

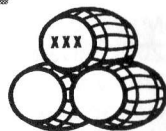


LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

FREE



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1997

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 165

It All started here November 1972



25 Years of CAMRA in Hertfordshire

St Albans Beer Festival Oct 2nd-4th

Full details Page 3

25 YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

The front page photo shows the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the first Branch Meeting of the Campaign for Real Ale at the "Farriers Arms" St Albans which took place 20th November 1972.

The tenth anniversary of the Branch in 1982 was also the 50th Anniversary of the St Albans LVA and we ran a joint week of events for charity, during which the plaque was placed on the Pub.

What a handsome fit bunch of lads we were in those days, from left to right Kevin Collins, Richard (Wink) Palmer, Niel Campbell, Steve Bury, Steve Warnes (Chair 1972-73), John Green, (unknown). Front Row Glad & George Vardy (Mine Hosts in 1982). Far right appears to be Jim Axford (Chair 1978).

In 1972 the "Farriers Arms" was the only Real Ale outlet in St Albans, twenty five years on things are very different with literally every Pub in the City serving cask conditioned beer. Sadly a lot of it is not of very good quality and St Albans bar prices with a few exceptions are higher than the national average.

There is still much for the Campaign to do, the threat of Nitro Keg, unnecessary use of Swan Neck and Sparkler dispense also Cask Breathers. Short Measure needs to be stopped and Pub preservation including saving the historic names is another important issue.

The "Farriers Arms" has fortunately remained untouched by time, the same excellent back street beer drinkers local as it was in November 1972. For those who visit, as well as the plaque, the first twenty years chairmans role of honour is on view.

November will see a series of events to commemorate our Silver Anniversary. A reunion, the first presentation of the Dave Burns Memorial Award and an evening Anniversary Party.

Lets celebrate our success as a consumer organisation without sitting on our laurels and looking forward to campaigns ahead.

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 Grosvenor Road
St Albans
Herts AL1 3AW
phone 01727- 813880

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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Join Albie
for a pint
of ale



Entertainment, Food and Tombola


Entrance Fee 

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 Bury
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 Leisure in conjunction with St Albans Lions Leos and Round Table



AROUND HERTFORD

"Old Cross Tavern"

The appeal against the refusal of a licence to open a Real Ale bar in a former antique shop in St Andrews Street Hertford was heard at St Albans Crown Court 1st August. After an extended day the Court was adjourned and has now decided that the bench that heard the appeal cannot give judgement. Terry Bell and Nigel Beviss the applicants must now await a new Court date.

"Sportsman apology"

In edition 163 of the newsletter it was alleged that the Sportsman may have been losing its guest beers. On investigation this has been found to be totally untrue and we would like to apologise for any problems this may have caused. At present and for the foreseeable future the Sportsman will be selling 5 Real Ales. Adnams Bitter, Everards Tiger, Wadsworths 6X, Ruddles Bitter, and Marstons Pedigree.

"Old Barge to Attimore Hall"

John Coghlan of the Old Barge regional winner of the "Allied Tetley Cellarman of the Year" has moved to the Attimore Hall Welwyn Garden City. His August bank holiday beer festival had the usual range of four handpumped beers with a further ten on stillage. The weekend saw three local bands play and a raft race along the river. As well as all this Naomi Hillier was runner up in the Allied Domecq Leisure Retail Staff of the Year competition which had 23,000 contestants. (I didn't know Allied employed so many). It is hoped that whoever takes over the "Barge" will

LONDON COLNEY UPDATE

Colney Fox Open.

The fully refurbished Pub/Restaurant and Hotel has been open for over a month. The interior has a pleasant open feel with exposed wooden floorboards and timbers in the large bar/eating area which opens onto the garden. An extensive lunch and evening menu is available and trade is very good. The beers at present are Bass and London Pride, unfortunately the Pride is being served by Swan Neck dispense and is pricey at £2.20. With this one criticism everything else is a vast improvement from the dilapidated Watersplash. We are pleased that Bass have made the investment.

