

FREE

Swan Supping



Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 45

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

DEC 2004/JAN 2005



THIRTY YEARS ON!



Welcome to what we hope is the start of a new era for *Swan Supping*.

You may have noticed that some of the pages of this issue are in full colour. Only four to start off with as we tentatively test out the market. However, with the support of our lovely advertisers, we hope to steadily increase the number until at least half the magazine is in colour.

Why now, you may ask. Well, at the 1974 Annual General Meeting of the **Buckinghamshire Branch** of **CAMRA** held at the **Derby Arms** (still sadly missed!) in Aylesbury on Tuesday 3rd of December, it was decided that the branch would become known as the **Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch**.

Thus it is a celebration of the branch having been campaigning for thirty years that we have decided to try and move into colour (and have a few drinks at the same time!).

The **Buckinghamshire Branch** came into existence at an inaugural meeting held at the **Rose and Crown**, Saunderton, on (surprisingly) Monday 3rd of December 1973. We somehow contrived to miss the original anniversary but hopefully we will be around to celebrate its fortieth in 2013.

The first mention of the new name was in the minutes of a branch meeting, again held at the **Rose and Crown** on Sunday 15th December 1974. There were 34 members and guests present and

£5 was collected for branch and national funds.

We do not get anywhere near as many members turning up these days, despite branch membership being over 540. Could this be due to the fact that the meetings were held on a Sunday and started at 11am (an hour before all other pubs were open)? I shall leave you to ponder that!

Among the names associated with the meetings thirty years ago are Pip Elton, John Camp, Wayne Burt and Robert Watson. We would love to hear any memories of those days from them which we will hopefully recount in future issues. Ah well, let's start on the next thirty years!



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IT'S



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AYLESBURY

The 40 seater restaurant at the **Broad Leys**, which we have written about in previous issues, has finally opened. Four more handpumps have been installed, although currently they are still only offering two beers, **Tetley Bitter** and **Fullers London Pride**. An excellent menu of good value food is available which appeals to a lot of the local offices and workers from town making use of the handy car parking.

The **Emperor** looks as though it has been gutted while it is being refurbished. No news yet about a reopening date.

Vale Brewery has completed its purchase of the **Hop Pole**. A £100k refurbishment of the pub is now planned and it is hoped that it will reopen in February. It is planned that the front two bars will be revamped and a selection of real ales offered from up to ten handpumps. The rear bar, famous locally as a music venue, is in such bad repair that there are no plans for that to be refurbished at present. We will, of course, keep a sharp eye on developments at the **Hop Pole** for future issues of *Swan Supping*.

Clare Bignall, who used to run the **Five Elms**, Weedon, is now in charge at the **Kings Head**, having taken over in October. They held a beer festival at the beginning of November with eight real ales being added to the usual three available, with them all being sold out over the weekend.

Still no real ale in the **Lantern**. Perhaps it was too much to hope for.

Magoos has reopened as more of a bar and nightclub than a restaurant. Although there is still no real ale, they do have **Hoegaarden** wheat beer available.

BIERTON

The **Bell** has been featuring guest ales from independent breweries recently, in addition to serving the full range of **Fullers**. In early November, for example, we heard reports of a tasty session beer from **Hogs Back** called *Hair of the Hog*.

EMMINGTON

The new people in charge at the **Inn at Emington** are Dave and Di Belcher.

FINGEST

The **Chequers Inn** is now being run by Ray Connelley and Christian Joubert.

HADDENHAM

The **Green Dragon** has won the prestigious title of **Bucks Dining Pub of the Year** for the second year running. Besides the fantastic food they serve, they also do **Deuchars IPA**, **Wadworth 6X** and **Vale Wychert** which is available for non-diners as well as those enjoying a meal. We held our Branch Dinner there again this year and we would like to thank Pete, Sue and Paul for a fantastic evening. Please note, however, that they will be starting a no smoking policy in the New Year.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Belle Vue** had a ghoulishly successful Halloween where **Witchfinder**, **Hobgoblin** and **Pendle Witches Brew** were all spirited away. Early December beers will include **Hopback Winter Lightning** and **Titanic Iceberg**, late December will see one or more from **Rocking Rudolph**, **Belhavens First Partridge** and **Batemans Rosie Nose**. On New Year's Eve there's a Pirates fancy dress (7 p.m. - 2 a.m., £5 ticket with

band) so beers could be **Cornish Coaster** and **Marstons Old Empire** (5.7%). For more details see www.thebellevue.biz.

The **Falcon** now has at least one **Loddon Brewery** beer on regularly, one or two from three including **Bamboozle**.

Fin M'couls still has three traditional beers including **Fullers London Pride** and **Adnams Broadside**.

IBSTONE

The **Fox of Ibstone** is under new ownership! From the 26th November, Stuart Fairfull and Phil Hendy have taken over the reins as owner operators. Having previously managed both the **Lemon Tree** at Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead and before that the **Blue Flag** at Cadmore End this is the first time for this partnership to really be their own bosses. They intend to offer great food and a range of cask ales (currently **Greene King IPA**, **Old Speckled Hen** and **Ruddles County**).

LACEY GREEN

The **Whip** held a successful beer
(Continued on page 23)



The Rockwood

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

**Wadworth Henry's IPA 3.6%,
Springhead Fallen Angel 4.5%,
Hook Norton Generation 4.0%,
Nethergate Umbel Ale 3.8%,
Hampshire Ironside 4.2%,
Wychwood Festive Spirit 5.0%,
Batemans Rosey Nosey 4.9%**

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A PRINCELY FORTY YEARS

If you are old enough, please cast your mind back to the Autumn of 1964.

The British government was in the process of changing from the Conservatives under Sir Alex Douglas-Home to Labour under Harold Wilson. In sport we had marvelled at Lyn Davies winning the long jump at the Tokyo Olympics and the England football team were still two years away from their World Cup victory. Roy Orbison was Top of the Pops with Pretty Woman and Horace Albert King took over as landlord at the **Prince of Wales** in the isolated hamlet of Marsh, which is three miles from Aylesbury.

Nothing remarkable about the last piece of information, except to say that he was surprisingly young to be a landlord in those days. Oh and to add that forty years on, he is still the landlord there!

The **Prince of Wales** was then an **ABC Brewery** tied house and Horace was told that there was not a living to be made from the pub and that he would need to find other employment to supplement the income he could expect to make serving drinks (strange



to see that forty years on this is still the case in a lot of country pubs). Horace did a lot of jobs, including building work, during the day whilst his wife (a prerequisite for a landlord in those days) ran the pub. Now, Horace is supplementing his income from his pension and hopefully he has more time to spend with his racing pigeons, a hobby he has enjoyed since he was a boy.

In the sixties there was no car park but this did not matter as most of the customers were local farm labourers and they came for a drink by bicycle. Cars parked on the grass

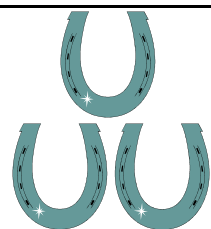
opposite. Times, however, have changed and the number of farm workers has steadily reduced. A car park was built and in other improvements the loos were moved indoors and the club room became a storage area.

Despite these changes the pub remains essentially the same. A friendly pub with no music (the juke box was removed in 1993) and, very welcome in winter, a real log fire.

ABC Brewery were in charge for many years, then came **Carlsberg Tetley**. A big company like that was not interested in a small drinking establishment like the **Prince of Wales**, so Horace took the opportunity to buy the pub. The loans need to manage this were paid off three years ago, so he is now the proud owner as well as landlord.

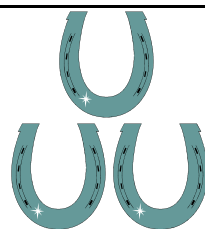
They serve **Greene King IPA** and **Marstons Pedigree** but don't do any food as they have tried it but there was no call for it.

