

# Ullage

FREE PLEASE TAKE ONE

The Newsletter of West Berkshire CAMRA



March/April 2011

## Lord Lyon wins Community race

The Lord Lyon is named after a famous thoroughbred racehorse which won the three prestigious races that comprise the Triple Crown in 1866. After a close run contest, the Stockcross pub has now won the 2011 West Berkshire CAMRA race to be voted Best Community Pub.



Mark Genders - Lord Lyon vegetable garden & chicken house

Congratulations go to Mark Genders and his dedicated staff at the Lord Lyon, Stockcross. Customers nominated the Arkell's pub for an impressive 24 distinct reasons. Although too numerous to list in full, an idea of the pub's community role can be seen in these examples: making the pub's kitchen garden available to local schools for projects (including 'meet the chicken' and vegetable gardening); hosting a party for the last night of the Stockcross pantomime; providing a venue for the village's book group, bridge, guitar and knitting clubs; supporting the local

cricket and football clubs; aiding charities including the Sutton (village) hall.

On hearing that the pub, which he has been running since April 2010, had won the award, Mark said 'We're very pleased, it's marvellous! It recognises all the team's hard work.' The framed award certificate was presented to Mark at the Lord Lyon on 22 February. Adrian Bean, Chairman of West Berkshire CAMRA, said 'The fact that people felt that the pub acted as the hub of the village was very important.'

In 2010, Nick and Maggie Hex at the Castle, Cold Ash, won the award. The pub received many nominations again this year. Another pub to challenge strongly for the award was the Bowler's Arms, Wash Common, with its annual bonfire night party and Falkland Cricket Club links. The Lion, Newbury and the Spotted Dog, Cold Ash were also in the running with multiple nominations.

West Berkshire CAMRA would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to nominate a pub for the award. The new form, for West Berkshire CAMRA Best Community Pub 2012, will be available on our website in April. This allows plenty of time to nominate your favourite community pub for next year's award.

W. Berks. CAMRA Best Community pub 2011



The Lord Lyon

Stockcross RG20 8LL

A proper village pub,  
with well kept local ales,  
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Open 7 days a week (12-3 & 6-11)  
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## CAMRA's 40th Birthday

The Campaign for Real Ale was formed on 16 March 1971 by four founding members whilst visiting a pub on holiday in Ireland. They had become deeply disillusioned with the domination of the UK market by a handful of national brewing companies, determined to push standardised keg beer brands into pubs to replace traditional ales from local breweries.

40 years later and CAMRA now has more than 120,000 members and we can again drink cask beer from local or regional breweries in our pubs. CAMRA's campaigning has resulted in many successes over this period including: Saving pubs and breweries under threat from closure; the introduction of Small Brewers Relief; LoCAle; Licensing Hours Reform and the promotion of endangered beer styles. There are now more than



3,000 different real ales being brewed in the UK by over 750 real ale breweries.

Simon Grist and Sue Thirlaway, of Berkshire South-East branch, thought it would be a good idea for a local brewery to develop a special beer for this occasion. Chris Marriage, convinced Dave and Helen Maggs that the West Berkshire

Brewery could supply pubs in Berkshire and beyond with a 4.0% abv strength beer to tie in with the 4.0 decade anniversary of CAMRA's founding. The beer will be a ruby (40th anniversary) colour and have a malty, but not sweet, character with a robust bitterness and fruity notes from all English Hops. Alex Agar came up with the name WB-40 for a West Berkshire beer to lubricate drinkers' throats etc.. Richard Lock designed the eye-catching pump-clip. These Berkshire based CAMRA campaigners have done their bit. Now it is up to you to ask for some WB-40 at your local pub and drink a birthday toast to CAMRA.

Richard Lock designed the eye-catching pump-clip. These Berkshire based CAMRA campaigners have done their bit. Now it is up to you to ask for some WB-40 at your local pub and drink a birthday toast to CAMRA.

