

Issue 41



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Swan Supping

FREE

APR/MAY 2004



BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR



The Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of **CAMRA** is pleased to announce that its **Pub of the Year (POTY)** is the **Shepherds Crook**, Crowell.

Under landlord Steve Scowen, this freehouse has been a regular in the **Good Beer Guide**, and it is known all over the country for its fine ale and food.

In the past, Steve has made regular trips to small regional brewers, such as **Bathams** and **Donningtons** to pick up beer and has gained such a reputation for supporting small brewers that **Loddon Brewery** was launched at the pub.

Featured in the current **Good Beer Guide**, the **Shepherds Crook** is described as a comfortable inn in the



foothills of the Chilterns. Until 1991 it was called the **Catherine Wheel** and the current landlord took over in 1996.

A presentation will be made in the near future and the details will appear on our website which can be accessed from the main **CAMRA** site on www.camra.org.

uk then looking under **Central Southern** for **Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe**.

The **Shepherds Crook** will be entered into the Regional POTY where it will compete against pubs chosen by the other branches in the Central Southern Region. The successful pub from this competition is then entered into the **National POTY**.

In February, **CAMRA** announced that the **Crown and Thistle** in Gravesend, Kent, a pub that had closed down in 2000, has won the prestigious **National Pub of the Year** title for 2004. Luckily, joint owner Phillip Rush recognised the potential of the pub, reopened it at Easter 2001, then went on to prove that a pub can thrive by offering real ale!



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ASTON CLINTON

Wayne Felgate, previously manager at the **Swan**, Great Kimble, has taken over from John & Jan Andrews at the **Oak**. One change is the reintroduction of *Chiswick Bitter* to go with the others from the **Fuller's** stable: *London Pride*, *Honey Dew* and *ESB*. The tradition of the Beer Festival is to be continued and the next one is planned for early July.

AYLESBURY

The announcement of the opening of Aylesbury's first lapdancing club (St. James Club in Buckingham Street) does not hold out any hope for another real ale outlet. However, if they fancy making a break from the norm for these establishments, perhaps they might like to try *Bateman's Miss Luscious* or anything from the *Dorothy Goodbody's* range from *Wye Valley*!

The **Conservative Club** has been gutted by a fire which could be arson.

The **Duck** has been reported in the local paper as having a ghost and that a medium has been called in. As the **Duck** is run by the **Spirit** pub group, it causes people to think about publicity stunts! Perhaps the ghost

was responsible for the removal of the real ale from the pub!

The **John Kennedy**, which is also run by the **Spirit** pub group, has stopped selling its popular cask version of *Tetley's Bitter*, despite protests from many of the locals (perhaps they blame another ghost!). The pub is being refurbished so it is hoped that their real ale drinkers won't be ignored and the non-smooth version will return!

The **Kings Head** is reported as having called in a group of ghostbusters to deal with a phantom in this pub owned by the **National Trust**. Perhaps the ghost here could get together with the one at the **Duck** if he/she/it is feeling lonely!

The **Market Tavern** is now open seven days a week and has started offering Sunday lunches as well as lunchtime food during the rest of the week. The two real ales they currently serve are *Charles Wells Bombardier* and *Wadworth 6X*.

The **Old Plough and Harrow** is back! After being closed for a long time, then being brought back as the **Whistlin' Duck**, the pub has

struggled under a series of managers. Let's hope the reversion to its original name will bring it back to its former **Good Beer Guide** entry glory!

The **Rockwood** was serving *Youngs Bitter* and *Draught Bass* when last visited.

BEACONSFIELD

Work has started on the conversion of the **Old Hare** into a pizza restaurant despite the protests and petitions of the locals. Is this the end of the road for this much loved hostelry?

BIERTON

The **Bell** is now featuring a different guest beer every fortnight alongside the usual **Fullers** range. The guest ale when going to press was *Jennings Cumberland Ale*.

Bobs Barn at the Golf Club has now had over thirty different ales since a change of management last August. More details next issue.

DOWNLEY COMMON

The **Le De Spencer Arms** will be holding a beer festival over the Bank Holiday weekend of 29th/31st of May.

FLACKWELL HEATH

Street-corner boozer, the **Green Dragon** entered into the **National Pub Week** gregariousness, after a pub regular sent off to **CAMRA** for an information pack. Various drinking contests were undertaken during the **CAMRA** promotional event. At the bar, *Greene King IPA* (3.6), *Fuller's London Pride* (4.1) and *Greene King Abbot Ale* (5.0), tempt the real ale fraternity at this friendly watering hole.

GIBRALTAR

Plans to rebuild the **Bottle & Glass**, which was very badly damaged by a fire last year, have been dealt a body blow following the rejection by the council's planning department of the proposed enlargement of the pub. The plans called for the 17th Century hostelry to be expanded to cater for 132 people and this would drastically reduce the amount of parking available. Parking on the street would be dangerous as the A418 is a very busy road and this formed the main reason for the objection from the villagers. *Greene King* say that they are reviewing the situation. Let's all hope for the best!

(Continued on page 15)

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BEER FESTIVAL AWARD PRESENTATION

'Beer of the Festival 2003' Certificate Presentation

Saturday, 14th February saw me on my way to Alton in Hampshire to present the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch 'Beer of the Festival' certificate to the *Triple fff* brewery for their *Pressed Rat and Warthog* (3.8% ABV).

