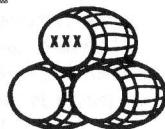




THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker



JUNE/JULY 1998

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 169

Mary Hamilton receives South Herts Award



Mary is an expert on Beer and Micro brewers and has been Beer Organiser at the 1996 & 1997 St Albans Beer Festivals and will be doing the same again for this years event in October. Phil Defriez Chairman of Hertfordshire South Branch presented Mary Hamilton with a CAMRA mirror for her services to the Branch. Mary and Alan Dean standing next to her in the photo are now proud owners of the Good Beer Guide listed "Brown Bear" in Biggleswade. Hertfordshires loss is Bedfordshire's gain and we wish them every success.

Grandison unhappy

I have received a letter from J.O'Sullivan the publican of the Grandison Arms, Bramfield. It say's :-

"I found your flippant remark in issue 168 concerning work carried out to our car park offensive and incorrect. We have not extended the car park but spent thousands of pounds landscaping the garden. We do not ask you to print anything about us and would rather you refrain in future if this is to be your flippant superior attitude."

editors reply:
As I have stated before information for "Down Your Way" comes from a large number of sources. In my experience there is no such thing as bad publicity, although I can see that you would be unhappy that your garden was not mentioned. I hope this is now rectified.

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

THE INN IN THE STICKS

Benington Nr Stevenage.

REAL ALE OASIS for the
DISCERNING DRINKER

Fullers London Pride and ESB
plus Youngs Special
everchanging guest beers from
independent and Micro Breweries
also Traditional Cider

Proposed venue for forthcoming
Wedding Reception of well known
Datchworth Landlord & Landlady
North Herts Pub of the Year 1997

Lunchtime Snacks
Curry Night every Wednesday
Two Course Sunday Roast £7.00

A Pub worth finding
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Proof Read Competition

As yet the winner of the Proof Read Competition in edition 168 has not been decided. I have however received correspondence from Martyn Cornell who some of us will remember when he was an active Campaigner in Hertfordshire. He is now working for the Daily Telegraph and seems to have missed the point. The newsletter is produced completely by volunteers and is FREE. If you want a perfect , proof read and sanitised text buy a Daily Paper the Telegraph is 45 pence weekdays 75 pence Saturday. If you want Pub news, honest criticism and humour read the Hertfordshire Newsletter warts and all.

Editor Steve Bury (Telephone Engineer by profession).

West Berkshire Branch An Apology

In the February/March edition of the newsletter we asked for volunteers to help with the recording of "What's Brewing " CAMRA's monthly newsletter for the Blind. The response was good and I would like to thank all those who are now taking part in the monthly readings. Unfortunately I stated that the recording had previously been undertaken by the Reading & Mid Berks Branch this was incorrect. I thank Roy Bailey a long time campaigning colleague of mine for correcting my error.

It was of course West Berkshire branch that started this very worthwhile venture and deserve the credit and thanks for their excellent work over the years.

Steve Bury Editor

Pub Names

After the article in the last newsletter I have been informed that the "Red Lion" which in heraldic terms is a lion rampant (standing on its hind legs) is the Coat of Arms of John of Gaunt who was the most powerful man in fourteenth century England. The Red Lion rampant is also used on the Scottish Flag. and when James VI of Scotland acceded to the English throne he ordered that the Red Lion of Scotland should be displayed in all public places (very diplomatic).

Another Pub name regularly used is the "Chequers" this is for several reasons, firstly the Chequers were the Coat of Arms of the Fitzwarren family (who were powerful in the time of Edward IV). A much earlier use dates back to Roman times where the board was displayed to show that draughts a very popular game at the time, was played at the establishment. Later in middle ages the "Chequers" was the sign of a money lender the board being used as a form of abacus to explain how interest was to be levied. The money changers were called Exchequers which is how the name came into use.

In certain parts of the country when Ale only and Cider only Pubs existed the "Chequers" was used to signify that the pub sold both Cider and Ale
The old English spelling was "Checkers" and is still used on some pubs including one in Baldock.

The most obscure or should, I say forgotten usage of the name is a brewing one where the berries from the Chequers tree were added to the Ale.

So if you want a game of Draughts a loan or a very different tasting Ale the Chequers is the place to be.

Mac's Incorrect

I have been informed that McMullen's are claiming that their "Gladstone" is the first Hertfordshire beer to be sold in the Houses of Parliament bar. I am afraid they have missed the boat "Dark Horse" brewery had one of their beers, Unicorn I believe, on sale their a couple of years ago. They claim that one firkin was sold in two sessions we hope that a cask breather was not used, as it was clearly not warranted.

P.R.

BEER FESTIVALS & Other Events

Classics on the Common Harpenden Common Wednesday 29th July 7.30pm. This is the fifth event organised by the "Carpenters Arms" and is open to all "Classics" last year 500 attended raising funds for local charities. minimum entrance fee £1.50 per vehicle.

