

Ullage

FREE Please take one

The Magazine of West Berkshire CAMRA Summer 2022



www.westberkscamra.org.uk



@WBCAMRA @WBCAMRAcider @UllageBeer



@WBCAMRA

Annual West Berkshire CAMRA awards 2022



Photo: Richard Lock

The Lion, Newbury

Pub of the Year. Congratulations to Kevin Archibald and his team!

Pictured, from the left, are (front) Kevin's son Sam and Julia. Behind them are Jak and Kieran who is also quizmaster on Thursday nights. Describing the award as the icing on the cake after getting the Lion into CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, Kevin said that it had been a team effort involving Sanna and Joe as well.

Presenting the award to Kevin and Sam, Mike Avery, Branch Secretary, said that since they took over the Lion in October 2019 it has become a real ale destination pub renowned for its range and quality of ales.

Kevin has a history of good cellarman ship with previous managerial roles at the King Charles Tavern and the Catherine Wheel in

Newbury leading to Good Beer Guide entries. Since taking over at the West Street corner pub, he has been able to train Sanna, Kieran and Joe in the cellarman ship and bar skills needed to ensure that beer is served at its best.

The community pub sponsored Newbury Lions FC home kit and is visited by players after Sunday league football matches.

Wadworth beers, including 6X and Horizon, are served alongside guest ales sourced nationally and changing frequently. Tex-Mex food is also available. Sports events are shown on several screens.

For more details and photos of the three award winning establishments visit www.westberkscamra.org.uk/awards

Back in Print

thanks to our advertisers:

King Charles Tavern

Clear Brew

Loddon Brewery

Old London Apprentice

Arkell's Brewery Ramsbury Brewery

Catherine Wheel Spare Wheel

Cow & Cask Tutts Clump Cider



Photo: Richard Lock

The Hungerford Club

Club of the Year. Mike Avery presented the award to Debbie Hutchins.

Although a regular winner, this was the first time with Debbie as club steward. In the natural setting of The Croft, the Club holds an annual beer festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.



The Catherine Wheel

Cider Pub of the Year. A previous winner, Warwick Heskins is proud to stock a wide variety of local ciders including Green Shed and Tutts Clump.

With several suppliers closing recently he now welcomes any other local cidemakers to get in touch.

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Belfast

Letter from the Editor

After two years of 'online only' editions, we're glad that a new look *Ullage* is back in print, thanks to support from our advertisers. In return, please support them with your custom and appreciation.

West Berkshire CAMRA always welcomes new and existing members to get involved in our campaigning and social activities. Please consider coming to one of the events in our diary (back page) or joining CAMRA to enjoy membership benefits, using the form on page 10.

Please contact me with any news, articles or advertising for *Ullage*. The deadline for the autumn issue is 7 August.

Cheers! *Tim Thomas*
editor@westberkscamra.org.uk
www.westberkscamra.org.uk/magazines



CAMRA's Summer of Pub campaign is back this year to get as many people as possible enjoying the season of warmer weather by heading down to their local for a pint.

We will be celebrating how our nation's pubs offer numerous benefits to people's mental and social well-being and play an instrumental role in the communities they serve. After two years of lockdowns, restrictions and unprecedented pub closures, this is a time to celebrate being able to return to our locals and to recognise everything they have done throughout the pandemic.

Campaigning to support Britain's pubs is something anyone can get involved in and can be as simple as walking to a local pub.

CAMRA's National Chairman, Nik Antona, said:

'This is the first time in two years that we've been able to come together and support pubs, clubs, brewers and cider makers in this way, and I urge everyone to make the most of this summer by joining in with Summer of Pub however they can.'

'The financial aftershocks of the pandemic, combined with recent tax hikes mean that this is a difficult time for the trade. It is vital we give them all the support we can, so that we can continue to enjoy everything that makes our nation's pubs so special for many summers to come.'

Let us know on social media how you'll be celebrating by sharing photos of you and your friends in the pub using the hashtag #SummerofPub.

Swift Halves



Thatcham based **Delphic Brewing Company** brewed 'It's Just the One Hop, Actually' with Sabro in 2021. For the second iteration of the single hop pale ale series, Tom Broadbank has chosen the Citra hop with a 'flavour profile of grapefruit, lime and tropical fruits'.

Two new limited edition cask beers will be released in June. 'Can't Kick Up the Roots' a 4.8% ABV West Coast IPA brewed with Citra, Cascade, Columbus and Centennial hops! As yet unnamed, the second beer is a ruby red ESB brewed in collaboration with Reading's Phantom Brewing Co.

Tom has continued doing his local delivery round every Friday. Order through www.delphicbrewing.com for free delivery within 10 miles of the brewery or £3 if further.

A discount code, *UllageMag0622*, created for *Ullage* readers and applied before checkout will give 5% off all cans for the month of June.

Delphic Brewing's Level Crossing best bitter is often available from cask at CAMRA's National Pub of the Year, the **Bell Inn**, Aldworth. Badged as Wheatsheaf, it is also available at the **Wheatsheaf Inn**, Thatcham.

■ The River Lambourn flows past the patio garden of the **Great Shefford**. It's a pleasant spot for enjoying drinks from the bar or hot drinks from the Little Shefford servery, open daily since 2 May.
www.thegreatshefford.com



■ Planning permission (21/03190/FUL) was granted for a small agricultural building behind the **Bell Inn**, Aldworth to become a microbrewery. Hugh Macaulay, the Bell's landlord, advises that his son, James, will run it and that brewing vessels have been ordered. The brewery name has not yet been announced but it is hoped that from September, the Bell will be an outlet for its traditional cask ales.



