

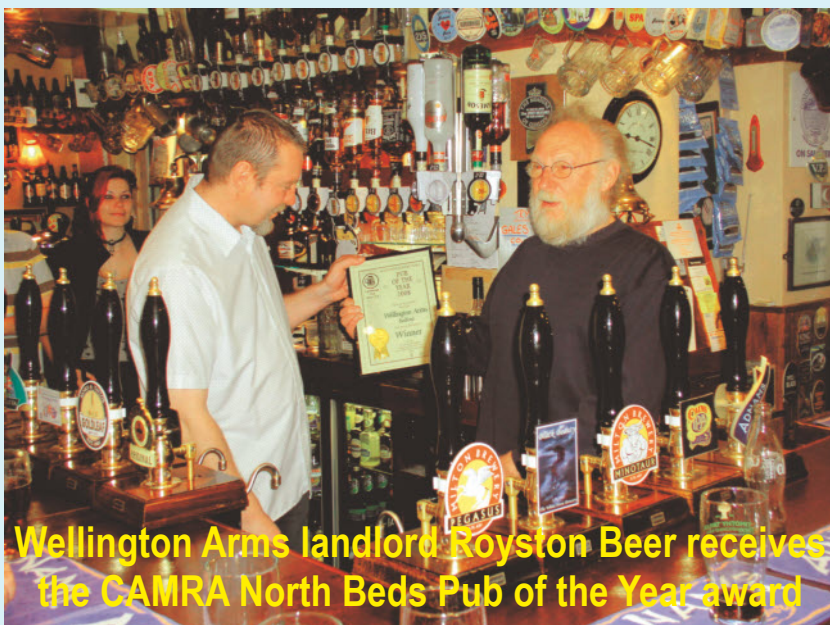
# The Firkin



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Newsletter of CAMRA North Bedfordshire Branch  
Summer 2008 Vol 33 No 2 FREE!

## Wellington Arms wins Bedfordshire PoTY Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October



Wellington Arms landlord Royston Beer receives the CAMRA North Beds Pub of the Year award

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The Campaign for Real Ale is a consumer organisation founded in 1971

# The Fox Inn

High Street, Carlton



**A warm welcome**

**Choice of real ales**

**Beer garden**

**Fine foods and bar snacks**

**Phone to book a table**

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

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look forward to welcoming you to the

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# CAMRA pub awards

**SPRING** has been busy for CAMRA locally with a number of awards to some of our best pubs. The Wellington Arms in Wellington Street, Bedford, whose North Beds Branch Pub of the Year 2008 title was reported in our last issue, has gone on to clinch the coveted Bedfordshire title.

## Pub of the Year 2008

In a straight head to head for the Bedfordshire Pub of the Year title, the Wellington Arms won narrowly over the **Globe, Dunstable**, and the **Engineers Arms, Henlow** – both excellent pubs that would have been very acceptable winners for the county award.

The Wellington Arms, re-launched as a B&T tenancy in 1998, has been managed for the past year by Royston Beer and Lesley Griffin. They have made an already fine pub a worthy winner once again, adding to its string of awards won between 2000 and 2004.

## The new competitors

The Wellington Arms now becomes the county entry for the regional East Anglia Pub of the Year competition, which it won previously in 2001. No Bedfordshire pub has yet won CAMRA's much coveted national Pub of the Year title.

The Wellington Arms now faces stiff competition for the East Anglia title from the **Chequers, Little Gransden** (Cambs), the **Station Arms, Southminster** (Essex), the **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long Lane, Heronsgate** (Herts), the **King's Head, Norwich** (Norfolk) and the **Dove Street Inn, Ipswich** (Suffolk). The Dove Street Inn and the Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty have both won the national title.



