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REAL ALE

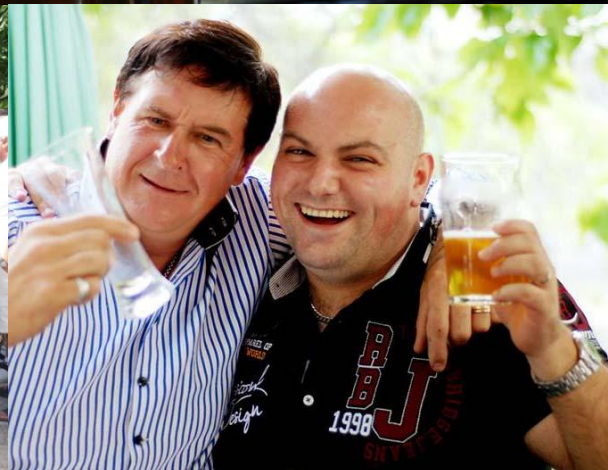
FREE

# THE CHILTERN TAPLER

NEWSLETTER OF MID CHILTERN'S CAMRA  
SPRING 2016

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## CONTENTS

- p.3 Never too old to enjoy real ale
- p.6 Lost Pubs of Buckinghamshire – part 3
- p.9 Pub News and Brews
- p.10 Around the Branch
- p.14 LocAle pubs list
- p.15 Brewery News
- p.19 New Zealand brewery feature
- p.21 Cyprus microbrewery feature
- p.22 Festivals Calendar
- p.23 Branch Contacts and Diary Dates

## NEVER TOO OLD TO ENJOY REAL ALE

In January, 93 year old Bill Kirk from Hemel Hempstead visited his 200<sup>th</sup> real ale establishment, mainly within 15 miles of home, since August 2010. This Ale Trail began shortly after his wife, Christine, died. In their last 30 years together they had made a short daily visit to their local together where Bill had his usual pint and two whiskies and a chat with locals. Understandably he was lost and lonely when he found himself alone at home. By then he was also very unstable on his feet so needed to be accompanied if going out. His son David and good friend Terry Gurney hatched a plan to cheer him up.

Coincidentally, Terry's father had died shortly earlier at the age of 95. Terry had spent many years taking his father to various country pubs in his latter years where he chatted to locals. Terry was convinced that the enjoyment had extended his dad's life. He had kept a list of those pubs so it was decided to revisit them with Bill to relive old times. Each Monday, between 6 and 8, the three chaps went out and ticked another off the list. Bill would have his pint of real ale followed by two single malts, while David and Terry enjoyed the Ales – (not in excess of driving limits of course!). After a year there were none left to visit on the original list but the weekly outings had been so enjoyable for Bill that a target was set for the 100 best pubs for him to visit before age caught up with him. It had become noticeable in this time that one of the favourite elements of the visits for Bill was being able to engage with the pub dogs. Being too old to walk a dog, he found this very therapeutic.

Using the Good Beer Guide, the internet and helpful articles in pub-friendly papers such as the Bucks Herald, Terry's new quest began. To merit a visit the pub had to serve good quality guest ales and not simply the usual fare, there had to be easy parking and, as Bill relies heavily on sticks to walk, there needed to be few steps and accessible toilets. To be sure of all these and to verify the final requirement – a good atmosphere and an attentive helpful bar team – Terry always paid an

(continues on p.4)

Find pubs or pub-like bars a short stroll from the ticket barriers of stations on the Tube Map. Good real ale pubs score eight stars or more, pubs with ten gold stars are worth the journey.

[pubsnearthetube.com](http://pubsnearthetube.com)

Find pubs or pub-like bars a short stroll from the rail stations on London's Rail & Tube map.

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advance visit on a Saturday night. He deserved a medal for this, said Bill. These recces took Terry to far flung villages and as some two out of three establishments did not fit this profile, there were wasted journeys.

The target of 100 was met mainly by visiting pubs within the Mid Chilterns area, but also in St Albans, Redbourn and Wendover. By this time Bill was 91 but had survived a scare. On the way into (not out of!!) the White Hart Tap in St Albans, Bill toppled backwards down the steps and hit his head on the pavement. He split the back of his head from top to bottom. It looked horrific and there was a fear that this would be the end of his outings. Amazingly, after several stitches and a rest, he was back out two weeks later, but after that steps without a rail to grab were avoided. The irony was that, if David had looked, the 'Tap' has a step free entrance further along, so they made sure they went that way when they eventually visited.

It was clear that these outings were good for Bill, so the trio decided to extend the target to 200 pubs – again at one a week when possible. This meant Terry seeking out more villages and covering towns such as Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. For special treats they reached Beaconsfield, Wooburn Green and Thame.

The good news for CAMRA Members is that this search has revealed that there are a large number of thriving and excellent real ale pubs in the area. In recent years the number serving four or more ales seems to be increasing. In particular, there are more local ales from brewers such as Vale, XT, Paradigm, Tring, Red Squirrel, Aylesbury Brewhouse Co. and Chiltern.

Additionally they found more special beers from breweries further afield such as Oakham, Rebellion, Ringwood and Timothy Taylor. All of these helped make the visits a real eye-opener and pleasure for the trio.

It was also good to find that many gastropubs, which were doubted initially, actually had very good, well-kept beers and welcomed visitors just wanting a pint. In fact, perhaps surprisingly, two of the best experiences were at gastro-type pubs. The vote for the best ale of the tour went to the pint of Thwaites Wainwright at the George and

Dragon in Wendover which was as well-tended and excellent as a beer can get. The vote for the most outstanding service from the bar team went to the family-run White Horse at Chorleywood and its sister pub the Kings Stag at Bushey. These two also had very well-kept and interesting ales. If only more managers

realised how important vigilance on good service is. If customers can't get served and the staff treat customers like an inconvenient interruption to chatting with mates or the latest internet search on their phone, then return visits are unlikely.

The recent introduction of beer taster shops and a micro pub in Leighton Buzzard (a very good one!!) has seen new opportunities for good beer, good company and aggravation-free drinking. It is early days and there could yet be licensing or planning restriction problems ahead. The group visited all of these locally and they fit perfectly into their early evening weekly slots.

The one heartening thing about most establishments visited was that locals and bar teams invariably helped to ensure that Bill, who is not exactly sprightly, was comfortable. The days of the friendly local are certainly not dead. Their



(L-R) Terry, Bill and David

top 30 pubs are on the opposite page. Though they were picked for their effect on one particular evening, the vast majority of the 200 were places the guys would happily revisit. They represented everything that is good about the real ale market. It may seem unfair to pick out one place, but the favourite, for all round friendliness, service, beer and good old-fashioned pub atmosphere was right near Luton Station – the Bricklayers Arms. This was only a smidgeon in front of the Land of Liberty at Heronsgate and the Royal Standard at Wooburn Common, though.

It is good news that Bill is still keen to continue and is feeling just as fit as he was five years ago. He is a bit worried, though, that he has averaged

twice the recent recommended weekly limit over the last 60 years and wonders if this might stop him reaching a hundred! The other two will remind him about that when he wants his second single malt next time. The outings will continue but will retrace steps to previous very memorable pubs.

The 200-page file that Terry painstakingly put together, giving details of every pub and its ales, will give good memories and interesting comparisons in years to come.

If any readers know an elderly person who likes an ale, this is a sure-fire way to make their latter years happy!

