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beerlines

the magazine of the North Hampshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

ISSUE 11 OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2015

Terry Brown, licensee of the Plough, Little London, the CAMRA Regional Pub of the Year (Wessex & Channel Islands). More details on page 16.



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

WWW.CAMRAHANTSNORTH.ORG.UK

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- Pub Focus - White Hart, Overton
- Birthday Beer Bash
- ... & LOADS MORE

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Editor's Shout

A warm welcome to you

Does CAMRA still need to exist? We've succeeded in our original mission – to preserve, promote and increase the availability and appreciation of real ale. There can be no argument – we now have more breweries in this country than at any time within living memory. However, the last decade or so has seen the wholesale destruction of a large part of our heritage – the PUB. The formation of the Pub Companies (PubCo's) has been largely responsible for this. But it's not just the PubCo's – some pubs are deliberately bought by individuals or companies with the sole aim of realizing the value of the land on which they stand. CAMRA has been vociferous in opposing this wanton destruction and there is an ongoing dialogue with government to rein in the practice. The bottom line is: if our pubs keep on declining (around 30 a week), the number of breweries and varieties of beers will also decline. Once a pub is destroyed there is little chance of it being replaced. Locals can play a part in stopping this. If your pub is under threat of being sold off, transformed into a supermarket or demolished to build flats you can apply to have it listed as an Asset of Community Value. If you love your local and want to preserve it, visit www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal. So, yes - CAMRA still needs to exist and the Campaign is involved in many areas of interest to drinkers, pubs and breweries. We have never been as needed as we are now.

Finally, a farewell to CAMRA's Regional Director for Wessex and Channel Islands, John Buckley. John is standing down after nine years in the post. Thank you JB for your tireless and sometimes unconventional approach to what is often a very difficult voluntary job.

Cheers!

Jim Turner

(Magazine Editor, North Hampshire CAMRA)

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www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk



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Fish & Chips & Members' Weekend



A personal look-back

I have been to three CAMRA Members' Weekends (as they are officially termed) and enjoyed all of them. There are official outings to breweries, pub crawls, the National AGM and Conference debates as such and there is general chat in the Members' Bar or a local pub. Many members don't go on the official trips or attend the Conference but there is always plenty to do and see.

My first experience was the 2010 event in Douglas IOM when three of the North Hampshire branch self-catered together. We did go to Conference and some of the workshops, but we also managed a round-the-island pub crawl which required some split-second timing. We also enjoyed the island's railways, steam and electric, and some excellent Fish & Chips. Having decided to go and return by train and steamer not only did we feel smug when the Icelandic volcano closed the airports but we had an excellent 'rail ale' crawl home.

Last year I went to the Scarborough Weekend, volunteering behind the scenes. It was mostly foggy and damp but this added a certain air to the trip to Whitby where CAMRA shared the town with the annual Goth festival. Strangely clad and spooky figures wandered from pub to pub in the murk, and the Goths were quite weird as well. Another Fish & Chip supper was inevitable. Other outings were to local breweries: the Scarborough Brewery ran a shuttle from the venue to their brewery and two local pubs. This was so popular that the brewer's son, home on leave from the RAF, was commandeered to drive an extra bus.

This year I went to the Nottingham event. This is an excellent city for both pubs and local breweries and the trips were all sold out long in advance. There was an innovation to the agenda when a highly amusing guest speaker, Charlie Bamforth [Professor of Brewing Science at the University of California no less] spoke on why real ale is best. I particularly liked his point that whereas wine makers talk of vintages, 'good' and 'bad' years, real ale brewers just get on with the job and make the best of the malt and hops available (twice the ingredients to go wrong!) and everyone finds this normal. The Fish & Chips were up to standard too.

So when you see the advert for next year's Members' Weekend (it's in Liverpool on April Fools weekend) consider going – you will be entertained, refreshed and educated and you will meet some interesting and passionately involved people. You should also get some high standard Fish & Chips whilst you decide CAMRA's future policy (if you want to) or just have fun.

Tony Morwood-Leyland



Photo: Jim Turner

**Members' bar at
Nottingham AGM**

Photos: Phil Myatt

Old Swan Inn
(Ma Pardoe's)

Birthday Beer Bash

A West Midlands Walk About

Branch activist Phil Myatt was recently sent to the West Midlands on a training course which began on his birthday. In his spare time he (predictably!) visited some iconic pubs ...

