

FREE



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

MAY 1982

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 51



McMULLENS – A CAUSE FOR CONCERN?

This newsletter has been less than complimentary in the past about the architecture and interior design of some McMullen's tied estate. Possibly the brewery may think that we 'have it in for them' in this respect, and that nothing they do will please us. We are particularly concerned at the moment, however, about reported plans that they have for some of their better pubs. McMullen's have always had a number of particularly unspoilt pubs of a type which is rapidly disappearing in this fast-moving, profit-orientated age. Gems such as the Goose in Moor Green, sadly closed last year, and sold without the license, are now completely lost. A number of similarly fine houses still exist though, but they may not do so for long if reports are to be believed. As we understand it the Windmill in Thundridge, a pub much frequented by CAMRA members from the early days of the Campaign, is due for refurbishment. This will involve knocking the pub through into one bar – something which is usually disastrous for the atmosphere in a pub. The Green Man in Widford has been given the once over and, possibly more worrying, the idyllic Rising Sun in Halls Green may be next. Fortunately, the local parish council voted against the brewery's proposed scheme for this pub which is immensely popular in the summer with its large garden and menagerie. To make any significant alterations to this pub would be a tragedy. What makes matters more worrying is that Mac's track record in the area of pub modernisation is somewhat less than good. Certainly, they could learn much from brewers such as Greene King and Ind Coope whose renovation work is much more sympathetic. As yet we have little concrete knowledge about what McMullen's actually plan for these houses. All we can hope is that we are wrong and that our anxieties are unfounded. We hope that the brewery will realise that it has in its care an historical investment which is the heritage of everyone in the county. Not all of us want to drink in characterless plastic boxes – let's hope that McMullens take heed of that.

AGM report

CAMRA's annual general meeting took place last month in Bradford – a weekend of debate, much ale, curries and accordion-playing landlords. Among the decisions made was one to allow other organisations to affiliate with the Campaign. Now clubs and societies of a non-political nature will be allowed to affiliate after vetting by the National Executive. This will obviously be of interest to bodies with similar interests such as College real ale societies.

The Good Beer Guide could become smaller, and not larger, in future. A motion passed at the AGM called for the Executive to look into the feasibility of making the best-selling book smaller. This would partly help to reduce costs, keep up the standard of entries, and allow more space to be given to better comments and more information. If the guide were to simply reflect the increase in the number of real ale pubs in the country it would probably be the size of a telephone directory by 1990. Since it is aimed more at the general public than CAMRA members it should reflect their needs first and foremost.

What's Brewing Editor, Brian Glover, gave an encouraging report on the state of CAMRA publications. The new CAMRA diary, produced by Letts, sold over 20,000 copies – their best selling 'special interest' diary. The 1983 diary has already gone to the printers on the strength of it. The introduction of new, professionally produced, CAMRA newspapers, such as the Local in Northamptonshire, also looked promising. A proposal to accept the use of the 'cask breather' system was rejected. The system uses a form of on-demand valve which replaces beer drawn from the cask with carbon dioxide gas. The Campaign's Technical Committee had ruled in its favour and thought that its use did not affect the taste of the beer, and that it would be of great help in low-turnover pubs. Many members thought, obviously, that the system could be the thin end of the wedge and could be the first step towards top or blanket pressure.

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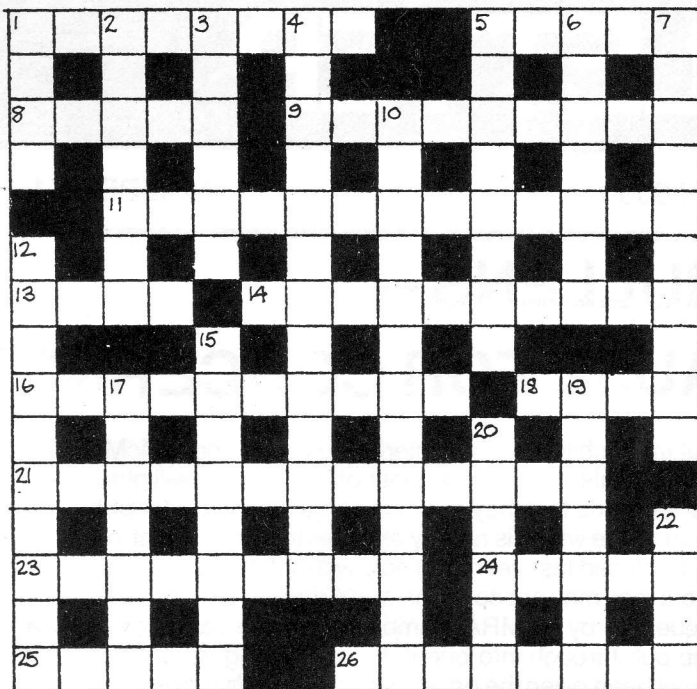
THE BEST IN ALES • ENTERTAINMENT • EXHIBITS

TICKETS IN ADVANCE (FROM 1st APRIL) £1 • ON THE DOOR £1.50 IF AVAILABLE

ADVANCE BOOKING IS ADVISED

COMPETITION

The sender of the first correct entry opened on June 11th will receive a copy of the 1982 Good Beer Guide. All entries **must** be marked **MAY COMPETITION**.



