

FREE



Swan Supping



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

Issue 53

APR/MAY 2006



35 YEARS OLD AND 80,000 STRONG!



In March, **CAMRA** (that's the *Campaign for Real Ale* if you've been off-world for some time) celebrated its 35th anniversary.

A record 80,000 people have now officially joined up to the campaign, the highest number of members since the consumer organisation began in 1971.

Chief Executive Mike Benner said: '**CAMRA** has gone from strength to strength and achieved some incredible successes in the last three and a half decades thanks to the hard work and dedication of all those involved.

'**CAMRA** volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year to promote real ale, cider and the traditional pub and ensure they have the healthy future they deserve.'

CAMRA was formed in 1971 after six large national brewers (*Allied Breweries, Bass Charrington, Courage/John Smiths, Scottish and Newcastle, Watney and Whitbread*) set about replacing cask ale with inferior pressurised keg beer.

During a holiday in Ireland four friends – journalists Michael Hardman, Graham Lees and Bill Mellor, along with brewery employee Jim Makin – bemoaned the dreadful standard of beer back home and decided to set up the *Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale*.

The first annual meeting was set up in Nuneaton in 1972 and 20 people turned up. By the time of the second AGM in 1973 there were more than 1,000 members on the books, and the name of the organisation was changed to the more pronounceable *Campaign for Real Ale*.

No new ale breweries were set up in the UK in the fifty years before **CAMRA** was founded. There are now around 400 new brewers producing real ale, part of a massive real ale revival.

CAMRA lobbied the government to introduce Progressive Beer Duty which has helped hundreds of small brewers to compete with larger brewing companies.

CAMRA is the largest consumer organisation in Europe, boasting 80,000 members in 200 branches in the UK. Given supercomplainer status in 2005, it can have grievances over measures such as market dominance investigated by watchdogs within 90 days.

This article only scratches the surface, but if you are interested in the campaign, see the membership form on page 19.

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objects

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

Local News

AYLESBURY

As we mentioned last issue, the **Hop Pole** is nearing their 500th different beer since it opened in July last year. After much calculation the owners, **Vale Brewery**, have worked out that this event will happen sometime in April and suggest that anyone wanting to join their celebration of this minor landmark watches the blackboards inside and outside the pub for further info!

The **Lantern** has been seen advertised as a 'Business Opportunity'. One suggestion is to turn it into an historic pub dating back to the Civil War called the **Dark Lantern**, though we think that this might have been tried before!

Andy and Sarah Hallam are leaving the **Millwrights** in April for the sunny climes of Luton. The new people who will take over on the 15th will be Dave and Viv Ayres. It is their first pub and we wish them all the best in their new careers. Further news in our next issue.

CUBLINGTON

The **Unicorn** is holding a beer festival from Friday 28th April until Monday 1st of May. Ten real ales will be on offer.

GRANBOROUGH

The **Crown** is now offering **Marstons Bitter** and **Pedigree**.

GRENDON UNDERWOOD

Martyn Cooper is the new manager at the **Swan**. **Courage Best** was the only beer available on a recent visit with the **Bass** handpump turned round.

HADDENHAM

There are management changes at the **Rose & Thistle**. Further details next issue.

HARDWICK

The **Olde Jug** is now under new management. Mick Goodchild, previously at the **Black Horse** Chesham Vale, took over on 24th November. He has changed from **Notley Ale** to **Vale Best Bitter** since the brewery delivered it by mistake and now the locals like it better. Also one other changing ale.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Terriers** pub on Amersham Hill are installing a 9 hole crazy golf course in the garden. It will have a launch date for Easter and have organised a fun day on Good Friday.

IBSTONE

Kosh Almani took over as the new landlord of the **Fox** on the 8th of February. **Rebellion IPA** will be the standard beer with regular guest ales (**Rebellion Zebedee** was on offer when visited). They will be offering an English menu to help soak up the alcohol!

LACEY GREEN

The **Whip** will be having another beer festival from Friday 12th through Sunday 14th of May. Over 20 real ales and ciders from around the country will be available plus Jazz, Morris Men, a pig roast and a barbeque.

LANE END

The **Old Sun**, which has been run for the past year by Byron and Georgina Wolf, are now regularly offering **Tring** and **Rebellion** beers on handpump.

There has been a change of landlord at the **Osborne Arms**. This free house was taken over by Angelo Alhajri in February and now offers four beers: **Archers Mild**, **Fullers Chiswick** and **London Pride** plus **Courage Best Bitter**, all on handpump. There are English, Indian and Continental cuisine on offer which seems to cater for most tastes!

LITTLE MARLOW

Village pub the **Queens Head** has reopened after six weeks or so of renovation work. The main public bar has been linked up to a restaurant area, with both having a no smoking restriction. The cosy right hand bar is reserved for smokers now. To accompany the new restaurant and bar food menu are three ever present real ales, consisting of **Adnams Bitter** (3.7), **Broadside** (4.7) and **Jennings Cumberland Ale** (4.0). All the best for the future.

LONG CRENDON

The **Eight Bells** is holding its second Beer Festival over the Easter weekend starting on Friday 14th April at 6.30 p.m. There will be a large selection of real ales (approximately 12) three will be from local breweries. A full list of the real ales available will be published on the website www.8bells.co.uk a week before the event. There is live music on the Saturday with 'hair of the dog' performing and the Long Crendon Morris Men will be dancing on Easter Sunday during lunchtime. Paul and Charlotte hope to see as many of you as possible.

(Continued on page 23)

The Millwrights

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Traditional Sunday Roast 12-5pm

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2006 Good Beer Guide!
Fullers Traditional Ales



NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR (AGAIN!)



ESSEX PUB VOTED 'BEST IN BRITAIN' FOR THE SECOND TIME!

CAMRA have announced that the **Swan, Little Totham, Essex**, has fended off competition from thousands of other pubs in the country to win the prestigious title of *National Pub of the Year 2005*.

It is the second time the **Swan** - a 16th century cottage style pub - has won the coveted award. The last time was in 2002 and owners John Pascoe and his wife Valerie say they could not be more delighted that their hard work and attention to detail has been recognised once again – particularly as the pub was threatened with closure before they took it over. John Pascoe said: 'This is like being awarded 10 Michelin Stars!'

'When the pub was up for sale the parish council made representations to

the selling brewery begging to keep it as a local pub for the community rather than being converted into housing.

'Valerie and I moved in on the 12th of June 1996 and worked on the pub with family and friends until it was in a fit state to open on the 14th of June at 7pm – we took £124. At first we parked our cars in the front car park to make it look busy and had our meals sitting outside in the garden for the same effect.

'From those early days we set out to get the pub recognized by **CAMRA** and have been delighted with the level of support we have received from local branches. We would like to thank all of our regular customers, villagers, **CAMRA** members and friends for their custom and hope to welcome even more visitors in 2006.'



BEER FESTIVAL

THE WHIP INN

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If not, then come and see what you have missed!***

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All Ales & Ciders

£2.00 a Pint (£1.00 a Half)

**No need to drink & drive, the 323 & 324 buses from Wycombe,
Risborough & Aylesbury stop outside the pub.**

FRIDAY 12th, SATURDAY 13th & SUNDAY 14th MAY

PUB CRAWL HILL WALK

Are you getting a bit worried that the next pint might add a little to your slowly expanding girth? Or would you just like to experience some of our magnificent English countryside with a pint not far away. If so, get your stout footwear on, head into the hills and follow this somewhat healthier-than-usual pub crawl with a difference.

There are some fine country pubs serving some excellent beer in the local area but getting to them without driving is often a challenge. Fortunately, many of these pubs lie within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and benefit from being served by well-maintained and clearly signposted footpaths.

