

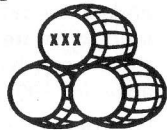


LINED GLASSES
GUARANTEE
FULL PINTS

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

FREE

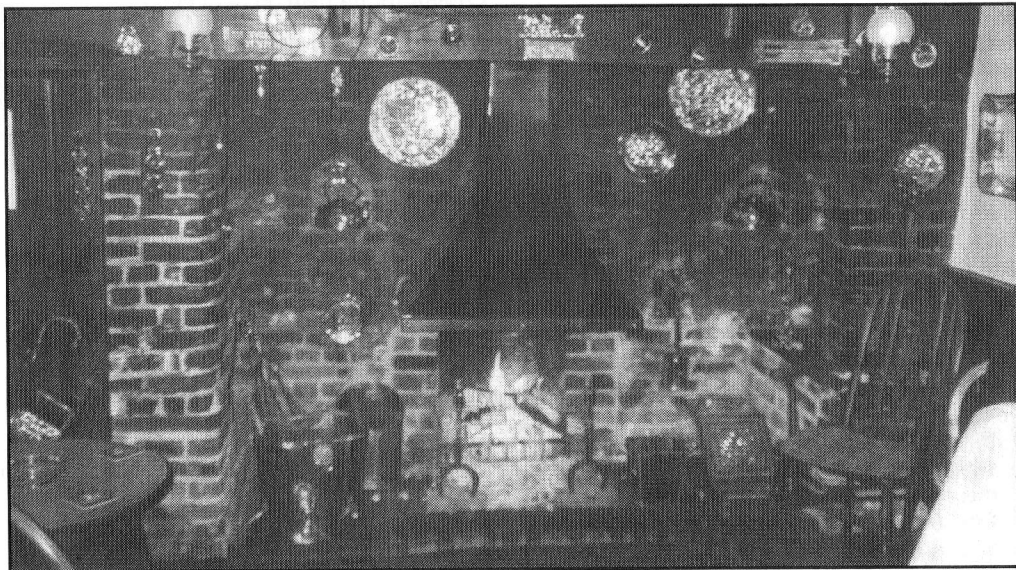


DECEMBER 1998/JANUARY 1999

CIRCULATION 4000

NUMBER 172

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers



At this time of year there is nothing like a good pint of Strong Ale whilst sitting around a roaring log fire. The photo above is of the Inglenook fireplace in the "Waggon & Horses" Medburn, Elstree, featured in the 1999 Good Beer Guide on page 14 with the comment "A real fire. The natural fit for real ale." The "Waggon and Horses" appears again on page 145 as the pub has gained entry to the guide in the Hertfordshire section after an absence of several years and is well worth a visit whatever the season.

St Albans Beer Festival Review

The third St Albans festival was a great success opening for the first time on Wednesday night and all day Saturday. 5,000 visitors drank 12,000 pints so we are now getting well established and the Branch has agreed to organise the event again in 1999.

Phil Defriez Festival Organiser would like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their free time on the committee, during the festival, setting up and clearing up afterwards.

We worked in conjunction with the St Albans Leo's Again this year and a substantial donation will be made to local charities. We would also like to thank our sponsors and the St Albans City & District Council for their support.

Champion of Champion Beers of Britain

We were pleased to have John Davidson of Swale Brewery who's Indian Summer Pale Ale won the 1997 award as guest of honour. A tasting panel of invited guests from licensed trade and brewing assessed 20 Champion beers and the winners were:-

		ABV
1st	Oakham, Jeffery Hudson Bitter	3.8%
2nd	Swale, Indian Summer Pale Ale	4.2%
3rd	Mordue, Radgie Gadgie	4.8%
4th	Blencowe, Barrowden Boys Bitter	3.6%

Congratulations to the winners

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

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Breweriana Auctions

We had only intended to have one auction but received so many donations of lots that we held a second on Saturday night. I understand that they were very entertaining especially for those in the foyer who heard it over the speaker system.

Thanks to all those who made contributions especially:-

Ian Miller of the Tilbury Datchworth for the Museum Brewery Trip.

Steve Nye of the Lytton Arms Knebworth for the beer drinkers hamper.

Steve & Will of the Wenlock Arms for the collection of bar towels.

Also Bill Austin of Watford & District branch CAMRA for his help on both nights.

McMullen's Axe 25 Jobs

In October McMullen announced that they would be closing their bottling plant because it needed a major investment and new equipment installed. This is very strange as they have always highlighted the value of the plant on brewery trips.

Mac's say that cross channel bootlegging is having an adverse effect on UK beer bottling, contracts from other firms have reduced and they have not been able to gain any new work.

The closure will be over a three month period costing 14% of the 169 workforce their jobs, the bottling hall will be used as storage. It is not clear who will bottle Mac's beer in future, will the range be reduced or replaced by another company's products?

taken from an article in the Herts Mercury.

