

Ullage

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THE MAGAZINE OF WEST BERKSHIRE CAMRA

AUTUMN 2019



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

www.westberkscamra.org.uk



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@WBCAMRA

Eight Outstanding Community Pubs

Nik Antona, CAMRA's National Chairman said: 'Pubs play a significant role in communities across the country, providing a space for local people to meet, helping to tackle loneliness, and having a positive impact on the personal wellbeing of pub-goers.'

Thatcham pubs rarely win CAMRA awards but the efforts of Lisa and Louis Ludewig generated nominations that led to the West Berkshire CAMRA 2019 Community Pub of the Year award for the **Kings Head**, Thatcham.

Since arriving at the former coaching inn with its large beer garden in October 2018, they have introduced Scooter meets, Race Nights and a Tug of War contest for charities and held live music, disco and karaoke nights.

See the Kings Head profile on page 7 for more details and photos of the sports orientated pub which has teams in local darts and pool leagues.

This year's contest restricted nominations to previously unrecognised pubs. However, plenty of worthy nominations were still received for previous winners: The **Cottage Inn**, Upper



Lisa & Louis - Kings Head, Thatcham

Bucklebury and the **Three Horseshoes**, Brimpton.

Located in Newbury, two of the joint winners of the 2018 award, the **Cow & Cask** micropub and the **Old London Apprentice**, were also ineligible this year.

Qualifying pubs nominated for the 2019 award included: the **Lamb Inn**, Newbury, with darts, pool and crib teams and host of Newbury Jazz Platform; the **Rowbidge**, Woolhampton, visited by Mikron Theatre Co and the **Old Boot Inn**, Stanford Dingley where Andre and Rebecca have organised Kids parties, monthly over 60's Friendship lunches with entertainment and evenings of music and sing-alongs.



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REAL ALE FESTIVAL

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West Berkshire CAMRA Champions 2019:

West Berkshire Brewery **Maggs' Magnificent Mild** - Bronze (Mild) -

see page 2

CAMRA Central Southern area

Pub of the Year - **The Bell Inn**, Aldworth

Club of the Year - **The Hungerford Club**



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 CAMPAIGN
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| 3 Enjoy CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar | 4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends |
| 5 Save YOUR LOCAL | 6 Find the BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN |
| 7 Get great VALUE FOR MONEY | 8 DISCOVER
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| 9 Enjoy great HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!) | 10 HAVE YOUR SAY |

What's yours?

Discover your reason
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www.camra.org.uk/10reasons

See page 10 for Membership form

Swift Halves

■ Since leaving his brewing job at West Berkshire Brewery in December, Tom Broadbank has established **Delphic Brewing Co** in Thatcham.

Used brewing equipment was sourced from upscaling breweries and a new conical fermenter was imported from China.

Tom is grateful for advice on setting up from Kevin Brady (Indigenous Brewery) and the brewery now has all the relevant licences.

The Wheatsheaf Inn, Thatcham will stock a beer from Delphic permanently and a second handpump will sometimes feature a different Delphic beer.

Follow brewery developments on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@delphicbrew)



- Meet up with West Berks CAMRA on **Saturday 16 November** (12.30) at the **Wheatsheaf Inn** for a Thatcham ale trail that will include the **White Hart** and presentation of the Community Pub award to the **Kings Head**. If Tom Broadbank is free he may join us at the Wheatsheaf or allow a visit to Delphic Brewing Co during the afternoon.



■ **Brakspear** Gravity is the new name for Brakspear Bitter brewed by Marston's at the Wychwood Brewery in Witney using the 'double drop' fermentation vessels from the original Henley brewery.



- CAMRA member Chris Reynolds is also Membership Secretary of **West Berks Ramblers**. On Tuesday 29 October at 10am, he will lead a leisurely 6 mile circular walk from Mortimer Common via Wokefield Common and Stratfield Mortimer followed by a pub lunch. Meet at car park opposite the Horse & Groom RG7 3RD.

Contact Chris on 07979 804637 to join this or another trial ramble.

www.wberksramblers.org.uk

- The newburypubwalks.org.uk website, updated in June 2019, offers around 50 circular walks of 3 - 5 miles from pubs near Newbury and nine linear walks from pubs on the Kennet & Avon canal.



White Hart, Hamstead Marshall

■ On Saturday 27 July, Branch Chairman Andy Pinkard led a CAMRA #SummerOfPub ale amble from the Hatchet Inn, Newbury to the Dundas Arms, Kintbury mainly via the canal towpath and footpaths. There were stops for beer at the Craven Arms, Enborne and the White Hart, Hamstead Marshall. More photos from the day are in the Branch News section of westberkscamra.org.uk



■ The **Saviour Brewery** is at the White Hart, Hamstead Marshall and the Saviour Pennies beer club usually meets there quarterly on the first Tuesday of the month.



On **Tuesday 1 October**, Stella and the Team have organised an extra 'Big Bash' from 6pm to 9pm. This free evening is open to all to meet brewer John Trueman and beer club members and sample two free casks of Saviour ales while local musicians the Cover Brothers perform. Local historian Sue Ellis will also talk about the history of the White Hart Inn, beer and alehouses. saviourwhitehart.co.uk

- The Loungers cafe bar chain was founded in 2002 by three friends in Bedminster, Bristol. There are now over 100 lounges in the UK including Alto Lounge, Caversham and **Cobrizo Lounge**, 12 Northbrook Street, Newbury, which opens on 11 September. The international beer range includes draught Bath Ales Dark Side stout. www.thelounges.co.uk

■ After four years running the **Lion** in Newbury, Kirsty will leave on 9 October. Heather and quizmaster Kieran will stay on at the Wadworth's pub but will surely miss Kirsty.