*David*

## BILL'S TOP 30 PUBS

### THE BEST 14 IN MID CHILTERN

Red Lion at Marsworth  
Rose & Crown at Ivinghoe  
Valiant Trooper at Aldbury  
Black Cat at Lye Green, Chesham  
Kings Arms at Tring  
Cock at Sarratt  
Bridgewater Arms at Little Gaddesden  
Rose & Crown at Trowley Bottom  
Queens Head at Old Chesham  
Red Lion at Little Missenden  
Jolly Cricketers at Seer Green  
Anchor at Tring  
Fox & Hounds at Chalfont St Giles  
George at Berkhamsted

### AND THE BEST 16 OUTSIDE THE BRANCH

Six Bells at St Albans  
Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty at Heronsgate  
Royal Standard of England at Forty Green  
Farmer's Boy at Kensworth  
Garibaldi at St Albans  
White Horse at Hedgerley  
Cross Keys at Thame  
Globe at Dunstable  
Royal Standard-Wooburn Common  
Old Millwrights Arms at Aylesbury  
Black Lion at Leighton Buzzard  
Hop Pole at Aylesbury  
Gate at Bryant's Bottom  
Bald Buzzard Ale House-Ltn Buzzard  
Bricklayers Arms at Luton  
Elephant & Castle at Amwell -  
Wheathampstead

**NOTE: The pubs are not listed in order of preference**

For all the latest info on beer festivals, Branch socials and meetings and more visit our website:  
[www.midchilternscamra.org.uk](http://www.midchilternscamra.org.uk)

Not getting a full pint in your local? Let your **Trading Standards Office** know. Call 0808 156 2259 (Bucks) or 08454 04 05 06 (Herts).

### LOST PUBS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – PART 3

**Nash Arms, Nashleigh Hill, Chesham** – an imposing Victorian/Edwardian building at the bottom of Nashleigh Hill, it served the north of Chesham reasonably well for many years. The last time I went there in the early 2000s, I remember having a very good pint of Adnams Bitter but it was clear that given the size of its plot, when push came to shove an avaricious pub company would attempt to ‘disinvest’. The usual tactics were deployed and the pub closed about two years ago.

**Rose & Crown, Waterside, Chesham** – a curious little pub this with a tiny saloon and larger, games orientated public bar, its heyday was without doubt the early nineties when under enlightened ownership it sold a fine range of real beers to an appreciative clientele. Inevitably however the successful publicans moved on and succeeding management could not match their enthusiasm. Bizarrely at the latter end of its life it was a branded Belhaven pub, although I cannot recall it selling their beers. Fullers too got involved in the 2000s but nonetheless, the pub closed about 2010. The building still exists sporting a ‘To Let’ board where once a pub sign would have been.

**Unicorn, Bois Moor Road, Chesham** – deep in the cress beds, this was a comparatively early closure, last doing business around 1990. An Allied pub, it always seemed to be run on a shoestring although perhaps surprisingly it was selling real beer (Benskin’s Bitter I believe) at the time of its demise. The building is now used as a nursery.

**Waggon & Horses, High Street, Chesham** – a solid red-brick pub at the bottom of White Hill and within barrel rolling distance of the old Chesham Brewery, it seemed to be on the point of closure for at least 15 years before its

ultimate demise. Inside it was something of a tardis in reverse, i.e. it looked far bigger from the outside than it was inside. There was something gloomy about this place which would not have attracted customers. Of course a bit of dosh and the odd splash of paint here and there would have worked wonders but we are dealing with Punch Taverns here... It’s not clear what the site will become as Chesham already has more than its share of vacant retail premises.

**Red Lion, Chesham Bois** – the second of two pubs in the area to succumb to the developers’ Sunday morning ram raid, the residents of Chesham Bois woke up to find that their pub was, if not a pile of rubble, at least by now beyond economic repair, and all this only one day after it had been sold... Another substantial, probably Edwardian building, its main trade was with locals who fancied a game of pool or darts over a pint of beer. Once again, a pub with potential which will now never be realised. Some outraged noises were heard at the time but of course it was all far too late and the fine for flouting planning regulations would have been laughable, if indeed it was ever imposed. Sometimes, hanging or barbarous forms of torture are just not enough...

**Golden Rule, Dagnall** – for much of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century this was a thriving free house although it didn’t initially sell real ale. In 1976 Tim Amsden (I believe it was he) found it to be ‘groaning at the floorboards with gimcrack nonsense of the ‘you don’t have to be mad to work here but it helps’ variety’. But despite this it soon joined the fold and on Friday and Saturday nights it was very much ‘standing room only’ that was if you could even get through the door. It went on to grace several Good Beer Guides but somehow

or another it lost its way and when I last visited it on the way back from a football match in about 2007, I found it sadly down at heel. It closed the following year and is much mourned.

**The Axe & Compasses, The Bell and The Rule & Square, Edlesborough** – these were a long way from my stamping ground and so I regret that I never visited them, although I remember The Bell as being a rather cosy-looking pub up a short flight of stairs opposite the church. If anybody has any recollections of them, please contact the editor. The last 40 years have not been kind to Edlesborough, not only has it lost three of its four pubs but the striking St. Mary's church – visible for miles around – has ceased to perform its primary function although mercifully it is now in the sympathetic hands of the Church Conservation Trust.

**The Barley Mow, Hyde End, Great Missenden** – in the early seventies this then Courage pub was a simple stuccoed building with two bars offering darts or (relative) comfort. Around 1978, it was purchased by a couple whose names I recall as David and Peter, who increased the number of real beers from one to three (regularly stocking Morrell's Varsity and Arkell's BBB – a rarity for the area) and the place began to motor. Extended a couple of years later, it expanded the food trade whilst retaining its appeal as a pub – it even made the Good Beer Guide for a couple of years.

However as often happens, David and Peter moved on when the pub was at its most popular and the place was never the same again. Custom began to drop off and ultimately it became 'Annie Bailey's' restaurant which soldiered on until a couple of years ago. It is now boarded up, awaiting the passage of HS2 which goes right through the building.

**The George, High Street, Great Missenden** – now this one really does make my blood boil. Originally an ABC pub it was one of the most attractive licensed buildings for miles around, much of it dating from the late mediaeval period. Throughout the eighties and nineties this was perhaps the most popular pub in Great Missenden, offering a high level of food and drink as well as a lively atmosphere in the capable hands of Guy and Sally. When they moved on, the place began to drift, although like the Queen's Head in Chesham, it did for a while play host to a Thai restaurant. In recent years it has passed through a number of hands without ever being terribly successful and often being closed between tenants. Its future as a pub is very much in doubt but the age of the building means that the structure cannot be altered in any major way. In all honesty, if a pub company cannot make money on this place then they may as well give up.

**Red Lion, High Street, Great Missenden** – at the dawn of the real beer revolution, this was Great Missenden's number one pub, and when I first remember it about 1976, it was selling Sam Smith's, Ruddell's County and Fuller's London Pride. It even had a Les Routiers award for its food. The pub itself was plush, quite large but very long and narrow meaning that you had to breathe in to get past the regulars sitting on bar stools. My recollection is that it was sold in the early eighties and given something of a budget makeover, presumably part funded by the Bass Group because that's whose beer appeared on the bar, to the exclusion of everything else. Clearly the locals were not pleased by the changes because within a couple of years the pub had closed, never to re-open. The bulk of it is now an estate agents.