MONDAY

Finished work early to drive to the West Midlands and arrived in time for a late lunch. Checked in and fed courtesy of KFC but knowing I'd be in a classroom for three days, decided to go for a walk in the drizzle. Satnav said that Netherton was just over three miles away and so 1hr 10mins later I stumbled into the **Old Swan Inn**, affectionately known as **Ma Pardoe's**. This is one of the few remaining original brewpubs in England and a time capsule of tiles and glass. The five handpumps without pump clips reminded me of the Blue Anchor in Helston, but on asking I found the beer list on a chalkboard behind the bar hidden by a Black Country flag. The five beers, brewed out the back, were *Old Swan Original* 3.5% £2.20, *Dark Swan Mild* 4.2% £2.40, *Ole Swan Entire* 4.4% £2.70, *Bumble Hole* 5.2% £2.90 and *Pardoe's NPA* 4.8% £2.70. The friendly locals all

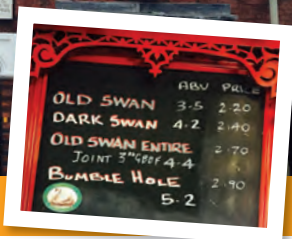
suggested I try 'half'n'half'. A mix of *Original* and *Bumble Hole* was the favourite, so having tried all individually I gave it a try, to be honest they were not wrong, however for me *Mild* was my standout favourite. One of the friendly locals gave me the number for a cab just before the bell rang for last orders. A must visit pub in which I was so pleased to celebrate my birthday.

TUESDAY

A day in a classroom and the thought of eating and drinking at the **Brewers Fayre** enticed me to venture into Dudley on Tuesday evening with a walk to the edge of town to the **Lamp**, a Batham's pub. Sadly mild was not a big seller in this pub and it was not as good as it was in the **Vine** on a previous trip. The Batham's *Bitter* on the other hand was spot on, as was the conversation, in which I quickly became included. I then headed back to the bus station via an earlier recommendation of the **Courthouse** in New St. The beer board here had 11 ales and four ciders to tempt me, but it was a big pub, conversation was lacking and the last bus was looming. I was recognised, though, by the man who had given me the cab number the previous night. Definitely worth a visit if you are in Dudley.

WEDNESDAY

Another abandoned breakfast and another day inside. I just had to break free so headed to West Bromwich. A walk up the High Street to the edge of town lead me to the **Wheatsheaf**, a gem of a Holden's pub with *Black Country Bitter* £2.35, *Golden Glow*, *Special* and *Sarah Hughes Sedgely*



The Lamp Tavern and
The Wheatsheaf





Bar at the Courthouse

Surprise £2.80, but only a keg mild. Another pub, another great bunch of friendly locals. Having worked my way through all the beers I said my farewells and headed back towards town. I saw a bus coming and started to jog, but the stop was too far to make it. However the bus stopped next to me. Even the bus drivers are friendly here. This lift to the bus station gave me time to pop into the Billiard Hall, a Wetherspoons pub but the Burton Bridge Damson Porter tempted me to stay while waiting for the next bus to Oldbury. Friendly people again at the bus station pointed me to the right bus and even told me where to get off (the Bus!). So, I had a really great time in the West Midlands; the other delegates staying at the same hotel never went out. The final breakfast? I just had toast.

Phil Myatt

Current CAMRA LOCAL Pubs in our area

- Barley Mow, Oakley
- Bourne Valley Inn, St Mary Bourne
- The Crown Inn, Upton
- Derby, North Warnborough
- Eagle Inn, Abbots Ann
- The Fox, North Waltham
- Fur and Feathers, Herriard
- Leather Bottle, Mattingley, near Hook
- Mill House, North Warnborough
- Northbrook Arms, East Stratton
- Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club
- Plough, Grateley
- Plough Inn, Little London near Silchester
- Prince Regent, Whitchurch
- Red Lion, Overton
- Rising Sun, Basingstoke
- Sun Inn, Dummer
- Watership Down Inn, Freefolk
- White Hart, Charter Alley
- Wonston Arms, Wonston, Sutton Scotney
- The Woolpack Inn, Totford
- Y Knot Inn, Water End near Hook

Visit www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk to see the latest list with a map link

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Bar Chat

News & gossip around the North Hampshire branch area

If you have any information about your pubs (closures, openings, changes of owner and so on), please contact the editor at beerlines@camrahantsnorth.org.uk.

