



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**



Issue 74
June/July 2012

Free

(Please take a copy,
read it and pass it on)

the Oxford Drinker

Oxford Pub
Guide Wins
Award
Page 14



Town & Village
Pub of the Year
Shortlist
Page 9

West
Oxfordshire
Pub Tour
Page 10

Local Brewery
News
Page 6



Rates Reduced

001 TAXIS
(01865)
24 00 00
www.001taxis.com



We are currently seeking **OWNER DRIVERS** with a valid Hackney Carriage Licence issued by South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Cherwell District Council or Oxford City Council.
Please contact **001 Taxis**, New Inn Yard, 108 St. Aldates, Oxford

-LUCKY 777'S-
Amusements
Amusement arcade next to
001 Taxis city centre waiting room



24 Hours

The free newsletter of the
Oxford Branch of CAMRA
www.oxfordcamra.org.uk

Also Including the
White Horse Branch of CAMRA
www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk



WYCHWOOD BREWERY

Store & Tours



*Our Brewery Store is open
10am - 5pm
Monday to Saturday*

The Hobgoblin orders you to come and browse his selection of gifts and merchandise with exclusive in-store offers and promotions on bottled and cask beers.

Brewery tours operate every Saturday and Sunday offering a two hour experience for those interested in seeing mischief in the making.

Come and see us if you dare but be warned...most things bite!

*Book online at www.wychwood.co.uk
or call: 01993 890 800**

*(*pre booking essential)*

Wychwood Brewery, Eagle Maltings, The Crofts, Witney, Oxon OX28 4DP

The Oxford Drinker is the newsletter of Oxford and White Horse branches of CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale.

5000 copies are distributed free of charge to pubs and other locations across the branch area; including Oxford, Abingdon, Witney, Faringdon, Eynsham, Kidlington, Bampton and Wantage.

This newsletter is also available electronically in PDF format at www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/drinker

Valuable contributions to this edition have been made by Matt Bullock, Neil Hoggarth, Richard Queralt, Lawrence Harman, Dave Richardson, Dave Cogdell, David Hill and others.

The next issue will be published in **August 2012**.

Deadline for the next issue is 9th July 2012.

To advertise, contact Johanne Green on 07766-663215 or send an email to advertising@oxfordcamra.org.uk

Send news, information and articles to Steven and Johanne Green; editor@oxfordcamra.org.uk

Printed by Leachprint, Abingdon.
www.leachprint.co.uk

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Oxford or White Horse branches of CAMRA, or of CAMRA Limited.

© Copyright 2012, Oxford CAMRA

Useful Contacts

Oxford Branch

Stephen Lawrence
contact@oxfordcamra.org.uk

White Horse Branch

Neil Crook: contact@whitehorsecamra.org.uk

Oxford Drinker Editors

Steven and JoHanne Green
editor@oxfordcamra.org.uk
13 Cheyney Walk, Abingdon
07766 663215

Oxford Trading Standards

01865 815000

Don't miss a single copy of the Oxford Drinker.

Why not subscribe to the Oxford Drinker? To do this, send some A5 size stamped addressed envelopes to:

Oxford Drinker, 13 Cheyney Walk, Abingdon,
OX14 1HN

We will send you as many issues as you send envelopes.

Contents

Pub News.....	4
Pub Beer Festival Reports.....	4
Brewery News.....	6
Town & Village Pub of the Year Nominations..	9
Wild West Adventure.....	10
Oxford Pub Guide Award.....	14
LocAle Beer Awards Presentation.....	15
Oxford CAMRA Branch Diary.....	16
Oxford CAMRA Branch Meeting Report.....	16
Beer Festival Diary.....	17
White Horse Branch Information.....	18
Sing a song of Sixpence - Visit to Rye.....	18
White Horse Branch Diary.....	19
Wantage Beer Festival.....	20
Festival Helper Trip to Chippenham.....	21
Bainton Bikes Beer Lover Rides.....	23
In Memory of Fed Heavens.....	26
Join CAMRA today.....	29
Save Your Pint!!!!.....	30

Welcome to the June - July 2012 issue of the Oxford Drinker.

Summer has finally come and even though it may rain in June and July we have had a little taste of glorious weather. Let us hope it will continue.

During the next months numerous people will come from abroad to visit the Olympic Games. Many of them will probably also want to visit the world famous "British Pub" and drink a pint of proper British Beer! Any other nation would be very proud if they had our brewing heritage and would probably make a great deal out of the special experience it is to drink a pint with friends in the pub. However being British this is not the way things are done here. It sometimes seems as if we as a Nation are a bit sheepish about our traditions and think that they are not worth mentioning - let alone promoting. So while the Jubilee and the Games are on remember your pub! Remember that other countries try to emulate what we have. Go out with your friends and raise a toast for the British pint!

If you would like to keep your British pint, please sign the e-petition to stop the beer tax escalator which is 2% above inflation with every new budget each year. Go to www.camra.org.uk/saveyourpint to sign and ask your friends and family to do the same.

— Steven & JoHanne

Pub News



Ian Roberts reports: I am pleased to report that the **Red Horse in Shipton-under-Wychwood** finally reopened its doors Friday 11th May under the stewardship of Chris and Celia, experienced hoteliers and publicans, who have lately run pubs in the Evesham and Moreton-in-Marsh areas. However, the pub, which is owned by Enterprise, is still up for sale, and consequently its future is still uncertain. **Hook Norton Bitter** and **Hobgoblin** are currently available but Chris says that, if he is allowed to stay he will add another three real ale pumps and get rid of all the lagers and replace them with **Cotswold lager**.

The Chequers in Chipping Norton is granting a 5% reduction on real ales to CAMRA members between Sunday and Wednesday (both days inclusive).

The Kite in Mill Street, Oxford has a comprehensive, alternating list of monthly guest ales.

Witney Roundtable are organizing a beer festival in Witney on the 4th June (as part of the jubilee celebrations) with the help of **White Horse** and **Wychwood** Breweries. It will be held at St Marys, Church Green, Witney starting at Midday. They hope to raise funds towards the St Marys restoration appeal and for the charities they support as Roundtable.

The Plough in Wheatley serves local beers.

The Grapes, George St, Oxford serves **Lovibonds 69 IPA** in addition to the Bath Ales on tap.

Wetherspoons has applied for planning application to convert the Old Post Office in Abingdon into a pub.

Recent Beer Festival Reports



In recent years the number of beer festivals run by pubs have increased exponentially. Now there is hardly a weekend going by without a local beer festival going on somewhere - as is reflected in the beer festival list on page 17. There are so many of them, that people are spoilt for choice and to cover all of them with an article would fill the magazine up - not to mention even trying to go to all of them ourselves. Having said that, we feel that a mention should go to the hardworking publicans, who arrange these beer festivals, to the enjoyment of us all.

Over Easter **The Woodman Inn, North Leigh** and the **Broad Face, Abingdon** held beer festivals, while **Far From The Madding Crowd** had a cider festival. April saw festivals at the **Kings Arms, Kidlington** and the **Turf Tavern, Oxford**. The May Bank Holiday weekend dawned with festivals at the **Prince of Wales, Shippon**, at the **Red Lion, Wolvercote** and for the first time a beer festival at the **Waggon and Horses, Culham**, where the new landlord, Hamish, is reintroducing local quality beer! The rest of May was packed with festivals in West Hendred, Banbury, the West End, Oxford, where five pubs work together; the pubs are: **The Dukes Cut, The Jam Factory, the Honey Pot and the Oxford Retreat**. There were also festivals at the **Gardeners Arms Jericho**, the **White Hart, Headington**, **The Cherry Tree, Steventon**, **Shoulder of Mutton, Wantage** and the **Brize Norton Beer Festival**.

The Cherry Tree, Steventon invited Morris Men to

dance at the beer festival - they make a point of inviting Abingdon Traditional Morris Men to their beer festivals and at New Years Day to dance the year in.

Looking forward the Jubilee weekend will be packed with events and beer festivals. Notably the **Old Anchor, Abingdon** is running its first beer festival since Lesley left. **Wallingford Beer and Blues** will be on, and the Round Tables in Both Bicester and Witney will be running beer festivals.

Far From the Madding Crowd will run its summer beer festival. Use the beer festival list on page 17 or online at www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/festivals to plan your summer beer festival outings.



Cherry Tree, Steventon beer festival. From left, Harry Knight (Morris man), Dick Bosley, Roger Cox (Mayor of Ock Street), Duncan Brown (Fool), Fiona Farrow (Cherry Tree Manager)

THE BEAR INN

The Bear Inn is the oldest pub in Oxford and is a hidden gem, just off the hustle and bustle of the busy High Street.