■ Having run the freehouse in World's End for seven years, on 20 August, Paul and Tracey thanked customers and wrote on @TheCoachBeeton Facebook page 'It's with heavy hearts that we will be leaving The **Coach** in the coming weeks ...'.

- **Arkell's Big Hit** returns as a seasonal beer for the autumn. The 4.2% ABV well hopped IPA is dark amber in colour with citrus and caramel flavours.



Photo: Alison Chetwynd

■ In July, **West Berkshire Brewery** Head Brewer Will Twomey and Marketing Manager Clare Candy posed with CAMRA London & South East Area Champion Beer of Britain 2018 Gold category awards for Maggs' Magnificent Mild and Good Old Boy (Bitter) in front of 'Dave' the Bedford van converted into a mobile bar.



In August, 'Dave' was parked the other way round inside Olympia during the Great British Beer Festival. Matt was kept busy inside providing service with a smile. Maggs' Mild went on to win Bronze in CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain 2019 (Mild category).

The West Berkshire seasonal cask ales are No Worries followed by Dr Hexter's Healer in October. No Worries, 3.6% ABV Australian Pale Ale, is brewed with Australian hops to give citrusy and tropical flavours coupled with an earthy herbaceousness.



No longer available all year round, Dr Hexter's Healer is returning for the autumn season. Welcome back to the 5% ABV, well hopped robust amber ale packed with rich flavours and marmalade zestiness!



Photo: www.philipphoto.com

The beer garden with rural views is now open outside the West Berkshire Brewery Taproom and Kitchen at Yattendon. See the back page advertisement for revised opening times. Planning permission was also granted for two separate parking areas for customers and staff.

Tickets for Oktoberfest at the Taproom on 28 September sold out well in advance. Over 150 people (27 teams) attended Ed and Paj's monthly quiz night at the Taproom on 31 July. Tickets for the quiz on the last Wednesday of the month and brewery tours on 7 September, 5 October and 9 November can be booked by phone 01635 767090 or via the online shop. www.wbbrew.com



■ The **Great Shefford** (previously the Swan Inn), is due to reopen with a new look after a major refurbishment. The large site is easily reached by the A338 from Hungerford to Wantage or the road from Newbury to Lambourn, served by Kennections 4 bus service.

The six handpumps for cask ales are fed by new lines from the cellar using a separate route from chilled drink lines. New garden furniture and planting overlook the river Lambourn.

Joshua Khan, proprietor of the King Charles Tavern, Newbury has appointed Georgiana from his second pub, the Broad Face, Abingdon as General Manager of his third pub. He can also rely on Kevin as chef at the Great Shefford.



Georgiana, Joshua & Kevin (at Broad face)

■ New beers from **Loddon Brewery** to look out for are: Dragon Quad, 4.4% ABV, a session IPA quadruple-hopped with Dragon hop from Slovenia and Bring the Rain, 4.5% ABV, a New Zealand Pale, packed with Motueka and Wai-iti hops.



■ Quiz dates at the **Cow & Cask** micropub, Newbury, are Wednesday 18 September, 16 October and 20 November. Home Crib league matches will resume on Tuesdays from late September.

■ Food from Colline's Kitchen is now available at the **Globe**, 148 Bartholomew Street, Newbury. There is a weekly quiz on Sundays at 7pm.



■ The **Wild Weather Ales** brewery shop opening hours are amended from those shown in advertisement below to Mon-Fri 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-2pm.

The shop offers a growler filling service with canned beers and merchandise for sale.

Head Brewer JD has recently brewed the UK's first 11% ABV Spruce Tip DIPA.

The **Weather Station**, formerly the Eldon Arms, Reading, is due to open in mid September with 23 taps and 3 hand pumps for a variety of Wild Weather and guest beers.

■ **Cask Ale Week** (19-29 September) is organised by Cask Marque. Visit caskaleweek.co.uk to get involved and find details of events and competitions.



There are now 38 LocAle pubs in our branch serving beer from breweries within 25 miles.

pubsofficer@westberkscamra.org.uk

See also the LocAle Pubs page on www.westberkscamra.org.uk

LocAle Pubs - WEST of A34

The Bell at Boxford	Boxford
The Blackbird	Bagnor
The Downgate	Hungerford
The Eastbury Plough	Eastbury
The Five Bells	Wickham
The Fox at Peasemore	Peasemore
The John O'Gaunt Inn	Hungerford
The Red House	Marsh Benham
The Tally Ho!	Hungerford Newtown
The Three Swans Hotel	Hungerford

Locally Brewed Real Ale

Photo: Steve Kelly

THE CATHERINE WHEEL

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■ On 3 August, Ullage editor, Tim Thomas, presented Nick Hex with a CAMRA certificate to thank Nick and Maggie for almost 30 years of service to the community at the Old Chequers, Thatcham and the **Castle Inn**, Cold Ash. On 5 August a post from them on the pub's Facebook page thanked customers for their 'amazing generosity' on Sunday's final lunchtime of trading. The Castle Inn reopened on 9 August and is now run by Nathan and Kirsty. The traditional meat raffle, with a draw on Friday evenings, is continuing.

