

# beer

## mos

Spring 2012

Issue Twenty Two

# Craft and Cask

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No, that's not the name of a pub somewhere, but refers to an issue which CAMRA needs to address sensibly, and address soon. That issue is craft beers.

This is a new development which has come to us from places like the US and New Zealand, and refers to intensely flavoured, and usually rather strong beers, often brewed by skilful and dedicated small brewers (hence the 'craft'). Typically they are cold-matured and heavily dry-hopped, and not pasteurised, relying on heavy hopping as a natural preservative, but they're filtered before leaving the brewery, not conditioned in the cask, so by CAMRA's definition cannot be considered real ales. But – they taste sensational.

You will find craft beers in bars like the Euston Tap, and their most vocal British proponent is the feisty Scottish brewer BrewDog. Your editor recently found himself in BrewDog's Camden Town bar, and was bowled over by the sheer delicious brilliance of the beers there. The public seems to agree, and is voting with its feet and wallets for, unlike other pubs nearby, the bar was packed to bursting-point on its two floors even in mid-week, and overwhelmingly with young drinkers.

For me, the most important aspect of a beer is its taste – its flavour. The technology used to achieve that flavour must be a means to that end, not an end in itself. When CAMRA was founded in 1972, the only means then available to make beer taste good was cask-conditioning, as anyone who can remember the fizzy keg abominations foisted on us back then by the Big Six brewers (remember them?) can attest. But technology moves on, and I think we must confront at least the possibility that the best craft beers can now match our beloved cask ale in flavour.

So should CAMRA redefine real ale to include the crafts? I don't think so – the two are quite distinct. But, just as we support cider and perry, I think we should welcome the newcomers as separate but equal, and unashamedly enjoy both. What do you, our readers, think?

*Jim Scott*



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# Euro - CAMRA!

CAMRA is a founding member the European Beer Consumers Union (EBCU). This was formed in 1990 to represent beer consumers throughout Europe, and co-ordinate the activities of national beer consumer organisations in the member states. Beer is the national drink of many European countries, so the EBCU manifesto calls on the EU to:

- Preserve and promote Europe's beer and brewing heritage
- Support Europe's well-run pubs and bars
- Protect European beer consumers' rights
- Treat beer and wine equally

The EU classifies wine as an agricultural product but beer as an industrial one, hence growers of hops and malting barley miss out on the support given to their equivalents in the wine business.

You can download the complete manifesto from [www.ebcu.org](http://www.ebcu.org).

## Some Beery Eurofacts.

- Beer has been brewed in Europe for over 3000 years.
- There are over 3000 breweries in Europe.
- EU brewers produce 416m hectolitres of beer annually. That's 73,205,761,293 pints!
- The beer and brewing industry contributes €5,500,000,000 to the European economy annually.
- Member states receive at least €9,000,000,000 per year in beer tax revenues.
- 50% of the world's hops are produced in Europe.

## Parliament Unanimously Passes Fair Deal for Pubs Motion

After a lively debate in the House of Commons, MPs unanimously passed a motion on 12th of January criticising the Government for a lack of action on pub companies, and requiring it to commission an independent review of self regulation in the pub sector. Over 5,000 CAMRA members had contacted their local MPs asking them to support this motion.

### NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Beer Moos will be published on: May 20th.  
We must have your stories, news and advertisements by: May 8th.  
Late copy cannot be guaranteed entry.

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Email: [tsd@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:tsd@milton-keynes.gov.uk) or Buckingham Trading Standards at 5-7 Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UP, Tel: 08454 040506  
Local Bus information & timetables are available at [www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk).

### To Advertise

To place an advert or enquire about our rate card please contact: Neil Richards - 01536 358670



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## NEWS NORTH



**Watts Arms, Hanslope** Go-ahead landlord Chris Sagers is organising the following events to mark Community Pubs Month in April:

Quiz night Tuesday 17th April, Beer Festival Thursday 19th - Sunday 22nd April preceded by Race Night on Thursday 19th April to launch the festival. Other entertainment on Saturday 21st maybe BBQ. Check the pub's website for updates nearer the time. Visit <http://www.thewattsarms.co.uk>

## NEWS EAST

**Bell and Bear, Emberton** now lists the beers on sale on their website. Visit <http://www.bellandbear.net>

**Cannon, Newport Pagnell** reports excellent trading over Christmas and New Year, thus demonstrating that, even in the current climate, a pub can still prosper when it offers great beer at keen prices.