Meeting Place (not Room)

The Pub owned by Scottish and Newcastle Brewers opened at the end of August as a James H Porter house. Apparently he invented Newcastle Brown Ale. The Meeting Place has an entertainments license and a children's certificate and is intended to be a traditional pub for all age groups. The pub has been opened up

continue in the same spirit. John intends to continue with bank holiday beer festivals so Hertford's loss is Welwyn Gardens gain.

"Change of Hart"

The manager of Mac's White Hart is to move. The pub has a reputation for good food at reasonable prices we hope this will continue and the pub will hold its own against the increasing competition in the town.

"New Regent due"

Regent Inns are building a new pub The Prince Regent in Bull Plain. This super pub will be on two floors and due to open in the second week of September. The initial range of beers will be Adnams Broadside, Hall & Woodhouse Tanglefoot, and Young's Bitter.

"Saracens get new team"

The Saracens Head, Ware Road is now under joint management with the Windmill, Cheshunt. Alterations to the interior are planned and the garden will be fully used. The pub is open all day and will be serving food again. Peter the new landlord is a serious charity fundraiser helping Downs Syndrome Children amongst others. We look forward to the Saracens becoming a good local again.

"Firkin new Managers"

We welcome the new managers to the Fledgeling & Firkin.

into one bar which can be divided off for functions if necessary.

Apparently The Meeting Place is a reasonably well used name in Ireland and the pub has been called the Red Cow in the past, I must say I still have reservations about the name.

The beers on sale are Courage Directors and Theakstons XB. We wish Paul Tobin the new manager success with the pub.

Twin Arch's to replace Bell

Although opposed MacDonalds have succeeded in getting planning permission to convert the "Bell" into a drive through. The roundabout will have to be altered to accommodate the monstrosity and the car park will be extended. The truth is that the "Bell" has not been viable for many years and is now doubling as a second-hand Car Sales Lot. It may have been better if it had gone the same way as the "Waggon & Horses" Ridgehill and had the M25 built over it.

GO HOME

SCRUFFY MURPHY

Stupid meaningless names for Pubs and Scruffy Murphy's is most certainly not the worst, were attacked at the CAMRA Annual Conference. A motion was carried unanimously calling for Pub Names to be subject to Planning Permission.

If a Pubs name cannot be changed then the developer very soon loses interest.

At present as long as the lettering is not too large and the colours not garish you can call your pub almost anything "The Old Goer" Greene King is a prime example.

A diverse group of people from all walks of life are now taking a serious interest in pub names and pub preservation. One of the latest is Nick Banks the drummer with "Pulp" which I am lead to believe is a band that produces popular music. He fortunately had the funds to buy his local the "Washington" in Sheffield which was under threat. He had made some simple observations about fake Irish Pubs, their over pricing, false interiors and the mandatory delivery bicycle, they were definitely not for him. The major Brewers seem hell bent on producing Pub Circuits in Town centres and all of these must be theme pubs of one sort or another, chasing young peoples disposable income. The problem is that each of these Fad's only lasts up to three years and then the next refurb is underway. You cannot replace the interior of a pub that has taken decades to evolve once it has been destroyed, so lets get out there and fight to save the remaining individual locals that we have left. As we go to Press it is reported that the "Tap & Spile" St Albans is to return to its original name "The Duke of Marlborough" its two bar interior, stables and courtyard are fortunately still intact.

SPARKLERS — A READER COMMENTS

Brian Jeffery of Dorking (the circulation has improved lately) has written to the newsletter reminding us that some beers are brewed to be served with Swan Neck and Tight Sparkler dispense. This has never been in dispute and I am glad to note that he also believes that northern beers served in this way should be in oversized glasses. The Campaign of course wants oversized lined glasses for all beers no matter how they are served. The legislation is on the way, but unfortunately may not get reached in this parliamentary session.

1965 PUB GUIDE

I have recently acquired a 1965 copy of Egon Roney's Guide to 1000 Pubs and Inns, not surprisingly some are in Hertfordshire.

