

camra angle

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

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Issue 38 - Spring 2015 | www.swmcamra.org.uk



Inside...

> VOTE FOR PUBS & REAL ALE

CAMRA manifesto seeking candidate pledges.

> MAIDENHEAD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

New location guarantees expansion plans.

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> FROM THE EDITOR

The Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead branch celebrated its 40th anniversary at The Bear pub in Maidenhead in January. More than 60 people took over the upstairs bar where several chairmen (including Martin Ayres, the first chairman), reflected on the beginnings of CAMRA. A copy of the first Newsletter, the precursor to this publication, is reproduced in this issue. A month earlier in December, the formation of the East Berkshire branch (which covered all of the central and eastern part of the county) was similarly celebrated. Subsequently the branch devolved into Reading and Mid-Berkshire, with our own branch forming in 1975, and Berkshire South East branch in 2002.

On the campaigning front, first, the good news. In a landmark vote, after 10 years of campaigning, MPs of all parties voted for tenants of the large pubcos to have a market rent only (MRO) option – and they won.

MPs were backing a CAMRA-supported amendment, at the Report Stage for the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, which allows tied tenants of companies with more than 500 pubs to have their rent reviewed independently. It would also give tenants the option to buy beer at competitive prices in an open market – saving about 60p a pint.

The not so good news: in a parliamentary vote to stop pubs being converted or demolished without planning permission, voting resulted in a narrow defeat. A total of 245 MPs voted for a new clause 16 to the Infrastructure Bill – tabled by Save the Pub Group MPs – which would have required planning consent before a pub could be changed to retail or housing use or knocked down – versus 293 against. Subsequently, the Government unveiled its own bid to tighten planning regulations surrounding pub conversions, announcing a pub listed as an asset of community value (ACV) could not be converted or demolished without planning permission.

CAMRA is here to support and advise pub campaigns, not to start them or lead them. We have built up valuable front-line experience now and we are directly engaged with Borough Councils and senior civil servants in the Department of Communities and Local Government. Until the planning loopholes are plugged, the first step to saving your pub is to register it as an Asset of Community Value... just ask us for the wherewithal.

In this issue we highlight this summer's Maidenhead Beer & Cider Festival. We have a brand new location, Desborough College, a 5 minute walk from the side exit of Maidenhead railway station. The college facilities will enable us to expand in the future and keep us in Maidenhead. With over 100 beers and 20 ciders the festival opens at 12 noon on Friday 24th July and runs through to the Sunday evening. Throughout the festival there will be entertainment and a good offering of food to suit all palates. We are pleased to announce that after feedback from last year's festival we will be offering third of a pint measures at this year's festival.

Well, with the worst of the weather hopefully behind us, it's time to keep doing what you do best... drink cask ale in your local pubs!

Cheers!

Allan Willoughby
Editor



Thanks to Simon Smith for the festival images

> MAIDENHEAD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2015

Flagship event relocates to Desborough College for Friday 24th July through to Sunday 26th July >

With more than 100 Real ales and 20 Real Ciders this year's Beer and Cider Festival organised by the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead branch of CAMRA promises to be a cracking event. Around 3,000 people attended last year's festival at Maidenhead United Football Club in the town centre. This year we looked at a number of venues that would enable us to expand into the future taking into account family friendly facilities, green areas for picnicking, and, essentially, ample shelter should the weather turn bad. A very big thanks to Maidenhead United for putting up with us for the last 2 years.

This year's 3 day event will be hosted by Desborough College, Shoppenhangers Road, a 5 minute walk from the side exit of Maidenhead station. Throughout the festival the entrance charge, which helps offset the costs of the entertainment, is a modest £3 for public, £2 for holders of the Borough's Advantage Card and £1 for card carrying CAMRA members. On Sunday, parking

in Maidenhead is free and throughout the festival there is adequate parking at the College.

The festival will be officially opened by Borough Town Crier, Chris Brown, in his inimitable style, including his Festival Proclamation at 12.30pm on the Friday. Entertainment starts with local band The Mighty Playhouse on Friday evening and switches to The Bite on Saturday evening. More entertainment will be confirmed closer to the time. A variety of food will be available, throughout the festival, all from local sources, including curry, South African BBQ, hog roast, jacket potatoes and baguettes, as well as some veggie options.

A new feature at this year's festival will be commemorative glasses with a third pint measure, just in case you want to try a load of beers... sensibly, of course!

Last year witnessed a significant increase in visitor numbers, hence we were close to bursting point and needed to rethink the location. Everyone was well behaved and this year's event coincides with the Maidenhead Festival... 2 reasons to visit the town. Our festival helps support local shops and businesses, which is what everyone wants.

As part of the Maidenhead Beer Festival 2014, we asked the thirsty punters to vote for their favourite ale and favourite cider. The ale winner was Siren Craft Brew's Liquid Mistress at 5.8%, a west coast red IPA. Our very own Windsor & Eton Brewery weighed in at 3rd place with their Conqueror 1075. The Cider winner was Millwhites Apples & Pears.

We are pleased to announce that our pub sponsor is, as last year, The Bear, Maidenhead High Street. The pub will be handing out 20% discount meal vouchers for use at the pub after the festival. In the lead up to the festival the pub will be organising a number of Meet The Brewer evenings with the likes of local brewer Windsor & Eton as well as others.

The Rainbow Trust is the festival's chosen charity for 2015, caring for families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness, so please be generous with all that loose change at the bar.

Why not put the dates in your diary and follow us on Facebook and Twitter or keep track of events on our dedicated website www.maidenheadbeerfest.org.uk



Winner of Beer of the Festival 2014 - Siren Craft's Liquid Mistress



> PECULIAR PUBS

Tan Hill Inn, Richmond, Tan Hill, Yorkshire >

This famous pub situated on the Pennine Way walking route is the highest pub in Britain at 1,732 feet above sea level. Due to its height, it often gets snowed in, but the owners reassure you as they have managed to acquire their own weather station, snow plough, generator, their own water bore hole for water, and gas in huge tanks.

They are not only a pub, as they have rooms to let and also hold many events such as car rallies, weddings and "come dine with me" evenings! On the bar you will find between 4 and 6 Theakston and Black Sheep ales.

Don't be surprised if you see a sheep in the Baa! (sorry....couldn't resist - but it's true!).



Wern Fawr Inn, Ystalyfera, Swansea >

Having arrived at the Wern Fawr, you may wonder what all the fuss is about. This typical Welsh building is unwelcoming from the outside, but this feeling soon disappears when you step into this pub full of old mining antiquities. There is a superb collection of bricks from the local brickworks on one wall and on the other match boxes from far and wide. But the best part of a visit to this pub is the ale. Beers are all from the Bryncelyn Brewery along the valley in Ytradgynlais. All of the beers have a Buddy Holly theme, with names such as Oh Boy!, Holly Hop, Buddy Marvellous and That'll be the Sleigh: there's bound to be a brew to your liking. The cheapest pint for miles too!





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www.maidenheadbeerfest.org.uk





> LOST & FOUND PUBS OF BURNHAM

Kevin Phillips visits the historic village of Burnham and discovers a good choice of pubs still remains >

Readers of my previous lost pubs articles will no doubt recall my sorry tales of recent pub closures in Windsor, Slough and Maidenhead. I therefore began my researches into Burnham expecting to find the same scale of closures in this pleasant corner of South Bucks. However, I was pleased to discover that despite three pubs shutting their doors since the year 2000, no fewer than seven pubs still survive in the village, giving a degree of choice to Burnham drinkers which their neighbours in much larger Slough would envy.

To deal with the casualties first, the most notable recent one is the **Brickmakers Arms** on Lent Rise. This historic pub survived for around 200 years and its name reflected Burnham's one-time major industry of brickmaking. The nearby brickfields stretched both north and south of Stomp Road until extraction ceased in 1930. Interestingly, the brickfields were owned by the George Wethered Brick Company whose family also owned the Wethered's Brewery of Marlow. Sadly, the

Brickmakers Arms is now closed and has been sold to a

developer who has proposed three two-storey houses for the site.

The other major closure in the area was **The Pheasant**, also on Lent Rise. This pub with its fine "Brewers' Tudor" frontage closed its doors for the last time in 2011. In 2013, it was demolished and replaced by two chalet style houses despite local objections.

The final casualty since the millennium was the **Red Squirrel** on Burnham Lane. Technically, it was just over the border of South Bucks and was Burnham's only Berkshire pub. In its latter years this was a Harvester Restaurant although it still had a bar area where you could buy a pint of draught Bass. It was converted to a Tesco Express around 2008. If you look carefully at the first floor frontage, the white weatherboarding beloved by Harvester designers still remains.

