

FREE



BIGGER CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

The Campaign for Real Ale

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1981

CIRCULATION 4500

NUMBER 46



Merry Christmas

It doesn't seem 12 months ago that I was last writing the Christmas lead for the newsletter, but, as the saying goes, time flies when you're enjoying yourself.

1981 has been a year of, what is often described as, consolidation for the Campaign for Real Ale. More often than not this phrase is used as a euphemism to say that nothing happened. True, 1981 will not be remembered for any startling changes in the brewing industry, or world shattering successes for the Campaign. It will, however, be remembered as the year that CAMRA celebrated 10 years of continuous achievements. It was the year that the number of real ale pubs in the country finally began to outnumber the others. It was also the year that CAMRA's annual national beer festival moved to Leeds with great success, and in so doing helping to dispel the myth that real draught beer is purely a southern fad. All hasn't been rosy, though. Whitbread are still closing down breweries, John Smiths in the north of England remain as intransigent as ever, Bass are doing away with their famous Burton Union brewing system that gives draught Bass its particular flavour, and some of our best and most traditional pubs are being demolished and closed down in the interests of "progress". All these things, and many more, remind us that CAMRA is still needed to fight against the worst excesses of the brewing industry and others. Remember, that whilst 50% or more of the country's pubs serve traditional draught beer, the other 50% don't. The call from the newsletter is for all the readers of this publication to make one New Year's resolution – join CAMRA and help it to maintain its position as the only organisation that can put forward the pub user's case – and this is true for those who drink real beer or not.

LOCALLY

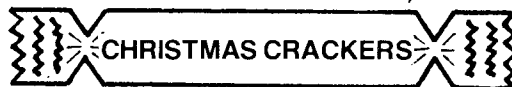
Locally we've had a steady but good year with yet another significant increase in the number of real ale outlets in Hertfordshire. Benskins outlets continue to sprout and the Company's promotion for Benskins KK seems to be taking off. It's good to see a brewer doing something about the flagging sales of one of its less trendy products, and one of the few milds left in the area, instead of taking the negative attitude of some other local brewers that have similar products. The county now has its first new brewery since the turn of the century in the Victoria Brewery. Victoria have been quickly followed by the Alford Arms in Frithsden and the Bridgewater Arms, Little Gaddesden – both home brew pubs. There is also the possibility of two more small breweries starting up in the not-too-distant future. The Hertfordshire Newsletter is now up to its 46th edition, the 65th if you count those issued in its earlier form, the South Herts Newsletter. And as this publication moves up to its 6th birthday, with an enlarged format, the prospects for traditional draught beer look set fair for some time to come. On the subject of birthdays, the Campaign celebrated its 10th this year and the Hertfordshire South Branch organised, in conjunction with St Albans LVA who were 100 this year, a week of events around St Albans which raised over £3600 for charity (See Anniversary Success inside). *Consolidation or not, 1981 was a very enjoyable year for members of the Campaign with no shortage of events to keep up interest. And no doubt Christmas 1981 will be another good one, with plenty of good ale drunk to help the festivities along. Consequently the newsletter and the local CAMRA branches would like to extend their warmest seasons greetings to their hosts – the landlords and their wives – to the brewers for all the excellent ale, to members of the public for their support (we'll wear it always) and to other CAMRA members throughout the county. And a very Merry Christmas from the Editor to all Newsletter readers, and even those who just look at the pictures.*

LETTER

From Mr W.A. Sawkins, Landlord of the Bell, Therfield:

May I express many thanks to Bruce, family and friends of the Herts North Branch of CAMRA for the help they gave us on our Harvest Festival Night at "The Bell" when £165 was raised for the Xmas fund of our Senior Citizens. Thank you again and a Merry Christmas to all CAMRA members, especially the Herts North Branch.

Yours truly
Marie and Bill Sawkins Mine Hosts



What do you give to the man who has everything? – Penicillin.

