

The Firkin



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Newsletter of CAMRA North Bedfordshire Branch
Winter 2007/08 Vol 32 No 4 FREE!

New Bedfordshire pub guide – p 5 White Park Brewery launched – p 7

Staff line up at Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October
A look back at the festival week – p 8



Photo by Mark Lindsay-White

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A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our readers – licensees, pub staff, customers, advertisers.

We make no charge for the Firkin. If you enjoy reading it and take a copy home, please be generous and put a seasonal donation in your pub charity collection.

Cheers from North Beds CAMRA

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



**WHATEVER YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.**

Community Pubs Week

16 to 23 February 2008

CAMRA's February 2007 Pub Watch Survey showed that 56 pubs were closing every month in Britain, a figure even higher than was previously believed. Most of those closed are not high street chain outlets or theme bars, but local community pubs.

A local hub

CAMRA defines a community pub as one that appeals to a wide cross-section of the local community, rather than being predominantly targeted at particular social or age groups. Community pubs include urban street corner pubs as well as village locals. Community Pubs Week celebrates them all.

All TV and radio soap dramas have community pubs – the Bull, the Rovers Return, the Queen Vic, the Woolpack – but sadly, many real communities in rural and urban areas are at risk of losing, or have already lost their community pub. With the smoking ban now in force throughout the UK, pubs are facing a difficult time. People need to wake up and realise that their local is a valuable asset worth protecting.

Four million people signed a petition calling for the Government to do more to save rural post offices. The threat to community pubs is just as serious. Unless we do something to halt the trend, many more communities will lose their local pub for good.

Nothing can match the British pub

CAMRA has promoted an annual National Pubs Week for some years to persuade more people to use their local pubs more often. CAMRA members throughout the country work hard to promote pub-going against the background growth in home drinking. Despite low prices in the supermarket, nothing matches the British pub for its service and atmosphere.

With community pubs facing the greatest threat, CAMRA now focuses its annual week of action on helping raise the profile of pubs in the community and encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to use them.

Community Pubs Week complements a range of CAMRA-led initiatives, including the Com-



munity Pubs Foundation, launched in 2005 to support campaigns to save local public houses, as well as a whole range of local campaigns to save and promote community pubs. Community Pubs Week celebrates and supports all community pubs – urban and rural locals alike.

Get promotional material for your pub

Promotional beer mats, posters and advice sheets from CAMRA are available from December to pubs wishing to take part in the campaign. To order promotional material for your pub, call 01727 867201 or visit the dedicated website at www.pubsweek.org.

Further information about the campaign and ideas for raising interest in your local community pub such as theme evenings, quizzes and treasure hunts will be posted on the same website.

Local CAMRA members will support Community Pubs Week with a pub crawl in Bedford south of the river on Thursday 21st February (see page 11). All welcome.

Under the airships



Turnpike, Eastcotts Road, Bedford

Sitting at the southern gateway to Bedford, the Turnpike is a large, modern community pub with a lively public bar and pleasant lounge. Landlords Nikki and Tony Mewes offer pub games, regular live music and a garden with the now customary smoking area. Satellite TV is available and families are welcome.

The pub does not serve food, but Wells Eagle IPA and Young's Bitter are available on the bar. It is open daily from noon to 11pm (10.30 on Sunday) and is served by buses 6, M1, M2 and M3 from the town centre Call 01234 409304.

Gate, Harrowden

Just across the Bedford southern by-pass and first right down a quiet lane, the Gate is an attractive village pub notable for the wood-burning stove built into the wall between the public and lounge bars. Photographs of the great airships recall the link with nearby Shortstowen and the former RAF Cardington.



The pub is open daily from noon, often until midnight. Landlord Richard Coop serves lunches every day until 3pm, but evening meals are must be booked in advance. The pumps serve Greene King IPA, Abbot and a regularly changing guest beer. There is occasional live music, a large car park and a garden for fine weather

Buses 6, M1 and M2 stop at the end of the lane. Call 01234 740308.

Bell, Cotton End

A mile and a half along the A600, past Shortstowen and the magnificent airship sheds, Cotton End is a small, handsome village with a pretty thatched pub, the Bell, right in the centre. Like the Gate, photographs on the walls recall the great airships of the late 1920s built nearby.



The pub is open daily from 4 to 11pm on Monday and from noon to 11pm for the rest of the week. Landlord Clint Rogers serves lunches until 3pm every day except Monday and evening meals from 6 to 9pm on Tuesday to Friday. Greene King IPA and one or two guest ales are available on the pumps. Families are welcome, there is a private garden at the rear with a smoking area and satellite TV is available in the bar. Buses M1 and M2 from Bedford stop outside. Call 01234 741965.

