

# Ullage

FREE PLEASE TAKE ONE



The Newsletter of West Berkshire CAMRA

May/June 2011

## Swan, Inkpen, is Pub of the Year



The West Berkshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has chosen the Swan Inn, Inkpen, as its Pub of the Year for 2011. The 17th century village inn, owned by organic beef farmers Mary and Bernard Harris, has a long association with Butts brewery, the organic brewery based near Great Shefford.

In response to the award, Bernard said 'This is good news. We are all delighted. We rely on customers travelling some distance to visit us so this award is especially welcome.' Inkpen is a scattered community of some 300 houses including holiday homes and weekend cottages. The Swan Inn is situated in the Lower Green part of the village. It lies about a mile north of Combe Gibbet on Gallows Down, the subject of John Schlesinger's first film 'The Black Legend' (1948).

Bernard and Mary had been running their organic beef farm in Inkpen for 15 years when the Swan closed down in 1995. Bernard described himself as the best customer of the pub at the time. Bernard and Mary were also longstanding members of CAMRA so when fellow members suggested that they should buy the Swan, they took the plunge on the basis that it could also become an outlet for their beef and be extended to include an organic shop and 10 en-suite bedrooms. The bar would be expanded with a separate darts and games room.

In April 1996, the Swan Inn reopened with Chris Butt as a licensee, complementing his role as brewery owner with a guaranteed outlet. With Chris and Delia running the pub initially, the Harrises could supervise the extensive renovation and new building work that was eventually granted planning permission and took a couple of years to complete.

Although Chris Butt went back to full time brewery work, the original association, which saw spent grains from his brewery feeding their cattle, continued in the other direction with Butts organic beers: Jester, Traditional and Blackguard Porter being served at the Swan. Guest beers like Hooky Dark may also be available.



The staff at the Swan now have an international flavour with Italy, Slovakia, Czech Republic and South Africa all represented. These influences are reflected in the menu. In the photograph below, from the left are Vincenzo (head chef), Zuzanna, Tom (bar manager), Nadine, Mary and Bernard.



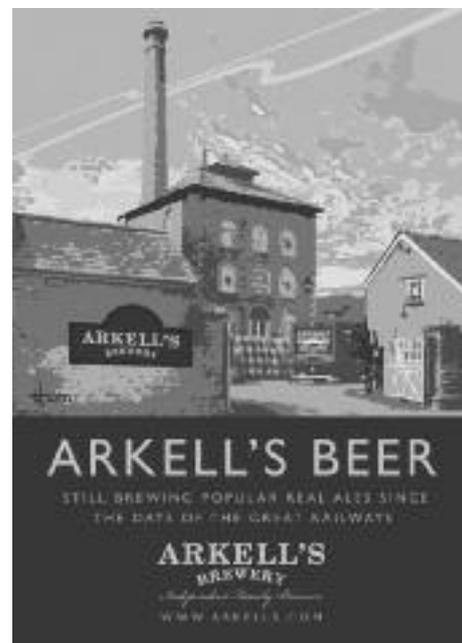
Adrian Bean, West Berkshire CAMRA chairman, said 'The Swan Inn now goes into the Berkshire county round of the contest with the Jack O'Newbury, Binfield; the Nag's Head, Reading and the White Horse, Hedgerley. We wish Bernard and Mary luck in this round and hope they will win through to the next stage, as did the Bell Inn, Aldworth, last year's local winner.'

### West Berkshire CAMRA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of West Berkshire CAMRA will start at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 June at the Hungerford Club, 3 The Croft, Hungerford RG17 0HY. This is a CAMRA members only meeting. All members are invited to attend and will have the opportunity to comment on the running of the branch and its activities. We welcome any member, interested in an active role, to stand for election to a post on the committee.

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## Swift Halves

■ The Fox & Hounds, Donnington, has been renamed as **Harry's Bar & Kitchen**, as a tribute to the late Harry Coates, a previous landlord at the pub. Since March, the new licensee is Ali Wright and her team includes Mickey Liquorish and Murray Jackson who worked with her at the Bunk Inn until April 2009. The Arkell's pub has been redecorated and there will be a dining terrace at the front of the pub where paella and barbecues will be cooked and served. Opening hours are 10 – midnight (11 – 5 Sundays). Regular beers are 3B and Moonlight with a varying third beer.

