

**FREE**

# Swan Supping



**Issue 122**

**Oct/Nov 2017**

**The Grist Mill**

Featuring real ale from: Argyll & The Isles, Ayrshire & Arran, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Borders, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Channel Islands, Cheshire, Cornwall

4T's Stout	5.0%	Coach House	Blueberry Bitter	5.0%	Malt The	Malt Mixture	3.8%
Dark	4.3%	Driftwood	Red River Rye	4.8%	Brewery	Pale	4.2%
Plum Mild	3.8%	Elgood's	Hound Dog	4.3%	Milton	Spots	4.2%
Bearly Literate	4.5%	Fyne Ales	Jarl	3.8%	Moonside	Chocolate Orange	6.7%
Citra Chinook	4.5%	Harbour	Daymer Extra Pale	3.8%	Oakham Ales	Stout	4.2%
Game Bird	4.0%	Hornes	Dark Fox Bitter	3.8%	Padstow	Citra	5.0%
Porthbud	4.0%	Liberation	Liberation IPA	4.8%	Poynter	Volcan	4.2%
		Lord Conrad's	Slap 'N' Tickle	4.3%			

colour guide

Local Breweries represented at the biggest beer festival of the year! See page 3

**CAMRA**  
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

**Newsletter of the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch of CAMRA**

**avw.camra.org.uk**

**Circulation 6000**



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**Bodger's Barley Wine**  
Great Taste Three Stars 2017

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# Chinnor Rugby Club Beer Festival

Saturday 14th October



**Saturday** 12pm-12am.  
Live music from 2pm. 1st XV  
Rugby from 3pm

**£10 entry including free pint**  
Over 80 real ales & ciders £3 a pint, "Pimp your Prosecco" & posh BBQ



**Amazing Live Music from:**  
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**1st Team in action from 3pm.**  
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## NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



### Reduction in Rates for Pubs

*Swan Supping* is happy to report the reduction in rates that Wycombe council announced in early August for its 90 smallest pubs!

This could make the difference between survival and closure for many of these pubs and we think it's fair to say that the visit that Simon Isted and Mike Clarke made to the council offices in February (covered in issue 119 - April/May 2017) did the case no harm at all as it was one of the things they suggested. Shows people that we are not just a drinking club and can help get meaningful

things done.

### Great British Beer Festival

Our cover photograph is from the *Great British Beer Festival (GBBF)* and show the 'Grist Mill' bar (all the bars were named after parts of a brewery) which featured beers from Buckinghamshire, so it was the place to go for a lot of our brilliant local breweries. This was not the case for *XT* who had their own stand (pictured on page 13) which formed a handy meeting-place for the branch members who came along to our *GBBF* social!

We have a lot of small breweries in, or near, our branch area (including yet another at the *Rose & Crown*, Stone - see Local News) and they are only part of the ever-growing number in the U.K. (now over 1,700 as featured in the *45th Good Beer Guide* which is now on sale). As the *GBBF*, despite its massive size, can only offer just over 900 different beers, it is easy to see that some breweries will have to be left out!

We are currently in the middle of the voting period where all members can vote for their favourite local beers in the first stage of the *Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB)* competition. If you haven't gone online to make your nominations yet, you still have until midnight on 1st November.

Remember, you can vote for just one beer if you want, or for up to five beers in each category - a maximum of 55. Any *CAMRA* member can login into the *CBoB* website [www.cbobvoting.org.uk](http://www.cbobvoting.org.uk) using their member login details. If you have forgotten these details you can reset your password or alternatively, you can contact the Membership Services team emailing [membership@camra.org.uk](mailto:membership@camra.org.uk) or call 01727 798 8440.

### Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival

As announced before, the *24th Vale of Aylesbury Beer Festival*, which raises money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, has been scheduled for the weekend of Friday 27th and Saturday 28th of October. This year's festival will take place at the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP21 8PE. For the first time we have officially linked *CAMRA* to the festival instead of just offering assistance.

This means that it has been advertised via *CAMRA* media and the staffing arrangements will have to be done on a more formal basis. The advantage of this is that members agreeing to help at prearranged times will be eligible for some free beer! Please contact me (address details are on page 14 along with further information in our Branch Diary section) if you fancy helping at the festival or come along to our informal pre-festival meeting at the *Hop Pole*, Aylesbury, on Monday 2nd of October.

Drinking for charity! Must be good!

### And in addition...

In October 1977 Rail Ale Rambles (RARs) were started by a *CAMRA* member called Gerald Daniels. Gerald was a British Rail manager at the time, who knew there were plenty of spare trains to charter at weekends at a very attractive price. RAR number one operated to Bath and Oxford, taking no fewer than 596 people on a drinking spree. Forty years on, he is still organising trips as part of Crookham Travel. Long may it continue!

Another special mention goes to Roger Protz who is stepping down as editor of the *Good Beer Guide* after having been at the helm for 24 years (that's even longer than I've been editing *Swan Supping*!). He is featured along with the pubs that have been in all 45 guides on page 8. Many thanks, Roger, you have done a fantastic job and you will be a hard act to follow! All the best for the future as I don't imagine you'll be slowing down too much!

My thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of *Swan Supping*, especially Colin Stanford for the cartoon and those who deliver the finished magazine to the pubs, breweries and festivals etc.

David Roe, *Swan Supping* Editor



## NATIONAL CAMRA NEWS



As I'm sure you will all know, *CAMRA* members have taken on the anti-alcohol lobby when it comes to telling the truth about alcohol and our health. This is why we are today supporting the launch of a new independent organisation, *Drinkers' Voice*, whose setup has been led by *CAMRA*.

Just last year, *CAMRA* members spoke out against the United Kingdom's four Chief Medical Officers' proposed alcohol guidelines, voicing

their opposition to the poorly evidenced and misleading public health advice. Separately, *CAMRA* has also commissioned research from Oxford University which highlights the wellbeing benefits we all enjoy from going to the pub.

However, despite our efforts, and with the new guidelines now in place, it is clear that a new strong voice uniting all those who enjoy a drink is required. It is time to get across the truth about the health, wellbeing and societal benefits of moderate drinking.

That is why *CAMRA* has worked to establish a new group, *Drinkers' Voice*, which will speak up for all moderate drinkers across the UK. *Drinkers' Voice* is a new consumer organisation which will bring the public back into the debate on alcohol and health - sharing the nation's love to toast a celebration with a drink in hand, and talking about the real benefits a drink or two can bring you.

