

FREE**Issue 47**

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

Swan Supping

APR/MAY 2005

DOUBLE BLOW FOR CONSUMERS



CAMRA has criticised the Chancellor's decision to increase beer duty in the recent Budget. This is a double blow for beer drinkers following beer price increases last month by several national brewers and pub companies.

Mike Benner, Chief Executive, said, 'This was a disappointing Budget for beer drinkers. This increase is a blow which will hit pubs, and consumers hard.'

'A penny may not sound like much, but this tax rise follows recent wholesale beer price rises by some brewers. Some pubs will now be charging as much as ten pence a pint more than they were only a month ago. At a time when beer consumption is falling and pub-going is

in decline this is a potentially devastating outcome for consumers and hard-working licensees. A tax rise is a flawed strategy which will cost jobs, increase smuggling and uncontrolled drinking and leave responsible beer drinkers out of pocket.'

CAMRA also criticised **Coors** brewers and **Carlsberg** brewers for sending the

wrong message to the Chancellor by increasing beer prices only last month. 'Why should Gordon Brown cut his share of the price of a pint when big brewers keep on increasing theirs?' Mike Benner said.

CAMRA asked the Chancellor to freeze or cut beer duty by a small amount in this year's Budget as part of a long-term strategy towards reducing duty to a level that will take the profit out of beer smuggling. This will enable British pubs to compete on an equal footing with French retailers.

Only Finland and Ireland have higher excise duty regimes, while the duty in Spain and Malta is only one tenth of that in the United Kingdom.

**WHAT IS OUR
 PUB OF THE YEAR?
 See Page 3**

the
Fox of Ibstone
 COUNTRY HOTEL



The Fox of Ibstone
Main Road, Ibstone,
Buckinghamshire. HP14 3XT.

Tel: 01491 638289
Fax: 01491 639263

Email:
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Web Site:
www.thefoxofibstonehotel.co.uk

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 £2.00 per cup with a free refill.

Lunch served Tuesday to Sunday from 12.00 until 2.30pm
 Baguettes, Sandwiches and Jacket Potatoes available.

Dinner served Monday to Saturday 19.00 until 21.30pm.

A newsletter with a circulation of 4000 for the discerning drinkers of Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe

THE WHIP INN

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Great Food
Excellent Range of Real Ales
Fine Wines & Good Company

BEER FESTIVAL!

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 Food available till 9pm Saturday and 5pm Sunday

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FREE ADMISSION

For further information call Nick at the Whip

**Enjoy a warm welcome at the
 Whip Inn**

**Local News****AYLESBURY**

The sign outside the **Aristocrat** on the gyratory still says 'award winning traditional ales - *London Pride*, *ESB* and *Chiswick Bitter*' despite the fact that it seems only *London Pride* has been served there for ages. Many thirsty real ale drinkers in Aylesbury would enjoy a cracking pint or three of *Fuller's ESB* or *Chiswick* - so come on **Aristocrat** - give us a sign that you mean business.

The end of the work at the **Broad Leys** looks in sight. The public bar is due for a 'tidy-up' and is likely to be affected over the next few weeks. However, when this is done and the roof work over the entrance is complete, the pub can concentrate on their popular lunches and, hopefully, adding another real ale.

The lease for the **Duck** in Bedgrove is up for offer by **Fluerets**.

The **Harrow** held a beer festival over the Easter Bank Holiday. They had eight different beers available on gravity plus the usual suspects on handpump.

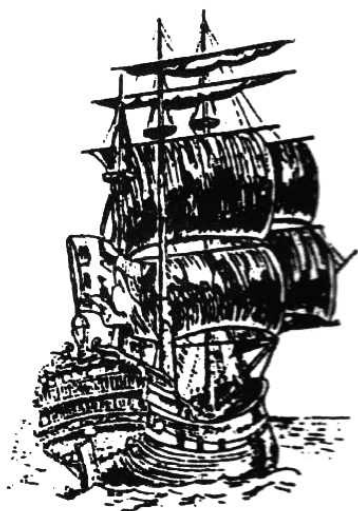
We announced in issue 44 (October/November 2004) that **Chiltern**

Brewery would be taking over the **Kings Head** in January. OK, so we were a bit premature! However, **Chiltern** took over in February and after closing the pub for about two weeks for refurbishment it reopened with a blaze of publicity. However, this publicity was not because the oldest courtyard inn in England was now being run by Buckinghamshire's oldest brewery, but because the bar is totally **NO SMOKING**. This has been greeted with mixed feelings in the way that Marmite is advertised. A full report is given on page 10. They are currently serving **Chiltern's** full range: *Chiltern Ale*, *Beechwood Bitter* and *Three Hundreds Old Ale*.

The **Old Plough & Harrow** is now being managed by Malcolm and Tracy Stock. They took over at the beginning of March after the pub had been closed for four weeks and hope to buy the lease. Only one real ale is currently offered, **Courage Best Bitter**, but it is hoped to expand on this as well as doing more food. **Bed & Breakfast** is also available.

Fluerets are also advertising the lease for the **White Swan**.

(Continued on page 19)

**OLD SHIP INN**

Marlow Road, Cadmore End
 High Wycombe HP14 3PN

Tel: 01494 883496

*Phil and the crew would like to welcome you to
 the Old Ship, Cadmore End. A Free House where beer
 is still poured straight from the cellar.*

**Come and try our organic baguettes at lunchtime or join us for our
 mouth-watering rump of beef (bookings only!) on Sunday.**

In the evenings you can try one of our homemade pies.
*Food is served Noon – 2pm Tuesday to Sunday lunchtimes
 and 6pm – 8.30pm Monday to Saturday evenings.*

A little pub with a big smile!

BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR



The **Pub of the Year (POTY)** for the **Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch** of **CAMRA** is the **Three Horseshoes**, Burroughs Grove.

The pub is the brewery tap for the nearby **Rebellion Brewery** and is located between High Wycombe and Marlow on the road south of the M40 junction 4.

Before **Rebellion** bought it, the pub had been derelict for a long time. Now, it is a thriving place, popular with drinkers and diners alike, and in the **Good Beer Guide**!

The interior has three distinct areas but the main feature to discerning drinkers is the bank of six handpumps with the full range of **Rebellion** beers available. In fact, this is one of the few pubs in our branch area where a mild is regularly available.

In a recent branch social there we enjoyed their curry night (Tuesday) where the price of the curry (or sausages if the curry is not to your taste) includes the cost of a pint.

There is an extensive menu available which compliments the range of beer.

The enclosed garden at the rear of the pub is very popular with families in the summer. The car park at the front can get very busy, but not to worry as the Wycombe to Marlow bus stops just outside!