Hello to new licensees Reuben and Tanya Tanuay who reopened the **Pelican** at Pamber near Tadley on 3rd July. There are three real ales on handpump – Sharp's Atlantic, West Berkshire Good Old Boy and the ubiquitous Doom Bar. The first two are rotating guests, the latter a permanent feature. By the time you read this they should have appointed a chef so there will be food available. A very welcoming and comfortable pub that deserves to do well. (JT)

Slightly out of the branch area, the **Cross Keys Inn** at Chute has been bought as a Free House by Gerry and Jane Wheeler who, at the time of writing, were in the process of decorating the pub in order to open as soon as possible and welcome all-comers to the pub. There are four B&B letting rooms, two stables, two bars and a beer garden with a fabulous view and an Italian Restaurant

called "Limonas". I am advised there will also be real ales available. (JT)

The **Mole** at Monk Sherborne was still undergoing renovation work at the time of writing. However the end appears to be in sight and by the time you read this it could well be open again.

The renovation work on the **Fox & Hounds** in Tadley was completed in early August and the pub has reopened. One permanent addition to the beer range is Longdog Kismet, rebadged as 'Fox & Hounds Bitter'.

The **Wonston Arms**, Sutton Scotney has a Fish 'n' Chips night on Tuesdays from 7.00 pm and a Curry run on Friday evenings. Phone Matt on 01962 760288.

Out of area (again, but only just), the **New Inn** at Amesbury has been put up for auction by the owners. The licensee and regulars have formed an Action Committee to save the pub.

Two Cocks brewery, Newbury was up for sale at the time of writing. Also, **Rusty Prop** brewery, Romsey has ceased commercial operations, brewing will continue on a smaller scale elsewhere.

The **Ham & Blackbird** in Farnborough is no more. This was CAMRA Surrey Hants Borders branch Pub of the Season in June. Two months later it was demolished. Vandalism of the highest order.

There are plans to convert the former **Crown** at Odiham into houses but there have been objections, from, among other parties, planners!

Other pubs that could be under threat or are/ have been advertised for sale are: the **Plough** and the **Shire Horse**, both at Grateley, the **Coach & Horses** Sutton Scotney, the **Crook & Shears** Upper Clatford, the **Queen Inn** Dummer, the **Four Horseshoes** Sheffield-on-Loddon and the **Lamb** Basingstoke. Please let the editor know of any pubs in North Hampshire that are for sale or under threat.

Quick Quiz For answers see page 12

Each clue has a double meaning with the same one-word answer. Rearrange the first letter of each answer to find a **Midlands brewery to preserve** (7 letters).

1. Yearn to be wider?
2. Ground the soil
3. Act Judge John ...
4. Imply a suggestion
5. Men's 2 piece Diamonds
6. Different and the first
7. Mesh a clear profit

Brenda Cross



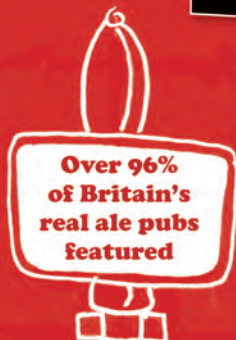
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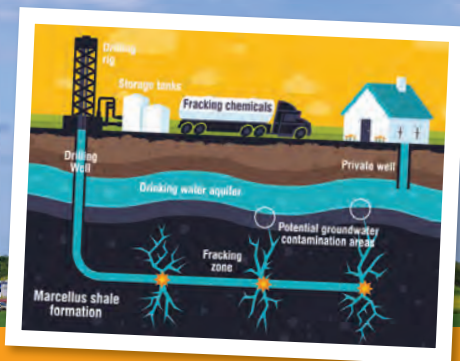
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The Other 'F' Word



Its effects on beer and cider

At the CAMRA Annual Conference in Nottingham in April this year there was a debate about Fracking. This article is an attempt to describe fracking and to look at what effect it could have on beer and cider production.

First of all, what is it all about? It's about extracting more fossil fuels from underground. In addition to oil wells and natural gas reserves there are vast quantities of fossil fuels trapped in rocks. Around 1945, oil companies devised a technique to extract these reserves by the use of a mixture of chemicals and sand forced underground by high pressure water. It is an expensive process and only now with diminishing easily-accessible deposits has it become economical.

