

# The White Horse Wanderer

January 2022



## The White Horse Branch Campaign for Real Ale Branch Newsletter



Campaign for Real  
Ale White Horse Branch  
@WH CAMRA Beer Fest  
@WHCAMRA  
[www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk](http://www.whitehorsecamra.org.uk)

## Chairman's Remarks

Hello. As many of you already know me, I will only do a brief introduction. I am Ian Winfield, Chair of White Horse CAMRA. I live in Shrivenham with my wife, Claire, and our two dogs – Mr Clay and Cooper. I have been an active member of CAMRA for almost 30 years, latterly here in the Vale and before that in Richmond and Hounslow branch, in London.

As we are all aware, the pub trade has been deeply affected by the necessity to close entirely or severely restrict opening over the past months. During the pandemic and lockdowns, we have been unable to come together in person for meetings, socials or to run our annual Beer and Cider Festival in Wantage.

The good news is that now, freedoms are hopefully on the way, we can safely recommence supporting the many fantastic pubs, clubs and venues we are fortunate to have in our branch area. To keep you informed on what's going on across the vale (and beyond) welcome to this, the first edition of "White Horse CAMRA News". We welcome your feedback and input towards making this idea a success. Although initially this will be an online only publication, there exists scope to look at producing something more readily consumed in the pub, or on the loo!

The News pages will have a broad range of features, but mainly it's about getting word out to everyone about what is happening with the local Pub, Clubs and Real Ale Scene in our area. If you have news, share it!

Finally, though it probably goes without saying, please (if and when you can) support our licensed traders - and urge others to do the same. That's the key message from the White Horse CAMRA branch committee. Pubs need our support if they are going to survive. "It really is a case of "use them or lose them".

Ian Winfield

Chairman White Horse branch CAMRA



## Editors Introduction

Welcome to the 1st ever edition of the White Horse Wanderer, the CAMRA White Horse branch newsletter. Initially it will be published 3 times a year in digital format and will be available on our social media channels and emailed directly to those that wish to receive it. If you would like to be emailed a copy, then please contact the email address at the end of this introduction. We hope that eventually we will be able to print copies and that these will be available in pubs/clubs within the White Horse branch area. The idea of the newsletter is to give the marvellous pubs, clubs and breweries within our area and further afield an opportunity to publicise what's happening, details of their events, what beers are on offer, what beers are being brewed etc. Articles on new landlords, established landlords, Good beer guide pub entries, special events, beer festivals and anything pub, beer or brewery related. If you have anything of interest, please send via email to the email address below. The success of the newsletter will depend on what content we receive to put in it. We are also hoping to update What Pub, as we are aware that lots of pubs have changed their hours. If you would like your entry updated/changed again email any changes through.

I do hope that you enjoy this, our first newsletter and that you will contribute so that it will be a success and represent the superb pubs, clubs and breweries we have in the White Horse area.

Please send all information to [press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk](mailto:press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk)



# Branch News



## Cider Update

We finally got to present Tim Wale of Tutts Clump cider with his certificate for Winner of Wantage Beer & Cider festival 2020 with his Rhubarb cider. The presentation took place at Tim's local pub The Bell at Aldworth, who always have a selection of Tutts Clump cider both on draught and in bottles. For this occasion, the winning Rhubarb cider had been put on especially. Due to covid restrictions in place at the time the presentation took place in the beer garden with just a small group of Camra members from White Horse Branch, members present were Di & Dave Glass, Nick & Janine Lowton.



Pangvalley cider won runner up with their Midway cider, unfortunately with the restrictions at the time, Rick was unable to attend the presentation and his certificate was given to Tim to pass on.

A good time was had by all on a lovely sunny afternoon.

The Royal Oak in Wantage still has an array of ciders and perry available.

One to keep an eye on is the Bay Tree in Grove as a fellow member informed me that they had Lilley's Crazy Goat which is a blended cider and perry and also their Cherries & Berries cider. The Kings Arms in Wantage is also stocking Lilley's Firedancer cider along with the Lord Nelson.

Now the restrictions have eased I will endeavour to visit more of our local pubs and bring you any cider news.