## The West Berkshire Brewery

Beers of Exceptional Character

Award-winning Beers of Exceptional Character

Offering a variety of beers both in bottles and in polypins for parties and events – sizes include 9, 18, 36 pints and a 72 pint stainless steel firkin!

Shop open: 10am – 4pm  
Monday to Friday and

10am – 1pm on Saturday



Look out for our beers of the month – Seedlip (4.3%) in March and Fiddle Drill (4.3%) in April.

And why not celebrate the Royal Wedding with a bottle of our Royal Wedding Ale available from the brewery shop and other outlets.

See our website for details.

The Old Bakery Yattendon Thatcham Berks RG18 0UE  
Tel: 01635 202968 · Fax: 0560 3129099  
email: [info@wbbrew.co.uk](mailto:info@wbbrew.co.uk) · [www.wbbrew.com](http://www.wbbrew.com)

## Swift Halves

■ **Wadworth & Co Ltd** celebrated 125 years at the Northgate brewery, Devizes in February. An old recipe has been followed to brew the 125 year Celebratory Double Stout (4% abv). It is a rich, dark stout, brewed using amber, crystal and black malts. It is available in bottles from the Wadworth visitor centre and draught stout will be available in some Wadworth pubs in March.

■ The **Harp**, near Trafalgar Square is the CAMRA National Pub of the Year 2011. This is the first time that a London pub has won the annual award. Beers are mainly sourced from independent breweries including Sambrook's and Dark Star. [www.harpcoventgarden.com](http://www.harpcoventgarden.com)

■ Tom Simpson is the new licensee at the **Falmouth Arms**, Woolhampton where Marston's Pedigree is available. The pub is due to close for refurbishment, for a fortnight in March. Tom is keen to expand the number of ales and there will be two after the reopening. Tel: 0118 9712308

■ **Sharp's** brewery, based at Rock in Cornwall and founded in 1994, has been acquired by the multinational brewer Molson Coors. CAMRA is campaigning to preserve the long term future of the existing brewery and all the Sharp's beer brands: Doom Bar, Cornish Coaster and Sharp's Own.

■ The **White Hart**, Thatcham, is under new management for the first time in nearly 20 years. The pub is open all day and offers a choice of three real ales including Sharp's Doom Bar.

■ Front Row (3.7% abv), the Fuller's March seasonal ale with a rugby theme is a light ruby coloured ale that may be found at the **Lock Stock and Barrel**, Newbury.



■ The **West Berkshire Brewery** monthly beers in 2011 are named after traditional agricultural equipment. These 4.3% abv beers are Seedlip (March) and Fiddle Drill (April).

A commemorative bottled beer (4.5% abv) named Royal Wedding Ale will be available from the brewery shop in Yattendon.

■ The **Coach**, Beedon, is open from 11am until midnight (11pm Sundays). Good Old Boy from West Berkshire Brewery is served here together with a beer from Greene King.

■ The British Fish, Chip and Pie Pub Co at the **Langley Hall Inn**, Beedon, is open on Tuesday to Saturday from 12-2 and 5-10. Butts Traditional was recently available as their cask ale.

■ **Newbury Racecourse** will be holding its first beer festival on Saturday 14 May in conjunction with the highlight of the flat racing season, the JLT Lockinge stakes. Fifty beers will be available for tasting in pint or half pint plastic glasses. West Berkshire Brewery are supplying their own beers and sourcing a variety from Two Bridges (Caversham), Ascot Ales (Camberley), White Horse (Faringdon), Abbey Ales (Bath), RCH (Somerset), Dark Star (Sussex), Pilgrim (Reigate), Ramsgate (Kent), Crouch Vale (Essex), Milton (Cambridge), Blue Monkey (Notts) and Little Ale Cart (Sheffield). The beer festival will be open from 11am – 6.30pm on the Copper King lawn in the Grandstand enclosure of the racecourse. There will be live music and the Best of British food theme means that fish and chips, sausages and pies will be available. CAMRA members can obtain Grandstand tickets, discounted to £10, by booking in advance on 01635 40015 quoting their membership number. [www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk)



■ **Thatcham Beer Festival** supporting Help for Heroes with beers from Berkshire and Derbyshire will be held on 25 June. <http://www.thatchambeerfestival.org.uk/>

■ **JD Wetherspoon** pubs and bars, including the **Diamond Tap**, Newbury are holding a beer festival from 23 March to 10 April.

