

Swan Supping

FREE

Spring 1997



Campaign for Real Ale

Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch

Issue 1

Launch Issue

Welcome to the first issue of a new publication for pub-goers in the Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe area. It will be published quarterly and will be available free of charge from selected local pubs. We will include local and national news and views about pubs and traditional beers. We would welcome your comments on this and any other issue of Swan Supping. If you have any local news or other contributions, our contact details are on page three of this issue.

Election Special
The CAMRA Manifesto - Page 3

CAMRA VICTORY IN EUROPE

Beer drinkers across Britain are toasting the Campaign for Real Ale which has successfully fought off a legal challenge to the British guest beer law. In August last year, the European Commission announced that it would take legal action against the British law, claiming that it discriminated against imports.

of beers in pubs. It could have been life or death for some of Britain's smallest brewers."

CAMRA was able to demonstrate that a wide variety of beers across Europe qualified under the guest beer law. A massive campaign was launched bringing together MPs, MEPs, British brewers, Continental brewers and drinkers across Europe. "We're grateful for all those who helped - not least ordinary drinkers."

CAMRA now expects the commission to take no action. "The guest beer law improves choice in thousands of pubs and is vital for hundreds of small independent brewers, producing quality ales." said CAMRA Campaigns Manager Stephen Cox. "We could have lost the guest beer, or seen it fatally damaged - worsening our choice

Stephen Cox added - "Now the Department of Trade and Industry is consulting on some modest positive changes to the legislation, which will both improve consumer choice and satisfy the Commission."

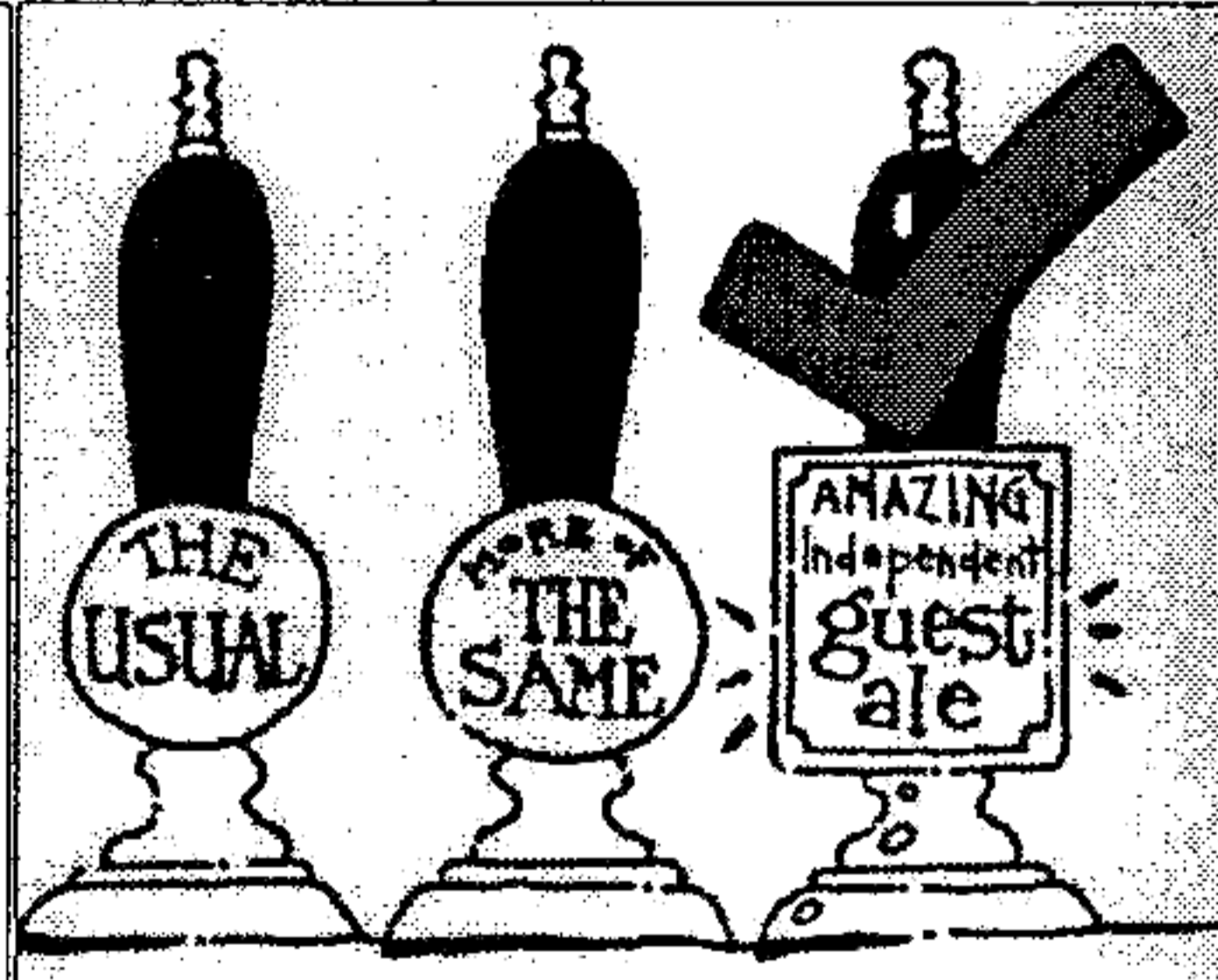
New Readers Start Here

CAMRA is an independent, voluntary, consumer organisation. Membership is open to all individuals, but corporate entities such as breweries and pubs are not members.