*Fine competitors:  
the Engineers  
Arms Henlow and  
Globe Dunstable*



*Landlord Nigel Anstead receives the Most Improved Pub award at the White Horse*

## Most Improved Pub

Meanwhile, a Most Improved Pub award has been presented to the White Horse in Newnham Avenue, Bedford, also announced in the spring issue of *Firkin*.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of Nigel and Sue Anstead, a once rather drab suburban pub has been transformed into an excellent pub diner, offering a good range of home-prepared meals as well as quality real ales from Wells & Young's and guest brewers. Their occasional beer and local food festivals have proved a winner, with patrons attracted from well outside the local area.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to all the winners and best wishes to the Wellington Arms in achieving the East Anglia Pub of the Year title.

Congratulations also to the B&T Brewery for two of its three Bedfordshire pubs winning local awards in the same year. The brewery has been busy launching a fourth pub – the **Elm Tree, Cambridge**, recently leased from Charles Wells.



# Pub news

## Fox Inn, Carlton

Welcome to Alex Hadland, who took over this charming, thatched pub early in the year. The interior has been smartened up, while a creative range of home-cooked meals and bar snacks are now available throughout the week, except Monday lunchtime when the pub is closed. Wells Eagle IPA and a changing guest beer are available on handpump. There is occasional live music. Call 01234 720235 to book a restaurant table.

## Old Mill, Newton Blossomville

Welcome to new owners Stan & Lisa Hall, who also run the Edwardian House Hotel in Bedford. Food is available from an extensive a la carte restaurant menu. Three regular beers from new local micro White Park Brewery are usually available – Old Mill Bitter, White Park Blonde and Stan's Pride. Call 01234 81863.



*New team in charge at the Swan, Bromham*

## Swan, Bromham

Welcome to Ken and Deb Gammon, who took over this comfortable old village inn at Bridge End during February. Real Greene King IPA, Abbot and a guest beer from the Greene King range are on the bar, while meals are served lunchtime and evenings Monday to Thursday, and all day on Friday to Sunday. Modest refurbishment inside and improvements to the garden and patio are expected during the year. Call 01234 823284 to check the menu or book a table.



*Creative home cooking at the Fox, Carlton*

## Bedford Arms, Bromham Road, Bedford

Welcome to Ian and Olivia, who have taken over one of the Charles Wells Pub Company's two Speciality Beer Houses opened last year. The pub is open all day for drinks and conversation, with live music only on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The range of beers has not changed a lot, with five regulars from Wells & Young's supplemented by four guest beers, mainly from other regional and micro-brewers, and foreign fruit and white beers. Good value lunches include a range of pies, sausage and mash, salads and snacks. Call 01234 311798.

## Griffin, Kempston

Welcome to new landlord Ian Standingford, who has restored the real Greene King IPA removed by his predecessor. The pub opens from 5pm Monday to Wednesday and from 12 noon Thursday to Sunday. Closing times may be late. Ian also runs the **Balloon** in Foster Hill Road, Bedford, where he also serves Greene King IPA on handpump. Call 01234 854775.

## Horseshoes, Blunham

Landlady Stephanie Turner, who took on the Horseshoes last year, went overboard with her own mini beer and cider festival over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. A more modest range of real ales is normally available, with Wells Eagle IPA and a guest on the pumps. Call 01767 640526.

## Turnpike, Bedford

A belated welcome to landlord Steve Morgan who took over this last autumn at this modern pub near the southern edge of the town. Wells Eagle IPA is available on handpump, while meals and snacks are served from 12 to 3 on weekdays and all day at weekends.

## Sun, Felmersham

Welcome to Sue and Bill, who took over this pretty, thatched village pub in March. The interior has been spruced up and opens all day, with bar meals now available from 12 to 3 and 5 to 9pm, including a daily special and a roast on Sunday. A restaurant service may start later. Wells Eagle IPA is available on handpump, with a changing guest beer likely to join it soon. A convenient stop for visits to the nearby riverside nature reserve. Call 01234 781355.



*A new look to the Sun, Felmersham*

## Prince of Wales, Bromham

Welcome to new licensee Spencer Hutson, formerly at the Fox & Hounds, Kempston. Serving Wells Eagle IPA and a changing guest beer on handpump. Call 01234 822447.

