

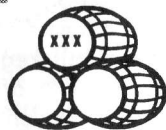


LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

FREE

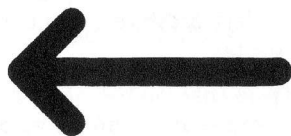


DECEMBER 1997/JANUARY 1998

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 166

Wetherspoons Line Them Up



Wetherspoon Lines Them Up

The Wetherspoon's chain of pubs has introduced lined glasses into all of its outlets. This welcome news is a major boost to CAMRA's campaign to get the government to introduce legislation to make the use of oversize glasses compulsory. Such a measure will help reduce the number of times drinkers get short measure, and would apply not only to hand pulled beers but keg beers, lagers and stouts as well. Recent CAMRA surveys have shown that about 80% of 'pints' contain a short measure and that about 25% contain less than 95% liquid, which is the minimum that the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association recommend that the a 'pint' should contain .

Although in the Midlands and the North West, Banks' and Cameron's beers are sold in their own pubs in oversize glasses, few other brewers or chains have introduced larger glasses. Locally, up until the Wetherspoon initiative, only the Land of Liberty at Heronsgate, near Chorleywood, and the Red Cow in Harpenden were known to regularly use oversize glasses, although they are being introduced into the West Herts Sports Club in Watford, and the Sportsman, Croxley Green, does use them for serving Tetleys. If there are other outlets in Hertfordshire using oversize glasses we will be happy to acknowledge them in this newsletter.

Another pub chain in the news is Yates's Wine Lodge. They are claiming to be overcoming the north-south divide on prices by selling Boddingtons Bitter and Carlsberg lager at £1.25 and £1.40 in all their pubs, irrespective of their location. They dismiss the traditional reasons for higher prices in the south east, (higher rents, rates and wages) as a "lame excuse". If that's the case why aren't ALL their products going to be the same price? Do we cynics detect a marketing stunt?

Trading Standards

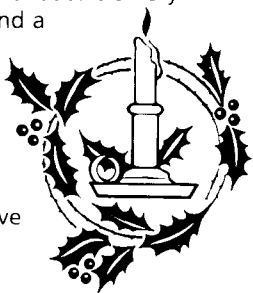
If you the consumer are having problems with, licensed premises that fail to give **full measure**, do not **display price lists**, **strength lists**. (Alcohol by volume) or **Business names** you are entitled to contact the Trading Standards Offices.

The Hertfordshire Office address is:-

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

Christmas Greetings

We would like to wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A special thanks to all the landlords who stock the newsletter, and hope that they have a successful and prosperous New Year.



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, 1 New Cottages, School Lane, Kings Walden, Herts SG4 8LH.

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

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St Albans Historic Pubs & Inns Trail

Trail The St Albans Historic Pubs & Inns Trail 1997-98 Edited by Heather Scholes and researched by Chris Saunders, was officially launched at the St Albans Beer Festival in October. The Trail published by St Albans City & District Council is available free through tourist information offices, museums and other outlets. 25 Hostelrys are listed and the centre pages carry a numbered map showing the pubs, parking information and all the civic buildings. Each Pub entry has a sepia photo depicting them at their best and a short paragraph gives the reader a brief description of the historical details of interest. Current phone numbers are also listed which is handy as a variety of opening times exist.

If you wish to tour St Albans and not enter a single Pub this is an excellent guide, it leads you through the unspoilt historic parts of the city passing many other buildings of interest. If you want to do a Pub crawl this is not the book for you. Unfortunately many of the Pubs listed serve beer of less than good quality, the "Vintry" and the "Bell" (P.J.Peppers) serve no Real Ale at all. So if you wish to drink the Real stuff buy a copy of the CAMRA Real Beer in Hertfordshire Guide which covers every pub in St Albans.

Some of the Pubs listed are not only of historical interest but do serve excellent beer and these deserve a mention, "The Lower Red Lion" Fishpool Street, South Hertfordshire pub of the year 1995 cannot be faulted inside or out and features regular mini beer festivals in its garden and supports Britain's many and varied micro brewers. The "Farriers Arms" Lower Dagnall Street, McMullens is the birthplace of CAMRA and has been in every Good Beer Guide. The "Garibaldi" and "Portland Arms" are both excellent Ale Houses serving Fullers beers. Unfortunately you will have to take the other pubs as you find them in many you are better off admiring the architecture than the beer.

Steve Bury

Put The Record Straight:

The Photo on the front cover of the last edition 165 showed a happy band of CAMRA activists from 1982. Due to the early deadline we were unable to identify Rob Griffin 9th from the left before going to press. We are also informed that the person extreme right could not have been Jim Axford as he was sporting a moustache in 82. This may not be clear from the photo but I have the original.

