



Swan Supping

FREE

Issue 15



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

DEC 1999/JAN 2000



REAL ALE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM



Whether or not you believe that the new Millennium starts on the first day of the year 2000 or in 2001, this is a time for looking back over the past century and looking forward to the next.

There have been massive changes in all walks of life during the 20th Century, so there was no way the pub trade could be any different and have escaped.

The country pub, one of the mainstays of the trade at the start of the century, has suffered more than most. The introduction of the breathalyser, combined with the lack of public transport, has caused a massive drop in people being able to drink in them. They are now under the extra threat from property developers.

We have seen the introduction of keg beer, hailed as best thing since sliced bread (please contact the editor if you know what the best thing was BEFORE sliced bread) when it was introduced.

There has been the introduction of theme pubs, the move away from local breweries and their subsequent closure, and the rise of the National brands, with the massive power of advertising behind their nitrokeg versions.

Prices of beer seem to only go upwards and there seems to be no sign of a reduction in beer taxes from the government, despite the ever increasing number of white transit vans making more and more trips across the channel to import beer 'for their own use'!

So is it all doom and gloom for the next hundred years?

DEFINITELY NOT!!

Despite the loss of some breweries, the number of small micro breweries and the choice of beers are increasing.

The tide of nitrokeg can only be sustained by the massive backing of advertising for so long.

The brewing industry is cyclical and although we are in a trough at the moment this must be followed by a peak!

**HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

THE END OF THE WORLD BAR & RESTAURANT WORLDS END, WENDOVER

**KAREN, PAUL
AND ALL THE STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THEIR
PATRONS FOR THEIR HELP AND
SUPPORT IN THE PAST YEAR,
AND
WISH THEM
ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN 2000**

**EXCITING NEW MENUS
NOW AVAILABLE**

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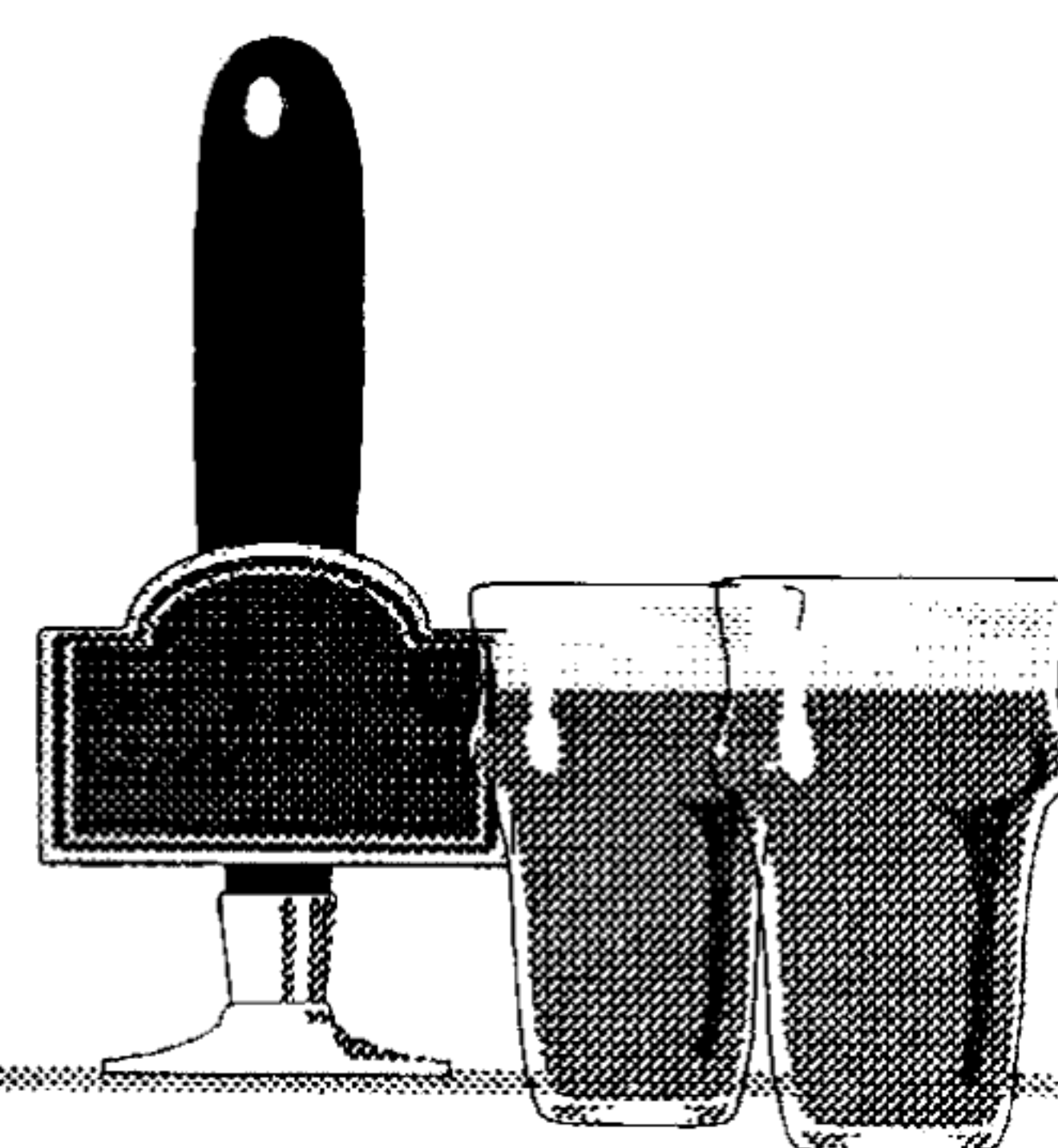
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**FIND US IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE
MILLENNIUM EDITION**

**FREE OFFERS IN THE RESTAURANT
JANUARY - MARCH
RING FOR DETAILS!**

**STILL FROM
ONLY
£1.20
PER PINT**





AYLESBURY

There have been major changes on the pub front in Aylesbury, with even more to come.

In the new leisure complex, built on the site of the old cattle market, there have been three new outlets opened.

The **Hogshead**, however, is the only one of the three to offer real ale. They now offer the biggest selection in the area and were selling *Fullers London Pride*, *Young's Special*, *Boddington's Bitter*, *Marston's Pedigree* and *Flower's Original* all on the handpump. In addition they had two guest beers on gravity which were *Wychwood Shires* and *Vale Edgar's Golden Ale* when last visited.

They are also offering a wide range of *Belgian* bottled beers.

The **Chicago Rock Café** was never expected to be a real ale outlet, and has lived up to expectations. It seems to be true to its name and will be concentrating on live music and food, and will just be offering the usual lagers and nitrokeg beers.

However, the opening of **Yates Wine Lodge** was something we had looked forward to, in fact it was featured way back in issue 6.

Imagine the disappointment felt when on entering we found only ranks of keg fonts and not a sign of a handpump anywhere! Especially as the others we know in this pub group, such as the one in Harrow, all serve a selection of real ale.

According to its own publicity, 'It's not like any Yates's you've seen before'. What a pity!!

Although it cannot be counted as a pub, the opening of the **Boulevard** café in Bourbon Street should be mentioned, though, again, there is no real ale.

Building work is continuing on the new **Club Med** which is due to open in Kingsbury Court. Further details next issue.