For further information about these and all other pubs in Bedfordshire, visit www.bedspubs.org.uk



Pub News

Oakley Arms, Harrold

Welcome to Sally and Jamie, recent arrivals at this 400-year-old pub next to the village hall. Wells Eagle IPA is available, with a possible guest beer occasionally on the second pump. The bars are open throughout the week except Monday lunchtime, but no food is served at present. Overnight accommodation is available, with four en-suite rooms.

Five Bells, Cople

Congratulations to Chef Patron Thomas Kilroy for being one of four finalists shortlisted for the *Publican* magazine's prestigious Dessert Pub of the Year award. The winner was to be announced at a dinner in London in November. To reach the final is a great achievement for a modest country inn competing against top gastro-pubs throughout the country.

Royal Oak, Lidlington

Welcome to Yvonne and Trevor, who recently took over this popular village pub. They are joined by chef Neil Gardner, formerly at the Kings head, Ivinghoe. Wells Eagle IPA is served, together with Young's Bitter when we last called, but regulars are being asked to help choose the second real ale.



Crown, Willington

Welcome to new landlord Brian Renphrey, who took over here in the summer. Serving Greene King IPA and guest beers – Greene King Swing Low and St. Austell Tribute when we last visited.

Red Lion, Wilstead

Welcome to Alyson and Chris Smith at this pub in the heart of the village. Wells Eagle IPA is available, with the regulars helping to choose a second real ale.

Royal Oak, Carlton

Congratulations to Ian, Andrea and pub customers for raising more than £900 for Macmillan Nurses from a charity beer festival in September.

New Bedfordshire pub guide

The three Bedfordshire CAMRA Branches have produced a new guide to pubs in the county – this time on the internet. The new online guide was launched at the Bedford Beer Festival in early October.

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

All pubs, hotel bars and many sports club bars open to the public in Bedfordshire and Luton are listed, although more detail is given for those selling real ale.

With the pub trade changing so fast, it will be a challenging task to keep the new guide accurate. Whether you are a pub landlord or a customer, CAMRA welcomes your help with updating the guide. Please notify errors while visiting the site, or email

pubguide@northbedscamra.org.uk

www.bedspubs.org.uk



Winter beer festivals

12th Night Winter Beer Festival (Derby)

Thu 3 to Sat 5 January, Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms, Market Place DE1 3AH (rail station 10 min). Open Thu 6-11 (£3), Fri/Sat 11-5 (£2), 6-11 (£5), CAMRA members Fri/Sat eves £1, otherwise free. Student concessions on production of relevant student card. Over 90 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign bottled beers with a unique festival special. Live music every evening, bands to be confirmed. Tickets on sale for the Friday and Saturday evening sessions from the website. Regular Midland Mainline trains from Bedford and Luton.

www.derbycamra.org.uk

Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival

Thu 31 January to Sat 2 February 2007, Essex County Council Social Club (Triangle Club), Duke St (rail station 5 min). Open Thu 6-11 (£3 after 7), Fri 12-11 (£4 after 7), Sat 12-11 (£2 after 7), CAMRA members free.

www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk

12TH CAMBRIDGE WINTER ALE FESTIVAL

Thu 24th to Sat 27th January 2008

University Social Club, Mill Lane

Thu 5-10.30, Fri 12-3, 5-10.30, Sat 12-10.30



Admission £2.50 after 5pm
CAMRA, USC & CURAS members free

Over 100 real ales, cider and foreign beers

Hot and cold food



National Winter Ales Festival

Wed 16 to Sat 19 January, New Century Hall, Manchester M4 4DU (Victoria Station 5 min).

Open Wed 5.30-10.30 (£3),

Thu 5-10.30 (£3), Fri 12-

10.30 (£3, £4 after 5), Sat

12-10.30 (£3 after 5), CAM-

RA members £1 off at all

times. About 200 draught

beers, real ales in a bottle,

ciders and perries.

CAMRA's national showcase for a wide range of beer styles, especially winter warmers. Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition winners announced on Thursday.

www.winterales.uku.co.uk



12th Cambridge Winter Ales Festival

Thu 24 to Sat 26 January, University Social Club, Mill Lane, CB2 1RX (bus station 5 min).

