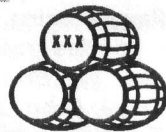




LINED GLASSES  
GUARANTEE  
FULL PINTS

# THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

FREE



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 161

## CAMRA South Hertfordshire Pub of the Year 1996



**Woodman Chapmore End**

## Woodman Chapmore End South Herts Pub of the Year 1996

The Campaign for Real Ale is fighting the menaces of pasteurised nitro keg and beer flavour being wrecked by Swan neck and tight sparkler dispense, South Herts have supported tradition in their choice of Pub of the Year 1996.

The "Woodman" Chapmore End is an absolute gem which dispenses Greene King IPA (Boys), Abbot and seasonal Ales straight from the Cask.

The Woodman has always had a loyal band of regulars who have been fortunate that the Licensee's have been determined to keep the Pubs character.

Nick and Jane Browne took over from John Elliot in August 1994, shortly before the refurbishment. The renovation was a success due to local input and a firm line being taken by the Licensee's. The result is that the two bars remain the saloon having been extended which still has the piano for visiting professors and live music sessions. No piped musac, Juke Box or Fruit machines here. Darts can be played in the Public Bar and petanque outside.

Nick has transformed the garden which now has a mini zoo and children's play area, but still leaves room for the "Woodmanstock" Folk Festivals, This years is on July 12th. The event is supported by an outdoor bar and an extended range of beers.

If you fancy a visit to the "Woodman" you wont be disappointed unless you ask for a pint of nitro keg because they don't and won't stock it, even draught lager is discontinued during the winter months. The "Woodman" is an unspoilt Real Ale Pub and long may it stay so. It has won South Herts 1996 Pub of the Year and deservedly so.

*Ted Overdon*

## Editorial Comment

Welcome to the new Herts Newsletter, we hope you like the format and the additional graphics, photographs, articles and information. We would also like to encourage readers to write in on any subject relating to Beer, Cider, Perry and Licensed premises. Letters will of course be printed at the editors discretion.

In this edition we are again raising the issue of short measure, but we know that you the customer suffer from poor quality, bad service and high prices sometimes all in the same Pub. If you have problems with short measure or price lists we will be publishing Trading Standards information. This Newsletter also carries a current membership form and a list of your local Branches Events. If you are not a member, or are one of the many who are but do not take an active part, can I invite you on behalf of the Hertfordshire Branches to attend any of the advertised meetings.

*Steve Bury joint Editor*

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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## Short Measure Widespread in Herts Line Them Up Landlord

If you drink beer, cider, perry (or lager) the chances are that you are being robbed on a regular basis. A strong statement you may think but if your'e not getting a full pint then that is exactly what is happening. Short measures are becoming increasingly common and it is not only tedious to have to ask for every pint to be topped up but it can also spoil the enjoyment of a trip to the pub. You must have seen the poster - "If you think the head on your beer is too large, please ask for it to be topped up". A translation of this could go along the lines of "We will give short measure as a matter of course and if you want a pint you have got to ask twice". If, when you bought a loaf of bread, two slices were removed at the counter before it was handed over the outcry would be enourmous. The same applies to beer you are being charged for a pint and a pint you should get.

This problem could be solved very easily - oversized glasses. I have yet to hear a good arguement against them. The main one is the expense of the change over, but glasses have a limited life span and they could be phased in as the old ones become unusable. The drinker is then happy as full pints are guaranteed with both "Southern" and "Northern" style beers. The publican is happy (possibly) as less spillage means less wastage and cleaning expense. Even the Chancellor is happy as more beer leaving the breweries means more excise. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word pint as "a measure of capacity for liquids etc. one-eighth of a gallon or 20 fluid oz". Anything less is robbery. Demand your full pint you 've earned it.

*Andy Young*

I thank Andy for the above piece and remember before the last General Election that the Conservatives pledged to honour Section 43 of the Weights and Measures Act which would have meant the introduction of oversized glasses. After being re-elected Michael Hesteltine reneiged on this, the Big Brewers had succesfully brought pressure

to bear.

The customers lost again.

All CAMRA Beer Festivals use over sized lined glasses no short measure there.

If you want to be able to calculate how much your short measure is costing you, we can provide a Beer Head "Rip Off Measure" the size of a business card. Get one of these and really start to upset some publicans.

The November 1996 edition of the London Drinker had an article on all aspects of beer quality and service. This noted that the first law against short measure was brought into effect by King Edgar in 975 AD which standardised beer vessels. Those found guilty of serving short measure were flogged and ducked in the pond, another punishment was a turn in the stocks. The last ducking recorded was in 1801. Perhaps if we returned to the old penalties things would improve.

