



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

JUNE/JULY 1992

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GREENALLS MOVE SOUTH

Greenall Whitley has never been one of Camra's favourite breweries. Originally based in the Northwest with breweries in St. Helens, Warrington and Wem, brewing bland beers and selling a growing proportion in keg form in their 1500 pubs, this made them the largest of the regional brewers. St. Helens closed in the mid-70's and the company moved into the Midlands, first taking over Shipstones of Nottingham with 250 pubs, then Simpikiss with 16 pubs which closed almost immediately.

With the real ale explosion in the 1980's Greenall pubs were still selling half their beer in keg or tank form and the distinctive Shipstone brews were progressively becoming blander.

Davenport's of Birmingham was taken over with 123 pubs in 1986 and closed in 1990. The Wem brewery closed in 1988 after 200 years of brewing leaving them with just Shipstones and Warrington. Now Greenalls have given up brewing altogether leaving Allied Breweries to brew their beer, mostly at Warrington and of course Shipstones has closed.

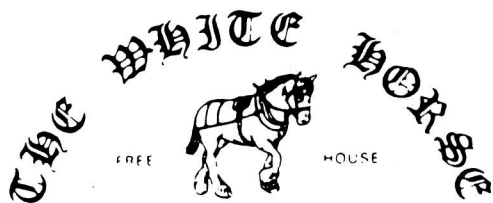
After tearing the heart out of the North and Midlands brewing, Greenalls are now just a pub-owning chain.

Greenalls have now taken possession of forty pubs from Allied Breweries twenty four of which are in Hertfordshire and eleven in Buckinghamshire.

Needless to say the landlords of the pubs involved are none to happy with the change. Under Allied Breweries they were entitled to take a guest beer; under Greenalls this will stop and it sounds as though there will be a lot more managerial interference in the running of the pubs. The landlord at the Three Tuns, Hertford has said he is leaving before Greenalls get their hands on the pub.

The pubs involved are as follows:

Albion, Queens Head and Red Lion, Hemel



castle street ... old hertford

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

.....

Reduced prices on cask ale
5.30 to 6.30 pm Mon - Fri

.....

Home cooked food weekday lunchtimes

Gordon and Sorrell
invite you to try their award-winning
**Fuller's Chiswick, London Pride
& E.S.B.**

at the



Gibraltar Castle

Lower Luton Road, Batford, Harpenden

Meals now available all opening times

Hempstead; The **Beehive**, Berkhamsted; The **Plough**, Potten End; The **Bell and Eagle**, Kings Langley; The **Unicorn**, Abbots Langley; The **George & Dragon**, Colney Street; The **Old Fox**, Old Bricket Wood; The **Rose & Crown** and **White Lion**, St. Albans; The **White Horse**, London Colney; The **Golden Lion**, Hoddesdon; The **Grand Junction Arms**, Bulbourne; The **Sow and Pigs**, Wadesmill; The **Sun**, Northaw; The **Three Tuns**, Hertford; **Waggon & Horses**, Medburn and the one at Great Amwell; The **Wellington**, Borehamwood; The **White Horse**, Welwyn and the **Black Horse**, Chorleywood.

BREWERY NEWS

The blockbuster this month is **Greene King's** 'hostile' bid for **Morland** of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Greene King have valued the brewery and 300 pubs at £101 million, with the firm intention of closing the brewery and supplying the pubs from their Biggleswade and Bury St. Edmunds breweries. The undistinguished Morland's beers will almost certainly be phased out, with the possible exception of the 1050o.g. Old Speckled Hen in the premium beer range but this is also a direct competitor for Greene King's 1049o.g. Abbot Ale.

It has been no secret that the Morlands board has been seeking take-over bids for some months. Now one has come about, because Whitbread Investment Company has been forced to divest itself of its 43½% holding, Morlands seem none to happy.

Talking of Whitbread; they have just announced a 25% downturn in profits.

PORTERS AND STOUTS – THE GREAT REVIVAL

Dark, tasty, and something different. Real porters and stouts are making a comeback.

