

camra angle

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

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Inside...

> CAMRA BRANCH SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL

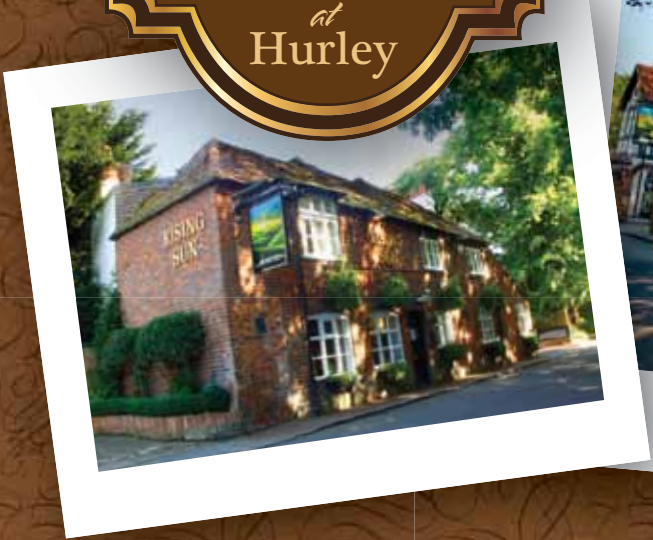
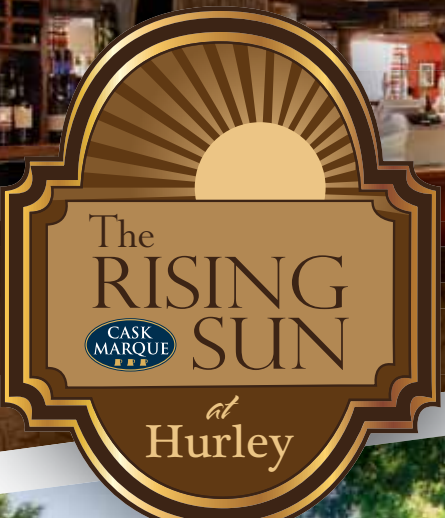
It's a first for Maidenhead town centre

> GOLDEN HARP THE FIRST PUB TO BE LISTED AS A COMMUNITY ASSET BY COUNCIL

Pity it's closed and that TESCO won't go away

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capital.

> FROM THE EDITOR**Tough times for pubs, good times for micro-breweries – surely the two are related!**

Firstly, there promises to be a big welcome on 19th to 21st July when our local branch hosts the first CAMRA Beer Festival to be held in Maidenhead town centre. We have ordered more than 60 Real Ales, Ciders & Perries and feel confident there will be something that you haven't tried before to tickle your taste buds. The Festival will be run by CAMRA volunteers and there will be plenty of entertainment, including a pre-season football match between Maidenhead United and Luton Town at 3pm on the Saturday, and a good food offering throughout the 3 days.

Back to reality. Beer sales in UK pubs fell 5.5% in the first quarter of 2013 against the same period last year, the equivalent of 49.8m fewer pints sold across the three months. Overall beer sales dropped 2.9% but sales in the off-trade (eg Supermarkets) actually grew slightly, up 0.1%. The figures show that the Chancellor was right to cut beer duty (OK, by the minimum of 1p) and abolish the Escalator. The pub trade employs about 600,000 people directly and changes in National Insurance were particularly helpful, as the pub trade largely comprises small businesses.

The Government has now implemented the part of the Localism Act covering the so-called 'Community Right to Bid'. This enables communities, in theory at least, to 'stop the clock' on sales of what they regard as valued local assets, such as pubs, so that a purchase bid can be formulated. The process applies in England only and has two main parts; firstly, nominating the asset with the Council and this has been achieved by The Golden Harp, Maidenhead, not without herculean efforts from the Furze Platt Action Group, more later in this issue. CAMRA has set a target to list 300 pubs this year. What I am scratching my head about is that if Tesco is allowed to go ahead with their unwanted Express, the store would operate inside an Asset of Community Value.

Sadly, the effort to save the Bricklayers Arms in Windsor has failed and the pub has been demolished for high density, make a fast buck, housing. With 3 pubs closing within a mile of late, no wonder more people are drinking at home. The Fawn, also in Windsor, will be the next to be bulldozed by the ambitious Councillor Bursnall. It's a pity he doesn't follow the lead of his UKIP leader who has a mandatory pint of beer in his hand at every photo opportunity. Windsor drinkers beware; your pub could be next.

Also in this issue we concentrate on the proposed Pub Company (Pubco) reforms. In a recent interview, Vince Cable stated 'In too many cases tenants are being exploited and squeezed. It has become clear to me that the self-regulatory approach, which was announced by the government in November 2011, has not been sufficiently far-reaching, with many individual publicans continuing to face significant hardships and difficulties. Therefore, further government action is required in order to maintain a level playing field in the business environment'. One of CAMRA's two strategic directions is 'Secure a thriving Pub Sector' and they have launched www.fairdealforyourlocal.com in response, more in this issue.

Finally, let's keep our fingers crossed for some decent weather during our summer, get yourself down to the 1st Maidenhead Beer Festival and make sure we have a 2nd!

Allan Willoughby
Editor



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www.halfmoonillustration.com



> BRANCH SOCIAL TO FULLER'S BREWERY

David Jackson is bowled over by the scale of brewing >

On a grey drizzly Friday in February a group of us headed to Chiswick for a tour of Fullers Brewery.

Brewing on the site dates back around 350 years but the current company was Founded by John Bird Fuller, Henry Smith and John Turner in 1845 and the brewery is a familiar landmark for anyone travelling along the nearby A4 Great West Road.

After gathering in the Mawsons Arms, next door to the brewery, we were greeted by our tour leader, Alison who, after kitting us out with high-vis jackets (*this is a working industrial site, not a museum after all*) lead us into the maze of a site and took us through the brewing process.

After the closure of Youngs brewery in 2006, Fullers are the last remaining big brewer in London and the sheer size of the operation soon became apparent. 217,000 brewers' barrels were produced

last year - that's more than 62 million pints! The number of brewing vessels is almost overwhelming – I counted 9 huge fermenting vessels in one room, only to be confronted by even more in the next! The room they use to store hops would accommodate some micro breweries I've visited.