■ **Ye Olde Red Lion**, Chieveley, has been an Arkell's pub since 1992. Robin Macdonald retired, after 17 years in charge, at the end of March. Douglas and Jo are the new hosts.

■ The **Blue Ball**, Kintbury, reopened on 24 March with Lisa as the new manager. The grey bar stools and bar front have been repainted blue. The large garden has well spaced seating and the pub is dog friendly.



■ The **Catherine Wheel** has increased the number of chilled boxed ciders available, as shown on the blackboard in the front page photo. Six cask ales are served by handpumps on the bar. Warwick plans to feature more live music and host an early September beer festival at the pub.

The nearby **Spare Wheel** has reopened after a refit. The focus here is on KeyKegs and KeyCasks from Double-Barrelled, Elusive Brewing, Phantom Brewing, Siren Craft Brew and Wild Weather, as well as breweries from further afield. Tap takeovers and live acoustic music will also feature here. The weekly quiz is held on Tuesdays at 8pm with a £50 bar tab prize.

A large advertisement for The Spare Wheel pub. It features a central logo with a gear and the text 'The SPARE WHEEL est. 2020'. Below the logo, there are several images and text blocks. On the left, it says '10 KEG & CIDER LINES & ROTATING CASK LINES CRAFT BOTTLED & CANNED BEERS LOCALLY PRODUCED CIDERS LARGE, EVER CHANGING GIN SELECTION HEARTY PREMIER PIES'. In the center, it says 'The CATHERINE WHEEL est. 2014' and '18th Century independent pub & the house set in the heart of Newbury. We have been serving award winning beers, ciders & pies to Newbury and the surrounding area since 2014. Seating inside, plus outside in our heated courtyard'. On the right, it says '20 LINE KEG WALL POURING UNIQUE AND EVER CHANGING CRAFT BEER BREWED ANYWHERE FROM 20 MINUTES DOWN THE ROAD TO 11,000 MILES ACROSS THE WORLD' and 'TEX-MEX & STREETFOOD INFUSION FOOD ALL LOCALLY SOURCED AND MADE FRESH, IN HOUSE LARGE SELECTION OF VEGAN/VEGGIE/GLUTEN FREE FOOD, WINE AND BEER'. At the bottom, it says 'SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF THE MARKET PLACE WITH BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEATING AVAILABLE'. The address '35 CHEAP STREET NEWBURY RG14 5DB' is on the left and '17 MARKET PLACE NEWBURY RG14 5AA' is on the right. Social media links for Facebook and Instagram are at the bottom.

■ After managing a pub in Oxfordshire, Imogen is the new manager at the **King Charles Tavern**,



Newbury. Eight cask ales are served at the Cheap Street corner pub. In addition to the Sunday roast, the food options include bar snacks, paninis and homemade pizzas. See the back page advertisement for

several photos of the pub's refurbished interior.

The monthly Think & Drink quiz, hosted by Paddy, starts at 8pm on the last Wednesday of the month.

■ Other pubs with **quiz** nights include:

East Ilsley: Crown & Horns

Yattendon: West Berkshire Brewery Taproom

Hampstead Norreys: White Hart

Upper Bucklebury: Cottage Inn

Hermitage: White Horse

Cold Ash: Castle Inn; Spotted Dog

Newbury: Dolphin; Globe;

Lion; Spare Wheel;

Two Watermills; Woodpecker

Chaddleworth: Ixey Inn

Wickham: Five Bells

Hamstead Marshall: White Hart

Hungerford: Plume

Hungerford Newtown: Tally Ho



■ The second 2022 **Wild Weather** Open Day was held on Saturday 7 May at the brewery unit on Easter Park industrial estate, near Silchester. Visitors were refreshed by a free half pint of beer on arrival. Perched on a ladder, Head Brewer Jamie 'JD' Duffield gave brewery 'tours' to assembled groups at two hourly intervals. At the pallet bar, Matt served Sleepy Joe's from cask and eight beers from KeyKeg ranging from Lux, a flagship 3.6% ABV session pale to Cephalopod 2021, a 12% ABV Imperial honey stout.

After the event, the brewery posted on social media 'It was a fantastic day ... We cannot wait to bring you another cracker of an open day very soon!'. Check @WildWeatherAles on Twitter and @wild.weather.brewery on Facebook for details of future events.



JD's blog post on www.wildweatherales.com mentions that Sleepy Joe's 4.2% ABV traditional best bitter was originally brewed in 2021 to celebrate the pubs and bars tentatively opening their gardens after the long period of covid-related closure. JD writes 'A year on, Sleepy Joe's has

proved popular beyond our expectations and now features as part of our flagship cask offering alongside Calleva (4% ABV West Coast Blonde). The best pint can be found at our own taproom, the **Weather Station ...**

(Reading).

Sleepy Joe's has recently been released in 440ml cans. 'It is live, unfiltered and naturally carbonated from within the can by the action of the yeast - as close to cask conditioning as can be achieved outside of a cask itself ... with no filtration.'



■ Despite public support, the planning application (21/02825/FUL) for partial redevelopment of the **Bell at Boxford** was refused. The decision notice mentions concerns over surface water management and likely effects on the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation.

■ The **Butt Inn**, Aldermaston Wharf, is temporarily closed while Punch Pubs & Co arranges refurbishment and new management.

■ The **Old London Apprentice** is holding an outdoor festival on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 June with a variety of cask ales from Indigenous Brewery and several draught ciders. There is plenty of outdoor seating in the rear garden, the side 'paddock' and the front decked area. See advertisement below for more details about the pub, near Newbury Racecourse.



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- Local street food vendors at weekends (please see website for details).

