

The Firkkin



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

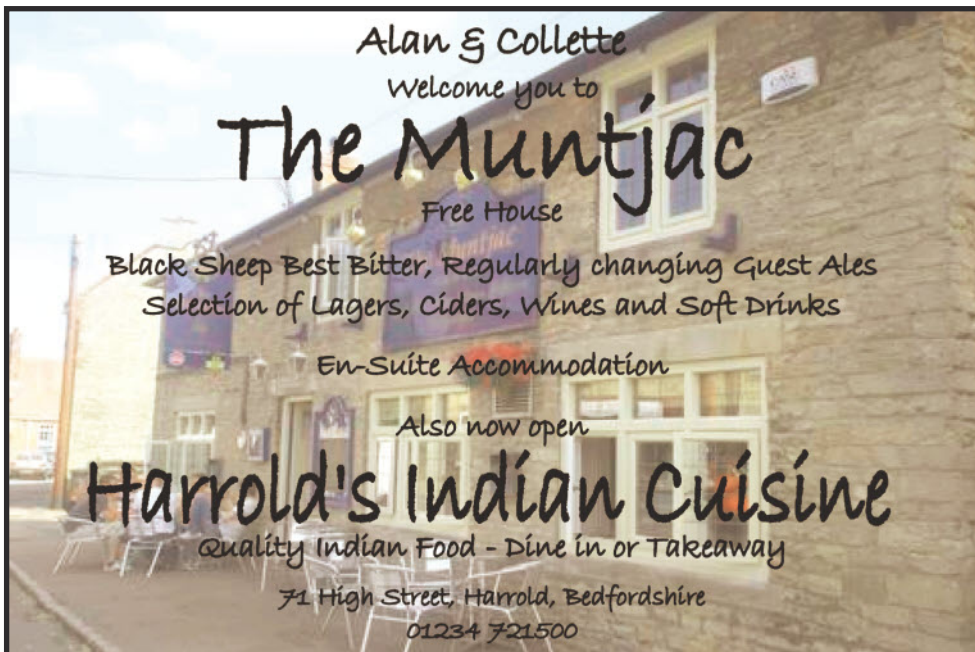
Newsletter of CAMRA North Bedfordshire Branch
Autumn 2008 Vol 33 No 3 FREE!

Bedford Beer & Cider Festival Wed 8th to Sat 11th October



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



Alan & Collette
Welcome you to
The Muntjac
Free House

Black Sheep Best Bitter, Regularly changing Guest Ales
Selection of Lagers, Ciders, Wines and Soft Drinks

En-Suite Accommodation

Also now open
Harrold's Indian Cuisine
Quality Indian Food - Dine in or Takeaway

71 High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire
01234 721500

B&T Brewery invites you to our
6th Globe Beer Festival

50 Real Ales, Cider and Perry

Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th October 2008

12 - 11.30 Thu to Sat, 12 - 10.30 Sun

Festival glasses, T-shirts and snacks available

**Traditional pub with 13 permanent handpumps – 11 real ales
Two ciders/perries plus large selection of Belgian bottled beers**

The Globe, Dunstable

South Beds CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008

43 Winfield Street, Dunstable LU6 1LS

01582 512300, www.globe-pub.co.uk



Also visit the Wellington Arms, Bedford

40-42 Wellington Street (14 handpumps)

Bedfordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008

www.banksandtaylor.com

Come to the festival!

BEDFORD's own "Oktoberfest" is back again. This year's 31st annual celebration of real ale, cider, perry and foreign beer will be held at the Corn Exchange in St Paul's Square, from Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th October.

The festival was founded by local CAMRA members in 1978 and has been held in the town every autumn since. During its 30 years, the festival has expanded to include cider, perry and the best foreign beer, and from the main hall to take in the Howard Room and balcony upstairs. The 31st festival will be as attractive as ever.

Over 100 real ales and 30 ciders

The festival will offer over 100 real ales, many with a Yorkshire accent this year, 30 brands of real cider and perry, and a varied range of draught and bottled beers from Belgium and other European countries. All draught beers and ciders will be dispensed by gravity, direct from the cask.

Although only a handful of Bedfordshire pubs sell real cider or perry (made from pears), the popularity of these traditional fermented fruit drinks has earned "Cider" a regular place in the festival's title. October is now CAMRA's official "Cider and Perry Month".

The beer and cider lists will be posted on the branch website at www.northbedscamra.org.uk during September. Details will also be printed in the free souvenir programme given to visitors.

The festival will sell no keg beers or processed ciders, nor will any of the products on sale be dispensed under gas pressure.



Cider and perry – always popular



*Logo by Suni UK Ltd, www.suniscreen.co.uk
Festival photos + poster by Mark Lindsay-White*

Real ale is cool

Every indoor beer festival has trouble keeping real ales in good condition. Despite air conditioning, the main hall is bound to warm up during an evening session packed with over 800 people, but heat does no favours to real ale quality.

To ensure that only high quality beers are served, the festival will use power chillers and cooling jackets around the casks. The pint delivered to your glass will remain in good condition throughout the week.

Foreign beers and food

As well as British real ales, cider and perry in the main hall, the foreign beer bar in the Howard Room upstairs will offer a wide range of speciality draught and bottled beers from Belgium, Germany and other countries.

