

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

CAMRA

FREE

The Campaign for Real Ale

FEBRUARY 1987

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 101

GREENE KING CLOSE ONLY PUB IN VILLAGE

The **Waterford Arms**, Waterford closed its doors for the last time on 11th December, leaving the village without a social meeting place. The pub had been suffering from serious damp and the brewery would not spend the necessary money to remedy the problem.

At the time when most breweries are spending vast amounts on revamping their tied estates, the question must be asked: why did Greene King close a thriving pub, especially just before the busy Christmas period? The **Waterford Arms** was the only known Greene King pub to sell both light and dark mild – as well as IPA and Abbot – on handpump. For all these beers to be in top condition, which they nearly always were, the pub must have had a considerable turnover. This was much in evidence on the last night when virtually everyone in the pub, from young bikers to old village worthies, was drinking real ale. Indeed, the **Waterford Arms** was on the South Herts Branch shortlist for the 1987 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

More importantly, the village has lost its only pub, an occurrence which usually has dire effects on village social life. The people of Waterford must now travel at least one and a half miles if they want a drink or a game of darts; pensioners can no longer pop in for some company on a cold winter night.

In Norfolk many villages have become much lonelier places because Watneys have closed the only pubs. Greene King are setting a similar, worrying trend: in the past two years they have also closed the **Adam & Eve** at Hare Street near Braughing and the **Royal Oak** at Clapgate, Albury. Thus three communities have lost their only pub. Perhaps the brewery can tell us why they were not sold with a licence?

Meanwhile, Greene King are rumoured to be looking for a suitable property in Waterford so that the licence can be transferred. Let's hope they are successful.

But the message is clear: watch out or **your** local might be the next under threat. If so, contact your local CAMRA branch (see back cover and we will help fight the closure, even if the pub does not sell real ale at the moment.

Adrian Jolliffe



castle street ... old hertford

Renovations now complete

...
*Widest selection of real ales
in Hertford with many guest beers
served on gravity and hand pump*

....
Reduced prices on cask ale
5-30 to 7.00 pm Mon-Fri.

...
Home cooked food at all times

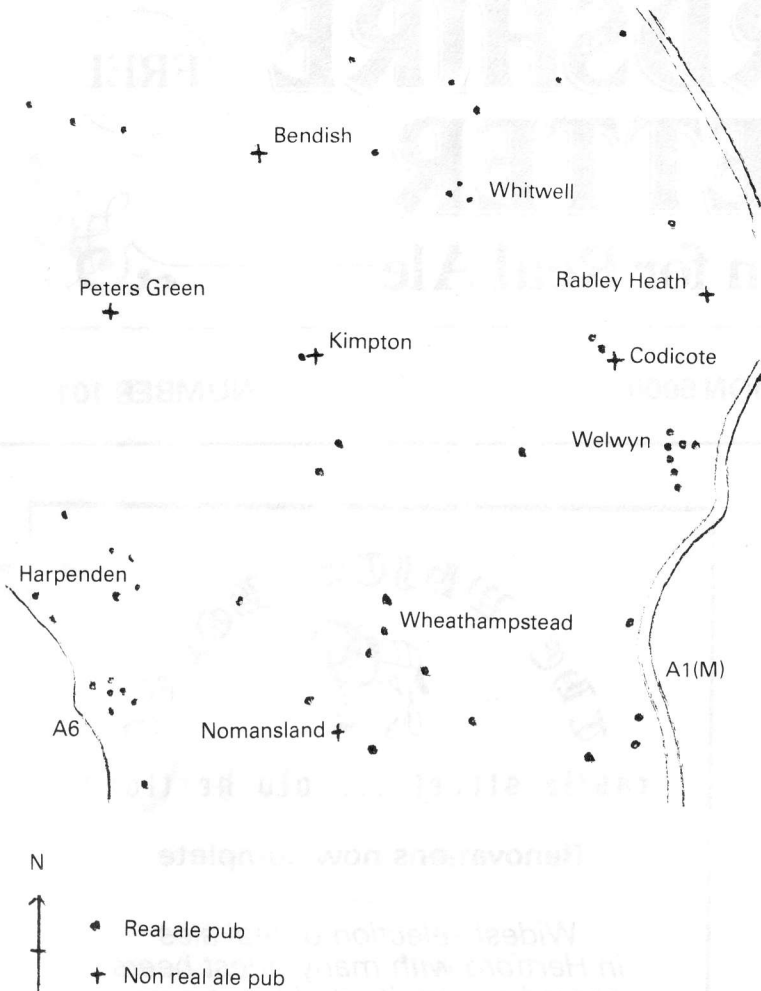
The Crooked Billet Colney Heath
Tel: Bowmansgreen 22128