- Enjoy takeaway draft & bottled beers from our brewery shop.
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THE OLD LONDON APPRENTICE



We pride ourselves on being a traditional community pub where there's always a warm welcome from Ken & Caroline

Front decked area, side 'paddock' and rear garden

~~~~~

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Selection of real ales

~~~~~

CAMRA discount

2 Hambridge Road, Newbury, RG14 5SS | Tel: 01635 41483

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



■ The Yattendon Brewing Company Ltd (YBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Yattendon Group plc, acquired West Berkshire Brewery (WBB) on 23rd December 2021. In April, YBC appointed Ian Rogers as the new Managing Director of WBB.



Photo: West Berkshire Brewery

A press release was issued with details of his career. Having worked for Bass and Allied in the eighties, Ian Rogers founded Wychwood Brewery in 1990 at the age of 27. From small beginnings of one brewer and one drayman, Ian with the help of 3i developed the company into a £30 million turnover business with 36 pubs and created the famous Hobgoblin beer brand. Between 2006 and 2020 Ian was MD of Randall's of Guernsey, transforming ... the brewery, distillery, pub and hotel company.

Ian Rogers, said *'I am keen to turn WBB into a cutting-edge craft brewer with unique beer brands, incredible tasting craft ales and English lagers in addition to our award-winning Good Old Boy Best Bitter. When I started my first brewery Wychwood 32 years ago I was at the vanguard of the Craft Beer industry, I basically want to see if I have still got it?'*

Ian Rogers has recently revealed that WBB's new name will be **The Renegade Brewing Company**.



Land of Hop and Glory is the brewery's summer seasonal ale. The hoppy English Pale Ale has been brewed with Ernest hops from Kent and

heritage Plumage Archer malt giving rounded flavours of apricot and nectarine.

There have been a few recipe changes to Mister Chubb's, WBB's 3.4% ABV session bitter. The malt ratio has been altered to increase the body and caramel notes. The hops have been changed for some Phoenix and Sovereign creating 'a much improved version'.

The next WBB Quiz at the brewery's Taproom & Kitchen in Yattendon is on 29 June.

Check the calendar under the Events tab on [www.wbbrew.com](http://www.wbbrew.com) for all future events.

■ **On Beer Day Britain**, Wednesday 15 June, there's an invitation to say 'Cheers to Beer' at 7pm with CAMRA members at the **Cow & Cask**, Newbury. [www.beerdaybritain.co.uk](http://www.beerdaybritain.co.uk)



■ **Bond Brews** has monthly outdoor Tap Yard events on summer Saturdays with draught ales, local cider and food from rotating local caterers. The rural location is between Wokingham and Crowthorne. The 7th anniversary beer festival is on 18 June (12pm – 8pm) with live music from local performers. Further events are on 16 July and 13 August. [www.bondbrews.co.uk](http://www.bondbrews.co.uk)



■ **Platinum Pale** is the Queen's Jubilee celebration beer from **Ramsbury Brewery** available in mini kegs and fresh beer boxes. The limited edition 4.3% ABV pale ale is brewed with British hops and has floral and fruity notes.



Enjoy a free drink in the brewery beer garden, until September, by taking the Ramsbury Brewery advertisement below to their shop during the opening hours shown.

# LocAle

Many LocAle pubs in our branch area serve beer brewed within 25 miles. Pubs shown in bold serve beer brewed onsite or within one mile.

[pubsofficer@westberks.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubsofficer@westberks.camra.org.uk)

See also the LocAle Pubs page on [www.westberks.camra.org.uk/locale](http://www.westberks.camra.org.uk/locale)

## LocAle Pubs - WEST of A34

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>The Ibex Inn</b>         | Chaddleworth       |
| The Downgate                | Hungerford         |
| The Eastbury Plough         | Eastbury           |
| <b>The Five Bells</b>       | Wickham            |
| The Fox at Peasemore        | Peasemore          |
| The Great Shefford          | Great Shefford     |
| <b>The White Hart Inn</b>   | Hamstead Marshall  |
| <b>The John O'Gaunt Inn</b> | Hungerford         |
| The Queens Arms             | East Garston       |
| The Red House               | Marsh Benham       |
| The Tally Ho!               | Hungerford Newtown |
| The Three Swans Hotel       | Hungerford         |

**Locally Brewed Real Ale**

■ Cherry trees were planted at **Arkell's Brewery** in Swindon as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

Following the planting, Chairman, James Arkell made a toast, unveiling the brewery's new beer. Jubilee Ale, brewed by James' son Alex Arkell, Head Brewer, is described as a smooth dark amber ale with a sweet caramel undertone, generously hopped to give a moreish fruity and citrus flavour. The 4.2% ABV beer is available in 500ml bottles and cask.



**NEWBURY'S FIRST MICRO PUB**

# Cow & Cask

Cow & Cask is available for private hire, and given enough notice we will try very hard to have "Your Favourite Micro Brewery Ale" on the stillage. Although we are a "Micro Pub" we can Squeeze, Jimmie, Squash or Shoehorn 20-25 persons in and make them comfortable.

We can also provide a few seats!!!

1 Inches Yard Market Street Newbury RG14 5DP

**Opening Hours**  
 Mon Closed  
 Tue 4-9  
 Wed 4-9  
 Thu 4-10  
 Fri 4-10  
 Sat 12-10  
 Sun Closed

Discount for CAMRA card holders

Tel: 07517 658071

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[www.arkells.com](http://www.arkells.com)



■ The **Loddon Brewery**

Tapyard is open from Tuesday to Sunday during the day and until 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Dunsden Green is served by Arriva 800 bus from Reading to Marlow and High Wycombe.

A Loddon Brewery advertisement is on page 3.