Stronghart Returns

The 1997 brew of McMullen's Stronghart is now available in their pubs and in the free trade. The 7%abv traditional strong ale uses Golding hops and is dry-hopped using whole hops at the maturation stage. Stronghart is matured for three to four times longer than their other cask ales, while the beer for the bottled version is matured for up to a year.

IN 200
YEARS
WE'VE
NEVER
SOLD
OUT.



It is 200 years since the first Greene King beer was brewed with the same recipe. The Greene King brewery has been an independent and successful business for over 200 years. It has been able to consistently produce some of the finest ales in the country. We haven't sold out, but our beers have.

Marque of Quality

10 of Britain's brewers have agreed to take part in a pilot initiative set up by a new company, Cask Marque, aimed at improving the quality of real ale in pubs.

Publicans wishing to take part in the scheme will be visited twice in three months by an inspector. If the beer is judged to reach the required standard of condition, appearance, taste, temperature and character, the publican will be awarded a Cask Marque plaque. A third inspection will follow the award of the plaque with a further two inspections every year from then on. The plaque remains the property of Cask Marque and can be taken back if quality slips. If the quality of the beer does not reach the required standard, a written report will be produced, and the quality will be reassessed at a later date.

The publican will pay £140 in the first year of testing, and a £100 a year after that to cover the cost of testing. However Cask Marque expects that some of this fee will be paid by the publican's main beer supplier.

The scheme was the idea of Paul Nunny the trading director of Adnams and follows a study of 1,000 pubs throughout the country which discovered that a startling 23% of pints were found to be below an acceptable standard, and a disproportionate number of the bad pints were found in pubs selling five or more real ales. Poor quality is considered to be one of the reasons behind a reported 14% a year drop in real ale sales since 1995.

Mr Nunny will be leaving Adnams at the end of the year to run Cask Marque full time. As well as Adnams, the other companies initially involved are: Carlsberg-Tetley, Fullers, Greene King, McMullens, Mansfield, Marstons, Morlands, Vaux and Whitbread.

CAMRA has been saying for some time that the quality of real ale in many pubs, free houses as well as in tied pubs, often leaves a lot to be desired. The breweries themselves now seem to be recognising that fact and are doing something positive about it. We hope that this scheme will be very successful in its aim of improving the quality of real ale and that it will provide a needy boost to real sales.

Brewery and Pub Chain News

The latest shake ups in the brewing industry has left a wide trail of potential closures in its wake. Carlsberg-Tetley are planning to stop production over the next two years at their breweries in Wrexham, Alloa and Burton. The future for the first two does not look bright, but Bass have declared their intention to buy the Burton brewery which is next to their own existing site. Bass, in turn, are planning to close their Sheffield and Cardiff breweries in 1999 and 2000 respectively. Making an unfortunate hat-trick for the principality, Brains have confirmed their intention to close the Crown Buckley brewery they took over earlier this year. Ruddles are now owned by Morlands and the future of the Rutland brewery is far from certain. In a £24billion deal, Guinness and Grand Metropolitan are merging, and it would seem that other deals are likely: Allied Domecq are looking for someone to take over or merge with, and Greenalls are being touted as the next pub chain to be taken over. The largest pub owning chain in the country with more than 4300 pubs is now the Grand Pub Company, which is ultimately owned by the Japanese investment bank Nomura International.

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

THE INN IN THE STICKS
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DISCERNING DRINKER

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everchanging guest beers from
independent and Micro Breweries
also Traditional Cider

Sorry, we do not have time to brew our
own beer but we do sell beers from
those who do.

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Watford & District Pub of the Year

The **Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty** at Heronsgate has won this year's Watford & District CAMRA Pub of the Year award. Pubs nominated by branch members were visited at various times by a panel of 9 judges, and marked not only on the quality of the beer, but also on things such as efficiency, friendliness, quality of food, and the display of prices and opening hours. The Land of Liberty proved to be a clear winner. The award will be presented on January 28th.

Allied Refund Offer

Allied Domecq Inns are to offer a full refund and a replacement pint to any customer complaining about the quality of the beer in any of their 67 Festival Ale Houses. The offer applies to lagers and stouts as well as real ales. Successful trials have already taken place at selected Festival Ale Houses and have not had any problems with customers abusing the offer. CAMRA has welcomed the initiative, and research manager Iain Loe commented: "We would like to see every other pub in the land follow this lead". An interesting quote was, however, attributed to a Wetherspoon spokesman: "Well done to Allied Domecq. We already give replacement pints but do not shout about it!".