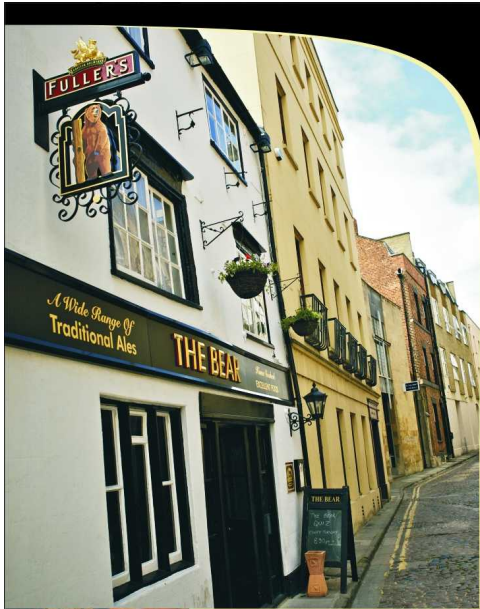
The pub is popular with students, locals and tourists alike, who enjoy a warm welcome, a range of real ales and bottled conditioned beers and traditional, home-cooked food by the fire.

The pub is most famous for its collection of ties - dating back to the early 1900's and representing clubs in the Oxford area and, more recently, around the globe.

A great place to unwind, take off your own tie, and enjoy looking at everyone else's!



6 Alfred Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX1 4EH
Telephone: 01865 728164
Email: bearinn@fullers.co.uk



Brewery News



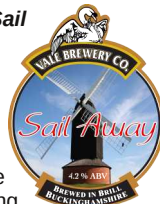
Vale Brewery Go For Gold.

Vale Brewery of Brill in Buckinghamshire has responded to the call from publicans & customers to provide a lower ABV beer, by launching **Brill Gold** (3.5% ABV). The crisp, flavoursome, hoppy and refreshing golden bitter is proving popular with all, so much that the first brew sold out in double quick time.



Finally the July monthly special is **Sail Away** (4.2%) bronze summer ale.

On Saturday the 23rd June Vale Brewery open their doors in Brill for a Summer Open Day. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the day. There will be a wide range of Vale beers to sample along with Aylesbury Brewhouse special brews and brewery tours provided. Food will be available on site and in addition two live bands will be playing: J J Stone and Gregg Cave will provide a fantastic acoustic accompaniment to a relaxing afternoon.



From mid May onwards **Diamond Reign** (4.4% ABV) a sparkling golden ale brewed to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

To kick-off the European Championships in June the monthly special will be

Two Halves (4.0% ABV) straw coloured ale and to continue the brewery's support for this summer of sport with **Decathlon** (4.3% ABV) a golden beer brewed with ten UK hops available mid July.



The kick off time is 12 noon and closing around 4.30. Advance booking is not required. If you are a Club member bring along up to two guests to as you will each get your first pint free!

More details will be on the website www.valebrewery.co.uk

Vale Brewery are on Facebook & follow them on Twitter @ValeBrewery



Enjoy 1 or 2 or 3 or 4...

in the pub or from the brewery shop.

Brewery shop open Saturday mornings 9.30-12.30

XT Brewery, Notley Farm, Long Crendon, Bucks. HP18 9ER

01844 208 310

www.xtbrewing.com

Brewery News



Lovibonds Brewery – Sour Grapes wins Gold Medal

Henley-on-Thames based Lovibonds Brewery took a Gold Medal in the Wood Aged Sour Beer category at the 2012 World Beer Cup® in San Diego. Considered by craft brewers to be the most prestigious beer competition, this year's World Beer Cup® attracted 3949 entries from 54 countries and was judged by 218 craft beer experts from 29 countries. The competition is organised by the Colorado based Brewers Association and took place at their yearly Craft Brewers Conference where well over 4000 craft breweries and suppliers from around the globe were in attendance for a trade exposition, knowledge sharing and great beer.

Jeff Rosenmeier said about the award "I'm actually stunned to have won a medal, let alone a Gold one at this competition. We've won a lot of awards, but this competition is judged by the best people in craft beer and to win in this particular category means a lot to me personally."

Regarding the beer, Jeff says "**Sour Grapes** started as a bit of a mistake while brewing our popular Henley Gold. Instead of dumping it down the drain, we thought it tasted great and shared it with the Tasting Room customers. We then took it to the next level by aging it further in French wine barrels in our ancient cellar adding some more microorganisms from our favourite Belgian Sour Beers."



Jeff Rosenmeier from Lovibonds Brewery
(Photo by Dan Towers)

XT Brewery Open Day....

Saturday 19th May was the second open day at the brewery, it proved very popular and the keen drinkers even came by the coach load. Many of the standard beers were available for people to sample plus a few one off specials including a Mild, which absolutely flew out. It was a great chance for the brewers to talk to people about the beers and explain the unconventional beer names. The main attraction of the day was the Jubilee beer '53' - named for the Coronation year. which was brewed using a recipe developed in collaboration with the Oxford Brewers homebrew group.

The Brewery brewed the seventh beer brand since starting up in November last year. A very tasty collaborative brew with Thame Brewery was called **Black Dragon**. Look out for more collaborative brews in the next few months with other breweries from around the country.

An Historic pre hop Ale: '**IV**' using Alehoof for the Veralum pub in St Albans that specialises in foraged natural ingredients has been brewed. The brewers brewed an Apricot beer '**APA**' for a Chef to use in a chocolate recipe. They are investigating doing a Gluten Free beer for a pub that specialises in celiac friendly menus.

Sales are rising steadily as the trade grows into Oxon, Bucks and Herts. A new fermenting vessel arriving in May will increase capacity by 50%. Sales of beers in the oak casks are going great guns at beer festivals and devoted beer pubs.

XT beers are now on permanently at about 15 pubs including the Cross Keys in Thame, and as a guest beer in many more.

The Brewery has been raising funds for Thame SAFARI a small local charity who provide support to adults with learning difficulties.

Vale Harvest food festival - a wide variety of locally produced food and drink to sample and buy on Sat 14th July will be hosted at the Brewery site. Chutney and Mustard made with XT beers are now available in the Brewery Shop.

The Limited Edition **Oak Aged Nine** is available in numbered bottles.



Gareth Xifaras (XT Brewer) and Keith Williams (Leicester CAMRA Branch Chairman) at the XT Open Day

Brewery News



West Berkshire Brewery

Swift Pale Ale - the newest bitter, a 3.8% blonde session beer, has proved to be a smashing success, the Brewery are planning to keep it as a permanent addition to their range.

Diamond Jubilee Ale - a special for the Queens Jubilee, brewed with Target and English Cascade hops is available now: the pump-clip was designed by the local primary school children, the beer is available in bottles and on draught for the bank holiday weekend from the brewery shop.

The brewery has recently started to do 'beers by post' - having finally found a suitable courier; bottles, poly-pins and 9 pint mini-casks are available with next day delivery.

Brewery Tour dates have been set: There will be open days being held at the new site in Yattendon, the first one will be on the 23rd of June, please email or ring the office for details and prices. 01635 202968 or 01635 202638; info@wbbrew.co.uk



Aylesbury Brewhouse News

Vale Brewery's sister brewery Aylesbury Brewhouse is based at the Hop Pole in Aylesbury has just celebrated its first award with H202 Bonde (4.1%) winning the LocAle Best Bitter Category at this years Reading Beer Festival, so to celebrate this success and to allow more of the customers to enjoy this limited edition, sharp and sassy blonde beer, it will be brewed again.

In June the specials are **Not Euro Fizz** (4.5%) ABV a pilsner style beer, **Sunspot** (4.9% ABV) **Summer Rye**, a fruity pale ale brewed using rye malt and **Channel Surfing** (5.0%) a high definition stout."

Finally with a great sporting summer ahead the Brewery is cheering on team Great Britain with Swifter, Higher & Stronger available in July and August - **Swifter** (3.8%) Bronze Bitter, **Higher** (4.2%) Hoppy Pale Ale and **Stronger** (4.9%) Golden Bitter.

Follow Aylesbury Brewhouse on Twitter @AylesburyBrewCo

Both the Vale Brewery and the Aylesbury Brewhouse have shops which stock Vale bottle conditioned beer and a large selection of hard to find imported beers as well as wines and brewery merchandise.



The New Inn Witney

Five permanent Real Ales:
Theakston's Old Peculier, Black Sheep, Doom Bar, Oxford Gold, Side Pocket for a Toad, plus constantly changing guest beers.

Cask Marque accredited

We're in the Good Beer Guide.

Eclectic mix of live music every Saturday, with national and local bands.

Find us on Lemonrock.com for all our band listings

Currently training for the Olympics in Darts, Crib and Aunt Sally

Full and frank exchanges of views most evenings.

Dog friendly,

Quite friendly generally.