■ The **Bull Inn**, Stanford Dingley, has been closed for over a year. The couple running the nearby Queen's Head, Bradfield Southend, will now reopen the Bull as an additional establishment. [www.thebullinnstanforddingley.org](http://www.thebullinnstanforddingley.org)

■ The **Falmouth Arms**, Woolhampton, has reopened after refurbishment. Tom has been able to add two handpumps to the bar so up to four ales will now be available. There will be live music, featuring local bands, on Saturdays and a quiz on Sundays. Tel: 01189 712308.

■ JD Wetherspoon advise that 26 July 2011 is the target date for opening the **Hatchet**, formerly the Berkshire Tavern, in the Market Place, Newbury.

■ Several television crews have been filming at **West Berkshire Brewery** recently. Head brewer, Will Twomey, appeared in Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers on BBC TV. Scenes from the brewery, its shop and the **Royal Oak**, Yattendon, featured in series 2, episode 5 (Unsung Heroes). Will told Nigel 'I think the darker beers are most suited to cooking. The maltiness brings out the flavour in a dish.'

A planting implement and a bird scarer are the source of the names for the brewery's next monthly beers: Bean Dibbler (May) and Clapper (June).

■ The **Rising Sun**, Stockcross, will be returning to regular opening hours and feature a new menu under new landlords, Stuart and Nicola Bagley, who took over the West Berkshire Brewery pub in April.

■ The **Old Waggon and Horses**, Newbury has added Good Old Boy to its roster of beers which includes Cornish Coaster and Doom Bar from Sharp's brewery.

■ The **Royal Oak**, Yattendon, will feature mild ales during May, which CAMRA has designated as mild month. Look out for Maggs' Magnificent Mild from West Berkshire



Brewery and Otter Mild from the Otter brewery in Devon. [www.royaloakyattendon.co.uk](http://www.royaloakyattendon.co.uk)

■ Following on from a rolling beer festival, the **Castle Inn**, Cold Ash will be serving a rolling selection of milds during May: chestnut coloured Banks's Mild from Wolverhampton; Theakston Mild from Masham, Yorkshire, brewed with pale, crystal and black malts; Maggs' Magnificent Mild from Yattendon. [www.thecastleatcoldash.co.uk](http://www.thecastleatcoldash.co.uk)

■ Details of some of the mild beers that will be available at the **Newbury Racecourse** Best of British beer festival on Saturday 14 May are included in the feature on page 5.

■ **Wadsworth** pubs may also stock Pint Size Mild (3.3% ABV) which is brewed at the Pint Size microbrewery, within their Devizes site.

■ Spring Sprinter will be available at Fuller's pubs including the **Lock Stock and Barrel** during May. A light zesty ale brewed to 4% ABV with Nelson Sauvin hops harvested in New Zealand, this beer has subtle gooseberry flavours balanced with the biscuity sweetness from the English malts.



■ **Thatcham Beer Festival** supporting Help for Heroes will be held at Thatcham Town FC, Waterside Park, Crookham Hill, Thatcham RG19 4PA on 25 June with local ciders and beers from Derbyshire and local breweries. Sarah Rigby, one of the festival organisers, said 'One of the joys of a beer festival is the chance to try ales that you wouldn't usually cross paths with. There are over 30 independent craft breweries in Derbyshire so this gives us plenty to choose from and bring to the Thatcham Beer Festival. Being a Derby lass originally and having watched the brewing sector there flourish over recent years, I'm certainly looking forward to seeing some of my favourite beers from the area available at the



festival.' As keen campaign supporters, the organisers are happy to offer a concession for card carrying CAMRA members. The website includes details for local businesses wishing to sponsor the festival. [www.thatchambeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.thatchambeerfestival.org.uk)

■ Tracey and James at the **White Hart**, Hampstead Norreys, will be holding a beer festival at the pub from Thursday evening 23 June – Sunday 26 June. [www.goodfoodatthewhitehart.co.uk](http://www.goodfoodatthewhitehart.co.uk)

■ A choice of two roasts, including roast beef, will now be served at the **Three Horseshoes**, Donnington, between 12 and 4pm on Sundays.

■ **Ramsbury Brewery** has applied for planning permission to build a new 30 barrel brewery to cope with expanding demand. Hells Highway a 3.8% ABV mild will be available in May. Watch out also for further seasonal beers: Chalk Stream (5% ABV) and Sunsplash (4% ABV) a pale Summer ale full of citrus flavours. The **Dundas Arms**, Kintbury, regularly stocks beer from the brewery. On reopening, the **Bell Inn**, Ramsbury, will stock two of their beers and a guest ale.