■ The **Old London Apprentice**, Newbury, hosts Colin's music quiz on Tuesday 10 September, 8 October and 12 November. There's a comedy night on Saturday 5 October and Northern Soul nights with Gilo on Saturday 7 September and 23 November. See the Gig guide on page 9 for live music events at the OLA.

A range of Pukka Pies from Leicestershire will be on the menu from mid September.

■ The **Highclere Red House** now offers takeaway thin crust pizzas on Tuesday - Friday from 5pm and Saturday from noon with eat-in every Wednesday night. The Hampshire bar has opened with additional keg beers and lagers from Brooklyn, Italy and Sweden to complement real ales and ciders from the original bar - typically Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker, Ramsbury Gold and Tutts Clump Traditional Farmhouse Cider. The bottled beer range includes non-alcoholic lagers. www.thehighclereredhouse.com



■ Jeff Evans (on left in photo above) presented a Summer Beers event at **Inn at Home**, Newbury on 12 July. As it was the shop's fourth anniversary, proprietor David Marklew kindly offered the group a bonus Saison beer.

Future events at Inn at Home include:
6 September: Tutts Clump - Cider & Cheese;
13 September: Siren Craft Brew;
tbc: German Beers. www.innathome.co.uk

■ The Summer Fox Fest at the **Fox Inn**, Hermitage, 6 - 8 September, features real ale, live music and a BBQ. www.hermitage-fox.co.uk

■ The Wetherspoon autumn real ale festival runs from 9 - 20 October in over 800 pubs, including the **Hatchet Inn**, Newbury.

CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN AWARDS

Winners announced at the Great British Beer Festival

Supreme Champion
Gold – **Shere Drop** (Best Bitter)
Surrey Hills Brewery (Dorking)

Silver – **Afghan IPA** (Strong Bitter)
Grey Trees Brewery (Aberdare, S Wales)

Bronze – **Citra** (Golden)
Oakham Ales (Peterborough)

Other category winners
Gold – **Ay Up** (Bitter) - Dancing Duck Brewery
Vanilla Stout (Speciality) - Bingham's Brewery
Gravediggers (Mild) - Church End Brewery

Bronze – **Maggs' Magnificent Mild** – West Berkshire Brewery

■ Andy Parker brewed and supplied **Elusive Brewing** cask and keykeg beers for the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF). The brewery tap yard (opposite Siren Craft Brew tap yard) at Hogwood Industrial Estate, Finchampstead is due to open on Fridays 14:00 - 18:00 and Saturdays 12:00 - 20:00 from late September. www.elusivebrewing.com



■ **Bingham's Brewery** Vanilla Stout was the Speciality category winner at the GBBF. The brewery tap yard at Ruscombe Business Park near Twyford is open on Saturdays 11.30 - 16.30 until 28 September and during December. binghams.co.uk



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Beer & Cider Festivals



■ From Berkshire, **Butts Brewery's** Wild Mild and **Bingham's Brewery's** award winning Vanilla Stout were served at the Great British Beer Festival and both will be available at Newbury Real Ale Festival.

■ The **Catherine Wheel**, Newbury is holding a beer festival 5 - 8 September and a ticketed party when the pub reopens after closing for Newbury Real Ale Festival on 14 September. There will be extra beers on stillage throughout the Rugby World Cup (20 Sep - 2 Nov) and for the Halloween beer festival (31 Oct - 2 Nov).

■ Thanks to Newbury & Thatcham Hockey Club for organising **Newbury Real Ale Festival** at Northcroft Fields on **Saturday 14 September**. Visit the West Berkshire CAMRA stand for information about beer, cider and pubs. New members joining on the day get tokens for two free pints. All members can enter a free raffle to win CAMRA's 2020 Good Beer Guide. Get more details and discounted tickets in advance via www.newburyrealale.co.uk



■ The beers from **Hermitage Brewery** at Newbury Real Ale Festival are Wellhouse IPA, Harvest Time, Ambling Home and a new one - Date with Destiny. The latter is a smooth bitter with hints of the exotic from the date syrup added at the end of the boil. It will also be available in bottles subsequently from local outlets including Inn at Home, Newbury.



■ Local ciders at Newbury Real Ale Festival include: **Green Shed** (Wheel Cider, Just Dry & Big Tony), **Ciderniks** (Combe Raider & Kingston Black), **Pang Valley** (Berkshire Gold) and **Tutts Clump** (Reading Gold & Farmhouse Perry).

Tutts Clump Applejack ice cider uses the fractional freezing method to increase the flavour and alcohol content to 19.5% ABV. Higher rates of duty make it more expensive than traditional cider. Tim Wale suggests enjoying it as an aperitif like a Brandy. Available in screw top bottles from Inn at Home, Newbury.

Tim accepts any surplus apples for Tutts Clump Cider at Travellers Rest Farm, Hungerford Lane, near Stanford Dingley (RG7 6JH). Quantities of 25kg and over can be exchanged for cider or apple juice.



