

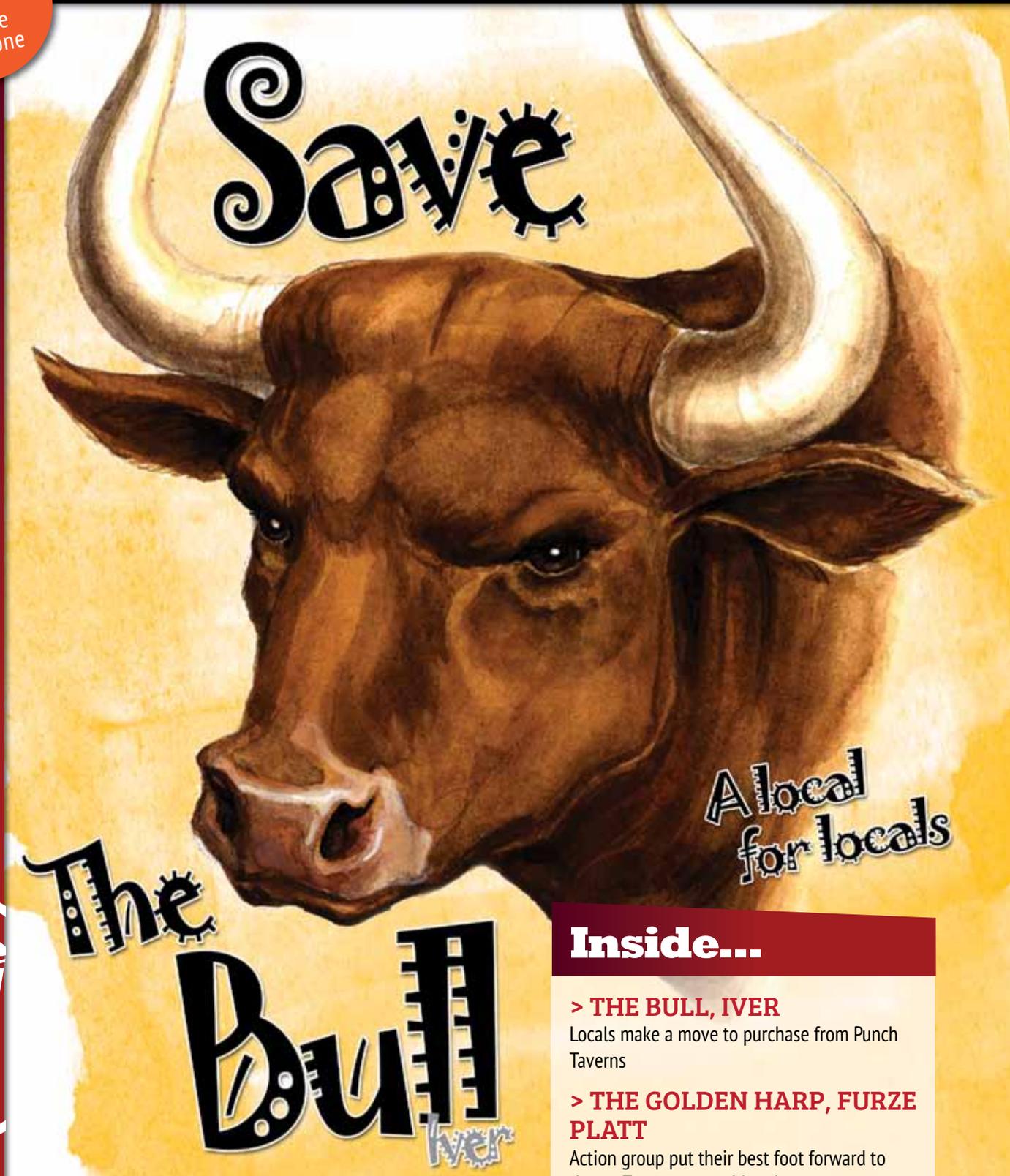
# camra angle

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

Issue 33 - Winter 2013/2014 | [www.swmcamra.org.uk](http://www.swmcamra.org.uk)

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## Inside...

### > THE BULL, IVER

Locals make a move to purchase from Punch Taverns

### > THE GOLDEN HARP, FURZE PLATT

Action group put their best foot forward to thwart Tesco at appeal hearing.

# THE BEAR



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## > FROM THE EDITOR

While there's not too much to enjoy about a dark, wet British winter, I hope the contents of this magazine will add to the pleasure of supping some welcoming beer in your local pub.

Throughout this issue there is plenty in support of 'saving your local', a key campaign from CAMRA with The Bull at Iver (our front cover story) and The Golden Harp Furze Platt (for which a decision on Tesco's Appeal Hearing should have been made by the time this issue is circulated), topping the list. Out of a total of 500 assets listed by Councils, more than 170 successful nominations are pubs, meaning pubs are the most listed buildings. With 26 pubs closing every day, CAMRA is leading this, one of four campaigns to reverse the trend of closures.

CAMRA has commissioned new research highlighting how important British pubs are in people's lives and is calling on the public to start using them more often before more close.

Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive said, "This new research shows how many communities rely on the pub to celebrate important landmarks in our lives from wetting the baby's head to toasting someone's life. With more local facilities like community halls closing around Britain, the British pub is for many the only facility the community can use. The new research does throw open the question - Where would we be celebrating special occasions or meeting our future loved ones without the local pub?"

Tens of thousands of visitors have viewed hundreds of pages on CAMRA's new online pub guide, WhatPub, since it launched in September. The website, which is compiled and updated by thousands of volunteers, includes more than 96% of Britain's real ale pubs, currently standing at over 35,900 since launch. Around half of the website visits are made using smart phones and tablets with more features being planned including a Trip Advisor style rating facility. Read more about it elsewhere in this issue.

On our own manor, pubs continue to be challenged with not a single day passing without a pub being sold, bought, renamed, closed down or re-opened.. With the majority of pubs being owned by Pub Companies (Pubcos) it was a pleasure to hear Pubs campaigner and MP Greg Mulholland launch a blistering attack on the Pubco system during a speech in the House of Commons. He said: 'It's the tale of one of the worst examples of reckless, irresponsible capitalism this country has ever seen - a get-rich-quick scheme for a greedy few that has marred lives and closed thousands of pubs and that has caused losses of billions for the UK economy, pension funds and the Treasury.'

In this issue we begin a series following cartoon character CAMRA-N, watch his progress as he goes in search of that perfect pint. Many thanks to Karenanne Knight who has provided this strip free of charge.

After a successful Maidenhead Beer Festival this summer it's a true pleasure to announce that it's going to be a regular branch event with next year's event taking place on 18th - 20th July at the Maidenhead United Football Club.

So, with the background economy showing increasing signs of improvement after more than 5 years in the doldrums (yes, it really was August 2007 when Northern Rock was bailed out!), it's time to get down to your local, give Tesco a wide berth, buy a couple of pints of lovely British beer and keep your local pubs in business.

**Allan Willoughby**  
Editor



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## > SAVE THE BULL CAMPAIGN

Alan Molloy takes the lead in negotiating the purchase of the pub from Punch Taverns >

A group of 8 locals have got together to fight Punch's decision to sell the Bull Inn, Iver for "development potential, subject to planning". The group's vision for the Bull is to create a warm, welcoming, friendly, traditional village pub serving quality real ales, good wine, non-alcoholic refreshment and simple home-made food using local produce. It will be open for community and family use with an informal meeting space. We wish to create a unique selling point in that the Bull will operate a pub brewery in the stables to the rear.

This all started when the Parish Council requested the District Council to list The Bull as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which was granted on the 20th June 2013. This gave the community a 6 month period to put a bid together to buy The Bull by the 20th December. The ACV is part of this Government's Localism Bill designed to give communities power over their local environment. The Government have provided money in the form of grants to help communities acquire and run local assets. We have obtained a grant to carry out a feasibility study, which will pay for the production of the business plan, share prospectus and the publicity relating to the launch of the share offer. It will also pay for a structural survey of the pub. In addition we have been given a grant of £1,000 from Bucks County Council through their Local Area Forum, which sets out to support the local community. However, this whole process has been frustrated by the agent that Punch appointed to sell the pub. Drake & Company are convinced that they can sell The Bull to a developer for an unrealistic price of £575k and have refused to negotiate. Fleurets, the pub services company, have indicated to us that The Bull is worth £350k to £400k as an on-going business. One can only hope that in the current economic climate there are no developers stupid enough to make unconditional offers of £575k, knowing that the pub has ACV status and that residential development potential is zero.

The Bull is in a conservation area and although not listed by English Heritage is considered a building of historical note. It is opposite the 12th Century church and the only other pub in the village, the Swan, which dates from the 16th century, which are both listed. South Bucks District Council (SBDC) Local Development Document states that the council will enforce the protection of the current high street.

