

FREE



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1983

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 64

WATCH OUT FOR THE BEER BLOCK BUSTER!

Birmingham's beer drinking habits are about to be shattered when CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival hits the Midlands for the first time. From September 6th-10th visitors to Bingley Hall in the city centre will be able to choose from over 200 different traditional beers and ciders. And if that isn't enough for you, there will also be food available, plus entertainment and traditional pub games.

The Festival will be open from 8-10.30 pm on Tuesday, from 11-3 and 5-11pm on Wednesday and Thursday, from 11-3 and 5-12 midnight on Friday, and all day Saturday 10th — from 11 am until 12 midnight. Admission is FREE for all lunchtime sessions except Saturday, and 80p for evening sessions and Saturday all day.

Make a date now for Britain's biggest and best beer bonanza!

If you can't get to Birmingham (and if not, why not?), you may care instead to visit Ipswich, where CAMRA Suffolk Branch will be holding their first-ever Beer Festival from 8th-10th September, in the Corn Exchange. There should be some 30 to 35 real ales to choose from. For further information phone Frank Baldry on Ipswich 59666.



Pints 'n' Litres

REAL ALES TO TAKE AWAY

- Greene King ● Adnams ● Everard Tiger
- Guest beer: Archers Village 54p ●
- Also Real Draught Cider ●

BRIGHT POLYPINS AND CASKS ALWAYS AVAILABLE
from 50p per pint

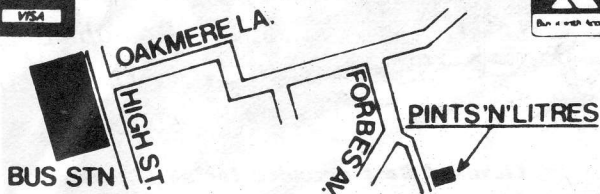
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☎ Potters Bar 55585



THE BARLEY MOW



TYTTENHANGER GREEN

WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF
REAL ALES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

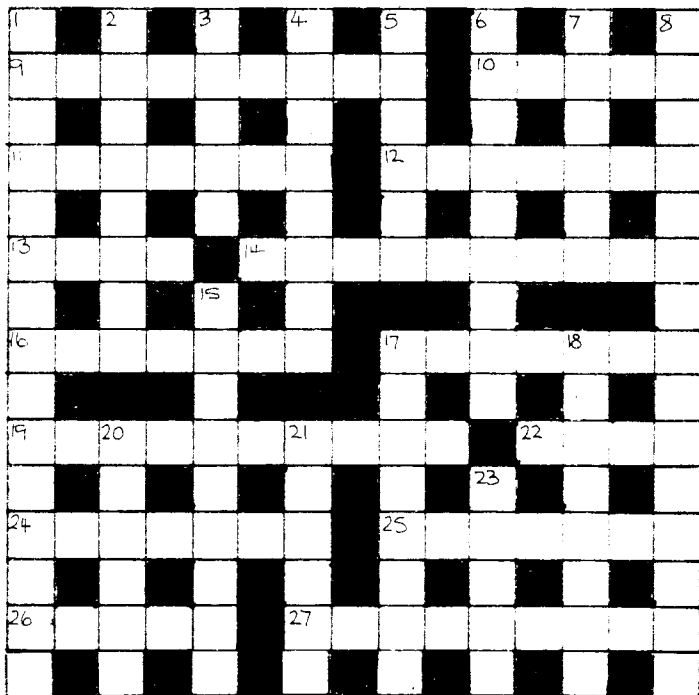
We also pride ourselves that they are
all in the best of condition. Why don't
you come and try them?

At the same time you may care to try
our very popular barbecue.

**PLEASE NOTE NO COACHES
INCLUDING MINI BUSES**

COMPETITION

The sender of the first entry opened on September 9th will receive a 'Fault-finders Guide' tea-towel. Please mark entries August Competition.



