

# The Good Old Days?

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**Diary Dates**

It is the year 1830. King George IV is on his deathbed and his brother William IV is poised to take over the throne. The Liverpool to Manchester railway has just opened, the first



patents for a lawnmower and a sewing machine are filed. Abroad, there are revolutions in Belgium and France. And at the Castle Tavern in Holborn, London, an illegal bare-knuckle prize fight is arranged, which will leave one man dead and another charged with murder. One hundred pounds, equivalent to £83,000 today, rides on the outcome, and it all happened near Hanslope on Wednesday, the second of June.

Customers at the Watts Arms in Hanslope may have been curious about a framed notice just to the right of the pub's entrance. It reads:

*Alex McKay lodged at the Watts Arms prior to the fateful fight with Simon Byrne which took place in Salcey Forest nearby. After the fight he was brought back to Watts Arms where he unfortunately haemorrhaged, and died by the window in the lounge.*

The notice then goes on to list some of the fighting records of the two combatants. But what exactly was going on in Hanslope on that day back in 1830 long before the railway through Wolverton was built or Milton Keynes even dreamt of?

Alex McKay was born in Glasgow in 1804, and by 1830 was known as the 'Highland Hercules', weighing in at 206 lb. His opponent was Irishman Simon Byrne, 'The Emerald Gem', two years younger and more slightly built, but with an equally impressive record of bare-knuckle fighting including one in 1826 'stopped by law' in the 35th round! The Hanslope match had been arranged by those wealthy backers down at the Castle Tavern, one of them being its landlord.

*Continued on page 8.....*

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# 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 August 25th. Tell us what you've got planned for September to mid-December, 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). Readers, PLEASE support our advertisers and patronise their businesses, for without them there would be no Beer Moos for you to enjoy.*

## News North

**Globe, Hanslope** now opens all day and is Cask Marque accredited. It's hosting two beer festivals this summer. On Saturday July 3 will be Independence Day festival with a US theme, then the main summer festival will run from 30 July to August 1st. Bus 33 from MK stops at the pub. For details visit <http://www.theglobe-hanslope.co.uk> or contact Emma 01908 510336.

*Barman Rob at the Globe*



*Pauline at the Watts Arms*



**Watts Arms, Hanslope** is hosting a garden party in aid of Willen Hospice on Saturday July 3 from 2pm. Come and enjoy a live band, BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting, and tug of war, though this last item hasn't been confirmed as we go to press. See also 'The Good Old Days?' on the front cover.

## News East

**Cannon, Newport Pagnell** There's plenty to keep Paul and Molly's customers entertained this summer at the Cannon! You can enjoy live folk in the bar on the first

*Continued.....*

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Beer Moos will be published on: 1st September.  
We must have your stories, news and advertisements by: 20th August.  
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](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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Wednesday of every month, a quiz every Tuesday night, and at 4pm on Saturdays a meat raffle whose tickets are drawn again at 2pm the following Sunday for a prize of wine.

In the function room there's 'Time of the Month' Comedy Club on the first Sunday of every month from 7-9, admission free. Those who missed out being picked on *Britain's Got Talent* can strut their stuff on Open Mike night at 8pm every Thursday, and if you just want to listen to music, on the first Friday of each month a live band plays from 8pm onwards. And you can watch the World Cup on large-screen TV.

**Lamb, Stoke Goldington** Hosts Rachel and Steve are presiding over a busy summer program of events at our 2008 Pub of the Year. On June 12 from 7pm there is a charity pig roast and morris dancing evening in aid of heart research. July 29 sees over 30 vintage cars assembling at the Lamb between 12 and 3pm for a rally, and on August 7, Steve and Rachel celebrate their 10th year in the pub with a hog-roast and live music, starting at 4pm. September 11 sees the annual jazz and blues fest *Whambangthankyoulamb* whose details were not finalised as we went to press but which from previous years' experience is something not to be missed. Phone 01908 551233 or visit <http://www.thelambstokegoldington.com/>

**Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes** is presenting Rats in the Kitchen, billed as 'The World's No 1 UB40 Tribute Show.' on Saturday July 10. Gates open at 6.30pm, tickets are a tenner, and there will be two bars and a barbecue plus a great evening's entertainment. Book on 01234 711574 but check too the pub's website – you might win free entry! [www.therobinhoodpub.co.uk/ratsinthekitchen.pdf](http://www.therobinhoodpub.co.uk/ratsinthekitchen.pdf)

**Swan, Sherington** is hosting a Country and Western evening on July 31. Tickets are £8.50 which includes a hog-roast and buffet as well as live entertainment from C&W duo Black Gold. There's also now a curry night every four weeks starting from Thursday June 10. For details and bookings call manager Colin Baker on 01908 610992.