We have had advice from CAMRA, in the form of case studies, Locality, for the feasibility grant, the Plunkett Foundation, who gave us 2 days free consultancy over setting up our legal entity and The Pub is the Hub which has been invaluable in getting Punch to the negotiating table. We all

need to learn from each other and not reinvent the wheel. Through BBC News Online we discovered that another Punch pub, The Case Is Altered in Suffolk, is being bought by the community. A Punch spokesman was reported as saying "It is always our preference that our pubs continue to trade as pubs". Luckily with all this information we have been able to fight back. We wrote to the Chairman, CEO and Finance Director to try and start negotiations with an offer of £375k, but to no avail. It was The Pub is the Hub who provided a link into Punch which seems to have worked as we had a phone call. Communications at last! Now all we need is for Punch to negotiate a sensible commercial price with us.

However, we have to deal with reality and Punch, like many other pubcos, thought the property boom would never end and kept re-mortgaging their property assets until the crash – when it all collapsed around them. Now they are desperate to avoid foreclosure by their bankers and will do anything to raise extra money to pay off their mountain of debt. Just look at their latest 2012 annual accounts which show a profit after tax of £51m against debt of £2.4bn! At that rate it will take Punch 48 years to pay off their debt.

In readiness for our share offer we have set up an Industrial Provident Society registered under the FCA to acquire The Bull as a co-operatively owned pub for the community. A business plan has been drafted along with a share prospectus. This will allow us to raise funds once we have negotiated a purchase price with Punch. Pledges have already been made and the sale of shares started in earnest from the beginning of November. Investors should note that we anticipate obtaining Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) approval from HMRC. This means that taxpayers will be able to get a 30% refund of their investment in The Bull. Details of EIS tax relief can be found at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis).

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# > PECULIAR PUBS

Pubs that have connections with fictional detectives >

## The Sherlock Holmes, Westminster >

Formerly the Northumberland Arms, with the enthusiastic support and help of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's family, the pub has been filled throughout with various artefacts and pieces recording the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, including Dr Watson's service revolver, original cartoons and the stuffed and mounted head of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and now bears the name of the Master Detective.

The main attraction is a replica of the sitting room and study and it has been given pride of place adjacent to the restaurant, where diners can see the exhibit through a glass partition. It was also here that Holmes tracked down Francis Hay Moulton in "The Noble Batchelors". Old Scotland Yard is across the road in Northumberland Avenue, and the Turkish baths that Holmes and Watson used are also nearby. The pub serves a selection of traditional English ales, fitting with its location in London.



## Turf Tavern, Oxford >

If you didn't know where this pub was, it would be difficult to find! The Turf is located down an alleyway called St Helen's Passage (formerly Hell's Passage) next to the famous Bridge of Sighs. Inspector Morse is a famous fictional customer, but he isn't the only one to have passed by. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton reputedly popped in when staying nearby and Bill Clinton during his Oxford University days "did not inhale" while smoking illegal substances in the 1960s!

It has many passageways and two main bar areas, with seating outside for both summer and winter, when the open braziers keep punters warm. The food ranges from a scotch egg bar snack, to pub classics and beyond to posher nosh. The clientele are varied, as you can imagine for Oxford, ranging from students to visitors from all over the world seeking out Morse's haunts.

The pub is a Greene King house, but has been allowed to be run free of tie and, consequently, there is always a great selection of ales from around the country on up to 11 handpulls.

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# > TESCO APPEAL HEARING; A MORAL VICTORY FOR FPAG



Alasdair Donaldson describes the ‘day in court’ >

The public gallery in Maidenhead Town Hall Council Chamber was full of Furze Platt Action Group (FPAG) supporters on 17 October at the Appeal hearing run by Government Inspector Isobel McCretton. On one side were Matthew Roe, John Ferguson and Laurence Handcock, apologists for Tesco, the appellant. On the other side, defending RBWM's refusal of Tesco's applications to develop the Golden Harp as a Tesco Express 'convenience store' were Senior Planning Officer Victoria Gibson, Cllr Claire Stretton, Mark Newcombe, Ian Rose, Kobie Cadle and James Jones for FPAG, and Alasdair Donaldson for CAMRA. In the middle were three Thames Valley traffic police officers, who only stayed for the opening item. The format was a discussion, around the main headings of:

- The effect of Tesco's five proposals, individually and cumulatively, on the character and appearance of the building and the Furze Platt Conservation Area;
- The effect on living conditions in terms of noise (plant and its screening);
- The effect on highway safety and the free flow of traffic (hardstanding).

Relevant policies, including the Furze Platt Conservation Appraisal, were listed on the agenda.

Discussion began with the hardstanding, whether or not it included an access on Furze Platt Road (which Tesco had withdrawn at an earlier stage of

application) and the importance of retaining the grass verge as soft landscaping. The police gave details of how hazardous the proposed arrangements could be around the Furze Platt Road, Courthouse Road and Malvern Road junctions, referring to an injury of a child that very morning. They debunked Tesco's 'swept path analysis' of delivery vehicles' proposed turning in the car park, and characterised Tesco's photos at a time showing few cars on the A308 as 'exceptional'. Mark Newcombe's colourful graphs showing traffic movements from visits to the Tesco Bath Road store compared to traffic visiting the Pond House pub (conclusively demonstrating the far higher number of visits to a store than to a pub) was another highlight of this part of the case against Tesco.

The FPAG team plugged away at criticising the cumulative effect of Tesco's plans for the shopfront (unnecessary), the bollards (also unnecessary and alien features in the Conservation Area – so small as to have no effect, said Tesco's advisers). It was established that this building was not in an industrial area, as Tesco claimed, but was best characterised as having a mixed 'border' character, with characteristics of both residential and urban.

Next for discussion came the signage. Were the proposed signs a visual amenity or a nuisance which would impair the view of the building? Tesco said they were smaller than the ones there when it was a pub. Ian Rose argued that the corporate colours of the signage removed their distinctiveness. More discussion followed on how intrusive the lighting would be.

The plant and its screening was the next item. It was pointed out that the height of its surround fencing, was, at 2.4m, much bigger than usual. Ian argued that its industrial harsh element was alien to the Conservation Area. Noise too was a problem, especially from the second plant nearest the fence, for pedestrians using the pavement. The visual amenity of the building was likewise impaired: the first thing you noticed on approach was the hole in the wall of the original 1889 stable – adding yet another unattractive addition to those already there, and failing to enhance or preserve the building.



Laurie Handcock countered by claiming that it was not out of character for commercial premises. He said a 2.4m high fence was preferable to demolition of the stable block. He asserted that covering up parts of the building that did not contribute to the conservation area is not harmful to the CA, and no loss to it. Matthew Roe said the plant equipment was so high spec that it would make no noise. The standard noise assessment test was made by walking past on the road. Mark pointed out that the huge increase in traffic certainly would add to the noise around the site. The Inspector pointed out that a correction could be added for a single annoyingly intrusive or penetrating noise such as a whine. There was no indication where waste would be stored on site, nor arrangements for its disposal. There was an issue of where other necessary stuff would be kept. For example, the air conditioning unit requires a service area, but there was only a doorway through the back of the stable. Laurie Handcock said that the stable block was to be retained, so there would be no loss to the conservation area. The door at the back, said Handcock, was not, in the absence of an Article 4 directive, a sufficiently substantial factor as to require conservation area preservation. Victoria Gibson, for RBWM, countered by explaining to Tesco's reps that the area had a suburban rather than an urban feel, so that the proposed additions would take something away from the integrity of the Golden Harp and the way it is used. Cllr Claire Stretton summed up this view by saying that though the proposals were small in themselves, their cumulative effect would be negative, and the Spirit of Localism was supposed to reward residents not impose nuisance on them.

The Inspector summed up the list of conditions that would apply in the event that the appeal succeeded and if the proposals were allowed. She arranged for a site visit to follow, and in answer to a question, announced that a decision would be made by the first week in December, possibly earlier. The fingers remain tightly crossed!

## HEY TESCO!

Protest song from Furze Platt Action Group, raising funds and creating awareness. Go to [www.savetheharp.co.uk](http://www.savetheharp.co.uk)

### Press Release 14.11.13

The FPAG's recently released protest song, "Hey Tesco!" seems to have struck a chord and the video can now be seen on YouTube. There is a link on their website [www.savetheharp.co.uk](http://www.savetheharp.co.uk) where you can download the song or watch the video. Anyone who is against the idea of another supermarket/pub takeover can join the Clubcard Wonderwall protest by either sending your unwanted Clubcards to the address below or just nailing them to the hoarding outside the Golden Harp.

FPAG Wonderwall, c/o Best One F/P, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 7NH.

Hopefully the Planning Inspector will share the view of the Council, the Thames Valley Police and the Residents that the Golden Harp is not a suitable site for a supermarket. The FPAG will then be in a strong position to start negotiations with the owners and lessees to return the pub to the community.

**Mark Newcombe**  
Chairman of the Furze Platt Action Group



Mark Newcombe

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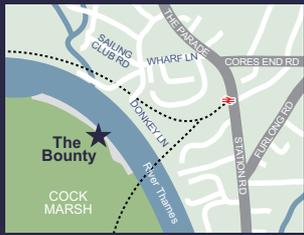


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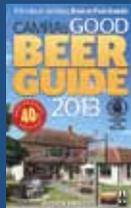
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Formerly the Stag



Formerly the Golden Harp

## > LOST PUBS OF MAIDENHEAD

Kevin Phillips looks at the pubs in and around Maidenhead that have closed their doors since the year 2000 >

As with my article on lost pubs of Windsor in the last edition of 'Angle', I have chosen to concentrate on pubs lost since the year 2000 to keep this article at a manageable length. The millennium was not very long ago, but as with Windsor, there has been a disappointingly large number of local classics who have closed their doors since then.