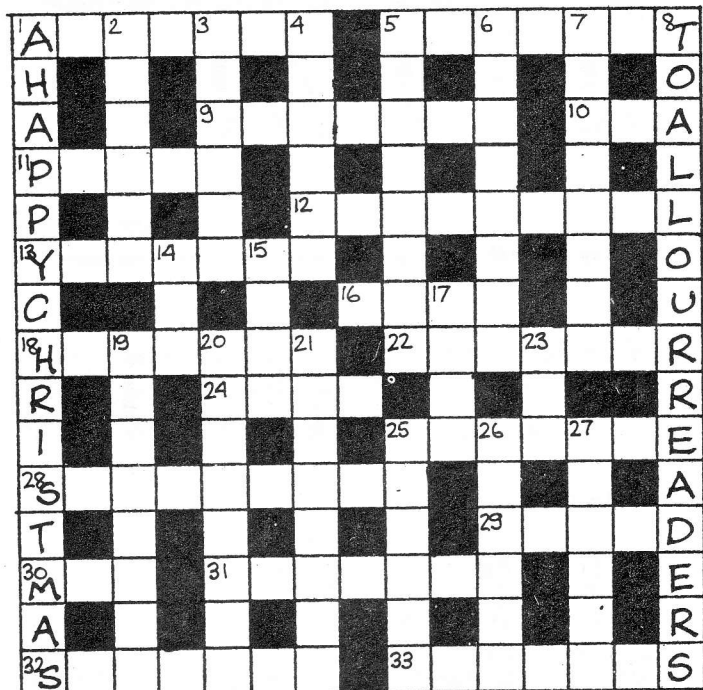
*Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a pack of cards.
Sit down over there and I'll deal with you later.*

*Robin Hood said to his Merry Men: "Would you like to come to the forest with me?"
"Sherwood, Robin."*

COMPETITION

2

Our bumper Christmas prize this year will be a bottle of the much sought after Victoria Royal Wedding Ale. Consequently I expect you all to get your pens out and there to be a flood of entries to reach me by 15th January. The lucky winner will be announced in the February edition of the newsletter. All envelopes must be marked CHRISTMAS COMPETITION – those that aren't will not be put into the draw.



Across

- 1 Changed related changed (7)
- 5 Sedimentation is replaced in warehouse (7)
- 9 Alcoholic orange drink (7)
- 10 Removable parts of eggs (3)
- 11 Short Christmas cheer is on tap, oddly (5)
- 12 Where they put cheeky prisoners? One of many in our system (5-4)
- 13 Sounds like you'll record contribution to flaming Christmas (4-3)
- 16 Need change in small valley (4)
- 18 Teacher converted metric land unit (7)
- 22 Female who'd enjoy a stag party (3-4)
- 24 Really heartless trust (4)
- 25 A diner's stew, normally got from tins (7)
- 28 It goes on the head to lessen the effect of a shiner (3-6)
- 29 Having got the horn, blush? (5)
- 30 Came across in some tavern (3)
- 31 Green mixes unfinished ale, not being particular (7)
- 32 There are usually two in a sporting year (7)
- 33 Courtly Hereford brew (7)

Down

- 2 King of vision with light at its end (6)
- 3 Kick and jump back (6)
- 4 Bold, I, in unusually grand setting (6)
- 5 It's needed before enjoying the wine (8)
- 6 She's under one's wing (8)
- 7 Old Time dancing gone east (5,3)
- 14 Consume in the attic (3)
- 15 Bog research reveals a monster (4)
- 17 New star causing uprising in county (4)
- 19 A teach-in is organised, at which this may be served (5,3)
- 20 Rapid succession of notes made by a pig-fourteen (8)
- 21 Steelmen adapt to the weather (8)
- 23 It bounces up and down (3)
- 25 Make trouble removing middle of footrest (4,2)
- 26 Scrap of cloth, left over one, makes overcoat (6)
- 27 Sudden entry causes ruins to collapse on top of house (6)

APOLOGIES to everyone who missed 18 down in last month's crossword. The clue should read:

*Recoils from success in Communists
You still have until December 11th to get your completed entry in.*

MEMBERSHIP

JOIN CAMRA NOW AND GET

A 1981 GOOD BEER GUIDE

FREE!

There's never been a better, or a more important, time to join the Campaign for Real Ale. The subscription is just £7 per year – around the price of one pint each month for the year. For that you get to join "Europe's most successful consumer organisation", you receive What's Brewing, the Campaign's lively monthly newspaper; discounts on CAMRA products (the Good Beer Guide alone is £1 cheaper to members); and you get to take part in the many activities run by local branches – socials, beer festivals, campaigns and the like. Now in its tenth year, if we are to maintain the achievements of the previous decade, CAMRA needs to be stronger than ever. It is now the only organisation which speaks for the pub user. Help to protect good British beer in good British pubs. **JOIN CAMRA NOW!** Fill in the form below and send to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3BR. If you wish to pay by standing order please insert the name of your bank and account number. Otherwise simply fill in your name and address.

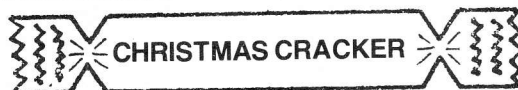


I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale (Limited).
I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

To (your bank)
Please forward to Barclays Bank Limited, 3 High Street, St Albans (20-74-09) for the credit of CAMRA Ltd., (Subscription Account) No. 50187887, now the sum of £7 and annually on this date until further notice.