## White Hart, Stoke Goldington

has new licensees Lisa and Kevin Boustred. Lisa grew up in Stoke Goldington and had always said that if the White Hart became available she would go for it. Her dream has now come true, and in addition to excellent ales and food, the pub hosts darts every Monday, poker on Thursdays, and a quiz on the first Sunday of every month. Assisted by son Calum, they are also converting an outhouse into a games room with pool, table football, large-screen TV and sofas to watch it from. Beer Moos welcomes Lisa and Kevin to our branch area, and wishes them a prosperous and successful tenure of this charming and characterful small pub.



## News West

**Buckingham Arms, Maids Moreton** Landlady Sue Cunningham invites you to a sports day at the pub on August 30th, Bank Holiday Monday. Come, bring your family, and have fun, however fit you are or aren't!

**King's Head, Buckingham** offers pool every Monday, acoustic music every Tuesday, darts on Thursdays, and (loud!) electric live music on Fridays. It's all go at this lively and cheerful town centre pub where the ale is often LocAle.

**Mitre, Buckingham** is holding a three-day event in aid of Help for Heroes, with live music on June 10, Charity Golf on June 11, and a duck race on the Ouse on June 12. For details call 01280 813080.

**Reindeer, Westbury** is up for sale by Paramount Investments according to their website, as we go to press. It could be yours for £325,000! Go on – you know you've always wanted your own boozer.....

## Shoulder of Mutton, Little Horwood

We welcome new hosts Chubb and Ali, and wish them a prosperous and happy tenure. The pub now sells food 7 days a week, and male customers

should not miss the Gents' loo where the ceiling and walls, but not floor, are fully carpeted, the only time we at Beer Moos have ever seen this!

**Lone Tree, Thornborough** Aylesbury Vale District Council has refused a change of use application to convert the pub into a residential dwelling and build a house on the site.

**Wheatsheaf, Maids Moreton** is holding a beer festival on August Bank Holiday weekend. Why not shuttle between the Wheatsheaf festival and Buckingham Arms sports day on the Monday?



**Woolpack, Buckingham** has new managers Declan McKeown and Laura Chart, and new opening hours. From Monday to Thursday it is now open from 5-11, with 12-12 opening on Friday and Saturday, 12-10.30 on Sunday. Beer Moos welcomes Declan

and Laura, and wishes them every success. The Woolpack will be hosting its usual beer festival over August Bank Holiday.

## News South

**Old Green Man, Little Brickhill** - Steve and Natasha are planning great things at the OGM! The public bar is to be reinstated – currently all the bars are linked. They have applied for Cask Marque accreditation and currently sell a choice of ales from the Greene King list.

They have a new chef in Andrew Hurley who was once personal chef to Andrew Lloyd-Webber, and also worked as a pastry chef with Raymond Blanc. With that level of skill in the kitchen, meals at the OGM should be memorable and delicious!

Elvis fans won't want to miss Presley look- and sing-alike Paul Robinson who's performing at the pub on July 30. Ticket price of £15 includes a full buffet. Call the OGM to reserve yours - 01525 261253.

**Three Locks, Stoke Hammond** - now has a bigger and more varied beer list.

## News Central

**Enigma, Bletchley** proprietor Karen and manager Nadine are arranging with Marstons to provide real-ale training for themselves and their staff. The pub is a free house and, though retaining Marstons as its principal supplier, plans to stock regularly a range of LocAles; it is also applying for Cask Marque accreditation. When Beer Moos called we were impressed by the pub's atmosphere and by Karen and Nadine's obvious enthusiasm, and we wish it and them every success. The beer was pretty good too.

**Cross Keys, Woolstone** – now carries five real ales, including two LocAles. The pub celebrates its 450th birthday in August: for details of events, which will include a 10 day beer festival, visit <http://www.crosskeysmiltonkeynes.co.uk> or call landlord Paul Hepworth on 01908 679404 nearer the time.

**Red Lion, Fenny Stratford** is our branch's Pub of the Year for 2010. Congratulations to Guy and Glynis Plumb for this achievement. In three years they have transformed the Red Lion into a truly great real ale pub, and a worthy winner of this award.



