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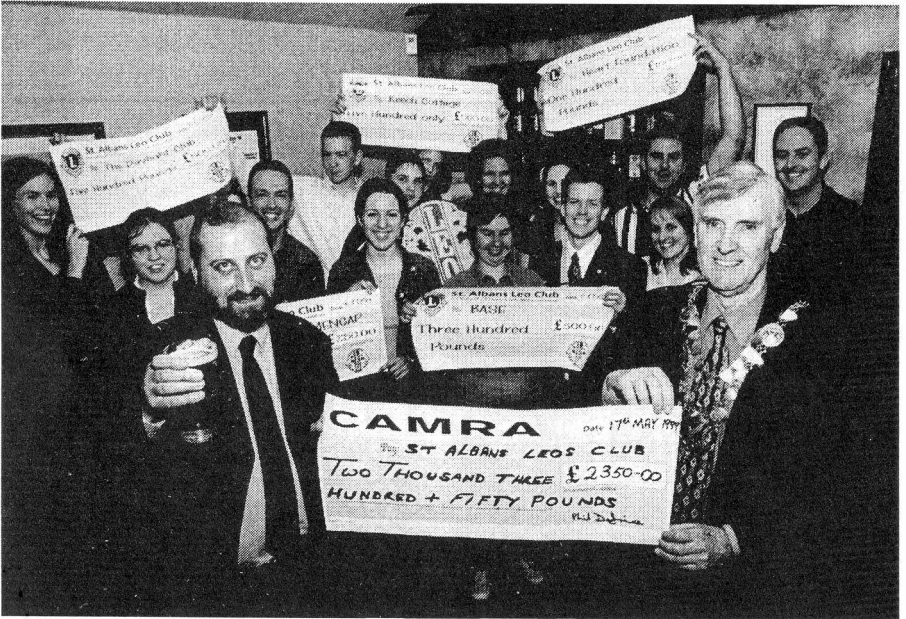
# THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

June/July 1999

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No.175



## St Albans Leo's receive Beer Festival charity donation

Forthcoming Beer Festival and events,  
page 6 & 7

## St Albans Leos receive charity donation

This month's front cover shows the outgoing Mayor of St Albans receiving a cheque for £3,500 from CAMRA South Herts Chairman Phil Defriez. The presentation took place at CAMRA's headquarters in St Albans last month. The money, raised at last year's St Albans Beer Festival, will help co-sponsors of the event, the St Albans Leos (seen in the background), to pursue their charitable work in and around the St Albans area

## Did you know?

In the 1750's Mr Cooper Thornhill started selling cheese from his pub the "George", in Stilton, Cambs, now renamed the "Stilton Cheese". In a tradition which started after the drunken antics of some labourers, cheeses are rolled along the village High Street on May Bank Holiday. Most of the "cheeses" are cylindrical wooden blocks, although a real one is used for the finals, frozen to stop it disintegrating before the finish.

## Trading Standards

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

The Hertfordshire Office address is:  
45 Grosvenor Road, St Albans,  
Herts AL1 3AW. Tel:01727 813880

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire South, Watford & District, Herts-Essex Borders and Mid-Chiltern branches of the Campaign for Real Ale. 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 send to Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts WD7 9EA. Subscriptions: £4 for 12 issues. Send to 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts WD7 9EA. Cheques made payable to CAMRA South Herts Branch. Advertising: £12 per 2.5cm column. Artwork can be made up at extra cost. Contact Steve Bury on 01727 832927 for details. Composed by South Herts Branch via Pagemaker. Printed by Cavalry Creative Services. Ring Charlie on 01707 274584

## New pubs in St Albans?

There are many rumours circulating around St Albans about two new pubs being opened in the city centre. One site is the old Mothercare shop in St Peters Street. Building work is underway and it was rumoured that either "Yates's Wine Lodge" or Charles Wells had acquired the site. The local authority assure me that no change of use or licence has been agreed so the site will be remaining as a shop. It has also been suggested that the "Piano & Pitcher" pub group (whose future ownership is unclear) have applied to open a pub on the old "Great Red Lion Hotel" site at the corner of French Row and the High Street by the clock-tower. When the Lion closed to accommodate the Christopher Place development in the early seventies an excellent Victorian Hotel and Bar was destroyed. The site became a shop and has lain idle for over two years. It is possible when the Christopher Place improvements take place that the site previously the Forum shop may become a pub again though the building is in need of major structural works if it is to be returned to a licensed premises. I doubt it will replace the former glory of the "Great Red Lion Hotel" with its long bar and beautiful mirrored facade. The City centre has become a popular pub circuit bringing in customers from far and wide. I am sure that several brewers and pub chains would love to be part of the opulent weekend trade so watch this space and we'll keep you informed.

