ARKELL'S
FAMILY BREWERS
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KINGSDOWN NEWS

ARKELL'S BREWERY NEWSLETTER

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Image: Richard Wintle at Calyx

New brewer delivers

Welcome to Alex Arkell our new Head Brewer. At 26, he's the youngest family Head Brewer in the country, taking over from Don Bracher who has retired after 20 years.

"I learned from the best," said Alex.

Alex is the first Arkell's family member to take on the role for generations and he completed a rigorous apprenticeship in order to be able to do so, including a year running a pub, months at another family brewery and finally studying and passing his Master Brewer Qualifications at the World Brewing Academy in Chicago and Munich.

Catch him at our 'Meet the Brewer' evenings at Arkell's pubs throughout the year. Contact the brewery for dates.

More Arkell's landlords have achieved Cask Marque accreditation for serving the perfect pint of cask-conditioned ale. Cask Marque accreditation is only awarded to licensees whose ale passes rigorous independent quality audits.

DON'S GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

Delight at Alex's appointment was tinged with sadness saying goodbye to one of Britain's longest serving head brewers.

Don Bracher was our head brewer for 20 years. Before that he was at former London Brewery Mann Crossman where he spent four and a half years producing 20,000 barrels a week before completing an MSc in Malting and Brewing Science and progressed from Whitbread Brewery to Morlands and finally Arkell's.

James Arkell, paid tribute to Don: "Don drove beer development at Arkell's like no-one else could have done."

Arkell's say goodbye to Don Bracher

Not just here for the beer

Interested parties arrive at the Arkell's Publican's Information day

More than 100 people turned out for this year's Arkell's Publican's Information Day at the brewery in Swindon to learn about the skills needed to run a successful pub. One man was so keen not to miss it that after a hard day's work in London he drove straight to the brewery rather than heading home.

ARKELL'S HURRICANE ALE BLOWS IN FOR 3rd YEAR

Peter Vacher with George and Alex Arkell and the Hurricane R4118 1

Hurricane Ale flew into Arkell's pubs again this year for the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire.

At the cockpit!

George and Alex Arkell celebrated by visiting the only remaining airworthy Hawker Hurricane Mark I flown during the Battle of Britain. The plane, with its Merlin III engine, is said to be the most historic fighter aircraft to have survived the war. In 2001, it was discovered in India by Peter Vacher, who spent six years arranging to bring it back to the UK and a further three having it restored.

Often overshadowed by the Spitfire, the Hurricane was the first fighter monoplane to join the Royal Air Force and is widely acknowledged as the main victor of the Battle of Britain.

George Arkell said: "It was a privilege and thrill to see this wonderful aircraft lovingly restored in the Oxfordshire countryside. My grandfather, who flew Hurricanes, Lysanders and Mustangs in the war, would have loved to see it and Peter Vacher's story of his discovery and recovery of the Hurricane is inspirational."

Naturally, Arkell's Hurricane Ale (4% ABV) uses the lemony Pilot hops which, when combined with Maris Otter Malt, give the beer a delicious, well-rounded finish – like a Hurricane coming into land.

THE BULL CHARGES INTO HOTEL REFURBISHMENT

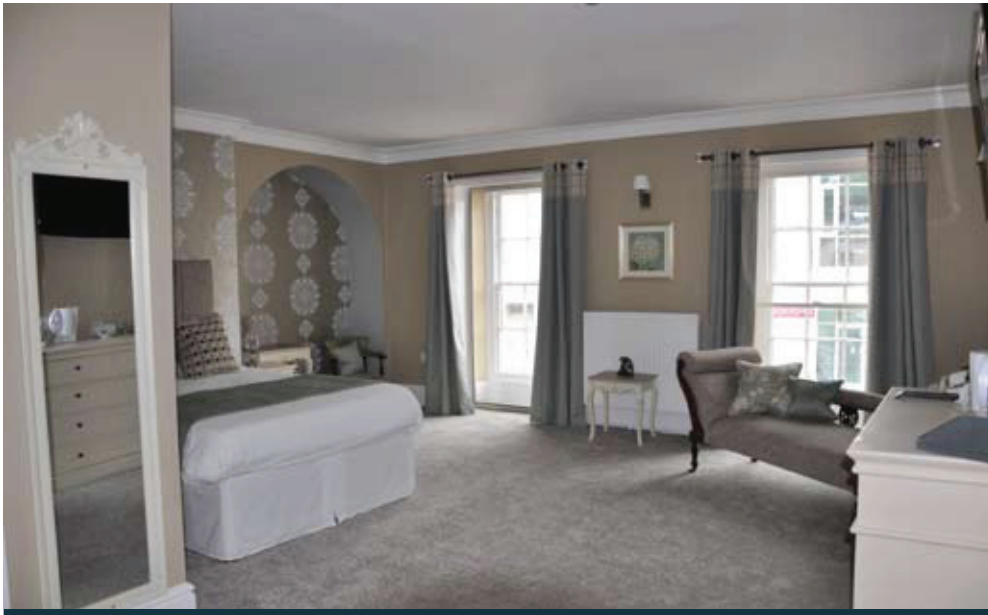
More than £100,000 has been invested in the historic Bull Hotel at Fairford by Arkell's. Much of the investment is behind the scenes, with new plumbing, heating and customer toilets. Other investment has opened up the bar areas and redecorated restaurants and the 60-seater function room.