*Phil Swinbank presents certificate to Guy and Glynis*

**Suffolk Punch, Heelands** is listed on Fleuret's website as being for sale as we go to press.

**Victoria Inn, Bradwell** will be staging its usual beer festival over August Bank Holiday.



# Great British Beer Festival 2010

Summer is icumen in, as the song says, and with it comes the world's biggest beer festival. The Great British Beer Festival is back at Earl's Court from Tuesday August 3rd to Saturday August 7th, where once again you can enjoy over 450 British and international beers, plus 200 or so ciders and perries.

Between pints, there will be plenty to occupy you at the festival. You could play some traditional pub games, enjoy live music, eat from a wide choice of excellent food, including good traditional pub snacks, and attend tutored beer tastings.

## Here are the opening times:

**Tuesday August 3rd:** 5.00pm to 10.30pm

**Wednesday August 4th**

**to Friday August 6th:** 12noon to 10.30pm

**Saturday August 7th:** 11.00am to 7.00pm

We strongly recommend you buy your tickets in advance. This saves long queuing at Earl's Court and gets you a discount as well. Book either online at [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk) or by phone on 0844 412 4640 for individual tickets, or 0871 230 5594 for groups.

A booking fee applies.

Advance day tickets cost £6 for CAMRA members and £8 for non-members

Advance season tickets cost £20 for CAMRA members, £23 for non-members

Day Tickets (on the door) cost £8 for CAMRA members, £10 for non-members

Group bookings (10+) cost £7 per person whether members or not.

Tutored Tastings Tickets for this year's festival are also now on sale at £12 for CAMRA members £15 for non-members. Buy them online with your entry tickets.

You can now get your hands on your official Great British Beer Festival tee-shirt and polo shirt from CAMRA's online shop <http://gbbf.camra.org.uk/clothing> at £11 for tee-shirts and £15 for polo shirts.

It takes an army of over 1000 volunteers to make the Great British festival happen. Would you like to join them this year? You'll be worked to death of course, but will enjoy every minute, and there is a special bar just for volunteers where the beer is FREE! So - to join our barmy army, apply online at [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk) and get ready to have the time of your life! You do have to be a CAMRA member though, for insurance purposes.

**To enter the draw to win a pair of tickets to the Great British Beer Festival 2010 just answer the following question-**

*Which brewery's beer was crowned overall Champion Beer of Britain last year at the Festival? Was it:*

- *Greene King?*
- *Rudgate?*
- *Marstons?*

Send an email with title-line 'GBBF 2010 Competition' to [jon.howard@camra.org.uk](mailto:jon.howard@camra.org.uk), giving your full name, contact telephone number, address for delivery of tickets, and, of course, your answer!. Postal entries can be sent to-

Jon Howard

CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, ST ALBANS, AL1 4LW

The closing date for entries will be Monday July 19th 2010. Winners will be notified by Wednesday July 28th 2010.





## Isle of Man Visit

Here's a sobriety test. Try saying 'Eyjafjallajökull' after a few pints. Struggling? Well that gives you an idea of how seven Milton Keynes CAMRA members felt when, on the very day in April when we were due to fly to the Isle of Man for CAMRA's National Members Weekend and AGM, the said volcano blew its top and all planes were grounded.

Still, we all got there by other means, along with 800 others who weren't going to let some pesky volcano with an unpronounceable name keep us from one of the great events in CAMRA's calendar!

The Isle of Man is not only blessed with splendid scenery, but boasts some of the most unspoiled pubs in the British Isles, linked by superb public transport, and its beers are brewed under a German-style purity law.



The island has two big breweries, Okells and Bushys, and a micro (Old Laxey.) All make great beer, and our party visited all three. Bushy's pride and joy is its brew tower (left), an unusual item of brewing equipment which combines hot liquor tank, mash-tun, whirlpool, and cop-

per in one unit, and is one of only three in existence. And oh yes – the AGM? Well you can read all about that in What's Brewing or on CAMRA's website. We went for the beer, so pure you can quaff it copiously with few ill effects. We even learned how to say 'Cheers' in Manx Gaelic.

*Slaynt!*

## Moosings from the Chair

Hey you people out there - the 500-odd CAMRA members in North Bucks - how come I never see any of you?

I mean, I don't want to lay any guilt on anyone; it's great that you're paying your subscriptions, buying your copies of the Good Beer Guide, and above all creating a demand for real ale. But couldn't you do a little more for us? There are only a couple of dozen activists in this branch and that means a lot of work for us all. And you know deep down you'd enjoy it because it involves drinking some beer...