The June issue of CAMRA's paper "What's Brewing" features forty eight cask conditioned porters and stouts. The number of these dark beers produced in the UK has trebled since 1990.

Porter, a dark roasty-flavoured beer, was the first beer brewed on a commercial scale in Britain. The name supposedly came from its popularity with market porters, in the eighteenth century. Porter's decline began with the popularity of the famous India Pale Ales which became modern bitters. By the end of the war, porter was no longer commercially produced as a draught beer. One or two brewers produced a bottled porter. That was it.

But now, Britain's smaller breweries have revived the style. Several famous regional brewers have porters of their own. And it is rumoured that a national brewer is looking to follow.

The stout market has been dominated by keg brands like Guinness, and now Beamish and Murphys. However, brewers have also begun to produce real ale stouts, for the truly discerning stout drinker.

Britain has a rich and diverse brewing heritage. The revival of these beer styles, gives still wider choice. We hope these dark beers will go from strength to strength, and encourage brewers to promote their mild ales as well. Dark is beautiful.

AS BREWED IN HERTFORD

FOR OVER 100 YEARS

McMULLEN
ORIGINAL
AK

CASK CONDITIONED ALE

TOWN AND AROUND

As well as the Allied pubs that have gone to Greenalls another chain "Pubmaster", a company with no brewing history, has been acquiring 60 Hertfordshire pubs. This makes them the largest 'non-brewing' pub chain in the U.K. with a total of 734 to date. Pubs that have come to light so far are: in St. Albans; The **Duke of Marlborough**, **White Hart Tap** and **Verulam Arms**. The **White Lion** London Colney; the **Black Horse**, Colney Street; **Red Cow**, Frogmore, **Plume of Feathers**, Markyate; **Green Man**, Sandridge and the **Malta**, Harpenden.

The newest pub in the county has opened at last after many years in the planning stage and at a reported £2 million expenditure. The **Moor Mill** in Smug Oak Lane, Park Street is a conversion from an 18th century watermill; the wheel is still there in working order, there is also a large garden with some animals. Although largely food orientated there are six real ales on offer including Youngs Special, Brakspears Special, Wards, Pedigree and a mystery 'Millers Ale'.

Another new pub will be opening in July. This is on the Chells Manor estate in Stevenage. It is to be called the **Emperors Head** and is owned by Bass Charrington.

Back in mid-March the aptly named **Overdraught** opened its doors as a freehouse. Richard Jacobson bought Whitbread's White Horse in Park Street with the help of a sympathetic bank manager. Pedigree, 6X and Hook Norton are among the brews for sale.

The **Abbey Tavern**, St. Albans looks destined for demolition to make room for yet another office block. Allied Breweries were refused permission for development by the local council after a hard-fought campaign by the landlord and regulars. This was all overturned by the Department of the 'Environment'. One can only hope it turns out to be another Canary Wharf.

The **Fishery Inn**, Elstree and the **Estcourt Tavern**, Watford are both currently closed for refurbishment. The **Greyhound**, St. Ippollitts reopened on April Fools' day after a long refurbishment, Flowers IPA and Boddingtons now on offer.

Royston can now claim to be 100% real as the new licensee in the **Boars Head** has introduced handpulls for the Greene King IPA and Abbot. Another new outlet is the **19th Hole** of Chesfield Down Golf Centre, Jacks Hill, near Graveley on

CLAY SHOOTING

One day courses for Beginners or
Shooting days for Parties of Friends

Two minutes from South Mimms.

From £35 per person

Price includes Full Days Shooting, use of Guns,
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Fully Insured

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CHILTERN BREWERY COMPANY, Terrick, Bucks

*Chiltern Ale, Beechwood Bitter and
Three Hundreds Ale (draught)*

Three Hundreds Ale and Bodgers Barley Wine (bottled)
are pleased to announce that

HOUSE OF STRAUSE, St. Albans (0727 - 45136)
have been appointed Sales Agents for Herts & South Beds

the B197, open to the public and offering Benskins, Tetley Bitters and Burton Ale.