With all these new premises opening (plus a brand new cinema complex), there are going to be lots more people coming into the town. But where are they going to park? Is there any hope that public transport will be improved to cope, especially with more late night trains and buses? **Some hope!**

BEACONSFIELD

A proposal to replace the old style bay windows of the **White Horse** has been rejected by the local council. The change would have changed the look of the street and would not have been in keeping with Beaconsfield Old town.

FRIETH

The **Prince Albert** has had its living room converted into a twelve seat restaurant. Meals, all home-cooked fresh food, are served from Wednesday to Saturday.

GAWCOTT

Vale Brewery's only pub, the **Cuckoo's Nest**, formally opened on 26th of November. It's new landlords are Ken and Margaret Burt, well known local characters amongst pub-goers as previous landlords of the **Red Lion**, **Finmere**, and the **Queens Head**, **Chackmore**.

The pub's renovations are now complete, and it will continue to be known as a friendly local, offering **Vale** brewery beers plus guest ales from £1.50 per pint.

GREAT KINGSHILL

The final fate of the **Royal Oak** (see the front cover of last issue) is still uncertain. If you care about the pub, and want it to be reopened, please write to :-

Mark Spragg,
Planning Officer
Planning & Development
Wycombe District Council
Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks. HP11 1BB
Quoting: MAS/99/07188/FUL

Your letter could make the difference!

HIGH WYCOMBE

John Puddephat, formerly at the **Belle Vue**, is the new landlord at the **Desborough Arms**.

The **Hobgoblin** is now selling six traditional beers and all are selling well.

The **Iron Duke**, still under offer according to the board outside, is now offering *Wychwood Bitter* as well as *Courage Best Bitter* and *Directors*.

Demolition of the **Skinnars Arms** has now been completed.

LANE END

The **Clayton Arms** has been sold to a pub chain and the **Osborne Arms** has also been sold.

LITTLE KINGSHILL

The **Full Moon** has had new licensees for the last month. Alan and Pam Sandell have moved there from the **White Horse**, Harefield.

MARLOW

Despite the objections of a lot of the locals, and an attempt to get the pub listed, the **Clayton Arms** is to be gutted and totally changed. There will be a single-storey extension and the internal layout changed.

STONE

The plans to demolish the **County Arms** and turn it into houses has been turned down by the council.

However, the plans are being re-submitted and the appeal is due to be heard shortly. Again, your letter could help and if you care about the pub and want it reopened, please write to :-

Mick Denman
Development Control
A.V.D.C.
Planning Department,
Exchange Street
Aylesbury,
Bucks. HP20 1UB
Quoting: 99/2324 & 99/1543

TOWERSEY

The **Three Horseshoes** has reopened following major building work under the management of Chris Roffey and his partner Kelly Hall.

WADDESDON

Lyndia Wright, the landlady of the **Bell**, has been dismissed because she breached her contract with **Inn Business** by selling a barrel of beer she had not bought from them.

If the pub was owned by a major brewery, and not a pub group, her actions would have been allowed under the Beer Orders. This situation needs to be looked at before more landlords are sacked (no warnings or second chances need be given). We will be contacting **CAMRA** H. Q. to see what can be done and will report on progress next issue.

(Continued on page 7)

Mick and Wendy Rolley

The White Hart Quainton

(Nice Pub, shame about the Landlord)

**Adnams Bitter
Benskins Bitter
Guest Beers**

Evening meals served until 21:00

(except Thursday)

Bar Snacks available until 22:45.

Bed & Breakfast £25.00 p.p.p.n (inc V.A.T)
En Suite Room/Colour T.V./Tea/Coffee
English Tourist Board Approved (2 Crowns)

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Quainton, Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 4AS

Tel : 01296 655234

**Please note: We are closed for
Thursday Lunchtimes**

TEN YEARS ON

At this time of year everyone seems to be looking back over the last year, decade, century or even millennium. I decided to examine the local pub and beer scene ten years ago and compare it with the present.

Using the *Good Beer Guide* as a basis for my research I compared the 1990 and 2000 editions for our local area.

The first thing that struck me was that six pubs have appeared in both editions, quite a high proportion of our total allocation of 31 pubs.

These are:

- Prince Albert at Frieth
- Stag & Huntsman at Hambleden
- Swan at Stewkley
- Swan Hotel at Thame
- Five Elms at Weedon
- General Havelock, Wycombe Marsh.

Of course, not all have appeared continuously but the **Prince Albert** has been in the guide 26 times (maximum possible 27) under various landlords and the **Swan** at Stewkley 17 times in succession. This is a tremendous achievement for both pubs.

Special congratulations to Arch Grainger who has been at the **Swan** at Stewkley for over eleven years.

Next I compared the beers ten years apart.

Then the most popular beers were *Brakspear Bitter* (10 entries) and *ABC Best Bitter* (9 entries). Now the most popular beer is Fuller's London Pride (11

entries) and *Brakspear Bitter* (9 entries). In 1990 our pubs were dominated by national brewers **Ind Coope** (ABC, Benskins and Tetley) and **Courage** although this was not reflected in the latter case by *Good Beer Guide* entries.

Nowadays we are dominated by pub retail groups (as opposed to brewers) in many cases selling beers that were once only available in the tied trade.

In 1990 we only had one micro brewer, **Chiltern** (much more widely available then), but now we have another four: **Old Luxters**, **Rebellion**, **Sam Trueman** and **Vale**. Mild has never been very popular in our area, six entries in 1990, three now.

This is how the breweries are represented:

	1990	2000
<i>Nationals:</i>		
Courage	2	9
Ind Coope/Tetley	21	5
Bass	4	2
Whitbread	5	1
<i>Regionals:</i>		
Fuller	10	24
Brakspear	24	22
Greene King	0	10
Wadworth	4	6

Adnams	0	5
Morrells	6	4
Marstons	3	4
Other regionals	6	10

Micros:

Chiltern	2	0
Other micros	0	1

The biggest change in the last ten years has been the opening up of the guest beer market.

The 1990 guide did not mention guest beers although they did exist. The difference was that they were stocked on a more permanent basis, for example many **ABC** pubs stocked *Bass*, *Everard Tiger* or *Chiltern Beechwood* then.

Nowadays nearly every pub offers a so called guest beer, frequently changing, even breweries that are not obliged to do so by law.

On the whole, we now can choose from a far greater range of beer although many pubs do not have a truly free choice of the guests they can stock and micro brewers complain how difficult it is to sell their beer to anything other than genuine free houses.

Yes, despite all the problems of beer supply, we do have more choice now. In 1990 nearly half our *Good Beer Guide* pubs only sold one or two real ales each.

Nick Holt



Christmas at the Crown and Anchor Marlow

The only place serving Sam Trueman's Beers

Friday 17 December	Percy's Downfall (8.2%) arrives
Tuesday 21 December	Christmas Acoustic Night
Thursday 23 December	Carols by candlelight with John on the piano
Friday 24 December	Mulled wine and mince pies
Friday 31 December	Black tie party. A few tickets left.