Because it was a Saturday, the brewery only had a representative on site for a couple of hours to cope with weekend off-sales. The young chap on duty was called Adam and during the half an hour I was present, he had three customers calling for anything from two pint to Polypin takeaways.

The Brewery is a compact unit situated on an Industrial Estate but still managed to pack in six fermenting vessels of various sizes.

I presented the certificate (see picture) and was then invited to



sample the special beer brewed for Valentine's Day, named *My Funny Valentine*, which had the typical *Triple fff* bitter taste.

Following the brewery visit, I continued to the only *Triple fff* tied pub, situated near the railway station in Alton and aptly named the *Railway Arms*. I have visited this pub several

times on my visits to the Mid Hants Preserved Steam Railway which runs from the station.

Three *Triple fff* beers were available, plus three beers from the *Oakleaf* Brewery in Gosport. I sampled the *Triple fff* *Moondance* and then the *Oakleaf* *Blakes Heaven* and *Stokers Stout*. For good measure

I left a few *Swan Suppings* on the bar.

The day was rounded off with a trip on the aforementioned Steam Railway to Alresford and back.

A very satisfactory day combining both of my main interests – Beer and Steam.

Dick Moore (photograph by John Farmer)

The runners up for the *Beer of the Year* from the 2003 festival were *Castle Rock Hedgehog* and *Hampshire Merlin's Magic*.

The next opportunity for you to vote for a *Beer of the Festival* will be in October (29th/30th) when we will be holding the 11th *Aylesbury Vale Beer Festival*.

This will, once again, be held at the Eskdale Road Community Centre in conjunction with the *Friends of Florence Nightingale House*.

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REAL AYLESBURY – YOU MUST BE JOKING!

AYLESBURY

What a dismal state of affairs it is that Aylesbury town centre does not have one really good pub for real ale enthusiasts. Instead, we have a number of pubs which may on a good day serve one or two of the well-known ales, sometimes in good nick and sometimes not.

You only have to read the pages of *Swan Supping* to discover just how far **CAMRA** members are prepared to travel in their quest for quiet and cosy pubs which consistently provide an interesting range of beers of top quality served by a publican who understands real ale and how to look after it.

A few weeks ago, for example, I was staying in the Cambridgeshire town of March – in the heart of the Fen Country. A short walk from our guesthouse, was one of the best pubs I have visited for a very long time: – **The Rose & Crown** (GBG2004 p.54). The landlord is clearly dedicated to the enjoyment of real ale.

There are seven handpumps, and two ciders plus a perry on gravity dispense. No ghastly jangle noise and a no-smoking bar, friendly locals and bar staff enhance the pleasures of the beers on offer. I was staying in March for

just four nights, and tried all of them (except the wheat beer, which is not to my taste) each night – at least once! The quality of the beers was outstanding and the range of tastes was excellent.

Full details of the beers and (**Saxon**) ciders available were clearly written up on a blackboard in the bar along with an accumulating total of the number of different beers that the pub had served since the record was started – the number stood at 1886 on my last night there. The **Church End** mild, **Gravediggers** (3.8%), was just coming to an end on my first night and was replaced by **Nethergate Priory Mild** (3.5%); next on the list was **Iceni Pride of Norfolk** (4.0%); **Corverdale Teresa's Birthday Brew** (4.0%) gave way by the end of the week to **Fox Heacham Gold** (3.9%); **Archers Village Bitter** (3.6%) was the current standard session beer and on the stronger side we had **Old Mill Bullion** (4.7%) and **Hampshire Not Tonight Josephine** (5.0%) which not surprisingly soon went to be replaced in turn by **Wychwood Yorick** (4.3%). The wheat beer **Fenland Snow Wheat** came to an end on my last night, so I was lucky enough to make my acquaintance with **Rebellion Turncoat** (4. something) – I can't read my notes, they had become a tad on the untidy side by then...

Turncoat - A wonderful Buckinghamshire brewed beer available in Cambridgeshire – but what chance is there of finding it in Aylesbury? I think the above list says it all.

Come on Aylesbury publicans, let's have some wider choice and better quality to entice us to stay in town!

Giles du Boulay

<You would have thought that the popularity of our Annual Beer Festival would serve as yet another nudge in the right direction! Add to that the number of excellent local breweries. There is the Supply AND the Demand.-Ed>

MARLOW

Like most old towns around the country, which had a thriving brewery located in its town centre, odds-on a bounty of pubs and alehouses frequented the surrounding streets. Marlow, in South Bucks, fitted that criteria exactly. **Thomas Wethered and Sons** (circa 1758) was sited between the High Street and Portland Alley and flanked by Pound Lane, and has only fairly recently (1987), brewed its final gyle of ale.

The family brewers provided employment for large numbers of local workers in their



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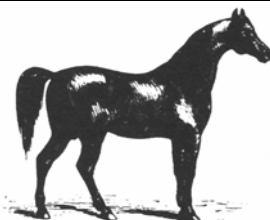
**CAMRA Listed with a choice of four real ales
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Monday 5th April - **Hydes Fine & Dandy** (4.2%)
Friday 9th April - **Gales Frolic Bitter** (4.4%)
Monday 12th April - **Badger Best Bitter** (4.0%)
Friday 16th April - **Oakham Harlequin** (4.9%)
Monday 19th April - **Coach House Squires Gold** (4.2%)
Friday 23rd April - **Arundel Winston Church Ale** (4.7%)

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A STORM BREWING IN MARLOW

early days of brewing. In the 18th Century, a galaxy of pubs and beerhouses sprouted in Marlow to take the local alcoholic produce and so support each other. Sadly, many of these drinking dens have fallen due to supposed “progress and development”.