That's about it for recent closures. The good news for drinkers in Burnham is that seven pubs remain, with six of them in the historic High Street conservation area. Let's start with **The George** which had its first licence granted to Charles Cox in 1753, although the building is much older. In the nineteenth century, this was the heart of village life, hosting social events, magistrate sittings, murder trials, coroner's inquests and the annual melon feast. Melons, then a delicacy, were exhibited before being consumed amidst much drinking and merrymaking. The stagecoach to London also set out from here and the pub still has the exterior appearance of a coaching inn.

Nearby is **Ye Old Swan** although this is not the original building. The pub was originally housed in Swan Cottage which still remains alongside some portions of 16th and 17th century cottages. The **Red Lion** is also not on its original site. The old pub was demolished in 1940 and the present building built further back.



Ye Old Swan



Formerly the Red Squirrel (left) & Brickmakers Arms (right)



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A Better Glass of Beer



The Old Five Bells



The Bee



At the top of the High Street is the **Bee**, which was first licensed as a public house before 1822. In 1872, it was held on a lease by Neville, Read and Co, brewers of Windsor. The pub was previously called The Crispin after St Crispin, the patron saint of shoe makers. There were 22 of these recorded in Burnham in 1798.

Just off the High Street in Church Street, opposite the 16th century church of St Peters, is the Old Five Bells. It has been much extended since its 18th century origins and old photos round the bar show old Burnham and the pub.

Moving south, to the bottom of the High Street is the **Garibaldi**, which was originally three Tudor cottages which were merged to form the present pub.

Finally, away from the village centre on Hatcham Road is the **Olive Tree** (previously the Maypole). It was completely refurbished in 2013 with a clean contemporary look.

As you can see, a good choice of interesting and historic pubs still remains in Burnham. For all details of opening times, beers etc see www.whatpub.com. Please visit them and ensure they remain open!



The George



The Red Lion



The Olive Tree



> SLOUGH, WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD BRANCH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

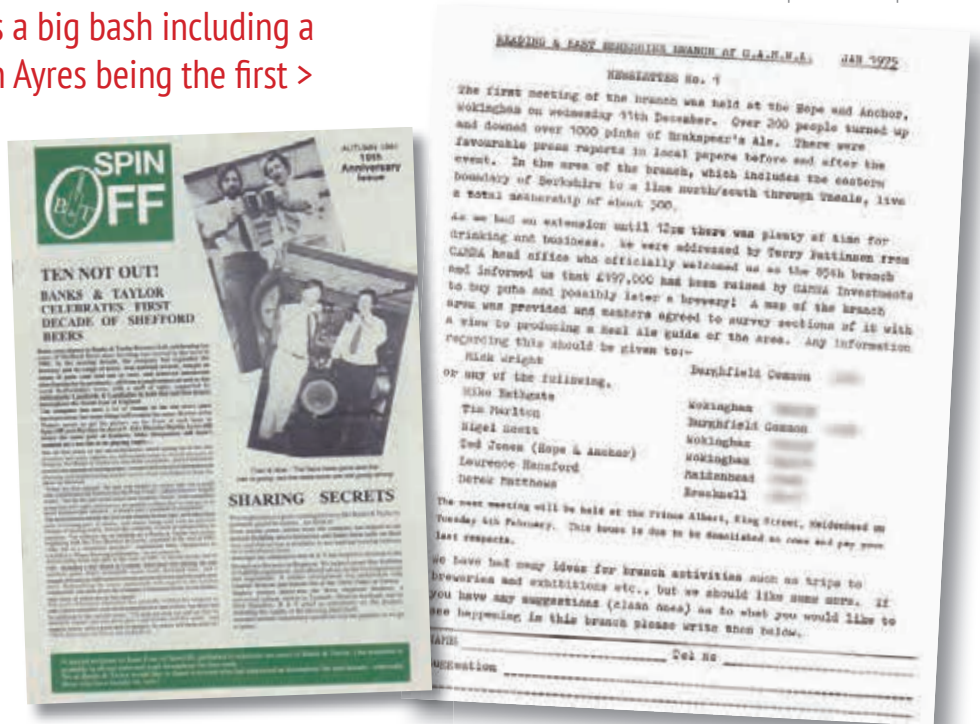
Branch's 1st Newsletter, the precursor to this publication

The Bear, Maidenhead, hosts a big bash including a number of chairmen, Martin Ayres being the first >

More than 65 members past and present including the original chairman and several of the original committee members attended the event at The Bear, in the High Street, on Friday 23rd January. The group's first meeting was on January 29th 1975 at The Queen of England pub in Slough.

The 40th anniversary event celebrated how far the real ale scene has developed in the last 40 years and gave members, including several of the current committee, a chance to reflect on its achievements. Ironically, The Queen of England pub closed its doors as a pub some 4 years ago, converting to - wait for it - a curry restaurant!

10th anniversary of Martin Ayres' Banks & Taylor Brewery (now B&T)



> 40 YEARS OF CAMRA IN EAST BERKSHIRE

Regional Director, Nick Boley, details the history >

40 years ago – on 11 December 1974 to be accurate – the East Berkshire branch of CAMRA was formed. A West Berkshire branch had already been formed in June of that year. The inaugural meeting of the East Berkshire branch was at the Hope and Anchor in Wokingham, a traditional Brakspear's

town pub, something it remains to this day. The branch, which covered all of the central and eastern part of the county, evolved into Reading and Mid-Berkshire branch, with the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead branch forming in 1975, and Berkshire South East branch in 2002.



On 11 December, Reading branch members enjoyed a pub crawl round the town to commemorate this important date, and on Saturday 13 December, members of the 3 branches celebrated the formation of that first branch with a presentation at the Hope & Anchor, a few pints in Wokingham followed by a bigger party at the Nag's Head in Reading.

I was very pleased to make the presentation to Hattie, the landlady at the Hope & Anchor to commemorate that very first meeting, and to say a few words to contrast then and now.

In December 1974 Britain was recovering from the 3 day week and the shock of the oil crisis. Bachman Turner Overdrive were storming up the charts with "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet", and over 80% of our pubs were owned by the "Big Six" brewers – Bass, Allied Breweries, Courage, Scottish & Newcastle, Watney's and Whitbread. Keg beer was the mainstay of these, with such delights as Double Diamond, Younger's Tartan and Watney's Red widely available. CAMRA was a young organisation with only a few thousand members, but was starting to have an impact. The 1974 Good Beer Guide was a thin volume, with a relatively small brewery section. CAMRA's concern was not just in the number of pubs selling real ale, but brewery closures, which restricted choice and often resulted in local brews disappearing. Courage still brewed real ale in Reading, although the beer could be hard to find. Wethered's in Marlow, just over the county boundary in Buckinghamshire (part of the Whitbread group) brewed a good selection of real ales, and Brakspear's and Morland's were established independent brewers in the Thames Valley, owning a number

of fine pubs. Drinkers would flock to beer festivals and free houses to drink exotic rare beers like Greene King Abbot, Marston's Pedigree or Wadworths 6X. The average beer had a strength of around 3.7% ABV, mild was in terminal decline, and stouts and porters non-existent apart from Guinness (although this was bottle-conditioned then, and known as the beer drinker's friend, as it was available in every pub).

Contrast that with today: nearly 1300 breweries, with more opening every month! CAMRA has nearly 170,000 members. Many would say CAMRA have won the war on saving real ale, but although there is truth in that, we cannot take our eyes off the ball. The global brewers, losing market share on their bland, tasteless, fizzy lagers, are just waiting for a chink in our armour to fight back and foist their cheap and nasty beers on us again. The fight now, however, has to concentrate on saving our pubs. The great British pub is under threat, and without it where will we find that fantastic choice of real ale, both in terms of breweries and styles? CAMRA's leaders in 1974 may well have said "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet" and they would have been right. Many things that we now take for granted – a wider range of beers, most pubs selling real ale, more interesting beer styles - were the result of hard work and campaigning by successive generations of CAMRA activists. We now have real clout with politicians and public servants. Some would say we have become part of the establishment, but I know that is not true. Anyone who has been to meetings of Regional Directors, and the National Executive will know we are still a feisty, campaigning organisation with a clear agenda on behalf of the (beer) drinkers and pub goers of this country.

Here's to the next 40!