Orders now being taken for Christmas beers

	4 pint	10 Litre	20 Litre	72 pints
Best (3.5%)	£5.00	£19.95	£39.90	£65.00
Bees Knees (4.3%)	£6.50	£21.90	£43.80	£78.50
Gold (5%)	£7.50	£24.90	£49.80	£88.50

Crown and Anchor
Oxford Road, Marlow 01491 576100

all prices include VAT @ 17.5%

Regional Pub of the Year

The **Royal Oak** at Wantage in Oxfordshire has been chosen as Regional Pub of the Year for **CAMRA's Central Southern Region**. This region covers the whole of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, and also a small part of Hertfordshire (around Tring & Hemel Hempstead).

The **Royal Oak** received its award at a presentation on 10th November. The latest **Good Beer Guide** says "a warm welcome is guaranteed at this justly popular, lively free house, the discerning drinker's paradise".

There is always a good range of guest beers as well as regulars from **Bass, Wadworth and West Berkshire**. A word of warning however, the pub is closed at lunchtime from Monday to Thursday.

Runners up to the **Royal Oak** were the **Hop Leaf** at Reading and the **Cock at Wing**.

The **Royal Oak** now enters the final stage of judging against 15 other regions to find an overall national **Pub of the Year**. The result will be announced next April.

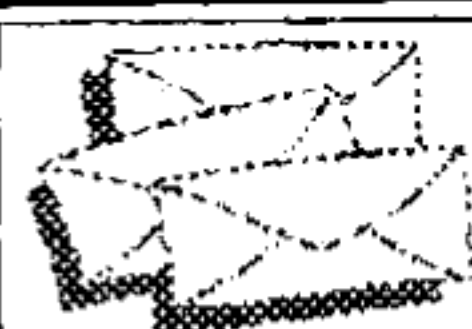
You read it here First!!

Articles in the last issue have resulted in extra coverage in other papers.

The story we ran on the front page regarding the **Royal Oak**, Great Kingshill has been taken

up by **CAMRA's** own newspaper, **'What's Brewing'**.

Also, the article on the loss of **ABC Bitter** meant that your editor managed to get his picture in the **'Bucks Herald'**!



Letters

Send your letters to the editorial address.

During a recent London pub-crawl of the **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe Branch** it was pointed out that it was easier to get to many parts of London, from Aylesbury and Wycombe, than to many parts of the branch's area let alone the rest of Bucks.

As most of us know there are many excellent pubs in the county's hinterland but often no way to reach them apart from by taxi, which can be expensive, or private motor vehicle with the inherent problems of finding a driver prepared to drink coke or tomato juice all evening.

Realistically I appreciate that a half-hourly bus service to every village, up until midnight, passing isolated rural pubs en route, may not always be viable.

However I would hope that those in positions of influence including our MEP, MPs and Councillors are aware of this problem and more importantly

are doing something about it.

Rural communities need rural pubs (as well as schools, post offices shops etc) as they can be a centre of village life. Rural pubs need viable transport links for locals and visitors alike.

I hope that the new millennium will see an improvement in transport links to our villages and that rural pubs will thrive.

Alistair Blackett

(Transport, or rather the lack of it, has been one of the nails in the coffin for many sadly missed country pubs.

The government is happy to hit the motorist with ever higher petrol costs to force people out of their cars, but does not provide the public transport to replace them, especially in the evening.

Try getting a bus or train virtually anywhere in Bucks after closing time! -Ed.)



The Cock Inn Wing



- * **The Aylesbury Vale &** *
- * **Wycombe CAMRA** *
- * **Pub of the Year 1999** *

Tel 01296 688214

*(You know where we are and what we do!)
So Please.....*

Wishing ALL 'Swan Supping' readers and browsers a Very Merry Christmas and a
'HIP HOP' *Groovy, Smashing,*
ALE DRINKING
New Year!!

From Stephen, Gwenn and all the Staff

The Carpenters Arms, Marlow



Home Made Sandwiches available
Pub Games
Real Fire, Patio

15 Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks
Telephone : 01628 473649



MORRELLS

*Oxfor's Finest Beers
Morrells Varsity & Bitter*



IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!

Vale Brewery of Haddenham offer Award Winning Local ales, made from only the finest malted barley and whole English hops, in ready to drink party packs. To order, telephone 01844 290008 giving a minimum 24 hours notice for "bright" beer.

<u>Price List (Inc. VAT)</u>	<u>ABV</u>	<u>(72 pt.)</u>	<u>(36 pt.)</u>	<u>(16 pt.)</u>
		<u>Firkin Poly-pin/box</u>		
Notley Ale	3.3%	£71.00*	£41.00	£21.00
Wychert Ale	3.9%	£73.00*	£43.00	£22.00
Edgar's Golden Ale	4.3%	£75.00*	£45.00	£23.00
<i>CAMRA Double Gold Medal winner ! FINALIST ! GBBF 1997.</i>				

Speciality Beers

Black Swan – Dark Mild	3.3%	£72.00*	£42.00	£21.00
<i>CAMRA Double Gold Medal winner !</i>				
Black Beauty – Porter	4.3%	£76.00*	£46.00	£23.00

Bottled Beers

Halcyon Daze – English Ale.	4.3%	12 x 500ml Case	£18.00
Good King Senseless	5.2%	12 x 500ml Case	£20.00

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER!!

5% off all cask ales or £1 per case off all bottled beers on presentation of this voucher!

Local Brewery News

OLD LUXTERS



CHRISTMAS ALE

5% VOL BOTTLE CONDITIONED 33cl
OLD LUXTERS FARM BREWERY, HAMBLEDEN, OXON, ENGLAND
1967 BEFORE 1967 2002

OLD LUXTERS

Old Luxters brewery have launched a new bottle conditioned beer for Christmas.

This 5% ABV mid-brown brew is called *Old Luxters Christmas Ale* and is available in 33cl bottles @ £1.60 each.

Another new bottled beer is the 5% ABV strong dark ale called *Diplomats Privilege*. This was produced for **International Diplomatic Suppliers**, who deliver to diplomatic missions all over the world.

There is a special Christmas offer available on carryout beer sales. Available seven days a week from the brewery shop will be beer from £1 per pint. If you are

unsure which are to your taste, you can try before you buy.

Work on the new cellar shop is nearing completion. This change will increase the available sales area by four times.

REBELLION

The open day in October was a great success. Over 3500 people visited during the two days and their may be other open days in the future.

The work on the brewery is still continuing with extra tanks due to arrive in the near future.

The Christmas brew, *Roasted Nuts* is now available. This is a 4.6% ABV brown beer with a nutty flavour.

A special beer for the Millennium has also been produced. This is a pale beer made with **Cascade** hops called *Rebellion Bug*. The strength is 4.8% ABV and it is described as being 'deceptively strong'.

If these are not enough, there will be another new beer (4.6% ABV) in the new year called *Hangover from Hell!*.



VALE

The annual winter brew *Good King Senseless* is now available in both its cask and bottled forms.

According to their latest press release, *Vale* brewery they are thinking about reviving the well known *Aylesbury Duck Bitter*. This could be renamed as *VBC*. Sounds like an excellent idea – we will keep you up to date with any news as it happens.

TRUEMAN'S

In the latest issue of '*Whats Brewing*' there is an article bemoaning the fact that there are so few really strong winter ales being produced!

However, we in this area are lucky enough to have *Percy's Downfall* which is a very respectable 8.2% ABV.

It is due to be delivered to the **Crown and Anchor** in Marlow on the 17th of December.