Jake Bartleet-Perry moved from Bradford to become Loddon's Head Brewer in 2018, and introduced new beers including Citra Quad. He has now returned to West Yorkshire (Nightjar Brew Co). Congratulations to Loddon's previous Assistant Brewer, Tara Magee (MSc Heriot-Watt University), who was appointed Head Brewer in April 2022.

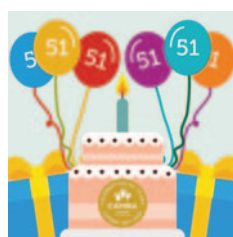
■ The **Bladebone Inn**, Chapel Row, was named as one of 20 finalists for Gastropub of the Year as part of The Food Awards England 2022.

■ The **Bowler's Arms**, Wash Common, is part of the rebuilt Falkland Cricket Club pavilion. On many summer days, customers can enjoy a glass of Landlord, London Pride or Tribute while watching a cricket match.



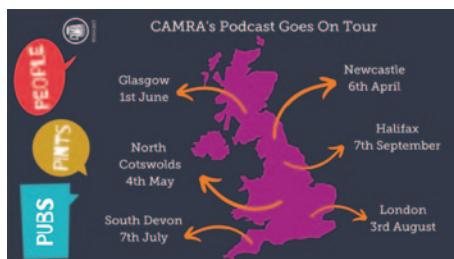
■ The **Harrow** overlooks West Ilsley cricket ground and is about a mile away from the Ridgeway National Trail. Tel. 01635 281260

■ The **Barrels and Bottles** exhibition, focusing on local brewing history, is open upstairs at West Berkshire Museum from Wednesday to Sunday (10am - 4pm). Admission is free.



■ Harvey's Imperial Extra Double Stout was announced as CAMRA's **Champion Bottled Beer of Britain** at Coventry Beer Festival 2022. Joint Silver

went to Hobsons Brewery Dhustone Stout and Runaway Brewery IPA.



■ Hosted by Clare Phillips, the fifth season of monthly CAMRA podcasts is being produced around the country. In May, episode 2 - 'Ale and Steam' - featured beer writer Des de Moor looking at the relationship between beer and railways. In August, episode 5 will include material recorded at the Great British Beer Festival. [www.camra.org.uk/podcast](http://www.camra.org.uk/podcast)

■ The 9th **Maidenhead Beer and Cider Festival** moves to NMCC Sports Bar at Summerleaze Park on 8/9 July. Tickets (£5 / £4 advance) include a free pint for CAMRA members. See page 9 for advertisement. [www.mbcf.camra.org.uk](http://www.mbcf.camra.org.uk)

■ A week later, **Ealing Beer Festival** is in Walpole Park, 13 - 16 July. Tickets (£20 advance) includes £10 drinks token card and souvenir glass. CAMRA members save £2. [www.ebf.camra.org.uk](http://www.ebf.camra.org.uk)



■ After an absence of two years, the **Great British Beer Festival** returns to Olympia London from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 August. Tickets (£24 / £20 advance) include souvenir glass, brochure and two half pint tokens. CAMRA members save £2. [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk)



■ With free admission, all are welcome at the **Hungerford Club Real Ale Festival** over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Live music and food will be available with around a dozen beers and three draught ciders.

■ **Newbury Real Ale Festival** is back at Northcroft Fields on Saturday 10 September. [www.newburyrealale.co.uk](http://www.newburyrealale.co.uk)

See the back page and / or the festivals section of [www.westberks.camra.org.uk](http://www.westberks.camra.org.uk) for more beer festival details, including dates of festival visits planned by the Branch.



■ Author Tim Webb suggests 30 European cities to visit in CAMRA's latest pocket guidebook. For each destination there are details of tourism highlights, food tips, itineraries, accommodation and travel options followed by 5-9 recommended beer bars, cafes and brewery taps.

The cities include Antwerp, Bristol, Copenhagen, Madrid and Porto. Available online from: <https://shop1.camra.org.uk>

■ Wild Card Brewery's Jaega Wise is on the cover of CAMRA's **Beer** magazine (Summer 2022). Inside, Roger Protz profiles her as number 38 in the Real Ale Heroes series. Other features include; Jeff Evans on Ampleforth Abbey Beer; One to Try accreditation for live beer in bottles or cans and Emma Inch on the joys of motorhoming to the pub. The quarterly magazine is a valuable CAMRA membership benefit.



■ The April **Berkshire Beer Box** included beers from Bucklebury Brewery, Butts Brewery, Hermitage Brewery and Wild Weather. Since November 2020, Jymi has been delivering boxes of beer, from various Berkshire breweries, at the end of each month. [www.berkshirebeerbox.co.uk](http://www.berkshirebeerbox.co.uk)





## Real Cider & Perry



■ Tim Wale from **Tutts Clump Proper Cider** says that Springtime is his favourite time of year. The orchard is in blossom and then there are the first signs of apples and pears forming on the trees in the orchard.



Fruit ciders are especially popular in the summer and the range from Tutts Clump includes Mango, Dark Fruit, Strawberry, Blackberry, Cranberry and the award-winning Rhubarb. These are all the same strength as Tutts Clump Ridgeway medium sweet cider – 4% ABV.



The Old Boot Inn stocks the bottled ciders as shown in the photo above, from the Stanford Dingley pub.

**TUTTS CLUMP**  
— PROPER CIDER —

Since 2006 our family have been making award-winning Cider and Perry in West Berkshire with full juice from Real fruit

Being sugar and gluten free it's suitable for Vegetarians and Vegans.

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We are also SALSA approved.

