

Save our pubs before it's too late!



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Pub and
CAMRA News

Pub of the
Season

Cycle Trip

Join
CAMRA

Peter's
Puzzles

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from the
Ex - Chair

Diary Dates

As people will see elsewhere in this issue, CAMRA has been going for 40 years this year. One thing that we can rejoice at is the effect the campaign has had on the availability of real ale in the UK. One thing that has changed for the worse is that our pubs are disappearing fast!

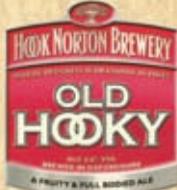
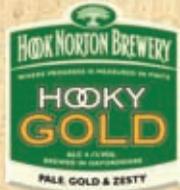
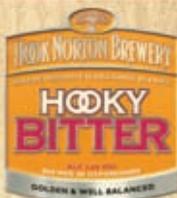
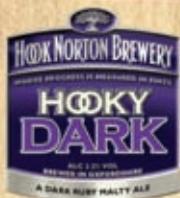
Much has been written on the subject in the last few years, but nothing appears to have changed. There are no doubt many reasons for the decline of the pub, but one central thing stands out – the greed of the pub companies and some larger independent brewers. We have come to a point where unless you already have money to throw away, the chances are you are very unlikely to make a success of a running a pub business. The pub companies and the others, will bleed you dry.

One sad result of what's happening was revealed to us during our recent surveying of pubs for the *Good Beer Guide 2012*. The actual pub and landlord shall remain nameless, but to be blunt, we have been prevented from putting the particular pub into the guide because the landlord, despite putting heart and soul into their pub for nearly a year, has been sacked.

The only reason being that the owning pub company has foreclosed on the intermediate pub company for not keeping up with trading performance figures which were (and are) impossible to meet. A devious practice indeed, but under the current legislation, all completely above board.

Continued on page 3.....

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Continued from Front

We have also heard stories of landlords being fined 4-figure sums for even daring to break out of the tie for Ale. How tempting it must be for landlords faced with £100+ per firkin from the pubco, when the same beer can be bought direct from the (often local) brewer for half that.

The pubcos want to have their cake and eat it all of the time. It's high time they were stopped, and that is why Beer Moos is delighted that the 10 day motion 'Pub Bill' passed its first reading in the Commons on the 10th of March. The practice of sub-letting pubs to smaller pubco's must also be outlawed. Landlords must be allowed the right balance to make businesses viable.

So what can you do? Continue going to the pub for your beer. Go an extra time each week. If something is not done and soon, there will only be massive chains of pubs to go to, with the resulting loss of choice, and the inevitable decline in craft brewing. You can also tell us where things have been made impossible for your local landlords (and landladies). Perhaps you are in this situation yourself? The more evidence we have, the more we can do as a campaign to protect our national heritage – The Public House!

Stop Press!

The Concrete Pint has been lifted by a big crane and is on the move! Yes, it's true, after a few years at the Pitz at Woughton, the festival is coming back to a much more central location. The budget has been approved at HQ, deposit paid, first meeting held, so its go, go, go. So where is it then I hear you ask?

It will be held in the building that once housed 'Chicago's' and more latterly 'Shout'. It's actually called Buszy now and the venue is now a thriving cultural and media hub, offering ground breaking cinema, art, live music and performance – check out www.buszy.co.uk for more info. It's just opposite CMK station, where the old bus station used to be.

We've decided to move the date of the festival, but not by much as we always clashed with Halloween and the Wetherspoons festival. Everything kicks off on Wednesday 12th October (evening), and runs through until Saturday 15th. We'll have all the usual goodies, about 60 beers, food, entertainment, etc. Put the date in the diary right away!

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Beer Moos will be published on: June 24th.

We must have your stories, news and advertisements by: June 7th.
Late copy cannot be guaranteed entry.

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Trading Standards

If you have a complaint about any unfair trading practice, such as short measure or misleading product promotion, contact Milton Keynes Trading Standards at PO BOX 105, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes MK9 3HH Telephone 01908 252433.

Email: 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.

To Advertise

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



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Pub News

News of more pub closures is a sad theme this month, but hopefully not closures for good.

News North

The **White Hart** in **Stoke Goldington** has closed as of 28th February (temporarily we hope). The Charles Wells PR department say that they are considering all options on this pub and that sale might be an option. We'll need to keep an eye out for change of use applications.

