

The firkin



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

FREE

Newsletter of CAMRA North Bedfordshire Branch Vol 38 No 3 Autumn 2013

Bedford Beer and Cider Festival 2nd–5th October



Roll up! Roll up!

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

**36TH BEDFORD BEER
AND CIDER FESTIVAL**

**OTHER AUTUMN
BEER FESTIVALS**

PUB NEWS

ESSEX BREWERIES

SKEPTICS IN THE PUB

**ASSETS OF
COMMUNITY VALUE**

LONDON DRINKER

BRANCH DIARY

WHAT PUB LAUNCHED

EDITORIAL

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

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Chairman's Corner

A larger Corner than normal this quarter as the Editor has kindly allowed me more space to introduce myself as your new Branch Chairman. My day job is as a Church of England priest, a profession that has a long and honourable link with brewing. In many villages the local ale-house provided a significant part of the Vicar's income, which is one reason you will often find a pub near the churchyard gate. Pub and church were, together, a focus of local community life.

Twenty years ago they were twin aspects of my own life. I combined being a jobbing priest with part-time work in a city centre pub, perhaps the most interesting part of my life. Once my cover was blown there were some fascinating conversations across the bar on a quiet afternoon. That showed one aspect of why I think pubs are important, and the basis of that lies in their name.

They are public houses, and both aspects of that are important. First, they are public – neutral territory where we can interact with each other to the extent we want to and on an equal footing. The landlord, or whoever is on duty at the time, is responsible for maintaining good order but the majority of the time that is relatively undemanding. We go there to for an enjoyable time, and common politeness helps ensure that.

Secondly, they are houses. Some do provide some entertainment but generally they are places where we are informal, places where casual conversation may be enjoyed. In his last Chairman's Corner Peter Argyle, whom I would like to thank for his time as Branch Chairman, drew attention to CAMRA's latest campaign. This is to have pubs under threat recognized as Assets of Community Value, giving time for further consideration of the pub's future.

A well-run pub can be the centre of community life, the focus for activities that help draw the community together. Surely that is something that is important in our increasingly fragmented society. Even when there is nothing special happening the pub is a place where those casual links between people can be fostered. Pub-goers are also generous. Last year over £100 million was raised for charity in the pubs up and down the land.

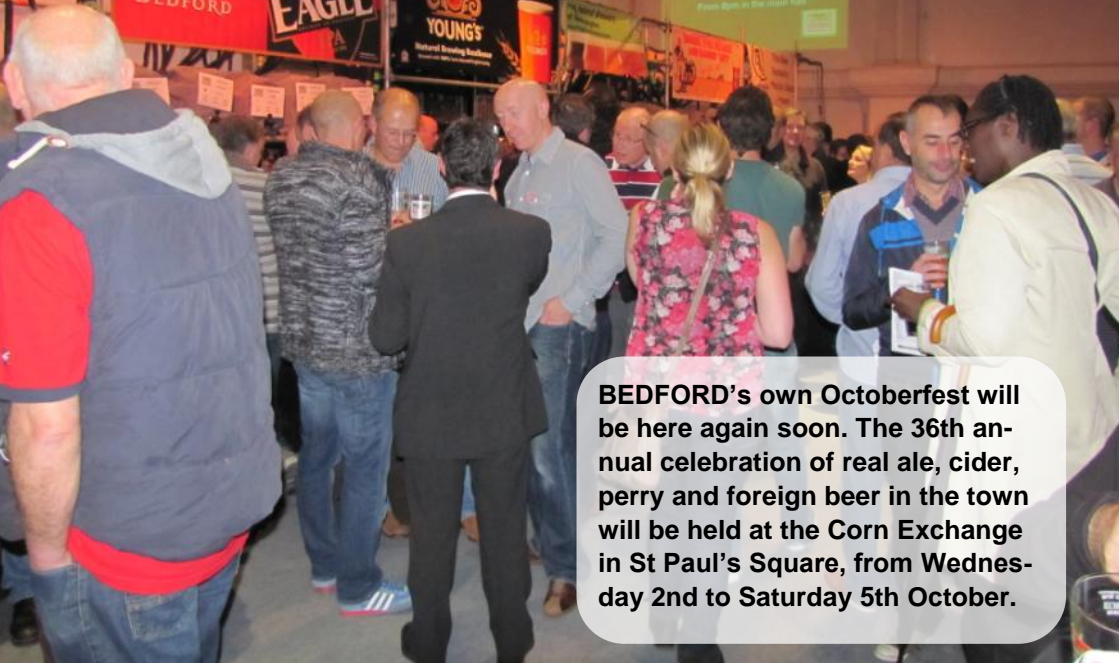
Of course the other thing necessary to a convivial evening is something to drink. Back in the days of my youth and ignorance (sic), before CAMRA was founded, brewing was becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few brewers. The range was limited and the quality variable. Now, as we will see at the Bedford Beer and Cider Festival, an ever increasing number of smaller brewers bring us a plethora of brews, each with their distinct taste to savour.

