

**FREE**



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

# THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

JULY 1983

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 63

## XX — NOW OR NEVER

In June, the single letter X was on our minds. Where to cast our votes in the General Election. Now that's over, let's turn our thoughts to XX, the Greene King variety of dark mild ale. For although there will be more general elections, our opportunity to drink this tasty and refreshing beer in Hertfordshire may soon have gone for ever.

Sales of Biggleswade-brewed XX are now at an all-time low, despite the cheap price and despite the economic recession. Despite, too CAMRA's efforts (unassisted by the brewery) to promote the beer, and despite the faith in it shown by a few marvellous local landlords. Now Greene King director Timothy Redman has said that although the company has no immediate plans to scrap the beer, "unless something dramatic happens to sales, the beer will kill itself".

CAMRA cannot guarantee that you will like Greene King XX, but we think you should at least try it, before its time runs out. Ask for it at your nearest Greene King pub, or ask a local free house to try a cask. It's up to us, the consumers, to prove that there is a demand for a different type of beer. For XX in Hertfordshire the motto must be . . .

**BOOZE IT — OR LOSE IT!**

Peter Lerner

### Round Rayments

Rayments tidy brewery in Funeux Pelham was a hive of activity one Friday evening recently, when a party of CAMRA members was taken for a guided tour by Rayments' Head Brewer, Lawrie Collins. The CAMRA members came from four branches: Cambridge, North Bedfordshire, North Hertfordshire and South West Essex.

After a comprehensive and instructive view of mash tuns, fermenting vessels etc., the party retired to the brewery's well-fitted new hospitality bar, where first-rate BBA, dispensed straight from the barrel, and snacks were the order of the day.

A pleasant and sociable evening finished in excellent style at The **Brewery Tap** across the road where the party was made most welcome by the landlord and landlady, and more BBA, this time from the handpump, was enjoyed.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Collins of Rayments, and all at the Brewery Tap, for a very enjoyable evening. When can we come again?

Peter Lerner

CAMRA's Rayments Brewery Liaison Officer

## Pints 'n' Litres

REAL ALES TO TAKE AWAY

- Greene King ● Adnams ● Everard Tiger
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- Also Real Draught Cider ●

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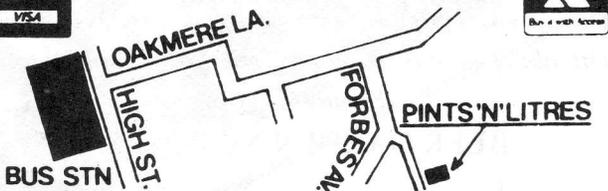
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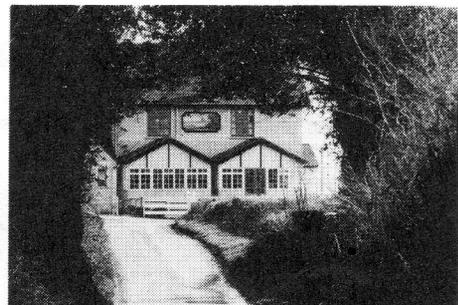
HOLD YOUR OWN ALE FESTIVAL WITH  
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## THE BARLEY MOW



**TYTTENHANGER GREEN**

**TRY OUR 15 REAL ALES**

Pub of the month on Prestel

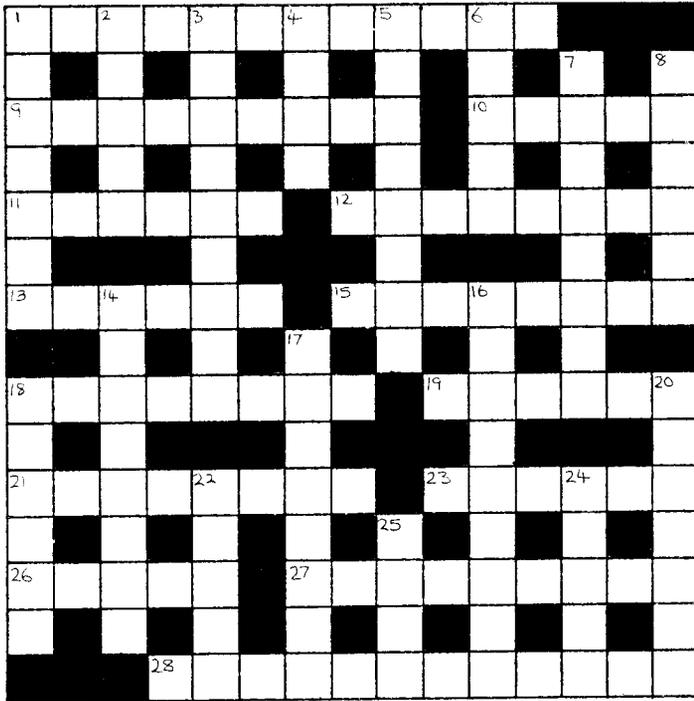
Winner of the Clean Food Competition for  
pubs in St. Albans, awarded by the District  
Council Environmental Health inspectors.

