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# REAL ALE IN WARE

A Guide to Hertford overleaf

## Historic Ware

Why not take some time out to sample the great selection of pubs and beer that Ware has to offer. 20 miles north of London, Ware is situated on the River Lea where its gazebos, swans and canal boats complete the river scene. Once a significant crossing point for stage coaches travelling between London and Cambridge, its main street is marked with many former coaching inns. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ware had become the largest malting town in Europe and many of these buildings remain, as do some of the brewery buildings from the past. Amongst its impressive array of pubs Ware, surely, has one for you.

## Travelling to Ware

Ware Railway Station connects with Hertford East and with Liverpool Street and Cambridge via Broxbourne.

Local buses include the 310, 351, 375, 395 and 524 services and the cross-Hertfordshire 724 route. By road Ware is located just east of the A10, north of the A414. Hertford lies 2 miles to the south west.



### Albion (1)

12, Crib Street 01920 421007

☎ ☰ ☷

Adnams Bitter, Flowers IPA, occasional Guests

Tucked behind St.Mary's Church, a gem of a small old pub where, thankfully, little has changed for many a year. Food Monday to Friday 12-2. Open all day.

### Angel (2)

54, Star Street 01920 463228

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Greene King IPA, Charles Wells Bombardier

A very cosy pub with two distinct bar areas and a child-friendly garden. Quiz on Sundays. No food. Pub is closed Monday to Friday lunchtimes.

### Cannon Tavern (3)

1, The Bourne 01920 462791

☎ ☰ ♣

McMullens AK

An open-plan traditional local, busy and lively at weekends. Closed Monday to Friday lunchtimes, otherwise open all day. Sunday roasts. Cannon was a former Ware brewery.

### Crooked Billet (4)

140, Musley Hill 01920 462516

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Greene King IPA & XX (winter) + GK or other Guest

With a deserved reputation for well-kept beer, this thriving local has two distinct bars. A rare stockist of dark mild, but not in the summer. Closed Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. Open all day Saturday and Sunday. No food. GBG06

### High Oak (5)

26, High Oak Road 01920 467269

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Greene King IPA, Charles Wells Bombardier + occasional Guest

Very friendly pub with a strong community feel to it. Annual beer festival on Bonfire Night. Dog friendly. Closed Monday to Friday lunchtimes. Open all day Saturday and Sunday. No food.

### John Gilpin (6)

London Road 01920 462321

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McMullens Country & AK

Large popular pub with area for regulars serving good ale and lunchtime food. Karaoke Fridays and quiz on Sundays. William Cowper's "The Diverting History of John Gilpin" tells the tale of Gilpin's fateful anniversary holiday and his erratic ride to Ware. Open all day

### Jolly Borgeman (7)

91, Cromwell Road 01920 462991

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McMullens AK

An excellent AK is assured here as it is lovingly looked after. This is a large, open-plan, estate pub with the added bonus of comfy sofas. No food. Open all day.

### Old Bulls Head (8)

26, Baldock Street 01920 462307

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Adnams Bitter, Charles Wells Bombardier, Shepherd Neame Spitfire + up to 4 Guests

The best choice of real ale in Ware. Look out for the parliamentary clock and the list of former Ware pubs in this heavily timbered building. Food available lunchtimes and afternoons. Live music most Saturdays. Open all day.

### Rifle Volunteer (9)

21, Collett Road 01920 462310

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Greene King IPA + occasional GK or other Guest This open-plan "local" has a legendary Sunday roast for which booking is a must. Lunchtime and evening food, except Sunday evening. Sunday quiz and live music most Saturdays. Open all day.

### Rose and Crown (10)

65, Watton Road 01920 462371

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McMullens Country & AK + Specials

Terrific pub with great beer, food (not Sun-Tue eve), hosts and dog. Superb garden, although not obvious from the road, with petanque and a heated conservatory. Quiz fortnightly on Sundays. Food all lunchtimes, on Wednesday to Friday evenings and all day at weekends. Closed Monday - Thursday afternoons.

### Royal Oak (11)

20, London Road 01920 462755

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Fullers London Pride, Greene King IPA & Old Speckled Hen, Courage Directors

A locals' pub of some character near Hertford Regional College and Scott's 18th Century shell-clad grotto. Food Monday - Friday lunchtimes. Open all day Sundays.

### Saracens Head (12)

Bridgefoot 01920 463640

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McMullens Country & AK

Popular riverside pub/bar, especially when the sun is out and the water is glistening. Can be very busy weekend evenings. Food available all day.

**Spreadeagle (13)**  
37, Amwell End 01920 462784

☎ ☎ SKY ♣

McMullens AK

Small, lively and friendly "local", convenient for the railway station. AK kept in top condition. No food. Open all day.