I am proud to serve as a Director on the board of this new organisation, and I hope that all *CAMRA* members will be able to add your voices in opposition to those who wish to make it harder for us to enjoy a drink.

So, if you believe that:

- the current debate about the links between alcohol, health and wellbeing is dominated by those who believe that alcoholic drinks should be demonised, increased in price and limited in availability;
- the Government continues to suppress research which shows that moderate drinking is an important part of a healthy lifestyle;
- more effort should be devoted to those who misuse alcohol, and less on the vast majority of drinkers who are responsible in their drinking habits,

Then join *CAMRA* in its support for *Drinkers' Voice* today.

Cheers!

Colin Valentine - *CAMRA* National Chairman



## SUCCESS FOR VILLAGE BEER FESTIVALS!

### Haddenham Summerfest 1st July

3,500 people descended on Haddenham for the festival and, once again, it was a major success thanks to the glorious weather and fantastic selection of real ales, with well over half from our fabulous local breweries.



As well as real ales there were over 40 ciders and huge selection of lagers and craft (keg) beers, wines, Pimms and cocktails – something to suit every taste. In addition, efforts were made this year to satisfy the growing demand for Gluten Free and Vegan drinks.

A slight disappointment was that the sales at the Craft Beer Bar were lower than expected – perhaps the trend hasn't reached our rural parts yet, or maybe the 130 casks of real ale were just too tempting to resist!

The festival provided an income of £31,000 to the Haddenham Beer Festival Trust, a charity providing

grants to local organisations. Of course, the festivals can't continue without the massive support of sponsors and volunteers and the organisers want to thank everyone involved. Photo: Haddenham.net.

Look out for the Winterfest on December 9th!

### 6th Aston Clinton Beer Festival 28th to 30th July

With 81 cask ales, 16 ciders and keg beer courtesy of *Mad Squirrel*

*Brewery's 'Craft Beer Cruiser'* this annual event is fast becoming one of the largest independent beer festivals in these parts.

This year ACBF, as it has become known, showcased thirty beers from local brewers with the remaining casks assembled from some of the best brewers from around the country including several former *CBOB* winners. Highlights included *Platform C* and *Chew Chew* both from relatively new Stirlingshire outfit, *Fallen Brewing*.

Due to the appalling weather over the weekend, only a few beers actually sold out, but *Chiltern Gold* took the accolade of being the first to go; maybe wishful thinking and thoughts of golden sunshine ahead spurred on sales!

Festival Organiser, Dave Culliton said of the event, 'I think that ACBF6 was technically the best that we have laid on so far. The beer list was an absolute corker, as those who braved the showers will testify. But we were due a wet one and we got it! Our spirits aren't dampened though and we will return in the last weekend of July 2018 for ACBF 7. I'd personally like to thank everyone who came along, but I especially need to thank our army of brilliant volunteers; without them we would simply not be able to put on the festival'.



### Stone Village Sausage & Beer Festival 1st August



This was the first such festival and just over £8000 was made. It was organised by Adam Rossiter who has featured in previous issues of *Swan Supping* with his home beer festivals. This, of course, was a far bigger event and Adam wants to thank his wife, Julie, for putting up with a moody stressed out husband for weeks, if not months before!

He also wants to thanks all the sponsors, the people who donated raffle prizes and the Stone Recreation Ground for the use of the Jubilee Pavilion and to Mark Bale for his guidance. Thanks also go to his parents, in laws, relatives from Hampshire (the Minett's) and all his friends that lent a hand on the day, all of which helped on a level that would have compromised the whole event had they not have been there!

A Scottish lady from Berryfields called Katrina Inch won the yard of ale competition and the raffle was a multi prize affair, which raised £334 towards the Finley Newell Mobility Fund.

Stone Beer and Sausage Festival will be back next year, maybe not much bigger, but definitely better, with more beer, more bands and more bangers!

### Marsh Gibbon Beer Festival 16th September

The fundraising beer festival held at Marsh Gibbon Village hall on September 16th was a great success despite the wet weather. A number of planned outside activities were either cancelled or moved inside but for the most part, the wonderful barbeque and paella, the excellent beer, cider and drinks and not forgetting the fantastic music from local bands which entertained everybody inside the hall. They are now looking forward to starting the planning for the 2018 event.

19-21 October

# 5th Maidenhead

## Beer and Cider Festival 2017

Pub Quiz?

100+ Beers

Great Food!

30+ Ciders

Live Music

Magnet Leisure Centre, Maidenhead SL6 8AW

Open: Thu 12noon - 10pm, Fri/Sat 12noon - 10.30pm.

Admission: £15 (£12.50 in advance). 18+ Only.

Inc. souvenir glass + 2 pints (3 pints CAMRA cardholders)

www.mbcf.camra.org.uk



## PUBS, BEER AND WALKERS



Walking is good for you. Drinking beer after a walk is definitely beneficial to the system. So you need good pubs and good walks. We've plenty of good pubs but we can be a bit stuck for a range of good walks from such pubs. In Oving for instance, the **Black Boy** can readily provide lunch for twenty or more hungry walkers, but the local footpaths are in such a dire state that most walking groups would go elsewhere.

In Oving's case, however, residents so aggrieved by the situation, have formed the Oving Paths Action Group to resolve fifty identified problems on the parish's public rights of way. The group has teamed up with North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise) which is based in Haddenham and was founded in 2015 by Bill Piers, one of *Swan Supping's* roving reporters. So far about ten awkward, dilapidated and potentially lethal stiles have been replaced with self-closing gates. These have been paid for through the generosity of the parish council

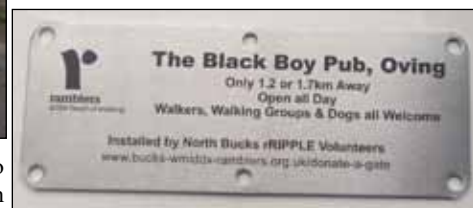
path problems but also lots of stiles have been replaced with gates. A local initiative could also make the **White Hart** a haven for beer loving walkers and for drinkers looking for some not too strenuous exercise.

The gate pictured is in Pitchcott near Oving and was donated by Paul Mitchell, landlord of the **Black Boy**, Oving.

and local residents via the Ramblers' Donate a Gate scheme.

