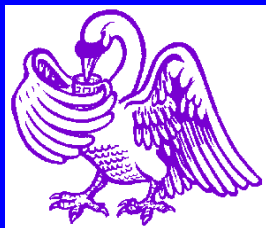


FREE



Issue 46



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

FEB/MAR 2005

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!



The drinks industry is forever in the news! Whether it is the problem of binge drinking (although the number of pints to be considered a binge by the Government is to some people's minds the equivalent of a good lunchtime), short measure and the joke about 95% being a full pint, smoking, flexible hours, changes to the way pubs are licensed or the heavy burden of so much tax on every pint.

So what can you do about it?

Writing to your Member of Parliament to give your views would be one way and this can be very effective if a lot of people do the same!

Or you could join up with nearly 75,000 **CAMRA** members, adding weight to the lobbying power of the consumer group which not only campaigns for traditional beer, but on all aspects of the licensed trade. Not only that, you can help push



the membership to the hoped for figure of 100,000 by the end of the year 2006.

If you are already a member of the *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe* branch of **CAMRA**, then why not come and join us at our Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Monday 7th February at the Red Lion, Haddenham, starting at 8pm. There will be a buffet and a bottle raffle as well as the formal stuff, and this will give you the chance of having your say as to what we, as a branch, should be doing about the situation.

You will not be press ganged onto the committee or given loads of work to do (although you may be offered the opportunity)! The worst that will happen is that you have a nice drink (mild will be available as well as a choice of three bitters) and meet up with some like minded people.

Why not give it a try?

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



AYLESBURY

Black Sheep Best Bitter has been spotted on handpump in the **Bell** alongside the **Tetleys Bitter**.

The **County Arms** has finally bitten the dust (literally) as it was demolished in January as part of the redevelopment of the surrounding area.

The **Emperor** (formerly the **Buckingham Arms**) has evolved from an ugly duckling into the **Emperors Lounge** (the lack of apostrophe is how the pub is actually named). Totally changed, it has virtually only retained the outside shell. The restaurant and area used for bands have both gone in a move away from the pub's basic boozer roots into an upmarket establishment. However, it is well worth a visit, even if just to wander around and marvel at the changes. There is also good news for disabled drinkers as there are ramps giving access to nearly all the pub (there is a small upstairs drinking area that is not accessible) and there is now a brand new disabled toilet. All this does, however, come at a price! The solitary handpump, advertising **Brakspears Best Bitter**, was very

welcome until the cost of the pint was announced: £2.70. It tasted fine, but there must be concern that at the high price that there will be insufficient throughput to maintain the quality of the ale. Food has been available since January.

The range at the **Harrow** continues to impress. When recently visited they had **Harviestoun Jack the Lad** and **Caledonian 80/-** on gravity, with **Greene King IPA**, **Brains SA (Skull Attack!)**, **Adnams Broadside** and **Charles Wells Bombardier** on handpump. They are planning to hold another mini beer festival over the Easter weekend (24th – 28th March).

Work has finally finished on the Kingsbury Square regeneration project. Although the water fountain clock is still settling in, and the youngsters are using the square as a skate board park, the area will come into its own when the sun starts to shine and tables full of drinkers and eaters fill the area. This will be good news for the pubs in the area which have suffered from all the work going on. Hopefully the **Hobgoblin** will continue its policy of offering three real ales at £1.50 a pint during the week (currently **Wychwood**

Hobgoblin and two from **Vale Brewery**: **Edgars Golden Ale** and **Winter Solstice**) and the **Rockwood** are still offering **Youngs Bitter** and **Draught Bass**. It might also get the **Litten Tree** to change back to offering real ale as it was removed last year.

Work is due to start on the **Hop Pole** at the beginning of February. The £100k refurbishment is scheduled to take about three months and **Vale Brewery** is looking for applicants with a love of real ale for the post of manager.

Changes are happening at the **Kings Head**. They are planning to add at least another handpump and plan to offer more food. Full details will follow in our next issue. It will be closed for two weeks at the beginning of February for refurbishment, although it will be open in the courtyard for a mini beer festival as part of the Bucks Civil War recreations involving the Sealed Knot on the 12th of the month.

The new people in charge at the **Millwrights** are Andy and Sarah Hallam. Although this is their first real ale pub, they have been in the

pub trade for a while having run a pub close to the hallowed turf of White Hart Lane! Three ales are on offer: **Greene King IPA** and **Abbot** plus a guest beer (**Wadworth 6X** when visited). Games will feature heavily including darts, regular quizzes, pool and two football teams. Food is served from 12 till 8 every day and there will be four choices of roast available on Sundays.