The Guide cost 12s 6d, equivalent to 73pence now, it was expensive at the time. St Albans has two entries The Fighting Cocks described as the secret drinking place of the monks in the monastery founded near by in 795. Draught beers were Benskins and Red Barrel. The other is the Tudor Tavern that sold no fewer than thirteen different types of coffee, had a Doubles Bar selling only shorts, a Cellar Bar selling six different draught sherries with draught port in the Gables Bar. Draught beer supplied by Charringtons. Grills were from 5s 9d- 13s 6d (Surprising as the average wage in 1965 was less than £10 per week).

DAVE BURNS MEMORIAL AWARD

The South Herts branch have instigated the award in memory of Dave Burns who died in 1995, and had been a very active and popular branch member in the 1970's and 1980's. He had been Secretary and Chairman of the Branch and was editor of this Newsletter for a few years. He was also editor of two Hertfordshire Beer Guides. The award, unlike the Pub of The Year award, is awarded to an individual rather than a pub, and is for services to the Real Ale cause. The award is not an annual event and can be awarded at any time on the recommendation of the branch.

The first recipients of the award are Graham and Roz Craig of the Woodman at Wild Hill. They have been at the pub for over seven years and are great supporters of CAMRA especially in the area of choice. There are always a couple of interesting guest beers available in excellent condition and at reasonable prices. Everyone visiting the pub is given a warm welcome regardless of whether they are a regular or a stranger even an Arsenal supporter!

The award is to be made at 9.00pm on Tuesday 11th November so why not make a date to join us then. You will then be able to visit the Inner Sanctum which has evolved by opening up the old store room in the Snug/Music Room

DOWN YOUR WAY . . . DOWN YOUR WAY . . .

Baldock

Boot (Green King) has a new landlord.

Colney Street

The George & Dragon is closed.

Frogmore

The Red Cow is now a Free House.

Great Offley

Green Man is currently being refurbished.

Great Amwell

The Wagon & Horses has opened its new restaurant. The car park has been extended and has disabled spaces.

Hertford

See Page 4.

Hertford Heath

We would like to welcome Kath and Chris Ross the new landlords at the **Goat**.

The Galley Hall is under new management, with a varied menu and Adnams Broadside as a guest.

Hitchin

New Found Out has been purchased by Inn

Business and has been renamed the **Wishing Well**.

Ickleford

Green Man (MacMullen) and **Old George** (Greene King) have both had a recent change of landlord.

Letchworth

Two Chimneys has opened as a **King's Fayre**.

London Colney

See page 4

Rushden

The Moon & Stars is serving Greene King XX Mild at £1 a pint.

Ware

The Old Bulls Head is closed for refurbishment.

Well End

The public bar of the **Mops & Brooms** is now open again after redecoration.

Has Prize Ale gone for a Burton?

It was reported in the Dec 1996 edition 160 of this newsletter, that Carlsberg Tetley intended to discontinue Burton Ale in the near future. The beer is listed in the Good Beer Guide as "a full tasting hoppy beer with a dry finish and fruity aroma" and was Champion Beer of Britain in 1990. The newsletter asked you to seek out Burton Ale and try to promote sales.

Unfortunately this appears not to have worked, probably because in many cases the beer found was not in very good quality. Now many pubs in South West Herts have been informed that Burton Ale is no longer available, it is also rumoured that Benskins Bitter will be next to go. Other beers are on offer from the CT guest Cask Ale portfolio replacements are Marstons Pedigree, Youngs Bitter and Special and Old Speckled Hen. It has been rumoured that Adnams bitter will replace Benskins.

Good news one would think but Burton Ale used to retail between £1.60 and £1.90 per pint, all the replacements are at premium prices. Marstons at £2.03, Youngs Bitter £2.04, Old Speckled Hen at £2.11 and £2.15 in two outlets I visited.

Nice move Carlsberg discontinue an excellent Ale by removing quality control and then get away with a major price hike on the alternatives, the Real Ale drinker suffers yet again.

Burton ale can still be found in good quality in some outlets. The Great British Beer Festival was unable to get a supply, so drink some Burton Ale now it may be your last chance.

IN 200 YEARS WE'VE NEVER SOLD OUT.



Since 1799 the name Greene King has been synonymous with the best. Over all those years, we've freely enjoyed our independence and our brewing traditions. It means we've been able to consistently produce some of the finest ales in the country. We never sold out. But our beers often do.