Opening hours are 11.30am-3pm, 5pm-11pm Monday to Thursday, 11.30am-11pm Friday and Saturday and Noon to 4pm, 7pm-10.30pm Sunday.

The branch will be holding a **Pub of the Year** presentation on Wednesday 4th May. As with all our meetings, everyone is welcome to come along.

The **Three Horseshoes** will now go forward to the regional **Pub of the Year** competition where the opposition is formed by the other **POTYs** in the Central Southern region of **CAMRA**. All the pubs chosen will be visited and judged by local **CAMRA** members on various categories including the quality of the beer. It is a hard job, but someone has to do it!

The winner of that goes forward to compete in the national competition.



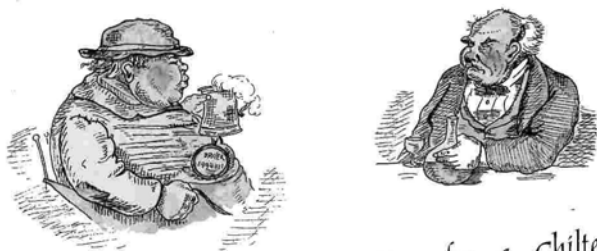
THE CHILTERN BREWERY



...the oldest independent brewery in Buckinghamshire and The Chilterns...

Trade enquiries welcome...

Chiltern Ale 1037og - Light Ale
Beechwood Bitter 1043og - Best Bitter
300's Old Ale 1050og - Strong Old Ale



it's time for a change, it's time for a Chiltern!

T (01296) 613647 F (01296) 612419
info@chilternbrewery.co.uk www.chilternbrewery.co.uk
Nash Lee Road Terrick Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP17 0TQ



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75,000 MEMBERS

CAMRA signed up its 75,000th member during National Pubs Week, three quarters of the way to hitting their target of 100,000 members by 2007.

CAMRA, which was formed by four young journalists in 1971, due to the diminishing choice of real ale in the UK, has experienced impressive growth over the last 34 years. Events such as National Pubs Week, over 150 beer festivals a year (including the Great British Beer Festival) and the 'CAMRA's Membership Challenge' and national high profile campaigns such as Full Pints and Licensing Reform have all played their part in seeing *CAMRA*'s membership figures increase by 25% since January 2000. These events and campaigns have ensured that pub goers are more aware of *CAMRA*, the issues that the campaign addresses and how pubgoers can become part of the UK's biggest, single-issue consumer group.

Colin Valentine, Director of Membership said, 'As people become more aware of the issues that *CAMRA* is involved with, and how they affect us, we have seen membership greatly increase during our 34-year history. Reaching 75,000 members is a fantastic achievement but we will not be complacent! We launched a challenge in 2003 to our members to hit 100,000 members by the end of 2006 and we realise that to achieve this we will all have to campaign hard.'

There is a membership form available in every issue of *Swan Supping* – please go to page 19.



The Green Dragon

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Haddenham's Award Winning Village Inn

Booking always advisable!



***Tuesday and Thursday Evening – Two Courses £11.95
Sunday Lunch – Three Courses £18.95***

www.eatatthedragon.co.uk

BRANCH NEWS



Our recent branch meeting at the **Old Ship Cadmore End** was a most enjoyable experience. A warm welcome and atmosphere was complemented by a range of five ales. *Archers Best* (4.0), *Youngs Best* (3.7), *Butts Barbus Barbus* (4.6) and both from

West Berkshire Brewery: *Mr Chubbs Lunchtime Bitter* (3.7) and *Full Circle* (4.5). All were in fine condition and served from barrels in the cellar. Many thanks to landlord Phil (pictured) and his staff.

A social evening at **Le de Spencer Arms** in mid January became memorable for two reasons. Firstly the presence of *Jack Frost* (4.5) and *London Porter* (5.4) as well as the normal *Fullers* range were a welcome surprise for a cold winters night, and secondly, even more surprising, our team won the pub quiz!

At our AGM, held at the **Red Lion**, Haddenham, we gained two brand new committee members, Michael Clarke and Alexander Wright.

Alex has already shown his talents regarding web sites by getting our branch its own dedicated domain name which eagle eyed readers will have already spotted on our masthead on the front page. He and our resident web guru, Simon Allen, have further plans for the site which we will cover in future issues.

The Cock Inn at Wing



Great Food!

Great Restaurant!

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

*Why not come
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**For further details phone
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TOE IN THE WATER BEER FESTIVAL



THE RED LION

Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th June 2005

THE RED LION

551 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1ET Tel: 01494 536901 Web: www.redlionrocks.co.uk

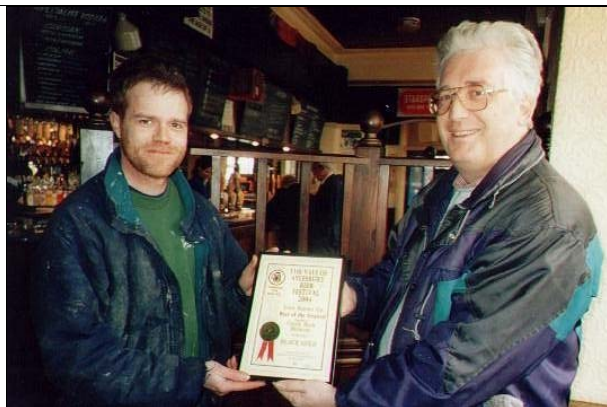
Inaugural Beer Festival, entry free. 12 to 30 beers subject to availability. Hot & cold food, BBQ Weather permitting.

Saturday afternoon relaxed acoustic blues, Saturday from 9pm

Bernie Woods & the Forest Fires - 50's rock 'n' roll.

Sunday from 3pm acoustic jam. Opening times: Noon to 11pm

YE OLDE TRIP TO NOTTINGHAM



Castle Rock is Nottingham's largest brewery and brews over 100 barrels a week; it was one of its brews - *Black Gold*, that was Aylesbury beer festival runner-up. Given that there are seventeen real ale pubs in Nottingham and the 'burbs, it seemed appropriate that the presentation of the certificate to the head brewer should be incorporated into a general 'tour' of the pubs in that area.

The chief instigator Dick Moore sadly was unable to attend and the best we could do was have pints in his honour and talk of organising another crawl in the future. Giles de Boulay and Mike Clemence (the 'time to burn' boys) joined myself on the 8:30am Aylesbury - Haddenham bus (280) which it seemed hadn't anticipated the rush-hour traffic and dropped us off at Thame & Haddenham with four minutes to spare before the 9:07am departure. Unfortunately we didn't have to the time to buy the 'group tickets' and as a consequence it cost us £33.70 each (ouch!). After a change of train at Birmingham we

were on our way again and reached Nottingham just after 12.

We were greeted by our host for the day, Dave Thornhill who led us to the first pub.....