Pub surveying is something I wish we could do more thoroughly. More manpower would mean we could cover more pubs during the whole year and make sure we're not missing establishments which might qualify for the Good Beer Guide.

There's a stalwart crew who turn up every year to man the beer festival. I'm very grateful to these guys and gals as they make our jobs so much easier. But we could always do with a few more.

You might be daunted about coming to our branch meetings, thinking they are for other people and must be dull, dry affairs. But remember that every CAMRA member (that's you!) has the right to join in, and we're planning things like pub surveys and beer festivals. What's dull about that?

If you're still leery of branch meetings, why not come along to one of our social meetings (check the diary page in this organ for dates) and see what we are about?

Cheers!

*Phil Swinbank*



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

# The Good old Days? continued

It's difficult for us today even to imagine the horror of these prizefights. The law frowned on them, so they were usually held in out-of-the-way spots. There were no weight restrictions or divisions, no gloves, no set number of rounds, no specified length to the rounds and no rest periods - Queensberry's rules lay far in the future. Boxers fought bare-fisted, and a round went on till one of the men fell. If after half a minute his seconds were unable to bring him back to the mark scratched on the ground in the middle of the ring (the 'scratch'), he was judged defeated. This is the origin of the expression 'up to scratch.'



Watts Arms in Hanslope

The fight had been planned to take place in Hanslope, almost certainly at or near the Watts Arms. It isn't clear where in the end it actually happened, though most historians think that the location was Salcey Green, just over the border in Northamptonshire and thus outside the jurisdiction of the High Constable of Stony Stratford and Newport Pagnell, who had got wind of it, and instructed Tom Evans the parish constable to stop it. (There were no police as we know them until the County Police Act of 1839.) How poor Evans was supposed single-handedly to halt the fight when (in his words) 'there were a great many persons assembled' at the Watts Arms is not recorded, but his efforts must have had some effect because McKay, who was lodging in the pub, made off through a window while the landlord's niece distracted the constable by parading at the front door dressed in a kilt. Maybe the hapless Evans thought the girl was the boxer!

So the fight went ahead, and after 47 rounds of bare-knuckle battering, McKay lay unconscious.

Constable Evans described the end: '...in the last three or four rounds the man called McKay appeared very much beat; in the last round McKay was knocked down, or fell down; I did not exactly notice what occasioned the fall; he appeared quite helpless; and could not stand.'

The defeated fighter was attended by a local doctor, and conveyed back to the Watts Arms. There, at 9pm the next day, Alex McKay, aged 26, died. He lies in Hanslope churchyard where his stone bears a touching inscription in verse:

*Strong and athletic was my frame  
Far from my native home I came  
And bravely fought with Simon Byrne  
Alas, but never to return.  
Stranger take warning from my fate  
Lest you should rue your case too late  
If you have ever fought before  
Determine now to fight no more.*

The victorious Simon Byrne was arrested for McKay's murder. According to the Northampton Mercury of 12th June 1830 he was detained at Liverpool while boarding the Dublin packet, by officers who had heard of the fatal result of the fight, and followed him there.

Byrne did not testify at his trial at Buckingham Assizes. He didn't need to, because the wealthy promoters supplied three learned counsel and five solicitors to represent him, and paid for twelve defence witnesses to stay in Buckingham for the trial's duration. Witnesses testified that McKay was a bigger man than Byrne, and some asserted that, on his way to the fight, McKay had fallen and struck his head on stones, causing the injuries that would later prove fatal. Back in his native Glasgow the press even claimed that McKay's water bottle had been spiked! In the end the jury took only ten minutes to return a verdict of Not Guilty which was received with 'ecstasies' and the 'feeling of triumph universal.'

Afterwards, a report in The Times showed no doubts where, in its opinion, responsibility for McKay's death should lie. It agreed that Simon Byrne had been rightly acquitted, but referring to the backers it thundered: 'we do hope ... that an example will be



made of the wealthy monsters in this affair of blood - the sanguinary cowards who stood by and saw a fellow creature beaten to death for their sport and gain'.

Three years later, at St Albans, Byrne fought one James Burke in the longest recorded prize-fight ever - 99 rounds, lasting three hours and sixteen minutes. Though he won the fight, Simon Byrne died three days later from injuries received during it. He was just 27 years old.