Dean Street is a prime example of this. In the late 1800s, countless pubs adorned this, at the time, run-down area. Locally, it was known as “The City”. Why? Well, at the top of Dean Street was *The Bank of England*, the bottom, being then Spittal Square, was *The Mint*, and in between these two pubs was the aptly named *Royal Exchange*.

Further now defunct alehouses have also slipped into the mists of time. *The Greyhound* in Spittal Street, *The Horns* in Chapel Street, *The Barge Pole* in St. Peter Street, *The Three Tuns*, West Street and *The Black Boy* in Church Passage.

Pubs have diminished in Marlow for hundreds of years. Boom or bust? Nowadays, some of the “modern public” say that there are still too many pubs in the town. But, there are fewer now than for a great many years. What with that, and the population in Marlow increasing immensely on the border of spiralling out of control, there are fewer pubs than ever to meet the

mounting attendance in the town.

Marlow has become the “in place to reside” in modern day Britain, mainly for its schools, abundance of restaurants, bistros, and lastly, its diminishing public houses. When I first entered a pub to imbibe alcohol (legally), **Wethereds** were still in operation and owned most of the pubs. In any case, every pub in Marlow served real ale, if not from **Wethereds**, then from **Courage**, **Brakspear** or **Benskins**. Nowadays, real ale in some local pubs has become extinct from apathy by certain landlords, together with the alcopop youth binge drinking culture brigade.

Only fairly recently, *The Bank of England* has been demolished to make way for residential flats to be erected on the site. *The Crown and Anchor*, Oxford Road, still stands but has been renovated into a business premise by the owner. *The Hogshead*, High Street, a champion for the local real ale connoisseur in the late 1990's, is to resort to two handpumps. A national streamlining. When first opened, *The Hogshead Alehouse*, Marlow, had thirteen handpumps, four further beers on gravity behind the bar, a real cider sandwiched between the casks and a good selection of Belgian beer on offer. Independent breweries' ales once fought for

space at this beer temple, now just a pleasant recollection. Thanks for the memory Mr. Colin Whaley!

Other pubs in the town of late seem to have got complacent with their real ale quality. Whether, it is a matter of accountability to their hierarchy mentors or wanton indifference to the public right for liberal choice is the debateable conundrum. Hopefully, this is only a passing lull, and real ale will triumph again, with increased choice and better quality in your pint glasses.

There is a light on the horizon with the excellent local **Rebellion** brewery supplying many pubs in the town with their tasty brews. *The Two Brewers*, *The Duke of Cambridge* and *The Carpenters Arms* are a trio of pubs that are currently serving ale to the standard that all pubs should aim for when keeping their patrons' real ale.

Both in Marlow, and throughout the country, real ale is part of our heritage and has hundreds of years of pedigree to back up the brewing industry in general. It just needs to be given a fair “crack of the whip” at the handpumps in pubs, to remain part of today's ever demanding society.

Earl Lea

Tony, Ian & Lynne welcome you to
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NEW BREWERY



Butler's Brewery Company Limited

Butler's Brewery was started in 2003 by Mark and Sarah Butler, in South Oxfordshire, on the historic Mapledurham estate.

Work started three years ago converting an old saw mill in to the brew house and finally in 2003 a six barrel plant was installed. Brewing commenced late 2003 with their first brew *Winter Reserve* 4.6% going in to local pubs at Christmas, *Butler's Oxfordshire Bitter (B.O.B.)* 3.6% quickly followed.

In January they launched their 4.2% *Granary Bitter*, a smooth

single hopped bitter.

All their bitters are made using quality traditional ingredients. Their water is from the estate's own private source, English grown malting barley, and hops from Hereford, Worcester and Kent, and their own yeast strain are all that's used.

Later this year will see the launch of their first bottle conditioned ale, a 5.8% beer called *Butler's Old Specific*.

The tasting notes are as follows:

Butler's Oxfordshire Bitter (3.6%). A pale coloured traditional bitter, moderate in strength, but full flavoured with lots of hop aroma.

Butler's Granary Bitter (4.2%). A rich ruby red coloured best bitter, easy drinking with good hop notes. Good body and full of flavour.

Butler's Winter Reserve (4.6%). A dangerously drinkable 4.6. Rich red coloured, full bodied with good hop bitterness levels.

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LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

BRAKSPEAR

In October 2002, *W. H. Brakspear* ceased brewing in Henley On Thames.

Refresh UK then took over responsibility for brewing the brands. Due to lack of spare capacity at their *Wychwood Brewery* in Witney, only the *Brakspear* seasonal beers could be brewed there and arrangements had to be made to brew the higher volume brands of *Brakspear Bitter* and *Special at Burtonwood*.

Refresh committed themselves to bringing the brewing of *Brakspear* beers back to Oxfordshire and immediately started the search for a site on which to build a new *Brakspear* brewery.

Despite considering over 80 locations, nothing was looking hopeful until a stroke of good fortune - industrial space adjacent to the existing *Wychwood Brewery* became

available. Plans to expand the brewery and increase capacity were immediately drawn up. The building work commenced in December 2003.

The enlarged *Wychwood Brewery* will incorporate a new brewhouse using the original *Brakspear* copper and a separate *Brakspear* fermenting room, using the original *Brakspear* fermenters and dropping vessels, so characteristic of their famous Double Drop brewing system.