Name
Address
Bank a/c number
Bank address
Signed Date

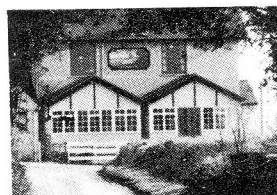
The Hertfordshire Newsletter.



What flies out of the wardrobe at 120 mph? – Stirling Moth.

THE BARLEY MOW

**VARIETY IS
THE SPICE
OF LIFE**



**TRY OUR
14 REAL
ALES**

TYTTENHANGER GREEN

In addition to our normal range there will always be a cask on the bar from our range of guest beers which could be one of the following: Eldridge Pope, Bourne Valley, Donnington, Arkell, Archers, St Austell or Brakspear's 6X.

John and Betty would like to thank everyone for their custom and would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**PLEASE NOTE – NO COACHES,
INCLUDING MINI BUSES, EXCEPT BY
APPOINTMENT.**

Anniversary success

The week of celebrations held in the summer for the joint anniversaries of CAMRA and the St Albans Licensed Victualler's Association has raised more than £3600 for charity. £750 has gone to the LVA's national homes for retired licensees, and a further £750 to Asthma Research in memory of Joe Goodwin, CAMRA's Chairman who died as a result of the disability earlier this year. As this is the International Year of the Disabled, the balance of the money, which amounts to well over £1000, is going to the St Albans Savage Club, a club for the disabled, run by the disabled. As the final accounts are still being done and money is still coming in, the club may well receive nearer £2000 in total. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event – you can rest assured that your contributions have been very gratefully received.

Yuletide ales

Christmas is traditionally the time for strong winter brews to help ward off the cold and bring a little seasonal cheer. For the last few years Macs and Greene King have been brewing a special winter ale and this year is no exception. A request for a list of the outlets taking the brews by one reader is, I'm afraid, a little impractical, but the best way to find them is to pop into one or two of your local Macs, Greene King and Rayments houses. Victoria Brewery also plan a Christmas beer, which should go on sale in their outlets a little later in December.

Congratulations

A report has reached us that the hospital visitors to a certain freehouse landlady "in foal" were administered liberal doses of Gold Label whilst her choirboy husband presented copies of Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire instead of cigars. There is no truth in the rumour that the young lad is to be weaned on Victoria bitter. Seriously though, folks, the newsletter would like to send its congratulations to the couple who run the 126th listed pub in the above beer guide.

Diplomacy corner

Despite evidence to the contrary, the newsletter doesn't like to get its facts wrong. Consequently we offer our apologies to Annette Jones, landlady (and the real boss) of the Baron of Beef in Welwyn. We gave the impression in the last newsletter that the excellent home cooked lunches were the work of her husband Ray – he certainly didn't object to the article. While it must be said that Ray is no mean hand in the kitchen, the credit for much of the work must go to Annette. Having said that, perhaps she'll start speaking to me again!

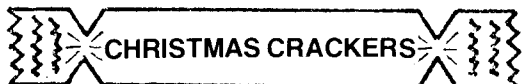
Not the ...?

Cheesed off with the rash of Royal Wedding ales, many of which are of dubious origin and are being brought out "months after the event, for personal gain", Peter Ransom of the Goat Inn, St Albans, has commissioned a "Not the Royal Wedding Ale" Ale from the Victoria Brewery. The beer, brewed to an original gravity of 1060, will cost "at least £1.50 a bottle" and phone orders will be taken from December 7th onwards. Depending upon the printers the beer should be available from December 14th and bottles must be collected from the pub as they have no facilities for posting them. Profits from the sale will be going to charity and it is hoped to raise over £250.

Benskins miss the target

Benskins, it was reported in the Hertfordshire Mercury, have clinched a deal to sponsor the county's darts teams. The shirts for both the ladies and gents teams will carry the team's logo and that of Double Diamond. After their successful promotion with Watford Football Club, wouldn't you think that the Company might have sufficient pride and faith in their own local bitter and KK mild to advertise them on the dart players' shirts, rather than a bland and increasingly unpopular national keg beer?

Peter Lerner



What's green and has legs and could kill you if it fell out of a tree? – A snooker table.

She: "Do you know what good clean fun is?"
He: "No, what good is it?"

Price war – drinkers pray for a lengthy fight

A price war seems to have broken out among the big brewers, with reports that both Whitbread and Ind Coope-Benskins have frozen beer prices in the South of England.

