

# CAMR/ANGLE

The magazine from the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead branch of The Campaign for Real Ale

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**Maidenhead  
Beer & Cider  
Festival  
NMCC Sports Bar  
8th - 9th July**



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### EASY AS PIE

Pie and porter festival write up

### NEW TAPROOM IN TOWN

Windsor brewery's latest development

### BRIDGING THE GAP

Taking on a pub after lockdown

### DONATIONS FOR DAYS

Charitable gesture from local brewery

Supporting Real Ale, Real Cider & Real Pubs in East Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire



# Twyford Beer Festival 2022

Stanlake Meadow

Twyford Rg10 0AB

Tickets **£15** Only From: **TwyfordBeerFest.co.uk**

— June —  
Fri 10th 12pm - 11pm  
Sat 11th 12pm - 10pm

Beer  
Cider  
Wine  
Pimms  
Fizz  
Gin  
**Music**  
**Food**



Raising Money for Mens Cancer Charity:

**ORCHID**  
FIGHTING MALE CANCER





**July  
8-9**

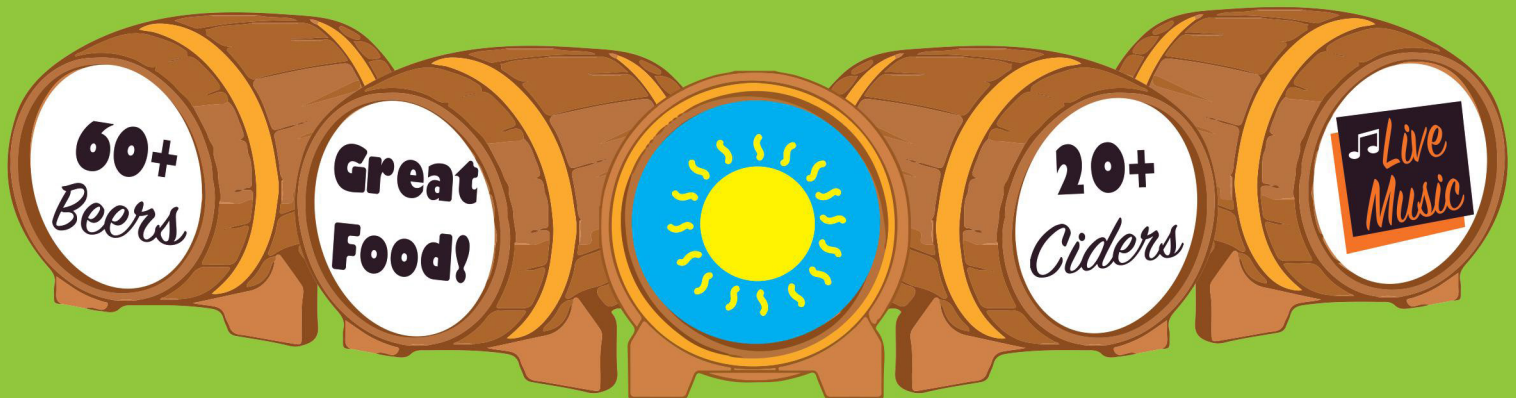
**9th**

**Maidenhead**



*Beer and Cider*

**Festival • 2022**



**NMCC Sports Bar at Summerleaze Park  
off Summerleaze Road, Maidenhead SL6 8SP**

***Open: Friday/Saturday 12 noon to 11pm***

**Admission: £5 Advance tickets £4**

**Free pint for CAMRA members**



**W** [www.mbcf.camra.org.uk](http://www.mbcf.camra.org.uk)

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## Follow SWM CAMRA on social media



Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead CAMRA  
Maidenhead Beer & Cider Festival



@swmcamra  
@MaidenheadBeer



@swmcamra  
@Maidenheadbeerandcider

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# Behind The Bar



A new year ushers in another (albeit delayed) issue of **CAMRAngle**, the free quarterly magazine for the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead CAMRA branch. It is hard to believe, but this publication will coincide with the two-year anniversary of the very first Coronavirus lockdown. Two years on,

the pandemic is far from over and the pub industry is still struggling with its repercussions. There is now however, a real sense of optimism for the future, as over 38 million people have had their third dose of the coronavirus vaccine (BBC News) and we are cautiously creeping towards some state of normality again.

Speaking of normal, you may have seen the advert marking the return of the **Maidenhead Beer and Cider Festival** on 8th-9th July 2022 at the NMCC Sports Bar (North Maidenhead Cricket Club). The SWM CAMRA branch cannot wait to welcome you back to our flagship event after a prolonged hiatus.

This edition of CAMRAngle is full of interesting interviews with local publicans and brewers. Read all about how the Paley Street village pub, **The Bridge House**, reopened during the pandemic and relive a recent festival at the Wraysbury pub, **The Perseverance**. Check out the charity work done by **Rebellion Brewery** and explore the incredible new taproom at **Windsor & Eton Brewery**.

Whilst I've been editing this magazine, the world has suddenly become a scary place. Between raging storms and aggressive international developments, we need our pubs - our safe havens - now more than ever. One would hope that as winter melts away, your support for local pubs and breweries continues to bloom vibrantly this spring.

**Matt Rogers**  
Editor



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**Whatpub** is CAMRA's online pub guide. Upheld by thousands of volunteers, it now features over 96% of Britain's real ale pubs. You can use Whatpub to search for pubs across the UK, ascertaining key features such as opening times, facilities and details of the real ale and cider on offer.

