

Issue 40



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Swan Supping ^{FREE}

FEB/MAR 2004



WHAT'S IN A NAME?



The **Hogshead** in Aylesbury closed in January for ten days in order for a refurbishment to be carried out.

It has now reopened as the **hog's head**.

This change may well be considered trivial to most people, but this indicates a major shift in emphasis for a major pub group.

There is a move away from beer sales to concentrate more on food (a hogshead is a large barrel of beer containing 54 gallons which is still used by some breweries, and a hog's head is a food dish available in France, but missing from the menu in

most restaurants and pubs in England!).

The other signs of this change include the reduction of the number of handpumps from two sets of four to two sets of two and the standardisation of the real ale available to **Fullers London Pride** and **Caledonian Deuchars IPA**.

All round the pub are signs saying 'Order at the bar or grab a seat and we will come to you'. This heralds the welcome return of waitress service to a pub in Aylesbury, a practice I can only remember from my drinking in pubs in the North West in the late seventies.

This would seem to be moving the pub in an upmarket direction but this signal gets confused when you see the pool table and the television sets showing Sky football all round the place.

It will be interesting to see how the waitress service works out when the pub is packed over the weekend and whether other pubs will follow the trend that the pub group is trying to set.

As for the name change, it joins a long list of changes that have happened in Aylesbury!

The historic **Dark Lantern** became the **Lantern** in the nineties after having the old name since the Civil War.

The **Borough Arms** became **Weavers** and the **Buckingham Arms** became the **Emperor**, among many others.

Some sanity has returned with the **Lobster Pot** reverting to being the **Rockwood** and there are plans to rename the horribly named **Whistlin' Duck** to its former name of the **Old Plough & Harrow**.

Let's face it, the change of the name of the **Hen and Chickens** didn't bode well for the pub whose burnt out shell can still be seen on the corner of the junction still referred to by Mix 96 as the 'Hen and Chickens roundabout'!

David Roe

Real Ale & Real Food



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Monday to Saturday, 12 – 3pm Sunday
(no meals Sunday evening)

Bar open all day Saturday and Sunday

The Clifden Arms

The free newsletter for the discerning drinkers of Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe



Local News

**ASKETT**

The **Black Horse** is now the **Raj Mahal** Indian restaurant.

ASTON CLINTON

John and Jan Andrews are still running the **Oak**. They were due to leave in February but **Fullers** have been unable to find anyone to take over the tenancy. The pub could become a managed house in March if the situation does not change. Watch this space!

AYLESBURY

The **Broad Leys** is half covered in plastic as work has started to convert the old barn into a fifty cover dining area. It is hoped that work will be completed in May. In January, the pub was offering its **Fullers London Pride** at £1.50 a pint on Sundays through to Thursdays. There is a possibility that the promotion may continue into February.

The **County Arms** has reopened after having been closed for two months. Unfortunately, this former **Good Beer Guide** regular still does not offer any real ale and is still scheduled to be demolished when the changes to Aylesbury go through.

The **Hobgoblin** is continuing its policy of serving a variety of beers. It is nice to see two of the three handpumps in regular use (serving **Greene King IPA** and **Old Speckled Hen** when visited with **Vale Special** waiting in the wings). Let's see if they can get the third pump into operation!

The **Hogshead** was closed for ten days during January whilst being refurbished and it has reopened and been renamed the **hog's head**. The number of handpumps has been cut from two sets of four to two sets of two and the only real ales available are the pub group's new standard real ales, **Fullers London Pride** and **Caledonian Deuchars IPA**.

The **Market Tavern** is opening for Sunday lunchtimes from the beginning of February.

The **Rockwood** is now **Cask Marque** approved.

BRILL

The tenancy at the **Lion** was taken over in October by Tom and Carol Burton. No strangers to the **GBG** (they were in the guide at least four times whilst at the **Crown** in

Sydenham) they are eager to repeat the achievement in Brill. Currently available are **Ruddles Best**, **Greene King IPA**, **Abbot** and a guest - **Everards Tiger**. Food is available at lunchtimes six days a week and Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. There is a good sized function room and Aunt Sally is an outside activity.

BROUGHTON CROSSING

Dave and Kelly Brookes are the new managers at the **Old Moat House** following Jono and Abby's recent departure.

CHINNOR

The **Red Lion** gained its **Cask Marque** approval in January.

EMMINGTON

Roger Romyn is the new manager at the **Inn at Emmington**.

FORD

The **Dinton Hermit** has reopened and is offering **Vale Wychert Ale**.

GIBRALTAR

The rebuilding of the **Bottle and Glass**, which burnt down in April

last year, has caused protests by local villagers because of plans by the owners **Greene King** to increase the size of the pub so it can cater for nearly double the number of customers. Locals are concerned that besides the pub not being the replacement for the one lost, the increased traffic will cause major problems along that stretch of road.

KINGSTON BLOUNT

Sharon and Christian Dalla-Costa are now in charge at the **Cherry Tree**.

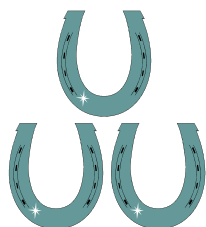
STOKE MANDEVILLE

The **Woolpack** reopened at the end of November after having been closed for a major refurbishment. The restaurant side is now concentrating on Italian food, but the bar is still serving three real ales.

WADDESdon

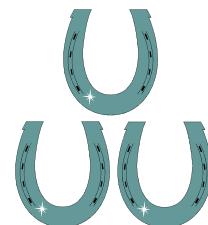
New tenants started at the Bell on 8th December. They are Cliff Waugh and Jo Sellick. They have worked at the **End of the World**, Wendover, and the **Chequers**, Weston Turville in the past, but most recently in Reading.