*Del*



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## PUB NEWS & BREWS

**AMERSHAM.** The two new outlets in 'Top Amersham' were visited in early January. In the **Brewery Shop**, owned by Red Squirrel, two of their beers could be found alongside guest beers from XT and Bristol Beer Factory. Round the corner, the **Metro Lounge and Bar** offered Rebellion Mutiny. **BOURNE END.** A January visit to the two pubs found Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale and Haresfoot Wild Boy in the **Anchor**, while next door in the **White Horse**, McMullen AK and Country Bitter and Whole Hop Bootwarmer were available. **BERKHAMSTED.** Haresfoot Sundial, Tring Side Pocket for a Toad, Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted and Sharp's Doom Bar could be found in the **Old Mill** when visited in October. In the nearby **Goat** Fullers London Pride, Haresfoot Wild Boy, Tring Sidepocket for a Toad and Sharps Doom Bar were available. In the **George**, Bath Gem, Sharp's Atlantic and Westons Rosie's Pig cider were on offer. Moving on to January, as well as 18 ciders and perries, the **Rising Sun** catered for the beer drinkers with Tring Riser Bitter, Vale IPA, XT15 and Animal Rudolph from XT. While on the same day, Haresfoot Old Tiney. Tring Albatross, Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Oakham JHB, Sharps Doom Bar, Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale were the selection available in the **Crown**. **BOVINGDON.** Real Ale returned to the **Bull**, a pub that had not sold any for many years, in December when a cask of John Smiths Bitter could be found on the bar. However, on a negative note, the pub closed its doors for the last time in January and is currently being converted in to housing. **CHESHAM.** The town was a good place to find Christmas beers over the festive period. The **Pheasant** offered Shepherd Neame Rudolph's Reward as did the **Gamekeeper's Lodge** and in the **Jolly Sportsman** Thwaites Yule Love It and Hardy & Hansons Rocking Rudolph could be found. The **George & Dragon** was selling Charles Wells A Good Stuffing, while down the road, the **Red Lion** had Hardy & Hansons Rocked Out and Fuller's Jack Frost was in the

**Queens Head.** Jack Frost could also be found in the **Misty Moon** alongside Everards Sleighbells, Young's Winter Warmer and Hardy & Hansons Rocking Rudolph. **GREAT MISSENDEN.** During early January, Rebellion IPA, Sharp's Doom Bar, Timothy Taylor Landlord and Radnage Cider could be found in the **Black Horse**. **HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.** At the **Crabtree** during a December visit, Christmas beer Butcombe Chris Moose could be found alongside Great Yorkshire Top of the Hops, Wells Bombardier and Brakspear Bitter. A Hungry Horse venue, the **Pommel Horse** opened in 2015. Greene King beers can be found here, which were IPA, Abbot and IPA Reserve when visited in November. **LEVERSTOCK GREEN.** A branch wander in October found the following. The **Olde Leather Bottle** offered Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar and Thatchers Cider. Nearby in the **Green Man** St Austell Tribute, Proper Job, Greene King IPA, Fuller's London Pride and Timothy Taylor Boltmaker were available. The beers on the bar in the **Plough** were Courage Best Bitter, Directors and Charles Wells Bombardier Burning Gold. **TRING.** A visit in November found the following beers in this market town. The **Anchor** offered two Greene King beers (IPA and London Glory) alongside Side Pocket for a Toad and Catstail from Tring Brewery. In the **Kings Arms**, Animal Snarl Black Special Ale, Chiltern Double 50, Tring Moongazing and Millwhites Somer Gold could be found. The Vale owned **Castle** was selling Wychert and Red Kite plus guest beer Side Pocket for a Toad from Tring. Moving on to the **Bell**, Tring Side Pocket could also been found here as well as Ridgeway Bitter. Finally, in the **Robin Hood** five Fullers beers were on offer (London Pride, ESB, Oliver's Island, Seafarer and Firecracker) alongside Butcombe Chinook Ale and Cornish Orchard Mulled Cider. **WINKWELL.** A January visit to the **Three Horseshoes** found Wells Eagle and Wells Bombardier plus Courage Directors available in this riverside pub.

## AROUND THE BRANCH

### A RAINY DAY IN MARKYATE TURNED OUT JUST FINE!!

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January the branch had a social in Markyate. It was a dull, cold, rainy day but we had a pretty good turnout. We started at **The Swan** at noon and were made to feel very welcome. The barman even came and took our orders at our table for the second round and brought the drinks over, a fairly rare occurrence in my experience, so many thanks. Everyone liked the **Sharp's Nadelik** (the Cornish word for Christmas) at 4.8% and second pints of this were savoured. We also briefly chatted to Andrew, the owner.

We then made our way to the **Plume of Feathers**. Usually this pub doesn't open until 4 p.m. but as Bev, the Bar Manager, noticed in the Tapler that we were doing a pub crawl, she offered to open early for us. For this we were very grateful and were greeted just after 2 p.m. by a very warm welcome (from Bev and the lovely roaring wood fire). She also put on an extra beer for us so we had **Tring Ridgeway** and **Tring Moongazing**, both in excellent condition and only £3 a pint. There were also free nibbles on the bar and tables. Well worth a visit for anyone who hasn't been to Markyate before.

At the end of the day, bus permitting, we just had time for a quick visit up the road to the **Spotted Dog** at Flamstead where we supped **Tring Brock** and **Tring Colley's Dog**.

All in all, a lovely day out despite the rain. Thanks to all three pubs for making us feel very welcome.

*Gillie*

### SAINT GEORGE'S DAY AND SHAKESPEARE 400, SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

With Saint George's Day falling on a Saturday this year we can expect a lot more action from our pubs, and not just those with 'George' and/or 'Dragon' in their names. This date has a good claim as Shakespeare's birthday in 1564 and is definitely the day he died in 1616 – four

hundred years ago. Expect activity in pubs named after him, one of his plays or a famous line. By the way, his father was an ale-conner (taster). There will be Shakespeare events in theatres etc. all year.

The most common patriotic ale for Saint George is Wells Bombardier, because of the pump clip, but there is a good choice of others, e.g. Cottage St. George's Ale, Harvey's Georgian Dragon, St. George's Brewery By George, Wadworth St. George & the Dragon and Young's St George's. LocAle choices include Tring By George.

For Shakespeare we have McMullen's Bard of Ale, Warwickshire Beer Co.'s Shakespeare's County and the catch-all Centenary Patriotic Ale from LocAle brewer Red Squirrel.

Pubs will be arranging celebrations and patriotic ales, for example **The Full Moon** (Hawridge Common) organizes a special ceremony every year, covering both Saint George and Shakespeare. Other pubs will also put on celebrations, meals and/or patriotic ales; I know about **The Anchor** (Tring), **The Bell** (Chartridge), **The Black Cat** (Lye Green), **The Boot & Slipper** (Amersham), **The Castle** (Tring), **The Chequers** (Amersham), **The Craft Beer Shop** (Little Chalfont), **The Crown** (Berkhamsted, Ley Hill and Little Missenden), **The Elephant & Castle** (Amersham), **The Full House** (Hemel Hempstead), **The Gamekeepers Lodge** (Chesham), **The George & Dragon** (Chesham), **The Harte & Magpies** (Coleshill), **The Jolly Sportsman** (Chesham), **The King's Arms** (Tring), **The Lamb** (Berkhamsted), **The Misty Moon** (Chesham), **The Pheasant** (Chesham), **The Plough** (Hyde Heath), **The Queens Head** (Chesham), **The Red Lion** (Chenies and Chesham), **The Red Lion** (Marsworth), **The Rising Sun** (Berkhamsted), **The Rose & Crown** (Ivinghoe), **The Squirrel** (Penn Street), **The Sugar Loaf Inn** (Little Chalfont), **The Two Brewers** (Chipperfield), **The**

**Valiant Trooper** (Aldbury) and **The White Lion** (Little Chalfont).

So raise a glass to Saint George and Shakespeare at the same time, or separate ones to each if you prefer.

*Brian*

### SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY, SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Valentine of Rome was a third century Saint, martyred in Rome for supporting Christian marriage; he is commemorated around the world on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Saint Valentine's Day is now the day for face-to-face togetherness. As always, many pubs are making an effort to tempt you in. You can have a romantic meal for two (often with a special menu and music) at **The Bedford Arms** (Chenies), **The Bell** (Chartridge) – on Saturday 13th, **The Boot & Slipper** (Amersham), **The Bridgewater Arms** (Little Gaddesden), **The Full Moon** (Hawridge Common), **The Kings Arms** (Amersham), **The Old Mill** (Berkhamsted), **The Plough** (Hyde Heath), **The Plough** (Winchmore Hill), **The Red Lion** (Chenies, Chesham and Dagnall), **The Two Brewers** (Chipperfield) and **The Swan** (Ley Hill).