Real Ale offers real variety that satisfies without the bloating effect of gassy beer. I admit that I have my "normal" beer (whose water comes from the heart of my parish!) but the Festival offers us all an opportunity to try something different to tingle our taste buds. Even your favourite beer will taste subtly different with a different method of dispense so why not develop your palate with new experiences?

In the Budget the Chancellor announced the end of the beer duty escalator, raising the duty by more than the rate of inflation each year. That was long overdue. However, if we are to continue enjoying good beer in our pubs those who run them need a fair deal as well. Many earn less than the minimum wage. That is something that needs to change, as a number of Parliamentarians recognize. Let us show them this is something we want as well.

Roger Stokes, Branch Chairman.

Time for Another Festival!



BEDFORD's own Octoberfest will be here again soon. The 36th annual celebration of real ale, cider, perry and foreign beer in the town will be held at the Corn Exchange in St Paul's Square, from Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th October.

Local CAMRA members have organised a beer festival in the town every autumn since 1978.

Real beer and cider

More than 100 different real ales will be available during the week, plus over 40 brands of real cider and perry, and a wide range of draught and bottled foreign beers. All real ales and ciders will be dispensed by gravity, direct from the cask.

Although only a few local pubs sell real cider or perry (made from pears), the popularity of these fermented fruit drinks has earned cider a permanent place in the festival's title. As with real ale, there is a huge difference between real cider or perry and processed keg ciders. We expect to offer several ciders from the growing number of local producers in Bedfordshire and neighbouring counties. Fittingly for our local celebration, October is

CAMRA's official Cider and Perry Month.

The festival will sell no keg beers, smooth-flow beers or processed ciders, nor will any be dispensed under gas pressure, as you would expect from the Campaign for Real Ale. Full beer and cider lists will be posted on our website during September and printed in the free souvenir programme given to visitors on arrival.

Real ale is cool

Every indoor beer festival has trouble keeping real ale in good condition. Despite air conditioning, the main hall is certain to warm up during a busy evening session, but heat is bad news for beer.

To make sure you are offered good quality beer, power chillers and cooling jackets will



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be used to keep the casks cool. The pint delivered to your glass will remain in tip-top condition throughout the week.

Food and foreign beer

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. We hope these will include several brews from Bamberg, Bedford's twin city in Bavaria.

The Howard Room and adjacent balcony also provide a quiet area for sitting out and enjoying hot meals and cold snacks from the Corn Exchange catering service. A varied menu will be available every lunchtime and evening.

Lined glasses mean full pints

Souvenir festival glasses sponsored by Wells Eagle IPA will be available at £2.50 sale or return. All glasses are oversized and lined for pint, half-pint and third-pint, supporting CAMRA's campaign for full measure. Buy third-pint measures if you want to sample a wider variety of beers, or want to test a small sample of something unfamiliar before buying a full pint. As third pint measures are available, the bars will not offer Try before you Buy.

Our regular engraver will gladly personalise your glass or other objects for you, but you

cannot expect a refund on engraved glasses when you leave.

Buy your Good Beer Guide here

CAMRA East Beds Branch will run the festival shop and tombola, offering a range of clothing, books, breweriana and souvenirs from CAMRA and various breweries. Books will include the brand new Good Beer Guide 2014, hot off the press. You can also win lots of attractive prizes on the tombola – "every 1 a winner!"