Located on the Outer Aylesbury Ring and With Matthew's Way, a five mile circular walk between North Marston (**Pilgrim**) and Quainton (**George & Dragon**) now within easy reach of the **Black Boy** via two new gates, walking groups can start to put the pub on their lists of good starting-off points.

Another parish in North Bucks, namely Preston Bissett, has a landlord in the **White Hart** who also wants to develop a range of inter-village and circular walks. Here again there are numerous



## Hidden Treasure Le De Spencers Arms



The 'Le De' is a little flint pub, nestling in the woods at the back of Downley Common surrounded by acres of beautiful AONB land with miles of trails. Making it the ideal refreshment stop after hiking or biking. Inside you will find a warm, friendly atmosphere with an open fire, low ceilings and rustic beams.

**Looking forward to Christmas? Then bring your friends, family or workmates for a traditional Christmas Dinner in a traditional setting. Serving Friday 1st Dec - Wednesday 20th December**

*Visit our website and Facebook page for details.*



01494 535317 [www.ledespencersarms.co.uk](http://www.ledespencersarms.co.uk)  
The Common, Downley, High Wycombe HP13 5YL





## LOCAL NEWS

### AYLESBURY

The **Aristocrat** has been refurbished to extend the bar into the back room which was used mainly for special occasions. **Fullers London Pride** and a guest beer from the **Fullers** stable are usually available.

The 100 pints of *Battle of Britain Old Ale* (actually rebadged 300's *Old Ale*), which is rarely available in draught, to commemorate the 100 days of the Battle of Britain disappeared into the wild blue yonder even faster than was expected! But you will always find the full range of the **Chiltern Brewery's** fine English ales at the **King's Head**. New chef Paul is making a name for himself serving up a great seasonal food menu at lunchtimes six days a week with Sunday Roast Lunches on Sundays 12-6pm and evening food from 5pm to 9pm from Wednesday to Saturday. He likes his beer matching too, so you can see whether you agree with his choices.

The **Snug** has stopped serving real ale and have removed their handpump as they concentrate on the cocktail market.

### BRADENHAM

A sign outside the **Red Lion** proclaims 'Red Lion tea room and cafe opening soon'. As it is owned by the National Trust and the whole point of Bradenham is that it has been preserved it as a historic village and they didn't have tea rooms for tourists! Perhaps the tea room is to be in addition to the pub and it will continue as a licensed premises, otherwise there will have to be an application for 'Change of Use'.

### CROWELL

There is plenty going on at the **Shepherd's Crook**, formerly the **Catherine Wheel**, between Chinnor and Kingston Blount. New management has hosted recent events such as a Reggae Night and a Sausage Festival which offered twelve different varieties of Polish sausage - a testament to landlady Gosia's heritage! A visit saw **Rebellion's IPA** and **Blonde**, **Timothy Taylor Landlord**, **Salopian Gold** and **Beartown Bear Ass**. The beer changes regularly, with the **IPA** and **Landlord** staying on as regulars and the food menu also changes regularly and has included traditional Polish recipes along with traditional English fare. Being located close to the Icknield Way and at the foot of the Chilterns, this continues to be popular with cyclists and walkers and is also the nearest pub to the annual Point-to-Point races at Kingston Hill.

### EMMINGTON

David and Sharon Maisey bought the **Inn at Emmington** in April. They regularly stock three ales: **Rebellion IPA** and **Chiltern Beechwood** are mainstays with a third ale alternating beer from either **XT** or **Loose Cannon**.

### GREAT KIMBLE

The **Swan** has installed a wood-fired pizza oven in the beer garden. The pub's rotating beer selection has also provided an outlet for new Aylesbury brewery, **Hillfire**, with its **California Gold** recently on tap.

### GREAT HAMPDEN

The **Hampden Arms** are holding a firework party in the beer garden from 6pm. (Free entry) on Sunday



5th November. On Wednesday 22nd November there is a Bingo night in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Eyes down 8pm.

### HIGH WYCOMBE

The **Greene King** owned Beaconsfield Arms (pictured above) has been put up for sale by the brewers for £450,000. Locals have formed a 'Save the Becky Arms' committee and are trying to buy the pub which is already registered as an 'Asset of Community Value'. This large open-plan pub with mock Tudor frontage is still open for business and is the last remaining pub in that part of the town. If it can be saved, it is intended to be run as a community asset, thereby providing a venue for local groups and activities etc..

Paul has left the **Hourglass** at Sands. New landlords are Julie and Alan.

**Marston's** has started work on a new-build family pub as part of a major regeneration project. The **Spindle and Thread** will open in October at the Hughenden Quarter, which is being redeveloped as part of Wycombe District Council's 'Investing in Wycombe' initiative. **Marston's** has started recruiting for 45 full and part-time jobs at the new pub, which will cater for 150 diners and feature a terrace, children's play area and beer garden.

### KINGSTON BLOUNT

The **Cherry Tree** has two 'For Sale' signs outside advertising the freehold of the property, so **Brakspear's** seem to have called it a day on the pub. The Parish Council have the pub registered as an 'Asset of Community Value' and we will keep up-to-date on any further developments.

### LITTLE MARLOW

Plans by Raymond Blanc's company **White Brasserie** to extend the **King's Head**, which closed earlier this year,

have been thrown out by the local council following objections by the local Parish Council and local residents.

### MARLOW

The **Carpenters Arms** in Spital Street became **O'Donoghues** a few years ago. It is closed currently with a lot of building work both inside and at the back preparing for its reincarnation as the **Butchers Tap**. Perhaps one will be able to order a pint and a pork chop.

The **Royal British Legion** has once again triumphed in the **Regional Club of the Year Competition** for the **Central Southern Area of CAMRA**. Alan Sheppard was presented with the certificate by Regional Director, Carl Griffin, at a Regional Meeting held at the club in September (pictured top right).

### MARSH

The traditional old pub, the **Prince of Wales** (pictured below), will cease trading on Saturday 30th September. Horace, the landlord and owner, who is now 85 and almost bedridden, will continue to live there but the pub will no longer open. Opening hours during the summer months have already been rather limited. **Rebellion IPA** from a mini cask was the final beer on offer as the handpump has been out of commission for some time.