The Howard Room and the adjacent balcony will also provide a quiet area for sitting out and enjoying hot and cold meals and snacks from the Corn Exchange catering service. Catering chief Sunil Kalyan and his team will provide food at all sessions, with a varied menu during the week.

(continued page 3)

Come to the festival!

(continued from page 2)

Lined glasses mean full pints

Souvenir glasses sponsored by the Wells & Young's Brewing Company, will be issued to visitors for a £2 deposit. You can either return your glass and get a full refund, or take it home as a souvenir. All glasses are oversize and lined for pint and half-pint measures, supporting CAMRA's campaign for full measure. You get a full 20 fluid ounce pint of beer here!

The regular glass engraver will gladly personalise your glass or other objects for you.

Buy your beer guides here

The CAMRA shop and tombola will be run by CAMRA East Beds Branch members. The shop will sell a wide range of shirts, souvenirs and books, including the new *Good Beer Guide 2009*. You can also win a host of attractive prizes on the tombola and *Shut the Box* game.

Entertainment

There will be live music in the main hall on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Popular entertainer **Dr Busker** and his merry band will get the festival off to a rousing start on Wednesday, while virtuoso folk quintet **Tam Lin** will play the event to a musical close on Saturday.

The Bedford Morris Men are expected to perform in the hall at lunchtime on Saturday.

Help local charity

A cloakroom service in the basement will again be run by the **Bedford Lions** to raise funds for local charities. Please give generously.



Dr Busker and his merry band (Wednesday)

Sponsor a beer cask!

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

Call 01234 822698 or email
festival@northbedscamra.org.uk
Or visit www.northbedscamra.org.uk

Free entry before 5pm, but no children

Check the poster opposite for opening hours and admission charges. Get in free by arriving before 5pm and remember that there may be a queue at the door by mid-evening on Friday.

CAMRA members get free entry at any time. If you plan to come several times, join CAMRA on day one and get in free for the rest of the week.

The hall lift will be available for visitors with restricted mobility. Ask festival staff at the door to arrange lift access from the street.

To make best use of space for drinkers, the organisers regret that no one under age 18 will be admitted to the festival this year.

Smoking pass-outs

Although smoking is prohibited inside the Corn Exchange, smokers will be allowed short pass-outs into the street, leaving their glasses with door staff inside. Drinking alcohol in the street is not permitted.

Don't drink and drive

If you must drive to the festival, take advantage of the free soft drinks and make sure someone else drives next time.

Even better, take a bus, train or taxi home. Train operator **First Capital Connect** is helping promote the festival on the Bedford to Brighton line.

Staff needed!

Call 01234 768294, email
festival@northbedscamra.org.uk
or complete the online form at
www.northbedscamra.org.uk

31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival

The Corn Exchange, St. Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SL

8th ~ 11th October 2008



Your opportunity to try more than 100 real ales
along with 30 traditional ciders & perries !

- Live music on Wed and Sat evenings
- Exclusive souvenir Festival 2008 glass
- Tasty hot and cold food
- Foreign speciality beers
- Tombola and Shut The Box
- Clothing, gifts and books for sale

Sponsor a cask of ale !

Email sponsor@northbedscamra.org.uk

Festival volunteers needed !

Contact John Martin on 01234 768 294

or email: festival@northbedscamra.org.uk

Organised by CAMRA North Bedfordshire Branch. www.northbedscamra.org.uk

Opening Times:

Wed 4 - 11pm. Thu, Fri & Sat 11.30am - 11pm

NO ONE UNDER AGE 18 ADMITTED !

Admission charges:

FREE admission to all before 5pm all days

After 5pm: £2 Wed, £3 Thu, £4 Fri & £1 Sat

Free to CAMRA members at all times

Evening pass-outs for smokers

Wheelchair access to all floors



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



Pub News

Muntjac, Harrold

Welcome to Alan and Collette, who took over this high street free house in March. The pub is open from 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, from 3pm on Friday and all day from 12 noon at weekends. The regular ale is Black Sheep Best Bitter, joined on the pumps by two guest ales. The restaurant at the rear has re-opened as Harrold's Indian Cuisine, offering both dine-in and take-away options. Call 01234 721500.



Horse & Groom, Clapham

Since taking over in May, new landlords Peter and Louise have already made their mark on this old village inn. Greene King IPA, Abbot and a guest ale or two are available, with a varied menu for lunch and evening meals, using fresh local produce whenever possible. Special offers for business lunches, senior citizens and early evening dinners. Although the pub was knocked into one long bar years ago, it still offers a series of quiet corners for eating and conversation between the restaurant at one end and a covered coach yard at the other. The patio and large garden run down to the river. Call 01234 217502 to book a table.

Bird in Hand, Brickhill Drive, Bedford

Welcome to Stuart Postlethwaite, who took over this north Bedford community pub in May. New handpumps have been fitted to expand the beer range to include Wells Eagle IPA, Courage Best and Young's Special.

Dog & Badger, Maulden

This 400-year old village inn was bought by Charles Wells and re-launched in mid-August. Local girl Lindsay Barritt, who held the Crown in Willington for several years, now runs the pub with partner Mark. Home-cooked food made with locally sourced ingredients where possible, is available daily. Call 01525 860237.