Across

9. What's whisky? For example, Great Britain's a consumer (3-6)
10. One lamenting Eric being broke, right? (5)
11. There's nothing in *The Cock* (7)
12. Concoct gin cocktail? That's what Macs are noted for (7)
13. Undiluted wine attenuated only partly (4)
14. Athletic event — No 1's returned for a talk (10)
16. It's getting hard going down (7)
17. Effusive, like a song? (7)
19. Watering? Fifth replaced by a drop of tonic — that's annoying (10)
22. This'll be left after crash without hospital treatment (4)
24. They're famous for 12, in more ways than one (7)
25. & 18 down. M took Vic to local, smashed — a potentially dangerous thing (7,8)
26. Prisoner uptight — break-out discovered (5)
27. Pilferer isn't clear what's wrong (9)

Down

1. Best set drink ale properly brewed — they're part of the pub's tradition (4,3,8)
2. Worker supports painful groin, being unaware (8)
3. Saw parts often false (5)
4. First of vultures gazing round, wanting food (8)
5. A royal sailor in charge of an Eastern country (6)
6. Additional criminal help (9)
7. Cycle endlessly in one? You'd get cold in winter! (6)
8. Novel with importance — 1066 and all that, perhaps (8,7)
15. The next is, oddly enough, the last half from a gallon (9)
17. Come down and take note of this conspicuous object (8)
18. See 25 across
20. Bad liquor causes inflamed gout in recipient's extremities (6)
21. Us? Let's get drunk — it'll be a struggle (6)
23. Reduced version of eel? Very! (5)

The winner of the June Competition was Richard Yeates of Brockenhurst, Hants. The correct solution was:

Across: Inclined, Clumps, Refuse, Overbold, Utah, Turbulence, Senator, Gannets, Consistent, Shop, Incubate, Scuffs, Deacon, Chivalry.

Down: Under The Counter, Ploughmans Lunch, Intentions, Adjourn, Ache, Bubble And Squeak, Application form, Unartistic, Defence, Aunt.

Wobbly Ale

If a Times report of 30th June is to be believed, a Japanese company has recently launched a 'solid beer'. Mixed with apple and lemon juice and solidified into a jelly, it will be sold in square glasses. Absolutely no comment.

QUICK ONES

Sale of the Century

Trust House Forte public relations man Martin Turner, has come up with an excellent idea. To mark ten years in the Good Beer Guide for the **Two Brewers** at Chipperfield, he plans to have a lunchtime session (open to the public) with traditional beers on sale at their 1883 level!

From noon till 2.30pm on 2nd August real Greene King and Draught Bass will sell for two or three pence a pint. "A traditional price for traditional beer" was how Mr Turner put it. He has even approached Trumans, who normally supply only lager to the **Two Brewers**, to provide a real ale for the day.

CAMRA Company Secretary Iain Dobson, a great fan of such occasions, will miss out on this, however. He will be at the **Queen Victoria** in Milton Keynes, to see the opening of Midsummer Inn's latest house. "Pity," said Iain. "But at least I'll be saving two or three pence a pint", he added in his husky Glaswegian accent.

Real ale from the cardboard

Ind Coope and Benskins have recently introduced 2-pint waxed cartons similar to those used for milk and orange juice, except of course they are not sealed but have a closure clip. Most pubs appear to be charging pump prices, and bearing the cost of the carton at about 3p each.

Two warnings appear on the carton: 'Keep Upright' and 'Avoid Shaking', but one is left to decide whether they apply to the carton or the carrier. Other notes recommend it being drunk within two hours and that it is best kept in a refrigerator.

The theme of the carton is 'Take home the Real Pub Taste', but for my money I would rather have the real pub taste in the pub than let the beer kill itself off in a refrigerator, by which time the beer will be flat anyway as unlike other take-away containers the carton is open to the atmosphere, even with the closure clip on.

Sorry, Ind Coope, but I think they are too gimmicky, and I hope you are not thinking of supplying straws with them.

Eric Sim

Your chance to become a star journalist

Do you find the Newsletter boring, stale and flatulent? Do you think you could write more interestingly about pubs and beer than the two or three unpaid hacks who strive, month in and month out, to dream up enough copy to fill yet another Newsletter?

Well, you too can write for the Newsletter. Whether you are a CAMRA member, pub landlord or landlady, or just an ordinary drinker, all you have to do is put pen to paper and write us an article, a letter, a reminiscence or a comment. So long as it's relevant and not libellous, we'll consider it for publication.

Licensees, we would particularly like to hear from you. Too often we hear that "Old Fred at the Bull and Bush didn't like the piece you wrote about beer prices/his brewery/his pub decor/his barnmaid", but Old Fred never writes to tell us. You never know, if you get your name in the Newsletter often enough, more people might visit your pub. Look at the Barley Mow, for instance...

The Editor's address is at the bottom of the back page of the Newsletter.