■ **Choko beer festival** at Laurence Hall, Cholsey OX10 9PP on Saturday 28 September raises funds for African community projects and local charities. Live music and over 30 ales and ciders. Discount for advance tickets. www.chokobeerfestival.org.uk



■ **Burghfest** charity beer and music festival is held at the Recreation Ground, Burghfield Common RG7 3EN on 27-28 September with a family funfair and over 40 local ales and ciders. Free admission. www.burghfest.co.uk



■ A CAMRA discount of over 40% is available for the **Ascot Beer Festival** held in the grandstand of the Queen Anne Enclosure for the racecourse's autumn racing weekend on 4-5 October. Book in advance at ascot.co.uk and quote CAMRA2019. Meet up with Alison Chetwynd and West Berkshire CAMRA members on **Friday 4 October** at 1pm just past the end of the main beer serving area (near bar with brewery names T - Z).

■ From 11-13 October, **Hampshire OctoberFest** organised by Destination Basingstoke features food, drinks and live music. Discount for advance tickets. Free admission for CAMRA members with card.

Meet up with Alison Chetwynd and WBCAMRA members on **Saturday 12 October** at the entrance to the Hampshire Hog tent at 1pm.

■ From 24-26 October, CAMRA festivals at **Swindon** and **Oxford** compete for customers. Both locations (Swindon Steam Railway Museum and Oxford Town Hall) are within walking distance of a station. See back page for more details.

(the 22nd)

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www.thecottaginnupperbucklebury.co.uk

Cholsey to Woolhampton Hike Alan Haselden

Following an early Saturday morning breakfast meeting at Reading's Hope Tap, five friends / colleagues and I boarded the train for the short ride to Cholsey to begin another epic cross-country ale hike over the Berkshire Downs and beyond.



Streatley Warren

In dry yet overcast conditions, we ventured southwest towards the Ridgeway's rolling chalk hills by following sinewy footpaths through woodland and meadow arriving just short of noon at The Bell Inn, which greeted us with its indelible centuries-old rustic charm. A good couple of hours were spent here relaxing with two successive four-pint pitchers of Indigenous's 3.4% 'Baldrick'; a Berkshire brewed dark mild with upfront hints of raisin and a moderate bitter finish. The four other cask ales served were West Berkshire's 4% 'Old Tyler' and one each from Arkell's, Loose Cannon and Rebellion. In addition, there were two still ciders available from Berkshire's Tutts Clump and four from Lilley's. Further, we devoured up to a dozen home-made bread rolls with choice fillings while locals and visitors continued to arrive and boost the hubbub. Although it seemed impossible to top such an experience, nonetheless we continued our hike from Aldworth towards the tranquillity of Ashampstead Green and its historic St Clement's church.

Just beyond, in Yattendon, we called at West Berkshire Brewery's Taproom and fortunately the brewery's full core range of cask ale was available: 'Good Old Boy', 'Maharaja IPA', 'Mister Chubbs', 'Mister Swift' and 'Maggs Mild'. The abundant, lofty premises may be industrial-like, but our round of well kept 3.4% 'Maggs Mild' along with the staff's

hospitality, the view out to the countryside through the huge windows and the quiet classic rock music playing on the jukebox made it a wonderful place to be. There were many other visitors too, including children happily playing, mostly in the garden area outside.



larger dining area to the right or the extensive rear garden. In addition to 'Doom Bar' on cask there was 'Good Old Boy' and the 3.7% session bitter we enjoyed - 'Mister Chubbs'.

The final leg of our hike threaded lanes and footpaths through Beenham and the grounds of Douai Abbey and soon we reached Woolhampton for the canalside pub / restaurant, The Rowbidge, at around 7pm, whilst clouds gathered to dispense



odd drops of cool light rain. The 29 cask ales for the pub's Summer Festival were each served from handpump and came courtesy of West Berkshire, Three Castles, Timothy Taylor, Revolutions, Stamps, Milestone, Itchen Valley and Exeter

breweries. Further, cider makers Tutts Clump, Thirsty Farmer, Broadoak and Lilley's provided the 16 different still cider boxes. Between us we savoured Revolution's 4.5% porter 'Clash', Itchen Valley's 3.9% elderflower honey ale 'TVBEE' and Exeter's 5.1% chocolate stout 'Darkness' and

found them wholly agreeable, but the team was divided concerning the live rock band bellowing out covers of old songs from bands like The Undertones and Ramones. Evidently the Rowbidge staff had worked hard putting on this festival and there were many cheerful customers both inside the pub and outside in the garden. Overall, it was a fantastic full day out in the Berkshire countryside!



NEWBURY'S FIRST MICRO PUB

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Newbury
RG14 5DP

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Wed 5-9
Thu 12-2, 5-9
Fri 12-2, 5-10
Sat All Day 12-10
Sun Closed

Discount for CAMRA card holders

Tel:
07517 658071

CAMRA Discounts

Members enjoy discounts at CAMRA beer festivals, Wetherspoon pubs (* with voucher) and pubs below:

Aldermaston:

Hind's Head

Brimpton:

Three Horseshoes

Newbury:

Catherine Wheel

Cow & Cask

Gun, Wash Common

Hatchet Inn*

King Charles Tavern

Old London Apprentice

Woolhampton:

Rowbidge

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The Kings Head Thatcham

The Kings Head claims to be the oldest pub in Thatcham and is located on the Broadway in the middle of town. It has recently had a complete refurbishment but still retains its air of easy welcome.