This route is served at both ends by public transport – both bus and train. It starts at Little Kimble station and ends in Princes Risborough. It is approximately four miles in length – which makes for a reasonably leisurely weekend afternoon stroll almost any time of year and quite practicable in an evening in the summer months. While the walk can be done in any direction, most of the country pubs don't open all day (with one exception). This means it is probably best to start from the Little Kimble end, especially if you want to eat in the pubs. This is the way the intrepid threesome researching this walk went and so the directions below are given this way. If going the opposite way, simply reverse the directions, although this may not be so easy after three or four pints.

The going is fairly easy although there are a couple of steep climbs. The majority of the route follows the Ridgeway path (with a short distance on the Aylesbury Ring) and the paths are generally up to national trail standard. However, in wet weather there may be the odd muddy patch so wear appropriate footwear and remember not to walk into the pubs with mucky boots. Directions below should be adequate, especially as the signposting is good, but no substitute for an Ordnance Survey map.

So to the beer drinking. Start from Little Kimble station (the 324 bus from Wycombe and Aylesbury also stops nearby). Turn right out of the station and follow the tarmac footpath for a few yards. Follow the public footpath sign into a small wood by the side of the railway line. After about 200 yards climb over a stile into a field. Keep to the right by the hedge. In another 200 yards or so there is a stile to your right. Climb over this and follow the steps down to the railway line. You are now on the Aylesbury Ring. Watch out for trains and cross the line, climbing the steps opposite and passing through a kissing gate. Continue along the left side of the wheat field (this part can be muddy) then following the path in the same direction over two more stiles. You will be on a path through a small wooded area leading to Grove Lane (the B4009). Take care in crossing the road and head left along the footpath. The **Swan**, is immediately ahead.

The **Swan** is a friendly, two-room village local. The left hand bar as you enter is predominantly, but not exclusively, food orientated. The tap bar to the right usually has a warming fire in the colder months. *Adnams Bitter* and *Fullers London Pride* are always on offer, with a guest beer on occasion. Both beers were in terrific form on our walk, particularly the Adnams, which was outstanding.

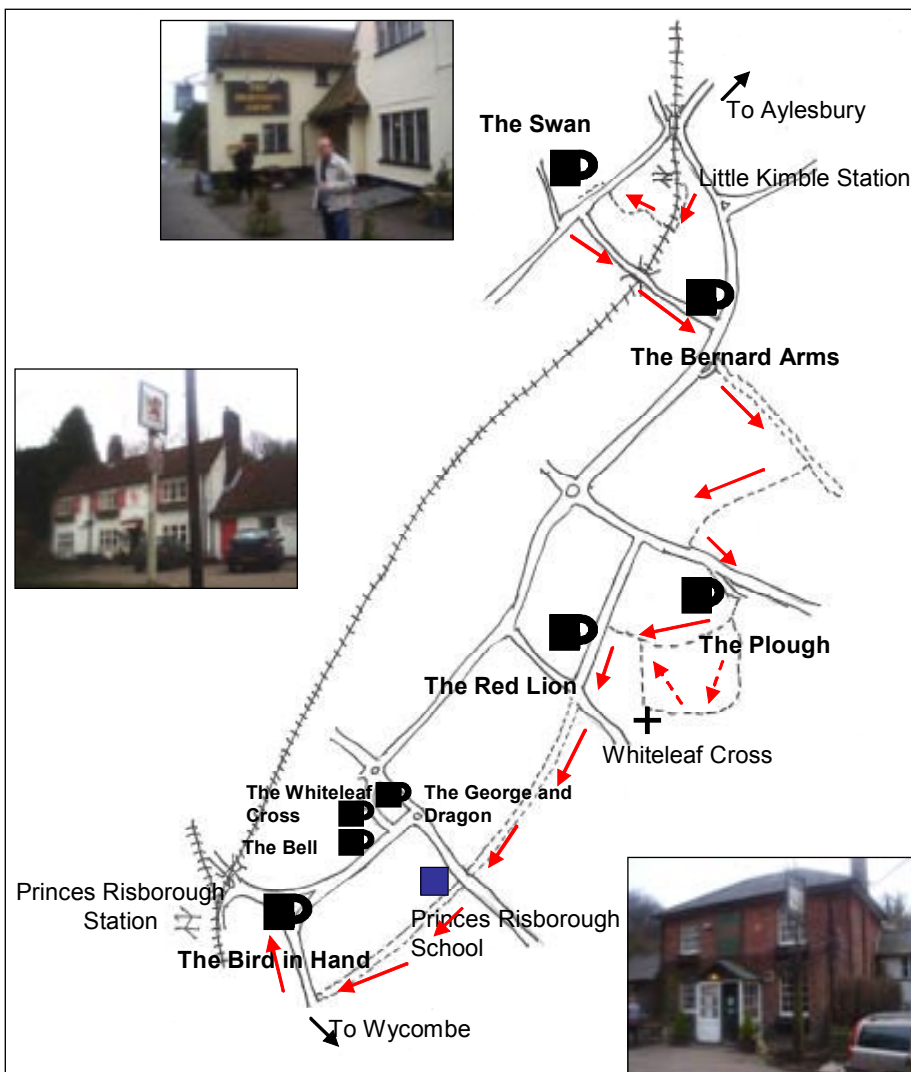
Good pub food is on offer in the **Swan** at lunchtimes and evenings. Two of us had excellent sandwiches from the lunchtime menu. These were quickly served (and consumed).

On leaving the **Swan**, head up Bridge Street, the local road immediately opposite the pub. Continue over the railway bridge and up Church Lane, passing Great Kimble School on the steepish climb up to the main road. This is a very pleasant walk most times of year but particularly in spring when large numbers of daffodils and cowslips flank the lane.

The **Bernard Arms** is at the junction with the main road. The pub stands opposite the back entrance to Chequers and is famous as the occasional haunt of Prime Ministers. However, the present incumbent has been notable by his absence – maybe he now wishes he had popped in for the odd pint? We had some decent *Deuchars IPA* in the **Bernard Arms**. However, at the time of writing the pub has been closed for a few weeks. It is advertised as re-opening at the time *Swan Supping* goes to press.

From the **Bernard Arms** head for a short distance, down the main road in the Princes Risborough direction, past the historic church of St. Nicholas. Cross the road near the bus stop. You will see a track heading uphill at the beginning of the lay-by signposted as leading towards the Ridgeway. Follow this track uphill for slightly over half a mile. This is the most strenuous climb of the walk. If you think you're seeing ostriches in the field to the right, it's not the beer, they really *are* farmed here.

When the track narrows and starts to bend you will reach the Ridgeway national trail. Look out for the Ridgeway signpost to the right. Follow the sign through a small gate and go downhill into an area of downland. This path is very well used (you're more likely to step in dog mess than a cow pat) and easy to follow. The National Trust owned Pulpit Hill



WALK ON THROUGH THE WIND, WALK ON.....

Iron Age fort site is to your left as well as various designated nature reserves. Continue to follow the Ridgeway signposts for about two thirds of a mile until you reach Cadsdean Road. Turn left and follow the road uphill for about a quarter of a mile until you reach the **Plough** at Cadsden, which is just off the main road on the right.

The **Plough** shuts at 2.30pm at lunchtimes Monday to Saturday (it stays open a little longer on Sundays) so a moderately brisk pace is necessary to get there before closing time. The **Plough** is in a secluded location in a deep valley (which mobile phone signals can't penetrate). It has a spacious beer garden and children also like to swing on a rope hung from a tree opposite the pub. The pub is such a regular stop for hikers that a supply of carrier bags is available at the front door to wrap around muddy boots. The **Plough** also does good food (one of our number had a speedily served sandwich) and offers three well-kept real ales. On our visit these were **Greene King IPA**, **Ruddles County** and **Morland Old Speckled Hen** – all from the **Greene King** stable. I had a perfectly pleasant pint of **Ruddles County** – although its current incarnation at around 4% is far removed from the malty 5% brew that was an icon of the real ale movement in the 1980s.