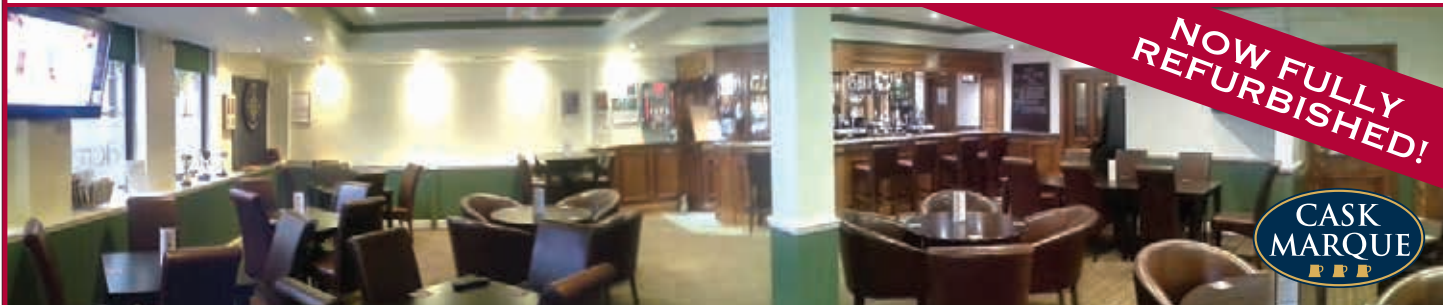


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CAMRA MEMBERS RECEIVE 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL DRINKS! (FROM THE 1ST JAN 2015)

> LOCAL NEWS



Boss of Stag & Hounds, Farnham Common takes over Grenfell Arms >

Greene King Local Hero pub The Grenfell Arms, Oldfield Rd, Maidenhead has been taken over by Good Beer Guide 2015 pub owner Matt Clark. The Stag & Hounds, Farnham Common got into the guide for the first time this year. Matt has big ideas for the pub which sits on the outskirts of Maidenhead towards Bray. Local Hero status means the pub will be able to source 50% of its ales off its own bat.

The Bear, Maidenhead hosts a Curry & Craft evening >



To help wash away those January blues, Manager Dan Foster held a craft ale tasting session in The Bear. By all accounts this sector is the fastest growing in the pub so CAMRA purists take note! The craft beer line-up consisted of Coopers Pale Ale (4.5%), Rogue Amber (5.3%), Sierra Nevada (5.6%), Devils Backbone (5.2%), Windsor & Eton Republika (4.8%), Brooklyn Lager (5.4%) and BrewDog's This is Lager (4.7%) - thanks for a great night Dan.

Good news from Freehouse Red Lyon, Hurley >



In the Winter Edition we raised the issue that the refurbishment of the Red Lyon, Hurley was not progressing. I'm pleased to report that after a discussion with the owner we can say that he has now received planning permission to extend the pub, which includes adding bedrooms. He has assured us that although the Red Lyon will become a hotel and restaurant he will still keep a pub atmosphere in the bar area and will stock real ale. His favourite brewery is West Berks so watch this space. Currently he feels that he will not be open for business until late Autumn 2015.

Publicans can't go skiing without the mag! >

Who says Landlords work their nuts off? Pictured is the formidable line-up of Louise Holdcroft, The Emperor, Farnham Common; Sean Arnett, The Blackwood Arms, Littleworth Common; Trevor Hunt, The Rising Sun, Hurley; and John Mortimer, The Crown, Farnham Royal. Great shot guys. Trust you enjoyed the lager!



> KEEP FIT & ENJOY BEER AT THE SAME TIME!

Mark Carter, Social Secretary, invites you to join The Hedgerley Real Ale Ramble >

The Hedgerley Real Ale Ramble has been held for many years on a quarterly basis and is a great way to keep fit and enjoy some excellent beers and good company at the same time. The walk covers about 8 miles and takes in four of the area's best real ale pubs - **The Blackwood Arms** at Littleworth Common, **The Jolly Woodman** also at Littleworth Common (weather allowing at this pub), **The Royal Standard** at Wooburn Common and **The White Horse** in Hedgerley (in that order).

We meet at Hedgerley Pond, which is very near the White Horse, at 10.00am and then take a scenic route which varies from walk to walk to keep things interesting for regular participants. Lunch is optional and is taken at the Royal Standard before returning to the White Horse around 4.30pm.

Between them these pubs have around 25 different real ales for our thirsty walkers to savour, more than enough to keep anyone happy!

The next Hedgerley Real Ale Ramble will take place on **Sunday 22nd March**. All are welcome, please call Mark the walk leader on 01753-534777 if you have any queries and to reserve a dining place, as the Standard does get very busy on Sunday lunchtimes. Come and join us!



Marriott Hotel getting into real ale >

Food and Beverage Manager, Hemal Desai, made contact with us to say the hotel had been offering real ale for some time. The proof was in the

pudding as the hotel laid on a Pie & Ale tasting evening last November. Pies were made by the head chef and ales were supplied by local brewery, Windsor & Eton. So there you are - hand pumps in a 4 star hotel, things are looking up!



STOP PRESS... Fox & Pheasant, Stoke Poges, reopened just before Christmas after a substantial refurbishment. Now owned by Spirit/Greene King there are 3 national cask ales and one cider.

Oxford Blue, Old Windsor up for sale >

Oxford Blue is up for sale through Fleurets. An offer has been accepted, and the legals are going through. This is worrying as this is one of Punch's (the current owner) "Core A" pubs, which they claim are

the pubs they want to keep and invest in, but it would appear, if they get an offer they will sell to reduce their debt mountain.

STOP PRESS... John Mortimer is leaving The Crown, Farnham Royal; the lease is being taken over by Mike Orme from The Dukes Head, Farnham Royal.

> POP ALONG FOR A PINT & A CHAT!

CAMRA members are welcome to join in with our monthly meetings, pop along and meet the crew, meetings start at 7.30pm >

- March 11th - Shire Horse, Maidenhead
- April 8th - Crown, Bray
- May 13th - Thatched Cottage, Maidenhead



New Landlord at The Craufurd Arms looking to take the pub forward >

Will Hewitt and his partner Sarah have taken over the running of this popular out of town pub. Will's dad, John Hewitt is looking to retire and wants to keep the pub in the family. Will is looking to introduce a broader food offering and is planning a summer BBQ and Beer Festival. Local darts teams and quiz night will continue, as will its being one of the few remaining pubs in Maidenhead to show Sky and BT Sports. Good luck guys.



> YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!

Planning for the 2015 Maidenhead Beer & Cider Festival is already underway and, due to a number of changes in personnel involved and the need to spread the workload and responsibilities more evenly, CAMRA is looking to recruit helpers both old and new to make it all happen. Apart from being a fun event, you'll get to taste the beers for your trouble whilst on active service, as well as subsidised food from our vendors.

All those interested in helping, whether as part of the organising team, or during the festival, please visit www.swmcamra.org.uk/mbcf



Cartoon supplied by Martin Newman (martinstudio@birternet.com)

Billy Best's Ale Trail

> LOCAL NEWS



Planning permission for 12 flats sought >

The Queen would have a shock if she knew her namesake pub in Dedworth had applied for permission to be converted into 12 flats. At an incredibly low price of £350,000 it sounds a snip for a would be developer, and you have a Tesco opposite... closest you can get to heaven, eh!



Another Lent Rise, Burnham pub closes >

The Brickmakers Arms, Burnham has been sold to a developer and is now closed. The developer's initial proposal for re-development to provide 3 x two-storey houses was refused. The outgoing landlady has taken on the lease for the Crispin in

Windsor, and it has now reopened. The Pheasant, 300 yards up the road from the Brickmakers, closed 2 years ago.

STOP PRESS... The Golden Ball, Pinkneys Green, is up for sale with agents, Christie & Co.



> CAMRA BRANCH AGM Friday 5th June

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 5th June at The Acre (Liberal Club), Donnelly House, Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN.

All members welcome. Come along and have your say. Proceedings start at 7.30pm.

Rising Sun, Hurley undergoes major refurbishment >

The Rising Sun, Hurley has closed its doors until 3rd March to undergo substantial building work as well as a complete internal redecoration. Trevor & Lisa Hunt look forward to welcoming customers new and old when the pub re-opens. 4 real ales will be on tap and a new menu will feature in the new restaurant area.



> WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL PUB OR BREWERY?

Any beer related stories to tell? Send them to editor@camraangle.com. It's your mag!