*One of
Hertfordshires
Old Village Pubs
Traditional
Draught Beer
in Olde-World
surroundings*

MAC'S LAST OF THE FIZZ

MORE REAL ROYSTON



This map shows the distribution of pubs in the area of Hertfordshire between the A6 and the A1(M). This part of the county has a good choice of tied houses and only six do not sell real ale.

Brewery	Real	Non real
Whitbread	12	—
Benskins	12	—
McMullen	6	6
Greene King	5	—
Watney	4	—
Ind Coope	3	—
Courage	1	—
Charrington	1	—
Fullers	1	—
Free Houses	3	—

Why is it that McMullens persist in selling only top pressure beers in six of their houses when all the other breweries can sell real ale in similarly rural, low turnover pubs? Perhaps the brewery could explain this paradox.

It is evident from the list above that there are enough discerning drinkers in this area to make real ale viable. It must follow that the same drinkers would rather not drink top pressure beers, and so these pubs are denying themselves trade that they can ill afford to lose. Come on McMullens — put these pubs back on the real ale map!

Harrow, Bendish

Three Oaks, Nomansland

Globe, Codicote

Bright Star, Peters Green

White Horse, Kimpton

Robin Hood & Little John, Rabley Heath

Adrian Jolliffe

With the re-opening of the **Green Man** at Christmas, equipped with three handpumps on its new bar, Whitbread now has a full set of four real ale pubs in Royston. Not so many years ago none of these houses had a handpump and it was left to the three free houses to supply real ale.

Now with these seven pubs offering real ale, as well as four major clubs in the town, the two remaining public establishments without real ale stand out. The situation is all the more surprising when one considers that these two houses are owned by the two local regional brewers: the Boars Head by Greene King and the Banyers Hotel by McMullen. These two brewers have done much to re-introduce handpumps to their pubs in the rest of the county — so why is Royston left out? Perhaps by next Christmas we can have some reaction, or better still action, from Greene King and McMullen. J.F.F.



NOMINATE A PUB

CAMRA's South Hertfordshire Branch will soon be deciding which of their pubs to include in the 1988 Good Beer Guide. A lot of people ask why their local is not in the guide — or, alternatively, "Why the hell is that pub included!" So, if you have any suggestions, for pubs in the south of the county, please write to:

John Pirie, "Videne", Hawkshead Road, Little Heath, Potters Bar, EN6 1LX.

A few words explaining why the pub should or should not be included would be helpful.

Part Two

The following pubs have closed since W. Branch Johnson wrote his monumental "Hertfordshire Inns" in 1962-63. If any of our readers have any old photos or interesting memories of these pubs, we would be interested to hear from them.

Bishops Stortford: Of the 29 old established pubs in the town in 1962, no less than eight have closed down.

Anchor, South Street. Mentioned in 1681. Ind Coope

Grapes, Licensee in 1898 was George Chapman, a triple murderer. Ind Coope.

Saracens Head, South Street. Owned by Dunmow Brewery in 1962.

Kings Arms, South Street. Formerly owned by Fordhams Brewery of Ashwell. Closed by Whitbread (Flowers).

Sawyers Arms, Another Fordhams pub which passed to Flowers, then to Whitbread.

Shades, The Causeway. Ind Coope.

Swan, The Blue Boar in 1667. Ind Coope.

Coach & Horses, Hockerill. Branch Johnson mentions that it had a fine wrought-iron signboard. Ind Coope.

Braughing, Hay Street: **Adam & Eve**. The only pub in the hamlet of Hay Street, but sold without the licence by Greene King late in 1985. Established before 1716. Once had to have its sign repainted because it was too revealing!

Broxbourne, Spital Brook: **George**. Ind Coope.

New Inn. Mentioned in 1852. Ind Coope.

Buckland: **White Horse**. The only pub in the village; an inn before 1761. A Phillips of Royston house until 1949, then passing through J.W. Greens and Flowers before being closed by Whitbread.

