

camra angle

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

Issue 34 - Spring 2014 | www.swmcamra.org.uk

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take one



Inside...

> MAIDENHEAD CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Last 3 times Branch Club of the Year winning duo to retire after 26 years.

> PUBCO REFORM

CAMRA petition calls time on the great British pub scandal.

THE BEAR



INTERNATIONAL REAL ALE FESTIVAL

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THE BEAR

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01628 763030

wetherspoon

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> FROM THE EDITOR

UK beer sales have increased for two consecutive quarters – the first time in 10 years – although pub beer sales were down by 2.2%. Total sales were up 0.8% in Q4 for 2013 and there was a big boost for off trade, with sales up 3.9%. This increase in sales follows the chancellor's cut in Beer Duty in last year's budget and the scrapping of the Beer Duty Escalator driven by CAMRA. Although the news on pub sales is depressing, a small comfort can be taken that sales declined at a lower rate than for some time.

CAMRA has welcomed the chancellor's pledge that more would be done to help small businesses, such as pubs, with business rates. He added: 'I want to help those who have struggled hard on our high streets – often working long hours for not enough in return. So I can announce today that for the next two years every retail premises in England with a rateable value of up to £50,000 will get a discount on their business rates. This discount will be worth £1,000 off their bills.' The chancellor also extended the current small business rate relief provisions until April 2015. We sincerely hope he will continue his commitment to beer and pubs and the million jobs they support by freezing beer duty in this year's Budget.

In this issue we highlight this summer's Maidenhead Beer Festival, we have a new mascot, Magnus, and the festival takes place 18th to 20th July at Maidenhead United Football Club. The club is creating a football club 'at the heart of the community' with a new 500 seater to improve its historic York Road stadium. Over 80 Ales will be available and a pre-season friendly will take place on the Saturday afternoon as before.

Mixed fortunes for our local campaigns! After more than a year on hold the tescoisation of The Golden Harp in Furze Platt is going ahead. The Furze Platt Action Group has detailed their response in this issue. Planning laws must change. The granting of an Asset of Community Value (ACV) should automatically cancel whatever development rights would otherwise exist for the category of property in question. A Tesco Express in an ACV is a mockery to common sense. On a slightly brighter side, The Bull in Iver, is still selling great beers. As seen from their latest Press Release, although the share issue is currently short of what is required, the so called 'mystery buyer' has evaporated. The owners, Punch Taverns, are in disagreement with their senior Bond Holders. The latest re-financing deal has been rejected, even after the Board threatened to put Punch into administration if they did not agree to the deal. Hang on in there guys!

A couple of firsts in this issue: we list those pubs in our branch that offer discounts to CAMRA members for beer and/or food. For any pubs or clubs that want to extend this list please drop me an email and the details will appear in subsequent issues. Also, we have our first pub quiz, with the first 2 winners enjoying a brewery tour for 2 at our very own Windsor & Eton Brewery: have a go and email me the answers. Also, we distribute this magazine to more than 200 outlets, not just pubs & clubs...if you have any suggestions for additional outlets, once again, let us know.

Finally, the UK economy grew by 0.7% during the 4th quarter of 2013 and by 1.9% during the year, its best annual performance for six years. After the recent incessant floods, with Spring just around the corner, it's time to dust away those winter blues, get down to your local and knock back a couple of pints of real ale....enjoy.

Allan Willoughby
Editor



Thanks to Simon Smith for the festival images

> MAIDENHEAD BEER FESTIVAL 2014

Flagship festival set fair for Friday 18th July through to Sunday 20th July >

With more than 70 Real Ales and 20 Real Ciders this year's Beer Festival organised by the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead branch of CAMRA promises to be cracking event. Around 1,400 people attended last year's inaugural festival and this year we are dedicating the Sunday as a Family Day. Entrance for children will be free. Even if the weather turns against us, with ample covering, the 3-day bash will be sure to please.

Besides the convenience of holding the festival at Maidenhead United Football Club, literally 5 minutes walk from the railway station, on the Sunday parking is free throughout Maidenhead lending itself to a fun packed family day out. Throughout the festival the entrance charge, which helps offset the costs of the entertainment is a modest £3 for the public, £2 for holders of the Borough's Advantage Card and £1 for card carrying CAMRA members.

On the Saturday the football club will be hosting a pre-season friendly, more news later for the fixture details. Entertainment starts with the popular local band, Skin & Blister on Friday evening and switches to Playhouse on Saturday at 7.30pm. This year we have adopted Magnus, a beer & football loving magpie, as the festival mascot, he will look forward to following The Magpies on the Saturday afternoon. A variety of food will be available throughout the festival including curry, chilli con carne and a hog roast to help wash down the beer. Chris Brown, the Borough Town Crier, will open proceedings at 12 noon with his Festival Proclamation.

Last year everyone was so well behaved and it brought people from other areas into Maidenhead, which helped to support local shops which is what everyone wants.

Last year Hastings Porter from Hastings Brewery was named Beer of the Festival and, pictured alongside, Parklife from our very own Brewery, Windsor & Eton was runner-up.

The Link Foundation is the festival's charity for 2014, a Maidenhead based Children's Charity committed to improving the lives of children and their families in the Maidenhead and surrounding areas.

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



WEBrew win runner-up prize



Town Crier, Chris Brown

> PECULIAR PUBS



The Canal House, Canal Street, Nottingham >

Based in the former canal museum, this bar actually contains a canal and visitors can see the resident narrow boats moored up inside. It is within walking distance of the city centre and close to the train station. There is a large outdoor covered area, which is perfect for warm summer evenings. The Canal House now has the largest world beer range in the Midlands,

with over 150 world beers. They also serve 10 traditional ciders, 5 craft beers and 6 real ales, including Castle Rock.



Tafarn Sinc, Preseli, Rosebush, Clunderwen, Sir Benfro, Wales >

The highest licensed pub in Pembrokeshire, this zinc shed has traditional charm. Built in 1876 as a hotel, it now boasts woodburning stoves and a sawdust floor. Rosebush was once the terminus of the Maenclochog railway and the Tafarn Sinc has a reconditioned railway halt and platform in the garden. Real ales come from local breweries and the food is the best of local produce; all freshly prepared.



Join Magnus this year at
MAIDENHEAD CAMRA

BEER
FESTIVAL 2014

at Maidenhead United Football Club, York Road

Fri 18, Sat 19, Sun 20 July

Opening Times : Fri/Sat 12 noon - 10 pm
Sun 12 noon - 7 pm

70+ Real Ales

20+ Ciders

Hog Roast

Live Music Daily

www.swmcamra.org.uk



Photographs taken by Terry Payman

CLUBCARD Wonderwall

> TESCO PRESS AHEAD WITH GOLDEN HARP CONVERSION, FURZE PLATT ACTION GROUP REFUSE TO LIE DOWN

FPAG Chairman Mark Newcombe's latest statement below >

Truths, Lies and Rumours

It appears that Tesco are determined to open their store regardless of the safety concerns of the FPAG, the RBWM Highways Department and the Thames Valley Police.

The Disappointing Truth

Tesco have started work on the Golden Harp, and they aim to open it as a Tesco Express in May 2014.

The Lie

The community has always been overwhelmingly against the conversion of the Golden Harp into a Tesco Express, and Tesco's behaviour over the last year does not support the claim made by their poster.

