

Ullage

FREE PLEASE TAKE ONE



The Newsletter of West Berkshire CAMRA

July/August 2011

Hungerford Club of the Year 2011

Once again, the Hungerford Club has been chosen as Club of the Year by the West Berkshire branch of CAMRA. This award recognises the range and quality of real ale and cider served by the club and its sympathy with CAMRA's aims.

The Hungerford Club has affiliated tennis and bowling clubs and provides several indoor games including darts, snooker and cribbage. In winter, table bowls may also be played on the snooker tables. It is located in The Croft, a few minutes away from Hungerford town centre. CAMRA members enjoy guest entry to the club, on presentation of a current membership card or a copy of the Good Beer Guide. For special events, like the monthly quiz, the club is open to non-members. There will usually be up to four real ales, in good condition, served in comfortable surroundings by friendly staff.

Terry Noble, secretary of the Hungerford Club, said 'We are very pleased to receive this award. The quality of the real ale is all down



to the hard work of Bill and his team who order and serve the real ale. We have a hard core of drinkers who like Fuller's London Pride, but we do try to get other beers as well.' Bill Underwood then commented 'A while back, we were asked to source the local West Berkshire Brewery Maggs' Magnificent Mild

for a few CAMRA meetings at the club. We have found that it is so popular with the club members that it is now a permanent beer, so thank you CAMRA.' Adrian Bean, Chairman of West Berkshire CAMRA, said 'This just goes to show what can happen when someone asks for a beer they like. It may well turn out that they are not in a minority and that other real ale drinkers may well like the beer, but have just not had the chance to try it before. I would always urge people to have a discussion with their local landlord to get them to try different beers. The club is a great example of how the customers and the staff can work together to increase the use of the place and bring local beer to more people.'

Good luck to the Hungerford Club which now goes forward to the Central Southern regional stage of the CAMRA Club of the Year competition together with Wargrave Snooker Club, Maidenhead Conservative Club and Goring Social Club.
www.hungerford-club.co.uk

New team at the Rising Sun, Stockcross



Stuart and Nicola Bagley have now settled in and offer visitors a warm welcome at the Rising Sun, Stockcross. Stuart said 'Having grown up in the pub trade and worked in a variety of settings including pubs, hotels and country inns, we understand the importance of traditional pub values; creating a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where visitors can enjoy good beer, good food and good company.'

Stuart, who started his career in the kitchens of Martin Blunos, a two star Michelin chef at Restaurant Lettonie, Bath, now takes the helm in his own kitchen at the Rising Sun. The menu features traditional 'Pub Grub' including toad in the hole and beer battered fish 'n' chips, switching to two roasts, including chicken, on Sunday lunchtimes. The third Thursday of each

month is reserved for Stuart's 'tasty' international food theme night. Other regular events are a quiz night on the first Wednesday of each month and every Sunday evening at the Rising Sun provides an opportunity for people to get together and play some soothing acoustic sounds. A sixth handpump will be installed at the bar so that Mr Chubb's Lunchtime Bitter, Good Old Boy, Dr Hexter's Healer, a further beer from West Berkshire Brewery and two guest ales will usually be available. With a beer garden at the rear of the pub, the Rising Sun is planning to host occasional barbecues and an August bank holiday



Nicola & Stuart Bagley

weekend beer festival. Children, cyclists, walkers, ramblers and well behaved dogs on leads are all welcome at the Rising Sun.
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Swift Halves

■ The **Hatchet Inn**, 20 Market Place, Newbury, will be opening on Tuesday 19 July. This JD Wetherspoon pub was originally planned to open before their other establishment in Newbury, the **Diamond Tap** (Lloyds No 1 bar), which opened on 9 July 2010.

■ After several months of renovation work, the **Bull Inn**, Stanford Dingley re-opened on Sunday 15 May. The original front door into 'The Old Tap Room' has been restored and the interior space opened out. There is also a Dining Room which overlooks the generous garden. The Bar currently has three handpumps which offer West Berkshire's Good Old Boy, Adnams Southwold Bitter and a frequently changing guest Ale. The Bull also stocks, locally produced, Tutts Clump Cider. www.thebullinnstanforddingley.org



■ **Ramsbury brewery** will be supplying Sun Splash, a 4% ABV pale and fruity beer, to the Great British Beer Festival. Reach for the Sky (4.3% ABV) brewed for the Fairford Air Tattoo, is another of their seasonal beers to look out for. Their newly opened pub, the **Bell at Ramsbury**, has four handpumps serving three Ramsbury beers and a guest ale.