The New Inn, 111 Corn Street, Witney, Oxfordshire
OX28 6AU 01993 703807
Facebook: New Inn Witney

Hook Norton

Hook Norton has been rebranding their real ale and part of this is also an investment in new equipment such as a new racking line and extensive plans are in place for the expansion of the Visitor Centre.

Old Hooky stays the same; Hooky Bitter is now known as Hooky; Hooky Dark goes back to its old name Hooky Mild; the Double Stout remains the same and a new ale is under development.

Hooky Diamond Reserve has been brewed in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. At 6.0%, Diamond Reserve is the strongest ale brewed at Hook Norton for over 100 years. As a vintage version of Old Hooky, the finest Maris Otter pale ale malt is blended with a good proportion of Crystal Malt before Fuggles, Goldings and Challenger hops are added to create its distinctive rich and fruity flavour.

Branch Town and Village Pub of the Year Competition



It is time to vote for the Town & Country Pub of the Year Award again. All CAMRA members are entitled to vote and we hope that as many as possible will want to help support our pubs this way. Five pubs were selected at the May branch meeting. Voting forms may be collected from any of the nominated pubs. Members must visit each pub to have their forms stamped, and then rank the pubs in order of preference. The votes will be counted at the October branch meeting. More information on judging criteria and how to return the forms is included on the forms.

Judging Criteria

Quality of Beer:

Pub should consistently serve excellent real ale.

Atmosphere, Style and Decor:

The "feel" of the pub. Are you going to want to revisit regularly.

Service and Welcome:

Is the service prompt and friendly.

Clientele Mix:

A good pub should make anyone feel welcome.

Sympathy with CAMRA Aims:

Does the pub promote our values?

Good Value:

Not just the price of ale, but was the whole experience good value.

The five nominated pubs

(in alphabetical order)

The Brewery Tap, Abingdon

40-42 Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5BZ

Phone 01235 521655

Open: Mon-Thur 11am-11:30pm

Fri-Sat 11am-1am

Sun 12-11pm

The Cricketer's Arms, Littleworth

Littleworth, OX33 1TR

Phone: 01865 872738

Open: Mon-Tue 12-3pm, 6pm-11pm

Wed-Thu 6pm-11pm, Fri 12-11pm

Sat 12--3pm, 6pm-11pm

Sun 12-3pm, 7pm-10:30pm

The Eagle Tavern, Witney

22 Corn Street, Witney, OX28 6BL

Phone: 01993 700121

Open: Mon-Thurs 11am-3pm, 5-midnight

Fri 11am-3pm, 5pm-2am

Sat 11am-2am, Sun 12-midnight

The Morris Clown, Bampton

High Street,, Bampton OX18 2JW

Phone 01993 850217

Open: Mon-Fri 5pm-11pm

Sat 1pm-11pm

Sun 12-10:30pm

The New Inn, Witney

Corn Street, Witney OX28 6AU

Phone 01993 703807

Open: Mon-Fri 5pm-midnight

Sat 12-1am

Sun 12-midnight

WINNER: Oxford Town & Village Pub of the Year 2011

*The Cricketer's Arms
Littleworth*

CAMRA LOCAL
The first local pub in Oxford

Aah!
Beer & Sausages

The Autumn Beer & Sausage Festival 21 - 23 September 2012
www.cricketers-arms.co.uk/festival
 01865 872738

Wild West Adventure



It was with some trepidation that I pitched up outside the Lamb & Flag in Oxford one Saturday morning in April, to join my first CAMRA minibus tour. I knew I'd be enjoying some great beer and probably some good company, but was this really for me? Was pissing it up with a load of other middle-aged men the best way to spend a Saturday? Read on.....

We got away a little late with the redoubtable Tony Goulding at the wheel – more of him later – and a full load of 14 thirsty guys, and one bold lady. To give it the proper title this was a Rural Minibus Pub Survey trip, but I'd forgotten my clipboard. Destination was West Oxfordshire, and the atmosphere was fairly sedate as we bowled along the A40. Lots of thoughts coursed through my brain. Would I stay sober to write this up? Were there enough toilets? Did anyone know where we were going?

First stop at midday was the **Crown at Lechlade** – technically outside our area being across the county border in Gloucestershire, but we'll let that pass. The Crown is home to

the **Halfpenny micro-brewery** which occupies a space little bigger than the average garage, and the brewer Graham Gerrard was waiting to greet us. We had to split into two groups to tour the premises, which I undertook after a marvellous pint of **Triple Century** – so-called because it is Halfpenny's 300th brew. What a great job Graham has done considering he had no previous experience, being an engineer by profession. The Crown's owner Alan Watkins invited Graham to start the brewery, and he went on a course before acquiring the kit from Porter Brewing Company. Each brew produces about 1,150 pints, which are available not only at the Crown but at various other pubs in the vicinity, including **the Fox at Leafield** and **Swan at Faringdon**. The

HOOKY
ALCOHOL: 5.0% (10.0% ABV)
GOLDEN & WELL BALANCED
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

OLD HOOKY
ALCOHOL: 5.0% (10.0% ABV)
FRUITY & FULL BODIED
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

HOOKY MILD
ALCOHOL: 5.0% (10.0% ABV)
DARK RUBY & MALTY
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

COTSWOLD LION
ALCOHOL: 5.0% (10.0% ABV)
FRESHLY BREWED, LIGHT & CRISP
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

HOOK NORTON
BREWERY

Visit www.hooky.co.uk for more information about the range of Hooky beers or to find your nearest Hook Norton pub.



Graham Gerrard, brewer at Halfpenny Brewery at The Crown, Lechlade

brewery started in December 2008 and a competition to name it came up with Old Lech – possibly appropriate for some of the regulars, but not really on! Instead it's called Halfpenny, after Halfpenny Bridge in Lechlade which used to charge half an old penny to cross the infant River Thames.

Anniversary Ale, **Four Seasons** and **Thames Tickler** were also available on hand pump, plus **Bee Sting still perry**. The Crown is worth a visit quite apart from the excellent beer, being an old coaching inn dating from 1650 decorated with stuffed animals, old signs and a Penny Farthing bicycle. I topped up with a pint of Thames Tickler, and I'm looking forward to the Crown's beer festival at the end of August when about 30 ales and ciders will be present, with old halfpennies used as tokens. All the brews are also bottled, available to take away or in local retail outlets.

We spent over one hour there and moved on reluctantly, but another seven pubs awaited. We picked up another CAMRA member in Lechlade and set sail for **the Plough at Kelmscott**, in a noticeably lighter mood. The ride took only five minutes and we were allowed half an hour in this small, stone-built village pub, which re-opened after severe flooding. The locals were good-humouredly unfazed by the



The Bell Inn at Langford

arrival of 16 dedicated boozers! Unlike the Crown, but like most of the pubs we visited, the Plough does a lot of food sales. On pump were **Thames Tickler** from Halfpenny, **Old Hooky**, **Dorothy Goodbody's** from **Wye Valley Brewery** and the cunningly named **Piston Broke** from **Box Steam Brewery** in the Wiltshire railway village of Box. I enjoyed my Piston Broke (a warning of things to come?) and was looking for a sandwich, but only a restaurant menu was on offer. We got away at 1.45, only 10 minutes down.

Continued on Page 12

WADWORTH
NORTHGATE
TRADE MARK
DEVIZES

Wadworth 125 years of brewing excellence

Wadworth & Company have a widespread and well founded reputation for brewing exceptional beers, a reputation which began in 1885, with the opening of the Old Northgate Brewery by Henry Wadworth. The original brewery is still home to all of Wadworth's brewing production, and traditional techniques are maintained throughout the process. We have a wide and varied selection of year round and seasonal ales available throughout the year.

Where is Wadworthshire?

The Wadworth estate extends from Devizes, Wiltshire, with over 250 characterful pubs and hotels from the Cotswolds to the South-West offering a warm welcome, great ambience and the finest beers.

www.wadworth.co.uk

Available in cask and keg.

Wild West Adventure continued

Next stop was the **Bell Inn at Langford**, where we arrived at 2.00 after a trip down narrow roads making me totally confused about where I was (nothing to do with the beer, of course). This village local is almost entirely given over to food, but has a small bar area and is savvy enough to offer a straight glass or a jug. **Sharp's Cornish Coaster** and **St Austell Brewery's Tribute** were joined by local brew **Hook Norton bitter**, which I sampled. The Bell Inn is a 17th century free house that seems to be doing well, but the pub atmosphere is inevitably compromised when it's mainly a restaurant.

We left at 2.30 and had only a five-minute ride to the **Five Alls at Filkins**, and by this time (and four pints to the good) I was getting rather peckish. But again there were no quick snacks on offer in this very old pub with exposed floorboards, with **Brakspear's Oxford Gold** and **Ringwood Best** available from Marstons. The bar here was big enough for the 16 of us although this again is mainly a food pub, where we tarried until 3.15. A topic of beery conversation was the meaning of "Five Alls", which apparently refers to folk such as farmers, doctors and..... devils? A Google search later revealed many pubs around the country with this name, but I haven't found a full explanation yet.