Across

- 1 It creates a draught and onset of pain in shoulder (8)
- 5 Cook casserole carelessly and it . . . its flavour (5)
- 8 Patrol surroundings, suppressing noise? (5)
- 9 Half of AK beer's not unusual - one of many, by the way (9)
- 11 Alas, I lick a cad badly, not caring too much (13)
- 13 Reveal some part in addition (4)
- 14 A rich ruler possibly used this to control his crown state (4,6)
- 16 Used part of timer indirectly (10)
- 18 Philip enjoys this swimming pool (4)
- 21 Stiffer end for going astray? Unlikely for such a one (5,8)
- 23 'E takes Miss Goddard on his shoulder (9)
- 24 Matches Middle East in North Sea fuel (5)
- 25 Indulge backlash in Hitler's bodyguard in '39? (5)
- 26 Solicitor made a rotten hash at beginning of year (8)

Down

- 1 Contents of pocket spent in brewing (4)
- 2 Food for idiots (7)
- 3 One in position - of king or bishop (6)
- 4 Prepare for second service and get it all wrong (4,1,4,2,2)
- 5 Endures what Boycott rarely is around start of season (5,3)
- 6 Is a clot somehow lacking in emotion? (7)
- 7 She will get a measure of spirits unaffected by a shot (10)
- 10 . . . of a greater manner (13)
- 12 Sir, if ASLEF is crooked, they'd cook the books (10)
- 15 Places where horses are before racing (8)
- 17 What one boozier pays if another doesn't provide it (7)
- 19 A Roman's involved one of the slaves? (7)
- 20 Made sage and onions fillings slowly (6)
- 22 Child's play, Bond might say (4)

The winner of March's competition was L. Woods of Berkhamsted. The solution was as follows:

Across: Higgs, Norwich, Ushers, Despot, Theme, Propel, Shandy, Emmet, Smart, Lemur, Speed, Inner, Corks, Teeth, Hamper, Action, Incur, Sits up, Ragman, Studley, Gwynedd.

Down: Instrumentalist, Sleeper, Nestle, Oldest, Wastage, Cloud cuckoo land, Seem, Maple, Event, Exposed, Octagon, Triple, Each, Harrow.

SURVEY SEASON

A survey was carried out in April covering Wheathampstead, Sandridge, Batford, Gustard Wood and Ayot St Lawrence a total of 20 pubs of which 17 sold Real Ale. Ind Coope Benskin had a monopoly of 11 pubs with 5 Whitbread, 2 McMullens and 2 Free Houses. The two pubs selling top pressure beer only below to our old friends McMullens but it must be noted that they are still amongst the lowest in price of the tied houses so their prices have been included.

A variation of 21% was found in the price of bottled Guinness from 38p to 46p. Strong bitters, those with an original gravity (O.G.) of around 1048 varied 19% between 62p and 74p the same as Harp and Skol lager which have lower O.G.'s of 1033 and 1037 respectively. The widest variation was 26% on the ordinary bitters of around 1036 O.G. which went from 54p to 68p.

The following are the lowest prices found for each beer and are listed in ascending order of O.G. to give a quick comparison of prices of the various breweries and pubs.

Benskins KK Mild	(1031)	62p	<i>Swan</i>
McMullens AK Mild	(1033)	53p	<i>John Bunyan</i>
Greene King Bitter	(1035)	60p	<i>Brocket Arms</i>
Chiltern Bitter	(1036)	54p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>
Adnams Bitter	(1036)	60p	<i>Brocket Arms</i>
Wethered Bitter	(1036.6)	62p	<i>Gibraltar Castle</i>
Benskins Bitter	(1037)	62p	<i>Malta</i>
Sam Smith Bitter	(1040.9)	62p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>
McMullens Country	(1041)	56p	<i>John Bunyan</i>
Marstons Pedigree	(1043)	64p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>
Youngs Special	(1046)	65p	<i>Brocket Arms</i>
Ind Coope Burton	(1047.5)	70p	<i>Swan and Cherrytrees</i>
Godson Black Horse	(1048)	62p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>
Greene King Abbot	(1048)	65p	<i>Brocket Arms</i>
Everards Old Original	(1050)	65p	<i>Brocket Arms</i>
Wethereds Winter Royal	(1057)	80p	<i>Bull</i>

Marstons Owd Roger	(1080)	92p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>
Godson Stock Ale	(1084)	100p	<i>Wicked Lady</i>

As a guide to the O.G.'s quoted
1031 represents approx 3% alcohol by Volume
1048 = 5% and 1084 = 10% which is about the same strength as a table wine.