Di Glass - White Horse Cider Rep

## Festival Update

The very successful Wantage Beer and Cider Festival held at the Beacon each year is moving from March to July in 2022. There will be more outside space to be able to enjoy a beer or cider and the normal exciting range of beers and ciders available. The provisional dates are booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022



If you are interested in sponsoring a barrel or half-barrel, sponsoring the commemorative Festival glasses, advertising in the programme or at the event itself, please contact [press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk](mailto:press@whitehorsecamra.org.uk) to find out more. There are a range of opportunities for sponsorship to suit individuals, pubs, clubs or breweries so please do get in touch.

Also are there any particular beers you would like to see, or do you have any ideas to help make the Festival even more of a success? The next planning meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, starting at 7.30pm in the Lamb, Wantage and you are welcome to join us.

# Pub News

The Hatchet at Childrey is now open after being closed for some time, which is great news for the village. Local beers, Butts Jester and Barbus Barbus were available on opening followed by Ramsbury Gold and Farmer's Glory, all in tip top condition as one would expect from Ian Shaw, the Landlord. It's great news that the pub has re-opened and that the local community are supporting it, queues were seen out of the door on opening night!

The King & Queen at Longcot is under new management and has 3 hand pulls in use, which are normally Ramsbury Gold, White Horse Bitter and Loose Cannon Gunners Gold.

The Barrington Arms, Shrivenham has undergone a complete and extensive refurbishment during lockdown and is now under new management. The pub now has a new modern relaxing style.

The College Farm at Watchfield, managed by Matthew Bolton has introduced a novel idea to attract custom after lockdown. You can now take advantage of a quiet table next to a plug socket with free WIFI, plus enjoy a delicious lunch whilst you work from the Pub Desk menu with unlimited soft/hot drinks all for just £10. Limited spaces available and pre-booking is preferred. Is this the new working from home?

The Shoulder of Mutton in Wantage has also undergone a major refurbishment during lockdown. The bar area has been opened up and new toilets built at the back of the pub. A good selection of real ale and craft beers are on offer as you would expect from this award winning pub.

White Horse brewery have organised several very successful open days during last summer and hope to have more in 2022. Their beers are being stocked in more local pubs, including the Lamb in Wantage.



Love beer?  
Love pubs?  
CAMRA membership  
is for you!  
Join now

# Events

**8<sup>th</sup> February** The Greyhound, Letcombe Regis 7.45pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> February** Beer & Cider Festival planning meeting, The Lamb Wantage 7.30pm

**12<sup>th</sup> April Branch** AGM , The Royal Oak Wantage 7.00pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July** Wantage Beer and Cider festival, The Beacon, Wantage, (details to follow)

# Bosley's Banter

## *A stroll to various Vale of White Horse Pubs by Dick Bosley*

Wantage is easily reached by bus from Didcot, Abingdon and Oxford and, with a reasonable claim to be Oxfordshire's real ale capital, it seems a good place to start.

There are four pubs in the Market Place offering different beers and atmospheres. Nearest the bus stops is the Bear. This is a large hotel and bar owned by Arkells Brewery so the beers here are supplied by them. It is an old coaching inn but the courtyard is now used for an extra, covered, seating area. Usually, you will find 3Bs and Wiltshire Gold with guest beers being available sometimes. Between the wars there was more than a little concern when a woman from Letcombe Regis brought her pet lion to a meeting of racehorse trainers!

The Bear Hotel



The Bell

Across the road you can see the unusual sign for the Bell – an actual bell rather than a signboard. Here they normally stock Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Morlands Bitter.



The Swan

Heading towards the Church is the King Alfred's Head with Tribute and Doombar being the regular beers and a changing guest – Brakespear Gravity when I visited. Unusually the pub also has its own ice-cream parlour should you need cooling down at the start or end of your walk. And, finally, overlooking the Churchyard is the Swan.

The Kings Alfred's Head



My personal favourite beer – Barbus Barbus, from Butts brewery – is a regular here along with Hobgoblin Gold and changing guest.

If any readers can provide any history of these pubs it would be received with much appreciation.



The Kings Arms

Leave the Market place along Wallingford Street – where stops at the Shoulder of Mutton and/or the Kings Arms are options to strongly consider – and continue along Charlton Road until you reach the Nelson at the edge of town. This is a Greene King pub known for good value food and TV sports but usually has a good pint of Abbott Ale. If you can resist that turn up Larkhill and turn left after about 50 yards onto a path past allotments and a couple of houses. The path narrows – and goes past one of my favourite sites to get sloes until a farmer of questionable parentage pulled out all the blackthorn bushes!