Three Cranes, Turvey

Welcome to Peter and Jenny Lennon at this old coaching inn near the church. Jenny ran the Swan in Bromham until a few months ago. The restaurant offers a choice of freshly prepared meals and fine wines, with a selection of Greene King and guest ales on the bar. Call 01234 881305 or check www.threecranes-turvey.com

Gordon Arms, Castle Road, Bedford

Ray and Ingrid Foster, who recently "retired" from the Ship in St Cuthberts Street, have taken over this attractively refurbished community pub. The Gordon Arms has been transformed into a friendly, comfortable venue with a brighter, more open look. Real Wells Eagle IPA, Bombardier, Young's Bitter and Courage Directors are all available and a range of home-cooked lunches throughout the week. Evening meals will start in October from Monday to Thursday. The Ent.Shed performance venue next door is also back in business, offering an entertainment space, community hall and function suite available for hire. Call 01234 348668.



Director Tom Wells with Ray and Ingrid at the Gordon Arms re-launch in June

Fleur de Lis, Mill Street, Bedford

A former regular *Good Beer Guide* entry more recently looking ripe for redevelopment, the Fleur has been re-launched as a pub/restaurant. Eric Welek, owner of the Tudor Oaks Lodge at Astwick (on the A1 near Stotfold), is the driving force behind



the operation, while manager Emma Watson provides the friendly front of house. Six real ales including Wells Eagle IPA, Bombardier and guest ales from micro-breweries are available, while those with more exotic tastes can sample the oyster and champagne bar. An adventurous menu includes seafood, home-made pies and roasts, available daily until 10pm. Call 01234 215622 or visit www.fleurdelisbedford.co.uk

White Horse, Wymington

Welcome to Kathy and Jason, who took over this community pub near our n the north-western border earlier this year. Greene King IPA is available, but food is limited to filled rolls at weekends, with ice cream, lollies and sweets on sale for the kids, who are welcome in the pub until 9pm. Opens at 2.30pm Monday to Thursday and from 12.30 from Friday to Sunday, closing late when there is enough trade. The pub offers bingo on Monday evening and can cater for private parties. Call new number 01933 357969.

Red Lion, Stevington

Welcome to John and Linda O'Grady and daughter Ericka, who took over this community pub by the village cross in August. Greene King IPA, Woodforde's Wherry and a guest ale on hand-pump. The pub has a friendly atmosphere and a large garden ideal for families. Although food is currently limited to ploughman's and sandwiches, hot meals may start in October. A new cheese club meets on Monday evenings and cooked Sunday breakfast is served from 10 to 11.30 am. Open from 5pm Monday to Thursday and all day Friday to Sunday, with live music Friday evening. Call 01234 823300. *See also village feature on page 16.*

Blacksmiths Arms, Ravensden

After several months closed and boarded up, this prominent pub at the crossroads on the B660 Kimbolton Road recently re-opened as a pub/restaurant. Real Greene King IPA is available, but we have no other news yet.

Box End Park, Kempston Box End

The **Corner 5 Restaurant and Bar** opened recently at the new Box End Park water sport complex on the A5134 between Kempston and Bromham. The large, contemporary wooden building offers a panoramic lakeside setting, although the access road and car park are not yet paved. Hosts James and Hannah Barbour offer Greene King Old Speckled Hen on the bar, while freshly prepared dishes are served at lunchtime and every evening except Sunday. The Box End Park complex closes on Monday. Call 01234 846223 or visit www.boxendpark.com

Green Man, Lidlington

Georgina and Philip Brown, who used to run the Swan in Cranfield, recently took over this charming, thatched village pub. Greene King IPA and a guest ale are available, with a varied menu of home-cooked lunches, evening meals and bar snacks except Sunday evening. Opens at 4pm Monday, otherwise at 12 noon. Curry and beer night Tuesday, steak and wine night Wednesday, fish and chips Friday, Clairvoyant night Sunday. Murder mystery evenings and other theme food nights are planned. Call 01525 402869.

New Inn, Wymington

Michael Marlow, former landlord of the Oakley Arms, Harrod, is now running this popular pub near our north-western border with



Northants. Open daily from 12 noon, with Greene King IPA, Abbot and a guest ale on handpump. Home-cooked meals, served in the bar or the separate dining room, are available throughout the week except Sunday evening and all day Tuesday. The menu includes fresh fish dishes changed daily. A pets' corner across the car park includes chickens and rabbits. Call 01933 355385.



Autumn beer festivals

Booze on the Ouse (St Ives)

Thu 11 to Sat 13 September, St Ivo Centre, Westwood Road, St Ives PE27 6WU. More than 55 cask ales plus real cider and foreign beers. Open Thu 6-10.45, Fri 5-10.45, Sat 12-10.45, Admission £2 Thu/Fri after 7pm, Sat £1. Happy Hour Thu 6-7, Fri 5-7, admission £1 with cheaper beers. CAMRA members free all times. Food on sale at all sessions, free soft drinks for drivers. See poster advert below.

www.huntscamra.org.uk

Letchworth Beer & Cider Festival

Thu 18 to Sat 20 September at Plinston Hall, Broadway (rail stn 500 yards). Open Thu 5-11, Fri/Sat 12-11. Admission Fri £1 before 4pm, otherwise £2, CAMRA members free. 50 real ales including local brews, good range of cider, perry and foreign beer, hot and cold food. A quiet festival with no music. See poster page 10.