**Old Mill, Newton Blossomville.** Open again, it has a new website [www.oldmill.uk.com](http://www.oldmill.uk.com) according to which Black Sheep Bitter and one or sometimes two guest ales are available.

**White Hart, Stoke Goldington** We've heard that this pub, closed for some time, has now been sold and that the buyers intend to apply for change-of-use application and convert it to residential use.

## NEWS WEST

**Buckingham Arms, Maids Moreton** We've heard that locals are organising to oppose a change-of-use application for this currently closed pub. Their appeal will be heard in March.

**Lowndes Arms, Whaddon** has new owners. *Beer Moos* welcomes incumbents Jeff and Suzy Chandler to our branch area and wishes them every success.



**Reindeer, Westbury** Time seems to have been called for the last time at this rural pub. According to the Towcester & Brackley Advertiser, the pub signs have been removed and it has conversion application to become a private dwelling.

## NEWS SOUTH

**Bridge, Fenny Stratford** is up for sale. As we go to press it's being run by Pat and Lesley O'Dowd, former tenants of the Old Green Man at Little Brickhill.

**Maltsters, Fenny Stratford** seems to have been on a roller-coaster since our last issue! According to our informant it closed, reopened, and now (Jan 25) is displaying a Freehold for Sale notice.

**Old Green Man, Little Brickhill** has closed yet again as we go to press. *Beer Moos* hopes that a stable future can be found for this fine pub.

**Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill** has been taken on by Denise Redding and Simon Sparrow from the Queen's Head at Wing, a *Good Beer Guide* regular. The pool table has been taken out and the pub made more food-oriented. The Wells and Youngs beers were excellent when our snoops called.

## NEWS CENTRAL

**Barn, Central Milton Keynes** Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA branch has chosen the Barn as





*Denise and Simon at the Wheatsheaf*

Winter 2011 Pub of the Season. Here cellar-manager Marcus Lonsdale (right) receives his award from chairman Phil Swinbank. Beer Moos congratulates Marcus and all his colleagues for earning this well-deserved accolade.



*Marcus Lonsdale (right), Cellar Manager at the Barn receives his certificate*

**Cricketers, Oldbrook** After a £300K refurbishment, landlord Chris Moor is applying for Cask Marque accreditation, and hopes to add a guest ale to his three Greene King regulars if sales permit.

**Eagle, Eaglestone** has recently started to stock cask ales, we've been told.

**Galleon, Old Wolverton** is in fresh hands The new managers are Richard Brown and Sarah McEwan - Sarah is Head Chef, Richard used to work for Youngs

in London. Their anchor ales are Black Sheep Bitter and Greene King Old Speckled Hen, with guest ales from the Punch Taverns list. This pub has that rare thing on our area – a meeting room that's available for hire.

**Old Swan, Bletchley** Landlord Chris has just taken delivery of a larger stillage which enables him to have four ales on at all times. There are now live music gigs on selected Saturdays.

**Plough, Simpson** is now in new hands. Brother and sister team Antonio and Gabriella Armieri took over in October and have added Italian dishes to the food menu. They've also upgraded parts of the building and improved disabled access. Well-kept ales from the Wells and Youngs list remain on sale.

**Swan, MK Village** badly damaged in fire on December 7 succeeded in reopening part of the building by Christmas Eve.

**Three Trees, Bletchley** reopened on Dec 17th, - refurbished, restyled and rebranded as the Tudor Pub at the Three Trees. The new guvnors are Louise Carey and Jason Massingham. Beer Moos welcomes them and wishes them well, especially in a part of Milton Keynes where good real ale is thin on the ground. Their ales come from Enterprise Inns's list. Louise and Jason hope to start Cribbage and Dominoes teams, good for community involvement.

*Note to Licensees. If you have news from your pub that you'd like to go in the next Pub News, please send details to the editor by May 20th. Tell us what you've got planned for June to August, and report on events that happened earlier. Remember - if you don't tell us about it, we can't print it.*

*To place a paid advertisement in Beer Moos, contact Neil Richards on 01536 358670 or email him at [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com).*

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# CAMRA and Other News



## April is Community Pubs Month

Local pubs are at the heart of countless communities across Britain. In April, CAMRA launches a new campaign, Community Pubs Month, to champion them and highlight their importance.

