

St Albans Real Ale & Cider Pub Guide

Produced by South Hertfordshire CAMRA

Autumn 2014

1 Ancient Briton, 46 Harpenden Road, AL3 5AH.

■ Wells Bombardier.

Historically a landmark pub on the Roman road, now run fully as a restaurant under the Harvester brand.

2 Baton, The Ridgeway, Marshalswick, AL4 9TU.

■ Youngs Bitter.

A good community pub divided into a number of bar areas catering for both drinkers and diners.

3 Beech House, 81 St Peters Street, AL1 3EG.

■ Up to 3 real ales.

Opened September 2014, this inviting and relaxing bar/grill serves at least one of its real ales from a local brewer, e.g. 3 Brewers and Tring.

4 Beehive, 2 Keyfield Terrace, AL1 1QL.

■ Sharp's Doom Bar, S'Neame Spitfire, Tring Side Pocket for a Toad.

A traditional style town pub, with a centrally located island bar, timber floors throughout and a snug area to the side.

5 Beer Shop, 71 London Road, AL1 1LN.

■ Tring Side Pocket for a Toad plus 2 guests.

Recently opened beer shop with three draught beers available to take away plus a large selection of bottled beers from around the world.

6 Blackberry Jack, 1 St Brelades Place, Jersey Farm, AL4 9RG.

■ Brakspear Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire.

An attractive Mitchells & Butlers' Sizzling community pub and restaurant in the Jersey Farm estate. Family friendly.

7 Blacksmiths Arms, 56 St Peters Street, AL1 3HG.

■ 2 regular beers, 7 guests plus a real cider or perry (GBG 2015).

A great friendly and lively town centre pub, featuring guest beers from local breweries. Recently redecorated.

8 Blue Anchor, 145 Fishpool Street, AL3 4RY.

■ McMullen's tied range.

Public bar and restaurant with a good range of bar snacks and full meals. Unfortunately closed at the time of going to print.

9 Boot Inn, 4 Market Place, AL3 5DG.

■ 7 guest beers, real cider (GBG 2015, LocAle, CAMRA discount).

Traditional pub in the city centre with a real fire, exposed beams, a low ceiling and wood flooring. Family friendly.

10 Camp, 149 Camp Road, AL1 5HR.

■ McMullen's AK and Country Bitter.

Two-bar local with a focus on sport - large tv screens, pool table and dart board. Occasional live music.

11 Cock, 48 St Peters Street, AL1 3NF.

■ Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale, Old Speckled Hen plus 2 guests.

Modernised Greene King pub with TV screens in the small bar area and a large restaurant at the rear.

12 Crown, 144 Hatfield Road, AL1 4JA.

■ Purity Mad Goose, Youngs Bitter plus 2 guests.

Large pub close to the station. Sport oriented with large TV screens and pool tables. Food served when major sporting events are

13 Farmers Boy, 134 London Road, AL1 1PQ.

■ Oakham Scarlet Macaw, 5 guests plus real ciders (LocAle).

Cosy, cottage style pub, close to the station. Home of the Verulam Brewery whose beers are always available. Food served all day.

14 Farriers Arms, 32-34 Lower Dagnall Street, AL3 4PT.

■ McMullen's AK, Country Bitter and 2 guests (GBG 2015, LocAle).

Classic back-street local, historic interior and venue for the first Herts CAMRA meeting. Only pub to have always served real ale.

15 Garibaldi, 61 Albert Street, AL1 1RT.

■ 5 Fuller's and Gales beers plus 1 guest (GBG 2015).

Quality back-street local serving excellent home-made food. Events such as live music and quiz nights also very popular.

16 Goat, 37 Sopwell Lane, AL1 1RN.

■ Charles Wells range with 3 regular beers and 2 guests.

Traditional 15th Century pub. Food served in award-winning restaurant. Games room to the rear including bar billiards.

17 Great Northern, 172 London Road, AL1 1PQ.

■ Greene King IPA.

Listed Grade II pub joining a clutch of Irish themed pubs. Three outside patio/garden areas and pool table. No food.

18 Hare & Hounds, 104 Sopwell Lane, AL1 1RL.

■ Otter Bitter, 4 guests plus a real cider (CAMRA discount).