More importantly, Whatpub serves as a beer quality survey for your local CAMRA branch. One would hope that as you start to read this

magazine, you are enjoying a well-maintained pint of beer. If your local pub is serving ale and cider of a good standard (or indeed of a poor quality), the SWM CAMRA branch needs to know! CAMRA members can submit 'beer scores' to the website [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com). The beer scores are used to help the SWM CAMRA branch select the best pubs to feature in CAMRA's 'Good Beer Guide,' and aids the formulation of the coveted 'Pub of the Year' shortlist. To submit your beer score, simply **join CAMRA** and as a member you will be given a login that enables you access to all the features of Whatpub.

# Local Pub News

All the news from your local pubs in the area

## A Hoppy Place

Windsor



A Hoppy Place has been nominated for the UK's Best Independent Craft Beer Online Retailer at the SIBA business awards 2022.

The award-winning micropub and bottle shop is expanding to Maidenhead! A second Hoppy Place venue will hopefully be open by late June within the new Countryside Partnerships development next to Maidenhead Town Hall. The Windsor pub will continue to be open and now offers CAMRA members a 10% discount on cask ale.

## The Beehive

White Waltham



The Beehive has been named the 11th best gastropub in the country for a second consecutive year by the 'Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastropubs.' The Loch & The Tyne in Old Windsor won an award for being the highest new entrant to the esteemed list, debuting at 27th.

## The Bridge House

Paley Street

Mother's Day bookings are now open. Treat your mum to a gourmet three course meal at The Bridge House this Mothering Sunday.

Thursday night is Curry Night with a choice of two different curries and a drink. A takeaway option is available if you would rather eat at home!

A new pergola is under construction which will offer an extra 46 covered seats with heating and lighting, increasing the pub's capacity to 150 seated guests.



## The Blackwood Arms

Burnham Beeches

The Blackwood Arms has been awarded 'Best Pub & Bar in Burnham' by the online metasearch website, Restaurant Guru- [www.restaurantguru.com](http://www.restaurantguru.com).

Enjoy homemade pies with a pint on Pie Night Tuesdays, or treat yourself and your partner to a steak meal for two and a bottle of wine on Steak Night Wednesdays. Unfortunately, The Blackwood's St George's Day beer festival in April has been postponed this year.



## The Bounty

Cookham



The Bounty will resume weekday service again from 1st April, having been only open for weekends during the winter season.

## The Corner House

Windsor



The Corner House celebrated its 5th birthday with a three-day beer festival. Bar staff collaborated with local brewers to create four limited edition beers for the event. The celebratory beers included a peach NEPA from Elusive Brewing, a West Coast IPA from Outhouse Brewery, a hazy NEPA from Ascot Brewing and a peanut butter and chocolate cheesecake stout from Phantom Brewing Co.

Over the past five years, The Corner House has poured over 3000 different beers from 200 UK breweries.



# Local Pub News

All the news from your local pubs in the area

## The Craufurd Arms Maidenhead

Ell's Thai Kitchen will now be serving stir-fries and Thai curries at The Craufurd every Saturday from 5pm. The popular Cocktail Cabin will return 2nd April becoming a regular feature at the pub on the 1st Saturday of every month.

## The Maiden's Head Maidenhead

Pub quizzes return on the first Thursday of the month, starting from 7th April. CAMRA members can benefit from a 10% discount on all cask ale including local favourites such as Stardust, Rebellion and Windsor & Eton.

Enjoy locally sourced beef burgers and succulent marinated chicken at the Maiden's Head with the pub's updated menu.



## The Lord Grenfell Maidenhead

Music themed bottomless brunches are every second Saturday of the month from 11am - 2pm. Imbibe unlimited Mimosas, Bloody Marys and Prosecco for two hours with a range of breakfasts whilst enjoying quizzes, dance competitions and singalongs. The themed brunches are a ticketed event, so make sure to book in advance - Taylor Swift Brunch 9th April, Spice Girls Brunch 14th May and 80s Brunch 11th June.

## The Swan Clewer Village



The Swan has raised £1,455.36 for Children in Need. This incredible sum was amassed during a day of fundraising events, including sponsored rowing machines and waxing the General Manager's legs! (above)

Throughout 2021, The Swan has supported The Windsor Homeless Project, raising £1200 for the charity via fundraising coffee mornings. Family Friends, a charity aiding vulnerable families, has been voted by the local community to be the pub's annual charity for 2022, with the next charity coffee morning being on the 25th March at 10:30am. The pub's mini market and BBQ returns on 27th March 12pm – 3pm.



## The Windsor Trooper Windsor

The Trooper will be hosting its first Cider Festival over the Jubilee weekend from 2nd - 6th June. The five-day event is free to enter and will have at least 30 different ciders and perries to try. The festival will also feature live music, DJs, pub quizzes and a BBQ.

The pub will now be serving Pieminister Pies on weekdays between 12pm – 5:30pm. This is in addition to the regular daily menus.

Live music now takes place every Thursday at The Trooper from 8pm.



## The Vannsittart Arms Windsor

The Vannsittart Arms will be under new ownership from 31st March. The new owners plan to refurbish the pub and garden, whilst installing a new kitchen. The renovation will result in the temporary closure of the pub and at the time of writing, it is unknown when and for how long the closure will be.

## Pub News

Want your pub featured next time? Contact the Editor:

@ editor@swm.camra.org.uk

# Yippee – Pie – Yay

## The Perseverance holds its annual Pie and Porter Festival

**T**he ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has led to the postponement of many beer festivals over the past two years. From the mighty 'Great British Beer Festival' to the humble summertime bonanza at your local pub, all were cancelled to decelerate the spread of the virus. Following the nation's heroic vaccination uptake and the gradual easing of restrictions, beer lovers, publicans and brewers can hopefully look forward to both attending and hosting beer festivals again in the coming months.