Imagine arriving at Maidenhead Station on a nice sunny day in the year 2000 and walking down Queen Street towards the centre of Maidenhead. The thirsty traveller would see ahead the imposing edifice of the **Jack of Both Sides**. It had actually changed its name in the mid 90's to the **Tut 'n' Shive** but was still known to all as the Jack. The pub could have been entered just as easily from York Road, hence its original name and once inside, no matter from which door, a choice of London Pride or Rebellion IPA would have awaited.

Sadly, after yet another change of name to the **Bar Metro**, in 2002 the pub closed its doors for the last time and re-opened as the

Honeypot Bar, a lap dancing club with blacked out windows.

Travelling swiftly back in time to the more innocent days of the year 2000, our visitor may well have fancied a refreshing pint of Morland's Bitter and walked on to the **Cricketer's Arms** on Park Street. This was very much a local's pub and there could very well have been a game of pool going on in the original bar which was built around 1900. The extension, built in the 1980's was the main bar area and at week-ends, live music featured.

The pub continued to give good service to its often Irish clientele well into 2006 when it called time for the last time and was sold to the Maidenhead Heritage Centre to become its new home. The porcelain Morland artist figure still remains on the outside of the building as does the pub sign indicating that heritage rather than beer is its new purpose. During research for this article, I actually popped in to check a few facts which brought back some pleasant memories of its earlier existence. At least it has found a worthwhile purpose in life which is more than can be said for the Jack.

Returning again to the year 2000 there would have been couple of other pub options available to our visitor in Maidenhead Town Centre. The Swan Vaults on Market Street could have provided a pint (although not real ale as I recall) near to the shopping area as could the Crown on Bridge Street.

Both are now closed with restaurants on their sites.

Moving on to the suburbs of Maidenhead, our visitor may well have ventured up the Cookham Road and fancied some refreshment in the North Town area. The **Masters Arms** on North Town Road would have been a good choice with Flowers Original and Ruddles Bitter on offer in the large bar. The pub was called the Jolly



Formerly the Cricketers Arms



Formerly the Masters Arms



Farmer until the 1980's and had pool tables and occasional karaoke at week-ends A short walk up the road would have led to a real local pub, the **North Star** which was named after the famous GWR steam engine depicted on its sign.

Sadly, both have now disappeared with the North Star demolished for housing while the Masters Arms has had its attractive brickwork painted white and is undergoing redevelopment.

In nearby Furze Platt another option for our traveller would have been the **Golden Harp**. In 2000 this was a thriving community local which dated from 1889 with an intact original stable and tap room. As readers of this publication will be well aware, the Harp is currently closed and under threat of becoming a Tesco Express. All is not lost for this pub however as an active community association, the Furze Platt Action Group, supported by CAMRA, successfully opposed Tesco's plans and have listed the pub as a Community Asset. At the time of writing, Tesco have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and a final decision on whether the pub can be saved is awaited.

No such hope however is possible for two other suburban community locals which have disappeared since 2000. These are the **Fir Cone** in Norreys Drive and the **Stag** at Bray in Braywick. The former has been demolished for housing and the latter lives on as The Emperor of India, an Indian Restaurant.

As with Windsor, despite closures in the town centre, there is still a fair amount of choice of watering holes but in the suburban areas it is a different story with choice in some parts severely limited. The efforts of the community in Furze Platt gives some hope that further losses of much loved locals can be opposed but with current planning laws, success is far from assured. What you can be assured of however is that your local CAMRA branch will be there help you fight any threat to destroy your local.

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# > LOCAL NEWS



White Hart, Holyport

## White Hart Summer - Holyport pub wins CAMRA Branch Pub of the Season 2013 >

Located on the edge of the village, The White Hart in Moneyrow Green, Holyport has been voted local 'Pub of the Season' for Summer 2013 by members of the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Branch of CAMRA.

Many congratulations to Michelle and Bernard O'Keefe and all the staff at The White Hart in receiving this award. The award is in recognition of the all the hard work put in by Michelle, Bernard and the staff over the years. This popular CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed pub offers a range of beers and a friendly welcome to all.

The award is in recognition and appreciation of the well kept traditional real ales that are always on offer. There are normally four real ales available but many more were available during their recent beer festival in August.

The presentation of the award by the Slough Windsor and Maidenhead CAMRA branch chairman took place on Sunday 1st September. In the attached photograph chairman Nicholas Wooldridge presents publican Bernard O'Keefe with the certificate for Pub of the Summer 2013.

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

Any beer related stories to tell. Send them to [editor@camraangle.com](mailto:editor@camraangle.com), it's your mag!



## Asset of Community Value Listing gains pace >

We know of the Save The Harp, Furze Platt and The Bull, Iver campaigns that have resulted in ACV listing, but the seriousness of the situation elsewhere is reflected in actions taken by our local councils.

The Dew Drop Inn in Hurley, a Brakspear pub, recently taken over by Trevor Hunt, has been registered. Recent experience with Brakspear's sale of the Seven Stars, Knowl Hill suggests that this is a wise move.

Also, Bray Parish Council has slapped a Listing on The Fifield Inn, Fifield. Since long standing Gary & Helen left, Greene King have opened and closed the pub on a number of occasions. As the only pub in the village this move by the council is reassuring.

The Nine Stiles, Denham, to quote South Bucks District Council, "is the only remaining public house in New Denham and the Council considers that the use furthers the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community."

And finally, The Crown at Burchetts Green, recently taken over by Simon Bonwick, has been listed, having been nominated by the Village Association.



Dew Drop Inn, Hurley

Fifield Inn, Fifield



## Stag & Hounds becomes The Pinkneys Arms >



After a number of years of uncertainty, including going into administration, the now re-named Pinkneys Arms has been given a major refurbishment and is now in private hands.

The Pinkneys Arms



Local investor and pub goer Russell Hardiman has bought the pub and his fellow drinking partner, Colin Bingham has taken on the role of licensee. Also on board is chef James Sheridan more recently from The White Oak, Cookham.

Plans are afoot to convert the rear barn into a restaurant freeing up the pub to serve an impressive line of real ales....good luck guys!

## > 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 >

- December 11th - The Grenfell Arms, Maidenhead (10% Off Ale)
- January 8th - Old Swan Uppers, Cookham
- February 12th - Greyhound, Eton Wick

## Hobgoblin becomes The Maiden's Head >



One of Maidenhead's favourite drinking holes - the Hobgoblin - has been forced to change its name to The Maiden's Head.

Asset Management Solutions, which has owned the pub since 2009 when the chain went into administration, no longer wanted to pay pub firm Marston's for the rights to use the title.

Marston's now owns the Wychwood Brewery, which makes Hobgoblin ale, and can charge others to use the brand name.

Tommy Murphy, previous landlord of the pub in Maidenhead High Street, ran a competition to rename the pub!

## Moon and Spoon splash out on Beer Festival >



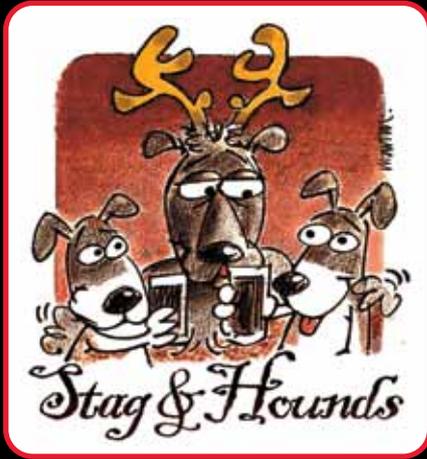
Moon & Spoon Beer Festival

With 50 ales available during their 2 week bash this popular Slough town centre pub launched their festival in style. Pictured is Manager Lisa with a Michael Jackson lookalike who entertained after local Historian, Mike Stevens, formally opened proceedings. Mike announced that £1500 was recently raised at the Slough Beer Festival, great work guys!