The number of milds found was low but as can be seen McMullens are much better than Benskins. What a pity the AK is dispensed by top pressure, although handpumps were used for display purposes in the Three Oaks.

The free houses come out best on the 1036 range especially as the dearest Wethereds was 66p and the dearest Benskins 68p. McMullens score well against the free houses in the 1041 range but are yet again top pressure. The free houses dominate the 1048 range where the dearest Ind Coope Burton recorded was 74p. The only comment on the 1080 range available is to watch how much you drink as previously stated it has the alcoholic strength of a table wine.

Finally there are no prizes for guessing that the 38p Guinness was available in a free house.

Since the survey McMullens have increased their prices by 3 pence per pint. **Meanwhile . . .**

Pub surveys begin this month for the next edition of Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire which is due out in October. The guide will have to be much enlarged over the last one's 530-or-so pubs and the opportunity to increase the amount of tourist information and interest in the book is also being taken. The new guide should list well over 700 of the county's 1000 pubs. If anyone has any comments to make on what you would like to see in the book please contact the newsletter.

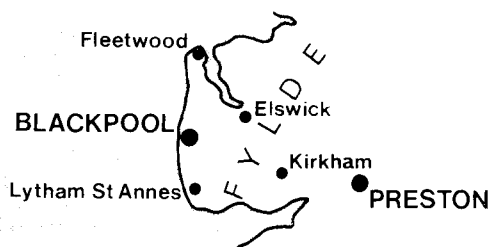
Another guide being surveyed at the moment is the 1983 Good Beer Guide which is planned for launch at the beginning of next year. With so many pubs to cover it's quite possible that some deserving cases could be overlooked. If you have any suggestions for entries you should contact your local branch contact. In the South Hertfordshire area in particular, Eric Sim would like you to send your nominations direct to him at 10 Heron Way, Hatfield. Bear in mind that the main criteria is for the pub to be selling consistently good real ale.

Copies of the new 1982 Good Beer Guide are available from your local branches, the pubs listed (look for the window stickers) or from CAMRA HQ, 34 Alma Road, St Albans. It costs £3.95 plus 50p postage and packing. There are discounts for members.

HOLIDAY INNS

This month JOHN LAW takes a look at the Fylde, that place "famous for fresh air and fun", in the second of our guides to places to drink around Britain this summer.

The Fylde area of West Lancashire is a popular holiday resort, dominated by the town of Blackpool, whose famous tower can be seen for miles around.



Arriving at Blackpool by train, at North Station, you can't help seeing the King's Arms, Higsons of Liverpool's only outlet in Blackpool and in my opinion the best pub in town. It has a central bar and lots of little rooms going off in all directions, a layout once common in Lancashire, but sadly now disappearing as pubs are "improved".

Other pubs in Blackpool serve Thwaites, Bass, Tetley Walker, Boddingtons, Samuel Smiths and Greenall Whitley beers, but be warned, most pubs are both noisy and crowded, and serious drinkers are advised to try the pubs on the outskirts of the town.

If you find that Boddington's Manchester-brewed beers are to your taste, try the Victoria at St Annes. This was described in a previous Good Beer Guide as a "licenced rabbit warren", though I'm informed it should now be undergoing rebuilding.

Higsons beers are more freely available in Fleetwood to the north of Blackpool, best reached by tram. The Fleetwood Arms, Dock Street, serving bitter and mild by handpump, is particularly recommended. Try also the Kings Arms, Lord Street, where the same beers are served up by electric pump. Fleetwood also has a number of free houses, and a Boddingtons tied house, the Mount Hotel, so the real ale situation in the town is quite good. During the summer there is a ferry service over to the Isle of Man – but that is another story!

The villages of the Fylde offer a contrast to the hustle and bustle of Blackpool, and they also serve a fair selection of traditional beer. The small village of Elswick, for example, boasts two real ale pubs, the Boot and Shoe (Thwaites) and the Ship (Boddingtons). Hartley's Ales, from Ulverston, can be sampled at the Stables Bar, Preston Street, Kirkham.