One really good piece of news is that Chris Sagers, the Landlord at the **Watts Arms, Hanslope** has been so successful selling Real Ale, that he has asked to be allowed to run a 4th hand pump. If given permission, this will be a LocAle only one, so great news for our local micros. Chris has also converted a number of people to Real Ale recently. Well done we say!

News Central

The leases is still up for sale at the **Plough at Simpson**, and the **Prince Albert, Bradwell Village**.

We still await news of our ex-pub of the year, the **Victoria, Bradwell Village**. The lease is now shown as under offer on the Christie's website. The branch as grave concerns about the quality of ale going forward, as Enterprise Inns will insist on a much tighter control of ales on offer, which will almost certainly mean that less people will go there. Why don't Enterprise get it? Let your pubs sell what they want on the Real Ale front, and you'll benefit from the increased sales of other drinks! We'll be keeping a close eye on this one!

News South

Down in **Bletchley** our correspondent reports that **Entertainers** is now a Thread and Patches shop, whilst the **Bletchley Arms** is closed and advertising for tenants. The ex **George** on the Buckingham Road has closed after the 3rd attempt to turn it into an Indian restaurant. Another temporary closure is the **Old Green Man** at **Little Brickhill**, a Greene King house. It is up for lease on the GK website.

News West

The GK Website also has the **Robin Hood, Bufflers Holt** (just outside Buckingham), as available for tenancy.

(Isn't it strange that these pubs temporarily close/change hands so often? How about giving the publicans half a chance to run a proper business? Always seems to be the same companies at fault as well - Ed)

The **Blackbird** at **Padbury** is listed as for sale as a Freehouse, at just under £600,000!

Also noted is the **Reindeer**, at **Westbury** (just in our area), for £325,000.

Another pub in our area up for sale on a 'free-of-tie' leasehold basis is the **Crown** at **Gawcott**. Not renowned as a Real Ale destination, the free-of-tie status could mean good news?

It has also come to our attention that the fire-damaged **Lone Tree**, at **Thornborough** is still up for sale as a free house. £295,000 will get you the opportunity to rebuild it!

Just over the border into Aylesbury Vale branch, the **Verney Arms** is also available on a 'free-of-tie' private lease. The pub is closed and in a state of disrepair though.

Late news – we hear the **Three Trees, West Bletchley** has closed. Need more details on this please.

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 31st. Tell us what you've got planned for June to mid-September, 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. Readers, PLEASE support our advertisers and patronise their businesses, for without them there would be no Beer Moos for you to enjoy.

This is a new section of Moos as we've got more than one brewery on our patch now, so to speak. We'll also feature some of our near neighbours as well from time to time.

Concrete Cow News

(from the guest editor, BLO)

The brewery continues to gain more sales, and has had a great start to 2011, with business up in January and February, compared to a year ago. Very good news. New outlets continue to be gained, with roughly 50 pubs taking the beers from time to time.

On the beer front, the first batch of Midsummer Ale for the new season is brewing as I write. Black Monk Mild will be back for May. A new beer is also in formulation and although its make up is a closely guarded secret, your 'mole' understands that Hops will feature in the quantities that some of us 'Hop Heads' like. It has no name yet and will be in the range 4.1% to 4.3%.

Some pubs that are taking the beers on a regular basis are The Talbot, Loughton, JD Wetherspoons, CMK, and The Olde Swan, Woughton on the Green.

Hopping Mad News

(from Carl Dillow, BLO)

First report for this new 11 barrel microbrewery and I have to say I have been very impressed. They are very passionate about making quality locally produced real ales, of which they have launched with two, Brainstorm – a traditional best bitter at 4.3%, and Fruitcase – A 4.5% golden ale with a citrus hoppiness. Both brews have been seen in most of the free houses in the area.

The branch enjoyed a great trip there recently, followed by even more beer in the Carlton Club, Olney (a regular outlet.)

They have some great ideas for new beers which will be reported on in the next edition.

Whittlebury Brewery

Jim Scott (our much travelled editor, currently travelling further afield), paid a visit to this brewery, which is just across the border from us in Northants. Ray Hunt is the man in charge.



Above: Inside the brewery

left: Ray Hunt with his brightly coloured Casks

The brewery has not been going long, but the brew kit has. It used to be at the Dare brewery in Wales. Six ales are produced - Special Pale Ale (3.7%), and Home Farm Bitter (4.1%); Plus, from the 'Nomad' range – Oasis (3.7%), Mirage (4.2%), and Dusk (4.6%); and finally, an original from the Wales days – Green Dragon (4.4%).