## THE ADVENTURES OF CAMRA-N: THE REAL ALE MAN



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## BINGHAMS — BREWERY —

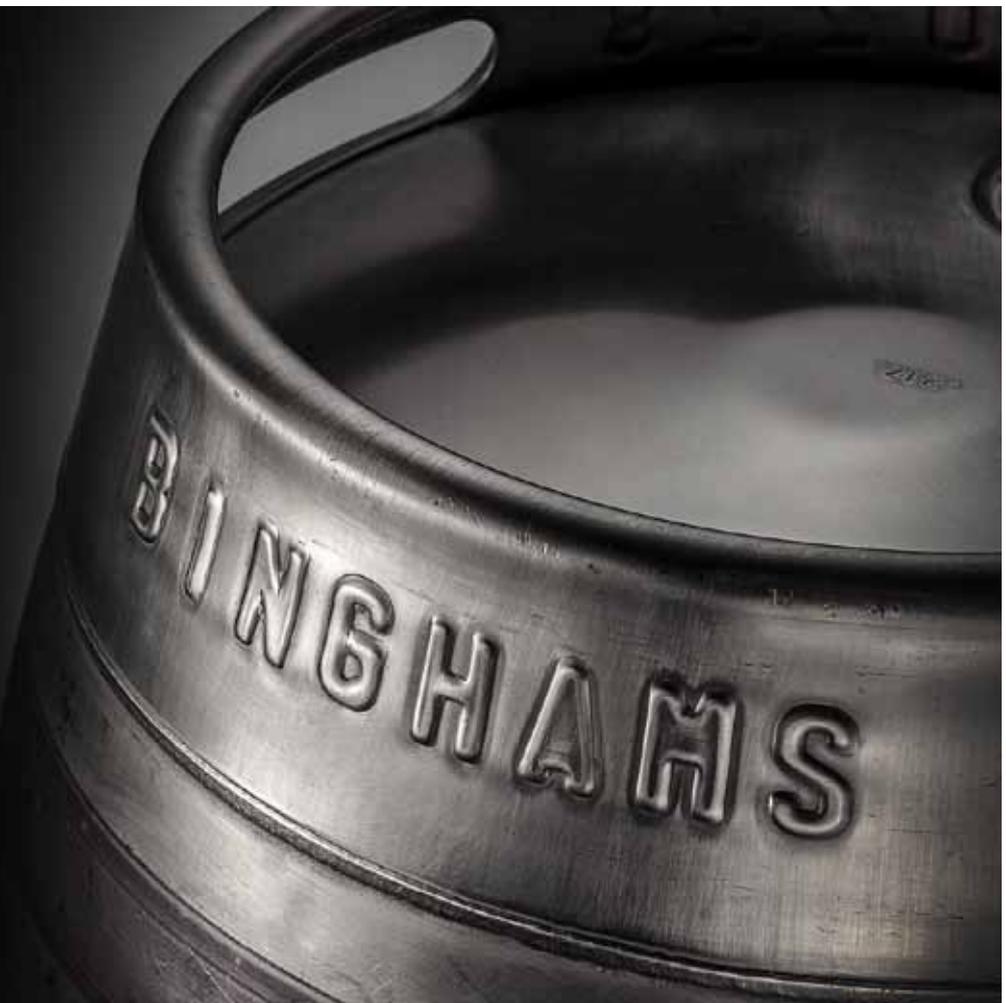
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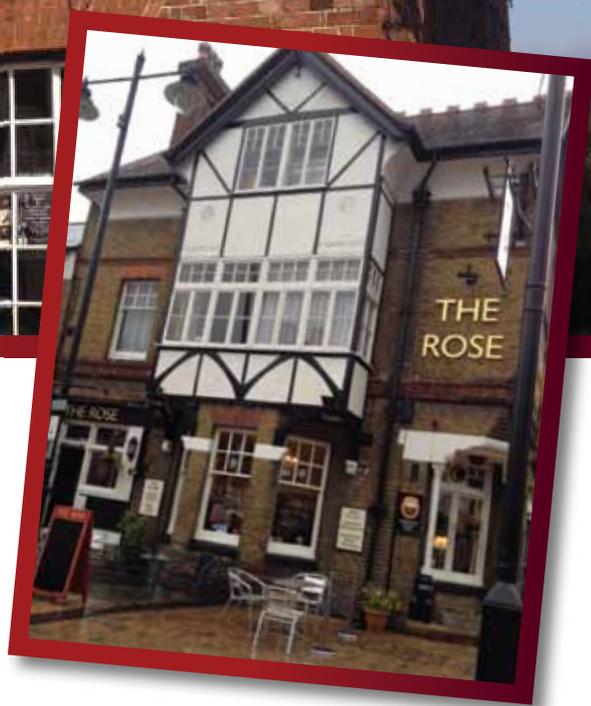
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# > MEET THE PUBLICAN

## THE ROSE & THE CORNER HOUSE, MAIDENHEAD

It's a family affair running 2 town centre pubs >

When I arrived at The Rose in King Street landlady Peggy Smith was knee deep in VAT paperwork and was literally, as seen from the shot, holding the baby! Granddaughter, Chloe, arrived a month ago; well it's a change from the normal holding a pint or caressing a hand pump pic!

You wouldn't think that Peggy hails from Ireland, it must have been the boarding school upbringing that has softened the tones or that most of her working life has been in the pub trade, at first bar work in London and then settling into Maidenhead. I would hazard a guess that she's in touch with everything pub in the town, having run The Anchor, then The Star before settling into The Rose in 2000.

Aby assisted by daughters Kelly and Nikki, whose baby was centre stage, surely one pub was enough! The Rose, serving a Rebellion beer as well as London Pride, proudly boasts a full-on schedule of non-stop nightly entertainment and is very much a community pub. To my knowledge it's the only pub in the town with a 3am licence, so why, with such a hectic schedule would you want, or be able to run another pub a 5 minute walk away....enter Enterprise Inns, not everyone's favourite pub company!

When former Irish landlady Eileen Noctor went through tough times running Noctors in Queen Street, the Enterprise Inns area manager approached Peggy when Eileen decided to jack it in. Closure was probably never on the cards as it's in a prime location, so could it be successfully 'Rose'ised? So just over a year ago she took over the running of the pub and up went the banner 'The Pub with No Name.' Negotiations with Enterprise were tough but, finally, a fully refurbished pub, with new loos at last and an outside courtyard has

re-opened as newly named The Corner House. A new lease has been signed giving stability to the pub and its customers. Peggy's trademark of non-stop entertainment is now in operation including a Sunday Irish Night with professional Irish musicians. Younger daughter Nikki (who had gone to a Pub Watch meeting when I visited) and manager Chris run the new venture. Doombar and London Pride are available with a Rebellion beer soon to arrive.

Back to Peggy, you get the impression she's on top of things, changes at The Rose are constant...Sky, no Sky, Sky, foreign Sky competitors on, then off...you get to understand how tough a business it is, she has her fingers on the financial controls, hence it was no real surprise Enterprise made the approach.

So will there be pub No. 3? Elder daughter Kelly doesn't seem too keen, preferring to complete her nursery teaching qualification, so perhaps they will have to wait for granddaughter Chloe to get involved...quite a family affair.



Landlady Peggy Smith with her granddaughter Chloe.

# > BREWERY NEWS

## Windsor & Eton Brewery News >

www.webrew.co.uk



As Christmas approaches Windsor & Eton Brewery are busily brewing. Back by popular demand is **Mandarin**. As you will remember from last year the brewery virtually cornered the World market in this new hop, called Mandarina Bavaria, which has a gorgeous orangey aroma and has been developed by the Bavarians. Even so Paddy, the Head Brewer, could only do 2 brews, but this year he has managed to acquire enough hops for 5 brews, beginning in December! As usual **Conqueror 1075** (7.4%) will be available in draught during December to take the chill out of those winter nights.



**Canberra** their current seasonal ale will be available up to Christmas or when you have drunk it all, and don't forget that both **Canberra & Conqueror 1075** have won SIBA silver awards this year.

In the lead up to Christmas the brewery shop will be selling some exciting new snacks: • Nuts marinated in a well-known Windsor & Eton beer and then Smoked. • Fudge made with beer.



On the 20th of September a team from the Windsor & Eton Brewery and the Bree Louise public house pulled an operational RNLI Mersey class all-weather lifeboat over a 1/4-mile course.

The team was called WeBree and starred Andy and Martin Lee, Clint Whitaker and Richard Sandling from the Bree Louise and Will Calvert, Bob Morrison, Kieran Johnson and Adam Freeman-Pask from Windsor. WeBree were up against 15 other teams but in Richard and Adam they had a couple of secret weapons! Adam is a Windsor based rower who has just won a Bronze medal in the GB's men's lightweight four at the World Championships in Korea. Richard is a top class comedian so will have the best jokes even if not the fastest time! WeBree came 3rd and raised £2500 for RLNI - Congratulations.

We are all used to pulling pints but pulling 37 tonnes of lifeboat is a big challenge – it's the equivalent of pulling 77,524 pints of one of Windsor & Eton's great beers. No wonder it's called the RNLI Big Pull.

The brewery's new beer **Parklife** (3.2% ABV) which was launched in July has joined the permanent ales available from the brewery is developing a good following.

## West Berkshire Brewery >

www.wbbrew.com



Good Old Boys' Club – Launch

Saturday 12th October 2014 saw the official launch of West Berkshire Brewery brand new – Good Old Boys' Club – a member's only club.

A gloriously sunny afternoon, it was

attended by around 80 guests who were treated to beer tasting, brewery tours and a sizzling barbeque which ran through the day.

Head brewer Will Twomey said 'The large turnout here for the launch day shows that increasingly people have a real

interest not only in local beers, but how they are produced too. We have built up a loyal following of fans for our beers and we have launched this club by way of a thank you. It's a chance for us to engage directly with them and get them involved too.'