Our heartfelt congratulations go to Horace and his new wife (of over 20 years) Christine (pictured with Horace) and our best wishes to him for the next forty years!



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TO SMOKE OR NOT TO SMOKE!



The Government White Paper regarding smoking in pubs has caused a lot of worry in the trade!

Pauline Payne and Jane Bishop, owners of the **Anglers Retreat**, Marsworth, wrote to us on this issue (we have slightly abridged the letter and hope we haven't left anything too vital out) and they are concerned that it is completely taking away their choice in the way they want to run their business.

The only choice now will be food lead or smoke lead trade. They feel that they should be able to do both (a point shared by another correspondent, local member Michael Clarke).

They go on to say: 'There is no problem with restaurants being smoke free, but pubs are a

place of relaxation and entertainment. A place to meet with friends to relax and enjoy each other's company and wind down after a hard stressed out day at the office. Pubs are not firstly family places (children cannot drink at the bar until they are 18) they are drinking establishments that allow children in.

'The comments being made that the trade in Ireland hasn't been affected too badly is laughable. It is already public knowledge within the trade that, so far, there have been 8,000 jobs lost in the pubs and that doesn't include the knock on effect on the crisps, nuts etc wholesalers and manufacturers and a down turn of 22% in takings.

'If landlords had been left, or encouraged, to make their own choice, smoking or not, then everyone would have had the choice of where to go. Lets face it, if you don't like the beer in one pub you go somewhere else, if you don't like the food in that pub you go somewhere else. If I didn't like the smoke in a pub I would go somewhere else. When are we going to get our freedom to choose back?

'This would also apply to staff.

'We own our Pub and invite the public in to try our drink and food. This is our home and we set our own rules on behaviour. We have

worked very hard to build up the customer base that we have now and are not backed by any multi-national company with endless finances available to tide us over the drop in trade that a no smoking ban will cause. Nor are we a Working Man's Club but at least 90% of our clientele are working people. Why should we be deprived of the right to carry on our business in the way that we see fit? If we could get more business from having a non-smoking policy, don't you think we would have already done it?

'A survey of customers we completed recently, showed only **two** people wanting a complete smoking ban. The rest were quite happy with the improvements we have made. We already have a totally separate no smoking area; a well ventilated smoking bar area, and a strong base of both smoking and non-smoking customers, who all regularly eat.

'We are approximately 70% wet 30% dry and will lose a lot of our customers on both sides when and if this smoking ban is enforced.'

In response to the White paper, **CAMRA HQ** sent out the following press release:-

CAMRA expresses concern that the smoking ban will be divisive for community pubs.

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THE BURNING ISSUE!

Community pubs will face the stark choice of tearing up their food menus or alienating regulars by banning smoking.

CAMRA calls on the Government to allow pubs where there are two or more entirely separate rooms to allow smoking in one, while other rooms where food is served are made smoke free.

Mike Benner, Chief Executive of **CAMRA**, raised concerns about the proposals: 'While it's clear that smoke in pubs needs to be managed, these proposals threaten to split the pub trade, creating polished smoke-free eateries for the middle classes and smoking dens for everyone else. The problem is that committed smokers may well switch their custom to small community pubs which don't serve prepared hot food and the resulting fug may alienate other parts of the local community - no one enjoys sitting in a smoke-filled room. It's quite possible

that small community pubs, which rely on beer sales rather than food sales, will tear up their menus to make sure their smoking regulars are not driven away.'

'It is the small community local which is likely to bear the brunt of these proposals should they become law. We would like the Government to carry out a full impact assessment on community pubs and ensure that support is in place to prevent closures of this essential community amenity because of the smoke issue. In many pubs there is a simple solution, where there are two or more entirely separate rooms, smoking could be allowed in one, while other rooms, where food is served could be made smoke-free.'

'The pubs industry is taking giant strides to respond to consumer demand for clean air in pubs, but it has not been given enough time to fully implement its own solutions.'

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BEERING IT UP IN BRISTOL!



During my six week work secondment I used the three evenings available to me (a total of eighteen excursions) each week to explore everything that Bristol had to offer (and it was quite a lot). So I've put together a pub crawl of twenty five pubs (yes 25) and don't feel obliged to do them on the same day or you'll seriously breach the government definition of binge drinking. The crawl in general goes from east to west starting around the Temple Mead area, east of the city centre and all the way across to Clifton and Hotwells in the west, that's a lot of walking but It'll do you good! I've kept the pubs grouped in their districts too for ease of reference.

J D Wetherspoons has five pubs (that I know of) and I've put them in the relevant district for pub crawl purposes – the only omission is the **Lloyds No.1** pub on Harbourside which I didn't realise was a **Wetherspoons**. It was at the end of a long line of samey bars (furthest from the town centre) and the only one doing real ale.

The **Knights Templar** (Unit 1, The Square, Temple Quay, Temple, BS1 6DG) is a **J D Wetherspoons** pub surrounded by posh modern office blocks and it's not in any shopping centre. Based in an office block myself about 300 metres away there was no reason for me to go over the busy road since I couldn't see anything of any description – until someone told me. This is a typical voluminous **Wetherspoons** pub with various games machines scattered around, a comfy interior and seating outside. Beers were **Butcombe Bitter & Blonde**, **Wickwar Stout**, **Shepherd Neame Spitfire**, **Hawood House Best** and **Greene King Bitter**. Once you've had enough cross the busy Temple Way dual carriageway due west and you'll eventually meet

The **Bridge Inn** (16 Passage Street, Broadmead, BS2 0JF) is obviously located

by a bridge over the river Avon which helps in finding it. This is one of the smallest pubs I've been in, a little bit modern but still homely and adorned with movie prints. Music is the poppy/indie kind i.e. decent. This is a **Bath Ales** pub which features in the **Good Beer Guide (GBG)** and you can enjoy **SPA**, **Gem** and **Barnstormer**. This leads on to.....

The **Cornubia** (142 Temple Street, Redcliffe, BS1 6EN) is named after a train (& boat?) and has been recently purchased by **Smiles**. This is a real ale paradise with frequently changing guest ales in addition to the two **Smiles** beers and is another pub in the middle of (crumbling) office blocks which was previously the **Courage** brewery hospitality suite – again you'll only know it's there by word of mouth. There is patio seating outside and the edge of the bar hits you when you enter – it's a small pub and half the punters stand up (and get in the way). There is also a good range of bottled beers. My complaint about this pub is getting served!!! It can be a bit stressful, the landlady seems to favour the locals over the complete strangers. That aside it's one of the best pubs in Bristol. Beers on the time; **Archers Strong Dark Mild**, **Wadworth JCB**, **Slater's Original**, **Premium**, **Smiles Best & Heritage**. This pub is about 50 metres from Victoria Street.

The **Kings Head** (60 Victoria Street, Redcliffe, BS1 6DE) is a lovely Victorian decored pub dating back to the 1660's and is announced by a black chalkboard on the pavement showing the ales available as well as seating in the warmer months. This is a current **GBG** entry and the rather narrow interior opens into a snug at the back – make sure you look presentable, there are mirrors everywhere! Beers on tap were **Sharps Cornish Coaster**, **Doombar**, **Bass** and **Courage Best**. Close by is...

Ye Shakespeare (78 Victoria Street, Redcliffe, BS1 6DR) is one of four (?) pubs of the same name but this is only 100 metres from the **Kings Head** so I thought I'd give it go. It was a nice olde world wooden pub with oak beams, carpeted floor and seating outside. Lots of pump clips turned around and I was told the delivery was late – **Courage Best** was the only one available. Worth a try again just to see if this is all repeated! This street intersects Baldwin Street and the river on the left where there are places to eat and drink, but if you head towards the city centre past this junction you'll miss this next pub on your right.

