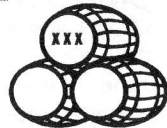




THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1997

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 164

St Albans Beer Festival Charity Money Buys Ambulance



Pictured at the handover ceremony are, from the left, Geoff Harrison (St Albans Beer Festival Organiser 1996, St Albans Lions; Steve Bury (CAMRA South Herts); Alan Ross (St Albans Lions President 1996/97)

Mobile Diabetic Eye Testing Unit Donated to St Albans City Hospital

The 1996 St Albans Anniversary Beer Festival a joint venture run by South Herts Branch CAMRA and the St Albans Lions, as well as being an excellent and enjoyable event, raised a large sum of money for charity. The money went towards buying a replacement Mobile Diabetic Eye Testing Unit for St Albans City Hospital which was donated on Saturday 14th June. There was a large turnout including the Mayor and the Leader of the Council and Hospital representatives. The ambulance is fully equipped and has gone into immediate service and the old ambulance has been donated to the St Albans Scouts. The 1997 St Albans Beer Festival which will be held in the Alban Arena 2nd - 4th October will again be raising money for local charities this year three have been nominated The Roundtable are supporting the Waverley Riding Group for the disabled. St Albans Leo's are supporting BASE an organisation that finds accommodation for homeless young people. and the St Albans Lions are supporting the Mac Millan Runcie Day Centre. We would like to thank all those who helped with last years event and would like to invite readers to offer their services this year, the **1997 Beer Festival contact line is 01727 852258.**

Peahen St Albans Reopens

After being closed for several months for a major refurbishment by McMullens the Peahen reopened 19th June. The bar has been extended to include what was the vacant shop/off licence area at the corner of London Road and Holywell Hill. The windows and decor have been changed to give a light open plan feel with drinking areas at different levels giving customers the opportunity to view the street outside. The feel is that of a Bistro with light coloured exposed brickwork arches and the emphasis especially at lunchtime is on the food market.

Well that's the up side out of the way. Before closure Mac's made a commitment that the separate Public Bar in London Road would remain open they have reneged on this and the bar has now been let to be converted to shop premises. The Public Bar was a classic working mans watering hole with bare concrete floors and horse racing on the TV.

The public always had a steady trade and was part of the old market atmosphere of the city, a sad loss. To find another public bar you must travel to the other end of town and the Jolly Sailor.

Another loss is McMullens award winning Country Bitter which despite an assurance from Macs that it would continue indefinitely alongside the bland Gladstone. Country Bitter is now available in less and less outlets why?

To sum up the Peahen refurbishment is very good but at a price, they are looking for a certain up market clientele of which there are a limited number in the area. It is being reported that those who do not fit into management's customer profile are being discouraged. Time will tell whether the formula is correct, at present they are seeing a good trade driven by curiosity which often does not last.

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.

Subscriptions: £4 for 12 issues. Send to: 10 Heron Way, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 8QL. Cheques payable: CAMRA Herts South Branch.

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London Colney and the Pubs with no name

Bass Foxed

As reported in the last newsletter the "Watersplash" London Colney owned by Bass is undergoing a £500,000 refurbishment to return it to a traditional pub and restaurant. As part of the plans a new name was suggested "The Colney Fox". Initially this seemed acceptable to the local residents and the local Historical Society offered to help and give the bar a local theme with photo's and memorabilia. Unfortunately this offer was withdrawn and petition against the name change was started. It is not at all clear exactly what caused the change of heart or why the name "Colney Fox" is disliked.

Up until the second world war the building was Tyttenhanger Lodge Boys School, the Hotel was called the "Watersplash" because of the fountain and outdoor swimming pool, both of which were removed over twenty years ago. London Colney was served from Tyttenhanger when the A6 now the A1081 bypass was built, so any reference to the Lodge School would now be misleading. The Pub is now due to re-open in the last week of July with the name "Colney Fox" despite Bass's attempts to find a compromise.

Is this a Pub or what?


What is more surprising is that the "Kings Head" which is on the site of London Colney's oldest known Inn and has held the name without change for over 400 years is having its name changed to the "Meeting Room" without opposition.

The name "Meeting Room" has nothing to do with pubs and has in my mind no historical or traditional background. It will make the "Kings Head" sound like a Chapel or Social Club and should be opposed.

Burger Off Mac Donald's

Fortunately some common sense is being shown by the London Colney Council who are opposing the change of use of the "Bell" Pub into a Mac Donald's Drive through restaurant (I use the word reservedly). For those who know the roundabout on which the pub is situated with its M25 exits and busy traffic flow, the alterations would be unsightly as well as dangerous.

We have enough garish American style Burger places in this country as it is, I wish success to all those who oppose this monstrosity.