In December, the Maidenhead Advertiser reported: "Tesco says it will update the community once it has a clearer timetable for starting work". But Tesco haven't done that, despite starting work and fixing an opening date.

The Rumour

Apparently, Tesco have their eyes on another TWO sites in Maidenhead – can they really need FIVE stores in Maidenhead?

Tell Tesco what you think about all of this. Their poster says 'We welcome your feedback or questions' so why not give them a call. The number they supply is 0800 028 6428.

www.savetheharp.co.uk

> WANT TO HELP?

We currently need people to:

1. Boycott Tesco – don't shop at any of their stores or online. Remember, Tesco also owns or part-owns Giraffe restaurants, Harris+Hoole coffee shops, One Stop convenience stores and Dobbies Garden Centres.
2. Write to the Chairman and CEO of Tesco telling them why you're boycotting them, and to ask them to withdraw on the grounds of site safety. Contact details are available on the website.
3. Call Tesco's feedback line on 0800 028 6428 and tell them what you think.
4. Buy & publicise our protest song, Hey Tesco!
5. Write to the Maidenhead Advertiser and National Newspapers.



The Lie?

The FPAG outside the Golden Harp

> 26 YEARS & TIME FOR A CHANGE

Ray & Viv Williams hanging up their boots >



Situated in York Road, Maidenhead, next to Maidenhead United Football Club, the couple are calling time on May 11th. Although, strictly, a members club, the running of the club is independent of the Party. New members are very welcome, you do not need to be a supporter of the Conservative Party, being active socially is more important.

The couple have organised a Festival of Beers 'When it's Spring Again' running from 4th April until 6th April. Non-members are very welcome and there will be 16 different ales to sample.

The club has featured in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for 10 years and has been awarded Cask Marque status for 11 years. As a retirement gift the couple have been given Life Membership at the club and Ray will still be involved in organising events, including the popular monthly quiz. CAMRA card carrying Ray could also be helping out with the local branch, after all, being a life supporter of Fulham Football Club, he will need some pursuits to cheer him up.

Pop along to the Festival (see Ad below), the beers will be great and you can wish the couple well.

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NON-MEMBERS VERY WELCOME
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> LOCAL NEWS



Bracknell Ale & Wine Festival >

Bracknell Ale & Wine Festival sponsored by Think Ford, returns for its fourth year on Sunday 25th May 2014 at Bracknell Town FC's Larges Lane ground.

The popularity of the annual event, hosted on a Bank Holiday Weekend, has grown immeasurably since its first year, and will have over 20 beers from local breweries, an expanded range of cider, and wine from Wokingham based TheWinePlace.co.uk.

For the first time, the festival will take place on the club's pitch, with marquees hired in to accommodate any bad weather and live music will continue all day with a range of acts to suit all tastes.

Brewery partner Windsor & Eton Brewery will once again be brewing up a special festival beer which this year will be named in honour of club secretary Darrell 'Dudley' Freeland who is awaiting a heart transplant. All money raised from the sale of this 'special' will go to a charity of his choice.

The event is completely volunteer run as a fundraiser for Bracknell Town Football Club, with all bands performing free of charge.

Tickets are on sale now priced £5 adults, £2.50 for OAPs and FREE entry to CAMRA members with a valid membership card. Visit www.bracknellalefestival.co.uk

> 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!

Fifield Inn to reopen after refurbishment and new landlords >

In our last issue we reported that Bray Parish Council had slapped a Listing on this cherished village pub. Owner Greene King has run the business with a series of temporary managers increasing the fear that the pub was ripe for 'development'.

Now, we understand new licensees, Keith and Michelle Lawson will reopen the pub in March after a two month refurbishment. Keith worked in IT and Michelle in food marketing when the couple moved to Fifield in October 2012. Although there will be a focus on good food, the couple are keen to stress that the pub will not become a gastro pub.

Hear, hear! There are enough of those in Bray as we know, so we look forward to The Fifield returning to it's former glory!



Fifield Inn, Fifield

AND on the subject of Greene King >

Tom Kerridge's two-Michelin-starred Hand & Flowers in Marlow has been crowned top gastropub in the UK for the third year running. Tom and his wife Beth took over this Greene King pub in 2005, winning their first Michelin star in 2006 and a second in 2011. Although just outside of our branch area, we had 2 other pubs in the Top 50, namely, at No. 6, The Royal Oak, Paley Street (Nick Parkinson) and at No. 13, The Hinds Head, Bray (Heston Blumenthal) - please Fifield Inn..stay a pub!



Tom Kerridge



Nick Parkinson & Michael Parkinson



Heston Blumenthal



> WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

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

- March 12th - Red Cow, Slough
- April 9th - Tommy Flynn's (Formerly Long Barn), Cippenham
- May 14th - Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross

The Crown in Cookham >

Not the sort of clientele The Crown are used to; all roads in and out of the village were closed for the second time this year.

STOP PRESS

Branch Pub of the Year Awards voted for by CAMRA members

- 1st - Carpenters Arms, Windsor
- 2nd - White Horse, Hedgerley
- 3rd - Bear, Maidenhead

Congratulations to all involved.

Spring Hedgerley Ramble >

The date of the next Hedgerley Real Ale Ramble has been set for Sunday 23rd March so do come and join us if you enjoy a longish walk in the countryside coupled with sampling a great selection of real ales in several excellent pubs on your way round. This FREE walk starts at Hedgerley pond at 10.00am sharp (near the White Horse where we always end up when we return at approx. 4.30pm) and we have lunch at the Royal Standard in Wooburn Common - near Odd's Farm - which is roughly half way round the route of roughly 7 miles. Well behaved dogs are welcome and good company is assured. For any queries please contact social.sec@swmcamra.org.uk or go to our website www.swmcamra.org.uk for details of this and other events in this area.