■ Entire Stout from the Hop Back Brewery, Wiltshire, was **Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2011** at the Winter Ales Festival in Manchester. The overall Silver went to Chocolate, brewed by Marble in Manchester. The overall Bronze went to Praetorian Porter brewed in Leicestershire by Dow Bridge brewery.

■ Gary and Mandy Bush took over the **Cottage Inn**, Upper Bucklebury, in December. After spending seven years in Torreveija, on the Spanish Costa Blanca, this is their first pub. Opening hours are 12-12 Sun-Thu & 12-2am Fri-Sat. The three handpumps supply a Greene King beer and two beers from West Berkshire Brewery always including Good Old Boy. On Friday 29 April there will be a family Fun Day with a barbecue and bouncy castle at the pub to coincide with the Royal Wedding. There may be a bigger range of beers for this event.

■ The **Lord Lyon**, Stockcross, is organising a street fair for the Royal Wedding bank holiday, stretching from the pub to the Sutton (village) hall. There will be a pig roast, games, trestle tables and plenty of bunting. Throughout the year, a 5% discount on draught beer and cider is available to village residents and CAMRA members at the Lord Lyon.

■ A notice at the **Lamb Inn**, Hungerford, advised that the pub/cafe was closed until further notice.

■ Tim Wale at **Tutts Clump Cider** has recently racked off 1,000 litres of single variety cider made from Russet apples that were pressed in October 2010. In the weeks ahead, Dabinett single variety cider and other new products will be prepared for sale from April onwards. [www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk](http://www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk)

## LocAle 2011



The following 17 pubs are accredited as LocAle for 2011 as they regularly serve a beer from a brewery within 25 miles by road. This is valuable publicity and entitles them to put a CAMRA LocAle sticker in their window and to use the black LocAle crowners on their local brewery pumpclips. Any other pubs that are interested in participating in LocAle should contact the pubs officer at [pubsofficer@westberkscamra.org.uk](mailto:pubsofficer@westberkscamra.org.uk) or by writing c/o 2 Sutton Road, Speen, Newbury. RG14 1UN

The Bell	Aldworth
The Blue Ball	Kintbury
The Bowler's Arms	Wash Common
The Castle Inn	Cold Ash
The Coopers Arms	Newbury
The Crown & Garter	Inkpen Common
The Downgate	Hungerford
The Five Bells	Wickham
The Lord Lyon	Stockcross
The Monument	Newbury
The Old Boot Inn	Stanford Dingley
The Red House	Newbury
The Rising Sun	Stockcross
The Royal Oak	Yattendon
The Six Bells	Beenham
The Swan Inn	Inkpen
The Winterbourne Arms	Winterbourne

**the 6 bells** We are in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide

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## The Ibx

The Ibx Inn, Chaddleworth, won the West Berkshire CAMRA Best Community Pub award in 2009. It was closed for a while after the departure of its previous tenants. Thanks to a local initiative, the Greene King pub has now reopened under new management. Food is being served again after a complete refurbishment of the kitchen. The pub opens at noon and closes at 11pm. On Mondays to Thursdays it also closes from 3-6pm but on Fridays to Sundays it is open all day. The competitively priced beers are Morland Original Bitter and Old Speckled Hen. There is talk of introducing a guest ale in the summer. The



enthusiastic staff wear t-shirts with 'The Ibx' printed in gold and are pictured in the photo (by Geoff Grayer) (from left to right): Lindsay, Lisa, Wilma (manageress) and Lorraine.