Beginning on Monday April 2nd - Community Pubs Day - its aims are to increase footfall in pubs, encourage publicans to stage events to attract further trade, and make the media aware how important community pubs are. Licensees can order packs of free promotional material direct from CAMRA or from their local branch. The packs, available now, include campaigning posters, beer mats, leaflets and pump clip crowns. Find out more at [www.communitypubsmmonth.org.uk](http://www.communitypubsmmonth.org.uk).

## Britain's suburban Pubs under threat

CAMRA is calling for urgent Government action to save

Britain's pub culture. New figures released in January show that every week across the UK 16 pubs close their doors for good, particularly in suburban areas. A new report by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) calls on Government to recognise the important community function many pubs perform. Its recommendations include business rate relief for pubs acting as 'centres of a community', reform of planning laws which currently allow pubs to be demolished without need for planning permission, and an option for all pubs to become free of tie, accompanied by an open market rent review.

IPPR Associate Director, Rick Muir, said: 'Our research shows community pubs aren't just places to drink, but support many important local services as well.' The report is available to download from [www.ippr.org](http://www.ippr.org).

## Aylesbury Brewery opens

Vale Brewery of Brill has launched a new venture, Aylesbury Brewhouse, behind their Hop Pole pub on Bicester Road. The Brewhouse brings brewing back to Aylesbury after a gap of almost 75 years. The original Aylesbury Brewery Co Ltd ceased brewing in 1937, and its beers were thereafter all brewed in Burton.

## WHEELS AHoy!

This year our Redway cycle crawl in support of community pubs, takes us on an east-west route across the city. We meet at on Saturday, 25th February, at 10.30 at Kiln Farm Club, Tilers Lane, MK11 3LH for beer and breakfast, then set off at 11.15. Here's the list of pubs we hope to call at, and when:

10:30 - Kiln Farm Club, Kiln Farm Depart 11:15  
11:35 - The Talbot, Loughton. Depart 12:10  
12:30 - The Nut and Squirrel, Westcroft. Depart 13:05  
13:30 - Ye Olde Swan, Woughton on the Green. Depart 14:05  
14:15 - The Cross Keys, Woolstone. Depart 14:50  
15:05 - The Barn, CMK. Depart 15:40  
15:45 - Wetherspoons, Midsummer Bvd, CMK. Depart... at some point



If you feel Westcroft to Woughton is a bit far without a break, it's very easy to pause in the Burnt Oak (Shenley Brook End) or Old Beams (Shenley Lodge.) On the westward leg you could pop into the Barge (Woolstone) for a similar reason. Please let Alan ([weefoobah@gmail.com](mailto:weefoobah@gmail.com)) know if you plan to eat breakfast at Kiln Farm so they have some idea how many to cater for. And pray for a dry day!

There is a Facebook event page at <http://www.facebook.com/events/333965469957532/>

# Buckingham boozers by bus - a drinker's public

We're back on the buses for this issue's public transport guide and heading for a location you could be forgiven for thinking was an ale-free zone. A quick look through the current Good Beer Guide will reveal a grand total of zero pubs listed in Buckingham town centre, so it can't be worth visiting, right? Well no, actually that's wrong! The town has a wealth of good pubs serving quality ales and all are within a few minutes walk of the bus routes.



The **Mitre** is the furthest from the beaten track, as you'll need a 15 minute stroll past the University to find it. Situated on Mitre Street, just around the corner from a tall railway viaduct, the tidy exterior gives way to a traditional bar that is both cosy and deceptively spacious. They've managed to cram in a variety of pub games and a few TV screens, but they're not too intrusive. To the rear there is an attractive and tranquil beer garden, where occasional beer festivals are held. At the bar you'll usually find an interesting selection of ales on the four handpulls, including a house beer brewed by Silverstone. They also offer something of a rarity, a real lager from Cotswold Brewery, which has recently been joined by Cotswold's cider. Do take care when entering and leaving the pub though, as even Snow White's seven friends could fall victim to the very low doorway!