Horts Tavern (49-50 Broad Street, Old City, BS1 2EJ) is a large rambling but atmospheric pub complete with function room, pool tables and a large viewing screen. The array

of handpumps includes two draught ciders from **Thatcher's** – **Cheddar Valley** and **Traditional** as well as **Young's** beers and a **Smiles** beer (lost my notes on this one but the ciders and **Young's** were present). The **Commercial Rooms** are within 300 metres.....

The **Commercial Rooms** (43-45 Corn Street, Old City, Bristol, BS1 1HT) is a **J D Wetherspoons** pub, it's not in the **GBG** guide but so what, the beers are excellent. This a very large hall with a colourful domed ceiling due to its historical position as a merchant venturers establishment. There was TV but no sound. The three beers available were all from the local **Butcombe** brewery; **Gold**, **Bitter** & **Blonde**.

Heading due south (or retrace your steps) you hit Baldwin Street and if you want a meal there is a good choice of eateries here.

The **Old Fish Market** (59-63 Baldwin Street, Old City, Bristol, BS1 1QZ) is a large, one room pub with a very stately feel about it – the large painting on the wall helps. This is the only pub in Bristol (as far as I know, he wrote covering himself) which has a decent range of **Fullers** beers and with a nod to the local breweries; **Butcombe Bitter**, **Fullers London Pride**, **Honeydew**, **ESB**. Carry on to the end of this street and turn right on St Augustine's Parade complete with winos, car fumes and the Hippodrome. Eventually you'll hit....

The **White Lion** (Quay Head, Colston Avenue, Old City, Bristol, BS1 1EB) has virtually the full range of **Wickwar** ales. Strange when the brewery is only a few miles to the north that this should be only real outlet in this area for these beers. The parasols advertise outside drinking and the interior is that of a small boozer. There is a TV and watch your step going to the loos as the descending stairs on your right are a bit narrow & winding. I had to go through the whole lot on this one; **Sunny Daze**, **Bob**, **Cotswold way**, **Titanic Stout**. Great! On the other side of the parade if you can avoid being run over is.....

The **Bunch of Grapes** (Denmark Street, West End, BS1 5DG, close to the Hippodrome) has one of the longest bars I have ever seen with two banks of hand pumps at either end. At the furthest end the pub opens up into a room where live bands can be heard. This is current **GBG** entry with a pleasant wood interior and carpeted floor, the background music is reminiscent of 80's indie stuff. Usually three beers were available on my two visits; **Wickwar Cotswold Way**, **Shepherd Neame Spitfire** and **Moles Molekeeper**. Go back to the parade

(Continued on page 8)

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CARRY ON BRISTOL

(Continued from page 6)

and another turning near by.....

The **Brewery Tap** (6-10 Colston Street, Kingsdown, BS1 5BD). One of local brewer **Smiles's** two pubs situated at the top of the hill. This is even more spit 'n sawdust than the **Bag O' Nails** (see later) – the two bars are virtually all wood with very little in the way of fittings. A boozier at its most basic. Beers available were obviously the **Smiles** range – *Original*, *IPA*, *Best*, *Heritage* and *Maiden Legover*. Continue in the same direction northeast for about 200 metres and the left turn is St Michael's Hill....

The **Robin Hood** (56 St Michael's Hill, Kingsdown, BS2 8DX) is one of several pubs on this street as you walk up this steep hill. This was an atmospheric (it was smoky) wooden interior pub with lots of prints paying homage to Elvis and what looks like the 50's. Scattering of magazines and newspapers if you don't want to talk to anybody (I read one, I was on my own sob!), Top 40 music was played. Beers on at the bar – best selection of **Wadworth** beers in Bristol were *6X*, *IPA*, *JCB*, *Smiles Heritage* and *Speckled Hen*.

The **Highbury Vaults** (164 St Michaels Hill, Kingsdown, BS2 8DE) are found at the top

on the right of this steep hill. This is a dark wooden (polished though) atmospheric pub with a walk past a small snug before you get to the bar. Beyond is a larger room and then the patio beer garden which is quite busy in the warmer evenings – both times I visited, the pub seemed almost deserted apart from those clustered around the bar but everyone else was out the back. Beers on tap were *Young's St Georges*, *Special*, *Original*, *Smiles Best*, *Heritage*. The next two pubs are found about half a mile away.

The **Hare on the Hill** (41 Thomas Street North, Kingsdown, BS2 8LX) is found on an estate halfway up a steep hill. This is a small busy local and another one with subdued lighting. This has the full spectrum of good quality **Bath Ales** as befits its **GBG** status; *SPA*, *Gem*, *Barnstormer*.

The **Magic Box** (135-137 Cheltenham Road, Stokes Croft, BS6 5RR) is a **J D Wetherspoons** pub and typically for them it was a former cinema. This is another big hall in unassuming surroundings on the A38. I've lost my notes on this one but there were at least four ales on – *Butcombe* was represented as well as *Greene King Abbott* and *Bass*.

Due southwest of Park Street, just before you



hit the Anchor Road by the Avon, you come across.....

The **Bag O' Nails** (141 St George's Road, Hotwells, BS1 5UW) is a small spit and saw dust real ale institution, very much a locals pub. Aaaargh! I've lost my notes for this but it had a good range (about 5) of independent beers and bottled beers – I drank the **Burton Bridge Bramble stout**. My only complaint about this **GBG** pub is that everything (the bottles certainly) seems to be served at ambient - the beer was a bit on the warm side. I've separated this from the Hotwells district as it ties in well with this pub crawl – the other pubs in this district are lot further west. This pub is by the roundabout at the

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MORE BRISTOL WANDERINGS



junction of the Hotwells/Anchor/Wells roads, on leaving the pub turn right up the Jacobs Wells Road.

The **Hope and Anchor** (38 Jacobs Wells Road, Hotwells, BS8 1DR) was spotted on one of my runs (I have to take it off somehow) and it's in the 2005 **GBG**. This is a spacious L-shaped pub with plenty of seating, comic prints on the walls and hops draped over the top of the bar. Clientele was of the mature student type who genuinely seemed to be interested in sampling as many of the beers as possible. Beers on were *Scattor Rock Gidleys Bitter*, *Butcombe Gold*, *Smiles Bristol IPA*.

The **Berkeley** (18-19 Queens Road, Clifton,

BS8 1QE) is a **J D Wetherspoons** pub and is another vast hall (a former shopping arcade) which surrounds the bar and opens up into distinct rooms further back. Decor is a creamy yellow with historical framed prints of Bristol. Beers on were *Butcombe Gold*, *Courage Best* and *Wickwar Station Porter* which at 6.0% ABV was only £1.90 per pint – so I had two.

Go back to the big roundabout which separates urban and suburban Bristol and on your left going north is Whiteladies Road, initially an unassuming main artery north with plenty of large houses and foliage but this soon turns into a busy bustling area.

The **Penny Farthing** (115 Whiteladies Road, Clifton, BS8 2PB) is found in an area full of bars and restaurants which tend to be on the trendy side – real ale is difficult to find around here. This wooden panelled pub was a former bank and it's a refreshing change from what's around – the bike of the same name is found in the window display and seating is a mix of wooden chairs and sofas. There is a good mix of handpumped – 2 beers and gravity – 6 beers here which is evident by the barrels behind the bar. Beers in this **GBG** pub were *Wadworth 6X*, *Hall & Woodhouse Tanglefoot*, *Bass*, *Adnams Broadside*, *Everards Tiger* and *Butcombe*

Bitter (can't remember the other two).

The **Red Lion** (26 Worrall Road, Clifton, BS8 2UE) is a pleasant spacious two bar stone paved pub with lots of hops coming down from the ceiling (always a good sign), lighting was very subdued – don't bring your paper. The ale range wasn't the best but with lots of good pubs around you tend to get spoiled, the beers were good being a **GBG** pub – *Bass*, *Bath SPA*, *Courage Best*.