The husband-and-wife team, Nick and Sarah Higney, have already commenced Berkshire's festival circuit as their Wraysbury village pub, The Perseverance, staged a 'Pie and Porter Festival' in mid-January. CAMRAngle exclusively interviewed Nick Higney, about the winter event.

It is hard not to fall in love immediately with The Perseverance upon entry, as it is the epitome of a quaint countryside pub. Oozing a cosy charm from the traditional wooden furnishings and



Illustration by Matt Rogers

rustic aesthetics, the 17th Century pub is certainly one of the prettier venues in Berkshire to entertain a beer festival. "Beer has stood the test of time and brings people together, that is why beer festivals are great," Nick said passionately. "We have had some really good beer festivals over the years, but the 'Pie and Porter Festival' is the one that gets the most attention. It probably is my favourite festival of the year."

The 'Pie and Porter Festival' encapsulates why The Perseverance has gained an esteemed reputation for serving high-quality ale and delicious homemade food. A total of 1000 bespoke artisan pies were consumed over the weekend, each one lovingly crafted by hand. "I don't know if you have tried to roll out 75kg of shortcrust pastry, but it takes a lot out of your hands and wrists," laughed Nick. From the classic steak and ale to spicy

tomato, festivalgoers devoured seven different pies bursting with locally sourced ingredients. "Our venison came from Windsor Great Park, so you can't be more local than that," added Nick. "The quality of the homemade pies is what keeps people interested, the beer is almost secondary to it."

That is not to suggest that the beer was an afterthought. "I genuinely love talking about beer," beamed Nick. "We started to grow a reputation for our ale locally, but it was when we started having our beer festivals that we got noticed by CAMRA." The pub's 'Pie and Porter Festival' is one of the few local events that celebrates dark beer, and this year's rendition was extra special as The Perseverance had recently gained a free of tie leasehold. This enabled Nick to compile a festival beer list of his own choosing, instead of being rigidly limited to what the pub's owners, 'Enterprise Inns plc,'



Photo by Alan Molloy

**Nick Higney pouring from a rack of porters and stouts**





www.instagram.com/hoppy\_simcoe/



facebook.com/ThePercyWraysbury/

would distribute. The exciting beer list reflected that freedom, showcasing nine porters and stouts of varying strengths and flavour profiles from around the country. Local brewers supplied beers rarely seen in cask. Elusive Brewing combined dark malts with American hops to give their 'Ravenswood Export India Stout' a contemporary twist, providing notes of orange, dark chocolate and coffee. Reminiscent of a peaty bonfire, Loddon Brewery's 'Schmoke Shtack' used earthy English hops for a pleasantly spiced smoky porter. MoogBrew's 'Fast Gerald Stout' was deemed 'Beer of the Festival,' selling out in under four hours. Punters were impressed with the complex concoction of bitter chocolate, roasted coffee and dried fruit flavours.

Upon its conception in 2015, the 'Pie and Porter Festival' was



Photo by Alan Molloy

**Clockwise from bottom left:** the many pies under construction; a furry customer eyeing up the pies; visitors enjoying the pub's beer festival

an immediate success, so much so that the popularity of the occasion took Nick by surprise. "We started the first festival with ten barrels of porter and 200 pies, thinking we could freeze any that were left over, but all the pies sold out on the first night!" recalled Nick. "I was up at five o'clock the next morning making more. The second year we made 500 pies, thinking that would be enough, but we still sold out on the Saturday! Now we make 1000 pies, and we cap it at that number because we don't want to outsource and buy the pies in. We always want to stay true to our values of good, honest homecooked food."

**"I don't know if you have tried to roll out 75kg of shortcrust pastry, but it takes a lot out of your hands and wrists!"**

**Nick Higney**

Talking to Nick prior to the festival, it was clear that Coronavirus is still a dilemma for anyone trying to stage an event. "This is our first beer festival in two years," said Nick apprehensively. "We were scheduled to have a beer festival the week before the first lockdown, but we cancelled it as we weren't comfortable with the way things were going. We cancelled our recent Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve parties


for the same reason. Obviously, we want as many people as possible so we can sell the beer and pies, but at the same time we don't want to be so busy that we are putting people at risk. This pandemic is going to be around for a long time, but most people have now had their booster jabs, so if we do things safely and don't overcrowd the place, I think we will be ok. I'm not scared of turning people away nor asking people to sit outside because we want people to be safe."

Despite the trepidation, the 'Pie and Porter Festival' was once again a resounding success, selling out of pies and festival beer long before the weekend finished. Punters were so eager to attend Berkshire's first beer festival of the year, they braved the cold and queued outside the pub before it had even opened, which is a testimony to just how popular The Perseverance is with its local community.

Keep a look out for more fantastic beer festivals at The Perseverance this spring and summer because having a fun time at this village pub is as easy as pie!

### More info

 [www.the-perseverance.co.uk](http://www.the-perseverance.co.uk)

 2 High Street,  
Wraysbury, TW19 5DB



# Tip Top Taproom

Windsor & Eton Brewery unveil new taproom



Photo by Matt Rogers

The beer landscape has changed substantially in recent years. A dramatic increase in the number of small independent breweries and the consequential craft beer revolution has led to the rise of another beer-based phenomenon – the brewery taproom. A taproom or tap yard is an area of the brewery dedicated to the selling of draught beer directly to customers onsite, mere metres from where the beverage is being brewed. For the past decade, Windsor & Eton Brewery has endeavoured to make beer the top attraction within the historic market town of Windsor. The popular local brewery has stepped ever closer to achieving this feat with the unveiling of their brand-new Unit 4 taproom. CAMRAngle visited the establishment and exclusively interviewed the brewery's Co-founder, Will Calvert.