Heading back into town towards St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, you'll find another of Buckingham's gems, the **Woolpack**. Tucked away in Well Street, just off the busy main road, you'll find a pub that offers something for almost everyone. There's a large family-friendly garden backing onto the river



and high quality food. A selection of four ales, frequently including a LocAle or something a little more obscure, spans the bar's four handpulls. The main room has a minimal yet comfortable feel, a theme that's been continued into a recently refurbished outbuilding. An airy room to the rear offers a more traditional feel. Look out for their beer festivals, typically held twice a year.



Heading out on to Bridge Street and up the hill, you'll find a proper drinker's pub across the road in the form of the **Three Cups**. If gastro-pubs and plush interior design do nothing for you, you'll appreciate the down-to-earth simplicity this long narrow boozer offers. There are some tables and seats, a few screens for the sports fans, and a small bar. As a free house, the ales could be from just about anywhere, and a recent visit uncovered a couple of brews from LocAle Vale Brewery, both in good condition.

Just around the corner is the **White Hart**, with a bold frontage that gives way to an impressively large interior. A traditional style hotel bar, you'll find it full of dark wood, brass and mirrors, with some



stained glass at the back of the long main room. If you exit the pub via the beer garden, you might miss the Three Cups completely! Beers tend to come from regional breweries, but don't be surprised if you find something that's not available elsewhere in the town.



Crossing the main road and heading back towards the church again, the town's second large hotel bar is hidden away on Castle Street. The bar is behind the main reception at the Villiers Hotel and can also be accessed directly via a side entrance. This is a far more modern affair, obviously targeting diners but offering a good selection of well known regional beers from its four handpulls. The plush interior isn't reserved for the bar alone either, as you'll discover if you need to spend a penny.

Retracing your steps a little and heading for the Old County Gaol, you'll find our final two suggestions close together above the square on Market Hill. Until recently, the **Whale** had been something of a scruffy spit-and-sawdust boozer with an array of handpulls offering just a single beer. However, a new landlord and a refurb in 2011 have given the pub a new lease of life. The lower seating area is now bright and stylish with large comfortable sofas. Up the steps in the bar, the transformation has been more subtle. Although still a Fuller's tied house, the beer range has been extended beyond London Pride and the quality has picked up too.

Finally, stagger a few hundred yards further and you'll find refuge in the King's Head. There's usually something from Greene King on offer, plus a guest

beer. Most of the pub has minimalist decor with wooden floors, but the smaller area away from the pool table offers more traditional comfort. Maturer drinkers will notice some familiar names on the collection of bar trays dotted around the walls. Do watch out for the live bands and other musical entertainment on some evenings, which may have you reaching for a set of ear plugs.

Helpfully, the main bus stops are just yards from the **King's Head**. Most parts of the town and many local villages have bus services that use these stops. For those travelling from Milton Keynes, there are two main options. Arriva's 32 service runs Mon–Sat until 5pm and is included in the MK Day Saver ticket, making a visit ridiculously inexpensive. As a bonus, the local 32A circular route is also included, which enables you to visit the **Wheatsheaf**, a current *Good Beer Guide* entry in Maids Moreton. If you need to travel after 5pm or on a Sunday, the Stagecoach X5 service now stops in the town centre. It's more expensive, but offers a longer stay and often has facilities for relieving a weary bladder.



So why aren't any of these pubs in the current *GBG*? As a branch, Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA can only contribute 13 pubs to the *GBG* from 200-plus inside our boundaries. As the *GBG* is all about beer quality, we use the National Beer Scoring System to discover which pubs consistently serve the best quality beer. The scores are often very close indeed, and every year there are pubs that miss out by very small margins. You can help in the selection process by submitting beer scores regularly – see details elsewhere in this issue, or visit our website.

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# Branch Trip to Ea

On Saturday 21st January, a group of us made a pilgrimage to east London. The reason for the trip was to present Brodie's Brewery with their Beer of the Festival award for Hackney Red, which was voted best beer at our Concrete Pint festival in October, and then enjoy an east London pub crawl. We were met at Walthamstow tube station by Brodie's Brewery Liaison Officer, Marion Robbins, and her friend Pete, who are both members of East London and City Branch of CAMRA, and were to be our escorts for the day.