## .McMullens update...McMullens update.

## CAMRA, McMullens and the Press

At CAMRA's national AGM on 17th/18th April in Hove, a motion was carried which means that the campaign will be taking action against McMullens. This is because since September 1997 they have refused to recognise a CAMRA-appointed Brewery Liaison Officer. *The Publican* was the first publication to report on the decision and unfortunately got it wrong. Other articles in the local press have used the piece and mistakenly printed the same errors.

*McMullens pubs are not banned from CAMRA guides and publications. Only Mac's pubs that serve all their beers on cask breather will be excluded from the Good Beer Guide. There will be more McMullen Pubs in the 2000 Good Beer Guide than the 1999 edition.*

The second issue is that of the cask breather itself. *It is CAMRA's national policy not to accept cask breather dispense.* This policy is supported by all the CAMRA branches in McMullens trading area. For some reason it has been suggested that the dispute is a personal matter led by Steve Bury, the appointed Brewery Liaison Officer, in conjunction with South Hertfordshire branch of CAMRA. This is not the case. McMullen's will not accept a CAMRA representative, no matter which branch they are from. McMullens are insisting that CAMRA accepts the cask breather and until we do so they will not recognise us. This being the case I was surprised to see McMullens quote in the "Herald" that they would not comment until they

have had a full report back on the debate. As they are refusing to speak to us, who from CAMRA will be giving them this information.

CAMRA would like to resolve our differences with McMullens: we support local independent brewers, but as a consumer organisation we cannot be dictated to by them either.

## New Mac's pub for Hertford

It is reported that McMullens have paid £750,000 to outbid Whitbread and Wetherspoon's for the old Barclays bank in Fore Street Hertford. Mac's will probably have to pay in excess of the sale price to convert the premises, which they intend to make into a "Continental style Cafe Bar". In 1994 they closed the "Dimsdale Arms" which was literally next door to the bank and converted it into student accommodation. It is rumoured that the upper floors of the bank may also become halls of residence as part of the conversion.

Why do Mac's want another pub in Hertford? They have closed four of their tied houses in the town in my memory. I can only assume they do not want the competition that Wetherspoon's would bring.

*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.*

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about the do on the 21st

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## DOWN YOUR WAY.

☐ **ALDBURY:** The **Valiant Trooper** free house has gained one of only 85 places in the Michelin Guide for the quality of its food.

☐ **ALDENHAM:** We would like to welcome Roy and Margaret who took over as new licensees at **The Roundbush** in March. The pub opens all afternoon in the summer months but does close on Sunday afternoon between 4 and 7 o'clock.

☐ **AMWELL:** The **Elephant & Castle** has been taken over by Greene King.

☐ **BALDOCK:** The **White Lion** has been refurbished.

☐ **BEDMOND:** I have had it reported that the **White Hart** is up for sale. Whether this is the pub or the lease I do not know. Can anyone confirm?

☐ **BERKHAMSTED:** The **Boat** has won the quarterly "Fullers Pub Catering Award" and now goes forward to the "Fullers Catering Pub of the Year" competition.

☐ **BOREHAMWOOD:** Kay and John Collins, Borehamwood's longest serving landlords have retired after 23 years at the **Wellington**. For licensees to spend this long in a pub, especially in Borehamwood, is very rare and Kay and John, 65 and 67 respectively, are legendary. We wish them all the best for their retirement. Work is well underway on the **Bull & Tiger** on the corner of Ripon Way, Cranes Way and Manor Way. The pub is to be renamed the **Directors**, no doubt to try and remove the pub's previous bad reputation. The **Wishing Well** is now serving Ushers Best on handpump.

☐ **CHISWELL GREEN:** The **Three Hammers** has a new landlord.

☐ **ELSTREE:** Geoff and Sue Earnshaw of the Good Beer Guide listed **Waggon & Horses**, Medburn leave the pub on 25 May and

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

move to Gloucester. We wish them all the best for the future.

☐ **GREEN TYE:** Work on the new brewery at the **Prince of Wales** is complete and should be fully operational by August.

☐ **HARPENDEN:** It is reported that the **Hooden off the Rails** is now serving Friary Meux Best Bitter. The report in the last newsletter that real ale had ceased was because our reporter visited the pub during a period when they were out of stock (draw your own conclusions).

☐ **HATFIELD:** New landlady at the **Eight Bells** in the old town. Paul Duffy has returned to Ireland.

☐ **HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:** The **Bell** at Two Waters is now Greene King who acquired it from Marstons. It is reported that Snooks bar in the Dacorum Centre is serving interesting guest ales at reasonable prices.