CAMRA is financed through membership subscriptions, sales of products such as books and sweatshirts, and from the proceeds of beer festivals. We receive no funding from the brewing industry other than a limited amount of advertising in our monthly newspaper "What's Brewing".

CAMRA's mission is to act as champion of the consumer in relation to the UK and European beer and drinks industry. CAMRA saved real ale, it is no exaggeration to say, and as a result saved many independent breweries. No new ale breweries were set up in the UK for the fifty years before we were founded. There are now around 200 new brewers producing real ale, part of a massive real ale revival.

Membership has grown from around 20,000 in 1989 to over 50,000. So why not join us? See page six for a membership form or come to one of our socials to find out more.



Threatened Pub Saved!

The Black Horse at Lacey Green, which had been under threat of closure has been sold to Wiltshire brewer, Gibbs Mew. Discovery Inns who owned the pub had applied for planning permission to convert the pub

into a private residence and build another house on the car park. Permission was rejected by Wycombe District Council. Discovery Inns appealed against the decision.

Local campaigners wrote to the brewery explaining the situation fearing that their offer to buy might be withdrawn unless a decision is made quickly.

More than 300 households opposed Discovery Inn's planning application. As well as the threat to the community pub, the village has lost its post office and the village shop, Hickman's Stores, is also closing.

The current Landlord and landlady will be continuing at the pub when Gibbs Mew take over on May 9th.

50,000 members can't be wrong!

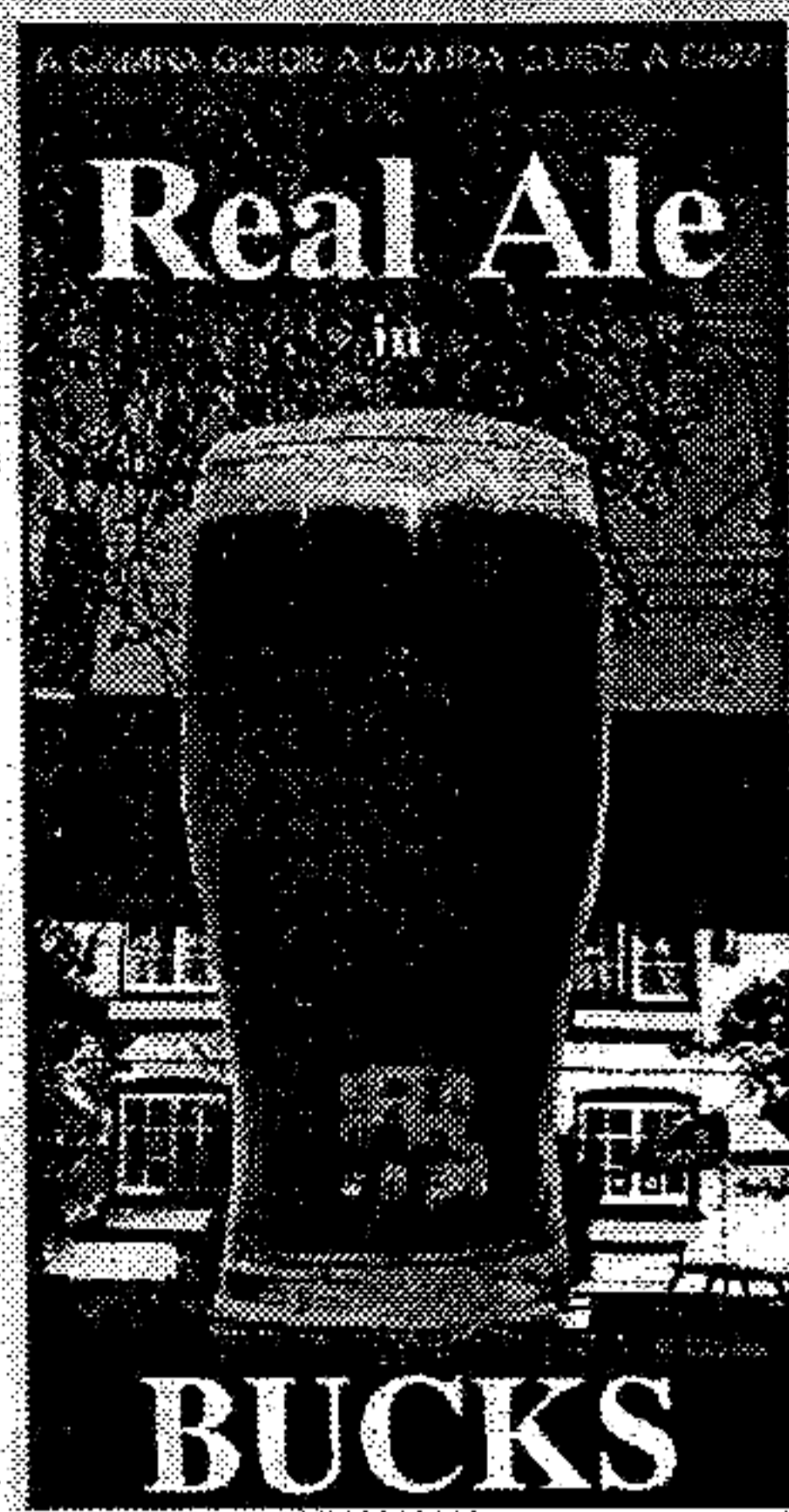
Join CAMRA today!