The plan is to have *Wychwood* brewing back up to full capacity during April and then commence beer flavour matching trials for *Brakspear Bitter* and *Special*. They hope to be able to supply the trade with flavour matched, Witney brewed, *Brakspear Bitter* and *Special* by the end of June 2004.

CHILTERN

Chiltern Brewery has had a lot of work done recently

refurbishing their Brewhouse.

It should double their capacity immediately and in the long term, when they get additional fermenters, it should quadruple it. They hope to be able to brew every day if required by cutting down the brew time to half a day rather than a whole day i.e. this will give them time in the afternoon to prepare for another brew the next morning.

They had to stop brewing for about six weeks to allow the refurbishment to take place, but stock levels had been increased so they did not run out of beer.

The only new equipment they have purchased is an Underback and Paraflow. They also have had a Mash Mixer installed in the Mash Tun as well as an Auger (used to load the malt).

The Fermenting Vessels have had coolers added and the amount of pipework in the Brewery has been quadrupled.

They are also in the process of

introducing new labels on their bottles. The new label for *Three Hundreds Old Ale* is especially catching. *Dick Moore*

LODDON

Loddon Brewery brewed a multi-grain beer brewed especially for St Patrick's Day called *B'Gorrah* and *Bloomin 'Eck*, their new seasonal beer for February and March is out now.

If you think these names are silly and think you can do better, then you can win a brewery tour and a polypin of beer! They haven't been able to think of a name for this autumn's (October & November) seasonal beer.

You have until the 31st of July to send our suggestions for a name to their website on www.loddonbrewery.com. If your idea wins then you and up to twelve of your friends get a tour of the brewery and a polypin of your chosen *Loddon* beer.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Whistlin' Duck is no more!

As we announced last issue, the **Whistlin' Duck** can quack no more. The pub has returned to its rightful name of the **Old Plough & Harrow!** Now, all we want is for the real ale to be available on a regular basis, then up it to two real ales and then get back to the standard it used to be when it was a regular in the *Good Beer Guide!* We don't ask for much, do we!

Carlsberg Tetley name change

CAMRA has expressed its disappointment at the decision to change the name of **Carlsberg Tetley**, the UK's fourth biggest brewer, to **Carlsberg UK**.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications, said, "**Tetley** is a word which is synonymous with British beer. Dropping it from the company's name does nothing to demonstrate their

commitment to the **Tetley** brand or the British ales' market in general. It reinforces its commitment to its biggest global lager brand while burying part of the UK's brewing heritage."

Famous names, such as **Whitbread**, **Bass** and now **Tetley's**, are being replaced by global company names with few, if any, links to Britain's brewing history and usually mean little to

the UK's beer drinkers. **Whitbread** is now owned by Belgian brewing giant, **Interbrew**, while **Bass** is now owned by US company, **Coors**.

Carlsberg Tetley has demonstrated some commitment to the ales sector and to **Tetley's** in particular but, this is an unnecessary and insensitive step which will be unpopular with British beer drinkers.

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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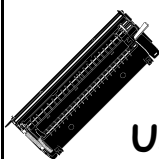


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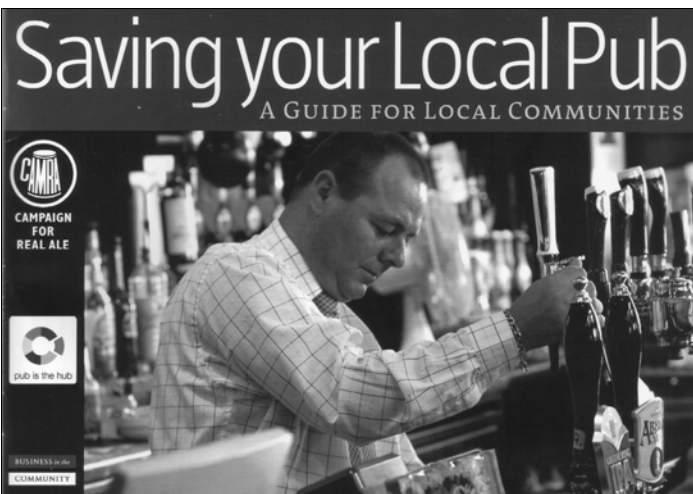
SAVING YOUR PUB!

CAMRA, in conjunction with *Pub is the Hub* and *Business in the Community*, has produced a booklet entitled 'Saving your Local Pub'.

This is a guide for local communities whose pub is under threat. It explains how to develop a campaign for the community to purchase the pub, then gives help on running the pub on behalf of the community itself.

There are case studies based on places where this has succeeded giving ideas for business plans, countering claims that the pub is no longer viable, dealing with planning appeals and raising the necessary funds.

This booklet is FREE! It can be obtained from the editor (contact details are given on the back page).



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***No strangers here,
 only Friends you have yet to meet***

MILD MONTH

*M is for, May I have a
 Mild, Landlord?*

Common belief is that *mild* is only black in colour, is a northern delicacy and comes from the slops from the spillage trays all mixed together.

The answer to these three questions is **NO, NO, and definitely NOT!** *Mild* is a separate unique style of beer, which until the 1950's outsold bitter. In 1959 it accounted for 42% of beer consumption in Britain. So why the decline?

Mild nowadays is considered to be a synonym for weak. It also has never shed that image of being supped by northern men wearing flat cloth caps in smoke filled bars discussing whippets and vicissitudes. A real shame, as this flavoursome brew, which is available in both light and dark varieties, has a lot to offer at the pub handpumps.