There are a number of alternative routes to get to Whiteleaf for the next pub, depending on how energetic you are and how soon you'd like the next pint (though there's no need to rush as the next pub is open all day). We went for the most direct option. Walk past the pub and turn immediately right up a signposted track. After a few yards bear to the right, ignoring the steps up the hill to the left. Follow the path, with the wood on your left and a fence bordering Whiteleaf Golf Course to the right. You will pass a maintenance hut on the right and then need to make a short climb up towards the Golf Course club house. Once you come across a water-board reservoir entrance on the left follow the footpath downhill until you reach the minor road in Whiteleaf (Lower Icknield Way). Turn left and after a hundred yards or so you reach the **Red Lion**.

(Alternatively, it is possible to enjoy magnificent views from the Whiteleaf Cross by taking the stepped footpath from behind the **Plough**. On reaching the summit of the hill turn right and descend into Whiteleaf village. This route is well signposted).

The **Red Lion** is a smart and welcoming one-bar pub which has recently been extended – mainly to enlarge the restaurant. It has three real ales which, at the time of visiting, were all commendably sourced from local breweries – **Brakspear's Bitter**, **Rebellion IPA** and **Wychwood Hobgoblin**. The **IPA** was sampled and did not disappoint.

On leaving the **Red Lion** turn left along the Lower Icknield Way. Continue to the junction with Peter's Lane and follow the unmetalled continuation of the road straight ahead. This is reputedly the oldest road in Europe – the Icknield Way was used as a cross-European trading route up to 7,000 years ago and linked the Dorset and Norfolk coasts. Continue along the track for approximately a mile until reaching a minor road (New Road). A diversion can be made to visit the three pubs in the centre of Princes Risborough (see below for details) by turning right down New Road.

To follow the country route, cross the road and continue for approximately half a mile down the Upper Icknield Way, passing Princes Risborough School on the right. You will emerge on to the main A4010 Wycombe Road. Turn right and within the outskirts of Princes Risborough are 100 yards away.

Cross the main road and head to the left of the **Black Prince** down Poppy Road. The **Black Prince** used to do a decent pint of **Courage Best Bitter**, although recently it has had no real ale.

Continue down Poppy Road to the junction with Station Road. The **Bird in Hand** is almost immediately to the right. The **Bird in Hand** is featured in the **2006 Good Beer Guide** and is a friendly local with a

beer garden and big plasma screen for sports events. It is a **Greene King** pub but has recently featured guests from other breweries (**Bateman's XXXB** at the end of 2005). On offer when we visited were the two regular beers – **Greene King IPA** and **Abbot Ale**. **Greene King Fireside** was the 'guest' – which was very drinkable.

To return by train you can find Princes Risborough station by turning left out of the pub and follow Station Road down the hill to the right. The station is clearly signposted past the Hypnos bed factory.

Alternatively, there are three further pubs serving real ale in Princes Risborough which will repay further investigation. To reach these turn right from the **Bird in Hand**. Walk down Station Road continuing as it joins Wycombe Road. The **Bell** is about half a mile on the left.

The **Bell** was previously a fizz pub but since being refurbished and put under new management it has offered a consistently well-kept pint of **Greene King IPA** – which is now apparently the pub's best-selling beer. The **Bell** also had a successful beer festival last May in its large beer garden.

Continuing into Princes Risborough, turn left into the High Street. The **George and Dragon** is on the right. **Greene King IPA** and **Wadworth 6X** were on offer on our visit. The new landlord is keen to expand his real ale range so offer some fraternal support and pop in and see what's available. The **Whiteleaf Cross** on the Market Square offers **Morland Original**, fairly unusual for the area, and **Greene King Abbot Ale**.

Buses to High Wycombe and Aylesbury depart from the Market Square. It is not unknown for these buses to depart before their advertised time (as happened on our trip) so don't linger too long over your last pint, tempting as it might be.

Mike Clarke

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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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BEER :-)

What is beer? Beer is composed of water, malted barley, hops, yeast and alcohol. There are plenty of pro's and cons of beer and we'll look at the benefits (?) of each one, we'll start with water...

Water is necessary for life and the fact that beer is almost 95% water would suggest this a pleasurable way to hydrate. Our bodies need approximately 2 litres a day of water, so why not beer then? The problem is alcohol has diuretic properties; for every gram of alcohol imbibed, urine production increases by an extra 10ml as sodium and potassium are excreted excessively and this causes water to be drawn out of the blood and into the kidneys. The lesson here is to enjoy but expect frequent visits to the loo and feeling slightly rubbish in the morning.

Malted barley gives beer it's nutritional qualities contributing essential vitamins and minerals to your diet. It is an important source of fibre, a pint consists of about 10% (soluble fibre) of your daily intake important for bowel function (is this why I'm a little slow the following morning?) and helps to delay food absorption. There is also evidence that beer can help reduce cholesterol due to polyphenols present in the barley, particularly low density cholesterol (LDL) which has been implicated in atherosclerosis (arterial plaque – not good for life expectancy). Vitamins present are (the figures in brackets are the percentage of the recommended daily intake) niacin (7%), B6 (8%), B2 (riboflavin, 8%), Biotin ('vitamin H', 8%), Panthothenic acid (4%) and folate (20%ish). The B vitamin group help the body break down fats, proteins and carbohydrates. The barley supplies significant amounts of folate, implicated in reducing cardiovascular disease and some types of cancer. Barley contributes 25% of the body's daily allowance of silicon – ortho-silicic acid (and it's bio-available, that is the body is able to utilise it) which is essential to collagen and bone maintenance. The sugars present in the malted barley contribute to the carbohydrate portion of beer calories, very roughly 30%, the remainder is due to the alcohol.



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IS IT GOOD FOR YOU?

Hops are good for you!! Antioxidants present – the latest ‘buzzword’ in the health aspects of ‘superfoods’ help to combat ‘free radicals’ (sorry too many ‘s’, but I can’t help it!), which are reactive oxygen species highly damaging to cells and can lead to inflammation, cancer and ageing (!). Xanthohumol and isoxanthohumol are considered to be highly potent – more so than vitamin E found in nuts and seeds but less than quercetin – found in apple skins (note, this is generally absent in apple juice). It must also be noted that darker beers contain more antioxidants.

Yeast – I’ve kept this brief as it contributes less on the nutrient side of things than malted barley, however it is still a rich source of B vitamins and contains Chromium which helps regulate blood sugar levels and may help lower cholesterol levels.

Finally **Alcohol**, in *moderate* amounts (14 units/week) may help reduce the incidence of heart disease by lowering serum cholesterol and thin the blood. Excess alcohol consumption, ah well I have written this! Can be linked to high blood pressure (not good for the heart), increased incidence of liver and oral cancers, addiction and quoting from a website, ‘injuries due to impaired motor skills’, i.e. do not operate complex machinery, ‘nuff said. The majority of the calories in beer come from the alcohol, is it fattening? Alcohol is absorbed very rapidly in the stomach and is broken down in the liver – about 1 unit per hour. Alcohol is a carbohydrate but cannot be stored as such and is ultimately stored in the form of fatty acids – fat yields 9 calories/gram and carbohydrate/protein 4 calories/gram – a little bit more energy is needed to convert the alcohol to fatty acids and it yields 7 calories/gram, i.e. it’s pretty calorific.