■ At this time of year, cricket lovers can often watch a match at the Falkland CC ground, Enborne Street, Wash Common, next to the **Bowler's Arms**. Berkshire play Norfolk here on 15 May. Falkland CC 1st XI play at home on 14, 28 May, 11 June & 2 July. Butts Jester, Greene King IPA and three guest ales, often from local breweries like Ramsbury or Loose Cannon, are served here. [www.falklandcc.co.uk](http://www.falklandcc.co.uk)



■ The **Radnor Arms**, Coleshill has been voted White Horse CAMRA's 2011 pub of the year. This National Trust owned freehouse installed its own four barrel Old Forge micro-brewery last year. Up to four of the Old Forge beers are available. Their Hammer and Tongs was the second most popular beer at the Wantage beer festival in November. Joint runners-up are the **Royal Oak**, Wantage and the **North Star**, Steventon. [www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk](http://www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk)

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■ **Loddon Brewery** is brewing Wilfred's Mild (3.6% ABV) again and 10p from each pint will be donated to All Saints church, near the brewery in Dunsden Green, where Wilfrid Owen worked as a lay assistant.



■ The 7.2% increase in beer duty announced in the March budget combined with the 20% VAT rate means that the average duty and VAT on a pub pint is now over £1. Mike Benner, CAMRA chief executive, said: *'It is incredible to consider that Britain's beer drinkers are forced to endure the second highest rate of beer tax in Europe.... By penalising the vast majority of responsible pub goers, the Government is not getting to the root of the problem, which remains cheap alcohol sold in an irresponsible manner in the off trade.'*

■ The **Nags Head**, Bartholomew Street, Newbury, closed in late January and reopened in April. Courage Best was available initially.

■ Sadly, the **Swan Inn**, Great Shefford, the **Five Bells**, Wickham and the **Blue Ball**, Greenham, have all closed recently.

■ Rising costs, including the new level of rent set for them by Wadworth brewery, are behind the decision of Sharon and Pete to leave the **Lion**, Newbury, at the end of May. They have been there since 2008 and established it as a successful community pub. Sharon said 'We've had good fun and certainly learned a few things and hopefully we'll be back working in the area after a month off.' Pete added 'We want to thank all our customers for their friendship and support.'

■ **Arkell's Brewery** has appointed the UK's first brewery community liaison manager in an effort to help collaboration



between rural pubs and parish councils. A number of Arkell's pubs have already stepped in to replace local amenities, selling groceries and daily newspapers or offering a post office counter. In his new role, Richard Turner will also work with pub landlords to secure rural rate relief and reduce utility costs.

■ West Berkshire **cidermakers**: Ciderniks; Lambourn Valley; Tutts Clump & Wyatt's are all represented at the cider and perry bar of the **Reading Beer and Cider Festival** (27 April - 1 May). The results of CAMRA's national champion cider and perry judging are announced on 30 April.

■ Tim Wale of **Tutts Clump Cider**, which is located a mile away from the Middleton's family home, has produced 8000 bottles of Royal Wedding Cider (7% ABV), a medium sweet real cider.



**West Berkshire CAMRA Best Community Pub 2011 - George Arkell, Mark Genders & Adrian Bean celebrate at the Lord Lyon, Stockcross.**

**W. Berks. CAMRA Best Community pub 2011**



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**LocAle  
 2011**



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

## Ale Trails



■ **Streatley** (Berkshire) and **Goring-on-Thames** (Oxfordshire) lie at the narrowest part of the Thames valley. On **Friday 17 June**, West Berkshire CAMRA have arranged a joint ale trail with South Oxfordshire CAMRA. The **Bull at Streatley** is the **8pm** meeting point. This pub dates back to the 15th century and lies at the foot of Streatley Hill. After this visit we will cross the river Thames to reach the **Catherine Wheel**, Goring, around **9pm**. This traditional Brakspear's pub was formerly a blacksmiths and still has black beams. It is mentioned in Roy Bailey's History of CAMRA in Berkshire as the end point of a CAMRA Ridgeway walk in the 1970's. A more recent photo of the Station road pub is shown above. We aim to reach the **Goring Social Club**, 1 High Street, by **10pm**. In 2010, the club was named CAMRA South Central region Club of the Year. Beers from Butcombe and West Berkshire Breweries and a third guest ale are usually available here. We hope that this trail will appeal to anyone who likes the idea of spending a summer evening in good company combined with some exercise and real ale.  
[www.thebullatstreatley.com](http://www.thebullatstreatley.com)  
[www.thecatherinewheelgoring.co.uk](http://www.thecatherinewheelgoring.co.uk)  
[www.goringsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.goringsocialclub.co.uk)



CAMRA Ridgeway walkers, including Paul Frances, Roy & Tom Bailey and Fred O'Donnell, rest their feet outside the Catherine Wheel (197?)



