

Your Local



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

An occasional publication by West Berkshire CAMRA | Winter/Spring 2024

Welcome to the first edition of 'Your Local' that replaces 'Ullage', at least for a while.

Tim Thomas has been the editor of *Ullage* for more than 15 years and has decided to step down. He has made *Ullage* an outstanding newsletter bringing you news, information and stories about pubs, breweries and events in our area. We owe him a very big vote of thanks for all the work he has done.

We do need to find someone to step in as editor to allow us to continue publishing *Ullage* on a regular basis. If you are interested, I can reassure you that you won't be on your own as you'll have the support of an excellent deputy editor and members of the Branch committee. Get in touch with me if you think this is something you can do.

In the meantime, we will be producing this new publication, which we have called 'Your Local', covering news of our local beer scene. Some of the things covered will be similar to *Ullage* but with limited editorial input, it will be shorter and lighter.

Richard Marshall
Chair, West Berkshire CAMRA

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

Thank you to the Cow & Cask for sponsoring the first edition of 'Your Local'

Delphic Brewery and Taproom to open in Newbury



We're super excited to start work on our new Brewery and Taproom, in the heart of Newbury. We've just had the planning approved, so we're now just waiting on our premises license.

We'll be upgrading the efficiency of our brewhouse, adding to our fermentation capacity, but remaining small batch; enabling us to continue with plenty of seasonal and one-off brews! The taproom will be open Friday & Saturday to begin with, with plenty of our own beer on tap, as well as some local and national guest beers.

We're hoping to have three cask ales and 10 keg beers available, as well as local pop-up food vendors.

The support we received via the crowdfunder was absolutely amazing, Newbury seems buzzing for what we've got planned, and all of the comments of encouragement were so lovely to see! We raised just over £16k to help with the costs of fitting out the taproom, which is incredible, especially given that we had to run it over the Christmas period when people's wallets are stretched already.

We're aiming for a Spring launch for the new site, and can't wait to see everyone there!

Tom Broadbank
Director & Brewer
Delphic Brewing Company

Branch Events



Wed 28 February 2024 12:30
Lunchtime Social
The Swan, Thatcham, RG19 4QL

Wed 13 March 2024 12:30
Lunchtime Social
Cow & Cask, Newbury, RG14 5DP

Wed 10 April 2024 19:30
Branch Meeting
Lock, Stock & Barrel, Newbury, RG14 1AA TBC

Beer Festivals



8 - 10 March 2024
North Hampshire CAMRA
Mini Beer Festival
The Andover Tap at the Lamb
<https://hantsnorth.camra.org.uk>

25 May 2024 Midday - 12am
Hungerford Town FC
Beer & Music Festival
Bulpit Lane, Hungerford, RG17 0AY

From the Branch Chair

In January and February each year, Branch members get together to consider which of our local pubs will go forward to the next edition of the Good Beer Guide. We look at the scores that members, both local and national, have given to beers when they've visited our pubs. Some pubs are included very regularly but some are in and out at various times. We have lots of great pubs in West Berkshire but only 12 can go into the Guide. That means some very good ones get left out at times.

We rely on members scoring the real ales that they drink in the pubs to compile the listing but it can be hard work when an excellent place hasn't had sufficient scores to make the cut. It's not always possible to do the scoring at the time of a visit. For example, if you're having lunch there with family and friends it can be difficult to pull out your smart phone, open the app and enter the score. But you could make a mental note of the beer and it's score and enter these later when it's easier.

When we look at the scores, we have to be careful to ensure that there isn't too much bias in them. If we see that a majority of scores for



one establishment have been given by just one person and they're all very similar, we have to apply a filter to reduce possible bias. If every time I go into my local, I score the beers and I'm the only one scoring or there are few other scorers, results will be skewed towards my judgement. They won't represent the wider opinions of drinkers. Statistically, in any test, be it beer scoring or something else, the standard deviation of the scores must be quite wide, otherwise there's something wrong with the scores.

The scores are necessarily subjective and it's hard to score a beer highly if it's one that you may not usually drink. It has to be scored on the basis of it being acceptable for what it is, i.e. that it smells and looks good, has sufficient condition, and tastes as expected whether you like it or not. Quite a hard job to do. Having worked in 'food' for many years and run panels tasting food, I know how tricky this can be.

So beer scoring is really important. It gives us a measure of how well a pub is doing serving its ales. We are really pleased when a particular pub has a good number of scores because it makes it more representative of the quality of the ale. If you are a regular scorer, thanks so much for scoring when you're out enjoying the delights of one of our pubs. If you don't score the beer, or do so rarely, please do try to do this more often. It's likely that you go to a place with great beer but that never gets a chance to be in the GBG because it never gets scored. Let's get more scores!

Richard Marshall

Pub & Brewery News by Paul Worsley



- **Butts Brewery** will close in late March as Chris Butts has been unable to find suitable new premises.
- Arkells are seeking a new tenant for **The Carpenters** but the pub is still open.
- **The Vine** at Hannington has closed with owners Star advertising for a new tenant.
- Planning permission has been granted and work started on the new **Delphic Brewery and Taproom** in central Newbury, the licensing application has just been granted. They are aiming for a May opening (see page 1).
- Recent activity at **The Coach**, Beedon is working towards a definite reopening as a pub soon.
- **The Globe** posted on social media "100 days left" suggesting leaving late April. Star Inns are holding an Open Day 11th April.
- The former **Document House**, now called **Reloaded**, had its licence granted and is close to opening after extensive refurbishment but it is believed it will not offer cask ale.
- The **Kings Head** in Thatcham is currently shut and undergoing extensive refurbishment. It will reopen on the 24th of February as a Craft Union Managed Operator.
- Craft Union have been advertising for a new Managed Operator for **The Wagon and Horses**; they're held an Open Day 22nd February.
- The Rowbarg Beer Festival will be from 6pm Friday 5th July to Sunday 7th July.
- **The Halfway** Inn is reopening early March.
- The **White Hart** Hampstead Norreys, has returned to restricted opening.
- There's no sign of any activity at **The Nags Head**, Newbury
- **Hungerford Town Football Club** are having a beer festival on 25th May.

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