To sum up, drink in moderation – if you can, and make sure it doesn’t contribute to exceeding your calorie intake. As to health benefits, well there are plenty of foods out there that are far better but at least it’s not total junk calories after all.

Lemon Snail

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Web: www.chilternvalley.co.uk

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LAST ORDERS?



After driving from Thame to Aylesbury recently, I started wondering about the fate of some of our closed pubs.

The **Bottle & Glass** at Gibraltar is still a burnt out wreck with no sign of any redevelopment. I seriously wonder if this pub will ever re-open. The picture of the **Bottle & Glass** shown above was taken just after the fire in 2003 and it would be difficult to see any major difference to the pub as it is today (except for the plastic sheeting)! The locals were not in favour of **Greene King's** enlargement plans and I am beginning to doubt if this pub will survive.

The **Waggon & Horses** at Stone has been shut for at least six months and there are some signs of work going on. There is scaffolding outside and perhaps the interior is being gutted. There have been rumours of it becoming an Indian restaurant. Surely, we have enough of these already.

Near Thame, the **Royal Oak** (also known as **Paddy McGinty's** in later years) at Moreton is an enigma. There is no external evidence that it was ever a pub other than the empty wrought iron bracket from which the pub sign once hung. The curtains are closed during the daytime and there is no apparent sign of occupation. I wonder what the owners have in mind.

The **Rising Sun** in Ickford was devastated by a fire in January. We can only hope that it will be rebuilt soon. No doubt the locals are missing their *Good Beer Guide* regular entry, especially since the other pub in the village, the **Royal Oak**, closed a couple of years ago.

A couple of pubs have only been shut for a few months ago and we await news about their fate or future. These include the **Bell** at Waddesdon and the **Clayton Arms** at Lane End.

Several others have been closed for years with little or no information about their future. These seem unlikely to re-open and are all boarded up: **Plough** at Weston Turville, **Friend at Hand** at West Wycombe, **Chequers** at Fawley, **Halfway House** at Wycombe Marsh.

The **Studley Arms** at Studley Green has been closed for a long time and even if it is ultimately demolished, there is a possibility that another pub may be built as part of the redevelopment of the site.

When we published *Vale Ale* in 1992 there were about 400 pubs in this **CAMRA** branch area (360 in Bucks and 40 in Oxon). Since then over 60 have ceased to be pubs. The only consolation in this sorry tale is that there were probably fewer closures in 2005 than other recent years.

If you have any news about these closed pubs, please will you contact the editor.

Nick Holt



OLD SHIP INN

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Tel: 01494 883496

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Terrick, Aylesbury**

NATIONAL NEWS



CAMRA has launched an exciting new project which debunks untrue myths about pubs and recognises those with an authentic remarkable history.

After months of delving into the history of the nominated pubs **CAMRA**, assisted by London School of Economics academic Simon Davies, has short listed 14 pubs which it feels are worthy of being awarded a specially designed Pubs in Time plaque. Through meticulous research **CAMRA** has discovered many of the so-called facts around pub histories are little more than mythology and found that many significant pubs had been lost to demolition or change of use.

CAMRA Research and Information Manager Iain Loe said: 'No-one would believe how much nonsense and mythology there is around pub history. Even the celebrated dispute over which pub the Great Train Robbery was planned in turns out to be fiction – the robbery was planned in a safe house in Oxfordshire.'

The Unicorn
High Street,
Cublington
(☎01296 681261)



Bank Holiday Beer Festival

Friday 28th April - 6.00 till close

Saturday 29th April - All Day

Sunday 30th April - All Day

Monday 1st May - All Day

(1.00 a pint on Monday from 6.00pm onwards)

10 cask ales available during the festival

(4 Ales served from the main bar
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HISTORIC PUBS

'The great poet John Dryden was supposedly nearly killed in an alleyway next to one London pub, but **CAMRA** discovered the alley was not built until 71 years after his death.

'The second issue is the number of pubs of historical significance that have been either demolished or converted to restaurants. For example, The Roebuck in London's King's Road where Johnny Rotten auditioned for the Sex Pistols is now a restaurant.'

CAMRA hopes this first round of plaques will inspire pub goers and licensees to nominate their pub to be awarded one of these exclusive awards. Chief Executive Mike Benner said: 'We are delighted to be able to present these plaques during National Pubs Week, an event dedicated to getting more people interested in visiting their local and realising what an important part pubs can play in the identity of an area.

'Hundreds of pubs across the country have a great story to tell, and these first 14 are only the beginning. We want to encourage more licensees and their customers to come forward and apply for Pubs in Time accreditation, which we expect will soon be considered as a stamp of authenticity for the incredible events surrounding pubs handed down through the years.

'Each of the Pubs in Time plaques will feature a brief synopsis of the event that took place for each visitor to the bar to see. They highlight the significant events have taken place within pubs across many different aspects of British life. This includes the arts and popular culture, with pubs playing host to writers, poets and musicians. Momentous scientific discussions such as the discovery of DNA took place in a pub. As well as pivotal military events with pubs hosting meetings between luminaries such as the Duke of Wellington and the Emperor of Russia.'

A full list of the pubs is available on www.swansupping.org.uk.

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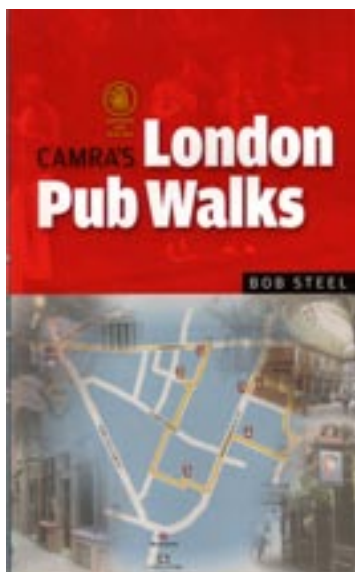
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BOOK REVIEWS

LONDON PUB WALKS



Members of **CAMRA** from Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe have been indulging in regular pub crawls in London for several years now. We have visited Marylebone, Bloomsbury, the City, Southwark, Mayfair, Paddington and other districts. If only we had had this wonderful new book, *London Pub Walks* to enhance our travels. It's hard to say how many

of the book's 180 pubs we have included but all the favourites are here: the **Black Friar**, the **Cittie of York**, the **Olde Cheshire Cheese**, the **Market Porter** and many more.

This is not typical **CAMRA** guide with long lists of pubs and beer listings. The emphasis of this book is architectural and historical. It is an ideal book for beer lovers and overseas visitors alike. Thirty walks are described and not only in the centre of the city; outlying areas such as Greenwich, Wimbledon and Hampstead are included. It is copiously illustrated with mouth-watering photos of pub interiors and exteriors and clear maps for each itinerary. The author doesn't really like the term 'pub crawl'. He thinks it implies rushing from pub to pub without really spending enough time to fully savour each location properly. His trails are of mostly five or six pubs and he suggests that many pubs can be best appreciated just after the morning opening time, before the lunchtime crowds flow in.

All the pubs sell real ale, of course, but since this is not an annual publication, quality cannot be guaranteed. There is a simple star rating of the beer range for each trail as a whole: limited, up to good or exceptional. Similarly architecture is rated unexciting, good to very good or outstanding.

This book is unreservedly recommended.

CAMRA'S London Pub Walks by Bob Steel, 160pp, ISBN 1-8529-216-3, published by **CAMRA Books**, priced £8.99.

GOOD PUB FOOD

Just published is a new edition of **CAMRA's** popular *Good Pub Food*. Susan Nowak is a noted writer on beer and food and her co-author Jill Adam has been Deputy Editor of the *Good Beer Guide* for over 20 years. This fine team have come up with a guide to Britain's best 600 pubs for good food and real ale. The pubs have been chosen from a list of nominations from **CAMRA** members all over the country.