Barbecues now in full swing

**PLEASE NOTE NO COACHES  
INCLUDING MINI BUSES.**

# COMPETITION

For the benefit of those whose brains are still befuddled from the combined effects of Election Fever and the unaccustomed heat, this month's crossword is a little easier than usual. The sender of the first correct entry opened on August 12th will receive a CAMRA 'Fault-Finders Guide' tea-towel. Please mark entries July Competition.



### Across

1. Pirton pub, prelude to bovine astronautics (3,3,6)
9. Flat in half of which some people are found (9)
10. See 1 down
11. Winger responsible for 10-0 setback (6)
12. Offer shortly to hold a sort of party out of sight (8)
13. April's stumbling on such a staircase (6)
15. It's essential to transfer from cask to glass (4-4)
18. Brewer got married in that place inside (8)
19. Rush for progress in work (6)
21. ESB or IPA, perhaps (8)
23. Four points outside clubs might make them (6)
26. See 4 down
27. Restless claim of someone in hospital (9)
28. See the places change in this race (12)

### Down

1. & 10 ac. Prince with Somerset city comes from Bedford (7,5)
2. Coach, or a lot of them (5)
3. Men dare to desecrate Paris cathedral (5,4)

Continued in next column

# QUICK ONES

## Local guide — an apology

The Editor of **Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire**, Dave Burns, would like to apologise to all those teeming millions of fans who are waiting patiently (or otherwise) for the appearance of the new edition of our local guide. Due to production problems and unforeseen delays, the guide will be published somewhat later than planned, but should be available in the near future.

Due to rising costs (what else!) the cover price of the new guide must now be £1.20, and postal copies are available at £1.40 inc. p&p. If you have ordered a copy, please be patient — we haven't forgotten you!

## Sun to rise again

Following our report in the June Newsletter on the rumoured sale of the **Rising Sun at Halls Green, McMullens** have informed us that it has never been their intention to sell the pub, and that after major improvements it will re-open within a year. They are, however, selling the **Windmill at Thundridge** without tie or restrictions (see **Pub News**).

Another Macs pub, the **Three Horseshoes in Clay Lane, Sawbridgeworth**, which has been closed for many months, will also be re-opened within one year, Macs say.

## Name that lager!

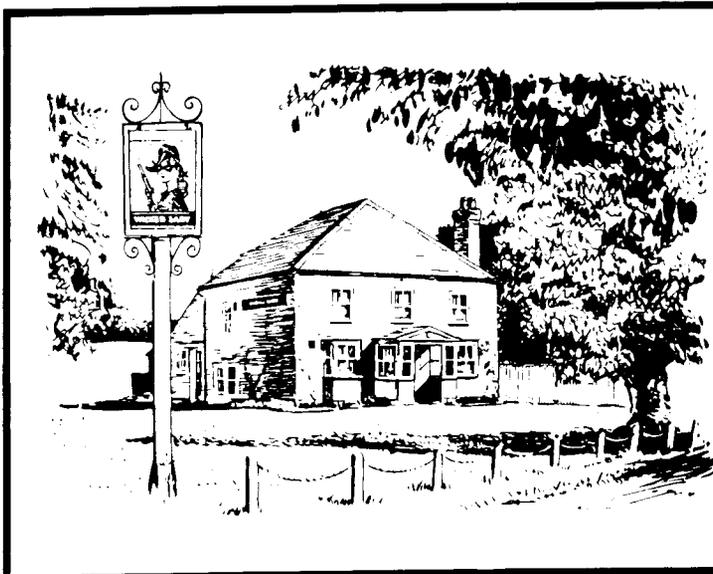
Entries are flooding in (four so far) for the McMullen 'name that lager' competition, announced in the April Newsletter. In case you missed it first time around, McMullen are shortly to launch a new lager, brewed in Hertford, and readers are invited to suggest an appropriate name for this exciting new product. A prize will be awarded to the sender of the best suggestion.