## Queen, Preston Road, Bedford

After months boarded up and looking ripe for demolition, the Queen has been refurbished and re-opened as a community pub by a private owner, with much enthusiasm from the locals. The bar is open all day from 12 noon and currently offers Young's Bitter on handpump, although licensee Meena Banhard may add a guest beer in due course. Regular live music and occasional summer barbecues are planned. Congratulations to Queen's Park for getting back its only local!



*Five real ales at the Salutation, Blunham*

## Salutation, Blunham

Welcome to new landlords Victoria and Mike Crooks. They currently offer four regular real ales – Greene King XX Mild, IPA, Morlands Original and a changing guest ale, most recently Morlands Tanners Jack. Food is now available throughout the week. Call 01767 640620.

## Embankment Hotel, Bedford

This handsome hotel overlooking the Great Ouse has passed to Peach Pubs Ltd., which plans to make it a premier dining venue. We believe the interior has had a bit of refurbishment but we have yet to take a closer look at what is offered.

## Swan, Cranfield

Welcome to Philip Bradfield, who recently took over a tastefully refurbished Swan in the heart of Cranfield. The public bar provides pool and music, while the larger bar is a lounge/restaurant serving freshly cooked Thai and English food to order, except on Sunday evening. The pub opens Monday to Thursday lunchtime and evening and all day Friday to Sunday. Call 01234 750332.



*Thai food served at the Swan, Cranfield*

# Showcase for British Beer

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival 2008 will be held at London's Earls Court Arena, between Tuesday 5th August and Saturday 9th August. Attractions include over 500 real ales, ciders, perries, foreign beers, traditional pub games and daily entertainment. So book your diary for a day trip to London!

## Tasty tipples

The "Showcase for British Beer" is Britain's biggest beer festival and one of the largest in the world housed under one roof. It has now made itself at home at Earls Court Arena since moving to the venue two years ago. The organisers welcomed 65,000 visitors last year and are expecting a similar number again this summer, to participate in the festival fun.

Over 500 tasty tipples from the smallest micro-breweries and large regional brewers have been handpicked for visitors to try. These will include wheat beers, ciders, golden ales, stouts, porters, bitters, milds, bottle-conditioned beers, perries and traditional foreign beers from around the world.

## Other highlights

But the festival is not only about the ale. Visitors can also enjoy good food, live music, entertainment, games, tombolas, and quizzes in the comfort of a family friendly atmosphere. Catch up



with friends, unwind after work, or just soak up the festival atmosphere. Other highlights include:

- Family room – everyone under age 18 must remain in the family room throughout the festival and be supervised by a family member.
- Tutored beer tastings – learn to appreciate the different tastes and flavours of beer by attending one of the tutored sessions. But don't delay, as places at these sought-after events sell out fast!
- Corporate hospitality – several packages are available for entertaining colleagues or clients, at a range of prices.
- Hat Day on Thursday 6th August. For the fourth year running, visitors are invited to wear their silly hats on Thursday. So if you have one in the cupboard, or fancy making one for the day, make sure you bring it with you. The best hats will win superb prizes.

## Book in advance

The Great British Beer Festival is open Tuesday 5 to 10.30, Wednesday to Friday 12 to 10.30, and Saturday 11 to 7pm.

Admission costs £8 at the door – CAMRA members get £2 discount. Save £2 (members £1) a day by booking online in advance at [www.gbbf.org](http://www.gbbf.org). Season tickets at an attractive saving are also available for those planning to visit several times during the week. Tutored tasting session tickets can be purchased through [www.seetickets.com/gbbf](http://www.seetickets.com/gbbf)

## Win two GBBF tickets!

CAMRA is offering 25 lucky winners a pair of Great British Beer Festival tickets. All you need to do to enter the competition is to email or post your answer to this simple question by Friday 4th July.

### How many people attended the GBBF last year?

Send your answer to Tony Jerome (GBBF Competition), CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW, or email it under the title "GBBF Competition" to

[tony.jerome@camra.org.uk](mailto:tony.jerome@camra.org.uk)

Winners will be notified and sent their tickets by Friday 18th July.

# GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

5th - 9th August  
Earls Court, London

Tues: 5pm-10.30pm / Wed, Thurs, Fri: 12pm-10.30pm / Sat: 11am-7pm  
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OVER 450 REAL ALES, CIDERS AND BEERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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



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# Summer beer festivals

## Chelmsford Beer Festival

*Tue 8 to Sat 12 July under canvas at Admirals Park, Rainsford Road (rail stn 15 min).* Open 12-11 daily, admission £3 after 6.30, CAMRA members free. More than 300 real ales plus ciders, Belgian beers, local wines and hot and cold food, including real ale sausages, barbecues and vegetarian catering. Live music every evening, family fun day Sat afternoon.

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

## 31st Derby Beer Festival

*Wed 9 to Sun 13 July in the Assembly Rooms, Market Place (rail stn 10 min).* Open Wed 6.30-11 (admission £3), Thu 11.30-3 (free), 6.30-11 (£5); Fri 11.30-4 (£1), 5-6.30 (£2), 6.30-11 (£6), Sat 11.30-4 (£3), 6.30-11 (£6), Sun 12-3 (free), CAMRA members free all sessions, senior citizens free lunchtimes and Wed eve. Large range of beer and cider, with Welsh beer and local ale

features. Live music daily. Phone 01332 255883 for accommodation and tourist information. Regular mainline trains from Bedford and Luton.

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

## Boxmoor Beer Festival

*Fri 18 to Sun 20 July at Camelot Rugby Club, Chaulden Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HPI 2BS (rail stn 7 min).* Open Fri/Sat 12-10.30, Sun 12-3 (ale permitting), admission £5 including programme and refundable glass, CAMRA members £3. More than 30 real ales plus a range of cider and perry, tombola and games (including infamous Mid-Chilterns Crown Top Shives), snacks available all sessions.

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

## Great British Beer Festival

*Tue 5 to Sat 9 August at Earls Court Arena, London.* Open Tue 5-10.30, Wed-Fri 12-10.30, Sat 11-7. For admission prices and other details, see page 6 or check website at [www.gbbf.org.uk](http://www.gbbf.org.uk)

## 13th Clacton-on-Sea Beer Festival

*Wed 20 to Sat 23 August at St James' Hall, Tower Road C015 1LF (near Westcliff Theatre, rail stn 10min).* Open Wed 6-11, Thu-Sat 11-11, admission £1, CAMRA members free. More than 55 real ales plus cider, perry, wine and foreign beers, free soft drinks for designated drivers. Hot and cold food Thu-Sat. Combine visit with Clacton Air Show. Live music Thu eve and Sat afternoon. Call 01255 820113.

## Peterborough Beer Festival

*Tue 19 to Sat 23 August, 2008 in three giant marquees on the Embankment, Bishop's Road, PE1 1EF.* Open Tue 5.30-11 (admission £4), Wed 12-2.30 (free), 5.30-11 (£4), Thu 12-11 (£5), Fri 12-2.30 (free), 5.30-11.30 (£5), Sat 12-11, charges refunded all but £1 if leave before 7pm. CAMRA members £1 Thu, Fri eve and Sat, otherwise free. More than 300 real ales plus cider, perry and continental bottled beers. Live music every evening in its own marquee, food, pub games etc. [www.beer-fest.org.uk](http://www.beer-fest.org.uk)

## BEER FESTIVAL

**Fri 11th-Sun 13th July**

**More than 26 real ales and ciders**

**Barbecue food and restaurant**

**Fri: Timeless 5-piece band**

**Sat afternoon: car boot sale**

**Sat eve: Disco**

**Sun: live music and bouncy castle**

**Tents welcome**

**Fri 5-11, Sat 12-11, Sun 12-10.30**

**THE CHEQUERS**

**High Street, Yelden**

**01933 356383**

# The 31st Bedford festival!

**PLANNING** is already well advanced for CAMRA's 31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival, which will be held once again at the Corn Exchange in St Paul's Square, this year from Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th October.