Our first port of call some 10 minutes walk from the train station was the **Vat & Fiddle** (12-14 Queens Bridge Road, NG2 1NB), an unassuming place from the outside but revealing itself as a real ale haven; a boozery with a long bar to accommodate all those handpumps. The name is a reference (jibe?) to the nearby Inland Revenue offices and was acquired by the **Tynemill** company in 1997.



This pub offers ten real ales, one real cider and a range of Belgian beers (no we didn't have any) - the big influence to the real ale range being the presence of the **Castle Rock** brewery next door; **Castle Rock Meadows Gold** (rebranded from *Black Gold*), *Elsie Mo*, *Hemlock* and *Harvest Pale*. The non brewery guests were, **Big Lamp** *Prince Bishop*, **Oakham** *Bishops Farewell*, **Ringwood** *Old Thumper*, **Jennings** *Dark Mild* and **Dark Star** (from Brighton) *Golden Gate*. Samples (i.e. pints) of the *Harvest Pale*, *Dark Mild*, *Hemlock* and *Meadows Gold* showed ale at its best. A **GBG** (*Good Beer Guide*) pub and so it should be! Prices for these beers were a very reasonable £1.70 - £2.20 / pint.

On cue, almost as if he teleported in was David Roe, as the first round being bought! (I hope he doesn't edit this). Twenty minutes later we were joined by Alan 'leave it to the last minute' Sheppard, forewarned by a call to myself at 8am that morning - he wasn't on the Birmingham train so I thought I was dreaming. The presentation to the **Castle Rock** head brewer went well but sadly a round was not bought for all our efforts (shame!)

Dave T kindly paid for his round by buying us day tickets (£2) on the Nottingham tram system - we were all impressed by the trams, introduced just over a year ago in response to traffic congestion they were comfortable and had a smooth ride. This took us to the **Lion** (44 Mosley Street, Basford, NG7 7FQ), which seemed to me a bit off the beaten track but not having been to Nottingham before, I wasn't sure where I was. This is a **Batemans** pub but like the previous pub it does not shy away from having guest beers, it's a large pub with a brick walled interior, wooden floor and three bars which are surrounded by the drinking areas, there is plenty of advertising of up and coming bands as well as beer related framed prints. The beer range was pretty extensive - *Arundels* *Romeo's Rouser*, *Orkney* *Northern Light*, *Bass* *Bitter*, *Gales* *Best*, *Hardy & Hanson's* *Kimberly Mild*, *Everards* *Beacon* and *Osset* *HSB*. We had our meal here and this gave us the opportunity to try two of the beers (so many beers, so little time).

The next pub was a half mile walk away in mini-blizzards and past the impressive monument to Nottingham's brewing heritage - the now closed **Shipstones Brewery**. Aptly the **Horse & Groom** (462 Radford Road, Basford, NG7 7EA) was the original **Shipstones** brewery tap and is now a free house with an impressive range of ales. We sat in the 'snug' with the fire and exchanged beer notes (well, er that was the theme of this crawl) on *Abbeydale* *Moonshine*, *Kelham* *Island Gold*, *Caledonian* *Deuchars IPA*, *Greene* *King* *Abbot*, *Oakham* *JHB* and *Grainstore* 1050. Loads of beer!!

The **Fox & Crown** (33 Church Street, Old Basford, NG6 0GA) is a tram stop (or two) away and is the **Alcazar** brewery tap, another

(Continued on page 8)

MOWCHAK

Finest Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine
Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch
01494 485005

We are in the Good Curry Guide!



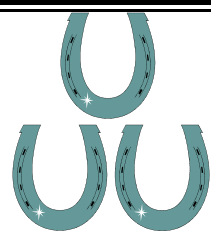
Recently refurbished
restaurant & separate
bar with Real Ales

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

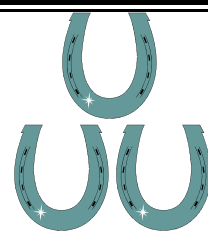
Adult £ 7.50

Child (under 12) £ 4.50



REBELLION'S

BREWERY TAP NOW OPEN



THE THREE HORSESHOES

Burroughs Grove Hill, (Old Wycombe Road), Marlow

Six Rebellion Real Ales

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 Special – Bangers & Mash/Curry night
(from £6 including one pint of Rebellion/Glass of House Wine)*

Open all Bank Holiday Weekends!

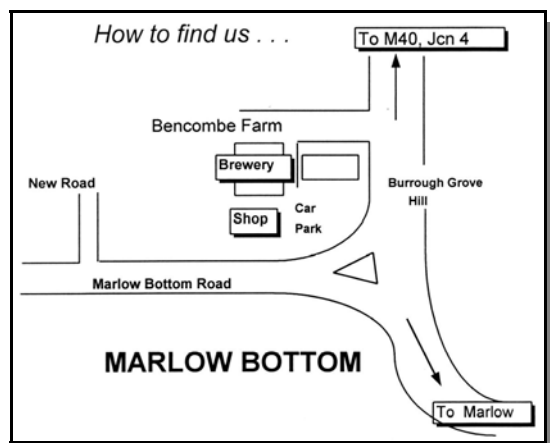
01628 483109

Good sized garden & car park



REBELLION BREWERY SHOP MARLOW

Having a party? Need some real ale at home? All our beer is served raked bright, ready to take home and drink immediately, and is available in the following sizes:



CASK ALES	ABV	Firkin (72 pts)	Polypin (36 pts)	Polycask (18 pts)	Jug (4 pts)
IPA	3.7%	£ 77.45	£ 42.95	£ 22.95	£ 6.25
Seasonal Ale	4.3%	£ 84.95	£ 47.95	£ 25.95	£ 6.75
Zebedee	4.7%	£ 89.95	£ 50.95	£ 27.45	£ 7.25

Bottle Beer

	Bottle 500 mls	Case of 12
Blonde	£ 1.70	£ 18.00
Red	£ 1.75	£ 18.50
White	£ 1.75	£ 18.50

To place an order, or for further information, please call: **01628 476594**
 Rebellion Beer Company, Bencombe Farm, Marlow Bottom, SL7 3LT
 Shop Opening Times Mon - Fri 8:00am - 5:30pm, Sat 9:00am - 5:00pm

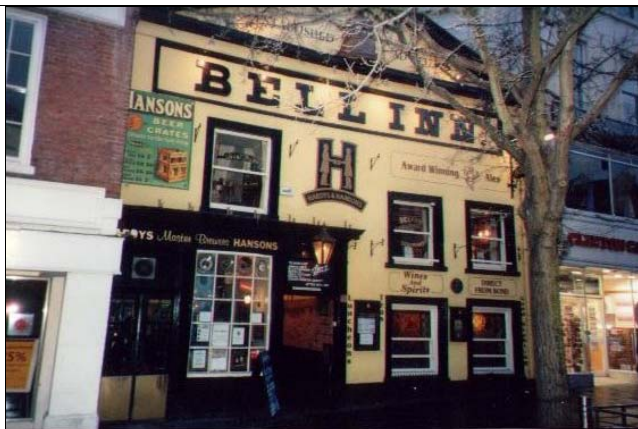
THE OLDEST PUB IN ENGLAND?