Top chef Jean-Christophe Novelli has written the Foreword to this edition.

It is becoming much more acceptable to drink beer with a meal instead of wine and more chefs are using beer as an ingredient in their recipes. Most of the pubs in this book strive for something distinctive, rather than what has become known as 'typical pub grub'. They use meat and produce from local suppliers and try to include traditional regional specialities. The pub entries are interspersed with a few beer-flavoured recipes.

TERRIERS

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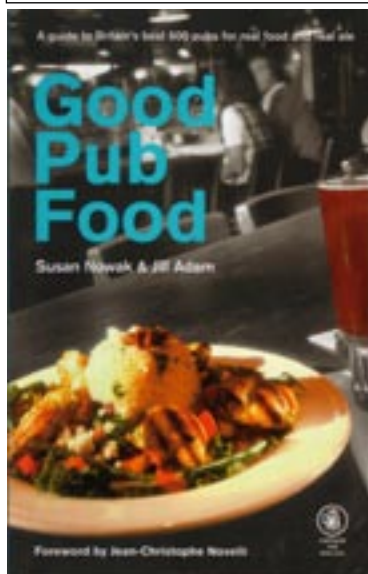
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GOOD PUB FOOD



As with all recent *CAMRA* books this one is very well designed. The text is printed in two colours with plenty of full colour illustrations throughout. I've only noticed one mistake so far – a Bucks pub listed under another county. The editor of *Swan Supping* will buy a pint for the first reader to telephone him with the pub name (provided he or she claims it at a local *CAMRA* social).

Good Pub Food 6th edition by Susan Nowak & Jill Adam, 384pp, ISBN 1-85249-214-7, published by *CAMRA Books*, priced £14.99, members price £12.99.

Nick Holt

Forthcoming book:

Good Beer Guide Germany by Steve Thomas.

576 pages, to be published in May in time for the World Cup.

ISBN 1-85249-219-8. Price £16.99, members price £14.99.

This can be pre-ordered now.

We hope to feature a review in our next issue.

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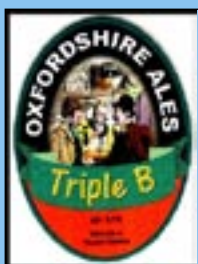
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SMUGGLER - 4.1%	£80.95	£45.45	£24.45	£5.25	£7.78	£14.50
SEASONAL - 4.2% - 4.5%	£84.95	£47.95	£25.95	£5.50	£8.25	£15.00
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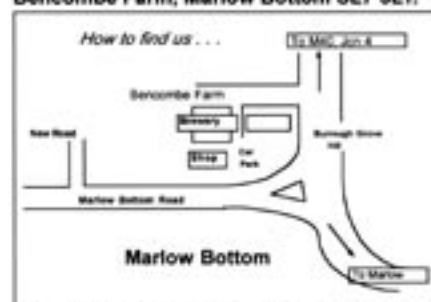
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NEW BEER TRIALS

Two pubs in the local area will be trialling an innovation in the brewing of real ale. The **Red Lion** in Chadsworthy and the **Prince of Wales** in Little Claydon will be serving draught ale that has been pasteurised and sterilised but brought back to life by the injection of a revolutionary, fast-acting but secret mixture of yeasts and enzymes at point of dispense.

The process, known as the *Condition Restored Ale Process*, has been developed by biochemists at the University of Milton Keynes. They claim to have isolated all the living constituents that give real ale its unique attributes, such as flavour and freshness. They say they have successfully separated and concentrated these in a way that allows them to be added to a sterile keg beer to produce real ale at the handpump. The breakthrough has been isolating a particular protein found in real ale, known as *i. floparol*.

Dr Ella Mira Check of the research team said, 'We know there are huge disadvantages for the licensed trade of dealing with a live product. There's long been a demand from the industry to lengthen the shelf life of an opened cask of real ale from its current few days to several months. We really need to get this product out of the age of craft brewing and into the twenty-first century'. Dr Check would not comment on whether the added, instant real-ale additive had been produced using genetic modification technology. However, she said it had been tested thoroughly already on the university's students.

The development has sparked interest from the big multinational brewers who see a way to re-enter the real-ale market by brewing the bland, lifeless base beer used in the technique. A *CAMRA* spokesman viewed the development with alarm but said the campaigning organisation might be powerless to stop this innovation. 'If what's in the glass really does have the biological composition of real ale then we can't see how we can argue that it's a different type of product. Maybe the game is up for real ale as we know it'. The trials are due to start on 1st April.



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Vora, Chicken Tikka Massalla,
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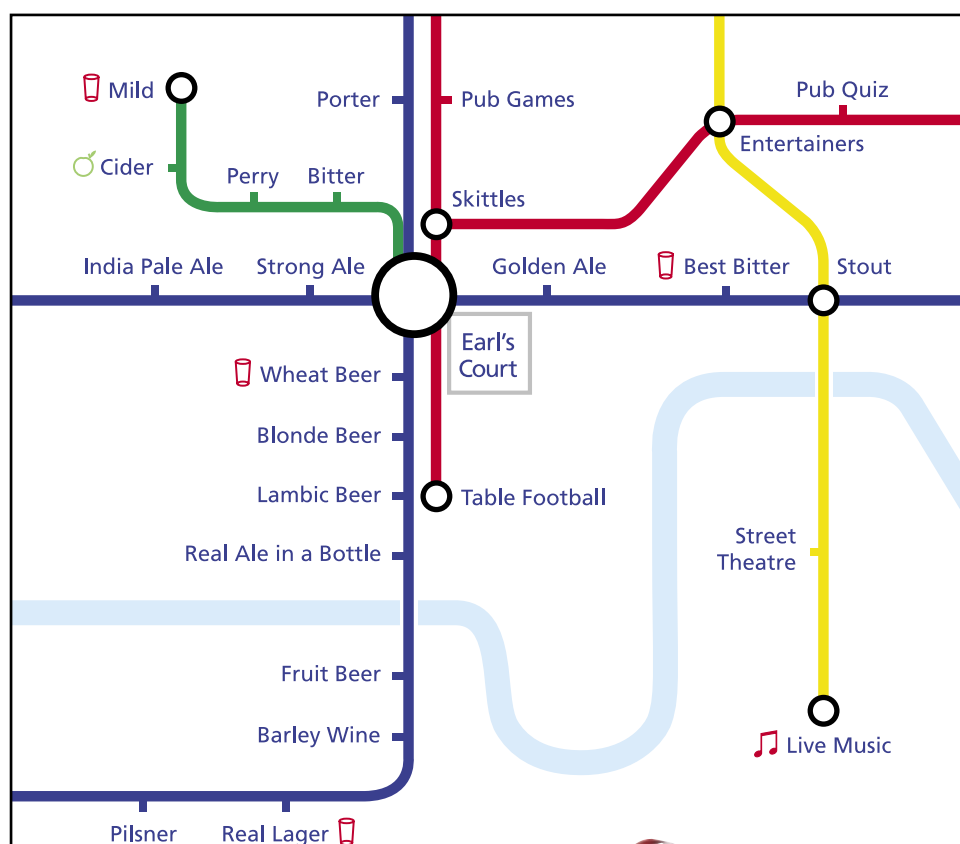
A WEEKEND IN EDINBURGH

Having been a regular visitor to Edinburgh pubs and bars over the last 20 years, I realised recently that I hadn't been for a couple of years so I set about rectifying the situation.

I left Kings Cross on Saturday morning and arrived in Edinburgh early afternoon. I intended to visit a few recent additions to the *Good Beer Guide* and also drink my favourite beer in my favourite pub, namely *Orkney Dark Island* in the **Guildford Arms**.