On joining, members receive a gift pack containing a glass tankard, a polo shirt and of course a bottle of Good Old Boy. They are invited to attend (with a guest) quarterly club evenings at the brewery where they get to preview forthcoming beers and taste beers brewed exclusively for them. They also benefit from a 10% discount on all beer purchases from West Berkshire Brewery.

The first Good Old Boys' Club members only event was held on the evening of 7th November.

The brewery, based in Yattendon, was established in 1995 by Dave & Helen Maggs. Since then they have achieved over 40 national awards for their beers.

Full details can be found on their website: WBBREW.COM

## CAMRA LocAle 2013 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
- Foresters - Cox Green
- Fox & Castle - Old Windsor
- Garibaldi - Chalvey
- 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
- Portland Arms - Maidenhead
- Rising Sun - Hurley
- Rising Sun - Slough
- Rose - Maidenhead
- Rose & Crown - Slough
- Royal Stag - Datchet
- Shire Horse - Littlewick Green
- Stag & Hounds - Farnham Common
- Stag & Hounds - Pinkneys Green
- 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](http://www.valebrewery.co.uk)



The Vale Open day on the 7th September was a big success, the weather was bright until departure time, but all who visited enjoyed the 12 Vale and Aylesbury beers available, the music and great pig roast.

None more so than Jim Crews from Shabbington who was the

winner of the competition in association with Thame Food Festival to name the brewery's special beer. Thame 'In of The Brew was a massive success and is now available locally and was the featured beer at the Thame Food Festival on the 28th September.

At the end of October is Halloween and the ever popular special brew for this event was again available. **Something Wicked** is a 4.8% deep mahogany brew; it has strong rich malt flavours and a bitter finish.

Then for November we have **The Knowledge** a 4.2% Bronze coloured fruity and floral bitter, named after the famous London Taxi test. As we deliver to London occasionally this is something our drivers are keen to learn!

In December our special beer of the month is **Brass Monkey** a 4% mahogany bitter, heavy on the malt but not without the bitterness usually associated with Vale brews.

In October several Vale beers were entered into the SIBA (Brewers Association) Midlands beer competition. We came away with two Silver awards - Black Swan Mild: Silver in the Mild category and Gravitas: Silver in the Premium Ale category.

This is great news and endorses our view to continue pushing interesting and challenging beers. In spite of cost pressures we still use the best Maris Otter malted barley and choicest hops in our beers, and these awards vindicate that view.

For December we have our annual favorite **Good King Senseless** available in both cask and bottle form.

Also worth looking out for in bottles is **Red Kite**. This is the first time we have bottled this Chestnut Red beer, but demand has been high and this malty bitter brew is well suited to the bottled format. This is a Brewery Conditioned beer and will be available from early November.

*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](http://www.aylesburybrewhouse.co.uk)



Aylesbury Brewhouse will be travelling the beer world, reading George Orwell, and exorcising demons with their new limited edition beers!

First on the map is Russia for **Red Star**, a deep red 3.6% ale that uses Russian hops to give it a hoppy punch. Then it's over the Pacific Ocean to the U.S. to find the **American Dream**, which will be over the top in every way; very malty, very bitter, and very hoppy!

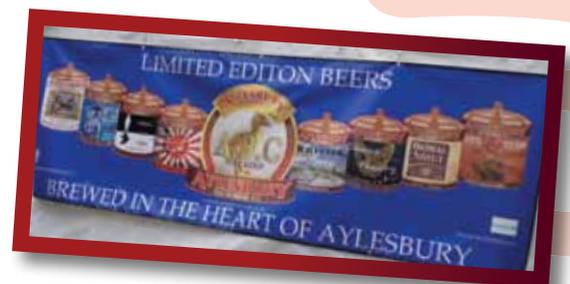
To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the release of The Exorcist, one of the scariest films of all time, **Captain Howdy** will be helping to exorcise your demons with a 4% chocolate and vanilla beer that is as dark as it gets.

Now, all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others and **Napoleon's Farm** falls into the latter category. A 3.8% pale bitter, brewed without the assistance of animals, with

seemingly pleasant aromas but a surprising bitter aftertaste.

Don't forget, brewery tours are always welcome down at Aylesbury Brewhouse, and the ABC brewery shop will have all these beers to takeaway.

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



## Bingham Brewery Update >

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



Binghams are very proud to announce that **Vanilla Stout** has won the SE & London regional round of the Champion Beer Of Britain (CBOB) competition for the Speciality Beer category. This will go through to the national final, which will be held at the Great British Beer Festival 2014.

**Hot Dog** (Chilli Stout) has made its way back into the bottled beer range. Available now from the brewery shop, which is now open longer! Mon-Thu 10am to 6pm, Fri 10am to 7pm, Sat 12 to 6pm. Closed Sundays and Bank holiday Mondays.

**Old Ale** - 4.5% ABV the brewery's dark winter seasonal ale is also now available.

# > MEET THE 'GUYS' WHO RUN THE SLOUGH, WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD BRANCH

In the first of a new series we introduce the characters behind the scenes, starting with Chairman Nick >



Hello, my name is Nick Wooldridge, and I'm the CAMRA Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Branch Chairman. Welcome to a new series of articles introducing members of the Branch Committee: who we are and what we do, in our own words.

My earliest introduction to beer was a half-pint of bitter-shandy at the pub at lunchtime on a Saturday, with my parents. Senior school took me to Derbyshire, about four miles from Burton-on-Trent, in the days when that town was a major centre for brewing. If there was a good wind on brewing days the smell could reach us at school. I find it's still an evocative aroma, but now I think more about the promise of the beer to come. Going on fieldtrips or sneaking out of school to a local pub (but not one the masters used) gave me a taste for real ale – Bass, Marston, Hardy & Hanson, Ruddles, Theakston (when they were independent), etc.

My first awareness of CAMRA came through a friend who would use The Good Beer Guide as the measure of where we should be mooring the canal boat, on shared summer holidays, in order to be within reach of a decent pint. We also used the Guide to help us explore different beers – my friend was my earliest contact with a 'ticker'.

Adult life took me into the Army, where I was posted to different parts of UK and abroad. This allowed me to explore different styles of beer – I'm still partial to a Hefeweizen. Settling down with my family after leaving the Army, we happened upon Maidenhead, which has been our happy home for almost 20 years.

I was re-introduced to CAMRA when I first attended the Reading Beer Festival. The call went out to the queue waiting to get in: "Any CAMRA member want to work behind the bar?" I wasn't yet a member but was accepted as a volunteer and

thus put in the first of my now annual stints pulling pints at that event. I thought it right then to become a member; but also because I was fascinated by the growing number of breweries and variety of beer styles, and I saw CAMRA as a way to find out more. This inspired me to start a mini beer festival at Maidenhead Hockey Club. Then, in time, I attended a couple of SWM Branch committee meetings and an AGM.

Something inspired me at the AGM to stick my hand up when the call came for a Vice-Chairman. Several committee members were already wearing two hats and I thought that helping to share the load would be a good idea. I also wanted to learn more about the Campaign, and there's nothing like jumping in at the deep end (I'm probably still just splashing around, but I've not drowned yet!).

Becoming Chairman seems a natural transition and I'm grateful to the Branch for the vote of confidence at the last AGM. I'm also very grateful to my predecessor, Delia Allott, for her hard work and dedication.

Being Chairman means acting as the main channel of communication to and from the National Executive (NE), via the Regional Director, as well as being the 'face and voice' of the Campaign locally. I chair the monthly Branch Committee Meetings and am responsible for making sure the Branch supports national campaigning policies and activities that help the membership; promotes real ale, cider and perry; and supports pubs and independent breweries. CAMRA is a membership led, bottom-up organisation and all active participation up to and including the NE is conducted by volunteers. CAMRA is also very much a social organisation, and encouraging people to join us in the pub to enjoy a pint is also an important activity.

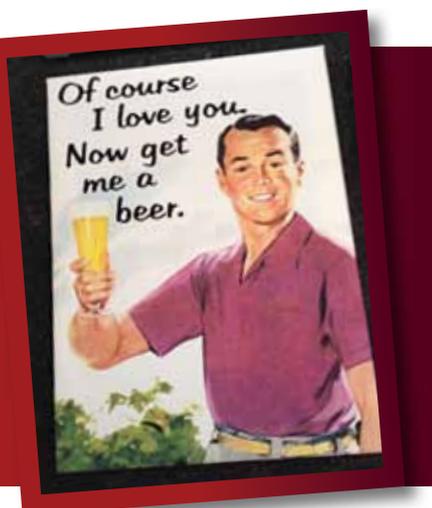
I can do none of this alone, nor would anything be achieved without volunteers. I am indebted to the members of the Branch Committee and those who support us directly for their energy and effort. I'm also grateful to the wider Branch membership for supporting CAMRA. We would like to see more of you at social events and if you feel you can assist the Branch, in any small way, we'd love to hear from you. There is a great sense of camaraderie in the Branch, and the wider Campaign. The stereotype is the exception not the rule and new active members and volunteers with fresh ideas are our future.