Entertainers

Back by public demand, local entertainer Dr Busker will get the festival off to a rousing start on Wednesday evening, while local blues singer Kerry Jo Hodgkin will play out the event to a close on Saturday.



We also expect the Bedford Morris Men to dance in the main hall on Saturday lunchtime, probably with a few visiting teams.

Staff needed!

We welcome volunteers to work at the festival. Although we can't pay you, we offer staff cheap meals and free beer of their choice during a working session. To apply, complete the online staffing form on the website at www.northbedscamra.org.uk, or phone 07920 016371 for a form by post.





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

To make best use of space for drinkers, no children or young people under age 18 will be admitted to the festival. Proof of age may be required at the door.

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

Open all day – but no children

The festival will be open from 4 to 11pm on Wednesday and from 12 noon to 11pm on Thursday to Saturday. Admission before 4pm costs only £1, but after 4pm the charge will be £2 on Wednesday and Saturday, £3 on Thursday and £4 on Friday. On Friday – always the busiest session – there may well be a queue at the door by mid-evening, so do consider coming on a different day.

CAMRA members get in free at any time. If you plan to come several times, join CAMRA on your first visit and get in free for the rest of the week!

Pass-outs for smokers

Although smoking is prohibited inside the Corn Exchange, smokers and others needing a quick trip outside will be allowed short pass-outs, leaving their glasses with door staff inside. Drinking alcohol in the street is prohibited.

Don't drink and drive

If you must come by car, take advantage of the free soft drinks and make sure someone else drives the next day. If possible, take a bus, train or taxi home. The festival office will have local bus and train timetables.

Our festival logo



Local readers will recognise the statue of tinker, preacher and writer **John Bunyan** (1628-1688) on St Peter's Green at the centre of our new festival logo.

Although a godly man of modest habits, John is likely to have drunk the occasional beer, which in the 17th century was a good deal safer than drinking the water!

Sponsor a beer cask!

Get your business on the bar by sponsoring a cask of real ale.

For just £50, your company name and logo will be posted on the beer stillage throughout the four-day festival.

Call 01234 344388 or visit www.northbedscamra.org.uk

36th BEDFORD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

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

Wed 2nd - Sat 5th October 2013



Open

Wed 4-11

Thu-Sat 12-11

Admission charge

Before 4pm: £1

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

CAMRA members free at all times

No one under age 18 admitted

ID may be required

Short pass-outs to street

Wheelchair access to all floors

Entertainers

Wed eve: Dr Busker

Sat lunch: Bedford Morris Men

Sat eve: Kerry Jo Hodgkin

Other features

- * Souvenir glasses £2.50 sale or return
- * Oversize glasses for a full 20oz pint
- * Pint, half + third pint measures
- * Tasty hot and cold food
- * Free soft drinks
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- * Tombola and pub game
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CAMRA North Bedfordshire
www.northbedscamra.org.uk

ST. ALBANS BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2013



25th–28th September



ALBAN ARENA, ST ALBANS, AL1 3PD

Up to 300 real ales, plus ciders, perries and foreign beers

Open: 11am – 11pm Wed 25th – Sat 28th September

Admission: £3 Wed – Fri, £4.50 Sat (CAMRA members free at all times)

Thursday night on stage: Faith Stealers

Rockin' the Arena on Saturday: Nimmo Brothers Unplugged (lunch) & Larry Miller (evening)



Don't drink and drive. Use the train or bus. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 CAN BE ADMITTED
stalbansbeerfestival.org.uk / realales@yahoo.com



Autumn beer festivals

St Albans Beer Festival

Wed 25 to Sat 28 September at Alban Arena, Civic Centre AL1 3LD (rail stn 5min). Open 11-11, admission Wed-Fri £3, Sat £4.50, CAMRA members free. Advance tickets available via website. About 350 real ales + cider, perry, bottle-conditioned and foreign beers. Daily breweriana auctions, tombola, prize quiz Saturday, live music Thu eve and Sat lunch/eve. Frequent trains from Bedford and Flitwick. See advert in this issue. www.stalbansbeerfestival.com

36th Bedford Beer & Cider Festival



Wed 2 to Sat 5 October at Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square MK40 1SL. Open Wed 4-11, Thu-Sat 12-11. Admission before 4pm £1 and free to CAMRA members at all times.