The **Port of Call** (3 York Street, Clifton, BS8 2YE) is an L-shaped bar with plenty of pictures of ships and harbours on the walls and pump clips to show past beers. The best beer range in Bristol for this **GBG** pub; amongst the twelve or so were *Wye Valley Butty Bach*, *Courage Best*, *Wychwood Hobgoblin*, *Sharps Doombar*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* etc, etc. I did ask for a beer at just after closing and was refused – oh well I don't hold it against them – it was a long evening.

Carry on back down Whiteladies Road and then right onto Queen Street and head west and follow signs for the suspension bridge. About 300 metres from the bridge turn down Portland Place and right at the end is something a little different...

The **Coronation Tap** (8 Sion Place, Clifton,

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THE END OF THE TRAIL

Bristol, BS8 4AX) was my first cider house. Got to be done in Bristol and it's at the terminus of Portland Street – just look straight down to the White building at the end. Worth a visit as it also has a good range of ale and is close to the suspension bridge. This another wood interior pub with a U-shaped bar, two games machines, subdued lighting and some rock music in your ears. The cider was directly behind the bar in the form of four barrels - *Thatcher's Cheddar Valley* and *Traditional, Taunton Dry* and their own 8.4% *Exhibition cider*. The ales out of interest were *Ushers*, *Bass* and *Pedigree*. Something for everyone then!

It's a bit of a maze but you need to head due south to hit the **Hotwells** district and the **Hotwells Road** to find the next pub.

The **Merchants Arms** (5 Merchants Road, Hotwells, BS8 4P2) is by a busy road junction near the harbour area – crossing here whilst a bit lashed may be fatal. This is a smallish two roomed *Bath Ales* pub with a wooden interior with framed prints adorning the walls – a band (jazz?) was practising in one of the rooms when I arrived – it wasn't an audience participation event either,



everyone else was crammed into the other room. Beers on at the time in this **GBG** pub were *SPA*, *Gem* and *Barnstormer*.

Continuing along the Hotwells Road, due east, i.e. back home (it's about time I think) you'll hit the next watering hole.

Plume of Feathers (135 Hotwell Road, Hotwells, BS8 4RU) is a pub we popped into after a minibus crawl in the country. This is a small pub with the bar at the end I seem to remember about five beers on....

This next pub could have been visited after **Baldwin** street – it's about 600 metres south so I'll leave that one to the reader. Effectively you'll have to go back to Augustine's Parade and head south on the other side of the river to where the Harbourside bars are (not that you're missing much). And the final pub is....

The **Coronation** (18 Dean Lane, Southville, BS3 1DD) is potentially a tricky place to get to due to its position on the other side of the Avon in the Harbourside district – it isn't, fortunately there is a bridge almost opposite this street (not obvious in the A-Z) which is a quiet estate. This is a **Hop Back** brewery pub and is a square comfy room which was quiet busy (not packed) during my time there. This is **GBG** pub and beers available were from the said brewery; *GFB*, *Best*, *Summer Lightning*, *Titanic Best*.

I expect this will take a few days to do and these pubs are all very good. I think Bristol is a cracking place to eat and drink. Here's to another visit in the near future. Cheers!

Sapamurad Niyazov



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Book Review

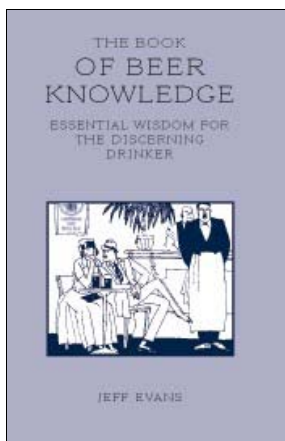


The Book of Beer Knowledge (Essential Wisdom for the Discerning Drinker) is perfect for beer lovers everywhere.

It is an indispensable collection of facts, figures and wisdom that entertains, informs and amuses. More than 200 entries allow you to enjoy the international world of beer from the comfort of your armchair.

Written by Jeff Evans, past editor of the *Good Beer Guide*, it is a 160 page hardback which is jacketed and has its own bookmark! Priced at £9.99 (CAMRA members price £7.99), it would make the perfect Christmas present to either give or receive!

Why not try your friends out on the following selection from the 'Famous Beer Advertising Slogans' section (the answers are given on page 19):-



1. After one, you'll do anything well.
 2. Follow the bear.
 3. It looks good, tastes good and by golly it does you good!
 4. The Cream of Manchester!
 5. The pint that thinks it's a quart!
 6. What your right arm's for!
 7. The beer that made Milwaukee famous!
- And finally, best of all:-
8. No Fokker comes close!

IMPORTANT WARNING

Police are warning all men who frequent local pubs to be alert and stay cautious when offered a drink from any woman.

A date rape drug on the market called '**Beer**' is used by many females to target unsuspecting men. The drug is generally found in liquid form and is now available almost anywhere.

Beer is used by female sexual predators to persuade their male victims to go home and have sex with them. Typically, a woman needs only to persuade a guy to consume a few units of **Beer** and then simply ask him home for no strings attached sex. Men are rendered helpless against this approach. After several **Beers**, men will often succumb to desires to perform sexual acts on horrific looking women to whom they would never normally be attracted.

After drinking **Beer** men often awaken with only hazy memories of exactly what happened to them the night before, often with just a vague feeling that: 'something bad' occurred.

At other times these unfortunate men are swindled out of their life's savings, in a familiar scam known as 'a relationship.' It has been reported that in extreme cases, the female may even be shrewd enough to entrap the unsuspecting male into a longer term form of servitude and punishment referred to as 'marriage.' Apparently, men are much more susceptible to this scam after **Beer** is administered and sex is offered by the predatory females.

If you fall victim to this, there are male support groups in every town where you can discuss the details of your shocking encounter in an open and frank manner with similarly affected, like-minded guys. Just look up 'Golf Courses' in the yellow pages.

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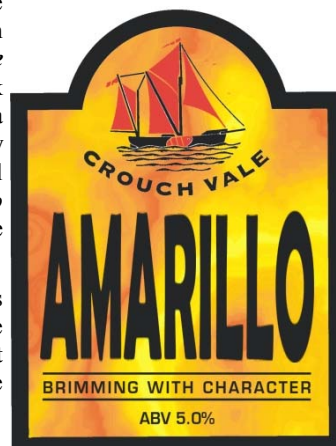
as well, the first time for many years that that has happened. We will look at increasing the numbers of beers and ciders for next year's festival.

Besides the beer, the food was a great success again. I'm sure the 'Friends' must have lost track of the number of bacon butties that were served!

There was no time to organise a proper *Beer of the Festival* competition this year, but as the *Mid-Chilterns* branch of CAMRA held a social at the festival on the Saturday afternoon (many thanks!) it was decided to organise a mini competition using votes from their branch members and ours. Our apologies go to those people who were denied a vote and we promise to get it organised a bit better next year!

However, the truncated vote came to the following conclusions. In joint second place were *Castle Rock Black Gold* (a 3.5% dark mild) and *Chiltern Glad Tidings* (a 4.6% dark, spiced ale usually only found in bottled form) The overall winner was *Crouch Vale Amarillo* and we will be getting a certificate to them in the New Year.

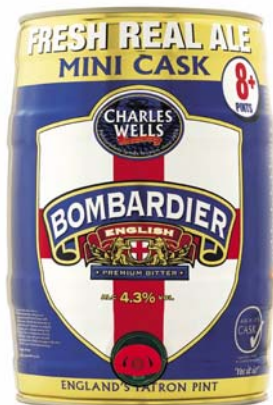
Our thanks to everyone who was involved in the festival and we hope to see everyone again next year at the end of October for the twelfth festival.



In October we held the 11th *Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival* in conjunction with the *Friends of Florence Nightingale House*. This was a great success and we raised over £4900 to go towards the Aylesbury Hospice. As far as we know, this is a record for the festival and has certainly set the standard for future festivals.