Revitalised pub in conservation area with a focus on quality, locally sourced food. At least two real ales on at all times. Garden to the

19 Horn, Victoria Street, AL1 3TE.

■ Brakspear Special.

A popular live music venue and single bar pub near the station.

Voted best UK pub for music 2007 by Publican magazine.

20 Jolly Sailor, 3 Stonecross, AL1 4AA.

■ Charles Wells range with 4 regular beers.

Cottage style pub with a quiet lounge and separate public bar. An interesting range of bar snacks and meals is also available.

21 King Harry, 2 King Harry Lane, AL3 4BL.

■ Mitchells & Butlers range with 5 regular beers and 1 guest.

Three bar areas and two gardens makes this an interesting pub. The menu is substantial and good value. Annual beer festivals.

22 King William IV, 185 Sandridge Road, AL1 4AH.

■ Mitchells & Butlers range with 3 regular beers and 3 guests.

A large, warm and spacious pub that's busy with drinkers and diners throughout the day. Often stocks beers from micro breweries.

23 Lower Red Lion, 34-36 Fishpool Street, AL3 4RX.

■ Oakham JHB, St Austell Tribute, 3 guests, real cider (GBG 2015).

Classic, quiet pub with huge character in a very picturesque area. Popular with locals. Home-cooked food served in the evenings.

24 Mermaid, 98 Hatfield Road, AL1 3RL.

■ Oakham Citra, 6 guest plus 10 real ciders/perries (GBG 2015).

Friendly free house with 7 real ales, often from microbreweries, plus foreign bottled beers. Herts Cider & Perry Pub of the Year

25 Olde Fighting Cocks, 16 Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HE.

■ Mitchells & Butlers range with 3 regular beers and 3 guests.

Possibly the oldest in the country bursting with traditional features - low ceilings, small rooms and fireplaces. Food served daily.

26 Peahen, 14 London Road, AL1 1NQ.

■ McMullen's Cask Ale plus 1 guest beer.

Busy town centre bar, popular with a younger clientele in the evening. Lunchtime and evening meals served. Garden to the rear.

27 Portland Arms, 63 Portland Street, AL3 4RA.

■ 4 Fuller's and Gales beers plus 1 guest.

Warm, welcoming, traditional community pub. Renowned for its freshly prepared pub food. Take-away fish and chips also available.

28 Rats Castle, 246 Hatfield Road, AL1 4UN.

■ Caledonian Flying Scotsman and Mild plus 1 guest beer.

Traditional saloon bar style with several TV screens, two pool tables and a dartboard. Relaxed atmosphere with mixed clientele.

29 Robin Hood, 126 Victoria Street, AL1 3TG.

■ Black Sheep Bitter, Taylor Landlord and Wychwood Hobgoblin.

Friendly community pub, handy for the station. It is spacious and has a pleasant beer garden. Food is served lunchtime weekdays.

30 Rose & Crown, 10 St Michael's Street, AL3 4SG.

■ Adnams Bitter, Wells Bombardier and Sharp's Doom Bar.

A fine old pub in a picturesque setting. Two bars opened out plus small rooms for sitting. Home made food sourced locally.

31 Six Bells, 16-18 St Michael's Street, AL3 4SH.

■ 5 real ales plus real cider (GBG 2015, LocAle, CAMRA discount).

16th Century pub, very ale focused. Excellent home-cooked food served all day. Patio area to the rear. Branch Pub of the Year 2009.

32 Slug & Lettuce, 13-15 Victoria Street, AL1 3JE.

■ Greene King IPA.

Large, modern, open plan bar with segregated dining area. Busy in the evenings. DJ Friday nights. Recent convert to real ale.

33 Speckled Hen, 395 Hatfield Road, AL4 0XG.

■ Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen and Seasonal guests.

Large, comfortable pub that's popular with diners. Regular quizzes, and BBQs on summer weekends. Has an extensive pub menu.

34 Verulam Arms, 41 Lower Dagnall Street, AL3 4QE.

■ Wells Bombardier, Young's Bitter plus 1 guest.

Recently refurbished, popular local with an emphasis on wild foraged and locally produced food. Heated patio to the rear.

35 Victoria, 82 Victoria Street, AL1 3TG.

■ Sharp's Doom Bar.

Friendly street corner pub near the station with a focus on darts and sport. Food available lunchtimes and evenings.