(Continued on page 15)



REBELLION'S

BREWERY TAP NOW OPEN

**THE THREE HORSESHOES**

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Rebellion's first pub, ½ mile from the brewery

Now serving our entire range of 5 real ales

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2003 – THE CAMRA VIEW

Since this is the first issue of *Swan Supping* this year, it seemed appropriate to have a look back over last six issues published in 2003 and see what the main stories were. It's easy to believe that there is more bad news than good.

Every year we lose a few more rural pubs. The last few years have seen a decline in the proportion of pubs selling real ale; the high point was reached in about 1990. Is beer quality high enough? Certainly not in Aylesbury and High Wycombe, but the situation is generally better in the villages. So, here we have a summary of the good and the bad news. Contrary to expectations there seems to be more good than bad.

GOOD NEWS

Paula Waters became the first female National Chairman of **CAMRA**.

The **Stag & Huntsman** at Hambleden was voted by local **CAMRA** members as *Pub of the Year 2003* for *Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch*.

The **Carpenters Arms** at Stewkley was chosen by Aylesbury Vale District Council as its Village Pub of the Year.

Rebellion Brewery of Marlow now has its first pub, the **Three Horseshoes** at Burroughs Grove.

Another **Three Horseshoes**, at Bennett End, reopened after a long period of closure; as did the **Plough** at West Wycombe.

Last summer, Madonna informed the nation that she enjoys Real Ale, in particular **Timothy Taylor's Landlord**.

Popular coach trips were organised again to the Black Country and Cambridge.

In Aylesbury, **Big Hand Mo's**, in my opinion a hideous heap of decrepitude, has closed due to a major fire. It will probably become a burger outlet (flame grilled perhaps?).

Rebellion Brewery celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Another tenth anniversary was the **Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival** at Stoke Mandeville in October. It made a healthy profit (£3,576) for the charity, **Friends of Florence Nightingale House**.

The **Royal Oak** at Oakley is now being run by **Vale Brewery** – their third pub and the first in our branch area.

In the autumn, **CAMRA's** membership rose

to 70,000 – the highest ever. If present trends continue, it is hoped that this will reach 100,000 by the end of 2006.

BAD NEWS

The **Swan** at Westcott has been demolished despite a campaign by local villagers to save the pub.

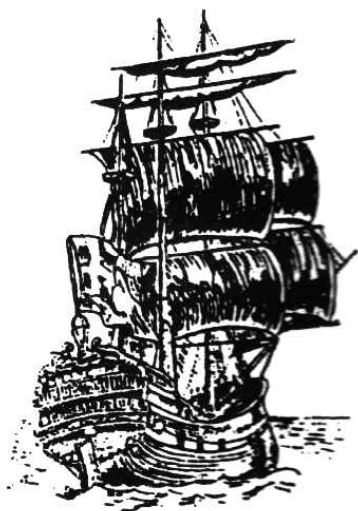
The **Bull and Butcher** at Aston Abbotts is closed and being converted to private housing.

The **Bottle & Glass** suffered a major fire in April (it is currently being rebuilt).

Several pubs have been (or will be) converted to restaurant use (a scandalous loophole in the planning regulations): **The Old Hare**, Beaconsfield; **The Dove**, Wing; **The Black Horse**, Askett. The locals in Beaconsfield waged a hard campaign 'Spare the Hare' to try and save their historic town pub.

Some pubs have been closed for a year or more and their future is still unknown – **End of the World**, near Wendover; **Royal Oak** at Moreton near Thame; **Prince of Wales** in Beaconsfield.

Nick Holt



OLD SHIP INN

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A little pub with a big smile!

TASTED ON MY TRAVELS

The occasional jottings of an ardent real ale drinker

Early in November, it was time for the Woking Beer fest, which is, like the Burton on Trent fest, graced with the presence of a Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Here the organ was in the very capable hands of Len Rawle and in the Saturday evening session which I attended was featured every hour, finishing with a 'last night of the Proms' style sing a long.

As always, I felt spoilt for choice and had a hard job deciding where to start! As I do love the dark beers I got the ball rolling with **Church End Porter** and then went on to **Bazens' Black Pig**, a really chocolate flavoured mild. On then to **Acorn Barnsley Bitter**, **Atlas Three Sisters**, **Hobdens Naughty Ferret**, **Kelham Island Kelham Bitter**, **Larkins Porter** and **Triple fff Alton's Pride**. All too soon it was time to decide upon the last beer to sample and I went for **Ramsgate Winter Porter**, a super flavoured drop to lubricate the vocal chords for the 'grand Finale'!! Another really good Beer festival with a fine selection of beers in excellent condition.

Later in November, Giles du Boulay and I went to the Festival Hall for an evening

concert. As often happens we left plenty of time in case of travel delays and got to Marylebone well early.

We had a snack on the station and to wash it down went to the station bar, the **Victoria and Albert** and a very nice pint of **Bass** was consumed. As we had time in hand when we got to Waterloo we put plan B into operation and went to the **Hole in the Wall**, just as a quality control check, you understand. It was very busy but I sampled some **Battersea Bitter** from the **Battersea Brewery**. A very tasty drop in immaculate condition.

A chat with mine host revealed that he was new to the establishment and previously had run a pub in Cheddar. The chat was rather 'disjointed' as he had to rush off every so often to change another barrel.

After the concert we were rather dehydrated so when we got to Marylebone we repaired to the **Beehive** in Homer Street, just a five minute walk and a GBG entry. There we had some **London Pride** which was very good. The next week I had to go up to London so on the way back I popped in again. This time I enjoyed some really good **Youngs Bitter**. This is a very welcoming establishment with a good crowd of regulars - well worth visiting.