This follows increases by Bass, Courage and Watney of up to 5p a pint. But the freeze by the other two members of the Big Five is not planned to last long – until January for Ind Coope and March 1 for Whitbread.

And with both already selling some of the most expensive pints around – 62p a pint for ordinary bitter in many places, compared with 53p for Greene King IPA – drinkers won't be benefitting by much.

Not that the brewers are cutting their throats exactly – Whitbread, for example, has increased profits from £34 million to almost £40 million this year.

At the same time the cost of a pint has increased by 25 per cent in 1981 alone, by 45 per cent in the last two years, and by more than 70 per cent since 1978.

Not surprisingly, beer sales are falling, down 6 per cent this year on last year's already dismal figures, yet while drinkers are suffering with higher prices and landlords are suffering with empty pubs, brewers' profits are increasing, according to the City pundits.

There's something funny somewhere.

Hertford's past

If you are interested in old pubs then you might find "Hertford Past and Present" by Maurice Ferrara of particular interest. The book is a photographic comparison between Hertford around the turn of the century and the town of today, and includes many photographs of Hertford's pubs, many now sadly bulldozed. Excellent value at £2.50 the book can be obtained from local newsagents and bookshops in the Hertford area.

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WARE: A pub survey by Les Middlewood

The object of these town surveys, conducted by Herts South Branch, is a) to keep abreast of what 'draught' beer is available, be it cask-conditioned or fizz, b) to monitor prices and c) to find out landlords' attitudes to real ale etc. Depending on these attitudes the welcome given to our surveyors varied from the welcoming to the suspicious, but generally Ware's publicans proved themselves to be a friendly and helpful crew.

Today there are 25 pubs in Ware, a town which once boasted more pubs per head of population than any other in the land. Possibly this was due to its prime position on the old coaching route from London to Cambridge and its siting in Hertfordshire's once thriving malting area, or possibly was it just that Ware's inhabitants were a beery lot? Joking apart, today's Ware still offers the drinker a good variety of pubs and 'atmospheres', ranging from the basic to the plush, the old to the modern and the interesting to the not so interesting.

Half real

52 per cent of the pubs offer at least one draught ale (less than neighbouring Hertford) and it is possible to sample the following real ales in one or more outlets:- Greene King Abbot, IPA and KK Mild; McMullen's Country and AK Mild; Benskin's Bitter and Mild and Ind Coope Burton Ale. This list represents a fair choice for drinkers but not a striking one and indicates that Ware could do with a free house to widen the choice still further or, better still, the implementation of CAMRA's contention that tied houses should be allowed to stock at least one draught beer from a different company to that which holds the tie. It should be noted that none of the Whitbread pubs offer any real ale, and less than 50% of Mac's houses offer ungasped beer.

The last year has seen three pubs refurbished. McMullen's have spent thousands improving the John Gilpin and have retained handpumps for Country Bitter (why not AK?) and the long-since-closed Star has reopened as Ben's Brasserie which is primarily an eating place, although the premises do cater for passing drinkers at the front bar, where a handpump pulls Benskin's Bitter. The present owners of the Brewery Tap have leased the pub from Greene King and have carried out extensive interior alterations. It is still a two-bar pub, but with a difference! One bar is at street level where beer is sold on handpumps, the other is an interesting cellar bar where Abbot, IPA and KK Mild are poured straight from the cask.

Unspoilt locals

Ware still has a pleasing number of small unspoilt 'locals' such as the Spread Eagle, the Cannon Tavern, the Windsor Castle and the Millstream and those in search of oak beams and brass need venture no further than the Old Bull's Head, the Royal Oak or the French Horn.

Real Ale is currently available at the Spread Eagle, the Cannon Tavern, The Old Rose and Crown, The Rifle Volunteer, the Station Hotel and the John Gilpin (all McMullen's), the Brewery Tap, the Old Punch House and the New Rose and Crown (all Greene King), the Old Bull's Head, the Windsor Castle, the Royal Oak and Ben's Brasserie (all Benskin's) but alas the handpumps in the Angel are temporarily out of action as the landlord has had problems with his beer due to the long run from the cellar.

Prices compare with the findings of our Hertford survey and confirm that generally it is cheaper to drink in East Herts than Central or West Herts. Special mention must be the Cannon Tavern, which overall has the cheapest draught beer prices in town with 48p for a pint of handpumped AK, 53p for Country (fizz), 56p for Harp Lager and 60p for draught Guinness.