For evening admission prices and other details, see advert in this issue. Visit website for full beer and cider lists.

www.northbedscamra.org.uk

Nottingham Robin Hood Beer Festival

Wed 9 to Sat 12 October in the grounds of Nottingham Castle NG1 6DH (rail stn short walk). Open Wed 6-11, Thu-Sat 11-11. Admission price varies, advance ticket purchase through website recommended. Over 1,000 real ales + 200 real ciders, perries and country wines. Hot and cold food, + live music on bandstand outside marquee. Regular trains from Bedford and Luton. www.beerfestival.nottinghamcamra.org

20th Milton Keynes Concrete Pint Beer Festival

Wed 16 to Sat 19 October at The Buszy, Elder Gate, CMK MK9 1LR (rail stn 200m, buses 100m). Open Wed 5-11, Thu-Sat 12-11 (Fri midnight), admission Thu/Fri after 5pm £3, CAMRA members free. More

than 90 real ales, cider and perry, hot and cold food, souvenir glass. Live music Thu and Sat eves. Regular X5 or 40 buses from Bedford. See advert elsewhere in this issue. www.mkcamra.org.uk

16th Oxford Beer & Cider Festival

Thu 17 to Sat 19 October at Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's St. Open Thu 5-11, Fri 11-11, Sat 11-8. Admission £2, CAMRA members free. About 150 real ales + 50 real ciders, hot and cold food. Regular X5 bus from Bedford. www.oxfordcamra.org.uk

7th Cambridge Octoberfest

Fri 18 to Sat 19 October at University Social Club, Mill Lane (X5 bus terminus 10 min). Open Fri 5-10.30, Sat 12-10.30. Admission £3, CAMRA members free. About 40 real ales including continental style specials, + draught German beers. Regular X5 bus from Bedford. www.cambridgebeerfestival.com

19th Watford Beer Festival

Thu 7 to Sat 9 November at West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue WD18 7HP. Open Thu 4-11, Fri-Sat 11-11. Admission £2.50, CAMRA members free. More than 80 real ales from local brewers + cider and perry from small producers, hot and cold food. Pub quiz Sat eve. www.watfordcamra.org.uk

The 2014 edition of the Good Beer Guide...

Published on 12th September 2013, is an indispensable resource for all beer lovers. Why not buy your copy at the Bedford Beer and Cider Festival?

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Milton Keynes & N Bucks Branch of CAMRA Presents



Beer Festival

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Dates & Times:

16 Oct 5pm — 11pm

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(12 midnight on Friday)



The Busy, 401 Elder Gate, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 1LR
For more info contact Doug Dillow on 07738 598128 or email: festival@mkcamra.org.uk

www.mkcamra.org.uk/beerfestival



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table bookings taken 01234 881463

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Pub News

Swan, Bromham

Welcome to Ian & Rita, who took over this old inn near Bromham Mill in the spring. Greene King Abbot, IPA and a guest ale are on the pumps, with



a wide range of meals available all day until 10pm. Options now include daily chef's specials with one, two or three courses. There is a regular quiz on Tuesday evening. Call 01234 823284.

Three Fyshes, Turvey

New manager Daryl has brought a few changes since taking over this ancient inn next to the Great Ouse. The bar is open from noon to midnight Monday to Thursday,



closing at 2am on Friday and Saturday. Greene King IPA and Sharp's Doom Bar are the regular

beers, with two guest ales changed regularly. Meals are served daily until 9pm, except Sunday evening. The riverside garden is lit for evening use in good weather. Call 01234 881463 or visit www.yethreefyshes.co.uk

Knife & Cleaver, Houghton Conquest

Congratulations to landlords Graham and Terry for winning a coveted AA Four Gold Star rating and Dinner Award. Since the Knife & Cleaver was re-launched early last year by Charles Wells, Graham and Terry have earned a reputation for fine food and drink with both locals and patrons from further afield. Wells Eagle IPA, Courage Directors and a guest beer are usually available

on the pumps. The pub has nine ensuite rooms in a separate block across the rear courtyard. Call 01234 930789 or visit www.theknifeandcleaver.com

