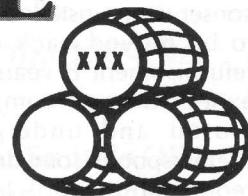


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# THE



# HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

LINED GLASSES  
GUARANTEE  
FULL PINTS

JUNE/JULY 1994

CIRCULATION 4500

NUMBER 145

## NEW HERTS BEER & PUB GUIDE LAUNCHED

It is with great pleasure that we can announce THE publishing event of the year with the launch of the all new edition of the legendary Herts Guide to Real Beer. As predicted in this newsletter one year ago, edition no. 139, the guide duly hit the bars and the shelves at the end of April. The blaze of publicity from the local media was reasonable as were the favourable reviews from industry analysts.

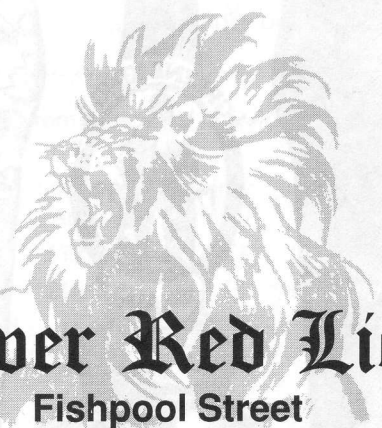
The Hertfordshire Guide to Real Beer is more than just a list of pubs and the beer they might sell, it captures a picture of the state of the county's licensed industry. What can only be described as the chaos of pub sell offs, swaps and plain closures following the MMC report on beer supply in 1989 has changed the face of the retailing side of the industry in the intervening years. The name on the pub sign is no longer an indication of who even owns the pub let alone who supplies the beer. The handy sized booklet could well be on sale in the pub where you are reading this newsletter, alternatively many local bookshops, WH Smiths and tourist information centres keep stocks at the bargain price of £3-00.

With the Guide in your pocket however, any pub in the county can be looked up and its facilities checked, is it suitable for children?, do they serve vegetarian food? or, even more importantly, can the beer be relied upon?. The inclusion of addresses, phone numbers and clearly printed town maps make finding the hostelry as easy as crossing the road, whether it is a remote country hotel or small back street boozier tucked away in the nether regions of Stevenage.

The new edition has been completely re-surveyed by volunteer members of the local branches of CAMRA so the information about pub facilities and beer range is as accurate as is humanly possible. The information is compiled using CAMRA's computerised national pub database so changes in the industry, from new beers to new pubs opening can be quickly amended and advertised through the pages of this and subsequent newsletters. Guide owners can then use the Pub News column to 'update' their copies and keep an eye on the ever changing situation in their county. Whether you are a serious beer hunter or a casual imbibor, the Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale is an indispensable companion, so buy one today.

Hertfordshire  
South Branch  
Pub of the Year  
1993

Enjoy a pint at  
St. Albans' Oldest Freehouse



## Lower Red Lion

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## DOWN YOUR WAY

### Renovations & Refurbishments

The refurbishment of the **Roundbush**, Aldenham has been delayed due to a change of plans by the new Area Manager, the pub could be closed for several weeks. We await the outcome with interest. **Pinks Hotel**, Shenley, is to have a conservatory installed overlooking the garden and the Bar is to be moved back to its old position before the last refurbishment 8 years ago. Beers from the **Tring Brewery** expected upon completion. The **Riverboat**, Shenley, is closed and undergoing renovation to open as a Wetherspoons sometime in June. The **Bridge** in Potters Bar reopened on April 14th after a major refurbishment and changes to the bar areas, reports of 8 handpumps with 6 beers on at present. The **Plume of Feathers**, Tewin, has reopened with 8 handpumps while the old public library in St. Albans is being converted by Carlsberg Tetley into one of its theme pubs believed to be opening under the name of the **Philanthropist & Firkin**. Nice to see a new pub appearing but we have not forgotten the **Abbey Tavern**. The **Malta** and **Silver Cup** both Harpenden are having a face lift while the **Saracens Head** in Redbourn has reopened

### New Incumbents

New manager at the **Three Compasses**, Patchets Green, the old licensee has taken over the tenancy of the **Golden Lion** in Watford. The **Sportsman** in Hertford (Grosvenor Inns) has a new manager. Tenancy changes are taking place at the **White Horse** and **Gloucester Arms**, both Hitchin and the **Brewery Tap**, Furneux Pelham. The former Raymets brewery to which that pub refers was closed by Greene King in 1987 and is now only a depot. The **Lamb & Flag**, Colliers End is under new ownership as a free house and is open 11.00 - 11.00 Monday Saturday selling Greene King IPA, McMullen AK and two guests. New licensees have moved into the **Three Tuns**, Great Horstead, the **Fox** in Aspenden, the **Fox and Hounds**, Buntingford, the **Engine**, Baldock and the **Green Man**, Wymondley

### Currently Closed

The **Beehive**, Hare Street and the **Checkers** (sic) in Baldock are all closed.