Brewing wasn't always on this scale of course, and some old brewing kit, including a lovely old Copper, has been retained.

Despite a lot of high-tech automation some things are still done by hand. I noticed a chair next to the cask cleaning line and was told that it was for the guy who hammers a keystone (*the plastic bit which you knock the tap into*) into each cask. That's hundreds each day.

Eventually we were lead back to the 'Hock Cellar' to sample the beers. The full range was available including the seasonal ale **Spring Sprinter** and **Bengal Lancer**.

After the tour we had a mini pub crawl of Chiswick. A pleasant stroll along the Thames brought us to the Dove Tavern, a historical riverside pub serving Fullers beers.

From the Dove, we walked to the Tabard where we found a great selection of ales, so much so that we cancelled our planned visit to the Lamb Brewery until our coach picked us up for the journey home.

A very enjoyable day out.



> PECULIAR PUBS

Fox & Hounds - Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire >

This pub has a famous, and very rare, galleys painted silhouette sign, which stretches across the road outside the pub. The carvings are superb and depict a fox being chased by a pack of dogs and 2 huntsmen on horseback. Although it is a long-established feature of the village, it has not always been at its present site. In 1955 the Fox and Hounds, with its famous sign, was a pub located in the High Street, at the time part of an important route to London. In 1955 the Fox & Hounds burned down in a disastrous fire. The sign, which was partially saved, moved to its present site and the existing pub (the Wagon and Horses) was renamed.

This genuine 17th century freehouse reopened on 16th April 2011 and now has four handpumps and their custom made ale "Barley Best Bitter" is on gravity behind the bar. Families and dogs are made welcome and they have a full a la carte menu and a take away service for pub food at home.



Frog & Toad - Gillingham, Kent >

This back street boozier is well known for its real ales and Magic Bus cider, having won the local CAMRA Pub Of The Year award three times. They also stock Belgian beers on tap and foreign beers in bottles. What is unusual about the pub is that the team of snail racers who were responsible for the Guinness advert, held an event here. It was a huge success and has been held again, the snails racing on a damp cloth from an inner circle to an outer circle, the first snail out of 10 being the winner.

Beer Festivals are held two or three times a year. Food consists of sandwiches and a roast on Sundays, with free bar snacks at lunchtimes. Children are welcome in the pub garden and the pub also hosts darts and quizzes.



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> BRICKLAYERS ARMS DEMOLITION GOES AHEAD

Kevin Phillips closes the door on the fight to save this popular pub >

It was a sad day for pub goers in West Windsor on 27 March when councillors at the Windsor Urban Development Control Panel gave the go ahead for the demolition of the Bricklayers Arms and its replacement by three terraced houses.

The demolition of the pub is particularly galling for the local community as in recent years they have seen the loss of four pubs, the Three Elms on Clarence Rd, The Bell on Dedworth Rd, The Stag and Hounds on St Leonards Rd and the Fawn on St Leonards Rd. The Bricklayers was a popular community pub which had served the local area for 150 years and was a perfectly viable business. In fact when the pub was put up for sale by owners Enterprise Inns, local businessman James King put in an offer substantially in excess of the guide price but was turned down. Enterprise then went on to sell the property to local Councillor Tom Bursnall who produced plans to demolish the pub and build houses.

The local community action group, aided by The Windsor and Eton Society (the local heritage group) and CAMRA put up a strong fight to save the pub which was of considerable historical significance and had been classified by the Council's own Conservation Officer as a non-designated heritage asset. The pub had retained much of its 19th century character and was an important historical marker at the end of the 'corridor' which ran between Clewer Green and Clewer Village for centuries. The retention of the pub was further supported by the Georgian Group and the Victorian Society, both statutory amenity bodies in England.

Unfortunately, these arguments fell upon deaf ears at the Panel Meeting as did the petitions with some 600 signatures and the considerable evidence of the loss of a community facility. The approval decision was passed by six in favour and one abstention and was greeted by booing and shouts of 'shame' from the packed public gallery. There were also shouts from the public gallery disputing the councillor's points in

favour of the judgement to the extent that Cllr Quick, chair of the meeting had to call for order.

The main argument used by councillors was that if the application was refused, there was no real barrier in planning law to Cllr Bursnall knocking down the pub and leaving the sight derelict. It was said that there were no planning grounds on which the application could be turned down and taxpayers money would be wasted on an appeal which would be turned down. However, a local solicitor who supports the Bricklayers Action Group has disputed these points and said that local council plans were ignored which do in fact give protection to community facilities and heritage assets such as the Bricklayers.

Unfortunately however, whatever the rights and wrongs, the Council's decision is final on the fate of the Bricklayers and the bulldozers and wrecking balls have now moved in to do their work. After serving the local community for 150 years, the pub is lost forever.

What can we all do to prevent this in the future? It is certainly true that planning laws are currently inadequate in protecting local pubs and CAMRA is working hard locally and nationally to get these changed. At a national level, CAMRA has had success with other pub protection policies such as the abolition of the beer tax escalator and the recently announced Watchdog to prevent large pub companies taking excessive profits from their pubs at the expense of pub goers. Changes to planning laws will hopefully be next in CAMRA's firing line.

At a local level, readers may also care to ask their councillor what they are actually doing to support our pubs. They will nearly all say they regret their loss and are great supporters of pubs but very rarely take any action to prevent their loss. Try asking them again at election time. You never know, if enough people ask, they might even take some notice.

> MAIDENHEAD FOLK CLUB ALIVE AND WELL AT THE 'NEW INN'

Alan Harding and his pal are impressed >

Recently fellow CAMRA member Chris Price and I have made a couple of visits to the Maidenhead Folk Club. It used to meet at the Seven Stars Knowl Hill, but sadly the pub closed and a new venue had to be found, so it now meets at The New Inn, Farm Rd Maidenhead. The pub has two separate bars and has been run by Trevor Carter and his wife Joyce for the last 13 years. The club meets in the smaller of the bars (*to the right as you go in*). Our first visit was on January 31st and being a regular folk club visitor back in the 1970/80's I experienced that feeling of nostalgia as I walked through the door, when the first face I saw was that of Terry Silva, a local singer I remembered from all those years ago, still doing the rounds.