The gothic looking Barton's Arms in Birmingham

We had been talking for some time about another trip to Birmingham and so it was that Dave Roe, our Branch Chairman, Giles du Boulay, Dick Moore and I journeyed forth to the **Bartons Arms** in Aston. A **CAMRA National Inventory** pub, it is only a ten minute bus ride away from Moor Street station. A splendid interior with fine tile decorated walls met our gaze when we first entered. This pub has been lovingly restored by **Oakham Ales** and it is no wonder that my

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BIRMINGHAM AND EAST CROYDON



The usual suspects inside the Barton's Arms

first pint was their *JHB*. It was superb and seemed to have an inner sparkle when the light caught it.

My next selection, *Batemans Mild*, brought forth stern glances from my companions as I was going away from the Oakham! I had to try it as I had not tasted their mild before and it was brilliant. We were feeling rather peckish so we indulged in a Thai lunch. Really good!

The afternoon rolled on and I progressed to *Oakham Bishops Farewell* and then 5 *Leaves* inter spaced with some *JHB*. When six o'clock came all of us felt the hunger

pangs so we went for a Thai dinner! Simply brilliant!

Ultimately we caught our bus back to the town centre and on our way to the station we slipped into the *Woodman* where I went for some *Ansells Mild*. A truly great day and all of us agreed to put it on the 'must do again' list.

In early December I had to go to Farringdon Street in London. As you would expect, once the business was done my thoughts turned to sustenance. I espied a pub called the *Mash Tun* which on closer inspection was found to be a *Badger* pub.

There was just one of the hand pumps in action dispensing *Badger Goosey*. This was very good so I stopped for a snack and another pint. Well worth a visit if you are in town as it is about ten minutes walk from Farringdon station. Turn right out of the station to the T junction, turn left along Farringdon Road towards Holborn Viaduct and the pub is on the right.

We had planned to make a return visit to Croydon to sample the hostelryes in that town and so it was that four thirsty persons from Aylesbury ventured forth on Thursday 18th December. The 'thirsts' were Dave Roe, Dick Moore, Giles du Boulay and your

correspondent.

On arrival at East Croydon we repaired with all speed to the *Porter and Sorter* where a superb pint of *Hogs Back TEA* started proceedings. On then to the pub where Giles spent much of his earlier years, the *Builders Arms*. I had some *Fullers Jack Frost* - in super condition and we stopped here for lunch.

On then to the *Claret Free House* where we stayed a while to sample the *Palmers* beers which were on offer. I tried *Dorset Gold* and *Best Bitter*. It was here that we met a couple of *CAMRA* members from the local branch. It's nice to get the lowdown on an area from the people who live there!

On again for our final port of call, the *Royal Standard*. Here we espied *Fullers Golden Pride* on hand pump. Oh dear!!! It was in super condition and slipped down far too easily for a strong beer of 7.5% ABV! By then our resistance was low due to the rigours of the day so we gave in to a second pint.

After this we wended our way home having enjoyed some excellent ale in super pubs and some rides on the trams.

Mike Clemence



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A SCOTTISH WIND UP!

One of my hobbies is rail travel, which I usually combine with pub visits all over Great Britain.

Thanks to a special offer in one of my railway magazines I was able to get a ticket to Glasgow for £15 and a chance to do one particular pub in Glasgow I had long thought about getting to.

I set off early on a Tuesday morning and rendezvoused with my friend Dave from Nottingham at Crewe. Arrival at Glasgow was about ten minutes early, which enabled us to catch another train to Mount Florida station, to visit our first pub of the day.

The pub is a brewpub, home of the *Clockwork Beer Co* at 1153-1155 Cathcart Road, and was one of the main reasons for our visit to Glasgow. The facade of the pub is very interesting, incorporating a key sticking out of the building as shown in the accompanying picture. Once inside the pub the brewery is visible behind glass screens and brewing was actually in progress. They brew a range of fruit beers as well as the more standard beers. Four guest beers and a very good selection of foreign beers were also available.

We decided to sample the beers brewed on the premises and started off with a taster of the *Raspberry Beer* but it was not to our liking. I then had the *Weisse beer* without tasting it first and unfortunately found it to be undrinkable - it had a distinctive taste of TCP!! Dave had a normal beer called *Red Alt Ale*, which was fine. For a second beer (that would be my first drinkable beer), I had a beer called *Thunder & Lightning* and Dave tried the *Oatmeal Stout*. Both beers were fine although the *Oatmeal Stout* lacked any real Oomph! We both sampled the food, which was very palatable.

The interior of the pub was interesting with a set of traffic lights on one wall (always on green) plus some tables with chessboards etc

The Market Tavern Market Square, Aylesbury

*Paul and his team welcome you
to join them for drinks
& lunchtime food.*

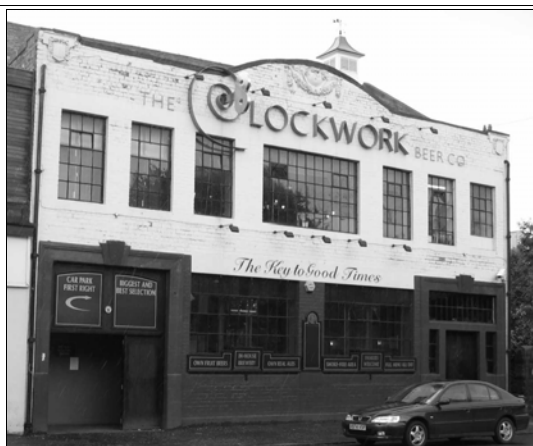
**Food and Drink available from
eight in the morning!**

*Function Room
Available for
Private parties*

*Two real ales:
Young's Ordinary
Adnams Bitter*



THE KEY TO A GOOD PINT!



painted on them. Rather disappointed by the beers we then headed back into Glasgow city centre.