www.camranorthherts.org.uk



BEER FESTIVAL
Booze on the Ouse

Thu 11th—Sat 13th
September 2008
St Ivo Centre
St Ives

50+ REAL ALES
CIDER AND BOTTLED FOREIGN BEERS

BOOZE ON THE OUSE 2008

ST IVES

Opening Times: Thu 6pm-10.45pm, Fri 5pm-10.45pm, Sat all day from 12noon-10.45pm
Entry (including programme):
£2.00 Thursday & Friday evening (from 7pm)
£1.00 All day Saturday
CAMRA members free entry to all sessions
Happy Hour Thursday 6-7pm and Friday 5-7pm:
Entrance £1.00 and reduced price draught beer
Families welcome until 9pm

CAMRA stall and tombola	Soft drinks, wines and spirits bar	Free soft drinks for designated drivers	Bar snacks at all sessions
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www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival for more details

St Albans Beer Festival

Wed 24 to Sat 27 September at the Alban Arena, Civic Centre. Open Wed 5-10.30, Thu-Sat 11-10.30, CAMRA members admitted free. More than 300 real ales, plus cider, perry, bottle-conditioned and wide range of foreign beers. Daily breweriana auctions, prize quiz Sat. Live music eves, including Dr Feelgood R&B Sat. See poster opposite. www.stalbansbeerfestival.com

Oxford Beer Festival

Thu 16 to Sat 18 October, at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates St. Open Thu 5-11, Fri 11-11, Sat 11-8, admission £2, CAMRA members £1, 120 real ales, 50 ciders and perries, foreign bottled beers. Frequent X5 express buses from Bedford. www.oxfordcamra.org.uk

National Apple Day at Bromham

Sunday 19 October at Bromham Mill (off A428 at western end of Bromham Bridge). A family fun day celebrating our national apple heritage. Real cider and perry bar run by CAMRA East Beds, plus many other attractions. See advert page 15.

2nd Hebfest Sawbridgeworth Festival

Fri 24 to Sat 25 October at Memorial Hall, Knight Street, Sawbridgeworth. Open 11-11, offering more than 28 real ales. www.heb-camra.org.uk/hebfest

Concrete Pint Beer Festival (MK)

Thu 30 October to Sat 2 November at The Pitz, Woughton Leisure Centre, Rainbow Drive (off Chaffron Way H7), Leadenhall, Milton Keynes MK6 5EJ. Open Thu/Fri 12-11, Sat 12-10.30, admission Thu/Fri £3 after 5pm, otherwise free. CAMRA members free at all times. About 50 real ales plus four ciders and perries, hot and old food and snacks. Use X5 express bus Bedford to CMK, then local route 5. www.mkcamra.org.uk

2nd Cambridge Octoberfest

Fri 31 Oct to Sat 1 Nov at the University Social Club, Mill Lane, CB2 1RX. Frequent X5 express buses from Bedford. cambridge-camra.org.uk

ST. ALBANS BEER FESTIVAL



08



Wed 24th - Sat 27th September
ALBAN ARENA THE ST. ALBANS ST ALBANS

OVER 300 REAL ALES plus CIDERS, PERRIES & FOREIGN BEERS



Wednesday 24th	5.00pm - 10.30pm	£2.50	
Thursday 25th	11.00am - 10.30pm	£2.50	(£2.00 before 4.00pm)
Friday 26th	11.00am - 10.30pm	£3.00	(£2.00 before 4.00pm)
Saturday 27th	11.00am - 10.30pm	£4.00	(£2.00 before 4.00pm)



Beer with the Feelgood Factor! Sat. Sept. 27th Dr FEELGOOD

CAMRA MEMBERS FREE EVERY DAY, ANY TIME. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 CAN BE ADMITTED
www.stalbansbeerfestival.com Box office 01727 844488 Contact: realales@yahoo.com

Champion Beers of Britain

ALTON'S PRIDE from the Triple fff Brewery in Hampshire is the Supreme Champion Beer of Britain 2008.

Every August, CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival hosts the Champion Beers of Britain awards. Winners are chosen from a final shortlist of more than 60 in seven categories by a panel of brewers, beer writers and journalists. All beers were tasted blind, so the judges did not know the identity of samples before judging.

Alton's Pride (3.8% abv) is described in the *Good Beer Guide 2008* as "A clean-tasting, golden brown beer, full-bodied for its strength with an aroma of floral hops. An initial malty flavour fades as citrus notes and hoppiness take over, leading to a hoppy, bitter finish."

Roger Protz, one of the finalist judges and editor of the *Good Beer Guide* said: "A magnificent victory for a craft brewery that opened in 1997 with a five-barrel plant but has just moved

to a new 50-barrel brew house. It has grown due to consumer demand for its rich, complex beers."

Graham Trott, Head Brewer at Triple fff Brewery said: "We are over the moon and delighted to put Alton back on the map. I would like to thank everyone who is connected with the brewery and we look forward to more people enjoying our winning beer."

The Silver award went to **Beckstones Black Dog Freddy** from Cumbria and Bronze to CAMRA's current Winter Beer of Britain, **Wickwar Station Porter** from Gloucestershire.