### QUAINTON

The **George & Dragon** with be holding their Harvest Auction on Friday 13th October starting at 8.32pm. They are also hosting a Village Bonfire on Saturday 4th November starting at 6.30pm.

### STONE

Chris Williams, ex landlord of the **Chandos**, Weston Turville, and his wife Carmel have bought the freehold of the **Rose & Crown** from **Punch**, having run the **Chandos** for three and a half years. Having got the keys in August the pub was closed for an extensive refurbishment and reopened on Thursday 21st of September. They are serving **Giggle Stick** (3.6% session IPA) and **Blonde Beauty** (4.2% golden). All ales served at the **Rose and Crown** are made in their own brewhouse on site under the name **Willys Brew!** There is a 10% discount available on the beers for **CAMRA** members. They are also

## THE KING'S HEAD EST 1455

CHILTERN BREWERY

The Chiltern Brewery's historic courtyard inn at  
The King's Head, Aylesbury



Fine English Real Ales & Craft Keg Beers from our Brewery  
Guest Craft Beers, Ciders & Stouts  
Fine Wines from the Rothschild Estate

NEW

LUNCH SERVED DAILY  
Evening food on Wednesdays, Thursdays,  
Fridays & Saturdays

The King's Head, Market Square, Aylesbury, HP20 2RW  
01296 718812 [www.kingsheadaylesbury.co.uk](http://www.kingsheadaylesbury.co.uk)

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[kingsheadaylesbury](https://instagram.com/kingsheadaylesbury)





bringing their popular carvery and Jamaican inspired dishes (Carmel is half Jamaican and all authentic family dishes) with food starting to be served from early October.

## SYDENHAM

The **Crown**, a bucolic community-owned village pub, superbly located opposite the village church is now under the management of Pippa and Will who have reintroduced food (Will is a chef by trade). Part of the current 'Midsomer Murders' trail, due its recurring appearances, this offered **Rebellion IPA** and **Roasted Nuts** along with **Windsor & Eton Guardsman** on a recent visit and the plan is to keep the **IPA** on as a regular along with two further **LocAles**. Lunch and dinner are available Tuesday to Sunday, with a Seniors' lunch available on Thursday and Fish and Chip Friday. Aunt Sally has also been reintroduced.

## THAME

The **Black Horse Hotel** closed its doors on Saturday 9th September. The small family-run inn and Thame's only late night venue, that dates as far back as 1620, has been purchased by Raymond Blanc's **White Brasserie** company. The **White Brasserie** company describe their pubs as 'warm and welcoming' and 'French Brasserie food with an English twist'. It is presently closed whilst the premises are completely refurbished. So we say farewell to Maureen and her family and wish them every success for the future.

**Chinnor Rugby Club** are holding their annual Oktoberfest on Saturday 14th of October. Over 80 beers and ciders will be available at £3 per pint. £10 entry includes a free pint.

At the **Bird Cage**, the **Doom Bar** and **Wadworth 6X** were on the pumps, but they are not a permanent choice. The beers will change on a regular basis. If you like music quizzes, they are running a bingo music quiz every Wednesday. Entry is £1 per card with drinks and cash prizes on offer to the winners. There is also a fancy dress Halloween party on 28th October. **CAMRA** members receive a 10% discount on drinks on production of a valid membership card. The **Falcon** are still selling their **Hooky** beers at £2.95 a pint. Yes, £2.95 a pint and have no plans at present to change this. Beers currently on are **Old Hooky**, **Hooky Gold** and **Copper Ale**.

## TOWERSEY

A recent visit to the **Three Horseshoes** found **Marston's 61 Deep** and **Sharp's Doom Bar** along with **Thatcher's Stan's Trad** - a real cider in bag-in-a-box format - available at this popular country village pub which is one of the nearest to the Phoenix Trail - a cycle/walkway which follows the route of a former rail line between Princes Risborough and Thame. Their Open Mic night, held on the last Thursday of each month, is still going strong, and is now in its 13th year.

## TWYFORD.

The **Crown Inn** has been completely redecorated during the summer, with new tile floor and furniture in the public area and remodelled patio and garden out the back. Now it regularly has two beers on handpump with **Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter** (in tip-top condition)

fairly permanent, and one other regularly changing beer from almost any brewer. The pool table has been reinstated at rear of lounge. Usually no food is available, but Joan is continuing with her good value one-off meals on the first Tuesday evening of the month through the winter. Due to popularity, prebooking is advised.

## WOOBURN COMMON

The **Royal Standard** is holding a beer festival featuring **Crouch Vale** versus **Dark Star** from Thursday 26th through to Sunday 29th October. Please note the Thursday start as they usually start their October festival on the Friday!



## THE BLACK HORSE, LACEY GREEN

Tel: 01844 345195

### CHRISTMAS MENU

**STARTERS**

**BABY BREADED CAMEMBERT (V)**  
Served with onion chutney and warm crusty bread

**CREAMED GARLIC MUSHROOMS (V)**  
served on toasted Garlic Bread

**TRIO OF PATE** served with salad, chutney and Melba Toast  
Chicken Liver and Brandy, Hog Roast Pork, Game en Croute

**SPICY PARSNIP AND HONEY SOUP (V)**  
Served with a warm crusty baguette

**DELUXE PRAWN COCKTAIL**  
Served on a bed of lettuce with Marie Rose sauce, lemon wedge and brown bread and butter

**MAIN MEALS**

**ROAST TURKEY CROWN**  
with all the trimmings

**BRAISED LAMB SHANK**  
Lamb shank slow cooked in a red wine and rosemary sauce

**ROAST SIRLOIN OF BEEF**  
Yorkshire Pudding

**PAN FRIED STUFFED BREAST OF GUINEA FOWL**  
Stuffed with cranberry and chestnut and served with a red onion & Madeira sauce

**NORWEGIAN FJORD SEA TROUT**  
with a White Wine and Dill Sauce

**CHEDDAR CHEESE, CORNISH CLOTTED CREAM AND LEEK TART (V)**  
**ALL SERVED WITH ROAST POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES**

**DESSERTS**

**SELECT A LUXURY HOT OR COLD DESSERT FROM OUR SWEET MENU, FOLLOWED BY COFFEE AND MINCE PIES**

**CHEESEBOARD £5.95 per person extra**

**Two courses plus coffee and mince pies £21.99**  
**Three courses plus coffee and mince pies £25.99**

**£5 PER PERSON DEPOSIT - NON REFUNDABLE**  
**OPEN ALL DAY. BOOKINGS ONLY. AVAILABLE FROM NOV. TO JAN.**



## THE FAMOUS FIVE



In September **CAMRA** unveiled the 45th edition of the **Good Beer Guide** and it congratulates the five pubs that have made every single edition, demonstrating a consistent high standard of quality beers served in a fantastic setting.