Join Albie for a pint of ale

1997 ST ALBANS BEER FESTIVAL

Entertainment, Food and Tombola

Entrance Fee **£1**

Non Members Lunchtime* **£2**
Evening **£3**
(* Thurs lunchtime **£1.50**)

(CAMRA Members Free on Thursday and Friday lunch Other sessions **£1 off**)

Tickets in advance from Steve Barry 14 New Road Shenley Herts WD7 9EA

South Herts CAMRA presents the 1997 St Albans Beer Festival

The Alban Arena 2nd-4th October

Opening times
Thurs, Fri, Sat
Lunchtime* 1100hrs - 1500hrs
Evening 1700hrs - 2230 hrs
(* Thurs 1200 hrs start)

195 real ales available

Ciders and Perries



Foreign beers

Cask conditioned ales from the USA

Cheques made payable to St Albans Beer Festival 1997 Enclose S.A.F.

No one under the age of 18 can be admitted to the Festival

Festival managed by St Albans Festival in conjunction with St Albans Lions and Round Table

IN 200 YEARS WE'VE NEVER SOLD OUT.



Since 1799 the name Greene King has been synonymous with Fine Ales. Over all these 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 aren't so

Dark Horse Acquires Assizes

Ian Harvey, owner and head brewer of the Dark Horse Brewing Company of Hertford has recently purchased **The Assizes** at 24 Bancroft in Hitchin.

Ian founded the Dark Horse Brewery in 1994 in the cellar of the White Horse pub in Hertford. His range of beers includes, Dark Horse Ale at 3.6%, Sunrunner at 4.1%, Fallen Angel (a wheat-based ginger beer) at 4.2%, Black Widow (a stout) at 4.6% and numerous seasonal beers. The brewery's success has enabled Ian to move to larger premises in Hertford to increase output.

The Assizes has remained open for business whilst serious refurbishment has been undertaken. The cellar has been redesigned and spruced up, the bars re-arranged and new handpumps installed, the interior altered and decorated in brighter colours, new furniture acquired and anew sign proudly announces The Dark Horse Brewing Company.

With the work going on within the pub the number of real ales on offer has been limited to: Dark Horse Ale, Sunrunner, Fallen Angel and Fuller's London Pride. Once completed the pub will offer six to seven real ales which will include the Dark Horse Beers and rotating guest beers.

With plans to change the name of the pub to reflect the change of ownership and a special grand opening celebration to be planned shortly, the Dark Horse Brewing Company looks set to take Hitchin by storm!

1997 North Herts Pub of the Year

The **Lordship Arms** in Benington has been voted **CAMRA Pub of the Year** by local branch member.

Four years ago Alan and Daphne Marshall purchased the **Cricketers**, a former McMullen's pub, saving it from being developed into residential property. With lots of work they turned it into a classy on-bar village local, and re-named it the **Lordship Arms** after the Benington Lordship Gardens of the village.

A long-standing **CAMRA** member, Alan was committed to serving quality real ales in his freehouse first and foremost. Offering Fuller's London Pride, ESB and McMullen's AK alongside a never ending variety of real ales from all over the country has proven that commitment. Cider lovers will find real cider available on handpump year-round.

To compliment the real ales, good home-cooked food is prepared by Daphne at lunchtimes and in the evenings. "Curry Night" on Wednesdays is so popular that you have to book in advance!

Telephone memorabilia adorns the interior and there's a working red phone box in the garden giving the pub a unique character. The **Lordship Arms** is an excellent example of a true freehouse and truly deserving of the title of **Pub of the Year**. Congratulations to Alan and Daphne from all of the members of North Herts CAMRA.

The presentation for the Pub of the Year Award will be held at the Lordship Arms on Wednesday October 8th at 9.00pm. A mini-bus will be organised for branch members. Ring Colleen on 01462-730975 for details.

Rugby Club Wins CAMRA Accolade

Hitchin Rugby Club recently became one of four national finalists in the competition for CAMRA's Club of the Year.

Although losing out to eventual winner the Howerd Club in London, the club based at Old Hale Way in Hitchin did exceedingly well. The criteria for Club of the Year begins with real ale which must be served in superior condition. The club must also provide access to non-members, a good and friendly atmosphere in which to drink and must also show support for the cause of real ale as CAMRA does.

CAMRA members from different parts of the country visit each of the nominated clubs over a number of months assessing them on their individual merits while following the basic criteria.

The North Hertfordshire Branch of CAMRA congratulates Hitchin Rugby Club on its accomplishment and will hold a presentation evening on Friday 14 November 1997.