**Tap Bar (14)**  
83, High Street 01920 485315

☎ ☎ SKY ♣

Greene King IPA & Abbot

Totally revamped a few years ago by the present landlady - it is now very comfortable and popular with all ages. Seek out the heated, covered patio. Food all day up to 10.

**Victoria (15)**  
2-4, Star Street 01920 462565

☎ ☎ SKY ♣

McMullens AK

The 'Vic' is the only true two-bar pub left in Ware town centre - a joy to visit with its lovely riverside garden. No food except Sunday lunch when traditional roasts are available. Open all day. Accommodation available.

**Vine (16)**  
22, High Street 01920 462462

☎ ☎

Greene King IPA & Abbot + GK or other Guest

Formerly the Bell, this is an excellent, modern bar/pub with a very relaxed and enjoyable ambience, offering good food. Can be busy during weekend evenings. Open all day.

**Waggers (17)**  
Kibes Lane 01920 462216

☎ ♣

Greene King IPA & Abbot + occasional GK or other Guest

This local well-renowned institution, housed in former maltings buildings, was run for many a year by the Smith family. Previously a private club we have it on good authority that it is now run as a pub. Open all day. No food

**Wine Lodge (18)**  
102, High Street. 01920 462616

☎

McMullens AK + occasional Specials

Look for the 'Turret' in the High Street and you'll find this lovely small local's pub with bags of character. No food. Open all day.

**Worppell (19)**  
35, Watton Road. 01920 462572

☎ ☎ SKY

Greene King IPA & Abbot + occasional GK or other Guest

Tenants George and Pat have run this much loved local for over twenty years - beers are kept in top

condition. Food lunchtimes Monday to Friday. Open all day Friday to Sunday.

### Great Amwell

**George IV SG12 9SW**  
Cauthery lane 01920 870039

☎ ☎ 310,724 ☎ ☎

Bass, Greene King IPA, Adnams Bitter  
Superb home made food is a trademark of this delightful pub which sits high above the manicured islands and lake off the New River - take a walk down. Food available every session. Closed during the afternoon.

**Peppers@ Waggon & Horses SG12 9RQ**  
Pepper Hill 01920 870747

☎ ☎ 310,724 P ☎ ☎

Greene King IPA, Adnams Bitter  
Enterprising and friendly pizza and pasta bar with generous portions at reasonable prices. Sunday roasts. Open all day Friday to Sunday. Drinkers welcome.

### Hailey

**Galley Hall SG13 7NY**  
Hailey Lane 01992 462906

☎ P ☎ ☎

Greene King IPA, Tetleys Bitter, Courage Directors + Guest  
Comfortable bar with flagstone flooring and separate dining area. There is an emphasis on food, available lunchtimes and evenings and all day at weekends. Large colourful garden with swings for the children. Open all day.

### Stapleford

**Papillion at the Woodhall Arms SG14 3NW**  
17, High Road (A119) 01992 535123

www.papillion-woodhallarms.co.uk

☎ ☎ 390,524 P ☎ ☎ SKY ♣

Greene King IPA + usually 2 Guests  
A quality hotel and restaurant with a comfortable separate bar area for drinkers. Usually an interesting range of guest beers. Food lunchtimes and evenings. Closed during the afternoon.

### Thundridge

**Sow and Pigs SG12 0ST**  
Cambridge Road 01920 463281

☎ ☎ 331 P ☎ ☎ ♣

Adnams Bitter & Broadside  
Lovely old characterful pub on the 'old' A10 next to Hanbury Manor offering food lunchtimes and evenings and all day Friday to Sunday.

### Tonwell

**Robin Hood and Little John SG12 0HN**  
14, Ware Road 01920 463352

☎ ☎ 384 P ☎ ☎ ♣

Greene King IPA + 3 changing Guests  
Tonwellians are lucky to have a pub and restaurant like this. The long-standing landlord ensures good quality food and excellently kept ales, always three genuine guest beers available. Food every session but closed in the afternoon.

### Wareside

**Chequers Inn SG12 7QY**  
Wareside 01920 467010

☎ ☎ M3,M4 P ☎ ☎ ♣

Greene King IPA + up to 3 Guests  
Lovely rambling pub dating from the 16th Century with many rooms, serving beer straight from the barrel and offering genuine guest ales. Quality food is available during every session in bar and restaurant. Closed during the afternoon except Sundays. GBG06