By the time we reached the **Plough at Alvescot** at nearly 3.30 I was famished, but a pub menu is served all afternoon here and we had 45 minutes to replenish. This again is mainly a food pub, and being a **Wadsworth's** house it served the ever reliable **6X** and also **Henry's IPA**. It's an attractive building too dating from the 19th century, but a place to eat rather than enjoy a session.



The Clanfield Tavern, Clanfield

The **Clanfield Tavern** in **Clanfield** was reached about 4.30, another Marstons house which, despite an extensive menu, still has a real pub feel. **Banks's Bitter**, **Marstons Pedigree** and **Ringwood Boondoggle** were all available, but sad to say – and

in the interests of you readers! – I had by now down-sized to halves. Looking back now, my notes are virtually illegible. My down-sizing came too late, and what follows may be partly conjecture..... Darts, chess, chequers and a log fire added to the **Clanfield Tavern** atmosphere, several of our party proving hot shots on the "oche". Football reared its ugly head at this point, the **Plymouth Argyle** supporter (they drew 1-1 with **Oxford**) sailing close to the wind!



The Masons Arms, Hook Norton

By the time we got to the **Masons Arms at Hook Norton** (5.20) it was clear our timetable was going awry, but we were all in a good mood and no-one cared. This is a very busy local on the edge of the **RAF town**, and the choice of beer is decent. I overlooked the more common **Jennings Bitter** and **Doom Bar** in favour of **Moles Brewery's Mole Catcher**, which at 5% ABV was quite enough for me even though it was a half. Even at this early hour the pub was packed, which was good to see though not exactly the place for a quiet pint (or half).

After seven pubs and one brewery and due back in **Oxford** by 6, I thought (hoped?) that was it. But then we pulled into **Witney** at 6.30 for an unscheduled stop at the **Eagle Tavern**, which needs no introduction to most **CAMRA** members being a great old-fashioned local with a wide choice of ales. But **Witney** being hardly rural I won't say more (not sure I could make any sense at the time either), and I'm not sure what time we got back to **Oxford**.

My verdict? Hugely enjoyable, and special thanks for our driver, guide and mentor **Tony Goulding** who was superb throughout – you can tell he's an ex-busman. You're in safe hands with **Tony**, and I shall go again. If I stick to halves I might even be able to read my writing.....

Over The Limit? Be Safe - Call A Taxi

001 TAXIS
(01865)

24 00 00

www.001taxis.com

★ OWNER DRIVERS WANTED ★

24
hours



4 to 8 seaters • CRB checked



Telephone & on-line booking



Supporting



001 Taxis, New Inn Yard,
108 St. Aldates, Oxford OX1 1BU

Now covering; Abingdon, Wheatley, Horspath,
Littleworth, Denton, Cuddesdon, Holton and Garsington.

We are currently seeking OWNER DRIVERS with a valid Hackney Carriage Licence issued by South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Cherwell District Council or Oxford City Council.

Please contact 001 Taxis, New Inn Yard, 108 St. Aldates, Oxford

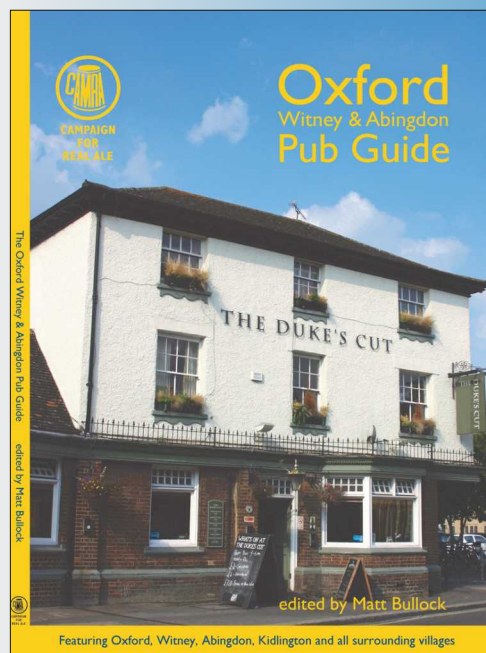
Oxford Pub Guide Wins Best CAMRA Local Guide Award



The Oxford, Witney & Abingdon Pub Guide was joint winner of the CAMRA Local Guide award alongside the Herefordshire guide at

this year's CAMRA Member's weekend in Torquay.

Matt Bullock, editor of the guide thanks everyone who contributed to the book.



Pictured from left: Paul Grenfell, editor of the Herefordshire Pub Guide, CAMRA's Director of Sponsorship, Competitions & Publishing Nik Antona and Matt Bullock, editor of Oxford, Witney and Abingdon Pub Guide

Oxford, Witney & Abingdon Pub Guide

The definitive guide to the pubs, bars and hotels bars in Oxford, Witney, Abingdon and all the surrounding villages.

Comprehensively researched by volunteer members of the Oxford branch of CAMRA to give an independent review of all the region's pubs.

Available from local book shops and pubs or buy it online from the CAMRA bookshop at shop.camra.org.uk

Price: £5.99

ISBN: 978-1-85249-301-1



Beer Festival Equipment

Hire of Barrel stillage, cooling, taps, bars etc

Barrel (9gl) Stillages/ Racking, traditional wooden 2 x 9gl, 12 x 9gl

Taps, Chiller Saddles & Insulation Jackets

Chillers Remote

Bar units - 2 metre long and flooring Hand pumps

Photos and a very competitive price list are available on the website

Web: www.beerfestivalequipment.co.uk

Email: john@beerfestivalequipment.co.uk

Tel 07770 938300

Based near Bicester

LocAle Beer Presentation



Winners of the 2011 Oxford Beer Festival LocAle award were presented with their awards at a presentation in our branch City Pub of the Year, **Far From The Madding Crowd** in Oxford on Saturday 31st March. The awards were presented by Helene Augar, the beer festival committee chair, to representatives from each of the four winning breweries.

The winning beers which were picked in a blind tasting at the 2011 beer festival last October were:

- 1st place **Binghams Brewery** with *Vanilla Stout*, 5% ABV
- 2nd place **Loddon Brewery** with *Forbury Lion*, 5.5% ABV
- 3rd place **The Old Forge** with *Sledgehammer* 5% ABV
- 4th place **Vale Brewing Co.** with *Gunpowder* 5.2% ABV

Far From The Madding Crowd ensured that all the winning beers were on sale in the pub for the event, and they did a fantastic job in welcoming the branch and the brewers. Only Vale's Gunpowder was not available, as it is a seasonal beer, but Dave and Lauren replaced it with the 2010 festival winner *Gravitas* - to everybody's satisfaction.

The branch would like to thank Dave and Lauren at Far From The Madding Crowd for hosting the event.



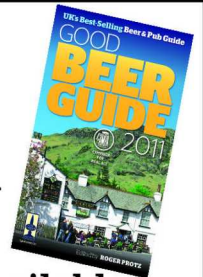
From Left: Steven Green (Oxford CAMRA), Ian Mackey (Vale Brewery), Delia Allott (Binghams Brewery), Steve Brown (head brewer, Loddons), Helene Augar (Beer Festival chair), Gemma Court (Old Forge Brewery), John Mackie (Oxford CAMRA).

ROYAL BLENHEIM

13 Ebbes St. Oxford



- 10 hand pumps.
- We are in the 2011 Good Beer Guide.
- 1/3 pints always available.
- Homemade food using fresh & local produce. Vegetarian, vegan & coeliac friendly.
- Quiz Night Wednesday 9pm.



Only pub in Oxford run by an Oxford brewery.
 Nominated for CAMRA Oxford Pub of the Year 2010.
10% off food/drink for CAMRA members 3pm-7pm.

www.royalblenheim.co.uk

Oxford CAMRA Branch Diary



Wed 6th June, 7:30pm-9:30pm
Oxford CAMRA Branch Meeting
Kings Head & Bell, Abingdon

Sat 23rd June, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip
 See below

Mon 2nd July, 7:30pm-11:30pm
Oxford CAMRA Branch Meeting
The White Hart in Headington.

Sat 21st July, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip
 See below

Tue 7th August, 7:30pm-10pm
Oxford CAMRA Branch Meeting.
TBA

Sat 18th August, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip
 See below

Sat 15th September, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip
 See below

Thu 11th October to Sat 13th October
Oxford Beer Festival
Oxford Town Hall
 More details to follow later in the year.

Sat 17th November, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip
 See below

Sat 15th December, 11am-7pm
Rural Minibus Trip and Presentation of Town & Village Pub of the Year
 This trip will include a presentation to the winner of the branch's Town & Village Pub of the Year.