Hertfordshire South Pub of the Year

Following close on the heels of receiving the Dave Burns award for outstanding support to real Ale, Graham and Ros Craig of the **Woodman**, Wildhill Thorp, now find that their pub has been chosen by the CAMRA Hertfordshire South Branch members as their Pub of the Year. This is truly a tribute to the pub and all those involved in giving the **Woodman** the air of being a lot more than your average pub. The presentation will take place at 9pm on Tuesday 20th January.

Special Membership Offer

If you join CAMRA before 31st December 1997 you can either try membership free for four months - no strings attached - or pay only £ 12, £2 off the standard rate. You can also get the newly published 1998 *Good Beer Guide* at £3.50 off the £10.99 cover price. There is also a limited issue of hard back guides where you can get £6.00 off the £15.99 cover price. Now there is a good idea for a Christmas present. The Guide lists 5,000 pubs throughout the country which the local branches have selected as those serving the best beer in the area. It is available from all good book shops or from CAMRA HQ, ring 01727 867201 for details.

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?

Herts News

Berkhamsted

Wetherspoons will be opening a pub next year on the site of Cheerleaders.

Borehamwood

Woods Bar no longer serves real ale.

The **Hart & Spool** Wetherspoon pub has reopened after renovation.

Boxmoor

The **Steam Coach** has been acquired by Marstons.

Bushey Heath

Steve Hall who was in charge of the Haydon Arms when it won the Watford & District branch's Pub of the Year award, has taken over at the **Queens Arms** and redecoration is in progress. Benskins and Marstons Pedigree are available.

Chorleywood

The **Old Shepherd** has re-opened after extensive changes. The bar has been repositioned, and the drinking area enlarged partly by extending it into the area formerly occupied by a garage. The dartboard has been retained albeit now positioned where the Gents used to be. A full time manager, Brian Adams, is now looking after three hand-pumped beers: Greene King IPA, Benskins, and a beer from the Pubmaster guest range which will be changed fortnightly. Food is available Monday to Saturday lunchtimes.

Plans to remove the bar completely from the 'public bar' of the **White Horse** are being vociferously opposed by a group of the locals.

Croxley Green

The **Red House** has reopened as one of the Greene King Hungry Horse chain. A single bar remains with Greene King IPA and Abbot, Bass and a guest beer being available.

Frogmore

The **Red Cow** is now selling Tring Ridgeway.

Harpenden

The **Queens Head** is closed for refurbishment.

Hemel Hempstead

Wetherspoons will be opening a pub next July on the site of the Odeon and the neighbouring fish and chip shop in the Marlowes.

Hertford

The **Reindeer** is closed for refurbishment.

St Albans

The **Kings Arms** is now the **No 7 Wine Bar and Restaurant**. Real ale is not available.

Two Waters (Apsley)

The **Bell** has been acquired by Marstons and their full range of beers are available.

Ware

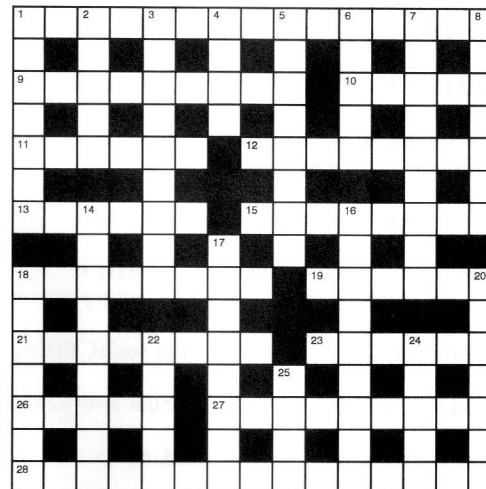
The **Old Bulls** Head re-opened on September 25th. The pub has been made larger and has been refurbished as a Tetleys ale house. It offers 8 real ales with the majority from independent brewers: a very welcome addition to the Ware drinking scene.

John Broughton has retired from the **Albion**. Since taking over in the summer, Dick the new landlord has installed a fourth handpump which is used to serve a beer changed monthly. For a pub of the Albion's size that's remarkable, but it just goes to show if the beer's looked after and served properly, there's no problem selling it!

Since the summer, Lynn at the **Angel** has completely refurbished the pub. It has been magnificently done and looks the best it's been for ages. Do yourself a favour and have a look.

The **Rifle Volunteer** has been sold to Marstons and will undergo a £200,000 facelift in the new year. The new licences are Thomas and Zena Pheby replacing Ruby Densley, the previous owner of the freehouse.

Competition
Christmas Crossword



The first three correct entries opened will receive: 1st St Albans Beer Festival Polo Shirt, 2nd St Albans Beer Festival T Shirt, 3rd Real Beer in Hertfordshire Guide.