(Continued from page 6)

permanent beer festival. This twelve barrel microbrewery produces a good range of beers and isn't afraid of making guest beers available, the beer list was as follows; *Alcazar Ale* (4%), *Nottingham Nog* (4.2%), *Vixens Vice* (5.3%), *Bombay Castle* (6.5%), *Brush Bitter* (4.9%), *New Dawn* (4.5%) and the two guest beers – *Fullers ESB* and *Salamanders Foxtrot* (I think that's quite enough beers). The main cuisine is Thai food. There was only time for one beer, but I managed to squeeze in a half of the 'Nog'. Yet another example of a pub that should be the pub crawl rather than being part of it!!

Back onto the tram again and into Nottingham proper. The **Bell Inn** is one of the older pubs in Nottingham and formerly the refectory of the Carmelite monastery which was closed by Henry VIII in 1536. The interior is steeped in history, the cellars being Norman and is now an outlet for *Hardy & Hansons* which now leads me to the beer list; *Hardy & Hansons Bitter*, *Peak Perfection*, *Olde Trip*, *Bull Mastiff Thoroughbred*, *Top Dog*, *Jack the Lad*, *Grainstore 1050* and *Cascade* (brewery or beer?). Things started to become a bit hazy and text messages sent to my folks at home were nothing short of hilarious when I read them at home, ho hum.

The last pub was a few minutes walk away and another steeped in history; the (to give it its full name) *Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem* (1



Brewhouse Yard, NG1 6AD) is found adjacent to a rocky outcrop which supports Nottingham castle – the back of the pub is hewn out of the sandstone rock.

This is supposedly the oldest pub in England dating back as far 1189. I believe from the website <http://www.triptojerusalem.com> that we entered the 'Rock Lounge' up a flight of a few steps, certainly the sandstone walls and ceiling are evident looking all the more ancient under the subdued lighting.

Beers? Well, from memory, *Hardy & Hansons Bitter*, *Olde Trip* and *Kimberly Mild* plus *Bullmastiff Hop Collection*. I'd stopped making notes and almost stopped living!

Our drinking adjourned at 7pm and we made our way to the trains or some in the case of some desperate individuals another pub!! In my case the 'smooth ride' ended when I tripped over a chain just outside the Jerusalem pub and landed heavily – I saw it but my inebriated state meant I was always going to go over, luckily I was under an anaesthetic.

Nottingham is worth its weight in gold in good real ale pubs – these were a selection of the *Good Beer Guide* pubs and were by no means all that Nottingham had to offer. We will be organising another visit so you can see for yourself!

Simon Allen

Tony, Ian & Lynne welcome you to

The Black Horse, Lacey Green

Tel: 01844 345195



Brakspear's Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Timothy Taylor Landlord

Pub open all day Sunday but no food in the evening
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 – £6-75

Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Car Park Friendly Atmosphere Outside Functions Catered For
Check for further details on – www.aylesburyvale.net/risborough/blackhorse

BOOK NOW FOR YOUR COACH TRIPS!



BLACK COUNTRY TRIP

The date has been set for our annual coach trip to the Black Country as **Saturday 25th June**. We are running a week earlier than last year as one lucky committee member has tickets for the men's final at Wimbledon.

We will be visiting all the old favourite pubs (including the **Beacon Hotel** (featured above)) with the addition of a pub which now has a brand new brewery, so the usual great time will be had by the regulars! If you haven't been along on the trip before, you are

severely missing out, so sign up today!

Pickups (and dropdowns in reverse order) will be made from Berton, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Stokenchurch.

The number of tickets will be limited to 35 to allow reasonable serving times in the pubs – **SO BOOK EARLY!**

Although at the time of going to press the price of the trip has not been confirmed, tickets are expected to be about £21 each.

Tickets and further information can be obtained by ringing **Tony Gabriel** on **01494 527884**.

TODDINGTON TRIP

On Friday 20th May we are going on an evening pub crawl of Toddington.

A minibus will pick up from High Wycombe railway station at 5.30pm, followed by pickups in Aylesbury (opposite **Broad Leys** pub) about 6.10pm, then Berton (opposite the **Bell**). We intend to arrive in Toddington about 7.00pm.

A map has been prepared showing five suggested pubs, three of which are in the current **Good Beer Guide** (in fact the **Sow & Pigs** has been in every edition). Food is available in some pubs, with the option of other take-away shops in the High Street.

Return same route arriving High Wycombe about midnight.

Transport costs £12 per head (cash on night). Only 14 seats so first come, first served - to book call Giles on 01296 488703 or e-mail giles.duboulay@btinternet.com



The Red Lion

3 High Street, Chinnor (☎01844 353468)

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2005 listed with four real ales including the following in April:-

Cotleigh 25 4.0%
 Timothy Taylor Golden Best 3.5%
 Marstons Old Empire 5.7%
 Tom Woods Bomber County 4.8%
 Banks & Taylor Dragonslayer 4.5%
 Springhead Charlie's Angel 4.5%
 Ringwood Bold Forester 4.2%
 Hopback Spring Zing 4.2%

Home-Cooked Pub Food
 Available Every Day

Cask Marque Approved



Vale Brewery of Haddenham

offer **CAMRA Award Winning Ales**
 traditionally brewed from only the finest ingredients,
 available in polypins and party packs.

To order phone 01844 290008

Price list (incl. VAT)	ABV	Fir.	Polypin	2 gal
Notley Ale	3.3%	76.00	44.00	23.25
Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	77.00	45.00	23.75
Vale Best Bitter	3.7%	77.50	45.00	24.00
Wychert Ale	3.9%	78.00	46.00	24.25
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	80.00	48.00	25.25
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	81.00	49.00	25.75
Vale Special	4.5%	82.00	49.50	26.00
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	82.50	50.00	26.25
Hadda's Spring Gold	4.6%	82.50	50.00	26.25

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

Buy a mixed
 case (12 bottles)
 for only £20

NEW ERA FOR THE KINGS HEAD

The oldest courtyard inn in England, the **Kings Head**, Aylesbury, now has a bar run by the oldest brewery in Buckinghamshire.

Chiltern Brewery took over the lease for the bar which was formerly known as the Farmers Bar from the National Trust who own the **Kings Head**.