36 Waterend Barn, Civic Close, St Peters Street, AL1 3LE.

■ JD Wetherspoon range with 3 regular beers and 4 guests.

Large and spacious Wetherspoon pub, previously a Lloyds no. 1 bar. Interesting, wood beamed interior and patio to the front.

37 White Hart Hotel, 23-25 Holywell Hill, AL1 1EZ.

■ Adnams Bitter, Oakham JHB and 2 guest beers.

A genuine Tudor hotel on the old coaching route through St Albans, one of the oldest buildings in the city. Food served.

38 White Hart Tap, 4 Keyfield Terrace, AL1 1QJ.

■ 4 regular beers, 3 guests and a real cider (GBG 2015).

Very welcoming back-street local owned by Punch Taverns. Good value, home cooked food - popular fish & chips night on Fridays.

39 White Lion, 91 Sopwell Lane, AL1 1RN.

■ 3 regular beers plus 5 guests (LocAle)

Punch Taverns pub with a friendly front bar and a larger main bar with garden to the rear. Good home-made food available.

40 White Swan, 1 Upper Dagnall Street, AL3 5EA.

■ 4 real ales from the Caldeonian range.

Large Irish-themed pub just off St Peter's Street. A cosy, warm and friendly pub popular for its live music, sport and pub games.

Non-Real Ale Pubs

41 Fleur de Lys, 1 French Row, AL3 5DU.

42 King Offa, Wallingford Walk, St Julians, AL1 2JJ.


43 Mokoko, 26 Verulam Road, AL3 4DE.


44 O'Neill's, 11 Victoria Street, AL1 3JJ.


45 Peacock, 13 Hatfield Road, AL1 3RR.

Real Ale Styles


Real Ale is beer brewed from traditional ingredients, matured in the container from which it is dispensed, and served without the use of additional gas.


 **Pale ale** is a light coloured, heavily hopped ale with spicy aroma and palate, buscuity malt and tart citrus fruits.

 **Golden ale** is a pale amber, gold, yellow or straw coloured ale with a hoppy bitterness and refreshing taste.


 **Bitter** is one of the most popular styles that grew out of pale ale. Usually a deep bronze/copper colour with a malty taste.

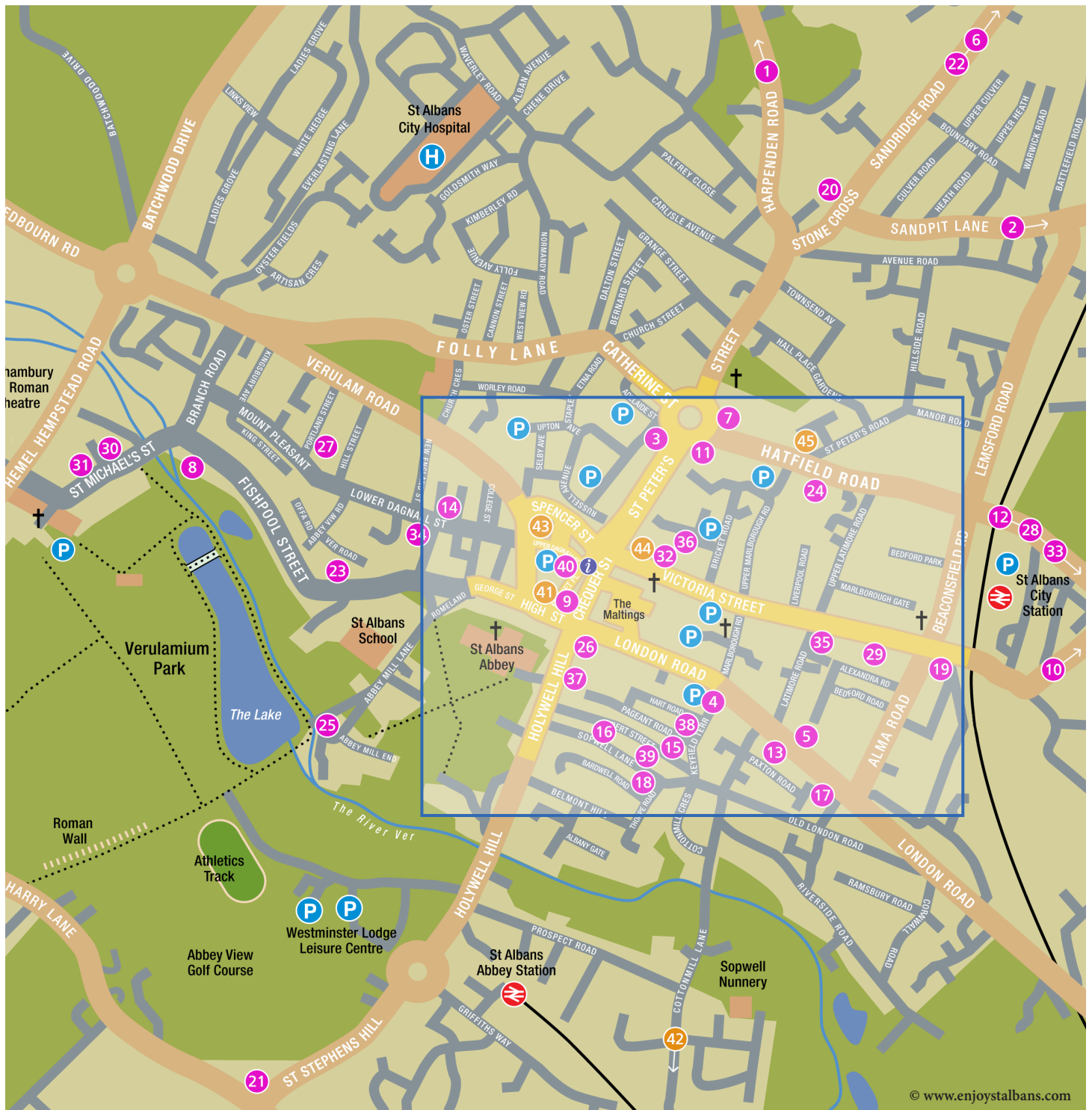
 **Best bitter** is a stronger bitter often higher in alcohol with a more malty and bitter taste compared to regular bitters.