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

Tel: 0118 974 4649

Email: [sales@tuttsclumpcider.co.uk](mailto:sales@tuttsclumpcider.co.uk)

## LIVE MUSIC



Follow @SoundNewbury on Twitter & Facebook for weekly updates of pub gigs with free entry

**ACE Space**, St. Nicholas Road, Newbury  
[www.acespace.org.uk](http://www.acespace.org.uk)  
Unplugged Open Mic on 1st Friday of month (except August)



**Arlington Arts**, Mary Hare School, Snelsmore  
[www.arlington-arts.com](http://www.arlington-arts.com)



**The Angel**, Woolhampton  
[www.jazzangel.co.uk](http://www.jazzangel.co.uk)



### NEWBURY area

**Bacon Arms** **Catherine Wheel**  
**The Club** **Document House**  
**The Globe** **The Lion**  
**Lock Stock & Barrel**  
**The Monument** FB @TheMonumentRocks  
**The Newbury**  
Open Mic night on Thursdays ('on tour' to The Globe & LSB, while closed).  
**Nags Head** **Old London Apprentice**  
**Plough on the Green** **Starting Gate**  
**Woodpecker**

### THATCHAM area

**Kings Head** **Swan**  
**Old Chequers** **Mill**  
**White Hart**  
Cold Ash: **Castle Inn**; **Spotted Dog**

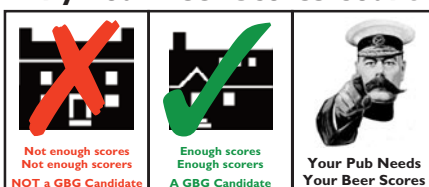
### HUNGERFORD area

**Borough Arms** **Plume**  
**Railway Tavern**  
Hungerford Newtown: **Tally Ho**

### OTHER areas

**Crown & Horns**, East Ilsley  
**Fox Inn**, Hermitage  
**Ibex Inn**, Chaddleworth  
**Old Boot Inn**, Stanford Dingley  
**Six Bells**, Beenham

### Why Your Beer Scores Count!



Your beer scores decide which pubs go into the CAMRA Good Beer Guide and become candidates for West Berkshire CAMRA Pub of the Year  
<https://westberkscamra.org.uk/beer-scores/>

Graphic adapted with kind permission of CAMRA - Deal, Dover, Sandwich & District

■ The [newburypubwalks.org.uk](http://newburypubwalks.org.uk) website has details of over 30 circular walks from pubs near Newbury including linear walks from pubs on the Kennet and Avon canal.

## Berkshire pubs ticked



**Si BRAPA Everitt** is on an adventure to visit every current pub in the **CAMRA Good Beer Guide** during his lifetime and drink one pint minimum at each.

On Tuesday 5 April, he arrived in Newbury on the eighth birthday of his British Real Ale Pub Adventure with mascot Colin the cauliflower.

Ullage editor, Tim Thomas, met Si at the station and drove him to the West Berkshire Brewery Taproom and Kitchen in Yattendon and then to the Great Shefford before returning to Newbury.

Tim was then able to enjoy pints with Si at the Lock Stock & Barrel and the Lion before Si caught a bus to Thatcham to visit the Wheatsheaf.

Si's subsequent blog post on [www.brpa-4500.blogspot.com](http://www.brpa-4500.blogspot.com) (search for 'Newbury newbies') gives a full and entertaining account of the 'birthday bonanza' with beer details and several photos from each pub visited. Keep track of Si's adventure in real time on Twitter (@StymieSi).



Find the most comprehensive list of real cider and perry in the UK

Is your cider #NotFromConcentrate?



Visit [camra.org.uk/cider](http://camra.org.uk/cider)





# The Bunk Inn Curridge

**The Bunk Inn is tucked away in the village of Curridge, just off the B4009, between Long Lane and Hermitage, about 5 miles north of Newbury and Thatcham.**

Over one hundred years old - on the 1883 Ordnance Survey, it's shown as the New Inn, suggesting that it became a pub in the mid 19th century. According to local historian, Roy Barlow, it got its present name when workers from the saw mill and sand pit, which were roughly where the Curridge Road joins the B4009, 'bunked off' to have a drink. That seems to be an unlikely story as it is still shown as the New Inn on the 1960 map. Now owned by Upham Inns, The Bunk Inn has been extensively refurbished and tastefully redecorated, making it very welcoming.

The cosy bar area is relatively narrow at the front but extends round the corner to the left. At the right end is a large, open, airy dining room. In the winter, there is a large log-burning fire where visitors can warm up. The ample

seating ranges from comfortable chairs and benches to stools at the bar. Outside, at the front, there are large tables and seats under parasols. A large garden at the rear overlooks open fields where horses run free.

The bar can serve up to four cask ales and they rotate through a short list. When we visited, these were Bombardier, London Pride and Tribute. The 'Pride' was in excellent condition. Other ales are offered at seasonal occasions. There is also a range of keg beers including lagers, bottled beers and draught cider.

We had an evening meal there and were impressed by the friendly, welcoming staff, the menu choices and the speed of service. The menu includes: soup of the day; seared scallops; beer battered haddock; grilled aubergine, field mushroom and chimichurri burger; rib-eye steak and seven desserts. There is a good selection of gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan choices on the menu. The Sunday lunch menu has a selection of roast meats.



The pub is dog-friendly and caters for all tastes. It has nine en suite bedrooms. There is limited parking at the front but a very large car park behind the pub. Level access is by a side door rather than the front, where there is a step. With easy access to the A34 and M4, it is an ideal centre for visiting local attractions and for walkers who wish to enjoy the beautiful countryside.

The Bunk Inn is open every day of the week from 12 midday. It closes at 11pm Monday - Saturday; 10pm on Sunday.