No visit to the area can be considered complete without a trip to Preston, a town with one of the best selections of real ale available anywhere in Britain. My personal choice for a pub crawl would be the Mitre Tavern in Moor Lane for Vaux Sunderland bitter and Samson, then the Theatre in Fishergate for Boddingtons mild, bitter and strong, the Fox and Grapes in Fox Street for Matthew Brown's mild, bitter and John Peel special, the Moorbrook for Thwaites' beers from Blackburn, and the New Britannia on Heatley Street for Button's bitter from Whitbread in Manchester.

Other traditional beers are to be found in Preston from Robinsons, Bass, Tetley Walker, Greenall Whitley, Scottish and Newcastle, Samuel Smiths and Moorhouses. All Boddingtons and Thwaites pubs in the town sell real ale – and even the buffet in the station sell the stuff!

The real ale guide to North and West Lancashire can be obtained from Dave Marsden, 320 Golden Hill Lane, Leyland, Preston from 80p, inc. p&p.

MEMBERSHIP

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.

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The Hertfordshire Newsletter



VICTORIA BREWERY

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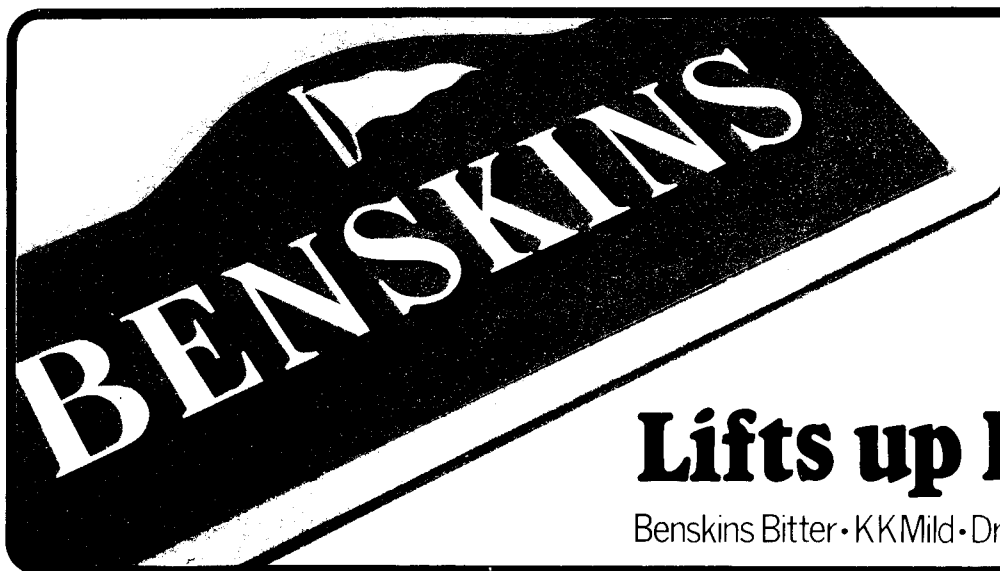
High Street, Puckeridge (Off A10). Tel: Ware 821949

Traditional Victoria Bitter now available.

from mid-May – Benskins Bitter, KK Mild,
Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Food: A selection of food at the bar
Monday to Saturday from steaks to burgers at
reasonable prices.

Also available **SUNDAY** lunchtime 12 noon – 1.30pm
and evenings 7.30pm – 10.15pm

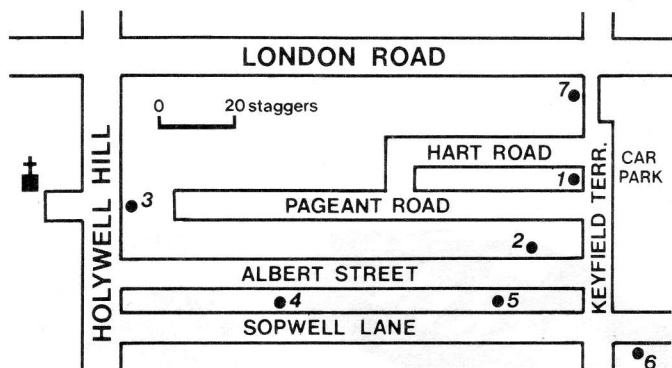


Lifts up Herts.

Benskins Bitter • KK Mild • Draught Burton Ale

It's hard to stumble on a pub in St Albans these days that doesn't display a handpump. A far cry indeed from the year 1975 when just three outlets for the real thing could be found. One of these, the **White Hart Tap**, has remained a bastion of the real ale cause and makes a good starting point for what is arguably the best mini pub crawl around the city with five of the seven pubs having appeared in one or more editions of the Good Beer Guide.