Open Thu 5-10.30 (£2.50), Fri 12-3 (free), 5-

10.30 (3.50), Sat 12-10.30 (£2.50). USC, CU-

RAS and CAMRA members free. About 120

beers with an emphasis on seasonal ales and

winter warmers. No family room and no under

18s admitted to evening sessions. Easy trip from

Bedford by X5 express bus. See box left for

details.

www.cambridge-camra.org.uk/waf

25th Luton Beer Festival

Thu 14 to Sat 16 February, Hightown Community Sports & Arts Centre, Concorde Street LU2 0JD (rail station 5 min).

Preparations are in hand for the second February festival at this venue. Easy train journey from Bedford. For more details, check the website in the New Year.

www.sbedscamra.org.uk



31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival

Wed 8th to Sat 11th October 2008

Corn Exchange, Bedford



White Park Brewery

There is a new kid on the local block following the launch of the White Park Brewery in October. The latest local micro and one of only four breweries in Bedfordshire, is based at Bourne End Farm near Cranfield.

Rare breed

The brewery was founded by Alan Kelly and his brother Peter, who also keep rare breed livestock, including White Park cattle, at Biddenham. As the cattle provide an excellent way of recycling spent malt from the brewery, naming the enterprise in their honour is highly appropriate.

Beef from these traditional breed cattle, which mature more slowly than modern commercial breeds, already offers superb quality, but this herd now benefits from the added spent malt!

Painful experience

Although Alan has several years experience brewing as an amateur, he and Peter have been joined by head brewer John Kenyon, also an experienced home brewer but keen to brew on a larger scale and a recent graduate of the Sunderland Brewlab course.

A 5-barrel brewing plant was bought from the recently closed Frankton Bagby Brewery in Rugby. It was good quality stainless steel equipment with all the bits needed to get it working again, although Alan soon discovered re-assembling it to be a "painful experience", with a number of technical and engineering challenges to solve.

Suitable premises with satisfactory security and facilities were not as easy to find and the promised new brewery languished for some time until a farmer friend offered a refurbished outbuilding at his farm near Cranfield.

First Flight

Brewing at the new site finally got under way in October, sadly just too late to appear at the Bedford Beer & Cider Festival, but in time for

CAMRA's Concrete Pint Beer Festival in Milton Keynes three weeks later.

The brewery's first commercial brew, **First Flight**, is a 3.7 per cent hoppy bitter with "a smooth finish and a hint of caramel". The name is partly a reference to the nearby Cranfield Airport but was also chosen because Alan's father-in-law is a qualified pilot.

The plant is currently brewing First Flight every week, but continuing experiments make it almost certain that a second bitter and a special Christmas porter will be available for the festive season.

For further information about White Park Brewery or to order some beer, call 01234 721383 or mobile 07757 086306, or visit the new website at www.whiteparkbrewery.co.uk

[Brewery artwork by Lloyd Lugsden]



Concrete Cow moos on

The **Concrete Cow Brewery** in Bradwell, Milton Keynes, which opened in September, has launched a third beer. The malty **Cock & Bull** (4.1 per cent abv) and the golden, hoppy **Midsummer Ale** (3.7 per cent), both appeared at Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October and have been guest beers in several local pubs. The latest brew is **Old Bloomer**, a dark 4.7 per cent best bitter named after a Victorian steam engine class built at Wolverton. For further details visit

www.concretecowbrewery.co.uk

That was the festival!

CAMRA's Bedford Beer & Cider Festival in October marked the 30th annual appearance of this popular autumn event. Held once again in the Corn Exchange, the town's premier entertainment venue, the festival attracted over 5,000 visitors and sold nearly 18,000 pints of real ale, cider, perry and foreign beers between Wednesday and Saturday.

Beers from the north-west

The festival was about the same size as last year, with about 120 different real ales from some 50 breweries, 30 different brands of real cider and perry, and a wide selection of draught and bottled beers from Belgium, Germany and other countries. As well as the usual real ales from local brewers B&T, Potton and Wells & Young's, many beers this year came from breweries in north-west England.

As the festival had to close on Saturday, with no opportunity to sell what was left the following week, the organisers had to balance choice for customers against minimising waste beer. However, careful planning to provide some different beers on Saturday ensured that reasonable choice was maintained up to the close.

National Cider & Perry Month

As October is CAMRA's Cider and Perry Month, the organisers were delighted that the range of 30 traditional ciders and perries sold well yet again, with cider lovers finishing the last of 300 gallons shortly before the festival closed.

Although real cider and its stable mate perry, made from pears, are still available in only a handful of Bedfordshire pubs, the popularity of



these traditional, fermented fruit drinks at Bedford festivals continues to grow. As with draught beers, there is an enormous difference between real cider or perry and the processed keg ciders offered in most pubs.