Although I was only a couple of minutes away from the **Guildford Arms** I decided to leave this treat to the evening and set off to visit the only brewpub in Edinburgh, **McCowans** Brewhouse (not *GBG*).

I purchased a bus day rover ticket for only £2.30 and set off for the Brewhouse, which was located in a modern cinema development. The only beer of theirs that was available was *Domnhul Ban* which was sweet but very tasty and in good condition. Other beers on offer were



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Caledonian Deuchars IPA, *Thwaites Original*, *Lees Greengate*, *Black Sheep Emmerdale* and *Lichfield Hoppy Daze*. The brewery is viewable through windows at the end of the bar. The Scottish & Newcastle brewery is just over the road.

Knowing this area quite well I walked up the next bar in the Tollcross area called **Bennets Bar (GBG)**. The beers on offer here were *McEwan's 80/-* and *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* of which I sampled the 80/-. The Victorian bar still had an off sales room with a hatch through to the bar and is in the *National Inventory*.

Next I caught the bus up to the **Cambridge Arms (GBG)**. I had been to the **Oxford Bar** a few doors away and thought it was about time I completed the set. I sampled the *Stewart No 3* with the other beer being *Caledonian Deuchars IPA*. The bar was very crowded and compared to other Edinburgh bars was nothing special.

Consulting my map I realised I had omitted a bar on the way up to the **Cambridge Arms** so I retraced my steps (or rather bus ride) back to **Thomson's Bar**. The weather had turned wet and windy by now so I was grateful to reach the shelter of the bar. This was a nice quiet single room bar with lots of rare brewery mirrors on the walls and had been Edinburgh **CAMRA** pub of the year in 2003. Beers on offer were *Atlas Latitude*, *Bateman XXXB*, *Dent Aviator*, *Taylor Landlord*, *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* and 80/- and *Oakham JHB*, of which I tried the *Latitude*.

It was now about 1700 and managed to catch a bus from near the bar to my hotel in the Grassmarket.

After drying out (inside and outside) and having a nice Italian meal in a nearby restaurant, I set off for the **Guildford Arms**. As usual I was not disappointed – the pub was unchanged and the *Orkney Dark Island* was on. I consumed two pints spread over a couple of hours just soaking up the

MORE FROM AULD REEKIE



yet another new bar for me, the **Barony Bar**. A L-shaped one-room bar with a good range of beers and good food. I sampled **Okells** Dr Okells IPA from a range that comprised **Courage** Directors, **McEwan's** 80/=₂, **Caledonian** Deuchars IPA, 80/=₂ and **Six Nations**.

Before catching the train home I had to go and have a farewell pint of **Orkney** Dark Island in the **Guildford Arms**. A couple more beers had come on from the previous evening, namely **Mordue** Radgie Gadgie and **Harvistoun** Bitter & Twisted. The pub was crowded with everyone watching the Wales v Scotland rugby match. I'm glad I left before the end, as Scotland was the losing team. I caught the very crowded 16.00 train home.

It was a good weekend, visiting five new bars and drinking **Orkney** Dark Island in the **Guildford Arms**. Each beer I had was in excellent condition and served at the right temperature but what else would you expect in Edinburgh.

Dick Moore

atmosphere and then finished off with a half of **Cairngorm** Wild Cat, a complete contrast to the **Dark Island**. Other beers were **Orkney** Red McGregor, **Taylor** Landlord, **Northumberland** Bucking Fاستard, **Caledonian** Deuchars IPA and 80/=₂ and **Atlas** Nimbus.

I set off back to my hotel fully intending to not have anymore, but unfortunately my route took me past the **Bow Bar** (GBG). I yielded to temptation and went in for half of **Broughton** Oatmeal Stout just before last orders. Other beers available were **Elgoods** Cambridge Bitter, **B&T** Pavilion Ale, **Buffy's** Norwegian Blue, **Caledonian** Deuchars IPA and **Belhaven** 80/=₂, all on air founts.

After breakfast the following morning I walked back to Waverley station and caught a bus down to the Ocean Terminal in Leith, where the royal yacht Britannia is berthed. After a quick look round I went to the nearby **Old Dock Bar** (GBG), reputed to be the oldest in Leith, just after twelve but I had forgotten in Scotland that some pubs do not serve alcohol until 12.30 on Sundays. After a walk round the Harbour I arrived at the appointed time and sampled the **Atlas** Latitude. Other beers were **Hydes'** Free Spirit, **Taylor** Landlord and **Mordue** Five Brides Bitter.

The next bar on the agenda was the **Central Bar** in Leith, a bar in the National Inventory. When I walked in a Celtic v Rangers match was just about to start on the TV and as it was a fizz-only bar I spent a couple of minutes admiring the wonderful tiling before leaving. I had already been asked to move a couple of times as I was standing in front of the TV!

Desperate for another drink I went into the nearby Wetherspoons called **The Foot of the Walk**. A good selection of beers on here, namely **Stewart** Copper Cascade, **Edinburgh** Gold, and No3, **Sulwath** Happy Hooker, and **Black Galloway**, **Caledonian** Deuchars IPA and 80/=₂. I went for the **Sulwath** Black Galloway, which was a superb dark beer.

Time was marching on so I caught the bus to



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NEW PUBS VERSUS OLD PUBS

The government plans that 1.1m homes are to be built in the next 15 years, mainly across south-eastern England. Aylesbury Vale will be expected to provide over 20,000 new homes in the next 20 years. Sizeable housing developments (into the hundreds of homes) are already earmarked for Wycombe Marsh, Princes Risborough and Marlow. In the long term, the gap between Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville is set to be filled with houses.

There is considerable debate about the merits and necessity of these new developments. However, what is not in doubt is that, if built, these new communities will require leisure facilities. This would provide an opportunity to re-assert the pub as the hub of local communities.

While there are no doubt some great real ale pubs in twentieth century built housing estates, they do not exactly fill the pages of the *Good Beer Guide* - in which post-war pubs are notable by their absence.

The number of twentieth century built pubs listed in the *Good Beer Guide* in the local branch area can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Why is this? Is it that *CAMRA* members are stuck in the past? Or is there something lacking about modern pubs?

One reason is that the quantity of pubs being built has been much lower than in the past. This is an interesting phenomenon as vast amounts of housing have been built, particularly pre-World War Two and in the sixties and seventies. Clearly people living in the new housing must visit pubs in town centres, main roads, outlying villages and the odd backstreet boozer.

This isn't a great surprise given that deals between developers and national breweries (then by far the largest pub owners) have led to many post-war pubs being badly located, poorly designed and shoddily built.

Some publicans do sterling work against the odds but we must all know of pubs on sixties and seventies housing estates that have been abandoned to lager-swilling teenagers whose attention wanders between playing pool, feeding the fruit machines and watching sport from all over the world on Sky Sports.

The few pubs built in the eighties and nineties are predominantly feebly-disguised family eating emporiums designed to psychologically brainwash the children of this country into eating ever more chicken nuggets and ice cream.

These places devote far more management time to the cartoon figures on the kiddie menus and 'entertainment' such as the ball pool and climbing frame than they do thinking about the quality of the drinks they sell.

Given the alternatives no wonder people choose to visit pubs that have a long-standing heritage. Ironically, many village pubs thrive because customers choose to drive out from local towns to enjoy a drink, and perhaps some good food, in a civilised and friendly atmosphere.

However, much of the attraction of a good pub comes from its links with the local community - staging regular events like quiz nights, running sports teams, staging bonfire night displays, running coffee mornings, operating notice boards, etc. Above and beyond this is the creation of a comfortable atmosphere in which community spirit is built by people simply passing the time of day - with good beer acting as the social lubricant.