### The Castle Inn · Cold Ash

- West Berkshire CAMRA Community Pub of the Year 2010
- Good Beer Guide 2009 & 2011
- Cask Marque accredited since 2002
- Four real ales including one from West Berkshire Brewery
- Family and dog friendly
- Good value food
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■ In March, Tim and Meg Thomas visited two central **Birmingham** pubs, listed in the 2011 Good Beer Guide, the Wellington and the Old Joint Stock. The Welly, as it is fondly known by its many regular customers, is near the top of Bennetts Hill, a few minutes walk from New Street station. This is a pub for drinkers as the long bar has 16 handpumps and no meals are served. However, pork scratchings are sold and an unusual feature is that plates, cutlery and sauces are provided for customers who bring food into the pub. Another unusual feature is the prominent display screen with numbered



details of the available beers and the request that beers should be ordered by their pump number. Details shown include brewery, strength, price and colour (coded A-E). Meg enjoyed 5 (Mad Goose



## The Fox Inn Hermitage



Set in the woodland village of Hermitage, The Fox Inn is a traditional country pub and restaurant. With around 300 years of history, it's full of character, retaining many original features and creating a warm, rustic environment for drinking and dining.

Listed in The Good Beer Guide and Cask Marque accredited, we provide a range of well kept real ales, such as West Berkshire Good Old Boy, Sharps Doom Bar, Youngs Special and a Guest Ale, together with a fine selection of wines and beers.

We look forward to extending you a warm welcome, friendly service and the relaxing atmosphere of a real country pub.

The Fox Inn  
 High Street · Hermitage · Berkshire RG18 9RB.  
 01635 201545. [www.thefoxhermitage.co.uk](http://www.thefoxhermitage.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/thefoxhermitage](http://www.facebook.com/thefoxhermitage)

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from Purity Brewing) which was one of the beers with the LocAle logo also shown on the display. Tim started with 12 (Downton Quadhop) rated A (pale) for colour and followed this with 4 (Oakham Citra), equally pale, after recommendation from a friendly local at the bar.

The first of the three Wellington photos shows a customer reading 'Out Inn Brum', the quarterly CAMRA newsletter, underneath the screen. [www.thewellingtonrealale.co.uk](http://www.thewellingtonrealale.co.uk)



Old Joint Stock

The Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row, opposite the western end of St Philip's cathedral, started life as a bank. Now a Fuller's Ale and Pie house, it impresses from outside and inside with notable features including an ornate, central bar and a high, glass domed, ceiling.

It is possible to nip from the small beer garden at the back of the Old Joint Stock into the rear entrance of the Wellington to create the shortest of ale trails. Do not miss the opportunity to visit both pubs when you are in Birmingham.

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[www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk](http://www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk)

# Best of British beer festival

Newbury racecourse, in association with the West Berkshire Brewery, have organised an inaugural beer festival on Saturday 14 May. The 'Best of British' theme extends from the beer festival to include the quality of the flat racing, the food and the classic car display by the MG club.

Fifty beers will be available with West Berkshire Brewery supplying their own and supplementing these with casks from Two Bridges (Caversham), Ascot Ales (Camberley), White Horse (Faringdon), Abbey Ales (Bath), RCH (Somerset), Dark Star (West Sussex), Pilgrim (Reigate), Ramsgate (Kent), Crouch Vale (Chelmsford), Milton (Cambridge), Blue Monkey (Notts) and Little Ale Cart (Sheffield).

CAMRA promotes mild ales in May and the best of British milds will be featured here. From



West Berkshire Brewery, Maggs' Magnificent Mild (3.8% ABV) was joint winner of the Oxford LocAle Champion Beer of the Festival award in October 2010. It is a typical dark mild but with a slightly higher hop rate than normally used in milds. Pilgrim have been brewing in Surrey since 1982. Moild (3.8% ABV), a full-bodied dark soft mild, was reconfigured in 2008. Strong milds are unusual but Victorian Ruby Mild from Dark Star is 6% ABV with soft flavours and gentle hops from a classic mild ale barley malt and Goldings hops. Ciders will also be available from makers including Tutts Clump Cider.