In the Howard Room

In addition to British real ale, cider and perry in the main hall, the ever popular foreign beer bar in the Howard Room upstairs offered speciality draught and bottled beers from other European countries.

With so many people now taking holidays abroad, local drinkers have become better informed about the great beer traditions of our neighbours. A growing number of local pubs now offer decent draught and bottled beers from Belgium and elsewhere.

The Corn Exchange in-house caterers were a winner for the third year running, serving hot and cold meals to several thousand visitors during the week. Feedback about the food quality was consistently favourable.



Festival logo by Ian Lilley of Suni UK Ltd, Shefford. www.suniscreen.co.uk
Photographs by Mark Lindsay-White



3rd - 6th October 2007

Entertainment

This year the entertainers switched days, with the **JAS4 jazz quintet** opening the event on Thursday and local singer and satirist **Dr Busker** helping to keep staff and visitors happy on Saturday evening, as the festival drew to a close.

The **Bedford Morris Men**, this year without the usual visiting teams, performed a series of dances in the hall on Saturday lunchtime. In our experience, Morris dancers are always thirsty and have a sharp nose for decent beer!

Thanks to the helpers...

Although the organisers faced initial problems arranging evening pass-outs for smokers at the first festival since the no-smoking rules came in, the event proved as popular as ever. Organiser Peter Argyle paid tribute to everyone involved in planning, managing and staffing it.

“Organising this festival takes months of planning and enough CAMRA volunteers and friends willing to give their time free to work behind the bars, glasses and other functions. Without so

many keen volunteers, we just could not run this festival every year.”

Helpers included hard working volunteers from outside the area, as well as local members and friends. East Bedfordshire CAMRA members operated the shop and tombola, while other helpers came from as far away as London and Lincoln.

...and to the sponsors

The organisers were grateful to **Wells & Young's Brewing Company** for sponsoring the souvenir glasses once again, to beer supplier **Waverley TBS** for providing free soft drinks and to train operator **First Capital Connect** for promoting the festival on the Bedford-Brighton line.



Thanks were also offered to local companies that sponsored beer casks on the stillage, to the Corn Exchange staff for their help and co-operation, and to the many local pubs and clubs that displayed posters advertising the festival.

The basement cloakroom was run once again by **Bedford Lions** to support local good causes. We are delighted to report that almost £1,000 was again raised through the cloakroom and collection boxes. Many thanks to all our visitors for their generosity.



Volunteers needed!

**31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival
Wed 8 to Sat 11 October 2008**

If you are a CAMRA member or friend interested in helping organise the event, please contact the organisers at

01234 822698

festival@northbedscamra.org.uk



CAMRA books

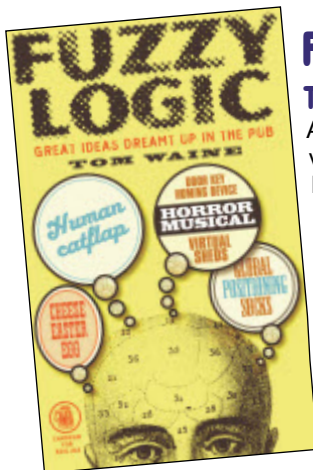
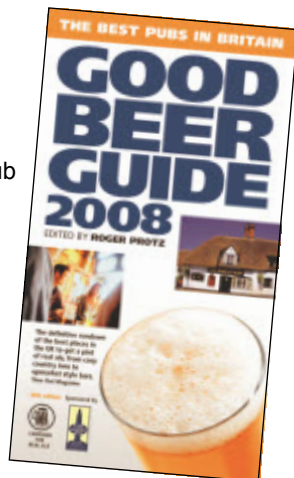
Good Beer Guide 2008

Edited by Roger Protz

The number one, best-selling guide to pubs selling fine quality real ales and the breweries that produce them.

- Over 4,500 of the best pubs with beer lists, opening hours, pub food information, family facilities and accommodation
- County by county guides, clear maps and simple directions
- Details of more than 600 British breweries, listing all regular real ales and many seasonal brews
- Features on beer, pubs, the brewing industry and current CAMRA campaigns

Mail order £14.99 + £1.50 P&P, members save £3.99.



Fuzzy Logic

Tom Waine

A completely dispensable collection of intriguing nonsense devised or overheard in the pub. Whether you experience a light-bulb moment while downing a swift half or think you have discovered the meaning of life while imbibing your favourite beers, this book is packed full of smart ideas, fully-formed theories, unanswered questions – and sheer rubbish. Fuzzy Logic could well leave you entertained, amused and educated for longer than it takes to down a pint.