■ The **Castle Inn**, Cold Ash, is now open all day, every day. Cream teas are available in the afternoon from 2.30pm-5.30pm. There is now a choice of five real ales, always including one from West Berkshire Brewery. The Banks's Mild proved popular in May and will be returning for July. www.thecastleatcoldash.co.uk

■ Congratulations to the **Three Horse Shoes**, Donnington, which has been awarded Cask Marque accreditation. See page 5 for a full pub profile.

■ Phil took over at the **Old Chequers**, Thatcham, in 2010. He is able to choose beers from a Finest Cask list and is planning to introduce a third handpump, after internal decoration of the pub is completed. The walled patio area at the rear was renovated recently. Triple fff Alton's Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar are amongst the beers to be served here. The pub is open from 11am – 11pm daily.



■ Prices for Sharp's Doom Bar, Courage Best and Fuller's London Pride at the **White Hart**, Thatcham, have been held at £2.90 pint since the new owners took over in November 2010. Future events include rock covers band 'Fubar' on 6 August, Bingo every Thursday (3pm) & Sunday (7pm) and a quiz every Monday (8.30pm). A full list of events is on their website www.thewhitehartthatcham.com



■ The 2011 **West Berkshire Brewery** monthly beers (4.3% ABV) are: Docklifter (July), a light amber IPA named after a two-pronged implement with a long handle used to extract docks and long-rooted weeds; Strickle & Horn (August), a tawny ale whose name refers to a tapering four-sided piece of oak with a handle that was smeared with grease and fine sand from the horn. The strickle was used to keep a keen edge on scythe blades. Goldstar will be a bottled beer at around 5.2% ABV available from late July. This was first brewed a few years ago and is a golden beer, floral in the nose with a smooth finish - the honey used in the recipe comes from within 5 miles of the brewery.

■ The 2011 **West Berkshire Pub of the Year** award was presented to the **Swan Inn**, Inkpen, on 18 May (see photo below). During the evening, we learned that Mary Harris was once a champion bell ringer and used to enjoy a pint of beer in a pub after a ringing session. Organic beers from Butts

Brewery are available at the Swan Inn. The pub now has free Wi-Fi. www.theswaninn-organics.co.uk.

■ The **Bowler's Arms**, Wash Common, is adjacent to the Falkland Cricket Club ground. The Minor Counties Championship fixture between Berkshire and Wiltshire will be played here on 10-12 July. www.falklandcc.co.uk

■ **Arkell's** has launched Wiltshire Gold, its first new regular beer to be brewed and available all year round since 2003. At 4% ABV, Wiltshire Gold is a light amber colour using Styrian Goldings with a gentle floral, hoppy aroma and a sweet, malty, hoppy taste. Don Bracher, head brewer at Arkell's, said: 'Wiltshire Gold is very similar to our Summer Ale which has been a regular seasonal hit for the brewery for over ten years.'



■ Look out for Farmers Glory in **Wadworth's** pubs during July and August. This deep amber traditional English ale (4.7% ABV) has a rich malty body with complex hop characters and a hint of tropical fruit.

■ The **Wellington Arms**, St Nicholas roundabout, Newbury, has closed. There is now an Enterprise Inns 'Pub to Let' sign outside it.

The **Butt Inn**, Aldermaston Wharf and the **Spring**, on the A4 near Sulhampstead, have also closed.



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■ Tim Wale recently introduced Repress to the **Tutts Clump Cider** range. This 3.5% ABV medium sweet cider is made from a second pressing of the apple pomace after covering it with water for 24 hours. This produces a refreshing, pale cider. It is available in 500 ml bottles and on draught at the **Yew Tree**, Highclere and the **Shoulder of Mutton**, Wantage. www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk www.themutton.co.uk



Festival roundup

■ The second **Newbury Rugby beer and cider festival** has been expanded to three days: Al Gurr plays on Friday 8 July (£15); Rugby and live bands on Saturday 9 July (noon – 10pm, £5); Family day on Sunday 10 July (noon – 5.30pm, free). Itchen Valley brewery is sourcing around 30 beers with some from the North. Cider suppliers include Tutts Clump Cider. There will be a marquee as last year.