SITUATIONS VACANT

We are always on the look out for volunteers to help run the SLOUGH, WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD BRANCH and are keen to hear from anyone interested in the following position.

- Branch Social Media Officer

For job spec & details email: editor@camraangle.com

It would be great to hear from you.

Also, our CENTRAL SOUTHERN Regional Director, Nick Boley, would like to hear from anyone interested in the following positions.

- Regional Secretary
- Regional Cider Co-Ordinator
- Regional Social Media Officer
- Berkshire Area Organiser
- Oxfordshire Area Organiser

For job spec & details email: nick.boleyn@btinternet.com

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> MEET THE PUBLICAN

THE PERSEVERANCE, WRAYSBURY

Geordie boy Nick and wife Sarah breathe life back into this village pub >



Nick & Sarah

Couldn't help a wry smile when Nick mentioned this was his first pub, having worked for Nandos. Well that was 3 years ago and in that time this hard-working couple have turned the pub into a community hub. The appalling floods of last year in Wraysbury resulted in the pub being used as a focal point for electrical power and free provision of hot drinks. The back garden was flooded but the pub itself remained dry. Nick estimates that their efforts have brought in more than 30 'new' regulars. The army was patrolling this Berkshire town to help people affected by flooding. Soldiers helped emergency services deliver sandbags and medicine as well as helping rescue people from their homes. The couple were more than happy to give something back to the community.

Nick met Windsor girl Sarah and viewed the pub in January 2011. Their offer was accepted and the lease was bought from Merlin Inns in March 2011. They closed the pub for a week for a major overhaul. Fast forwarding, the pub now hosts a Quiz Night every Thursday as well as an Acoustic Buskers Night every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Nick is very enthusiastic about CAMRA. His pub is bordered by no less than 4 CAMRA branches! He's even more enthusiastic about his real ale, and he listens to

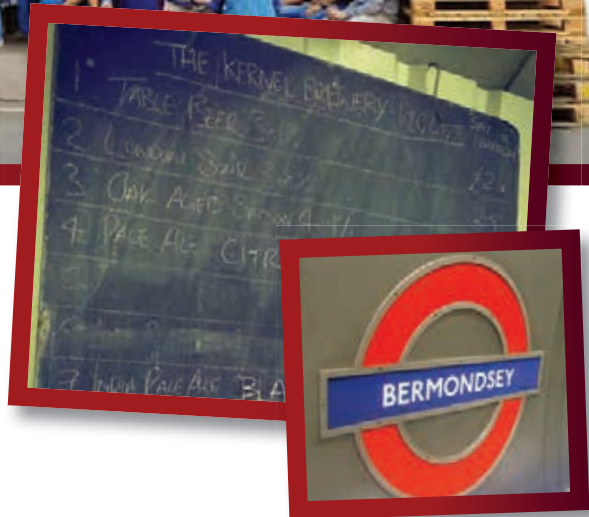
what his customers want! There are 4 hand pumps with permanent Doombar and a LocAle from the likes of Windsor & Eton, Rebellion and others. Beer festivals are prominent in Nick's planning with two planned for this year in March and June. Having said that he did throw in the line 'pubs are for life, not just beer festivals'. My visit coincided with a sell out Pies & Porter festival, ideal for a winters day, 8 porters and a raft of homemade pies including a breakfast pie (egg, bacon, sausage, mushroom, black pudding) – sounds messy!

The couple are keen social media fans and do their best to support local breweries, so why not call in to this High Street village pub for a pint and a chat, or even a meal, I promise it will be better than Nandos!





> TRENDY BERMONDSEY BEER MILE



Russ Taylor from XT details a brewery crawl in South East London >

The Bermondsey Beer Mile is a popular crawl to some of London's hippest new breweries. It's an interesting view of craft-brewing life in London today - still joyfully in a state of independence and not overtly commercial. How things will develop in the coming years is anyone's guess - but this is a tour worth doing sooner rather than later... before the informal charm is polished away.

The breweries all set up temporary bars and trestle tables on Saturdays for you to enjoy their draught craft-keg or bottled beers. The breweries are built into railway arches with paved yards to the front. Mostly the beers are strong IPAs, hefty stouts and porters or whacky Saisons and experimental brews - didn't see a session bitter all day. There were quite a few 'table IPAs' under 3% available too - surprisingly tasty. The beers on draught were sold in 2/3 pint glasses.

The trestle tables, working brewery surroundings and slightly ramshackle feel all make for a very sociable day - we found all the other beer tourists very friendly (especially as you will generally be trailing each other all day) and every stop would be a babble of chatter among similar minded beery folk.

The tour is made up of seven breweries and one bar, and for ease I would suggest starting at the furthest point and working your way back towards central London. The breweries are generally open from 11am to about 5pm on Saturdays - except Kernel which closes at 2pm. This makes things a little tricky as they are the mid point. So if you realistically want to do the whole set you'll need to start early.

To start the tour head for London Bridge station and the overland 'Southern' trains. You need platform 14 and the train to South Bermondsey. The train journey is just 5 minutes and they run every 15 minutes.

Leave South Bermondsey station and head for **Fourpure Brewery** (Unit 22, Bermondsey Trading Estate, SE16 3LL) - 0.3 miles away. Walk out of the station and down towards the right, Rotherhithe New Road and after around 500m on the right you will see Bermondsey Trading Estate and Screw-Fix. Walk through the estate following the road and back under the railway arches and the brewery will be right ahead of you.

Fourpure Brewery is probably my personal favourite; it's a professional looking set up and one of the largest. They purchased the 20 barrel kit from Purity Brewing. Their beers are all sold in keg or can - yes cans! Cans may have a reputation for holding the most awful of beers and to many should only be used by louts and tramps - but honestly - give it a try and you will be very pleasantly surprised.

Next head to **Partizan Brewery** (8 Almond Road, SE16 3LR) - 0.4 miles. Walk out of the trading estate and turn left back the way you came. Then take the next major right up Galleywall Road. At the end of the road turn right and then immediately right down Almond Road. Partizan is in an arch on the left around 300m down the lane.

Partizan is rather different to the orderly Fourpure - seating is outside on pallet stacks and a temporary bar is placed in front of the brewkit. The brewery itself is amazingly squashed into



Bermondsey Beer Mile

a fairly small railway arch. The 6 barrel plant came from Kernel. The beers are all one-off specials and they use more unusual ingredients.

After Partizan go on to **Kernel Brewery** (Arch 11, Dockley Road, SE16 3SF). This is 0.7 miles away and will take around 15 minutes. Return to the top of Almond Road and turn left, then carry on until you turn right down Blue Anchor Lane, then cross St James Rd, with the railway on your right, go down Lucy Road and Kernel will be on the right.

Kernel is the original and set the mould for this south London 'new-wave' of breweries. They are the one everyone wants to copy and they also started this Saturday-at-the-brewery trend. There is a huge range of beers on tap and bottle. Right next door is a bakery and cheese maker and several people were in the brewery enjoying their bread and cheese lunch with beer.

Next up is **Brew By Numbers** (79 Enid Street, SE16 3RA). This is around 0.5 miles away. With the railway on your right, turn right down Rouel Road. Left then right, this turns into Enid Street and Brew By Numbers is on the right.

Brew by Numbers - again quite a lot of equipment and stock all piled into a railway arch and the temporary bar area opens out on to the yard in front. A fine selection of beers all number coded by style / recipe - now who would number their beers? Silly idea!

Lunch Time! There is an artisan street market selling all kinds of cracking food called the **Maltby Street Market**. Leave Brew by Numbers along the railway arches until you reach Abbey Street and turn left then first right down Gelding Place. The market is in this area. There are lots of street traders along here and plenty of places to enjoy a hearty lunch (if a little pricey).

Next up is **Anspach & Hobday & Bullfinch** (118 Druid Street, SE1 2HH). Two breweries in one - 5 minute walk, 0.3 miles. Walk to the top of the market street with the arches on your left, then turn left down Millstream Road and back under the arches. Turn right onto Druid Street and Anspach is on the right hand side.

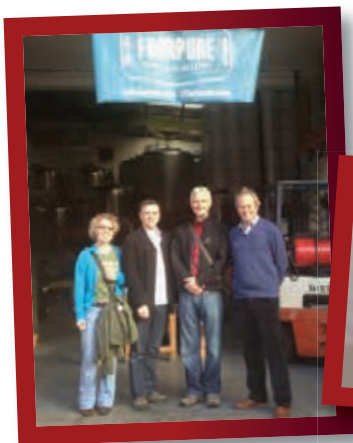
The two breweries here offer some indoor seating and a fairly wide range of beers.