See Page 2 for details of our award winning Local Beer Guide

Advertising in Swan Supping can cost as little as £5

See page 3!

Ever had trouble finding your style of pub in Bucks?



You won't with the definitive guide to every pub in the county!

Available by mail at £4.95 inc. postage & packing from :-
John Wood

10 Warneford Avenue, Halton,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP23 5QD

Please make cheques payable to 'CAMRA BUCKS GUIDE'

CAMRA's local guide of the year award winner!

Local News - "Top Ups"

Just when it seemed likely that we would lose every last pub selling real cider in the branch area, we get a brand new one. The Hogshead in Marlow has recently opened and it sells Bulmers Old Hazy. So a big "well done" to the Hogshead.

The Papermakers arms in Loudwater has re-opened after its fire. Its former internal and external appearance has been retained. Beers are Morrels Bitter, Varsity and Graduate.

The Royal Oak at Great Kingshill has a new landlady and landlord. The Morrells pub has now removed the pool table from the games room and turned the room into a dining area. The main front bar stays the same.

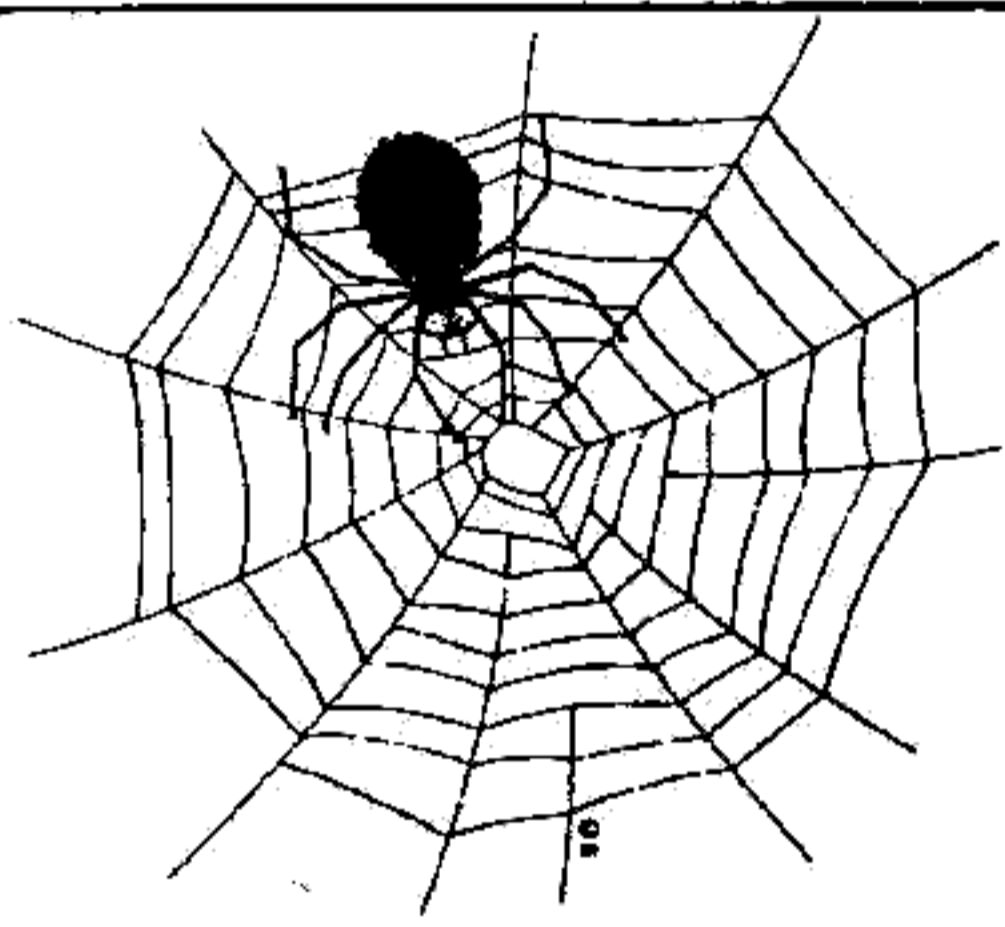
The Kings Head, Prestwood is now owned by Marstons but nothing actually seems to be happening there. As far as can be seen the refurbishment that Marstons threatened us with has not yet started but neither is the pub open for business. So what is going on? It's still all just boarded up.

The Sheperds Crook, Crowell is serving Bathams beers on a regular basis.

The Cherry Tree at Kingston Blount has been refurbished and now has a restaurant.

The Crown & Thistle, Whitchurch, famous for its award winning garden is now closed and its future is uncertain.