The main act on this particular evening was Bill McKinnon, who entertained us with a mixture of musical wit and some impressive banjo playing. Bill acknowledged that although he had played the Maidenhead Folk Club many times, it was the first time he had played there actually in Maidenhead! (*Although the club did have a spell at 'The Rose' in Maidenhead's King Street market*).

To me there is nothing like listening to live folk music while supping a pint of beer - on this occasion a decent pint of Youngs.

On our second visit on April 25th we heard the duo of Pete Morton (*Guitar & vocals*) & Roger Wilson (*Guitar, Fiddle &*



Vocals), who had both travelled down from Leicester. The pair gave us a tremendous evening with a mixture of Traditional & Contemporary folk including a unique version of 'Hey Joe', recorded by Jimi Hendrix in the sixties. We drank mostly Bombardier this time (*in excellent condition*).

Folk clubs take us back to the time before TV controlled our lives, when families used to have musical evenings once a week and take turns to have a go at a song. They are places where budding musicians can test their skills in front of an audience without any fear of ridicule. Many a star has been born out of folk clubs: Mike Harding, Jasper Carrot & Richard Digance, to name but three.

I have certainly caught the folk bug back again and will be making regular visits to the New Inn on Thursday nights. The club celebrates its 41st year of existence this year.

Maidenhead Folk Club meet every Thursday 8pm-11 pm at New Inn, 1 Farm Rd., Maidenhead. Tel 0118 944 8269 www.redadmiral.freeserve.co.uk

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- **WINDSOR - Saturday 22nd June**
Meet at The Carpenters Arms at 1pm
- **MAIDENHEAD - Saturday 6th July**
Stall in the High Street Market all day or meet at The Greyhound at 1pm

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

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

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

The next Hedgerley Real Ale Ramble will take place on **Sunday 23rd June**. All are welcome, please call Mark the walk leader on 01753-534777 if you have any queries and to reserve a dining place as the Standard does get very busy on Sunday lunchtimes. Come and join us!

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> CRAFT BEER IN CHINA

Most tourists are happy with Green Tea, not Alan Molloy >

We have just returned from a three week holiday touring around a large part of China, where we found the only 2 craft breweries there, and they were both in Beijing. Both breweries have adopted the beer styles of the US Pacific Northwest such as Sierra Nevada. As for the rest of the country it is mass produced fizzy rice lager with zero taste.

Unfortunately, due to our schedule, we only had time to visit one and this was the **Slowboat Brewery** started in 2012 (www.slowboatbrewery.com). The other brewery was **Great Leap** and they started in 2010 (www.greatleapbrewing.com). We went on the Metro, and in the two years since the Lonely Planet was published two complete new lines had been built! The Brewery's Taproom was NE of Tiananmen Square in an area of old alley ways known as "Hutongs". They have 10 outlets in Beijing, but most only have 2 or 3 beers on tap whereas the taproom had 10 beers. These are un-pasteurized and un-filtered and have a lovely fresh taste, if slightly hazy, but then as I say you should drink with your taste buds NOT your eyes!

We whiled away a pleasant 3 to 4 hours tasting the selection and repeating the ones we liked, while chatting to one of the two owners - Chandler Jurinka. His partner, Daniel Herbert is the Master Brewer. My favourite was the Stout as it had a great malt flavour and was a very easy drinking beer - a session stout! Micheles had two favourites the wheat beer and the coffee porter. In addition we had an amazing "ploughman's" which came with a selection of French cheeses made by Chinese guy who had trained in France as a fromagier.

The actual brewery is NE of Beijing, close to the mountainous area and near the Great Wall, because the water is much better and rural community have provided loans as it gives employment in the village. The current brew length is 30 barrels, which is sufficient to service all their outlets.

Slowboat Beers that were on when we visited:

Oregon Steamboat Lager (4%) based on the California beer of similar name. (Anchor)

Dogwatch Wheat (4%) a brilliant copy of Belgium wheat, including the use of spices - coriander.

Dragon Boat Ale (4.2%) a Kolsch style lager from Koln.

Knot 51 Red Ale (5.1%) a good imitation of a standard British Bitter, except for the alcohol level.

Captains Pale Ale (5.5%) similar to a golden ale, like Summer Lightning.

Monkeys Fist IPA (5.75%)

Flying Whale IPA (5.75%)

Man-o-war Porter (4.5%) unusually for a porter it was very hoppy and hence had a very dry after taste. The stout was much more to my liking.

Three Sheets Coffee Porter (5%) a subtle coffee flavour blended with the malts to give a really excellent taste.

Two-Six Oatmeal Stout (4.5%) a very easy drinking stout with bags of roasted malts.

The price of these beers was between Y35-45, approx. £4/5 per US pint, whereas a half litre Tsingtao would cost Y20 in a bar.



Wall inside the taproom



Outside the Slow Boat Brewery Taproom

Great Leap brewing, as I said was set up in September 2010 in another classic Hutong about half a mile away. Carl Setzer, the owner had been living in China and Taiwan for 8 years before deciding to start the first craft brewery in Beijing. He started brewing in his spare time, keeping his consultants job to pay the bills. By January 2012 he was confident enough to leave his job and dedicate himself 100% to the brewery. Like Slowboat, Great Leap has produced a range of ales based on the American craft brewery model. The Great Leap Brewery has decided to showcase Chinese ingredients which appeals to the local market, because those same people become strong advocates for what the brewery is doing. It proves that you can do good, craft, artisan brewing in China without using all American ingredients.

However, Slowboat take the opposite position using nearly all imports, including malt, hops & yeast, because it is their take that it is "comforting for the local Chinese to know the ingredients aren't Chinese, because of all the recent food scandals".



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> LOCAL NEWS



Graham at The Carpenters Arms



Landlady Gillian at The Watermans Arms in Eton is so pleased to be included in the Good Beer Guide that she has increased the number of Real Ales on sale from 6 to 8. Also, remember those unwanted books in aid of the Swan Sanctuary.

Silver anniversary celebrations at The Bexley Arms, Windsor >

The Carpenters Arms, Windsor - Branch pub of the year and a CAMRA Top 150 award >



A WINDSOR watering hole has been chosen as one of the best pubs in the country for real ale.

The Carpenters Arms, in Market Street, has been chosen as the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead branch real ale pub of the year for 2013.

The pub received a certificate in recognition of the achievement from representatives of CAMRA.