Countess rewards Golden Cross

After undergoing a complete refurbishment The Golden Cross Inn, Cirencester, was officially re-opened by The Countess of Bathurst. The lovely back-street pub located on the town's smartest shopping street, has a brand new bar and refurbished lounge area – as well as a secret garden hidden away at the back.

George Arkell, Countess Bathurst, Peter Lindesay, Mark Lindesay and James Arkell

Sleep tight at The Lansdowne Strand, Calne



Gorgeous 'Period style' room at the Lansdowne

A rolling programme of bedroom refurbishment started this Spring at The Lansdowne Strand in Calne, but overnight bookings at the hotel are so strong that the brewery is having to delay some of the work.

George Arkell said: "The hotel is so popular that we were not able to get as many bedrooms finished for the summer season as we'd hoped so we'll have to finish them off in the Autumn."

Between them, Arkell's pubs and hotels have well over 400 overnight accommodation rooms available to let every night of the week. Every one is different, but they all offer a warm welcome.

Visit *www.arkells.com/pubs_acco.php* for availability and facilities.

Arkell's salutes Town's

Red Army

Arkell's backed our local Swindon Town Football Club all the way to the championships this year, and was rewarded with the Club's elevation to League One.

We brewed Red Army Ale (ABV 4%) so called because it had English Fuggles Hops and Rye Crystal Malt, giving the beer a reddish tinge.

George Arkell said: "The Club's success gave the whole town a spring in its step."

Arkell's Brewery has supported Swindon Town Football club for decades. We sponsor the Arkell's Stand and last year installed an entire bar into the new Bar 71 for Away Fans, which opened last August.

As a thank you Swindon Town Football Club's Kay Wainwright brought the L2 cup to the Brewery for everyone to get their hands on.

James, George, Alex and Nick Arkell

Dougie Petrie and Bob Mercer

Chris Dicks and Kay Wainwright from STFC

Paul Buckingham and Gordon Jones

Marie Duckett and Dave Paginton

Alex and George with the landlord Brendan Lee (centre) at The Fox and Hounds, Haydon Wick

Arkell's gets another round in

Late last year Arkell's acquired The Fox and Hounds at Haydon Wick in Swindon and The King's Arms Hotel in Malmesbury from Enterprise Inns.

James Arkell, said: "These purchases fit our strategy of continual investment in pubs and small town hotels which have a thriving community around them."

The Fox and Hounds first opened around 1840 as a country pub. Thanks to Swindon's expansion it's no longer in the country but retains a rural feel and is well supported by the local community.

The King's Arms is Arkell's first acquisition in historic Malmesbury. With twelve letting rooms, two bars, a restaurant and a function room for up to 120 people, this pretty hotel offers lovely overnight accommodation and a warm welcome.

The bar at the King's Arms, Malmesbury

It's all about the Beer

Over a barrel

Over £200,000 worth of new beer barrels will be delivered to Arkell's over the next five years. Each barrel, made out of stainless steel, costs £70, holds 72 pints of beer and has 'Arkell's Brewery' embossed around the collar.

Traditionally, beer barrels were made by a Cooper out of wood and bound by metal hoops. But steel barrels are easier to clean and better for maintaining quality and consistency of the beer.

The Queen's Tipple

Hundreds of real ales were brewed in celebration of the Queen's diamond jubilee - but there was only one Queen's Tipple.

We brewed Queen's Tipple – so called because of the Tipple Malt that head brewer Alex Arkell used in the recipe.

The result was a light pale ale with a well-rounded floral hoppy finish at 4.5% ABV which was so successful it almost sold out the week before the Jubilee itself.

Medal Maker

For the 2012 Olympics Alex Arkell brewed Medal Maker because, at 3.6% ABV with Styrian Goldings and Willamette hops to give it a lovely citrus aroma, we reckon its wonderful natural ingredients will deliver power where needed.

Hurricane Ale

Every year we brew Hurricane Ale (4% ABV) especially for the Fairford Royal International Air Tattoo. And of course we use the lemony hop Pilot with traditional Maris Otter malt to give it a delicious, well-rounded finish.

Our pump clip shows a Hawker Hurricane Mark I, R4118, which flew 49 sorties and shot down five enemy aircraft.

Pick up one of our new Arkell's Beer Guides from an Arkell's pub near you.

Plus Look out for our mini tasting notes leaflet. It contains notes about our house beers, special brews and seasonal beers!

Arkells Brewery Ltd. Hyde Road, Swindon. SN2 7RU Tel: (01793) 823026 Fax: (01793) 828864 Email: arkells@arkells.com

Design: Lee Hiom 01793 861947 Words & Pics Nicky Godding Communications 01285 653006