Our next pub, the **Toby Jug**, was just outside Glasgow Central station. It had four beers on namely *London Pride* (this beer gets everywhere), *Pedigree*, *Deuchars IPA* and *Orkney Dark Island*. As *Orkney Dark Island* is my favourite beer this is the one I went for. The pub was very quiet with just a couple of other customers.

Time was now getting on and the next pub on our list was a good 15-minute walk away. This is the **Mono Restaurant & Bar** and was mentioned in the *Independent Imbiber* as having just started brewing. The bar in a modern development is 'something completely different'! There is even a record shop in one corner of what is more a continental type bistro, rather than a Glasgow pub! Along one wall

were several stainless steel fermenting vessels and the bar specialises in high quality, low alcohol drinks such as 'real' ginger beer or lemonade. There is one ale though, thought to be brewed elsewhere but fermented here; a *Kolsch* style beer, which was very refreshing.

We now headed for the **Station Bar**, which used to be near the old Buchanan Street station in Glasgow but we were beaten by time and had a quick half of *Deuchars IPA* in the **Hogshead** by Queen St station. Other beers on were *Boddingtons* and *Pedigree*.

I then returned to Central station for the long journey back to Milton Keynes and to think about the miles I travel just to get a pint!!

Dick Moore and Dave Thornhill

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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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

Name(s).....

Address

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

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... Date

Signature

AYL (SWAN SUPPING)



The Green Dragon

8 Churchway, Haddenham

Tel: 01844 291403

Bucks Dining Pub of the Year 2004

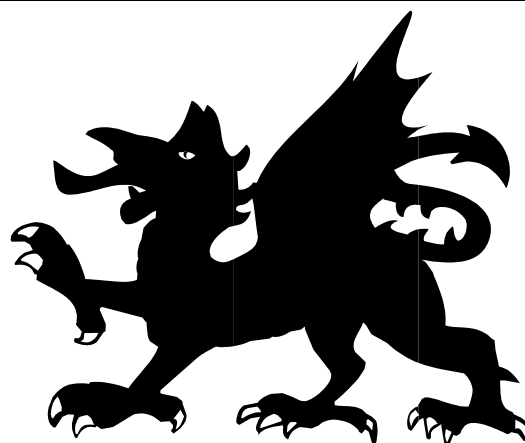
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Every Tuesday and Thursday Night Special

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!

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NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR

FINAL FOUR BATTLE IT OUT FOR 'NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR' TITLE

Pubs from Hampshire, Lancashire, Kent and Nottinghamshire book places in **CAMRA's Pub of the Year** final.

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition is voted for by their membership. Each one of their 70,000 members has the opportunity to vote for the best pub in their branch area. The 200 winners then progress into regional finals and the 16 regional winners battle it out for a place in the final four.

This year's four finalists are as follows:-

The **Taps**, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire won their place in the final after beating **Geordie's Byr** (Ayr, Scotland), **Navigation** (Stockport, Greater Manchester) and **Fitzgeralds** (Sunderland, Tyne & Wear) in the 'Scotland and Northern England Super Regional' heat of the competition.

The 2004 **Good Beer Guide** describes the **Taps** as a 'Cosy ale house offering a changing range of nine guest beers, which always includes a mild. The house beer is brewed by **Titanic**. A regular **CAMRA** prize-winner, it was **West Pennines Pub of the**

Year in 2002, and only just failed to reach the final of last year's competition.'

The **Marquis of Granby**, Granby, Nottinghamshire successfully beat regional winners, the **Beartown Tap** (Congleton, Cheshire), **Star Inn** (Lockwood, Yorkshire) and the **Bell** (Pensax, Worcestershire) to book their place in the final.

According to the **Good Beer Guide** this pub is 'believed to be the original Marquis of Granby, dating back to 1760 or earlier. This is a small, two-roomed pub that has served over 300 different ales in the last year. York stone floors throughout complement naturally-shaped yew bar tops in beamed rooms. The wide range of beers usually includes a mild.' This pub has risen rapidly from near extinction to become a finalist in the **National Pub of the Year** competition.

The **Crown & Thistle**, Gravesend, Kent made it to the final four by winning the 'South East Super Regional' heat of the competition. The Kent-based pub beat regional winners, **Engineers Arms** (Henlow, Bedfordshire), **Royal Oak** (London SE1) and **Royal Oak** (Wood Street, Surrey).

The **Good Beer Guide** states that this Georgian pub offers 'a relaxing atmosphere that allows drinkers to enjoy up to five ales



*The Marquis of Granby,
Granby, Nottinghamshire*

from micro-breweries around the country. Indian and Chinese meals can be ordered at the bar (evenings) to be eaten on or off the premises. It stages occasional live music and raises funds for the R.N.L.I.'

The **South Western Arms**, St Denys, Southampton, Hampshire was the final pub to be awarded a place in the final by beating the **Boars Head** (Tyle Garw, Powys, Wales), the **Red Lion** (Cricklade, Wiltshire) and the **Bell** (Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire) in their Super Region.

The **Good Beer Guide** describes this pub as a 'Large, two-storey pub where many corners provide a surprisingly intimate atmosphere.

Tony, Ian & Lynne welcome you to
**The Black Horse,
Lacey Green**



Tel: 01844 345195

Brakspear's Bitter

Hook Norton Bitter

Adnams Bitter

Pub open all day Sunday but no food in the evening
Lunches 12 – 2 Tuesday – Friday & 12 – 2.30 on Saturday
Evening Meals: Tuesday to Thursday 7 – 9,
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Pub open all day Saturday & Sunday
Please note: The pub is closed Monday Lunchtime

Special Valentines Day Dinner! Please phone for details!