Kevin Phillips, CAMRA Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead spokesman, said: "It was chosen for its consistency in providing excellent quality ales, they always have a good range of beer and it's a very friendly place. It is a splendid pub." The award was decided upon by the votes of CAMRA members to find the UK's top 150 local real ale pubs as

part of the group's 'Community Pubs Month'. The pub will now go forward to the regional pub of the year competition, the winner of which will be announced in September.

(Extract from The Royal Borough Observer - www.windsorobserver.co.uk)



Colin & Anne Chesney with Nick Wooldridge

In a time of mayhem for many pubs Colin & Anne Chesney stand out from the crowd. Pictured with CAMRA's Nick Wooldridge, the hard working couple celebrate 25 years at The Bexley Arms. To mark this milestone they received the Vic Powell award for their long-term commitment to real ale...here's to many more years in charge.

CAMRA Branch Committee Changes >

At the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Branch AGM, Delia Allott stepped down as Chairman and previous Vice Chairman, Nicholas Wooldridge took her place. Delia has been unstinting in running the branch for several years and the team would like to place on record their appreciation for her energy and leadership. Onwards and upwards, best wishes to Nick and the rest of the team, let's keep those pubs open, increase our membership and get more people to try real ale!

Doug Fitch falls out with Greene King >

Having raved about The Guardsman's Inn's line-up of beers I guess that in itself does not guarantee success. After two and a half years landlord Doug informed me that there were just not enough customers to make the pub viable. The pub closed on 5th May and Doug has left! I spoke to Greene King the day after and it looks like they are reviewing their options. With their other nearby pub, The Fifeild Inn, re-opening on a 'wet' sales basis only, I'm not exactly brimming with confidence that either pub is on the right track



Changes at The Rose & Crown, Slough >

15 years ago Paul & Jackie made the long trek from Jarrow, famous for its unemployment march, to run this busy high street pub. Paul remembers a decent pint of real ale was then around £1.40. The couple will remain in the area but spend their time on the other side of the bar. Fittingly a gang of locals gave them great send off.



Paul & Jackie



The Rose & Crown, Slough

> WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

CAMRA members are welcomed to join in with our monthly meeting, pop along and meet the crew, meetings start at 8pm >

- June 12th - The White Hart, Holyport
- July 10th - The Rose, Maidenhead
- August 14th - The Carpenters Arms, Windsor

New Landlord Greg, at The Stag & Hounds, Pinkneys Green held a 40 cask ale & cider Beer and Music Festival to coincide with Carters Steam Fair during May. Entertainment throughout the weekend ensured the cool weather did not dampen the event.

Two celebrations in one for the Conservative Club >

Two celebrations in one as Ray Williams accepts the Branch Club of the Year award from Chairman Delia Allott and Ray & Viv are also celebrating 25 years at the helm of the Conservative Club in Maidenhead. The Club put on their first Beer Festival in April with 17 beers on offer and there's a promise to repeat the Festival next year.



Ray Williams & Delia Allott

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> MEET THE PUBLICAN

THE WINDLESORA, WINDSOR

Manager Dan Foster steps outside the JDW box >



Dan Foster

I bought my first £4 pint in Windsor; I really struggled to drink it and promised the gaffer I wouldn't be back.

When a small number of pubs are ripping off Windsor tourists for £4 plus a pint you wonder how 45 of them were lunched and watered for £660.....of course it's a J D Wetherspoon pub!

There is a lot of competition in the town centre so after 18 months in charge Dan has seen his food sales rocket which has pulled through sales of real ale to around 600 pints a week. This is a third up on last year and promises to continue. Dan lays on his own micro beer festivals and recently broke the mould by introducing Locale suppliers that were not on his approved beer list - pretty ballsy if you ask me.

In addition there is a 20% reduction off food for Advantage Card holders and CAMRA card holders (I have both so tried to swing a 40% discount, won't tell you his response!)

Dan has been onboard for 6 years, previously working in Twickenham and the West Country, in fact he started way before that doing bar work whilst at Uni. The Windlesora (the name is from the saxon word meaning 'river with a windlass (lock)') came into the JDW stable 11 years ago and is sandwiched in an unenviable position between 2 night clubs, Chicago's and Liquid, so be warned Friday and Saturday nights are manic.

Dan has positioned the bar as the 'Spoons Community Pub of Windsor, catering for locals and tourists alike. With 5 real ales, including a Locale he is also looking at setting up an Ale Club. His next beer festival will be in June.

The pub broadcasts live subtitled news (on silent) throughout the day, this can do your brain in, watching the picture and following 'teletext' for those old enough to remember the technology, but Dan caters for all so doesn't want the sound to drown the place. Cask Marque accreditation guarantees a decent pint, and, in common with all 'Spoons

pubs, there is free Wi-Fi, which you need as the mobile phone signal is virtually non-existent, it must be all the concrete around!

So if you fancy a pint of good real ale head down Peascod Street and turn left into William Street, you'll have a great choice of beer and you won't get stung.



> BREWERY NEWS



Vale Brewery News >

www.valebrewery.co.uk

After winning a Gold at the Reading beer festival last year, The Nags Head, a well known real ale pub in Reading ran an evening of Vale and Aylesbury Brewhouse beers only. The 12 beers on one bar all being ours looked magnificent, many thanks to Jodi and the team there.

As the railways gained momentum and the Metropolitan line extended out to the suburbs a new phrase evolved, MetroLand. This became the name for the surrounds of their lines out to Verney Junction in Buckinghamshire. **Metroland** is also our June beer of the month.

A straw coloured bitter at 4% brewed with hops from Australia and New Zealand, **Metroland** will have an intense flavour and yet remain thirst quenching.

As we approach summer what better than our July brew. **Helios** is named after the god who was the personification of the Sun in Greek Mythology. This 4.2% Bronze coloured bitter will be refreshing and pack a hoppy taste.

The brewery shop in Brill remains busy with the range of bottled beers, including ours and from abroad, increasing. On offer are unusual brews from as far away as Norway.

The Vale Beer Club goes from strength to strength. Existing membership benefits continue, including discounts on purchases and access to members' events. In addition, a new level of membership is available. Gold membership offers an exclusive Polo shirt, and engraved Vale Brewery beer mug and access to a program of events throughout the year. For further details check the Vale Brewery website www.valebrewery.co.uk



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



Hayden Overton is now brewing on a more regular basis at The Aylesbury Brewhouse and he remains true to our ambition, to produce interesting and inspiring limited edition beers.

