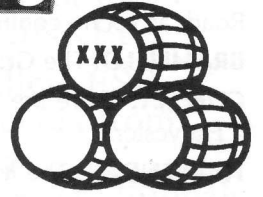


FREE



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

JUNE/JULY 1996

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 157

1400 PUBS UP FOR GRABS

The changes of ownership of the Tied Estate (Britains Pubs) made by the major players since the introduction of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission Report on the Brewing Industry continues with the setting up of "Spring Inns". Scottish Courage, the UK's largest Brewing group has decided to transfer 1,400 Intrepeneur Leased Pub's to the new Company who will in turn sell them on again to one or more third parties.

This will mean the second or third change of ownership for some of these Pubs and has been described as another cynical reshuffling of the pack.

Considering the number of disputes over rents being set at unreasonable levels and subsequent court actions by Licensee's, new ownership may be seen as an improvement. For those who were unsuccessful in improving their contracts it has meant that they have had to pass the price increases on to the customers or leave the business.

What is needed is some stability in the Licensed Trade and Tenants with the ability to work hard and improve their Pubs and sales without being constantly penalised for their success. This of course is good for us the customer as we will get a say as to not only what drinks are provided but also the type of premises that we drink them in. Do not think that all the Pub's are down market low turnover outlets there are many well run Intrepeneur Pub's in Hertfordshire some of which are in the Good Beer Guide.

At the present time the tenants of Spring Inns will retain their guest beer rights but this will be uncertain if the pubs are sold on.

As Scottish Courage clearly no longer want these Pub's, why not offer the Tenants the opportunity to buy outright and decide their own future.

Hertfordshire
South Branch
Pub of the Year
1995

Enjoy a pint at
St. Albans' Oldest Freehouse



Lower Red Lion
Fishpool Street

Excellent range of regular ales
and unusual guest beers

THE WHITE HORSE
CASTLE STREET
HERTFORD

A True Freehouse - 01992 501950



DARK HORSE BREWING CO.

OUR BREWERY MOVE IS NEARLY OVER!
WE SHALL HAVE OUR FULL SELECTION
OF BEERS HERE AT THE BREWERY TAP.
IN ADDITION TO 100'S OF GUEST BEERS.

we also supply draft beer for parties etc.

DOWN YOUR WAY

BENGO: The **Warren House** refurb has been delayed due to the landlord having an accident helping to undertake some of the work.

BOREHAMWOOD: A new theme pub **The Wishing Well** has opened in what used to be a clothes shop in Shenley Road, as yet no confirmation of Real Ale on sale.

BRAMFIELD: The **Grandison Arms** has now reopened

CUFFLEY: There are plans to convert the **Cuffley Hotel** into a Harvester.

HARPENDEN: The **Malta** has reopened as the **Duck & Dive** though the renovations are not as yet completed. It is now owned by Allied Pubmaster.

The **George IV** is now closed.

HERTFORD: The **John O Gaunt** closed by McMullens two years ago has reopened as **Elbert Wurling's** with no Real Ale on sale.

The **Blackbirds** is to reopen as the **Fledgeling and Firkin** before the end of May with its own on site brewery. Ian Harvey of the Dark Horse Brewery was asked to comment by the press on the competition, his reply "I wish them well, as I will no longer be the owner of the smallest brewery in Hertford and can now advertise that I am the proprietor of the second largest".

The **White Horse** is advertising for a new Manager a Real Ale enthusiast possibly even a CAMRA member is sought.

The **Nags Head** has now been demolished to be replaced by 16 Flats none of which serves Real Ale.

LEAVESDEN: Plans to change the **Hare** into a Harvester have met with strong local opposition with a 750 signature petition being presented to Watford Council's development control committee which is due to decide on the planning application at the end of May.

POTTERS BAR: Oakmere House previously council offices and civic centre has now been converted to a Beefeater, further details awaited.

RIDGE: The **Old Guinea** has reopened with new owners after being closed for three months. Major repairs and a complete kitchen refit were needed after a serious flood.

ST ALBANS: The **Pineapple**, Camelot Inns, has had its name changed to the **Merry Minstrel** and will presumably be a live music venue. The new licensee has moved from the **Harrow** in Spencer Street. It is reported that Greene King IPA and Tetley Bitter are on sale.

The **Midland Railway** is now selling Real Ale again with choices from the Scottish & Newcastle portfolio.

The **Hogshead** Sopwell Lane has now been returned to its original name the **Hare and Hounds**.

New Licensee's have taken over at the **Mermaid**, Everards and the **Garibaldi**, Fullers.

It is reported that the **Abbey Tavern** has finally been closed.

WARE: A new pub is planned for the **Bridge House** by Bass, the building was previously a travel agents.

The **Windsor Castle** has been renamed the **High Oak**.

The **French Horn** has been sold by McMullens and is now closed.

There are now new licensees in the **Brewery Tap**.