### Additional Beer Changes

In Radlet the **Red Lion**, now under the Beefeater banner is now selling Moorlands Old Speckled Hen, Greene King Abbot, Flowers Original and Boddingtons Bitter. The **Leviathan**, Watford has started reusing one of its handpumps to sell Wadworth's 6X. Staying with Wadworth, McMullen's have replaced their J.M. Premium Bitter with the Wiltshire company's Farmers Glory. The **Olympus Wines** off licence in Potters Bar is dispensing Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale. The **Duke of Marlborough** has been selling Thwaites Bitter, Batemans XXXB and Arrols 80 /- (Carlsberg Tetley). Spotted at the **Tilbury** in Datchworth were Ruddles County and Toby Light, whatever next!

### Notices

Congratulations to **Lee Frost**, landlord of the **Coach & Horses** in Newgate Street who has won a Bass Cellarman Award for Best Kept Bass Cask Ale. The **Bull**, Watton at Stone, has been awarded a Pub Preservation Award. The Watford & District Branch would like to thank the **Plough** at Belsize for getting Highgate Mild in specially for their social in May. The **Fox**, Kinsbourne Green will hold another mini beer festival from July 8th - July 11th. This will be a taster for a larger 'fest' to be held in August featuring Beers, Cheeses, Wines and Whiskys. Following the recent success of its May Day event (51 barrels sold in 3 days!) the **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans, will be staging its third festival from August 26th - 29th when over 50 beers should be on show. Saturday July 9th will be "Jazz Day" at the **Cabinet**, Reed. The first session is from 12.15 to 2.45, with the Paul Jolly Quartet from

Luton. The second session, from 8.30 to 11.30pm, will feature Steve Whittaker and Don Rendell. Barbecue and extra beers will be available for the occasion.

## THE KING BILL – REVISITED

The King William IV, London Road Shenley, was closed for two weeks after Easter for a complete redecoration and toilet improvements. Whether the article in this newsletter (number 143) played any part in Whitbread's decision to start work remains to be seen. It was in dreadful condition and perhaps we could start a "worst local competition". I'm sure the "King Bill" was not alone in its dilapidation. We will be happy to advertise all awful examples brought to our notice.

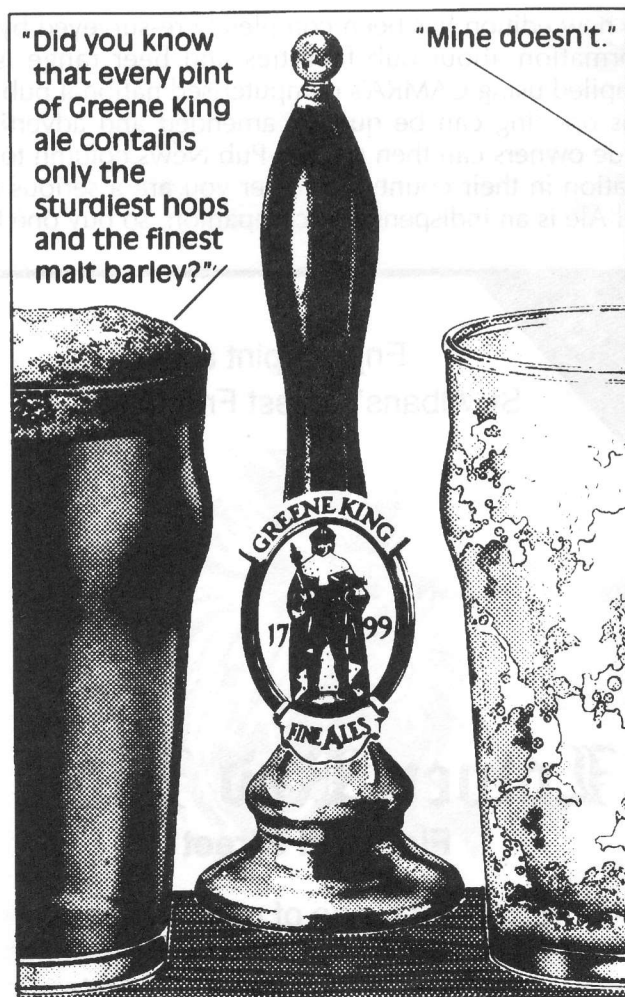
The renovation was completed and the reopening took place on Thursday 21st April with David Siemen, the Arsenal goalkeeper, in attendance as guest celebrity.