Meals are served 12 - 2.30pm and 5 - 9pm Monday to Thursday; 12 - 9.30pm Fridays and Saturdays; 12 - 8pm Sundays. The pub is also open for breakfast 8 - 11am on Sundays.

*Richard Marshall*



The Bunk Inn,  
Curridge,  
Newbury  
RG18 9DS

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

Tel. 01635 200400

## CAMRA's Beer Styles

**Beer comes in many colours and has a variety of aromas and flavours. The beer style categories used for judging CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain were revised in 2019.**

There are now 12 categories to incorporate a wide variety of styles:

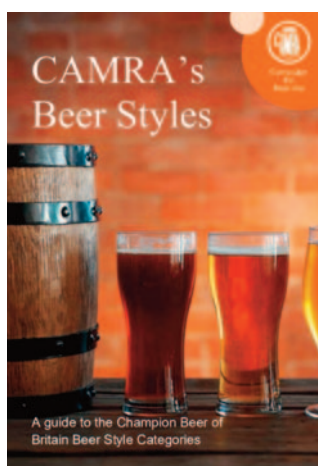
1. Milds: up to 4% ABV
2. Session Bitters: up to 4.3% ABV
3. Premium Bitters: 4.4% - 6.4% ABV
4. Session Pale, Blond and Golden Ales: up to 4.3% ABV
5. Premium Pale, Blond and Golden Ales: 4.4% - 6.4% ABV
6. British and New World IPAs: 5.5% ABV and above
7. Brown and Red Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds: up to 6.4% ABV
8. Session Stouts and Porters: up to 4.9% ABV
9. Strong Stouts and Porters: 5% ABV and above
10. Barley Wines and Strong Ales: 6.5% and above
11. Speciality Beers - Differently produced e.g. Lager
12. Speciality Beers - Flavoured

Further details are given in a leaflet (cover shown above) which can be referenced online from CAMRA's Learn & Discover resource at [www.camra.org.uk/learn-discover/beer-styles](http://www.camra.org.uk/learn-discover/beer-styles)

CAMRA runs a number of tutored tasting and training sessions on beer most of which are open to members and non-members.

Starting in June, a series of free online training sessions will explore CAMRA's new beer styles. To join in - apply for a ticket and buy five beers from a selection listed on the ticket site as below.

|                        |                                                                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 2 June 2pm    | <a href="https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/55">https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/55</a> |
| Saturday 11 June noon  | <a href="https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/56">https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/56</a> |
| Sunday 14 August 2pm   | <a href="https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/57">https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/57</a> |
| Sunday 4 September 2pm | <a href="https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/58">https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/58</a> |



On 29 April, West Berkshire CAMRA held a tutored tasting event at the Lion, Newbury, hosted by Richard Marshall (Hermitage Brewery).

Six half pints of cask ale were savoured with results marked on tasting cards that include a grid for aroma, taste and aftertaste against malt, roast, caramel, hops, citrus, fruit, sulphur, yeast and sweetness.

Tony Girling said 'My favourite was Tunnel Vision (amber bitter) by Box Steam Brewery, it had a bitter / sweet taste, not too strong.' The other beers sampled were Tiny Rebel Press Start (Black IPA), Wadworth 6X (bitter), Burnt Orange IPA, Horizon (crisp golden ale) and Dirty Rucker (rich ruby).



Richard Marshall, Andy Pinkard, Jeremy Harding and Andy Pavey at the Lion

Photo: Tony Girling



## Quinno visits 15 Belfast pubs



**Quinten Taylor celebrated his January birthday with a trip to Northern Ireland when ‘... prices are cheap, the attractions are quiet and there’s no queue at the bar’.**

‘Getting from Belfast City airport to our accommodation was easy. We stayed in the swanky Europa Hotel, right in the centre, opposite the Crown Liquor Saloon (photo above) and offering competitive rates to fill rooms. An interesting fact is that there’s an open bottle of Bushmill’s Whiskey available at breakfast for you to pour on your porridge.’

‘Belfast is awash with pretty pubs, though its relationship with beer is very one-dimensional, as Diageo has a similar stranglehold on bars here to the Republic. There is a small local craft scene though there aren’t many outlets for their

produce. Cask is a rarity, quality is a bit hit-and-miss and sometimes you’ll go to a Good Beer Guide listed pub and find no cask at all!’

Quinno’s latest online guest post for [www.beereurope.blogspot.com](http://www.beereurope.blogspot.com) includes details and photos of 15 pubs visited in Belfast including:



### Crown Liquor Saloon

46 Great Victoria Street, BT2 7BA

Cask = Yes

Described elsewhere as the jewel of Northern Ireland’s pubs and it’s very hard to disagree; astounding both inside and out and is up there with the best interiors in Britain; it may well be the most ornate. ‘High Victoriana’ style, amazingly intricate tiled exterior which matches

the feel inside - doored booths, ceramic bar frontage, stained glass windows, illustrated mirrored panels, carved wood features and animals, patterned floor tiling and probably a load of other stuff I didn’t note - every time you look round you notice something new. Leased by Nicholson’s via the National Trust, three cask ales on when I visited from Black Sheep, Titanic and Timothy Taylor. Beware that it’s a fairly small pub so time your visit for the quietest hours, especially if you want a booth. Should be number one on your Belfast visit list as you won’t want to miss it.