BEER . . . BEER . . . BEER . . . BEER

Short Measure Again ?

In a cynical move on the 15th October Wetherspoon's replaced all their oversized lined glasses with brim measure. The explanation given was that the staff were filling the 22oz glasses above the pint line, which should be a simple staff training matter. CAMRA has no problems like this when using oversized glasses at our many beer festivals and JD's pride themselves on their staff's training which it now appears is not as good as they claim.

It appears that short pint legislation will not be passed this Parliament. Wetherspoon's got a lot of good publicity when they introduced oversized glasses in November 1997 and the replacements cost over £200,000 so you can see how much money can be made by using brim measure, even when you fill them up properly.

A survey of all licensed premises showed that 80% of pints served are short measures.

1 in 4 pints served contain less than 95% liquid (below the industry's own guidelines).

Beer Temperature

Modern temperature controlled cellars have been a bonus during the summer. The problem is that a lot of cellarmen have forgotten that the UK has long cold winters. Caskmarque an independent company who the brewers use to monitor the quality of real ale, recommended that beer should be served at 55- 59 degrees F which many a regular real ale drinker found a little cold. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that Wetherspoon's set their cask beer, served through flowjet at 53 degrees F. Draught Beer should be served at room temperature which is 60 degrees F. Chilling beer destroys the flavour and aroma (which is why they serve lager so cold). When I go into a nice warm pub out of the cold and wet the last thing I want is a beer that puts my teeth on edge and chills my stomach.

Caskbreather/Caskmarque

In my article in issue 170, I did not make it clear that Caskmarque will assess beers served on caskbreather. CAMRA locally and nationally does not recognise caskbreather as a correct method of dispense.

Marston's Pedigree/Focus on Sulphur

Over recent years Marston's have acquired a large number of local pubs as tied houses; all serve Pedigree. Pedigree is also a guest in Whitbread pubs (including Hogshead) and Allied as a guest or replacement for Burton Ale.

In the days of coal fires sulphur was regularly present in food and on clothing. A sulphur aroma from beer is considered undesirable but the flavour can soften the palate and provide greater satisfaction. The sulphur results from normal yeast activity and is present in typical Burton brewed beers. This should not be a negative feature in a suitable beer style such as bitters, mild's and IPA, but will affect the taste of Old Ale, Stout and Porter. Owd Rodger is maturated to remove the characteristic and highlight its fruity qualities.

CAMRA supports flavoursome distinctive beers Pedigree is definitely one of these but it needs to be looked after and served correctly. Like other beers promoted as national brands that are available long distances from their point of brewing origin this is sometimes not the case.

We don't really need a beer vocabulary for some opinions!



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.

BALDOCK:

New Landlord at the **Orange Tree**.

BERKHAMSTED:

The **Old Mill House** is to become a Chef & Brewer eaterie, great news for local eaters and drinkers (we don't think).

BOXMOOR:

After twentyfive years the landlady of the **Swan** is leaving to take over the **Queens Head**, Long Marston. Her daughter will be the new landlady at the **Swan**.

BRAMFIELD:

Grandison Arms (see page 6)

COLNEY STREET:

The **Black Horse** has had a full refurbishment.

ELSTREE:

The **Hollybush** has a new manager.

Elstree Golf Club is a new Real Ale outlet, serving Courage Best Bitter. The club is open to the public from 11am- 11pm all week and 12-10.30pm Sundays.

FLAUDEN:

New licensee at the **Bricklayers Arms** end of August.

GREAT MISSENDEN:

Although across the border in Bucks it is worth a mention that the **Waggon & Horses** has been sold by Greenalls without license and is to be converted into a private house. Greenall's once had several working breweries but they closed them and became a pub owning company, responsible for many sales without licence and demolitions.

HAILEY:

The **Galley Hall** (see page 6)

HARPENDEN:

The **Cross Keys** and the **Old Cock** have new managers.

Wetherspoon's on **Church Green** (see page 5).

HERTFORD:

The intended opening date for the **Old Cross Tavern** is end of March 99.

HIGH WYCH:

We are sad to announce that Sid Puncher, landlord (retired) of the **Rising Sun (Sid's)** has died after a short illness.

HITCHIN:

The **Corn Exchange** is now open.

New landlords at the **Cricketers** and **Cromwell Bar**.

ICKELFORD:

New Landlord at the **Old George**.

KINSBOURNE GREEN:

New manager at the **Fox**.

POTTERS BAR:

The **Builders Arms**, Little Heath has new management.

Wetherspoon's new pub is well behind schedule and should now open on 1st December. It will be called the **Admiral Byng** after the most famous/infamous member of the Byng family whose estate Wrotham Park is between Potters Bar and Barnet.