Next door is the **Bottle Shop** - this is worth a visit as it fits in with the character of the day and is both an informal shop with a range of bottled beers and a bar with seating on a mezzanine area under the railway arches. We enjoyed an excellent tasting session with **Weird-Beard Brewery** who were doing a meet-the-brewer night.

Also in the same arches is the newest of the breweries in our crawl: **Southwark Brewery** - newest and yet the only one of the group to make their beers for cask. The brewery was only a week or two old when I visited and we had a very interesting chat with the guys there talking through their set up.

By this time it was early evening and the last visit of the day is very close to Tower Bridge - the **Dean Swift pub** - this is tucked away in a side street under the once mighty **Courage Anchor Brewery**.

Thanks to North Oxon CAMRA and John from Turpin Brewery.



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> VOTE FOR PUBS AND REAL ALE

Tim Hampson details CAMRA's stance on May's election >

With the General Election set for 7 May CAMRA has launched its manifesto for pubs and real ale and calls for candidates to support well-run community pubs, real ale brewers and the consumer rights of drinkers.

So far more than 270 candidates have pledged to:

- support well-run community pubs.
- promote Britain's 1,150 breweries.
- represent pub-goers and beer drinkers.

And candidates pledging their support to CAMRA will be:

- provided with a logo and template press release showing their support.
- put in contact with their CAMRA branch.

CAMRA interim head of communications Tom Stainer said: "CAMRA now has around 170,000 members, more than many of the main political parties, so it's important politicians listen to and reflect the views of our members when it comes to real ale, real cider and perry and pubs.

"Supporting pubs as vital community assets as well as ensuring Britain's brewing industry gets the support it deserves should be high on any prospective candidate's list of priorities."

CAMRA's manifesto calls for:

- strengthening of planning law to ensure planning permission is required before pubs can be converted to any other use or demolished.



> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >



- pubco reform in England and Wales, so licensees of large pubcos have guest beer rights and the choice of paying a higher rent in exchange for being able to buy beer on the open market.
- retention of the freedoms of the 2003 Licensing Act, so consumers continue to enjoy a choice of well-run pubs.
- an end to short measure and clear pricing information.

CAMRA's manifesto for real ale calls for:

- consideration given to a duty freeze for the whole of the next Parliament.
- retention of the Small Breweries' Relief as it supports the continued growth of small breweries.
- renegotiation of EU Duty Directive, so draught beer in pubs pays a lower rate, and the reduced duty on low strength beers to apply up to 3.5 per cent ABV.
- retention of duty exemption for small cider makers.


Candidates can pledge their support to Britain's beer drinkers and real ale brewers by emailing campaigns@camra.org.uk or by phoning 01727 798447.

CAMRA campaigns

for real cider and perry



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



Real cider and perry grows on trees

Real cider and perry is made from 100% fresh apple and pear juice; not artificially gassed up or processed

Visit camra.org.uk/ciderpubs to find real cider and perry pubs.



CAMRA's Nottingham Branch is pleased to welcome you to the National Members' Weekend and AGM 2015

Albert Hall, Nottingham, 17th - 19th April

The Weekend is open for all CAMRA members to:

- Review what has been happening at branch, regional and national level over the past year
- Review campaigning themes and form policy
- Hear guest speakers on issues related to beer, brewing and our key campaigns
- Meet the formal requirements of an AGM, including presentation of accounts
- Meet up with CAMRA members from around the country, National Executive and Head Office staff
- Discuss ideas to forward the campaign through workshops, policy discussion groups and seminars
- Enjoy a few drinks in the Members' Bar with a good selection of local real ales
- Visit pubs in Nottingham and the surrounding area
- Visit local breweries and cider producers on organised trips

www.camraagm.org.uk

www.camraagm.org.uk/local



With its traditional markets, momentous pubs and links to the legend of Robin Hood, Nottingham is crammed with historical attractions.

Nottingham is home to over 500 real ale pubs including some of the oldest inns in England such as Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, Ye Olde Salutation Inn and The Bell. The number of local breweries is also impressive with Nottingham Brewery being the city's oldest, dating back to 1887. Visit www.whatpub.com to search for all pubs in Nottingham, or see the local branch website at www.nottinghamcamra.org

Venue

The Albert Hall is a conference and concert venue in the heart of the city, first set up in 1900. The building is set over three floors with the entrance leading in to the Great Hall. This room offers a breathtaking space and is where our main conference will take place, seating up to 800 people. The Members' Bar will be held in the Osborne Suite. For more information, visit www.alberthallnottingham.co.uk.

Trips

There will be a number of organised trips during the Weekend giving members the opportunity to visit breweries, cider producers and pubs. www.camraagm.org.uk/members-weekend/trips

Travel

For information on travel visit www.camraagm.org.uk/members-weekend/location

Pre-register today

You can now pre-register online through the Members' Weekend website. Visit www.camraagm.org.uk and select the "Register" tab located in the top right hand side. Alternatively please return the below form.

Please note that joint members will need to login and pre-register individually. **Closing date for pre-registration is Friday 20th March 2015.**

Membership No. _____

Joint Membership No. _____

Full Name, First _____

Surname _____

First (Joint member) _____

Surname _____

Email _____

If you would like to volunteer, please tick below to indicate when you would like to work. Your details will be passed on to the staffing officer and you will be contacted closer to the event.

Tues 14th AM PM Wed 15th AM PM Thur 16th AM PM Fri 17th AM PM Sat 18th AM PM Sun 19th AM PM

Return form to 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4LW

> CAMRA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Planning protection to pubs listed as ACVs is extended >

Statement from Tim Page, CAMRA Chief Executive said:
"We welcome the Government's announcement that they will extend planning protection to pubs listed as Assets of Community value as a significant step in the right direction. We will be pressing Ministers to fulfil their promise to enact this change before Parliament dissolves for the General Election.
"As it stands today, there are around 600 pubs already listed as Assets of Community Value which are set to benefit from this protection against conversion to other uses or demolition without planning permission. CAMRA encourages community groups to act now to nominate their valued local pubs as Assets of Community Value to afford them this additional protection.



"Clearly we are disappointed that the Government has not heeded our call for planning protection to be given to all pubs. It is only right that local people get a say through the planning system before a pub valued by the community is lost forever and we will continue to make this case."

For more information, please visit www.pubsmatter.org.
uk



> BRITISH BEER SALES GROWING

For first time in ten years >

British beer sales are growing for the first time in ten years. Tim Page, CAMRA Chief Executive's response to the news was:
"It is fantastic to see overall beer sales back in growth for the first time in ten years, but it is vitally important that beer sales in pubs move back into growth too. The 0.8% drop in pub beer sales is the smallest decline in sales since 1996, but if we want to see less pubs closing it is vital that number is pushed into positive growth. A third beer duty cut in next month's budget will help ensure that 2015 is the year when pub beer sales finally start growing again."

> JOKE **OVERHEARD AT AN UN-NAMED PUB**
"I've heard you keep a perfect pint here. Can I have it after this one, please?"

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Over 96% of Britain's real ale pubs featured

Information updated by thousands of CAMRA volunteers

Created by CAMRA who produce the UK's best beer & pub guide

Thousands of pubs at your fingertips!

> SPOTTED
Whilst out & about >



Served at a relaxed bar in Prague

STOP PRESS!

> GOOD BEER GUIDE 2015 UPDATE

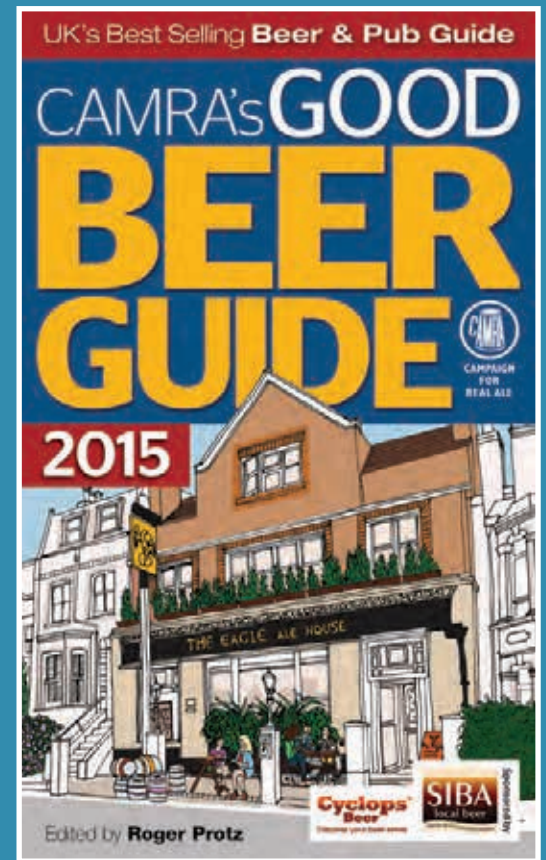
Due to submission system and proofing errors the **Stag & Hounds**, Farnham Common, Bucks was omitted from the Good Beer Guide. However it is in the app and ebook, and **IS a GBG2015 pub.** (Whatpub.com/pubs/SWM/236/stag-hounds-farnham-common)

GOOD BEER GUIDE 2015... AVAILABLE NOW!

The Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) **best-selling beer and pub guide** is back for 2015.

Fully updated with the input of CAMRA's **165,000 members**, the Guide is indispensable for beer and pub lovers young and old.

Buying the book directly from CAMRA helps us campaign to support and protect real ale, real cider & real perry, and pubs & pub goers.



HOW TO ORDER

- Post:** Complete the form on this page and send to:
CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW
- Phone:** To order by credit card please phone 01727 867201 during office hours*
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*Further discounts available by phone or visit www.camra.org.uk/gbg

†Please note postal charges stated apply to orders for one copy of the *Good Beer Guide 2015* only. Full details available at www.camra.org.uk/shop

> BREWERY NEWS

Windsor & Eton Brewery News >

www.webrew.co.uk



Windsor's WEBrew have decided to brew a different beer every month and below are the first five: • *Treetops*, African Stout (Jan) • *Zinzan's Drop*, back by popular demand for the Rugby (Feb) • *Red Rye*, again back by popular demand (Mar) • *Waterloo*, a special version of Guardsman, as it's 200 years since the battle (Apr) • *Mild*, look out for a name change (May).

In addition they are changing from four seasonals to three: the next seasonal beer will be *Kohinoor* (Feb – May), then *Eton Boatman* (Jun – Sep), and finally *Canberra* (Oct – Jan),

And of course all the core beers will be available: *Parklife*, *Knight of the Garter*, *Guardsman*, *Windsor Knot*, *Conqueror & Republika*.

WEBrew's Cat & Lily Tavern (previously the cornish pasty shop opposite the castle) has received outline planning permission, but in getting detailed heritage planning for this 500 year old timber framed building, which is Grade 2 listed, they have discovered structural problems. Currently a full

structural survey is being carried out by the landlord and WEBrew are working with the landlord's agent to resolve these. A detailed structural report is expected at the time of going to press.

WEBrew have taken the lease on the unit next to them. This is to create a larger shop as well as providing better facilities for brewery tour visitors, including a bar.



West Berkshire Brewery >

www.wbbrew.com



Good Old Boy - Official Ale of Reading FC - We are delighted to announce a deal with Reading FC. Fans are now able to enjoy a proper pint of real ale before the match at the Good Old Boy Bar outside the East Stand and in the hospitality boxes.

Our favourite quote from when we announced the deal was: "This is better than signing Messi!!" Reading fan, Twitter.

After his visit to the brewery Sir John Madejeski said: "We are pleased to be working with West Berkshire Brewery on such an exciting partnership, I was very

impressed with the set-up, the enthusiasm of their employees and their plans for the future. There is undeniable synergy between Reading FC and West Berkshire Brewery".



2015 is our 20th Anniversary and we are celebrating! To mark a double decade of brewing we have delved into our dusty archives and selected a dozen of our old favourites for the 2015 monthly cask ale specials. February's special is *Fullness*

of Time 4.3%, first brewed in 2006 using Goldings hops. Pale and spicy with a floral hoppy finish. Steve Kirby, our drayman extraordinaire and longest standing employee, was the original brewer of *Fullness of Time* so it seemed fitting that we should get him back to the helm for the 2015 brew. Other monthly specials coming soon are *March Hare*, *Skiff & Coolship*.

Two new appointments to the board of The West Berkshire Brewery PLC - Simon Lewis has joined the Company as Chief Executive Officer and Tom Lucas, ACCA, has been promoted to Finance Director and Company Secretary.

Simon, formerly Head of Sales at the highly-acclaimed Purity Brewery in Warwickshire before which he was with Red Bull and Coors Brewers, has the responsibility of leading the existing executive team in continuing to develop the Company and its award-winning brands.

Tom joined the Company in 2008, since when he has played an important role in its development as well as gaining his professional qualification as an accountant.

David Bruce said: "This exciting news is the latest and most important jigsaw piece to be put in place since I was invited in 2013 to become Chairman by Dave and Helen Maggs who founded the Brewery in 1995."



CAMRA LocAle 2014 Pub Listings >

- Acre - Windsor
- Barleycorn - Crippenham
- Barley Mow - Cox Green
- Bear - Maidenhead
- Bounty - Cookham
- Craufurd Arms - Maidenhead
- Crooked Billet - Maidenhead
- Emperor - Farnham Royal
- Fox & Castle - Old Windsor
- George - Burnham
- George on the Green - Holyport
- Green Man - Denham
- Grenfell Arms, Maidenhead
- Greyhound (Lloyds No 1) - Maidenhead
- Hinds Head Hotel - Bray
- Horse & Groom - Windsor
- Jolly Farmer - Cookham Dean
- Jolly Gardener - Moneyrow Green
- Jolly Woodman - Littleworth Common
- Kings Arms - Cookham
- Moon & Spoon - Slough
- Norden Farm Cafe & Bar - Maidenhead
- Novello - Littlewick Green
- Oak & Saw - Taplow
- Ostrich Inn - Colnbrook
- Pinkneys Arms - Pinkneys Green
- Red Cow - Slough
- Rising Sun - Hurley
- Rising Sun - Slough
- Rose - Maidenhead
- Rose & Crown - Slough
- Royal Stag - Datchet
- Shire Horse - Littlewick Green
- Stag & Hounds - Farnham Common
- Swan - Clewer
- Thatched Cottage - Cox Green
- Three Tuns - Windsor
- Union Inn - Old Windsor
- Vansittart Arms - Windsor
- Watermans Arms - Eton
- Wheatsheaf - Slough
- White Hart - Moneyrow Green
- White Horse - Hedgerley
- Windlesora - Windsor



> BREWERY NEWS



Vale Brewery News >

www.valebrewery.co.uk

This year sees the 20th anniversary of brewing for the family-run Vale Brewery. Initially starting out life in Haddenham, they sold their first beers through The Rising Sun in the same village and the rest, they say, is history.

To celebrate two decades brewing they've revamped their famous Buckinghamshire Swan logo, along with a new look for their pump badges, as well as bringing in new beers to their award winning range.

The new logo incorporates their heritage and experience of brewing, entwined with the development of the brewery as it grows in this new golden-era for real ales. The botanically themed pump badges have been designed to communicate the four quality ingredients used by Vale since the very first brew - the best Maris Otter malt, hops from Britain and around the world, quality brewers' yeast and fresh Buckinghamshire water.

Selected beers have also been refined and tweaked - *Red Kite's* abv has been increased to 4.3%, giving a fuller, more rounded flavour along with a handful more aromatic hops thrown into the kettle. Previously a seasonal brew, *Black Beauty Porter* has been made a permanent fixture as the revival of dark beers continues - an award winning, wholesome, full bodied 4.4% porter with intense roast malt flavours.

March sees the brewery jumping on the *Bandwagon!* A hand crafted craft beer brewed as a craft American style IPA with pale malts, creating a super hoppy, loud craft beer. One for you crafty hopmonsters!

April brings *Philosophy*, an all-English affair, copper coloured at 4.0%. Our philosophy at Vale is simple: use the

highest quality Warminster Maris Otter malt, hops from around the world, fresh water, and yeast, to produce clean, pure, award winning beers with no artificial additives, colourings or flavours.

In support of CAMRA's Mild Month of May, promoting a unique, often under-appreciated, style of beer, we are brewing *Maelstrom*. A 4.1% dark mild, with subtle roasted flavours and a smooth finish.

Finally, the Vale Brewery website has been totally redesigned - www.valebrewery.co.uk - find all the information on their beers, what events are planned, and how to pick up beers from their brewery shop!



Vale Brewery are on Facebook & follow us on Twitter @ValeBrewery

Both the Vale Brewery and the Aylesbury Brewhouse have shops which stock Vale bottle conditioned beer and a large selection of foreign imported beers as well as wines and brewery merchandise.