Several other pubs in Quinno’s post are also featured in CAMRA’s online database of historic pub interiors (<https://pubheritage.camra.org.uk>): **Ronnie Drew’s; Kelly’s Cellars; Hatfield House, Fort Bar (McCartan’s) and Errigle Inn.**



## Elusive Brewing visit Newbury

**A Meet the Brewer / tasting event was held at the Cow & Cask, Newbury on 23 February 2016 when Andy Parker had only just got the keys to the vacant unit for Elusive Brewing on the Hogwood Industrial Estate, Finchampstead, Berkshire.**

Andy brought three 5 litre mini-casks of prototype beers: *Cherrywood Road* (smoked ruby mild); a *pale ale* dosed with natural apricot fruit flavouring and *Level Up* (American red ale hopped with Mosaic and Equinox).

A post about the event featured in the BeerEurope blog and a photo was published in the Summer 2016 issue of Ullage.



On Friday 11 March 2022, Andy returned to Newbury for a beer tasting event organised by Inn at Home. He was accompanied by Ruth Mitchell, Elusive Brewing’s Operations Director (an

accredited Beer Sommelier and Certified Cicerone). This was the first event that they had presented for a couple of years. In his introduction, Inn at Home’s David Marklew described Elusive as ‘one of our favourite local brewers’, adding ‘we love their beers’.

Andy said he was ‘a home brewer with a hobby that got out of control’. Ricky Moysey, previously with Bingham’s, is now the brewer at Elusive. Cask is currently around 30% - 40% of output. Andy explained that the 8 bit pixel artwork used on cans was based on his use of a BBC Micro back in the 1980s and that some Elusive beers are named after computer games.

Five beers were tasted, poured from cans:

- **Blue Ridge Parkway** - American Pale Ale hopped with Citra and Ekuanot (from a series named after scenic drives).
- **Microball** - ‘a modern take on a dark mild’ hopped with Bramling Cross. It’s hoped that this reddish mild will become a regular in their lineup. While David offered Cheese & Onion Pringles around as an accompaniment, Ruth suggested that a strong cheddar cheese would make a good match.
- **Level Up** - American Red Ale - ‘our flagship beer although not our best seller’. The original



2014 home brewed version of this beer, hopped with Simcoe and Citra, won Andy a £5,000 prize from the Craft Beer Co. This was used as a deposit for the Elite stainless steel brew kit supplied from Swindon in 2016. The Level 27 version at this event was hopped with Citra and Galaxy.

- **Double Oregon Trail** - ‘a bigger, badder, bolder’ 8% ABV imperial version of best seller Oregon Trail and canned just four days earlier. The same hops were used: initially Chinook and Citra then dry hopped with Columbus, Simcoe and Mosaic.
- **Bee Strong** - ‘Wee Heavy’ with added honey from Tilehurst and aged for months in oak Bourbon barrels. The two barrels are now used as tables at Reading’s Grumpy Goat cheese, beer and cider shop in Union Street (traded by Andy for cheese!).



For Elusive Brewing information including tap room hours and location, blog and online shop, visit [www.elusivebrewing.com](http://www.elusivebrewing.com)

To listen to a podcast featuring Ruth Mitchell (episode #045) visit [www.beerwithnat.com](http://www.beerwithnat.com)

Visit Inn at Home, 150 Bartholomew Street, Newbury or [www.innathome.co.uk](http://www.innathome.co.uk) to buy beer &/or event tickets.







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**01727 798440**. \* All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.





## Curmudgeon Mountain or molehill?

**I recently spotted a tap for keg Wainwright on the bar of a pub. What perhaps surprised me is that it wasn't in some marginal low-turnover boozer but in a prominent Good Beer Guide listed pub with several well-kept cask ales on the bar. So the question occurred as to whether this is something that lovers of cask ale should be worried about.**

A significant and often under-appreciated achievement of CAMRA is that it has created a large constituency of drinkers who are loyal to cask as a category over and above individual brands. Back in the early 70s, people would probably identify first as 'bitter drinkers' and then express a preference for Tetley's, Boddingtons, Courage or whatever. But that has reversed now, and in general they will go for cask first ahead of any loyalty to a specific brand. When I mentioned this on Twitter, the general response was that people would give it a swerve purely on the grounds that it was a keg beer.

It's not even as though they get the opportunity to switch between the different formats now anyway. Again, fifty years ago it was easy to find the same beer available in cask and keg or top pressure form, and it could be difficult to distinguish the two from the bar mountings. But now, overwhelmingly, the two are separate brands – even Tetley's Cask is clearly distinguished from Tetley's Smooth.

However, while a lot of drinkers do have a strong loyalty to cask as a category, many others who drink it occasionally will be 'repertoire drinkers' who switch between lager, Guinness, keg ales and cask depending on mood and occasion. The growth of 'craft keg' has in a sense rehabilitated the keg category. If people are routinely seeing the likes of Punk IPA and Camden Pale on the bar, then what's to stop them trying keg Wainwright as well? Or indeed keg London Pride or Landlord?

So, while I don't see the existence of keg versions of Wainwright and other top-selling ales in itself a threat to cask in well-established outlets, there must be a possibility that it could damage cask by blurring its distinctiveness in more marginal venues.

It should, of course, go without saying, that the best way to promote cask ale is to ensure that it is served fresh, cool and full of condition. Cask's worst enemy is not keg, it's poor cask.

The Pub Curmudgeon blog posts can be read on [www.pubcurmudgeon.blogspot.com](http://www.pubcurmudgeon.blogspot.com)



### Social Media



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@WBCAMRA  
@UllageBeer  
@BerkshirePubs  
@CAMRA\_Official

West Berkshire  
Campaign for Real Ale:  
@WBCAMRA  
(National) CAMRA:  
@campaignforrealale

## Boak & Bailey

## Fifteen years of blogging about beer and pubs

**On the 25th April 2007, the first post appeared on our blog. It wasn't anything very exciting in itself – we just wanted to test how it all worked before committing – but was the start of something that has brought us a lot of fun and satisfaction over the years.**

When work or real life has been tough, the blog has been somewhere to retreat. You can't be depressed when you're totally absorbed in writing something about gin palaces, or organising a tasting of bottled milds.