For more details about social events please check the web site at www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/diary, email social@oxfordcamra.org.uk or join our mailing list at www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/mailling-lists

For branch meeting details contact Steve Lawrence at contact@oxfordcamra.org.uk

Rural Minibus Pub Survey Trips

To enable the branch to monitor the Wild West and other country parts of our area a programme of mini-bus trips on Saturdays will be run aiming to visit 7-8 pubs per trip. The cost per trip is £5.

The first trip was on April 21st visiting The Crown Inn at Lechlade then via Kelmscote, Filkins, Langford, Alverscot, Clanfield, Brize Norton. See page 10.

The Second trip on May 19th followed the Thames from Abingdon to Culham, Clifton Hampden, Burcot,

The Baldons, Cuddesdon and Wheatley.

Further dates will be: June 23rd, July 21st, August 18th, September 15th, November 17th and December 15th (to include Town & Village Pub of the Year Presentation).

Pickup times are usually 11am in Abingdon and 11:30am at the Lamb & Flag in Oxford. Depending on the route, other pickups may be arranged with Tony Goulding.

For details of seats (the first 15 will travel) contact Tony Goulding at anthony4177@btinternet.com and 01865461196 . Mob 07588181313 .

Notes From May Branch Meeting



10 branch members met in the King's Arms, The Moors, Kidlington on Tuesday 1st May and had some very nice Village Idiot and Hobgoblin.

We produced a short list for the Town & Village Pub Of The Year 2012 in the usual way. The candidates are: Brewery Tap in Abingdon; Morris Clown in Bampton; Cricketers Arms in Littleworth; Eagle Tavern and New Inn in Witney. You will have 4 months to visit so we expect to see plenty of entries. See page 9 for more information.

The list of the latest beer scores was distributed and there are still very popular pubs with no recent scores. We know you've been there so get those scores in.

The first of the summer survey trips on April 21 was very popular. The next was planned for 19 May to go to the south east of our area. The June survey trip will be on the 23rd. May 26 was set as the first pub ramble of the year, meeting at the Rose Revived at Newbridge; and the June 6 Branch meeting is at the King's Head & Bell in Abingdon. The July 2 Branch meeting will be at the White Hart in Headington. Keep checking the web site for more dates.

The latest CAMRA news only affected some individual branch officers.

In Pub and Brewery news we heard that the Red Lion in Aston had reopened and there are signs of activity in the St Aldate's Tavern

Steve Lawrence, Secretary Oxford Branch CAMRA



Beer Festival Diary – www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/festivals

Friday 8 – Saturday 9 June

5th Stratford-upon-Avon Beer & Cider Festival

Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse, Luddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon

55 beers plus 20 ciders & perries
www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

Saturday 9 June (12-11pm)

Candleford Beer Festival

Cricket Green, Main Street, Fringford, nr Bicester

www.fringford.info

Saturday 9 June (12-11pm)

9th Great Chadlington Beer Festival

Chadlington Memorial Hall, Chapel Row, Chadlington

22 beers

www.chadlingtonbeerfestival.com

Tuesday 12 - Saturday 16 June

Summer Beer Festival

Far From the Madding Crowd, Friars Entry, Oxford

01865 240900

www.maddingcrowd.co.uk

Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 June

37th Wolverhampton Beer Festival

Wulfrun Hall, Mitre Fold, Wolverhampton

75 beers plus ciders, perries & foreign beers

www.wolverhamptoncamra.org.uk

Friday 15 - Saturday 16 June

Salisbury Beerex XXXII

Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, Salisbury

60+ beers & ciders

Entry by ticket only – phone or see website

01722 321744

www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk

Monday 18 June

Cider Festival

Royal Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor

01753 498400

www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk

Wednesday 4 - Saturday 7 July

23rd Ealing Beer festival

Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London

200 beers, ciders, perries & foreign beers

www.ealingbeerfestival.org.uk

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 July

Falkland Arms Beer Festival

The Green, Great Tew

01608 683653

www.falklandarms.co.uk

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 July

Beer on the Wye VIII

Hereford Beer & Cider Festival

Hereford Rowing Club, Greyfriars

Avenue, Hereford

140 beers plus 120 ciders & perries

www.herefordcamra.org.uk

Saturday 7 July

Charity Beer Festival

Red Lion, Church Street, Stratton

Audley, nr Bicester

01869 277225

www.redlionstrattonaudley.co.uk

Saturday 7 July

Cheltenham Beer Festival

Old Patesians RFC, Everest Road, Cheltenham

All tickets sold out.

www.samsfriends-chelt.org

Saturday 7 July

Haddenham Real Ale Festival

Junior School, Woodaways, Haddenham

www.haddenham-beer-festival.co.uk

Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 July

Ale on the Rail Weekend

Cholsey & Wallingford Railway, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford

01491 835067

www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 July

Bastille Day Beer Festival

Horse & Groom, Lower Heyford Road, Caulcott, nr Bicester

01869 343257

www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk

Saturday 14 July

Charlbury Beer Festival

Charlbury Cricket Club, Dyers Hill, Charlbury

50 beers plus cider, perry & wine

Incorporating 'The 2nd World Aunt

Sally Open Singles Championship'

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

Saturday 14 July

Eight Bells Beer Festival

Eaton, nr Abingdon

01865 862261

www.eightbellseaton.co.uk

Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 July

Woodcote Festival of Ale

(with Woodcote Steam Rally)

Tidmore Lane, Woodcote, off A4074 Wallingford to Reading

Road

woodcoterally.org.uk/festivalofale.html

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 July

Cotswold Beer Festival

Postlip Hall, nr Winchcombe, Cheltenham

80+ beers plus cider & perry

See website for ticket details

www.gloucestershirecamra.org.uk

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 July

3rd Windsor LocAle Festival

Windsor Farm Shop, Datchet Road, Old Windsor

45 beers plus cider & perry

www.swmcamra.org.uk

Saturday 21 July (11am-11pm)

2nd Buckingham Beer Festival

Buckingham RUFC, Floyd Field, Maids Moreton, nr Buckingham

30+ beers, ciders & perries

01280 815474

www.pitchero.com/clubs/buckingham

Saturday 21 July

Hook Norton Festival of Fine Ales

Rural Fayre Field, (nr Pear Tree pub, Scotland End, Hook Norton)

www.hookybeerfest.co.uk

Thursday 19 - Saturday 21 July

Fox Inn Beer Festival

Fox Lane, Souldern, nr Bicester

24 beers & ciders

01869 345284

www.thefoxatsouldern.co.uk

Thursday 26 – Sunday 29 July

Moreton Beer & Cricket Festival

Bear at Home, High Street, North Moreton, nr Wallingford

01235 811311

www.bear-at-home.co.uk

Saturday 28 July (12-8pm)

Brackley Round Table Charity Beer Festival

Brackley Park, High Street, Brackley

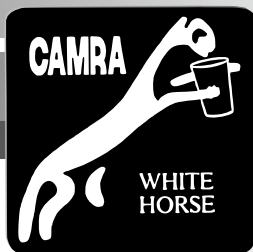
50+ beers plus ciders

www.brackley.roundtable.co.uk

For more festivals including Great British Beer Festival (7-11 Aug), Oxford Beer Festival (11-13 Oct), see website:
www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/festivals

White Horse Branch of CAMRA

www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk



The White Horse Branch was established in December 2007 with a small committee who did not want to see the old Vale of White Horse Branch disappear and merge back into the Oxford Branch.

The White Horse Branch covers an area of Oxfordshire countryside stretching from Coleshill, Shrivenham and Ashbury in the West, along the south bank of the Thames to Shippon, Steventon and East Hendred in the East. Taking in the larger towns of Faringdon and Wantage and Grove, the area is predominantly rural and dotted with numerous villages and hamlets. The rural nature of our branch provides us with a wealth of picturesque village inns and quaint “gems” to enjoy but also presents us with a problem in our

attempts to galvanise efforts in campaigning issues. Many of our remote village pubs are those most at risk from closure or assimilation by a Pub Co, who may be less than sensitive to the wishes of locals or CAMRA aims in promoting real ales.

We hold our regular branch meetings at a different pub each month but there are still plenty left to visit. If your cherished local would welcome a branch visit, pop along to one of our meetings and let us know about it.

Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of...

Dick Bosley reports...



Rye is a great place for a holiday - plenty of pubs, full of cobbled streets and you expect DCI Foyle to appear any moment. It is also a good base for walking.

I headed out of the town on the 1066 Country Path, around Winchelsea to pick up the Royal Military Canal path before reaching the coastal path. Much of Sussex is flat but there were some surprisingly steep hills, both up and down, and so after 15 miles I was pleased to reach Hastings – perhaps the first person to think this since William the Conqueror’s navigator. The Jenny Lund had a good range of beers but after waiting several minutes in an otherwise empty pub for service I decided to decamp to the **Olde Pumphouse** around the corner. A **Shepherd Neame** pub serving an acceptable pint of **Early Bird** in the upstairs bar – yet another hill!