If you don't want to eat, **The George & Dragon** (Chesham) will have music on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and **The Queens Head** (Chesham) will hold a 'Mr & Mrs' quiz, also on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Many pubs and shops are planning to source a Valentine's Ale including **The Black Cat** (Lye Green), **The Craft Beer Shop** (Little Chalfont), **The Crown** (Berkhamsted), **The Full House** (Hemel Hempstead), **The Gamekeepers Lodge** (Chesham), **The Jolly Sportsman** (Chesham) and **The Misty Moon** (Chesham).

*Brian*

### ANNUAL DARTS MATCH

At the end of November we held our annual darts match at the Black Cat, Chesham. Because a few members were away on holiday, our numbers were a bit depleted. But it was still an enjoyable afternoon, thanks to Lou and Elaine, who got Timothy Taylor Mild in for us; it went down extremely well.



(L-R:) **John Lomax, Roy Humphrey, Chris Peers, Liz Doughton and Dave Badminton**

Chris Peers was the winner of the singles, beating Roy Humphrey in a close-run contest. In the doubles, Roy and John Lomax beat Dave Badminton and Liz Doughton. Well done everyone!

*Gillie*

### SPRING ALES AND EASTER

This year Good Friday is the 25<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The spring ales will be coming to the bar of almost all our cask ale pubs about then. The release of spring ales from the brewers signals the end of the winter brews. A typical spring ale is light-coloured, hoppy and thirst- quenching, in contrast to the dark, strong winter ales. Our LocAle brewers offer Gales Spring Sprinter, Haresfoot Spring Ale, Rebellion Zebedee, Tring Bring Me Sunshine, Vale Bandwagon and XT Brewery's XT 15 – expect others as spring approaches.

On the continent, Easter Ales are a centuries-old tradition but don't seem to exist over here. I hope someone can prove me wrong because I have heard rumours of 'special pump clips'. I know some pubs are trying to source one to go with their Easter events, such as festivals or special menus, but I suspect they will have to default to a spring ale. Those trying are **The Bell** (Chartridge) - plus mini-fest, **The Black Cat** (Lye Green), **The Full Moon** (Hawridge Common) - plus mini-fest, **The Gamekeepers Lodge** (Chesham) - plus separate parties for kids and adults, **The Pheasant** (Chesham), **The Plough** (Hyde Heath), **The Queens Head** (Chesham)

(continues on p. 12)

plus mini-fest, **The Red Lion** (Marsworth) - plus mini-fest, **The Rising Sun** (Berkhamsted) - plus an Easter Egg hunt, **The Swan** (Ley Hill) and **The White Lion** (Little Chalfont).

The number of Easter festivals is growing so keep checking the branch website.

*Brian*

**MID CHILTERNS CAMRA AGM: WANTED:  
NEW TAPLER EDITOR!**

The Mid Chilterns Branch Annual General Meeting will take place at the **Black Cat**, Lye Green, Chesham on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May. We encourage all members to come along. This is your chance to hear all about what the Branch Committee does, elect its members for the next year and – if you're up for it – stand for election to one of its positions.

One Committee role that will definitely be up for grabs this year is the editorship of the Tapler. After five years at the helm, the Summer issue will be my last. I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot. If you think you might be interested but want to find out more about what's involved, please get in touch – my contact details are on p.23. Better still, come along to a Committee meeting before May (details are on p.23) and have a chat with us. If you're interested in any of the other Committee positions, get in touch with our Chairman, Dave Badminton.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

*William*

**SAINTS' DAYS**

Amid all the excitement about the Bard's big anniversary in England this year, let us not forget that other nations of the British Isles will have their chance for patriotic celebration in the coming months.

Dewi Sant (St. David) was a Welsh Archbishop who died in the sixth century, probably on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. This date has been celebrated as the National Day of Wales ever since and one day it will be an official bank holiday. The problem I have with him is that he tried to stop his monks

drinking beer, which was about the only safe source of water in those days.

There are special ales for his day: look out for Brains St David's Ale, Coach House Dewi Sant Heritage Ale, Conwy Cwrw Dewi Sant (cwrw is Welsh for beer) and Leeky Barrel Ale, Evan Evans St David's Ale, Iechyd Da St. David's Welsh Ale, Moles Dafydd Ale and Tomos Watkins Dewi Sant.



Some of our pubs are looking for Welsh ale or will hold celebrations for expatriates (or both) and you might enjoy them as well. Try **The Black Cat** (Lye Green), **The Craft Beer Shop**, **The Crown** (Berkhamsted), **The Full House** (Hemel Hempstead), **The Gamekeepers Lodge**, **The Misty Moon** (Chesham) and **The Red Lion** (Chenies), **The Rising Sun** – plus ciders (Berkhamsted) and **The Squirrel** (Penn Street). You will find Welsh rarebit at **The Plough** (Hyde Heath) and **The White Lion** (Little Chalfont).

**The Queens Head** (Chesham) will have Welsh ale at their beer & cider mini-Fest, starting on 29<sup>th</sup> February.

Saint Patrick's Day celebrations have followed the Irish around the world; their descendants carry on the tradition and invite everyone to join in. It is held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, unless it clashes with the Church's Holy week as it did in 1940 and 2008. The next clash isn't until 2160 so we needn't worry yet.

Guinness has captured the licensed trade for this celebration and ships in vast volumes of keg stout from Ireland. A few UK brewers are striking a blow against 'Stout Miles' with their own 'Irish style' real ale offerings. My favourite is Wychwood Paddy's Tout (*ho ho*). Hilden, a Northern Ireland brewer, has Molly Malone Porter. Our LocAle brewers have Chiltern Black, Concrete Cow Cloven Hoof, Oxfordshire Mighty Ox, Rebellion Hole in One, Red Squirrel London Porter, Tring Tea Kettle Stout, Vale Black

**(continues on p.14)**

# A Campaign

# of Two Halves

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

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Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Beauty Porter and XT Brewery's XT 9 Black Ale, though XT states, "This is NOT a stout, it's something else entirely".

Most pubs have some sort of Guinness-fuelled party but some try a little harder and endeavour to get a different stout in and provide the traditional music; **The Craft Beer Shop** (Little Chalfont), **The Crown** (Ley Hill) - plus live music, **The Gamekeepers Lodge** (Chesham) - plus Irish food on the weekend, **The George & Dragon** (Chesham) with music on the 18<sup>th</sup>, **The Jolly Sportsman** (Chesham), **The Misty Moon** (Chesham) with Irish music and dancers, **The Pheasant** (Chesham), **The Plough** (Hyde Heath), **The Queens Head** (Chesham) with a quiz, **The Red Lion** (Chesham), **The Sugar Loaf Inn** (Little Chalfont) and **The White Lion** (Little Chalfont).

**The Rising Sun** (Berkhamsted) holds a "There is no Guinness for you here" event.

*Brian*

#### THE GARIBALDI, BOURNE END

Introducing the new sister pub for **The Jolly Cricketers** in Seer Green.....

Chris and Amanda have taken over a 5-year lease at **The Garibaldi** in Bourne End. The pub is owned by 35 local residents who purchased the freehold from Punch Taverns. They signed the lease on 2nd December and opened on 7th December.

Cask Marque have visited recently and scored 100% for the ales! They are serving three local ales at the moment from Chiltern Brewery and Rebellion. As soon as trade allows they will offer another couple of ales. The Head Chef, Ben Haywood cooks modern British seasonal food. The Garibaldi offers a bar and a la carte menu, seven days a week.