### Competition . . . continued

- 4 & 26 ac. But the Barley Mow, for instance, *would* have cost something (4,5)
5. Untaxed, like a servant on day off? (4-4)
6. Beards common here in Battle, West Sussex (5)
7. Pure ale's drunk — it's nice experience (8)
8. I'm unconscious — please change this (6)
14. I include one in frantic urgent private scheme (8)
16. True-to-life liars, etc., I misrepresented (9)
17. Fell brew, one right inside Hertfordshire's borders (8)
18. Importance of the wig being correctly adjusted (6)
20. Trees to uproot as a favour (7)
22. Passive constituent of container traffic (5)
24. It's one piece of idiom, e.g. Athenian (5)
25. A stone is nothing to a friend (4)

The winner of the May Competition is Neil Clements of Harpenden. The correct solution was:

Across: Quintet, Jollity, X-Rated, Renewing, Bean, Leadership, Germination, Upper crust, Paid, Visigoth, Nosing, Horizon, Wettest.  
Down: Furrier, Instance, Kendal, Youngest, Clowns, Stand-In, Dreadnought, Microdot, Opposite, Apricot, Zionism, Elicit, Tinder.



## The Wicked Lady

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BEER GARDEN NOW OPEN

## DOING THE ROUNDS

Resuming the diary of the travels of "Roundsmen", an anonymous Newsletter reader who is attempting to visit all of Rayment's pubs and thus claim his free prize of a t-shirt or pottery mug.

My travels this month have taken me to three pubs in Essex. The three are splendid country pubs; very similar architecturally, each having formerly been two cottages, with one half thatched — but very different in atmosphere inside.

**The Waggon and Horses** is said to be at Clavering, but in fact it's more than a mile out of the village, on the Langley road, at a place marked on the OS map as Roast Green. You won't miss the distinctive "cut-out" inn sign outside; the inside is something of a surprise, as there's only one small bar. My companion noticed the unusual wooden furniture, and I noticed that the top pressure BBA was unusually fizzy. Strange, as the landlord and regulars were absorbed in an animated discussion about the strengths of different real ales. Nevertheless, a nice old pub, well worth a visit.

The village of Arkesden is a classic Essex village, and the **Axe and Compasses** is the sort of English country pub that you would take foreign tourists to. A deservedly popular place, with well-kept handpumped BBA, a garden, two comfortable bars, and a restaurant. Our view of the sweet trolley was mouth-watering, but we didn't have time to stop.

In the same part of Essex, the **Coach and Horses** at Wicken Bonhunt is on the road between Clavering and Newport. Another cut-out inn sign and another lovely setting. The landlord's welcome is cheerful and there are three bars to choose from. Real ale drinkers should choose the left-hand bar, as handpumps have recently been installed there. Ladies should beware; there is obviously something special about this pub, as a large proportion of the female customers were pregnant.

If you would like to attempt the Rayment's Round, you can obtain details from any Rayment's pub, or by writing to the brewery at Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Herts.

## QUICK ONES continued

### A light mild, with just a touch of bitter. . . ?

The story goes that at a certain popular Macs pub, which shall remain nameless, the landlord was in the habit of tipping the 'slops' back into the mild barrel at the end of a day's trading, in accordance with common (?) practice. Realising, however, that the AK was more popular than the Country Bitter in his pub, he decided that it should remain uncontaminated, and switched his 'dumping ground' to the Country barrel. Almost immediately, his regular customers began to complain that the AK was not up to its usual standard! Hastily, the wise landlord reverted to his original policy. . .

### Vacant Crown

Following the story in last month's Newsletter, we must now sadly report the premature death of Charrington Crown. It is understood that some Charrington pubs in the London area are experimenting with Springfield Bitter from Wolverhampton, in its place.

Crown's demise is not surprising, given the total lack of effective promotion by the brewery over many years.

## WHAT'S ON AT YOUR PUB

This month's Diary is devoted entirely to Morris Dancing. Surely, other things happen in Hertfordshire pubs? Please let us know about them.