Within the local area we have at least two pubs - the **Unicorn** at Cublington and the **Old Ship** at Cadmore End - which match this description partly because they have been bought by local residents and run for the benefit of the local community.

Of course, many suburban pubs also

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NOTE TO DEVELOPERS

perform many valuable community functions. However, the impression is that they have been done no favours by the planners, who maybe felt that everyone in the future would watch television instead, or greedy developers after maximum return – pubs will make less money than several houses on the same plot.

If the new developments are to become sustainable, thriving communities then the planners should take some lessons from the past and examine how tight-knit agricultural or working-class industrial communities grew up around their pubs.

In particular, the pub's unique status in the community should be recognised. Developers should be required to provide well-planned, high quality pubs that have the potential to become destinations in themselves. In particular, rather than colluding with pubco chains, opportunities should be given to local entrepreneurial licensees - people who know the value and benefits of real ale and its drinkers.

Additionally, the extra influx of population ought to provide a boost to custom at pubs across the area. This is likely to alter the viability of many country pubs – the planning authorities should accordingly adjust the criteria used to grant permission for change of use into private housing. Even better would be a change to the planning regime to regard public houses as unique types of business – rather than being categorised along with restaurants and hot-food takeaways.

Can we look forward with anticipation or dread to the first CAMRA social in the new housing developments?

Mike Clarke

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Signature(s)			
Date			



Swan Supping
(Aylesbury Vale &
Wycombe Branch)



LOCAL BREWERY NEWS



Rebellion Brewery

Rebellion IPA has been awarded a Gold Medal, and been named Champion Bitter for 2006 at the recent national beer competition, run by the **Society of Independent Brewers**.

The Bitter class for beers up to 3.9% A.B.V attracted entries from the best local, independent brewers from around the country and is considered to be the most competitive class, and the most prestigious.

Rebellion IPA is a beautifully balanced beer, where the malt and hop flavours combine perfectly to make it extremely drinkable & refreshing.

The *Rebellion Beer Company's* commitment to producing distinctive,

high quality beers has been enhanced over the past few years, with a massive investment in the brewery and shop at Bencombe Farm, Marlow Bottom. This investment is aimed at increasing the range and quality of beers the brewery produces. The aim of the company is not to grow above the current brewing capacity of 25,000 pints per week, but to promote & increase interest locally, which is more commercially sustainable and in turn better for the environment and local economy.

Tim Coombes, who with partner Mark Gloyens owns the **Rebellion Brewery**, comments: 'Obviously we are delighted with this result and would like to thank all our customers who have loyally supported us over the years by purchasing and drinking our *IPA*, whether it be in our shop, our pub or in local pubs.'

(Prepared from a Press Release from Rebellion Brewery).

Other SIBA National Beer Competition results

Grand Union Honey Porter and Bitter were entered into their respective categories with the *Bitter* winning Silver, while the *Honey Porter* won Gold, and Silver overall.

Bottle conditioned *Ferrymans Gold* from the **Loddon Brewery** was awarded the silver medal in the bottled beer category.

Oxfordshire Ales

They have joined the SIBA Direct Delivery Scheme, which has nearly doubled their barrelage. They bottled approximately a thousand bottles of Marshmellow and Triple B themselves and are now using them to acquire appropriate outlets.

The Branch has arranged a visit to the brewery on Saturday May 6th (see the Branch Diary on page 22 for contact details).

Tony, Ian & Lynne welcome you to

The Black Horse, Lacey Green

Tel: 01844 345195



Brakspear's Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Theakston Old Peculier

Lunches 12 – 2 Tuesday – Friday & 12 – 2.30 on Saturday

Evening Meals: Tuesday to Thursday 6.30 – 9,

Friday/Saturday 6.30 – 9.30

Pub open all day Saturday & Sunday

Please note: The pub is closed Monday Lunchtime

Sunday Roast Dinners ~ £7-50

Please book early to avoid disappointment

Large Garden with Children's Play Area

Car Park Friendly Atmosphere Outside Functions Catered For

Check for further details on – www.aylesburyvale.net/risborough/blackhorse

ACCLAIMED *for high quality...*

Established by Chris and Vanessa Hearn in a two hundred year old brick and flint barn in the village of Dunsden, between Reading and Henley-on-Thames.

Our showpiece brewery is already acclaimed for high quality and consistency.

We produce beers to suit all tastes; ranging from Hoppit, a traditional well hopped English ale to our flagship brand Ferryman's Gold, a smooth, zesty, aromatic, golden, continental style beer.

Brewery tours are available for parties of fifteen or more people. Please contact us for further information.

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. Smooth malty body, quite bitter with the aroma and taste of east Kent Golding hops.

Hullabaloo (4.2% ABV):

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

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?



The Loddon Brewery Ltd
Dunsden Green Farm
Church Lane, Dunsden
Oxfordshire RG4 9QT



Telephone: +44 (0)118 948 1111

www.loddonbrewery.co.uk

Swan Supping

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Nick Holt, The Old Star, 163 Aylesbury Road, Birtton, 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.



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

APRIL

Monday 17th EASTER MONDAY FAMILY SOCIAL

Midday onwards, Lions of Bledlow.

Friday 21st BREWERY VISIT

Hook Norton brewery visit. All day event, a few places remain.

Book your place with Giles du Boulay, tel 01296 488703.

Also Friday 21st BEER FESTIVAL

General Elliott, South Hinksey, Oxon.

Wednesday 26th BRANCH SOCIAL

9:00pm Old Ship, Cadmore End.

MAY

Wednesday 3rd BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Prince of Wales, Marlow (venue to be confirmed)

Saturday 6th BREWERY VISIT

Oxfordshire Ales at Marsh Gibbon.

Contact Dick Moore to book your place. Tel 01296 488959.

Thursday 11th GERMANY SOCIAL

6:00pm for Raubbier and dinner. Schlenkerla, Dominikanerstrasse, Bamberg, Germany.

Tuesday 23rd PRINCES RISBOROUGH/LONGWICK SOCIAL

8:00pm Bell, 9:00pm George & Dragon, 10:00pm Red Lion

JUNE

Saturday 3rd FAMILY SOCIAL (ALL AGES WELCOME)

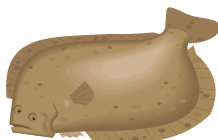
12:00 noon Bull, Stoke Mandeville.

JULY

Saturday 8th ANNUAL BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Book with Tony Gabriel (01494 527884). Probable cost £22 each.

Fresh Fish and Shellfish



Delivered boat to your door!

Best from the South-West

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**For more information
contact**

Mark on 0781 5632583



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300's Old Ale ~ 4.9% abv**



Open Monday to Saturday ~ 9am to 5pm

**The Chiltern Brewery
Terrick Aylesbury**



More Local News



Beer Festival Diary

(Continued from page 2)

MARLOW

Town centre pub the **Cross Keys**, is to stage a St. Georges Day celebration weekend on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd April. After the success of last years Saturday special, it was decided a two day event will provide the necessary extra joviality on the England patron saints day. A Saturday St. Georges ball is planned alongside a Madness tribute band on the Sunday. A barbecue, yard of ale drinking contest and other activities are among the events occupying the weekend. **Charles Wells Bombardier** (4.3) and a further guest ale are planned on the imbibing stakes.

Back street local the **Duke of Cambridge** continues to alternate from **Rebellion IPA** (3.7) to an ever-changing guest ale. Recent headliners include **Hogs Back Hair of the Hog** (3.5), **Sharps Cornish Coaster** (3.6), **Gales Best Bitter** (4.0), **Brains Bread of Heaven** (4.0), **Butcombe Bitter** (4.0) and **Thwaites Cask Bitter** (3.6), which is about to debut as we go to press.