■ **Wadworth brewery** have organised a beer festival inside the old main gates of their Devizes brewery on Saturday 16 July (12 noon - 6pm). There will be a selection of Wadworth ales, guest beers and ciders, food and live entertainment from 'Funked Up' and 'Train to Skaville'. Tickets are £6 in advance and £7 on the day. Entry includes a festival pint glass and token. Non drinkers £1. www.wadworth.co.uk

■ Britain's biggest beer festival, the **Great British Beer Festival** at Earls Court, runs from 2-6 August. Various tutored tasting sessions, sponsored by the Beer Academy, can be booked in advance including 'Champion bottle-conditioned beers' by Jeff Evans, the Newbury based beer writer, on Friday 5 August. The plan is to rendezvous at the base of the escalator to the Members' exclusive lounge at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm. Remember that discounts can be obtained by booking in advance and presenting a CAMRA membership card. www.gbbf.org.uk



■ The **White Hart**, Thatcham, will hold a beer festival over the bank holiday weekend (27-29 August).

■ The **Newbury Real Ale festival**, organised by Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, will be held at Northcroft Fields, Newbury, on Saturday

10 September with over 150 ales, ciders and perries. www.newburyrealale.co.uk

■ The fifth **Ascot Racecourse Beer Festival** is on 30 September - 1 October. See advertisement on back page for further details.



Rich Milligan picks a winner at Newbury Racecourse Best of British beer festival on 14 May

■ **LocAle of the Reading Beer and Cider festival** was judged in a blind tasting of beers supplied by breweries within a 30 mile radius of the festival site on Thursday 28th April. Selected results include:

Overall winners: First: Adkins - Alfred's Jaypee's Stout (Porter, Stouts and Old winner); Second: Zero Degrees - Pale Ale (Speciality winner); Third: Twickenham - Naked Ladies (Best Bitters winner)

Premium Bitters: First: Butts - Barbus Barbus. **Mild:** First: West Berkshire - Maggs' Magnificent Mild. **Speciality:** Second: Butts - Le Butts

■ **CAMRA's National Cider and Perry Championships 2011**, also held at the Reading Beer and Cider festival, featured 24 ciders and 24 perries, selected from different regions of the UK and were assessed by a judging panel consisting of publicans, drinks writers and CAMRA members.

The winner of the Cider Gold Medal was Virtual Orchards (Wolverton, Bucks.) - Hard Core, which the judges described as 'a bold, flavoursome cider, eminently drinkable, with a balanced, dryish finish.' Silver went to Gwynt y Ddraig (Llantwit Fardre, Glam.) - Black Dragon and Bronze to Hartland (Tirley, Glos.) - Sweet (a cider maker visited on the 2008 West Berkshire CAMRA cider trip).

The winner of the Perry Gold Medal was Rathays (Sutton St Nicholas, Herefordshire) - Painted Lady, which the judges noted as 'a sweet, pleasant and refreshing perry, with a good astringency and light fruitiness on the aftertaste.'

LocAle 2011



The West Berkshire branch of CAMRA has a new Pubs Officer. Glenn Parsons (left) was elected to the post at the recent AGM held at The Hungerford Club. This is the first position Glenn has held within the

branch and he is keen to make a positive impact. He wants to carry on the good work of Hazel Munro, the previous Pubs Officer, by keeping the pubs database updated and encouraging those pubs who qualify to join the LocAle scheme. The main role of Pubs Officer is to be the first point of contact for publicans and he can be contacted initially via email: pubsofficer@westberks.camra.org.uk

Keeping the pub goer informed of events and special activities is key to keeping some pubs viable and Glenn is keen to hear from publicans so that CAMRA can support them through our email distribution, social networks and Ullage.

The following pubs are accredited as LocAle for 2011 as they regularly serve a beer from a brewery within 25 miles by road.