In the dim and distant past Hayden's relatives ran a Croydon brewery called Page and Overton, so after much research into their beers in June he and David will be brewing Renton and Overton's **Oatmeal Stout** from the Aylesbury Brewhouse. Oatmeal Stout's have a very positive reputation, and we are sure that this incarnation will enhance that view.

Another stronger brew is **Jekyll and Hyde**, a 5.2% malt driven pale beer but with a strong hoppy bite.

Then combining wheat with our malted barley we have **Liquid Bread** following. This will be 4.1% and has specific aroma hops chosen that will give it a refreshing wheat taste and a fulfilling hoppy aroma.

Brewery tours at the Aylesbury Brewhouse are now a regular event. Individuals can sign up for tours taking place

Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Please make contact on **01844 239 237** to arrange a mutually convenient time. See the website for more details.

Follow Aylesbury Brewhouse on Twitter @AylesburyBrewCo



CAMRA LocAle 2013 Pub Listings >

- Barleycorn - Cippenham
- Barley Mow - Cox Green
- 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
- 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
- Royal Stag - Datchet
- Shire Horse, Littlewick Green
- Stag & Hounds, Farnham Common
- Stag & Hounds - Pinkneys Green
- Swan - Clewer
- Union Inn - Old Windsor
- Vansittart Arms - Windsor
- Watermans Arms - Eton
- Wheatsheaf - Slough
- White Horse - Hedgerley
- Windlesora - Windsor
- Liberal Club - Windsor is now called Acre, Windsor



> BREWERY NEWS

Bingham Brewery Update >



Binghams celebrated their 200th brew by launching a 3.4% Smoked Mild, called "Smiled" at the Ale House in

Reading. Brewed with beech smoked and dark malts, Smiled was the pub's 7000th unique beer served and the first cask was sold in only 1 hour and 20 minutes!

For the second year in a row, Binghams **Vanilla Stout** won Beer of the Festival at CAMRA's Gosport Winter Fest.

Continuing from the success of sales of Binghams in the Windlesora, Windsor, Binghams have now spread into further Wetherspoons outlets in the branch area.

Sales of the 5% golden honey ale, **Bee**, were very successful and Chris found himself brewing this again to satisfy demand. A blend of American hops give this beer a lovely citrus finish, perfect for a sunny summer afternoon.

Windsor & Eton Brewery News >



The brewery has just installed two new increased capacity fermenters with a third on the way.

Currently WEBREW are brewing their seasonal beer – **Kohinoor** – which is being brewed for Apr to Jun, then on to **Eton Boatman** – the next seasonal, Jul - Aug.

A number of special collaborative ales will be brewed during the year – the first was an American Red Rye style IPA (5.8%), brewed with Steve Schmidt, ex-brewer from Meantime. This was followed by a Mild for the month of May. There will be more!

Conqueror 1075 won a National SIBA silver award for bottled porters, milds, old ales & stouts at Sheffield in March. Paddy and Will were both there to receive the award.

Rebellion Beer Co. News >

www.rebellionbeer.co.uk



Celebrating 20 years and 25 million pints Rebellion asked its shop visitors to vote for their favourite beers. The recipes were dug-out and the top 12 brews appear throughout the year. There are now more than 3000 beer club members let's hope they do not all turn up at their ever popular monthly members' evening. www.rebellionbeer.co.uk has had a major makeover, it looks good, just like their beer.

Finally, on 6th & 7th July - from 11 till 5pm Rebellion hold their bi-annual Open Weekend. This is a **FREE BEER WEEKEND, to help raise money for**

Scannappeal at High Wycombe Hospital. They hope to beat the bucket donations raised in 2011 of a whopping £32,000 and help make a real difference to some peoples lives.





> SETBACK @ FURZE PLATT ACTION GROUP WILL NOT DETER

Lily-livered Council turn down Article 4 Direction >

The Timeline of the 'Saving The Harp' campaign now stretches over several pages with notable highs and the latest blow. After Planning consents were overwhelmingly turned down against the establishment of a Tesco Express, Furze Platt Action Group (FPAG) managed to convince the politicians to classify the pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

This was the first pub and only the second Asset to be listed on the council register. a major coup. The group argued that increased traffic near a number of schools and alterations to the exterior would not be fitting within the Conservation Area, together with over 4,000 signatures from locals saying 'No to Tesco.'

So the course looked fine and plans were being developed to return the pub to its former glory. The Planning Panel met on 8th May to consider the

application of Article 4, which requires Tesco to submit a fully blown Planning Application with no permitted Development Rights and, to the surprise of the majority, turned down the request.

Reproduced from the council's website;
'Reality' decision not to serve Article 4 direction on Golden Harp. Issue will be pursued 'at highest level'

"This is a countryside concern that we will pursue at the highest level. But while we fully sympathise with and support the desires of Furze Platt residents, reality had to be the deciding factor."

That's the message from Cllr Derek Wilson, chairman of the Maidenhead development control panel, after the panel's decision on 8th May not to serve an Article 4 direction on the former Golden Harp pub in Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead.

The building has been leased by Tesco with the intention of opening a convenience store - a move vehemently opposed by residents and the Furze Platt Action Group. An Article 4 direction would have meant that planning approval would be needed to change the former pub into a shop, and that no related work could be carried out on the building until planning permission was granted. This would have ensured that residents and the council would have been able to scrutinise fully Tesco's plans.

However, after a public debate followed by two hours of intense private discussion, the panel accepted that there was little realistic chance that an Article 4 direction could be served.

Cllr Wilson said: *"We are in total sympathy with the residents of the area and are frustrated about the impact on a historic corner of Maidenhead, including traffic and safety concerns. But, along with countless other areas countryside, we find ourselves up against a situation which, although unwanted by the local community, is completely legal - we will be taking this issue to government. A better way needs to be found, both for Furze Platt residents and all the other communities in a similar situation."*



In the public part of the meeting the panel received representations on behalf of Furze Platt Action Group and on behalf of Central Midlands Estates Ltd, the owners of the Golden Harp.