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

BRITAIN'S BEST PUB

The landlord takes great pride in his constantly-changing range of beers, regularly stocking ten or more. The pub won the local and regional **CAMRA Pub of the Year** award in 2002. Live music is featured at least once a month, and the juke box has a superb selection to suit all tastes. The patio garden provides a pleasant summer drinking venue.'

John Pascoe, landlord of the **Swan** in Essex, who won **CAMRA's National Pub of the Year** last year said, 'Winning the **CAMRA National Pub of the Year** was like winning the FA Cup in the pub industry. We could not have guessed the impact this would have on our business. We have appeared in so much media over the last year which has not only resulted in people across Britain coming to visit us but across the world! Europeans, Australians and Americans have all popped in for a bite to eat and pint of quality real ale. I wish all four finalists the best of luck and hope the winner achieves the success that our pub received in 2003.'

Tony Jerome, **CAMRA's** Press Manager said, 'This is an exciting time for the four finalists and **CAMRA**. Being crowned National Pub of the Year is an accolade that all 60,000 British pubs would like to achieve as this title can play a major part in boosting future business.

Jerome continued, 'It is an outstanding achievement to get to the final and we wish all four pubs the very best of luck.'

The overall winner of the **National Pub of the Year** competition will be announced in **National Pubs Week**, 21st to 28th February, when the winning pub will be presented with the award.

Further details and associated publicity material for the **National Pubs Week** can be obtained from **CAMRA** HQ. We featured this special week in our last issue of **Swan Supping**.



The Red Lion

3 High Street, Chinnor (☎01844 353468)

**CAMRA Listed with a choice of four real ales
(a new guest ale each Friday and Monday)**

Monday 2nd February - Batemans Hop Bine Bitter (3.6%)
Friday 6th February - Holdens Golden Glow (4.4%)
Monday 9th February - Ridley Tolly Cobbold (3.8%)
Friday 13th February - Nethergate Red Rooster (4.5%)
Monday 16th February - Kimberley Peak Perfection (4.1%)
Friday 20th February - Robinsons Enigma (4.7%)
Monday 24th February - Gales Swing Low (4.1%)

Home-Cooked Pub Food Available Every Day
Traditional Sunday Roast £6.50
(Booking advised!)

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2004 Good Beer Guide
Fullers Traditional Ales



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The Chilterns...

Trade enquiries welcome...

Chiltern Ale 1037og - Light Ale
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300's Old Ale 1050og - Strong Old Ale



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

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info@chilternbrewery.co.uk www.chilternbrewery.co.uk
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LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

Unique deal for small breweries

The *Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA)* has made an agreement with the company *SupplyLine* for its members to supply a range of cask ales direct to the 3,932 pubs in the *Unique Pub Company* tied estate.

Some 200 locally-produced cask ales from over 70 independent breweries will become available on a regional basis to the *Unique* estate with retailers having the choice of up to twenty beers, depending on their location.

This deal replaces the Cask Ale Club currently operated by *SupplyLine* in partnership with *SIBA*, which offers selected products on a cyclical basis.

Local breweries, *Vale* and *Rebellion*, have both said that they are going to be involved and are looking forward to the opportunity to get their beers into pubs in our local area which are operated by *Unique*.

Vale still willing to buy!

Vale Brewery are still actively looking to buy another pub in the area following their purchase of the *Royal Oak* in Oakley.

Stout Tidings At The Chiltern

Living in the 'Jewel of the Thames' town of Marlow, I have local breweries *Rebellion* and *Old Luxters* on my doorstep for my 'occasional weekend take-outs'. But variety is the spice of life as they say, so it's off to Buckinghamshire's oldest working brewery, the *Chiltern Brewery*, at Terrick (near Aylesbury) for a pre-Christmas brewery tour.

On a wet Saturday lunch-time, six hardy souls were treated to an instructive oration on the creation of this brewery, its ales and the real ale based produce. Our tour guide was Sue Benwell, an author whose publication on



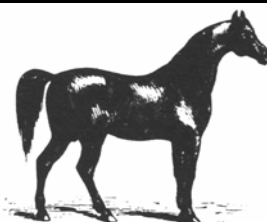
Vale Brewery of Haddenham
offer CAMRA Award Winning Local Ales
traditionally brewed from only the finest
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To order telephone 01844 290008

| Price list (incl. VAT) ABV | Fir. | Polypin | 2 gal |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Notley Ale 3.3% | 73.00 | 42.50 | 22.50 |
| Black Swan Dark Mild 3.3% | 74.00 | 43.50 | 23.00 |
| Vale Best Bitter 3.7% | 74.50 | 43.50 | 23.25 |
| Wychert Ale 3.9% | 75.00 | 44.50 | 23.50 |
| Edgar's Golden Ale 4.3% | 77.00 | 46.50 | 24.50 |
| Black Beauty Porter 4.3% | 78.00 | 47.50 | 25.00 |
| Vale Special 4.5% | 79.00 | 48.00 | 25.25 |
| Grumpling Premium 4.6% | 79.50 | 48.50 | 25.50 |

Bottle Conditioned Beers

| | | |
|----------------------|------|-------|
| Black Swan Dark Mild | 3.3% | 500ml |
| Wychert Ale | 3.9% | 500ml |
| Edgar's Golden Ale | 4.3% | 500ml |
| Black Beauty Porter | 4.3% | 500ml |
| Grumpling Premium | 4.6% | 500ml |
| Hadda's Head Banger | 5.0% | 500ml |

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(12 bottles)
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SEVEN REAL ALES

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A FAMILY RUN FREE HOUSE

CHILTERN VISIT

the showbiz life of Carry On star, Jack Douglas, is available in the brewery shop.

