



Local Beer is Tops

Pub and CAMRA News

Moosings

Branch Visit to Manchester

Join CAMRA

H 22

Peter's Puzzles

How to make a Beer Fest

Cask Marque

Diary Dates



e didn't arrange it, we didn't rig it, it happened without any input from us, but we're not just delighted, we're absolutely over the moon! Why? Because a beer brewed right here in Milton

Keynes at Concrete Cow Brewery was voted Beer of the Festival by customers at our Concrete Pint beer festival in October.

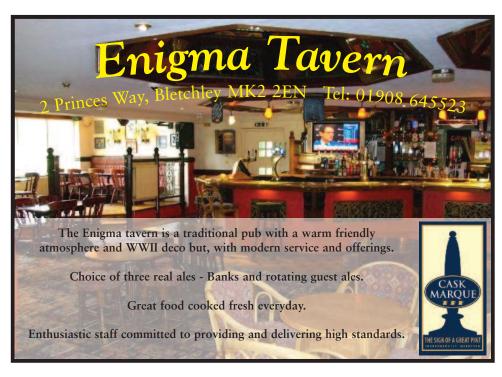
Cloven Hoof vanilla stout was voted a clear winner by punters, not only with their pens and voting slips, but also with their glasses, as it was the first beer to run out. Beer Moos congratulates Dan Bonner, brewer/proprietor of Concrete Cow, on this magnificent, and magnificently deserved, achievement.

2010's Concrete Pint beer festival ended on October 31st after four busy drinking days. 50 firkins of ale and 25 gallons of cider and perry were served, 800 visitors came to drink them, eleven new members were recruited, and a gratifying sum was raised for CAMRA funds.

For the first time in many years we opened on Wednesday evening. Thursday and Saturday sessions were enlivened by music and – also a first time for us – stand-up comedy. Our tombola proved as popular as ever, as did our traditional pub games, and our caterer provided a ready supply of absorbent fare to soak up all that delicious ale. In spite of the small size of our festival we received very positive comments on our beer choice and quality.

A Google trawl reveals that, apart from Milton Keynes, very few of the new towns ringing London manage to hold a CAMRA beer

Continued on page 5...





17th - 20th March 2011

THE GLOBE HANSLOPE



SO HARTWELL ROAD LONG STREET HANSLOPE MK19 7BZ

01908 510 336 nfo@theglobehanslope.co.uk

16 Ales 4 Ciders 10 Wines

Barbeque - Afternoon Teas Bar Menu Available Throughout The Event Restaurant & Picnic Hampers by Reservation All weather event- Marquee Heated if required

Child Friendly Environment—Large Gardens Ample Parking Dogs Welcome

For more information, directions or reservations please do not hesitate to contact Emma on 01908 510 336



Pub News

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 February 20th. Tell us what you've got planned for March to mid-June, 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 advertisment 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.

News North

Cock, Hanslope We hear this pub in the centre of Hanslope village is up for sale.

Globe, Hanslope held a very successful beer and fireworks festival in November to celebrate Bonfire Night.

Watts Arms, Hanslope Beer Moos welcomes new



licensees Chris and Clair Saggers to the Watts Arms. Chris and Clair, who are members of CAMRA, took over in September and in addition to excellent food, offer three real ales, two from Wells and Young's, and the other a free-of-tie guest. We wish them a prosperous tenancy of this historic pub.

Working Men's Club, Hanslope held its second beer festival of 2010 in October.

News East

Bell and Bear, Emberton Since taking over last March,



new brooms John and Sophie Adriaenssens have through this village free-house to excellent effect, converting a pub that had been nondescript beer-wise into a vibrant celebration of real ales, with special emphasis on LocAles. Beer Moos apologises humbly for taking so long to welcome them to our branch area!

Continued.....

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Beer Moos will be published on: 1st March.

We must have your stories, news and advertisements by: 20th February. Late copy cannot be guaranteed entry.