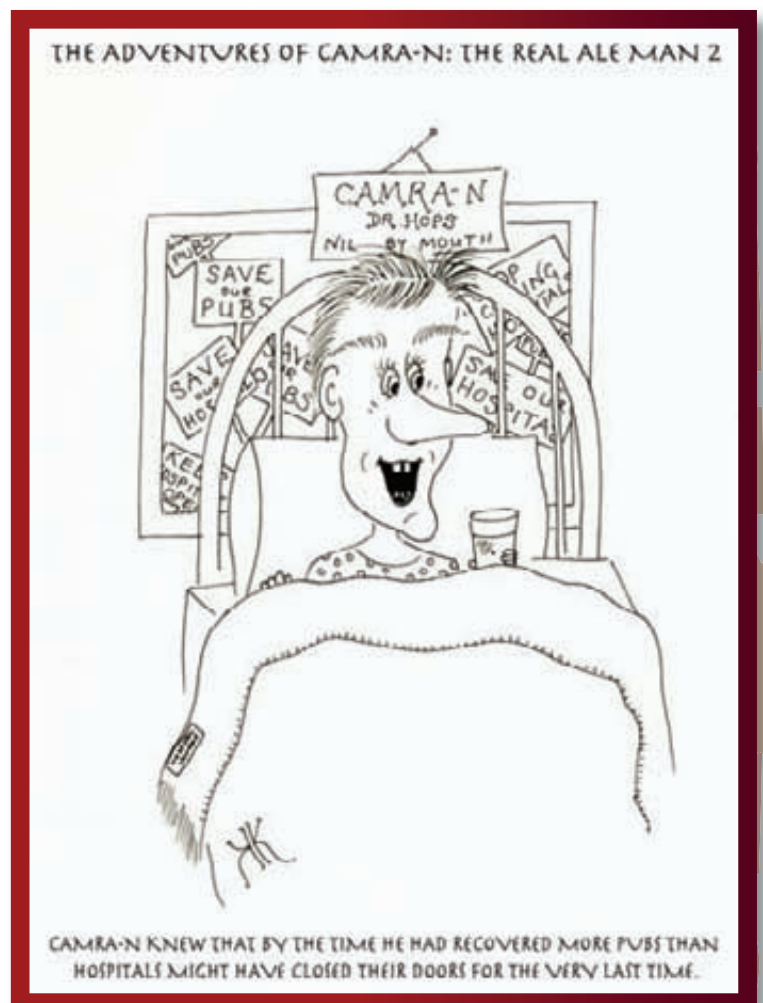


Hope & Champion pulls it's first pint at Beaconsfield Motorway Services >

Wetherspoon has controversially opened its first motorway boozer, situated at the intersection of the A355 and the M40. The pub will open from 4am to 1am, seven days a week selling real ale from local and regional brewers as well as soft drinks. As expected, a flurry of opposition from the likes of the AA, RAC et al, but nothing was mentioned of the likes of M & S and others, where you can buy all the alcohol you could want. So it's great news for coaches and passengers. Could I suggest a good place for another pub would be in the A & E ward at the nearby Wexham Park Hospital, where it could numb the pain of the interminable waiting to get treated!

STOP PRESS

CAMRA hits target of 300 ACV-listed pubs



> LOCAL NEWS

Press Release suggests 'Save The Bull' is realistic >

This group feels that its purchase of the Bull is a real possibility. No other purchaser is active. Our offer matches the valuation we commissioned.

HMRC confirm that the project meets the criteria for EIS (Enterprise Investment Scheme) therefore individual investors (who are UK taxpayers) will qualify for 30% tax relief on their investment. For example, if you pay tax at the basic rate and invest £200 you can claim £60 against your tax bill. There is no minimum so every share bought at the start of the share issue will qualify.

All our legal and financial entities are ready to go. We have had a professional valuation and will tell Punch Taverns again that we are serious buyers at a realistic purchase price.

We have extended the deadline for share purchase until the end of March 2014. All shares have to be issued on the same day and so we cannot cash cheques and issue shares until we are sure we have all of the applications in.

We are targeting businesses and private investors over the next few weeks in a serious bid to obtain the necessary funds to complete a purchase. We are also applying for more grant funding.

If you have not yet completed a share application form then please do so urgently. If you want The Bull to stay as it is, forming part of Iver's heritage within its only Conservation Area, then act now. We can deliver a prospectus or you can download it from our website. www.thebulliver.co.uk

The aim of the group is to buy the Bull for the benefit of residents as a community pub with real ale (micro brewery), English wine, good locally sourced pub grub and many community activities in the daytime with B&B accommodation upstairs.

Gillian at the Watermans Arms in Eton confirms they are offering ANY main meal, including their excellent Sunday carvery, AND a pint for CAMRA members for just £10 (£2 supplement for steak).



The Bull, Iver



See us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/thebulliver

Email us
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Call us
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CAMRA Members' Discount

- Bear, Maidenhead 20% OFF Food
- Moon + Spoon, Slough 20% OFF Food
- Windlesora, Windsor 20% OFF Food
- Grenfell Arms, Maidenhead 10% OFF Drinks
- Fox + Pheasant, Stoke Poges 20p OFF a pint
- Three Tuns, Windsor 20% OFF Drinks

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- 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 summer issue to editor@camraangle.com

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Eton AD 1542

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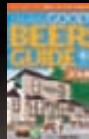
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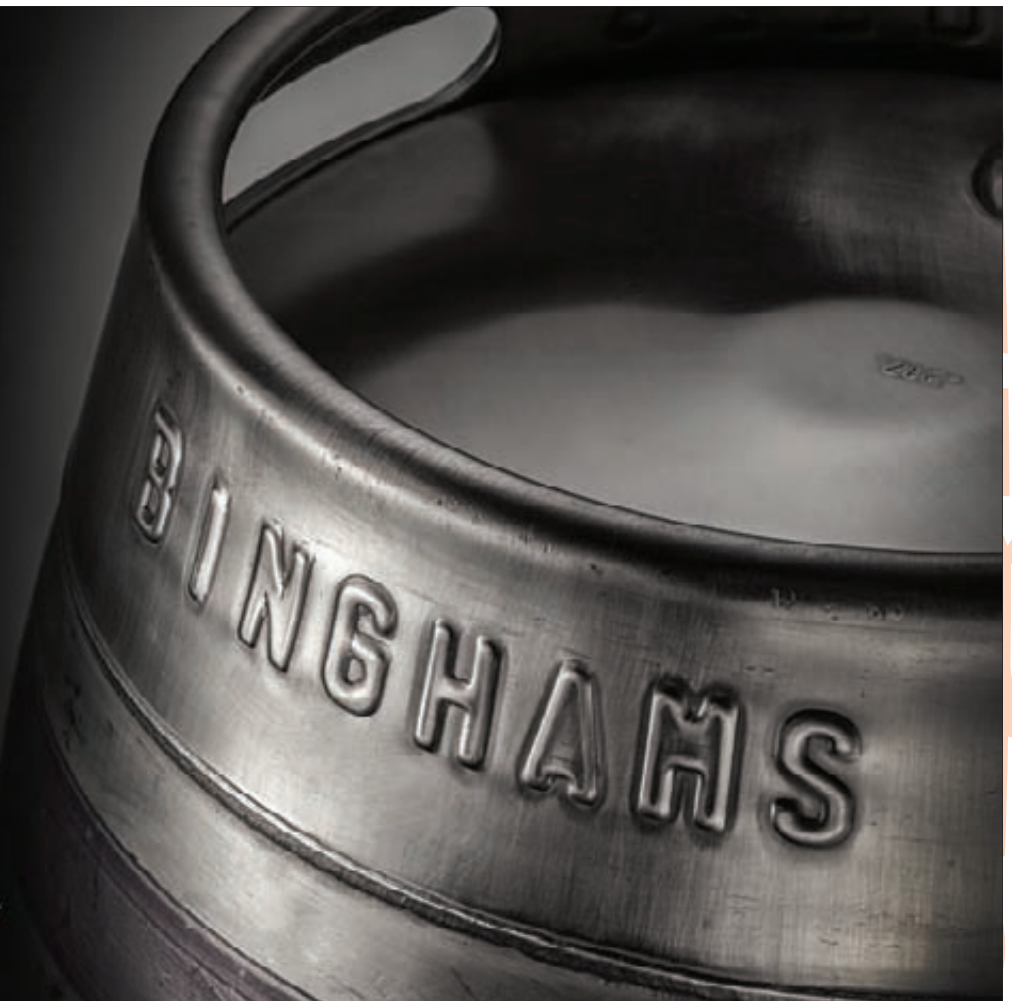
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> THE EMPEROR SETTLES DOWN UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF SEAN ARNETT



The Blackwood Arms Owner hires Louise Holdcroft to build up the business >

Having taken on Brakspear's Blackwood Arms in December 2010, you get the impression boss Sean was itching to take on another challenge. Having put the pub back on the map, CAMRA recognised his (and wife Nessa's) efforts when he was awarded our Publican of the Year Award in 2012. Besides a good range of 5 real ales, the pub now hosts a Classic Car club as well as a Golf Society.