They took us first to Ye Olde Rose and Crown in Walthamstow; East London branch's Pub of the Year in 2011. This traditional pub has a good choice of real ales, and on that day had four on tap including Titanic Steam Whistle and Orkney Red McGregor. It also has a theatre, which is unusual for any pub outside the West End, and an original mosaic floor which depicts the Rose and the Crown.



*William IV and Brodie's Brewery*

From there, we took the short bus journey to the William IV in Leyton which is the home of Brodie's. Some of us thought we had died and gone to Heaven when we walked in - sixteen beers were on tap, including many one-off specials, and all at just £1.99 a pint! This pub's also a great place to stay, with rooms from just £45 a night.



*A small part of the Brodie's beersselection*



Here we met co-owner Lizzie Brodie who led us behind the pub into the brewery. We were told how in June 2008 Lizzie and her brother Jamie took over the abandoned King William IV hotel and bar on Leyton High Road, which also included a defunct brewery at the back. After six weeks hard work cleaning, replacing missing equipment, and fixing up what was left, Brodie's beers were born. Brodie's IPA was first brewed on the 8th August based on a recipe that Jamie used to brew in his bath at home! It proved to be a hit with the punters. Three years on they have brewed over sixty different beers but now brew only twelve regularly. They brew most days and sometimes twice in a day to keep up with demand. We went back into the pub where festival beer purchaser Chris Scoggins and I presented



Lizzie with the certificate. We then drank a toast to our absent friends, and then some of the group (best unnamed!) decided to try all of the beers available.

Eventually we left, and walked a couple of hundred yards to the **Drum**. This pub was one of the first to be opened by the now vast JD Wetherspoon empire. Its small and cosy interior contrasts dramatically with the large drinking barns normally associated with Wetherspoon, perhaps reflecting the chain's evolution over the years. It has a single room layout, but thanks to the room's irregular shape, the split level bar area at one end, and the position of various pillars, it feels more compact and intimate than you might expect. There is a conservatory and garden area at the rear. Here we only (!) had a choice of 10 beers including Oakham JHB, two Redemption beers and one from Great Oakley, as well as the Wetherspoon regulars.

From there we went on a fifteen-minute bus ride to Leytonstone where, after a short walk, we arrived at the **North Star** which is an excellent East End style community pub that extends a warm welcome to all. There's a good choice of six well-kept real ales although I failed to list them all as the pub was very busy. I managed a half of Redemption Urban Dusk before we moved to the **Walnut Tree**, which is a Wetherspoon outlet, but in total contrast to the Drum. Some had a quick half of something in this uninspiring pub; others didn't bother. We then walked to the **Red Lion** in Leytonstone High Road. This refurbished pub, formerly called Zulus, had a great selection of beers from the likes of Redemption, Thornbridge (including Jaipur IPA) and East London breweries. I drank another of our festival favourites - Redemption Big Chief. From here the group split up, as some (and not the ones you would expect) decided that they had no capacity for any more beer and went off back to Euston and home to Milton Keynes.

The remaining six of us went on with Marion to Stratford City, a new shopping complex in touching distance of The Olympic Park, and East London's latest brewing venture, the **Tap East Pub & Brewery**, which is situated on the edge of the shopping complex. Inside, the shining copper vessels of the brewery can be seen through a big glass viewing area. They sell both keg and cask beers, and we tried a couple of their own brews. Alas we were all too tired and slightly inebriated to appreciate this for long, so having bade farewell to Marion and Pete, we made our way through the shopping centre to Stratford International tube station and on to Euston for the 8.40pm train home to Milton Keynes.

A great day was had by all who attended, and we are indebted to our new friends Marion and Pete. We have agreed to try and go back later this year and sample some more of this wonderful life. Marion has also said she will bring some of their branch to our festival in October and I plan to arrange a trip to East London branch's festival in December. Watch this space!

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# A Campaign



# of Two Halves



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Joint Membership £25 ☐ £27 ☐  
(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

12/10

## Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

## Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

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



**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



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 Debits.
- 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.

### Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### Name(s) of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_

### Branch Sort Code

\_\_\_\_\_

### Bank or Building Society Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_

### Reference

\_\_\_\_\_

9 2 6 1 2 9

### FOR CAMRA 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(s)

Date



# Diary Dates

Please note that this diary information is always subject to change – check online for latest information at [www.mkcamra.org.uk/diary](http://www.mkcamra.org.uk/diary)

☞: Items marked with a ☞ symbol are 'official' CAMRA events.