BENNETT END

Angela Howard has taken over the **Three Horseshoes** from her father. Three real ales are available: **Adnams Bitter**, **Brakspears Bitter** and a regularly changing guest beer (currently **Shepherd Neame Bishops Finger**).

FARNHAM COMMON

Regular advertiser, Grant Harvey, has left the **One Pin Inn** and we wish him well for the future. We will have details of the new people in our next issue.

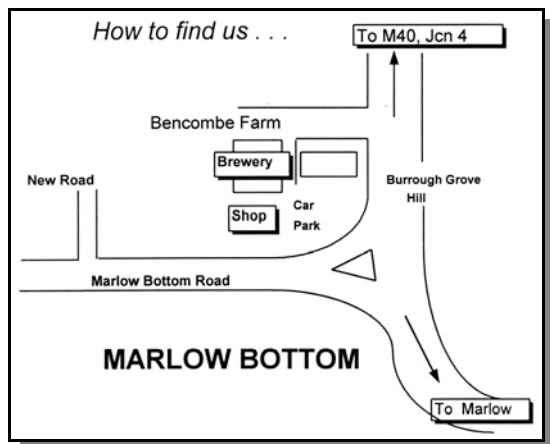
HADDENHAM

The 2005 beer festival will be on Saturday 9th July at the Youth Centre, Woodways, Haddenham.

(Continued on page 15)

REBELLION BREWERY SHOP MARLOW

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



CASK ALES	ABV	Firkin	Polypin	Polycask	Jug
		(72 pts)	(36 pts)	(18 pts)	(4 pts)
IPA	3.7%	£ 77.45	£ 42.95	£ 22.95	£ 6.25
Reindeer's Revenge	4.2%	£ 84.95	£ 47.95	£ 25.95	£ 6.75
Roasted Nuts	4.6%	£ 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

MARYLEBONE PUB CRAWL

Compared with the seedy dives near some other main line termini, pubs in the vicinity of Marylebone station reflect the discreet and relaxed character of the area. A nostalgic atmosphere pervades – the predominantly Georgian and Victorian architecture is on a human scale and even links to the Swinging Sixties London are plentiful. The station itself featured in 'A Hard Day's Night' and guided Beatles walks start from the entrance.

The local pubs are infused with this atmosphere – most are modestly sized and tucked away down back-streets in true 'hidden-gem' fashion. All the pubs are welcoming, often in an individual way, and they should all repay a quick visit on the way to or from the station – being no more than a five or ten minute walk away.

This may not be *the* definitive list of best real ale pubs in the vicinity, although I've had good beer in all of them, but it forms the basis for an excellent crawl – and there's comparatively little walking involved.

Start at the station entrance. Head down towards the busy Marylebone Road, cross and then follow one of the side streets opposite until you reach York Street. Turn right and continue on over Seymour Place until the road becomes Harcourt Street. You



will then see the Harcourt Arms (32 Harcourt Street).

If you're Swedish, this is your best local within about a thousand miles. As the Swedish Church, Embassy and Chamber of Commerce are close by, many of the bar staff and customers are Swedish – and various events are organised for their interest.

Scandinavian sports, including ice hockey, football, handball and something called bandy are shown live on satellite television – when the pub can become busy with ex-pats. I've not yet bumped into Sven Goran Eriksson checking out his future options – but one can only hope.

Despite the Swedish connection, the pub is still clearly a welcoming British boozer. It has a couple of Victorian fireplaces (nice in the winter) and a small courtyard garden at the back (nice in the summer).

There is, however, one small part of the pub that shows its devotion to the Nordic connection – the Svenska Salongen (Swedish Salon). This is a light, conservatory-type area at the back of the bar that is all pine floor, sofas and light painted wood and was apparently named in honour of some vicars from the Swedish Church. There's no flat-pack MDF in sight.

There are usually two real ales: **Adnams Bitter** and **Fullers London Pride**. **Draught Bass** has also made appearances. The ales are generally well kept.

There are other drinks of interest to **CAMRA** members – draught **Lowenbrau** (apparently from the famous Munich brewery, not the Wrexham and Burton brewed imitation of years gone by) and **Pilsner Urquell**. **CAMRA** recently caused an international incident after alleging that its traditional Czech brewing methods had been compromised by its new owner **SAB Miller** (see recent **What's Brewings**). Anyway, it's available

(Continued on page 4)

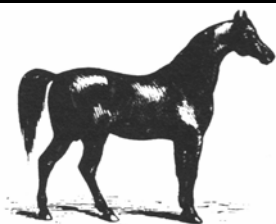


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Good Company
Garden & Car Parking Facilities*

A FAMILY RUN FREE HOUSE

'TRAINING' TO DRINK!