So when Sean was contacted by Enterprise Inns, a deal was done to take over the pub last November. Immediate contact was made with Lou Holdcroft who had worked with the couple at The Trigger Pond in Oxfordshire. Lou, very much her own person, has established a Prosecco night on Thursdays and is planning a beer festival in the summer.

There are currently 3 ales, with London Pride on

permanently and 2 guest beers, with a plan to add a 4th. Food is good value with an emphasis on local produce, so why not

drop by. It's only a few minutes from Slough, just off the road to Farnham Common. You are assured a warm welcome from Lou and her team.



Karen, Sean & Manager Lou

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The 3 Bs in Reading Town Hall

THE TOWN HALL



The Pineapple's pub sign

> A COCK & BULL STORY

Delia Allott gives her take on 'what's in a name' >

Often when pubs change hands, the publican or landlord wants to change the pub name. Locals will sometimes try and get them to keep the old one. What is it that makes us want to keep the traditional pub names? The name often reflects historical connections and this is what customers like. There is also a growing trend for theme pubs to be called by the same name, which is aimed at increasing customers. However, it does lead to pubs becoming bland and impersonal, where you know what you are getting before you walk in the door. Where is the fun in that?

The first inns to be recognised by name were those owned by Religious houses and used by pilgrims and knights on the way to the Crusades. Bits of bush were hung outside the door, hence the name The Bush, or the Bull & Bush.

Many landlords thought better of it and showed allegiance to the monarchy with the Kings Head or The Crown. Henry VIII is the most popular depicted monarch. Royal coats of arms depicting Red, Golden and White

lions are also popular as are The Unicorn (Scotland), Red Dragon (Wales) and White Horse (Hanoverian). The White Hart of British folklore was a symbol of royalty too.

Pictorial signs often showed the type of entertainment that went on inside. Any pub called the Cock Inn or the Cock Pit would once have been a venue for cock fighting. Just to confuse things, any pub called the Cock & Bottle denotes that both bottled and draught beers were available. More modern sporting themes give names such as The Huntsman and The Cricketers.

Trades were also depicted with the Saddler's or Bricklayer's Arms. The need for coaching inns gave rise to the Coach & Horses and Horse & Groom and later, with the invention of the steam engine, The Railway Inn or Station Arms was born.

Some interesting names, which relate to our region, are:

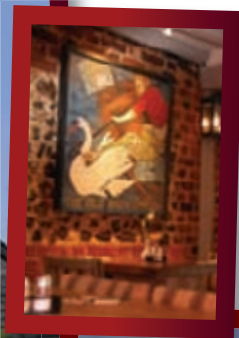
Swan With Two Necks – Neck is a corruption of "nick", which were cut into the swan's bill during swan-upping on the Thames (hence, The Old Swan Uppers in Cookham).

The Three B's (bar in the basement of Reading town hall) are for Beer, Biscuits (Huntley + Palmers) and Bulbs (plants, not lights), which are what Reading is most famous for.

The Pineapple – named because the first pineapple grown in Britain was at Dorney Court.



The Old Swan Uppers



The original Swan with Two Necks pub sign now inside



The Pineapple

> MEMBERS WEEKEND & AGM

25th - 27th April 2014 >

CAMRA Members' Weekend, featuring the National AGM and Conference, is where our members discuss our future policy and direction. The weekend also offers the opportunity to members to socialise with friends, visit recommended pubs and go on organised trips. The Members' Weekend is open to all CAMRA members and will be held at The Spa Complex, Scarborough.

Pre-register your interest today

You can pre-register online through the Members' Weekend website:

1. Visit the Members' Weekend website: www.camraagm.org.uk
2. Select "Member Login" at the top right hand corner to log in to the website.
3. Once logged in, click "Register" on the home page or on the navigation bar located in the top right hand corner.
4. Once clicked, you should receive on-screen confirmation that your registration has been successful.

Please note that joint members will need to login and register individually.

Closing date for pre-registration is Friday 28th March 2014.

As a pre-registered member you will receive the Members' Weekend Handbook before the event. This will be sent out the week following the cut off for pre-registration. Members' Conference packs will be available at the venue.



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Matt Clark

> MEET THE PUBLICAN

THE STAG & HOUNDS, FARNHAM COMMON

10 Real Ales and 5 Real Ciders in a village pub can't be bad! >

Publican Matt Clark was in the midst of celebrating his 29th birthday during the week I visited his pub. For such a young head, Matt knows exactly where he wants to go and seems to be getting there at quite a pace. I think he said he was literally born in a pub, has certainly spent most of his life living in pubs and knows no other way!

It's very much a family affair! His mum runs The Golden Cross, Colnbrook and his sister, The Five Bells in Horton. Coupled with this Matt has just taken over The Old Millwright's Arms in Aylesbury. All four pubs are from the Greene King stable. Managing a diversified string of pubs requires a trusted team, and at the Stag & Hounds, Jo runs the day to day. At a recent Cask Marque assessment all beers gained a 100% thumbs-up, without one point being dropped.

Matt arrived at the pub in July 2012. This was his first pub having earned his spurs managing pubs for the likes of Mitchells & Butlers for more than 10 years. The trade at the pub was horrendous! The pub was granted 'Local Heroes' status with Greene King, meaning a 50:50 split allowing a good range of non-GK ales. There are now 10 ales and 5 ciders, all REAL, staggering for a pub on its knees a little over 18 months ago.

The pub put on its first beer festival last August and plans 4 this year starting at Easter. They erect a marquee out the back in the car park adding around another 10 to 15 beers. Food is locally sourced where possible with an emphasis on value for money. Matt was disappointed that the pub did not feature in the 2014 Good Beer Guide and, of course, on paper it ticks all the right boxes. Matt understands that CAMRA does take into account the time spent in the pub by the Landlord and that would have been only around 6 months when the 2014 pubs were chosen... Landlord stability and experience are a key factor in choosing the successful entrants.

What of the future? The pub is well worth a visit. Where else can you sample such a range of ales? Matt is committed to real ale and believes that pubs not focusing on real ale will struggle in the future. This guy is going places and it wouldn't surprise me if he wasn't running a group of ten pubs in the not too distant future, just make sure you have a good team beneath you in each pub mate!



> BREWERY NEWS

Windsor & Eton Brewery News >

www.webrew.co.uk



Christmas trading was at record levels thanks to the sell-out of the five brews of **Mandarin**. The shop also introduced a number of complementary Christmas lines (roasted nuts, fudge & tea) which sold well.

As usual **Conqueror 1075 (7.4%)** was available in draught during December and has now all gone. **Tree Tops**, their current seasonal, has only been brewed once this year, due to lack of demand in the past. WEBrew are about to brew a new seasonal to replace Tree Tops. **Parklife** is doing well and will definitely be kept as permanent ale.

The one extra 35 barrel fermenter is due to be delivered in February to increase capacity, which is currently running at 80 to 100 barrels a week.