Castle, Newnham St, Bedford

Welcome to Roland and Kay Keech, who recently took over this popular pub east of the town centre. The bar is open all day from 11am Friday to Monday but closes from 3 to 5pm on Tuesday-Thursday. Two



cask beers from Wells & Young's plus a guest ale are served, with the current range of food expected to increase in the future. The pub offers five ensuite rooms and regular live

music sessions. Roland and Kay hope to run a beer festival next year. Call 01234 353295 or visit www.thecastlepub.co.uk

Sun, Felmersham

Good news at the Sun, which re-opened as a family owned free house early in August. The pub should be well supported after so many locals campaigned save it from closure. Managers Ben and Hannah have



opened the back bar for drinks while the front bar and kitchen are still being refurbished.

Wells Eagle IPA and a guest ale are available, with future guest choices likely to include local microbrewery beers. The bar opens from 4-11 on weekdays, 12-11 Saturday and 12-10 Sunday. We are pleased to see the pub open again and wish Ben, Hannah and family the very best of luck. Call 01234 781355.

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Pub of the
Year 2012
& 2013

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Cambridge CB1 1JT

The Globe

43 Winfield Road,
Dunstable LU6 1LS

South
Bedfordshire
Pub of the
Year 2008

The Seven Stars

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Rugby CV21 2SH

The Brewery Tap

14 Northbridge Street,
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www.bedfordswanhotel.co.uk

Pub News (continued)

Fordham Arms, Sharnbrook

Welcome to new manager Anna Dawson, running what was once the Sharnbrook Station Hotel. Four real ales are usually available, often two dark and two pale: Sharp's Doom Bar, Wychwood Hobgoblin, Robinsons Dizzy



Blonde and Caledonian Fringe Benefit were on the bar when we visited in

August. Home-cooked food is served in the dining room, conservatory and large garden every lunchtime and evening, and all day on Sunday. A shiny new carvery was recently installed. There is a weekly quiz on Thursday evening and karaoke on Saturday. Call 01234 781357.

Daleys Club, Bedford Rd, Kempston

Club steward Graham Dear is pleased he can now offer real ale. In recent months the club has seen Fuller's London Pride, Lancaster Amber, Sadlers Red House, Hopping Mad Balmy Days, Sharp's Doom Bar, plus Masterbrew and Spitfire from Shepherd Neame. A variety of pub games are played. CAMRA members are welcome visitors, although life membership of the club is cheap enough at only £10. A function room taking 120 is available for hire. Call 01234 851143.

Woolpack, Shefford

After long-serving landlady Sally Taylor died last October, the pub was closed and looked set for likely re-development. However, a Woolpack Community Support Group was formed by regulars to get the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value.

The move is supported by Shefford Town



Council and the proposal is now being considered by Central Bedfordshire Council. A spokesman for the group says it

has no financial motive. "The Woolpack represented something special in our town and in the lives of the people who used it. We just want to see the Woolpack open as a pub, whoever owns it." If the ACV application is accepted, the group will have six months to raise funds to buy the pub before the council will consider other uses for the building.

Three Cups, Newnham St, Bedford

Managers Jenny and Richard are running a



beer festival at the Cups over the weekend 14th to 15th September. Of the 20-25 real ales, about half will be

housed in a garden bar. Snacks will be available on Saturday, with a hog roast on Sunday and live music all weekend. Call (01234) 352153.

St John Arms, Melchbourne

John Wright, one of our longest serving pub landlords and one of the nicest people running a local pub, sadly died in April. The pub remains open under temporary management while owner Admiral Taverns look for a new tenant. Greene King Abbot, IPA and a guest ale are still usually available. We will bring you further news as soon as we can.



Ascot

CHEERS!

**THE ASCOT BEER FESTIVAL
4TH & 5TH OCTOBER 2013**

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**CAMPAIGN
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Essex Boys (and Girls) for a Day

North Beds CAMRA planned a mini-bus trip to Essex in 2012 but it didn't find enough takers, so we tried again this year.