Old Luxters Brewery



Traditional Ales and Bottle Conditioning

Tel 01491 638330

Vic & Sue Hinde
welcome you to

The White Swan

10 High Street
Whitchurch

Tel: 01296 641228

Home Made Meals
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Large Attractive Beer Garden

2000 Good Beer Guide
Fullers Traditional Ales



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AND OVER 200 LANDLORDS**
For as little as £4.50 per issue

Please contact the editor for
further details

Beer Festival Report

The sixth *Vale of Aylesbury* beer festival, held in conjunction with the *Friends of Florence Nightingale House*, was a great success.

The official opening was carried out by the mayor of Aylesbury, **Chester Jones**, as he pulled the first pint.

For the first time, the festival was held at the *Guttmann Centre* in Stoke Mandeville. This larger venue allowed us to offer even more beer and cider than ever before.

There were 32 cask ales, five ciders and a perry. The first beer to run out on the Saturday night was the winner of the *CAMRA Beer of the Year 1999* award, *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, shortly followed by the cask lager *Harviestoun Schiehallion*.

At closing time, however, there was plenty of beer remaining and a lot of customers were pleased to take advantage of the two and four pint carryout containers available.

Despite the rain, which was persistent throughout the weekend, the event managed to raise over £1700 for the *Friends*.

The hall had to be paid for this year (the use of the *Ranch House* was kindly donated), but this money goes towards the work with handicapped people carried out at the centre.

During the festival, votes were cast for the best beers in each category and an overall champion.

For the second year running, a dark mild has won the prize for best beer – big brewers please note!!



Local News (continued)



(Continued from page 2)

WENDOVER

Phil and Jan Hills of the *Red Lion*, have won the *Regent Inns* 'Licensees of the Year' award.

They beat seventy other licensees within the group to win for the second time.

The *Shoulder of Mutton* has reopened following another refurbishment.

Formerly a *Henry's Table*, it has become part of the *Red Rose Inns* chain of pubs.

WHEELER END COMMON

Ron Henry, formerly landlord of the *Black Boy* (now *Terriers*) has taken over the *Chequers*.

WORLDS END

The new landlords at the *Marquis of Granby* are Eddie and Shirley Household.

They are very enthusiastic about cask conditioned beers and aim to keep up to six different brews.

Beer of the Festival Winners

MILD/LIGHT BITTER

Moorhouse's Black Cat Mild

BITTERS/SPECIAL BITTERS

Ridleys Big Tackle

STRONG BEERS

Dent's T'Owd Tup

CIDERS/PERRYS

Weston's Old Rosie

OVERALL BEER OF THE FESTIVAL

Moorhouse's Black Cat Mild

The Bell



Bierton

Dave & Vee White
191 Aylesbury Road, Bierton,
Aylesbury, Bucks
Tel: 01296 436055

*Listed in the Good Beer Guide
1999 & 2000*

Traditional village pub

Meals served 7 days a week:

Lunchtimes: 12.00 – 2.30pm

Evenings: 6.00 – 9.30pm

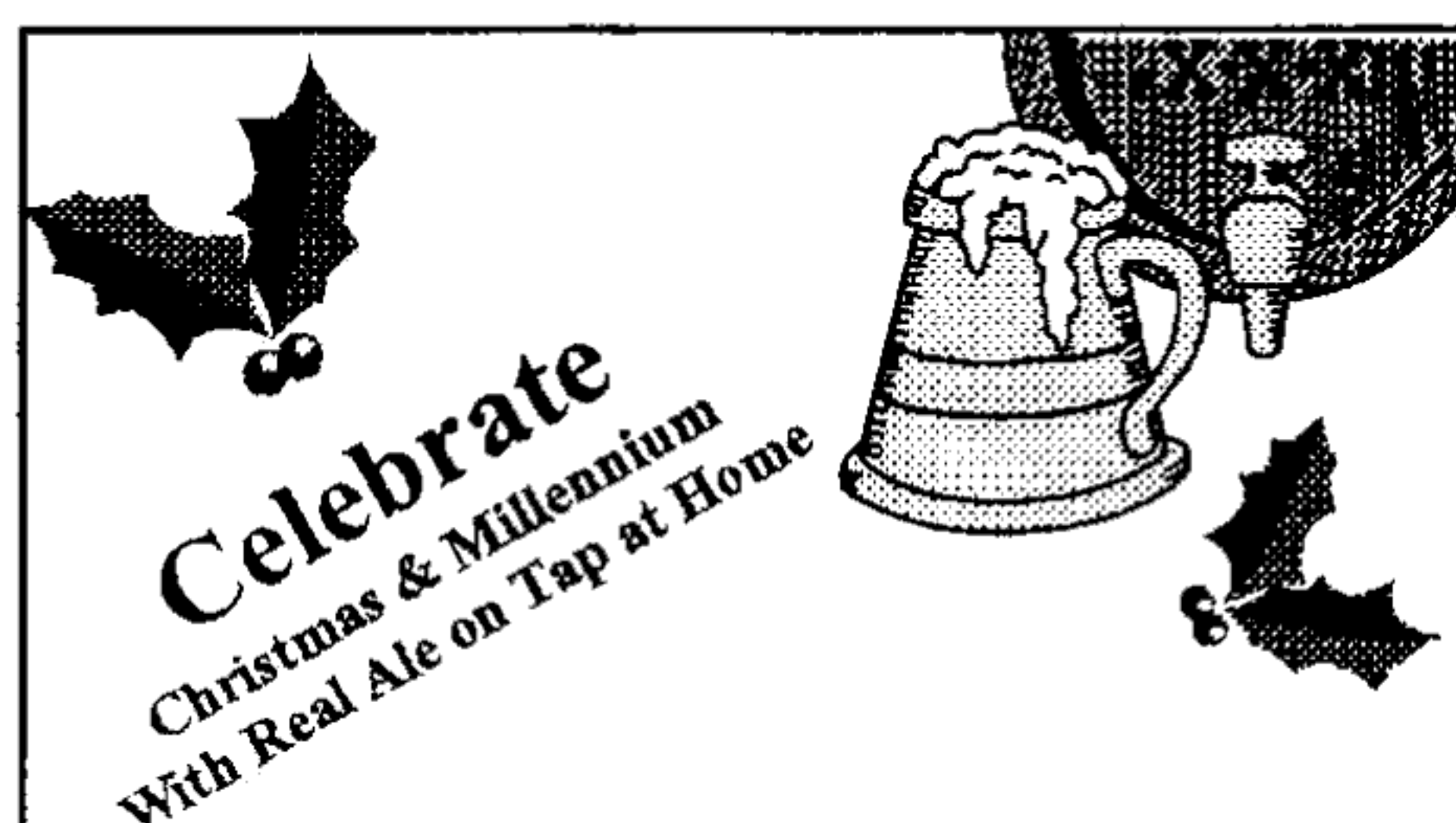
**FULLER'S JACK FROST 4.5%
NOW AVAILABLE**

*All meals prepared and cooked
in our own kitchen (not frozen meals)*

Live **JAZZ** last Sunday of every month
(no food available on jazz evenings)

FULLER'S AWARD WINNING ALES
PLUS A DIFFERENT GUEST BEER EACH MONTH
FROM AN INDEPENDENT BREWER

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**Firkins, Polypins
& Polycasks available**
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ORDER EARLY

Over 50 British Bottled Beers also in stock
plus a fine range of wines
All you need to celebrate the festivities from

WYCOMBE WINES

20 Crendon Street
High Wycombe

Rebellion Brewery Trip 5th October 1999

The **Rebellion Brewery** at Marlow Bottom (founded 1993) recently moved half a mile from their cramped industrial estate premises to buildings on a farm which they have meticulously converted for micro brewery use.