During 2014 the one off special brews for **Mild, Red Rye & Wheat** will be repeated. In addition there will be two new collaborative brews.

Article on right taken from The Royal Borough Observer www.windsorobserver.co.uk

Brewery team up with rugby ace Zinzan Brooke to brew special Six Nations beer

The Windsor and Eton Brewery and legendary New Zealand rugby player Zinzan Brooke have brewed up a special bitter which will be available at pubs across the two towns before the Six Nations kicks off on Saturday, February 1st. The beer - named Zinzan's Drop in honour of Mr Brooke's extraordinary 47-metre drop goal against England in the 1995 Rugby World Cup semi final - is an easy-drinking 4.0% bitter, reddish-black in colour with a fruity dry aroma. The Vansittart Road brewery went all the way to New Zealand to pick up some special Kiwi ingredients including Redback malt Gladfield near Canterbury and Waimea hops from the South Island. Mr Brooke dropped in to the brewery throughout the past month to help with the brewing process for the 'All-black' bitter. Head brewer Paddy Johnson said; "It's unique. A tangy quaffable bitter that goes perfectly with rugby, so don't be deceived by its all black colour. We've gone far and wide for the best ingredients to make it work - and you can't go further than New Zealand! We love creating imaginative new beers and we feel that this all-black bitter is another beer that will get people talking." To help the beer go down even better, the brewery is donating 5p from every pint sold to support youth rugby in honour of Mr Brooke's work in bringing through the next generation of rugby talent by coaching at Windsor Rugby Club.



West Berkshire Brewery >

www.wbbrew.com



Old English Insults themed monthly beers: March - **Jargogle (4.3%)**, One who is likely to confuse, jumble - jargogle your thoughts. Espresso porter. April - **Gammerstang (4.2%)**, Usually applied to a female of idle habits or an awkward, tall, slender person. Wonderful wheat beer. May - **Cousin Betty (3.4%)**, A

deranged woman. Mild for May. Pale, low in hop character and a gentle maltiness.

Currently brew a range of 7 award-winning beers and ales, plus a continental lager called **Isis**.

In development is a range of bottled special beers two of which to be released in April; **Maharaja's IPA (5.9%)** and **Gold Star** (a honey beer).

Share sale - Your chance to buy a piece of the Brewery. The sale closes on 28th February 2014.

Brewery Tours are proving popular, selling out most months. See the website for details www.wbbrew.com/tours

Bingham Brewery Update >

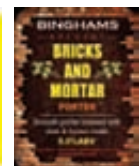
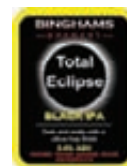
www.binghams.co.uk



Binghams celebrated their 300th brew recently. **Total Eclipse** (Black IPA) is back on the bar in your local pub. It is a dark, malty brew with a citrus hop finish.

A new beer will be out as Angle comes off the press, called **Bricks and Mortar 5.0% ABV**. A delicious blend of dark and brown malts combine to create a smooth drinking porter.

March special will be - **Bee 5.0% ABV**. A Golden beer brewed with the addition of honey which provides a residual delicate honey flavour without the cloying sweetness.



CAMRA LocAle 2014 Pub Listings >

- Acre - Windsor
- Barleycorn - Cippenham
- Barley Mow - Cox Green
- Bear - Maidenhead
- Bounty - Cookham
- Bridge House - Paley Street
- 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
- 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 - Maidenhead
- Union Inn - Old Windsor
- Vansittart Arms - Windsor
- Watermans Arms - Eton
- Wheatsheaf - Slough
- White Horse - Hedgerley
- Windlesora - Windsor



> BREWERY NEWS

Vale Brewery News >

www.valebrewery.co.uk



February sees the start of the Six Nations, so to mark that event we have decided to re-brew an old favourite. **Lock, Prop and Barrel** will be available at 4.1%. This is a Tawny coloured beer brewed to a different recipe than used before. But we loved the name, so have just created a new pump clip.

Although the longer days seem a long way away, for March we have created **Spring Forward**. This is a 3.8% bitter, copper in colour with a floral hop finish to indicate a hint of Spring, and certainly something to look forward to.

If you are a fan of **Red kite** our 4% Chestnut Red malty brew, then check out your local Wetherspoon, where our beer is featured up to March this year, and although not always available in each outlet, it is worth looking out for.

Whilst a pub remains the best place to enjoy real ale we also cater for those who enjoy imbibing at home.

The Vale Brewery shop is open and now taking advance orders for minipins (17 pints) Polypins (36 pints) and for the really enthusiastic - Firkins of 70 pints. This beer can be bright,

so ready to drink with a 3 or 4 day shelf life or with the yeast sediment and lasting up to 7 days.

Several Vale beers are also available in Bottle Conditioned form. Recently **Gravitas** and **Red Kite** have been introduced in Brewery Conditioned format. This offers a great beer but without the yeast, so it is easy to pour and can be stored in the fridge.

Also in the shop is a wide selection of bottled brews from across the globe. Belgium is especially well represented but the USA also features heavily.

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



2014 promises to be a big year for Aylesbury Brewhouse, starting with a brand new brewery logo! Designed by Head Brewer Hayden Overton, it incorporates an iconic Aylesbury Duck silhouette with a stronger emphasis on the brewery's initials; a nod to the history of brewing in Aylesbury but with the focus firmly on the future of the modern day microbrewery.

And the rebranding continues with updated pumpclip designs. **Pure Gold**, their only permanent brew, has had a makeover, whilst their limited edition pumpclip designs have a stronger focus on the individuality of the beer produced. More events for this year are being planned as you read this, so keep up to date with breaking brewery news down all the usual

social networking channels, or pop by the Brewery Shop to talk beer, brewing, and Belgian beers with Alex!

Aylesbury Brewery are on Facebook & follow Aylesbury Brewhouse on Twitter @AylesburyBrewCo



Rebellion Beer Co. News >

www.rebellionbeer.co.uk



In 2013, our landlord grew barley as a trial at Bencombe Farm, alongside their traditional winter wheat crop. Currently there is 10 tonnes of barley drying in their grainstore, waiting to be malted for us to turn into Rebellion beer sometime this year. We will let you know which of this year's monthly beers are brewed using Bencombe Farm malted barley. Pending the success of this trial, we would like in the future to purchase the bulk of our grain from local farmers, thus reducing food miles to food feet.

Having been at full capacity for 2 years we really are bursting at the seams. We have just finalised a new 20 year lease on our existing farm site, which will give us a further 6000 sq feet of space, secure our long term future in Marlow and allow us to really plan for the next 20 years. In 2014 we will be investing over £500,000 in a new brewery, the installation

of which will involve significant changes to our existing site and the building of a new larger shop. To aid this growth, we have taken on 9 new full time members of staff across all departments.

The 2014 monthly beer range will be 'The Rebellion Sporting Series'. In March, the beer is **Touchdown**, April, **Hole in One** and in May, **Snookered**.



> SLOUGH, WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD BRANCH OFFICERS

In the second of the series David Jackson, Membership Secretary, gives you his background >

Hello, I'm Dave Jackson and I'm the Membership Secretary for Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead CAMRA. I welcome new members to the branch and do my best to get them involved with what we do.

I've been a member for around 20 years and a real ale drinker for more years than I care to remember.