CAMRA and Fake Handpumps

CAMRA has fought long and hard to get the handpump recognised as being a symbol that a cask conditioned beer, cider or perry is being dispensed, and that the drink is not being kept under any system which applies gas to it.

Unfortunately some producers try and con the public by making use of fake handpumps in an attempt to give their product a false, 'traditional' image. These handpumps are either 'pulled' to set a switch which starts a keg dispense operating, or are static with a standard keg dispense behind it. CAMRA's argument is that in either case customers seeing a handpump would expect a 'non-gaseous' product and would not be able to recognise immediately that a keg product was being dispensed. For this reason, it is CAMRA's view that this is misleading the customer and that any pub using fake handpumps should not be included in any selective guide that CAMRA produces such as the Good Beer Guide or Good Pub Food.

This ruling applies equally to cider and perry as well as beer. Although some of this may seem 'nit-picking', it is a case of where to draw the line. There have already been cases where fake handpumps have been used to sell keg and top pressure beer, the fake handpump having been adorned with a 'genuine' pump clip. CAMRA managed to get the breweries concerned to change their policy in those cases: if we were seen to condone similar dispense for cider, they could rightly argue that there was no reason to stop keg beers being similarly dispensed. Having tried to establish that hand pumps are symbols for traditional products, CAMRA would not want to compromise that in any way.



Over 35 Real Ales from small independent and micro brewers, also cider and perry

Opening times

Friday 19th September - 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday 20th September - 12 noon to 11 p.m.

Club bar range and food available

The West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford is off Rickmansworth Road and Whippendell Road, a 10 minute walk from Watford Metropolitan line station

Free admission to all Sports Club and Camra members, £1 to non members

Details from Tony Smith 01923 221155

Micro Strikes Gold

The winner of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain award announced at the recent Great British Beer Festival was Workie Ticket from the small Mordue brewery of North Shields. Runner up was Batemans Dark Mild with Hobson's Bitter third. Although they didn't win an award, McMullens had two beers on the short list, AK and Gladstone: the threatened Ind Coope Burton also reached the finals. The awards were again dominated by independent brewers, with the only big British brewer to win an award being Whitbread whose Castle Eden came joint third in the Best Bitter category.

DOWN YOUR WAY . . . DOWN YOUR WAY

Aldenhams

The **Roundbush** now opens at 12 o'clock lunchtimes, and serves Old Speckled Hen, Marstons Pedigree, Beskins Bitter and Tetleys Bitter.

Belsize

The **Plough** no longer sells Young beers.

Bulls Green

The **Horns** has been "restaurantised".

Chorleywood

The **Old Shepherd** will be closed from September 7th for a scheduled 6 weeks while it undergoes revamping. A small restaurant area will be opened up and the bar repositioned. On reopening it is expected 3 real ales will be available.

Colney Heath

The building work at the **Crooked Billet** has been completed.

Cuffley

The **Harvester Restaurant** is selling London Pride.

Goose Green

Marstons have taken over the outstanding six years of the lease on the **Huntsman**.

Hemel Hempstead

The **Ski Bar** no longer serves real ale.

Hertford Heath

The **Silver Fox** has been taken over by Marstons.

Newgate Street

The refurbishment of the **Coach & Horses** has been completed.

Rickmansworth

Weatherspoons appeal against the rejection of their planning application will be held on September 9th.

St Albans

The **Acorn** is now serving guest beers.

The **Blacksmith Arms** has made an application to convert half of its car park into a beer garden.

The **Bunch of Cherries** has been selling Brains beers.

The **Tap & Spile** has been sold to Country Inns and should be returned to the **Duke of Marlborough** in due course with a restaurant and a reduction in the range of beers.

Sarratt

The **Boot** has become "part of a group" which has caused the beer range to change. Out go Fullers Chiswick and London Pride and in come Benskins and Ind Coope Burton Ale. Tetley Bitter and Shepherd Neame Spitfire are retained. Once again we have an example of a group who ignore the customer and sell the beers they think the customer should drink.

South Mimms

At the **Black Horse**, Greene King are running a spicy Food Night on Tuesdays with a menu of different dishes from around the world. These can still be washed down with an excellent pint of XX Dark Mild (this is one of the county's few remaining outlets).

Tytenhanger Green

Martin Myland of the **Barley Mow** informs us that the pub is not for sale and we apologise for any inconvenience our statement in the last issue may have caused.

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

THE INN IN THE STICKS
Benington Nr Stevenage.

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DISCERNING DRINKER

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

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own beer but we do sell beers from
those who do.

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Competition

Wordsearch No 4 - Pub Names

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

Circle the PUB names hidden in the square above, there are thirty to find. The first correct entry opened will receive a copy of the Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale.

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

The WINNER of wordsearch No3 issue 163 will be announced in next issue.