Local CAMRA members have run a festival in Bedford every autumn since 1978. All except one has been held in the Corn Exchange – the event had to migrate to Queen's Park in 1988 while its usual home was closed for extensive renovation.



*Scene from last year's Bedford festival*



## Over 100 real ales

This year's festival will be about the same size as last year, with about 110 different real ales, 30 brands of real cider and perry, and a wide range of draught and bottled beers from Belgium and other European countries. Although only a handful of Bedfordshire pubs sell real cider or perry, their growing popularity as certainly earned "Cider" a regular place in the festival's title.

Although all the local breweries will be invited, the organisers expect to offer a broad selection of real ales from around the country. The full beer and cider lists will be printed in a free souvenir programme given to visitors on arrival and posted as early as possible on the branch website at [www.northbedscamra.org.uk](http://www.northbedscamra.org.uk)

## Help required

The festival is run entirely by volunteers. The organisers – all unpaid enthusiasts themselves – need many more volunteers behind the beer and cider bars or the glasses counter, to work behind the scenes, or to help set up and dismantle the bars and stillage before and after the event.

All local CAMRA members and their friends are invited – no experience is required. Although there is no pay, helpers are allowed a generous ration of free beer or cider of their choice, and have the pleasure of helping run one of the most popular regular events in Bedford.

Call organiser John Martin on 01234 768294 or email [festival@northbedscamra.org.uk](mailto:festival@northbedscamra.org.uk). You can also download a staffing form from the branch website.

## Sponsor a beer cask!

**Promote your business by sponsoring a real ale cask at Bedford Beer & Cider Festival. For just £50, your name and logo will be posted on the main beer stillage throughout the four-day festival.**

Call 01234 822698 or email [sponsor@northbedscamra.org.uk](mailto:sponsor@northbedscamra.org.uk)

For further details visit [www.northbedscamra.org.uk](http://www.northbedscamra.org.uk)

# Great time at Great Oakley

EARLY in April, fourteen lucky members and a couple of regulars from the Wellington Arms set off to visit the Great Oakley Brewery at Great Oakley, near Corby in Northants.

On arrival at the brewery we were warmly greeted by brewer Phil Greenway and his wife Hazel, who had prepared some samples of **Wag-tail** (3.9%abv), **Harpers** (4.3%) and **Gobble** (4.5%). Phil then took us on a tour of the brewery and gave a very interesting talk including the brewery's history and the brewing methods that he used.

## Pretty park and castle

The brewery was founded in 2005 by business partners Mike Evans and Phil Greenway, in the old stables of Bridge Farm on the edge of a very pretty park with its own castle. The five-barrel micro plant produces seven beers – **Welland Valley Mild** (3.6% abv), **Wot's Occurring** (3.9%), **Delapre Dark** (4.6%) and **Tailshaker** (5%), as well as the three offered to us on our arrival. Seasonal ales were in full production at the time of our visit, in preparation for “Fly the Flag for St. Georges Day”.

Hazel looked after us well with a selection of delicious snacks that made the ales slip down all the more easily. She also showed us the range of bottled beers and polypins that can be ordered through the **Malt Shovel Tavern**, the Good Beer Guide listed brewery tap in Bridge Street, Northampton, run by partner Mike Evans and his wife.



*The brewery, housed in former stables*

The brewery's other main regular outlet is the Hatton Arms at Gretton, originally a gatehouse to Kirby Hall and believed to be the second oldest pub in Northants.

The brewery is always happy to supply its ales to the local trade. Phone 01536 744888 or visit [www.greatoakleybrewery.co.uk](http://www.greatoakleybrewery.co.uk), which offers an on-screen tour around the premises, as well as details of all the beers.