Sampling commenced with their debut brew, *Chiltern Ale* (3.7), created in 1980 with the launch of the brewery. A fine bright, clean tasting session beer which is only available in draught form. *Beechwood Bitter* (4.3), is their 'flagship beer'. A darker best bitter style ale, first brewed in 1982 and has come of age recently, twenty-one years later in 2003.

A premium beer, christened *Three Hundreds Ale* (4.9/5.0) was introduced in 1988 to satisfy the stronger beer buffs and was gratefully imbibed as the third ale on our tutored tastings. An array of bottled beers were described in types of hops used and ABV factor. The impressive and distinctive *Bodgers Barley Wine* (8.5) being the most distinguished as it is only available as a bottled-conditioned beer.

The final brew was put through trial by taste buds and was my personal favourite. The new seasonal beer, *Glad Tidings* (4.6) is labelled as a spiced milk stout and that is precisely what it is! Although my champion, the others on the tour were not so impressed. It is a kind of beer akin to marmite. You either love it or loathe it. I loved it! An acquired taste to put it into layman's terms. This black nectar is also available at the shop in bottled-conditioned class. Try some now while stocks last!

We departed the dining area to be escorted around the brewery and were informed on the various brewing techniques adopted at this Bucks brewery. On returning to the shop, a four pint take-out of *Glad Tidings*, along with some beer bread and a jar of pickled onions in hopped vinegar were to serve as a late and well earned luncheon when back in South Bucks.

Glad to be a Spice Boy

Cedric & Elaine welcome you to *The Carpenters Arms,* *Marlow*

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Telephone 01726 74444 www.staustellbrewery.co.uk

LAST ORDERS FOR TICKERS' BIBLE

The unique "Independent Imbiber" has ceased in its production.

As an avid subscriber to this imaginative and instructive bi-monthly magazine, I was deeply saddened when I received a correspondence, along with a cheque refund,

from Kinsley Publications in Lewes, East Sussex, announcing with regret that Issue 53 was the final edition to be published. This heartbreaking news will be a bitter pill to swallow for the welcoming recipients of this witty, but knowledgeable review journal.

Ever present composition, *Newsline*, an update on the latest beer related news, *Syd the Scooper*, (a ticker cartoon), *Caption Competition* and an *Anagrams* page were all permanent features. But it was the *Brewery Update* and especially the *New Beers Update* which lists all the recent new brews consumed, mostly by dedicated real ale connoisseurs who send information of their latest imbibes to the editor. Further pub crawl and brewery editorials along with certain pub beer festival advertisements, plus more, completed a winning formula to their fifty-three issues.

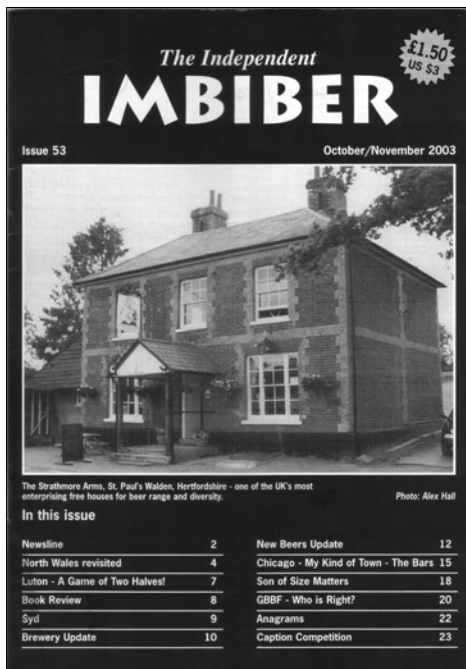
So reasons for the demise of this glossy publication is a mystery and have yet to come to light on writing this article. My details remain on their database for a hopeful and welcome re-emergence of the "Independent Imbiber".

New Brew Stu!

<On the website, editor Alex Hall thanks everybody involved for their support and

submissions of articles and beer gen over the years.

For up-to-date new brewery information, he recommends looking at the Quaffale website (<http://www.quaffale.org.uk/>) - Ed>



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DON'T DRINK THE 'WEASEL PEE'!



There was one tap for this in a dark corner of the bar – and Jim was making his views quite clear to the hapless youths – ‘a pint of weasel pee’ he said scornfully, ‘Oh dear, oh deary me, I don’t know why I sell it’. *That* was the reason !

Of course love at first sight (or hearing) may be unrequited – closer acquaintance is needed, so I sat down to work my way through the card (twice). The first *OBJ* certainly banished the woes of my long journey, the sinking of the *Titanic* was more than a *mild* experience, I was soon prospecting for *gold*, happy as a *lad* in the *Shropshire* hills – oh yes I had certainly found the *Wood* in the trees, definitely the right *parish* – and I’m not bitter...

Giles du Boulay

You know that feeling you can get when you go into a particular pub for the first time, that feeling of ‘I like it’ or indeed the opposite. Well it was definitely the former when I stayed for a weekend at the **Bottle & Glass Inn** in Picklescott, near Church Stretton in Shropshire (see *GBG2004* p.396) recently.

It was a cold and wet evening and we had been stuck for an hour and a half in a huge traffic jam caused by an accident on the A49 north of Ludlow – so being greeted by a blazing log fire as we struggled into the lounge bar through the old wooden door with its trick handle, may have been the reason why I instantly took to the place – but there was another reason...