Committee Branch Contacts Chairman:

Phil Swinbank - 07733 383413 chairman@mkcamra.org.uk

Vice-Chairman:

lim Scott - 07952 337526

Branch Secretary:

Lyn Norman - secretary@mkcamra.org.uk

Branch Contact:

Phil Swinbank - 07733 383413

contact@mkcamra.org.uk

Treasurer:

Doug Dillow - treasurer@mkcamra.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Phil Rooke - membership@mkcamra.org.uk

Branch Cider Coordinator:

Social Secretary:

Doug Dillow - 07738 598128 social@mkcamra.org.uk

Newsletter Editor:

lim Scott - 07952 337526 editor@mkcamra.org.uk

Branch Young Members Contact:

Carl Dillow - ypc@mkcamra.org.uk

PR Officer:

Jan Taylor - pr@mkcamra.org.uk

Pubs Officers:

Sue Brooks and Alan Carter pubs@mkcamra.org.uk

Webmaster:

Phil Swinbank - 07733 383413

webmaster@mkcamra.org.uk Beer Festival Organiser:

Carl Dillow - festival@mkcamra.org.uk

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-kevnes.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



Copyright CAMRA Milton Keynes and North

Bucks 2010. All rights reserved. Beer Moos is published by the Milton Keynes Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views expressed are not necessarily those of CAMRA Ltd or its Branches.

Pub News



Cannon, Newport Pagnell As we reported in the last issue of Beer Moos, the Cannon has earned an entry in the Good Beer Guide for 15 continuous years. Our branch was delighted to present landlady Molly Hepburn with a certificate to celebrate this grand achievement.

Swan, Sherington has closed down, and its future is not known.

News West

Betsey Wynne, Swanbourne We welcome new licensees Jan and Kevin Close to our branch area, and wish them a successful tenure.

Buckingham Arms, Maids Morton had a 'for sale' sign showing when our spy passed by.

Green Man, Mursley has new tenants Janet and Gary, and we wish them welcome.

Robin Hood, Bufflers Holt has a 'For Lease' board on it.

Wheatsheaf, Maids Moreton has a new landlord. Gregor Stevenson took over from Gary



Mantle at the start of October. Gregor comes from the Kings Head at Fritwell in Oxfordshire, and promises to maintain the excellent quality of ale which earned the Wheatsheaf its entry in the good Beer Guide for 2011. When Beer Moos's spy called this certainly seemed to be the case! We wish Gregor a happy and successful tenure at this wonderfully characterful old pub.

News South

Station Hotel, Woburn Sands We hear that landlord Kevin is planning a Christmas Beer Festival.

News Central

Cross Keys, Woolstone is now Cask Marque accredited, and scored 100% on both assessments for all five ales.

Dolphin, West Bletchley we've heard this pub has closed.

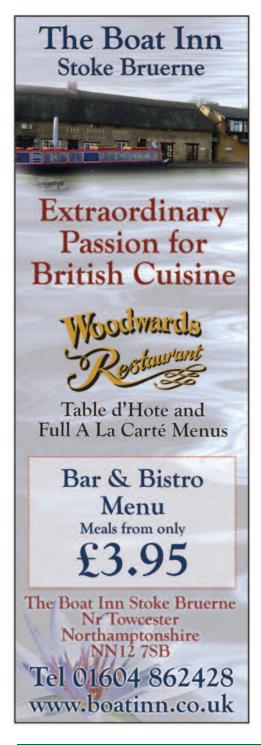
Fox and Hounds, Stony Stratford was voted Summer Pub of the Season by our branch, and was (somewhat belatedly!) presented with its certificate. Congratulations to Eddie and Sam for this fine achievement.



Plough, Simpson we understand that this, our Autumn Pub of the Season, is up for sale as we go to press.

Talbot, Loughton is under new management and may soon be stocking a LocAle, according to reports we've heard.

Wishing Well, West Bletchley we've heard this pub has closed.