Prices

Cheapest* real ale prices are as follows (prices per pint):

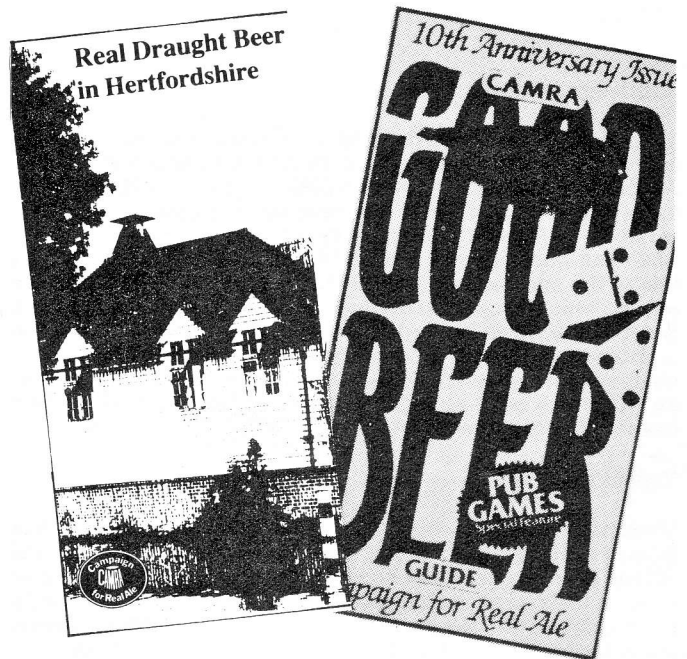
McMullen's AK Mild	: 48p – The Cannon Tavern
McMullen's Country	: 52p – The Rifle Volunteer (public bar)
Benskin's Bitter	: 52p – Ben's Brasserie
Benskin's KK Mild	: 50p – The Old Bull's Head (the only outlet)
Ind Coope Burton Ale	: 60p – The Old Bull's Head
Greene King Abbot Ale	: 58p – The Brewery Tap
Greene King IPA	: 50p – The Brewery Tap
Greene King KK Mild	: 48p – The Brewery Tap

*Prices as at 28 October 1981.

Cheap beer doesn't necessarily mean the best beer but in these hard times it is certainly a consideration when going out for a pint.

Finally a mention for the Victoria Brewery sited in Broadmeads, Ware. Ware's last two remaining breweries this century, The Star Brewery and The Ware Brewery Co Ltd., have long been dead, so it is good to see the art of brewing making a revival. Pity, though, that no local pub is able to stock Victoria Bitter due to the brewery tie system.

The variety of pubs and beer makes Ware worth a visit – you should try it.

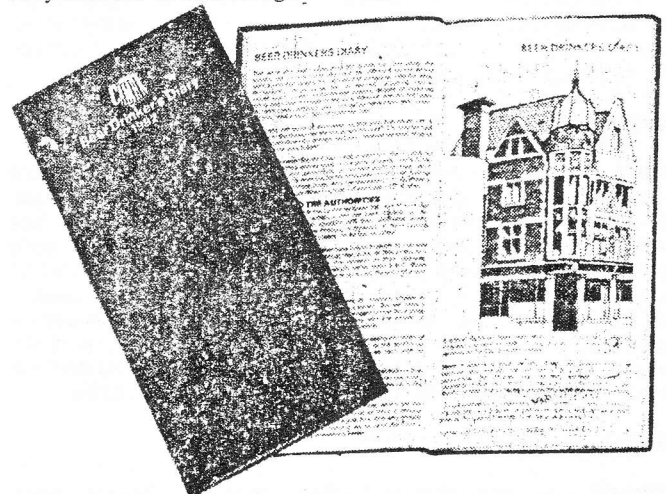


Looking for Christmas stocking fillers? Then look no further – CAMRA has everything you need.

COPIES of the 1981 Good Beer Guide are still available from your local CAMRA contact or from CAMRA HQ at £3.50 (£3 to members) including post and packing. Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire, the indispensable guide to over 500 real ale outlets in the county is obtainable from your local CAMRA branch or through the newsletter for a mere 60 pence plus a stamped, self addressed envelope. Better still, give a CAMRA membership which includes a FREE copy of the 1981 Good Beer Guide!

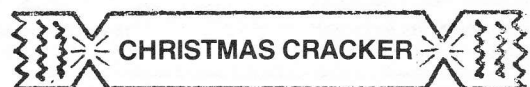
IDEAL for your local pub is the CAMRA wooden crib board, with the Campaign's logo emblazoned on it. A must for every crib or dominoes player at £2.25 including p&p from CAMRA HQ.