The pubs include the **Star Tavern** and the **Buckingham Arms** in London, the **Roscoe Head** in Liverpool, the **Square & Compass** in Dorset and the **Queen's Head** in Cambridge. Each pub receives an award from Editor Roger Protz and the local nominating **CAMRA** branch.

To be listed in **CAMRA's Good Beer Guide** is a fantastic achievement for a pub. The guide is based entirely on personal recommendations made by local **CAMRA** members, which are rigorously reviewed by branches and editors.

Recommendations take into account beer quality as well as the history and architecture of a pub and various aspects such as food, gardens, family and disabled facilities and special events. **CAMRA** does not take any fees for listings to ensure the guide remains independent and unbiased.

Roger Protz (pictured above), who will be stepping down as Editor of the **Good Beer Guide** after 24 years says: 'Congratulations to the famous five, who will go down in history for being hallmarks of the **Good Beer Guide**. It is a great honour to be listed in the guide even just once - never mind 45 times.'

### Star Tavern, Belgravia



6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1X 8HT

Down a mews, near embassies and rich in the history of the powerful and famous, it is rumoured

that the Great Train Robbery was planned here. Now it is a popular **Fuller's** pub where local residents, business people and embassy staff rub shoulders with casual visitors. Sometimes a special **Fuller's** beer can be found. Upstairs is a dining room, also bookable for functions.

### The Buckingham Arms



62 Petty France, SW1H 9EU

Said to have once been a hat shop, this pub opened in the 1720s as the **Bell**, was renamed the **Black Horse** in the 1740s, rebuilt in 1898 and renamed again in 1901. Substantially renovated in recent years, it has appeared in every edition of the guide. A mix of modern and traditional seats and tables, high and low, draws civil servants, visitors and the occasional Member of Parliament.

### The Roscoe Head, Liverpool



24 Roscoe St, L1 2SX

This is a cosy four-roomed hostelry where conversation and the appreciation of real ale rule. Run by members of the same family for

over 30 years, the name commemorates William Roscoe, a leading campaigner against the slave trade. Six handpumps feature national and local breweries. Home-cooked food is served Monday to Friday lunchtimes. Since its sale in 2015 there is concern over the future of the pub, with an active Save the Roscoe Head campaign.

### The Square & Compass, Dorset



Weston Road, Worth Matravers, BH19 3LF

On **CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors**, this multi award-winning gem has been in the same family since 1907. Two rooms either side of a serving hatch convey an impression that little has changed since then. The sea-facing garden offers fantastic views across the Purbecks and fossils are displayed in the small adjacent museum. Two of the beers are from **Hattie Brown's**. Beer and cider festivals are held in October and November respectively. In winter the pub closes in the afternoon.

### The Queen's Head, Cambs



Newton, CB22 7PG

The list of landlords since 1729 which is displayed on the wall in the simply furnished public bar has just 18 entries. The cosy lounge has a welcoming fire in the colder months. Guest beers are often **Adnams** seasonals. Simple but excellent food centres on soup and sandwiches. The King and German Kaiser are reputed to have stopped here for a pint in the early 1900s.

The **Good Beer Guide** is now on sale and available to purchase for £15.99 (£12.99 for **CAMRA** members). Go to the website at <https://shop.camra.org.uk> and follow the links.







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# LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

## ABC Brewery

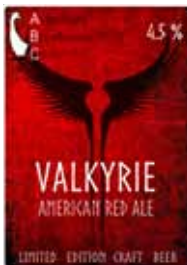
Over the next couple of months drinkers can expect a mix of traditional styles with more modern twists on some classics.



**Rudi** (3.9%). A New Zealand style pale ale showcasing the hop Dr. Rudi, named for the 'Father of NZ hops' Dr. Rudi Roborgh, which *Vale* have blended with another NZ hop, Waimea.



**Valkyrie** (4.5%). The valkyries bring those that fall in battle to Valhalla. This American Red ale balances caramel and biscuit malt characters with big pine and citrus flavours of American Columbus, Simcoe and mosaic hops. Drink deep, and rejoice that the valkyries have brought you to the Hall of Odin.



**Prost!** (4.2%). The traditional German drinking toast. This darker version of a traditional German wheat beer has complex toasted malt flavours. As well as aromas of clove, vanilla and banana from the use of a traditional German yeast strain. Prost!

## Chiltern Brewery

Autumn sees three new seasonal or limited edition draught ales in addition to the three permanents. *Copper Beech* 4.4% - red, spicy with a rounded and hoppy aroma - reminding us of the beautiful colouring of the trees in the Chilterns, one of nature's great spectacles - award-winning dark amber malty and rich *300s Old Ale* 4.9% (September/October) and in November, dark claret mellow and fruity *Foxtrot* - an ever popular 'seasonal special'.

Golden chestnut bottle-conditioned **Bodger's Barley Wine** 8.5% was a stellar (no, not that one!) performer at the highly acclaimed Great Taste Awards 2017, winning three Stars and being crowned a Top 50 Product - the only beer to do so. *300's Dark Old Ale* (5% certified gluten free) and bottle-conditioned *Lord-Lieutenant's Cream Porter* (6%) were both awarded one Gold Star each.



**Chiltern Brewery** was voted Central Chilterns Champion in the Chiltern Society Craft Beer Awards 2017, with their highest rated beer being bottled *John Hampden's Golden Harvest Ale* (4.8%). The judging panel included **CAMRA'S Central Southern Director**, Carl Griffin. The same bottled ale was also voted Editor's Choice in Gluten-Free Heaven Magazine's recent taste test and the only one to win five stars.

## Hillfire Brewing Co.

Over the summer **Hillfire** launched a new beer: *Lakewood Pale*, a straw coloured 4.2% hoppy bitter made with American Chinook, Cascade and Ahtanum hops. Its first outing was at the wonderful Haddenham Summerfest, alongside *California Gold* and *Rob's Bitter*. *Lakewood Pale* also featured at the Stone Beer & Sausage Festival.