If you are reading this and not yet a member of CAMRA, there's an application form towards the back of this publication – jump in, we don't bite! If you have views or ideas, or simply want to get in contact, please feel free on: [chairman@swmcamra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@swmcamra.org.uk)

Cheers! Nick

> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >



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# STOP PRESS

The Whip & Collar, Iver

The Whip and Collar, Iver Heath, has re-opened and is now serving London Pride and Doombur.

The Emperor, Farnham Royal

The Emperor at Farnham Royal is now run by Lou Holdcroft, who previously worked alongside Vanessa and Sean at the Blackwood Arms, Burnham Beeches.

# STOP PRESS



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# Haywood Farm CIDER



## > FANTASTIC SUMMER BOOSTS APPLE PRODUCTION

Greg Davies takes a trip to check out Cornish Cider Makers >

2012 was a disastrous year for cider makers all across the land; the cold wet spring which led into a cold wet summer meant that the blossoms on the apple trees that were not killed off were not pollinated by the bees that were unable to fly around the orchards.

This has led to a real supply shortage of good cider this summer and the bigger cider makers have had to use up stocks from previous years and the smaller producers such as my own Salt Hill Cider have had problems keeping up with demand.

Luckily the weather in 2013 has been much kinder and we have had a decent spring to get the blossoms started and a rather late but very warm summer which will help to fill the growing apples with the sugars needed to make good cider.

Hopefully we will have plenty of fruit this harvest and will be able to make sufficient cider ready for the spring of 2014 and the summer ahead.

I spend quite a bit of time travelling around the country visiting cider makers and sampling their wares, (in the interest of research!) and this summer I have been to Cornwall to check out the cider situation there.

I have to say that I was disappointed overall with the small number of producers in the county and the serious lack of any real local cider in the pubs there.

I found no real cider in the pubs I visited and in every case was offered "Cornish Rattler" which is a reasonably pleasant drink of 6% ABV but it is carbonated and pasteurised and not really the best the county has to offer.

Cornish ciders are rarely seen around the country by comparison with their West Country neighbours of Devon or Somerset and this must be in part due to the logistics of hauling cider 300 miles or so to the capital and the rest of Britain.

The two biggest cider makers in Cornwall are Cornish Orchards and Healeys who are the creators of the ubiquitous "Rattler" but there are a few smaller farm cider makers and I did visit a couple of these but was surprised to see how low key these operations were and how they are clearly not looking to grow their business and to make any impression on the growing national cider market.

One of the new generation of cider makers in Cornwall who did impress me was Hayward Farm Cider in St Mabyn just outside Bodmin.

Local boy Tom Bray started making cider in 2004 and has built his own giant press out of wood and concrete at the farm which can press up to two tonnes of apples in one pressing to make 1400 litres of juice!

This enormous machine takes up to two days of manual labour screwing down the press gradually and squeezing out the juice through long wheat straw, the traditional method used in the area many years ago.

Tom uses ex-rum oak barrels to ferment the juice into cider to give a lovely sweet finish to the finished drink. A new shop has been established at the farm to sell the cider and Tom has over the last five years



Tom Bray of Hayward Farm Cider



propagated 5000 apple trees, 3000 of which have now been planted in their permanent positions in the orchard and are now starting to bear fruit.

Hopefully the enthusiasm for traditional artisan cider making of Tom Bray and others like him will help to improve and raise the standards and the public profile of real cider in this part of the West Country for many years to come.

For news of local cider matters check out my website [www.salthillcider.wordpress.com](http://www.salthillcider.wordpress.com) or the SWM CAMRA website at [www.swmcamra.org.uk](http://www.swmcamra.org.uk)



## STOP PRESS

The Railway Arms, Downham Market is CAMRA's National Cider & Perry Pub of the Year 2013

# > THE LAST PRESSING

A poem by Maria Kennedy, 2013 >

The morning of the last pressing,  
the apples are gilded with frost,  
piled in trailers in the orchard.

Each mouldering leaf, each grotty twig,  
mixed in amongst the fruit is crusted with the cold moist  
air, the cold curtain of December.

The day of the last pressing,  
my toes are numb in my wellies,  
and the hydraulic press heaves slow against the chill.

We fold the cloths, full of cold pommace,  
catch the rhythm of the juice into the pail  
– spill, lift, carry, pour, gurgle,  
tap the bucket on the barrel for the last drop,  
spill and fill again.

They say that cider making is the art of pouring, refined.  
Pour the apples off the tree. Pour them into bags, pour  
them in the mill, then pour the pommace,  
fill the press, and finally pour the juice into the barrel,  
where it will ferment and then be still until spring.

Through the last pressing, I heave the baskets of apples  
through their bath,  
without restraint, washing the grot and grime and frost  
away,  
knowing it is the last day of our autumn work.

The evening of the last pressing comes so quick,  
the daylight folded in so fast,  
how was the light pressed out so soon, we ask?

And we pack it in, go to the cellar,  
pour a drink, and pass the dark away  
with those who've worked with us, this shortest day.

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# > WHAT PUB ONLINE PUB GUIDE LAUNCHED

The ultimate guide for all pub-goers >

In addition to featuring more than 36,000 pubs and designed for laptops, tablets and mobile devices, this guide is also a vital component for selecting pubs for The Good Beer Guide. The 2014 guide was released in September and the planning for 2015 is now underway.

Brett Laniosh, CAMRA National Executive member has provided this article, originally from Steve Barber from Cornwall CAMRA.

'Have you wondered how CAMRA selects pubs for the annual Good Beer Guide? Each CAMRA branch is responsible for the entries in its area within the county and each listed pub must consistently serve real ale (and cider if offered) of good quality.

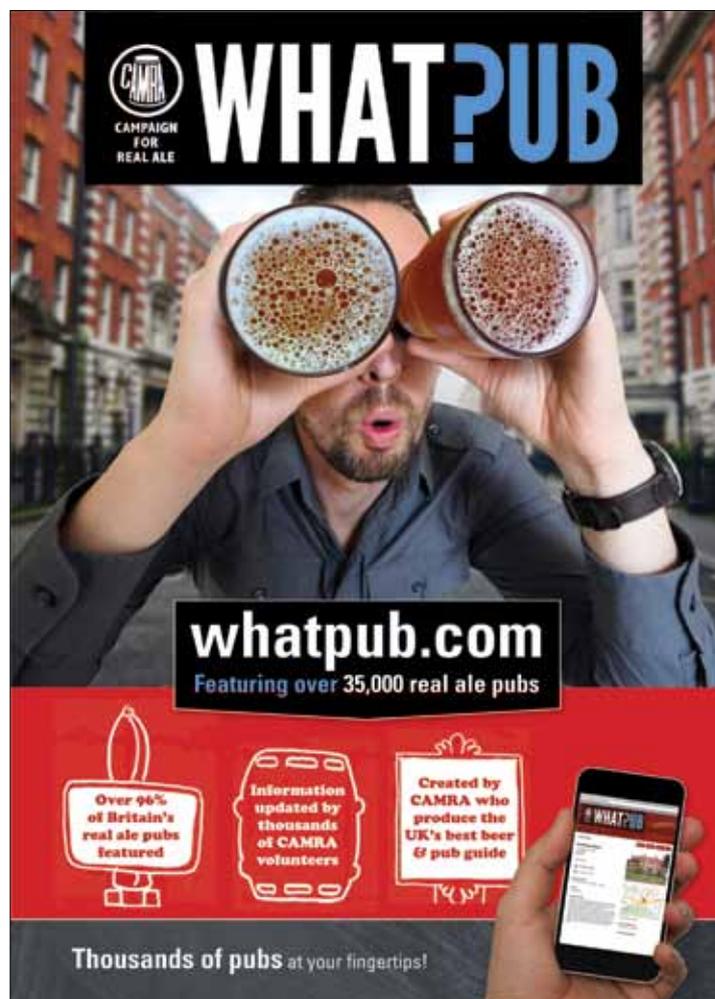
To help us do this, we collect beer quality information through CAMRA's National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) in which members are asked to contribute scores for pubs throughout the year. It is easy to score your beers in NBSS. Log in to CAMRA's online pub guide, WhatPub (<http://whatpub.com>) using your membership number and the same password that you use to enter the CAMRA national website. Search for the pub and enter a score for each beer that you drank in the 'submit beer scores' panel on the right of the screen. There is plenty of help and information about NBSS on the Beer Scoring tab. WhatPub is optimised for use on a smart phone and there is now a downloadable app, so you can score your beer in the pub while you drink it! If you don't have online access at all, then ask your NBSS Coordinator at a branch meeting for paper forms and we will enter your scores for you.

Having collected thousands of beer scores over the year, we generate a report in January giving the average, best and worst scores for each pub and a confidence factor based on the number of scores received. The Branch Committee uses this data to draw up a list of eligible pubs with the highest average score, supplemented by other sources of information, and then visits them to update the pub details ahead of a selection meeting in February. All branch members are invited to that meeting at which we select our quota for the next Good Beer Guide.

To make this work better, we need many more members to enter their scores. We value the opinions of all members whether active or not and we need as many opinions as possible for as many pints in as many pubs as possible. This is so we can have confidence in the statistics. We ask members to score the pubs continually not just once or twice. NBSS

works across the country not just in our branch. If you are not a member but would like your opinions of beer quality in pubs to count, then join CAMRA!