NORTH MARSTON

The **Bell** has **Greene King IPA** as its regular ale plus a guest which was **Hardy & Hanson Olde Trip** when visited recently. The new landlord since last October is Quentin Turner-Zealey. He was previously at Thame Rugby Club.

POUNDON

The **Sow and Pigs** has added a third handpump. Beers on offer at the last visit were **Brakspears Bitter**, **Wychwood Dirty Tackle** and **Hobgoblin**. Bar meals are served lunchtime and evenings with a Sunday carvery. Live music is featured on Sunday evenings

STEWKLEY

Traditional breakfasts are now available at the **Swan** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10am. Future plans include a Summer Ball to be held in a marquee in the garden on Saturday 16th September, and a beer festival. More details next issue.

STONE

Work continues on the **Waggon & Horses** to convert it into a restaurant offering 'contemporary Indian cuisine'.

TWYFORD

The **Seven Stars** appears to be shut with the pub sign missing and the curtains drawn. No further information available at the moment.

TYLERS GREEN

The **Old Queens Head** reopened at the beginning of March with new owners. They seem to think that it is in Penn, but it has always been in Tylers Green as far as everyone else is concerned! It is now part of the **Salisbury Pubs** group which also runs the **Alford Arms**, **Frithsdon**, the **Royal Oak**, **Bovingdon Green**, and the **Swan Inn**, **Denham**. There is a restaurant upstairs, but if you just want a drink there are plenty of drinking only tables downstairs. As well as offering an extensive wine list there are two real ales on offer, **Greene King IPA** and **Morland Old Original**.

WADDESDON

The **Bell** is still closed! Rumour has it that it will become a Thai restaurant!

WING

At the **Queens Head** the current range of three ales is planned to increase to four. **Shepherd Neame Spitfire** is one possible to accompany the **Fullers London Pride**, **Greene King IPA** and **Hook Norton Old Hooky** already on offer.

WINSLOW

Winslow Lions ran a very successful beer festival last month in conjunction with the **Milton Keynes & North Bucks Branch of CAMRA**. We hope that this will become an annual event

WOOBURN COMMON

Good Beer Guide 2006 country pub entrant the **Royal Standard**, still offers an amazing ten real ales, five on hand pump, five on gravity. Some of the changing guest beers appearing of late include **Roosters Leghorn** (4.3), **Adnams Explorer** (4.3), **Downton Pax** (5.0) and **Burton Bridge Thomas Sykes Old Ale** (10.0) (steady!). The **Royal Standard** always include a black brew among their ten real ales, (a mild, stout, porter or old ale). **Orkney Dragonhead Stout** (4.0), **Everards All Black** (4.3) and **Nethergate Old Growler** (5.0) were some of the dark delights having been on parade recently.

WOOBURN GREEN

Oriental bar and restaurant the **Old Bell** offer three real ales, **Caledonian Deuchars IPA** (3.8), **Fuller's London Pride** (4.1) and a changing guest ale. Some of the more enterprising beers to appear lately have been **Eastwood Best Bitter** (4.0), **Harviestoun Belgian White** (4.3) and a certain **Orkney Dark Island** (4.6) (wow!).

APRIL

5th – 8th (Wed – Sat) 30th Newcastle Beer Festival at Students Union, Newcastle University, Kings Walk, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
6-9 (Thu-Sun): 15th Mansfield Beer & Cider Festival. Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Rd South, Mansfield, Notts
14-15 (Fri-Sat): Inaugural Planet Thanet Ale Festival, Gallery Iota, Western Esplanade, Ramsgate.
19-22 (Wed-Sat): 4th Maldon Beer Festival, Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon, Essex.
19-22 (Wed-Sat): Paisley Beer Festival, Town Hall, Abbey Close.
20-22 (Thu-Sat): 12th Dunstable Beer Festival Dunstable Young Persons Centre, Manchester Place (off High St North) Dunstable.
20-22 (Thu-Sat): 6th Banbury Beer Festival, TA Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury, OX16 9AN.
21-23 (Fri-Sun): 1st Bexley Beer Festival, Sidcup Sports Club, Crescent Farm, Sydney Rd, Sidcup, Kent
26-29 (Wed-Sat): East Anglian Beer Festival, Corn Exchange, Bury St Edmunds.
27-29 (Thu-Sat): Kingdom Of Fife Festival, the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes
27-29 (Thu-Sat): Stourbridge Beer Festival, Town Hall, Market St
27-30 (Thu-Sun): 12th Reading Beer And Cider Festival. Kings Meadow, Napier Rd. Open Thu 430-11pm, Fri/Sat 11-11pm, Sun 12-9pm.
28-29 (Fri-Sat): Chippenham Beer Festival Studio Hall, Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham.

MAY

5-6 (Fri-Sat): Macclesfield Beer Festival, Macclesfield Rugby Club, Priory Lane.
10-13 (Wed-Sat): Beer On Broadway, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing W5.
11-13 (Thu-Sat): 30th Farnham Beer Exhibition, Farnham Maltings, (10 Mins From Train Stn).
11-13th (Thu-Sat): 23rd Rugby Beer Festival, Thornfield Bowling Club.
12-13 (Fri-Sat): 4th Halifax 'Mayfest', Square Chapel Arts Centre, Square Rd, Halifax
12-14 (Fri-Sun): 17th Yapton Beerex, West Sussex. Near Arundel, Yapton and Ford Village Hall.
18-20 (Thu-Sat) 16th Doncaster Beer Festival, the Dome, Doncaster Leisure Park, Bawtry Road.
18-20 (Thu-Sat): 1st Delapre Abbey Beer Festival, Northamptonshire
19-20 (Fri-Sat): Rail Ale Festival, Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Chesterfield.
19-21 (Fri-Sun): 1st Swanage Rail Ale Festival at Norden Park + Ride Stn, Corfe Castle.
22-27 (Mon-Sat): 33nd Cambridge Beer Festival.
23-27 (Tue-Sat): 21st Colchester Real Ale & Cider Festival, Colchester Arts Centre.
25-27 (Thu-Sat): Lincoln Beer Festival, The Drill Hall, Free School Lane, Lincoln.
26-28 (Fri-Sun): 11th Newark Beer Festival, Riverside Pk, Newark.

JULY

1 (Saturday) - Haddenham's third Real Ale Festival at the Youth and Community Centre in Haddenham. 24 real ales from Independent brewers, 4 real ciders and duplicate barrels of the most popular brews; no running out this year! There will be hot and cold bar food available all day (we run from 11.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.) and a barbecue in the evening. Wine for partners, soft drinks for drivers, something for everyone. There will be a Jazz group, Appalachian dancers, Morrismen, and the whole festival will have an aeronautical theme, as the main beneficiary is the Upward Bound Trust, the gliding school on Haddenham Airfield. Full details at www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk.

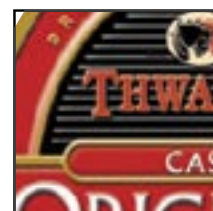
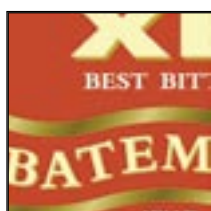
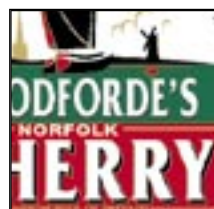
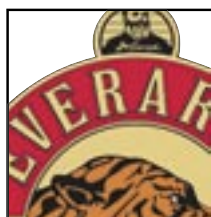


OCTOBER

27-28 (Friday-Saturday): 13th AYLESBURY VALE BEER FESTIVAL, Stoke Mandeville Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville. Our annual charity beer festival for the 'Friends of Florence Nightingale House'.



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