Harvesting at the **Hillfire** hop yard in Hedgerley, South Bucks, was completed in September. A bumper crop is destined for a single batch brew: *Hop Harvest 2017*.

They were pleased to provide some *Lakewood Pale* to the **Craufurd Arms** in Maidenhead for its opening weekend to help celebrate their massive achievement of becoming a Community Pub. They are also looking forward to featuring beers at the *Maidenhead Beer and Cider Festival* in October, and *Haddenham Winterfest* in December.

## Fisher's Brewing Co

Their new porter is going well in a couple of pubs in Reading (**Alehouse** and the **Grey Friar**), plus they sold out of the new *American Pale Ale* quicker than expected. With more *APA* on the way, along with smoked porter, blonde and amber, it makes their range more consistent.

**Fisher's** are holding their next monthly event on Friday, October 6th, where they will have a local musician, hot Indian food for sale and of course, the beers! Kicks off from 6:00pm with music at 7:30pm. They will be testing out the handpump half of their new mobile bar at the brewery too.

## Rebellion Brewery

The monthly special for October is *Engineer* (4.2% Chestnut & Hoppy) and for November it is *Braveheart* (4.2% Amber & Malty).

Autumn brings *Red* back to the brewery, (4.7% Red and Malty).

*Winter Royal*, originally brewed by the **Wethereds Brewery** in Marlow, and resurrected last year, will be back in December as a limited-edition special. Look out for details soon.



They'll also have a brand-new winter seasonal beer called *Gold* (4.4% golden beer). You'll see this at some point in mid November to February.

In July, **Rebellion** were winners in the Chiltern society craft beer awards. Really nice to win awards,



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## MORE LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

especially in their local area. They won the Southern Chilterns award and the tasters very much appreciated *Zebedee*.

### Tring Brewery

*Tring Brewery* hosted its ever-growing, ever-enthusiastic Golden Toad member's club across the weekend of Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th of September. What a weekend it was! Over 650 thirsty punters turned out despite the looming eerie weather to sup and sample the complete range of brews. Members enjoyed a roaring barbeque serving up the finest beef hot dogs, prepared using *Colley's Dog* ruby ale.

New for their member's weekend was the inaugural undertaking of the Member's Brew 2017 competition. When submitting booking details, members were also provided with the opportunity to express what they felt would be their dream *Tring* beer, and indeed a great addition to their Small Batch brewed range. From many submissions a short list of five new and interesting beers for the members to in turn vote on upon arrival at the brewery of the night of their visit. Over 650 votes were cast across both nights over the choices provided, a Bavarian Weissbier, Smoked Rauchbier, Farmhouse Saison, Double Chocolate Stout and a Grapefruit IPA. All of the candidate brews were met with fantastic feedback from the drinkers, but only one could prevail and this chosen beer was *Grapefruit IPA*.

Suggested by member Kevin Tozer, *Grapefruit IPA* stole the show accounting for close to a third of the total votes! *Grapefruit IPA* will now go into initial formative production, with a recipe to be conceived by Sam, *Tring's* resident small batch brewer. Keep your eyes peeled for this special release, exclusively in the brewery shop.



In August it was announced that *Tring Brewery* were to be nominated for the title of UK'S Most Popular Brewery - a vote put to the nation by Holiday Lettings, a subsidiary company of Trip Advisor.

With numerous reputable and respectable breweries being represented in the competition, it was announced that *Tring Brewery* were voted to be the runner-up, second only to the nationwide *Wychwood Brewery*, based in Oxfordshire.

It is that time of year again. The nights draw in sooner and the weather calls upon you to reach for only the snuggest of anoraks in the coat closet. Have no fear though, *Squadron Scramble* is here to grace your pint jug beside the roaring fireplace! Brewed to commemorate the battle of Britain, *Squadron Scramble* is a 4.0% golden ale, straw in colour with a fantastic malt base, this beer is oh-so-sessionable.

The monthly special for October is *Pelican* (4.1%). Aromatic Abbey malts dominate this deep amber brew. French Strisselspalt hops add a gentle complementary flowery and lemony aroma.



### Vale Brewery

The seasons are definitely on the turn, settle in to Autumn with a new range of ales from *Vale Brewery*.



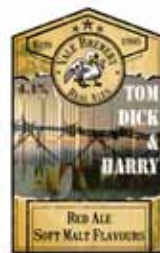
*Don't tell him Pike* (4.2% Tawny). With one of the most famous lines in television history *Vale* salute the Dad's Army platoon with a new special. English Northdown and German Mittlefrau hops combine in this tawny coloured best bitter. Highly quaffable and well balanced with a sweet spice aroma.



*Truly Scrumptious* (3.9% Golden). The lovely ladies in the office have created the recipe for this Golden brew. Cascade and Willamette hops blend

with Propino malt to create a delicate golden ale with soft fruit flavours and floral aroma.....'It's so delicious'.

*Tom, Dick & Harry* (4.1% Red Ale). The Great Escape was loosely based on a real escape attempt by British P.O.W's from Stalag Luft III in 1944 and the beer is named after the tunnels dug under the camp which were in turn named after nicknames used for British Tommies during the war. Red in colour this brew has soft malt flavours.

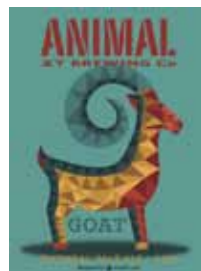


### XT Brewery

Craft Lager has seen growing sales recently and it is great to see the widening interest in more interesting flavours in this much misunderstood or poorly represented beer style.

The *XT Eisbar Craft Lager* has proven very popular and to expand production for this new beer *XT* have been installing new vessels built especially for the production of the unfiltered, unpasteurised fresh lager. As the vessels are commissioned the lager will become more widely available.

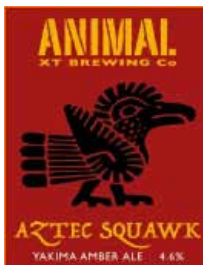
*XT's* head brewer is heading off to Italy in October to work with a boutique brewer there on a new 'sustainability in brewing project'. The project is looking at using as many locally sourced ingredients as possible including malts and hops grown on the farm surrounding the brewery in Sardinia. The collaboration beer might even be sold from the mobile bar built by the brewery inside an old German fire engine.