As for the previous four years it was held at the Community Centre in Stoke Mandeville, but this year we had better luck with the weather and the festival was busy for all the sessions.

We had 28 real ales available and only had about a barrel left at the end of the Saturday night. Both ciders and the perry were consumed



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OTHER BRANCH ACTIVITIES



Branch Dinner

We once again held our Branch Dinner at the **Green Dragon** in Haddenham. A very enjoyable time was had by the 22 people attending and we would like, once again, to send our thanks to Pete and Sue Moffat and their son Paul, plus the rest of the staff, for all their efforts in making our third dinner there so pleasant.

The **Green Dragon** has once again been voted '**Bucks Dining Pub of the Year**' (and you thought we chose the place at random!) and the food we were served showed why!

They laid on a special menu with a choice of nine starters, twelve main courses and seven puddings. The hardest part of the evening

was the selection of the meal, but the thinking was helped by having *Caledonian Deuchars IPA*, *Wadworth 6X* and *Vale Wycheart* available, all in superb form.

Birmingham trip

Also in November, a group from the branch headed by train up to Birmingham to visit a superb pub in the Aston district.

This is the **Bartons Arms** which we featured in *Swan Supping* way back in issue 40 (February/March 2004). The previous trip was so good that all four of the group from last time decided to do it again and they were joined by three other branch members and two from other parts of the country.



The journey to 'Brum' was made by train, taking advantage of the Group Saver ticket which meant that it was relatively cheap (less than £10 each for all the trains and buses involved), and then a bus which dropped us within yards of the pub.

The **Bartons Arms** is a fine Victorian pub and is in the *CAMRA National Inventory*. Now owned by *Oakham Brewery* and serving their fine beers: *JHB*, *White Dwarf* and *Bishops Farewell* plus the guest beers: *Hobsons Mild*, *Robinsons Double Drop* and *Youngs Waggedance*.

Add to all that their superb Thai food for both the lunch and evening meals, and who could possibly blame us for staying there the whole day.

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LET THE BUS TAKE THE STRAIN!

In addition to the ale deprivation that is forced on the designated driver, accessibility issues adversely affect the viability of many rural pubs – which have been closing at an alarming rate of several hundred per year across the country. **CAMRA** prominently supports campaigns to preserve rural pubs and also promotes the use of public transport.

I set myself a challenge – to see if I could easily visit the local branch **Pub of the Year** solely using public transport. On first sight it seemed a tall order. The **Shepherd's Crook** is fairly convenient for junction 6 of the M40 but Crowell itself seems the sort of place that's lucky to get one bus service every Wednesday morning every other week.

Nonetheless, I set out to research the possibilities. A surf on the Internet revealed some unexpectedly useful public transport routes – the key being the Arriva 231 and 232 services. These services connect Princes Risborough, Chinnor and Thame using an intriguingly meandering route. It seemed possible, at least in theory, that a pub crawl based on these services could include the **Shepherd's Crook** as well as a few other excellent pubs in the area.

It was too much to hope that these bus



Cherry Tree, Kingston Blount

services operated in the evening or on Sundays. However, I found a window on Saturday lunchtime which provided the opportunity for a modest pub crawl. So the day before the clocks went back, my friend Andy and I set out valiantly from Princes Risborough to test whether theory would be substantiated by several pints of top quality beer.

The first encouraging sign was our discovery of the Arriva Explorer ticket. This allows two people to use any local Arriva bus all day for £7 – for us the ticket paid for itself after three journeys.

I'd been a bit sceptical as to whether the

timetable would be backed up by a reliable service. However, the scheduled 1155 232 service from Princes Risborough Market Square arrived bang on time. Just after midday we were obligingly dropped right outside our first pub of the day – the **Good Beer Guide** listed **Red Lion** in Chinnor. We had time to sample two good pints – **Adnams Bitter** and **Draught Bass**.

Now to explore deepest Oxfordshire. The same bus and driver, though now transformed into a 231, stopped opposite the **Red Lion** promptly at 1249 and we headed west towards Kingston Blount (arrival time 1255). Crowell seemingly does not merit a bus stop of its own so, until local **CAMRA** members mount a successful campaign to get a bus stop placed outside the pub, travellers need to officially alight at Kingston Blount and walk back along the road half a mile to reach the **Shepherd's Crook**.

Like many country pubs, the **Shepherd's Crook** makes a feature of its food offering – the warm goat's cheese salad and locally produced sausage with mash and gravy are particularly recommended. However, unlike many other pubs, it has not made the sad mistake of alienating the bona fide drinker. Quite the opposite – it has a range of real ales that are worth travelling miles to



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DRIVEN TO DRINK – BY BUS!



Swan Hotel, Thame

sample. One particular favourite of mine on offer was *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. Another regular is *Batham's Best*, which is joined by various *Lodden* ales and others.

There was a two hour gap between bus services so, to make maximum opportunity of available time, we headed back to Kingston Blount at around quarter past two. By happy co-incidence the bus stop is conveniently situated right outside the *Cherry Tree*. This is a *Brakspear's* pub and gave us an opportunity to sample the beers from the new *Brakspear's* brewhouse in Witney. The *Brakspear's Bitter* was a fine pint and far more flavoursome than its gravity of 3.4% might suggest.

Unfortunately the last bus of the day departs from Kingston Blount at 1455 so we had to leave the comfort of the sofas in the *Cherry Tree* and strike out for Thame. Again the bus didn't let us down. Its circuitous route took us down the unfeasibly narrow Oxfordshire lanes until we reached our terminus in the relative metropolis of Thame – our rural expedition coming to an end at 1514.

However, it's impossible to end a pub crawl in a place with a high street with so many pubs. So, purely for research purposes, we had to visit at least a couple of them.

To start with we chose the *Good Beer Guide* listed, historic and comfortable *Swan Hotel* with its good selection of *Taylor's Landlord* (another piece of serendipity), *Hook Norton Best* and guest beers. We also popped into the interestingly themed *Bird Cage* (another pub noted for its sausages) and sampled the *Bombardier*.

From Thame we headed back to our starting point – using the half-hourly 280 bus to Haddenham and then took the train back to Princes Risborough. By happy chance, while re-tracing our steps to the Market Square we passed the *Bird in Hand* – listed in the *Good Beer Guide* for its well-kept selection of *Greene King* ales.

Overall, we had a very enjoyable lunchtime and proved that with a modest amount of planning that it is possible to visit some

really excellent country pubs using only public transport.

Ditching the car to visit country pubs once in a while supports both lightly-used bus routes and rural publicans who serve quality beer – creating a virtuous circle. Make use of them both – or face losing them.

Timetables can be found at www.arriva.co.uk. The timetable described was in operation at the end of October but, due to support from local authorities, is subject to change. Show your support and prevent these services being withdrawn.

There are plenty of other pubs that can be accessed using these bus services. In particular, the rural part of the route passes close to the *Lions of Bledlow* in Bledlow, the *Crown* at Sydenham, the *Inn at Emington* and the *Three Horseshoes* in Towersey.

We'll visit some of these pubs when we next take the bus – which will hopefully be very soon.

Michael Clarke

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You must know about 1066 and all that but did you know that cider was a well-known drink at that time? It was brought over by the Romans, via the Normans. The English, possessed of great foresight, decided that cider was 'a good thing'. By 1300 cider was being produced in Buckinghamshire, Devonshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire – in fact, almost everywhere in England. In the 14th Century children were baptised in cider - it was cleaner than the water! In 1664 John Evelyn wrote 'Generally all strong and pleasant cider excites and cleanses the Stomach, strengthens Digestion and infallibly frees the Kidneys and Bladder from breeding the Gravel Stone'. I wonder whether modern medicine could learn a thing or two from that.