*Ed*

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## CAMRA Manifesto

The general election will be taking place before the end of May and CAMRA is a lobbying organisation, with this in mind we have issued our own Manifesto. The key points are as follows:-

A drastic cut in beer tax, to protect the British Pub against unfair competition from lower taxed French beer. This would be self financing and would not affect other forms of tax.

A radical reform of licensing, allowing pubs the freedom in opening hours, and less bureaucracy when licensees wish to admit families.

Immediate intervention against brewery mergers to defend competition and choice. The proposed Bass takeover of Carlsberg Tetley will give one brewer 40% of the market.

Outlawing Short Measure in pubs.

If you want a copy of the full document please contact CAMRA.

**Bengeo:**

The Warren House has reopened.

**Boreham Wood:**

The **Rhythm Room** previously the **Mousetrap (Crown)** has reopened offering a "Cuban Experience", whatever that means. Real Ale does play a part in this theme bar.

**Chipping:**

The **Countryman** has a new Landlord.

**Chorley Wood:** A planning application has been made to convert the **Garden Gate** into a "Wacky Warehouse". This is appropriate considering the other Wacky items that have allegedly been confiscated there. The **Old Shepherd** is currently selling Fullers London Pride and Greene King IPA.

**Elstree:**

It is alleged that the **Plough** is to be converted from a Big Steak to a Wacky Warehouse Pub for families with young children. Watch this space.

**Graveley:**

The new extension on the **George & Dragon** is completed.

**Hertford:**

The Three Tuns has reopened with new tenants. The **Fledgling & Firkin** is to have a new brewer Bill Bell who will also brew at the **Philanthropist & Firkin** St Albans. Andy Milne who was brewing at the Fledgling has moved to cover Firkin's London estate.

**Hemel Hempstead:**

Greene King opened the **Society Arms** in an old Building Society 30th January this is another of their Cafe Bars.

**Kinsbourne Green:**

The **Fox** has started it own independent newsletter, could the licensee please contact us about an outstanding issue to do with this journal. Our Details are on page 2.

**Letchworth:**

Wetherspoons have opened a new pub the **Three Magnets**.

**London Colney:**

The Watersplash is closed and boarded up. There are no signs on the outside but it was alleged in early 1997 that it could be converted into an old peoples home.

**Potters Bar:**

The **Stafford Arms** has reopened after a major refurbishment as a Mr Q's any information would be gratefully received.

**St Albans:**

**Blackberry Jacks** on Jersey farm has a new Landlady. The **Blacksmiths Arms** has a new Landlord. The **Farmers Boy**, London Road will soon have its brewing equipment on site. They will be trading under the name **Verulam Brewery**.

The **Cross Keys** now has a new Management and Assistant Management team.

The **Midland Railway** has closed and is boarded up. This local is another victim of the Brewers leasing policy. It is alleged that it will be demolished and redeveloped as housing. Any further information will be gratefully received

The **Old Kings Arms** in George Street is closed for a major refurbishment, with new kitchens on the first floor.

The **O'Neills** Irish Theme Pub has opened in London Road. It is definitely not for the thrifty, Guinness and Cafferey's at £2.30 per pint. It has been reported by Iain Dobson that they were selling Bass on handpump when he visited the establishment. I saw no sign of it, a re-survey when it is not my round will take place.

The **Peahen** McMullen has received planning permission for alterations.

The **White Lion** one of StAlbans oldest pubs in Sopwell Lane has new licensee's who were previously at the **Crown** Hatfield Road.

The **Goat** also in Sopwell Lane is due for refurbishment.

**Stevenage:**

The **Coopers Apprentice** has now been renamed the **Harvesters Populars Farm** and serves Bass and Brew XI.

**Watford:**

A **Hogshead** has been opened in the Parade. The **Flag & Firkin** an enormous Pub and Brewery has been opened on the site of the Old Benskins Offices next to Watford Junction Station. The **Dean Park Hotel** has become a **Moat House**, and the former Bizzy Bees bar is now selling Hancocks HB. The **Wellington Arms** continues to sell interesting guest beers Scanlons Spike and Colne Valley Bitter have both been available recently.

**Wildhill:**

The **Woodman** has had its cellar work completed.