I had not eaten much since my usual frugal breakfast - so the aroma of steak and kidney pie, minted lamb, pork cooked in cider and other delights from the homemade menu may have been the reason why I instantly took to the place – but there was another reason...

I had not taken any liquid sustenance either for at least 24 hours, my tank was on dangerously low – so the sight of five local beer pump-clips: *Worfield OBJ* (*Oh Be Joyful*), *Titanic Mild*, *Salopian Shropshire Gold*, *Wood Shropshire Lad* and *Parish Bitter* may have been the reason why I instantly took to the place – but there was another reason...

The comfortable room where I hastily parked my suitcase leaving my long-suffering wife to unpack whilst I made a quick dash for the bar, may have been...

No, I’ll tell you what it was – it’s all to do with landlords who know their beer and how to keep it – so how could I possibly know that instantly on entering? Well Jim, the landlord, is not the shy, retiring type, as I found out later – he likes to communicate with his customers in a, how can I put it, in a Yorkshire sort of way – and just as I walked in he was communicating quite loudly to a couple of lads who obviously had not yet completed their higher education in the imbibing school – in other words they had asked for a pint of the fizzy yellow stuff.

Ye Olde Dog and Badger



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*Michael & Isabelle Welcome you to
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Do you like a "Good Old Fashioned English Pub" with traditional pub lunches, real ales, real log fires and a warm welcome?

If the answer is yes, then our pub is for you!!

Enjoy the "Olde World" atmosphere, whilst taking pleasure in a traditional ploughman's lunch and a pint of real ale. Alternatively choose one of our excellent lunchtime bar meals or a special from our "Special's Board". Simply relax with a pint or a coffee from our espresso bar whilst reading from our daily newspaper and magazine selection.

In the evenings Tuesday - Saturday, enjoy dinner in our A la Carte restaurant. Our menu features some unique dishes with an excellent selection of fine wines to match the first-rate food.

We are open from 12 - 3pm Monday to Thursday and lunches are served Monday to Saturday 12-2:30 pm. Weekday evening opening hours are 5pm Tuesday to Thursday closing at 11pm. Evening meals are available Tuesday to Saturday 7pm - 9:30pm. We are open from 12 - 11pm all day Friday and Saturday

On Sunday bring the family and choose from an excellent traditional Sunday Lunch menu with 1, 2 or 3 courses or see our very popular "Specials Board" for other mouth-watering options! Meals are served between 12-3:00 pm and we are open from 12-7pm.

So come and join us and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. A warm welcome is assured.

Reservations are recommended!
To book a table, call Michael on 01491 571 362



*Please support the
Aylesbury Hospice at
Florence Nightingale
House*

Easter Bazaar and Easter Egg Tombola

Saturday 3rd April
At Eskdale Road Community Centre,
Stoke Mandeville
11am - 3pm



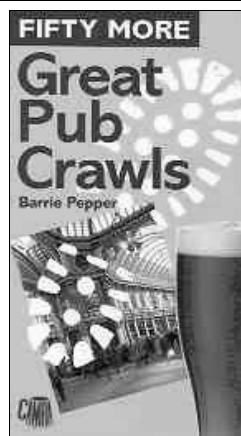
Admission free - fun for all the family!

(Donations of Easter Eggs - any size - would be very much appreciated. Please bring them to us at the Fundraising Office, 5 Manor House Close, Berton Road, Aylesbury.)

For more information please telephone
01296 429975



Book Review



Fifty More Great Pub Crawls

Barrie Pepper is one of the country's top beer writers and his latest book in the Great Pub Crawls series came out in December. With this book you can discover some of the UK's finest city centres, towns and villages. Some examples: Blackpool, Edinburgh, Colchester, Shrewsbury, northern Manchester and many more. Not

all the crawls involve too much walking. There is Poole by train, Croydon by tram, West Cornwall by bus.

The nearest crawl to our area is at Bampton (famous for its Morris Dancing) just south of Witney in Oxfordshire. Even some overseas locations are offered: Amsterdam, Brussels, Galway Jersey and Prague. If all that seems too exhausting, you could stay in your armchair and indulge in an imaginary tour of your favourite soap pubs - the Rovers Return, the Queen Vic, Ambridge's Bull and the Woolpack in Emmerdale.

The book is in a handy pocket size (187 x 104mm), printed in two colours, well designed with clear maps of pub locations.

Published by CAMRA books, 224pp, ISBN 1-85249-175-2. Obtainable from CAMRA in St Albans. Members price £6.99, non-members price £7.99. Postage £1 extra in either case.

Nick Holt

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Local News



Beer Festival Diary

(Continued from page 2)

WESTON TURVILLE

A planning application has been submitted to the council for the erection of nine dwellings at the rear of the currently closed **Plough** and to create a new road access to service them.

WYCOMBE MARSH

What would an issue of *Swan Supping* be like without a major keg-

up? Last issue, we managed to move the **Disraeli** to West Wycombe! Our apologies to landlord Barrie Butler, especially as he was so gracious when we held our branch meeting there in December. To repeat our news from last time, the **Disraeli** is now serving six real ales: *Adnams Best Bitter*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, *Greene King Abbot* and *Morland Old Speckled Hen*.



**CALLING ALL
LOCAL CAMRA MEMBERS!
YOUR BRANCH
NEEDS YOU!**

We are looking for **CAMRA** members to help with delivering *Swan Supping* and monitoring pubs and beer quality in the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe area.

If you are current local member, and don't mind going into pubs then please contact the editor or come along to the AGM.