Look out for them in our local free trade. (They had one on recently at the Fox and Hounds, Stony Stratford.)



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Moosings from the Ex-chair!

No, Phil hasn't stepped down, but as it's 2 years or so since I last 'moosed', the fact that being guest editor whilst Jim is away, was too much to resist.

So what's on my mind? Lots of things to be honest. I'm pretty annoyed right now with the anti-binge drinking lobby. This is not because I'm all for bingeing, I am not. Moderation is what we should all be doing.

What really irks me is this daft minimum pricing proposal. It will not cure the problem at all. From what I can see, it is not the price that is the issue at all, it is the lack of control of sale of alcohol which is the key.

When I was a lad, there were no large scale drinking establishments, nor were there anywhere near the level of supermarkets that we have today. What that allowed, was for control of what was sold. Small pubs meant the publican pretty much knew everyone, and could observe what was being imbibed. Off licences were similarly small businesses.

In addition to this, society has allowed a big change in what is available to buy. Not many years ago, it was only the very hardened drinker, or someone with a drink problem that would go for drinking spirits in any quantity. Nowadays, we allow young people to have pitchers filled with spirits and also allow shots of spirits to be downed in one!

So the answers? Protect our small pubs. Make the larger venue operators much more accountable for continuing to sell to people who have obviously had enough. Controversially though, BAN the sale of shots and spirit based cocktails, especially where served in a bucket and drunk through a straw! Whilst you are at it, encourage people (not by minimum pricing but by tax breaks for producing, and retailing, lower ABV beers) to drink less strong beers. Again, in my younger days, I would be full up and nauseous, before ever getting too plastered, and out of control as what happens these days.

Changing subject, one other area which has caught my eye lately is the dearth of real ale in hotel bars.

Why is this? Most hotels are busy 7 nights a week, so easy throughput for a 9 gallon barrel. Perhaps someone has an answer? I know I get very frustrated when I am away when wishing for a late one to finish the night to have no choice of real ale available. Perhaps a national campaign is needed?

Lastly, I must say how impressed I have been with the level of beer quality in our area. Although it must be said this is in a smaller number of pubs than we'd like. It does seem to have gone up this year, with several pubs averaging around 4 out of 5 for all beers.

Best thing then is to get out and visit them. Check our newly updated website for some tips on where to go.

That's all from me, thanks for reading. I'll look forward to writing again one day.

Chris Scoggins
Ex Chairman and guest editor

The Red Lion

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

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Family Pub All Welcome

3 Real Ales and 1 Real
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Pub of the Season



Our pub of the season for Spring is the Bell and Bear at Emberton. For those who are not familiar with it, it is a free house and can be found in Emberton Village. Emberton is just off of the MK to Olney Road, almost opposite the road to Clifton Reynes etc.

The proprietors, John and Sophie Adriaenssens have gone from strength to strength in changing an ordinary pub, with little in the way of beer and food quality, to a great place to eat and drink. It has also been tastefully done, with the 2 bar layout allowing an intimate setting for top-class food in one side, whilst the other bar does what a bar should – cater for locals and strangers alike. There are Darts and Northamptonshire Skittles teams too.



The quality of the Real Ale on offer has really improved with the beer scores reaching well into the top echelons of our charts. There were 3 beers on offer at my last visit and all were from local breweries. Both of our breweries were happily represented, and all beer was in tip-top condition.

The food menu, though not large, is just enough for most people's choice. It makes great use of locally sourced ingredients as well, adding to the local 'feel' of the pub. John has also had some very successful 'theme nights', where the food has been matched to the beer available. If 'takeaway' is more your thing,



there is a large array of home made jams and pickles for sale in the other bar.

All in all, the Bell and Bear is a real pub for everyone, but especially the local community, whether you are a local baker, brewer, butcher, or just pub-goer. A big congratulations again on this award, and 'stop press', they have also come joint runner up in our branch 'Pub of the year' competition too!



CAMRA's Top 40 Campaigners of All Time



To help celebrate CAMRA's 40th birthday, we are asking CAMRA members to help compile a list of the 'Top 40 CAMRA Campaigners of All Time'.