## The Malt Shovel

After a fantastic evening sampling beers kept in excellent condition and soaking up the atmosphere, we moved on to the Malt Shovel Tavern itself, where Mike and his wife made us very welcome and where we were able to sample a wide selection of ales in excellent condition from both local breweries and further away. We headed back to Bedford after a wonderful evening. You can find further information about the Malt Shovel in the current *Good Beer Guide*, or at [www.maltshoveltavern.com](http://www.maltshoveltavern.com)

*Don Allan*



*Great Oakley founders Mike and Phil*

## Concrete Cow beers in local offer

Bottle-conditioned beers from this new micro in Milton Keynes are currently available from local Budgens, stores, as part of a local produce initiative. The three beers available in the Bromham store are **Cock 'n' Bull**, **Watling Gold** and **Old Bloomer**, all priced at £2.59 per 500ml bottle, or £6.99 for any three.



# Branch diary

BRANCH business meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of uneven months, e.g. July and September. Social and campaigning events are usually in the second week of each month.

Guests are always welcome at social events, but members have priority on brewery visits. For the latest information, check the members' monthly newspaper, *What's Brewing*, or visit the branch website at [www.northbedscamra.org.uk](http://www.northbedscamra.org.uk)

## Thursday 10 July – Branch AGM

Branch AGM, 7.30 for 8pm at the Visitor Centre at Wells & Young's Brewery, Havelock Street, Bedford. All CAMRA members welcome, but please tell chairman John Martin if you intend to come, to help order numbers for the buffet and provide a list of those expected at the security gate. Call 01234 768294 or email [chairman@northbedscamra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@northbedscamra.org.uk)

## Thursday 31 July – Branch meeting

Branch meeting, 8 for 8.15pm at the Three Cups, Newnham Street, Bedford. The agenda will include confirming non-elective committee posts and setting the branch strategy for 2008/09. Check branch website for further details.

## Read the Firkin online

To save administration and postage costs, our mailing service to subscribers is being phased out as commitments come to an end.

If you cannot find the Firkin at your local pub or if you live outside our distribution area, visit our branch website (address below), click the **News** tab and download a screen quality PDF version of this and all other issues of Firkin since autumn 2006.

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

## Thursday 14 August – Riverside social

A social evening by the river at the Anchor, Great Barford, from about 8pm. X5 bus leaves Bedford 19:40, arriving Great Barford 19:53 plus 10-15 min walk to pub. Last bus back to Bedford 23:40.

## Thursday 11 September – Luton social

Planned pub crawl in Luton. Check the branch website or next Firkin for further details.

## Trading standards

If you complain about short measure, lack of a visible price list or misleading promotion and do not get a satisfactory response, contact the *Bedfordshire Trading Standards Service*, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP. Tel. 01234 228897.

[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/bedfordshire](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/bedfordshire)



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Bank Holiday Saturdays 9.30am to 2pm



# Come again?

**WHY do you go to the pub? Purely for a quiet drink and some contemplation? Or do you just need to get out of the house or office for a bit to relax?**

Perhaps you'd like somewhere peaceful to read the newspaper, a book or the *Firkin* (of course). You may be meeting friends to catch up with their news. Or even to do some serious business over lunch and a pint.

The list is probably endless, but notice how all of the above require a peaceful, relaxing environment, one where shouting is not required and where your ears are not ringing for the next two days.

## Favourite tunes

On the other hand perhaps your idea of relaxing is completely different. As soon as you've bought your pint, you like to head straight for the juke box and put some of your favourite tunes on, then ask the barman to turn it up.

You then go to the fruit machine and spend a happy five minutes in a haze of bleeps, bells and sirens. Or maybe you've heard that there's a good band playing this evening or a DJ banging out some of your old favourites – for free.

There could be a big match or fight on the massive plasma screen this afternoon, where you can shout at the players with your mates. You might even be an extremist, whose idea of relaxing is karaoke night, belting out "Born to be Wild" until you're purple.

## The quieter persuasion

Personally, as you've probably guessed, I'm of the quieter persuasion. Nine times out of ten I visit a pub to meet and chat with friends and family. There's nothing more annoying or less relaxing than having to shout to be heard over the juke box, DJ, TV, etc.