- 4 July **St Albans**: White Hart Tap. 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.  
**St Albans**: White Hart Hotel. 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
- 6 July **Whelpley Hill**: White Hart. 8pm. St Albans Morris Men.
- 7 July **Boxmoor**: Fishery Inn. 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
- 11 July **Watton at Stone**: Bull. 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.  
**Wadesmill**: Feathers. 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men and Standon Morris Men.
- 13 July **Burnham Green**: White Horse. 8.30pm. Cottonmill Clog Morris.  
**Tewin**: Rose and Crown. 9.30pm. Cottonmill Clog Morris, Enfield Chasers and Enfield Morris.
- 18 July **Sleapshyde**: Plough. 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.  
**Smallford**: Three Horseshoes. 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
- 20 July **Bushey**: Horse and Chain. 8pm. Woodside Morris Men.  
**Park Street**: Red Lion. 8.30pm. Cottonmill Clog Morris.  
**Park Street**: Red Cow. 9.30pm. Cottonmill Clog Morris.
- 25 July **Aldenham**: Round Bush. 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.  
**Letchmore Heath**: Three Horseshoes. 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
- 27 July **Bricket Wood**: Fox. 8pm. Woodside Morris Men.  
**St Albans**: Duke of Marlborough. 8.30pm. Cottonmill Clog Morris.  
**St Albans**: White Hart. 9.30pm. Cottonmill Morris and English Miscellany.

Please send details of events (in not more than 15 words) by the 12th of the previous month to Peter Lerner, 14 Hazeldell, Watton at Stone, Herts.

## Goodbye, Dave

A good friend to many Hertfordshire CAMRA members, Dave McKerchar, our Central Southern Regional Organiser, is standing down to take a well-earned rest. Dave, a jovial and cuddly Scot, has been RO for an incredible six years, during which time his region has extended as far as South Wales, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. Dave's hard work and commitment to our Campaign will be difficult to replace. His particular encouragement and support for this Newsletter and for many local campaigns have earned our lasting gratitude.

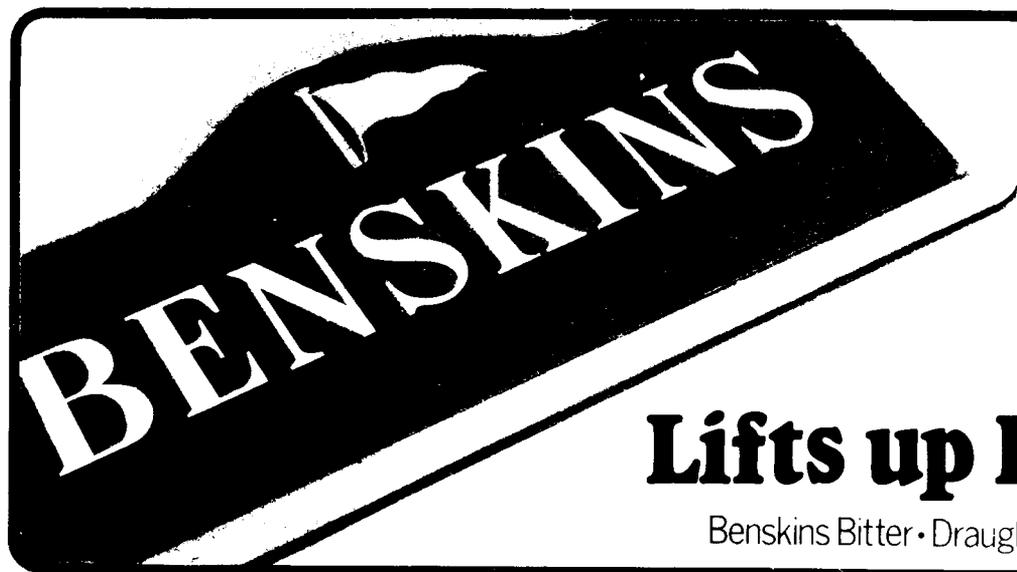
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★ Guest Beers ★

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Benskins Bitter • Draught Burton Ale

## PUB NEWS

Nigel and Charlotte Meadows have installed an extra handpump at the **Plough**, Datchworth, dispensing Greene King's excellent dark mild at a very reasonable price. Congratulations also to Charlotte Amy for passing East Herts Council's food hygiene examination.

A real ale outlet restored: **Foxy's Wine Bar** in Watling Street, Radlett is now selling Ruddles County and Weston Cider. Also in Radlett, the **Aldenham Golf Club** is selling McMullen's AK on handpump (one bar open to non-members).