INTERNET



CAMRA has welcomed the creation of an Internet Newsgroup devoted to real ale. Spokesperson, Ben Wardle, commented "The real ale revival has now truly hit the net." The newsgroup which is now up and

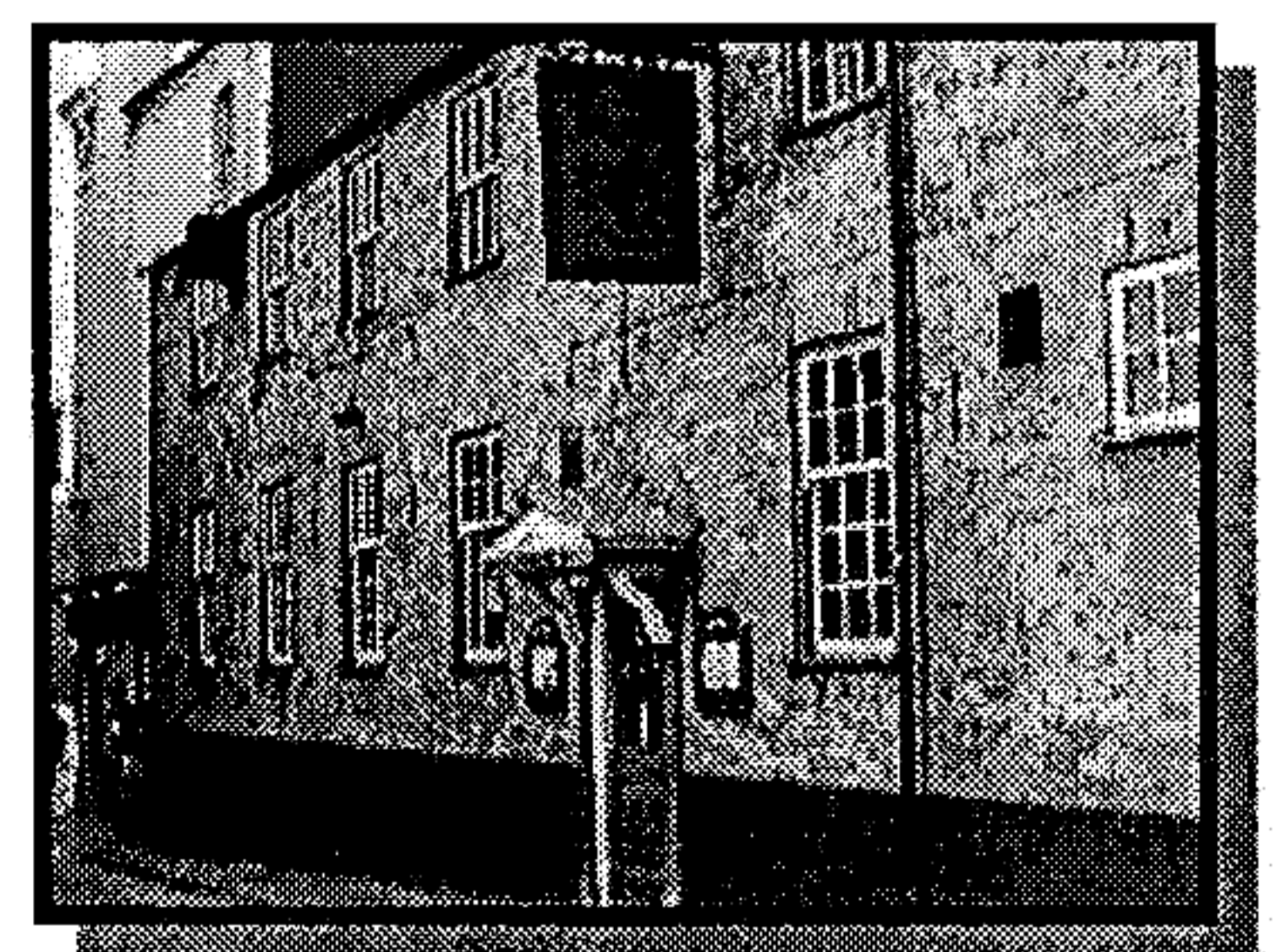
running can be found at uk.food+drink.real-ale.

CAMRA has had a website (<http://www.camra.org.uk/>) for over a year. The branches own web pages can be found at http://homepages.bucks.net/~bryan_spink/

Aylesbury Free House Lost

In February the branch mourned the loss of Aylesbury's last true free house, when we would normally rejoice at having a Marston's pub in the town. Chris French ran the Grapes as a superb real ale pub offering a range of beers including some of our excellent local brews. He ran

it from 1993 and was in the Good Beer Guide from 1994 onwards (he had also been in for Butlers before that). We wish him well for the future.