Supreme Champions

Gold Triple fff, Alton's Pride
Silver Beckstones, Black Dog Freddy
Bronze Wickwar, Station Porter

Milds

Gold Beckstones, Black Dog Freddy
Silver Rudgate, Ruby Mild
Bronze Rhydney, Dark

Bitters

Gold Triple fff, Alton's Pride
Silver Lees, Bitter
Bronze Jarrow, Rivet Catcher
Surrey Hills, Ranmore Ale

Best Bitters

Gold Skinner's, Betty Stogs
Silver Highland, Scapa Special Joint
Bronze Cairngorm, Nessies Monster Mash
Timothy Taylor, Landlord

Strong Bitters

Gold Thornbridge, Jaipur IPA
Silver Fuller's, ESB
Bronze Highland, Orkney Blast

Golden Ales

Gold Otley, O1
Silver Loddon, Ferryman's Gold
Bronze Skinner's, Cornish Knocker Ale

Speciality Beers

Gold Otley, O Garden
Silver Wentworth, Bumble Beer
Bronze Nethergate, Umbel Magna

The Green Man



Thatched village pub + restaurant
A warm welcome awaits you
Excellent home-cooked menu
Relaxed atmosphere + pub games
Choice of real ales
Families welcome
Phone to reserve a table

High Street, Lidlington
01525 870764

Debbie and Tony
look forward to welcoming you to the

THREE CUPS



Range of five real ales
XX Mild always available
Guest and seasonal ales

Daily lunch menu available
Changing range of 'Specials'
Home-cooked Sunday roast for £6.00

"A proper pub with a friendly atmosphere"

45 Newnham Street, Bedford
01234 352153

The White Horse



Beer and bangers festival
Wed 5th to Sun 9th November

Enjoy the beers of East Anglia and
range of sausages and jackets

Beer Festival – 11am to 11pm

Food – noon to 9pm

Programme of events

Ring or call in for details

Newnham Avenue, Bedford
01234 409306



oakham ales

www.oakhamales.com

Tel 01733 370500

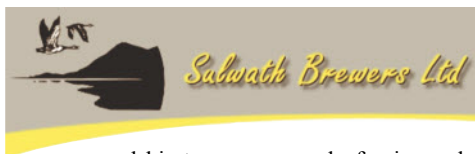
Fine Scottish beer

TRAVELLING up to Scotland for an Easter break we overnighted at Lockerbie Manor Hotel, where the bar offered real ales from Sulwath Brewers in nearby Castle Douglas. I found out from the owner of the hotel that the brewery was open to casual visitors on Monday to Saturday. Next day we decided to pay them a visit.

Rounded, mellow flavours

Castle Douglas is about 45 minutes from Dumfries. The brewery on King Street was established in 1996, brewing traditional beers using local ingredients wherever possible. Jim Henderson, founder and General Manager explained that the softness of the water produces beers with a rounded, mellow flavour, without the harshness often created by harder water.

The best quality Maris Otter malts are used in each full mash brew, with the addition of whole Fleuret hops. Sulwath uses no hop extract - Jim



and his team are proud of using only traditional methods allied to a passion for natural ingredients.

Solway mist

Sulwath supplies beers throughout the country, from Aberdeen to Devon. They include **Cuil Hill**, a 3.6% abv pale session ale bursting with fresh malt and hops, **Criffel**, a 4.6%, amber India Pale Ale, **Knockendoch**, a 5% dark copper brew with the flavour of deep roasted malts and Challenger hops, and **Galloway Gold**, a superlative 5% real lager with a refreshing taste made from best lager and wheat malts with continental hops.

Other beers include **The Black Galloway**, a robust stout deriving its colour from the abundance of chocolate malts, and **Solway Mist**, a naturally cloudy wheat beer brewed with malted wheat, rolled oats and a hint of Seville orange peel – a fine alternative to conventional lagers.

Wildfowl

The name “Sulwath” is an ancient name for the Solway estuary, reputed to date back to a ford near the mouth of the river Esk which marked the border between Scotland and England in the 13th century. The area is an international wildfowl reserve and the Caerlaverock region is dominated by a granite base mountain called Criffel – hence the brewery logo of two flying geese against its background. According to local custom, first sign of approaching springtime is when these birds gather in flights of many thousands and fly northwards to their summer homelands.

If you are passing through Galloway, I can recommend a visit to the brewery and its tap where you will find great pleasure sampling the beer range with a talk from one of the friendly staff. A good selection of their beers is available from the brewery shop in draught or bottled form. www.sulwathbrewers.co.uk

Don Allan



Bedfordshire's leading stockists of bottled real ales

Over 100 available and many more obtainable to order

A wide range of Malt Whiskies and Exclusive Fine Wines

Visit us any time from noon

Open every day

142 High Street, Cranfield, MK43 0EL

01234 751528

parklandwinecompany@hotmail.com

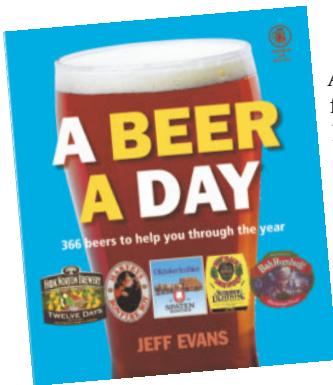
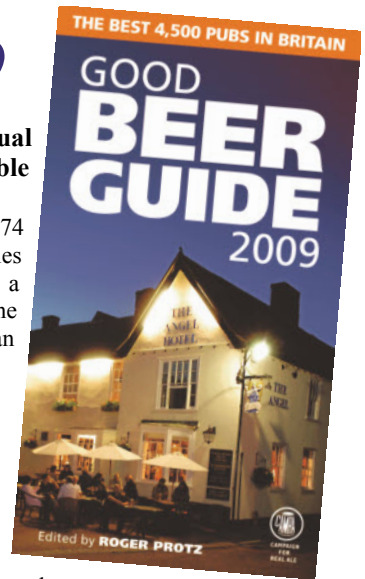
Good Beer Guide 2009

SEPTEMBER sees the arrival of CAMRA's 36th annual *Good Beer Guide*, the discerning drinker's invaluable travelling companion.