(Continued from page 3)

for sampling so you can make up your own mind.

It's worth noting that the pub is shut until 5.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Maybe that's to give an opportunity to visit IKEA?

*Retrace your steps back down Harcourt Street; turn right into Seymour Place and then next left into Crawford Street. Continue until you find the **Duke of Wellington** (94A Crawford Street) on your right.*

This is a small one-bar pub that is a new entry in the *Good Beer Guide* on account of its well-kept *Adnams Bitter* and *Wells Bombardier*.

An amazing collection of ornaments and bric-a-brac is displayed all over the pub – including Toby jugs, tankards, model vehicles, and, if memory serves, a model windmill. The clientele can be equally interesting and eccentric, though in the nicest possible way.

There are a few seats outside on Crawford Street, which makes it a surprisingly pleasant place to sink a few pints on a summer afternoon.

*Continue along Crawford Street, crossing Gloucester Place and Baker Street. Turn right down Baker Street and take the next left into Dorset Street to the **Barley Mow** (8 Dorset St).*

As the name suggests, this pub dates back to the 18th century when the area was agricultural and the drinkers were farm labourers. The **Barley Mow** is listed in both the *CAMRA* National and Regional Inventories for its historic interior (pictured on page 5).

Most notable are the small wooden Victorian 'drinking boxes' in the front room – these are like small wooden railway carriage compartments fixed to the side of the bar, complete with their own doors and latches. Local lore suggests that these were used to give privacy for an

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2005 Good Beer Guide!
Fullers Traditional Ales



18TH CENTURY PUB



ex-landlord's pawn-broking transactions.

There are three original entrances to the pub (only one of which is currently in use), indicating that the interior was once heavily partitioned – being sectioned off into separate drinking areas for different classes of customer.

Other items of interest include original panelling, bar-back and some worn brass plates featuring ancient prices. The pub is often busy in the evenings, which makes the historical features slightly more difficult to discern. If the front bar is crowded there's another drinking area where one

can sit and enjoy the beer, past the interesting boxes, behind the bar.

Six beer engines make a decent selection of real ale possible (though not always provided) – recent offerings have included *Tetleys Bitter*, *Marstons*

Pedigree and *Charles Wells Bombardier*.

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 where we will continue this crawl next issue!

Michael Clarke

<We will be visiting some of the pubs covered by this article on our next London Pub Crawl starting at the Mad Bishop & Bear, Paddington Station, at 5:30pm Friday 8th April – Ed.>

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***Food is served Noon – 2pm Tuesday to Sunday lunchtimes
and 6pm – 8.30pm Monday to Saturday evenings.***

A little pub with a big smile!

ADOPT A PUB!

A Pub's Not Just For Christmas, It's For Life!

CAMRA has launched a new 'Adopt a Pub' scheme asking consumers to order free National Pubs Week promotional packs to distribute to their favourite pubs, encouraging pubs to participate in the biggest generic pub campaign ever!

National Pubs Week was first established in February 2003 after research had shown that approximately 20 pubs closed every month. This campaign main aim is to encourage more people to visit more pubs at this quite time of the year for the industry following a busy Christmas period, and give pubs a springboard to try organising and promoting different pub events.

Over 15,000 pubs organised events in National Pubs Week 2003 and 2004, but **CAMRA** believes that the new 'Adopt a Pub' scheme could help to increase these numbers to make 2005 the biggest generic pub campaign so far!

It is very easy to adopt a pub. All anyone has to do is decide on which of their local pubs they would like to adopt and order a free National Pubs Week promotional pack from **CAMRA**. This will be posted to the person ordering it who then delivers it to their local pub, encouraging the licensee to come on board and organise some events.

National Pubs Week packs include a variety of promotional items and advice including:

- * 'Empty belly' posters to promote the National Pub Week events
- * Balloons and Pump clip crowners
- * Free pub quiz and advice on running pub quizzes

* Competition Beer mats that offer the chance of winning a fantastic digital camera worth £350

* Advice on running and promoting pub events in National Pubs Week.

The promotional packs can be ordered by phone (01727 867201), email (samantha.jones@camra.org.uk) or through the National Pubs Week website (www.pubsweek.org).

It is hoped that a large number of consumers will get behind the campaign and 'Adopt a Pub' for National Pubs Week.

A 'Hall of Fame' for those that adopt a pub will be posted on the National Pubs Week website.

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

..... Postcode

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

AYL (SWAN SUPPING)



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!***

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

THIRTY YEARS ON



As we detailed last issue, the *Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe Branch* of CAMRA was thirty years old in December 2004.