**Opening Hours and Guest Beer Update**

Thanks to all our readers who wrote to their MP's, MEP's and the Home Office on the proposed "Extension of Licensing Hours on Friday and Saturday nights" and the "Guest Beer Ruling by the Monopolies Commission". For those of you who may have felt that this sort of Campaign bears little fruit here is an update.

Extended Licensing hours campaign 700 different organisations have written in all are not in favour, so it is crucial that the for lobby has the most correspondence delivered before the decision is made in the next few months.

The Guest Beer policy stating that the guest draught beer in British Pubs should be Real Ale, is being reviewed in Brussels. Such a large number of letters arrived at the Commissioners office that further investigations are being made. Unfortunately He still does not seem to understand that there is enough Euro Fizz being sold in British pubs as it is and our own Naturally Conditioned beer must be protected. Hopefully we will win the argument and protect our Independent Brewers.

**Ware Beer Festival**

Ware Council with the help of local Real Ale enthusiasts are presenting this Festival. The event will take place in the

**"Ware Arts Centre" Kives Lane ,Ware**

**Opening Times are:-**

**Saturday 30th March 6 to 11pm**

**Sunday 31st March 12 to 6pm**

**Monday 31st March 12 to 6pm**

Mondays session will only take place if enough Beer is available.

There will be an excellent selection of Beers many from Micro Breweries around the country.

The "Arts Centre" is in an Old Maltings, with cowls still on the roof . This makes it easy to identify on the short walk from the BR Station.

**Admittance is by Advance Ticket Only price £2 (CAMRA members £1) From J.Ordon 26 Gladstone Road, Ware SG12 0AG.**

If you are interested in helping setting up work starts on Wednesday 26th March contact Jan Ordon on 01920- 424095.

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Tenpin Tipples

A new brewery has opened at Hollywood Bowl, Stevenage Leisure Park, Six Hills Way Stevenage. The five barrel plant is owned by Bass and the full mash brews are produced by Head Brewer Steve Hibbard. The Brewery is producing Best Bitter at 4.4% and Glenn's Special at 5% both cask conditioned and served through handpump. A Real Lager and other one off brews are planned. Brewery visits are welcomed ring 01462-747777.

### Even More National Festival

For the last five years the Great British Beer Festival has been held in the Grand Hall, Olympia, this year it will move into the National Hall as well. The National Hall will host the stage which will allow for a larger seated drinking area and better entertainments. The dates of the Festival are **5th-9th August 1997** and besides Real Ale there will be a large number of Ciders and Perries and a huge range of imported beers. An event not to be missed with something to suit everyone.

### Obituary: Biggleswade Brewery

Greene King will close their Biggleswade brewery in April, ending 230 years of brewing at the site. The former Wells and Winch brewery was bought by Greene King in 1961 together with 287 Pubs which included their 5 remote outlets in South West Herts. Recently the brewery has only been used to brew keg beers and lagers including Harp, which Greene King will now no longer produce. Apparently this is due to a fall in lager sales which makes it cheaper to buy in than produce yourself.

The Biggleswade brewery was established by Samuel Wells in 1764, and was bought by George Winch a member of the renowned Kent brewing family in 1898, the name Wells and Winch was registered in 1899.

Another loss will be the Rayments depot on the site of the original brewery at Fuerneux Pelham. Despite widespread opposition Greene King closed Rayments brewery in 1987, producing a poor imitation of its beers, ironically at Biggleswade.

Bill Austin

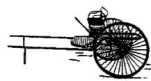
**IN 200  
YEARS  
WE'VE  
NEVER  
SOLD  
OUT.**



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.

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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

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## Trading Standards

If you the consumer are having problems with, licensed premises that fail to give **full measure, do not display price lists, strength lists.**

(Alcohol by volume) or **business names** you are entitled to contact the Trading Standards Offices. The Hertfordshire Office address is:-

45 Grovner Road  
St Albans  
Herts AL1 3AW  
phone 01727-813880.

They also have a minicom line for those with hearing and speech difficulties which is 01727-813878.