We drove first to the **Red Fox Brewery at Coggeshall**. It's in a refurbished chicken shed, but I suppose Chickenshed Bitter would be too liable to mispronunciation to be a good name. The brewer Russ Barnes – once a structural engineer, but previously brewer with Crouch Vale – welcomed us and offered Red Fox's Pale Ale (4.3% abv), amber in colour and hoppy in character. This kept us quiet as we listened to Russ's introduction to the brewery – an



eight-barrel plant, brewing four times a week, eight ales always available, together with two seasonals at a time from a rota of fourteen. Hunter's Gold (3.9% abv) is their most popular product. They get their water from a well nearby. The brewery dates from 2008, and their 500th brew is coming up soon – it will be a special (Red Fox 500). Keep an eye out for that one!



We headed for lunch at the **Bell in Castle Hedingham**, a free house and historic coaching inn in a lovely village

dominated by (guess what) a castle. A decent lunch was provided while we tried more Essex beers. Mighty Oak IPA is a light amber 3.5% abv bitter from the brewers of Oscar Wilde Mild, Champion Beer of Britain

2011. Hopmonster Freakshow (4.2% abv) was much more distinctive, with a massive hop kick. After lunch the plan had been to visit the castle, but it was almost its closing time. Instead we tried out the village's other pub, the **Wheatsheaf**.

Next to the **Nethergate Brewery at Pent-**



low, now renamed the Growler Brewery after its most popular beer.

Founded in 1986 in Clare, it moved to its present site in

2005, and in 2011 was the subject of an employee buyout. Brewer Michael offered us their IPA – short for Ian and Paul's Ale, by the way – (3.5% abv), GB aka Growler Bitter (3.9% abv), Hound Dog (4.5% abv, the current seasonal) and Mary's Ruby Mild (4.5%) from demipins. The mild was particularly good. Their other regulars are the dark Old Growler itself (5% abv), Gladness (a cask lager, 4.2% abv) and Lemon Head (4% abv, with lemon and ginger). A 45-gallon plant, the brewery is now a middle-sized player. They brew at least twice a week, mill their own malt, burtonise the local water supply, and mash for up to two hours.

We then dined at the **Hare and Hound at**



Bocking – a fairly upmarket food pub decorated in rather clinical white – where Growler beers were accompanied by an excellent meal. Our final stop was

Engineers Arms at

Henlow. Arrival back at

Bedford was at 11 p.m. – a long and strenuous day, enjoyed by all!

Fytton Rowland

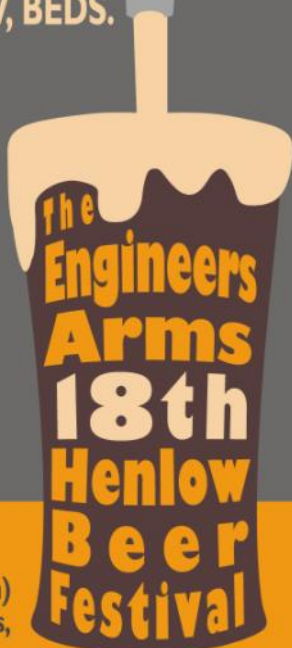
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Featuring over 100 Traditional Real Ales, ciders
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Local Hotel offering Special Festival Rates - Call

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Nearest Train Station:- Arlesey (Kings Cross - Peterborough)

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84 Newnham Avenue, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 9PX

The White Horse
Beer and Banger Festival

Wed 6th Nov to Sun 10th Nov
11am to 11pm

Full programme of events -
See website for details

www.whitehorsebedford.co.uk
www.facebook.com/#!/whitehorsebedford
01234 409306

Skeptics in The Pub

Fancy some hearing some interesting speakers, followed by robust debate over a pint or two of decent beer?

Yes? Well, you're not alone. That's why a group of like-minded folk decided that Bedford needed its own branch of the nationwide non-profit organisation, Skeptics In The Pub.

Launched last October, the group meets on the third Thursday of each month at The White Horse, Newnham Avenue, Bedford. No membership required – simply turn up, take a seat, fill your glass and listen to what that month's speaker has to say. Admission is free, though a small donation is welcomed to help cover our costs. Don't worry, you are positively encouraged to challenge the position taken and force the speaker to justify their stance.