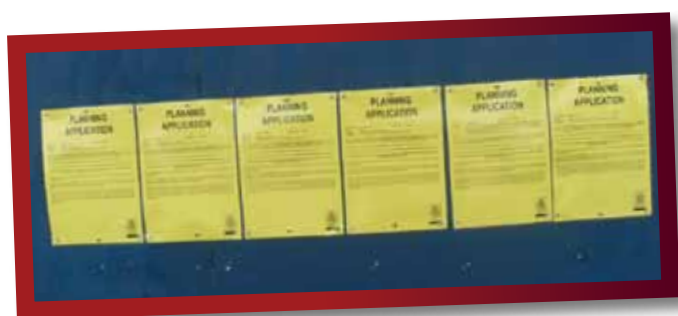
About 4,400 people have signed two petitions against the proposed convenience store.

At council on 23 April all but one councillor voiced their support for the protesters and called for the viability of an Article 4 direction to be explored.

Cllr MJ Saunders, cabinet member for planning and property, said: "As a council we support the aims of the Furze Platt Action Group and all the residents in the area. However, the Maidenhead development control panel had to take a very difficult decision, however much it rankles."

There are six revised planning applications submitted by Tesco for minor works at the Golden Harp which will be considered at the next panel meeting on Wednesday 5 June.

Sorry, councillors, this is not good enough, from the same group that famously said they had 'broad shoulders' to take on Tesco!



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> WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Brewers must come up with new names as well as new recipes >

Many of the new breweries are now producing regular new beers. The brewer must come up with new recipes but also with a new name!

Some breweries such as **Windsor & Eton** use names that derive locally e.g. Guardsman refers to the local garrisons of foot guards and cavalry, Order of the Garter refers to the knights who are based at the castle, and Eton Boatman referring to rowing tradition across the river at Eton College and Conqueror which refers to the king who built the castle.

XT brewery just give their beers a number e.g. XT3 the lower the number the paler the beer.

Cottage brewery based in Somerset have named beers after transport themes Broad gauge, Golden Arrow, Puffing Billy have a railway connection but they have brewed Bluebird (boat), S.S.Great Britain (ship) and Sunbeam Tiger (car).

2012 was a bonus year for names with both the Olympics and the diamond jubilee to draw new names from e.g Windsor & Eton came up with Treetops and Kohinor one being where the Queen was in Australia when her father died in 1952 and the other refers to the massive diamond in the crown which she wore at her coronation in 1953.

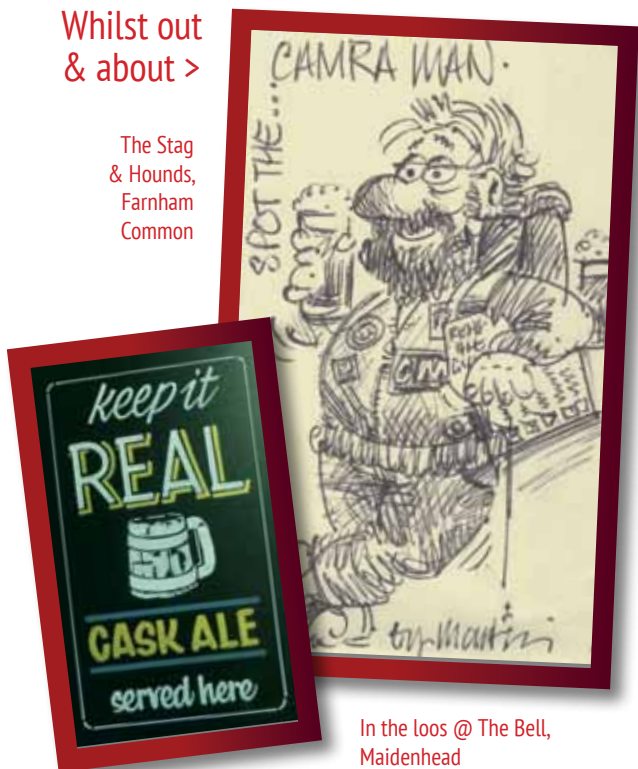
2013 what names will this produce? I have a vision of brewers in dark rooms devising new beers to give them an edge over their competitors, and thinking up unique beer names.

Gone are the days of best bitter, we look forward to their new invention.

> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >

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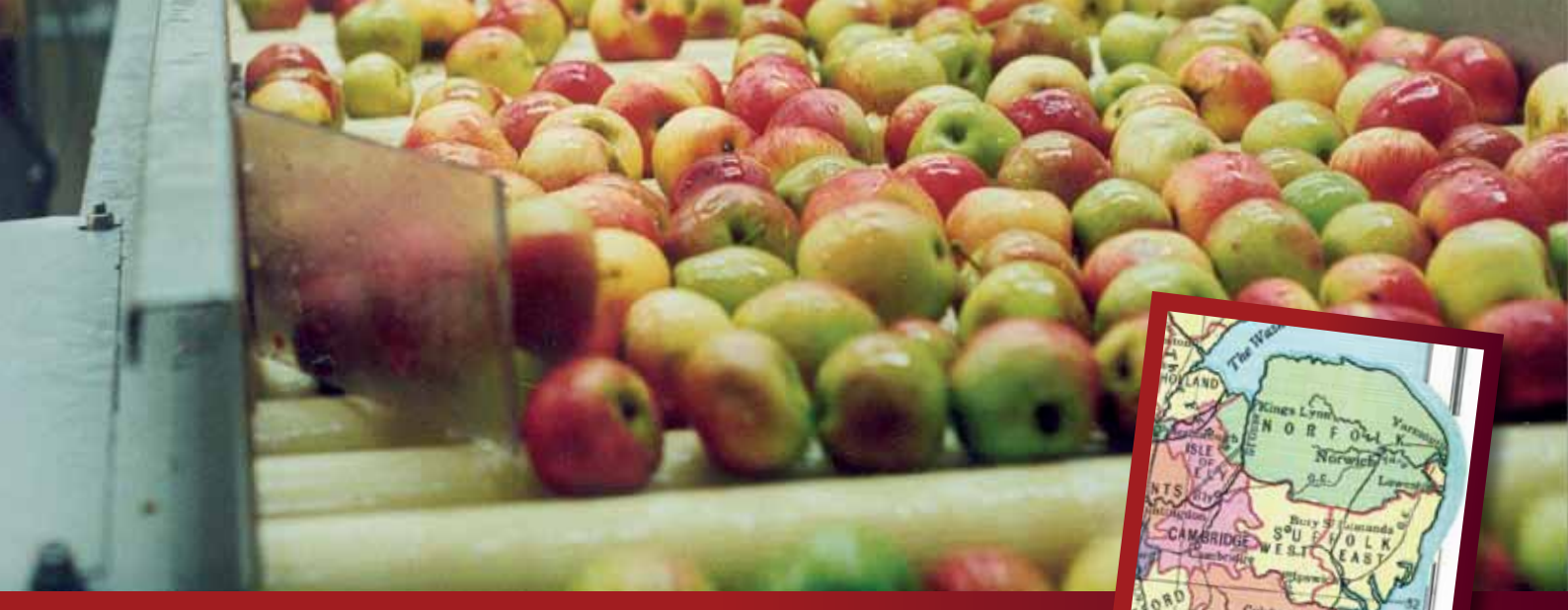
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> FULL OF EASTERN PROMISE