Farm labourers, as part of their wages – about 1/5 in fact – were given 3 or 4 pints of cider a day. If, however, you were a 2-gallon a day man you were worth the extra you drank. Sadly for some, in the latter part of the 19th century this practice was stopped by a clause in the Truck Act, 1887.

Wassailing: 'good health' or 'be whole' also goes back a long way, probably the late 17th century – that is the practice, on 12th night, of going to your apple orchard to protect trees from evil spirits and hoping that they will bear a fruitful crop. This is manifested by singing a wassail song, pouring cider over a tree's roots, making loud noises and raising your glass for a toast. Morris dancing round the trees often ensues.

I rather fancied a bit of that, particularly as I morris dance, so joined in a merry wassail at a cider farm near Ross-on-Wye. The festivities on 12th night had been postponed as the weather had been too harsh so it all happened in the middle of March, very unexpectedly. Food and drink were flowing for all the cider makers and their friends and

we were *forced* to join in and take either warm mulled or cold cider to the orchards to partake of the celebrations. Flaming torches lit our way and we witnessed cider-soaked bread being placed in the fork of a tree to attract the good spirits and trays being clashed to emulate guns being fired to ward off the bad spirits. It seemed to work – I didn't see any evil spirits at all and, after a few pints, they all seemed extremely good-natured ones.

At last people who run beer festivals are realising that there are some of us who prefer cider to beer and that it's worth their while to have a few interesting ciders on offer. This means that we can accompany our beer-drinking partners for a change, enjoy ourselves with a pint or two of welcome cider, and not have to do the driving, *again*. Come on, you cider drinkers, make your feelings known to those who organise such things, and the pace of change may well accelerate - to our benefit.

That's enough from me – I'm off to my first ever cider-only festival. Cheers!
Mary Walter

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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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WHO SAYS UNICORNS DON'T EXIST?



It is good news to come across a pub that is thriving when so many are struggling with difficult trading conditions and increased costs (usually rent). One such is the **Unicorn** at Cublington.

On more than one occasion in recent years, the **Unicorn** has been in danger of closing as previous owners have been tempted to sell the building as a private house rather than run it as a business. Luckily for Cublington, three local families, Gregory's, George's and Walls's (Shaun Walls is shown in the centre of the picture) got together and purchased the freehold of the pub. They all felt strongly that the village should not lose its pub and they have been running it since March this year.

At a **CAMRA** social held there on 10 November we talked to Shaun Walls and were pleased to learn of his total commitment to real ale and his intention to provide the village with a valuable amenity.

At the time of our visit we tasted **Greene King IPA**, **Wychwood Hobgoblin** and **Shepherd Neame Spitfire**. There are always three real ales available and a fourth at busier periods, sometimes from local micro breweries. All beers were in very good condition on the day of our visit.

As a Free House, with no brewery ties, they can buy their beers from wherever they like and will test various brews on their clientele. A beer festival (with ten ales) was held last August bank holiday weekend and more are planned for next year. There is a large and much improved garden at the rear of the pub.

Food is available at all sessions and there are two chefs with a regular team of staff both in the kitchen and the bar. A 'Pub Chef Award' certificate in the bar shows that one of the chefs, Martin Major, was a finalist in the Young Pub Chef of the Year competition.

The long bar is attractively decorated and there is a good balance between eating and drinking customers. There are log fires at each end of the long bar with a small overflow dining area beyond the inglenook on the left.

If you have not visited the **Unicorn** before, the village is situated about five miles north of Aylesbury and can be approached from either the A413 or A418. (A local press advertisement in the 1980s said 'five minutes from Aylesbury'. Please allow a bit longer than that!). Tell them you read about it in *Swan Supping*.

Nick Holt

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ADOPT A MAYOR



The 'Adopt- a- Mayor' photographic competition was launched by the *Coors/IFBB Beer Naturally Campaign*.

The *Beer Naturally Campaign* was set up by the *Independent Family Brewers of Britain* and *Coors Brewers* to promote the generic image of beer and this competition set out to challenge Britain's brewers to photograph their local mayor in a setting which would show their commitment to the UK's beers.

Out of 20 entries, the top four, as chosen by Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group, John Grogan MP, and the British Guild of Beer Writers' Roger Protz were:

1st *Arkell's*, Swindon

2nd *McMullen's*, Herts

3rd *Wychwood Brewery*, Witney

Runner up *Woodforde's*, Norfolk

The judges commended *Arkell's* picture, which features Swindon's Mayor, Peter Stoddart and Swindon's deputy Mayor, Ray Fisher (also Financial Director of *Arkell's* Brewery) seen at the Mash Tun in the depths of *Arkell's* Brewery.

The runner up shows the local mayor on *McMullen's* dray and third prize went to pictures of the Mayor of Witney, Peter Green, in the



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BEER NATURALLY COMPETITION



the Michelin starred Aubergine Restaurant in London's Chelsea. The meal will include a choice of any of the twelve beers on their recently launched beer menu.

In addition, John Grogan MP and the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group will be hosting a cocktail party at the House of Commons in February for *all* the breweries that entered the competition, and their mayors and local MPs.

The competition is part of an ongoing campaign by the *All Party Parliamentary Beer Group* and *Beer Naturally* to encourage the British government at local and national level, to appreciate and promote our national drink.

John Grogan commented:

'Not offering beer at official and diplomatic functions reflects a snobbery which has no place in a modern Britain.

'Not only is beer lower in alcohol than wine, it also has over a thousand different styles from which to choose.

'It is time that our national drink, served lightly chilled and in attractive glassware, should gain the same sort of practical and emotional support that France gives its wines.'

hop and barley fields (the latter is shown) that supply the brewery.

Arkells, *McMullen's* and *Wychwood* Breweries each win a dinner in January at


ANSWERS!

Here are the answers to our little quiz on famous beer advertising slogans from the Book of Beer Knowledge (Essential Wisdom for the Discerning Drinker) which we gave on page 11:-

1. After one, you'll do anything well.
Whitbread Tankard
2. Follow the bear.
Hofmeister
3. It looks good, tastes good and by golly it does you good!
Mackeson
4. The Cream of Manchester!
Boddingtons (soon to close?)
5. The pint that thinks it's a quart!
Whitbread Trophy
6. What your right arm's for!
Courage Tavern
7. The beer that made Milwaukee famous
Schlitz
8. No Fokker comes close!
Shepherd Neame Spitfire



The Perfect Pint



for the discerning drinker

Arkell's Brewery Ltd., Kingsdown, Swindon SN2 7RU
telephone: 01793 823026 web: www.arkells.com

THE WHIP INN

PINK ROAD
LACEY GREEN
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Great Food

Excellent Range of Real Ales

Over a hundred different
guest ales this year

Fine Wines

Good Company

Enjoy a warm welcome at the
Whip Inn

TAKES MORE THAN PRAYER TO GET IN THE GOOD BOOK!

The publication of the annual **Good Beer Guide (GBG)** is a keenly anticipated event - not least by publicans and those of their faithful regulars who aspire to have their pubs included - and rather a lot of heat, but very little light, seems to be generated when, inevitably, some are disappointed. I would like to try, in these few lines, to explain a little of the process and the difficulties involved in ensuring that all those pubs selling good beer get a fair crack at being included in what is undoubtedly an influential and prestigious publication.

Perhaps the best place to start is the **GBG** itself by quoting from an article on p.32 of the 2005 edition entitled "Compiling the Guide": "Our watchwords are beer quality. It has been our belief for thirty-two years that if a pub landlord keeps his beers well and pours perfect pints, then everything else in the pub - welcome, food, other drinks, accommodation and family facilities - will be of a high standard, too." Well that sounds simple enough! The article goes on to explain how **CAMRA** members choose their pubs by visiting them on a regular basis to check on beer quality. Therein, however, lies the difficulty and the challenge.