The first *Good Beer Guide* was a slim booklet published in 1974 at 75p. It listed 104 breweries and selected pubs in England, Wales and the Isle of Man. The 880-page *Good Beer Guide 2009* is a mightier beast, featuring over 600 breweries and 4,500 of the country's best real ale pubs. The *Good Beer Guide* is more than just a pub guide – it is the complete book for beer lovers.

- Edited by award-winning drinks writer Roger Protz
- Britain's no. 1, best-selling guide to good beer and pubs
- Quick reference, county by county guides, clear maps and simple directions
- Over 4,500 best pubs with beer lists, opening hours, food information, family facilities and accommodation – chosen by CAMRA members throughout the country.
- A detailed directory of British breweries, listing all regular and many seasonal ales, most with tasting notes by trained CAMRA taste panels
- Features on beer, pubs, the brewing industry and current CAMRA campaigns
- New mobile phone service to find nearest listed pub

The *Good Beer Guide 2009* is on sale from 11th September at all good bookshops, or direct from CAMRA Books at £14.99 +£1.50 P&P – CAMRA members save £3.99. Call 01727 867201 or visit www.camra.org.uk/books



A Beer a Day

A BEER A DAY is a beer book with a difference: 366 great beers from all over the world are featured – one for each day of the year. No ordinary collection of “must taste” beers, *A Beer a Day*, written by award-winning beer writer Jeff Evans, unearths the links between beer and the world we live in – our history, traditions, customs and culture.

Looking behind the beer pump clips and labels, *A Beer a Day* is arranged by the calendar, with a major event, season, or other commemoration featured on each day, with an appropriate beer.

Brewing has always been linked to the seasons, with harvest time and religious festivals often inspiring special beers, while modern brewers produce seasonal ales for such occasions as

Valentine's Day and Halloween. Beers are also named in honour of the great and the good from history – patron saints, kings and queens; from Robert the Bruce, Dr Johnson and Nostradamus to Richard the Lionheart, Thomas Telford and Mata Hari.

A Beer a Day has a beer for every story and a story for every beer. It is available from good bookshops, or direct from CAMRA Books at £16.99 – CAMRA members save £2. Call 01727 867201 or visit www.camra.org.uk/books

Both books are also available from bookstalls at CAMRA festivals including the Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October.

News in brief

Sad news for the Globe

MELVIN HALL, landlord of the Globe in Dunstable, passed away unexpectedly while on holiday with his family during the summer.



Following its purchase by B&T, Mel helped turn the pub into a popular real ale venue, earning the South Beds CAMRA Pub of the Year award only a few months ago.

Mel will be sorely missed by both colleagues and pub regulars. We offer our sympathy to his family and many friends.

In the circumstances, well done B&T for deciding to go ahead with the 6th Globe Beer Festival early in October. *See ad on page 2 for details.*

Cains in trouble

CAMRA has responded to the news that **Cains Beer Company** has gone into administration with a pledge to support a buyer who will keep the historic Liverpool brewery in production.

Cains had a stand at the recent Great British Beer Festival, where its beers, including IPA, Raisin Beer and 2008 Culture Beer, brewed to celebrate Liverpool as the European City of Culture, proved popular with Festival visitors. CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: "Beer drinkers in Liverpool should not lose out because of the credit crunch. We will support any company that puts forward a rescue plan for the ailing brewer to ensure great beer continues to be brewed at the Stanhope Street Brewery. We hope that the Cains stand at the Great British Beer Festival won't be the last stand for Cains' beers."

Lord John Russell

Hunts
CAMRA
Most
Improved
Pub 2007



Six 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

The Gordon Arms



Local community pub
Attractive garden and front patio
Four Wells & Young's real ales
Café-style home-cooked lunches
Coffee morning and afternoon teas
Ent. Shed venue for hire
Families welcome

118 Castle Road, Bedford
01234 348668

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY 2008 Beer & Cider Festival 18th - 20th September



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**



50+ Cask Beers Foreign Beer
Cider - Perry - Wine

Tombola, Products, Hot & Cold Food

Thur 18th Sept. 5pm - 11pm
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Entry: £2 with 50% discount before 4pm
CAMRA, EBCU members & OAPs FREE
Family Area available Saturday till 7pm

Check www.camranorthherts.org.uk for info
Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

Oakley and Stevington

THE villages of Oakley and Stevington almost face each other across the Great Ouse, linked by an old double bridge that is occasionally closed during heavy floods and is a popular rat run for traffic avoiding Bedford. Oakley offers one pub, Stevington two.

You can easily reach all three pubs in a day wearing a stout pair of boots, or use the two-hourly Stagecoach 126 bus that connects them.

Bedford Arms, Oakley



An extensive village inn offering a public bar with pool and darts, and a large lounge divided into comfortable seating areas, with a rear conservatory used as a restaurant and function room. The bars open all day every day from 11am (12 on Sunday), while a varied menu for lunches and evening meals is available until 9pm (Sunday until 7pm).