The Shoulder of Mutton



The Boars Head

You reach a quiet road which becomes a footpath as you bear left into the community wood then another road into Ardington village. Head towards the Church to find the Boars Head, offering very good food and a changing range of three or four ales.

The Lord Nelson



Leaving the pub turn left until you find a tunnel on the right – please note, not accessible to horses - that leads to a path then a road where you turn right over a stream and then left towards West Hendred. The easiest route after the churchyard is to turn left and then right onto a signed path that will take you to East Hendred. Continue past the village hall and Church – with no clock but with a scratch dial for those who like historic features – and then uphill to the Eyston Arms. Excellent food can be had here as well as a couple of varying beers.

Eyston Arms



North Star

Leaving the pub and turning right will lead you up White Road and to the A417 which should be crossed with care. The track opposite goes past some farm buildings, a small Copse, and down to a footbridge crossing the Ginge brook. You are now on the site of the TRUCK music festival. Turn right across a couple of fields and onto a road towards the Church and then join the medieval raised causeway. Shortly after the level crossing you will see the North Star. This is one of the most iconic pubs in the county – and one of the few in the country without a bar - that stocks two or three, normally local beers. Again, you can often find Barbus Barbus here. There is a new bus service (X36) to return you to Wantage on Mondays to Saturdays. Or you can continue your stroll by heading up to the High Street and going down Milton Lane past the Sports Club to a cobbled path towards Milton.

The lane leads you to cobbled path that meanders alongside the Ginge brook – and let's face it meandering is probably the best you can do if you if you have stopped at all of these pubs – across a footbridge over the A34 towards Milton village. As you reach Milton a narrow path on your right will lead you to the Churchyard where you will be able to see the Plum Pudding. This pub has been transformed since becoming a free house with three beers (Abingdon Bridge, OG [brewed in the village] and an ever-changing guest), numerous ciders and good food make it an excellent place to end your walk. They will even point you towards the bus stop when, or if, you feel the need.

Plum Pudding



## Campaigning to save pubs and clubs.

CAMRA campaigns for all pubs and clubs, regardless of whether they serve real ale, real cider or real per-ry.

We believe pubs and clubs play a vital role in tackling loneliness and social isolation, foster community spirit and encourage social interaction.

At a national level, CAMRA campaigns by lobbying MPs, Ministers, and Governments in Westminster, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, providing briefings on key issues, working with trade organisations, producing and coordinating national initiatives, and by supporting branch campaigning.

Locally, CAMRA branches run their own campaigns and initiatives, support pub saving groups in their branch areas, engage with their MPs and Councils, and organise CAMRAs famous Beer Festivals.

All our campaigning is made possible by the thousands of pub-goers and beer lovers who are CAMRA members.



# Pubs and clubs in Branch Area

If you would like to advertise here in future additions please contact [press@whitehorsecamra.org](mailto:press@whitehorsecamra.org)



Jazz nights band starts at 730pm the Rascals of Rhythm with a guest every last Wednesday of month

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> January

We have a guest pump which is changing weekly. We are supporting White Horse Brewery currently and have village idiot on tap. We will have Ramsbury Gold on and are hoping to have something from Butts Brewery soon too. We always have London Pride on with us mainly having either Darkstar Hophead, American IPA or a St Austell ale on our third pump.

<http://www.lambinnwantage.co.uk/index.htm>

<https://www.facebook.com/LambWantage>

<https://twitter.com/lambinnwantage>

# Good Beer Guide 2022

If you are looking for a good pint then where better to go than a pub in the good beer guide. The 2022 guide has 8 pubs in the White Horse area included, they are

The Royal Oak, Wantage

The Lamb, Wantage

The Greyhound, Letcombe

The Plough, West Hanney

The Boars Head, Ardington

The King and Queen, Longcot

The North Star, Steventon

The Eight Bell's, Eaton

Please contact the pubs directly or consult the GBG for details of opening, beer range etc.



# 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](http://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](http://www.camra.org.uk/benefits)

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

[join.camra.org.uk](http://join.camra.org.uk)