This move has increased brewing capacity from 50 to over 200 barrels a week by also purchasing the development plant from Courage of Reading. In addition, the new equipment allows them to produce a wider range of beer styles.

Tim Coombes, one of the founders of **Rebellion**, gave us the tour with an informative and exhaustive account of how they converted old farm buildings to accommodate brewing equipment,

their various in-house processes, and the current state of the brewing industry.

Some technical brewing chemistry was also thrown in to confuse the majority!

One staggering fact to emerge was just how much duty is paid to H. M. Government. The **Rebellion** brewery pays the Exchequer nearly £20,000 per month. However, **Courage** pays £1 million per day and that is just one brewery (sorry - was one brewery (now closed by **Scottish Courage**) R. I. P.).

Beer sampling was continuous throughout the evening with *IPA*, *Blonde Bombshell* (a light summer drink), *Red October* and *Old Trout* (a hefty winter ale).

Food was provided by the Brewery Liaison Officer, John Williamson, who celebrated his fiftieth birthday the following day!

Tony Gabriel

Donnington BB

Otter Bitter

Scanlans Bitter

Other Guest
Beers

Batham Best Bitter, Hook Norton &
Timothy Taylor Landlord
always available



**THE
SHEPHERDS
CROOK**

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Festival

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Crowell,
Nr. Chinnor
Oxon. OX9 4RR
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For Real Ales, Fine Wines and
Fresh Home Cooking
(Fish a speciality)

Hogshead

High Street, Marlow
Tel: 01628 478737

Beers available in December

Ridleys - Santa's Secret 4.8%
Cottage Santa's Steaming Ale 5.5%
Hardys - Rocking Rudolph 5.0%
Everards - Old Original 5.2%
Exmoor - Exmas 5.0%
Bunces - Rudolph 5.0%
Rebellion - Roasted Nuts 4.6%

Plus our usual fine selection of
Session Beers

January's beers will be CAMRA winners
over the last decade



Recent CAMRA publications reviewed



Berkshire Pub Guide (6th edition)

(Edited by Colin Lanham, 136 pages – Berkshire branches of CAMRA £4.95)

This new guide has to be one of the best local CAMRA county guides I have seen.

It is an extremely professional publication and it succeeds by the subtlety of its design. The handy narrow pocket-size format contains an abundance of information.

Some readers may consider the typeface somewhat small, but the pages have been designed for maximum clarity by the use of tasteful typography. Credit for this goes to Sophie Watson, a student in Typography and Graphic Communication at the University of Reading.

There are no photographs but the line drawings of pubs are very effective and there are also well drawn town and county maps.

Enough about the design, what about the content? I don't know many Berkshire pubs but I've checked a few descriptions and they seem to be very fair.

All pubs are listed, even those which don't sell real ale. Every real ale pub receives a full description and the best are classed as 'recommended' – these should offer excellent beer and service.

Only this last category includes a full list of facilities using the standard CAMRA symbols. It can't have been easy for the editors to have decided which pubs should receive the 'recommended' accolade. Pubs which don't come up to this standard

seem to receive a fairly even-handed description nevertheless.

About a quarter of the book contains some well written pieces on the brewing industry nationally as well at county level, beer styles, beer listings, methods of serving beer and details about CAMRA. Updates can be obtained from an e-mail address.

And, almost unique in local CAMRA guides, there is an element of humour.

Throughout the text, odd spaces have been filled up with little beery or boozy quotations from the likes of Oscar Wilde, William Shakespeare, W.C. Fields, Lord Byron and Dean Martin.

I like this one: 'A fine beer may be judged with just one sip, but it is better to be thoroughly sure' (Anon).

Fifty Great Pub Crawls

by Barrie Pepper

(192 pages (56 in colour)
CAMRA Books £8.99)

This could be a really useful book that may lure you to parts of Britain you don't often reach.

There are plenty of obvious selections: Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Bristol etc, but there are also a few unlikely towns for a good crawl such as Ledbury or Kington (that's in Herefordshire by the way).

Most of the crawls are intended to be done foot and many of them, sensibly, start

and finish at a train or bus station.

There are some more unconventional crawls, e.g. Leeds to Manchester by rail, the Severn Valley by steam train and the Lee Valley by boat.

Barrie Pepper has compiled an excellent book with plenty of interesting history about the featured towns. Lots of photographs are included throughout and the last 56 pages feature town maps and a selection of pub photos, both in full colour. Each crawl covers about eight pubs and every one is described along with its probable beer range.

The Oxford crawl covers the following pubs: **Three Goats Heads, White Horse, Kings Arms, Turf Tavern, The Bear, Wheatsheaf, Crown**

and **The Brewery Gate**.

This is an ideal book to take on a weekend break. Get someone to give it to you for Christmas!

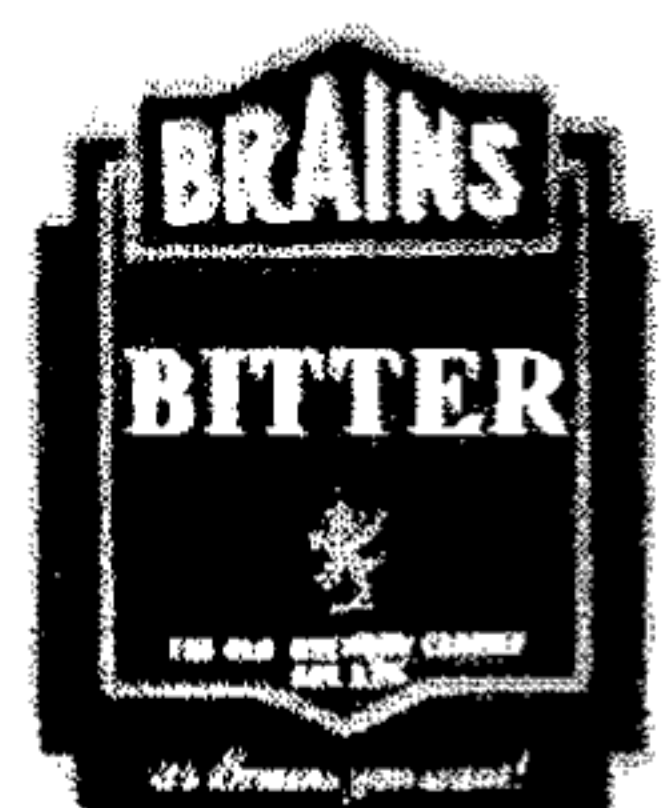
*Book Reviews written by
Nick Holt*

Any of the books reviewed here (plus many more books devoted to beer) can be ordered from:-