Whether alive or sadly passed away, CAMRA would like you to vote for those CAMRA members you feel went that little bit further to help promote CAMRA, real ale and pubs in the last 40 years. Did they save a pub destined to close? Perhaps they launched a local campaign that became a national CAMRA promotion. Or did they push all the boundaries to help a brewery get established in the local area?

Maybe you would just like to put someone forward who you think should be recognised for their work as a CAMRA branch official.

We know there are thousands of Campaigners that deserve to be considered for the Top 40. We would love to hear about them all!

Please submit your nominations by visiting www.camra.org.uk/40thbirthday.

Deadline for entries is 1st April 2011.

If we receive more than 40 entries, we will encourage members to vote for their favourites based on the reasons you state below. The Top 40 will be announced in August at the Great British Beer Festival.

If you are not yet a CAMRA member and want to join the organisation then please sign-up in this newsletter or visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus (Editors note – we'll be organising our own celebration later in the year).

www.camra.org.uk/40thbirthday

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CAMRA and Other News

AGM Report

Since the last issue of Moos, we have had our AGM. It was good to see so many people attend. There have been some changes in the committee as a result.

We say thank you and well done to our old Festival Organiser, and young persons contact, Carl Dillow. Carl will still act in an official capacity as Brewery Liaison Officer for the Hopping Mad brewery. Taking over as Festival Organiser, as well as his other jobs, is Carl's dad, Doug.

Welcome to the committee as our new Young Person's Co-ordinator to Tim Jackson. Tim has loads of experience nationally in the Young Persons area, so we are looking forward to some exciting things. Welcome back on the committee to Anne Clark, who has taken on the role of Cider contact. Kim Walton has joined Jan Taylor as co-PR person.

Lastly, we have a new webmaster – Jason Jarrat – and you can see how he has already improved our website by having a look on mkcamra.org.uk All other people have re-volunteered in their current roles.

MK and North Bucks Pub of the Year 2011

Congratulations to the New Inn at Padbury on the achievement of winning the award for Pub of the Year 2011 for our branch area. This year's competition was really close with several pubs considered. The New Inn came out on top and is a worthy winner. It will now go forward to the county round of the competition. None of our pubs have ever won at this level, but we have high hopes for the New Inn...

Pint Drop

Three pubs in Buckinghamshire have put a new service on trial that is an innovative way to buy someone a drink. One of them is in our area - **The Woolpack, Buckingham** and has joined the scheme set up by county firm Pint Drop.



This unique service allows someone to buy a friend an electronic drink voucher through a website, which sends the receiver a text containing a personalised message and a voucher number.

The person receiving the text can then visit any of the participating outlets to redeem the voucher towards the cost of a drink. Pint Drop sees this service as an alternative to sending someone a greetings card.

Alan Edmeads landlord at The Woolpack said "I thought it was an interesting idea, something different. It is a novel way to buy someone a pint".

Pint Drop is a family run business that only started in 2010. One of the founders, William Steward, developed the idea when he was trying to think of an instant affordable gift for a remote colleague.

William was leaving work in London after a six month assignment and a friend from work said as he left "I'll buy you a drink sometime". William thought about this on the train home and this how the scheme was born. He runs the business with his father Martin, whose father Talbot was born into the pub trade in Shropshire. Visit www.pintdrop.com to text your friend a drink.

Social News

The pub itself is on the Buckingham to Winslow road and is easy to find. The pub is a true free house, with 2 ales available, plus an excellent food reputation. Its very snuggly in Winter and has a very nice patio area for the Summer.

We have arranged a social and presentation evening on the 7th April, and will feature the pub in much more detail in the next issue of Moos.

We should also add congratulations to our 2 runners-up – The Bell and Bear, Emberton (see elsewhere in this issue), and the Watts Arms, Hanslope.

CAMRA Celebrating 40 Years of Campaigning – 1971-2011

CAMRA is celebrating its 40th birthday in 2011 and we hope you will join us in raising a glass of real ale to celebrate this landmark. CAMRA was formed on 16th March 1971 by four founding members – Michael Hardman, Graham Lees, Jim Makin and Bill Mellor whilst visiting a pub on holiday in Ireland. The quartet had become deeply disillusioned with the domination of the market by a handful of national brewing companies, determined to push lower quality of keg beer brands into the market, displacing smaller, local breweries and ales from the bars of pubs across the land.

It turned out they weren't alone in their anger at the rapidly reducing choice and quality available to drinkers across the UK – hundreds and then thousands joined the cause.

40 years later and CAMRA now have more than 120,000 members who, like you, love a good pint of beer in a great pub.