Greg Davies, our cider expert, details the manufacturing revival in the East of England >

The summertime hopefully brings with it a new season of apple orchards filled with trees loaded with fruit to make the cider for the following year.

2012 was a year of very poor harvests for apples across the land and this means there will be a shortage of good quality ciders and perries this summer and many of the larger producers will have to use up stocks built up in previous bumper crop years to meet demand.

Most people probably associate cider making with the counties of the West such as Somerset and Hereford. These areas are justly famous for making some of the best ciders and perries today and the West has the 'lion's share' of England's apple orchards. Many people may not know that the East of England also has a strong cider making tradition and also produces some wonderful cider and perry.

East Anglia and Norfolk in particular has been one of the major cider regions and was once home to one of the most famous names in cider history; Gaymers Cider was established in Banham, Norfolk in the 1850's by William Gaymer and he built up the family business into a household name which at it's peak employed more than 400 people and had offices in London, a royal warrant and developed a lively export trade all around the world.

This area of Norfolk proved to be most suitable for apple growing and the local soil produced many orchards of favourite varieties such as 'Ribston Pippin' which helped to create a distinct Norfolk style of cider.

The growth and success of Gaymer's was such that in 1896 they had to move to bigger premises in Attleborough, Norfolk where they even had their own railway sidings to make it easier to send their cider to London and around the country.

Gaymer's business was built up using widespread marketing and many national advertising campaigns some of which used slogans that might raise a few eyebrows these days! One ad carried the tagline "safe for motorists" and another major campaign was their "Go gay with Gaymer's" campaign.

These glory days were not to last and they struggled to maintain their business. They were taken over in 1961 by Showerings the Somerset company and producer of Babycham!

The buying up of cider makers to acquire kudos through their reputation for quality is something that still happens

regularly in the drinks market today.

Dwindling market share led to reduced production and in 1995 the Norfolk factory finally closed down, and the buildings demolished and the land was taken over by Banham Poultry.

The name of Gaymer's has since been purchased and used as a brand name but has no connection with the generations of cider making in Norfolk.

All is not lost however as cider making has continued across East Anglia and the recent revival of craft cider making has led to a boom in cider and perry making across the region and there are now 35 producers in East Anglia so the future looks bright.

In a pleasant ironic twist cider making has returned to Banham, the original home of Gaymer's! Jonty's Cider is now made in the heartland of Banham from the fruit of local orchards and is sold through The Banham Barrel which is the town's pub which was opened by Jonty Wright and Wendy Foster in 2004, it is pleasing to see things go full circle for Banham! Another Norfolk cider maker that is growing steadily is Crone's Cider based in rural Kenninghall set up by Robbie Crone to produce fully organic Norfolk cider they have quietly been building a good reputation and winning many awards for their very fine cider and perry.

These cider makers along with the dozens of other East Anglian producers are helping to raise the profile of the Eastern counties style of cider and will hopefully win over many new fans.

The West may always be seen as the home of cider and "scrumpy" but the many fine producers of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and all the eastern counties are growing in reputation and gaining the recognition they deserve.

Your own local cider maker Salt Hill Cider will have our Berkshire cider available at many local pubs and festivals again this year although the poor apple harvest last year does mean stocks will probably run out before the end of summer.

For information on local pubs and festivals with cider and perry check out the cider page of the SWMCAMRA website www.swmcamra.org.uk or my own www.salthillcider.wordpress.co.uk. Here's hoping for a long sunny summer and a bountiful harvest in the autumn!

Wassail! Greg Davies



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Light golden ale with a floral/Citrus aroma and elderflower notes from the Casades hops underpinned by a good helping of a Kiwi hop. This beer is full-bodied and full flavoured, yet is perfect as a session beer, delivering on the palate overtime.

Awards Magic Roundabout Beer Festival - Beer of the Festival 3rd place



RED SQUIRREL MISTER SQUIRREL 4.3% ABV

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Due to popular demand this ale has now become part of our permanent range.



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This new season Block - Buster produced from three US hops with 2 coloured malts features the hop-forward profile of an IPA with the dark colour of a porter. Lemon & Orange notes from Amarillo and Chinook hops balance hints of coffee and bitter chocolate with a subtle toasted sweetness leading to a pleasantly dry finish.



RED SQUIRREL LONDON PORTER 5.0% ABV

A gold medal winning London Porter made with 2 pale malts and 3 malts, dark brown/ Black colour, showing a balance of chocolate and roasted barley, full bodied on the palate with bittersweet liquorice and rich chocolate flavours supported by a lovely creaminess on the finish. **Awards** Champion Beer of Hertfordshire 2011/2012. Beer of the Festival - St Albans CAMRA 3rd Place.



RED SQUIRREL REDWOOD COLORADO AMERICAN IPA 5.4% ABV

Based on a secret Michigan recipe, this original American IPA contains the highest quality malts, combining pale Munich, Caramalt and pale Crystal producing a world class ale which is golden orange in colour, showing complex hoppy aromas with floral and citrus tones with a long lingering finish. **Awards** Camra Gold Medal Winner. Gold Medal Baking Beer Festival.

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> FAIR DEAL FOR YOUR LOCAL

Time for PubCo Reform >

We have a very real opportunity to save the Great British Pub and we need you to get involved.