Hastings town centre was curiously devoid of pubs and so I carried on to St Leonards for lunch at the **Horse & Groom**. After quality controlling the **Harvey’s Sussex Best**, **Gales H.S.B.** and **Adnams Broadside** I pushed on to Bexhill on Sea, one of the windiest towns I have ever been to. Finding I had time to spare before the train home I called into the **Royal Standard** for an OK pint of

Spitfire, and entertainment from the teenage barmaid telling her friends what she was going to do to her brothers girlfriend. It was like have your very own episode of *Hollyoaks*¹.

Back in Rye there was still time to visit a couple of my favourite pubs in the town. **The Queens Head** had **Old Dairy Wild Hop** and **Coppertop** – the first an experimental brew using hops found on the hops on the farm where they are based, the second a little sweet for my taste – and **Dark Star Hophead**, all in excellent condition. Moving on to **the Ship** there was **1648 Signature** that probably just edged the Hophead as the best pint in town...but it was a close run thing. The Ship is in an old warehouse that was probably converted in the 1980’s - I am basing this on the fact that it wasn’t included in my 1983 ‘Real Ale in Sussex’ (published by CAMRA in 1983) but the original owner of the book has added it in the notes page stating it stocked Whitbread from Faversham and Fremlins. The décor in the pub is curious and whether the landlady’s penchant for rubber ducks adds to this or not is open to debate. Personally I loved it. If you are visiting Rye both of these pubs do excellent food as well.

A visit to Rye is strongly recommended

¹ *Hollyoaks* is a TV programme popular with young people m’lud.

White Horse Branch Social Diary



Saturday 2nd June, 6pm

Social

The Swan, Faringdon

Tuesday 19th June, 7.45pm

Branch Meeting

The Plough, West Hanney

Saturday 23rd June

XT Brewery trip

XT Brewery, Thame

Monday 25th June, 8pm

Meet the Brewer - Wadworth

Prince of Wales, Shrivenham

Tuesday 26th June, 8pm

POTY Runner-up presentation

North Star, Steventon

Tuesday 17th July, 7.45pm (TBC)

Branch Meeting

The Trout, Tadpole Bridge.

Social Events

As well as organising the beer festival, the branch has an active social programme. This includes visits to beer festivals, breweries, hop farms, maltings and of course public houses; often two or three of these elements are included on the same day.

Branch Contacts

For more information please contact:

- Neil Crook: Chairman
contact@whitehorsecamra.org.uk
- Peter Fowler: Membership Secretary
membership@whitehorsecamra.org.uk
- Ian Winfield: Social Secretary
social@whitehorsecamra.org.uk

Our Website

For more information about breweries, pubs, events and news in our area, Visit our website:

www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk



We sell polypins and bottles direct from the brewery, Mon-Fri.

For any enquiries please call:

01367 718700

or email

fiona@whitehorsebrewery.com

WHITE HORSE BREWERY

3 Ware Road, White Horse Business Park,
Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire, SN7 8NY



www.whitehorsebrewery.com



5th WANTAGE BEER FESTIVAL



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

WANTAGE CIVIC HALL

Portway, Wantage OX12 9BY

Fri 9th & Sat 10th November 2012

Opening Times: Friday 11.00am - 11.00pm

Saturday 11.00am - 11.00pm

28 Real Ales

Beers from throughout the country

Cider & Perry

Glass hire £2.00

Festival glasses available

Food and soft drinks served

Admission prices:

Friday 11am - 6pm: CAMRA members Free, Others £2.00

Friday 6pm - 11pm: CAMRA members £1.00, Others £3.00

Saturday 11am - 11pm: CAMRA members Free, Others £2.00

(Under 21's need ID)

Parking at Venue

Further details: <http://www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk>

Enquiries: beerfestival12@whitehorsecamra.org.uk

Wantage Beer Festival Helper's Trip to Chippenham

Neil Crook



To thank those who helped out at the Wantage Beer festival in November last year, the organising committee decided to do something different from previous years. Instead of visiting a brewery, we arranged tickets and transport to go to the afternoon session of the 21st Chippenham Beer festival.

The relatively short distance meant we had a leisurely start to get there for 12 noon. The venue was the Olympiad sports centre and on arrival we were welcomed by the North West Wilts branch chairman, Dave Maloney, and his organising committee. Having pre-booked our tickets we were honoured by all 21 of us having our own individual named programme, a first for all of us.

The festival occupied the main sports hall with over 100 beers lined up along one wall with cider, perry and merchandise to one end.

We were reliably informed (well, somebody on our coach said) that entertainment would be provided by a Sex Pistols tribute band. However, fortunately or not, they were nowhere to be seen and instead we had some traditional English folk music in the form of roving troubadours as a pleasant accompaniment to the drinking.

Having secured a table and seating to rest those tired legs from the walk to and from the bar (all of 10m), especially for those of increasing years, we got stuck into the beers and I think a few ventured towards the cider and perry.

Beers had been sourced from all over the country to excite all taste palates, with many award winners available, e.g. *Mighty Oak's Oscar Wilde* (reigning CBOB) and *Moles' Molecatcher* (Strong Bitter winner of CBOB 2011). Breweries ranged from the well known locally and nationally to the small and first appearance.



White Horse Beer Festival helpers at Chippenham Beer Festival.

Some of our group went for the blanket approach, others had more targeted ambitions, i.e. style, ABV, obscure names etc. Beers were very competitively priced and by the time the session closed we had had a great time and thanked the organisers for their kind hospitality.

As we had some (planned) time to kill before our trip home we ventured into Chippenham to get a 'top up'. First stop for some was the excellent **Three Crowns**, although for some reason a few got a bit lost in the short walk from the festival venue. It appeared that a lot of the festival goers had the same idea and so some of us sought out other establishments, with varying success, before getting back to the pick-up point.

With all safely on board (nobody said they weren't there when the coach left) we headed back but for some reason had to make a small detour via **The Carters Rest** in Wroughton where some of the Swindon branch were to be found. This is a gem of a place with a wide variety of ales available and a recommended stop-off when heading to or from the West. All arrived home safely after a very pleasant and enjoyable day, some taking advantage of a final thirst-quencher in the **Royal Oak**.

These trips are free to Beer Festival Volunteers as a thank you to those who give up their time to organise and help out at the Festival. If you want to get involved, please see our website www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk for details of the 5th Wantage Festival being held on 9/10th November 2012 at the Wantage Civic Hall.



Some White Horse Branch members relaxing in the Three Crowns.

CREATE:GREAT!

Finest Chef Prepared Cuisine

We supply the finest chef prepared cuisine using the sous-vide method, enabling you to serve a great dish in minutes. We also provide all the support and advice you need, free of charge to Create Great success for you, and a pleasant dining experience for your customers.

A small selection of what we offer:-

SOUS-VIDE

- Beef Bourguignon.
- Beef in Cream, Brandy & peppercorn Sauce.
- Beef Chilli.
- Chicken in a Triple Mustard cream Sauce. B
- Buttered Chicken Balti.
- Lambs Liver & Onions.
- Braised Lamb Knuckle C
with Root Vegetables.
- Cumberland Sausages in Onion Gravy.
- Duck Confit with Orange Sauce.
- Canelloni with Ricotta, Spinach & Goats Cheese.

Michel Roux Jnr. has described sous-vide as cocentrating the flavours of the food as well as keeping its texture and maintaining its succulence and flavour.

BBC TV MASTERCHEF December 2011.

"I have used thes dishes in my own pub restaurants for many years and are the secrets of my success"

Myles Ball 2012

PIES

Available now and made especially for us!

- Steak & Ale Pie. A
- Game Pie.
- Steak & Stilton Pie.
- Steak & Kidney Pie .
- Chicken & Gloucester Old Spot.



For further information please contact Myles at myles@creategreat.co.uk or 07760 771339

BAINTON BIKES Beer Lover Rides Lost on Off-road Oxford

Kevin Moreland, www.baintonbikes.com

78 Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6EA, t:01865 311610

Oxford is blessed with some great pubs, both in the city and in the close by surrounding villages, all of which are easily accessible by bike. Whilst we're not in an area where hills and bridleways are a plenty there are nice off-road routes which you can ride your bike along.

I've been planning a mountain bike pub ride for some time now and whilst I do enjoy the taste of rain and mud, there aren't many landlords who enjoy cleaning up muddy footprints. It is now May, and we've just been through a patch of the wettest most miserable spring (and hosepipe ban) I can remember. The ground is drying which makes it possible to finally follow an off-road pub route of Oxford and the surrounding villages.

We all meet at Walton Street Cycles and have a run through introductions. During which we all have a nibble on some tasty homemade flapjacks (thanks Neil) and meet a couple of American visiting students who don't have bikes with them...