To mark the event, a small group of stalwart members met up at the **Queens Head**, Aylesbury, at lunchtime on Friday 3rd December, thirty years to the day that the branch was formed.

Following a few celebratory pints, we adjourned to St. Mary's Square. We then stood outside the flats which still

bear the name of the pub where the **Buckinghamshire CAMRA** Annual General Meeting was held that decided the branch should become *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe*. The **Derby Arms**, which closed in the early eighties, was the venue for many of the branches early meetings and some very enjoyable socials.

Pictured in front of the still sadly missed pub are (from left to right) Nick Holt (Branch Secretary), Simon Allen (Branch Web Maestro) and David Roe (Branch Chairman, Swan Supping Editor and someone who tries to be in a photograph in every issue of this magazine!). Missing from the picture is Mick White (Branch Membership Secretary) - someone had to take the photo!



The Red Lion

3 High Street, Chinnor (☎01844 353468)

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

- Atlas Nimbus 5.0%
- Wychwood Dirty Tackle 4.0%
- Wickwar IKB 4.5%
- Ridleys Pale Rider 5.1%
- Elgoods Cambridge Bitter 3.8%
- Stonehenge Great Bustard 4.8%
- B & T Golden Fox 4.1%
- Oakleaf Nuptial Ale 4.2%

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Price list (incl. VAT)	ABV	Fir.	Polypin	2 gal
Notley Ale	3.3%	75.00	43.50	23.00
Black Swan Dark Mild	3.3%	76.00	44.50	23.50
Vale Best Bitter	3.7%	76.50	44.50	23.75
Wychert Ale	3.9%	77.00	45.50	24.00
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	79.00	47.50	25.00
Black Beauty Porter	4.3%	80.00	48.50	25.50
Vale Special	4.5%	81.00	49.00	25.75
Grumpling Premium	4.6%	81.50	49.50	26.00

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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for only £20

NO CHICKEN NUGGETS!

CAMRA announced the winners of the 'Beyond the Chicken Nugget' competition to find the best children's menus in pubs.

The competition was run in conjunction with the organisers of British Food Fortnight, following regular media reports on the unhealthy eating habits of our youth. The aim of the competition was to reward and promote pubs that went out of their way to cater for children, in offering them a diverse range of imaginative, healthy and seasonal menus in an environment that the whole family could enjoy.

There were two categories and the winner of 'Best Use of Seasonal or Regional Produce' was the **Three Fishes** in Mitton, Lancashire and the 'Best Imaginative Menu' was won by the **Three Horseshoes** in Scottow, Norfolk.

The **Three Fishes** is the first venture into the pub market for **Ribble Valley Inns**, an associated company of the Michelin-starred Northcote Manor, run by joint proprietors Nigel Haworth and Craig Bancroft. Opened in September 2004, it is seen as 'a real pub with real food' with features such as log fires, fine cask ales and organic cider.

Nigel's menus, feature producers and growers from Lancashire along with reference to the region's culinary history.

The **Three Horseshoes** was nominated by Kate Foley from Portsmouth who is the mother of Amy aged 3 and Sam aged 1, who visited the pub earlier this autumn. She said 'The menu captures childrens' imagination with its spooky theme, and although there are the standard staples, there are also delights such as 'Eye of Toad and Wing of Bat's eye' (children's own version of crudites) which my three year old enjoyed and found fun. What is excellent about this pub is that many of the adult meals can actually be made to a child's sized portion so the choice is immediately doubled.'

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LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

Chiltern Brewery

It is a busy year for the **Chiltern Brewery**. Not only are they rapidly approaching their 25th anniversary as they started in 1980, they have brewed their thousandth gyle of beer.

To celebrate this, they have produced a bottle conditioned 7% ABV beer called 1000th Gyle. This is available as a limited edition of 1000 75cl champagne style bottles which will appeal to both drinkers and collectors. They have been selling quickly, but you might be lucky and still get one!

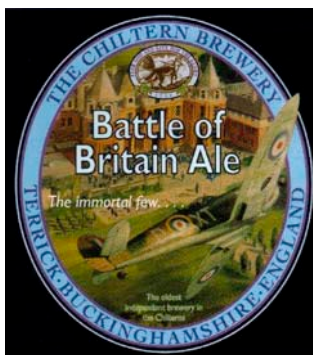
Chiltern are also redesigning the labels for their range of bottle conditioned beers.

These are designed to give a stronger identity to the beers on the shop shelves.

The labels shown are for *Lord-Lieutenant's Porter* which should appear in April/May and *Battle of Britain Ale*. The latter is currently based on a



painting presented by the brewery to the Officers' Mess at RAF Halton and a donation is made to their charities for each bottle sold.