The Black Country (West Midlands) is still a *mild* drinking

stronghold. With their local breweries **Banks's, Batham, Highgate, Holden's, Sarah Hughes and Olde Swan** all brewing superb both light and dark *milds* between them, this area of the country has plenty to entice the *mild* imbibor.

The local *mild* seeker has to look no further than the **Vale** brewery (Haddenham) for its **Black Swan Mild** (3.3) and The Three Horseshoes pub (Burroughs Grove), for some of their **Rebellion Mild** (3.5), at this **Rebellion** brewery tap watering hole.

A little further afield in Berkshire is the fabulous **Maggs Magnificent Mild** (3.8) from Dave and Helens **West Berkshire** brewery. Oxfordshire offers **Kite Mild** (3.2) from the new South Oxon, **Loddon** brewery, and the ever-popular **Hook Norton** which produces a **Best Mild** (3.0).

Nationally, **Greene King** brew a moorish **Dark XX Mild** (3.0),

The Green Dragon

8 Churchway, Haddenham

Tel: 01844 291403

Bucks Dining Pub of the Year 2004

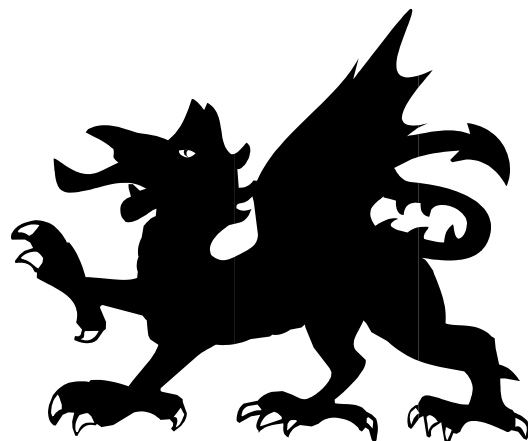
Haddenham's Award Winning Village Inn

Every Tuesday and Thursday Night Special

A two Course Meal for £11.95

Choice from starter and main course or main course and sweet

A la Carte menu always available



Sunday Lunch – 3 Courses for £16-95

Booking recommended!

www.eatatthedragon.co.uk

WHY NOT ASK FOR MILD?



Tetley has both light and dark *mild* to choose from, and **Gales** (Hampshire), their **Festival Mild** (4.8) is

adopting quite a grateful brethren. These are just the tip of the *mild* iceberg, so why don't we see them at the handpumps in our local boozers?

Landlords on the whole, seem very weary of *mild* as it could be a lost cause to their business in beer sales. But once *mild* has been thoroughly established in a pub, punters will pay homage to drink their favourite tippie. The trouble is getting from its introduction to its establishment at the handpump, and thereafter. A few have succeeded, so others should just try it. Ask your landlord for a barrel in the pub and go from there.

Around the country, there will be certain *Mild Trails* and passport

stamping pub visits, where *mild* is readily available or as a special guest beer during the month of May which is *mild* promotion month each and every year. So go on, try some, hassle landlords for some, drink some and taste and enjoy the difference. You will be pleasantly surprised.

Mildred Drinksome

Make May a Mild Month

Mild that that should be available in the **CAMRA Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe** branch:-

Burroughs Grove-The **Three Horseshoes-Rebellion Mild** (3.5)

Haddenham-The **Red Lion-Ansells Mild** (3.4)

Marlow-The **Carpenters Arms-Greene King XX Mild** (3.0) (promised)

High Wycombe-The **Falcon (Wetherspoons)**-Various Milds (Well, they have done for the last few Mild promotions!).

Old Luxters

Farm Brewery

Est. 1980

**CASK & BOTTLE CONDITIONED
REAL ALES from £1.30 per pint**

Bitter 4% ABV

Special 4.5% ABV

Dark Roast 5% ABV

Also available in ½ gal carry keg,
36pt polypin and 72pt firkin

**Come and taste before you buy!
Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm
Weekends 11am - 6pm**

Old Luxters Farm Brewery
Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6JW
Tel: 01491 638330 Fax: 01491 638645
Email: enquiries@chilternvalley.co.uk
Web: www.chilternvalley.co.uk

One Pin Inn

*A Traditional Olde Worlde
English Pub with fine home
cooking and a Great
Atmosphere*



- * Fully refurbished by new Owners
- * Extensive Bar Menu with "Specials" Daily
- * Choice of Fresh Fish Dishes served Wednesday to Saturday
- * Food Served Tuesday to Saturday 12 - 2.30 £ 6 to 9pm
- * Traditional Roast Dinners served every Sunday 12 - 3.00
- * Full details can be found on our Web Site

One Pin Lane,
Farnham Common,
Bucks SL2 3RD
Tel: 01753 643035

www.theonepin.co.uk

DEALING WITH SMOKE IN PUBS



CAMRA signs up to the Charter for Smoking in Public Places

CAMRA, has thrown its weight behind the industry-led Charter for Smoking in Public Places and is the first non-industry group to become a signatory following its own research into consumer views on smoke in pubs.

The Charter, announced in the 1998 'Smoking Kills' White Paper is a close co-operation between the hospitality industry and the Department of Health. It is based on using market forces and customer choice to drive change and involves five smoking options which enable customers to 'vote with their feet' if a pub, restaurant or hotel doesn't meet their needs.

CAMRA's research showed that:

* 50% of adults disagree with a total ban on smoking in pubs and bars, 30% are in favour of a total ban, 29% of men and 32% of women support a total ban.