The *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch* of

CAMRA covers a large area: to quote from our excellent website: "The branch boundaries encompass central and southern Buckinghamshire, touching the Berkshire border at Bourne End, a small part of Hertfordshire at Long Marston and Oxfordshire at Thame. The northern boundary stops just beyond Granborough and Stewkley, about seven miles short of Buckingham". Just look at the map on the website to appreciate the size of the area - go to **CAMRA** HQ site (www.camra.org.uk) then look under 'Central Southern' & 'Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe'.

There are some 370 pubs and approximately 500 **CAMRA** members located in that large area - but only about TWENTY of those members actively provide regular information about the beer they drink. We need more members to fill in and submit beer tasting sheets (copies of which can be printed off the website). As one of those twenty I can assure you that it is an enjoyable task! But we cannot do it all ourselves!

It appears that there are some misapprehensions about **CAMRA** beer tasting 'form tickers' (as I have heard them disparagingly referred to) - there can sometimes be an unfortunate 'them and us'

attitude - but, believe me, it is the fervent wish of every **CAMRA** member that every pint they taste should be of top quality! We are not looking to give any particular pub a bad rating - but, equally, if beer quality is indifferent or poor it will be noted. It is vital therefore that landlords keep and serve their beer consistently to the highest standards.

All the available 'scores' are collated and analysed as part of a balanced Branch Committee discussion before annual recommendations for inclusion in, or exclusion from, the **GBG** are sent back to **CAMRA** HQ - but each branch has a quota - a maximum number of pubs that can feature in the guide otherwise it would become unwieldy - our branch quota is currently just THIRTY from those 370 pubs.

I hope from the above facts and figures it can readily be seen that with the best will in the world not all pubs which deserve to be in the **GBG** will make it - if only that were possible. I hope too that more members will come forward to assist - not just in submitting beer tasting forms but also in offering constructive and appreciative feedback, where due, to their local publicans on the quality of beer served.

Giles du Boulay

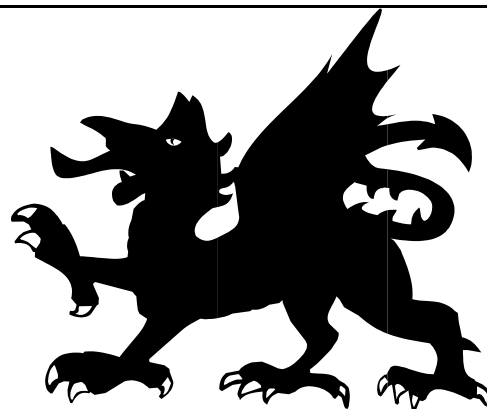
The Green Dragon

8 Churchway, Haddenham

Tel: 01844 291403

Bucks Dining Pub of the Year 2004 and 2005

Haddenham's Award Winning Village Inn



Seasons Greetings to all our Customers!

January Lunch Special

Two Courses for £10.95 (including Coffee)

Three Courses for £14.95 (including Coffee)

Simply Dinner restarts 4 January 2005

NON-SMOKING FROM 1 JANUARY 2005

Booking is essential!

www.eatatthedragon.co.uk

LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

Rebellion

Local **CAMRA** members were thrown into a panic at the end of September (just after **Swan Supping** had been sent to the printer – typical!) as e-mails were zooming around saying that the **Rebellion Brewery** had burnt down!

There was a fire in a farm building adjacent to the Brewery that was wrongly reported in the local press, which also stated that the brewery had burnt down.

For safety reasons brewing was stopped for a few days but quickly resumed and all is back to normal. Acquisition of another barn has given them 2000 sq feet of extra space that will be utilised as a cold store. The whole brewery is moving approximately 20 feet down from the front of the building to allow for a separate office space and a larger shop.

Festive beers available for takeout are *IPA* (3.7%), *Reindeer's Revenge* (4.2%) and *Roasted Nuts* (4.6%). The November Special was *Storm* (4.4%).

The brewery owned **Three Horseshoes** is in **GBG 2005** and the *Mild* (3.5) is permanently amongst the six hand pumps.

Chiltern Brewery

Since the last report Chiltern have produced their 1,000th brew. This one-off beer will be sold in 1,000 uniquely numbered bottles which will be signed by Richard Jenkinson who founded the brewery nearly 25 years ago.

This 7% ABV brew will be bottle conditioned. The labels are currently being designed and hopefully the bottles will be on sale before Christmas.

Many thanks must go to **Chiltern Brewery** for donating a barrel of *Glad Tidings* to our recent beer festival. It was voted as joint second in the **Beer of the Festival** competition.

Old Luxters

A new bottle conditioned beer has been brewed for the Windsor Farm Shop – *Old Windsor Ale*. Extra ales that have been available for purchase from the brewery shop from early November are *Gingered Winter Warmer*, *Mulled Winter Warmer* and *Spiced Winter Warmer* all at 4.5%.

Charles Wells



Ahead of **CAMRA's** 27th Bedford Beer and Cider Festival in October, **Wells Eagle IPA** was adjudged Champion Beer of Bedfordshire by the local tasting panel.

From the **Charles Wells** portfolio, **Wells Eagle IPA** is brewed in Bedford at the appropriately named Eagle Brewery. It has always been available in the Home counties, where **Charles Wells** has a long standing association, but is now beginning to gain more widespread distribution. The pale copper coloured dry beer (3.6% ABV) is brewed to an age old recipe, whose characteristic flavour is derived from the finest barley malt and famous Challenger and Golding hops.



*After an extensive refurb **The Glory Mill** is open for the traditional festive season.*

With a 40 seater non-smoking restaurant and new head chef Mark Baldry, our freshly prepared menu ranges from delicious light snacks to tantalising main courses plus those devilishly tempting home-made desserts. We also pour excellent beers and ales and have a wide selection of worldwide wines to tempt your palette.

Christmas bookings NOW being taken!

Restaurant open: 12 - 2.30pm & 7 - 9.30pm Mon to Sat

Roasts: 12pm - 3.30pm Sunday

144 Wycombe Lane, Wooburn Green

Tel: 01628 520681 Fax: 01628 532471

London Pride

Flowers IPA

Regular Guest Ales



Swan Supping

Swan Supping is distributed free of charge to pubs in the branch area. Published by the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of the **Campaign for Real Ale** and printed by **Pelican Print, Unit 14, Aylesbury Vale Industrial Park, Farmbrough Close, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1DQ Tel: 01296 422100**

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

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

Rates are Single £16, Joint £19 (at same address), Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £9, Joint OAP £12 (at same address), Under 26 £9 Date of birth _____ For Life/Overseas rates, please ask for details.

Name(s).....

Address

..... Postcode

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



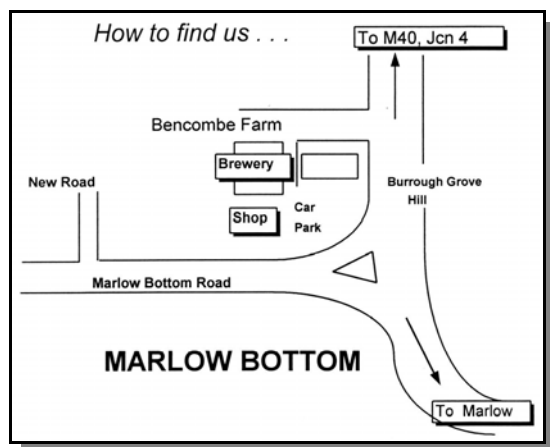
I enclose a cheque for £.....

Signature Date
AYL (Swan Supping)

REBELLION BREWERY SHOP, MARLOW

Christmas 2004 Ales

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



Local News



(Continued from page 2)

festival in October. A perry from **Saxon Manor** was the first to run out and the first ale that was emptied was **Hardy & Hansons Guzzling Goose**. Their beer of the festival was **Jennings Sneek Lifter** and locally brewed **Chiltern Beechwood** came second.