Oxfordshire Micro Breweries

We have heard news of various Oxfordshire micro breweries that may be of interest!

The **Meesons Brewery** at the **Masons Arms**, Oxford, is in place and has done a couple of trial brews with varying results. **White Horse Brewery**, from Stanford In The Vale, Faringdon, has offered their assistance to help fine tune things.

White Horse beers are regularly available in the **Turf Tavern**, **White Horse**, and **St Aldates Tavern** (ex **Hobgoblin**) in Oxford (**Wayland Smithy** has been recommended). Rumour has it that the **St Aldates Tavern** is to commission a specially brewed house beer from **White Horse**.

There is also news of possible breweries that may be starting up in Bicester and Charlbury. We will try and keep you posted!







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Celebrate Valentines weekend 12th – 14th February with a Kir-Royale and 3-Course dinner for £19.95 per person or, stay over and enjoy dinner, bed and breakfast for just £89.00 per couple per night.

Don't forget its Mothers Day on March 6th so book early!!!

Escape for the weekend. Stay Friday or Saturday night for just £25.00 per person including breakfast.

TASTED ON MY TRAVELS

*The occasional jottings of an
ardent real ale drinker*

A rather shorter report this time. I've not been slacking in my researches but three of our 'group visits' have been written up by other participants. These were our now traditional trip to Croydon (mainly 'cos we go for a ride on the trams!!), the **Bartons Arms** in Birmingham and the branch Christmas tour around the Aylesbury hostelrys.

However I have not been idle in my pursuit of the perfect pint as you may well imagine! I do visit my local regularly (the **Packhorse** in Wendover - a **GBG** pub) and have enjoyed a super selection of guest/seasonal beers in addition to the **Fullers Chiswick** and the **London Pride**. These included *Mr Harry*, *Jack Frost* and *London Porter*. The last named is a particular favourite which I sampled on our Croydon escapade. However I only took one pint then as there were other beers to try so the taste buds didn't have chance to be programmed. Imagine my chagrin when I heard that the Porter was due to come on the hand pump on Christmas Eve and I was going away for the Christmas holiday on 22 December! Imagine my joy when I paid my first visit in 2005 to find the Porter on and in good nick!

While away in the Welsh borders we went off to the Llangollen Railway to see if they were running their Santa Specials. They were and when we got to Carrog (the present end of the line) we left the car and went to see the train come in with its cargo of very happy children. We watched Foxcote Manor run round the train and ultimately leave for Llangollen.

My friend and I were feeling dehydrated and a bit peckish so we did what any sensible person would do in these circumstances. We walked into the village and called into the **Grouse** a **GBG** pub in the

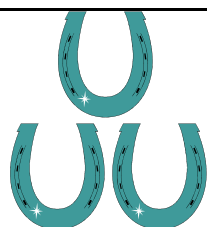
Lees' empire. We enjoyed an immaculate drop of *Crackerjack* and a snack - a good run in to the weekend!

In early January I had to go up to town and when the business was done I was feeling in need of refreshment so I repaired to Farringdon Street to seek out the **Badgers** pub, the **Mash Tun**. Imagine my surprise when I found it had changed brewer and name and was now **Shepherd Neame's Hoop and Grapes**. On entering I was delighted to find that the interior was unchanged. so I settled down to contemplate the menu while sampling some **Original Porter**. After replenishing the glass and consuming the bangers and mash (I was given the choice of four different types - eat your heart out Giles!), I returned to the bar to sample the other real ale on offer, *Spitfire*.

This was absolutely superb so I had another just to make sure. If ever you are any where near Farringdon and need succour then go to this establishment.

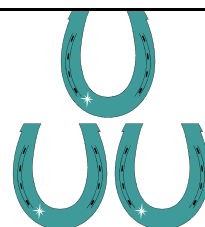
Well what is planned for 2005? The Burton Beer Festival at the end of this month then towards the end of February a trip to Nottingham with Dick Moore as our guide and mentor. A quality control check to Codsall must be done and following the article in '**Whats Brewing**' (the **CAMRA** monthly newsletter) I have a wish to journey around the North London Line to sample some of the pubs. So much to do, so little time!!!

Mike Clemence



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SETTING THE STANDARD!



In January, on one of our many Branch socials, your editor joined the usual suspects and went to the **Royal Standard**, Wooburn, to be greeted with a bar with five handpumps, each with two pump clips.