The Government backed beer and pubs in the recent Budget by abandoning plans for a beer duty hike and instead cutting beer duty for the first time in over 50 years. They are now building on their support for pubs by taking on the large pub companies who are exploiting pub licensees and putting the future of thousands of pubs at risk.

The fundamental problem is that the large pub companies are taking more than is reasonable on the profits of each pub – so licensees and pub goers alike suffer. A fair deal will result in the average tied pub being £4,000 better off annually.

The PubCo Model

Around a third of pubs in the UK are owned by large Pub Companies – property companies who lease pubs out to tenants to run as their own business. These pubs are contractually obliged to buy their beer only from the Pubco preventing pub licensees buying on the open market – this is known as the beer tie.

Pubcos make huge excess profits by using the beer tie to force licensees and ultimately the consumer to pay high prices. Licensees can pay at least 50% more for beer than a free-of-tie publican. Alongside this pubco licensees often find themselves paying above market value rents and have no independent adjudicator to settle disputes.

Time for Reform

The Government is now proposing a package of measures to deliver a fair deal for local pubs, with:

- A powerful new Code and a Watchdog to stop abuses by big pub companies
- A new choice for licensees to opt out of restrictive tied agreements and just pay a fair market rent to their pubco
- Fair rents and beer prices for tied publicans, allowing them to thrive

Pub companies with fewer than 500 pubs will be exempt from these proposals but must abide by a separate voluntary code.

If we succeed with this campaign we can expect better pubs, fairer prices and fewer pub closures.



Time for Pubco Reform

Get Involved

Your support in getting us this far really has made all the difference. However, the battle isn't won yet and we now need to ensure the Government sees its plans through.

To make the most of this opportunity there are three things you can do right now:

1. Ensure your voice is heard by taking five minutes to take part in the Government's pubco reform survey.
2. Help build the case for reform by sending in your own submission to the consultation. There's ideas on what you could say on the campaign's website.
3. Sign up to be a Fair Deal for Your Local Campaign Supporter to hear more about the campaign and how you can get involved.

You have until 14th June to take part.

www.fairdealforyourlocal.com

The Albion, Chester



> SPOTTED

Whilst out & about >

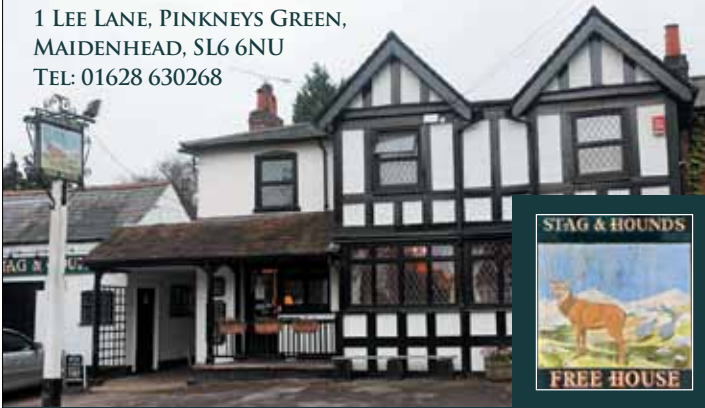
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> THE SERIAL BEER FESTIVAL WORKER STRIKES AGAIN

Alan Molloy makes full use of his bus pass to visit Battersea and Camden >

On the 6-8th February I was at the 23rd Battersea Beer Festival held annually in, yes you have guessed it, Battersea, at the Arts Centre. The venue is just 10 minute walk from Clapham Junction which makes it a cheap commute as I can avoid Zone 1 on London's transport system. As always the charity of the Festival is Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and this year the fest was sponsored by Harvey's Brewery from Sussex. The theme of the festival this year was "Save our Pubs" which was featured on the banners and t-shirts. There was a selection of 150 Real Ales from all over Britain plus ciders and perries, foreign beer & food. As always these days there was a SW London bar with

Sambrooks, still producing award winning beers such as Wandle, Junction, Pumphouse

Pale & Powerhouse Porter. By the Horns with their 5 barrel plant in the shadow of Wimbledon Stadium, dog track not tennis, had Diamond Geezer a terrific hoppy red ale and Lambeth Walk Porter, excellent. Then the newest of all Rocky Head Brewery in Southfields and Belleview Brewery near Wandsworth Common. Rocky Head are currently only producing limited amounts of bottled beer and their Oregon-style Pale Ale (6.5%) was available on the Strong Beers Bar, an excellent example of the style. Belleview had 4 cask ales at the fest, Battersea Brownstone (4.8%) which was a light brown ale with a fruity/nutty taste, Chestnut Porter (4.6%) where toasted chestnuts are added to the boil to create this Winter Warmer style beer. Belleview also had 2 American style ales, Commonsense Pale Ale (5%) & Thames Surfer (5.7%) which was packed with US hops. Finally the latest plans for the re-development of the old Young's Brewery site still include a micro-brewery.

Then exactly a month later, 6-8th March I was at the Camden Centre to work at London Drinker. This is the 29th time the festival has been held which must make it the longest running festival in London and the South East. There were over 100 Real Ales, of which 40 were from 15 London Breweries: Beavertown, Botanist, Clarence & Fredericks, Crate, The Cronx, East London Brewing, Fullers, Hackney, Little Brew, London Brewing Company, London Fields, Moncada, Redemption & Sambrooks.

An unusual feature of this festival is that the kitchen is run entirely by volunteers, which produces a range of different dishes each day including two specials – great to get proper food to wash the beer down. Unfortunately I did not get to taste as many beers as usual as I only worked Wed/Thurs as on the Friday our branch had organised a trip to Fullers.



> THE HADDENHAM SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL

Saturday 6th July, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire >

Although outside our branch we thought we would give a plug to The Haddenham Summer Beer Festival. It is now a month away and it is set to be bigger and better than ever

The event, which is one of the biggest one-day beer festivals in the country, will have 80 barrels of real ale on offer as well as a strong selection of real lager and cider.

Taking place on Saturday July 6 in the Buckinghamshire village of Haddenham, which is on the 280 bus route and the London to Birmingham train line.

We're hoping for good weather as always but don't be put off if it's inclement as we are confident that we will be able to keep you comfortably dry whilst you enjoy the event.

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