RADLETT:

The **Red Lion** has been changed from a "Beefeater" to "Crowded House" which I thought was a popular music combo, anyway they have changed the menu and are doing regular guest beers again.

The **Railway** opposite in Watling Street now has an enthusiastic landlord who has improved the beer range.

RICKMANSWORTH:

A new Wetherspoon's pub has opened in the High Street named the **Pennsylvanian** after a famous ship whose Captain was once a resident in the town.

ROYSTON:

A new pub the **Old Post Office** has opened.

ST ALBANS:

The **Lower Red Lion** has Oakham Jeffery Hudson Bitter on sale on a regular basis. Silver medal 1998 GBBF and Champion Beer of Britain, St Albans Beer Fest 1998.

STAPLEFORD:

Papillon at the **Woodhall Arms** (see page 6)

TWIN:

The **Plume & Feathers** is open (see page 6)

WARE:

Plans have been presented to convert the **Millstream** into a private house.

The **Brewery Tap** has been selling Greene King XX Mild at £1.50 per pint, good value and good quality says our correspondent.

Steve and Ruby Duncer from the **Rifle Volunteer** have taken over at the **High Oak**.

WATER END:

North Mymms the **Woodman** changed ownership at the end of October.

WATFORD:

A new pub the **Wishing Well** again part of a chain has opened in St Albans Road.

The **Hogshead** has been renamed the **Hogwash** (which I understand is an Americanism meaning talk rubbish).

Pub Names: Saracen's Head

There are Saracen's Head pubs in Redbourn, Hertford and Ware as you might expect the name dates back to the Crusades. A large contingent of troops were raised in Hertfordshire to rid the Holy Lands of the Infidel. Religious wars are cruel and barbaric and most prisoners were put to the sword. Those of higher rank were held to ransom, if their family paid up all was well, if not, they were beheaded. On return to England booty was used to set up businesses. If it turned out to be a pub it was called the "Saracens Head" after all it was the head that had paid for it.

Moor Mill Plans Agreed

The application to extend the Moor Mill, Smug Oak Lane, Bricket Wood mentioned in the last newsletter has been agreed. Apparently permission to extend was originally agreed in 1991 but the work was never carried out. 56 extra rooms and an extended car park could be completed by April next year. Travel Inns who bought the restaurant pub from Regent Inns have had their application to alter the interior of the Mill deferred until a conservation expert's report is ready. The Mill site has existed since the 10th century and archaeologists will be given access to make excavations.

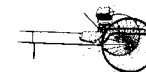
JD's plans hit problems

Wetherspoon's plans to open a pub on Church Green; Harpenden have met with a high level of local opposition. The scheme to turn the vacant Iceland store into a pub has brought 140 letters and three petitions- including two from Women's Institutes (which pubs in Harpenden do they use?). The Harpenden Society have said that the town already has too many pubs and eating places (it is a pity they don't follow JD's pricing policy). Wetherspoon's have experienced this kind of opposition before and intend to pursue the application.

As we go to press I hear that the application to open a "Hogshead" is also in trouble.

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Lunchtime & Evening until 10pm
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Opening Times:

11.00 - 3.00 5.00 - 11.00 Mon - Wed
11.00 - 11.00 Thurs, Fri & Sat
12.00 - 10.30 Sunday

*Don't forget to phone Alan at the Lordship
about the do on the 21st*

Telephone: 01438-812496

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plenty of Bass-es

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Tewin: Plume of Feathers

Marston's have obviously been watching the recent spate of home decorating programmes on TV. The Plume of Feathers has reopened after undergoing the "Changing Rooms" treatment. The refurbishment took more than the two days that the likes of Lawrence Llewellyn-Bowen get; and it shows. The pub no longer has a separate restaurant. The whole place has been opened out to provide lots of separate eating and drinking areas around the U shaped bar. The food menu is varied and imaginative; the real ale menu less so with Marston's Bitter and Pedigree and Timothy Taylor's Landlord. Strong colours, heavy tables and chairs and lots of candles bring a totally different atmosphere to the pub. A large patio around the back will no doubt prove popular in the summer months. A refreshing change in these days of theme pubs and books by the yard. And I bet it cost a bit more than the £450 budget that Handy Andy and his mates have to work with.

Stapleford: Pappillon at the Woodhall Arms

The Woodhall Arms has undergone a few changes, the old pub has been opened out to provide two restaurant areas and a bar meal area surrounding a central bar.

After my sarcastic note in issue 171, I received correspondence from Stephen Clark of Stapleford informing me that the Woodhall Arms is still definitely a pub and has three real ales Adnams Bitter, Speckled Hen and a guest. The other two Papillon establishments (in East Barnet Village and Potters Bar) are restaurants only and I was worried for the pub, obviously I was wrong Ed.