The bar was closed for two weeks while a refurbishment took place. The bar now has wooden floors throughout, lots of comfy chairs plus new tables and chairs for dining, which will feature more in the future.

There are now four handpumps, currently serving the full range of **Chiltern** beers. The care that is taken in presenting the beers both in the correct condition and at the perfect temperature has been rewarded by lots of compliments from the customers as they head back to the bar for an extra pint. The beers tried so far are *Chiltern Ale*, *Beechwood* and *Three Hundreds Old Ale*. As sales warrant, an extra guest beer from another small, traditional brewery will be added to the range.

As if all this was newsworthy in itself, this is



not the reason it has featured on the front of both local and national newspapers. No, the reason for this level of attention is for the fact that the bar is now completely smoke free (one of only about 50 pubs to have made this move in the country). Although some smokers feel alienated and have moved elsewhere, there are a lot of people who appreciate the clean air and would not normally venture into a public house as they hate their clothes smelling of tobacco. As the weather improves, smokers will be able to use the courtyard

The pub is now open from 11am – 11pm Monday to Saturday and 12.30pm to 10.30pm on Sunday. The food side, currently limited to bar style food, will expand as soon as possible and will concentrate on traditional English dishes made with ingredients sourced locally from named suppliers.

A unique approach is also being made with all the other drinks that are available. There is no place for the standard lagers and stouts found in practically every other bar.

Initial sales are better than they hoped and we wish them all the best for the future.

The picture above shows George and Tom Jenkinson receiving the certificate for their beer *Glad Tidings*, which was joint runner-up in the **Beer of the Festival** competition at the **Aylesbury Beer Festival 2004**, from branch chairman, David Roe.

This means that we only have one certificate left which is for the festival champion, **Crouch Vale Amarillo**. Keep an eye on the website (www.swansupping.org.uk) for an announcement on when the presentation is to take place.

6X[®] change

Change to 6X at a pub near you



LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

Buckinghamshire has now got five breweries!

Joining *Chiltern*, *Luxters*, *Rebellion* and *Vale* breweries is the Marsh Gibbon based *Oxfordshire Ales*.

Although the brewery is located just outside Oxfordshire, it is run in conjunction with *Bicester Beers & Minerals* – a wholesale beer, wine and spirits company.

The brewery was a natural part of vertical integration for *Bicester Beers*. The equipment, which consists of a five barrel system, was purchased from the *Picks Brewery* from Manchester, and transported down to Marsh Gibbon. The existing warehouse has been extended to accommodate the brewery.

The brewery team is headed and mentored by Richard Keene (shown at the left of the picture), who attended the Heriot-Watt Brewing School in Edinburgh. He has over 15 years experience in the industry, having worked for a range of small, medium and large companies including *Courage*, *Archers* and *Freedom*. He is ably assisted by aspiring brewers John Lovett (right) and Ben Kendall (centre).



Currently three beers are being brewed. *Triple B* (short for *Bicester Best Bitter*) is a 3.7% session bitter. This is an autumn leaf brown coloured beer made with Maris Otter and Crystal Malts, with Styrian and English Golding Hops.

IPA a full flavoured chestnut coloured 4.1% ale which is described as a well balanced mid range quality IPA. Again made with Maris Otter and Crystal Malts, but using Cascade, Challenger and English Golding Hops.

Their strongest beer is *Marshmellow*. A deep

amber, classic, strong (4.7%) beer described as having a generous, warming flavour. Also made with Maris Otter and Crystal Malts with Styrian and English Golding Hops.

There are plans to offer four seasonal beers in the future, so watch this space!

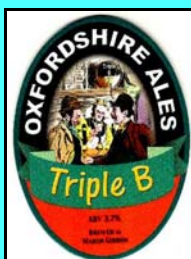
Due to the lack of true free houses in our branch area, we may have to travel to the Bicester area to try the beer. The nearest pub that stocks it appears to be the *Prince of Wales*, Steeple Claydon.

Unfortunately when we visited the brewery, not only had they already sold all their beer, but the pub was also shut. This could be described as a double whammy, and the lack of an actual taste of their beers will be remedied as soon as possible.

Coincidentally, the new brewery is situated only a stone's throw away from the old *Phillips* brewery which was based behind the *Good Beer Guide* listed *Greyhound* pub.

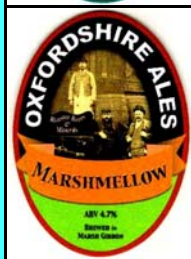
We will be organising a branch visit to the brewery and we hope to have details of this in our next issue.

OXFORDSHIRE ALES



Triple B – 3.7%

An Autumn leaf brown session bitter, well hopped, with Styrian and English Golding Hops.



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.

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

THE AYLESBURY CHRISTMAS PUB CRAWL

One dictionary definition of the verb "crawl" is "move unusually slowly"; another goes "be covered or filled with moving things"; as a noun we could have either "a swimming stroke" or "a leisurely journey between places of interest". The question is: which of those definitions most closely describes the Aylesbury Christmas pub crawl on Friday 17 December?

The crawl started in the **King's Head** and nearly finished there - so good were the three ales on offer (albeit, some felt, a tad too cool) that several of the ten members of our happy band were tempted to stay there all evening. The **Robinson's Unicorn** and **Hydes HPA** were very satisfying but the star beer was surely the **Hook Norton Twelve Days** - descriptions like 'treacly overtones', 'full-bodied', 'deeply malty' were reverentially murmured. We *moved unusually slowly* on to the next pub.

The **Hobgoblin** did not disappoint. The seasonal **Vale Winter Solstice** was particularly enjoyed (more than compensating for the lack of **Good King Senseless** looked forward to by a certain gentleman from Wendover). The **Edgar's Golden Ale** was on song - hoppyness indeed - but it was time to go - the noise level had increased and the pub was becoming *filled with moving things*...

It was only a short hop (good name for a beer, that) across Kingsbury to the next pub - but we almost had to resort to *swimming strokes*



The Hobgoblin and the Rockwood

across the square - the new illuminated water jets, water-clock and overflowing troughs had a strangely moving effect on the bladder - almost like a work in relief by that well-known sculptor Pissarro.

It was a relief indeed to arrive at the **Rockwood** and quaff what must be one of the all-time classic beers **Young's Bitter** - it was in fine fettle.

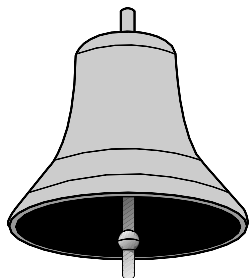
With great anticipation we moved on to the **Harrow** - word has been getting around that some great real ales have been on offer recently (**Adnams Fisherman** for example), and long may that continue. The Christmas cheer was definitely enhanced when our eyes

lighted on a cask of **Caledonian Santa's Little Helper** on gravity dispense behind the bar. A good few helpings of that were soon consumed. Our *leisurely journey* then took us on to the next *place of interest*.