With more than 155,000 members this makes CAMRA one of the biggest consumer groups in Europe, if not the biggest. Use the 'Send an email to the branch' link on WhatPub to make contact on membership or any other topic.



# > BEER TICKERS

The world of ticking as seen working at the Great British Beer Festival >

As anyone who has worked behind a bar at CAMRA's flagship event, it can get absolutely manic at peak times, wrestling to serve, in the main, patient punters often queuing ten deep. So when a seasoned beer ticker, of more than 35 years standing 'parks' in the bar's prime location, totally oblivious to surrounding events, further investigation of this hobby is justified.

Firstly, I considered this hobby to be rather sad! As far as I was concerned ticking had nothing to do with the beer, the type, or quality; it was simply another tick in the book, another beer to knock off the 'to do' list. Basically, it is drinking – and more importantly the noting down – of all 'new' beers. All beers 'ticked' are put on a master list which the ticker, as seen here, carries around to ascertain if any beers they encounter on their subsequent travels are still 'required'.

My understanding is that it is simply spotting beer instead of, say, trains or buses. A beer ticker will try as many different beers as they can, and, more importantly, record the details, be it electronic or, as with this chap, traditional bulging notebook!

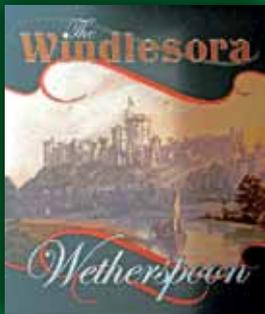
As I see it ticking is not a strict hobby, but one where the ticker chooses the rules they want to follow. This is not perceived as unusual in that most tickers are already by definition involved in an activity that sets them apart, it looks like a lonely pastime to me, but they know their own mind and make decisions based on what they themselves think, not



what they are told they should do.

So what's the point? It can't be that they are looking for the perfect pint because tickers invariably drink halves, some of which is often decanted into sampling bottles, goodness knows what for. No they always want to try another beer, just to add to their list. The beer name is added to their tally but they appear to care little about the beer itself!

I certainly won't be joining them. If I find the perfect pint, there's a good chance I'll have the headache in the morning to remind me, and, finally, I will certainly remember to work at the other end of the bar when the next ticker positions his paperwork in front of me.



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# > CAMRA'S KEY CAMPAIGNS

The next 18 months >

CAMRA members have chosen 4 main campaigns to concentrate on over the next year to 18 months.

These campaigns were agreed following a policy discussion group at CAMRA's AGM in Torquay, April 2012, and a previous membership survey and strategy weekend that was conducted by the National Executive.

Narrowing the Campaign's activity to fewer key campaigns was a recommendation from the Fit For Purpose Report which was presented to the members at CAMRA's AGM 2011.

## > SAVE PUBS. SAVE JOBS. SAVE YOUR PINT.

Long term freeze in beer duty >

In this issue we look at beer tax killing beer and pubs. The main aim is to ensure a long term freeze in beer duty. But CAMRA's first hurdle was to scrap the beer duty escalator - this is where beer tax increases 2% above inflation automatically every year and has done since 2008. Since this date beer duty has risen by 42%.

**The Key Campaigns are:**

1. Stop tax killing beer and pubs
2. Secure an effective government support package for pubs.
3. Encourage more people to try a range of real ales, cider and perries
4. To raise the profile of pub-going and increase the number of people using pubs regularly

*Why not get involved? For details of all the current campaigns visit [www.camra.org.uk/currentcampaigns](http://www.camra.org.uk/currentcampaigns)*

After a year-long campaign in 2012 CAMRA achieved a huge campaign win at this year's Budget as the Chancellor axed the beer duty escalator and announced a 1p cut in beer duty, the first time beer duty has been cut since 1959.

This campaign was won thanks to an incredible effort by CAMRA volunteers who helped shift thousands of campaign packs into pubs up and down the country (including 1 million beer mats), gained 109,000 signatures on the twelfth e-petition to reach the needed figure for a debate in Parliament and attended CAMRA's first mass lobby of Parliament.

### BEER DUTY

Increases in tax on beer and the VAT rise are fueling a shift in beer consumption away from pubs. Almost half of all beer is now sold in off licences and supermarket chains as beer drinkers seek to avoid tax rises. In just six years there has been a 30% collapse in the volume of beer sold in pubs as more than 7,000 pubs have closed forever.

Beer supports over 1 million jobs; generates over £21 billion in taxes and is vital to the survival of pubs. Despite this, unfair beer duty hikes are forcing the beer sector to shrink.

Winning the campaign to scrap the beer duty escalator and earning a cut in beer duty was a fantastic step forward in this campaign but now CAMRA must continue to ensure this work is not undone at future Budgets.

#### The tax on a pint of 5% beer in the pub: post-budget 2013

Price of a Pint	Excise Duty	VAT	Total Tax	% Tax Take
£2.50	54.30p	41.67p	95.97p	38.4%
£3.00	54.30p	50p	104.3p	34.7%
£3.50	54.30p	58.33p	112.63p	32.1%

For further information visit [www.camra.org.uk/beertax](http://www.camra.org.uk/beertax) or see our campaign microsites [www.saveyourpintlobby.org.uk](http://www.saveyourpintlobby.org.uk) and [www.saveyourpint.co.uk](http://www.saveyourpint.co.uk)



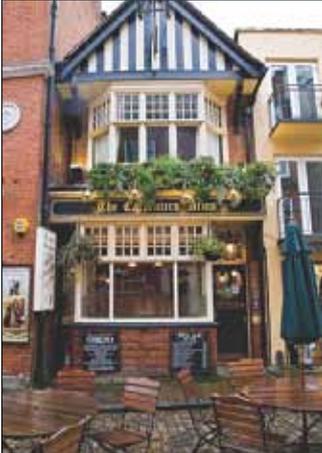


The Carpenter's Arms

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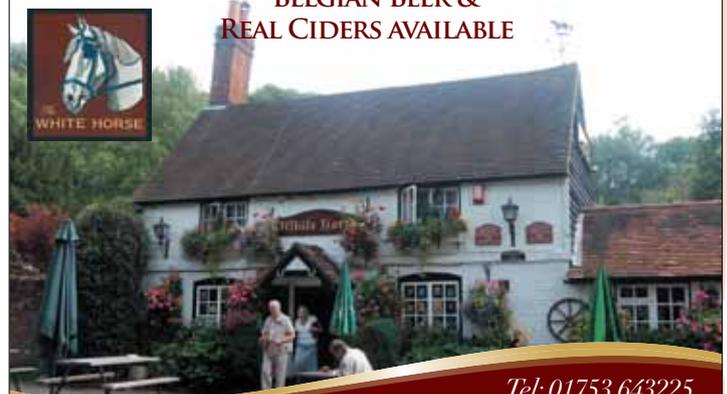
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## > HELPERS TRIP TO HASTINGS BREWERY AND TOWN CENTRE PUBS

Delia Allott describes a great member's day out to the south coast >

As part of the Maidenhead Beer Festival 2013, we asked the punters to vote for their favourite ale. The winner was Hastings Brewery Porter at 4.5%. So, to thank our volunteers for their hard work during the festival, the organising committee decided to co-ordinate presenting the award for beer of the festival with a helpers' trip to Hastings brewery and the town pubs.

We arrived at midday and were greeted by the owners of the brewery, Brett Ross and Andy and Pete Mason, along with their sales manager Kim Clarke, who had kindly given up their Sunday to show us their brew plant and explain why they are fairly unique in the brewing market. Hastings Brewery are a vegan brewery, which means they do not use any animal products such as isinglass finings (fish swim bladders), lactose or honey.

The brewery produces 800 litres of ale at a time and for some of their brews they produce only 400 litres, which is a

small amount compared to some of the breweries in production today. Ales such as Blonde at 3.9% and Best at 4.1% were available, as well as some of their "handmade" series such as number 5, hopped with Galaxy hops, a 9% IPA and a vanilla porter. All were superb and were well

received by the 30 people on the trip.

After a few of us had stocked up on some of their bottled ales, we moved into the town to the Jenny Lind, where Hastings beers were the main ales available. The pub had kindly arranged for us to use their upstairs function room and the brewery staff ordered fish and chips from the local shop for us to eat and soak up the beer we had already had! The Jenny Lind is a two bar free house, which also has accommodation and hosts regular live music.

A map had been passed around and some people used the Good Beer Guide to help them decide where to go next in the fishing port town. I chose to head down to the sea front to see the fishing huts and where the boats are brought up onto the beach. The Dolphin Inn, on the sea front, had a good selection of ales, including Harveys Best and Harveys Old, which were favourites among us.

The next pub, FILO bar (First In Last Out), was back up on the High Street in the Old town and is the brewery tap for the FILO brewery and all six beers were available, Mike's Mild at 3.4%, Crofters at 3.8%, Churches at 4.2%, Old Town Tom (a ginger beer) at 4.5%, Cardinal Sussex Porter at 4.6% and Gold at 4.8%. The pub was lovely and cosy with a roaring open fire in the middle of the room which was warming on a cold and wet day.