* Of regular pub users, only 18% of adults support a total ban.

* Only 40% of non-smokers support a total ban compared with 11% of smokers.

* 83% of adults support the view that pubs, where possible, should have a number of rooms to meet the needs of both smokers and non-smokers. Only 6% disagreed with this position.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications, said, "The Charter represents a positive and effective way forward to manage smoke in pubs. Choice is the key issue for consumers and Charter-compliant pubs tell customers about their smoking policy before they enter the premises, so if they don't like the policy, they can easily choose to go elsewhere."

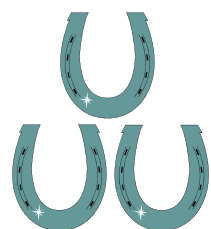
"Our research shows that a total ban is not what the public wants and we believe that the Charter represents public feeling on the issue of smoke in pubs. It is essential, however, that every pub in the land starts to take this issue seriously and signs up to the Charter. It is up to the industry to get its own

house in order and make sure that their premises provide a comfortable environment for smokers and non-smokers alike. If they fail to do this, then a total ban on smoking in public places is likely before too long."

CAMRA believes that public support and views on smoking in pubs will also change as more pubs become Charter-compliant and consumer awareness of the Charter grows.

Mr. Benner added, "The key issue for pub customers, both smokers and non-smokers, is comfort. No one likes to sit in a smoke-filled back bar with their eyes stinging and their throats burning. The Charter offers a solution to this problem. It encourages good practice through smoke-free areas and rooms and improved ventilation and extraction facilities. It's quite likely that people's views will turn even more against a total ban as the atmosphere in pubs improves over time."

"We're announcing our support for the Charter in National Pubs Week as smoke in pubs is an important issue with most pub-going adults. My advice to consumers is to look out for the Charter signs outside pubs, so they know what the smoking policy is within. If there is no sign, politely ask the Licensee why they are not signed up to the Charter and encourage them to do so."



REBELLION'S

BREWERY TAP NOW OPEN

THE THREE HORSESHOES

Burroughs Grove Hill, (Old Wycombe Road), Marlow

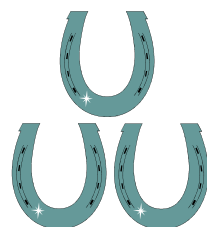
Rebellion's first pub, ½ mile from the brewery

Now serving our entire range of 5 real ales

Excellent quality beer, wine & food

01628 483109

Good sized garden & car park



HOW GOOD IS YOUR PINT?

Are you a **CAMRA** member who goes out to enjoy a pint! Now you can pass on your feelings about the beer to us (or **CAMRA** HQ) using new cards which have been introduced. The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is a 6 (0-5) point scale for judging beer quality in pubs.

It is an easy to use system, designed to assist branches in selecting pubs for the **Good Beer Guide** and also monitor beer quality by encouraging **CAMRA** members to report beer quality on any pub.

The forms, which can be obtained **FREE** from the editor, record your name, date, pub name, location, score out of 5 and the name of the beer.

What do the scores mean?

0 Undrinkable. No cask ale available or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.

1 Poor. Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2 Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3 Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4 Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5 Excellent. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

CAMRA National Beer Scoring Scheme

Surveyor _____
 Mem.No. _____ Date of survey ____/____/____
 Pub _____
 Location _____
 County _____ Score 0-5 _____
 Beer _____ (optional)

ARKELL'S ESTD 1843 The Perfect Pint



for the discerning drinker

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



Vale Brewery of Haddenham

offer CAMRA Award Winning Local Ales
 traditionally brewed from only the finest
 ingredients, available in polypins and party packs.
 To order telephone 01844 290008

| 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 |

Buy a
 mixed case
 (12 bottles)
 for £20

Royal Oak Aston Abbotts

4 miles north of Aylesbury, off A418



600 year old thatched pub

- ◆ Open fires
- ◆ Three real ales
- ◆ Extensive meals
- ◆ Bed & Breakfast
- ◆ Outside bars catered for

Hosts: Gary and Teri
 Tel: 01296 681262



*is now stocking
London's Grand Union
Brewery range of Award
winning ales*



GRAND UNION BREWERY



Tel : 01296 420261

Black Country Trip

The date has been set for our annual coach trip to the Black Country as **Saturday 3rd July**. We are running a week later this year to avoid the European Football (what price an England v. France final on the following day?).



We will be visiting all the old favourite pubs, so the usual great time will be had by the regulars! If you haven't been along on the trip before, you are severely missing out, so sign up today!

Pickups (and dropdowns in reverse order) will be made from

Bierton, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Stokenchurch.

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

Although at the time of going to press the price of the trip has not been confirmed, tickets are expected to be about £20 each.

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

CAMBRIDGE

Whilst you have your diaries out, you should make a note of the annual pilgrimage to Cambridge. This year's trip has been brought forward by a month to Saturday 21st August. Further details next issue.



*Real Ale &
Real Food*



Why not celebrate your wedding, birthday, christening or other special occasion in the delightful surroundings of **The Clifden Arms**. A marquee is available for larger functions. Call us on 01844 339273.

Vicki invites you to The Clifden Arms, Worminghall.

Take in the atmosphere of a fine English country pub. Our food, prepared by our chef, Tony, is as appealing as the setting, with a large garden and children's fun play area.

Enjoy a traditional pub lunch in the bar or choose from our comprehensive menu in the restaurant. Children's menu available.