My first experience of CAMRA was the GBBF (Great British Beer Festival) in 1980. It was held at Alexandra Palace in North London, or more precisely, in a tent in the field next to Alexandra Palace, which had burned down several months earlier. I still have the festival programme which features a picture of the building in flames.

In those days most pubs were owned by breweries and it was very unusual to find beers from other brewers, let alone microbreweries, in their pubs. Most of the pubs in my native West London were either tied to Watneys or Fullers so, unsurprisingly, I drank Fullers. I remember a drayman's strike forcing Fullers to temporarily release the tie allowing their publicans to buy in beer from wherever they wanted. I toured all the local Fullers pubs and sampled such exotic delights as Greene King IPA, and Wadworths 6X!

Things are very different today of course. The stranglehold that a few big brewers held over pubs has diminished and an increase in microbreweries means that the variety of beers you can find is massively improved.

The big problem we face now is pub closures. The reasons are well documented and the days where there seemed to be a pub on every street corner are obviously long gone, but if we allow pubs to close at their current rate we will lose something special. I do not want to be part of a generation who stood by and let this happen. CAMRA are fighting pub closures, both locally and nationally - this alone makes membership worthwhile.

My involvement with our local CAMRA branch started about 12 years ago. Together with my other half I went along to a Southall Beer and Curry night - a CAMRA event which still continues and is well worth partaking of. Within a few years, I was the Membership secretary, she was the Chairman and we were involved with organising a beer festival (the Windsor Beer and Jazz festival in 2009). We were both terrified as neither of us had done anything like it before but it was a success and we have since been involved with organising beer festivals at the Windsor Farm shop and most recently, Maidenhead Football Club. Very hard work but immensely enjoyable.

CAMRA go to great lengths to stress the benefits of membership - money off vouchers for Wetherspoon, cut price entry to beer festivals etc but in my opinion, the best part is the people you meet. We have a committee of 12 and another 20 or so members regularly come along to social events and



meetings. All really great people.

I'm genuinely glad I got involved. Why not join us? Either complete the form on page 35 of this magazine or visit www.camra.org.uk If you are already a member why not get involved? We are a friendly bunch. Like me, you might be glad you got involved.

Cheers! Dave



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> ORCHARD BLOSSOMS

Greg Davies details the optimism with this year's Real Cider supply >

The arrival of spring completes the cycle of the cider making year and heralds the most crucial period when the entire production for the coming year hangs in the balance.

The blossoms that will form the apples in the autumn are set in May and they are very vulnerable to adverse weather during this time.

If there is too much rain at this point in the season then the bees and other flying insects will not be able to fly around the orchards and pollinate the fruit trees. If there are too many hard frosts then the delicate buds and blossom can be killed and lead to a disastrous shortage of fruit such as happened in 2012.

The shortage of fruit across the country that year led to a shortage of real craft cider during the warm summer of 2013 and the shortfall in supply was largely filled by the bigger cider makers with mass produced cider based drinks which are unaffected by the vagaries of the British weather.

Most of the big industrial manufacturers use apple concentrate which is available from all around the world all year round so year round supplies can be maintained.

The UK is a major producer of cider and accounts for 62% of Europe's output and is worth £3 billion per year!

Cider sales in the UK now make up around 9% of the drinks market and there are an estimated 480 cider makers here using around 250,000 tonnes of British apples every year

Unfortunately at present the real craft cider makers only account for a small percentage of these growing sales figures.

The majority of cider sold across the UK is still made from apple concentrate and can have as little as 35% fruit content which is likely to have travelled hundreds or thousands of miles to reach the manufacturer!

The spring of 2013 was very kind to cider makers and this led to a bumper harvest in the autumn which should ensure a really good supply of cider throughout 2014 as all cider makers have benefited from the biggest apple crop in over ten years, although crops of perry pears were rumoured to be quite poor so there still may be a shortage of good quality perry this year.

Around Berkshire and Buckinghamshire we had a fantastic apple harvest last autumn and there will be plenty of your local Salt Hill Cider on offer throughout this year.

We managed to make a record amount of cider in 2013 due to the generosity of local people and we collected around 5 tonnes of unwanted high quality apples of many different varieties from orchards and gardens locally which hopefully will produce a great vintage cider this year.

The cider that was made through September to November is now fermented and is slowly maturing and improving until it will be ready for drinking around March time.

Salt Hill Cider will be aiming to supply as many good pubs and beer festivals as possible during the year across our region and hopefully getting into some new outlets to supply cider drinkers and maybe convert some drinkers to the delights of 100% fresh juice cider.

Here's hoping for a dry, mild spring followed by a long hot summer for us all to enjoy drinking some real cider and perry.

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

CAMRA campaigns for real cider and perry

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

> NORFOLK RAILWAY STATION MICROPUB NAMED BRITAIN'S BEST FOR REAL CIDER & PERRY

Railway Arms, Downham Market, Norfolk wins national award >

A tiny railway platform pub in Norfolk has been named National Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2013 by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale.

The National Cider & Perry Pub of the Year award is given to the pub or club which best promotes and encourages sales of quality real cider and perry. Now in its ninth year, the award's rigorous judging process whittles down nominations for pubs, clubs & cider houses from all over the UK to regional and then super regional finalists.

Hailed by competition judges as 'A quirky, fun little place to be' and 'a good reason to miss your train', The Railway Arms is located directly on the station platform at Downham Market Railway Station, Norfolk, and has proved a hit with weary



travellers and locals alike – especially those looking to sample the finest real ciders and perries the area has to offer.

A delighted Ian Pinches, who together with his wife Lesley Ann Pinches and their son Callum, runs The Railway Arms, said:

"We are overjoyed (and very humbled) to hear that The Railway Arms has won this year's CAMRA National Cider & Perry Pub of the Year Award and we wish to thank our customers, supporters and suppliers."



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> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >



> NEW CAMRA REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Nick Boley gives his take on what's involved >



Some of our readers may be wondering where I've been recently. Well, the simple answer is that having stood down as Berkshire South East Chair of the Berkshire South East branch at the last AGM, I have now been elected as Regional Director (RD) for CAMRA Central Southern Region, which covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire (and, I believe, a tiny part of Hertfordshire).

So, you may well ask what EXACTLY does a CAMRA Regional Director do? I am just beginning to find out in detail, but it can be summed up simply as being a conduit for communication between branches (there are 11 in my region) and the National Executive (NE), who are the volunteer directors of CAMRA. That makes communication a vital part of any RD's remit, and email, telephone and face-to-face communications all have their part to play.

One of my frustrations as a branch chair was not knowing exactly what CAMRA's policy was in certain areas, knowing enough about important initiatives such as the WhatPub database, or knowing what campaigns we were meant to participate in and what the timescales were. I'm not denigrating my predecessors – far from it – but there is certainly a challenge in getting that information from the NE or the permanent staff in St Albans and explaining it to branches in a clear manner!

RDs are expected to attend 4 NE/RD weekends a year, where the RDs meet and discuss relevant issues (Branches Committee) and then can participate in a wider meeting involving the NE. It is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow RDs, but also to see what issues and problems they have in their regions, and to share in best practice in solving and preventing problems. I have so far only attended one of these weekends, in Warrington at the end of September, where my appointment was ratified by the NE. Being very much one of the new boys, I was rather quiet much of the time (those that know me well may find that hard to believe), but once I get in

the swing of things I will be much noisier. One thing I did find out during that weekend is that one of the major qualifications to be an RD is the ability to quaff copious quantities of beer until the early hours. I have to say I am sadly very much out of practice!