Aylesbury Brewhouse News >

www.aylesburybrewhouse.co.uk

Von Richthofen was WW1's fighter ace, revered and respected by both British and German pilots. ABC's red German wheat beer, *The Red Baron*, pays respect to the greatest fighter pilot of all time.

The next Limited Edition Beer coming from the brewhouse behind the Hop Pole is *Event Horizon*. An incredibly dark, rich ale using roasted malts for a gravity defying smooth taste.

Before the landing of England's Captain Cook at Botany Bay, Australia was discovered by the Dutch and declared as *New Holland*. Using the finest Aussie hops, this heavily hopped

Australian IPA will be super hoppy for those hopheads, and dry hopped for good measure!



ABC are on Facebook & follow ABC on Twitter @AylesburyBrewCo

Binghams Brewery Update >

www.binghams.co.uk



Binghams Brewery have two beers in the National final of the SIBA awards: *Doodle Stout* and *Vanilla Stout*. The finals are judged at BeerX which is held in Sheffield on 20-21 March.

March's special is *Rattlesnake RyePA* which is an IPA made with Rye Malt and American hops for a tasty malt character with a citrus hop finish.

April & May will see the return of *Smiled*, which is a smoked mild, made with beech smoked malt.

The ever popular Craft Hop series has surpassed itself, with the latest brew *Epic* featuring English hops which are so new that the hop merchant hasn't even provided any guidance on the flavour, so the brewers have been busy analysing the

flavours and aromas in them! Following on from *Epic* will be *Kazbek* which is a Czech hop and *Rakau* which is from New Zealand.



> BREWERY NEWS

The Chiltern Brewery >

www.chilternbrewery.co.uk



The Chiltern Brewery is delighted to announce a third addition to its range of permanent draught ales. *Chiltern Black* 3.9% joins *Chiltern Ale* 3.7% and *Beechwood Bitter* 4.3% in being available throughout the year. This very dark ruby, complex Porter style beer has dark golden treacle tones with hints of roast barley. It is beautifully hopped with a chocolatey aroma and is heartily recommended.

2015 is an exciting year for limited edition and seasonal beers at the Brewery. The first offering, *Chiltern Porter* 3.9%, was launched at the beginning of February. This is another porter style beer, as the name suggests, ruby in colour and brewed with a blend of malts producing a smooth roast barley flavour and with a pronounced but balanced dark berry aroma. You can see all the special beers to come on the website www.chilternbrewery.co.uk/beers/draught-beer



Draught ales can be bought at the Brewery Shop in Terrick near Wendover. The Chiltern Brewery has introduced eye catching new packaging in line with its new branding for its 18 and 36 pint packs to complement the existing 8 pint pack, which is well worth a look. Don't forget too that there is an extensive range of bottled beers that can be bought at the shop or online.

The well received celebration of Porters and Stouts at the Brewery's tap, the **Farmers' Bar** at **The King's Head** in Market Sq. Aylesbury launched in late January. The Farmers' Bar always has an impressive menu of carefully selected guest beers and ciders and craft ales, with at least one beer on tap. You can see the menu at www.chilternbrewery.co.uk/beermenu and see what takes your fancy.



If you would like to be a stockist then please do get in touch on 01296 613647 or email enquiries@chilternbrewery.co.uk

Follow Chiltern Brewery on Twitter @[chiltern_brewer](https://twitter.com/chiltern_brewer) @[kings_head](https://twitter.com/kings_head)

CAMRA Members' Discount

- Acre, Windsor 20% OFF Ales
- Bear, Maidenhead 20% OFF Food
- Moon + Spoon, Slough 20% OFF Food
- Windlesora, Windsor 20% OFF Food
- Three Tuns, Windsor 20% OFF Ales
- Thatched Cottage, Cox Green 10% OFF Ales

Plus, we understand that Chef + Brewer pubs are offering 10% OFF Ales, and that covers:

- EThorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross
- Feathers, Taplow
- Red Lion, Shreding Green, Iver
- Royal Oak, Farnham Common
- Shire Horse, Littlewick Green.

If any pub or club would like to offer discounts, please email the details to be included in the next issue to editor@camraangle.com



BANK HOLIDAY BEER FESTIVAL

1st - 4th May
40 Beers & Ciders

TEN BEERS,
including permanents
Summer Lightning, Tribute
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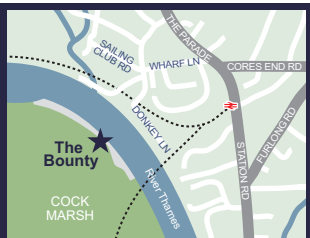

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Greg Davies



> BRAMLEY APPLES & WASSAILING

Greg Davies describes the importance of this apple and parties with his mates >

The Bramley apple is one of England's most well known and well loved apple varieties and has been the popular choice for pies and crumbles for nearly two centuries.

Incredibly the original Bramley tree that is the genetic parent of every Bramley tree in the world still lives today in a garden in Nottingham where it has survived for two hundred years!

The fruit from this humble tree was found to be so good for culinary use that grafts were taken from it to produce more of these trees all over Britain and around the world and the name "Bramley" was established as the premier cooking apple.

Less well known by most people is that the Bramley also makes good drinking!

The apple's juice is fairly tart and a little acidic when fresh but when blended with a sweeter apple such as Cox's Orange Pippin and left for about a year to mature this produces a great Eastern Counties style of cider.

The Bramley has been the stalwart of Kent cider making for centuries and today there are still vast orchards of this variety all across the county and these are used by most Kentish cider makers as well as being sold for culinary use throughout the land.

A well matured Bramley juice adds a refreshing bite to cider and when available is a very important ingredient in my own Salt Hill Cider as it helps to balance the other varieties of sweeter eating apples.

2014 was a good year for Berkshire cider makers as my own "Autumn Gold" took first place in the regional CAMRA awards which are held at Reading Beer & Cider Festival in May each year.

Another Berkshire producer, Tutts Clump were awarded first place at the same event for our regional Perry award so this really helped to raise the profile of Berkshire cider and perry.

There are now several cider makers in Berkshire and the ciders and perries made from local fruit tend to be quite different from the

West Country "scrumpy" style ciders as the former tend to be sharper with a clean refreshing taste and lack the tannin found in fruit in the west.

The long dismal winter period is the quiet time for cider making and orchards are in a state of hibernation awaiting the longer days and spring sun's warmth.

The cider that was pressed in the autumn last year is still slowly fermenting and maturing in the barrels and will continue to improve and mellow until it is ready to drink in the spring.

A long established practice amongst cider makers is "Wassailing", from an old english word meaning "be of good health", which is held in January usually around Twelfth Night.

This is a traditional ceremony to celebrate the orchards and bless the trees in the hope of good apple crops in the coming year and a bountiful harvest for cider making in the autumn.

This year Salt Hill Cider was very pleased to be involved with a local event, the first ever Hedgerley Community Orchard Wassail.

On Saturday 10th January a group of people gathered and proceeded to the orchard where they enjoyed a barbeque and cider drinking around a bonfire followed by a tree blessing and reading of traditional Wassail songs.

The Hedgerley Community Orchard is a young orchard planted and maintained by a group of local volunteers and is still a few years from being fully productive.

Hopefully this Hedgerley Wassail is going to be expanded for next year and become an established local event.

Now that Spring has finally arrived the cider drinking season begins and pubs and festivals will start to stock the new season cider and perry.

The apple crop in 2014 was very low around many areas of the country and this will have an impact on the availability of good quality real ciders.

Around Berkshire and Buckinghamshire there was a real shortage of apples and as a result Salt Hill Cider had to buy in cider apples from the West Country where crops were rather better than ours.

The new season cider will be ready to drink from around Easter time and hopefully will be available throughout the year.

If you enjoy an occasional drink of cider then please ask your local pub to stock some this year and help to support your local producers and to make use of the fruits of local gardens and orchards.