The concept of a taproom is a modern development within the beer industry. "When we started [ten years ago], we had

always envisaged we would continue to grow in footprint," explained Will. "At the time, we assumed we would increase production capacity, packaging and warehouse space, but that was before brewery taprooms were invented. The world of craft brewing has changed. The general trend now amongst craft breweries

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**"We would like to think that it [the taproom] is a community hub, which can be used for a force for good in the future."**

## Will Calvert

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is to focus on selling direct to the consumer rather than trade sales to Pubcos [large companies which own a chain or group of pubs]. Practically every brewery now has a taproom and for some brewers it is more important than the brewery itself! This is because the manufacturing of beer for trade sales has got thinner margins than ever before due to the number of

producers, the consolidation of the 'on-trade' [licenced premises such as bars and restaurants] and the competitiveness of the 'off-trade' [food retailers such as supermarkets]. We had always intended to increase the number of our brewery owned pubs so we could get our beer to more people in better condition and at a better consumer price, so it seemed only natural to have an onsite taproom. The Unit 4 taproom showcases the brewery, promoting our beer and brewing whilst also serving as an area to start and end our popular brewery tours."

The Unit 4 taproom is a visually stunning place to eat and drink, displaying a contemporary industrial aesthetic that meshes wood panelling with cast iron and corrugated steel furnishings. Large wooden barrels have been repurposed as trendy bar tables, whilst uncovered pipes and red-brick are bathed in the warm glow of spotlights descending from exposed ductwork. Including an upper floor mezzanine, the





taproom can accommodate over 150 seated guests.

With over 20 different beers on tap alongside an extensive range of bottled and canned beers, visitors to the Unit 4 taproom will be spoilt for choice. The sheer number of beers available allows Windsor & Eton to not only use the taproom as a platform for their much-loved core range, but it also allows the brewery to flex its creative muscles and release small batch speciality beers, such as the Eton Mess Berliner Weisse, which has a flavour reminiscent of retro chewy sweets with notes of juicy strawberry and sweet vanilla. Inspired by the local pubs of Windsor, the taproom also features a variety of beverages from guest breweries. "We'd like the taproom to be a destination for beer choice," explained Will. "In recent years, the two most popular pubs in Windsor have

been The Cornerhouse [SWM CAMRA Pub of the Year 2020] and A Hoppy Place [SWM CAMRA Pub of the Year 2021]. What both of these pubs trade on is their everchanging variety of beers. We think it is important to not just have our own beer but to have a range of beers from breweries we admire. From the consumer's point of view, there is a demand for different beers to compare and contrast with."

The sheer size of the taproom enables the brewery to put on large-scale events which would have been impossible to do squeezed between grain mills, fermentation tanks and bottling lines. A restored horse drawn dray is used as a stage for live music concerts, fortnightly pub quizzes and monthly stand-up comedy nights. "It is a great venue for entertainment," said Will. "Our most memorable event so far was

**Left:** The incredible beer range available at the taproom.  
**Below:** The upper floor mezzanine

Alex Horne's TV famous band, The Horne Section, who did a warmup event for their current tour." The Unit 4 taproom hosted a sold-out two-day beer festival in September with an attendance of at least 550 people - the brewery's largest event since before the Coronavirus lockdown. For many festivalgoers, this was their initial introduction to the revamped taproom. Even though the taproom can accommodate planned functions, Will was adamant that the brewery will never prioritise events over brewing. "Our focus will always be on our beer," reaffirmed Will. "We will always be, first and foremost, technical brewers rather than marketing and sales people. We don't want the taproom to become the sort of place where local regulars can't get in because there is a paid event on, so it is quite hard to find a balance, but the space is appropriate for all sorts of events."

The Unit 4 taproom has been well received by the local community. "There is nothing nicer in the world than running a community business in a place like Windsor," expressed Will. "We trade massively on the empathy of the local community. You'll see a lot of workers from the surrounding trading estate come into the taproom after work and lots of the locals who live nearby will come in at different times in the evening. We would like to think that it is a community hub, which can be used for a force for good in the future."

Head down to the Windsor & Eton Brewery and experience the superb new taproom for yourself.

### More info

 [www.webrew.co.uk](http://www.webrew.co.uk)

 1-4 Vansittart Estate,  
Windsor, SL4 1SE



# Branch Social Programme

## Social calendar for the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead CAMRA branch

The SWM CAMRA committee organises many social events which are open to CAMRA members and non-members alike.

The social calendar dates are subject to change, so for up-to-date information please refer to the 'What's On' section of the website:

[www.swm.camra.org.uk](http://www.swm.camra.org.uk)

or contact our Social Secretary Sarah Pelendrides at:

[social.sec@swm.camra.org.uk](mailto:social.sec@swm.camra.org.uk)

### BOURNE END & COOKHAM PUB WALK



**Saturday, April 2nd - 1:00pm**

**KEG Craft Beer Bar - Bourne End**

Visit the pubs of Bourne End and Cookham with your local CAMRA branch. Catch the 12:34pm train from Maidenhead and meet us at the KEG micro-pub in Bourne End for 1pm. We will then walk to The Bounty and on to the pubs of Cookham, finishing at the Old Swan Uppers which is a short walk from Cookham train station.

### BRANCH MEETING

**Wednesday, April 13th - 7:30pm**

**Online meeting via Zoom**

Branch meetings are open to all CAMRA members, and are a great way to meet your local CAMRA committee. We are always looking for members to get involved and help shape the future of the branch.

### EGHAM BEER FESTIVAL



**Friday, April 14th - 12:00pm**

**Egham United Services Club**

The 34th Egham Beer Festival takes place between 14th – 16th April, for more information visit: [www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk) Meet up with the SWM CAMRA branch on Thursday 14th to experience the festival for yourself.