This very welcome sight allowed us to sample from a choice of: **Black Sheep Bitter**, **Caledonian Deuchars IPA**, **Fullers London Pride**, **Hook Norton Old Hooky**, **Hop Back Summer Lightning**, **Moorhouse Premium Bitter**, **Oakham JHB**, **Robinsons Unicorn**, **Taylors Landlord** and my own personal favourite of the evening, the impressive **Downton Chimera IPA** with the formidable ABV of 6.8% (so good I drank it twice!). The five more widely available beers were served from the handpumps, whilst the other choices had to be fetched from the cellar. Most beers were checked (thoroughly) and none were found wanting.

The only shame was that there were only eight branch members enjoying the evening. We would love to see some of the 500 other local **CAMRA** members who would be welcome at any of our socials!

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CHARITY INDIAN DINNER

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Letters



*'To smoke Or Not To Smoke...'
a non-smoker's reply!*

I'd like to reply to the article 'To Smoke Or Not To Smoke' in the last edition of *Swan Supping*:-

I agree completely that the current proposals to either ban smoking or food are daft. However the current state of affairs cannot continue either. The article states that there is currently a choice, and that non-smokers can choose not to go into smoky pubs, and indeed I do. I also find it impossible to find a pub that is non-smoking, so my choice is rather poor: breathe other people's smoke, or don't drink beer in pubs.

The article also mentions that a survey of customers was performed. This survey is, of course, biased. The current customers are obviously not that bothered about visiting a smoky pub, as they are there already! How about all the people that never visit, because the bar is smoky, who might otherwise

frequent the premises?

I also do not agree with comments that good ventilation is the answer. Even sitting outside in a beer garden with a number of smokers is enough to make my clothes stink of smoke, ventilation is never going to remove the cloud of exhaled smoke blown into your face by an inconsiderate smoker.

And all this says nothing of the rights of the workers behind the bar...

Alex Wright.

I read with interest your article 'To Smoke Or Not To Smoke' in issue 45 and have some sympathy with the view of the owners of the **Anglers Retreat** that they should be allowed to make the decision on whether to allow smoking or not on their premises.

Unfortunately their advice to non-smokers to go elsewhere if they do not like the smoke is

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Letters



somewhat laughable as I cannot begin to think where we could possibly go.

I am not a great advocate of the 'nanny state' and feel freedom of choice, including the choice to smoke, should be left up to the individual but unfortunately for non-smokers like myself the choice in this instance is to either go to the pub or not and as someone who is a big fan of a good pint I feel a little aggrieved.

I'm sure you will be able to name various establishments where there are no smoking areas made available however in my experience these are invariably immediately adjacent to smoking areas and with no consideration to correct ventilation principles

and until such time as someone invents intelligent smoke that can read the signs I am inclined to opt to stay at home.

Surely there must be some commercial advantage in creating proper no smoking areas in a few pubs in any particular area. Has the Trade fully investigated this matter and is the Trade fully cognisant of what constitutes adequate ventilation?

Perhaps you could take a lead and publish the names of local pubs which you consider have adequate no smoking areas. I would be most interested!

Regards, **John Brabin**

<A list of pubs offering a no smoking bar (as opposed to not allowing smoking in the restaurant area) would be very short! I've also noticed that the Ship in Aylesbury has smoking and no smoking sections. I would have thought that was as much use as urinating and non urinating sections of a swimming pool! - Ed.>



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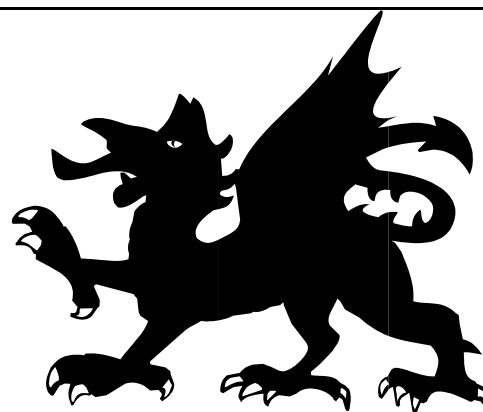
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Swan Supping

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E-Mail : DWRSS@aol.com

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

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

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



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

FEBRUARY

Monday 7th BRANCH AGM.

8:00pm Red Lion, Haddenham (in the Lion's Den).

All members welcome. Bottle raffle and buffet.

Tuesday 15th BRANCH SOCIAL

9:00pm Live & Let Live, Booker Common.

Wednesday 23rd GBG SURVEYS REVIEW MEETING

9:00pm, Derehams Inn, Loudwater.

MARCH

Wednesday 2nd FINAL SELECTION MEETING FOR GBG 2006.

9:00pm Lions of Bledlow, Bledlow

Wednesday 9th TWO PUB SOCIAL

9:00pm Prince of Wales, Marsh; 10:00pm Harrow, Bishopstone.