Continued From Front Cover

festival. Harlow has a small one in a tent, and Letchworth also holds a festival, but so far as we can discover, Stevenage, Welwyn, Basildon, Crawley and Bracknell all have none, and Boxmoor festival at Hemel Hempstead seems on hold for the present.

So - all praise to organiser Carl Dillow and his Cellar Crew, and our thanks to our volunteers who have managed year-in-year-out to stage a festival here in Milton Keynes, to our sponsors without whose generosity the festival would not have been viable, to David Clarke (http://www.dammo.co.uk) for designing our logo, and to you the public for coming along to support us. Carl is now bowing out as festival organiser, and Beer Moos takes this opportunity to thank him for excellent work done over the last four years to make Concrete Pint an ongoing success.

Cask Marque - What is it?

Have you ever been into a pub which advertises itself as 'Cask Marque Approved', perhaps with Cask Marque pumpclips on show, and wondered what it means?

Cask Marque is a non-profit making trust formed to raise the standard of cask (i.e real) ale served to the customer. It is funded by its members, who include major pubcos, and brewers such as Wells and Young's. Cask Marque is not part of CAMRA.

For a pub to be Cask Marque accredited, a Cask Marque assessor makes two unannounced visits. On each of these, the assessor checks up to six cask ales for temperature, which must be between 11 – 13°C, and for appearance, aroma, and taste. All ales have to pass; one failure results in a failed assessment. After twelve months there are further visits, ideally one in winter and one in summer.

Cask Marque pubs in our area include the Bull and Butcher at Akeley, Kings Head in Buckingham, Greyhound at Haversham, Shoulder of Mutton at Calverton, Nag's Head in Great Linford, and of course the Cross Keys at Woolstone. For a complete list visit http://www.cask-marque.co.uk

Branch Visit to Manchester



Keynes
a n d
North Bucks CAMRA
members recently enjoyed
a weekend in Manchester, a
city which some say is the
country's real-ale capital.
Ably guided by Kim Walton

and Tim Jackson, we sampled ales at a fine selection of Mancunian (and Salfordian) hostelries before heading to Marble Brewery, where we presented brewer Dominic Driscoll (top left) with the Concrete Pint 2009 Beer of the Festival certificate for his Marble Pint ale. The famous bar on Stalybridge railway station was the last port of call before the Pendolino sped us home after a memorable weekend.

...and to Brill

Some years ago Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA branch visited Vale Brewery, then located at Haddenham. The brewery has since relocated to Brill, so on the evening of October 13th we piled into a minicoach to to inspect their establishment there.



It took a little finding, but the effort was worth it for the informative tour of the much larger and more modern plant, and copious sampling of Vale's excellent brews, which of course are now available at their tied house in Milton Keynes – the Chequers in Fenny Stratford – and are widely on sale on the free trade. The well-stocked brewery shop also detained us, before we moved on to the brewery's flagship pub, the Hop Pole at Aylesbury, before making for home after a most enjoyable evening.

...and Steppingley

On September 18 a group from our branch took a minicab to the Drover's Arms just outside Steppingley for their Ale and Curry festival. Despite being apparently in the middle of nowhere (it's actually between Flitwick and Ridgmont) the event was very well patronised, with 29 beers, 4 ciders, and a selection of delicious curries — a most agreeable combination, and a very pleasurable evening.







Moosings from the Chair

Support your local brewer this Christmas

The Christmas spirit doesn't come in dark-coloured bottles; drink responsibly and all that. But I think that the festive season is an ideal time to get in some bottles or a polypin or two of the ales that take your fancy, especially if you have some friends coming round.

For those that don't know them, a polypin is a heavy plastic bag with a tap inside a large cardboard box. Sort of like a wine box on steroids. The bag collapses as the beer is drawn off, so air doesn't get in - this extends the life of the beer. They are usually 36 pints, but smaller ones are sometimes available.