Fracking is a jargon term for Fractional Extraction, the technical name for the process.

So, should we as beer and cider drinkers be worried? Well, it's down to the magic mixture that is forced through pipes to the subterranean extraction site. The oil producers are not open about the chemical mixtures that are used. For more information see the links at the end. Basically the high pressure extraction jets are forcing a potentially toxic mixture into the water table which could lead to contamination of our water supplies.

Here is the concern for beer drinkers. Most of our larger breweries, as well as many small and medium ones, use natural underground springs for all water used in the brewing process. If there is local contamination caused by fracking in the area this could have a major impact on the quality and safety of the product.

What about cider drinkers? Well there will be less impact here. CAMRA's original definition of real cider is 'nothing added and nothing taken out'. Real cider comes from pressed apple juice only with no added water. Water is used just for

hygiene, washing vessels and so on.

There are many other concerns about the possible impact on the environment that are beyond the scope of this article. I have added a list of links which you may wish to explore at your leisure. I have tried to make them as neutral as possible.

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic_fracturing

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14432401

www.theguardian.com/environment/fracking

Tony Binns

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What's Happening?

North Hampshire Branch Diary & other events

Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th October

Basingstoke OctoberFest in the grounds of the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club. Basingstoke's most prestigious event with beers from every brewery in Hampshire plus cider/perry from Hampshire and neighbouring counties. Not to be missed. Visit www.hampshireoctoberfest.co.uk

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October

Beer Festival at Prince of Wales Farnborough.

Friday 16th October - Sunday 1st November

Wetherspoons real Ale festival. Nationwide.

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th October

Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer & Walks Weekend. www.iwbeerandbuses.co.uk

Tuesday 27th October

CAMRA North Hampshire Branch meeting at Maidenhead Inn, Basingstoke, 8.00 pm. All members welcome.

Wednesday 21st October

'Apple Day' launched in 1990 by Common Ground www.commonground.org.uk. October is the time when cider producers are pressing their apples so is an ideal opportunity to see how real cider is made.

Thursday 29th – Saturday 31st October

CAMRA Redhill Beer festival. At Merstham Village Hall, Station Road North, Merstham, RH1 3ED. 150 metres west of Merstham Station and close to 405 Croydon/Redhill bus route. Enquiries contact redhillbf@camrasurrey.org.uk

Friday 6th – Saturday 7th November

CAMRA Woking Beer Festival at Woking Leisure Centre. Over 70 real ales plus cider, perry and foreign beers. Tickets available from Woking Leisure Centre on 01483 771122 or visit www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk

Thursday 12th – Sunday 15th November

Egham Beer festival at United Services Club. Organised by the Club with assistance from the local CAMRA branch www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk

Sunday 6th December

CAMRA North Hampshire Branch Winchester Wander. Meet up at Albion just down from the rail station 12.00 noon. Christmas Market an extra attraction. Contact brenda.cross@ntlworld.com

Wednesday 16th December

CAMRA North Hampshire Branch Christmas Social at Basingstoke Sports & Social Club (North Hampshire Branch Club of the Year). 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Contact Brenda at brenda.cross@ntlworld.com

Events may well have been added to or clarified since *Beer Lines* went to press. For up-to-date information please contact **social@camrahantsnorth.org.uk** or visit our main website www.camrahantsnorth.org.uk. If you would like to have your real ale-related event published here please contact the editor at beerlines@camrahantsnorth.org.uk for magazine deadlines.

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Answers to Quick Quiz [on page 8]

1. Long;
2. Earth;
3. Deed;
4. Hint;
5. Suit;
6. Original;
7. Net. The 'Midlands brewery to preserve' is **HOLDENS**.



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It is currently being restored to a traditional British pub after years of neglect.

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Photo: Tony Binns

The ladies of the Somerset Cider Booth at the Cambridge Folk Festival.

The Cider Binn

A Summer of Real Cider, Real Ale and Live Music



July and August are the main months for an increasing number of Music Festivals throughout the UK. Many of them now include real cider as well as real ale bars. So, in addition to listening to up-and-coming bands, mainstream groups (and ageing rock and folk icons!) you can enjoy a good selection of cider, perry and ales to fill your glass. I have been lucky enough to get to several festivals this year and here is a review of some of the highlights.