### MID-WEEK BRANCH SOCIAL



**Tuesday, April 19th - 7:30pm**

**The Craufurd Arms - Maidenhead**

Join us for an evening of fun at the pint-sized Craufurd Arms. This community owned pub has won the local 'Pub of the Year' award multiple times and serves five real ales from local breweries.

### KENT MICRO-PUB TRAIL

**Saturday, April 23rd - 10:30am**

**St Pancras Train Station - Kent**

Travel the 'Kent Rail Ale Trail' with your local CAMRA branch. Kent has the highest density of micro-pubs in the country. Travel arrangements are still being planned, so keep an eye on the SWM CAMRA website for more details and information.

### LUNCH BRANCH SOCIAL



**Friday, May 6th - 12:00pm**

**The Lord Grenfell - Maidenhead**

All are welcome to join us for a leisurely lunchtime pub session. The Lord Grenfell is part of the Big Smoke Brewery pub chain.

### BRANCH MEETING



**Wednesday, May 11th - 7:30pm**

**The Rising Sun - Hurley**

Come along and help shape the future of our branch. We are always looking for members to get involved no matter how little time you can devote. The Rising Sun is a village Desi-pub serving Indian cuisine.



# Branch Social Programme

**Social calendar for the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead CAMRA branch**

## BRANCH PUB QUIZ NIGHT

**Tuesday, May 17th - 7:00pm**

**Windsor and Eton Unit 4  
Brewery Taproom - Windsor**

Put on your thinking cap and take part in a local pub quiz event with the CAMRA team. This is a great opportunity to visit the new Windsor and Eton brewery taproom. Food is also available from the taproom's kitchen.

## READING PUB WALK



**Saturday, May 21st - 2:00pm**

**The Fox & Hounds - Caversham**

Explore the pubs of Reading with the SWM CAMRA branch's annual Reading pub walk. The tour includes a visit to the multi award-winning Nag's Head - a must for beer lovers!

The Fox & Hounds is a twelve minute walk from Reading train station and has been nominated for the 'UK's Best Independent Craft Beer Pub - Rural' award by the SIBA Business Awards 2022.

## BRANCH MEETING

**Wednesday, June 8th - 7:30pm**

**The Windsor Trooper - Windsor**

We are always looking for volunteers to get involved and help shape the future of the branch. These branch meetings are open to all CAMRA members and are a great way to meet your local committee members.

## TWYFORD BEER FESTIVAL



**Saturday, June 11th - 12:00pm**

**Stanlake Meadow Recreation  
Ground - Twyford**

The 12th annual Twyford Beer Festival takes place between 10th – 11th June. This is a ticketed event, so make sure to buy yours in advance before they all sell out: [www.twyfordbeerfest.co.uk](http://www.twyfordbeerfest.co.uk) You can also view the festival beer list from the website too.

Meet up with the SWM CAMRA branch on Saturday 11th to experience this local festival for yourself.

The Stanlake Meadow Recreation Ground is a mere ten minute walk from Twyford train station, which runs regular services to Maidenhead. The festival raises money for the charity 'Orchid.'

## LUNCH BRANCH SOCIAL



**Thursday, June 16th - 12:00pm**

**The Bear - Maidenhead**

All are welcome to join us for a leisurely lunchtime pub session at the Maidenhead Wetherspoons. Meet the SWM CAMRA branch upstairs on the upper floor of the pub.

## MIDWEEK BRANCH SOCIAL



**Tuesday, June 21st - 6:30pm**

**The Bounty - Cookham**

Join the branch for a summer's evening of fun at the The Bounty. The riverside pub can only be accessed by foot over the railway bridge from Bourne End or by boat.

## NEWBURY PUB WALK



**Saturday, June 25th - 2:00pm**

**The King Charles - Newbury**

Visit the pubs of Newbury with your local CAMRA branch. Meet us at 2pm in The King Charles Tavern, which is just a three-minute walk from Newbury train station. Trains run regularly to Newbury from Reading.

The historic market town has four pub entries in the Good Beer Guide so you are guaranteed a great pint. The Catherine Wheel in particular is well worth a visit.

## More info

 [www.swm.camra.org.uk](http://www.swm.camra.org.uk)



# Bridge Over Troubled Water

The Bridge House reopened during the height of the pandemic

This spring heralds the two-year anniversary of the original coronavirus lockdown. Despite being necessary to suppress the spread of the virus, lockdown threw the pub and brewing industries into turmoil. Witnessing the hospitality sector struggle to survive would deter most potential tenants from opening a pub during the height of the pandemic, but not the newest landlords of The Bridge House pub. Kevin and Connie Anderson re-opened the Bridge House in September 2020, a mere two months after pubs were allowed to resume trade. CAMRAngle exclusively interviewed Kevin Anderson to see how the pub took lockdown in its stride and is fast becoming one of the most popular local pubs.

Situated within the village of Paley Street, The Bridge House is one of Berkshire's oldest pubs dating back to the 16th century. The listed building has a delightfully rural character with low beamed ceilings and exposed brick chimney breasts. A log burner adorned with a wall of stacked firewood makes a striking centre



Photo by Matt Rogers

piece to the village pub.

Kevin was immediately drawn to The Bridge House. "We had always wanted to do a pub of our own," revealed Kevin. "I had visited a few local pubs, but none of them had the 'wow factor' like this one. The pub and the garden just looked so inviting. The building itself is over 400 years old and no one in the area has a bigger pub garden. I could see a vision for what this pub could be over the next five to seven years. It was a massive opportunity for us."