It was getting quite late as we entered the **Market Tavern** - there was a good crowd in there and it was warm and welcoming. The **Bass Premium** and **Adnams Bitter** made a very acceptable finish to the evening's drinking, with just enough time left for four of us to slip into the Golden Bengali Restaurant for a superb curry.

The Aylesbury Christmas pub crawl was most enjoyable by any definition.

Giles du Boulay



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15 REAL ALES

PIG ROAST

JAZZ BAND IN THE GARDEN

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Orchid Trust for treating Cancer*



MARYLEBONE PUB CRAWL (CONTINUED)

Last issue we covered the **Harcourt Arms**, the **Duke of Wellington** and the **Barley Mow**. We resume where we left off.

From the **Barley Mow**, head back to Baker Street. Cross the junction with Marylebone Road and head towards Baker Street station. Adjacent to the tube station entrance are stairs to the **Metropolitan Bar** (7 Station Approach).

There's about three centuries of pub design between the **Barley Mow** and the **Metropolitan Bar** – and it shows. If the **Barley Mow** tends towards claustrophobia, the **Metropolitan Bar** might induce agoraphobia. The layout of this **Wetherspoons** house exemplifies all that aficionados of traditional multi-roomed pubs love to hate – it's one huge enormous open plan room. This is a pub so big the front door has to be signposted.

Nevertheless, **Wetherspoons** have made an impressive job of this conversion. Apparently the building's last use was as the London Transport Recruitment centre, so there must be a less obvious reason why the



Metropolitan Bar

entrance is reminiscent of an old ABC cinema.

The high ceiling helps dissipate noise and cigarette smoke and is ornately decorated with various coats of arms, as are its gilded supporting pillars. Within the open plan there are large no-smoking and family areas and the good value food does a brisk trade.

Knowledgeable management consultants might point out that a **Wetherspoons** core

competency is the attention lavished on the toilets (seriously, check out their web site!). The bogs at the **Metropolitan Bar** do not disappoint.

The gents is the most 'innovative' I've visited for a long time – having the rather disconcerting provision of a mirror surrounding each urinal. No doubt this is useful in certain circumstances. I can't speak for the ladies but maybe in fifty years time **CAMRA** will be placing the **Metropolitan Bar** on its national inventory?

The bar is long – with 24 handpumps – although, if busy, service can be erratic. There is always a comprehensive selection of real ale formed from the familiar combination of **Wetherspoon** stalwarts and a changing selection from regionals and micros.

On my most recent visit (12th January 2005) the following were available: **Greene King Abbot Ale**; **Marston's Pedigree** and **Burton Bitter**; **Fuller's London Pride**; **Ridley's Rumpus** and **Old Bob**; **Titanic Festive Ice Vice**; **Banks and Taylor Dragon Slayer**; and (coming soon) **Ringwood Fortyniner**. **Hop**

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HOBGOBLIN AND FEATHERS



Feathers

Back Summer Lightning is normally a semi-permanent fixture – and it's normally superb.

Prices can also be exceptionally cheap – although various promotions apply to times and days of the week. *Abbot Ale* was £1.80 a pint on my last visit.

Despite the variety, beer quality is occasionally variable. I've had cause to return a few pints – usually from the regionals rather than micros. That said, I've always been given a replacement pint – sometimes after an interesting ritual where the bar staff ceremonially carry away the

offending pint for inspection by the in-house real ale expert.

Turn right out of the **Metropolitan Bar** and continue across *Baker Street* along *Marylebone Road* until turning right into *Gloucester Place*. Opposite is the **Allsop Arms** (137 Gloucester Place).

This is a sort of modern-day coaching inn – in the sense that a long-distance National Express coach stop is right outside the pub. The building looks incongruous – appearing as if it has been transported out of the suburbs and dropped down in the centre of town. The clientele also seems curiously 'local' for a London pub.

For football fans, it's handy to know that, unusually for this area, the **Allsop Arms** maintains the great British pub tradition of Sky Sports on a big screen. For big games the pub gets quite busy and there's a fairly lively atmosphere.

There's a surprising extensive range of ales – and in my experience the quality has been good. Recently *Young's Bitter*, *Fuller's London Pride* and *Greene King Abbot Ale* were all on offer.

Turn left out of the pub along *Gloucester Place*. You pass *Dorset Square* on the left.



Hobgoblin

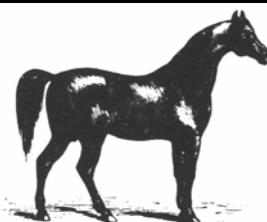
There is a plaque commemorating the founding of the Marylebone Cricket Club here. Thomas Lord put his first Cricket Ground in Dorset Square in 1787 – which was later moved up the road a mile in 1814 to become Lord's.

Continue just past *Dorset Square* and take the next left (*Huntsworth News*). Turn first right into *Linhope Street* where you will find the **Feathers** (43 Linhope Street) on the left.

This must be one of the smallest pubs in the capital. The bar area is tiny – with the serving area accounting for about a quarter of the floor space. However, less is more: this is a genuine traditional English pub –



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LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN

with a very friendly welcome despite the lack of cat-swinging room.

In the summer the seating outside, with its splendid display of hanging baskets, is a very pleasant place to while away an hour or two.

The beer is also good. Unusually, *Flowers Original* is a staple beer. This isn't a bad pint at all – although I've lost track of where it is brewed nowadays (certainly not Stratford-Upon-Avon despite the logo).

On leaving the Feathers retrace your steps down Linhope Street, turn right into Taunton Mews and the Hobgoblin (21 Balcombe Street) can be found on your right.

This is probably the closest pub to the station and a welcoming outpost of the *Wychwood Hobgoblin* chain. However, on my last visit I was disappointed to see only one *Wychwood* ale (*Hobgoblin*), along with guest *London Pride*.

There's a fascinating framed newspaper cutting on the wall that recalls the how the pub (then the Portsmouth Arms) was caught up in the famous 1975 Balcombe Street siege. Apparently the police forced the drinkers into the cellar while a gun battle was going on around the flats opposite. They then had to make a run for it at closing time!



Victoria and Albert

On leaving the Hobgoblin, continue down Balcombe Street (site of the famous 1975 siege), turn right into Melcombe Place and you are back at the station entrance. If you have time, head to the far left of the concourse to the Victoria and Albert.

Marylebone's station bar has an impressive choice of real ale. A recent visit saw *Fuller's Pride* and *ESB, Young's Bitter* and *Winter Warmer, Wells Bombardier* and *Draught Bass* all on tap.