Village Pump, Westbury

This is a folk festival that has the excellent Devon-based band, Show of Hands as their patrons. The backdrop to the site is the Westbury White Horse, carved into Bratton Hill around 800AD. There was a real ale bar provided by Bath Ales and a marquee next to the main stage housing a good selection of real cider, perry and blends from a variety of producers. Thatcher's dominated the choice and there were excellent offerings from JJs and Lilley's. Music came from Show of Hands, Oysterband, Martyn Carthy with Dave Swarbrick and many others. Show of Hands recorded a new live CD at the festival which will be released later this year.

www.villagepumpfolkfestival.co.uk/2015-festival/line-up/

Cambridge Folk Festival

Now in its 51st year with four stages and over 100 acts, this is one of the longest running folk festivals on the planet. Although dominated by a large mobile Guinness pub there was a real ale bar and a small booth from the Somerset Cider Company (pictured). In addition to selling their very drinkable farmhouse style cider they also had apple brandies available, the equal of

any Normandy Calvados. Music headline acts were Joan Baez, Joan Armatrading and an 81-year-old Peggy Seeger.

www.cambridgelivetrust.co.uk/folk-festival/line-up

Wickham Festival, Hampshire

Wickham is a reasonably local festival held in Wickham village just outside Fareham. The festival has three stages showcasing a range of musical styles to suit most tastes. Two cider and real ale bars were in action. The range of ciders and beers reminded me of our own Basingstoke Oktoberfest with mostly Hampshire produce. The range of cider and perry included the Mr Whitehead range and was available alongside JJs and Lilley's. This year the record crowd of 25,000 drank the bars dry just before last orders on the last day.

Bands included Billy Bragg, the Proclaimers and representing the aging rockers were 10CC, and Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel. Southampton-based 71 Chain played the second stage on Saturday and the Papertrains, also from Southampton provided late night entertainment in the main beer tent.

www.wickhamfestival.co.uk/line-up

For your diary: October is officially CAMRA Cider and Perry month so look out for special promotions from your local pub. October also includes Apple Day (21st October) which was launched in 1990 by Common Ground (www.commonground.org.uk). October is the time when cider producers are pressing their apples so is an ideal opportunity to see how real cider is made.

Tony Binns

Pub Focus

White Hart Hotel, Overton

Overton's historic coaching inn last closed its doors around three years ago and for a while its future looked uncertain. There were rumours that various celebrities were about to purchase the building but these all proved unfounded. Then, in 2014 it was announced that the pub-owning arm of Hampshire Brewery Upham had purchased the site (its 13th acquisition) and work began on an extensive (and expensive) repair program that was to last until 10th June this year when the refurbished White Hart finally reopened.

The new managers are Kate Leeke and Michael Karbowski, formerly of the King Alfred's Head in Wantage. They employ 13 staff, all local, mainly from the village itself. The hotel now boasts a bar, a restaurant run by innovative Head Chef Simon Lawrence, which sources mainly local produce, various dining areas and a light and airy rear 'patio'. There are also twelve guest rooms.

The beers at the time of my visit were all from Upham Brewery and I was told that there are plans to introduce locally sourced guest beers. By the time you read this it may well have happened. Gin lovers may also like to know that there is sponsorship from Bombay Sapphire, the gin from which is distilled less than 3 km away.

Unusually, when I announced my intention to take photos of the bar with some of the staff the entire female contingent suddenly disappeared from view. I can only attribute this to excessive



Photo: Dave Dry

modesty or mass camera shyness!

I had an enjoyable lunch time at the White Hart with some excellent sandwiches and beers. The members of staff are friendly, helpful and attentive and the entire experience was very pleasant; one that I hope to repeat very soon.

Jim Turner



Photo: Jim Turner

One of the dining rooms.



Photo: Jim Turner

Three members of the team - Ben, manager Michael Karbowski (centre) and another Michael.

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Awards

Congratulations to all concerned



The North Hampshire CAMRA Club of the Year Award being presented by Phil Myatt to staff member Jock Kerr (left) accepting on behalf of Bar Manager Dave Rouse at the Basingstoke Sports & Social Club.