The Bell	Aldworth
The Blue Ball	Kintbury
The Bowler's Arms	Wash Common
The Castle Inn	Cold Ash
The Coopers Arms	Newbury
The Crown & Garter	Inkpen Common
The Downgate	Hungerford
The Lord Lyon	Stockcross
The Monument	Newbury
The Old Boot Inn	Stanford Dingley
The Pot Kiln	Frilsham
The Red House	Newbury
The Rising Sun	Stockcross
The Royal Oak	Yattendon
The Six Bells	Beenham
The Swan Inn	Inkpen
The Winterbourne Arms	Winterbourne
The Woodpecker	Wash Water



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Ale Trails

■ The CAMRA Members' Weekend and AGM 2011 in **Sheffield** was attended by Meg and Tim Thomas on 16/17 April. It was nice to see that some copies of Ullage were being distributed from a desk inside the Octagon Centre venue. Unfortunately, it was not possible for us to go on any of the organised excursions, such as the Steel City ghost tour or the Thornbridge Brewery night. However, on the

Saturday evening, we did take the Sheffield Supertram to Shalesmoor and visit three of the best pubs in the Kelham Island 'Valley of Beer' area. Near the tramstop, we enjoyed good food and beer, at reasonable prices, at the Fat Cat (the Kelham Island Brewery tap), the Kelham Island Tavern (CAMRA national Pub of the Year 2008 & 2009) and the Wellington (the Little Ale Cart brewery tap). Anyone who attended the beer festival at Newbury racecourse on 14 May would also have had a rare opportunity to taste the pale and well hopped beers from Little Ale Cart brewery, away from their usual South Yorkshire distribution area.

■ The next CAMRA Members' Weekend and AGM will be held at the Riviera Centre, **Torquay** (30 March – 1 April 2012). Remember to book early if you would like to go on the associated trips, organised by Devon branches of CAMRA. <http://www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=agm>

■ CAMRA members Paul Kirby and Brian Thackray have come up with a new business '**Beer n Buses Yorkshire Days Out**'. They have put together information packs for the beer loving holiday-maker in West and North Yorkshire, using the most scenic public transport routes.

Paul said 'Many holiday-makers and day trippers would prefer to leave their car at home so



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they can enjoy a pint or three. We make it easy for them to do that. There are lots of fantastic rural pubs in the Dales & Moors that can be reached by bus and train.'

Paul says that the bus network this year is almost as comprehensive as in 2010, despite the council cuts in North Yorkshire. But he warns that the future of services, like the Dales Bus, is under threat if not well used this year.

Each of the nine info packs contain a flexible itinerary with a commentary about the places travellers pass through and visit. They also include ticket information, timetables, a route map and street maps with the exact location of bus stops, pubs, cafes and local attractions. Four day trips start from Leeds and five from York. The packs start at £11 each, more details at www.beerandbuses.co.uk.

■ Meg and Tim Thomas visited the **Copenhagen beer festival** in May 2011. This festival runs for three days and the hall gets more crowded and



Unusual beer font!

Photo by Ryan Kovar

noisy as each day progresses so we were fortunate to arrive at noon on Friday 27 May and find a free table as a base. This was an opportunity to meet up with Amanda and Ryan, regulars on the last two West Berkshire CAMRA cider trips and compare notes on the beers we tasted at the festival. The maximum measure of 10 cl is the equivalent of about one sixth of a pint but the average strength of the, mainly Danish, beers was about 6% abv. Breweries manage their own stalls and give them a unique identity



Skål! Amanda & Ryan raise their 10 cl tasting glasses

with many different forms of dispense involved. It was reassuring to find that one brewery (WinterCoat) employed traditional handpumps on their stall. We agreed that beer from Black Rooster Brewery was consistently good.

Like Mikkeller and several other 'breweries' at the festival, Black Rooster is a 'phantom brewer' with no physical brewery. Our favourite was The Hoptimiser, a 6.5% ABV American IPA, brewed at Søgaards Bryghus, Frederikssund, Denmark.