The Beer Festival will be situated on the Copper King Lawn in the Grandstand Enclosure of the racecourse and will also feature live music and a children's entertainment area. Tastings are from 11am to approx 6.30pm, operating on a cash only basis with beer served in pint or half pint plastic glasses.

CAMRA members can obtain Grandstand tickets, discounted to £10, by booking in advance on 01635 40015 quoting their membership number.

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# WB-40 and cheese for CAMRA 40th birthday

By 10pm on Wednesday 16 March, a 9 gallon cask of WB-40 ale had been drunk dry at the Campaign for Real Ale's 40th anniversary Beer and Cheese event at the Gun, Wash Common.

WB-40 ale had been brewed by the West Berkshire Brewery to commemorate this occasion. The brewery's owners, Dave and Helen Maggs, together with brewer Will Twomey, attended along with local CAMRA members from West Berkshire and North Hampshire. Alan and Tracey Murray from the Gun provided 40th birthday balloons and were kept busy serving WB-40 ale, which went on sale at 5pm, earlier that evening.

The ruby coloured WB-40 ale was brewed with Fuggles and Bramling Cross hops. The malts used were pale, crystal, wheat and roast barley. The four

varieties of cheese provided for the tasting were Cheddar, Stilton, Jarlsberg (Norway) and Manchego (Spain). Dave Maggs was among several people who thought the nutty taste of the Jarlsberg made the best match for the beer. Rich Milligan described WB-40 ale as 'Full bodied with a long lingering bitter finish.' Manchego, the salty, sheep's milk cheese, was his favourite accompaniment.

At 8.30pm, Roy Bailey, who joined the original Newbury CAMRA branch in 1974, gave a rousing speech, reminding us that there are now beer consumer organisations, like CAMRA, all over the

world and that traditional British beer and craft breweries are thriving. Roy said 'West Berkshire Brewery is one of those craft breweries that would not have existed if CAMRA had not created the right conditions, and I congratulate them on brewing this 40th anniversary beer.' Roy also mentioned David Hickman and Paul Frances, who were present and were original CAMRA members. The important role that Chris Marriage had played in the development of WB-40 ale was also highlighted. Finally, we raised our glasses to Roy's toast 'Ladies and gentlemen, I give you *The Campaign for Real Ale*. Long may it prosper.'



*The Gun, Wash Common*  
Left to right: Annabel Bailey, David Hickman, Will Twomey, Geoff Grayer, Dave Maggs, Helen Maggs, Adrian Bean, Roy Bailey, Rich Milligan, Tim Thomas (front), Andrew Morrison, Steve Kelly, Meg Thomas, Mike Avery

Photo by Richard Lock

## The West Berkshire Brewery

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Monday to Friday and  
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Summer is on its way - why not order a polypin for beer for your barbecue or for the bank holiday weekends.

See our website for details.



The Old Bakery Yattendon Thatcham Berks RG18 0UE  
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## A Campaign of Two Halves

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Complete the Direct Debit form 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](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Halford Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

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

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

12/10

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

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Service User Number: **9 2 6 1 2 9**

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Branch Sort Code

Basic or Building Society Account Number

Reference

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Member's Number

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If there is any change in the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you. If we fail to debit your account on the date agreed, you agree to pay the amount of the Direct Debit to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd on the date of the next debit. If you stop a Direct Debit to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd you will be liable for any amount of the Direct Debit which you have not paid. If you stop a Direct Debit to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd you will be liable for any amount of the Direct Debit which you have not paid. If you stop a Direct Debit to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd you will be liable for any amount of the Direct Debit which you have not paid.

## A History of CAMRA in West Berkshire – Part 1

The recent celebrations of the Campaign for Real Ale's 40th anniversary led me to sit with a pint and recall how we played our part locally over the years. Although the Campaign for the Revitalisation of Real Ale (as it was originally known) was started in March 1971 by 4 journalists disgusted with the poor quality of British beer, it took a while to get going nationally. The original Newbury branch was formed on 16 June 1974 in the Highwayman's Bar of The Bacon Arms, Newbury, with James Lynch, later CAMRA's National Chairman and founder of the Bourne Valley Brewery, as provisional secretary. In September a new committee was elected, with Chieveley GP David Arnold as Chairman and television personality Johnny Morris as President.