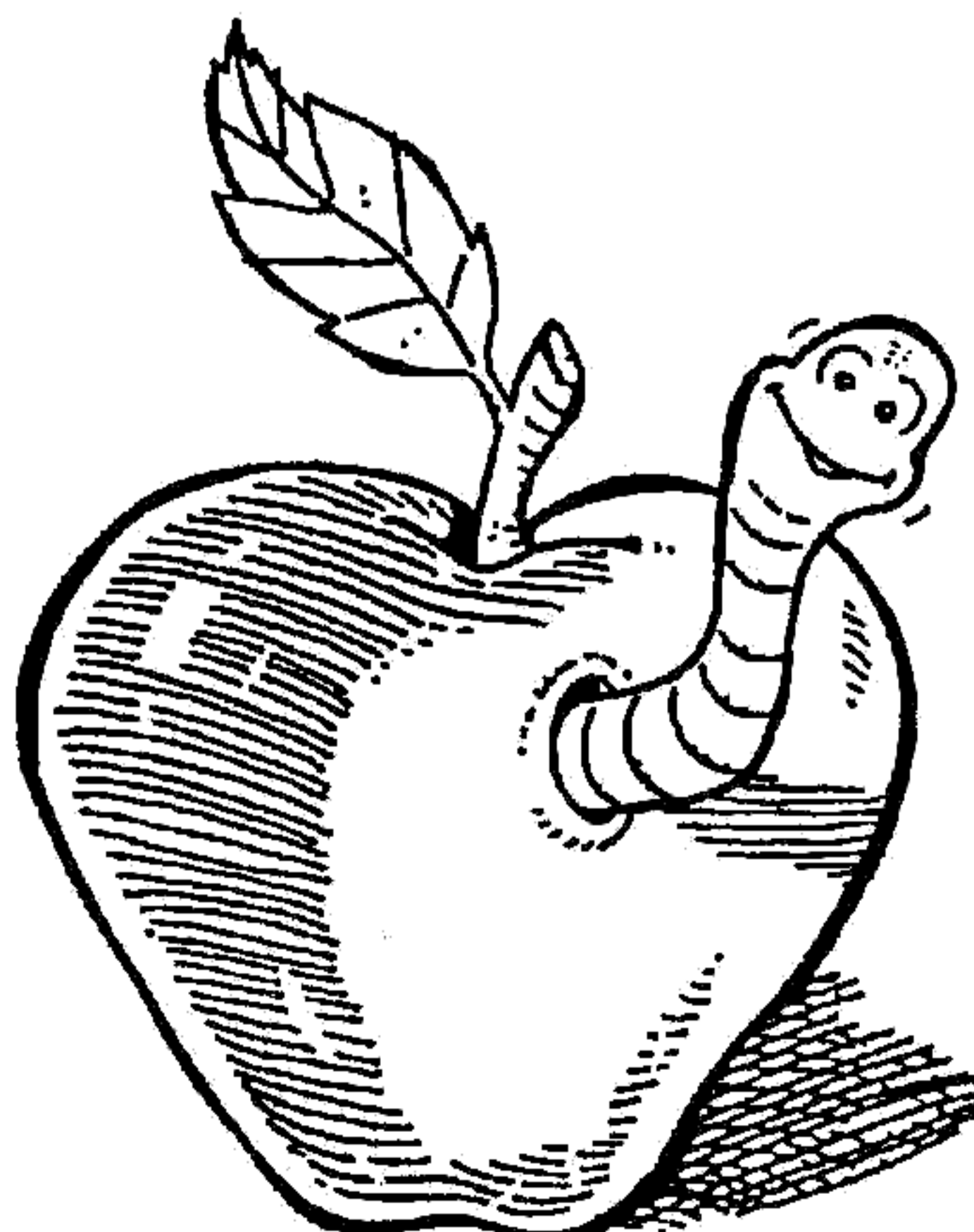
LETTERS Send your letters on any beer or pub related issue for publication in **Swan Supping** to the editorial address on page 3. All other contributions should be sent to the same address.

APPLE - Cider and Perry

Branch Cider Rep : Elvis Evans

What is real cider? At its most authentic, cider is just the fermented juice of apples, nothing more, nothing less. Proper cider is made from special varieties of apple, although there is a tradition of using eating and cooking fruit in South-East England.

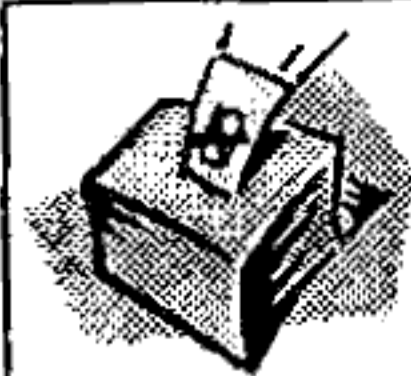
There is also a rarer drink well worth seeking out - perry, the fermented juice of pears. It has an appealing flavour that makes it much sought after at CAMRA beer festivals. Most ciders are nothing like the real thing. They are made from apple concentrate, pasteurised, and carbonated: a thoroughly bastardised drink. Even some of the ciders you see sold on handpump are gassy fakes.



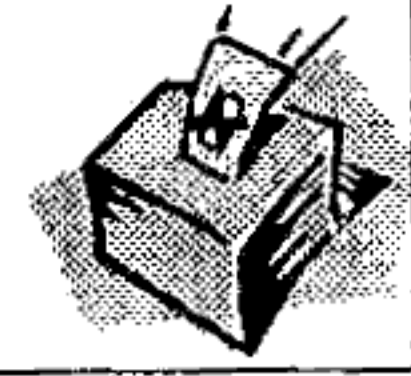
CAMRA's cider and perry campaign is called APPLE (groan). Many CAMRA beer festivals also have a cider and perry bar. Well worth trying though mixing cider and beer is not recommended. What's Brewing, CAMRA's monthly newspaper, carries four editions of Cider Press a year. This special supplement concentrates on cider.

The only known year-round outlet for real cider in the branch area is the Hogshead in Marlow. If you know of any others, please let us know.