■ Using twitter, Tim was able to arrange a meeting with Peter Sutcliffe (pictured), the author of '**Around Berlin in 80 beers**' which was being launched in

Denmark at the festival. Peter mentioned that he had no difficulty in finding 80 good bars in Berlin to feature in his book but that he had to rule out some good bars in order to meet the requirement that a different beer should be linked to each bar. The handy sized book, published by Cogan & Mater, features full colour photographs on every page and comprehensive maps to plot a Kneipenbummel (ale trail) in Berlin. This series of books also covers Amsterdam, London, Bruges and Brussels.



www.booksaboutbeer.com

■ With Apple Day falling on 21 October, this year's cider trip is planned for Saturday 22 October. We hope that people, including those who have enjoyed previous cider trips, will join us for a scaled down event in 2011 - the '**Cider Strider**'. The plan is to use public transport to reach Reading and then walk to several pubs that serve real cider. These include the Blgrave Arms, the Retreat, the Hobgoblin, the Allied Arms and the Nag's Head. NB All of these pubs also offer an excellent choice of real ales. More details will be given in the next issue of Ullage and on our website: www.westberksamra.org.uk

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The Three Horse Shoes Donnington

Situated only about a mile north of Newbury town centre, the Three Horse Shoes, Donnington, is an attractive pub which is perhaps not as well known as it should be. For there you can enjoy the pleasures of a typical Local, supping good ale in friendly company - the pub was recently rated as 'Excellent' by Cask Marque. Optionally, you can also savour the exotic fragrance and flavours of an excellent authentic oriental cuisine! The pub is open all afternoon and evening, seven days a week.

Despite being so close to Newbury, Donnington is a little village which has retained its identity and character and is full of history. Donnington Castle, dating from 1386, survives in the form of its iconic gatehouse and the foundations of other buildings. It was under siege for twenty months by Cromwell's forces before being destroyed, and during the Second Battle of Newbury (1644), Charles I used nearby Shaw House as his headquarters. The Old Priory, restored in the 19th century, is now in commercial use, and occasionally hosts concerts during the Newbury Spring Festival. Opposite lies a row of Elizabethan almshouses, known as Donnington Hospital. Beau Brummel spent part of his youth in impressive Donnington Grove House, built in 1759.

The Three Horse Shoes is easy to miss if you are driving through, as it is tucked away down narrow Castle Lane, which leads only to the Castle ruins. Hence I make no excuse for telling those who do not know how to get there. Starting from Newbury at the roundabout on the A4 overlooked by the Waitrose supermarket, take the B4494 road to Wantage (here named historically as Oxford Road), negotiate the next roundabout, then immediately after crossing the signed bridge over the Lambourn, take the first left, and you will find the pub on your right after about 100 yards. There are no pavements, so take care! If you are coming from the other direction, look for the right turning just before the bridge. This junction (which is easy to miss if you are in a car) is now signposted 'Three Horseshoes Village Pub'. The pub car park is located opposite. In the unlikely event of this being full, it is probably best to drive back to the main road, turn left, and use the free car park opposite the Castle pub, a little further up Oxford Road. It is but a short walk back.

After being joined shortly upstream by the Winterbourn at Bagnor, the skeined Lambourn meanders through Donnington and Shaw, largely



surrounded by water meadows, to its confluence with the Kennet near the Racecourse. The area is subject to occasional flooding, and in 2007 the water level reached window sill level in the pub - but this was exceptional. Today there is no sign of this inundation, and the interior of the pub is bright and attractively furnished. The age of the pub is uncertain, but it is known to have been a coaching inn serving what was once the main road to Oxford. At some point the interior walls were removed, revealing long massive beams supporting the ceiling over one large, continuous area. As you enter through the porch, you face a winding bar providing two ever-changing real ales, currently priced at £3.10 per pint. On your right are tables reserved for eating. Usually the pub is quiet, although a large screen TV is sometimes in use.

By the way, the correct name for the pub (as written on the frontage) is 'Three Horse Shoes', although you will often see it written as 'Three Horseshoes'. The story told is that a blacksmith used to ply his trade next to the pub, so that when a horse shed its shoe and had need of the smith, it would arrive with only three horseshoes! No doubt the rider enjoyed suitable refreshment in the pub while his horse was being re-shod, and I should think that the smith, by the nature of his trade, also contributed substantially to the takings.