AFTER joining you'll need a CAMRA tie – these make an ideal gift at £2.95 from CAMRA head office. Available in brown or navy with the CAMRA logo in white.



A GREAT seasonal gift is the CAMRA diary. Produced by leading manufacturers, Charles Letts, it contains 32 pages of information about CAMRA, brewing history, pub preservation, the new small breweries and home brewing. The tall, slim volume, bound in brown with gold lettering is available from CAMRA at the special price of £1.75 including post and packing – in the shops it will cost you £1.95.

All the above gifts are available from CAMRA at 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3BW.



What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? – A stick.

HOME OF THE BREWS

Beneath an ancient yew tree in Hertingfordbury churchyard, close to the west tower of the church, lies the 200-year-old tomb of Sir Benjamin Truman, brewer, and his wife. The inscription, alas, is now almost illegible, but the Truman arms – three hearts – are still clearly visible on the side.

Hertingfordbury is actually some way from Truman's old home at Pope's Manor, near Essendon, where he lived from 1757 to his death in 1780. But the great patron of Essendon church was another famous brewer, Samuel Whitbread, who lived at nearby Bedwell Park – one of his daughters gave a rare Wedgwood black basalt font to the church. It seems Sir Ben, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1760, preferred to travel four more miles to church rather than meet his rival.

Whitbread, High Sheriff himself in 1767, travelled up every day during the summer from Essendon to his brewery in Chiswell Street, London. He may have mused, during his 20 mile journey, that the water for his beer was making a very similar trip – all the liquor used by Whitbread came from Sir Hugh Myddleton's New River, which rises just a few miles from Essendon at Amwell.

As well as Truman and Whitbread, Hertfordshire has been the home of quite a few other famous brewers. John Charrington, eldest son of the Vicar of Aldenham, was born in the village of 1738. In 1766 he joined the Anchor brewery, Mile End, at the age of 28, and in 1783 he acquired complete control. He died in 1815, and he was buried alongside many of his family in Aldenham church.

Jamed Ind, a member of an old North Herts family, had a brewery in White Horse Street, Baldock with some 20 tied houses attached. He died in 1810, and he lies buried in Baldock churchyard alongside his younger son, another James, who died shortly after. But Edward, the older son, had left Baldock in 1799 to go into partnership at the Star Brewery in Romford. Later, of course, the partnership became Ind Coope, after many takeovers the owners of half the pubs in Herts – though none in Baldock.

Blooming Flowers

Richard Flower had already sold his brewery in Hertford, and was farming at Marden Hill, near Tewin, when his youngest son Edward Fordham Flower was born in 1805. Edward started a brewery business in Stratford upon Avon, and his name returned to Hertfordshire in 1954 when Green's of Luton – who owned about 130 Herts pubs – took over the Stratford brewery and changed the title of their whole group to Flower's.

A big rival to Samuel Whitbread in the 18th century was Henry Thrale of the Anchor brewery, Southwark. His father, Ralph, was born in Offley, North Herts. Originally, though, the Thrales came from St Albans – there are still some members of the family living there now – as did Edmund Halsey, son of a St Albans miller, who ran the Anchor brewery at Southwark. When he died in 1729 it was bought by Ralph, his nephew, for £30,000.

Henry inherited the brewery on his father's death in 1758. However, his constant attempts to outbrew Whitbread almost bankrupted the brewery, and after his death it was sold in 1781 to a consortium including David Barclay, the Quaker banker, to become Barclay Perkins. Barclay himself lived in Hertfordshire for a short time in the 1790s, at Youngsbury, near Sawbridgeworth.

Samson Hanbury, another Quaker brewer, who eventually went into partnership with the Trumans to form Truman Hanbury Buxton, lived from 1781 at Thundridge. The Buxtons also lived in Hertfordshire – one, Thomas Fowell Buxton, lived at Stanstead Abbots, where Hertfordshire historian John Cussans wrote of him in 1870: "He makes £30,000 a year from the sale of beer, but at home he won't allow a servant to have a drop of ale, or even a gardener to smoke a pipe."

The Wethereds are another family with Hertfordshire connections – their ancestral home is at Berkhamsted, which the Marlow branch left about 1630 to make their name and fortune. Wethereds was taken over by Strongs of Romsey, eventually, and coincidentally another brewery taken over by Strongs, Mews of the Isle of Wight, is also linked with the county. In 1892 Joseph Parker Mew, boss of the IOW brewery, bought the Welwyn brewery for his son Leonard, who stayed there 18 months, and the only known picture of the brewery, in School Lane, Welwyn, shows the Mew name outside it.