At the weekend, why not bring the family and enjoy our traditional Sunday lunch.

Special lunch board every Monday to Thursday (plus Wednesday evening), offering two meals for £6-50

Curry & Quiz night every Thursday

Ever changing range of real ales, from four different breweries

Meals served 12 – 2.30pm & 6.30 – 9pm
Monday to Saturday, 12 – 3pm Sunday
(no meals Sunday evening)

Bar open all day Saturday and Sunday

The Clifden Arms



Local News



Beer Festival Diary

(Continued from page 2)

HADDENHAM

A beer festival has been planned for the village. It is due to take place over the weekend of 10th/11th of July. Full details will appear in our next issue.

HENTON

The **Peacock** will be holding a charity dinner dance night in aid of Stoke Mandeville Hospital on Friday 21st May. When visited on a recent branch social, the **Peacock** was serving **Castle Rock Snowwhite**, **Vale Edgar's Golden Ale**, **Morland Old Speckled Hen** and **Leadmill Three Lions**!

HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Gate** has closed following a compulsory purchase order by the Council. Its loss is part of the planned redevelopment of the town centre known as 'Project Phoenix'. Landlord, Brian Harrison, has been compensated for the loss of his pub. However, how will his regulars be compensated?

The **White Horse** was featured on a documentary on 'Britain's Toughest Pubs' and has seen an increase in trade as curious people turn up to check it out. What's next for the ideas-strapped TV companies? Perhaps we could have 'Britain's Most Haunted Pubs' (see elsewhere) or 'Britain's Tidiest Hanging Baskets'? Unfortunately, the list is endless.

HUGHENDEN VALLEY

Dorset brewery, **Palmers**, was represented with its 200 (5.0) ale at the **Harrow** during the March local CAMRA branch meeting. This premium beer was brewed initially to celebrate two hundred years of brewing at this Bridport family brewery.

MARLOW

The recent building work has been completed at the **Carpenters Arms** in Spittal Street. An extra drinking area has been constructed, linking the old rear door to the newly refurbished existing toilets. A dartboard and more seating is now available at this cosy **Greene King** local. Their **IPA**, **Tanners Jack** and **Abbot Ale** are on parade at the hand pumps, though the **Tanners Jack** (4.4) is due to be exchanged shortly.

Town centre tavern the **Chequers**, owned by **Brakspears**, offered new beer **Brass Monkey** (4.0) during February and March as the brewers seasonal beer.

The **Coach and Horses** continues to offer **Brakspear Bitter** (3.4) and **Courage Best** (4.0) with the option to dine in or take-away their Chinese cuisine.

West Street watering hole the **Hand and Flowers** has closed at the time of going to press. After a couple of managers have left, the future of this second **Greene King** town establishment is uncertain.

The **hog's head** (ex **Hogshead**) has reopened, after a recent makeover, with a reduced number of hand pumps. The four remaining serve **Caledonian Deuchars IPA**, **Fuller's London Pride**, **Rebellion IPA** and **Ringwood Best**. Bright lights and loud music seem to be the norm most nights. Be warned!

Street- corner pub, the **Marlow Donkey** has real ale again (hurray!) at the bar. The sole hand pumped beer, **Greene King IPA** is a step in the right direction after a few barren years for cask beer at this ex-**Wethered** pub.

MEDMENHAM

Road-side public house, the **Dog and Badger**, has been put up for sale by its recent proprietors Michael and Isabelle Bridges. A move overseas seems to be on the cards. **Fuller's London Pride** (4.1) and **Vale Notley Ale** (3.3) are available while enjoying its olde worlde ambience.

WOOBURN COMMON

Country inn, the **Royal Standard** continues with its 'permanent' beer festival, due to their ten real ales being available of late. Five ales are on hand pumps, five on gravity, three of which being ever-changing guest beers. A dark beer, sometimes a stout or porter is usually on offer. Recent offerings include **Hopback Back Row** (4.6), **Youngs Double Chocolate** (5.2), **Adnams Tally Ho** (7.0) and **Robinsons Enigma** (4.7).

WOOBURN GREEN

Two popular beers present themselves on the bar at the **Rose and Crown**: **Fuller's London Pride** and **Youngs Bitter**.

WYCOMBE MARSH

Four real ales consisting of **Greene King IPA**, **Fullers London Pride**, **Shepherd Neame Spitfire** and **Greene King Speckled Hen** were on parade during a recent branch meeting at the **Disraeli**. This L-shaped interior pub design works well after its latest refurbishment, boasting a congenial atmosphere from its drinkers and diners alike.

APRIL

1-3 (Thursday-Saturday): **DONCASTER BEEREX** at the Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Doncaster Racecourse.

1-3 (Thursday-Saturday): **WALSALL BEER FESTIVAL**, Walsall Town Hall, Leicester Street, Walsall.

1-4 (Thursday-Sunday): **13TH MANSFIELD BEER FESTIVAL**, Mansfield Leisure Centre, Mansfield, Notts.

14-17 (Wednesday-Saturday): **2ND MALDON BEER FESTIVAL** at the Town Hall, top of Market Hill, Maldon.

15-17 (Thursday-Saturday): **10TH DUNSTABLE BEER FESTIVAL**, Dunstable Young Persons Centre (Rear of 'Cubes' - formerly Union Bingo), Manchester Place (Off High Street North), Dunstable.