Photo: Gareth Edwards



Brewers Bradley Cummings (left) and Gareth Williams of Tiny Rebel brewery, Newport with their award for this year's Champion Beer of Britain - Cwtch which means cuddle in Welsh. The ceremony took place at the Great British Beer Festival in Olympia. *Photo: Jim Turner*



Terry Brown, licensee of the Plough, Little London near Silchester with his award for CAMRA North East Hampshire Pub of the Year. Pictured with Terry is one of his bar team, Kerry. As we went to press it was announced that the Plough had also been awarded CAMRA Regional Pub of the Year (Wessex & Channel Islands). Winners of the Regional Awards go into the final 16 to find the CAMRA National Pub of the Year. Good luck, Terry!

Photo: Jim Turner



North Hampshire CAMRA member Martin Bennett presenting the award for North West Hampshire Pub of the Year to Philip Denée of the Watership Down Inn at Freefolk.

Photo: John Buckley

IT'S YOUR VOTE – USE IT

All CAMRA members are eligible to vote to get local breweries into the 2016 Champion Beer of Britain.

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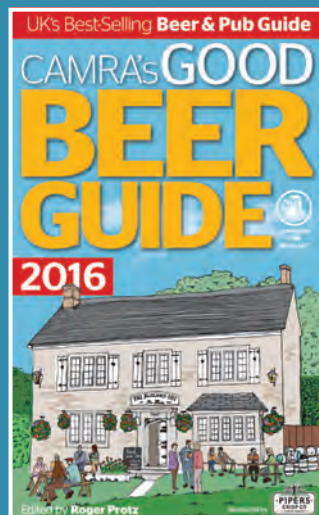
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Brewery News

Local brewery updates



Andwell Brewing Company

01256 761044

www.andwells.com

Andwells has had a busy summer period, seeing a number of new customers coming on line. Their canned Pilsner Hop has been going really well in the trade and is starting to be supplied through a number of wholesalers into the London market. *Crouch Hold Engage*, a 4.5 per cent tawny ale, is currently available and will be throughout the World Cup.

Building work is hoped to start very shortly on the 'Brewhouse' cafe and shop; this will replace and extend the old cask store and allow a more suitable destination for tours to start and finish. The brewery has recently started sponsoring the new Hook and Odiham Rugby Club which will be starting up this year.



Betteridge's Brewery

07771 966058

www.betteridgesbrewery.co.uk

Betteridge's Brewery goes from strength to strength and is consolidating its small place in an expanding market. The brewery now sells into the 3 Tuns in Great Bedwyn. The George and Dragon in Hurstbourne Tarrant has Betteridge's as their house ale, and the brewery continues to maintain their regular pubs as loyal customers.

After having gained First Place in the under 4.5 per cent section of the Southampton Beer Festival and Third Place overall, Betteridge's received their certificate on a courtesy visit to Vibrant Forest Brewery.

The summer included a visit to Germany selling their beer at the Ennepetal Highland games! An odd combination but the *Serious Black* was a firm favourite there and another visit is planned for next year.

Weddings and parties have been another mainstay of the business along with festivals and

the regular pubs. Demand is high; the brewery is now looking forward to the autumn and winter seasons and will bring back *Private Sector* best bitter with a renewed recipe.



Elusive Brewing

NEW

andy_parker@mac.com

andy@elusivebrewing.com

Andy Parker of Elusive Brewing is planning to open a new 5-barrel micro-brewery in Chineham before the end of this year. The decision to set up this new brewery in Chineham has only very recently been taken, the original plan was to open a building in Farnborough or Fleet but this did not prove successful. Andy already has a track record and reputation in the brewing industry. More news in the next issue.



Little London Brewery

NEW

01256 533044

www.littlelondonbrewery.com

Andy Watts is putting together a 5-barrel plant with three fermenters, similar to the setup at Phil Robins' plant at Longdog. The brewery is based at a small farm industrial unit, about halfway between Little London and Silchester. It's about 30 minutes' walk from the Plough. By the time you read this the brewery should be up and running. Andy will start with a session bitter which should be available at this year's OctoberFest. Two further beers are planned.



Longdog Brewery

01256 324286

www.longdogbrewery.co.uk

The brewery's one-off IPA has been very well received. At the time of writing there were still some bottles available from the brewery and the beer will make an appearance at a couple of beer

festivals in the next month or so. Longdog beers now appear regularly in the New Inn Basingstoke, the Soldiers Return at Oakridge, and the Fox & Hounds Tadley. Phil and Lisa are currently planning what to brew as their next Christmas Special. See the brewery's Facebook page (Longdogbrewery) for any breaking news.