Landlords Tony and Damian Morphett offer Wells Eagle IPA, Bombardier and a regularly changing guest ale. Families are welcome, with a children's play area in one of the two gardens. Stagecoach bus 51 from Bedford stops close to the pub. Call 01234 822280 or visit the website at www.bedfordarms.net

Red Lion, Stevington

Standing by the ancient cross at the heart of the village, the Red Lion is open evenings only from Monday to Thursday, but all day Friday to Sunday. The through bar offers Greene King IPA, Woodforde's Wherry and a regularly changing guest beer.



New landlords John and Linda O'Grady and their daughter Ericka are keen to maintain a warm, friendly atmosphere. At present, food is limited to sandwiches and ploughman's, but hot

bar food and hot drinks will be available from October. A new cheese club has started on Monday evenings and Sunday breakfast is served from 10 to 11.30am. There is usually live music on Fridays.

The large garden is ideal for families in fine weather, although John and Linda hope to refurbish it before the demand for al fresco eating and drinking returns next spring. The pub holds a key to the 18th century Stevington windmill museum to the east of the village, which can be borrowed for a deposit. Call 01234 823300.

Royal George, Stevington



A short walk along Silver Street from the cross, the Royal George is a friendly community local originally created by joining two old houses together. Landlords Rob and Gemma have been busy since taking over the pub a couple of years ago, opening up the cosy dining room beyond the bar to create a continuous seating area through to the pool and TV room at the other end.

Unsteady London commuters may appreciate the unusual hanging straps over the bar. A partly covered patio garden at the rear will suit the smokers and others wanting a touch of fresh air.

The pub opens every evening, every lunchtime except Wednesday and all day at weekends. Wells Eagle IPA, Courage Directors, a guest beer and sometimes real Westons cider are available on handpump, while good value lunches and evening meals are served daily except Sunday evening. The rear car park entrance is off the road towards Pavenham. The Royal George also holds a key to the Stevington windmill. Call 01234 822184.

For further information about these and all other pubs in Bedfordshire, visit the new CAMRA guide at www.bedspubs.org.uk

Bedfordshire Pub of the Year



Wellington Arms managers Royston Beer and Lesley Griffin receiving their Beds Pub of the Year award in July

Use the new Beds pub 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 the guide by pub 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.

You can help us keep the guide up to date. Whether you are the licensee, a pub regular or an occasional visitor, please send amendments c/o the Firkin or email pubguide@northbedscamra.org.uk

www.bedspubs.org.uk

Stone Jug

10 Back Street Clophill
MK45 4BY
01225 860526
Owner: Free House
Licensee: Joyce and Vikki Stevens
Status: Owner
Licensing area: Mid Beds District Council
CAMRA Branch: North Beds
B&T Sheffield Bitter [H]
Fuller's London Pride [H]
Young's Bitter [H]
Guest Ales: Two - Changed regularly [H]
Real Cider: Westons Old Rosie
[H]Westons Perry [G]
P covered at front



Stagecoach J1, S1 (short walk)

Opening Times:
Mon-Thu 12.00-15.00, 18.00-23.00
Fri-Sat 12.00-23.00
Sun 12.00-22.30

Meals:
Tue-Sat 12.00-14.00

Popular village local created from three 17th-century stone cottages. The L-shaped bar serves two drinking areas and a function/family room leading into a rear patio garden. There are also picnic benches at the front for sipping outside in fine weather. Excellent home-made lunches are served Tuesday to Saturday. Parking can be difficult at busy times. Bedfordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2006.

Pub finding made easy

CAMRA has combined its extensive knowledge of good pubs with the latest innovations in satellite navigation to produce a unique and exclusive *Good Beer Guide Points of Interest* (POI) file for TomTom users.

Catering for both techno wizards and ordinary pub-goers, the new service will allow users to pinpoint and explore over 4,500 pubs listed in the current edition of the *Good Beer Guide*. Simple to install and use, CAMRA hopes the service will encourage users to get out exploring and uncover some of Britain's best real-ale pubs.

Simon Hall, CAMRA Managing Editor, said: "For anyone tired of getting lost down country lanes, map in hand, while trying to find a pub for Sunday lunch, this is a great, stress-free solution. Many people prefer to spend their evenings and

weekends indoors, using modern technology to shop and socialise online. This latest application will encourage TomTom users to leave the confines of their living room to enjoy and support great community pubs!"

Available for only £5, the TomTom POI file contains the name, address, phone number and location of the 4,500 pubs in the guide. Although the file is currently compatible only with TomTom satnavs, there are plans to offer similar POI files for other brands in future.

The TomTom POI file for *Good Beer Guide 2008* is already available for downloading from www.camra.org.uk/GBGPOI. A new file will soon be available with data from the new *Good Beer Guide 2009*.