## Competition

### Brewery Name Wordsearch

M	O	R	D	U	E	S	R	C	D	E	N	T	F	U
T	C	R	A	K	W	A	S	A	F	Y	D	X	U	A
H	A	M	B	L	E	T	O	N	S	P	E	R	L	N
O	I	V	U	B	S	M	A	N	O	K	V	L	L	E
L	N	O	D	L	P	R	S	O	W	N	O	K	E	L
D	S	L	L	E	L	O	L	N	B	A	N	U	R	T
E	O	E	G	R	E	E	N	E	K	I	N	G	S	B
N	W	A	O	S	P	F	N	R	E	V	X	N	U	E
S	A	Y	O	N	U	D	K	A	M	I	P	R	L	L
T	R	E	S	I	R	O	V	A	P	U	T	A	E	H
I	D	T	E	W	S	K	H	N	T	S	U	M	Y	A
U	S	H	E	R	S	R	T	P	O	L	X	U	A	V
N	Y	A	Y	A	U	M	N	U	W	R	K	O	L	E
O	F	L	E	D	G	E	L	I	N	G	S	A	T	N

Circle the Brewery names hidden in the square above, there are twenty six to find, one Hertfordshire Brewer is not listed to add a little fun. The first correct entry opened on 7th April will receive a copy of the Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale.

Send to Paul Ruane, 15 Turpins Close, Hertford, Herts SG14 2EH.

### APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign. I am/We are over 18 years of age (AGE )\*

NAME(S).....

DATE.....

ADDRESS.....

SIGNATURE.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S).....

I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for one year:

Single £14  
Joint £17

I/We would like to receive further information about CAMRA \* Knowledge of the average age of our members would be helpful. The information need only be given if you wish ALL MEMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD.,  
230 HATFIELD ROAD, ST. ALBANS., HERTS. AL1 4LW  
OR WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DIRECT DEBIT?

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WOODMAN

CHAPMORE END

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PUB OF THE YEAR 1996

TRADITION  
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QUALITY

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SERVED IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY

Brewers:-  
ALLOA. BELHAVEN. BURTS. CAINS.  
CANNON. DARWIN. DENT. DEVON.  
DURHAM. FLEDGELING. FULLERS. GOOSE  
EYE. GREENE KING. HAMBLETOWN.  
HOLDENS. KEMPTOWN. MORDUE. OLD  
BEAR. POOLE. TRING. ULEY. USHERS. VAUX.  
WARDS. WELLS.

# BRANCH DIARY

## Hertfordshire South Branch

Tuesday 11th February, **Pub of the Year** runner up award **Prince of Wales**, Hertingfordbury. 8 o'clock .

Tuesday 18th February, Branch Meeting **Black Horse**, South Mimms. 8 o'clock.

Tuesday 18th March, Branch Meeting the **Maypole**, North Mimms. 8 o'clock.

Contact Paul Ruane 01992- 553351

## Watford & District Branch

Tuesday 4th February, **Branch Pub of the Year** award: **Black Boy**, Bushey Heath, 8.30pm

Monday 10th February, GBG Social **Victoria**, Oxhey, 9pm.

Tuesday 18th February, visit to **Sun Sports Club**, Belmont Wood Avenue, 9pm.

Wednesday 26th February, games evening at the **Sportsman**, Croxley Green, 8.30pm

Monday 10th March, games (Shove Ha'penny) evening to be confirmed.

Monday 24th March, Branch **AGM, Fox and Hounds**, Rickmansworth, 8.30pm.

Contact :Tony Smith 01923- 221155

## North Hertfordshire Branch

Wednesday 5th February, 1998 GBG selection meeting, **Highlander**, Hitchin .8.30pm.

Wednesday 19th February, Mini bus trip to **East Anglian Pub of the Year**, leaves from

Maidens Head, Whitwell book with Branch Contact.

Wednesday 5th March, Branch **AGM Three Horseshoes**, Willian. 8.30pm.

Sat/Sun 15/16 March, **Brewery Weekend** (Burton on Trent) Breweries: Museum/Burton Bridge/Leatherbritches/Lloyds and Brunswick. Book with Branch Contact.

Wednesday 19th March, Branch Social, **Farmers Boy**, Langley, 8.30pm. **Royal Oak** Chapelfoot, **Greyhound**, St Ippolets.

Wednesday 2nd April, Branch Social, **Angels Reply**, Hitchin. 8.30pm, **Cricketers**, Hitchin, **Sir John Barleycorn**, Hitchin.

Wednesday 16th April, **Brewery Visit, Elgoods**, Wisbech. Book with branch Contact. Contact: Colleen Holiday 01462 730 975 (h)

## Hert-Essex Borders Branch

Contacts: Barry Pegram/Lou Coles 01279 864080(h) or Derek Wisdom, 01279 414200(h).

## Mid-Chilterns Branch

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

## Herts Liaison Meeting

Monday 14th April, West Herts Sports Club, Park Road, Watford. 8.30pm.

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HERTFORD  
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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