The notice in the Watts Arms commemorates the fighting careers of both men. So, next time you relax there, enjoying landlady Pauline's fine food and ales, spare a thought for Alex McKay and Simon Byrne, and be grateful that you live in gentler times!

Jim Scott

*The author is indebted to Hanslope and District Historical Society for kind permission to use material from their website (<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/hdhs>) in preparing this article.*

**HANSLOPE SUMMER BEER & WINE FEST**  
July 29th - 31st, 2010  
Thurs—Fri—Sat  
12 Noon—12 Midnight


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# CAMRA and Other News

## Northamptonshire club steams to victory!

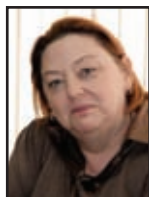
A converted railway station only 25 miles from Milton Keynes has been crowned by CAMRA as the best Club in Britain for Real Ale in 2010.

Rushden Historical Transport Society's Social Club beat rivals in Cheshire, London, and Surrey to take the title having impressed the panel of judges with its outstanding commitment to quality real ale. The Club is a regular in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, with up to 7 real ales on tap at all times.

Back in 1986, the Society transformed the disused ladies waiting room of Rushden's old Midland Railway Station into a Victorian-themed real ale bar. It soon acquired a reputation for quality and choice of beer, and remains a haven for real ale drinkers. You can find out more by visiting [www.rhts.co.uk](http://www.rhts.co.uk).

*(Editor's note. Milton Keynes CAMRA may be organising a mini-bus trip to RHTS Club this summer. Keep checking our website [www.mkcamra.org.uk](http://www.mkcamra.org.uk).)*

## Our Regional Director goes on CAMRA's National Executive



Beer Moos congratulates Jackie Parker, our Regional Director, who was elected to CAMRA's ruling body – the National Executive – at the Annual General Meeting on the Isle of Man in April. We wish her all the very best in her demanding new position, in which

we're sure she'll acquit herself as splendidly as when Regional Director. Jackie will be acting as caretaker Regional Director until a successor is chosen.

## Win £3000 in CAMRA's 2010 National Raffle

In a bid to raise valuable campaigning funds to help stem the tide of six British pubs closing every day,

CAMRA has launched its 2010 National Raffle for 2010. First prize is £3000, with £1000 for second prize and a year's CAMRA Beer Club Membership as third. There will also be 20 other smaller prizes up for grabs!

Tickets are £2 each, and everyone, not just CAMRA members, is invited to have a flutter with us. The closing date is September 17th 2010, with lucky winners to be notified shortly after the draw has taken place. All proceeds will go towards campaigning against the many challenges facing community pubs in the current climate. Visit [www.camra.org.uk/raffle](http://www.camra.org.uk/raffle) for more information.

## CAMRA National Mild Month - May 2010

CAMRA has released of research showing the increasing profile of the Mild beer style.

A survey to 500 real ale drinkers spread across the UK found that 64% of drinkers have seen an increase in the number of Mild beers served at pubs and beer festivals over the past 5 years. Similarly, 75% of those surveyed also noted increased availability of Mild beers in pubs and brewery shops within a 30 mile radius of their home. For further information on the Mild beer style visit [www.camra.org.uk/mild](http://www.camra.org.uk/mild)

## CAMRA National Cider and Perry Championships 2010

Devon and Gloucestershire producers topped CAMRA's National Cider and Perry Championships for 2010.

Sandford Orchards, of Crediton in Devon was the winner of the cider gold medal with their Sandford Orchards Cider, which proves you don't need a fancy name to win competitions! The judges described it as having 'a fruity aroma with wonderful honeysuckle and banana notes, and a long, sweet aftertaste'.

The winner of the perry gold medal is Hartlands Farmhouse Perry from Gloucestershire, which the judges described as 'beautifully well-balanced in aroma and taste, with a great combination of spice and sweetness'.

Runners-up in the cider category included the delightfully named Porker's Snout which is produced relatively close to our branch area by Pickled Pig ciders of Cambridgeshire (<http://www.pickledpig.co.uk>).

Also, as part of its continuing campaign to promote locally produced real cider and perry, and the pubs that sell them, CAMRA has launched a new pump clip crowner similar to the existing LocAle ones to tell drinkers if they are drinking local produce.

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## **CAMRA says new Government needs Minister for Pubs**

CAMRA has written to David Cameron seeking the appointment of a Minister for Pubs and is asking its 110,000 members to contact the Prime Minister to add their call for the appointment.

