for tables.

WING

The **Queens Head** is now increasing its range of ales to four from 1st June. **Youngs Waggledance** 5% will join **Fullers London Pride**, **Greene King IPA** and **Hook Norton Old Hooky**.

WINSLOW

The beer festival run in March by Winslow Lions in conjunction with the **Milton Keynes & North Bucks Branch of CAMRA** raised £4,500, and they are all delighted with this. The profit was shared between Florence Nightingale House, the Cancer Care and Haematology Unit at SMH, Willen Hospice and the Air Ambulance.

WOOBURN GREEN

The **Glory Mill** is offering a special meal deal which has specific real ales offered to compliment the dishes. Reductions are available for card carrying **CAMRA** members.

WOOBURN MOOR

The **Falcon** is holding a beer festival over the weekend of 17th/18th of June.

CEDRIC AND ELAINE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING:

**THE CARPENTERS ARMS, MARLOW, IS NOW TWINNED WITH
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**THE OLD WHITE HORSE, HENLEY, REOPENED ON 17TH
MAY AFTER EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT BY BRAKSPEAR.
CEDRIC AND ELAINE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OLLIE
AND SARAH TO THE TEAM.**



**15 Spittal Street
Marlow
SL7 3HJ
01628 473649**



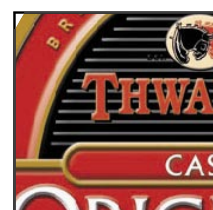
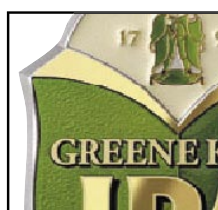
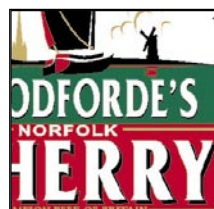
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