## February 2012

☞ **Saturday February 18** CAMRA Central Southern Regional Meeting, Fox and Hounds, Caversham, Reading RG4 8BS at 1pm. (about 20 minutes walk from Reading train station.)

☞ **Saturday February 25** Annual Redway Cycle Crawl. Cyclists of all levels of proficiency welcome. Muster 10,30am at Kiln Farm Club, Tilers Road, MK11 3LH. 'Wheels Ahoy' on page 7 for details and route.

**Monday February 27.** Branch Meeting, Red Lion, Fenny Stratford at 8.15 pm

## March 2012

☞ **Friday March 9** Branch social, Wolverton Sports Club, Osborne Street, Wolverton. MK12 5HH at 8pm

**Friday-Saturday Mar 16 - 17** Winslow Beer Festival, Public Hall, Elmfields, Winslow MK18 3JA. Details at:-  
[www.winslowlions.org.uk/beerfestival2012.html](http://www.winslowlions.org.uk/beerfestival2012.html)

**Thursday March 22 – Sunday March 25** Our annual long weekend in Belgium, staying in Kortrijk with visit to Huyghe brewery and pub crawl by coastal tram. £240 (single supp £60) . Places still available. For further info e-mail Doug at [social@mkcamra.org.uk](mailto:social@mkcamra.org.uk) or phone 01604 862187,

☞ **Tuesday March 27.** Branch Meeting, Galleon, Old Wolverton at 8.15 pm

☞ **Friday - Sunday 30th March-1st April** CAMRA Members' Weekend and AGM, Riviera International Centre, Torquay TQ2 5LZ. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend, but early as possible booking of transport and accommodation is strongly advised. Details on [www.camra.org.uk/agm](http://www.camra.org.uk/agm)

☞ **Saturday March 31** Visit to Potbelly Brewery in Kettering. Check our website for details nearer the time.

## April 2012

☞ **Tue-Sat April 17-21** Community Pubs Month events, Watts Arms, Hanslope. See Pub News on p5.

☞ **Monday April 30** Branch Meeting, New Inn, Padbury at 8.15 pm

## May 2012

☞ **Thursday May 10** Social at Cuckoo's Nest, Gawcott at 8pm (to be confirmed)

☞ **Saturday May 12** CAMRA Central Southern Regional Meeting, Goring Social Club, 1 High Street, Goring-on Thames RG8 9BA at 1 pm. (10 minutes walk from Goring train station. Frequent trains from Oxford.)

**Tuesday May 15** Visit to Charles Wells Brewery, Bedford. Organised by the Watts Arms, Hanslope but CAMRA is invited.  
Check [www.thewattsarms.co.uk](http://www.thewattsarms.co.uk) nearer the time.

☞ **Monday May 28** Branch Meeting at 8.30, venue TBA.

## Looking Ahead

☞ **Wednesday October 17 - Saturday October 20** Concrete Pint Beer Festival at the Buszy, 401 Elder Gate MK9 1LR opposite rail station, same venue as last year. Details to follow.

## 18th Reading Beer and Cider Festival: 2nd – 6th May

This is one of the largest festivals in the UK, and takes place at Kings Meadow, Napier Road, Reading, RG1 8BN, 10 minutes from Reading station. Expect around 550 real ales, 200 ciders and perries, foreign beers, and English wines. The festival also hosts the finals of the National Cider and Perry Awards

From Milton Keynes, take X5 coach to Oxford, from where trains run to Reading every 15 minutes. For details visit [www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk)

# Have you Scored yet?

CAMRA's National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is an easy 0-5 point scale for judging beer quality, and to find out which pubs consistently sell well-kept ale. So we invite all real ale drinkers, not just CAMRA members, to send us their beer scores for pubs both in our area, and elsewhere in the UK. We forward scores for out-of-area pubs to the relevant branches. These results help us decide which pubs to consider for the Good Beer Guide.