BRANCH AGM
Red Lion, Haddenham
8:00pm Monday 16th February
ALL LOCAL CAMRA MEMBERS WELCOME

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telephone: 01793 823026 web: www.arkells.com

FEBRUARY

4-7 (Wednesday-Saturday): 3RD DERBY WINTER BEER FESTIVAL, Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby.
6-7 (Friday-Saturday): BODMIN BEER FESTIVAL, Public Rooms, Mount Folly (Centre of Bodmin), Cornwall.
6-7 (Friday-Saturday): CHESTERFIELD BEER FESTIVAL, The Winding Wheel, Holywell Street, Chesterfield.
6-7 (Friday-Saturday): DORCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL, Corn Exchange, Dorchester.
6-7 (Friday-Saturday): 11TH WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES at the Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Dover.
6-8 (Friday-Sunday): 9TH TEWKESBURY WINTER ALE FESTIVAL at the White Bear, Bredon Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.
11-13 (Wednesday-Friday): 14TH BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL, Grand Hall behind Battersea Arts Centre, Town Hall Road, Lavender Hill, London, SW11.
12-14 (Thursday-Saturday): 22ND FLEETWOOD BEER FESTIVAL, The Marine Hall, The Esplanade, Fleetwood.
12-14 (Thursday-Saturday): 14TH SUSSEX BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL, Hove Centre, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove.
13-15 (Friday-Sunday): IPSWICH WINTER FESTIVAL, Robert Cross Hall in the Corn Exchange, Ipswich.
18-21 (Wednesday-Saturday): LIVERPOOL BEER FESTIVAL (ALES FROM THE CRYPT), Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral Crypt, Brownlow Hill (opposite Victoria Building with clock tower), Liverpool.
18-21 (Wednesday-Saturday): THE GREAT BAA FESTIVAL AT ROTHERHAM OAKWOOD, Oakwood Technology College, Moorgate Road, Rotherham, S60 2UH.
19-21 (Thursday-Saturday): YORK BEER FESTIVAL, Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, York.
20-21 (Friday-Saturday): WINTERFEST XII - GOSPORT WINTER BEER FESTIVAL at Thorngate Halls, Bury Road, Gosport.
20-22 (Friday-Sunday): 8TH HUCKNALL BEER FESTIVAL, Community Centre, Ogle Street (Just off Town Square), Hucknall.
26-28 (Thursday-Saturday): BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL, Victoria Hall, Saltaire.

MARCH

4-6 (Thursday-Saturday): 28TH LOUGHBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL at the Polish Club, True Lovers Walk, off William Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire.
4-6 (Thursday-Saturday): PLYMOUTH BEER FESTIVAL, The Lower Guildhall, Royal Parade, Plymouth.
4-6 (Thursday-Saturday): 17TH WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL at the Mill at the Pier, Wigan.
5-6 (Friday-Saturday): 7TH BRISTOL BEER FESTIVAL, Brunel Shed, Temple Meads Railway Station Approach, Bristol.
11-13 (Thursday-Saturday): LEEDS BEER, CIDER & PERRY FESTIVAL, Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds.
12-13 (Friday-Saturday): 2ND ELYSIAN BEER FESTIVAL, Larkfield Centre, High Barns, Ely, Cambs.
12-13 (Friday-Saturday): 20TH SOUTH DEVON BEER FESTIVAL, St John Ambulance Hall, East Street, Newton Abbot.
17-19 (Wednesday-Friday): LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL at the Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London, WC1.
18-20 (Thursday-Saturday): DARLINGTON SPRING THING FESTIVAL, Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington.
19-20 (Friday-Saturday): 18TH OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL, Queen Elizabeth Hall, West Street, Oldham.
25-27 (Thursday-Saturday): LEICESTER BEER FESTIVAL, The Charotar Patidar Samaj, Off St Margaret's Way, Near St Margaret's Church, Leicester.
31-APR 3 (Wednesday-Saturday): 28TH NEWCASTLE BEER FESTIVAL at Students Union, Newcastle University, Kings Walk, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

OCTOBER

29-30 (Friday-Saturday): 11TH AYLESBURY BEER FESTIVAL at Eskdale Road Community Centre, Stoke Mandeville
Our annual charity beer festival held in conjunction with the 'Friends of Florence Nightingale House'.

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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E-Mail : DWRSS@aol.com

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Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st April 2004 is 14th March 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, 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 of the outlet.



Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 4th WOOBURN SOCIAL

9:00pm Falcon, 10:00pm Bell.

Wednesday 11th BRANCH SOCIAL

9:00pm Three Horseshoes, Burroughs Grove.

Monday 16th BRANCH AGM

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

All members welcome. Buffet and bottle raffle.

Wednesday 25th GBG FINAL SELECTION MEETING

8.30pm, Bird in Hand, Princes Risborough.

MARCH

Wednesday 3rd BRANCH MEETING

8.30pm Harrow, Hughenden Valley.

Tuesday 9th OXFORDSHIRE SOCIAL

9pm Fox, Tiddington, 10pm Three Pigeons, Milton Common.

Wednesday 17th OXFORDSHIRE SOCIAL

8.45pm Peacock, Henton, 9.30pm Inn at Emmington,

10.15pm Three Horseshoes, Towersey.

Wednesday 24th OXFORDSHIRE SOCIAL

8.45pm Crown, Sydenham, 9.30pm England's Rose, Postcombe,

10.15pm Lion, Tettsworth.

Wednesday 31st HADDENHAM WALKABOUT

8:15pm Rising Sun, 9:00pm Kings Head, 9:45pm Rose & Thistle,

10:30pm Red Lion.

MAY

Friday 7th LONDON PUB CRAWL

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

Full details of the crawl will appear in the next issue.

OCTOBER

Friday 29th/Saturday 30th AYLESBURY VALE BEER FESTIVAL



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Cask Conditioned Ales



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