After an extensive refurbishment, The Bridge House opened for just seven weeks before the second lockdown curtailed the pub's newly found momentum. "Lockdown certainly slowed down the re-introduction of The Bridge House," recalled Kevin. "It was an anxious time, but I didn't think there was any need to start speling off because everyone was in the same position. We were all in the same boat and I thought, 'if the community can do it, so can we.' I got that mindset from the army; you just have to get on with it." Kevin was part of the Army Catering Corps (ACC) and the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)

for over 18 years and Connie works for the NHS, so it is perhaps these resilient backgrounds that has enabled The Bridge House to remain so infallible throughout the plight of the pandemic. "There is a certain amount of discipline, decorum and patience that the army gives you," said Kevin. "The army has given me the mindset and attitude to gauge each customer and look after people."

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**"The community has welcomed us so well and the guests are what I most enjoy about the pub. Everyone is treated the same and greeted with a smile."**

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**Kevin Anderson**

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Remaining level-headed, Kevin pragmatically continued his landlord duties, devising a takeaway meal service for the local community throughout lockdown, even delivering the food by hand to vulnerable elderly residents during the winter months. A newsletter was included with the meals to help connect with and inform the



Photos by Matt Rogers

**Kevin Anderson, landlord of The Bridge House pub**





Photo by Matt Rogers



Photo by Matt Rogers

**Left to right: the impressive wood burner warms the pub; the stylish yet traditional interior of the pub**

community that the pub was still active. The takeaway feature was so popular that the option for takeout food continues today despite being out of lockdown.

The drive to become a beacon for the community during this time of hardship was a great motivator for Kevin. "The community is important to me because they support me," said Kevin. "If they are going to support me, I can't let them down. After lockdown, it was incredibly rewarding to see guests come in and ask how you were and if there was anything they could do to help the pub. The community has welcomed us so well and the guests are what I most enjoy about the pub. They are knowledgeable,

funny and loyal. You never know who is going to walk in, we've had James Haskell, Katherine Grainger and even Theresa May, but everyone is treated the same and greeted with a smile.

Considering how hard pubs have had to work just to stay afloat during the pandemic, you would forgive a pub owner feeling aggrieved following the discovery of lockdown parties within Downing Street, but Kevin seemed nonchalant. "I believe we should leave politics at the pub door," shrugged Kevin. "A pub is not the place for politics but a place to come and enjoy yourself." A noble attitude indeed, and there is certainly plenty to enjoy at The Bridge House, especially well-maintained beer and fresh homemade food.

"I'm passionate about real ale and my beer lines are very precious to me," said Kevin. "People come here and expect good beer. You wouldn't want to eat a ribeye steak with a pint of Carling, so I've picked the beers to accompany the menu." The food at The Bridge House is an array of British pub classics, from copious Sunday roasts to fresh fish and chips. The honest and unpretentious menu is of a high quality, as you

would expect of someone with Kevin's culinary experience. Whilst working for the army, Kevin had the honour of cooking for Her Majesty the Queen upon the Royal Yacht Britannia and hosted the late Prince Phillip at the Victory Services Club in London.

All the hard work at The Bridge House is starting to bear fruit, as positive word of mouth is spreading like wildfire. "The pub is now beginning to flourish," said Kevin eagerly. "People are starting to talk about our Sunday lunches and the community is recommending the pub. We've been getting function bookings for the summer through good word of mouth, it's exciting times! That is what is most rewarding, knowing that people are having a good time and they are appreciating it."

To call The Bridge House a fantastic pub is certainly not a bridge too far. It is well worth a visit to enjoy the excellent food and beer whilst experiencing the friendly atmosphere.



www.facebook.com

**The Bridge House's Sunday roasts are very popular**

### More info

 [www.bridgehousepaleystreet.uk/](http://www.bridgehousepaleystreet.uk/)

 Paley Street,  
Maidenhead, SL6 3JS



# Dazzling Donations

Charity donation milestone for local brewery



Photo supplied by Rebellion Brewery

Left to right: Mark Gloynes (Rebellion Owner), William Baxter CBE (Scannappeal Chairman), Lisa Trivett (Scannappeal Director), Tim Coombes (Rebellion Owner), Tom Kerridge (Scannappeal Patron)

**F**ew local brewers have achieved such prominence as the Marlow based Rebellion Brewery. Since its establishment in 1993, the independent brewery has gone on to produce an award-winning range of traditional British ales that are now a customary sight within pubs, restaurants and hospitality venues across Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. So prevalent in fact has Rebellion's beer become, it is highly likely that you are enjoying a pint of draught Rebellion whilst reading this very magazine!

As well as becoming purveyors of high-quality ale, the brewery's core values have always been to assist the community and champion local causes. Eager to support local charities, one organisation has formed a long-lasting partnership of almost 20 years with Rebellion. The registered charity, Scannappeal, raises funds to provide local hospitals with specialist state of the art medical equipment that

the NHS budget alone cannot cover. The lifesaving technology purchased by Scannappeal aids one in four of the local population—a great testament of the charity's dedication.

**"We are very fortunate to have a fantastic relationship with Rebellion Brewery and are delighted that they continue to choose us as their charity."**

**Lisa Trivett**

Rebellion has continued to support Scannappeal since 2003, using their locally renowned 'charity open weekends' to raise money. This biennial fundraising event was initially conceived to express gratitude to loyal customers, supplying ale without charge for a completely free beer festival with live bands and brewery tours. The popularity of the event saw the open weekend

evolve into a two-day fundraising extravaganza, welcoming up to 4,500 visitors who would give a voluntary charity donation upon entry.