Wednesday 16th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Bob's Barn, Birtton

Sunday 27th EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL

Lunchtime, Packhorse, Wendover.

APRIL

Friday 8th LONDON PUB CRAWL

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

Full details of the crawl will be available next issue and on the web-site.

**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
BRANCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES,
CHECK ON THE BRANCH WEBSITE:
GO TO CAMRA HQ SITE (www.camra.org.uk)
THEN LOOK UNDER 'CENTRAL SOUTHERN'
& 'AYLESBURY VALE & WYCOMBE'**



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Local News



(Continued from page 2)

They plan to have twenty beers, two ciders, entertainment and food.

HAMBLEDEN

Recent ever-changing guest beers to be enjoyed at the **Stag and Huntsman** have been *Doghhouse Snoozy Sue* (4.3) and *Butler's Jethro Tull* (4.8). More of the same each week in the long and distant future.

LANE END

The **Clayton Arms** is closed until further notice.

The **Old Sun** closed in January for about two months during major refurbishment. The new format for the pub is not yet known.

Victor Ashford took over at the **Osborne Arms** in December. This free house is due to be refurbished, including the cellar, and may be closed for a few days. They currently serve *Fullers London Pride*, *Adnams Bitter* and *Brakspears Best Bitter* and hope for a guest beer in the future.

MARLOW

Seasonal *Brakspear* ales *Fire Dog* (4.4) and *OBJ* (4.8) were available lately at the **Chequers**.

West Street pub the **Coach and Horses** has exchanged its *Courage Best* (4.0) for *Fullers London Pride* (4.1) due to the latter beer's popularity. *Brakspear Bitter* (3.4) keeps this capital brew company at the bar, while Chinese cuisine is available as take-out or sit-in format during the pubs opening hours.

The **Cross Keys** has closed temporarily for circa six weeks from Monday 24th January to early March for a refurb. Real ale is reportedly to be increased on the completion of the refit. *Hydes Over the Moon* (4.5), *Jennings Redbreast* (4.5), *Courage Winter Warmer* (5.5), *Charles Wells Christmas Cheer* (5.5), *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* (4.5) and *Batemans Rosey Nosey* (4.9) were on parade at the hand pumps in the last few weeks.

Four hand pumped beers feature at the **hog's head** in the High Street. Regular beers on offer consist of *Brakspear Bitter* (3.4), *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* (3.8) and *Fullers London Pride* (4.1). Recent guest beers were *Black Sheep Bitter* (3.8) and *Ringwood 49er* (4.9).

Apologies to Mrs Atherton, joint licensee at the **Plough**, whose correct title is Sherie, not Cherie. Keep up the good work with your well kept ales.

Corner street watering hole the **Prince of Wales** continues to offer real ales in a congenial atmosphere. *Adnams Bitter* (3.7), *Fullers London Pride* (4.1), and a *Rebellion* brew (usually *IPA* (3.7)), but *Roasted Nuts* and currently *Overdraft Ale* (4.3) have recently featured. Thai food is available from the kitchen.

MARSWORTH

The dates for this year's **Anglers Retreat** beer festivals are 6th April to the 10th April and 28th September to the 2nd October.

MEDMENHAM

Road-side public house the **Dog and Badger** has introduced a third beer (*Caledonian Deuchars IPA* (3.8), to the *Vale Notley Ale* (3.3) and *Fullers London Pride* (4.1) during December.

SPEEN

The **King William IV** is to become the **De-Wanium** Indian/Bangladeshi restaurant and pub. This is not the bad news it first seems as it is linked to the **Mowchak** in Stokenchurch and, as there, cask conditioned beer will be on offer and drinkers will not only be welcomed, but encouraged!

WOOBURN GREEN

Name change pub the **Glory Mill** (formerly the **Rose and Crown**), has added a third ale to their choice of *Flowers IPA* (3.6) and *Fullers London Pride* (4.1). *Wychwood Hobgoblin* (4.5), *Everards Sleighbell* (4.5), *Jennings Redbreast* (4.5) and *Batemans Rosey Nosey* (4.9) featured over the Christmas period.