Being the friendly centre of the community is something that landlady Lisa and her husband Louis, and children Connor and Ollie, strive for and achieve. Lisa, who took over the pub in October 2018, knows the pub of old as her parents spent many hours there when she was a child, so she knows all about the history of the Kings Head and the people who use it as their local, and being a local is exactly what this pub is all about.

The Kings Head is open everyday and is regularly used through the week by local tradesmen after work, and by players in the darts and pool teams. On Friday evenings there is often live music. The weekends see more families using the pub especially in good weather when the large beer garden with its outside bar comes into its own. There is also a covered area in the garden with a large screen so you don't have to choose between sitting in the garden or watching your favourite sport.

Many fund raising events for Parkinson's and Cancer charities are held. These include Scooter Meets on the first Sunday in the month, a Garden Party, Tug of War and Darts contests and Wednesday Quiz nights. The pub's regulars have also got together to make a Naked Calendar that is to be sold for charity.

Last October, Thatcham Town Council recognised the Kings Head as being the place where, on 3rd August 1784, the first mail coach changed horses on the journey between Bristol and London. There is a blue plaque outside to commemorate this date. More recently the pub was recognised by Ei Group (Enterprise Inns) as a 2019 regional winner for Best Sports Venue.

The Kings Head has a Lounge and Public bar either side of the central serving area, there is also a cozy alcove towards the back and a



Photos: John Burton

separate pool table room to the rear. There are plenty of seats with a mix of upholstered benches and wooden chairs. Two dart boards are featured, one in the Public bar and the other with the pool table, which means that two matches can be played at the same time. Sports fans can find TV screens to watch the live action.

Two real ales are offered, Purity Mad Goose and West Berkshire Good Old Boy. Both beers have good turnover so nothing goes to waste. Lisa also offers cider and a selection of lagers, craft and keg beers. The Guinness Extra Cold, a beer close to her heart, has been awarded a Quality Approved certificate for 2018-19. Although no meals are available, there are bar snacks including pickled eggs.

Alison Chetwynd

The Kings Head

59 Broadway
Thatcham
RG19 3HP

Telephone: 01635 862145

Facebook: @thenewkingsheadthatcham

Opening hours

Monday - Saturday: 12 noon - 12 midnight
Sunday: 12 noon - 11.30 pm



Above: Lounge bar
Right: Public bar



Winchester to Canterbury - The Snapper & The Scribbler's Tale



David Hatfull (the Snapper) and Ronan Hatfull (the Scribbler) set off from Newbury station on Monday 29 July with backpacks, camera equipment and sturdy walking sticks. After a day in Winchester they would hike the 138 miles of the Pilgrims'

Way to Canterbury, in twelve stages, lodging in several traditional inns on the way.

Their intention was to make photographic and written portraits of contemporary examples of the 29 pilgrims portrayed in 14th century English poet Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. These excerpts from Ronan's daily blog posts mention some inns worth visiting.

Day 1 - Winchester: 'Walking into the **Hyde Tavern** was like stepping back in time. This traditional pub, which hosts regular open mics, writing sessions and folk nights, has been a local establishment since 1860, with original walls that date back to the 16th century.'



'The landlady, Jan, greeted us and immediately began to tell us of the Tavern's history. She has run the pub for the last 11 years and gave us a tour of the downstairs music venue and nearby remains of Hyde Abbey, a building which once rivalled the Cathedral.'

Day 6 - Albury to Box Hill: 'The **Drummond Arms** in the centre of Albury is a quintessential

English country inn and it is easy to imagine Chaucer's Pilgrims quaffing and quarrelling within its confines. A relaxing garden with a running brook beside it is complemented indoors by a beautiful dining room, in which we enjoyed tapas and salmon the previous evening. The inn is run by South African couple Taz and Jay.'



'Chef Jay agrees to be photographed as our representative of Chaucer's Cook. He discusses the Egyptian influence behind much of his menu due to some of the chefs he has employed. Although he is considerably more polite than the Cook (whose lewd tale is cut short by the shocked Prioress and the irate Host) he confesses that his tongue can become somewhat sharper in the kitchen! Our next stop is the bustling village of Shere.'

Day 9 - Limsfield to Wrotham:

'Today we passed the county boundary from Surrey into Kent. David, having been born in Kent and spent the first 12 years of his life there until his family moved to Stafford always feels a sense of being home when in Kent...'



'The **Bull**, Wrotham, a 14th century inn, our lodgings for the night, has narrow staircases and quiet rooms. It also houses a formidable smokehouse and we dine upon fine pilgrims cuisine with an American twist tonight!'

Day 11 - Aylesford to Lenham: 'There is a stop for some liquid refreshment at the **Dirty Habit**, Hollingbourne, a thirteenth century inn frequented by pilgrims. This provides much needed relief before the road ahead which is dry and dusty.'

Day 12 - Lenham to Chilham: 'Dr Ryan Perry stops by for dinner and drinks. He lives in Chilham and works at The University of Kent's School of English. Ryan has agreed to be our Clerk and paints a vivid picture of Geoffrey Chaucer as a working writer.'