Buntingford: **Adam & Eve**. Well established by 1735. Closed by Ind Coope.

White Hart. Mentioned in 1600. Greene King.

To be continued.

Adrian Jolliffe

TETLEY'S NOT BENSKINS CUP OF TEA

A recent article in this Newsletter commented on Allied Breweries attempts to introduce Tetley's bitter into their tied houses in the south east and the possible dangers to the local 'own' brands. It would appear that Benskins have come to the same conclusions, as, unlike their sister companies Friary Meux and Taylor Walker, they currently have no plans to introduce cask conditioned Tetley's bitter. Benskins have stated that to put it alongside their 'own' Best Bitter would not increase overall sales and would be liable to lead to a reduction in the quality of the beer. Benskins will, however, be selling the keg version of Tetley's in about 40 of their pubs where keg beer is currently selling well.

B.A.

DON'T GET A BAN

The Brewers' Society has launched its own anti drinking and driving campaign under the slogan "Don't Get a Bar - Get a Bus". A local in one Hertfordshire village pub was heard to comment that this would mean he wouldn't get much drinking done - the village only has two buses a week. Seriously though, licensees are advised to organise alternative transport and to provide drivers with non-alcoholic drinks. A series of initiatives are suggested:

- Special bus services with pick-ups at pubs.
- Sponsored travel by licensees and breweries.
- Nominated driver schemes with free soft drinks.
- Better promotion of non-alcoholic drinks.
- The provision of food, including 'Drivers Specials'.

The slogan will appear on special beer mats and bar notices.

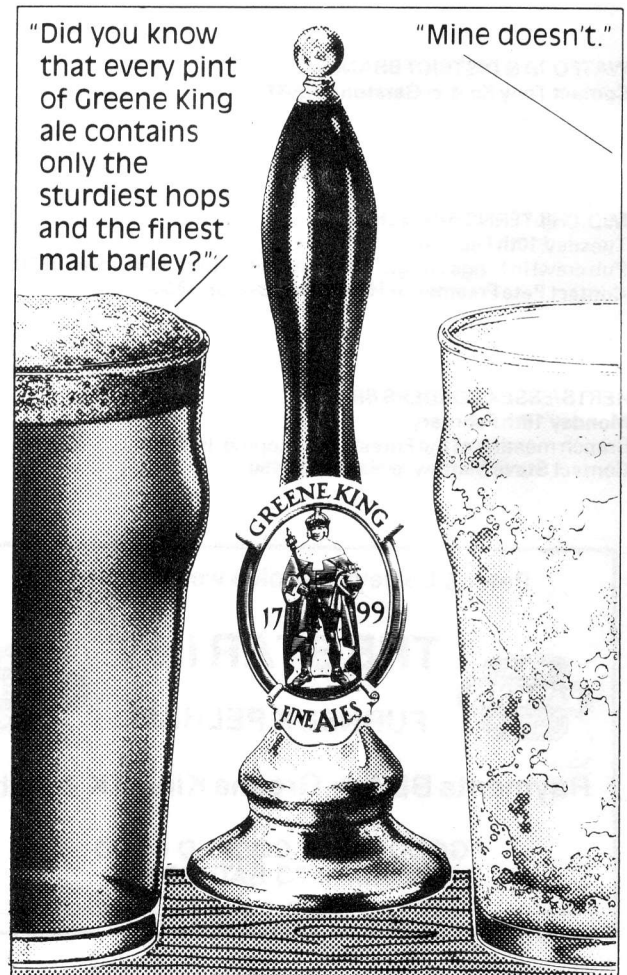
Unlike previous campaigns, aimed solely at the Christmas period, 'Don't Get a Ban' is expected to run throughout 1987.

South Herts

January

For the second year running the **Cricketers**, Redbourn has been voted a South Herts Pub of the Month. This fine old Benskins house has been run since February 1981 by Mike and Liz Sweet, ably assisted by their African Grey parrot, name of Benjie, who holds court on the Lounge bar, while in the Public bar a range of games are played. Good value meals, excellent beer and a thoroughly warm welcome have earned the **Cricketers** a place in the Good Beer Guide for the past five years. If you were able to join us in January, we are sure you would have agreed with our choice.