For the new season there's a brace of new *Animal* beers from the *XT* stable:

*Goat* (4.6% Oatmeal Pale Ale). Full of body from natural oats, but still very pale and hoppy. Packed with British hops, Phoenix and Admiral, this cereal-flavoured beer is paired with loads of citrus, floral and spicy notes. Perfect pale for the changing weather.

*Aztec Squawk*. An amber ale with lashings of hops from the Yakima Valley in the American North West - A biscuity beer made up of Vienna and Cara-Rye Malt with liberal lashings of hops thrown in throughout the brew. Azzaca and Green Bullet pair for big mango, raisin and citrus flavours alongside the sweet toffee and rye flavours from the malt. Further dry-hopped with Azzacca pellets for even more tropical and mango zests. Perfect for the hop head as well as the malt lover.



The *Animal* beers are joined by the autumn favourite - the ruby red *XT-SIX* an *ESB* style, rich and roasty ale coming in at 4.5%

Saturday 7th October is the next *XT Brewery* Open Day. From 10am free entry, families and pets all welcome. There will be a range of *XT* and *Animal* beers plus music and food.

Pictured below is the *XT* stand at the recent *Great British Beer Festival*.





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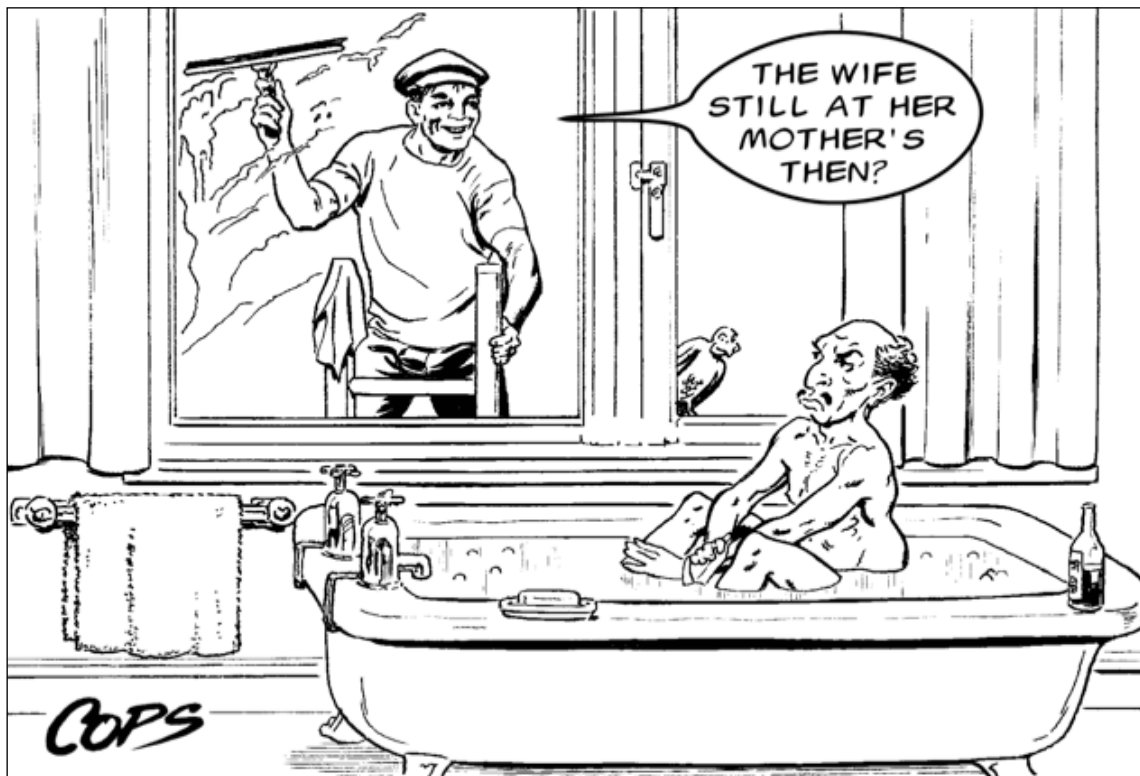
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## GRAVEDIGGERS - PART FORTY-EIGHT



Taking some fresh air in the beer garden, Mazz stared up at the stars in the night sky, which twinkled a little more rapidly than normal due to the noxious fumes rising from the **Gravediggers'** microbrewery.

'All those worlds out there,' she sighed to herself. 'Doesn't it make you feel so small and insignificant?'

Mazz was taken by surprise by a figure shuffling past in the dark.

It spoke: 'Only time I feel small and insignificant is when I has fell over at the bar and can't stand up high enough to order me next pint.'

Mazz could discern from the smell that it was Old Moses, staggering back from fertilising the rose beds.

Wistfully, she studied the constellations a little longer and was joined a few minutes later by James once all the regulars were safely comatose on the floor.

'Just think,' Mazz said to James. 'Out there in the infinite vastness of space, there must be countless pubs – and there'll be one just like the **Gravediggers**.'

'Er, I know the universe is big,' James replied. 'But it can't be *that* big.'

\*\*\*\*

The next Sunday lunchtime a group of hikers unexpectedly wandered into the **Gravediggers'** lounge bar. Most of their number appeared grey, grizzled, faintly eminent and therefore of little interest to Mazz. As they ordered pints of *Old Septic Tank* she did notice that their voluminous rucksacks emitted a series of strange clicks and whirrs while they set their baggage down carefully between the regulars sleeping on the floor.

All became clear when the hikers gathered around a grease-encrusted table in a cobwebbed corner. Instead of drinking their pints, they produced a

series of scientific probes from their rucksacks, which they dangled in the cloudy and fetid beer, accompanied by much stroking of beards.

James wandered over to their table to investigate. 'You're not the crack **CAMRA** hit squad with all those probes and sensors are you?' he asked, worried. 'The local branch like the beer served at seventy degrees Fahrenheit. And while there are all sorts of exotic ingredients in our beer, the added carbon dioxide is from Old Pete sneezing over the fermenter – definitely not from a cask breather!' He made the sign of the cross.

'Oh, we're nothing to do with **CAMRA**,' a bearded man declared after breaking off intensely concentrating on his probe.