CAMRA chief executive Mike Benner commented 'It is a positive sign that the new Prime Minister chose to enjoy a pint in his local community pub on election night. CAMRA hopes that the new Government will include a Minister for Pubs tasked with safeguarding the future of the nation's pubs.'

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## **A New Bottled LocAle Brewery**

Beer Moos is delighted to announce a new real-ale brewery which just squeezes into our 35-mile LocAle radius. It is Draycott Brewery of Buckden, where brewers Jon and Jill Draycott specialise in producing bottle-conditioned real ale. So far they are not distributing their beers as far as Milton Keynes, as their local drinkers are supping up every drop they currently make, but we're hopeful, and in any case we wish them every success. Why not visit their website? <http://www.draycottbrewery.co.uk>



*Families welcome!*

**Curry Night!**  
Saturdays from 5pm  
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\* Independent research by CGA Strategy with 85% of our pubs during August 2009.



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# 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.htm>

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

## June 2010

☐ **Thursday June 17.** Branch Social, Greyhound, Haversham, 8pm

☐ **Monday June 28.** Branch Meeting, Old Green Man, Little Brickhill, 8.30pm.

## July 2010

☐ **Thursday July 15.** Branch Social, Swan, Sherington, 8pm.

☐ **Monday July 26.** Branch Meeting, Bell, Beachampton, 8.30pm.

## August 2010

☐ **August 3-7.** Great British Beer Festival (GBBF), Earl's Court, London. [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk)

☐ **Friday August 6.** Branch Visit to GBBF. Meet MK Central 11.00 for 11.13 train or 11.17 at Bletchley

☐ **Thursday August 12.** Branch Social, Shoulder of Mutton, Little Horwood, 8pm.

☐ **Monday August 23.** Branch Meeting, New Inn, Buckingham, 8.30pm.

**August Bank Holiday 28-30** – Party on the Pitch Beer festival at Bletchley Rugby Club. There are also festivals in Buckingham at the Mitre and at the Woolpack.

## September 2010

**Friday-Saturday September 4-5** Stony Stratford Beer Festival, York House MK11 1JQ.

See branch website for details [www.mkcamra.org.uk](http://www.mkcamra.org.uk)

☐ **Thursday September 16.** Branch Social and Launch of Good Beer Guide 2011, Lamb, Stoke Goldington, 8pm. To be confirmed, check branch website nearer time.

## Looking Ahead

☐ **October 27-30.** Milton Keynes 'Concrete Pint' Beer Festival, The Pitz, Woughton Campus, Please note we are opening on the Wednesday evening this year!

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

## Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Applications will be processed within 21 days

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Address .....

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Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in! ..... Direct Debit Non DD

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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.

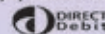
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• You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.





# 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



- Which Thornborough pub offers half price drinks to pensioners during Wednesday lunchtimes?
- What is the name of the only pub in Old Stratford, (Northamptonshire - just outside our CAMRA area)?
- Which fairly local brewer brews Natterjack?
- Silverstone Brewery brews just three beers. One is Pitstop, another is On the Button. What is name of the third?
- What month is designated by CAMRA as 'Mild Month'?
- In which decade was CAMRA formed?
- How many billion pounds does the government take in duty and taxes on beer annually?

8. What is the name of the microbrewery in our LocAle area which only produces real ale in a bottle?

9. For what does the abbreviation ABV stand?

10. At the GBBF (Great British Beer Festival) between 3rd and 7th August this year, how much does a CAMRA member save by buying an advance ticket compared with an 'on the day' ticket for a non-member?

**TIME WASTER** You have exactly two minutes to write down as many local pub names as possible. Spend the next 15 minutes adding to it. Keep a note of your two totals and then challenge a friend to beat your totals. A good score is 20 in two minutes and 40 in 15 minutes. You can check your answers by logging onto our local CAMRA website at: <http://mkcamra.org.uk/pubs.php>

1. Two Brewers 2. The Swan 3. Frog Island (Northampton) 4. Chequered Flag 5. May 6. The 1970s (it was 16th March 1971 - just 4 weeks after the decimalisation of UK currency on 14th February) 7. Just over three billion pounds 8. Draycott Brewery 9. Alcohol By Volume 10. £4

### ANSWERS

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- Exclusive HALF PRICE admission for CAMRA members – prices from £5.50 on Friday and £10 on Saturday.
- Excellent programme of racing.
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