ALMA, ANCHOR, BULL, BUNCH OF CHERRIES, COCK, CROSS KEYS, FOX, GARIBALDI, GATE, GOAT, GREEN MAN, INN ON THE GREEN, KINGS ARMS, KINGS HEAD, LUDWICK ARMS, MOPS AND BROOMS, NAGS HEAD, NORTH STAR, OAK TREE, OLD BELL, RED LION, SHIP, SPORTSMAN, SUN INN, SWAN, THREE COMPASSES, THREE TUNS, TIN POT, WOODMAN, WOOLPACK.

South Herts Branch Secretary Ties the Knot

Congratulations to Andy Young South Herts Branch Secretary who married Cath Gencer on Saturday 14th June. They honeymooned in the Dominican Republic and showing true dedication Andy attended and took the minutes at the committee meeting held at the Crooked Billet on the day they returned.

BEER FESTIVAL '97



North Herts CAMRA proudly presents
the 1997 BEER FESTIVAL

40 Beers + Festival Ale
Family Room + Foreign Beer
Tombola - Hot & Cold Food
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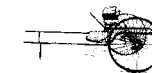
☞ At the Plinston Hall, Datchworth ☞

Inter Pub Darts Competition - Wednesday Evening

Thursday 25, Friday 26 & Saturday 27 September 1997

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11.00 - 11.00 Thurs, Fri & Sat
12.00 - 10.30 Sunday

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BRANCH DIARY

Hertfordshire South Branch

Tuesday 12th August, Branch Meeting at the **White Horse**, Hertford, 8.00pm.

Tuesday 16th September, Branch Meeting at **CAMRA HQ**, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, 8.,00pm.

Contact: John Bishop 01582 768478 (h)
0171 251 6070 (w)

Watford & District Branch

Wednesday 13th August, social in Watford: **Tudor Arms** 8.00pm, **One Bell** 9.15pm, **Moon Under Water** 10pm.

Sunday 17th August, 1.30pm cricket match against S.W. London CAMRA, meet at the **Sultan**, Norman Road, SW19.

Wednesday 20th August, Croxley social: **Sportsman** 8.00pm; **Artichoke** 9.15pm; **Coach & Horses** 10.00pm.

Monday 25th August, 1.30pm return cricket match against S.W. London CAMRA, **West Herts Sports Club**.

Tuesday 26th August, Chorleywood social: **Rose & Crown** 8.30pm, **Sportsman** 9.30pm, **Old Shepherd** 10.00pm.

Thursday 4th September, look round the **Flag and Firkin** brewery, 7.00pm, ring contact.

Tuesday 9th September, darts match at the **Fox & Hounds**, Rickmansworth, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 16th September, Watford Beer Festival set up, at the **West Herts Sports Club**, 8.30pm. All help appreciated.

Friday 19th to Saturday 20th September 3rd Watford Beer Festival at the **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue, Watford.

Tuesday 23rd September, beer festival recovery social at the **West Herts Sports Club**.

Contact: Tony Smith 01923 221155 (w/h)

North Hertfordshire Branch

Wednesday 20th August, Social, **Raven** at Hexton/Lilley Arms & **Silver Lion**, Lilley.

Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th August, Trip to Brew Festival Beer at Shugborough – see Andy.

Thursday 28th August, Trip to Brew Festival Beer at Museum Brewery – see Andy.

Friday 29th August, Abingdon Weekend with Steve Barber – see Colleen for details.

Wednesday 3rd September, Branch Meeting, **Assizes** in Hitchin 8.00pm (last meeting before Beer Festival).

Wednesday 10th September, Beer Festival Poster Drop/Social, Stevenage, meet **Chequers** 8.00pm.

Saturday 13th September, Beer Festival Leaflet Drop/Social, Hitchin, meet **Market Sq.** 11.00am.

Wednesday 17th September, Beer Festival Poster Drop/Social, Letchworth, meet **Arena Tavern** 11.00am.

Tuesday 23rd to Sunday 28th September, North Herts Beer Festival. Tuesday is set-up day, **Plinston Hall** 10.00am, Thursday Fest opens 5.00pm, Friday & Saturday Fest opens 12 noon.

Contact: Christmas Holiday 01462 730975 (h) (ansaphone)

Herts-Essex Borders Branch

Contacts: Graham Darby 01279 680233 (w)
01279 415895 (h)

Mid-Chilterns Branch

Contact: Chris Pontin 01494 778624(w),
01494 775409(h)

Enjoy a pint at
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Excellent range of regular ales
and unusual guest beers

THE WHITE HORSE
CASTLE STREET
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A TRUE FREEHOUSE

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or firkin for parties from our Brewery Tap