Rumours abound in Ickelford that handpumps are to be installed in the **Green Man**. Watch this space for more news. That rare brew Greene King XX Dark Mild has been added to the range of beers at the **Marquis of Lorne**, Stevenage.

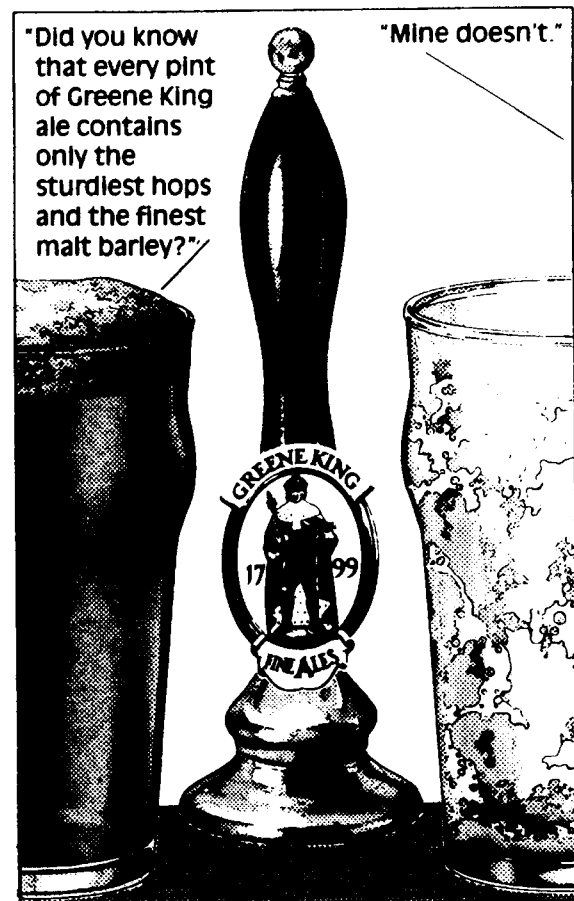
Plans submitted by Whitbread to extend the **Pré Hotel** and build a new access road have been turned down by St. Albans council. Also in St. Albans, the **Beehive**, Watson's Walk has reopened under the ownership of Inn Leisure, masquerading as a John Devenish Cheese and Ale House. No Devenish beer to be seen though, despite all the advertising material.

David Hughes has retired from the **Crooked Billet**, Colney Heath. After a short closure the pub has been reopened by Wally and Judy Kasprak previously of McMullens' **Royal Oak**, Chingford, which featured for two years in the Good Beer Guide and was noted for its food and floral displays. Wally is a real ale enthusiast and hopes to have four to six ales available.

Also on the move; Chris Holtby has left the **Black Horse**, South Mimms and been replaced by Richard Starkey previously of the White Hart, Ascot.

An interesting range of guest ales has been available in the **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans. Appearing recently have been: Banks and Taylor SOS and Black Bat, Shepherd Neame Bishop's Finger, Morlands Old Speckled Hen and Innkeeper Reserve from Warrington's Coach House Brewery.

Meanwhile up the road, the **Boot** has extended its range to include Ansells Mild and Burton Ale alongside its Tetleys. Over at Potters Bar the range of beers at the **Artful Dodger** seems to be restricted to Whitbread products and associated guests.



BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday 16 June, 8.30pm Branch meeting **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans.

Wednesday 17 June 8.30pm Skittles v. Watford Branch. See below.

Tuesday 7 July Pub crawl **Rose & Crown** 8.30pm then **Salisbury Crest**, Essendon, 9pm. **Candlestick**, West End 9.30pm. **Woodman**, Wildhill 10pm.

Tuesday 21 July 8.30pm Branch meeting, **Brocket Arms**, Ayot St. Lawrence.

Contact: Bob Norrish: 0582 763133 x2554 or 0582 769923

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Wednesday 3 June, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting at the **Lytton Arms**, Old Knebworth.