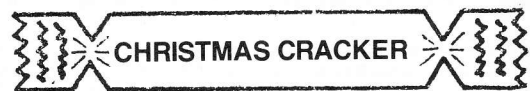
Musing on Meux

The Calverts of the City of London brewery lived in the 19th century at Furneux Pelham Hall and Hunsdon House, and the Meux family of the Horseshoe brewery, Tottenham Court Road and later Friary Meux, lived at Theobald's Park, near Cheshunt. It was Sir Henry Bruce Meux who had Temple Bar erected at Theobald's Park in 1888.

In the centre of the county, at The Node just outside Codicote, lived William Reid of the Griffin brewery, Clerkenwell, later to become part of Watney, Combe and Reid. William lived there from 1841 until his death in a hunting accident in 1867 at the age of 63. The family eventually gave up its interest in the Griffin brewery, though William's younger son Percy became a partner in the Hatfield brewery; Pryor Reid and Co.

Around 1910 another brewer moved to The Node – Sir Charles Nall-Cain, whose father had founded Robert Cain & Sons in Toxeth, Liverpool. The firm eventually merged with Walkers of Warrington to form Walker Cain, now Tetley Walker.

In 1923, the same year as the Walker Cain merger, Sir Charles bought Brocket Hall, near Hatfield. Two years later, like many brewers before him, he became High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, and during his year in office he paid for the official Grant of Arms to Hertfordshire County Council. To commemorate this, Sir Charles gave his family motto, Trust and Fear Not, to the county council to be their own, and it appears on everything from library books to policemen's helmets to this day. In 1931 Sir Charles became the first Baron Brocket, but though the family remained in brewing for some time – his son was first vice-chairman of Allied Breweries – the current Lord Brocket has no connections with the trade.



Did you hear about the aborigine whose wife bought him a new boomerang? He battered himself to death trying to throw the old one away.

WE ARE HERE



to help with your Christmas and New Year enjoyment!

A wide range of real ale to take away from **48** pence per pint!

Quality draught cider **42** pence per pint!

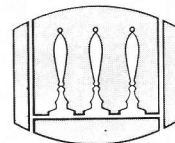
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JUG and FIRKIN

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(The Jug and Firkin is owned and managed by CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments plc)



Many thanks to Greene King who have finally made the editor's local village a little bit nicer by installing handpumps in the **Wellington** in Welwyn. Abbot, IPA and KK light mild are all available but the installation appears to have brought about the loss of XX dark mild which the pub sold previously on top pressure. There is now only one pub in the village, the Tavern owned by Macs, that sells no unfizzed ale. In addition to Greene King, Wethereds, Ind Coope, Benskins and Macs are all available on handpump in the other 6 pubs – quite a nice little selection.

The **Swan**, Wheathampstead, which has recently come under a new tenancy, has extended its range and is now selling Ind Coope bitter, KK and Burton Ale. The **King Offa** in St Albans has handpumps serving Benskins bitter and KK mild. Benskins' promotion of its KK mild is certainly taking effect with many new outlets for the beer appearing. Not only are the company's laudable efforts to boost this beer somewhat against the current trend, since mild ales, we are always told, are not "fashionable", but are an indication to some of our other local brewers of what can be done to save a beer that looks as though it is destined for extinction. Greene King please take note.

The **Goat**, St Albans, after a trial period on top pressure, has decided to keep its Macs AK permanently on handpump. Its full range of ales for the winter are now Macs AK; one dark mild selected from Hook Norton, Paines, Morlands and other guest milds when available; Hook Norton BB, Litchborough BB, Wadworths 6X, Old Hookey, Old Timer; and, nearer Christmas, a strong ale – either Adnams Tally Ho, Gibbs Mew Bishops Tipple or an equivalent beer. For more news about the Goat read "Not the ...?" in the Quick Ones section.

By the time you read this, the **Marquis of Lorne** in Stevenage High Street should finally have its handpumps for Greene King KK mild and IPA. Landlord Bob Else, a former Herts North CAMRA branch chairman, who already serves up handpumped Abbot, has been waiting impatiently for the machines to be installed, since Greene King said they would be in for the beginning of the summer. Bet they wouldn't have done it to him if he'd been a free trade customer.