'Eating and drinking in The **Woolpack Inn**, which houses some portraits of Chaucer's Pilgrims, the writer has never felt closer.'



Photos: D & R Hatfull

Day 13 - Chilham to Canterbury: 'We awake in full awareness that this is our final day of walking. It is a strange, melancholy feeling and we discuss the way time seems to have passed differently to normal during the past fortnight. By walking from inn to inn, time seems to have elapsed more slowly and peacefully.'

'We walk the final mile side by side, nearly two weeks since we departed Winchester. The sense of achievement really hits us now and it feels not unlike the day we entered central London three years ago for our 146 mile Shakespeare walk from Stratford-upon-Avon.'

'Tomorrow we will attend Sunday Service as the final mark of our pilgrimage. The evening is a relaxed affair spent at one of Canterbury's oldest pubs - The **Parrot**, which is mentioned in *The Canterbury Tales*.'

Tucked away down a cobbled street, the historic pub features medieval beams and oak floorboards. There are up to six real ales at the bar.

'We are so thankful for all the kind people we have encountered along the pilgrimage and to all those who agreed to be photographed as part of this project. We will never forget this.'

Look out for a future exhibition of David and Ronan's photographic and written portraits.

To view all the blog posts visit thesnapperthescribbler.home.blog

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Cask ale in Brussels



Simon Grist, Jenlain Delcourt & Jody Lecieux

A Brussels Beer City (www.beercity.brussels) blog post by Eoghan Walsh titled *Gulp // Cask ale comes to Brussels* mentions Jenlain Delcourt and his partner Jody Lecieux opening Gist in December 2017.

Gist (Flemish for yeast) is located at Place de la Vieille Halle aux Blés 30, Brussels, facing a cobbled open space which has a bronze statue of Jacques Brel.

In late June, after a few days in Antwerp for the *Beer Passion Weekend* beer festival, *Ullage* editor Tim Thomas and friends spent three hours on a warm Sunday afternoon outside Gist sampling draught beers from the sixteen taps and the two hand pumps with swan necks.



Photo: Steve Kelly

On our visit the cask ales were Taras Boulba from Brasserie de la Senne and Heavy Porter from No Science Brasserie, both Brussels based.

Before leaving, Tim spoke with Jenlain who explained that they are able to sell casks of beer within three days so that the quality is maintained. They also check the cask beer carefully each day and will not serve it if the quality has deteriorated. The couple expect to be involved with serving cask beer at the BXL BeerFest in late August.

Later on Sunday, after Gist had closed, Tim would meet Jenlain and Jody as customers in Moeder Lambic Fontainas. Jenlain had previously worked at this leading Brussels beer bar, established in 2006. There are six hand pumps half way along the rear wall of the long bar which also has 40 taps evenly spaced along the front. Originally, these hand pumps were mainly used to serve lambic and kriel but Jenlain introduced some pale ales to this range.

Read Tim's blog posts for more details of Belgian breweries, beers and bars on beereurope.blogspot.com



WhatPub is the Go-to website on mobile or desktop to find pubs, whether you are a CAMRA member or not.

WhatPub (whatpub.com) is also the portal allowing members to submit beer scores for the pubs they visit using the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) as below.

0. No cask ale available

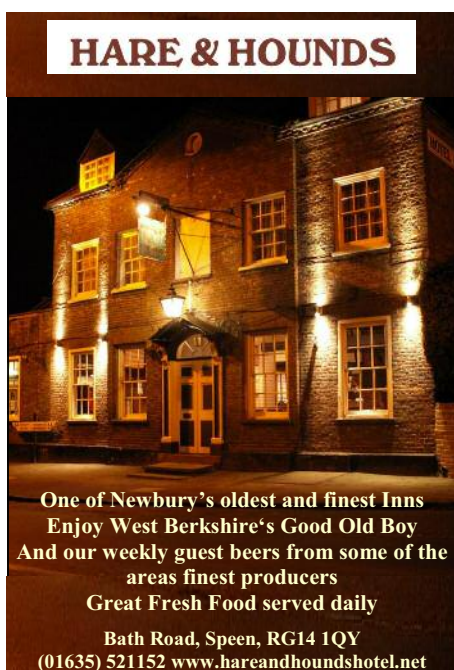
1. **Poor.** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
2. **Average.** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
3. **Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
4. **Very Good.** Excellent beer in excellent condition.
5. **Perfect.** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Members new to beer scoring will be able to find great tutoring support at our Branch meetings and social events and online: www.camra.org.uk/nbss

At meetings in January and February, the West Berkshire branch of CAMRA relies on collated beer scores to determine which pubs are selected for the Good Beer Guide.

Submitting beer scores throughout the year is an excellent way of contributing to the Campaign while doing something enjoyable. If there's no phone signal, just submit when next connected, using desktop or mobile versions of WhatPub.

Visit pub, sample ale and score!



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GIG GUIDE

Ace Space, St. Nicolas Road, Newbury. Tickets: Hogan Music, Newbury. www.acespace.org.uk



28 Sep - Kelly Oliver + Said the Maiden
19 Oct - Charlie Dore with Julian Littman
16 Nov - The August List + Loud Mountains
Also Unplugged Open Mic on 1st Friday of month

Newbury Jazz Platform

FB: @NewburyJazzPlatform

at **The Lamb**, Newbury Jazz, featuring Gavin Wilkinson's house band.