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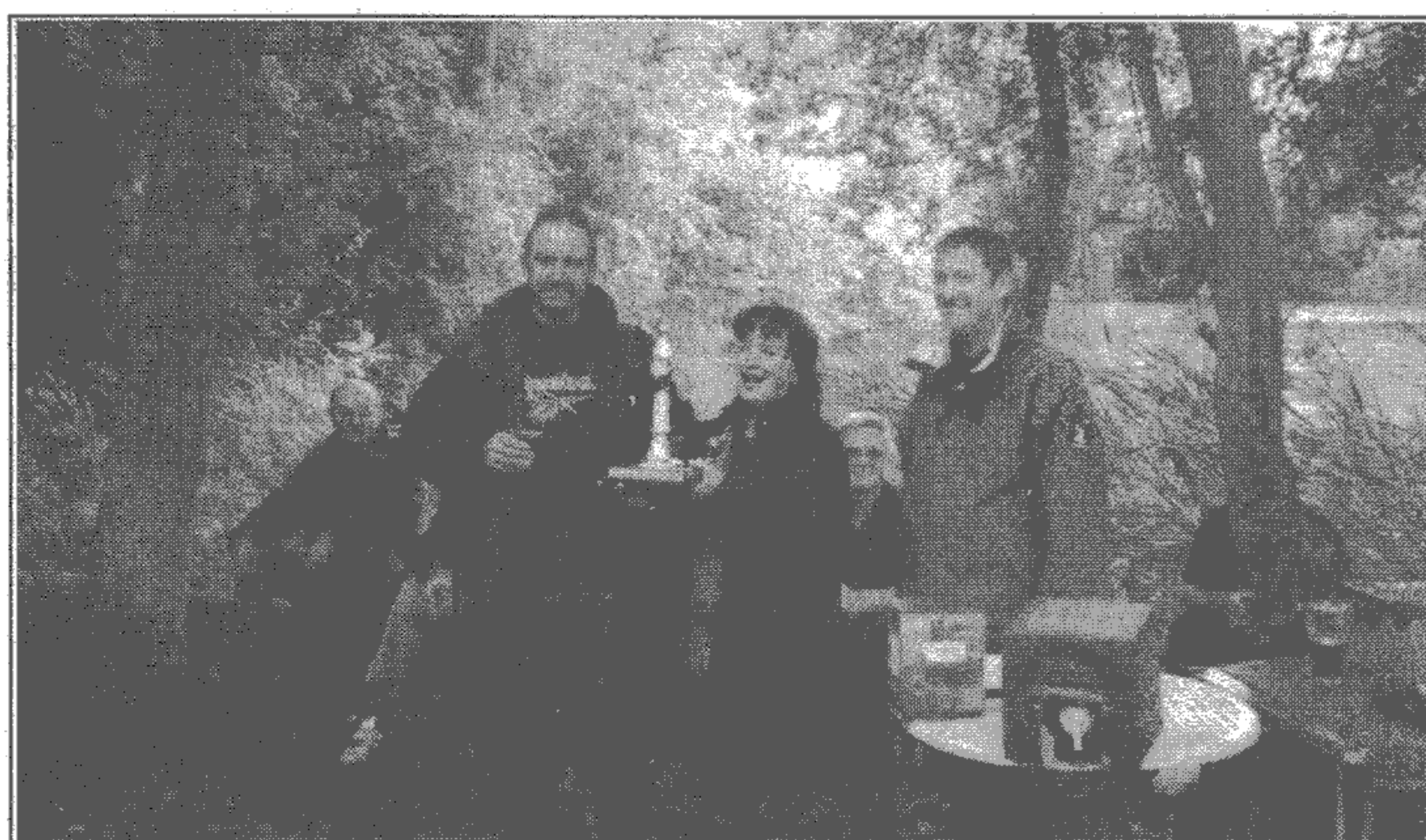
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Email: Sales@dayladrinks.co.uk

A FISHY T'ALE



The *Vale Brewery* from Haddenham, held their annual 'Landlord and Guest Fishing Challenge' on the 30th of September this year.

It was hosted at Biggin Pond, Dinton, followed by dinner at the *Seven Stars* in the evening.

There were eleven pubs represented this year and the pubs from our branch area who were taking part were the *Cock*, *Wing*, the *Ship*, *Aylesbury*, the *Unicorn*, *Cublington*, and the *Victoria Club*, also from *Aylesbury*, which owns the pond used for the contest.

The competition takes all day with the winners being decided by the weight of fish caught by each team (the fish are put back at the end of the day) and this year the competition was won with a record winning weight.

This year's winning team came from the *White Hart*, Sherrington.

The photograph shows the winning landlady, Pat, with the trophy, made from a handpump, sandwiched between her guest and Phil Stevens from *Vale* brewery.

Previous winners include the *Ship*, *Aylesbury*, and the *Bull*, Newport Pagnell.

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

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at the

KING'S HEAD

Prestwood

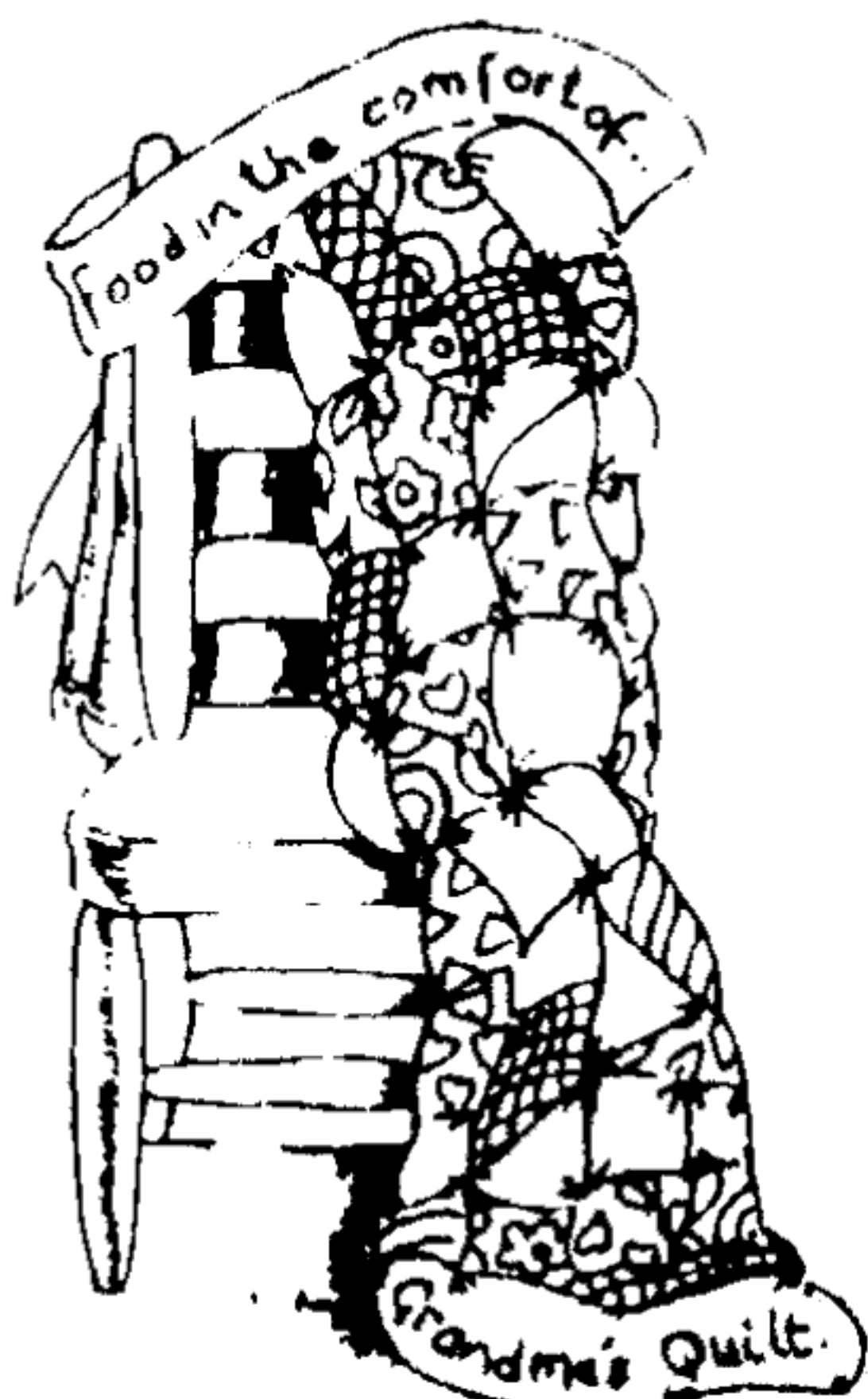
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National News



donations are still welcome from all sources.