The *Victoria and Albert* has apparently had its ups and downs over the last few years but on my recent visits the beer has been fine.

A television monitor showing departures is

adjacent to the bar, which makes it comfortable resting place to enjoy a final pint in the pub while being full knowledge of when and from which platform your train home will depart.

Michael Clarke

LONDON PUB CRAWL

Friday 8th April

We will be visiting some of the pubs covered by this article on our London Pub Crawl:-

5:30pm **Mad Bishop & Bear** (Paddington Station W2 1HB)

6:15pm **Wargrave Arms** (40-42 Brendon Street W1H 5HE)

7:00pm **Carpenters Arms** (12 Seymour Place W1H 7NE)

7:45pm **Barley Mow** (8 Dorset Street W1U 6QW)

8:30pm **Duke of Wellington** (94A Crawford Street W1H 2HQ)

9:15pm **Victoria and Albert** (Marylebone Station NW1 6JJ)

A full map will appear on our website www.swansupping.org.uk



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FROM BIERTON TO OXFORD



4.5% was a good one. The interior (shown left) is quite unique, with boxed in keg fonts, labelled 'Fizzy Beers' and a snug at the rear decorated with old 78's, radios, tape recorders (attn. Tony), musical instruments and some bizarre plumbing. A truly 'Must See' pub.

This was followed by a brief visit to the nearby **Jude the Obscure**, a *Greene King* local with an apparent emphasis on food. The *Ruddles County* was fine, though required a long wait. Only one young lady serving at a busy time, coping with serving food as well.

A most enjoyable trip to Oxford took place recently from the **Bell**, Birtton. Organised by landlord Pete Thomas, twelve pubs in the Jericho, St Giles and city centre areas were visited.

After assembling at the **Bell** around 11am, about twenty regulars and friends were dragged screaming onto the coach for the 45 minute journey to Jericho, just to the north of the city centre. This predominantly Victorian backwater has a tranquil feel, with many traditional community pubs, reminding me of that similar area of Cambridge used for our 'Back Street' crawls.

The **Bookbinders Arms** proved an excellent starting point with four ales on gravity dispense. My choice of *Brains Rev James* at

A short walk from here took us to the Woodstock road and the **Royal Oak**. This provided a tasty pint of *O'Hanlon's Royal Oak*, 5%, in a welcoming atmosphere and several separate drinking areas. By this time our original group had disintegrated into several smaller ones making service quicker.

Next was the **Lamb and Flag** in St Giles (pictured right). A *Good Beer Guide* regular now part of St Johns College, its many drinking areas are backed up by a good range of varying guest ales. I tried the *Palmers Lamb & Flag*, 4.5%, a good choice which may be the same as *Dorset Gold*.

Directly opposite was our next pub, the **Eagle and Child**. Said to be a regular haunt of



writers CS Lewis and Tolkien, the interior is fascinating with much wood panelling and many drinking areas. A pint of *Old Hooky*, 4.6% went down well here. We were beginning to notice that we had had a drink by now so a swift diversion was taken to an adjacent café, where a sausage and egg roll rectified the situation.

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AN EVENING OF COACHING

Next was the **Far from the Madding Crowd** (which it wasn't, being close to Debenhams), up an alleyway off Magdalen Street. A free house appealing to all ages it has an impressive range of ales, holds regular beer festivals and holds play previews, poetry readings and book reviews. I tried a pint of **Stonehenge Old Smokey**, 4.5%, which was superb and reminded me of the Rauchbier in Bamberg, Bavaria.

After another short walk we arrived at the **Kings Arms** in Holywell Street. A pleasant corner pub with relaxing atmosphere, though busy with Saturday shoppers and visitors such as ourselves. I enjoyed a very pleasant drop from Manchester's **Hyde Brewery** but I cannot remember which one.

Across the road and hidden down an alley between Holywell Street and St Helen's Passage is the ever popular **Turf Tavern** which had the largest choice of the day with ten ales available. This 18th century tavern is another **Good Beer Guide** regular and a former local **Pub of the Year**. I tried the **Ringwood Fortyniner** at 4.9% which did everything but disappoint. This pub has just been sold by the **Laurel Pub Company** to **Greene King**. Lets hope that it is allowed to retain its individuality and diversity of choice.

The **White Horse** was found a short distance away and proved to be yet another delight. Dating from the 15th century this busy pub features much wood panelling and photos of local sports, with up to six different ales on offer. The latter could be why it became one of Inspector Morse's favourites. **Smiles Wurz** at 4% was a rewarding choice here.

By now it was even more apparent that a break in liquid intake would be a prudent, and economic, move so a curry was decided upon. A High Street venue was carefully chosen – the first one we came to. This turned out to be a bad move as we, and all others that I have met since who also tried it, found the food quality poor, and served cold. Unfortunately or not, I can't remember the name of it.

Resuming our trek we found the **Bear** in nearby Alfred Street. With origins in the 13th century it has seen much change but remains an ale haven in this vicinity. A vast collection of college ties adorns the walls and a selection of about four ales helped pass the time it took to forget the curry.

With over two hours left but only one pub left on our schedule, most people did their own thing before assembling at the pick up point outside the **Wharf House**, which is a bit outside the city centre. Many of us met in the **Old Tom** (shown above), a welcoming pub with about four ales, including my choice of **Rev James**. In ones and twos we meandered down to the **Wharf House**, not all managed to

try it. Isolated in a former redevelopment area, the landlords enthusiasm has turned this somewhat basic pub into an oasis for lovers of real ale and Belgian beers. My final pint was one of **RCH Pitchfork**, (I think).

We then poured ourselves back into the bus and without further ado were deposited back in Bierton by midnight. Thus ended a particularly enjoyable day out. Many thanks to Pete for organising the event. I am sure we will all look forward to any future events.

Mick White



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- supporting the work of the
Aylesbury Hospice at Florence Nightingale House -
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Forthcoming Events

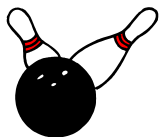
Fun Music Quiz

Saturday 16th April for Teams of 6-8
At Hawkslade Farm Community Centre, Aylesbury
Tickets £7.50 including Ploughman's Supper

Antiques Valuation Evening



Friday 6th May
In the Main Hall at Manor House, Bierton Road, Aylesbury
Tickets £10 including cold supper and valuation of one item



Fun Ten Pin Bowling Tournament

Wednesday 18th May
At Jardines Club, Aylesbury
£20 per team of four (includes one game and shoe hire)

Charity Auction



Friday 20th May
At Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville
£7.50 per person including fish and chip supper

For tickets or more information on any of our fundraising events, please ring Sue Cato on 01296 429975.

Swan Supping

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Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st June 2005 is 14th May 2005.