Completed entries to be sent to Paul Ruane, 15 Turpins Close, Hertford SG14 2EH before 6th Feb 1998.

CLUES

Across

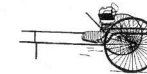
- 1 What nurse makes if patient calls without complications (15)
- 9 Redrawn Open University diagram of sound tracing (9)
- 10 Bird with an eye for a Yorkshire brewery (5)
- 11, 20, 15, 13 Place of unrestricted calm, and lots of it, not far from M25 (J17) (4, 2, 7, 5, 3, 6)
- 12 Great dislike of man breaking into motorists club (8)
- 13 See 11
- 15 See 11
- 18 There's a Windmill (in The Valley?) here (8)
- 19 Cartmel Brewery moved here - for a mint? (6)
- 21 Where, we hear, this Tap and Spile is (3, 5)
- 23 Car maintenance held firm back (6)
- 26 One grand John found in the White House (5)
- 27 Playing bridge with air of an officer (9)
- 28 To find Prince of Wales' location, turn right for underby (15)

Down

- 1 Run slap into trouble -congestion results (7, hyphenated)
- 2 Real ales don't often need heads when gas is evident (5)
- 3 Having teeth all the same, I also don't need treatment (9)
- 4 Our county symbol is a Lancashire brewer (4)
- 5 One who stirs up - not me, ref! (8)
- 6 Correct entitlement (5)
- 7 Take sea road, if making a detour, as previously mentioned (9)
- 8 One with long-held views difficult to pass on? Quite the contrary (7)
- 14 Call into German pub, not opening, for a decorator (9)
- 16 Short-lived county, its origin flat also (9)
- 17 Coppers found here by crooked bogeyman (8)
- 18 This swimmer is ready to keep fit, perhaps (7)
- 20 See 11
- 22 I complain about a lady (5)
- 24 It's so long since you, say, supported a new idea (5)
- 25 Foreign drink number six ? That's out of order (4)

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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

Hertfordshire South Branch Tuesday 9th December, St. Albans pub crawl starting at the **Farmers Boy** 7.30-8.00pm.

Tuesday 20th January, branch Pub of the Year award, **Woodman**, Wild Hill Thorp 8.30pm.

Tuesday 27th January, branch AGM, **CAMRA HQ**, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans

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

Watford & District Branch

Wednesday 3rd December, 'northern' social: **Swan**, Pimlico 8.30pm; **White Hart**, Bedmond 9.15pm; **Bell**, Bedmond 10.00pm

Tuesday 9th December, Watford social: **One Crown** 8.30pm; **One Bell** 9.00pm; **Moon Under Water** 9.40pm; **Hogs Head** 10.15pm.

Friday 12th December, curry evening, ring contact for details.

Saturday 27th December, Real Ale Ramble, meet Hemel Hempstead station 10.35am.

Friday 9th January, pre Christmas (1998) pub crawl around East London,: start **Lord Rodney's Head**, next to Whitechapel station, 5.00pm.

Tuesday 13th January, Bushey Heath social: **Three Crowns** 8.30pm; **Foresters Arms** 9.15pm; **Black Boy** 10.00pm.

Thursday 22nd January, Good Beer Guide social: **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 9.00pm.

Wednesday 28th January, branch pub of the year award, **Land of Liberty**, Heronsgate. 8.30pm.

Friday 6th February: quiz night at the **West Herts Sports Club**.

Contact: Tony Smith 01923 221155 (h/w)

North Hertfordshire Branch

Wednesday 10th December, bowling at the Hollywood Bowl in Stevenage. Meet at the Original brew bar at 8.00pm, bowling from 8.30pm.

Contact: Colleen Holiday 01462 730975(h)

Herts-Essex Borders Branch

Monday 15th December, branch meeting **Green Man**, Widford, 8.30pm.

Wednesday 24th December, Xmas social, **Rising Sun**, High Wych, 1.00pm.

Monday 29th December, 3rd annual anti-turkey social, Forest Gate, Epping.

Real ale runabout, places limited, contact Derek Wisdom 01279 414200(h).

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

Mid-Chilterns Branch

Wednesday 3rd December, Chesham social: **Kings Arms** 8.30pm; **Queens Head** 9.45pm.

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

Herts Liaison Meeting

Monday 12th January, **Chequers**, Wareside, 8.00pm.

Hertfordshire
South Branch
Pub of the Year
1999

Enjoy a pint at
St. Albans' Oldest Freehouse



Excellent range of regular ales
and unusual guest beers

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CASTLE STREET
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FOOD EVERY LUNCHTIME.

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SUNRUNNER • DARKHORSE ALE

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or firkin for parties from our Brewery Tap