WATFORD: There are plans to turn the **Pennant** next to Watford Junction Station into a Firkin pub with brewery. This is still at the planning stage and no change is due for several months.

Saturday 13th July



THE WOODMAN

CHAPMORE END

Ware Herts

1.00 to 11.00 pm

Ceilidh

at 6.00 with a scratch band

Entry Only £1.00
(free to performers)

Phone 01920 463143 for details

Main stage Marquee

Full range of Greene King ales

Food
Free parking

Special guests

Peter Buckley Hill - Kiss the Mistress

Pat Crilly - Tanglefoot - Nick Brown

Who's That Man - Tim Greenwood

Ash Vale Longsword - Ramrugge Morris

Pegleg Unicorn - Standon Green Morris

Dave Johnson Trio - Pete Fletcher

And More

Don't just watch, Join in!

IN 200
YEARS
WE'VE
NEVER
SOLD
OUT.



Since 1799 the name Greene King has been synonymous with fine ales. Over all those years, we've fiercely defended our independence and our brewing traditions. It means we've been able to consistently produce some of the finest ales in the country. We haven't sold out. But our beers often do.

CROSS KEYS OPENS

Wednesday 24th March was the official opening of J.D.Wetherspoon's The Cross Keys in Chequer Street St Albans. The name was taken from the historic Inn which formally occupied the neighbouring site and it is pleasing that a traditional name has been used in keeping with the heritage of the area. CAMRA has objected to the unnecessary renaming of pubs in the City. P.J.Peppers the Tap & Spile and the Hogshead are examples.

The earliest reference to the Cross Keys was in 1485 when it was named after the emblem of St Peter and in 1556 the martyr George Tankerfield was detained in the Inn before being burned at the stake. The original Cross Keys was demolished in 1794 when London Road was built and reconstructed on another site further back into Keyfield opposite the Peahen. The Pub remained open tied to Adey and White until it closed in the 1930's.

We hope that JD's pricing policy will be an example to some of the more expensive outlets in St Albans who are charging prices up to and above those of Central London.

At present the Cross Keys is offering a good range of guest Beers at least two at all times and we look forward to this continuing.

Recently Wetherspoons policy has changed and the two pints hospitality, given on presentation of your official invitation to an opening has been withdrawn. This, the company assures me was because guests were abusing the system, though I am not clear exactly how. Of course Wetherspoons are not alone in this, Youngs of Wandsworth have removed all hospitality at their AGM for the same reason.

South Herts Branch would like to thank Mark McQuater for arranging a Bar tab for us on the night and wish Polly Murtagh the manageress and her team all the best with the new pub.

NEWSLETTER 20 YEARS OLD

The Hertfordshire newsletter and its forerunner the South Herts Newsletter, this month celebrate 20 years in publication. In 1976 CAMRA in Hertfordshire had been running for 3 years and was gradually repelling the "Sea of Fizz" but it was early days. The newly revised local beer guide, "Draught Beer in Hertfordshire" could only muster 140 Real Ale Pubs.

Much has changed since then and to commemorate the occasion the Hertfordshire newsletter will carry a series of articles highlighting events as reported at the time;

1976

July: Ind Coope introduce Burton Ale, at 30p per pint, into 90 Herts Pubs- giving real ale drinkers almost double the outlets to visit (where is it on sale now?). CAMRA membership is £2.

Sept: Adnams first appearance in the County on a regular basis.. only two Whitbread pubs in Herts offer real ale.

Nov: Trust House Forte install real ale in all 6 of their local pubs...Whitbreads offer real ale to those tenants who can prove that they can keep it in top condition.

Dec: Whitbread, Watneys, Bass and Courage, between them, have only 22 real ale outlets in Herts. 10 pubs in St Albans now serve the good stuff....Ind Coope Dark Mild is discontinued.

To Be Continued.....

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

THE INN IN THE STICKS
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formerly The Cricketers

REAL ALE OASIS for the
DISCERNING DRINKER

Youngs Special, Fullers ESB
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independent
and Micro Breweries also Traditional
Cider

Homemade Bar Food served Daily
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MAC'S COUNTRY WINS

In the last two months all the CAMRA Branches in McMullen's trading area have been invited to the Brewery to celebrate the opening of an additional hospitality area in the Old Brewhouse.

The "Ale Keepers Room" had a welcoming roaring fire on our visit and Jugs of beer straight from the Cask added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

McMullens make no secret of the fact that they would like their beers to be considered for CAMRA's Beer of Britain Award the shortlist being drawn up from nominations made by CAMRA members. It is a pity that so much of Macs beer is dispensed using Cask Breathers in their pubs which reduces the chances of subjective assessment and subsequent nomination.

McMullens beers are however entered in many other competitions and we congratulate them on winning the 1996 Brewing Industry International Award for Country Bitter.