Of course, the noise levels vary from pub to pub – and have you noticed how the acoustics in some pubs just seem to amplify the "background" noise?

I was in a local pub recently, talking, or rather shouting, with my friends as we had to raise our voices to be heard over the musical act – and that was in the other bar. Unfortunately, I had to go through the other bar to get to the toilet and my eyeballs were rattling as I passed the PA system. And guess what – yes, the singer was the only person in the other bar!

## Not against music

There's another pub in my area that has regular DJ nights – and they actually play my kind of music – but it's completely impossible to hold a conversation in the bar while the DJ is playing. So we go to a separate part of the pub, only to find speakers relaying the music out there too.

There is no need for these, thanks – we can hear the music from the DJ's main speakers perfectly

well and can still talk to each other.

I'm not against music in pubs, but there has to be somewhere quieter to go, or if it has to be everywhere it must be at a volume that allows conversation.

## A quiet area

CAMRA encourages pubs to have at least a quiet area. A good pub can still have fruit machines, but with the sound muted. It can still have DJ nights and bands playing – but in a completely separate area.

And as for karaoke – well, there simply needs to be a law against that – perhaps I'll contact the Human Rights people. Peace to all men and women, that's what I say.

*Mike Coombes*

*[First published in Beer in Bed(s)]*



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# The Firkin

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The Firkin is produced and distributed by volunteers to most pubs and clubs in Bedfordshire north of a line joining the M1, Clophill, Shefford and Tempsford.

We welcome correspondence and any relevant features for publication. Views expressed here may not be those of the Editor, the Campaign for Real Ale, or its North Bedfordshire Branch.

Items for publication in the next issue should reach the Editor by the date at the foot of this page.

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# Advertise in the Firkin

## Promote your pub, product or services in our pages

Produced by local beer drinkers for local beer drinkers -- a select target audience. Our readers use shops and taxis to get home, buy insurance and drive cars, as well as spending time in the pub. Our readers also include pub and club licensees.

- Circulation about 3,000 copies every quarter, delivered to almost every pub and real ale club in north Bedfordshire. Full layout including adverts is also posted online for at least a year at [www.northbedscamra.org.uk](http://www.northbedscamra.org.uk)
- Simple artwork created at no extra cost, or supply your own
- Reserve space in the next issue by the date in the footer bar below

### To enquire or place an advert, contact:

Neil Richards on 01536 358670 or 07710 281381

[n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com)





# Join CAMRA today!

FOR the last thirty-seven years, the Campaign for Real Ale has been campaigning on many different beer and pub issues. We have helped to save breweries and pubs, helped to introduce more flexible licensing hours, run numerous beer festivals, created the environment for new breweries to open and thrive.

CAMRA's research in the last couple of years has revealed that we are losing more pubs now than ever before – a staggering 57 pubs close every month. CAMRA needs your help to campaign for saving pubs under threat of closure in the future before it is too late.

CAMRA now boasts over 90,000 members and is striving to reach 100,000 to add more weight to current campaigns including pressing for legislation on full pints, reducing beer duty, promoting local produce and supporting breweries and pubs. By becoming a CAMRA member you can help to make a difference.

Join CAMRA today by completing and mailing the form opposite, call 01727 867201, or visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)

CAMRA membership gives great value. For just £20 a year by direct debit (less than 39p a week), you can join our organisation and benefit from the following:

- What's Brewing – our monthly members' newspaper
- Free or reduced entry to over 150 CAMRA beer festivals
- Discounts on CAMRA books including the best selling annual Good Beer Guide
- Discount membership of the CAMRA Beer Club home delivery service
- Become an active member of the organisation – all local activities are organised by volunteers
- Complimentary Clubs – exclusive to CAMRA members and free to join.

Visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) to find out more.

## Use the new Bedfordshire guide!

The three Bedfordshire CAMRA Branches – East, North and South – have worked together to produce a new online guide to pubs in the county. After much preparation, it was launched at the Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October last year.

