



NEWS FROM THE HAMPDEN ARMS

Louise Lucas

It's been a busy few weeks here at the village pub. Emily has been sitting her GCSEs and has just finished this week – you may have heard the collective sigh of relief from the whole Lucas family from your house! Evie has completed her first year of her social work degree and now both the girls are looking forward to a long, fun-packed summer, after all their efforts. The weather has been kind to all the local pubs and it's been great to see the beer garden busy after the winter – long may it last. Since I last wrote at Easter there have been a few events to report on:

Our **quiz nights** are great fun and seem to be growing stronger and stronger – indeed for quite a few weeks I have had to ask Kate if I can borrow a few chairs from the village hall to cope with the increased numbers! In April, we raised a whopping £200 for the Alzheimer's Society in memory of our dear friend John Bishop; in May we raised £210 for the MPS Society in their awareness week; and in June £115 was collected for Speen Helping Hospices. If you have not managed to come to a quiz, they really are a great fun, light-hearted night out. Quizzes start at 8 p.m. and cost £3 per team member to play, with a maximum of 6 persons per team. There is a £20 cash prize to the winning team. The next quiz night is on 16th July.

On the **May Day Bank Holiday** we welcomed our dear friends from Whitchurch Morris. After they danced at Coombe Hill, they came to us for a much-needed hot drink and a full English cooked breakfast! They then danced outside the pub, cheered on by many of our lovely customers who were more than happy to join in, once fuelled by coffee and bacon sandwiches!

Evie held a cake sale to raise money for **guide dogs** - a favourite charity of hers – and raised an amazing £150. Thank you to all who came along and purchased the home-made baked goodies.

Fluke Music - the husband and wife acoustic duo from Downley - entertained us on the second May Bank Holiday weekend, with many songs known by us all. A great pub singalong was had by many customers!

Our **summer solstice celebration** in the beer garden with Tinlin! A very frustrating afternoon: after weeks of hot sunshine, neither myself nor the Tinlin brothers could believe the sudden change in weather and we could have done with a few more supporters. However, needless to say that those who came along enjoyed the afternoon of music from these talented young men.

Another local Morris side – **Towersey Horseshoes** - danced outside the pub on Wednesday 25th June. They were cheered on by many customers – a great traditional and fun night at the pub. Thank you to all who came to support them.