3rd Wednesday of each month 7.30pm:

19 Sep, 17 Oct, 21 Nov

Entry £2

The Angel

Woolhampton

Jazz from 8pm Saturdays

www.jazzangel.co.uk

28 Sep - Claire Jones Quintet

26 Oct - Lea Lyle Quartet

30 Nov - Peter Jones

The Monument

Newbury - Fridays & Saturdays

20 Sep - Gary Myles

21 Sep - Slaughtered On Set

28 Sep - JJ and the Jukes

5 Oct - JJ & the Jukes

19 Oct - Beatle Juice

Open Mic night with Oli Hill on Thursdays

Catherine Wheel

Newbury

23 Oct - Scott Freeman

6 Nov - Fred Irwin

20 Nov - Amya-Ray

26 Nov - Doozer McDooze

4 Dec - Grant Sharkey

Document House

Newbury - Fridays

13 Sep - Hooch

20 Sep - Faux Fighters

27 Sep - White Monkeys

18 Oct - Roadhouse

8 Nov - Toxic

The Globe

Newbury

Alternate Wednesdays from 3 Sep, 1 Oct,

12 Nov - local musicians

The Newbury

Newbury

Weekly on Thursdays - Sion Whaley

presents Open Mic night on the roof terrace

Old London Apprentice

Newbury

28 Sep - Soultones

19 Oct - Wardour Street

1 Nov - Doolally Experience

2nd Friday of each month is Folk Night

The White Hart

Thatcham - Saturdays

21 Sep - Sub Zero

9 Nov - Monkey Dolls

23 Nov - No Way Out

30 Nov - Fubar

Fox Inn

Hermitage

21 Sep - Nicole & the Papas

19 Oct - Mudslide Morris & the Revelators

More pubs with live music:

Hungerford area: Railway Tavern,

Wheatsheaf

Newbury: Lock Stock & Barrel, Nags Head

Thatcham area: Kings Head, Swan,

Taste of England



Geographer and environmentalist **Bob Steel** signed copies of his pub walks books at the Great British Beer Festival on Tuesday 6 August. Apart from a lifelong interest in good beer and good architecture, he is a keen walker, cyclist and organic gardener.

Describing the fully revised third edition of CAMRA's *Peak District pub walks*, Bob said 'The economic history of the Peak has left us a very rich industrial and transport heritage which is apparent in the majority of the walks in this volume. Add to this the variety of plants in the different environments and the handsome individuality of the vernacular buildings and you have a series of fascinating layers which helps to explain why this is my favourite area of Britain for walking. Also the Peaks pubs are thriving, although there have been some losses, and the beer choice and quality has probably never been better. This book is a celebration of both the fine pubs of the Peak District and the enticing landscape.'

Bob's four other pub walks books cover London, Edinburgh, Yorkshire and the South East. Each illustrated book contains detailed walks, featuring pubs along the route that serve real ale, together with a commentary about the local area and history.



Stand-up comedian **James Dowdeswell** also signed copies of his CAMRA book, *The Pub Manifesto* (featured in *Ullage Winter* 2018/19), at the festival. Earlier, James had entertained the audience, waiting for the official announcement of 2019 Champion Beer of Britain winners, with tales of his experiences growing up in a pub owned by his parents.

Visit pubmanifesto.camra.org.uk for more information about James and the book.

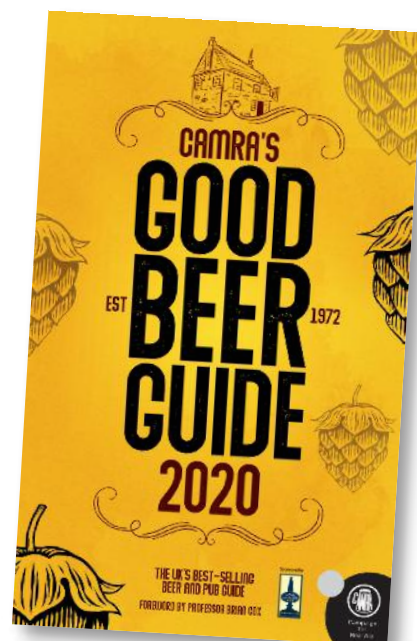


CAMRA's best selling Good Beer Guide 2020 is published on 12 September, 2019.

The foreword by Professor Brian Cox gives his personal story of the importance of beer and brewing. The Guide includes interesting articles followed by the important listings of pubs by county and the final section with details of breweries and their regular beers.

The Branch will have limited copies of the Guide for sale direct to members for £11 at events from 12 September.

All CAMRA books can be viewed and ordered online via shop1.camra.org.uk



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Two years, two hundred pubs

(July 9, 2019)

Some thoughts on Bristol pubs

In general, Bristol pubs are good.

They tend to be friendly, even if they don't always look it.

They're extremely varied – hippy hangouts, old boys boozers, gastropubs, craft beer exhibitions, backstreet gems, family hangouts, and so on.

They mostly have real ale, even those that might not if they were in any other city. We reckon we've counted three (four if you think BrewDog is a pub) that didn't have anything at all on offer.

They're loyal to local beer, even if there's no single dominant historic city brewery.