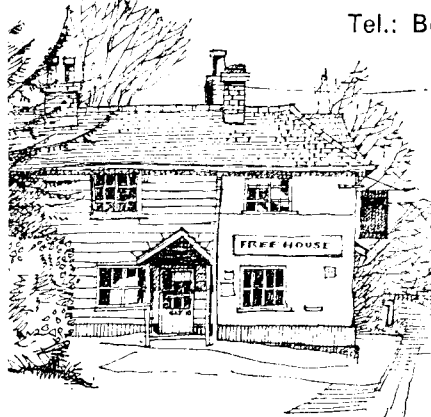
Further up the High Street, real ale is back at the **Cromwell Hotel**, now under new ownership and soon to be renamed the Stevenage Moat House. The first Wethered's in the High Street is on sale there, at a comparatively (by Whitbread standards) reasonable 60p a pint, with more real brews likely to follow.

Another ex-Fordham's of Ashwell railwayside pub has had real Wethered's installed, this time the **Station Hotel**, Knebworth – which, with the Lytton Arms, makes Knebworth a 100% real ale village. Well done!

BRANCH CONTACTS

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Hertfordshire South Branch Eric Sim ☎ Hatfield 60647
Herts-Essex Borders Branch Terry Smith ☎ Epping 73677

The Crooked Billet Colney Heath
 Tel.: Bowmansgreen 22128



Seasons greetings from Dave and Ann to all our customers. One of Hertfordshire's old village pubs. Traditional draught beer in Olde-World surroundings.

Licensed Bars provided for all Functions

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday December 8th

Table skittles knockout competition at the Old Fox, Old Bricket Wood. All welcome. 8.00pm start. (Ind Coope)

Tuesday December 15th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the White Hart, Welwyn. Free beer for members arriving early – 8.00pm prompt. (Wethereds)

Friday January 8th

9th New Year Party. Contact Nigel Meadows on Potters Bar 50498 for tickets – £5 all inclusive.

Although full details have yet to be worked out the annual Hertfordshire South branch weekend trip looks set to take place around the 26th February 1981, although the final date is yet to be arrived at. Staying in the Dorchester area, with a trip around Eldridge Pope on Friday and to a cider museum on Saturday the cost should be in the region of £35-£40. Full details will be available at the branch's AGM – for details see above.

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday December 2nd

BRANCH MEETING at the Buck's Head, Little Wymondley – the first time in a new venue. Come and see the new branch committee in action! 8.00pm start. (Wethereds)

Wednesday December 16th

Joint social with Herts-Essex Borders branch at the Brewery Tap, Furneux Pelham. 8.00pm start. (Rayments)

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Monday December 7th

BRANCH MEETING at the Three Tuns, Bishop's Stortford. 8.00pm prompt start. (Rayments)

Tuesday December 15th

Christmas lunch and social at the Chequers, Wareside (Free House)

Monday December 21st

Christmas social at the Vine, Waltham Cross. New CAMRA landlord. (McMullens)

THE RED LION, OFFLEY
 For reservations telephone Offley 281

MENU

To start

<i>Frogs legs cooked in wine, parsley, garlic and mixed herbs</i>	£1 95
<i>Deep fried seafood platter</i>	£1 25
<i>Rough French p�te</i>	£1 10
<i>Scallops in butter, lemon juice and mixed herbs</i>	£2 20
<i>Scampi soup with brandy</i>	£1 10
<i>Smoked trout</i>	£1 60
<i>Homemade soup</i>	£0 75

For the main course

<i>Fillet steak – with garlic</i>	£5 35
<i>– with cream and brandy</i>	£5 95
<i>– plain</i>	£5 10
<i>Coq au Vin</i>	£4 45
<i>Beef Stroganof</i>	£4 85
<i>Grilled halibut with lemon and butter sauce</i>	£4 35
<i>Guinea fowl cooked in red wine</i>	£5 35

All dishes served with peas, french fried croquettes or new potatoes.
Extra vegetables: Celery hearts 70p, Asparagus £1 10, Broccoli 65p, Ratatouille 70p, Salad 65p

Desserts

<i>Chocolate gateau</i>	80p
<i>Apple pie and cream</i>	70p
<i>Ice cream</i>	55p
<i>Cheese board</i>	85p
<i>Special coffee from £1 20 Coffee 40p</i>	

All prices inclusive of VAT

**DRINK NOW AND AVOID THE CHRISTMAS RUSH
 (AND DON'T FORGET JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH!)**

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire South, Hertfordshire North and Herts-Essex Borders Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA Ltd., or its branches. The Editor gratefully receives articles or letters for publication. THESE SHOULD PREFERABLY BE TYPEWRITTEN AND DOUBLE-SPACED; HANDWRITTEN ITEMS SHOULD ALSO BE DOUBLE-SPACED AND AS LEGIBLE AS POSSIBLE PLEASE. Send to D. Burns, 11 Turpins Chase, Oaklands, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
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