☐ **HERTFORD:** The new licensees at the **Great Eastern** previously ran the **Rising Sun**, Ware. McMullens have acquired the old Barclay's Bank Fore Street (see page 3). The **Fledgling & Firkin** has had an exterior refurb. The **Dark House Brewery** at **The White Horse** have launched a new beer. It's called Castle Street Bitter and weighs in at 3.3%ABV. Its all malt - a pale golden colour - and is the first beer produced in the U.K using Canadian Ahtunum hops. Give it a try, it's yummy. The **Old Cross Tavern**, whose license applications have now become legendary, opened 20 May. It is a traditional pub with no muzac, no TV and a good variety of real ales. Fullers beers will be the regulars with beers from Micros as guests. Food lunchtimes Monday to Saturday prepared on the premises. Well worth a visit.

☐ **HERTFORD HEATH:** The **Goat** and the **Silver Fox** have changed to Greene King.

☐ **HITCHIN:** The **Bricklayers Arms** will not be closed during building work as reported in the last newsletter. The landlord of the

**Wishing Well** is not leaving either.

☐ **ICKLEFORD:** New licensees at the **Green Man** and the **Old George**.

☐ **KIMPTON:** The **White Horse** is Community Pub of the Year.

☐ **LETCHMORE HEATH:** The **Three Horse-shoes** has had its interior refurbished.

☐ **LILLEY:** There is a new landlord at the **Silver Lion**.

☐ **LONDON COLNEY:** There are new licensees at the **Green Dragon**. The **Bell** is now fully converted into a resplendent MacDonalds fast food establishment.

☐ **PARK STREET:** The **Overdraught** has been sold to "Inn Taverns". (I don't know how it can be an inn and a tavern.) It is reported that not only did the pub change hands at a very high price but that the only Real Ale available is Tetley Bitter.

☐ **PIRTON:** The **Cat & Fiddle** closed 29 May more details please.

☐ **RIDGE:** We would like to welcome Jim and Sheelagh to the **Old Guinea**, both the beer and menu have been greatly improved. It is very pleasing to have an enthusiastic couple in the pub, who have gained the full support of the regulars. The pub is now well worth a visit.

☐ **SAWBRIDGEWORTH:** The **Gate Inn** has now completed construction of its brewery. The plant will be installed shortly.

☐ **ST ALBANS:** A new licensee started at the **Cock** in May. The pub is no longer a "Hungry Horse" so the menu has changed. The beer range is Greene King Abbot Ale, IPA, and Triumph with a guest all on handpump. The tenancy of the **Garibaldi** has changed hands: it has been described as a management buy-out. Cilla and Tony of the **Fighting Cocks**

have taken over the **Boot** and it is reported that food prices have risen by about 30%. **The White Swan** (Mucky Duck) has a new landlord and the **Blue Anchor** has had a change of manager.

☐ **SHENLEY:** Work has started on the car park alterations at the **William IV** (is the new sign wonky?). The **White Horse** is now selling a guest beer as well as the Benskins Best, Tetley Bitter and Burton Ale.

☐ **STONYHILLS:** Permission has been requested to convert the **Three Harts** into a private house. This may be a ploy to increase its sale value as a pub.

☐ **WARE:** The **Rifle Volunteer** has changed to Greene King.

☐ **WIDFORD:** Good news: planning permission to convert the **Green Man** into private accommodation has been refused.

☐ **WHEATHAMPSTEAD:** I am pleased to report that the Nelson, Marford Road, has new licensees and will continue to be a public house.

## 100 police raid pub

The "Suffolk Punch" a Charringtons Pub in Howard Drive, Borehamwood, was drug raided by 100 Police including a sniffer dog dog team, at six o'clock on Friday 23rd April. Unlike the raid reported in the last edition, which led to the landlady of the "Bull & Tiger" receiving a one-year prison sentence, this police action had the full support of Licensee Steven Rayner.

Mr Rayner who has run the pub for seven months said "I've been doing this job for twenty five years and never been raided before". Inspector Goode of the Met Police said that they were keen to work with landlords to sort out drug problems, but warned that those who did not co-operate could face prosecution.