"Unsurprisingly, word spread quickly that the brewery was giving away free beer over these weekends and numbers attending the first few events rapidly grew," said Stu Sutherland, Marketing Manager at Rebellion. "We saw the event as being a win-win situation for all concerned, as the brewery gets to introduce new potential customers to our beers, our loyal customers have a fantastic free beer festival and a brilliant local charity gets a big fundraising boost. We had heard about the important work Scannappeal had been doing for a number of years and when we decided that the open weekend could help raise money for charity, Scannappeal seemed an obvious choice to support. We have always recognised the importance of local support for the long-term sustainability of the brewery, and in return supporting





**Above:** Rebellion Brewery's charity weekends in previous years

Scannappeal is very much giving back to the local community."

Rebellion has recently hit a remarkable donation milestone. The current all-time donation total that the brewery has raised for Scannappeal has now reached a mammoth figure £300,000! Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2019 open weekend alone raised a staggering £65,000. "We are delighted to have supported Scannappeal over many years," commented Rebellion Co-owner Mark Gloynes. "The equipment purchased with the help of money raised by the brewery has been of such benefit to the local community in times of need, who in turn have been such tremendous supporters of the brewery."

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic forcing the postponement of the 2021 festival, Rebellion still honoured the biennial donation, bestowing

Scannappeal with £9,000 in October 2021. Considering how hard the brewing and pub industries have been hit by the pandemic, it is incredibly noble of Rebellion to continue supporting a local charity in such a generous fashion. Stu added, "after the initial shock of the pubs closing and losing 80% of our business overnight [due to lockdown], we introduced the drive through shop at the brewery and a home delivery service, which allowed our loyal local customers to continue to support us. Thanks to this support, the brewery has come out of the pandemic relatively unscathed so we wanted to continue our support for local charities."

Rebellion's contributions has enabled Scannappeal to fund MRI scanners, cardiology scanners for heart disease patients, a dedicated breast biopsy suite for accurate and rapid diagnoses and

a 3D theatre stack to treat patients with prostate, kidney and bladder cancers. Having these facilities in local hospitals is life-changing for patients, as Scannappeal reported that over 22,000 people have an MRI scan every year in Buckinghamshire. Lisa Trivett Director of Scannappeal stated, "it is incredible that a local independent business has made such a tremendous financial impact on a local charity. It has been a tough year as a charity, as the impact of COVID has meant we have not been able to fundraise in the same way. To receive a donation of this size in such a hard year just goes to show what a supportive, generous and charitable business Rebellion are. We are very fortunate to have a fantastic relationship with Rebellion Brewery and are delighted that they continue to choose us as their charity. We support hospitals in Buckinghamshire and therefore share the same audience as Rebellion. I like to think that we are both providing a service to our local community and that feels very powerful."

Rebellion is very eager for the charity open weekend to return in the future. "The charity weekends are a time when we can interact face to face with our customers, supporters and community," reminisced Stu. "That is something we have missed. It is a lot of work to put on, but the staff come together as a team and we love seeing everyone have a great time. We cannot wait to hold the next one when we can."

Rebellious by name but benevolent by nature, it is great to see a local brewery so supportive of its community. Long may this altruistic partnership continue!

### More info

 [www.rebellionbeer.co.uk](http://www.rebellionbeer.co.uk)

[www.scannappeal.org.uk](http://www.scannappeal.org.uk)

 Bencombe Farm, Marlow Bottom, SL7 3LT



# Local Brewery News

All the news from your local breweries in the local area

## Ascot Brewing Company

[www.ascotbrewing.co.uk](http://www.ascotbrewing.co.uk)



Ascot's 'People of the Hop: Vol II' has won gold at the SIBA Regional Bottle and Can awards in the imperial IPA category. The New England pale ale uses Galaxy, Nelson Sauvin and Citra hops to deliver flavours of orange, gooseberry and peach. 'People of the Hop: Vol II' is the second beer of Ascot's newest rotating hop IPA series.



Ascot has added two more single hopped pale ales to the popular 'Battle Royale' series. 'Nectar' features the New Zealand hop of the same name to offer juicy aromas of pineapple, peach and passionfruit. 'Centennial' showcases the classic American hop with a punchy pine flavour and bitter lemon bite. The entire 'Battle Royale' range is available to purchase from the brewery's website.

## Bond Brews Ltd

[www.bondbrews.co.uk](http://www.bondbrews.co.uk)

Bond brews has re-released the seasonal English style best bitter, 'Scrum Five,' to celebrate the 6 Nations rugby tournament. The beer is brewed with five different variants of malted barley, wheat and hops.



## Elusive Brewing

[www.elusivebrewing.com](http://www.elusivebrewing.com)

Elusive's 'Level Up' has won gold at the SIBA Regional Bottle and Can awards in the premium bitter category. The American-style red ale is a rotational hop beer, that utilises a different hop combination every time it is brewed. The current rendition of 'Level Up' uses Citra and Galaxy hops for a blend of pine and grapefruit flavours.



## Loddon Brewery

[www.loddonbrewery.com](http://www.loddonbrewery.com)



Loddon has opened a new onsite farm shop, selling both beer and fresh local produce, including meat, cheese, fruit and vegetables. CAMRA members can get a 10% discount on the Loddon beer range from the farm shop. Opening the farm shop has also allowed Loddon to reopen the indoor taproom.



Loddon's pale ale, 'Make Your Mark,' has returned for the 6 Nations rugby tournament. The wheat forward pale is flavoured with Simcoe and Eureka hops.

## New Wharf Brewing Co.

[www.newwharfbrewing.co.uk](http://www.newwharfbrewing.co.uk)

New Wharf has returned with a new streamlined core range of beer, available in 330ml and 440ml cans. Alongside the amber ale named 'Voyage' and the pale ale called 'Explorer,' New Wharf have released their first pilsner titled 'Wanderer.' The pilsner has a slightly sweet flavour with a toasted, biscuit like character.