Competition

Wordsearch No 5 – Pub Names

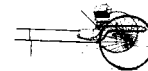
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C	A	N	N	O	N	O	M	F	L	A	H	G	S	

Circle the Pub names hidden in the square above, there are thirty to find.

The first correct entry opened on 5th December will receive a copy of the Hertfordshire Guide to

TILBURY

Inn off the Green



Watton Road, Datchworth, Herts SG3 6TB

Hertfordshire's leading purveyor of Real Ale to the connoisseur

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11.00 – 11.00 Thurs, Fri & Sat

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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?

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

Wordsearch WINNERS:

No1 issue 161 B.Jarman of Mill Hill,

No2 issue 162 K.Pearce Hertford

No3 issue 163 Martin Ford Stevenage

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

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Hertfordshire South Branch

Thursday 2nd - Saturday 4th October **St Albans Beer Festival, Alban Arena.**

Tuesday 14th October branch meeting **White Horse**, Hertford 8pm.

Tuesday 21st October conkers match, **Lower Red Lion** St Albans. 8pm

Tuesday 11th November Dave Burns Memorial Award **Woodman** Wildhill 8pm.

Tuesday 18th November Branch meeting CAMRA HQ 8pm.

Saturday 22nd November Hertfordshire Branches 25th Anniversary Re-union Farriers Arms St Albans 12 noon.

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

Watford & District Branch

Wednesday 8th Oct , games evening (Pool), **West Herts Sports Club** 8.30pm.

Wednesday 15th Oct, Social **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge, 8.30pm

Wednesday 22nd Oct, Social, **Black Boy**, Bushey Heath, 8.30pm.

Thursday 23rd Oct, Good Beer Guide Launch, **Waterstones Book Shop**, Watford.(time and beer to be confirmed.)

Wednesday 5th Nov, GBG Social, **Fox & Hounds**, Rickmansworth.

Wednesday 12th Nov, Breweriana Auction , **West Herts Sports Club**, Watford, 8pm viewing from 7.30pm.

Tuesday 18th Nov, Oxhey Social, 8.30pm **Haydon Arms**, 9.15pm **Rifle Volunteer**, 10.00pm **Victoria**.

Wednesday 26th Nov, games evening (shut the box) , **Devonshire Arms**, Bushey Heath
Contact: Tony Smith 01923- 221155 (w/h)

North Hertfordshire Branch

Wed 1st Oct. Social, Watton-at-Stone **Bull, George & Dragon\ Waggon & Horses.**

Wednesday 8th Oct. **Pub of the Year Presentation, Lordships Arms**, Bennington, 9pm presentation, minibus, see Colleen.

Saturday 18th October, Day trip Leeds £49 for 4 people return see Andy.

Wednesday 29th October, Royston Crawl, start at **Coach & Horses.**

Wednesday 12th Nov. **Membership Evening, Hogshead** Letchworth (8pm).

Friday 14th Nov. Social/presentation evening, **Hitchin Rugby Club, (National Finalist Club of the Year Competition)** 9pm presentation (Rugby Club Beer Festival on 20+ Real Ales).

Friday 21 Nov. Belgium Beer Evening Brian Mason's (8pm).

Wednesday 26th November, Branch Meeting **1999 GBG Nominations, Boot**, Kimpton.

Contact: Colleen Holiday 01462 730975 (h)

Herts-Essex Borders Branch

Monday 13th Oct Branch meeting, **Cock**, Hatfield Broad Oak 8.30pm.

Monday 17th Nov Branch meeting **Carpenters Arms**, Thornwood Common 8.30pm

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

Mid-Chilterns Branch

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

Herts Liaison Meeting

Wednesday 1st October "Royal Oak"
Chipperfield. 8pm.

Hertfordshire
South Branch
Pub of the Year
1995

Enjoy a pint at
St. Albans' Oldest Freehouse



Excellent range of regular ales
and unusual guest beers

THE WHITE HORSE
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HERTFORD
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FOOD EVERY LUNCHTIME.

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