

The White Horse Wanderer

The magazine of White Horse Branch Campaign for Real Ale

www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk



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Campaign for Real Ale White Horse Branch



Autumn 2022

Edition 2



Paul Hexter, the landlord of the Royal Oak in Wantage, the multi-award winning real ale and cider pub has been recognised as part of CAMRA's 50th Birthday celebrations and receives a 'People Award.'

The 'People Awards' form part of CAMRA's Golden Awards celebrations to mark the Campaign's 50th anniversary and celebrate 50 individuals who have made the beer and cider world what it is today.

Chris Rouse, Awards Organiser says: "CAMRA's Golden Awards aim to highlight the significant changes that have taken place in the beer and pub world over the last 50 years and to celebrate the people, pubs, clubs, breweries and cider producers who have driven those changes.

"Huge congratulations are owed to everyone who has made this list. Whether they be notable politicians or a dedicated local CAMRA volunteer, every recipient has been chosen for their hard work, dedication and passion in ensuring great consumer choice at the pump."

Paul was presented with his special certificate by Wantage Town Mayor, Major Jim Sibbold who congratulated him on making the Royal Oak a really special place for ale and cider drinkers along with the community in general. He thanked Paul for his contribution to the Town and 'town life' over the 30+ years that he and his wife Frankie have been at the Royal Oak.



We are delighted to announce that local branch members have voted the Greyhound in Letcombe Regis as the White Horse CAMRA 2022 pub of the year. This thriving village pub has an excellent reputation for the range and quality of its beers, as well as its food and accommodation. Congratulations to the Greyhound team.

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the White Horse Wanderer, I hope that you enjoy reading it. This edition appears both online on our website and as a paper copy in many local pubs. If you want some paper copies for your local please let us know and we will arrange.

We have been busy making our branch presentations, please see photograph's of the recipients elsewhere in this issue. Paul Hexter, Landlord of the Royal Oak Wantage, also deserves a special mention for being honoured by CAMRA for his contribution to real ale as only one of 50 people to be recognised as part of CAMRA's 50th birthday celebrations.

If you have any interesting news or details of events that you would like to publicise please sent them to press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk and we will include them in our next issue, due for publication on 1st November 2022.

I hope that you get the opportunity to enjoy a pint or two over the summer in one of the excellent pubs and clubs in the White Horse area. Your local pub needs you!

Editor
Contact - press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk

Annual White Horse CAMRA Awards



Guy Newton receives the Cider Pub of the Year runner-up certificate from Di Glass, branch Cider Rep.



Branch Pub of the Year Runner-up was presented by Branch Chairman to Chris Rooney landlord of the Kings Arms. Since Chris has taken over the King's Arms the beers on offer have been a really good selection of both real ale and craft beer from local and national independent breweries. There is also a vast selection of gins to sample.



The branch pub of the year, the Greyhound at Letcombe Regis is lucky to have White Horse branch CAMRA member, Jinks Jelinski. Pictured right with Landlady Katrina, sourcing their amazing selection of real ales and keeping them in tip-top condition. Jinks contribution to the pub was honoured by the presentation of a 10 Years of outstanding cellarman ship award.



The King and Queen at Longcot has been under new ownership for the last 2 years and Markus Hudson and his partner, Danielle Bowyer have been rewarded by being voted branch Country Pub of the Year. Markus is seen here behind the bar being presented with their certificate by branch Chair Ian Winfield. The couple have only been at the King and Queen for 20 months and it is their first pub. Setting up the pub during the pandemic must have been a challenge. The pub likes to keep products local and ensures that guests are liked after. They also have bed and breakfast rooms available.



We're supporting
#SummerofPub

Branch Pubs in the Good Beer Guide



The King and Queen at Longcot

In the Vale of the White Horse, South Oxfordshire, Danielle and Markus would love to welcome you to The King & Queen in Longcot. The King & Queen is in a tranquil location, a Freehouse and Inn, boasting seven lovely Bed & Breakfast rooms, available for long and short stays alike.