CAMRA Guide to Real Cider by Ted Bruning, available from book shops or direct from CAMRA HQ (01727 867201) price £7.99.



The CAMRA Manifesto



With a General Election on the horizon, CAMRA has produced its own manifesto. This manifesto is not about party politics. It is about putting politicians of all parties on the spot, to answer where they stand on competition, choice, consumer rights and the future of our pubs. CAMRA will be sending a copy of the manifesto to candidates in the election to discover their views on the future of British pubs.

The future for Britain's Drinkers

CAMRA believes that the diversity and vitality of Britain's beer and pub culture is an important part of the British heritage. That diversity is under threat. But CAMRA is determined that drinkers in the future will be able to enjoy a choice of good beers, at reasonable prices, from a variety of good pubs.

The next few years will be vital

- ◆ The European Commission is examining the traditional tie between brewer and pub. CAMRA wants to see the traditional tenanted pub remain, to protect the diversity of our brewing industry.
- ◆ The highly successful guest beer needs to be protected and extended. It must remain as a guest real ale.
- ◆ High beer tax compared with our European neighbours threatens thousands of pubs with closure.
- ◆ There is little time left to prevent the collapse of the brewing industry into a market dominated by only two brewers.

Competition

CAMRA is resolutely hostile to take-overs and mergers in the brewing industry. CAMRA wants all mergers blocked unless there are clear benefits to the consumer. Recent mergers have been against the consumer's interest in terms of choice and price.

CAMRA supports the principle of the tied house system, in so far as it maintains a diverse beer market and a range of independent brewers.

The guest beer must remain as a real ale, because otherwise it will be made ineffective by a flood of national lagers. The guest beer must be extended to non-brewing companies currently exempt.

We want a statutory definition of local monopoly - 25% of the pubs in any one licensing district.

Tied loans should not require more than the stocking of three bulk beer brands.

Taxes

Britain's beer taxes are far too high. Since the creation of the European single market, foreign beer has flooded into this country, threatening thousands of small community pubs with closure. A third of this trade is illegal and high taxes are promoting crime.

CAMRA demands that all alcohol duties be lowered to the European average over the next three years. This would eliminate unfair cross border trade, safeguard jobs, and above all keep the traditional community pub in business.

CAMRA wants to see smaller brewers pay a lower rate of tax, promoting diversity and choice in local beer markets. Such progressive duties are common in Europe.

Both these matters require urgent action by the British Government.



Responsible Drinking

CAMRA believes in sensible, restrained and adult use of alcohol. CAMRA believes that social policy and health education should accept the benefits of moderate drinking. The controlled and sociable environment of a well-run public house should not be penalised.

Restricting the rights of the sensible majority is an ineffective way to tackle abuse.

Consumer Rights

CAMRA wants to see short measure prohibited. We want the Weights and Measures Act amended so that a pint of beer or cider must contain 20 fluid ounces, plus any head.

CAMRA believes that consumers have a right to know what is in their pint. We want the mandatory listing of all ingredients in alcoholic drink, the place of brewing, and whether the drinks are real or processed.

Licensing

CAMRA believes that licensed premises should be able to open the hours that suit their staff and customers. We therefore seek a general liberalisation of licensing hours, with appropriate safeguards and controls of nuisance.

CAMRA believes that accompanied children should be allowed in suitable pubs at the licensee's discretion. The new children's certificate system has been erratic and unjust in its operation: CAMRA wants it drastically simplified.

CAMRA wants the granting of licences to be reformed: new licenses should only be refused on specific, clearly drafted grounds.

Saving the pub

CAMRA wants the customers consulted before pubs are closed or refurbished. Pub owners should be required to publicise proposed changes locally. Pub customers need a right of audience before licensing authorities to oppose changes.

Planning law is weak in defending pubs: often a major change of use needs no planning permission. We want pubs given their own 'Use Class' to prevent this.

CAMRA believes a well motivated publican with a stake in the business and in day to day control of the premises is essential to the proper running of the pub. We oppose evictions and taking back into management. We believe that publicans should have the right to buy their pub if ownership changes.

We believe that running a tenanted pub must remain a partnership, with rents, capital ingoings, barrelage agreements and responsibilities for tenants being realistic in light of likely trade.

We support moves to give some rural pubs relief on their business rates, as a crucial part of their local communities. The tax burden on the pub and the drinker needs to be cut across the board, as the best way to cut prices.

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 the Hogshead, Marlow, to whom we offer our thanks.

Edited by Bryan Spink & David Roe.

Editorial Address : 15 Bedwyn Walk, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8EQ.

Tel/Fax : (01296) 25764 (H) 0410 147528(M)

E-Mail : bryan_spink@bucks.net

Advertising rates are :- Small £5, Quarter Page £25. 10% discounts for payment in advance.

Copy deadline for next issue, due to be published on 1st July is 16th June.

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

©Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe CAMRA 1997. Opinions expressed in Swan Supping are not necessarily those of the editor, or of the Campaign for Real Ale.

CONTACTS

Chairman David Roe 01296 84551

Treasurer Tony Gabriel 01494 527884

Secretary/Contact Bryan Spink (as above)

Regional Director Nick Holt 01296 83554

Aylesbury Mick White 01296 28266

Stuart Cooke 01296 392597

Beaconsfield Colin Staines 01494 674427

Bledlow 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

Return of the King's Head?