E-mail your scores to us at [pubs@mkcamra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@mkcamra.org.uk), bring them to any of our meetings or social events, or submit them online at [www.beerscoring.org.uk](http://www.beerscoring.org.uk). You'll need to give your name, CAMRA Membership Number (if you're a member), Date of Survey, Pub's Name and Location, Beer Name and Brewery, and of course, your score.

0 Undrinkable	No cask ale available, or so poor you have to take it back or can't finish it.
1 Poor	Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2 Average	Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3 Good	Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
4 Very Good	Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5 Perfect	Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.



## Peter's Puzzles

Specially for the square-eyed and the couch-potatoes among our readers, the theme of this edition's puzzle is fictional pubs and breweries.

1. In Corrie, who was the Rover who Returned?
2. In 1996 it became a free house, but what is the name of brewery which supplies the Rovers ?
3. Where is that brewery based?
4. Most of the Archer characters drink at the Bull, but what was the name of the other pub in Ambridge (now closed)?

5. In which American town is Moe's Tavern situated?
6. Which fictional pub is owned by the fictional brewery Luxford and Copley.
7. "The Old Cock Inn" appears in the 26th 'Carry On' film released in 1974. What was the appropriate name of that film?
8. What fictional village has a pub with a bale of wool sign hanging over the door?
9. Why was the 'Last Chance Saloon' so named?
10. At which pub do Dell Boy & Rodney drink?

**ANSWERS** 1. Lieutenant Philip Ridley (Safely returning from the Boer War) 2. Newton & Ridley 3. Weatherfield 4. Cat and Fiddle 5. Springfield (The Simpsons) 6. The Queen Vic (in Eastenders) 7. 'Carry On Dick' 8. Emmerdale (The Woodpack) 9. In the American West, it was the last place you could legally buy alcohol before entering Indian Territory (there were many of them all along the border) 10. Nags Head (Only Fools and Horses)





## Beer Festival Equipment

*For the Hire of Barrel stillage,  
cooling, taps, bars and more!*

Barrel (9gl) - Stillages/ Racking, traditional  
wooden - 2 x 9gl, 12 x 9gl Barrels, taps,  
chiller saddles, Insulation jackets, Chillers,  
Remote, Bar units - two metre long,  
flooring and hand pumps

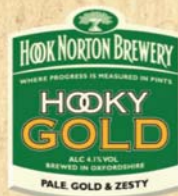
Photos and a very competitive price  
list available on the web site -  
[www.beerfestivalequipment.co.uk](http://www.beerfestivalequipment.co.uk)

Contact: [john@beerfestivalequipment.co.uk](mailto:john@beerfestivalequipment.co.uk)

Tel: 07770 938300

Based near Bicester

Great real ales at your local!



Visit [www.hooky.co.uk](http://www.hooky.co.uk) to find your  
nearest Hook Norton pub



## The Red Lion

*Lock View Lane, Bletchley  
Milton Keynes  
01908-372317*

**Milton Keynes  
CAMRA Branch  
Pub of the Year 2010**

Canalside Location

Family Pub All Welcome

3 Real Ales and 1 Real  
Scrumpy Available

## The Wheatsheaf Bow Brickhill



3 Permanent Real Ales plus a guest

Wonderful location, close to the Brickhill  
Woods. A perfect place to relax in after  
your walk in the woods!

Newly refurbished dining room

Call us on 01908 374795

Visit our Website: [www.wheatsheafbowbrickhill.co.uk](http://www.wheatsheafbowbrickhill.co.uk)

# Leased pub opportunities in your local area.



## Barrel's

Cannon Lane, Stopsley, Luton LU2 8BJ

### Key Attributes

- Long established community local
- Large sports area with 3 pool tables and darts
- Refurbished in 2011, with 80 dining covers
- Located in a densely populated area



## Stag Tavern

35 Brook Street, Stotford, Hitchin SG5 4LA

- Traditional village pub with a strong cask ale clientele
- Nestled in an existing and developing residential area
- Well established reputation with local community
- Dining room with 34 covers, a good sized catering kitchen and patio area

Find out more about running one of these pubs or similar pubs in the area by contacting **Vicky Brown on 0844 848 3264** or **[Vicky.brown@punchtaverns.com](mailto:Vicky.brown@punchtaverns.com)**

**PUNCH TAVERNS IPHONE APP** (Powered by Find My pub)  
**is now on ITUNES and FREE to download**



PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR PUBS