Good Beer Guide pubs The Stag Inn, the oldest pub in Hastings, with whitewashed walls and oak beams (Shepherd Neame) and the White Rock Hotel (a short distance walk along the seafront) a modern bar serving local Sussex ales, were visited by other volunteers.

We would like to thank the brewery owners and staff, who made our day particularly special due to their hospitality.



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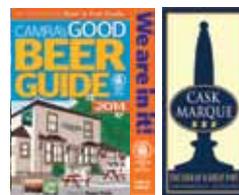
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## > 3rd SLOUGH TOWN BEER FEST AND CHARITY BARREL ROLL

Mike Stevens, Chairman, Slough Publicans Forum, gets the party going >

It was definitely time to 'roll out the barrel' as the Town Crier opened the 3rd Slough Town Beer festival, which was launched at the Moon & Spoon on Tuesday 22nd August and included a 'Meet the Brewer' session by Will from Windsor and Eton Brewery. The Festival soon got into full swing with an impressive range of real ales, cider and perry. There were also local and nationally sourced beers available in the other town pubs participating in the festival. The highlight of the festival was the 'Slough Publicans Barrel Roll Tournament' which turned out to be a dazzling, fun loving and exuberant affair. The prelude to this was the Town Crier augustly announcing his proclamation in the form of an 18th century challenge to all the publicans of Slough.

The proclamation invited each Coaching Inn, Tavern, Public House and Alehouse of Slough to raise a team of four people (barrel rollers called apprentices), who were keen to take part in the ancient and honourable art of barrel rolling. All the

barrel rolling teams were "team themed" and feathered: 007 and the Bond Girls from the Wheatsheaf, Team America from the Moon and Spoon, a band of Hippies from the Red Cow and many other excellent outfits from the Rose & Crown, Wernham Hogs, the Rising Sun, along with a team from S.W.I.P.E. a local charity which helps to support vulnerable young people in Slough.

Each team were obliged to visit each pub on route and drink a ½ tankard of ale and play a game of skill in order to gain points. The team who gained the most points (The Moon & Spoon) were declared champions and granted the title of "Master Barrel Rollers 2013". Teams who obtained the lowest score points were confirmed as the "Village Idiots". Teams disqualified for cheating, i.e. The Rising Sun were declared "Villainous Oafs and Outlaws of the Parish" to be placed in the stocks and pelted with wet sponges. There were also certificates for the "Best Fancy Dress" which was won by Team America from the Moon and Spoon. Runners up for the Fancy dress were the Rose and Crown team and the "Best Dressed Barrel" was won by The Wheatsheaf.

The event was arranged by courtesy of Slough Publicans Forum which is a unique voluntary organisation founded in 2010 in response to so many local pubs closing down. There was also a degree of bad publicity from the national press and media. We all felt that pubs were unfairly being blamed for antisocial behaviour and underage binge drinking. The truth is that the vast majority of pubs remain respected and valued assets in the heart of communities. Recent research from CAMRA has revealed that British pubs managed to raise well over a £100 million pounds last year for a vareity of UK charities, a fact some national press and media seem to have overlooked.

The aim of the Slough Publicans Forum is to promote the concept of well run community pubs, offer help and support for the benefit of Publicans, bar staff and pub goers alike; and at the same



time raise money for charity and other good causes. Its open membership meets once a month to enable people to safely express their views in a friendly, honest and social environment. The Forum also organises various annual inter-pub events to collectively raise money for charity. In 2012 the Forum was able to raise enough money to provide a mobility scooter for the Slough Community Transport and Shop Mobility unit.

This year's adopted charity is: S.W.I.P.E, a registered charity set up to offer support for vulnerable young people in Slough who live with challenging or other unsocial problems.

On opening the Moon and Spoon beer festival in October, Mike proudly announced that more than £1500 had been raised during the event... fantastic!



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## > 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](http://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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& AGM 2014

25th - 27th April  
Spa Complex, Scarborough  
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# > A BIT OF HISTORY

Binghams Brewery's Delia Allott looks at a little bit of history >

While visiting the Carpenters Arms in Windsor, I noticed that there were mosaic floors in the entrance porches with the words 'ASHBY'S ALES'. I thought I would investigate, as I had not heard of this particular brewery before, so the wonderful world of "www" has provided some interesting facts. The same mosaic appears in the entrance of the Royal Horse Guardsmen in Brentford, Middlesex.



Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd was based in Church Street, Staines and was brewing by 1783. The brewery was providing

enough money for the proprietors to also open a bank in 1796, which is not a business we would usually associate with brewing!

The Ashby family lived in Staines for many generations. Frederick was born in 1806 and was a banker and brewer. Edmund, who was born in 1807, was an ironmonger. Margaret, born 1801, married an ironmonger, George Wood of Chelmsford, Essex (where I was weaned on Ruddles!) and Sheldon Ashby, born in 1836, was a solicitor. The annual report for the Windsor Fire Brigade dated 1929, shows a donation of £1, 1s0d from Ashby, Messrs., Staines Brewery.

In the first half of the 19th century, brewing was one of only a handful of industries in Staines. In the 1870's, another large brewery called Harris's was established and this, along with Ashby's, flour

and mustard mills, coachbuilders and a linoleum factory, were now the main employers. The mills and factories were closed by 1900, Harris's brewery closed around 1912, and Ashby's brewery in 1930. The buildings were taken over by H. and G. Simonds Ltd, a Reading brewery, as a bottling store (the export arm of which is now Simonds Farson Cisk and is based in Malta).

The top of the brewery tower can be seen if you stand in Market Square and look up past the war memorial. The building has now been converted to residential use by Courage Breweries, who took over Ashby's.

Ashby's brewed an Australian Pale Ale, a beer which was mentioned in The Times on 5th September 1842 in an advert. It is quoted as being "the most pleasant of all the different sorts of bitter beer that we have ever tasted"! In the following year a further advert shows Ashby's exporting this ale to "the Australian Colonies".

A residential property in The Avenue, Egham was originally The Lord Nelson public house. Ashby's instructed their solicitors to sell this property on 24th September 1912. The Fox, in Eversley Cross, south of Wokingham, was a Headington & Son's pub. The Headington family owned the Wellington Brewery in Napier Street, Wokingham. This was a small brewery with a few tied houses, which was purchased by Ashby's in 1920.

## A Campaign of Two Halves

*Fair deal on beer tax*

Save Britain's Pubs!

*of Two Halves*

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Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Direct Debit    Non DD  
 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership    £23     £25   
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Membership    £28     £30   
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Partner at the same address)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association  
 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Applications will be processed within 21 days*

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit**

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:  
**Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.**  
 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

**Service User Number** 9 2 6 1 2 9

**Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society**

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of Account Holder**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Sort Code**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bank or Building Society Account Number**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reference**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALES LTD. OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society.

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.  
**This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.**

**The Direct Debit Guarantee**

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd. asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

**Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs**

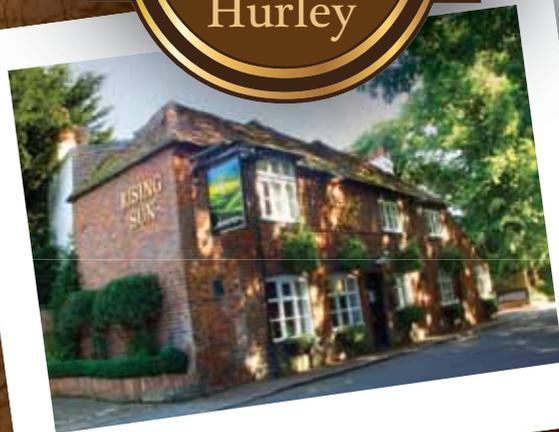
Join CAMRA today – [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)

NEW  
Quiz Night  
Weekly on Mondays at 8pm

The  
RISING  
SUN



at  
Hurley



*Trevor & Lisa wish  
you the warmest  
welcome*

- Warm, Relaxing Restaurant close to the river with a separate dining area away from the main bar
- We've been awarded a Cask Marque for our real ales. Come and see why and enjoy our four ever-changing local ales
- Log Fire • Beer Garden
- Dogs Welcome • Car Park
- Outside Smoking Area
- Home cooked traditional pub food - Check out our Daily Specials Board
- Delicious Sunday Lunches - "the best in the area"
- Large Selection of Fine Wines

#### BAR OPENING TIMES

Monday - Tuesday: 6pm - 11pm  
Wednesday - Thursday: 12 noon - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm  
Friday: 12 noon - 3pm & 5pm - 11pm  
Saturday: 12 noon - Midnight  
Sunday: 12 noon - 10.30pm

#### FOOD SERVICE

Tuesday: 6pm - 9pm  
Wednesday - Saturday: 12 noon - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm  
Sunday: 12 noon - 3pm

All Major Credit/Debt Cards Accepted

**HIGH STREET, HURLEY**

MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE SL6 5LT

**01628 825 733**

**RISINGSUNHURLEY.CO.UK**

*Fine Wines*

*Local Ales*

*Well Stocked  
Bar*



*Comfy Sofas*