As Regional Director I am a resource to all members of CAMRA within the region. All members, you note, not just branch Chairs and other committee members and branch officers. So, if any member needs to contact me or ask me a question, please don't hesitate. I can be contacted, in the first instance, at RD.CentralSouthern@camra.org.uk.

I hope to be able to attend all branch AGMs in the region - I have already attended a delightfully well-organised AGM in Oxford – as well as chairing the quarterly Regional Meetings, attended by representatives of all branches. At the November regional meeting, one of the things I started to address was the subject of Regional Officers – a team to assist me in the effective and efficient running of the region. So if anyone out there is interested in being my deputy (with the chance to attend NE/RD weekends if I am indisposed), my regional Finance Officer or the Area Organiser for either Berkshire or Oxfordshire, please let me know. These posts are important, as they help to keep things running smoothly. There is only one of me, and I have a full-time job and a family as well as only 24 hours in a day!

Perhaps I should finish by giving you a flavour of what the current issues are which affect us in the region. Obviously one is the continuing spate of pub closures and the process of getting pubs listed as Assets of Community Value (ACVs) with local authorities. I hope to get some detailed advice on this soon which I will pass on to all branches.

The issue of activating members and getting volunteers to carry out activities within branches is also important. Again, communication is the key here, as is the attitude of members to newcomers to branch events. We are a volunteer-led organisation, and a bottom-up organisation. We must never forget that the membership – all 158,000+ of them – drive what we do, and that we are all volunteers and are only able to do what we can. The more members there are who are prepared to do just a little, will make life easier for those who may be doing too much, and will make us an even more effective organisation.

But we are also very much a social organisation, and that makes just going down the pub and enjoying a pint or two of real ale or cider an important activity too. The more we can do to keep our pubs open AND selling real ale and cider, the better. Happy pub-going!

> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >



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> CAMRA LAUNCHES ONLINE PETITION

In order to urge Government to act on Pubco Reform >

CAMRA have launched an online petition calling on the Government to introduce a Pubs Watchdog immediately to protect pubs from closure due to unfair practices in the tied pub sector.

In the first 24 hours after the petition launched, CAMRA secured over 15,000 signatures.

The petition was started ahead of a Commons Debate in January, in which Shadow Business Minister Toby Perkins MP urged the Government to stop dragging its feet and introduce legislation critical to the longevity of the pub industry.

The 8-week consultation into reform of the large pub companies launched last year promised to introduce a Statutory Code and Adjudicator.

But despite 96.2% of people responding to the consultation supporting the need for regulation, the Government are still delaying their plans.

CAMRA is now sending out a clear message to the Government that enough is enough. With 26 pubs pulling their



last pint every week, a Pubs Watchdog is urgently needed to ensure our best loved pubs are protected.

The support the petition has acquired so far is vital evidence to the Government that reform is desperately needed and is supported by the general public.

CAMRA's Chief Executive Mike Benner said: "Pubs are closing as a result of big pub companies squeezing the profits of publicans with costly rents and high beer prices.

"Our petition is the latest demonstration of public dissatisfaction at the way far too many publicans are treated by the big pub companies."

Sign the petition at www.pubscandal.org.uk



CAMRA will again be organising Community Pubs Month in April following the success of 2013's event. This month of action gives pubs a campaign to focus promotions around and try some new marketing initiatives to attract more custom.

We would like all pubs to take part by organising some fun events for the local community to enjoy in April and encourage pubs to try a variety of different communication methods of informing the locals of what is planned including press releases, social media such as Facebook & twitter, website, collecting local email addresses and sending regular e-newsletters, leaflet drops, adverts in other local amenities etc

26 pubs close every week. We do not want this situation getting any worse, so please encourage your friends (especially those that do not visit pubs regularly) to have a night out in one of your local pubs in April to show your support. Imagine if your local was one of the 26 to close next month!

How will CAMRA support this event? We have produced some free promotional packs for pubs to use that will remind people how great pubs are.

All pubs that feature in the Good Beer Guide 2014 will automatically be sent a promotional pack. Other pubs can order one by visiting communitypubsmonth.org.uk. The promotional packs will be sent out in February and March.

CAMRA's national press office will also issue a number of press releases to raise the profile of pub-going.





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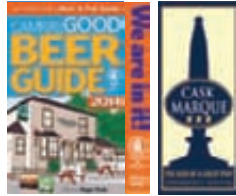
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> HOW AND WHY CAMRA SHOULD ATTRACT NEW YOUNGER MEMBERS

Heather Peel, a member of the Young Members Marketing Group >

The branding on particular beers has a huge impact on who drinks them I see this reflected in my peers' choice of ale. My local brewery Robinsons based in Stockport has just produced bestselling ale 'Trooper' endorsed by Iron Maiden, one of my personal favourites. Elbow also brought out a brew 'Build a Rocket Boys' to appeal to the younger market. Real ale has increasingly become more fashionable with the help of some clever marketing and an increasing interest in drinking something often cheaper and more varied than other bigger brand alternatives. This switch in habits is evident all over Manchester, particularly in the Northern Quarter, where the age of drinkers has noticeably decreased to people under 30. The question is how do we recruit the new emerging group of youngsters?

There has never been a better time to increase young members within CAMRA. The target audience is already interested in real ale and in turn supporting their local pubs. In order to both engage and maintain members, recruitment needs to be strategically co-ordinated. Having attended a vast array of local beer festivals, recruitment needs to be targeted at the younger based festivals, for example at Didsbury where more students and young professionals reside and also at Chorlton, with a similar demographic. Potential members need to be educated about the importance of pubs and their

Author Bio: Heather Peel

I am currently a member of the Young Member Marketing group, helping to recruit and retain more young members, vital to CAMRA's survival. I have been a CAMRA member since 2010, after seeing the hard work of CAMRA and how active changes can be made. I also feel strongly about maintaining local pubs. One of my favourites being the community pub of the year, The New Oxford in Salford who do an excellent pint of Chocolate and Vanilla stout from Titanic brewery.



reduction in binge drinking. It would be beneficial to improve the discounts into beer festivals to increase membership. Alongside this, bringing a non-member for free admission to the festival can help to create further interest.

Once more young members have been recruited the dynamics of the CAMRA meetings can gradually progress, with more meetings held at pubs with live music or a comedy venue. The use of twitter and facebook should also be increased to help young members become more active and to spread the hard work of CAMRA. Reminding people of celebrity involvement may help recruit more young members, for example Madonna's favourite drink was once cited as 'Landlords'. Maybe certain celebrities can be made honorary CAMRA members to develop the brand.

Prior to becoming a young member of CAMRA, I too wondered, why did I need to? Not only is it worth the fee for the Wetherspoon vouchers but more importantly we need to sustain the amazing work that CAMRA has already done and help to maintain pubs and develop the brand. Thus ensuring that pubs can thrive and provide live music, comedy nights and band themed pints created just for people like you.

PUB QUIZ

The first 2 correct winners drawn out of a hat will receive invites to a tour of our very own **Windsor & Eton Brewery**, plenty of sampling, and you get to take a guest.

Answers by email to editor@camraangle.com, editor's decisions are final... Good Luck!