But what exactly is Skepticism? Skepticism is generally any questioning attitude towards knowledge, facts, or opinions/ beliefs stated as facts. It can also take the form of doubt regarding claims that are commonly taken for granted. It's an approach to knowledge that requires all information to be well supported by evidence. It relies on reason and evidence rather than belief, tradition or convention.



Laurence Cockcroft talks about 'Global Corruption' to Bedford Skeptics

We've already had a host of interesting guests discussing subjects as diverse as the human exploration of Mars, the evidence for man-made climate change, global corruption, the legalisation of prostitution, the use of dodgy statistics in the media, the state of the UK university system and Science vs. Religion in the classroom.

We've got some big name guests in future months including Robert Llewellyn (a.k.a. Kryten from Red Dwarf) who will be joining us on Thursday 19th September to explain why he thinks that electric vehicles are the future. BBC Panorama journalist John Sweeney (who recently sneaked into North Korea) will be with us on Thursday 17th October telling us about why he thinks that Scientology is not the force for good that it says it is.



BBC Journalist, John Sweeney, speaks at Bedford Skeptics on Thursday 17th October

Attendance at Skeptics In The Pub, or 'SITP', has been steadily growing and we're always on the look-out for interesting speakers, subject matter and, of course, more people thirsty for knowledge, debate and ale.

Take a look at our website bedford.skepticsinthepub.org which contains all the details.

Eamonn McGuinness

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Assets of Community Value

List your Local

If you love your Local and think it adds value to your community, you now have the opportunity to give it extra protection from developers – as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Under the Localism Act 2011 people in England can nominate a pub to be listed as an ACV. Listing your Local provides communities with the power to stop the clock when faced with a pub going up for sale, earning valuable time to explore options for saving the pub.

Please download our ACV Guide from www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal for more detailed information and where to find advice and support. If you know about a pub in your area which has been listed or are involved in a campaign to save your local pub please contact campaigns@camra.org.uk and let us know.

Why List your Local?

Increasing numbers of local councils are taking into account ACVs when considering new planning applications against the pub. Listing a pub shows the value it has to the community. Listing your Local means property developers who are keen for a hassle-free purchase are less likely to show interest.

If a listed pub goes up for sale, its ACV status has the power to postpone the sale for up to six months. That's just enough time for pub campaigners to gather together a suitable bid to buy the pub and run it as a community-owned facility.

Since the Asset of Community Value scheme started in 2012, pub activists have used their new powers to halt the sale of their beloved locals. The Ivy House in London was the first pub to be listed as an ACV and the first which has led to a successful buy-out from the community. The Green Man at Toppesfield in Essex is another example.

How do I List my Local?

First, pay a visit to your local council's website and search for their section on 'Assets of Com-

munity Value' or 'Right to Bid'. Once you've found it, download a nomination form. (Or use CAMRA's Template Nomination Form from www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal.)

2. We strongly recommend you nominate a pub as an Unincorporated Group. This should be done *not* in connection with CAMRA. This is because CAMRA is an incorporated body.

3. Complete the nomination form with as much information as you can think of regarding why your Local should be listed as an asset to the community. For advice and draft text, go to CAMRA's Community Value Guide on website.

4. Gather the support of 21 people from the community in favour of listing the pub as an ACV. You can download CAMRA's 21 Nominee Form (in pdf and Word versions) from the website to help gather this. Each person must be registered to vote in your local authority, and all from different addresses.

5. Submit the completed form to your local council – you can check your council's website for guidance explaining how they are accepting nominations. CAMRA has Information about this here: <http://www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal>. For Government help contact 0845 345 4564 or <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk> or email CAMRA's Campaigns Team on campaigns@camra.org.uk

Each council has its own form which is easily found by searching for 'community assets'.