Today the pub is owned by Enterprise Inns, who give considerable latitude to their tenants as to who supplies their ales. The drinks side of the pub is run by self-assured landlord Ben, who has an impish sense of humour, while his beautiful Thai-born wife 'Koon' looks after the food, assisted by their Thai cook, universally known as 'Tuk-tuk!' As a rough guide, starters cost £4 to £5, main courses between £5.50 and £6.75, with accompanying rice dishes at £2 to £3, and cooked desserts at £4. A limited number of English dishes

are also available. The food can also be ordered for take-away. During April a dozen CAMRA members met at the pub for a Thai meal, and all went away expressing considerable satisfaction. Knowing them as I do, I can give no higher recommendation!

On fine days you may choose to drink or eat outside; there are three tables in the rather confined courtyard behind the pub, and five benches bordering the car park opposite, pleasantly flanked by one branch of the Lambourn (here channelled), and shaded by a number of majestic trees. In addition, there is a bench at the side of the pub, but you may have to share this area with the occasional smoker! However, there is no special provision for children. Dogs, if not welcomed, are tolerated if well behaved.



So, although it is no longer a place which will particularly attract horse riders or stagecoaches (although there are still mounting steps at one end of the building), if you find yourself in Newbury and would prefer refreshment at a pub with the atmosphere of a Local rather than an anonymous centre-of-town establishment, you could do a lot worse than slip out here. Opening times are 11.30 am to 11 pm Monday to Saturday, and 12 noon to 10.30 pm on Sunday. Additionally, the Thai food is an attractive alternative to the usual pub fare and is served from 12 noon to 2 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm Monday to Saturday. On Sunday, a traditional roast is available between midday and 4 pm.

The Three Horse Shoes, Castle Lane, Donnington, Newbury RG14 2LB
Tel. 01635 41366
www.threehorseshoesdonnington.co.uk

Geoff Grayer

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A History of CAMRA in West Berkshire – Part 2

Sadly, the original Newbury branch folded up at the end of the 1970s. This was at a time when people felt that CAMRA's job had been done; the concept of real ale was well known and pubs were converting to it on a daily basis. The tide of Watneyisation had been stemmed and new breweries were opening. Locally, the losses of the Corn Exchange event could have been a contributory factor. In actual fact the branch went into abeyance, with former treasurer Paul Frances continuing as the official local contact. Once a year he would call at my house and we would sit and decide, on the basis of our local knowledge, which 11 pubs would go into the next issue of the Good Beer Guide. No one ever complained about our choices.



The branch was revived as the West Berkshire branch in 1986 by Steve Parry, an immigrant from Crawley, as chairman, and Dan Allen, an immigrant from Croydon, as secretary. Unlike the Newbury branch, this covered the eponymous geographical area west of Theale. One of the first acts of the new branch, which held its inaugural meeting in The



2 photos above: The Lion, West Street, Newbury. Before and after rebuilding. L to R: Paul Frances, Roy Bailey & Dan Allen (October 1990)

Railway Hotel, Newbury, was to campaign to prevent The Lion in West Street from being replaced by offices. In this we were successful, and although the new owners, Wadworth, had to rebuild the dilapidated building, it stands today as a memorial to the glory days of the Newbury branch, when it was the town's only free house and the branch's unofficial HQ. It still has the steps down which I have fallen on more than one occasion.

A vociferous campaign against the closure of The New Inn, Hampstead Norreys, led to us imposing a boycott on Morland's beers (but not their pubs) and we campaigned hard in the council chamber against the closure of The Swan, Inkpen; The Stocks, Beenham; The Rising Sun, Wharf Street, Newbury; The Bull, Stanford Dingley and The Star, West Ilsley. We fought many pub closures over the years - some successfully, some not. We demonstrated at Wethered's Brewery in Marlow against its closure, and literally ran rings around Courage as a protest against the closure of its old brewery in Reading. We annoyed the local Licensed Victuallers Association (and where are they now?) by printing a comparative price list of the same beer for different local pubs. We became responsible for the monthly recording on tape of What's Brewing for blind CAMRA members.

But perhaps one of our greatest triumphs was to successfully campaign against the re-naming of The Castle Inn, Donnington, as 'The Pig in Hiding'. Our objections made national news and the Newbury Weekly News ran a poll asking readers to vote for or against the new name. Imagine our satisfaction when the voting was 743 to 3 in favour of the traditional name. Emboldened by this, the branch got a motion against pub-name changes passed at a CAMRA AGM. Members have often attended AGMs to campaign for or against various matters, and have normally been successful.