Behind the bar you will find a broad range of Local Cask Ales to choose from, an excellent range of Local and Continental craft beer

The Lamb Wantage



The Lamb, Mill Street, Wantage an entry in the 2022 Good Beer Guide is expanding its real ale offering. As well as the regular Fuller's London Pride there will also be offerings from Butcombe, Dark Star and Love Beer, Milton to name but a few. The monthly Jazz sessions continue along with food being served every day.



North Star Steventon

Superb local real ales served directly from the barrel
 Large selection of draught beers, wines and spirits
 Traditional pub games including Pool, Darts and Aunt Sally
 Large beer garden and patio
 Family friendly, children and dog's welcome
 Cosy log fire
 Traditional performances, Morris Dancers and Mummers appearing regularly.
 There is no bar and drinks are served from the hatch!
 Listed by CAMRA's Pub Heritage Group



The Royal Oak Wantage, is a traditional town pub located 5 minutes walk from the town's market place. Here you will find the ideal combination of a superb range of perfectly kept ales and an extremely friendly environment.

The Oak is owned and run by the landlord, Paul Hexter and his wife Frankie. Paul and Frankie bought the Oak from Courage in 1983 and earned a place in the Good Beer Guide in 1985 and have featured in almost every edition since then.



The Boar's Head is a traditional, cosy and friendly, country pub in the heart of the village of Ardington.

You can be sure of a warm welcome from the licensee's Angela, Doreen and their team.

The Boar's Head offers excellent homemade seasonal foods accompanied by a wide selection of drinks, to suit all tastes. They cater for everyone, whether looking for lunch, dinner, snacks or simply a drink. The welcoming surroundings offer the very best hospitality in a relaxed and warm atmosphere with roaring fires in the winter and a lovely garden terrace in the summer.



The Eight Bells Eaton

Nestled in the peaceful hamlet of Eaton, The Eight Bells offers a wonderful home from home for locals and tourists alike. Eaton is renowned for its quintessential Oxfordshire charm and its close proximity to the river Thames

The Eight Bells is a cosy, friendly pub, offering everything you'd expect from a traditional English pub, including a sumptuous range of bar food, authentic beams, and open fires to warm your cockles on a brisk autumn day or winter's night.

Branch News



Chairman's Update

Summer is finally here! Well, it's been a long time coming. There are many excellent pubs with lovely gardens to sit and enjoy a pint with your family and friends. You may even be reading this from one of the many. Festival season is approaching and we welcome the return after three years hiatus to CAMRA events in our area. Oxford 20th to 22nd October at the Town Hall and Swindon 20th to 22nd October at the Steam Museum. So I'd encourage you to support your local pubs, breweries and festivals. Finally, thanks again to Tarquin and Ben for pulling this newsletter together. I do hope you enjoy reading it.

Ian Winfield



White Horse Brewery wins gold and bronze at Midlands SIBA event. At the SIBA Midlands independent beer awards, held at Rail Ale Festival, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield last month, White Horse Brewery beers won 2 gold and 2 bronze awards in four categories as below,

Pacific Pale got Gold in the Cask Session Pale Ale category

West Coast IPA got Gold in the Cask Pale Ale category

Wayland Smithy got Bronze in the Cask Session Dark Beer category

WHB (White Horse Bitter) got Bronze in the Cask British Bitter category

Head brewer, Gavin Stanton pictured with the awards, said he was over the moon with the awards particularly as the competition in each category included many much larger well-established breweries.

Volunteers??

We are looking for someone to manage the branch website, would that interest you and do you have the necessary skills to be able to do it? It is not an onerous job but an essential one to keep members and the public up to date on what is happening in the branch. If you are interested, please contact press@whitehorsecamera.org.uk

Cider Rep Update

If you fancy a nice pint of real cider then pop into the one of the four pubs in Wantage that have BIB cider available.

On our recent visits the ciders on offer were:

Royal Oak - Paul is renowned for having a good selection of ciders from a variety of producers.

Mutton - Guy had 3 boxes on from Tutts Clump.

Kings Arms - Chris had 5 boxes on from Sandford Orchards and Lilley's.

Blue Boar – Soti had Sandford Orchards Devon Mist.