Bramfield: Grandison Arms

The splendid new outdoor drinking area has been supplemented by the addition of a large marquee. Initially erected for the landlord's birthday party, it will probably be used for functions as well. Four real ales currently available including the hard to find Ridley's IPA.

Hailey: Galley Hall

The Galley Hall, one of the few local outlets for Ind Coope Burton Ale, are running a charity Pantomime Horse & Cow race at the end of November. The country pub with a community focus is donating the proceeds to the Alzheimer's Disease Society. The race is a revival of the pram race that the pub was famed for until the mid 80's but with an updated theme.

Paul Ruane



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Round the corner from the
Farriers Arms, birthplace of CAMRA

Brewery Names Wordsearch Competition

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

The 30 Brewery Names are:-

ADNAMS, BALLARDS, BANK TOP, BASS, BLENCOWE, BRAINS, CALEDONIAN, CONISTON, DENT, ENVILLE, FULLERS, HARDY AND HANSON, HOLTS, HULL, HYDES, ICENI, LEES, MITCHELLS, OAKHAM, ORKNEY, PALMER, POOLE, ROSS, SHARPS, SMILES, SWALE, THWAITES, TRING, WARDS, WOLF.

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

The first correct entry to be opened 5th February 1999 will receive a copy of the "Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale".

Winner Aug/Sept issue 170 Brian Fletcher, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Good Beer Guide 1999

The 26th Edition of the Good Beer Guide is now available. The Campaign for Real Ale's flagship publication lists 5,000 pubs serving excellent beer, 600 brewers and a staggering 2,700 different real ales.

Small Independent Brewers

Despite a decline in beer sales forty new independent breweries of varying size have opened in the last year (all are listed in the guide). Independent's beer dominates all the CAMRA awards including the Champion Beers of Britain, they are now the leaders for quality and variety.

Pubs Surveys - the Consumer's Guide.

All the pubs entered in the guide are surveyed by local unpaid volunteers. No pub pays for entry so if quality drops the establishment is out. This year only 72 out of Hertfordshire's 900 pubs gained entry, 16 new pubs not entered since 95 were listed.

The 1999 Good Beer Guide sponsored by Homefires Smokeless Coal is priced £10.99

There is of course a discount for CAMRA members through your local branch.

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 at same address £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 RING 01727 867201

BRANCH DIARY

Hertfordshire South Branch

Tues 15th Dec Branch Meeting, **White Horse**, Hertford, 8.00pm

Tues 19th Jan Branch Meeting followed by the AGM. **CAMRA HQ**, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, 8.00pm sharp.

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

Watford & District Branch

Wed 2nd Dec Social at the **Pennsylvanian** (new Wetherspoon's pub) Rickmansworth.

Fri 11th Dec Curry evening in London. Details from branch contact.

Mon 28th Dec, Real Ale, ramble, details branch contact.

Fri 8th Jan, pub crawl round City of London. details branch contact.

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

North Hertfordshire Branch

Wed 9th Dec branch social 8.30pm, **Plume of Feathers** and **Bucks Head**, Little Wymondley then **Greyhound**, St Ippolytts.

Fri 11th Dec joint social with Herts Essex Borders branch. Bowling challenge at the **Hollywood Bowl**.

Wed 6th Jan branch meeting **Hitchin Rugby Club**, Hitchin.

Wed 20th Jan branch social Hitchin town centre crawl, start at the **Victoria** 8pm.

Wed 3rd Feb Good Beer Guide Selection meeting **Highlander**, Hitchin (provisional) 8pm.

Contact: Colleen Holliday 01462 731058 (h)

Herts-Essex Borders

Sat 5th Dec day trip to Brussels & Ghent via Euro Star.

Fri 11th Dec Games night vs North Herts, **Hollywood Bowl**, Stevenage.

Mon 14th Dec Special Presentation, **Queens Head**, Fyfield.

Mon 28th Dec 4th Anti Turkey Social, **Forest Gate**, Epping.

Fri 8th Jan **Cambridge Winter Beer Festival**.
Mon 18th Jan Branch Meeting, **Carpenters Arms**, Thornwood.8.30pm.

Fri 29th and Sat 30th Jan. Harlow Beer Festival, GPCA Centre, Staple Tye, Harlow.

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

Mid-Chilterns Branch

Wed 9th Dec Joint social with the Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch, **Cross Keys**, Great Missenden, 8.30pm, **Crown**, Little Missenden, 9.45pm.

Contact: Chris Pontin 01442 834899.

Hertfordshire
South Branch
Pub of the Year
1995

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

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FUNCTION ROOMS AVAILABLE/PRIVATE BAR
CLUB MEETINGS CATERED FOR.

DARK HORSE BREWERY

SUNRUNNER • DARKHORSE ALE

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or firkin for parties from our Brewery Tap