Bob Norrish



BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday 11th February

Social at the George IV, Baldock, 8p.m.

Wednesday 25th February

Annual General Meeting followed by Branch Meeting at the Bull, Watton-at-Stone, 8p.m.

Wednesday 11th March

Social at the Two Diamonds, Stevenage Old Town, 8p.m.

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 365957

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Tuesday 10th February

New Real Ale outlet social at the Sibthorpe Arms, Welham Green, 8p.m.

Tuesday 17th February

Branch meeting in Ware, 8p.m. Phone contact for venue.

Wednesday 25th February

Pub of the Month social at the Queen's Head, Sandridge, 8p.m.

Contact Adrian Jolliffe ☎ St. Albans 69675

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Contact Tony King ☎ Garston 672587

MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

Tuesday 10th February

Pub crawl in Kings Langley starting at the Rose and Crown, 8.30p.m.

Contact Pete Freeman ☎ Hemel Hempstead 68948

HERTS/ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Monday 16th February

Branch meeting at the Forest Gate, Epping, 8.30p.m.

Contact Steve Marlow ☎ Harlow 30450

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



THE STAR INN

FURNEUX PELHAM



Rayments BBA ★ Greene King KK & Abbot

**GOOD HOME COOKED FOOD
MONDAY TO SATURDAY**

☎ Brent Pelham 227

CLAIM A FREE PINT

To claim a free pint of beer, look at the Crooked Billet advert on the front page. If it has been overstamped by the pub, then hurry on down there as the offer is only open during February.

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR PUB

6th February: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Singaround at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

8th February: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Singers Night at Ware Folk Club.

13th February: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. The Coppin Family at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

15th February: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Tony Nyland at Ware Folk Club.

20th February: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, Peta Webb & Pete Cooper at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

22nd February: Brewery Tap, Ware, 8p.m. Singaround at Ware Folk Club.

27th February: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Ralph Jordon and Jo & Fi Fraser at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

1st March: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Clive Pig at Ware Folk Club.

8th March: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Helen Royall at Ware Folk Club.

Listing in the What's On column is FREE. Send details to the Editor by 1st March for the April edition.

PUB NEWS

There is a new real ale outlet in Royston. The **Green Man** re-opened on Christmas Eve and now boasts three handpumps. Wethered's Bitter and Castle Eden Ale were on sale to begin with; presumably other beers from the Whitbread range will follow. The former two bar disco pub has been renovated in traditional style, now with one large bar.

The **Barley Mow**, Tyttenhanger has had four mystery beers on sale: Barley Mow Bitter (1034-1037), Barley Mow Best Bitter (1042-1045), St. Albans Ale (1039-43) and Max Bitter (1037-39). Our correspondent believes the St. Albans Ale is brewed by Banks & Taylor. Any suggestions for the other three?

The **Boot**, Long Marston re-opened in October after being completely refurbished. Watford footballers John Barnes and Tony Coton as well as page three girl Debbie Ashby were present for an opening party celebration.

Tenants David and Sandra Warren left the **Halfway House**, Bovingdon in October. They had been running the pub for the last seven years and have now decided to leave the trade. Now a managed house, it has become the first pub for David and Christine Bastow.

The **Swan** at Pimlico is to close from January to Easter 1987 for alterations to take place. A new bar extension and new accommodation for the tenants are planned. The pub frontage is listed Grade 2.

The **Boot**, Dane End which has been closed for several months, is now up for sale with or without the licence.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Boat, Berkhamsted

I read with interest the article in your November edition of the Hertfordshire Newsletter concerning "Forlorn Boat".

After various inevitable delays, detailed plans for the reconstruction of The Boat are now with the local authority and we expect to receive approval in February 1987.

All being well, we anticipate starting the rebuilding of The Boat in the early part of next Summer.

I am sure it will trade well and I am grateful for hearing about your members' concern for our pub.

Yours sincerely,

A.G.F. Fuller

Chairman & Managing Director

Fuller Smith & Turner p.l.c.

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire North, Hertfordshire South, Watford & District and Mid-Chilterns branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA Ltd or its Branches. The Editor gratefully receives articles or letters for publication. **These should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced; handwritten items should also be well spaced and as legible as possible please.** Send to: **Roger Protz, 43 Burnham Road, St. Albans, Herts.**

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