For all the latest local cider news go to www.salthillcider.wordpress.com or the SWM CAMRA website at www.swmcamra.org.uk



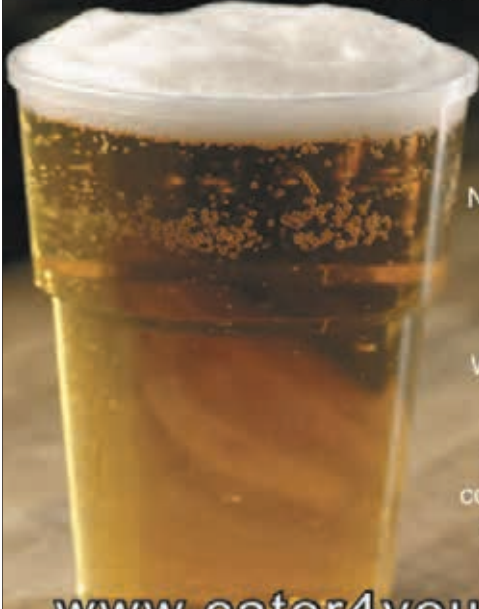
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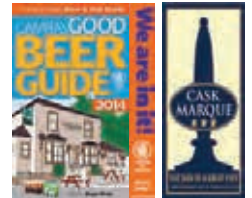
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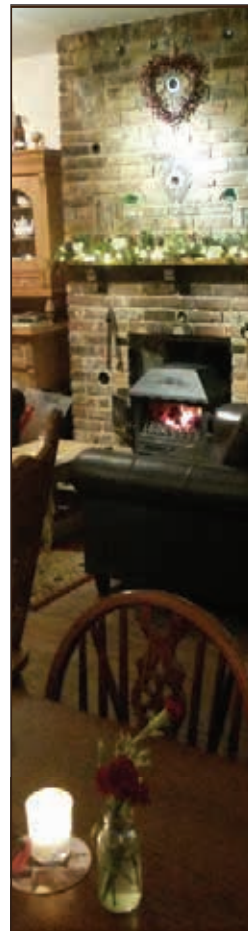
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> INFATUATION WITH PUB SIGNS

Not happy to see a pub converted, or even worse, demolished... is keeping the sign rubbing salt into the wound? >

It's probably a personal thing but when a pub is no more, surely it should be laid to rest in a respectable way.

Britain has a unique heritage in its inn signs: a record of its history and the people who made it. Inn signs depict everything, from battles to inventions, from sporting heroes to royalty. So, with such heritage, why on earth would a supermarket chain, bathroom store or canny property developer want to hang on to such a vestige... maybe a sop to the drinkers that can no longer drink at their local... chop them down, I say.

> COMPETITION TIME...

These pictures were taken within a few miles of one another, test your local knowledge and email editor@camraangle.com with the pub names in question.

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> WINTER BREAK IN BERLIN

Alan Molloy and Michele manage to squeeze in some sightseeing amongst the bar hopping >



Brauhaus Mitte

Berlin seemed the perfect pre-Christmas city break destination for combining sightseeing, Christmas markets... and plenty of beer!

Armed with a Lonely Planet pocket guide to Berlin and CAMRA's "Around Berlin in 80 Beers", we were well prepared. Our Lonely Planet guide indicated that a four day break would cover most of the sights, and give us time to taste a good number of beers.

DAY 1: We booked flights using BA air miles, and a budget Ibis hotel near the Brandenburg Gate. On the 19th of December we set off for Heathrow T5, beginning with breakfast at **Crown Rivers** (J D Wetherspoon), which is currently being expanded. On landing at Texel Airport we bought 5-day 'Berlin Welcomecards' for unlimited travel on trains, trams

and buses, plus discounts at most museums, galleries and "experiences". We caught the TXL express bus to Brandenburg Gate, then the S-Bahn for two stops to our hotel. Having dropped off our luggage, we headed straight out again by bus to Alexanderplatz

to visit **Brauhaus Mitte**, a brewpub. Our "Around Berlin in 80 Beers" guide recommended their Hefeweisse Hell at 5% ABV. According to Lonely Planet the best Christmas Market in Berlin is the nearby Augustiner am Gendarmenmarkt. The beer was excellent and set us up for the market where we snacked our way round the stalls.

DAY 2: We rose early for our tour of the Reichstag dome which we booked on-line, but not before a good buffet breakfast. You can't enter the building as it is their parliament, but the glass dome gives wonderful views of the city. The original dome was burned out by the Nazis in the 30's and only restored after the wall came down in 1989. Sir Norman Foster redesigned the interior including adding another floor and glass dome while retaining the historic 1894 exterior.

Afterwards we walked to the Brandenburg Gate, built in 1791, and then the Soviet War Memorial to the soldiers that died taking Berlin in 1945. We then walked through the Tiergarten to a free lunchtime chamber music concert at the Philharmonie, home of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

After all this sightseeing and culture it was time for a late lunch at **Lindenbrau**, a brewpub at the Sony Centre, at nearby Potsdamer Platz.



Christmas Market



Reichstag & Reichstag Dome



Lindenbrau & Lindenbrau Hofbrau-Weisse



Kleinen Markthalle



Flight of beers



Jewish Museum

American architect Daniel Libeskind) that chronicles 2,000 years of Jewish history in Germany. The stunning structure is essentially a 3D metaphor for the tortured history of the Jewish people. Its zigzag outline symbolises a broken Star of David; its silvery zinc walls are sharply angled; and instead of windows there are only small gashes piercing the gleaming facade. It is a deeply troubling museum that recounts the persecution of the Jews through the ages ending with the Holocaust, which is effectively told through what happened to different families throughout the lands controlled by the Nazis in WW2. It was so interesting that we stayed until it closed at 8pm, missing the final part.

Our CAMRA guide recommended the only beer brewed there, the *Lindenbrau Hofbrau-Weisse* at 5%. This was good, but we preferred the less sweet one we had at Brauhaus Mitte. Our food order proved a big mistake. The portions were enormous! However, it kept us going all day and evening.

That afternoon we visited the very moving Holocaust Memorial (to the Murdered Jews of Europe) and then the DDR museum, which shows what life was like living in East Germany. The so-called Democratic German Republic seemed anything but democratic.

Afterwards we walked through Nikolaiviertel, an area of cobbled lanes and higgledy-piggledy buildings, to visit *Georgbrau*. They only brew two variants of their Georg Pils, *Helles* and *Dunkles*, which tasted the same except the *Dunkles* was dark! Unimpressed, we moved on to another bar out in the suburbs, a delightful local called *Zur Kleinen Markthalle*, where we tried a couple of draught beers. *Schneider Weisse Hefedunkel* was a tasty dark wheat beer, and *Kulmbacher Monchshof Schwarzbier*, 4.9% ABV, an excellent dark beer full of roasted malts and not too sweet. We returned late to the hotel, via the U-Bahn.

DAY 3: We visited the world famous Berlin Zoo, which was fascinating but rather smelly as most of the animals were indoors. For our liquid lunch venue we chose *Mommsen-Eck (Haus der 100 Biere)* and the guide's recommendation, *Kloster Andechs Doppelbock Dunkel* (7%), a real Christmas pudding of a beer, strong with complex nutty and dried fruit flavours. Suitably refreshed, we travelled back into central Berlin to visit the modern Jewish Museum (designed by Polish-

DAY 4: Began with a return visit to the Jewish Museum and then on to East Side Gallery. This is a long section of the Berlin Wall that was resurrected to act as a gallery for German artists - great fun! Then on to our next liquid lunch stop at *Weihenstephaner*, the chief Berlin outlet for the world's oldest brewery located in Freising, Bavaria. This brewery also acts as a major brewing academy, though the beer quality is so good I suspect first year students are not let loose on the brew kettles. Michele went for the *Vitus*, the monthly special, which is a meaty blonde *Weizenbock* at 7.7% ABV. I chose the bottled *Korbinian*, a dark, dry and strong *Doppelbock* (7.4%) with plenty of chocolate malt flavours.

In the afternoon we visited the Pergamon Museum, housing the most amazing ancient Greek and Babylonian structures including the gates of Babylon. They are so huge the Germans had to erect a special building to house them (and the Greeks bitch about us stealing the Elgin Marbles!). That evening we attended a fabulous concert with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. After the concert we dropped into *Mommseneck* at Potsdamer Platz and had draught *Kostritzer Schwarzbier*, which was a bit thin and disappointing in flavour.

DAY 5: On our final day we headed to Schloss Charlottenburg (summer palace of the German kings) to visit the nearby Brohan Museum which houses a fine collection of art nouveau and art deco from the period 1889 to 1939. We then visited a brewpub opposite the palace called *Lemke am Schloss* where I had *Lemke Original* (5.5% ABV), a dark chestnut, malty brew, similar to an English Old Ale. Michele enjoyed a flight of 4 draught beers, including their Christmas beer. That left us just enough time for some last-minute Christmas shopping before heading back to the airport and home.



East Side Gallery



> HANDY GUIDES

These guides were invaluable during our trip to Berlin.

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