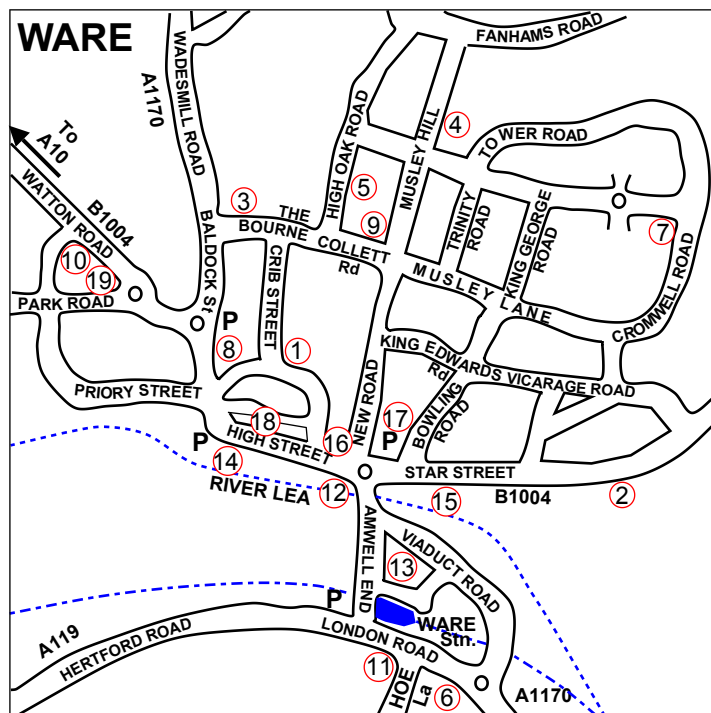
**White Horse SG12 7QX**  
Wareside 01920 462582

☎ ☎ M3,M4 P ☎ ☎ ♣

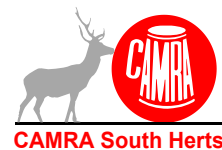
Greene King IPA & Abbot + GK or other Guest  
Wonderful village pub selling excellent ale and superb food made from local produce - game is a speciality. Children friendly garden where petanque can also be played. Food every session but closed during the afternoon.

### Opening Hours

Most pubs have, in some way, taken advantage of the flexibility offered by the new licensing reforms, many staying open a little later in the evenings, especially at weekends. This may well take time to fully bed in, so anything out of the ordinary is stated in the pub comments.



KEY	
☎	Accommodation
♿	Disabled Access
♿WC	Disabled Toilet
🔥	Real Fire
🌿	Garden
📰	Newspapers
☎	No Smoking Area
P	Car Park
🏠	Family Room
🕒	Quiet Pub
♣	Pub Games
📺	TV
SKY	SKY TV
🚌	Bus Route
☎	Meals
GBG06 Good Beer Guide '06	



**McMullens**

Mac`s have been Hertford family brewers since 1827 – now with 135 pubs, including a strong contingent in Ware and Hertford. Following difficulties in 2003 which threatened the company`s existence, the story has turned another page, Mac`s consolidating purely as an integrated brewery and pub business. A brand new brewery is almost complete (due to open in the spring of 2006), constructed within existing storage buildings.

McMullens` standard beers are the popular AK and Country bitters but these are regularly supplemented by their own increasingly well-received seasonal beers or guests from other brewers, though not all pubs take advantage of these. We hope that the opening of the new brewery will encourage Mac`s to produce an even wider range of real ales.

If Mac`s Listed but now largely ornamental Victorian tower brewery is testament to their rich history, come to Hertford on brewing days. There is no mistaking the aroma that weaves through the streets and which signifies that the McMullen brewing tradition is set to continue well into the foreseeable future.

**Red Squirrel**

Formed in 2003, Red Squirrel Brewery is a ten-barrel micro-brewery based in Mimram Road, Hertford – the brainchild of Hertford resident Gary Hayward who produces hand-crafted cask conditioned ales and lagers, supplied to free houses all over Hertfordshire.

Red Squirrel produces an ever-changing beer range, from traditional English ales to innovative New World beers which Gary is particularly proud of. Stock beers are Conservation Bitter and Red Squirrel Gold. Seasonal beers include Hertfordshire Honey Porter, Dark Ruby Mild and Red Squirrel Bitter which is based on an American recipe. Over 15 different types of malt are used, 10 types of hops, English ale yeast and yeast from the USA and Germany.

**About this Guide**

All the pub information in this guide was collected by local CAMRA surveyors between September and December 2005. As the pub scene is ever-changing we apologise should you find any subsequent changes.

Edited by: Les Middlewood, Brian Page, Linda Howe, Tony Dawes, Jan Ordon  
With thanks to Roger Filler and all CAMRA participants.

**Photographs**

Hertfordshire`s emblem, the stag, sits atop Hertford War Memorial, erected to honour the fallen of the first World War.

In Ware, the statue of the Malt Maker commemorates the town`s long and rich history as a centre of malting.

Images ©2005 Tony Dawes & Linda Howe

**Cask-Breathers**

We are aware that a number of pubs may use these to prolong the life of quality real ale. CAMRA is not in favour of the use of cask-breathers.