CAMRA / Five Bells, Woodspeen, craft afloat

Immediately the fledgling branch produced a Real Ale Guide to its area, which listed all the pubs serving cask-conditioned beer within a 12-mile radius of Newbury, and also organised a highly-successful beer tent at that year's Newbury Agricultural Show at Siege Cross, Thatcham. I was greatly impressed by this, and with fresh memories of a bad experience with gassy beer, I joined immediately.



Roy Bailey, Darryl Foxwell, Glyn Davis & Adrian Adams setting up for the Jubilee Jamboree of Folk and Ale (1977)  
(Visible casks contain Fuller's Mild (Hock) -1031- 25p and London Pride -1042- 30p)

### Join CAMRA today to obtain a wide range of benefits

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

CAMRA offers new members an excellent membership package. From £20 a year (see [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) for lower Concessionary Membership rates) you can join CAMRA by Direct Debit, receive 15 months for the price of 12 and gain a range of additional benefits. These include:

- A quarterly copy of the award winning BEER magazine – packed with superb features on pubs, beers and breweries. Feature writers include Jeff Evans & Roy Bailey. (retails at £3.95 per issue)
- £20 worth of JD Wetherspoon vouchers per year (40 x 50p off a pint of real ale) – For full terms and conditions, see [www.camra.org.uk/jdvwouchers](http://www.camra.org.uk/jdvwouchers)
- A monthly newspaper, WHAT'S BREWING edited by Tom Stainer – Beer, pub and campaign news with full event and beer festival listings.
- Free or reduced entry to over 160 national, regional and local beer festivals, including Newbury & Ascot racecourse beer festivals, Reading Beer Festival & the Great British Beer Festival – [www.camra.org.uk/festivals](http://www.camra.org.uk/festivals)
- Discounts on all CAMRA books including our best seller, the Good Beer Guide – [shop.camra.org.uk](http://shop.camra.org.uk)
- 20% off hotel bookings with Ramada Jarvis – [www.camra.org.uk/ramadajarvis](http://www.camra.org.uk/ramadajarvis)
- 10% discount with cottages4you – [www.camra.org.uk/cottages4you](http://www.camra.org.uk/cottages4you)
- 8% discount on holidays booked through the Thomas Cook Holiday Club – [www.camra.org.uk/thomascook](http://www.camra.org.uk/thomascook)
- 5% off holidays with Hire a Canalboat – [www.camra.org.uk/hireacanalboat](http://www.camra.org.uk/hireacanalboat)

To join, please complete the form on page 6 of this newsletter or visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) to join online &/or obtain more information.



Roger Shelton jumping - Hare and Hounds, Speen

down Beacon Hill on Easter Monday, and CAMRA Wombles - walking from pub to pub collecting litter. A team of branch members walked the Ridgeway from Avebury to Goring, and really appreciated the Brakspear's bitter in The Catherine Wheel at the finish. These stunts were largely the responsibility of branch secretary Fred O'Donnell and his committee sidekick Dave Wright, who would sit at their office in Newbury dreaming up such madcap schemes.

The branch even started a cricket team (my madcap scheme) which later became a stand-alone club known as Chieveley Village C.C., and which enjoyed an entertaining, if statistically-unsuccessful, career. Many of our opponents were brewery or pub sides, and we became great friends with the guys of Huntsman C.C. - the Eldridge Pope brewery team. All these activities made the local branch an enjoyable social organisation for members, but we never forgot our serious objective of campaigning for real ale.

On one memorable weekend in October 1976 we entertained CAMRA's National Executive in Newbury, and the highlight (or perhaps it was the lowlight) was the one and only performance by a folk group called 'The Hop Leaves', a specially-convened ensemble of branch members of varying degrees of musical competence, all old enough to know better. Excessive consumption of good ale in The Lion in Newbury on the Friday night meant that Saturday night's recital in The Swan, Inkpen, needs to be glossed over. At least I was sober enough to remember helping carry an unconscious Fred O'Donnell to the coach afterwards.

In 1976 the unnamed branch newsletter, which had been started by branch secretary Peter Watson and continued by Fred, became my remit and I renamed it Ullage (the rubbish at the bottom of the barrel). As you can see, it continues under that totally-unjustifiable name to this day, although it was in abeyance from March 1978 until April 1990, when I re-launched it. It is illuminating to compare today's very professional production by Tim Thomas and Richard Lock with our early efforts – either run off on a Gestetner duplicator or pasted-up and photocopied.