Advice and respective application forms for our two unitary councils can be found at:

Bedford Borough

www.bedford.gov.uk/business/land_and_premises/community_right_to_bid.aspx

Central Bedfordshire

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/local-government-in-central-bedfordshire/localism.aspx

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Beer Festival 14th to 15th September

45 Newnham Street, Bedford, MK40 3JR

01234 352153

London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival

I'm always surprised we here in Bedford don't make more of the London Drinker festival – it's true that it's a long way south, but the venue is about five minutes from St Pancras, and surely many of our members work in London or pass through regularly? I don't think I've ever noticed another Bedford member there.

It's held at the Camden Centre, a venue with a similar feel to the main hall at Bedford Corn Exchange, but more nearly square; the bars (one LocAle, one covering the rest of the UK) surrounded three sides of the space, with entrances on the fourth side. Again like the Corn Exchange, a balcony overlooked the main hall, and on the ground floor there was a separate hall with hot food and a foreign beer bar.

The beers weren't jacketed, the cellarers apparently relying on the early March temperatures, the high ceilings and good air circulation. I'm a little doubtful about that, but the beer certainly seemed in good condition this year.

I drank and enjoyed Moorhouse Black Cat; Hadrian & Border Farne Island Pale Ale; Coniston Bluebird; East London Brewing Orchid Vanilla Mild; Redemption Wednesday (one of three festival specials Redemption were brewing this year - the other two were Thursday and Friday. I guess you can't be creative all the time...); and Botanist Nemophilia. Of these six, I thought Wednesday was really exceptional: a well-hopped bitter with a splendid floral, apple-and-lime nose.

See you there next year?

John Rowland

**The
firkin**

Published every three months by the North Bedfordshire Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. 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 shown at the foot of this page.

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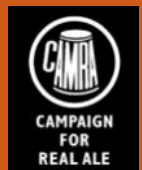
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This can usually be done by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also look at...

Branch Diary

CAMRA North Beds Branch business meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of alternate months, e.g. January and March. Social and campaigning events are usually held on the third Thursday of each 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

Unless otherwise stated, for all events further details can be obtained from, and bookings made with, Gary Mudd on 01234 741871 or e-mail socials@northbedscamra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 12 – Branch Meeting

Business meeting at Bedford Rowing Club, Duckmill Lane, Bedford, at 8 p.m. CAMRA members only.

Thursday 19 – Social

Details to be announced.

Editorial

Eagle-eyed readers of the Summer 2013 issue of the *Firkin* will have seen that it was edited by John Rowland. The fact that he has the same surname as your regular editor is not coincidence – he's my son. I'd like to thank John publicly very much indeed for stepping into the breach while I was off sunning myself in Australia. I have bought him a few pints since my return!

Meanwhile, at the North Beds CAMRA AGM in July, there was a change of personnel on the committee – Roger Stokes became Chairman, Don Allan Vice-chairman, and Peter Argyle Secretary. I stood down as Secretary because I am now Festival Organiser for the 2013 Bedford Beer and Cider Festival in October, as well as *Firkin* Editor. Other officers remain the same, but on the committee there are now three Mudds, with Helen and Naomi joining our Social Secretary Gary! *Fytton Rowland*

OCTOBER

Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 – 36th Bedford Beer and Cider Festival

Details on pages 4-7.

Thursday 17 – Brewery Tour

Details to be announced. Preference given to those who worked as volunteers at the Bedford Beer and Cider Festival.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 7 – Social

Details to be announced.

Thursday 14 – Branch Meeting

Business meeting at Bedford Rowing Club, Duckmill Lane, Bedford, at 8 p.m. CAMRA members only.

Saturday 16 – All-Bedfordshire CAMRA London Trip}

Jointly with East Beds and South Beds branches. Details to be announced.

DECEMBER

Thursday 12 – Branch Christmas Social

Details to be announced.

Welcome to WhatPub

For several years we have encouraged readers to use our Online Beds Pub guide at www.bedspubs.org.uk for details of all the pubs, hotel bars and many clubs in Bedfordshire.

From late September 2013, this will become part of CAMRA's new national online pub database, carrying essential details of pubs and real ales throughout the UK. Unlike many pub and restaurant review websites, WhatPub will bring you the facts rather than customer opinions – facts about beers, food and services offered by pubs everywhere.

CAMRA wants it to be the leading pub database in the country. Do try it at: www.whatpub.com

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