CAMRA has achieved many successes over this period. Saving pubs and breweries under threat from closure, the introduction of Small Brewers Relief, LocAle and Licensing Hours Reform and the promotion of endangered beer styles are just a few of the successes CAMRA is proud of over the last 40 years. These and many other achievements have played a major role in there now being more than 3,000 different real ales being brewed in the UK by over 750 real ale breweries.



The 2011 Cycle Crawl, organised as ever by Alan Sanders was again a success. Starting at **The Victoria Inn**, Bradwell Village as per usual, complete with bacon duly noshed, the tour went via Wetherspoons, CMK, **Ye Olde Swan**, Woughton-on-the Green, **The Plough**, Simpson, **The Red Lion**, Fenny Lock, The Barge, Woolstones, and finished at **The Secklow Hundred**, CMK. A great time was had despite the rain and some great beer was sampled.

By the time you read this, we would have been on our 3rd European trip, this time visiting Ghent for the 2nd year running. Included in the plan for the trip was a visit the **Bosteels** brewery, where they make **Kwak** and **Karmeliet**, two world renowned beers. With a day in Brussels, as well, it will have been a great trip. No doubt a report and pictures will follow in a future moos.

Our social secretary, Doug Dillow is already planning some great trips (Hook Norton Brewery for one). See the diary for what's planned so far. If you are not a CAMRA member reading this, why not join and enjoy some of these great trips. (We usually let non-members come along if there is space.)



Join CAMRA today

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is celebrating its 40th birthday this year and if you are not already one of our 120,000 members then there is no better time to join the organisation than today!

As well as a number of very important campaigns you can support, CAMRA offers new members a fantastic membership package.

For just £20 a year* (see www.camra.org.uk/joinus for Concessionary Membership) you can join CAMRA today by Direct Debit, receive 15 months for the price of 12 receive some fantastic benefits. These include:

- A quarterly copy of BEER magazine – packed with superb features on pubs, beers and breweries.
- A monthly newspaper, *What's Brewing* – Beer and pub news with full event and beer festival listings.
- Free or reduced entry to over 160 national, regional and local beer festivals – www.camra.org.uk/festivals.

- £20 worth of JD Wetherspoon vouchers (40 x 50p off a pint of real ale vouchers) – For full terms and conditions see www.camra.org.uk/jdwvouchers.
- 20% off hotel bookings with Ramada Jarvis – www.camra.org.uk/ramadajarvis.
- 10% discount with cottages4you www.camra.org.uk/cottages4you
- 5% off holidays with Hire a Canalboat www.camra.org.uk/hireacanalboat
- Discounts on CAMRA Beer Club cases www.camrabeerclub.co.uk
- Discounts on all CAMRA books including our best seller, *Good Beer Guide*.

For more information about joining please complete the form in this newsletter or visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus

Cheers!

*For non-Direct Debit rates please visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus

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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 _____
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Applications will be processed within 21 days

12/10

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Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
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Residence _____

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction unless in the subsequent account by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand this is an irrevocable and exclusive authorisation to pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited and it will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature _____ Date _____

Bank and Building Society may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts.
This Guarantee should be attached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

• This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept direct debits 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 in advance of you being asked to pay more than the agreed amount.
• 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 will be 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 pay more than a 1st time when the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
• This is the amount of Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society through customer care by telephone. Please also notify us.

Diary Dates

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

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

April 2011

☞ **Thursday April 7th** Branch Social, New Inn Padbury, and presentation of the award for the MK and North Bucks pub of the year 2011.

☞ Friday - Sunday April 15-17

CAMRA National Members' Weekend and AGM, Octagon Centre, University of Sheffield. All CAMRA members are welcome to attend, but early booking of accommodation is strongly advised. Details on www.camra.org.uk

☞ Monday April 18th

Branch Meeting, 8.15pm at the Three Horseshoes, Drayton Parslow (in their restaurant which does not open Mondays).

May 2011

☞ Sunday May 8th

Hanslope pub crawl, starting in the Globe at midday and ending with Sunday lunch in the Watts Arms (+ presentation with the award for joint runner up, MK and North Bucks pub of the year 2011.)

☞ Saturday May 14th

Branch trip to the Hook Norton Brewery. Visit starts at 10am at the brewery visitor centre and lasts 2 hours, free souvenir glass included, + museum visits, & beer sampling. Cost will be £9.50 plus the cost of the coach. E-mail social@mkcamra.co.uk for more details or to book a place. (There may be places for non-members.)