No, this not about the King's Head at Prestwood which has been boarded up since last summer, following the sad death of Dennis Winkworth. Whilst that pub was famous as a mecca for beer lovers, the King's Head in Aylesbury is better known for its historical associations than for the choice of beer.

This outstanding 15th-century coaching inn may soon be re-opening after a closure of four years. The National Trust, which owns the building just off the Market Square, have been carrying out an extensive (and expensive!) restoration programme for the last two or three years.

The early stages of repair and restoration were funded by the National Trust but about £350,000 will need to be spent to refurbish and re-equip the King's Head as a commercial reality. The funding for this will come from three main sources:

- a) The National Trust
- b) The Church Restaurant Project
- c) The Friends of the King's Head

Additionally, Bucks County Council are expected to cover the cost of providing facilities for the disabled.

A Centre of Hospitality

The Church Restaurant Project is a consortium of 16 churches which plans to take a lease from the National Trust of about 21 - 25 years. It will run the King's Head as a 'Centre of Hospitality'. It will not be a pub in the accepted sense, although it will be fully licensed. Because of the various churches' attitudes to alcohol, sensible moderate drinking is acceptable. Smoking is banned for fire safety reasons.

There will be three principal public rooms. The Great Hall (the old main bar) - a wonderful mediaeval hall with its stained glass windows and high ceiling - will become the main restaurant. What used to be the Farmers Bar will be called the Great Parlour - it will mainly be used as a coffee/tea-room or for special functions. The Hotel Dining Room with its Victorian panelling will be restored in 19th-century style and be used for lunches or functions. Each of these rooms will have its own kitchen.

The cobbled courtyard will become a showplace for public events - drama, music, exhibitions and so forth. The stables will be turned into small shops and above that will be a function room for about 100 people with dining facilities and dancing. In addition some of the upstairs rooms in the main building will be available for hire for social or business meetings. At this stage there are no plans to create any bedrooms.

The bars will serve a range of beers from local independent breweries.

If you feel like joining the Friends of the King's Head, you may contact Andrew Clark, the Project Manager, on Aylesbury 334590.

TRING BEER & WINE FESTIVAL

Victoria Hall, Akeman Street, Tring
 Saturday 10th May 1997
 11:30am to 5:30pm
 Tickets £2.00 at the door

The Annual Black Country Trip

Saturday 29th June 1996

The annual Black Country trip took place again last year with a good turn out. The trip started as usual from Aylesbury, with pick-up points in Wendover, Wycombe and Stokenchurch.

The first stop was at Halesowen and the ever-popular Waggon and Horses. A fine range of beers was on offer as always. From here it was on to Oldbury and the Waggon and Horses was our first stop for food. The Fountain at Tipton was having one of its beer festivals, so we made a detour for a few pints. Then it was on to the Vine (Bull and Bladder) at Brierly Hill. We noticed a few changes since our last visit. The pub has been extended sideways and decorated but the beer was as cheap as ever (£1.14 for Bathams Mild). Here we bumped into members of Stockport branch on a similar crawl.

The Beacon Hotel in Sedgely is always one of our favourite stops and it didn't disappoint us this year. The weather had been a bit dismal up to now but the sun came out for a while and we were able to enjoy the beer garden and the Sarah Hughes beers. Our final port of call was Oldswinford, uncharted territory, but with six pubs, including three Good Beer Guide pubs, we found some things of interest.

Ten o'clock soon arrived and it was time to board the coach and head back towards home. Everybody enjoyed themselves and there weren't too many headaches the next day

This year's trip is on 21st June. For details and booking phone Tony on 01494 527884



HOGSHEAD
 THE OLD BREWERY
 MARLOW



**UP TO 17 CASK ALES AVAILABLE
 PLUS CASK CIDERS**



FORTHCOMING SINGLE BREWER FESTIVALS

1st / 2nd Week in May	Brakespears and Adnams
3rd / 4th Week in May	Ridleys and Batemans
1st / 2nd Week in June	Morlands
3rd / 4th Week in June	Rebellion

ABROAD COOPER - 6X - BODDINGTONS

GOOD ALE GOOD ATMOSPHERE



COLIN AND BRENDA WHILEY
 01628 478737



National News

**CAMRA HITS 50,000
LANDMARK**

The Campaign for Real Ale's membership grew by 8% last year and now exceeds 50,000 individual members. Membership has trebled in the last ten years and further growth is expected.

Head of Campaigns, Stephen Cox, said "Real Ale attracts people from all walks of life. Our 145 annual beer festivals attract an increasingly varied clientele. Many of our members are women and it's good news that so many young people are joining and enjoying the social as well as the serious side of campaigning."

Membership in the local region has increased by 10%.

**Champion Winter Beer
of Britain 1997**

Hambleton's Nightmare Stout has won Gold Prize in the first ever Champion Winter Beer of Britain awards, held in Glasgow.

Nick Stafford of Hambleton Ales said "I'm absolutely stunned. It's a 'nightmare' to brew, but it's turned out to be a 'dream'. At 5% it should certainly help you get a good night's sleep!"

Silver went to Branscombe Vale's Yo Ho Ho, and bronze to Theakston's Old Peculier from Scottish and Newcastle.