### Under new management

Fresh home made food served all week

#### Sunday roast lunch

Morland Original Bitter  
& "Old Speckled Hen"

#### Log fires in both bars

Large car park

West Berks CAMRA

Community Pub of the Year 2009

Chaddleworth, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 7ER  
01488 638311

## Viva La Revolucion! Beer in Cuba!

Cuba is like nowhere else on Earth. As one of the last refuges of communism, the island nation boasts full employment as well as health care and education for all. It is also proud of the national drink, Havana Club rum. Indeed, every citizen is entitled to a weekly allowance! Cocktails such as the Mojito and the Cuba Libre are prepared expertly at every bar.

However, the warm Atlantic Ocean and sunny skies made the thought of a cool beer much more attractive to me. So, during my visit in January, I decided to investigate the local beers. It didn't take me long to discover that although no one starves and it's easy to have a well balanced diet, choice is not a Cuban concept. The supermarket

shelves are full but with only one type of each item. Luckily, it's not quite that grim as far as beer is concerned. Cristal, Bucanero, Max and Mayabe beers are among the beers brewed at the Bucanero Brewery, situated in Holguín, 500 miles southeast of Havana. The award winning Cristal (4.9% abv) has been around for over 75 years.. It has a pale, straw colour and I found it to be very quaffable in the hot sun. Taking its name from the old stories of pirates and buccaneers, Bucanero Fuerte (5.4% abv) is indeed a treasure of the Caribbean and became my favourite drink. This full bodied amber beer is deliciously refreshing.

Cerveceria Bucanero SA is the most important brewer in Cuba and was set up as a joint venture by the Cuban Ministry of Food and a Canadian subsidiary of Labatt - now part of Inbev. Cristal and Bucanero Fuerte are exported to Europe and North America with the modified names of Palma Cristal and Cubanero. In the shops a can or bottle costs 1 CUC (approx 1 US dollar). In bars you will pay anything from 0.75 to 2.25 CUC for a pint from the tap depending on whether it is a local bar or a hotel bar.

Things are definitely looking up for Cuba's beer enthusiasts. The capital has just acquired its first brew pub! The Taberna de la Muralla in Havana has recently been refurbished as the Factoría Plaza Vieja, with an authentic nineteenth century look. The choice here is restricted to light



Factoría Plaza Vieja, Havana

or dark beer. Nevertheless, although the beautiful historic surroundings and the perfect climate may have had some influence, there can be no doubt that the Factoría brewers produce refreshing, good quality ale that is full of flavour. There are usually some musicians playing here and it is deservedly popular with both locals and tourists. A unique feature of this establishment is that a group of friends can purchase a 3 litre transparent tall tube of cold beer, with a tap at the base to serve themselves. My tip for beer lovers visiting Cuba is that they should head for this brew pub at the first opportunity.

Meg Thomas



Bar Mirador at Hotel Los Jazmines, Viñales.

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## Ale Trails

■ **Reading and Mid Berkshire CAMRA launched their 2011 Ale Trail** at the Royal Oak in Tilehurst on 12 February. There are 28 pubs on the trail this year including the Red Lion, Upper Basildon; the Crown and the Red Lion, both in Theale; the Blagrove Arms, the Nag's Head and the Hop Leaf, all in Reading. A priority ticket to the Reading Beer and Cider festival can be obtained by returning an ale trail leaflet with 18 stickers by 13 April. For full details see [www.readingcamra.org.uk/home/about/aletrail](http://www.readingcamra.org.uk/home/about/aletrail)

## 17TH READING



## BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL



27 April to 1 May 2011

The 17th Reading Beer and Cider festival runs from Wednesday 27 April to Sunday 1 May 2011 and includes the Royal Wedding bank holiday. West Berkshire CAMRA will be at the festival on Thursday 28 April. Meet up with us standing near the Butts Brewery section of the bar, perhaps with a copy of Ullage, at 6pm or 8pm. CAMRA members can obtain reduced price entry or they can join the volunteer staff at the festival. Volunteers receive beer and food tokens as well as free priority entry. For further details see [www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk)