16-17 (Friday-Saturday): BANBURY BEER FESTIVAL, TA Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury, OX16 9AN. Open: 11am-11pm both days. Free entry to CAMRA members, non-members £1. 40 Real Ales and Real Cider plus our famous baguettes. Fantastic atmosphere, no music or entertainment so lots of opportunity for conversation. Venue is a short walk from Banbury Train Station or we have lots of parking if you want to bring a minibus! To volunteer to work please contact Jackie Parker jackiepark@lowerheyford.fsnet.co.uk More info from Sarah Durham sarah.durham@camra.org.uk 07775 786104 (m). See our website www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk nearer the time for more details.

16-17 (Friday-Saturday): **COVENTRY CITY BEER FESTIVAL**, Coventry City Football Ground, East Stand Mall, Swan Lane, Coventry.

21-24 (Wednesday-Saturday): **EAST ANGLIAN BEER FESTIVAL**, The Corn Exchange, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

21-24 (Wednesday-Saturday): **PAISLEY BEER FESTIVAL**, Paisley Town Hall, Abbey Close, Paisley, PA1.

22-24 (Thursday-Saturday): **28TH FARNHAM BEER EXHIBITION**, Farnham Maltings, Farnham.

23-24 (Friday-Saturday): **CHIPPENHAM BEER FESTIVAL**, Studio Hall, Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham.

29-MAY 1 (Thursday-Saturday): **6TH FIFE BEER FESTIVAL 'GUZZLE 2004'**, The Rothes Halls, Glenrothes.

29-MAY 1 (Thursday-Saturday): **STOURBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL**, Stourbridge Town Hall, Market Street, Stourbridge

29-MAY 2 (Thursday-Sunday): 10TH READING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, Kings Meadow, Reading. (5 minutes walk from Railway Station). 350 Real Ales, 80 Ciders & Perries, 100 Foreign Beers (Belgian, Dutch & German) and a good selection of English Wines. Food available all sessions. Festival will again be hosting on Thursday the SIBA South East National Brewing Competition and on Friday / Saturday the National Cider & Perries Awards. Live music on Friday and Saturday evenings, quiet tent available at all times for a peaceful pint. Seating for 750, children's facilities Saturday 11am-6pm and all day Sunday. Opening hours: Thursday 4.30-11pm, Friday / Saturday 11am-11pm, Sunday noon-10.30pm. Prices (Non-Member) Thursday 4.30-11pm £3, Friday 11am-1.30pm £1, 1.30-6pm £3, 6-11pm £5, Saturday 11-6pm £3, 6-11pm £5, Sunday noon-10.30pm £2. CAMRA / EBCU members free Friday 11am-1.30pm, all other times £1. Staff required for all sessions, if you can help please contact Phil Gill on 01189 677767 or email staffing@readingcamra.org.uk or complete the online staffing form at www.readingcamra.org.uk

MAY

13-15 (Thu-Sat): **15TH BEER ON BROADWAY FESTIVAL** at The Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing, London, W5 2BY.

13-15 (Thursday-Saturday): **21ST RUGBY CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL**, Thornfield Bowling Club, Rugby.

14-16 (Friday-Sunday): **15TH YAPTON BEEREX**, Yapton & Ford Village Hall, Near Arundel, West Sussex.

21-22 (Friday-Saturday): **18TH ALLOA SPRING ALE FESTIVAL**, Town Hall, Alloa, Clackmannanshire.

21-22 (Friday-Saturday): **HALIFAX BEER FESTIVAL - 'MAYFEST 2004'**, Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

21-23 (Friday-Sunday): **BARROW HILL ROUNDHOUSE RAIL ALE FESTIVAL**, Campbell Drive, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield.

28-30 (Friday-Sunday): **9TH NEWARK BEER FESTIVAL**, Riverside Park, Newark.

OCTOBER

29-30 (Friday - Saturday): 11TH AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL

Swan Supping

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Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st June 2004 is 14th May 2004.

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 34p to:

Nick Holt, The Old Star, 163 Aylesbury Road, Berton, 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 of the outlet.



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

APRIL

Monday 5th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm Queens Head, Aylesbury.

Sunday 11th EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL

Lunchtime, Packhorse, Wendover.

Friday 16th BANBURY BEER FESTIVAL.

All day. See Beer Festivals Section on Page 15.

23-25th MEMBER'S WEEKEND & AGM.

Southport, Merseyside. All CAMRA members welcome!

Friday 30th THAME PUB CRAWL

Commencing 6.30pm at Swan Hotel.

MAY

Friday 7th LONDON PUB CRAWL

Starts 5:30pm Archery Tavern, 4 Bathurst St., Paddington W2 2SD

Full details of the crawl will be on the website.

Saturday 8th REGIONAL MEETING

Oxford. See *What's Brewing* for details. All CAMRA members welcome!

Tuesday 11th BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm Royal Standard, Wooburn Common.

Wednesday 19th OAKLEY SOCIAL

9.00pm Royal Oak.

Friday 28th HIGH WYCOMBE EARLY EVENING SOCIAL

6.00pm Falcon, 7.00pm Bell.

JULY

Saturday 3rd BLACK COUNTRY COACH TRIP

AUGUST

Saturday 21st CAMBRIDGE COACH TRIP

OCTOBER

Friday 29th/Saturday 30th AYLESBURY VALE BEER FESTIVAL



OLD SHIP INN

Marlow Road, Cadmore End
High Wycombe HP14 3PN

Tel: 01494 883496

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

Come and try our organic baguettes at lunchtime or join us for our mouth-watering rump of beef on Sunday.

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

A little pub with a big smile!