Blue Ball, Ashridge. 2nd Beer Festival 19th 20th 21st June

30 Beers, event in conjunction with the Sealed Knot English Civil War re-enactment group. Many other activities and live music.
01494-758263

The Ware Real Ale Festival held in April was a great success with 22Ales, 2 Ciders and a German 'ALT' beer from Ware's twin town Wulfrath being drunk.

The Champion Beer as voted was Church end, Gravediggers Mild, with Marston Moor, Brewers Pride and Tisbury, Old Wardour, runners up. Many thanks to all those who helped and attended.

Jan Ordon.

British Institute of Innkeeping

The Hertfordshire Newsletter has got a mention in "The Publican" newspaper 16th March, commenting on the fact that I did not know about the Institute. Not any more, the organization is primarily for those holding full on licenses and offers support and accredited training. There is an annual subscription and a monthly magazine, non licensee's and others in the trade can join as graduate members but have to pass an entrance examination.

So if you see the round sign with a chequered shield with a gold sash showing what appears to be ears of barley, you can assume that the licensee is a member. Their April magazine had an interesting article "Do your drinks measure up to the law?" and advised members that " top-up requests should be received with good grace and never refused". Excellent advice that unfortunately has not got through to a large number of people in the trade.

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, 1 New Cottages, School Lane, Kings Walden, Herts SG4 8LH.
Subscriptions: £4 for 12 issues. Send to: 1 New Cottages, School Lane, Kings Walden, Herts SG4 8LH. Cheques payable: CAMRA Herts South Branch.
Advertising: £12 per 2.5cm column. Artwork can be made up at extra cost. Contact Eric Sim ☎ 01462 769038 for details.
COPY DATE for August/September 1998 Edition: 1st July 1998.

Anoraks Weekend

Was it really that major YAWN time again? Almost sane family men don sad anorak mantles and spend weeks telephoning other anoraks to plan travel arrangements and suitable accommodation to make their CAMRA AGM weekend a "thing of beauty" and totally memorable. [I do wonder if local hotels and B&Bs think that hoarde's of drunken obsessed giant children returning in the wee -sorry about the pun- hours are very suitable as guests].

Just how many times can propositions [sorry - motions] amendments to the motions and amendments to the amendments be discussed?. Endlessly apparently according to our phone bill at this time of year.

Just when we lesser non CAMRA mortals feel ourselves at screaming pitch off they go like merry bands of excited evacuees on an adventure, a voyage to discover new tastes, interesting gravities [surely a contradiction in terms] and new drinking holes - holes sometimes being the operative word!

BLISS - a couple of days respite from the constant [of late anyway] beer blurb and burps.

Then joy oh joy back they come again only this time the poor dears are an even sadder sight! They're hung over, smelly, unshaven, tired and, dare I say it, almost tired of drinking- well for a few hours anyway.

Now be honest all you non beer swilling anorak parents or partners, just how interested are you REALLY in all the weary details of who said what about which brew and which motion got through by how many votes? Not me - not I- not NEVER! Received anonymously from the CAMRA Fan Club

Ed.

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

NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR
HERTFORDSHIRE'S BIGGEST AND BEST ONE DAY FESTIVAL



Saturday 11th July

12.00 NOON TO 11.00 pm

FEATURING (in no particular order):
KISS THE MISTRESS - PETER BUCKLEY-HILL
TANGLEFOOT - WHO'S THAT MAN
WAGGERS TAIL - JOINT ACCOUNT -SAD BOYS
MAD MAN BUTTERFLY - ROCKING HORSE
STEVE CLEAR - COURIERS DELAY
NECK THE WOOD -CARRY THE CAN
PAT CRILLY - SMOKING DICK BURNS
KEITH SNOWDON - FURIOUS TROUSERS
XL BLUES ACCESS - SIMON VOGEL
ALSO SMITH AND JONES - NEIL CURRIE
WITH YET MORE TO BE CONFIRMED

FOOD, BAR, AND MARQUEES.

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CHILDREN UNDER 12 £1.00

£5.00 ON THE DAY (CHILDREN £3.00)

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DOWN YOUR WAY . . . DOWN YOUR WAY

Our information comes from a wide variety of sources and it is inevitable that some errors will occur. Please inform us of any mistakes and the appropriate correction, apology or retraction will be published. Ed.

Berkhampstead

Cheerleaders, in the High street has been bought by Wetherspoon and returned to its original name **The Crown**.

Borehamwood

The **Bull & Tiger**, Manor Way has been closed since last October with the permission of the licensee after the police made a series of arrests on drugs related charges. It appears that contrary to the article in the Borehamwood Times the pub will not re-open in the foreseeable future.