Charrington IPA is no longer available at the **Harbour Lights** in Bushey — but not to worry, it is now on sale at the **Red Lion** in the High Street.

Whitbread Castle Eden Ale is now available at the **Green Dragon**, Potters Bar.

McMullens have put the **Windmill** at Thundridge, near Ware, up for sale at an asking price in the region of £65,000. Unusually for Macs, the pub is on offer for use as a public house, free of brewery tie. The Windmill is a nice little two-bar pub, full of potential for an ambitious landlord.

The **Red Lion**, Kings Langley now has an Oriental flavour. New licensees Clive Newton and his Malaysian-born wife Saw Lin have converted the pub to a Chinese restaurant — but Benskins Bitter and Burton Ale are still available on handpump. Sweet and sour and bitter...? A warm welcome also to Gareth and Daphne Evans, new licensees at the **Anchor**, Boxmoor, who have introduced Manns IPA and Webster Yorkshire Bitter on handpump. Welcome also to new managers at the **Red Lion**, Potten End, who are former Watford midfielder Martin Patching and his wife Cheryl.

## JOIN CAMRA NOW!

### Membership form

I/We wish to become a member/members of  
the Campaign for Real Ale Limited

I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and  
Articles of Association of the Campaign

I enclose £7 (£10 overseas) for a year's full membership   
We enclose £7 for a year's joint full membership

FULL NAME(S) .....

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS .....

..... Date .....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited  
Send to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans,  
Herts AL1 3BW

## PICK OF THE PUBS

CAMRA's choice of the

### Top 100 Real Ale Pubs in Hertfordshire

is now available on the HERTS288 community Prestel service.



Key \*2880443#

# 288

Cast your vote for the Pub of the Month

May's choice — the Barleymow

— For information on Prestel ring Freephone 2043 —

Landlords and brewers — you can have a full page on Prestel nationwide.  
Contact the Editor, Dave Burns on Welwyn 7805 or any CAMRA member.

## BRANCH DIARY

### HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

**Thursday 7th July**

Social at the Rest & Welcome, Haultwick, 8.00pm.

**Wednesday 13th July**

Branch meeting, Raven, Hexton, 8.00 pm.

**Wednesday 20th July**

Social, Highlander, Hitchin, 8.00 pm.

**Wednesday 27th July**

Two-pub social — Cabinet, Reed and Countryman, Chipping, starts 8.00 pm.

**Saturday 13th August**

Minibus trip to SW Herts & N Beds. Contact John Law for details.

Contact John Law Stevenage 721015

### HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

**Monday 4th July**

Committee meeting, Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger, 8.00 pm.

**Tuesday 19th July**

Branch meeting, Queens Head, Colney Heath, 8.00 pm.

Contact Eric Slim Hatfield 60647

### WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

**Sunday 3rd July**

Committee meeting, West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford, 8.00 pm.

**Wednesday 6th July**

Social, Swan, Park Road, Bushey, 8.00 pm.

**Wednesday 20th July**

Branch Meeting, Fox & Hounds, Rickmansworth High Street, 8.00 pm.

**Wednesday 27th July**

Anti-social, beginning at the Railway Arms, Bushey Station, 8.00 pm.

Contact Tony King Garston 72587

### MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

**Tuesday 12th July**

Pub crawl around Old Hemel Hempstead. Meet at the Marchmont Arms, Piccotts End, 8.30 pm.

**Tuesday 26th July**

Social, Alford Arms, Frithsden, 8.30 pm.

Contact B Callaghan Little Chalfont 4679

## Blakes Beer Cellar

96 Queens Road, Watford

- Brakspears ● Morrells ● Swannells ●
- Hook Norton ● Guest Beers ●
- Draught Cider ●

### GOOD FOOD AT ALL TIMES

Open pub hours, 7 days a week

Licensed bar and catering for outside events  
Polypins and casks always available

### The Real McCharrington?

Question One: Did we really hear an advertisement on Capital Radio describing Charrington's IPA as the Real McCoy?

Question Two: Are writs even now flying between Old Cross and Mile End? We think we should be told.

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire South, Hertfordshire North, Watford and District and Mid-Chilterns branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. The views expressed 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 WELL SPACED AND AS LEGIBLE AS POSSIBLE PLEASE.** Send to Cathy Totman, Hixham, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

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