Rumours were that the beer was in danger of being discontinued when Gladstone Bitter at the same strength was added to Mac's portfolio. This most certainly will not be the case and the two distinctly different beers will continue side by side for the foreseeable future.

NEW EDITOR FOR NEWSLETTER

Steve Bury Chairman of the South Hertfordshire Branch has now joined the Editorial team taking over from Moray Taylor who is moving to Yorkshire when his job is relocated. I would like to thank Moray for all the work that he has put in over the last three years keeping the newsletter informative, entertaining and controversial.

Steve will edit alternate editions with Bill Austin of Watford and District Branch.

Readers letters and articles are always welcome and will be published at the editors discretion. We in CAMRA are not afraid of criticism and encourage constructive comment on Beer, Cider, Perry and all aspects of the Licensed Trade.

BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday 11th June Branch Meeting **CAMRA Headquarters**, 230 Hatfield Road St Albans 8.00pm.

Tuesday 16th July Branch Meeting, **White Horse**, Castle Street, Hertford, 8.00pm.

Saturday 20th July Ware Pub Crawl start **Angel/Tap & Spile** 10'clock.

Contact: Bob Norrish; 01582 763133 x2554(w) 01582 769923(h)

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Wednesday 5th June Sarratt Social: **Boot** 8.30pm .

Cricketers 9.30pm . meet at Watford Junction BR station 8.15pm for free transport.

Monday 10th June Joint social with West Middlesex branch at the **Malthouse**, Stanmore Hill, Stanmore to celebrate the launch of "**Scanlons Golden**".

Tuesday 11 th June , Bushey Heath Social : **Royal Oak**, 8.30pm **BlackBoy** 9.30pm.

Tuesday 18th June, Out of Area Social: Kings Langley: **Bell**, 7.30pm, **Saracens Head**, 8.30pm, **Swan** 9.30pm.

Friday 21st June, Pre Christmas pub Crawl in South West London. Start **Angelsea Arms**, SW7, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 26th June, Social at the **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge, 8.30pm. Meet in Skittle Alley.

Thursday 4th July, Social Chorley Wood: **White Horse**, 8.30pm, **Black Horse**, 9.30pm, **Old Shepherd** 10.30pm.

Wednesday 10th July, Croxley Crawl: **Red House** 8.00pm, **Fox & Hounds**, 9.00pm, **Duke of York**, 10.00pm.

Monday 15th July Social: the **Cross**, Maple Cross, 8.30pm, **Dumb Bell**, Hornhill, 9.30pm.

Saturday 27th July, Lunchtime in Watford: **Moon Under Water**, noon, **Iceobar** 1.00pm, Yates Wine Lodge, 2.00pm.

Contact: Tony Smith 01923 221155

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Wednesday 12th June Baldock Crawl 8.30pm **Orange Tree**, **Broken Drum**, **George & Dragon** and **Old White Horse**.

Sat/Sun 1 15/16th June Belgium' weekend. Contact Chris Overman 01438 743 243.

Wednesday 26th June Codicote Crawl 8.30pm **Globe**, **Bell** and **Goat**.

Sunday 7th July Countryside Ramble details from Branch Contact.

Wednesday 10th July Branch Meeting 8.30pm the **Assizes** Hitchin .

Wednesday 24th July Branch Social 8.30pm (food & drink) **Lordship Arms** Bennington book through Branch Contact.

Contact: Colleen Holiday 01462 730 975 (h)

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS

Contacts: Graham Darby, 01279 415895(h) or Derek Wisdom, 01279 414200(h).

MID-CHILTERNERS BRANCH

Contact: Chris Pontin 01494 78624(w), 01494 775409(h).

NEW BREW NEWS

McMullens are to introduce the tenth beer in their Special Reserve Limited edition Seasonal Ale Series.

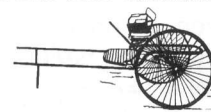
With the title of " High Summer Bitter". Head Brewer Tony Skipper hopes to catch the mood of the Season and it will be available in 150 selected pubs from 7th June for 10 weeks. It will be a light fresh cooling brew using whole leaf Golding aroma hops and fermented for 7 days to an ABV of 4.6%.

Heres hoping the weather will live up to the expectations of the new beer.

Meanwhile in Burton on Trent the traditional home of brewing, Marstons Head Brewer Paul Bayley with 30 years service is continuing with Head Brewers Choice Beer Range. The latest produced in Mid-May was "Ditchingham Ale", with an ABV of 4.8%. Brewed from a single malt source obtained from a traditional maltings in Ditchingham, Suffolk and using Fuggles and Golding hops to give a full flavoured pale ale. Marstons hope to produce a further 16 different brews by the end of the year. Names to look out for are "Little Lambswick" and "Burton Union Bottom Taps".

TILBURY

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**Ever changing selection of
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Opening Times:

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11.00 – 11.00 Thurs, Fri & Sat

12.00 – 10.30 Sunday

Almost Live Music some of the time

Telephone: 01438-812496

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the 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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