On 16 June 1995 we held a 21st birthday party for CAMRA in West Berkshire (glossing over the interregnum!) at The Plough on the Green, Stroud Green. This was attended by our President, the late Johnny Morris and 120 bottles of a commemorative porter, specially brewed by branch members, were distributed.

Producing one's own beer was popular among members at this time and in 1996 we held a home-



L to R: Steve Lodge, Branch Secretary Jeremy Dickens, Neil Collings of the former Foxley Brewery & Branch Chairman Mike Smith judging home-brew beers 1996

brew competition, jointly organised by Ullage editor Richard Goss and secretary Jeremy Dickens, in the Stables Bar at Newbury Racecourse. All the panel of judges survived.

Since then the branch has continued to be a successful force for real ale campaigning in the area but in a different way. A new generation of local beer lovers has taken up the reins, and the policy of wild and wacky publicity stunts of the early days, designed to get our message across, has given way to a more sober and formal approach. Necessary, now that CAMRA is a large (120,000 plus members) and bureaucratic (in the nicest possible sense) organisation.

Some of the founding fathers of the old Newbury branch, such as Fred O'Donnell and Jonathan Bray, are sadly no longer with us, but others are still around and doing their bit. Paul Frances, Chris Marriage, David Hickman and I are still active to a greater or lesser extent, while others like David 'Doc' Arnold, Jeremy Dickens, Peter Watson, Roger Pocock, Jennie Bray, James Lynch and Tony Bartlett are known to be enjoying a well-earned retirement from the cut and thrust of campaigning. We have lost touch with such stalwarts as Adrian Adams, Dave Wright and Glyn Davis, but wonder where they are and what they are doing.

Let's raise a glass to all real ale campaigners - past, present and future.

Roy Bailey
(who also supplied the photos)

the 6 bells We are in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide

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Bottle no.1 of the commemorative porter brewed for the 21st birthday party in 1995 with a glass produced for the Jubilee Jamboree in 1974

Alex
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Beer Festival Diary

CAMRA-run beer festivals provide excellent opportunities for sampling a wide range of real ales, from all over the UK and overseas. Here are some of the major and most accessible festivals for West Berkshire drinkers.

8 – 10 July

Woodcote Festival of Ale

Woodcote Rally, 8 miles NW of Reading on A4074

Details: www.woodcoterally.org.uk

15 – 17 July

2nd Windsor LocAle Festival

Windsor Farm Shop, Datchet Road, Old Windsor SL4 2RQ

Details: www.swmcamra.org.uk

2 – 6 August

Great British Beer Festival

Earls Court, Warwick Road, London SW5 9TA

Details: www.gbbf.org.uk

26 – 27 August

Overton (Hampshire Downs) Beer Festival

St Luke's Hall, 49-55 Winchester Street, Overton, Hants.

Details: www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk

Diary Dates 2011

The following is a list of all forthcoming meetings of the West Berkshire branch of CAMRA. Some are 'social' meetings, lively and friendly occasions where we enjoy a few beers; others are 'branch' meetings, which are slightly more formal and where we discuss beer and pubs issues. Unless stated, our meetings are open to all-comers – and new members are particularly welcome!

Fri 8 Jul - Aunt Sally social evening with White Horse branch at the Radnor Arms, Coleshill, Oxon.

Sat 16 Jul - Oxford Pub Crawl (with Oxford Branch) – Details TBC See our website for more details

Tue 19 Jul - Branch Meeting Harrow, West Ilsley

Fri 5 Aug - Social at Great British Beer Festival, Earls Court **1pm, 3pm, 5pm** See Festival Roundup, page 3

Wed 17 Aug - Branch Meeting Rising Sun, Stockcross

Tue 6 Sep - Social evening Rebellion Brewery, Marlow. **7.30pm** start. £10 per head. See our website for more details

Tue 13 Sep - Branch Meeting Falmouth Arms, Woolhampton

All meetings start at 8pm unless otherwise stated.

Please check our website for further details of events:
www.westberkscamra.org.uk



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