'We're the rambling quantum physicists from the University of Cowbridge,' a stout woman said, gingerly sampling an *Undescended Gonad*. Cowbridge was a mysterious city to most of the **Diggers'** locals – a place where it was rumoured most of the population could actually read.

'We were out hiking on the hills when we detected a strange bend in the space-time continuum towards this direction,' she continued. 'It was so extraordinary we had to hurry over to analyse the readings. We think it's in the beer!'

'We've informed our most eminent professor and he's rushing over,' the man said.

At that moment, Mazz's attention was thoroughly aroused when a younger hiker with a gleaming white smile and a merely semi-unfashionable haircut bounded into the bar with a TV crew in tow.

'This is amazing. Aren't you Professor Barry Cocks?' Mazz asked, bowled over by his youthful-ish good looks and awe-inspiring sense of academic gravity. 'You're the cool physicist from those programmes I pretend to understand on the television? This a moment of wonder for me, indeed.'

'Yes, my colleagues have discovered a most ground-breaking scientific discovery and I'm here to record it for my new series on BBC1 but first I feel the need to exercise my talents as a leading polymath.'

Professor Cocks spotted the old, woodworm-infested piano in the corner of the bar, sat down at the stool and knocked out a medley of perfectly in-tune 80's hit cover versions. He then improvised a stage from some rancid beer barrels and a couple of sleeping locals and performed a 45-minute stand-up comedy set of sheer brilliance, ending with the punchline 'Take that Stephen Fry!'

While the young professor had been busy providing some dazzling light entertainment, his colleagues had developed an intense interest in one particular pint of *Campylobacter Porter*.

It sat on the bar, surrounded by an array of scientific instruments.

Resuming his professorial tone, Professor Cocks whispered into the camera. 'We're observing one of the potential wonders of the universe. This beer is actually a unique liquid that possesses a substance that's so atomically dense that it has been able to trap the mysterious Hogs Bozo particle that permeates the cosmos – the missing link in our observations of the quantum mechanics of the universe.'

On cue, a spark of intense light flashed from deep within the pint.

'And I always thought seeing that twinkling in the beer was because I was on my twenty-fifth pint,' Old Joe interrupted.

'If we can chemically analyse the composition of this beer and then pump a chemical reproduction into the Large Hadron Collider then we'll almost certainly be able to complete the last piece in the jigsaw and provide incontrovertible evidence to prove my Big Theory of Everything – Nobel prizes all round,' the professor intoned. 'I can't stress how this rare precious liquid is vital to our new understanding of science.'

At that point Old Pete emerged from a ten-hour stint in the gents, scratching his head at the scientists and their media entourage. 'I worked up a proper thirst in there,' he said. 'That looks just the ticket.'

Elbowing his way to the bar he headed straight for the pint of porter, whisked it away from under the professor's gaze and sank it down in one, belching for good measure. He was immediately surrounded by a crowd of angry scientists, brandishing their probes.

'And now to start filming our documentary on human vivisection,' the professor announced to the camera.

**Charlie Mackle**



## Branch Diary

*Everybody welcome to all socials and meetings!*

### October

#### Monday 2nd INFORMAL PRE-BEER FESTIVAL MEETING

8.00pm, Hop Pole, Aylesbury

Come along and discuss the festival with the branch and Emma Carroll from the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

#### Saturday 7th XT BREWERY OPEN DAY

From 10.00am onwards. Free entry, families and pets all welcome. There will be a range of *XT* and *Animal* beers plus music and food.

#### Friday 13th PUB BEER FESTIVAL SOCIAL

7.00pm, Whip, Lacey Green

#### Thursday 26th BEER FESTIVAL SETTING UP

6.00pm onwards. Have a chance of being soaked in beer as we tap and spile the barrels in preparation for the festival itself. The more people who turn up, the faster we will finish and can retire to a nearby hostelry for suitable refreshment.

#### Friday 27th/Saturday 28th VALE OF AYLESBURY FESTIVAL

Once again we are helping raise money for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. This year's festival will take place at the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP21 8PE.

This is an official *CAMRA* festival so both organisations gain if it

is a success. Members agreeing to help at prearranged times will be eligible for some free beer! Please contact the editor (address details are on this page) if you fancy helping at the festival. We need members willing to help serve beer during the festival hours (Friday 6.00pm to 11.00pm and Saturday 11.00am to 11.00pm). Help would also be required in the setting up on the Friday afternoon and the taking down of the barrels after the Saturday session. Working and drinking for charity! Must be good!

### November

#### Monday 6th BRANCH MEETING

8.00pm Black Horse, Lacey Green

We also have plans for a Branch Christmas dinner and a farewell visit to the Bree Louise in London (which is now due to close in January) but no dates have yet been finalised - keep checking the website!



Further details can be found on our website  
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[www.avw.camra.org.uk](http://www.avw.camra.org.uk)

## Swan Supping

Swan Supping is distributed free of charge to pubs in the branch area.

Circulation **6000** copies.

Edited by David Roe

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Copy deadline for next issue (due out 30th November) is 14th November 2017.

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Tel No(s) .....				

\*For information on Young Member and  
other concessionary rates please visit  
[www.camra.org.uk/membership-rates](http://www.camra.org.uk/membership-rates)  
or call 01727 798440.

#### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title .....	Surname .....	
Forename(s) .....		
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....		
Joint member's Email .....		
Joint member's Tel No .....		

I/we wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale,  
and agree to abide by the Memorandum and  
Articles of Association these are available at  
[camra.org.uk/memorandum](http://camra.org.uk/memorandum) ☐

Signed .....

Date .....

Applications will be processed within 21 days of receipt of this form. 04/17

<p><b>Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit</b></p> <p>Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW</p>		<p><b>FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b></p> <p>This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>Membership Number</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Postcode</p>	
<p>Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>To the Manager</p> <p>Address</p> <p>Postcode</p>		<p>Service User Number</p> <p>9 2 6 1 2 9</p>	
<p>Names(s) of Account Holder</p>		<p>Instructions to your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.</p> <p>Signature(s)</p> <p>Date</p>	
<p>Bank or Building Society Account Number</p> <p>Branch Sort Code</p> <p>Reference</p>		<p><b>The Direct Debit Guarantee</b></p> <p>This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.</p> <p>If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.</p> <p>If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.</p> <p>If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.</p> <p>You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.</p>	



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