Situated in Keyfield Terrace, the 'Tap' (marked no 1 on the map) has always been a favourite with CAMRA HQ staff and particularly with Good Beer Guide editor and St Albans resident Mr Roger Protz. Therefore it goes without saying that the beer in this lively local is always in tip-top condition. Although only a single bar pub there's a good darts board and a pleasant raised garden to the side. Benskins and Burton Ale are on sale at prices of 63 pence and 72 pence a pint respectively. My only complaint is the pub's inexplicable fanaticism for Tottenham Hotspur. Better luck in next year's League Cup final lads!



Dickens Inn

Taking the second right a little further down the Terrace brings you into Albert Street and the **Garibaldi** (no 2) sitting quietly tucked away on the right. The pub has seen several changes of tenancy over the past couple of years, but little change to its traditional two bar layout. The range of ales has fluctuated also and previous Allied policy of refusing to supply Burton Ale and, particularly, KK Mild in 9 gallon quantities has obviously played its part in this. Currently on sale are well kept pints of both Benskins and Burton Ale which sell for 64 pence and 73 pence in the cosy lounge bar. The upstairs function room has been the scene of many a CAMRA South Herts branch meeting in the past.

The longest stroll of the session takes you to the far end of Albert Street and a few strides up Holywell Hill to the historic **White Hart Hotel** (no. 3). Reputed to have once been used by Dickens, this attractive half timbered inn, renovated in 1930, provides an intimate drinking atmosphere in its two comfortable bar areas. Again Benskins and Burton Ale can be found on handpump, this time at 66 pence and 72 pence a pint and there was a really nice dolly selling flowers, the last time I was in.

Held to Ransome

For a change of ales what better place to move on to than the **Goat** (no. 4). Follow your beer buds down Holywell Hill and then left up Sopwell Lane to this 16th century coaching inn that has been transformed into an enterprising free house by part owner and real ale lover Peter Ransome. Peter is always looking for an unusual brew to put on pump alongside his house residents Hook Norton and Wadworths and recent guest appearances have been made by Morland Bitter, Chudley Strong and 'Goat Bitter' (watch out for 'Guess the Brewer competition shortly), all retailing at sensible prices. Although the Room at the Back restaurant is now closed the plans are for the area to be converted to a traditional games room which should add further to the atmosphere of this fine old building. Mind you, out of all its clientele the pub couldn't even raise a team of eleven footballers to challenge the all conquering CAMRA Herts South team back in March!

Carrying on down Sopwell Lane the next port of call is the picturesque **White Lion** (no. 5), not 50 stagers up the street. New hosts Ken and Margot look set to revive the homely local spirit that prevailed during the heyday of John and Glad Clayton. The pub displays much of its cottage style character, retaining its small public bar, whilst the larger lounge is a favourite haunt of the St Albans Morris Men when they're drinking rather than dancing! The re-vamped Ind Coope Bitter is on sale at the reasonable price of 62 pence a pint in the lounge bar. Also on handpump is Burton Ale at 70 pence.

Picking Flowers

If you're feeling peckish by this time, the chippy opposite the Lion is possibly the best in town, but if you fancy another of those 'revived bitters' from the big six brewers, try a pint of Flowers Original Bitter in the Whitbread owned **Hare and Hounds** (no. 6) at the far end of Sopwell Lane. It will cost you a cool 65 pence (the same at the Wethereds Bitter which is also on sale) but looking at the extent to which the brewery has revamped the pub it's clear that the cost has to be recouped from somewhere! The new found comfort ensures a busy trade, especially from younger folk.

For a final jar, stagger back up past the Tap and call in at the **Beehive** (no. 7) which is hidden away in the alley linking Keyfield Terrace with London Road. This straightforward boozier is probably the most likely candidate for a 'Whitbread entry' in any future edition of the Good Beer Guide, with a good fair priced pint (63 pence) of Wethereds Bitter served up in a true local. If you're visiting on a Friday evening why not pop into the function room where the St. Albans Folk Group will be holding their weekly get together? After a possible six (or more) real ales you should be in the mood for a good old sing-song!

St ALLbans

So, with there now being a possible three or four of these mini crawls to do around the city, who's worried about the odd fizz pub here and there? Well CAMRA are, and one of the main campaigning issues of the South Herts branch in 1982 is to try and make St Albans the first city in the country to have real ale available in ALL its pubs. With the recent conversions of the **Spotted Bull** in Verulam Road and the **Cricketers** at Stonecross (both to Wethereds Bitter) the list of the worst places to drink in town is shrinking still further. The following are the pubs that currently offer no real ale and will be targets of the campaign:

Bat & Ball, Chequer Street (Whitbread) – Recently decorated – but not with handpumps. Current Whitbread policy offers encouragement however.