Please contact the editor if you wish to help – even a fiver could help make a difference!

WOLVES AT MANSFIELD'S DOOR W&D to take over Mansfield Brewery

Drinkers in the East Midlands are preparing to step up the campaign to protect *Mansfield's* prized brewery and the beers it brews. The call to action follows the announcement that the sale of *Mansfield Brewery* to *Wolverhampton and Dudley* has now been agreed.

Following campaigning by local CAMRA members and the 'Save the Brewery' action group led by Alan Meale MP, *W&D* has pledged to keep the *Mansfield Brewery* open for at least two years while it completes a strategic review of its brewing business.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, "This take-over promises to offer shareholders a good deal, but the loss of *Mansfield's* independence is unlikely to offer benefits for consumers. It's a welcome development that *Wolves* intends to keep brewing at *Mansfield* for at least two years and CAMRA will be pushing for them to keep the brewery open long-term."

CAMRA is concerned for the future of favourite beers such as *Old Baily* and *Riding Bitter* and will be seeking a pledge from *Wolves* to keep these beers alive.

Mr. Benner added, "*W&D* will undoubtedly be reviewing its beer portfolio and we want to make sure that East Midlands drinkers don't lose out. We will also seek assurances that the *Mansfield* pubs will get the investment they deserve."

Following the take over, *Wolverhampton and Dudley* will be by far the biggest regional brewer in Britain with four breweries.

Mike Benner said, "We are concerned that consolidation is crippling Britain's regional brewing sector and reducing choice for consumers. Take-overs like this cannot be viewed in isolation as *W&D's* competitors will be keen to maintain their market position."

The sale remains subject to a high court sanction with regards to the FB Baily Thomas Provident Fund. CAMRA supports any moves to maintain the independence of *Mansfield Brewery* through a management buy out.

TIME TO HIT BACK

CAMRA launched the *Real Ale Fighting Fund* earlier this year to try and counter the massive amount of advertising the large brewers are investing in the promotion of their range of nitro-keg beers.

Hardly an advertising break on TV goes by without an advert for keg *Tetley*, keg *John Smith's* or keg *Boddingtons*, let alone the *Budweiser* frogs!

When did you last see such a concerted ad campaign for one of their equivalent real ales?

Regional and local brewers do their best to promote and advertise their brands, but CAMRA can publicise cask ale generically to rekindle the enthusiasm for proper beer that was so evident twenty years ago.

Nitro-keg adverts cynically try to blur the distinctions between keg and cask, is it any wonder that today's consumers are unaware that they are being fobbed off with second best?

CAMRA are trying to get money in addition to the money raised from subscriptions, which is already spent on their normal campaigning, to stand up to this grave threat.

The *Real Ale Fighting Fund* will be invested, every penny of it, in raising the profile of real ale, in reawakening the nation's jaded tastebuds, in making consumers young and old aware that the image the big brewers and parts of the press are promoting is merely a cynical ploy.

Already the fund has raised thousands of pounds and has been supported by regional and independent breweries alike with offers of money and the donation of poster sites.

Money is still coming in from CAMRA members using the form which is in every issue of 'What's Brewing', but

Branch Contacts

Chairman	David Roe	01296 484551
Treasurer	Tony Gabriel	01494 527884
Secretary	Nick Holt	01296 483554
Bierton	Mick White	01296 428266
Beaconsfield	Colin Staines	01494 674427
Bledlow Ridge	Ben Walter	01494 481459
High Wycombe	Elvis Evans	01494 511248
Marlow	John Williamson	01628 486378
Stokenchurch	John Bazin	01494 483039
Wendover	John & Tina Wood	01296 625215