Mash Brewery

01962 795023

Twitter @MashBrewery

www.mashbrewery.com

Romsey and Winchester Farmers' Markets continue to do well. MASH Pale featured at the Tally Ho, Broughton Beer Festival recently. The brewery's bottled *Pale* is now available in the River Cottage Canteen in Winchester. Their full range of bottled beers and mini-kegs are available from Inn at Home in Newbury. Pub outlets are continuing to expand which now include local Wetherspoons outlets. The brewery exhibited at the recent Hamble Food Fair and the Romsey Food Fest. Ringwood Farmers' Markets will be regular outlets between now and Christmas.



Sherfield Village Brewery

07906 060429

www.sherfieldvillagebrewery.co.uk

After a month in the USA, Peter Cook has returned to brewing, with a 6.6 per cent *Festival Special* to make appearances at various festivals, including Ascot, Sherfield and Octoberfest. The brewery's session bitter, *TBA*, continues to do well, with at least two more brews planned for release in September.



Wild Weather Ales

0118 970 1837

www.wildweatherales.com

Some new offerings have now appeared from the brewery. First, a beer they have been talking about for some time, a 6.1 per cent Earl Grey IPA called *Storm In A Teacup*. Second, a beer they have been asked to brew for Ascot beer festival, a 4.7 per cent rye beer called *Riders On The Storm*. Third, a new brew for Halloween, a 4.9 per cent treacle stout called *What a HORRIBLE NIGHT* (to have a curse). All are available in 330 ml bottles (limited availability) as well as cask or Keykeg. The brewery's seasonal offerings will now be available in the new 330ml bottles. There is now a Wild Weather-Waen Brewery collaboration, the first results of which were available initially in Wales.

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Pub Walk

Visiting pubs in Kingsclere

Start/Finish: Ashford Hill Road/George Street
 Bus Stops. (SU 531589)
 Total distance: 1.5 miles.

From Basingstoke take the Newbury Link bus service to Kingsclere, (no Sunday service).

As the bus turns off the A339 into Kingsclere leave the bus at the first stop - Ashford Hill Road. Cross the road, turn left and walk 200 yards to Love Lane, then turn right, keeping to the left-hand side of road passing through the metal barrier. Continue on the footpath passing the school on the left. After 200 yards, on reaching the road, turn left and walk to the end. On your left you will find the **Crown**. Dating back to the 17th century, this attractive whitewashed grade II listed building serves good wholesome food lunchtimes and evenings. On the day of our visit the three real ales were West Berkshire *Good Old Boy*, *Upham Punter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. (A notable incident happened at the pub on the night of 5 October 1944 when ten American soldiers from a nearby base serving in The All-Black 3247 Quartermasters Service Company were removed from the pub by military police. The soldiers returned later armed with rifles, hid behind walls in the church grounds opposite and opened fire on the pub killing a member of the American military police, a soldier and the landlady of the pub, Mrs Rose Napper. All were later captured; nine were given life sentences and one ten years' hard labour.)



On leaving the pub turn right onto Newbury Road. Cross over and continue on the left-hand side onto Popes Hill passing the buildings of the now defunct Drake's Brewery. On your right is the brewery tower, now converted into dwellings. Continue until you reach Fox's Lane, turn left and after 50 yards fork left continuing on Fox's Lane. After 50 yards go left through the gate onto the footpath, continue down to the river turn left then right over the river, passing the church to reach the road. Turn right and cross the road to find **Bel & The Dragon**, formerly the **Swan Hotel** which was a previous winner of the North Hampshire CAMRA pub of the year. This has now been taken over by a food-lead pub chain. On offer are three real ales; on the day these were West Berkshire *Mister Chubbs*, *Upham Stakes* and *Hop Back Summer Lightning*.

Leave the pub and turn left. After 50 yards turn left into Feilden Court, continue up the road on a gravel track going left until you reach a recreation area. Continue in the same direction keeping the houses on your left, exit the field in the corner, go down some steps and at a junction of paths go sharp left onto a footpath. Continue on down to the road ending at the **George & Horn**. This 18th-century inn has a friendly bar, excellent restaurant and ten en-suite rooms. Three hand-

pumps dispense real ale; on the day of the walk these were Young's *Bitter*, Black Sheep *Best Bitter* and Sharp's *Doom Bar*.

On leaving the pub cross the road, go left to the bus stop and the bus back to Basingstoke.

Geoff King



Photos: Geoff King

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