The Jolly Cricketers and The Garibaldi will be having Real Ale and Cider Festivals this Easter and August Bank Holiday Weekends.

#### FAREWELL TO NICK

Nick Boley (pictured below, centre), our Regional Director, presented the Regional Pub of the Year 2015 certificate to Mark and Nigel at the Rising Sun in October last year.



Nick has been our RD for the last 3 years but is now standing down and moving from Bracknell to Suffolk. We wish him all the best for the future.

*Dave B.*



CAMRA promotes pubs that stock well kept locally-brewed real ale. There is an established demand for traditionally made, quality products that are truly local. This supports the local economy and helps the environment by reducing "beer miles". Participating pubs are reviewed regularly.

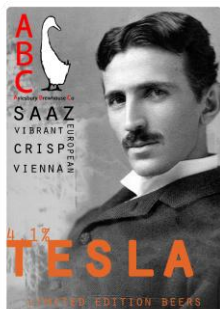
Aldbury	Lamb	Chenies	Leverstock Green	Seer Green
Valiant Trooper	Rising Sun	Red Lion	Green Man	Jolly Cricketers
Amersham	Botley	Chesham	Ley Hill	Swan Bottom
Boot and Slipper	Hen & Chickens	Brewery Shop	Crown	Old Swan
Crown	Bourne End	Queen's Head	Swan	Tring
Eagle	White Horse	Coleshill	Little Chalfont	Anchor
King's Arms	Boxmoor	Harte & Magpies	White Lion	Bell
Swan	Social Club	Great Missenden	Markyate	Castle
Apsley	Bridens Camp	Nag's Head	Plume of Feathers	King's Arms
Paper Mill	Crown &	Hemel Hempstead	Marsworth	Robin Hood
White Lion	Sceptre	Full House	Angler's Retreat	Whelpley Hill
Berkhamsted	Chartridge	Old Bellgate	Red Lion	White Hart
Crown	Bell	Ivinghoe	Penn Street	Wigginton
		Rose & Crown	Squirrel	Greyhound

## BREWERY NEWS

**AYLESBURY BREWHOUSE COMPANY:** The brewing schedule was interrupted over Christmas by the building works at the rear of the Hop Pole. This resulted in a lack of stock in early January, however we are now back in full flow and brewing as fast as we can to make more lovely limited edition beers.

Currently available are **Kineticism**, 4.4% ABV, a red beer with rye and malt flavours balanced with copious quantities of aromatic hops from across the Atlantic.

**Tesla** 4.1% ABV, is a European-style, pale gold beer brewed with Vienna and Lager malts and softly hopped with Saaz.



In the pipe-line and coming soon we have:

**Kronos**, 4.1% ABV. The Greek god of time, Kronos devoured his children as soon as they were born so as not to be overthrown by them. This deep red beer is softly hopped with the classic blend of Fuggles and Goldings.

**Down Under**, 4.7% ABV. Full of Aussie and Kiwi hops, this beer is packed with tropical flavours. Dry-hopped with Galaxy for an intense aroma, it brings a little bit of Southern sun to brighten our Northern gloom.

**Ursa Major**, 4.6% ABV. The constellation Ursa Major (Latin for Great Bear) is surrounded by myths and legends of gods, huntsmen, beautiful maidens and divine intervention. We've dry-hopped this intense dark red, fruity beer for a big flavour. One to look out for over the winter months.

**Steam Punk IPA**, 5.1% ABV. Strong and hoppy, this copper IPA is brim-full of American and English hops, blended with the finest pale and crystal malts for a rather pleasing tipple.

**CHILTERN BREWERY'S** calendars of draught and bottled beers for 2016 include some exciting new styles. There will be at least 12 seasonal and limited-edition draught ales released through the year to complement the 3 permanent draughts, including a refreshing and spicy **Earl Grey IPA**, a dark mocha **Coffee Porter** and a claret-red biscuity **Red Rye Beer** in October. Before that, February sees the return of the extremely popular dark amber smooth roast malt **Chiltern Double Fifty**. This was originally brewed last year to commemorate the joint 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of The Chiltern Society and Chilterns AONB.

Bottled beers will include a yet-to-be-named classic traditional bottle-conditioned India Pale Ale which has been the brewery's 2000<sup>th</sup> 'Gyle' – a specialist brewing term referring to an amount of one beer produced at one brewing. That's a great annual rate of production over a period of 36 years of making classic English ales!

The brewery tap, the **King's Head** in Aylesbury, prides itself on being a real ale pub of excellence with a great selection of carefully chosen guest and craft beers too, from independent breweries across the country. Their special celebration of porters, stouts, dark and old ales may now be drawing to a close, but it is becoming an annual event so do look out for it again at the beginning of 2017 if you've missed it this year. Both the online beer menu and social media channels have details of what is available and when.

Finally, please note there are new opening hours at the brewery shop in Terrick concentrating now on Thursday, Friday and Saturday trading and an impressive new set of craft metal gates at the entrance that are well worth closer inspection.

See [www.chilternbrewery.co.uk](http://www.chilternbrewery.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/TheFarmersBar](https://www.facebook.com/TheFarmersBar), Twitter @chiltern\_brewer and @Kings\_Head.

**HARESFOOT BREWING CO.** has an exciting and busy year planned! We are already preparing for the 2nd Berkhamsted Beer Festival on 21-22 May. This will be a celebration of local ales with 18 beers from across the Chilterns. Once again we will line up local bands.

Look out for a newly launched Red Ale called “**Stardust**” and a Mild might just be in the wings! Haresfoot’s Plum Porter **Old Tiney** has proved very popular over the Christmas period. If you haven’t tried it we still have some bottled Old Tiney left. The inspiration for Old Tiney is the pet jack-hare in William Cowper’s poem “Epitaph on a Hare”. Cowper was an 18th century poet born in Berkhamsted who had three pet hares: Old Tiney, Bess, and Jess.

This year we’ll be using our wonderful brewery space for more local community events. Check out our website [www.haresfoot.com/events](http://www.haresfoot.com/events) or [Facebook events pages](https://www.facebook.com/haresfootbrewery) for details <https://www.facebook.com/haresfootbrewery>.

As well as our major events, like the Comedy Night (23 April), and the Summer Beer, Blues and BBQ (25 June), look out for our new ‘Thirsty Thursdays’ and Friday Quiz Nights. On Thursday evenings the brewery will be bustling with our regular brewery tours, free ‘Busking in the Brewery’ and our new free event, Music on Tap (Open Mic nights). We’ll also be hosting more Members’ Evenings, starting with a beer and cheese tasting on 25 February. Pop into the shop to renew or join whilst enjoying free samples from the bar. Starting in March, the first Friday of the month will see the return of our Quiz Nights, 7-9pm. More details to follow, but start getting your team together now!

**MALT THE BREWERY** kicked off the 2016 brewing calendar with the very successful **Starry Nights**. Based on a one-off brew that was runner-up in the CAMRA Beer of the Festival Competition in Maidenhead last year, Starry Nights has become one of the brewery’s fastest sellers. A well-balanced, light, fruity ale, that’s rich amber in colour and 4.0% ABV, it will now be available all year round. Starry Nights has already had great pickup in the trade. In fact

the first gyle sold out before the brewery had a chance to put it back on the brewing schedule!

2016 is set to be a great year for Team Malt as they enter their fourth year of trading. Jenny Watson, wife of Nick, the brewery’s founder has now joined the team full-time and will lead the trade sales effort. She is looking forward to getting out to see customers and helping the Team Malt effort. She’s already become pretty good at collecting empties on her rounds, if the brewery van isn’t due in town!

The current line up of Malt Ales is on [www.maltthebrewery.co.uk](http://www.maltthebrewery.co.uk). If any landlord would like to place an order or just request a pick of empties, Jenny can be contacted at [sales@maltthebrewery.co.uk](mailto:sales@maltthebrewery.co.uk) or by calling 01494 865063.