Beer Festival Diary

FEBRUARY

- 3-5 (Thursday-Saturday): 1ST PENDLE BEER FESTIVAL, Colne Municipal Hall, Colne, Lancashire, BB8 0AE.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): CHESTERFIELD BEER FESTIVAL, The Winding Wheel, Holywell Street, Chesterfield.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): DORCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL, Corn Exchange, Dorchester.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): 12TH WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES at The Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Dover.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): SALISBURY WINTERFEST, Castle Street Social Club, Scots Lane, Salisbury City Centre.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): 10TH TEWKESBURY WINTER ALE FESTIVAL, The Watson Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.
- 4-6 (Friday-Sunday): 10TH ASHFIELD WINTER BEER FESTIVAL at The Festival Hall Leisure Centre, Hodgkinson Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts.
- 9-11 (Wednesday-Friday): 15TH BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL, Grand Hall (Behind Battersea Arts Centre), Town Hall Road, Lavender Hill, London, SW11. (Near Clapham Junction BR). Over 100 kils of beer from around the country plus traditional ciders & perries, Gales country wines, together with Dutch, Belgium & German beers. Food available at lunchtime & evenings. Soft drinks available. Open daily noon-11pm. Admission £1 on Wednesday and £2 on Thursday / Friday (£3 after 5pm each day); £1 discount for CAMRA members at all times. Contact Mark Bravery 020 8540 9183 (h), 020 7147 2860 (w) or email markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk
- 9-12 (Wednesday-Saturday): 4TH DERBY WINTER BEER FESTIVAL, Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby.
- 10-12 (Thursday-Saturday): 23RD FLEETWOOD BEER FESTIVAL, Marine Hall Esplanade, Fleetwood.
- 10-12 (Thursday-Saturday): CLEVELAND CAMRA 'ALE & 'ARTY' STOCKTON BEER FESTIVAL at Arc, Dovecot Street, Stockton.
- 16-19 (Wednesday-Saturday): LIVERPOOL BEER FESTIVAL (ALES FROM THE CRYPT), Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral Crypt, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool.
- 16-19 (Wednesday-Saturday): 13TH ROTHERHAM OAKWOOD 'BACK TO THE BAA' REAL ALE & MUSIC FESTIVAL, Oakwood Technology College, Moorgate Road, Rotherham, S60 2UH.
- 18-19 (Friday-Saturday): WINTERFEST XIII - GOSPORT'S WINTER BEER FESTIVAL at Thorngate Halls, Bury Road, Gosport.
- 24-26 (Thursday-Saturday): BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL, Victoria Hall, Saltaire.
- 25-27 (Friday-Sunday): 9TH HUCKNALL BEER FESTIVAL, Community Centre, Ogle Street (just off Town Square), Hucknall.

MARCH

- 3-5 (Thursday-Saturday): 29TH LOUGHBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL, The Polish Club, True Lovers Walk, Off William Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
- 3-5 (Thursday-Saturday): 18TH WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL at The Mill at the Pier, Wigan.
- 4-5 (Friday-Saturday): 8TH BRISTOL BEER FESTIVAL, The Brunel Shed, Temple Meads, Station Approach, Bristol.
- 10-12 (Thursday-Saturday): DARLINGTON SPRING THING FESTIVAL, Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington.
- 10-12 (Thursday-Saturday): 15TH SUSSEX BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, Hove Town Hall, Hove.
- 10-12 (Thursday-Saturday): LEEDS BEER, CIDER & PERRY FESTIVAL, Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Leeds.
- 11-12 (Friday-Saturday): 3RD ELYSIAN BEER FESTIVAL, Larkfields Resource Centre, High Barns, Ely.
- 16-18 (Wednesday-Friday): LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL at The Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London, WC1. (Close to Kings Cross / St Pancras). Open: Wednesday / Thursday noon-3pm & 5-10.30pm; Friday noon-10.30pm. Last admission 10pm. CAMRA members admitted free Wednesday & Thursday lunchtime, at £1.50 all other times (non-members £2.50). A wide range of beers, ciders, perries and imported beers (draught & bottled). Details as they become available at www.camranorthlondon.org.uk Excellent hot & cold food. Breweriana auction Wednesday evening. Thursday quiet night. Live music on Friday evening. Staff always needed - contact Mick Lewis on 020 7935 1350 (h), 07952 244687 (m) or at orientmoron@yahoo.com
- 16-19 (Wednesday-Saturday): LEICESTER BEER FESTIVAL, The Charotar Patidar Samaj, off St Margaret's Way, Next to St Margaret's Church, Leicester.
- 17-19 (Thursday-Saturday): YORK BEER FESTIVAL, Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, York.
- 18-19 (Friday-Saturday): COVENTRY CITY BEER FESTIVAL (THE FINAL WHISTLE END OF A BEERA), Coventry City Football Ground, East Stand Mall, Swan Lane, Coventry.
- 18-19 (Friday-Saturday): HITCHIN BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL at Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin.

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

Useful Addresses

CAMRA HQ:

230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW.
Tel: 0845 60 30 20 8
Fax: 01727 867670
E-mail: camra@camra.org.uk
Internet: <http://www.camra.org.uk>

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