You can search for pubs by name, town/village or postcode, and download details to plan individual visits or a local pub crawl. You can even compile and print out your personal guide to a whole town or village – all free of charge to you and the pubs!

All pubs, hotel bars and sports ground bars open to the public in Bedfordshire and Luton are listed, although full details and a photo are included only where real ale is sold.

It will be hard to keep up to date, but you can help. Whether you are the licensee, a pub regular or an occasional visitor, please send updates to the Firkin (details p13), or email [pubguide@northbedscamra.org.uk](mailto:pubguide@northbedscamra.org.uk)

# [www.bedspubs.org.uk](http://www.bedspubs.org.uk)

### Bell

Horsholme Lane **Odell**  
 MK43 7AU  
 01234 720254  
 Owner: Greene King  
 Licensee: Peter & Rachel Causton  
 Status:  
 Licensing area: Bedford Borough  
 Council  
 CAMRA Branch: North Beds  
 Greene King IPA [H]  
 Greene King Abbot [H]



Guest Ales: Change regularly [H]  
 on patio

Stagecoach 125

Opening Times:

Mon-Fri 11.30-15.00, 18.00-23.30  
 Sat 12.00-16.00, 18.00-23.30  
 Sun 12.00-16.00, 19.00-22.30

Meals:

Sun-Mon 12.00-14.00  
 Tues-Sat 12.00-14.00, 19.00-21.00

Handsome, thatched village pub with a large garden near the river Great Ouse. With the Herrod-Odell Country Park just down the lane, this is a popular stop for walkers. Sympathetic refurbishment and a series of linked but distinct seating areas help retain a traditional pub atmosphere. Small menu portions are available at lunchtime.

# It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Save money by paying by Direct Debit!

## Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



### Your Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No (s) \_\_\_\_\_

### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? \_\_\_\_\_

|  | Direct Debit                 | Non DD                       |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Single Membership (UK & EU)                    | £20 <input type="checkbox"/> | £22 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint Membership (Partner at the same address) | £25 <input type="checkbox"/> | £27 <input type="checkbox"/> |

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108



### Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: Campaigns for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



#### Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society  
Address  
Postcode

#### Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

#### Bank or Building Society Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Branch Sort Code

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Reference Number

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Originator's Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

#### FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

#### Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts.

signature strip belongs on payment

Join 90,000 members of CAMRA and help fight for Britain's beer heritage

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# The Salutation

20 High Street  
Blunham  
01767 640620



Victoria & Michael invite you to visit us

Food served all day every day  
Bar snacks and restaurant menu

Four real ales always available  
including Greene King XX

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY - WILD WEST 2008  
Including 'First Ever' Salutation Rodeo  
Tickets on sale now

BANK HOLIDAY BEER FESTIVAL  
22ND-25TH AUGUST

Live music all weekend  
Dr Busker & the Pirate Crew  
Shire horse dray delivery Sat 23rd

# Lord John Russell

Hunts  
CAMRA  
Most  
Improved  
Pub 2007



6 Real Ales including Batemans  
Mild, XB and Salem Porter,  
plus 3 guest beers

Food served Tuesday to Sunday  
5 minute walk from X5 route

25 Russell Street, St Neots  
01480 406330

## WICKSTEED PARK'S FIRST EVER



# BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday July 31st ~ 7pm - 11pm  
Friday 1st August ~ 11am - Late  
Saturday 2nd August ~ 11am - Late  
Sunday 3rd August ~ Noon - 4pm



For Wicksteed Park, Kettering follow the  
brown signs from Junction 10 of the A14.

## 30+ BEERS & CIDERS

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL FOOD AVAILABLE

Tel: 01536 512475  
or see [www.wicksteedpark.co.uk](http://www.wicksteedpark.co.uk)

To allow settling not all beers will be available at any one time.  
Also some beers will become 'SOLD OUT' as the Festival progresses.  
Entertainment is on evening sessions only.

Entry ticket £2.00 per session (CAMRA card carrying members £1.00)