Bell, Chequer Street (Whitbread) – Is the brewery hoping that the building will become a victim of the Chequer Street development? Everyone else must be.

Camp, Camp Road, (McMullen) – Why macs do not offer customers at least Country on handpump (as in their other three pubs in the city), in what is a relative beer desert, is a mystery to us all.

King William IV, Sandridge Road (Watney) – Rather a special case as the beers are served by the controversial DCL system. The brewery are gradually replacing this system with proper handpumps.

Mermid, Hatfield Road (Whitbread) – Recent extensive refurbishment of near neighbour the Peacock, which is also Whitbread owned, have led to rumours of a possible closure.

Steamer (North Western), Holywell Hill (Ind Coope) – More rumours, this time that Ron Shaw, landlord of the White Hart Tap, may be moving down the Hill and taking his pumps with him.

As you can see, this list is small and conversions quite possible, so if you fancy a crawl of a different kind, with a spot of campaigning, why not try these six . . . they all sell bottled Guinness!

N.B. Prices correct at 27.3.82.



The picturesque White Lion, Sopwell Lane

I do like to beside a cider

Wandering around the drinks section of my local Sainsbury's the other day (their own-brand lager is especially recommended – it's actually brewed by the Bavaria-St Pauli brewery in Germany, and knocks any English "lager" for six) I was struck by an announcement on the front of their cider bottles.

This declared the strong cider to be a strength that, in beer terms, would be the equivalent of an OG of 1065 or so, more than twice as strong as ordinary bitter. Far be it from the Cornell Column to encourage self-induced brain damage, but at less than 80p for a litre that represents excellent value for the suicidal. Or should that be sui-cider-al.

Actually, of course, cider can be even stronger than that, which probably explains why some small cider makers are marketing the stuff in wine bottles, and recommending it for the wine drinker. I tried some recently, from Norfolk, very, very pale, dryish and tasty, and at £1.20 a bottle it has clear economic advantages over white wine for dining at home.

You can also find perry on sale in the same kind of bottles, which is welcome news. It was feared that the only perry which would survive economic pressures would be Babycham, a bit like having Watney's Red as the only surviving English beer. Genuine draught perry, however, is still extremely rare – a great shame.

Special K

These days our own McMullen's of Hertford are one of only three or four brewers who sell a beer called AK – the others being Fremlin's in Kent and Courage at Newark and Bristol.

But before the First World War at least 14 different Hertfordshire brewers from Ashwell to Boreham Wood produced an AK, and other famous names which once brewed AK include Ind Coope, Fullers and Wethereds.

Most of the theories behind the name AK – and there are quite a lot – do not stand up to much scrutiny. Asquith's Knockout is just an old joke, since AK was around long before Asquith. If Arthur King invented AK, then, as Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz said recently, who invented KK – King Kong?

Indéed, as well as KK there were once all sorts of beers with K in their name. Nicholls of Hertford and Kents of St Albans both brewed an XK, Adey and White of St Albans went up as far as KKKK, and Wells of Watford had an OK.

All these beers were light beers, pale ales, which suggests that the K label was given by brewers to a particular style of beer. But why a K? Well, in Old Flemish thin beer was known as kiyte, a word which is also found in medieval English as coyt in the terms single coyt and double coyt beer. Early beer brewers in this country were often Dutch or Flemish, and it seems possible they would mark their beers with one K for single coyt, or kuyte beer, two Ks for double coyt and so on.

As it happens the Old Flemish for one is an, so that single coyt would be an kiyte – or AK.

All this is speculation. But it does mean your pint of AK could have a pedigree stretching back over 500 years!

THE SOUTHERN CROSS



WATFORD'S PREMIER REAL ALE FREE HOUSE

Six Real Ales always on – from a selection including Ruddles County, Fullers London Pride, Everards Trad Tiger, Adnams, Youngs, Sam Smiths etc.

Polypins to order – or take home from the Cask.

Extensive Pub Menu – our own Special Beefburgers and Toasted Sandwiches – Lunch and Evening.

SOUTHERN CROSS HOTEL, LANGLEY ROAD, WATFORD
TELEPHONE: WATFORD 25168

Tee up

Golf fans may be interested in the Golf Society being started by the Waggoners public house, Ayot Green, near Welwyn. If you fancy the odd game (most people I know play a very odd game) they pop along and make yourself known. The Waggoners is always worth a visit for its excellent Wethered's bitter. They also serve cream teas in the garden on weekend afternoons, with barbecues in the evenings. The ladies' toilets is also, by all accounts, extremely well appointed, but I wouldn't know about that. How much time the aforementioned society spends playing the game, and how much in the 19th hole I don't know. The subject does, however, provide fertile grounds for writing horrible puns connecting beer and golf. Will the pub, for instance, start selling green beer at club prices? I'd better putt an end to all this frivolity.