Roy Bailey

(who also supplied the photos)

See the July/August 2011 edition of Ullage for the remaining part of this history.



## The Winterbourne Arms Winterbourne

Winterbourne is a pretty village, surrounded by beautiful countryside, about four miles north of Newbury. The Winterbourne Arms, formerly known as the New Inn, is set back from the quiet road in the centre of the village. The establishment dates back over 300 years and used to include a shop and a bakery. It is still possible to see where the old bread oven was situated many years ago. Photos on the wall in the bar area show the three buildings as they were before they were merged.

The central stone floored bar area is flanked by an eating area to the left and a restaurant to the right. The bar, eating areas and restaurant are furnished with a mix of pine dining chairs and tables. An open log fire separates the restaurant

from the bar area. The emphasis is on being a traditional country pub and the atmosphere is relaxed and informal with occasional low volume background music.

There are plenty of seats and tables outside in the well kept front garden which features a large mature willow tree. The surrounding countryside is ideal for walkers and cyclists with routes east to Snelmore Common and south to Donnington Castle. A car park is situated to the rear of the pub. To reach the pub, drivers from the M4 / A34 junction (13) should follow Donnington signs as far as Arlington Lane, then follow signs for Winterbourne.

Frank Adams, former manager at the nearby Donnington Valley hotel, spent most of his

working life in the hotel and catering trade before buying this pub six years ago. He is ably assisted by an experienced team which includes pub manager Mike Bowler, head chef Andrew Jones and supervisor Michelle Goodman.

The beer range comprises beers from local breweries with two real ales regularly on offer. Whistlewhetter, the house beer, is a 3.6% abv session beer brewed by different breweries in rotation. Ramsbury Gold (abv 4.5%) is also regularly available. A third real ale is offered during the busier summer months.



There is a wide choice of food concentrating on quality traditional and modern British cuisine. Ingredients are sourced locally wherever possible. The main menu is supplemented by a lighter lunch menu and blackboard specials.

A novelty feature of the pub is a 'Thoughts of the Week' blackboard situated opposite the main bar, which contains witty contributions from the pub's regulars and is well worth a read.

The pub is open seven days a week with food available at every lunchtime and evening session. Opening hours are: 12-3, 6-11 (Mon to Sat); 12-10:30 (Sun).

The Winterbourne Arms, Winterbourne, Newbury. RG20 8BB. Tel. 01635 248200. [www.winterbournearms.tablesir.com](http://www.winterbournearms.tablesir.com)

Mike Avery



## 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.

5 - 7 May  
**11th Banbury Beer Festival**  
TA Centre, Oxford Road,  
Banbury OX16 9AN  
Details:  
[www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk](http://www.northoxfordshirecamra.org.uk)

17 - 18 June  
**Salisbury Beerex XXXI**  
Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street,  
Salisbury SP1 3UT  
Details:  
[www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk](http://www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk)

2 - 4 June  
**Southampton Beer Festival**  
Guildhall, West Marlands Road,  
Southampton SO14 7LP  
Details:  
[www.shantscamra.org.uk](http://www.shantscamra.org.uk)

2 - 6 August  
**Great British Beer Festival**  
Earls Court, Warwick Road,  
London SW5 9TA  
Details:  
[gbbf.camra.org.uk](http://gbbf.camra.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!

**Thu 28 Apr - Branch Social**  
Reading Beer & Cider festival.  
Meet near bar serving Butts Brewery  
beers at 6pm and 8pm

**Thu 12 May - Branch Meeting**  
Royal Oak, Yattendon, RG18 0UG

**Wed 18 May - Pub Of The Year presentation**  
The Swan, Inkpen, RG17 9DX  
See our website for more details

**Tue 7 Jun - Branch AGM 7.30pm**  
The Hungerford Club, The Croft,  
Hungerford, RG17 0HY  
**CAMRA members only**

**Fri 17 Jun - Goring & Streatley Ale Trail**  
See page 4 for details

**Fri 24 Jun - Club of the Year presentation**  
The Hungerford Club, The Croft,  
Hungerford, RG17 0HY

**All meetings start at 8pm unless otherwise stated.**

Please check our website for further details of events:  
[www.westberkscamra.org.uk](http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk)



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