## Great British Beer Festival 1999

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### OLYMPIA 3rd - 7th AUGUST

Tues 3rd Aug	5pm-10.30pm	£5
Wed 4th Aug	11.30-3pm	£1.50
	5pm-10.30pm	£5
Thurs 5th Aug	11.30am-3pm	£1.50
	5pm-10.30pm	£6
Fri 6th Aug	11.30-10.30pm	£6
Sat 7th Aug	11am- 7pm	£4

Booking Office: 0870 904 0300

## BROXBOURNE MUSIC FESTIVAL



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## Brewery Names Wordsearch competition

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

**Brewery Names:** ABBEYDALE, BANK TOP, BATEMAN, BERROW, BLUE MOON, CAINS, COTLEIGH, DARK STAR, DARLEY, DEVON, ELDRIDGE POPE, ELGOODS, HENSTRIDGE, KENT, LEDBURY, LIDSTONES, MALLARD, McGUINNESS, MAYPOLE, MILLWRIGHTS ARMS, MOORHOUSES, PEMBROKE, RINGWOOD, ROBINSONS, SKINNERS, SMILES, STANWAY, TAYLOR, TITANIC, WYCHWOOD.

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

The first correct entry opened 2nd August will receive a 1998 St Albans Beer Festival Polo Shirt.

April/May winner 173 Steve Clark, Stapleford

## Ware's the beer?

The 3rd Ware Real Ale festival, held 9-10 April was a great success. Attendance was up 30% on the previous two years, with all the 22 real ales and ciders

being consumed by 10pm on the Saturday night. Apologies to those who found the choice reduced or could not get in.

The three most popular ales were: Elgoods, Black Boy Mild Hop Back, Entire Stout Mighty Oak, Heartswood

Jan Orden, Organiser

9th Blue Ball,  
Ashridge Beer Festival

Fri 18 - Sun 20 June  
CAMRA stall

Enjoy over 100 real ales, ciders and perries, plus foreign beer at this year's



**St Albans Beer Festival**

Wed 29 Sept to Sat 2 October

at THE ALBAN ARENA  
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Staffing & Enquiries 01727 852258

Classics on  
the common

Wed. 14th July 1999, Harpenden Common off A1081  
Sixth year of the Rover P5 club in conjunction  
with the Carpenters Arms  
Contact John Tibble at the pub to join in this charity event  
Enquiries Peter Madden 01582 462821

# BRANCH DIARY

## Hertfordshire South branch

■ *Sunday 6 June.* Social with S.E.London branch, Farmers Boy, St Albans, 6pm.

■ *Tues 8 June.* Branch meeting, Lower Red Lion, St Albans, 8pm.

■ *Thurs 17 June.* Branch outing to Catford Beer Festival. Meet there.

■ *Sat 3 July.* Social with Watford/West Middlesex, St Albans crawl. Details from branch contact.

■ *Tues 13 July.* Branch meeting, Cross Keys, Harpenden. 8pm.

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

## Watford & District branch

■ *Wed 2 June.* Social, Stag, Merryhill Road, Bushey, 8.30pm.

■ *Sat 12 June.* Joint social with Mid-Chilterns. Green Dragon, Flaunden, midday: Bricklayers Arms, 1pm: Plough, Belsize, 2pm: Coach & Horses, Commonwood 3.30pm: Cricketers, Sarratt, 5.30pm: Cock, Sarratt, 7pm: Boot, Sarratt, 8.30pm.

■ *Fri 18 June.* Chorleywood social, Black Horse, 8pm: White Horse, 9pm: Rose & Crown, 10pm.

■ *Sat 26 June.* Treasure hunt from 5pm. Details from branch contact.

■ *Sun 11 July.* Stroll, Fisheries, Coppermill Lane, Harefield, midday.

■ *Sat 17 July.* St Albans pub crawl with W. Middlesex branch. Starting at Fighting Cocks, midday. Further details from branch contact.

Contact Tony Smith 01923 221155 (w/h)

## North Hertfordshire branch

Contact Colleen Holiday 01462 731058 (H)

## Herts-Essex Borders branch

■ *Mon 7 June.* Branch meeting, Prince of Wales, Green Tye, Herts. OS. 443184

■ *Mon 26 July.* Branch meeting & special presentation at Moletrap, Stapleford Tawney, Herts. OS. 501014. 8.30pm.

■ *Sat 31 July.* Summer Social & Branch Pub of the Year presentation, Queens Head, Fyfield, Essex.

Contact Graham Darby  
01279 415895(h) 01279 680233 (w)  
or e-mail gmdarby@easynet.co.uk

## Mid-Chilterns branch

■ *Wed 2 June.* Branch meeting, Queens Head, Chesham, 8pm.

■ *Sat 12 June.* Joint social with Watford & District. Green Dragon, Flaunden, midday: Bricklayers Arms, 1pm: Plough, Belsize, 2pm: Coach & Horses, Commonwood 3.30pm: Cricketers, Sarratt, 5.30pm: Cock, Sarratt, 7pm: Boot, Sarratt, 8.30pm.

Contact Chris Pontin (h) 01442-834899

Hertfordshire  
South Branch  
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1995

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Excellent range of regular ales  
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