Keep taking the Pils

Although this is essentially a publication for lovers of traditional cask beer (and crossword fanatics, some would add), we do have an eye for all things bacchanalian. It's also a pleasure to see a product of some worth appear in the abysmal British lager market. The town of Pilsen in Czechoslovakia is synonymous with beer, it gives its name to the style of brew referred to in this country as lager, but should probably be more correctly described as Pilsner beer. The original Pilsner, Pilsner Urquell (Urquell means 'original source') is a fine, malty brew with a good aroma of hops – another product for which the country is justly famous. The beer is now being imported into Britain and is generally available at Peter Dominic's, Waitrose supermarkets and some other specialist shops. At around 85 pence for a 70cl bottle it's not too expensive either. But on taste alone it knocks spots off all your ersatz home produced lagers. With more of this sort of stuff around brewers may be forced to rethink their policy of producing rather inferior imitations of what can be very good beer.

South Herts Branch Darts Trophy

This year it has been decided to open up the competition and not try and get all the matches played off in one night.

The format will be a knock out competition with those drawn against each other arranging a mutually agreed time, date and venue. The semi finals and final will be played at a branch social later in the year. The competition is open to all CAMRA members resident or active in the South Herts Branch area. Entries giving your name, address and telephone number plus 50p payable to CAMRA Herts South should be sent or given to Eric Sim, 10 Heron Way, Hatfield by the end of May.

THE BARLEY MOW

VARIETY IS
THE SPICE
OF LIFE



TRY OUR
15 REAL
ALES

TYTTENHANGER GREEN

YOU CAN STILL BUY A PINT FOR ONLY 57
PENCE!

Barbecues most evenings from 8.30 on – weather permitting. Good garden facilities.

Our new room is bookable for functions, individual tables may be booked for lunches Monday to Friday. The room is used for games in the evening and children are allowed in, *if accompanied*, on Saturday and Sunday lunchtime.

Our car park is being greatly enlarged.

PLEASE NOTE – NO COACHES
INCLUDING MINIBUSES, EXCEPT BY
APPOINTMENT

PUB NEWS

First more news of outlets for the new Truman's beers. A list was given in last month's newsletter but this was by no means complete. Certainly, more pubs appear to be taking the mild that was originally indicated. Free trade outlets will include the **Red Lion**, Great Missenden; the **Crown**, St Albans; the **Five Bells**, Botley; **Bricket Wood Social Club**; **Chorleywood Conservative Club** and the **Mayflower**, Hemel Hempstead. Hot on the heels of Trumans. Watneys are now intending to make life difficult for the new local real ale guide collators. Websters bitter from Yorkshire is now being made available in the area. This is the real stuff, served by handpump (or possibly electric pump?), and not to be confused with some other well promoted imports from that part of the world. Our initial list of outlets includes: the **Hampden Arms**, Great Missenden; the **Wine Host** in Barnet; the **Three Harts**, Stoneyhills, near Hertford; the **New Found Out**, Hitchin; the **Chequers** in Royston; **St Albans Squash Club**; the **Hadley Hotel**, Barnet; and **Hatfield Polytechnic Student Union** bar. As we pointed out with the Truman's pubs last month, this list is probably incomplete and those of you wishing to try the beer should keep your eyes open in your local Watney's outlets and clubs. News now about some Ind Coope-Benskins pubs in the west of the county. The **Dog and Partridge** at Hunton Bridge, near the brewery depot, is selling Benskins KK and bitter on handpumps. Over the road the **King's Head** has been closed for improvements. The **Vine**, Uxbridge Road, Mill End, Rickmansworth is selling Benskins bitter. The **King's Head**, Bushey is currently pumping up Ind Coope bitter although the licensee expects to be changing over to Benskins in the near future. The **Oddfellows Arms** in Watford, and the **Roundbush**, Aldenham are both selling KK in addition to their other beers. The **Bull** in Berkhamsted, closed by Ind Coope last year, has re-opened as a free house. As yet we have no information regarding the beers on sale. Further up the road in Tring, the **George** is still closed. Those who like a little euphony with their ale the following pubs may please. The **Eagle**, Nash Mills (Benskins) has jazz on Tuesday and Friday evenings; the **Crooked Billet**, Berkhamsted (Courage) has music on Tuesdays; and lovers of folk and other, gentler, forms of the art, may find Friday evenings in the **Roundbush** in Aldenham (Benskins) to their liking.