■ **Borough Market, London SE1.** Tim Thomas visited the **Rake**, 14 Winchester Walk, London SE1 9AG recently. Near to Southwark cathedral and London Bridge station it adjoins Jubilee market, part of Borough market. This speciality beer bar was opened in 2006 by

Richard Dinwoodie and Mike Hill who were already running the Utobeer stall in the middle of Borough market. Depending on the day and time of your visit you may find the Rake busy with market traders, foodie shoppers or beer enthusiasts. The small bar has room for three high, round, tables and the walls are decorated with an international mixture of enamel brewery signs and handwritten messages from visiting brewers. Three handpumps serve an ever changing mixture of unusual cask ales. Several fountains dispense draught beers from Belgium, Germany and the USA. A large fridge stocks a huge range of specialist bottled beers. The limited bar snack list notably includes Mrs King's pork pies. Originally open from Monday-Saturday, trial opening on Sundays commences on 27 February. [www.therakeblog.wordpress.com](http://www.therakeblog.wordpress.com)



The bar at the Rake

If you find the Rake too crowded or you prefer a traditional pub, you could visit the nearby **Market Porter**, 9 Stoney Street, SE1 9AA. Here you will find a dozen cask ales mainly from smaller breweries. Open daily. [www.markettaverns.co.uk/The-Market-Porter](http://www.markettaverns.co.uk/The-Market-Porter)



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Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____	Joint Membership £25 <input type="checkbox"/> £27 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Address _____	(Partner at the same address)		
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

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12/10

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- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

## Hall & Woodhouse quality

Mark Woodhouse, joint Managing Director of Hall & Woodhouse, presented a beer tasting evening at the Swan, Newtown, on 15 February.



Twenty six beer enthusiasts from West Berkshire and North Hampshire enjoyed drinking a variety of the brewery's beers

and eating restaurant quality food while learning about the past, present and future of this independent Dorset based family brewery.

Mark said 'Quality is sacrosanct' and this includes employing two full time staff to visit the 230 Hall & Woodhouse pub four times a year. They conduct a full audit to ensure that everything in the public areas and behind the scenes is up to the highest standard. They also perform the typical Cask Marque checks on the beer quality.



Since 1777, the Badger brewery has been building up its collection of pubs which fall roughly between Dartmoor, Eastbourne, London and Weston-super-Mare. Nationwide, they have become the supermarkets' biggest independent supplier of bottled beer. Unusually, Hall & Woodhouse do not supply beer to freehouses or other chains or sell guest ales in their own tied pubs. Mark explained that this policy allowed them to guarantee beer quality.

The beer tasting started off with a draught Badger beer, chosen at the bar on arrival. The first bottled beer to be formally tasted by our group was *Stinger* which was originally developed with nettles picked at Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage. Neal's Yard now supply the extract of nettle which gives the beer its fresh aroma. *Golden Glory*, with a peach blossom aroma, was the beer chosen to accompany the appetising food which staff delivered fresh from the kitchen. Mark dealt with some questions while we relished the food and emptied our glasses. *Hopping Hare*, normally served in an etched, stemmed glass, was our next treat. This is now initially hopped with First Gold and later with Cascade in both the conditioning



Mark Woodhouse at the Swan, Newtown

tank and as a dry hop finish. 'The best beer and food combination in the world' is how Mark described *Blandford Fly* with Dorset Blue Vinney. A big chunk of the creamy cheese certainly did go well with the subtle ginger flavour of this sweetish beer. *Poacher's Choice* was the full flavoured beer to finish and as with the previous beer, Mark called it 'chutney in a bottle'. We agreed it would be a good beer to drink late at night with some blue cheese. This strong dark beer has added flavours of ripe damsons and licorice.