Boxmoor

The **Princes Arms** has now become the **Hooden in a Box**, anyone who knows this Robin Hooden who keeps nicking all our traditional pub names please contact the newsletter.

Bramfield

The **Grandison Arms** see page 2.

Great Offley

The **Red Lion** is now selling Dark Horse beers as well as 7-8 other guests.

Harpenden

Trouble at **The Cross Keys** see back page.

Hemel Hempstead

The **Beef & Barrel**, St Albans Hill has been returned to its original name the **Boot**.

Hertford Heath

The **East India College Arms** has been returned to its original name the **Pindar Arms**.

High Wych

The **Half Moon** has a new licensee

Letchmore Heath

We are pleased to welcome Vicky & Richard Spencer to the **Three Horseshoes**.

London Colney

The **Green Dragon** is closed for a major refurbishment and should re-open first week of June.

Radlett

The **Railway** now only stocks one real ale, a guest this is often not available, a pity as the choices are quite imaginative.

Shenley

For several months the **Black Lion** has been selling "Black Lion Bitter" which our reporter tells us is Trent Bitter ABV 3.3%. I have only previously seen this beer in pasteurized form on sale in Tesco and cannot find it listed in the Good Beer Guide. (more info to follow)

St Albans

What is now old news is that the **Garibaldi** has returned to a tenancy owned by previous manager Tim Solon. The pub is now being run by Peter Ransome previously the owner of the **Goat** in the 1980's. The **Garibaldi** has been through a period of neglect and mis-management and we are confident that Peter can turn this around and return the pub to an excellent local.

The **Peacock** has re-opened and has a light and modern open plan look. The pine furniture and bar give it a Bistro feel. Sadly both the **Real Ales** London Pride and Old Speckled Hen are incorrectly served using swan neck and tight sparkler. This not only destroyed the hoppy aroma of the Pride but also forced me to ask for a top up.

Sawbridgeworth

The **Bull** closed for refurbishment has hit financial problems and the reopening has been delayed.

Stevenage

Tom Tiddlers Tavern no longer sells real ale.

Tewin

The **Rose & Crown** is closed for refurb and is due to re-open in the summer.

Thornwood Common

Congratulations to the **Carpenters Arms** which is Herts Essex Pub of the Year and Essex branches Pub of the Year

Watford

The **MIX Brewery**, Market Street has been converted to a gas showroom. The sad loss of an ambitious venture.

FULL PINTS THE FIGHT GOES ON!!

Lone MP blocks full pint Bill

By using a procedural move that could only happen in the British Parliament, a lone MP stopped the private Members Bill to introduce oversized glasses and full pints. This was done by shouting "Object" during the debate and Hansard (Parliaments minutes) does not name individual objectors. There are only a handful of members who are trying to stop this legislation going through and it is now believed that it was Eric Forth Conservative member for Bromley and Chislehurst who stopped the legislation. What were Mr Forth's objectives, it has been suggested that this is little short of the type of sleaze that lead to the Tories disastrous defeat in the last election. If you feel aggrieved that the Bill has now fallen please write to Eric and ask him what his motives were in blocking this important piece of consumer legislation.

The fight for a full pint goes on

We must now force full pints up the governments agenda, CAMRA's annual conference applauded Dennis Turner MP who placed the private members bill before parliament and Nigel Griffiths the Consumer Affairs Minister who supported him. Over the next few months we will be exposing the opponents of the full pint. The Government must now sponsor the Bill which will then stop the underhand blocking moves taking place. Lets hope it is not too long before we all enjoy some well earned full pints at every bar in the land.

Great British Beer Festival

Olympia will be the venue again for this years Great British Beer Festival and will be open to the public Tues 4th Aug 5pm-10.30pm Wed and Thurs 5th & 6th Aug 11.30am-3pm 5pm-10.30pm Fri 7th 11.30am- 10.30pm Sat 8th Aug 11.00am-7pm.

The Festival is the biggest in the UK and has a larger variety of different beers on sale than the Munich Beer Festival.

The Festival started in Alexandra Palace, but after the fire and one year in tents on the old Muswell Hill Race-course, moved to Leeds. Other venues were Birmingham, Brighton and Docklands Arena and in 1992 moved to Olympia where it has stayed.

We now use both Halls, have more seating and an improved stage with live music at all sessions. There will be 300 different Real Ales on sale and lets not forget the Traditional Ciders & Perries and the foreign beers. The Festival has something for everyone including facilities for children. So don't miss the opportunity to sample the best that British Brewers can offer.