More than that, though, it's taught us new skills, most notably how to write – and how to collaborate on writing.

### Questions answered

To mark this little milestone, we put it to readers, followers and subscribers in various places that we'd be up for answering any questions they might have.

**Given the amount of hype around some beers and breweries, is there one subject of adulation that you have found warranted the attention? – Stuart Pritchard, via Patreon**

We struggle with this a bit. Few breweries that appear from nowhere and generate lots of excitement in a short period of time have ever really worked for us. We sometimes feel out of step, wondering if we're missing something. But, ultimately, we have to trust our own judgement. Sometimes those breweries get good, if they stick it out. **Siren**, for example, we recall finding underwhelming early on but now, well established and consistent, they've become a go-to for us. Generally, we prefer breweries that start small and quiet and build a buzz over the course of years. We'd never have called **Elusive** a hype brewery and yet we hear that the other week a 'meet the brewer' event generated queues around the block. They've earned that following.

**If you could resurrect one beer that has ceased being brewed, or the original brewery has ceased to exist, what would it be? – Ian Garrett, via Twitter**

First, there are beers we miss from the last decade or two, such as Fuller's Chiswick Bitter. This was a go-to, especially for Jess, and we still don't understand the logic behind its disappearance. ("Poor sales!" Yes, but also poor marketing.)

**Have your thoughts on what makes an ideal pub changed since you first started? – Lisa Grimm, via Twitter**

Yes. When we started blogging, we were constantly irritated at pubs only having brown bitter on offer and would rate pubs more highly because of their beer offer even if the atmosphere wasn't great. We were on a mission back then to try as many beers as possible and expand our knowledge. Now, we value variety much more. The ideal pub now will have personality, individual character and something unique about its offer – whether that's cheese rolls in paper bags, a particularly good jukebox or, say, weirdly flat Bass. One of our latest thoughts, that we haven't quite worked through yet, is that a great pub should make the regulars feel as if they're at home without making incomers feel unwelcome.

*The full post, with answers to 13 more questions, can be found on the blog (search for: Fifteen years).*

### We're Boak and Bailey

We write under the names Jessica Boak and Ray Bailey, and live in Bristol. We've been blogging about beer since 2007, covering real ale, craft beer, pubs and British beer history.

[www.boakandbailey.com](http://www.boakandbailey.com)

## Help us power WhatPub



Things are a little different right now. Help CAMRA keep WhatPub up to date by using the feedback form to let us know about any changes at the pub: [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com)



## 10 great reasons to join CAMRA

- |                                                                      |                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 CAMPAIGN</b><br>for great beer, cider and perry                 | <b>2 Become a BEER EXPERT</b>                            |
| <b>3 Enjoy CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS</b><br>in front of or behind the bar | <b>4 GET INVOLVED</b><br>and make new friends            |
| <b>5 Save YOUR LOCAL</b>                                             | <b>6 Find the BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN</b>                   |
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| <b>9 Enjoy great HEALTH BENEFITS</b><br>(really!)                    | <b>10 HAVE YOUR SAY</b>                                  |

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## Diary Dates 2022

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 9 June**  
Lunchtime social  
John O'Gaunt, Hungerford  
12.30pm

**Wednesday 15 June**  
Beer Day Britain -  
#CheersToBeer at 7pm  
Cow & Cask, Newbury

**Saturday 25 June**  
Newbury Pub Walk  
with @SWMCAMRA  
King Charles Tavern,  
Newbury 2pm

**Thursday 14 July**  
Lunchtime Social  
Rowbarge, Woolhampton  
12.30pm

**Friday 15 July**  
Beer Festival Social  
Ealing Beer Festival 1pm

**Tuesday 19 July**  
Branch meeting  
White Hart Inn,  
Hamstead Marshall 7.30pm

Late additions, amendments & further details on our website:  
[www.westberkscamra.org.uk](http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk)

**Thursday 11 August**  
Lunchtime social  
Newbury - venue TBC  
12.30pm

**Saturday 20 August**  
Summer Festival Social  
Rowbarge, Woolhampton  
1.30pm

**Saturday 27 August**  
Real Ale Festival Social  
Hungerford Club 1.30pm

## West Berkshire CAMRA

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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 also [www.westberkscamra.org.uk/festivals](http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk/festivals)

10-11 June

**Twyford Beer Festival**

Stanlake Meadow, Twyford RG10 0AB  
[www.TwyfordBeerFest.co.uk](http://www.TwyfordBeerFest.co.uk)

8-9 July

**Maidenhead Beer & Cider Festival**

NMCC Sports Bar, Summerleaze Park,  
Maidenhead SL6 8SP  
[www.maidenheadbeerfest.camra.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadbeerfest.camra.org.uk)

13-16 July

**Ealing Beer Festival**

Walpole Park, London W5  
[www.ebf.camra.org.uk](http://www.ebf.camra.org.uk)

2-6 August

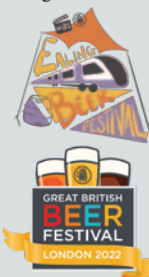
**Great British Beer Festival**

Olympia, London W14 8U  
[www.gbfbf.org.uk](http://www.gbfbf.org.uk)

27-29 August

**Hungerford Club Real Ale Festival**

The Croft, Hungerford RG17 0HY  
[www.hungerford-club.co.uk](http://www.hungerford-club.co.uk)



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