MARLOW

New **Good Beer Guide** 2005 entrant the **Carpenters Arms** has 1799 **Special Ale** (4.5) as the **Greene King** seasonal beer at present. A popular autumn ale with fruity overtones.

Courage owned the **Cross Keys** continue with their welcome changing beer policy from the **Courage** guest ale list. **Hydes Over The Moon** (4.5) and **Theakston XB** (4.5) were among a few served during the month of October.

When is a draught beer not a draught beer? One of our members spotted a placard on the pavement outside the **Cross Keys** proclaiming 'Midweek Mayhem - All day Wednesdays - All draught beers £1.70' - only to be charged £2.50 for a pint of **Hydes**! He was informed that the real ales are not part of the offer. In fact for 'draught' one should read 'keg lagers' He was not impressed (except with the quality)!

Top of the High Street pub, the **Crown** has a reputed change of landlord.

Greene King owned the **Hand and Flowers** is to be managed by the landlord of the **Carpenters Arms**, Marlow, Mr. Cedric Booles, from late November. **IPA** (3.6) and **Abbot Ale** (5.0), with view to a guest beer from the **Greene King** guest ale portfolio, will feature at the hand pumps.

Little Marlow Road pub the **Plough** has new licensees as reported in Swan Supping No.44. Rae and Cherie have reopened this locals watering hole after a 'spruce up' and a new food menu. **Rebellion IPA** (3.7) is sourced direct from the local brewery, while **Fullers London Pride** (4.1) and **Adnams Bitter** (3.7) are obtained through **Enterprise**.

NORTH MARSTON

Harold ('H') and Bob Bagnall have just left the **Bell**. The brothers have been running the **Bell** for three and a half years with Bob doing the cooking and 'H' running the bar. During their time there, they have seen many changes of ownership by pub companies or property companies: **Pubmaster**, **Punch**, **London & Edinburgh**, finally **New Lord**, a subsidiary of **London & Edinburgh**.

When Harold and Bob started at the **Bell** in the summer of 2001 there had been some speculation about whether the pub might have to close. We should be grateful to them for bringing the pub back to life and wish them well for the future. Good luck too, to the new couple who start on the 4th December.

OAKLEY

Vale Brewery's pub, the **Royal Oak** reopened in October. Completely refurbished, it has an enlarged area for diners but still retains a bar for drinkers wanting to try the selection of beer from **Vale** and other small breweries. If the food served at the opening is any guide, this pub looks like it is well worth a try, although it might be worth ringing in advance to book a table as the restaurant is proving to be very popular.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

Good Beer Guide 'regular' the **Bird in Hand** has made it three years running with entry in the **GBG** 2005. The Station Road **Greene King** locals' pub serves **IPA** and **Abbot Ale** along with a **Greene King** seasonal ale. On last visit **Suffolk Summer** (4.3) was still available and in superb form.

WEEDON

We have already reported the Bobby Rogers is the new landlord at the **Five Elms**. Sorry we got his surname wrong in the last issue.

WHEELER END

Fullers tied public house the **Chequers** has had the **Fullers** Autumn Festival ales at the hand pump of late. **Red Fox** (4.3) (first appearance from brewery in three years) and **Mr. Harry** (4.8) (first appearance from brewery in a decade) were available during October. **Highgate Davenports Bitter** (4.0) was 'guesting' along with the readily available **Fullers London Pride** (4.1).

WING

Denise Redding is the new landlady at the **Queens Head** since taking over a lease from **Punch Taverns** in early October. Current real ales are **Greene King IPA** and **Ruddles County** or **Draught Bass**. Hopefully a third beer will be added in the near future.

WOOBURN GREEN

Oriental pub restaurant the **Old Bell** served **St. Austell Tinnars Ale** (3.7) at the guest hand pump in October.



Beer Festival Diary

DECEMBER 2004

2-4 (Thursday-Saturday): 3RD HARWICH & DOVERCOURT BAY WINTER ALE FESTIVAL, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, Dovercourt.

7-11 (Tuesday-Saturday): 23RD PIGS EAR BEER FESTIVAL, York Hall, Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London, E2.

PLEASE NOTE THIS FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

It is with regret that the Pig's Ear Committee has taken the difficult decision to cancel the 2004 Festival.

This is as a result of insurmountable difficulties with the new venue. They have decided that to cancel at this stage would be preferable to bringing unnecessary inconvenience to both staff and members of the public and also running up additional costs for **CAMRA**.

They would like to take this opportunity to thank all those **CAMRA** members who have assisted with the smooth running of the Festival for the past 22 years and reassure you that it is intended that Pig's Ear will be back in the future.

JANUARY 2005

13-15 (Thursday-Saturday): 6TH CHELMSFORD WINTER BEER FESTIVAL at The Members Bar, Essex County Cricket Club, Chelmsford.

15 (Saturday): 16TH EXETER FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES at The Coaver Club, Matford Lane, Exeter, Devon.

26-29 (Wednesday-Saturday): NATIONAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL, New Century House, Manchester.

27-29 (Thu-Sat): 16TH BENT & BONGS BEER BASH (ATHERTON BEER FESTIVAL), Formby Hall, High Street, Atherton, Manchester 46.

27-29 (Thursday-Saturday): CAMBRIDGE WINTER ALE FESTIVAL, University Sports & Social Club, Mill Lane, Cambridge. (Please note change of venue). Open: Thursday / Friday 5-10.30pm; Saturday 11am-4.30pm & 6-10.30pm. Evening entrance £2, free for **CAMRA** members. 60 beers on offer with emphasis on seasonal ales and winter warmers but plenty of 'session' beers too. Food available all sessions. Contact Paul Ainsworth 01954 203230 (h), 01223 718141 (w), email paul.ainsworth@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

28-29 (Friday-Saturday): 10TH BURTON WINTER ALES FESTIVAL, Burton-on-Trent Town Hall, King Edward Place, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

DECEMBER 2004

Friday 3rd BRANCH THIRTY YEAR CELEBRATION

Lunchtime. Meet at Queens Head, Aylesbury then pose for a photograph outside the Derby Arms site where thirty years ago the **Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch** came into being at an A.G.M. of the **Buckinghamshire Branch** of **CAMRA**.

Friday 17th AYLESBURY CHRISTMAS PUB CRAWL

Starting at Kings Head 7:30pm the progressing to the Hobgoblin, Rockwood, Queens Head etc etc and ending up in a curry house.

JANUARY 2005

Wednesday 5th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Old Ship, Cadmore End.

Wednesday 12th BRANCH SOCIAL

9:00pm Le de Spencer Arms, Downley Common.

Wednesday 19th WOOBURN SOCIAL

9:00pm Queen & Albert, 10:00pm Royal Standard.

Wednesday 26th WING SOCIAL

9:00pm Queens Head, 9:45pm Cock Inn.

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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DISRAELI ARMS,
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£55,000

Well presented traditional pub by new BMW Offices & Wycombe Retail Park. Fully fitted kitchen.

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Fleurets London Office: Cameron Campbell Tel: 020 7636 8992



NR GERRARDS CROSS, BUCKS **NEW**

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Traditional 'olde worlde' style destination venue in picturesque Buckinghamshire village. 60 covers. FREE OF TIE.

Leasehold & Contents

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TO LET – NIL PREMIUM **NEW**

MIN CAP REQ'D £37,000

Traditional pub in predominately residential area, on the fringe of Slough town centre. Beer barrelage '02 – 352 '03 – 261 and '04 – 278.

NEW FULLERS 10 YEAR LEASE

Sole Letting Rights Ref: LS-411203/C



DOWNLEY, BUCKS **NEW**

£65,000

Community pub in residential area in good decorative order. Lounge and separate games bar, 4 bed accom, garden and parking. 20 yr lease from Oct 2001.

Leasehold & Contents

Sole Selling Rights Ref: LS-410197/C

6X[®] education