The "William" has received the Hogshead treatment with plenty of timber in evidence and no less than 8 handpumps serving Whitbread beers. I don't know if the trade will enable 8 beers to be kept in good quality, we shall just have to wait and see. There is comfortable furniture and a separate window alcove which is a nice touch. The laser jukebox with the big screen was a bit intrusive but you could always ask them to turn it down. All in all a definite improvement although they seem to have missed the toilets.

*Steve Bury*

### Now available – 1994 Real Beer in Hertfordshire.

Price £3.30 (incl. P&P) payable to CAMRA Herts Campaigning Fund. Available from Eric Sim, 10 Heron Way, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8QL.



## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

John Truscott, the licensee of the Boot at Kimpton has asked us to point out that the prices of his beverages, in particular the orange squash, are not any higher than the average for the local area. The North Herts Branch would like to apologise (unreservedly) for any misrepresentation.

The **Fox and Hounds** at Barley, North Hertfordshire's only brew pub, has some additional facilities to those listed in the guide, namely a family and meeting room, regularly sells two real ciders and offers a variety of traditional pub games. Since being surveyed, toilets for the disabled and baby changing facilities have been installed.

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

English Heritage will soon issue specific guidelines for the 'listing' of historic pubs. CAMRA has warmly welcomed this important initiative to defend pubs of historical and architectural value.

The guidelines were launched at the Campaign's national AGM and conference in Scarborough at the end of April by Jenny Page, Chief Executive of English Heritage. The proposals represent the result of several years of CAMRA campaigning to gain protection for pubs of all types. Certainly the medieval hostleries, classical coaching inns and the great gin palaces are obvious candidates but so are pubs with a more humble lineage, those which represent a particular era in pub development for example. Interiors will now be considered as an important part of the building, previously the inside of the pub was almost totally ignored. The aim is to prevent the already considerable losses to our pub heritage from getting any worse but also to avoid producing museum buildings which have no place in the modern business environment. The long term future is best served by continuing use and balancing the business with the history. It is impossible to recreate what has been lost, you only have to look at some of the efforts in Hertfordshire, hopefully the new guidelines will protect what is left.

## APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Signature ..... Date .....

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£120 <input type="checkbox"/>	£140 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£160 <input type="checkbox"/>	£180 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>
Retired	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£7 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>	£70 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd.,  
34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW



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## MAC'S ROLL OUT THE (RED) BARREL

On 22nd March the South Herts branch of CAMRA paid a visit to McMullen's brewery in Hertford. Fifteen members plus the manager of a local Mac's pub braved the wintry conditions and were greeted in the Old Cottage by Dennis Ruttledge, Mac's PR chappie. Dennis recounted the history of Hertfordshire's oldest family owned brewery before moving on to explain the organisation of McMullen's following the recent retirement of John McMullen. Fortified by coffee and biscuits, we proceeded to the new brewhouse to see what was being brewed that morning. The first of two to see was a large run of AK. The other was John McMullen's farewell gift to the company, a batch of the latest in the Special Reserve range, JM Premium Bitter.

The two hour trip of the old and new brewhouses was perhaps the best brewery trip I have ever attended. Dennis took the time to explain every step of the brewing process and showed us parts of the plant which other companies would not normally bother with.

What has all this got to do with the eye-catching title of the piece? It could be that McMullen's casks (which are a dark shade of red) undergo a roller-coaster ride down to the racking line that would not be out of place at Alton Towers. Or maybe that we had the pleasure of seeing Watney's Red Barrel being bottled prior to its export to the USA!

By the end of the trip we were in dire need of some liquid refreshment. The smell of a particularly lively batch of AK had long since faded as we walked back to the cottage. Dennis reminded us that the cottage was like a pub but no one was allowed to have an empty glass! We did not wish to seem ungrateful to our hosts so we made sure that we were always topped up with AK, Country Bitter and the well received JM Premium.

Many of the members took the opportunity to look around Mac's museum before lunch at which time we were joined by head brewer Tony Skipper. Suitably educated, fed and watered, we thanked our hosts and disappeared to experience the delights of a wet afternoon in Hertford.