It's just as well we're in a bike shop, after finding a couple of bikes for the girls we set off heading through Port Meadow and following the River Thames path a short 1.4 miles to the **Punter, Osney**.

Essential Equipment to take includes; Map, helmet, gloves, puncture repair kit, spare inner tubes, pump, water, tools, a decent lock, a phone and bright lights.

This route is a 20 mile loop and is best suited to Mountain Bikes, or Hybrids.

We take the bikes into the courtyard and grab the first well earned pint of **Morland Original** from the 2 ales available. Sitting in the garden we have a chat amongst ourselves about the route, we are heading out to Horspath and have arranged to meet Lara there. We decide to follow a flatter route and ride some of the paths around Southparks and close to the J.R.



The Punter, Osney Island

HOOKY
ALCOHOL 4.0% (200ml PER PINT)
GOLDEN & WELL BALANCED
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

OLD HOOKY
ALCOHOL 4.0% (200ml PER PINT)
FRUITY & FULL BODIED
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

HOOKY MILD
ALCOHOL 4.0% (200ml PER PINT)
DARK RUBY & MALTY
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

COTSWOLD LION
ALCOHOL 4.0% (200ml PER PINT)
SPECIALLY BREWED FOR BIKES & BIKERS
HANDCRAFTED IN THE COTSWOLD HILLS SINCE 1849

HOOK NORTON
BREWERY

Visit www.hooky.co.uk for more information about the range of Hooky beers or to find your nearest Hook Norton pub.

Summary of Cycle Parking Facilities

- **The Punter, Osney Island** – We took our bike into the garden, but there are Sheffield racks opposite the pub
- **Queens Head, Horspath** – Courtyard around the back was fine
- **Three Horse Shoes** – Large garden with plenty of storage space
- **The Bat & Ball** – Limited space on the decking, bikes pretty much took over
- **The Butchers Arms** – A modest sized garden but the bikes were welcome

Continued on Page 24

Bainton Bike Ride continued

We ride a further 7 miles which takes a little longer than planned (30 minutes longer!) to arrive at our next pub **The Queens Head, Horspath** but our new rider is happy enough having plenty of time to enjoy the beer. I've not spent much time in Horspath or the pub we're in but it is a great boozier. Having selected a pint of **Fullers Hope & Glory** from the 4 on offer we get comfortable in the courtyard out the back. Chatting, we quickly realise we've missed a trick and should of planned a stop at the **Shotover Brewery** which is just across the road, I'm sure there will be a next time.

The next part of the ride follows a bridleway for 2 miles uphill into Garsington. Riding uphill is always a ball ache, but the views from the top of the hill make it all worthwhile (that and knowing we get to ride downhill soon). We stop at **The Three Horseshoes, Garsington** and plonk down in the garden with a pint of **Woodfordes Once Bitten** (2 ales on offer). They also have a Sunday carvery on, which is handy as I'd promised Honour a roast; soon the gammon is soon demolished.

The pub is another great boozier with relatively nice views, and a really bizarre water feature in the garden, which I'm still not convinced isn't a urinal.

We stop for a while after a few trips and falls in the muddy bits and compare fresh scars (Neil is



The Queens Head, Horspath

winning) before heading off and riding downhill for 2 miles and stopping at **The Bat & Ball, Cuddesdon** where we lock the bikes up in the garden and head inside. It soon becomes clear the pub's name is not just a name, the whole pub is kitted out with Cricket memorabilia everywhere. The ceiling was completely covered with bats, they even had the 80s board game Test Match available for those wanting to play! Finding a nice table we choose a pint of **Marstons Merrie Monk** from the 3 choices.

The plan is to ride from Cuddesdon to Littleworth and visit **The Cricketers**, however when discussing the route it is pointed out that it will probably be closed at this time of day... After a quick search on a SmartArse (c) phone the times are listed as being closed now.

We head in the general direction of Littleworth and head up through Shotover Country Park. Shotover is a great place for mountain bike riding, offering some of Oxford's only downhill and single track. We have a choice to make; we ride the Bridleway or you explore some of the more interesting trails. We mostly decide to ride through the undergrowth and it isn't before long we bump into Josh and a group of guys from Beeline on their mountain bikes. The boys lay down the challenge of riding a particular route that includes a couple of drops and a jump at



The Bat & Ball, Cuddesdon

**An ancient city.
A modern beer.**



Complex, distinctive and richly satisfying
– Prospect is the full-bodied session ale
from Oxford's Shotover Brewery

www.shotoverbrewing.com

the end (with the option of rolling to the side). Of course we're going to accept the challenge and all agree to ride down. Good fun it is too!

At the bottom of the hill we bid farewell to the Beeline boys and wait for our American friends (who borrowed bikes) to roll down. After a while Tony reports that they had decided to not ride the hill and he had given them directions... What could possibly go wrong with given two people new to Oxford directions from the middle of Shotover Park to Headington Quarry?

Realising I'd lent out two bikes without taking any details I started to get a bit twitchy and decide to ride on to the next pub, from Cuddesdon we've rode around 4.5 miles when we arrive at **The Masons Arms, Headington Quarry** but there is a double disaster. The pub is closed and the girls are nowhere to be seen, panic time where to go for a beer!

After searching for a previous email or any contact details I soon accept the situation will only be better when I have a pint in hand, we decide to ride to **The Butchers Arms, Headington**. Just as we're about to head off my phone rings, Angela is on the other end. Both her and Pamela have got completely lost and have spent the last 40 minutes riding through the trees of Shotover. I do my best to reassure them very few people have ever starved to death in Shotover and arrange to meet in the car park (look

for a dog and find its owner, they'll know the way!)

After riding back up the Old Road I find our missing bikes, I mean group members and after profoundly apologising for losing them ride to The Butchers and meet up with everyone. I start with a pint of **Adnams Ghost Ship** and do my best to work through the other 5 choices available.

Feeling bad for losing the two girls I decide to help with their education of English culture and treat them to a bag of Smiths Scampi Fries.

I'm planning another ride for June and also a longer ride to the Charlbury Beer Festival on the 14th July. If you'd like to join us for either of the rides then get in touch

To view more photos of this ride please visit our website – www.baintonbikes.com

These are regular rides we run and if you are interested in joining then please contact me on kevin@baintonbikes.com or call me on 01865 311610

BAINTON BIKES

Oxford bicycle hire specialists



**ABINGDON
BRIDGE**
4.1% ABV



**LOOSE CANNON
BREWERY**



**LOOSE CANNON
PALE**
3.7% ABV

Abingdon Shop & Brewery

Unit 6, Suffolk Way, off Drayton Road roundabout

 £3.05

 £6.10

 £9.15

 £16.60

 £30.65

 £56.20

 £98.05

Our shop beer is sold bright and ready to drink

Open
8am-6pm weekdays
9am-5pm Saturday
Closed bank holidays

Unit 6, Suffolk Way, OX14 5JX
info@lcbeers.co.uk
www.lcbeers.co.uk
01235 531141

In memory of Fred Heavens

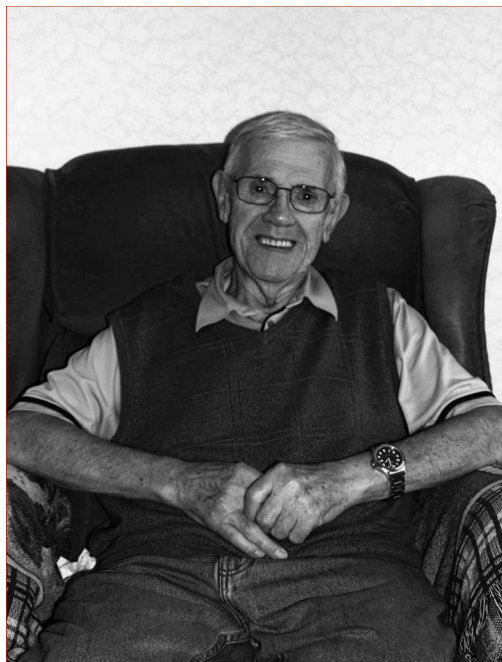


Fred Heavens worked at The Morlands Brewery in Abingdon for 48 years. He passed away in November 2011 aged 87 years. As a tribute to him and his family we give you his story as told to Dick Bosley in his book "Time Gentlemen Please - A Brief History of Abingdon"

“ I was born in the Vineyard when there were four pubs there – the Rowbarge, the Red Lion, the Vine and the Fox & Hounds, run by Mrs Tame, which became a sweetshop when I was still a toddler. I went to school with the son of Basil Collins who ran the Vine. On Sundays I was sent there by my grandmother with a big jug to get the beer to have with our Sunday lunch.