Or you could even get a whole cask - 72 pints. You'll need to leave a deposit on the barrel, and have a bit of training on how to bash in the spigot tap etc. You will also need lots of thirsty friends.

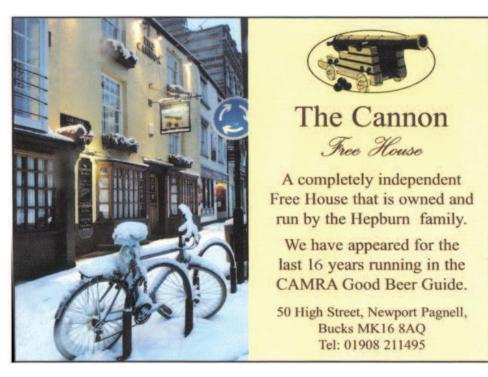
Most of our local micro-breweries sell bottles and polypins regularly. To help you find them, check out our new breweries section on the website (www.mkcamra.org.uk/locale)

And on the subject of bottled ales... as reported elsewhere in this issue, Concrete Cow brewery have won Beer of the Festival (as voted by you at the Milton Keynes beer festival) for their vanilla-flavoured stout, Cloven Hoof. You may be interested to hear it is already available in bottled form.

They're not up and running yet, but I'm very much looking forward to seeing what the Hopping Mad brewery in Olney produces. They may even be starting their first brew by the time you read this.

Merry Christmas everyone. And, depending when you read this, happy new year.

Phil Swinbank



The Red Lion

Lock View Lane, Bletchley Milton Keynes **01908-37231**7

Milton Keynes CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2010

Canalside Location

Family Pub All Welcome

3 Real Ales and 1 Real Scrumpy Available



How to Make a Beer Festival













CAMRA and Other News

Good Beer Guide Surveys

Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA branch area covers a considerable chunk of country. Our frontiers encompass Winslow and the Claydons in the south, Woburn Sands to Astwood in the east, Lavendon in the north, and Buckingham and Finmere in the west. Several hundred pubs lie inside these boundaries, and the editors of the Good Beer Guide allot us space for only thirteen.

To make our selection both fair and representative, we need volunteers to join us in visiting pubs all across our region; pubs which sell real ale, and for which we have either received beer scores or have had reports that they're worth surveying.

The crazy timescales of book production mean that we have to begin drawing up now a shortlist of pubs for consideration for GBG2012. As our branch is largely rural we specially need volunteers to drive. If you think you can help, please contact Alan Carter on pubs@mkcamra.org.uk

New LocAle Brewery Opens at Olnev



Many years sixty-one if our information's correct - after the closure of Hipwell's, Olney has a brewery again. Test brewing is already underway, and Hopping Mad Brewery plans to

be fully in business by mid-December.

The name was originally to have been Amazing Ales, in an echo of the famous Olney hymn Amazing Grace. However, to quote the founders: 'Here at your local brewery we are Mad Passionate about brewing a really satisfying pint, and this was the inspiration for our new name Hopping Mad'.



Two of our branch members paid a visit, met all three staff - Matthew Hargreaves (co-owner and Head Brewer), Mark Hickman (Brewery Manager), and David Wright (co-owner) - and, of course, sampled the beer.

Hopping Mad brewery has been three years in the planning. Initially a bitter and a golden ale will be produced, both at about 4.2% ABV.

Beer Moos wishes Matthew, Mark, and David every success in their enterprise, and we look forward to enjoying their amazing ales very soon (see Diary on p13.) For more information, e-mail info@amazingales.com.

Cask Ale Pulls A-head of the Pack!