*Paul Ruane*

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## BRANCH DIARY

### HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday 14 June, Branch Meeting, **Elephant & Castle**, Amwell, 8 pm.

Tuesday 21 June, Social with Mid-Chilterns and Watford & District Branches, **Red Lion**, Marsworth, 8-30 pm.

Tuesday 12 July, Branch Meeting, **Huntsman**, Goose Green, 8pm.

Contact: Bob Norrish; 0582 763133 x2554(w) 0582 769923(h)

### NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Wednesday 1 June, Branch Meeting, The **Fox**, Pirton, 8-30pm

Wednesday 15 June, Barkway and Barley crawl, starting at **Tally Ho** (8-30pm) then onto the **Chequers** and **Fox & Hounds**.

Saturday 18 June, Brewery visit, Gibbs Mew, Salisbury.

Wednesday 19 June, Ickleford crawl starting at **Green Man** (8-30pm) then visiting **George IV**, **Plume of Feathers** and the **Cricketers**.

Wednesday 13 July, Countryside crawl starting at the **Plough**, Ley Green (8-30pm) then via **Silver Lion** and **Lilley Arms**, Lilley to the **Raven**, Hexton.

Wednesday 27 July, Weston and Willian crawl starting at the **White Horse** (8-30pm) then to **Thatched House**, Weston and then over to the **Fox** and **Three Horseshoes**, Willian.

Wednesday 10 August, Branch Meeting, the **Greyhound**, St. Ippollitts, 8-30pm.

Contact: Paul Coard 0462 437249

### WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Wednesday 8 June, Branch darts tournament, 8-30pm, at the **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue, Watford.

Friday 10 June, Belgravia, London, crawl starting at the **Rising Sun**, Elbury Bridge Road, 5.30pm. Full details from contact.

Tuesday 14 June, Croxley crawl: **Red House** 8.30pm, **Fox & Hounds** 9-15pm, **Duke of York** 10.00pm.

Wednesday 22 June, social at the **Black Horse**, Chorleywood, 8-30pm.

Saturday 25 June, Treasure Hunt, details from contact.

Sunday 26 June, Committee meeting, **West Herts Sports Club**, 8-30pm.

Tuesday 28 June, Skittles evening at the **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge, 8-30pm.

Wednesday 6 July, Bushey Heath crawl, **Kings Head** 8-30pm, **Three Crowns** 9-15pm, **Royal Oak** 10-15pm.

Saturday 9 July, Branch minibus trip to to Oxon/Berks. Details from contact.

Monday 11 July, trip to Harveys brewery, details from contact.

Sunday 17 July, Lunchtime social in Flaunden: **Bricklayers Arms** 12.00, **Green Dragon** 1.30pm.

Sunday 24 July, Committee meeting at **West Herts Social Club**, 8-30pm.

Tuesday 26 July, Chorleywood Social, **Rose & Crown** 8-30pm, **Gate** 9-15pm, **White Horse** 10-00pm.

Contact: Tony Smith 0923 221155

### HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS

Contact: Graham Darby 0279 415895(h) or Derek Wisdom, 0279 414200(h).

### MID-CHILTERN'S BRANCH

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

### ALL HERTS LIAISON MEETING

Monday 18 July, **White Horse**, Hertford, 8.30pm.

## The Greyhound (Free House)

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Morlands Old Speckled Hen - Plus Guest Beer

Traditional music sessions. June 22

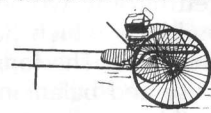
## GGBF QUIZ ANSWERS

The answers to the quiz in the last newsletter were that at the 1993 Great British Beer Festival (GGBF), the attendance was 37,000, there were 310 different beers and 185,000 pints were drunk. A list of the winning entrants will be published in the next newsletter, by which time they should have received their season ticket to the 1994 GGBF.

This years event returns to Olympia, London, between 2nd and 6th August when nearly 500 real ales, ciders, perries and imported beers (duty paid!) will be available. With live music, craft stalls, games, food and family room the event is a day out for all. Discounts for CAMRA members!

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Real Ale to the connoisseur*

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**Over 700 ales from over 213 brewers**

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11.00 - 3.00	6.00 - 11.00	Saturday
12.00 - 3.00	7.00 - 10.30	Sunday

*Almost Live Music some of the time*

**Telephone: 0438-812496**

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire North, Hertfordshire South, Watford & District, Herts-Essex Borders 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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