- In 2013, who was the 2nd highest selling global car maker?
- On 13th January 2012, what ship hit a rock off Isola Del Giglio?
- What is the IATA airport code for France's largest airport?
- The Incredible Hulk is the alter ego of which character?
- With which Qatari-owned football team did David Beckham end his football career last year?
- Which band sang the 1982 theme tune to the Rocky III film?
- What is the common name for the eye condition 'myopia'?
- What name is given to the martial arts weapon, consisting of 2 sticks connected by a short chain or rope?
- Which actor was first to play Doctor Who?
- What is the name of the pub at the junction of the A355 and M40, which opened in January 2014?

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Friday 2nd May

11am — 11pm
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Saturday 3rd May

11am — 4.30pm
(£10 Door, £17.30 Advance)
6pm — 11pm
(£10 Door, £17.30 Advance)

Sunday 4th May

12pm — 8pm
(£7.00 Door, £13.80 Advance)

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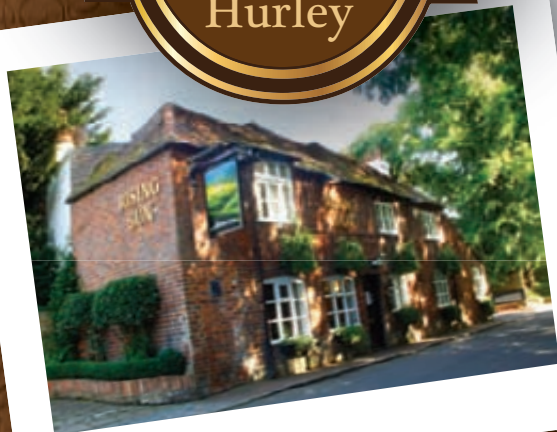


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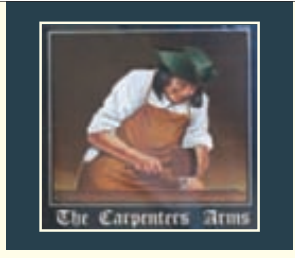
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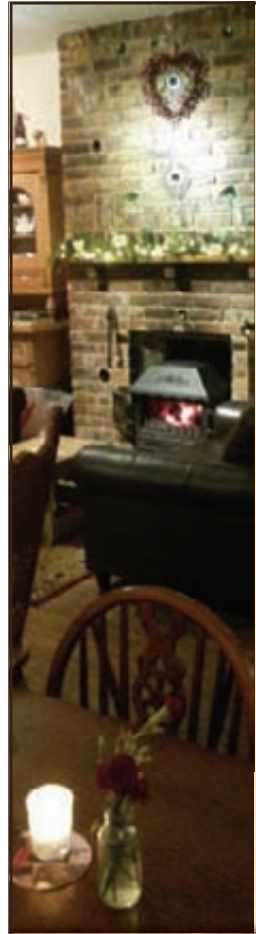


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> LOST PUBS OF SLOUGH

Kevin Phillips laments the lost pubs of Slough since 2000 but finds instead Indian Restaurants, a Bathroom Showroom and a Recruitment Agency >

As with my recent articles on lost pubs of Windsor and Maidenhead, I have chosen to concentrate on Slough pubs lost since the year 2000 to keep things to a manageable length.

I like to look back on pubs and places with a sense of nostalgia but in Slough this is difficult to do as the pace of change is so fast. Buildings are constantly being demolished and replaced with the result that central Slough is not just very different from the year 2000 but very different to what it was this time last year. Add to this, the constantly changing ethnic mix of the community and it is probably not surprising that so many traditional pubs have been lost. It is probably more surprising that some traditional pubs still remain so make the most of them while you can!

With rose tinted glasses firmly in place, join me for a stroll around central Slough in the year 2000. We will begin in the area just south of the High Street for a pint of Courage Best in the **Coachmakers Arms** on Church Street. This was a good example of the 'mock tudor' interior beloved

of the Courage interior design team with fake beams, arched window heads and a Georgian style door. The building now houses a recruitment agency although the fixture for the pub sign still hangs forelornly outside.

Moving south into the Upton area we would come across the **Queen of England** on Park Street which for many years had been a Whitbread's pub. From the outside, it was a terraced back street local and inside you would find a comfortable and unpretentious pub which in 2000 served a good pint of London Pride and Wadworth's 6X. It is now the Godari Indian Restaurant serving South Indian cuisine.

A short walk away on Albert Street was the **Greyhound**, an old Ind Coope pub dating from 1847. It was popular with the Irish community and reputedly served the best pint of Guinness in Slough. If you had been in the pub thirty years earlier in 1970, you may well have seen a baby elephant enter the pub from Albert Street. It had escaped from a travelling circus but did not stay for a pint and left by the back door after relieving itself in the courtyard on the way out. Sadly, the pub has now been demolished and replaced by housing.

Moving north from the High Street onto William Street on our pub tour, we would have found the **Phrenologist and Firkin**, a sizeable establishment converted from insurance company offices with frequent live entertainment. It closed to become the Assembly which in turn became Code which again has closed.

Further up Stoke Road on the corner of Stoke Gardens was the **Printer's Devil**. The Slough Observer was printed nearby until 1974 which presumably accounts for the name. Before closing its doors around 2009, its name changed to the 2nd Stop. Not far on, at the corner of Elliman Avenue, the thirsty drinker would have found the **Nag's Head**, a 60's style Courage pub with two bars. It was popular with both locals and boating people from the nearby Grand Union Canal. Its links with water are now very different as it has become a Bathroom Showroom.



Formerly the Nag's Head

Formerly the Coachmakers Arms



Formerly the Phrenologist & Firkin



Formerly the Queen Of England



Returning to the centre via Stoke Poges Lane, our traveller would have encountered a vast inter-war boozier called the **Good Companions**. In 2000 this was very much a music venue but the only music now is likely to be of the Indian variety coming from its present incarnation as the Haveli Indian Restaurant.

This only leaves the High Street itself where as you would predict, the closures have been most extensive.

Walking from East to West, a selection of real ales could have been found in the **Newt and Cucumber** which has now become the Pizza Express. Slightly further on was **Pitchers Sports Bar** (demolished); **Goose in the Town** which had opened two years previously (demolished) and the **Floral Arms** (demolished). The Floral was more of a genuine local than the others and in fact in 2000 had recently changed its name back to the Floral after a period of time as the Pickled Newt.

A little further on and part of the Queensmere Shopping Centre was the **Broadwalk**, a large split level Fullers pub with an island bar and covered patio area. It closed to become a Chinese Restaurant which itself is now closed.

Finally along the High Street, there was the **Lighthouse**, **Yates's Wine Lodge**, the **Litten Tree** and the **Pied Horse** which are all either closed or demolished. The Pied Horse is the only one worthy of note as it was originally a coaching inn dating from 1704. Its original site stood a few yards to the west of where it was in 2000.

You now see what I mean about the pace of change. By my count, 16 Slough pubs have disappeared in 13 years. And that is just central Slough. I have not mentioned Britwell, Salt Hill, Cippenham or Chalvey where the same sort of closures have taken place.

If you live or work in Slough, please go and have a beer in your local pub. Believe me they need you!



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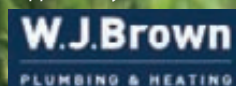
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