Spring is here, and the first crop of new Wethered's outlets has arrived. One is the pleasantly-refurbished **Adam and Eve** in Bancroft, Hitchin. At the **Peartree** in Valley Way, Stevenage, signs have gone up outside announcing Wethereds on sale, but at the time of writing neither handpump nor beer were installed. However, action is promised soon. Is it just coincidence that the Peartree and the Adam and Eve are the nearest Whitbread pubs to the chairman and secretary respectively of North Herts CAMRA?

Wethered's bitter is also on sale at the **Chequers** free house in Sandon, and so too is Birch bitter from the new Mickles mini-brewery at Lilley. It has now been confirmed that both the **Pyramid** and the **Man in the Moon**, Stevenage are taking the new Trumans handpumped Prize dark mild, alongside the bitter and best bitter. The mild, however, costs 62p a pint in the saloon bar – a penny a pint more than the saloon price of Ind Coope bitter.

Among several new outlets for Flowers Original is the **Horns**, Bulls Green, where the food is recommended by Charles Meynard, whoever he is.

Leading lights at the **Star** in Furneux Pelham for the past few years, Mike and Barbara Rubidge are packing their bags in early April, and moving across the Essex border to another thatched Rayments pub, the **Ash** at Burton End, near Stansted. We wish them every success with their new venture.

Meanwhile, welcome to Tony and Maureen, the new arrivals behind the bar at **The Jolly Waggoner**, Ardley. Their last pub was a Greene King top pressure house in Cavendish, Suffolk, but they have no doubt that they prefer real ale. Tony and Maureen plan to maintain their pub's well-earned reputation for good, home-cooked food.

THE ROYAL OAK, BUSHEY

Free House

* 6 Real Ales * Food *
* Guest Beers *

* Our beer garden and children's playground are now open *

BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday May 18th

BRANCH MEETING and talk by Brian Glover, Editor of What's Brewing, CAMRA's monthly newspaper, at the Cricketers, Redbourn. 8.00pm prompt start. (Benskins)

The month of May is to be devoted to pub surveys – contact Eric Sim on Hatfield 60647 for details.

Tuesday June 22nd

BRANCH MEETING at the Fox and Hounds, Croxley Green, 8.00pm. (Greene King)

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday May 12th

BRANCH MEETING at the Motte and Bailey, Pirton, 8.00pm. (Free House)

Wednesday May 19th

MAKE MAY A MILD MONTH social at the Man in the Moon, Marymead, Stevenage. 8.00pm. Your chance to try the new Truman's dark mild on handpump.

Wednesday May 26th

Social at the Plough, Wallington. 8.00pm (Greene King)

Wednesday June 9th

Good Beer Guide pub selection meeting at the Three Tuns, Ashwell. 7.30pm prompt in Cellar Bar. (Greene King real ale laid on specially).

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

Monday May 10th

Social at the Old English Gentleman, Waltham Abbey. 8.00pm. This is an amended date. (McMullens)

Monday May 17th

BRANCH MEETING at the Bull, Much Hadham where 1983 Good Beer Guide entries will be decided. 8.00pm start. (Benskins)

Thursday May 20th

Brewery trip to Shepherd Neame's. Still some places left – contact Pam Smith on Epping 73677. Meet at brewery 10.30am.

Monday June 7th

Joint social with North Herts branch at the Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge. 8.00pm (Benskins plus guest beer)

Monday June 14th

Joint social with South West Essex branch at the Bell, Ongar. 8.00pm (Free House)

Monday June 21st

BRANCH MEETING at the Garnon Bushes, Coopersale. 8.00pm.

Pints 'n' Litres

FULL FREE OFF LICENCE

★ Real Ales to take away ★
from the Cask

GREENE KING – ADNAMS – EVERARDS

★ This month's guest beers ★

Wadworth's 6X (65p pint), Felinfoel DD (63p pint)

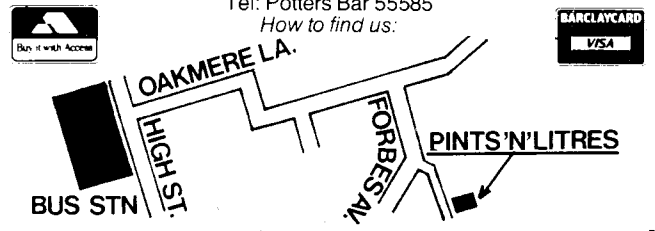
★ Mickles Birch Bitter – Real Draught Cider ★

★ Polypins and casks supplied to order ★
Glass loan service

at 6 Eastfield Parade, Forbes Avenue, Potters Bar.

Tel: Potters Bar 55585

How to find us:



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