# Local Brewery News

All the news from your local breweries in the local area

## Rebellion Beer Company

[www.rebellionbeer.co.uk](http://www.rebellionbeer.co.uk)

Rebellion's pale, 'Overthrow,' has won gold at the SIBA Regional Beer awards in the cask British bitters up to 4.4% category. 'Overthrow' is an easy to drink pale with aromas of tropical fruit and grapefruit.



The 2022 monthly releases are a rerun of the popular 'British Greats' beer range from 2017, which are all named after iconic historical figures.

## Siren Craft Brew

[www.sirencraftbrew.com](http://www.sirencraftbrew.com)

Siren has released two new beers. 'Jiggery Pokery' is a red IPA with notes of orange and pine, whilst 'Antidawn' is Siren's first ever Export India Porter, featuring coffee and chocolate flavours complimented with a strong citrus hop character.



## Stardust Brewery

[www.stardustbrewery.co.uk](http://www.stardustbrewery.co.uk)



Stardust collaborated with the Marlow Crafty Taproom for a limited edition hazy pale ale called 'Scooby 2,' which uses Azacca, Citra and Mosaic hops for a juicy flavour.

The fan favourite, 'Hop Tub,' is now back in stock. The unfiltered New England IPA is dry hopped with Citra, Mosaic, Nelson Sauvin and Simcoe hops for a succulent fruity punch.

## Weird Beard Brew Co.

[www.weirdbeardbrewco.com](http://www.weirdbeardbrewco.com)



A number of Weird Beard's range is being sold at 50% off. Grab a beer at this incredible discounted price before they all go!

## Windsor & Eton Brewery

[www.webrew.co.uk](http://www.webrew.co.uk)

Windsor & Eton are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the new beer, 'Castle Hill.' To reflect the commonwealth, the beer utilises barley grown from the Royal Farm in Windsor alongside hops from around the world for a clean citrus taste. Champagne yeast is used to achieve a platinum pale colour. The artwork was designed by the Windsor based artist, Basia Dobrzalska.



To raise awareness about the impact our food system has upon the planet, Windsor & Eton created a copper ale brewed with surplus bread in collaboration with Toast Ales. 'Good Cop' has a bread-like flavour and biscuity body with a fresh floral character.

Punters can enjoy 25% off the Windsor & Eton beer range during happy hour at the brewery's taproom from 5pm – 6pm on Monday to Thursday.

## Brewery News

Want your brewery featured next time? Contact the Editor:

@ editor@swm.camra.org.uk



## LocAle Brewery Listings

26 LocAle Breweries are within a 20 mile radius of Maidenhead Railway Station, and produce cask ales to at least one pub on a regular, but not necessarily continuous basis.

Ascot Brewing Company	Camberley
Bond Brews	Wokingham
Creative Juices Brewing Co.	Rickmansworth
Double Barrelled Brewery	Reading
Dolphin Brewery	Reading
Ealing Brewing Co.	Brentford
Elusive Brewing	Wokingham
HedgeDog Brewing	Virginia Water
Loddon Brewery	Dunsden
Lovibonds	Henley-on-Thames
Malt The Brewery	Great Missenden
Moogbrew	Taplow
New Wharf Brewing Co.	Maidenhead
Old Luxters Farm Brewery	Henley-on-Thames
Outhouse Brewery	Wokingham
Paradigm Brewery	Sarrett
Phantom Brewery	Reading
Pinnora Brewing	Pinner
Rebellion Beer Co.	Marlow
Siren Craft Brew	Finchampstead
Stardust Brewery	White Waltham
Thames Side Brewery	Staines-upon-Thames
Thurstons Brewery	Horsell
Twickenham Fine Ales	Twickenham
Weird Beard Brew Co.	Hanwell
Windsor & Eton Brewery	Windsor

## CAMRA LocAle 2022 Pub Listings

Pubs in the area that are currently accredited as LocAle Pubs. This means that the pub regularly sells a beer from one of the LocAle Breweries, thereby reducing "beer miles" and supporting local brewers.

<b>Cippenham</b>	<b>Littleworth Common</b>
Barleycorn	The Blackwood Arms The Jolly Woodman
<b>Clewer Village</b>	<b>Maidenhead</b>
The Swan	The Bear The Boathouse at Boulsters Lock The Craufurd Arms The Lord Grenfell The Maiden's Head Norden Farm Theatre The North Star The Rose
<b>Cookham</b>	<b>Old Windsor</b>
The Bounty	The Fox & Castle Old Windsor Club
<b>Cookham Dean</b>	<b>Paley Street</b>
The Jolly Farmer Uncle Tom's Cabin	The Bridge House
<b>Cox Green</b>	<b>Pinkneys Green</b>
Barley Mow	The Pinkneys Arms
<b>Datchet</b>	<b>Richings Park</b>
The Royal Stag	The Tower Arms
<b>Denham</b>	<b>Slough</b>
The Green Man	The Moon & Spoon
<b>Eton</b>	<b>Stoke Poges</b>
The George Inn The Watermans Arms	The Rose & Crown
<b>Eton Wick</b>	<b>Taplow</b>
The Greyhound	The Oak & Saw
<b>Farnham Royal</b>	<b>Windsor</b>
The Emperor	A Hoppy Place The Acre The Bexley Arms The Boatman The Corner House The Duke of Connaught The Old Court The Prince Harry W&E Brewery Tap Room
<b>Hedgerley</b>	
The White Horse	
<b>Holyport</b>	
George on the Green	
<b>Hurley</b>	
The Rising Sun	
<b>Iver</b>	
The Swan at Iver	
<b>Littlewick Green</b>	
Shire Horse	