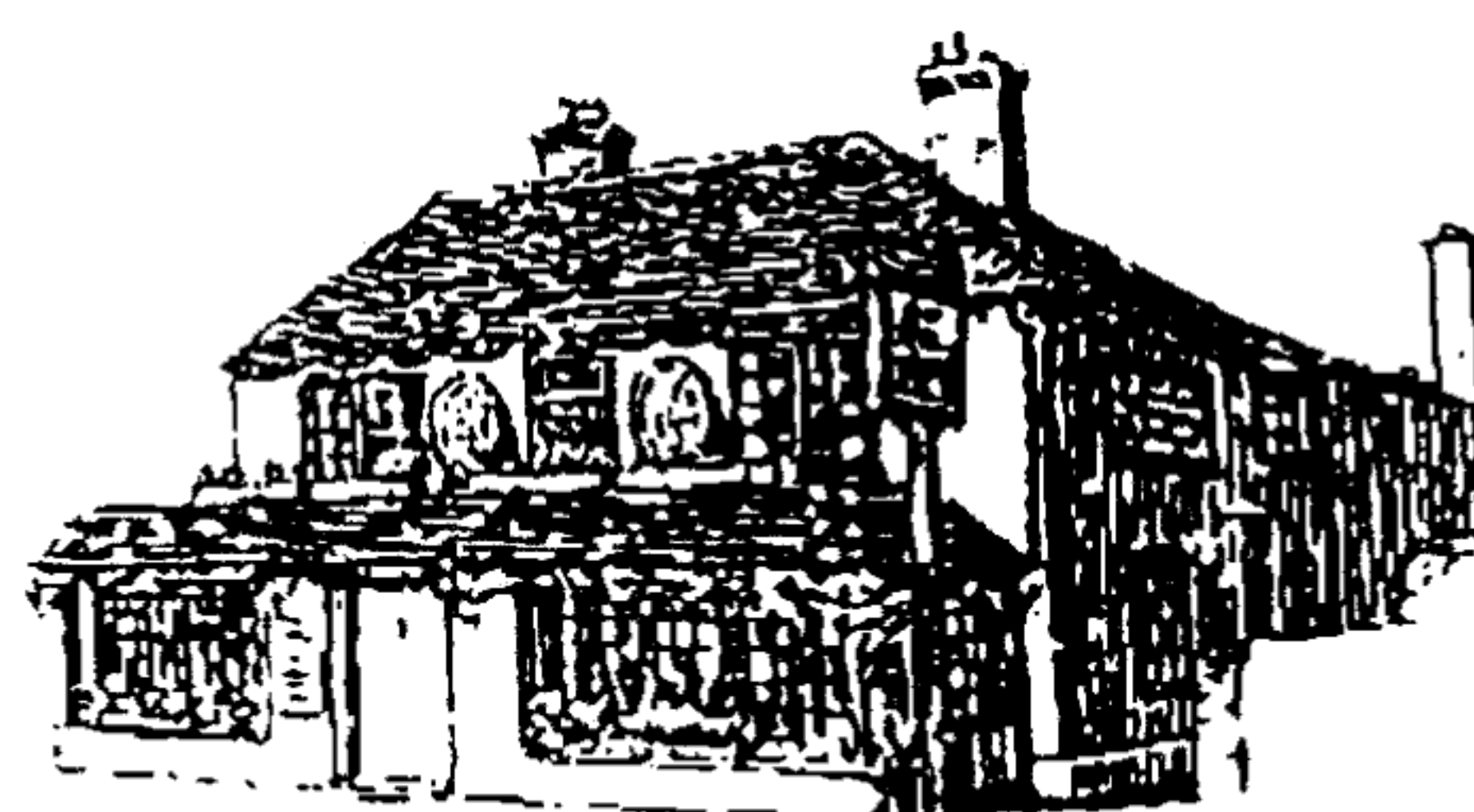
Useful Addresses

CAMRA HQ: 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW. Tel: 01727 867201 Fax: 01727 867670 E-mail: camra@camra.org.uk Internet: http://www.camra.org.uk	TRADING STANDARDS <i>For complaints about short measure, price lists, strength lists (ABV), etc.</i> Aylesbury: County Hall, Walton Street, HP20 1UP Tel: 01296 383212 Oxford: PO Box 618, County Hall, OX1 1DX Tel: 01865 815000 (Mon - Fri 8:30am-5pm)
PLANNING DEPARTMENT <i>For comments, complaints or objections about pub alterations or developments -</i> Aylesbury: AVDC Planning Dept, Exchange St, Aylesbury HP20 1UB Tel: 01296 585406	ADVERTISING STANDARDS AUTHORITY <i>For complaints about deceptive advertising-</i> Advertising Standards Authority Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place London WC1E 7HN

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Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!

December 1999

Wednesday 1st WHITCHURCH SOCIAL

9:00pm White Horse, 10:00pm White Swan

Tuesday 7th BRANCH MEETING

8:30pm Lions of Bledlow

Tuesday 14th KINGSWOOD SOCIAL

9:30pm Plough & Anchor

Monday 20th MARSH SOCIAL

9:30pm Prince of Wales

Thursday 30th HAMBLEDEN LUNCHTIME SOCIAL

Noon - Stag & Huntsman

January 2000

Friday 14th MARLOW MEANDER

7:30pm Hogshead, 8:30pm Cross Keys, 9:15pm Carpenter's Arms,
10:00pm Crown & Anchor

Tuesday 18th CROWELL SOCIAL

9:00pm Shepherd's Crook

Monday 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8:00pm Red Lion, Haddenham

CAMRA members only please

February

Tuesday 1st TYLERS GREEN TODDLE

8:00pm Horse & Groom, 9:00pm Old Queen's Head,
10:00pm Horse & Jockey



CAMRA AYLESBURY VALE & WYCOMBE BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday January 24th at 8:00pm
Red Lion, Haddenham



ALL LOCAL CAMRA MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND

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 Northridge Printing Services Limited, Unit 13-14,
Bessemer Crescent, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3TF.

Circulation 2600 copies.

Edited by David Roe

Editorial Address : 16 Jasmine Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9SH.

Tel/Fax : 01296 484551

E-Mail : DWRSS@aol.com

Advertising rates are :- 1/16 page £5, 1/8 page £15, 1/4 page £25, 1/2 page
£50, full page £90. Add 10% for front page adverts. 10% discounts for
payment in advance.

Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st February 2000 is
14th January.

Subscriptions :- To receive editions of Swan Supping by post, please send
SAEs to the Editor.

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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.



Beer Festival Diary

December 1999

Nov 30th - 4th (Tue-Sat) 18th PIGS EAR BEER FESTIVAL
Old Town Hall, Stratford, London E15

3rd - 4th (Fri-Sat) 2nd COCKERMOUTH BEER FESTIVAL
Kirkgate Centre, Kirkgate.

January 2000

7th - 9th (Fri-Sun) CHELMSFORD WINTER BEER FESTIVAL
Student Union Bar, above Sports Hall, Anglia University, Park Road,
Chelmsford

13th - 15th (Thu-Sat) CAMBRIDGE WINTER ALE FESTIVAL
Anglia Polytechnic University Canteen, off East Road, Cambridge.

15th (Sat) EXETER FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES

Coaver Club, County Hall, Topsham Rd, Exeter.

27th - 29th (Thu-Sat) ST NEOTS WINTER ALE FESTIVAL

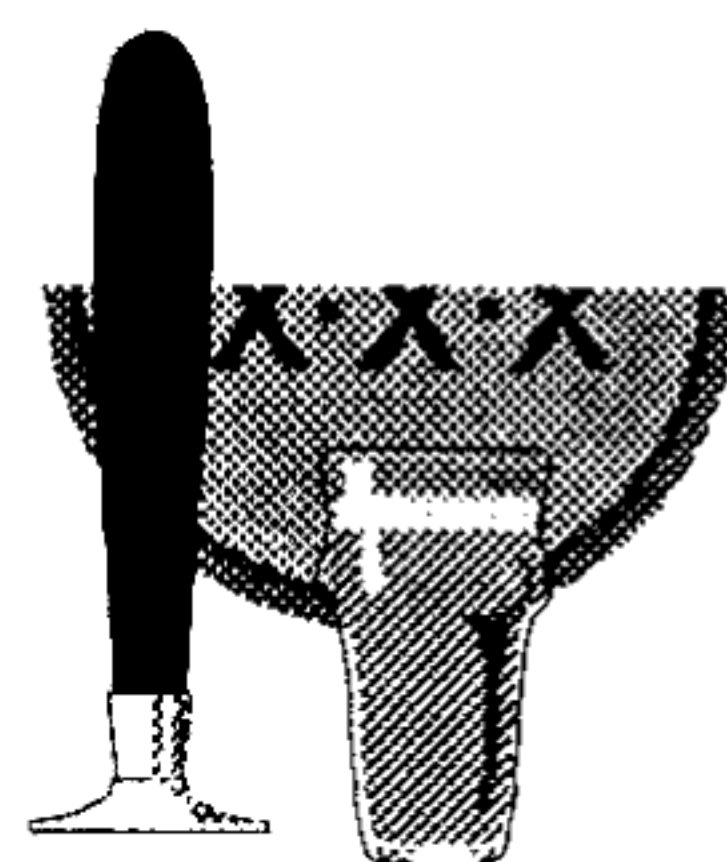
St Neots Town Football Club, Social Club, Cambridge Rd

27th - 29th (Thu-Sat) ELEVENTH BENT & BONGS BEER BASH

(ATHERTON BEER FESTIVAL), Formby Hall, High St, Atherton, Manchester

28th - 29th (Fri-Sat) 5th BURTON-ON-TRENT WINTER BEER FESTIVAL
Burton-on-Trent Town Hall.

28th - 30th (Fri-Sun) MANSFIELD & ASHFIELD CAMRA WINTER BEER
FESTIVAL, Festival Hall, Hodgkinson St, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Notts



CAMRA GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL 2000

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