Subscriptions :- Swan Supping is distributed to over 200 pubs in our area but if you would prefer to receive your copy by post we can mail it to you immediately it is published. All you need to do is to send a supply of A4 size envelopes stamped 35p to:

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

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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

Friday 8th LONDON PUB CRAWL

Starts 5:30pm Mad Bishop & Bear, Paddington Station

Further details of the crawl are given on page 15 and a map of the crawl will be available soon on the web-site (www.swansupping.org.uk).

Monday 11th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Prince of Wales, Marlow.

Tuesday 12th CODSALL TRIP.

Join the 10.08am train from Haddenham for a day out to Codsall plus pubs in Wolverhampton and Birmingham (contact the editor for further details)

Monday 18th OAKLEY SOCIAL

9:00pm Chandos, 10:00pm Royal Oak.

Wednesday 27th NO SMOKING SOCIAL

9:00pm Kings Head, Aylesbury.

MAY

Wednesday 4th PUB OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

8:30pm Three Horseshoes, Burroughs Grove.

Monday 9th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Queens Head, Aylesbury.

Friday 20th TODDINGTON MINIBUS TRIP

See details on page 9. Book early as space is limited!

Thursday 26th TWO PUB SOCIAL

8:45pm Sow & Pigs, Poundon, 9:30pm Greyhound, Marsh Gibbon.

JUNE

Saturday 25th ANNUAL BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

Full details given on page 9.

FOR THE LATEST ON BRANCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES,
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www.swansupping.org.uk



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Local News



(Continued from page 2)

BIERTON

Aline and Mick Mock are due to leave **Bobs Barn** on 11th April to concentrate on their outside bars and functions, plus running the bars at the Eskdale Road and Fairford Leys Community Centres. Malcolm and Gail Kimber are due to take over and they intend to carry on offering two real ales. They will be hard pressed to better the **White Horse Bitter** and the **Tring Tapsters** we enjoyed at a branch meeting we held there in March.

DOWNLEY

The **Le De Spencer Arms** will be holding a beer festival in a marquee in the garden over the Bank Holiday at the end of May. It starts on Friday 27th and will continue until Monday 30th and will feature at least six guest beers to accompany the usual full range of **Fullers** beers.

GRENDON

UNDERWOOD

Archers Best Bitter has been spotted at the **Swan** alongside the usual **Adnams Bitter** and **Fullers London Pride**.

HADDENHAM

Remember that the 2005 Haddenham Beer Festival will take place on Saturday 9th July at the Youth and Community Centre, Woodways (HP17 8DS for those who surf for maps!).

LACEY GREEN

The **Whip** will be holding a beer festival over the weekend of 14th/15th May. Twenty real ales and ciders from around the country will be available.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

The **Bell** will hold its first every beer festival on Saturday 28th May. This is a charity event and will offer about fifteen real ales, a pig roast and a jazz band in the garden.

SPEEN

The **De-Wanium** (formerly the **King William IV**) is now open and is serving **Greene King IPA** along with its Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine.

WADDESDON

A recent visit to the **Bell** was rewarded with excellent pints of **Adnams Bitter** and **Fullers London Pride**.



Beer Festival Diary

APRIL

1-2 (Friday-Saturday): 19TH OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham

6-9 (Wednesday-Saturday): 29TH NEWCASTLE BEER FESTIVAL at Students Union, Newcastle University, Kings Walk, Newcastle upon Tyne.

7-9 (Thursday-Saturday): WALSALL BEER FESTIVAL, Walsall Town Hall, Leicester Street, Walsall.

7-10 (Thursday-Sunday): 14TH MANSFIELD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL at The Mansfield Leisure Center, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts.

13-16 (Wednesday-Saturday): PAISLEY BEER FESTIVAL, Paisley Town Hall, Abbey Close, Paisley.

14-16 (Thursday-Saturday): 5TH BANBURY BEER FESTIVAL, TA Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury, OX16 9AN. 10 minutes walk from town centre, 15 minutes walk from bus / rail stations. Open: Thursday 5-11pm (new session for this year); Friday / Saturday all day 11am-11pm. Admission £1, FREE to CAMRA members with valid membership card. 50+ real ales along with cider & perry. Hot and cold food available throughout. No music just good conversation, beer hall no smoking (smoking available in upstairs lounge).

Further information at www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk/bbf.htm Volunteers wanted, email staffing@northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk for staffing form or call Mark Bates on 07973 353216

20-23 (Wednesday-Saturday): 3RD MALDON BEER FESTIVAL, Town Hall, Maldon, Essex.

21-23 (Thursday-Saturday): 29TH FARNHAM BEER EXHIBITION, Farnham Maltings, Farnham.

22-23 (Friday-Saturday): 14TH CHIPPENHAM BEER FESTIVAL, The Olympiad, Chippenhams.

27-30 (Wednesday-Saturday): THE EAST ANGLIAN BEER FESTIVAL, Corn Exchange, Bury St Edmunds.

27-30 (Wednesday-Saturday): 8TH WEAR VALLEY BEER FESTIVAL, Bishop Auckland Rugby Union Club, Bishop Auckland.

28-30 (Thursday-Saturday): 7TH FIFE BEER FESTIVAL 'GUZZLE 2005', The Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, Fife.

28-30 (Thursday-Saturday): STOURBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL, Stourbridge Town Hall, Market Street, Stourbridge.

28-MAY 1 (Thursday-Sunday): READING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, Kings Meadow (Between Station & Tesco), Reading. Open: Thursday 4.30-11pm; Friday / Saturday 11am-11pm; Sunday noon-10.30pm. Up to 400 real ales from around the British Isles including Festival specials. 100 ciders and perries, over 100 foreign bottled beers including Belgian winter / Xmas beers plus English wine and soft drinks. Judging of National Cider & Perry Awards during weekend. Food available all sessions. Live music Friday / Saturday evenings, acoustic session Sunday daytime. No music Thursday. Quiet, smoke-free tent available at all times. Family day Sunday with bouncy castle, face painting and Hook Norton shire horses. 10 minutes walk from Station. £1 entry for CAMRA/EBCU members at all times. More information available on www.readingcamra.org.uk Email for staffing: staffing@readingcamra.org.uk or for general enquiries: festival@readingcamra.org.uk

JULY

9 (Saturday): 2ND HADDENHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Youth Centre, Woodways, Haddenham, Bucks. HP17 8DS

OCTOBER

29 - 30 (Friday-Saturday): 12TH AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL, Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville

Our annual beer festival held in conjunction with the 'Friends of Florence Nightingale House' raising money for the Aylesbury Hospice.

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

Rates are Single £18, Joint £21 (at same address), Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £10, Joint OAP £13 (at same address), Under 26 £10 Date of Birth

Name(s).....

Address

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

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... Date

Signature

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