Despite declining total beer sales and continuing pub closures, cask ale last year outperformed the beer market, increased its share of beer sold in pubs and clubs for the third successive year and recruited over 100,000 new drinkers. According to The Cask Report - Britain's National Drink, 2010-2011, published in October:

· Cask ale sales grew 5% by value in 2009 to £1.4 billion, against a 2% decline in the total UK beer market

- · Cask volumes outperformed the total UK beer market (in pubs and supermarkets): cask was steady, compared to a 4.1% decline overall. Last year was the first since 1994 in which cask did not decline.
- · Cask now accounts for 15.2% of total beer volumes in pubs - around one in every six pints sold.
- · Regional and local cask ale brewers recorded volume increases of 1% and 5% respectively, though the multinational brewers saw their cask volumes fall by 11%.
- Over 8.6 million people drink cask beer and the number of 18-24 year old cask drinkers grew by 17%.
- 3,000 more pubs started selling cask ale

The balance of the cask category is changing, with a shift away from the multinationals to regional and local brewers. Cask's image as a 'northern' drink is also misplaced - 41.8% of all cask volume is sold in London and the south east and the latter's 24.1% share far exceeds its share of the UK population. Cask is under-represented in the north, largely because 'northern' brands such as John Smith's and Boddingtons are in decline, while Scotland, for so long a cask-ale desert, saw an incredible 31% growth last year - a testament to the country's burgeoning craft brewing industry.

With 1.9 million cask drinkers now in the 18-34 age group, new research in the report shows the traditional 'old man in a flat cap' image of the cask ale drinker is finally being shed. Among non-cask drinkers, the statements 'it's an old man's drink', 'it's not fashionable' and 'it's not for women' were given by only 6% of respondents as reasons for rejecting cask ale.

Cask's eco-credentials are one of its strongest suits. A pint of cask from a local brewery bought in a pub has a carbon footprint of 300g of CO2 equivalent, compared to 900g for a bottle of imported lager from a supermarket.

To read the complete Cask Report visit www.caskreport.co.uk

Office of Fair Trading Lets Landlords and Drinkers Down

There will be no let-up in CAMRA's campaign to secure reform of the beer tie, despite the Office of Fair Trading (OFT)'s recent refusal to take action, even in the face of considerable evidence of anti-competitive behaviour by some pub companies and brewers. CAMRA's demand is part of an ongoing campaign to restore the balance between the companies and their lessees, who are subject to supply ties that bar them from buying beer and other products at open market prices. However, and despite the OFT, Business Secretary Vince Cable has publicly stated that the pub companies are on probation over the terms of their ties, and will face legislative action if they fail to reform by June 2011.

CAMRA's Mike Benner commented 'The OFT's own analysis recognises that tied pub landlords on average pay around £20,000 more for their beer every year from being unable to purchase it on the open market. These higher costs will inevitably be passed onto consumers through higher prices, under investment, and pub closures.'

CAMRA's campaign for beer-tie reform goes on.

Save the Pub Group Meets Community Pubs Minister

Greg Mulholland, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Save the Pub Group, along with CAMRA, has met with Community Pubs Minister Bob Neill, to discuss how the government can work to support and protect pubs.

Mr Neill was recently appointed Minister responsible for Community Pubs with cross departmental responsibility, working from the Department of Community and Local Government.

The Save the Pub Group will be raising many issues. including the need for more planning protection for pubs, the abolition of restrictive covenants, the beer tie and pub ownership, licensing, regulation and supermarket pricing. It will press the government to safeguard the future of these important social and community institutions that are part of our national heritage.

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. Join CAMRA today... 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts ALT 4LW Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. To the Manager Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfleld Road, St Albans, ALI 4LW. Applications will be processed within 21 days Title Surname Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) Email address Tel No (s) Originators Identification Number 9 2 6 1 2 9 Partner's Details (if Joint Membership) FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society Title Surname Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) Instructions to your Bank or Building Society Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the salignands assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank-Pulliding Society. Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? Direct Debit Non DD Single Membership (UK & EU) £22 Joint Membership (Partner at the same address) £25 £27 Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account. For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call The Direct Debit Guarantee 01727 867201 tached and retained by the payer This Currentze is offered by all Sevice and auditing Societies that the part in the Direct Debt Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Sank or Building Societies. If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change CAPIGA. All hostly you low-king capes in advance. I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

How not to get into the Good Beer Guide

Example 2 (For first example, see Moos 17)



had booked an overnight for myself and my husband at a Good Beer Guide-listed pub in Cambridgeshire, and arrived at 8.15 pm, having started out after work. We were delighted to see that two GBG pubs were situated within 200 yards of each other, so of course, had to sample

the beer in both. However, neither GBG pubs did food, so we ventured into a third pub equidistant between the two to get a meal.