For 2016 **TRING BREWERY** have teamed up with the de Havilland Aircraft Museum near St. Albans, helping to raise new funds for the

Museum hangar project through a unique promotion that gives customers the opportunity to win exclusive tours of Tring Brewery and Museum plus a flight. More details can be found on Tring’s website ([www.tringbrewery.co.uk](http://www.tringbrewery.co.uk)). All the monthly specials for 2016 will be named after de Havilland aircraft with the pump clips carrying the museum badge. The beers themselves represent some new developments for the brewery, with less traditional ingredients,

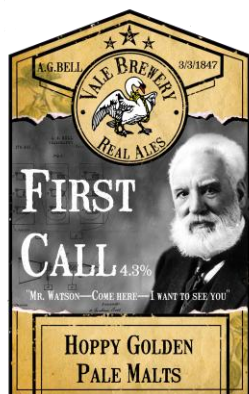


dry-hopping and some specialist malts all making an appearance.

Speaking of dry-hopping the brewery has just launched **Drop Bar Pale Ale**. Replacing Kotuku, this crisp refreshing 4.0% pale is described as the perfect all year round thirst-quencher. Dry-hopping means low levels of bitterness but a refined aroma and palate, providing space for the light, biscuity malt base to cut through.

**VALE BREWERY:** **Hornbook**, the January special saw unprecedented demand in the run up to Burns Night, so much so that the February special **Two Cities** has been released early. Two Cities, 4.0% ABV, is a fusion of the finest ingredients from two great nations, creating a well rounded, soft, light copper beer without compromise; a magical blend of English malts and French hops.

Here's something different for March. To celebrate the invention of the telephone, **First Call** has been brewed. A golden beer at 4.3% ABV, this showcases the timeless flavours of the finest Marris Otter malt with the fresh aromas of Spring hops.



Meanwhile as the Six Nations kicks off, **Lock Prop & Barrel** makes a welcome return. A 3.9% tawny-coloured Thames Valley Bitter brewed with 6 different hops. If past sales are anything to go by this won't be around long.

To accompany Lock Prop & Barrel is a new brew named **Grand Union**, a heavily hopped, deep copper-coloured ale at 3.8% ABV. It's sure to fly across the bar, just as we hope the rugby ball will!

Building work has started on the long awaited extension to the brewery site in Brill. The new building will increase our warehouse by some 70% and will allow us to further expand and

diversify. Here's looking forward to 2016 and our 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**XT BREWERY:** There are lots of new beers on their way for the spring. The new annual special is **XT-16** – a punchy 6% Belgian Style IPA – quadruple-hopped with some of Europe's finest greenery. Belgian speciality malts and a European Union of hops all presided over by a Brussels Abbey Ale Yeast. Plus the XT Brewery is built on the site of an Augustinian Abbey.

The Animals have been busy with two new cask beers –

Animal **'Big Foot'** is a noble-hopped 4.6% crisp Pale Ale. 'Noble' Hops are particular historic traditional varieties – many of which are the grandparents of the newer 'trendy' strains.

Animal **'Shark'** is a transatlantic Anglo-American style amber ale. A battle of English and American hops with a unique Anglo-American yeast blend.

Plus two new 'craft' beers for 330ml bottles and keg:

Perfect for Easter...The **Rabbit 5% Motueka IPA** was a great hit last year – it's bouncing back again for 2016. An um-bongo of a beer packed with New Zealand hops and now in a more nimble smaller suit.

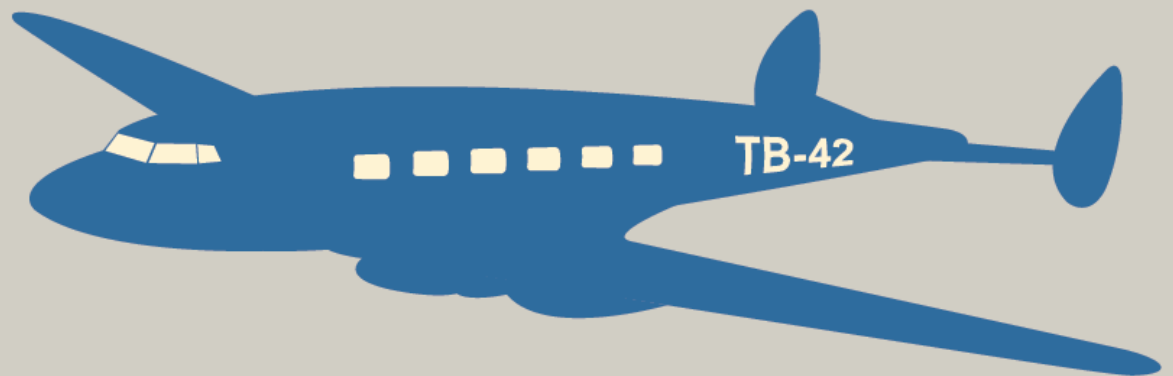
The **OINK!** 4.6% Red Rye Yakima was one of the first of the Animals and he's back in bottle form – red rye malts and hops from the Yakima Valley.

The National Trust estate at Waddesdon Manor has commissioned a rather unique beer from XT – a **Quince Ale**. The quince is all grown on the estate and XT worked with them to create a very special bottled beer. The new 4.2% Quince Ale will be available exclusively in bottle from Waddesdon Manor from the spring.

Coming soon – XT are working on packaging their beers in cans. If trials go well, the cans will be available later this year. The next brewery open day is on St George's day – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

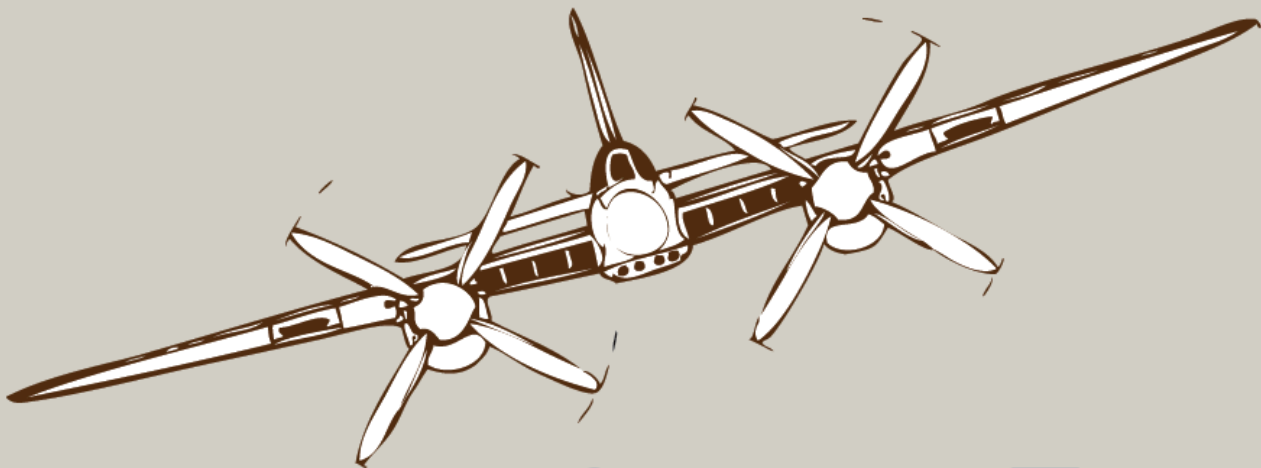
# FLYING HIGH

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RD DRAGONFLY SEA VIXEN VAMPIRE MOSQUITO  
INFLY SEA VIXEN VAMPIRE MOSQUITO COMET HORNET HUMMINGBIRD  
NET HUMMINGBIRD DRAGON RAPIDE QUEEN BEE HOUND GYPSY MOTH DRAGONFLY

## VISITING AOTEAROA\* BREWERIES, NEW ZEALAND

During my recent stay in 'The Land of the Long White Cloud', I visited Mata Brewery which is situated in the timber town of Kawerau, in North Island's Bay of Plenty.