When us kids were about eight or nine we used to earn ourselves a tanner (6d) on a Monday morning driving animals down to the market in the morning and if we were lucky the same again driving animals back home in the evening.

I left school, on a Friday, when I was 14 and started working for Morlands the following Monday. My first job was as a bottle boy loading the bottles into the washing machines. There were about 60 people working for Morlands then and I got the job because my grandmothers brother, Ted Wheeler, was the head brewer at the time.



Fred Heavens

When the war started the men from the brewery were called up and I was transferred into the brewhouse. Morlands were able to get my call-up deferred for six months because they were considered a food industry. However as all my friends had signed up – mainly with the Navy – I scrounged a lift in one of the two Morlands lorries that delivered beer to Reading every day and joined up, much to the annoyance of the chairman! Through the war I served on a minesweeper, HMS Quernicum. Morlands were very fair to their staff and through the war they paid single men ten shillings a week and married men £1. Officially there was no rationing for beer but some pubs had to have an unofficial ration when stocks ran low... men would queue outside a pub once word was out that there was a delivery due and they wouldn't bother waiting until the beer had cleared!

After the war a lot of men went to work in the car factory but I returned to Morlands and worked in the transport section. One of my jobs was to take a van full of beer to a remote pub called the Bleeding Horse on the edge of Savernack Forest, where the chairman ran a shoot. It was near Malmesbury and you can imagine the replies I got when I asked locals "Can you tell me where the Bleeding Horse is?"

I got to know the head cooper, Dan O'Leary, and he suggested I sign up as an apprentice cooper which I did for five years. To be honest I couldn't make a barrel to save my life until one day when Dan went to London to buy some timber. I thought "well it's now or never", made a perfect barrel and it was plain sailing after that. I would have to make two hogsheads for £1 every week after that but obviously after the war timber was very hard to find. Previously most of it had come from Lithuania but we had to start using French wood after the war which was not so good. I had to buy all of my own tools and they cost £28, paid back at a £1 per week.

As a cooper I didn't have to go out to the pubs much – unless the draymen had been too heavy handed with the barrels and I might have to go out to fit a new hoop or whatever. Some pubs had been in the family for more than a generation and I remember going to the North Star in Steventon, that had been run for generations by the Cox family. The barrels behind the bar were piled high with boxes of crisps, cigarettes etc which you had to move before you could start working – and then put it all back again!



I remember the horse drawn drays still being used – often the drivers would have several pints before leaving the brewery, sometimes going as far as Brize Norton, and then another pint at each pub they delivered to. Luckily the horses knew their way home and the drivers would usually wake up at the stables not knowing how they got there!

The horses were used until 1958 when there were only four left. The office manager Mr Blewitt, who had a big house at the brewery, would come out every morning with an apple for the horses but you had to be careful – some of them had bad tempers and would nip you as soon as look at you. In 1972/73 we went over to the metal casks – or iron lungs as we called them – so I went back to transport and distribution as assistant manager. While there I remember we would deliver six hogsheads – each holding 52 gallons – to the Punchbowl on the Saturday before the fair. They had to be delivered down into a very steep cellar, a skill in itself. By the Tuesday morning the landlord would be at the brewery needing more! People must have been floating in beer.

I retired from Morlands when I was 62 years old – not a bad working life. ”

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME GENTLEMEN PLEASE! ABINGDON

An informative booklet by Dick Bosley showing the influence that beer has had on society, focusing on Abingdon with its rich brewing heritage.

The booklet can be found in several shops and pubs in Abingdon, or to buy the book send a cheque for £3 to Richard Bosley, 21 The Green, Steventon, OX13 6RR



The Kings Head & Bell
Abingdon-on-Thames

3rd Annual Summer Beer & Cider Festival

28 Local Ales, 8 Ciders, English Wine & Bubbly
Live Music & Family Fun
24th-27th of August



THE BROAD FACE Abingdon



WEEKLY@thebroadface

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 17 June
3 course lunch **£19.95**
Afternoon Jazz with Becky Dale

Mondays:
Steak Night

Wednesdays:
Fish 'n' Fizz

Sundays:
Roast Lunch

**FREE
LIVE
MUSIC**

Come and join us
for an Olympic
**JUBILEE
CHAMPAGNE
BREAKFAST**

July 10 from 7.30am

Friday Night
Blues 'n Rock (*unplugged*)
9pm–midnight

Sunday Afternoon Jazz
4.30pm–7pm

Tuesday Dusty's Jazz Train
8.30pm–10.30pm

Check out the giglist on the website

**SUMMER
WINE**
Finest Red,
white or sparkly
Bottle
£12

**SUMMER
PIMMS**
refreshing
and fruity
Carafe
£8

**CAMRA
MEMBERS**
• **20p off** all guest
real ales of the week
• **10% off** a la
carte menu Mon–Thu



The Broad Face, 30-32 Bridge Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3HR
t: 01235 524516 e: info@thebroadface.com www.thebroadface.com



Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 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/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
 Address _____

 _____ Postcode _____
 Email address _____
 Tel No(s) _____

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£23 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£28 <input type="checkbox"/>	£30 <input type="checkbox"/>

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

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

I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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

01/06

Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today - www.camra.org.uk/joinus



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



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

To the Manager _____ Bank or Building Society
 Address _____

 _____ Postcode _____

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.



Fight back to save your pint!!!



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Sign the beer tax e-petition

It's time to save your pint and fight back against this year's budget which saw the Government continue its damaging policy of the beer duty escalator.

Every year beer tax increases by 2% above inflation meaning your pint in the pub costs you 5-10p more. This mounting pressure is contributing to the closure of 16 pubs every single week.

CAMRA is calling all beer drinkers and pub goers to sign an online e-petition today by visiting:

www.camra.org.uk/saveyourpint

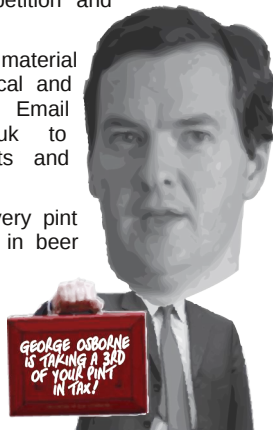
We need 100,000 signatures to trigger a high profile Parliamentary debate and put pressure on the Government ahead of Budget 2013.

* One pubs pack contains 5 x A4 posters and 100 beer mats, please let Claire know how many pubs packs you would like.

To stand a chance of doing this we need your help in reaching as many people as possible. So please sign the petition and then spread the word.

CAMRA also has free material to take down your local and join the campaign. Email claire.cain@camra.org.uk to order free beer mats and posters.*

With around £1 on every pint going to the Treasury in beer duty and VAT, it's time to save your pint and call time on the beer duty escalator!



Keeping In Touch

Get all the latest news and events and share information about what's happening in your area.

Sign up to our email list at

www.oxfordcamra.org.uk/mailling-lists



Find us on facebook
facebook.com/OxfordCAMRA

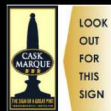


Follow us on Twitter
[@oxforddrinker](https://twitter.com/oxforddrinker)

The Masons Arms



Twitter
[@TheMasonsArmsHQ](https://twitter.com/TheMasonsArmsHQ)



Home of The Old Bog Brewery

Oxford CAMRA pub of the year
2004, 2005 & 2010

2 Quarry School Place
Headington
Oxford
01865764579

For news updates and more visit
www.themasonsarmshq.co.uk



Headington's best choice for
Real Ale, Cider and
Bottled Beers

The 11th Headington Beer Festival 7th, 8th & 9th September 2012



Over 45 Real Ales & 15 Ciders
Pig Roast and Live Music

Prince of Wales

'Great Ales, Great Food, Great Atmosphere'



A traditional pub with traditional food prepared with flair from locally sourced ingredients.

6 ever-changing real ales, 5 ciders and 14 types of wine by the glass.

Charity quiz every Wednesday at 9pm.

Pete Fryer Band - 2nd Thursday of the month.

Live Music - Last Thursday of every month.

Food served all day on Saturdays and Sundays.



T: 01865 778554 E: myfavouritepub@yahoo.com

Church Way Iffley Oxfordshire OX4 4EF

6TH ASCOT RACECOURSE CAMRA BEER FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 5TH & SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A FAVOURITE, DEAR?

A TASTY, WELL KEPT, PERFECTLY CONDITIONED, BRIGHT AND CONSISTENT PERFORMER DEAR...



EXCELLENT
PROGRAMME
OF RACING

pete redge
www.peteredge.co.uk

**LIVE
MUSIC
THROUGHOUT
THE DAY**

OVER 200

REAL ALES, CIDERS
AND PERRIES INCLUDING A
HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS OF
SCOTLAND REGIONAL BAR

Tickets from £18 per person, half price
entry for CAMRA members quoting BEER12
Fine dining available
0844 346 3000 ascot.co.uk



Ascot 