 **Mild** is an ale of low gravity and hop rate with a rounder, slightly sweeter and distinctly less bitter taste.

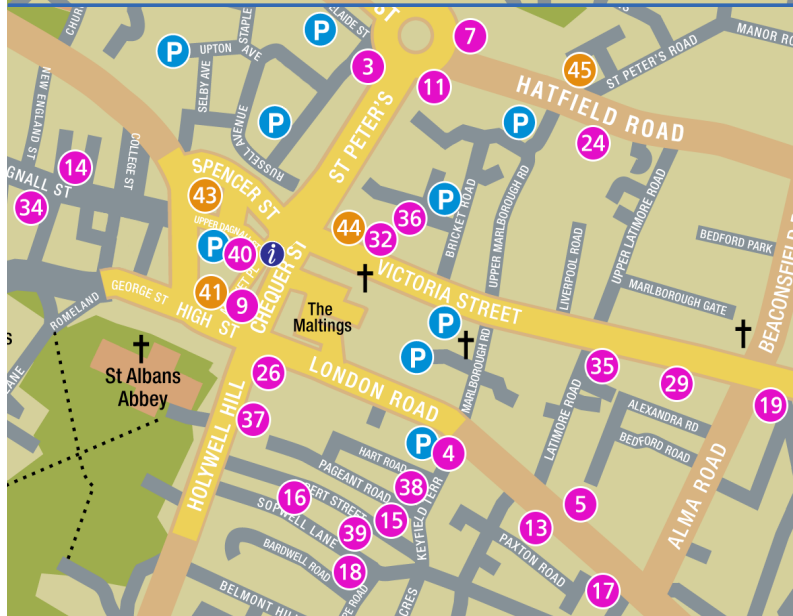
 **Porter** is a dark, slightly sweet but hoppy ale made with roasted barley often with a fruit, sultana or coffee taste.

 **Stout**, a successor to porter, is a very dark, heavy, well-hopped bitter ale with a dry palate.


 **Real cider and perry** is fermented apple and pear juice respectively with no added colourings or flavourings.




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 Details of the real ales and ciders available.

 Pubs that feature in the Good Beer Guide 2015.

 Pubs that serve at least one real ale from a Hertfordshire brewery.

 Real ale and cider pubs: at least one real ale or cider available.

 Non-real ale pubs: either no real ale or cider, or not served regularly.