The competition was judged by beer writers, CAMRA experts and brewers at the Great British Winter Beer Festival.

Local beer spotters may have found the brew on sale at beer festivals in Oxford and at the Cock in Wing.

Take-over News

Cardiff based S.A. Brain & Co. has completed the take-over of former rival Crown Buckley of Llanelli.

Beer is Good For You!

According to Professor David Williams of the University of Cardiff, a pint of beer a day can keep the doctor away. He claims in 'Chemistry in Britain' that beer is 'a complete food' which is rich in vitamins. He says that large beer bellies are not the fault of the beer itself, but of the habitual drinkers late night food binges.

Beer in moderation promotes acid production in the stomach aiding digestion and can therefore help you to lose weight according to the professor.

Who are we to argue!

The Chequers at Wheeler End is currently offering Brain's Dark at £1.60, Fuller's London Pride, Brakspear's bitter, Greene King Abbot and Bass. Two other notable features are the availability of Patsy's Platefuls at lunchtimes and the fact that a bus returns from just over the bridge to the centre of High Wycombe at about 11p.m.

The Morning Star in High Wycombe has been renamed "The Skinners Arms". Morlands IPA and Speckled Hen handpumps have appeared but currently there's no beer.

The Hertfordshire based brewers McMullen have announced the return of their traditional IPA. The 5% brew will unfortunately only be available for a limited period.

Local News

Derehams Inn in Loudwater has one of the best selections of beer in the area, the range includes Brakspear's bitter, Tim Taylor's Landlord, Fuller's London Pride, and Young's bitter all on handpump and Young's Double Chocolate Stout on gravity.

Having opened a pub in Marlow last December, the Hogshead company have turned their attention to High Wycombe, with a new pub promised for Oxford Road near the roundabout.

Continued consideration of the development plans of the Western sector of High Wycombe means that the future of the Gate is still uncertain, although it is open and busy at the moment, combining bar billiards and TV cricket between South Africa and Australia with Morland's Original and Speckled Hen.

Those looking for novelty in the names of their beer will find "Cloud Nine", "Mad March Hare", "Angel" and "Firmament" in addition to Dogbolter and Addlestone's cider at the new Firkin pub opposite the Guildhall, High Wycombe.

For those in Wycombe with more diverse tastes, the Flint Cottage has exotic dancers on Mondays and Wednesdays and the occasional spectacle of Kangaroo boxing. However, traditional beer is restricted to Courage Best.

Keep an eye open for Vale Brewery's Hadda's Spring Gold, a new seasonal beer only available until the summer.



**PORTFOLIO OF OVER 500
HANDPAINTED IN OILS**

Branch Diary

Everybody welcome to all meetings!

April

Wednesday 23rd 9:00 pm St. George's day social at the George & Dragon, West Wycombe.

Thursday 24th - Saturday 26th Beer Festival
Beer on Broadway, Ealing Town Hall
(☎ 01923 826114)

May

Thursday 1st - Sunday 4th Beer Festival
Reading, Under canvas at Kings Meadow
(☎ 0118 948 1310)

Wednesday 7th 9:00pm Social
Rose & Crown, Wingrave

Wednesday 14th 9:00pm Social
Chequers, Wheeler End Common (Morris Dancers)

Monday 19th - Saturday 24th Beer Festival
Cambridge, Football Ground, Milton Road
(☎ 01223 364877)

Tuesday 20th 8:30pm Branch Meeting
Grapes, Aylesbury

Monday 26th 12:00 Noon Bank Holiday Social
Clifden Arms, Worminghall

Saturday 31st Brewery visit to the Little Brewery,
Medmenham - (☎ 01494 527884 to book)

June

Monday 2nd 9:00pm Social
Dinton Hermit, Ford

Tuesday 10th 9:00pm Social
General Havelock, Wycombe Marsh

Monday 16th 9:00pm Social
Old Fisherman, Shabbington

Saturday 21st Starting at 10:00am
Annual Black Country Trip - see page 4
(☎ 01494 527884 for details)

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th Beer Festival
Catford, Lewisham Theatre (☎ 0181 857 4214)

July

Tuesday 1st 8:30pm Branch Meeting
Greyhound, Beaconsfield

Wednesday 2nd - Saturday 5th Beer Festival
Hockey Stadium, Milton Keynes

August

Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th
Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London
(☎ 01727 867201)

October

Friday 24th - Saturday 25th
4th Aylesbury Vale Beer Festival to be held again at the Ranch House, Aylesbury.
This is a Charity Beer Festival, organised by the Friends of Florence Nightingale House with help from the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe branch of CAMRA.



LONDON OLYMPIA

Tues 5th to Sat 9th August

Over 250,000 Pints of Real Ale,
Cider, Perry, Imported Beer.
Seating for over 1000. Family Room.
Food Stands, Games.
Live entertainment including
STEELEYE SPAN on Friday Night

For information & advance tickets ring
01727 867201

JOIN CAMRA TODAY

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

Rates are Single £14, Joint £17 (at same address),
Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £8
Joint OAP £11 (at same address)
For Life/Overseas rates, please ask for details.

Name(s).....

Address

.....

.....

..... Postcode

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the memorandum and articles of association.

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Signature

..... Date

AYL (Swan Supping)