Enjoy the summer with some nice ciders and hopefully some sunshine

☀ along with it.

Di Glass – White Horse Cider rep



Chris Naish, who was our Branch Secretary for many year's has been honoured by the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust with a commemorative bench. Unfortunately Chris died of Covid-19 during the pandemic and he will be sadly missed by all that knew him. His CAMRA friends raised a glass in his memory at a celebration of his life in the Royal Oak, Wantage. A stalwart helper at the Wantage Beer and Cider Festival, Chris regularly sourced a new beer to enjoy and helped behind the bar, always prepared to offer advice on what to try with his personal recommendations.



BLUE BOAR WANTAGE

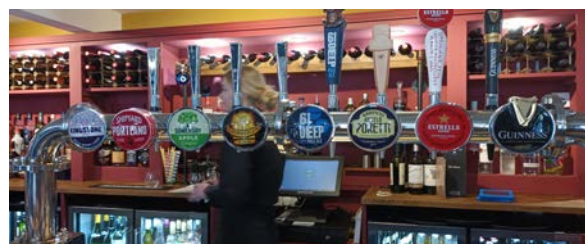
The Blue Boar in Wantage has reopened after an extensive refurbishment.

There are a good selection of drinks available from gins, cocktails, continental lagers, cask real ale and BIB cider.

Upon visiting recently there were 2 ales available one will be a regular and the other a changing guest ale. The 2 ales were Timothy Taylor, Landlord 4.3% which will be the regular and the guest ale was from White Horse Brewery, West Coast IPA 4.6% .

The BIB cider was Sandford orchards Devon Mist 4.5%.

It was a very pleasant visit in a beautifully decorated trendy chic bar, well worth a try.



Social Dates

OKTOBERFEST 2022 - FRI 21ST & SAT 22ND October at The OLD MILL HALL, GROVE. REAL ALES, CIDERS, PILSNERS & LIVE MUSIC. See www.ticketsource.co.uk to book tickets.

Wantage Beer and Cider Festival – 17th and 18th March 2023 at The Beacon Wantage.

Shrivenham Beer, Cider and Gin Festival - 25th February 2023
Shrivenham Memorial Hall

Swindon Beer Festival – 20th -22nd October at The Steam Museum Swindon

Oxford Beer Festival – 26th-28th October At The Oxford Town Hall

Branch Meetings

We have organised the following meetings for September.

Why not join us and meet like minded beer enthusiasts for a pint and chat, the meetings are very social occasions. The meetings are being held at the following great real ale pubs in the branch area:

13th October The Eight Bells, Eaton 19:30

10th November The Kings Arms, Wantage 19:30

9th December Christmas Pub Crawl starting at The Lamb Wantage 18:30 and ending up at the Royal Oak for Christmas refreshments.

Pub News



The Eagle at Watchfield has re-opened and is now serving Doom Bar, as its real ale offering.



The Swan at Faringdon has new landlords, Frank Millar and Sue Morris who moved into the pub in May. Real ale is now being served again.

Brewery News

Earth Ale:

After spending a few years brewing at the Old Chocolate Factory in North London have moved to Bothy Vineyard at Frilford. The brewery forage wild ingredients from the glorious countryside and craggy coastlines of the South of England and infuse them in a natural brewing process to create seasonal limited-batch recipes. As a Mitchlin-trained chef, Earth Ale founder, Alex Lewis has learned to trust his nose and palette which explains why their beers can be paired perfectly with food. Beers can currently be found at Millet's Farm and online at earthale.com



ParLOUR Brew Company:
A new brewery has opened at Millet's Farm, Frilford, ParLOUR Brew Company. Currently brewing one beer, Garfield Gold which is available at the Farm Shop.



Craftsman Brewery - new brewery in Abingdon.

Selling beer on Wantage Market at the Farmer's Market?

Bosley's Banter

What has the Royal Family done for us? By Dick Bosley

The relationship between the ruling classes and brewing is as old as beer its self. Whether the source of tax revenue or a way of keeping the populace happy beer would appear to be unrivalled, which the drink industry one of the first to be subject to strict controls over quality and pricing. Although some of the medieval records are scant it is known that many Anglo-Saxon lords received a share of all the beers brewed (known as a tolcester) which is a very early tax.