Your chances of finding Bass, Courage Best, Butcombe or some other classic bitter are very high. The likelihood of finding mild is almost zero. Hoppy beers tend to be hazy, soft and sweet. (Not that we're grumbling but we do sometimes crave paler, drier beers of the northern variety.)

Sparklers, in summary

(May 16, 2019)

[A sparkler is a perforated nozzle attached to the end of a handpull. Regularly used in the North of England but less often in the South.]

- Sparklers work best with well-conditioned beer, bringing some of CO2 out of suspension to form a denser head, but leaving plenty in the body of the pint.
- But if a beer is low on condition, a sparkler might well rob it of what little CO2 it has, leaving it with a head, but even flatter beneath.
- Therefore, sparklers might equally be used to make beer in poor condition look better than it is, or to give a beer in good condition a particular presentation.
- But there's no way for a drinker to know until they taste it.
- Sparklers may also mute or otherwise affect perception of certain flavours and aromas. Some beers are brewed with this in mind.
- Otherwise, it's a matter of personal preference.
- So sparklers are neither purely good, nor purely evil.

We're Boak and Bailey

We're geeks in general, but especially about beer and pubs. We write under the names Jessica Boak and Ray Bailey. We live in Bristol in the UK. We've been blogging about beer since 2007.

www.boakandbailey.com



Curmudgeon

When is a Pub not a Pub?

When it's a bar, of course. While there's no specific legal distinction, the two carry very different connotations. This is not to say one is better than the other, but they're certainly not interchangeable. However, it's notoriously difficult to come up with a hard-and-fast definition separating one from the other.

Beer writer Martyn Cornell has recently had another stab at it on his Zythophile blog, where he suggests that a key distinction is that pubs tend to have a bar at right angles to your path when coming in through the entrance door, whereas bars have their counter running along a side wall.

In general, while you can point to various characteristics that pubs usually have, and bars don't, it's always possible to come up with exceptions to the rule. Overall, it's often a case of 'you know one when you see one'.

Pub names usually start with 'The', but bar names seldom do. Pubs are often specific buildings designed for the purpose, while bars tend to be part of a larger building. Pubs make use of the upper floors of the building, while a bar may be underneath something entirely different. The licensees of a pub are likely to live on the premises, but with a bar they hardly ever do. Bars are often aimed at a specific, identifiable 'crowd', while pubs seek a wider and more general clientele. And, at least outside urban centres, pubs often have car parks, but I can't think of a single bar that does. A pub retains its identity through various changes of ownership, while that of a bar is very much tied up with its current trading format.

Some Wetherspoons, particularly those in their more modern design idiom that are conversions of former retail units, do very much say 'bar' rather than 'pub', whereas others that are in existing pub premises are definitely pubs. However, their general atmosphere and wide customer mix are very much those of pubs regardless of their design. And, while their name says otherwise, I'd say that the vast majority of micropubs, going by the criteria set out above, are in reality small bars ...

There's also the vexed question of when a pub actually turns into a restaurant. Most restaurants obviously aren't pubs, but quite a few have the outward appearance of pubs and indeed might once have been one. Strictly speaking, if anyone can come in and have a drink without needing to buy a meal, it doesn't qualify as just being a restaurant. However, I'd say there also needs to be a test of whether any meaningful number of people actually do, and whether non-diners are made to feel welcome.

The Curmudgeon column appears in *Opening Times*, Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA's bimonthly magazine. Comments on his articles can be left on the website curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com



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Beer Festival Diary

CAMRA run or supported 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. See pages 4 & 5 for more festival details.

4-5 October

13th Ascot Racecourse Beer Festival

Ascot Racecourse, Ascot SL5 7JX
www.ascotbeerfest.org.uk

11-13 October

11th Hampshire's OctoberFest

Basingstoke Cricket & Sports Ground
Fairfields Road, Basingstoke RG21 3DR
www.hampshireoctoberfest.co.uk

24-26 October

22nd Oxford Beer & Cider Festival

Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX
www.oxfordbeerfestival.camra.org.uk

24-26 October

33rd Swindon CAMRA Beer Festival

STEAM Museum, Fire Fly Avenue,
Swindon SN2 2EY
www.swindon.camra.org.uk

3-7 December

36th Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival

Round Chapel, Id Glenarm Road, Hackney,
www.pigsear.org.uk

Diary Dates 2019

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!

Thursday 12 September

West Berkshire Brewery
Taproom social
7.30pm

Friday 4 October

Ascot Beer Festival social
Details: page 5
1pm

Saturday 16 November

Thatcham ale trail
Start: Wheatsheaf Inn
Details: page 2 12.30pm

Saturday 14 September

Newbury Real Ale Festival social
Meet at CAMRA stand
Details: page 4 Noon - 6pm

Saturday 12 October

Hampshire's OctoberFest social
Details: page 5 1pm

Thursday 12 December

Christmas Social & Quiz
Old London Apprentice,
Newbury 7.30pm

Tuesday 1 October

Big Bash (music, history & beer)
White Hart, Hamstead Marshall
Details: page 2 6pm - 9pm

Wednesday 16 October

Branch meeting 8pm
Hare & Hounds Hotel, Speen

Tuesday 17 December

Christmas Lunch social
Hatchet Inn, Newbury 12 noon

Further details on our website: www.westberkscamra.org.uk

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