The Horse & Groom



**300 year-old coaching inn
Greene King + guest ales
Lunchtime and evening menus
Early diners offer – ring for details
Friendly service and atmosphere
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Booking tables advisable**

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01234 217502**

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Registered charity 281325**



**Book your table for a 3 course meal
Stand-up routine from Russ Williams
(Comedian of the year 2000).**

CHARITY AUCTION

**All money raised goes to our charity
Attend auction without dinner – entry £1
Live music with Sam Lewis
Dress code smart / casual please**

**20 High Street, Blunham
01767 640620**



Branch diary

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

Guests are welcome at social events, but members have priority on brewery visits. For latest information check *What's Brewing*, or visit the branch website at www.northbedscamra.org.uk

Thursday 11 Sep – Luton social

Joint pub crawl with South Beds Branch in Luton. Meet at Bedford station for 7.23 train. Route includes Great Northern (Bute St) 7.50, Globe 8.30, Black Horse 9.05, English Rose 9.55 and Bricklayers Arms 10.40. All welcome.

Thursday 18 Sep – branch meeting

Branch meeting, 8 for 8.15 at the Three Cups, Newnham Street, Bedford. All CAMRA members welcome.

Wed 8 to Sat 11 Oct – Bedford festival

31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival at the Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square. Help needed – call John Martin on 01234 768294 or complete online staffing form at www.northbedscamra.org.uk
See pages 3-5 of this issue.

Thursday 13 Nov – brewery visit

Visit to a brewery within about 20 miles, details to be announced. Minibus leaves Wellington Arms 6.30pm, charge about £8. Check *What's Brewing* or branch website.

Thursday 20 Nov – branch meeting

Branch meeting, 8 for 8.15 at the Three Cups, Newnham Street, Bedford. All CAMRA members welcome.

Thursday 18 Dec – Christmas social

Branch Christmas social, 8pm at the Three Cups, Bedford. Details to be announced.

Read the Firkin online

To save admin and postage, our mailing service to subscribers has closed. If you cannot find a copy of the *Firkin* at your local pub, or if you live outside our distribution area, visit our branch website, click the **News** tab and download a screen quality copy of this and previous issues of *Firkin* since 2006.

www.northbedscamra.org.uk

Trading standards

If you complain to a licensee about short measure, no visible price list or misleading product promotion and do not get a satisfactory response, contact the *Bedfordshire Trading Standards Service* at County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP. Tel. 01234 228897.

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/bedfordshire

National Apple Day

Bromham Mill & Gallery
Sunday 19th October
11am - 4.30pm

Join us for our annual celebration of the brilliant British Apple!

Taste, eat, drink, try and buy local apples
Apple bobbing and peeling
Shop local at the Big Food Fayre

CAMRA cider and perry bar

Story telling and family art activities
Puppet shows
Identify you apple varieties

Adults £5, concessions £3
Accompanied children and parking free



Bromham Mill & Gallery
Bridge End, Bromham, MK43 8LP
01234 824330



Join CAMRA today!



THE Campaign for Real Ale was founded in 1971 to keep real ale alive. Thirty-seven years later we have over 92,000 members and more than 600 British breweries brewing over 2,500 different varieties of real ale. So what does CAMRA do?

Fight pub closures

CAMRA research shows that 57 pubs on average close every month across the country. Most of these are local community pubs, often run down by their owners and turned into private houses for a quick profit. Many communities no longer have a pub at all.

CAMRA works through initiatives such as the Community Pubs Foundation and Pub is the Hub to stop unnecessary pub closures. The next one under threat might be your local!

Fight short measure

Did you realise that 9 out of 10 “pints” of draught beer contain less than 100% liquid? Consumers lose over a million pounds a day through short

measure. CAMRA is pressing the Government to change the law so you get what you pay for – a full 20 fluid ounce pint every time.

Promote guest beers

Six out of ten pubs are unable to offer a guest beer of their choice. Two thirds are tied to a single brewery or to a pub company that restricts what they can buy. CAMRA campaigns for a guest beer law to give licensees the right to serve a guest beer of their choice and to improve the accessibility of real ale in British pubs.

Achievements

CAMRA’s many achievements include:

- Helping change the law to allow pubs to open longer where it suits the local community.
 - Running a powerful campaign for small brewers’ duty relief, helping small breweries to invest and become more viable.
 - Working with local communities to save hundreds of community pubs from closure.
 - Organising over 150 beer festivals a year, including the Great British Beer Festival at London’s Earls Court Arena.
 - Encouraging more than 5,000 volunteers to survey pubs, organise and work at beer festivals, and actively campaign for real ale and pubs.
- Read more about CAMRA’s successful campaigning at www.camra.org.uk

Join CAMRA today!

If you care about these issues and want to make a difference, join CAMRA today! For less than the price of a pint a month, you can join over 92,000 other members throughout Britain and help campaign for quality real ale and good pubs.

Single membership costs only £22 a year, reduced to £13 for retired over 60, under age 26, unemployed or disabled. Save £2 a year and get three months free by choosing direct debit.

Use the form opposite, call 01727 867201 or visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus.

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Bank Holiday Saturdays 9.30am to 2pm

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 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 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: Campaign 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 _____

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

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

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.

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- 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 account.

PLEASE CUT ALONG THIS LINE

Join 92,000 members of CAMRA and help fight for Britain's beer heritage

21

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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. They also include pub and club licensees.

- Circulation 3,000 copies every quarter, delivered to almost every pub and real ale club in north Bedfordshire. Full layout is also posted online for at least a year at 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



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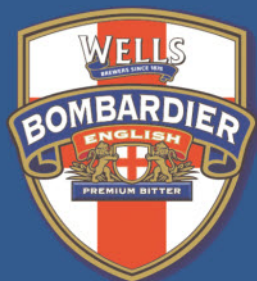
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