Wednesday 17 June, 8.30pm, Pirton area crawl, starting at the **New Inn**, Holwell, then to Pirton pubs. (Note change from previous diary listing).

Wednesday 1 July, 8.30pm, Countryside crawl, starting **Moon & Stars**, Rushden, then **Bull**, Cottered, and **Jolly Waggoner**, Ardeley.

Wednesday 15 July, 8.30pm, Countryside crawl, starting at **Waggon & Horses**, Watton at Stone, then **Three Horseshoes**, Hooks Cross, and **Chequers**, Bragbury End.

Saturday 25 July, All-day minibus crawl around Buckinghamshire.

Wednesday 29 July, 8.30pm, Lilley and Offley crawl, starting at **Lilley Arms**, then **Silver Lion** and Great Offley pubs.

Wednesday 12 August, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting at the **Star**, Furneaux Pelham.

Contact: Paul Coard 0462 437249.

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Friday to Sunday 5-7 June, Branch weekend to Scotland.

Tuesday 9 June, Social; **Old Shepherd**, Chorleywood 8.30pm.

Wednesday 17 June, Skittles match; **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge 8.30pm.

Friday 26 June, Pre-Christmas London Pub Crawl.

Sunday 28 June, Committee meeting, **West Herts Club** 8.30pm.

Tuesday 30 June, Social; **Cross**, Maple Cross 8.30pm, **Dumb Bell**, Hornhill 9.15pm.

Wednesday 8 July, Independent social at **Clarendon Arms**, Chandlers Cross 8.30pm. Transport from Watford Junction 8.15pm.

Tuesday 14 July, Bushey independent social **Kings Head** 8.30pm, **Royal Oak** 9.30pm.

Saturday 18 July, Day trip to a **JH** "gem" near Warwick.

Tuesday 21 July, Chorleywood independent social; **White Horse** 8.30pm, **Black Horse** 9.45pm.

Sunday 26 July, Committee meeting, **West Herts Club** 8.30pm.

Wednesday 29 July, St. Albans independent social; **Blue Anchor** 8.00pm, **Portland Arms** 9.00pm, **Farriers Arms** 10.00pm. **ALL WELCOME**.

Contact: Martin Few 0923 252412.

MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

Contact: Chris Pontin 0494 78624(w), 0494 775409(h)

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS

Contact: Angie Wright 0277 225815

ALL HERTS LIAISON MEETING

Monday 13 July, 8.30pm, at the **Crown**, Buntingford.

WEEKEND TRIP TO SOMERSET

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 November

Visits to both Cotleigh and Exmoor breweries. Two-nights seaside hotel accommodation with it's own brewery. Coach from various pick-ups throughout Hertfordshire.

Approximate cost £75 – £80.

Contact: Ian Turvey (0763) 71570(w) or 72726(h).

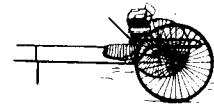
REAL DRAUGHT BEER IN HERTFORDSHIRE

The guide to the counties pubs for the discerning beer drinker; available from Eric Sim, 10 Heron Way, Hatfield AL10 8QL. £3.50.

North Hertfordshire Beer Festival

Plans are well advanced for a bigger and better festival at Letchworth's **Plinston Hall** on 18 and 19 September. Full details in the next newsletter.

Inn On the Green



TILBURY

Datchworth

Large selection of
cask conditioned ale including mild

Home made food available every
Lunchtime & Evening

Opening Times:

11.00 – 3.00	5.00 – 11.00	Mon – Fri
11.00 – 3.00	6.00 – 11.00	Saturday
12.00 – 3.00	7.00 – 10.30	Sunday

Brewery Trips organised periodically.
Coming Soon Hogsback Brewery
– phone Ian Miller for details

Almost Live Music some of the time

Telephone: 0438-812496

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. Any articles or letters for publication should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced; handwritten items should also be well spaced and as legible as possible please. Send to: Eric Sim, 10 Heron Way, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8QL.

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