In more recent times it has been the duty of the monarch to sign off laws rather than impose them however, as they were still setting the social tones for the times, I feel justified in including them. The same logic allows me to include so historic anecdotes relating to drink and drinking.

Alfred (871 -899)

Alfred is commonly considered, if wrongly, to be the first king of England so let start there. The fact that I live near Wantage, Alfred's reputed place of birth, has bearing on this decision.

No records of beer related laws seem to survive from this period but he is known to have said that what his men needed was 'land to live on... gifts and weapons, and ale and food and clothes'.

Moving on to more modern times...

Queen Elizabeth II (1952-)

The Queen made her first (Official) visit by to pub, The Bridge in Topsham, an example anyone and everyone in Devon should follow. Inside the pub, which has parts dating to the Middle Ages, you can still see the bunting that was put up to celebrate the coronation of George VI.

The new licencing Law of 2005, despite being an administrative nightmare, was the first root and branch update of opening hours etc. for generations. Control of licences was removed from magistrates and given to local councils and , for the first time in centuries, opening hours were relaxed rather than restricted so we can now go to Weatherspoon's for breakfast – should we be that way inclined.

The brewing industry also caught on to the opportunities that numerous royal events gave their marketing departments with commemorative brews appearing at regular intervals.

The future looks safe as Prince Charles has often shown good taste by opening pubs and visiting the St Austell Brewery – which is several steps forward from the, almost certainty apocryphal, story that he tried to get an underage drink in a pub by asking for the only drink he could think of the name of – Cherry Brandy!

And, already, there is a bar in little Clarendon Street, Oxford, showing the Duke of Cambridge on their pub sign.

CAMRA MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

Campaigning for pubs, pints and people since 1971.
We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community,
serving a broad selection of quality ales and ciders.

Here's how CAMRA makes a difference
www.camra.org.uk/campaigns

Our Campaigns ▼

Promoting live beer, cider & perry

CAMRA promotes local, small and independent producers. Initiatives include *LocAle* (promoting locally brewed ale) and the *Real Cider Served Here* scheme.



Helping you save your local

Our in-depth pub-saving guides for England, Scotland and Wales, and advice on Assets of Community Value listing and Community Pub Ownership, provide campaigners with all the tools required to save your local, if it is under threat.



Lobbying Government at all levels

CAMRA members across the UK actively lobby their MPs, devolved elected representatives and councillors via email and social media. Our branches talk to politicians about a range of vital topics including taxation, regulation and consumer choice.



Pubs as a force for good

Pubs play a vital role in tackling loneliness and social isolation, foster community spirit and encourage social interaction. Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people with a local pub are happier, have more friends and are more engaged with their local communities.



Pub Company Reform

CAMRA campaigned for over ten years to introduce a Pubs Code and Adjudicator in England and Wales, to address the imbalance of power between pub companies and tenants. We continue to make sure tenants are treated fairly by pub companies, so they can thrive and run great pubs for us to enjoy, and are seeking a Pubs Code for Scotland too.



COVID Campaign Response ▼

Pulling Together

Our cross-industry campaign supports pubs, clubs, taprooms, breweries and cider makers through the COVID-19 crisis. They need your support now more than ever. We are campaigning on their behalf and providing resources to help them survive. This includes promoting *Cheers for Choice* to ensure beer stocks in reopened pubs, *Brew2You* and *Save our Pubs*.



Brew2You

This digital platform has been a vital tool in connecting beer lovers to local pubs, breweries and cider makers offering takeaway and delivery during lockdowns and beyond.



Speaking up for pubs, clubs, brewers and cider makers

CAMRA is at the forefront of lobbying for better support, and against unfair restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic. We support a cut in beer duty on draught beer served in pubs to ensure fair competition with supermarkets and changes to the Business Rates system to end the unfair burden on pubs.



For member benefits visit
www.camra.org.uk/benefits

If you love beer and pubs,
CAMRA membership is for you!

join.camra.org.uk