Mata Brewery is located in a lock-up premises in Kawerau's industrial zone; it's a family-run business started in 2005 when Tammy Viitakangas bought Mata beer to life with her Mum Gloria, Dad Jouni and Uncle Esko. Tammy was born in Kawerau; Jouni is Finnish and was attracted to the town by the employment opportunities in its pulp and paper mills.

Mata means edge, freshness and rawness, the company's catch phrase being 'A Beer from the Edge'. The water used for brewing comes from one of the deep bore

holes on the nearby Rangataiki Plains. Jouni drives his truck every day to the artesian well to fill up his towed tank with 1,800 year-old pure, filtered water to be used for the day's brewing. Their beers are made entirely from natural products without any preservatives, animal products or added sugar. Hops come from Nelson in South Island, barley from Europe and yeast from the USA.

I was welcomed by Jouni, who was proud to display the workings of the brewery, starting with a 1,200 litre mixing vessel, a boiler (heated by an electric element), the usual fermentation vessel and the unusual

beer storage tanks: they were originally designed for dairy use to contain milk, cooled using an outer jacket – in Mata's case glycol is the cooling agent and evidence of the internal temperature of 3-4°C could be seen in the form of a skin of ice around the outside.



All the Mata beers are bottled or put into stainless steel 'barrels' of 50 litres capacity. I was shown into the bottling room. The original machine, which was powered by compressed air, had been built by Jouni himself. An imported, computer controlled machine now takes care of most of the bottling.

The range of Mata's beers is impressive, from 'Mata Volcano' a 7% ABV NZ IPA, to 'Frisky Feijoa' a 5% fruit beer. Mata

Manuka is a Golden Ale with a hint of NZ's native Manuka honey. My favourite is Maccino, a 6% chocolate-coffee Porter which uses freshly ground espresso from a local Whakatane roastery, cocoa ribs and vanilla beans.

As a farewell gift I gave Jouni a copy of 'The Chiltern Tapler', and in exchange he dug out a copy of 'The Pursuit of Hoppiness', the publication of SOBA, New Zealand's equivalent of CAMRA.

\*Aotearoa is the Maori name for New Zealand



*Wheels*

# THE ESSENTIAL BEER GUIDE TO LONDON

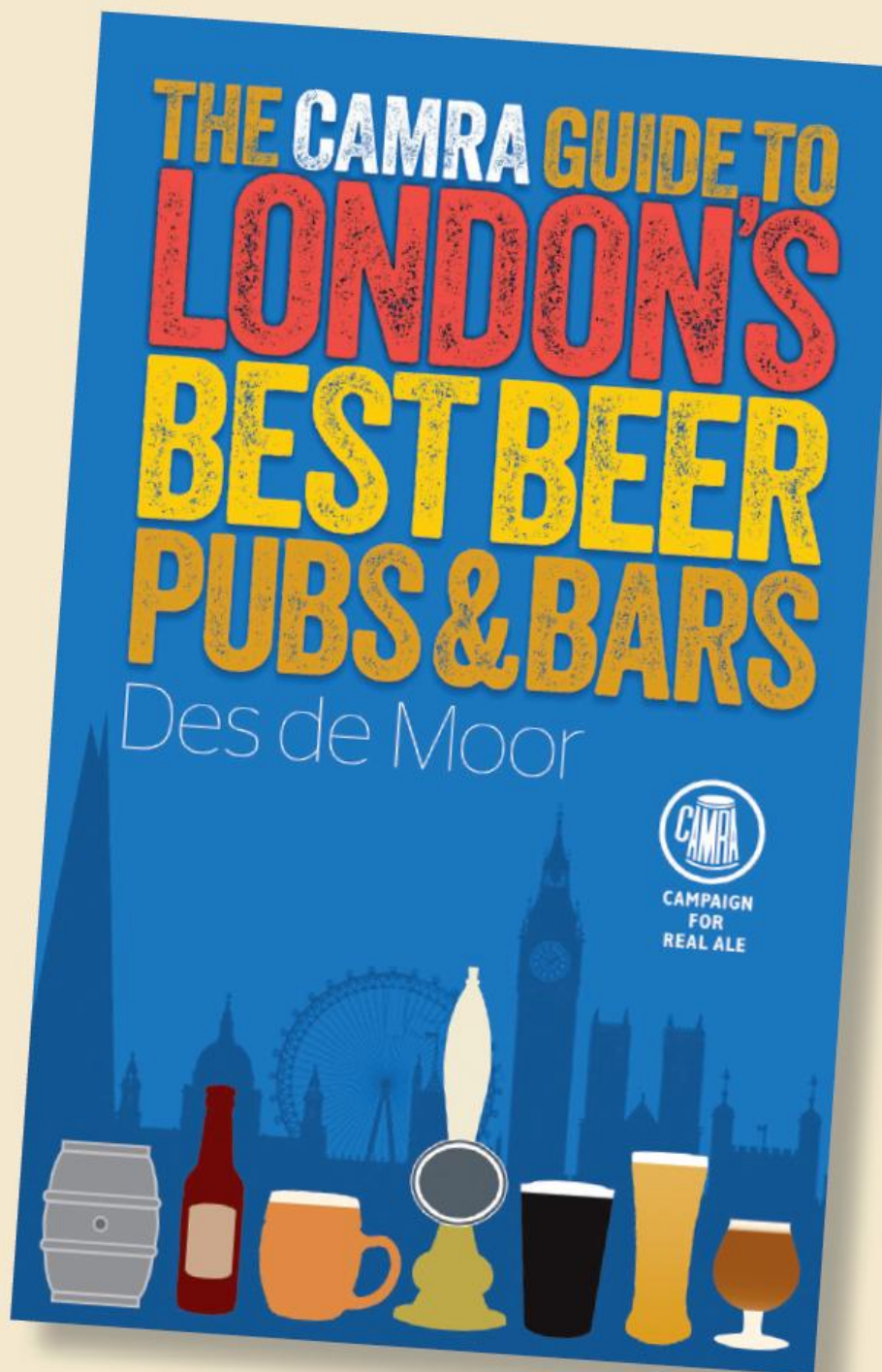
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## CYPRUS REAL ALE MICROBREWERY GETS THE FINAL GO-AHEAD!

The Yorkshire family-owners of the Paphos-based Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub, the first licensed microbrewery in Cyprus, tell CAMRA the incredible story of how they overcame years of the former administration's rampant bureaucracy to start their brewery.

### Why did you decide to start a microbrewery in Cyprus?

William Ginn, 'Bill', said, "I'm a Chartered Engineer in the oil industry and have travelled all my life. We wanted to start a family business and saw real potential to establish a microbrewery in beautiful Paphos where we had happily settled along with many other British expatriates.

"Melanie, our daughter, studied in Sunderland as one of a growing band of British women brewers. Then, in 2010, we prepared a full business plan for CIPA, the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency, who agreed to assist us. We didn't enter into this lightly nor, knowing Cyprus, did we expect things to be easy but no market research, business plan or MBA could have prepared us for the government nightmare to follow..."

### What were the problems you encountered in Cyprus?

"We found an old defunct winery in a lush green valley in the hills above Paphos. The size was perfect plus it was full of charm and character with all permits as a 'winery'. CIPA said the 'Change of Use' application to 'brewery', "...should be straightforward". It was, however, Easter 2012, eighteen months of continuous and largely unnecessary work later, before our thick dossier of documentation was complete. We were assured all was in order and we "...should receive the Permit to Brew in a week". Imagine our shock on receiving notification from Nicosia not with our promised Permit to Brew but with further demands, then further and then still further unreasonable and, often, impossible demands.