Mark admitted that the brewery was keen to encourage a bigger overall market for ale by brewing distinctive beers that might appeal to men who would otherwise drink lager and women who would otherwise drink wine. Amusingly, Mark was frequently disparaging of the wine trade and explained 'I only drink beer, I don't drink anything else!' He explained that a big investment is now transforming the brewery. This will provide more brewing flexibility to cope with the future market, whatever its size.

Adrian Bean rounded off the evening by thanking Mark Woodhouse for the successful event and then presented the Swan's staff with a donation raised from those attending.



### The Castle Inn · Cold Ash

- West Berkshire CAMRA Community Pub of the Year 2010
- Good Beer Guide 2009 & 2011
- Cask Marque accredited since 2002
- Four real ales including one from West Berkshire Brewery
- Family and dog friendly
- Good value food
- Quiz Mondays at 8.30pm

Cold Ash Hill · Cold Ash · Thatcham · Berkshire RG18 9PS

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## The Fox Inn Hermitage



Set in the woodland village of Hermitage, The Fox Inn is a traditional country pub and restaurant. With around 300 years of history, it's full of character, retaining many original features and creating a warm, rustic environment for drinking and dining.

Listed in The Good Beer Guide and Cask Marque accredited, we provide a range of well kept real ales, such as West Berkshire Good Old Boy, Sharps Doom Bar, Youngs Special and a Guest Ale, together with a fine selection of wines and beers.

We look forward to extending you a warm welcome, friendly service and the relaxing atmosphere of a real country pub.

The Fox Inn  
High Street · Hermitage · Berkshire RG18 9RB.  
01635 201545. [www.thefoxatthermitage.co.uk](http://www.thefoxatthermitage.co.uk).  
[www.facebook.com/thefoxhermitage](http://www.facebook.com/thefoxhermitage)

## Tutts Clump Cider



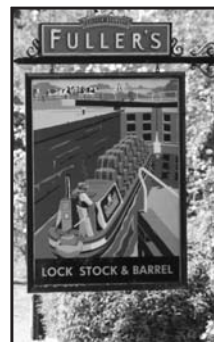
Award Winning Real Cider made by hand with apples mainly from within West Berkshire

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Mobile: 07836 296996

Email: [sales@tuttsclumpcider.co.uk](mailto:sales@tuttsclumpcider.co.uk)

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



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- Two courses for £12 - Monday to Thursday
- Traditional Roast Dinner served every Sunday 12 till 3
- West Berkshire's Good Old Boy and Morland Original as well as a variety of lagers and wines stocked.

## The Crown and Horns East Ilsley

East Ilsley is today a small picturesque Berkshire village near the Oxfordshire border. It is located adjacent to the present A34 trunk road, which once ran through the village. The ancient Ridgeway, which long served as a drover's path, passes close by, and is accessible by a path leading from the village. It is perhaps this conjunction which made East Ilsley notorious for being at one time the largest centre for sheep trading outside London, when it boasted at least 13 pubs/hotels! Today only two remain, the Swan and the Crown and Horns, somewhat bizarrely located on opposite corners of the same street.



It is perhaps the proximity to the A34 which made this reputedly 300-year-old local pub and hotel very popular with the horse-racing fraternity. This is less the case today, many of the local racing stables having disappeared; only one remains in the village, while another two can be

found in neighbouring West Ilsley, about a mile the other side of the A34.

Entering at the front of the pub, you pass the one-time off-sales counter to reach the main bar, running the length of the room on your right. On your left is a real fireplace which burns logs in the winter. A glance round at the many pictures clearly shows the lasting equine influence (even the toilets are marked 'Colts' and 'Fillies'). The entry to a 'snug' (the door long gone) is almost opposite, while another small extension room adjoins the far end. This leads to a second small bar to the right, with a door opening to the road. On the left is an extension/'breakfast' room, and a passage to the toilets (marked 'Penny Alley!').