☞ **Monday May 23rd** Branch Meeting, 8.15pm, Woolpack, Buckingham. (meet in the 'Cote').

(There are likely to be various beer festivals over both bank holiday weekends at the usual places, check pub websites for details via the links section on our website.)

June 2011

☞ Thursday June 16th

Branch Social and Summer Pub of the Season presentation, Old Red Lion, Great Brickhill.

☞ Tuesday June 28th

Branch Meeting, 8.15pm, Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes.

LOOKING AHEAD

☞ Wednesday July 13th

2 pub social, The Green Man, Mursley, and the Betsey Wynne, Swanbourne.

☞ Monday July 25th

Branch Meeting, 8.15pm, Wheatsheaf, Maids Moreton.

☞ Wednesday 12th - Saturday 15th October

New Venue - The Concrete Pint beer Festival, Buszy (old Bus Station, 'Chicagos', and 'Shout'), CMK. (Opposite CMK railway station.)
Volunteers needed.



The Watts Arms

Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope MK19 7LG

At least 4 Fine Real Ales

Great traditional food served from
12 - 2 and 6 - 9 Mon - Sat

Massive garden

Beer Festival 5th to 8th May

01908 510246

www.thewattsarms.co.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, bring them to any of our meetings or social events, or submit them online at 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



- Put these drink capacities in order, smallest first:- UK pint, litre, flagon, tot, quart, US pint, nip, yard of ale.
- Likewise put these cask sizes in order (largest first) Kilderkin, Hogshead, Polypin, Butt, Barrel, and Tun
- What were the original names of the two pubs which were based in the main Milton Keynes shopping centre?
- In which decade was the crown cork (for sealing beer bottles) invented? 1890s, 1910s, 1930s, or 1950s
- Which multinational company now owns Guinness?
- Likewise, which company now owns the following local hosteleries? Barge Inn (Woolstone), Harvester, Nut & Squirrel, Ship Ashore, Wolverton House, Peartree Bridge, Gifford Park, and the Swan (Woburn Sands)
- What is the difference between Whisky and Whiskey (apart from the extra 'e')

8. For what do brewers use 'liquor'?

9. The Concrete Cow brewery opened in August, but in which year?

10. Approximately how many licensed premises are listed on the Milton Keynes Camra website? 120, 140, 160, 180, or 200

TIME WASTER:- For this edition's time waster, I need reader's help. I moved to Milton Keynes in 1989 and visited a pub I thought was called the 'Longpound' pub. It was named thus because it is located on a very long 'pound' (space between two locks) on the Grand Union canal. I believe it has now become the Peartree Bridge, but can find no reference to that name, either from personal enquiries or the internet. I would be grateful if any reader could confirm (or refute) that. Please email me at pb4254@gmail.com.

1. Tot, nip, US pint, UK pint, litre, quart, yard of ale, flagon
 2. Tun (216 gallons), Butt (108), Hogshead (54), Barrel (36), Kilderkin (18), Polypin (usually 4½ gallons)
 3. The City Duck, and the Rose & Castle
 4. 1890s (invented by William Painter in 1891)
 5. Diageo (which was formed in 1997)
 6. Mitchell & Butlers
 7. Whiskey is from the whole of Ireland, whisky is produced in Scotland, Wales and England
 8. It is the water used to make beer
 9. 2007
 10. 200

ANSWERS

Nags Head

16th century thatched village pub

Voted MK Citizen Pub of The Year 2009

Good real ale selection • Cask Marque accredited

Food served all day everyday
Traditional Sunday roasts all day Sunday

Sky Sports and ESPN
Quiz night every Sunday at 8pm
Seating Area to rear of Pub



30 High Street, Great Linford, Milton
Keynes MK14 5AX Tel: 01908 607449

bell&bear

Freehouse

3 or 4 local real ales on rotation
...and all £2.60 a pint!

Modern British Food,
daily menu, fresh local produce

MKCAMRA
Joint Runner Up Pub of the Year
& Winner Pub of the Season
Spring 2011

www.bellandbear.net
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12 High St, Emberton 01234 711565



ELGOOD'S

EST 1795 BREWERY

Tel: 01945 583160

Email: info@elgoods-brewery.co.uk

www.elgoods-brewery.co.uk





**WHATEVER YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.**