Mail order £9.99 + P&P, CAMRA members save £2.

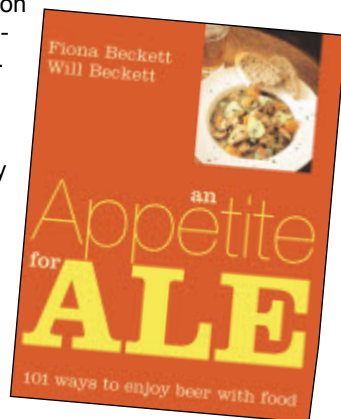
An Appetite for Ale

Fiona & Will Beckett

Award-winning food write Fiona Beckett and her publican son Will have joined forces to write this lavishly illustrated, hard-back cookbook celebrating beer as a culinary tour de force.

- More than 100 simple and approachable recipes created to show the versatility and fantastic flavour offered by ale
- Sections on snacks, spreads and dips, soups, pasta and risotto, seafood, chicken and other birds, meat feasts, spicy foods, bread and cheese and sweet treats
- Countless ideas for using beer from around the world.
- Enjoy real food, real ale and real flavour together

Mail order £19.99+ P&P, members save £2.



CAMRA books are available from all good bookshops.

For direct mail order, call 01727 867201 or visit

www.camra.org.uk/books



Branch diary

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

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

Thursday 20 December

Branch Christmas party at Bedford Arms, Bromham Road, Bedford, from 7.30pm. Free buffet, all branch members welcome. To ensure enough food, please call John Martin on 01234 768294 or email socials@northbedscamra.org.uk by Monday 17th.

Thursday 10 January

Extraordinary General Meeting to confirm new branch committee at Bedford Arms, Bromham Road, Bedford, 7pm prompt. CAMRA members only.

Followed immediately by rural tour visiting pubs north-west of Bedford. Minibus leaves Bedford Arms at 7.15 – book bus with John Martin, £6 required towards travel costs.

Thursday 17 January

Branch meeting at Bedford Arms, Bromham Road, Bedford, 8pm prompt. Agenda will include shortlisting entries for the next *Good Beer Guide*. CAMRA members only.

Trading standards

If you complain to a licensee about short measure, lack of a visible price list or misleading promotion of products, and fail to 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

Thursday 7 February

Second rural tour visiting pubs south of Bedford. Minibus leaves Wellington Arms, Bedford at 7pm – book bus with John Martin, £6 required towards travel costs.

Thursday 14 February

Special branch meeting at Bedford Arms, Bedford, 8pm, to select entries for the next *Good Beer Guide*. CAMRA members only.

Thursday 21 February

Tour of southern Bedford to celebrate Community Pubs Week 2008. Detailed route to be decided. Check details on branch website or February *What's Brewing*.

Monday 3 March

Provisional meeting to form a committee to organise the next Bedford Beer & Cider Festival – details to be arranged. Volunteers please contact John Martin on 01234 768294 or email chairman@northbedscamra.org.uk

Thursday 13 March

Social event to be arranged – check branch website or *What's Brewing* for details.

Thursday 20 March

Branch meeting at Bedford Arms, Bromham Road, Bedford, 8pm prompt. All CAMRA members welcome.

Read the Firkin online

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

If you cannot find a copy of the Firkin at your local pub or live outside our distribution area, visit the branch website News page and download a full PDF copy of the current or previous issues.

www.northbedscamra.org.uk



Join CAMRA today!

THE Campaign for Real Ale was founded in 1971 to keep real ale alive. Thirty-six years later we have more than 90,000 members and more than 600 breweries brewing over 2,500 different varieties of real ale in Britain. So what does CAMRA do?

Fight pub closures

CAMRA research shows that 56 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 continually presses 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 to suit 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.
- 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 90,000 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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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 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



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

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

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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.

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Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

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- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
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- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

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

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

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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 at the foot of this page.

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Promote your pub, product or services in our pages

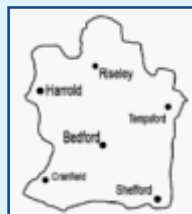
Produced by local beer drinkers for local beer drinkers -- a select target audience. Our readers use shops and taxis to get home, buy insurance and drive cars, as well as spending time in the pub. Our readers also include pub and club licensees.

- Circulation about 3,000 copies every quarter, delivered to almost every pub and real ale club in north Bedfordshire. Full layout including adverts is also posted online for at least a year at www.northbedscamra.org.uk
- Simple artwork created at no extra cost, or supply your own
- Reserve space in the next issue by **1st February 2008**

To enquire or to place an advert, contact:

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