"It must be said that Jean, my wife, and I were treated very badly during these years and our health undoubtedly suffered. It turned out that CIPA was, in fact, powerless to help. It almost felt as if there was a deliberate attempt by the government to drive us out of Cyprus for some reason!

"We persevered and met all demands making it clear we would not just meekly go away. Customs & Excise then dropped their bombshell, never previously mentioned, that should we ever receive a Permit to Brew we must pay a €51,000 (£39,000) bond and have a full-time inspector on our premises whose salary and all expenses would be to our account. The cost could be well over €100,000 (£77,000) p.a.; a crippling sum for a small family business."

### To Brussels and the European Parliament...

Bill said "With no options left to us, and feeling very alone, we took this to the European Parliament in Brussels with the support of our former Yorkshire MEPs." Questions put to the European Commission in 2012, were:

*"Will the Commission investigate whether the difficulties and very long delays experienced by Aphrodite's Rock Brewing Company in its attempts to open for business in Cyprus are a function of:*

- *The existence of non-tariff trading barriers*
- *The Cypriot authorities manipulating regulations to prevent or discourage competition*
- *Tacit and potentially illegal bureaucratic connivance in favour of existing Cypriot business*

*And, whether the brewing sector in Cyprus is operating in accordance with the requirements of all relevant aspects of EU law"*

"After nearly four years of struggles our Permit to Brew was finally granted with the resident Inspector and bond requirements dropped."

Bill said, "After all those years of Cyprus bureaucracy, I nearly called our Irish Red Ale 'Red Tape'!" He added, "Finally, however, we

can say that a holiday in the 'Med' no longer condemns CAMRA real ale drinkers to long days of bland, commercial lagers. Cheap flights and low-cost accommodation make even a long weekend break possible so come to our little oasis in Paphos in 2016 and have a few great days with us!"

### **Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub Today**

"Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub is in a lovely old winery 15 minutes from Paphos surrounded by beautiful olive groves and grapevine terraces. You and your family can take in the views sat in the traditional stone courtyard shaded by walnut, hazelnut and mulberry trees and also enjoy regular live entertainment staged for your pleasure. The kitchen offers delicious, great value-for-money meals plus authentic hand-stretched Italian pizzas baked to order in an Italian wood-fired oven. Portions are generous - come hungry, you won't leave that way!" Bill said.

Despite its stunning location, great restaurant and warm ambience, Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub is still, first-and-foremost, a microbrewery. Quality real ales and real ciders with real character are brewed by Head Brewer, Melanie, and her team for tourists and residents alike. You can also join the highly popular, informative and complimentary Brewery Tour held every Monday to Friday after lunch. This is an idyllic and inexpensive Mediterranean venue for birthday parties, anniversaries and wedding receptions with all special arrangements made.

Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub is regularly #1 in Tripadvisor's "Top 100 Things to do in Paphos" with a Certificate of Excellence.

Holidaymakers visiting Paphos will enjoy a great, low-cost 'sun, sea & sand' holiday on golden beaches beside the crystal-clear Mediterranean Sea as well as experiencing some amazing historical sites in one of the safest overseas tourist destinations available in these troubled times.

The family's tenacity and determination to bring this much-demanded microbrewery to fruition in Cyprus is to be commended. Institutional problems continue for them but they say the support and solidarity shown by fellow CAMRA members, friends and family visiting them in Paphos is a great help. Their mission is to let

it be seen that British microbreweries overseas that are fighting to push back the frontiers of real ale in Europe are not alone but stand shoulder-to-shoulder with 175,000 CAMRA members. Support Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub!

### **Aphrodite's Rock Microbrewery & Brewpub**

#### **Opening Hours:**

- Monday – Saturday: 11.30am – 10.00pm (breakfast from 9.30am)
- Sunday Roast: 12.00noon – 4.00pm

#### **Contact Information:**

- Address: Polis Road, Tsada, Paphos 8540, Cyprus
- Phone number: [\(00 357\) 26 101446](tel:0035726101446)
- Email: [info@aphroditesrock.com.cy](mailto:info@aphroditesrock.com.cy) and [info@cyprusbrewpub.com](mailto:info@cyprusbrewpub.com)

For a short video click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApCywL7L6HA>.

#### **Festivals calendar**

##### **FEBRUARY**

26<sup>TH</sup> – 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH Beer and Cider Mini-Fest, Queen's Head, Chesham

##### **MARCH**

25<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> Easter Mini Fest (12-14 ales rotated over weekend), Red Lion, Marsworth

25<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> Beer and Cider Mini-Fest (Easter), Queen's Head, Chesham

25<sup>TH</sup> (EVENING) – 28<sup>TH</sup> Easter Beer Fest. Music on Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. Bell, Chartridge

##### **APRIL**

28<sup>TH</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY Spring Bank Holiday Beer & Cider Mini-Fest, Queen's Head, Chesham

29<sup>TH</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY Early May Mini-Fest (12-14 ales rotated over weekend), Red Lion, Marsworth

##### **MAY**

1<sup>ST</sup> – 2<sup>ND</sup> Spring Beer Festival, Crown, Ley Hill

14<sup>TH</sup> Mini-Fest, Plough, Hyde Heath (in conjunction with village fete)

21<sup>ST</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> Berkhamsted Beer Festival, Haresfoot Brewery

**We expect more festivals to be announced closer to the time. For the most up-to-date info, please check**

[www.midchilternscamra.org.uk](http://www.midchilternscamra.org.uk).

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[Secretary@MidChilternsCAMRA.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@MidChilternsCAMRA.org.uk)

**DIARY DATES. (S) = SOCIAL. (M) = MEETING.**

**FEBRUARY**

**17<sup>th</sup>** Coleshill – Harte & Magpies and Red Lion, 8 p.m. (S)

**20<sup>th</sup>** Kings Langley crawl – Old Palace, Rose & Crown, Saracen's Head, Young Pretender, noon (S)

**MARCH**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Cock & Rabbit and Old Swan, The Lee, 8 p.m. (S)

**5<sup>th</sup>** Chesham Crawl – The Pheasant, Red Lion, Chesham Brewery Shop, Gamekeepers Lodge, noon (S)

**9<sup>th</sup>** Red Lion, Marsworth, 8 p.m. (M)

**19<sup>th</sup>** Alford Arms, Frithsden, Martins Pond and The Plough at Potten End, noon (S)

**26<sup>th</sup>** Easter Saturday Beer Fests (TBC) (S)

**APRIL**

**6<sup>th</sup>** Queens Head, Long Marston 8 p.m. (M)

**9<sup>th</sup>** Northchurch & Berkhamsted – George & Dragon Northchurch, The Lamb, Berkhamsted, the George, (Porters for those who want to), Crystal Palace, Boat, noon (S)

**16<sup>th</sup>** Holmer Green crawl - Bat & Ball, Earl Howe, Old Oak, British Legion, noon (S)

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Penn Street crawl – The Squirrel and Hit or Miss, noon (S)

**30<sup>th</sup>** Bank Holiday weekend fests (TBC) (S)

**MAY**

**25<sup>th</sup> BRANCH AGM – BLACK CAT, CHESHAM - 8 P.M.**

All members are welcome. Please check the Branch website for the latest details. Contact the Social Secretary for more information.

**ADVERTISING RATES:**

**Back Page A5 £140. Middle Page A5 £120. Full Page A5 £100. Half Page £60. Quarter Page £40. 10% discount for advance payment for one year/4 issues. Ask Editor for details.**

**Deadline for advertisements/submissions/letters for Summer 2016 edition: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Send to: [tapler@midchilternscamra.org.uk](mailto:tapler@midchilternscamra.org.uk)

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