The pub has long boasted a large selection of real ales, as well as serving good food. For many years it was a Free House, but sadly the last owner sold it to a pub chain. However, the landlord Matt Butler is still completely free to source his real ales from where he wants - a model which CAMRA applauds, and would like to see all pub chains adopting. Matt is young and enthusiastic about real ale, and regularly stocks beers from the local West Berkshire Brewery. He has found the appetite for his real ales sufficient to recently increase his hand pumps from four to five!

A range of medium-priced quality food is served lunchtimes and evenings up to 9 pm. Apart from the regular menu, a number of daily 'specials' are marked up on a blackboard in the main bar. The author enjoyed home-made chicken soup (£5). Filled baguettes were available at £6, while main courses cost typically £10 (scampi) to £13 (sirloin steak).

If you find yourself in the area, perhaps walking along the Ridgeway, or following the A34



Matt Butler behind the Crown & Horns bar

on your way home, a visit is well worth the short diversion. This is a pub where you can still just enjoy a pint in a friendly atmosphere and perhaps fall into conversation with the locals, without feeling any pressure to eat. If the weather is fine, you can sit at one of the many outside tables on the patio, surrounded by the stables which once housed a bowling alley; they have now all been converted for accommodation. There is a parking area in front of the pub, but this soon becomes full. In this case, try following the one-way system (keep turning right), where you will find parking spaces marked on the roads leading you back to the pub.

The Crown and Horns, Compton Road, East Ilsley, Berkshire. RG20 7LH Tel. 01635 281545

Geoff Grayer

## Beer Festival Diary

CAMRA-run beer festivals provide excellent opportunities for sampling a wide range of real ales, from all over the UK and overseas. Here are some of the major and most accessible festivals for West Berkshire drinkers.

9-11 March

**27th London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival**  
Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London WC1H 9AU  
Details: [www.camranorthlondon.org.uk](http://www.camranorthlondon.org.uk)

25-26 March

**Winchester Real Ale & Cider Festival**  
Winchester Guildhall, High Street, Winchester SO23 9GH  
Details: [www.winchesterbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeerfestival.org.uk)

27 April - 1 May

**17th Reading Beer & Cider Festival**  
Kings Meadow, Napier Road, Reading RG1 8BN  
Details: [www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk)

## Diary Dates 2011

The following is a list of all forthcoming meetings of the West Berkshire branch of CAMRA. Some are 'social' meetings, lively and friendly occasions where we enjoy a few beers; others are 'branch' meetings, which are slightly more formal and where we discuss beer and pubs issues. Unless stated, our meetings are open to all-comers - and new members are particularly welcome!

**Tue 8 Mar - Branch Meeting**  
Woodpecker, Wash Water, RG20 0LU

**Thu 22 Mar - Social - Quiz Evening**  
Lion, West Street, Newbury, RG14 1BD

**Tue 12 Apr - Branch Meeting**  
Crown & Horns, East Ilsley, RG20 7LH

**Thu 21 Apr - Social - Thai Meal**  
Three Horseshoes, Donnington, RG14 2LB

**Thu 28 Apr - Branch Social**  
Reading Beer & Cider festival.  
Meet near bar serving Butts Brewery beers at 6pm or 8pm

**Thu 12 May - Branch Meeting**  
Royal Oak, Yattendon, RG18 0UG

**All meetings start at 8pm unless otherwise stated.**

Please check our website for further details of events:  
[www.westberks.camra.org.uk](http://www.westberks.camra.org.uk)



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<b>Winter Opening:</b> Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm Saturdays 10am - 1pm	<b>Summer Opening:</b> Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm Saturday 10am - 4pm Sunday (peak season) 10am - 1pm
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**Wadworth & Co Ltd, Northgate Brewery, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1JW.**  
[www.wadworth.co.uk](http://www.wadworth.co.uk)