This large pub was empty, save for five customers spread between its two bars. We ordered our food, then proceeded to consider what we were going to drink.

'Have you any real ale?' I asked.

of your account being debited or as otherwise agree-

The landlord went to the adjacent bar, and came back clutching a Bateman's XB pump clip.

 If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.

You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society Please also send a

'We have this', he said.

'OK' I said, "We'll have 2 halves please'

'Have you had it before?' he asked.

'Oh yes,' we replied confidently.

by the selection of

'You might not like it', he continued.

'Uh?', I thought. 'Two halves, please', I reiterated.

We walked back to our table with our beers, took one sip of the vinegary substance, glanced at each other, turned tail, and headed straight back to the bar.

'I am afraid it's past its best' I said politely.

'I thought you might be going to say that,' he answered.

For once I was speechless!

Jan Taylor

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.

December 2010

Saturday December 11 Annual pre-Xmas Northampton Crawl. "The twelve pubs of Christmas" Meet at the Old Black Lion, 1 Black Lion Hill, Northampton NN1 1SW (go left from station then 100 yds) at 12:00 The crawl will finish at the Malt Shovel.

← Monday December 13 Branch Meeting at Cross Keys, Woolstone 8.30pm.

Friday December 24 Christmas Eve Social, JD Wetherspoon, Midsummer Bvd, Milton Keynes 2pm onwards.

January 2011

Thursday January 13 Branch Social, Nag's Head, Great Linford 8 pm.

■ Saturday January 15 CAMRA Central Southern Region London Pub Crawl round Pimlico. Meet 12 noon at Stephen's Tavern, 10 Bridge St SW1A 5JR (Westminster Tube).

Wed - Sat January 19-22 CAMRA National Winter Ale Festival, Sheridan Suite, Oldham Road, Manchester M40 8RR. (for details visit:

http://www.alefestival.org.uk/winterales).

☐ Thu - Sat January 20-22 Cambridge CAMRA Winter Ale Festival, University Social Club, Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RX. Travel by X5. (for details visit http://www.cambridgebeerfestival.com/winter).

Monday January 31 Branch Annual General Meeting, Cannon, Newport Pagnell 8 pm. (Please remember to bring your membership cards so you can vote.)

February 2011

Thursday February 10 Branch Social, Nut and Squirrel, Westcroft, 8 pm.

⁴ Monday February 22 Branch Meeting, Fox and Hounds, Stony Stratford 8.30 pm.

Saturday February 26 (NB Provisional date!) Annual Cycle Crawl to mark Local Pubs Week. Start Victoria in Bradwell Village 10.30am, then circuit of 6-7 pubs using Redways. Cyclists of all levels of proficiency welcome. It is vital to check our website www.mkcamra.org.uk nearer the time to confirm date, time, and details.

March 2011

Thursday March 10 Branch Social, Olney Pub Crawl and visit to Hopping Mad Brewery. Meet 8 pm at the Bull.

Thu - Sun March 24-27 Coach trip to Ghent and Brussels, where we will visit a chocolate factory, also visit Bosteels Brewery. £260 p/p. Single supp £70. Deposit £60p/p. Places still available. Contact social@mkcamra.org.uk

Monday March 28 Branch Meeting, Globe, Hanslope 8.30pm.

Monday March 26 marks the start of National Cask Ale Week 2011. We should have further details in the next issue of Beer Moos; meanwhile visit

http://www.caskaleweek.co.uk for regular updates.