Brewery Closures

Speckled Hen shows its claws

Morland Brewers of Abingdon Oxfordshire bought Ruddles in September last year and have now betrayed Britains beer drinkers by announcing its closure. Morland itself was threatened by an unfriendly takeover by Greene King in 1992 which CAMRA helped fend off and now they have made this cynical move. Ruddles County and Best Bitter have received much acclaim but it is impossible to copy beers in alternative brewing plant, the quality suffers and the brands die. CAMRA are seeking an urgent meeting with Morland and ask beer drinkers to write and complain to the company.

Whitbread Tour of Destruction Continues

If the above news was not bad enough Whitbread have announced the closure of their "Castle Eden" Brewery, Co Durham and the "Flowers" Brewery, in Cheltenham. Whitbreads beer sales are up so why the closures? Like Ruddles the beers cannot be reproduced elsewhere and remain the same. Choice will inevitably be reduced.

Competition

Pub Names Wordsearch

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

The 30 Pub Names are:-

BEEHIVE, BEEL INN, BOARS HEAD, BOAT, BOOT, BOYS HOME, COCK, CROSS, EAGLE, FOX, GEORGE, GRAPES, GREYHOUND, HARRIER, HARROW, HOLLYBUSH, HORSN, LION, OLD BARGE, RAVEN, RED COW, ROBIN HOOD, ROMAN URN, ROUND BUSH, SPOTTED BULL, STAG, SUN INN, TANNERS ARMS, VALIANT TROOPER, WOODMAN.

Completed entries should be sent to Paul Ruane, 15 Turpins Close, Hertford, Herts SG14 2EH.

The first correct entry to be opened 3rd August 1998 will receive a copy of the "Real Beer in Hertfordshire Guide". The winner of the competition in edition 167 was:-

W. Hayter of Ware

CAMRA ESSEX PUB OF THE YEAR 1998

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1st Anniversary Party
Saturday 20th June
Barbecue and Live Music

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Sunday 12 noon - 10.30pm

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One Mile From Epping Town Centre, Along B1393 Towards Harlow

We support H.E.A.L. Cancer Charity

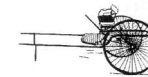


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BRANCH DIARY

Hertfordshire South Branch

Tuesday 9th June, Branch Meeting, Old Maypole, Water End, North Mimms. 8pm.

Tuesday 14th July, Branch Meeting, White Horse, Hertford 8pm. Visit the Dark Horse Brewery before hand 7pm onwards.

Contact John Bishop 01582 768478 (h)
0171 477 7700 (w)

North Hertfordshire Branch

Wed 3rd June, Pub of the Year award Rising Sun, Halls Green. presentation 9pm.

Sat 6th June, Mini Bus trip.

Wed 10th June, Codicote crawl. Globe, Goat, Bell.

Wed 24th June, Great Offley Crawl, Red Lion, Green Man and Shaker Browns.

Thur 25th June. Letchworth Morris, Ickleford crawl, Green Man 8pm

Wed 8th July, Branch Meeting Hitchin Rugby Club.

Fri 24th July, North Herts Club of the Year Award, Hitchin Rugby Club presentation 9pm.

Contact: Colleen Holiday 01462 730 975 (h)

Watford & District Branch

Tues 2nd June Boule evening Coach & Horses Croxley Green 8.30pm.

Sat 13th June treasure hunt on foot Fox & Hounds Rickmansworth, 5.30pm.

Fri 19th June pre Xmas Crawl London SE1 start Wheatsheaf SE1. 5.00pm.

Wed 24th June social Plough Belsize, 8.30pm transport from Watford Junct Station 8.15pm.

Wed 1st July social Boot Sarrat 8.30pm, Coach & Horses Commonwood 9.40pm.

Contact :Tony Smith 01923- 221155 (w/h)

Herts-Essex Borders Branch

Mon 8th June, Mole Trap. Tawny Common, Nr Epping, OSTL5102.

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

Mid-Chilterns Branch

Mon 8th June. Rose & Crown, Trowley Bottom, 8.30pm, Crown & Sceptre, Bridesen Camp, 9.30pm

19th 20th 21st June Blue Bell, Beer Festival

Wed 8th July, Crown, Berkhamstead.

Contact: Chris Pontin 01442 834899

Harpenden locals angry at Cross Keys Plans

The Cross Keys, High Street, Harpenden is a grade II listed building and on the CAMRA regional inventory of Pubs of Architectural Merit. It was not surprising that locals were dismayed when the leaseholder Mrs Wong, who runs the restaurant next door, applied for planning permission to extend the Pub. A two story rear extension is intended, which will increase the size, but destroy the character of both the existing bars. The Herts guide to Real Ale describes the pub as a "Wee Gem, with loads of pewter and character. Well worth a visit". An action committee has been formed, look out for updates in the press and the next Newsletter.

Enjoy a pint at

St. Albans' Oldest Freehouse


Lower Red Lion
Fishpool Street

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Hertfordshire
South Branch
Pub of the Year
1995