Looking Ahead

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

CALLING ALL CAMRA MEMBERS IN NORTH BUCKS

Branch Annual General Meeting on Monday January 31 2011 to be held in the Function Room behind The Cannon, 50 High Street, Newport Pagnell at 8pm

o you reckon the guys and gals who run your CAMRA branch are doing a good job? Or do you think we're a hopeless bunch of you-know-whats incapable of organising a p**s-up in a brewery, and you could do far better? Well you have your chance to let us know at the branch annual general meeting on the last day of January.

This is probably the most important meeting of the Milton Keynes and North Bucks CAMRA branch, for it's there that you, the members elect the branch officers who will keep the show on the road in 2011.

CAMRA is a wholly volunteer-run organisation and the work of our branch has typically been shouldered by a tiny fraction of the members we have. So PLEASE come along to the AGM and offer your services. It's fun, it's satisfying, and the more volunteers we have to do things, the less work there is for each one. You will need an up-to-date membership card to vote at the AGM. See you there – please!

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

The theme for this edition's puzzle is pub names and inn signs

- 1. Is there a pub in the UK called the Christmas Pudding?
- 2. Is there such an organisation as the Inn Sign Society?
- **3.** What were the original names of the two pubs which used to be in the main Milton Keynes shopping centre?
- **4.** What is the most widely-held belief on the origin of the pub name 'Goat and Compass'?
- 5. Caton le Fidèle, a governor of Calais loyal to King Edward III, was thought to have given his name to what popular pub name?
- **6.** Which one of these is a completely made-up pub name? (a) Balloon (b) Spitfire (c) The Honourable Pilot.
- 7. We have a Leathern Bottle in Wavendon, but how many Leather (or Leathern) Bottles (or Bottels) are there in the UK? (a) Fewer than 8 (b) Between 9 and 14 (c) Over 14?
- **8.** Before 1538 most pubs now called the 'King's Head' had another name. What was it?
- 9. What is special about pubs called 'Brewery Tap'?

10. What is the most popular pub name in the UK? There are about 600 of them, although we only have 3 in our CAMRA area.

11. What is the most popular pub name in our CAMRA branch area?

TIME WASTER:- What are the most popular 20 pub names in the UK? Score 2 points for every correct one, deduct 1 point for any you included which are not on the list.

1. Red Lion Z. Crown 3. Royal Oak 4. Rose & Crown 5. Kings Head 6. White Hart 7. Queens Head 8. Railway 9. Bell 10. Swan 11. Angel 12. Bulls Head 13. Coach & Horses 14. Ceorge 15. Ceorge and Dragon 16. Nelson 17. New Inn 18. Plough 19. Star 20. White Horse How did you score? Over 30 - excellent. High 20's - Very good, Low 20's - Cood. High teens - Average, Below that - Cood try, have another drink!

ANSWERS TOP 20 PUB NAMES

1. No - but there is a Plum Pudding in Rugeley, Staffs, and a Pudding and Pye in Wimborne, Dorset. Z. Yes - they have a very interesting website 3. The City Duck, and the Rose & Castle 4. 'God Encompasseth Us' 5. The Cat and Fiddle 6, Mone of them (sorry, folks) - there are 9 pubs with 'Balloon' in the name. 4 with 'Spitfire' and Z1 with 'Pilot', but only one of them is Honourable. 7. (c) There are 16 of them. 8. The Pope's Head. 9. They were at, or next to, the brewery, usually to showcase its products. 10. Red Lion. 11. Swan, with 10 pubs, including variations on the name.

ANSWERS PUB NAMES AND INN SIGNS







The Three Horseshoes

10 Main Rd, Drayton Parslow, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK17 0JS

We're a friendly family pub in a lovely country village including a restaurant and 9 bed & breakfast rooms.

3 Course Christmas lunch for £10 pre orders only

There are always 3 real ales on the bar, two of which constantly rotate mainly using small local breweries.

We also have a small function room and cater for outside bars.

01296 720 296







www.themitre.org.uk