The Crooked Billet

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Hertfordshire's
Old Village Pubs
Traditional
Draught Beer
in Olde-World
surroundings

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DOING THE ROUNDS

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

I could just write nice things about all the pubs I visit, or I could be honest. Let's be honest about the **Three Tuns** at Bishops Stortford. The outside is drab and unwelcoming; surely Rayments could learn something from the excellent pub redecoration recently carried out by Benskins. And the inside is spartan beyond belief. Video games and audio loudspeakers dominate the decor, and the lounge furniture is largely that irritating combination of high stools and dwarf tables — just the thing when you're attempting to manage a bar snack. The handpumped BBA was excellent on my visit, the food OK, but the bar-person was a little more interested in joining in her friends' conversation across the room than in serving the paying customers.

What a contrast when a lovely midsummer evening took me and my companion to the **Butchers Arms** at Bradfield End Green, near Thaxted in Essex. A superb setting, at the edge of a beautifully cared-for village green; and a clean, smart, well cared-for pub, serving another fine pint of BBA. As long as country pubs like this still exist, England will be worth living in.

Onwards to the **Ash** at Burton End, near Stanstead, at the very edge of the airport. A fine old thatched pub, with two bars, comfortably laid out. Even had the landlord and landlady not been old friends of mine, and even had the good people at the bar not been fellow BBA aficionados (no, they weren't Spaniards), I would still have enjoyed my visit. The Ash is difficult to find but, as they say, well worth the effort. Another first-rate pint of BBA and excellent pub atmosphere.

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.

■ ■ 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

— 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*

Five Years Ago

The Newsletter reported, in August 1978, that Courage Directors was being sold at 36p per pint in the public bar of a Rickmansworth pub. It is impossible now to deduce whether that price was considered to be excessively low or high. One thing is certain, however: a mere five years on, the same beer will cost you *more than twice the price*. Remember when you could buy a pint of beer, twenty cigarettes, a packet of crisps and still have change from a pound note?

QUICK ONES continued

Game for a Laugh?

It always gives CAMRA branches cause for concern when pubs are closed for alterations, especially when the brewery announce they are going to spend a small fortune (or not so small in this case). When the **Red Lion**, Aldenham (on the A41, Watford By-Pass) re-opened with a new name, **The Game Bird**, and being marketed as a 'fun pub', we thought it was worth a visit.

The local press coverage had certainly paid off on the evening we went there. It was fairly dim inside, with many different types of lighting, some coloured and flashing. Wooden signs hang from the ceilings with quaint sayings such as 'A friend in need is a pest'. The designers have made quite a feature of the ceiling, with artificial vine leaves and mirrors.

Anyway — enough trivia, on to the important issues of life — beer. Benskins Bitter and Burton Ale are available. The quality of the Benskins was good, and at 72p per pint it is not the dearest in the area. A traditional Dutch dispenser is used to serve Orangeboom. Food is served at all times, although the evening menu is limited. Here is a selection from the jacket potato or crepe fillings (and I quote) :— "Lusty Lolita — tempt your tastebuds with our hot 'n' spicy Mexican chilli. Daisy's Delight — A dairy maid's dream — a haystack of cheese with onion".

There is a lot to look at in this pub (I noticed a stuffed ferret in a can of Double Diamond and a pickled squirrel in a can of Long Life), and it certainly provides a very interesting evening's drinking. Although music is being played all the time it didn't make conversation difficult. The **Game Bird** doesn't fit into the traditionalist's idea of a good pub, but it shouldn't be dismissed because of that.

Blakes Beer Cellar

96 Queens Road, Watford

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

GOOD FOOD AT ALL TIMES

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THE ROYAL OAK, BUSHEY

Free House

- ★ 6 Real Ales □ Food ★
- ★ Guest Beers ★

Beer garden with childrens playground

SPARROWS HERNE ★ ON THE A41

BENSKINS

Lifts up Herts.

Benskins Bitter • Draught Burton Ale

PUB NEWS

The very pleasant **Cross Keys** at Harpenden is now something of a Whitbread 'free house', selling three real ales. These are Wethered Bitter, Flowers Original and Castle Eden Ale from Whitbread's County Durham brewery. The Castle Eden Ale is a particularly distinctive northern pint, well worth trying. It is also available and in fine form at the **Alford Arms**, Frithsden.

Exiled Yorkshiremen take note. Tetley's Bitter is one of five real ales now available at the excellent **Red Lion** on the village green at Preston, near Hitchin.

Up for sale is the **Golden Fleece** at Braughing, a pretty Ind Coope pub which was recommended for its Benskins Bitter in the 1982 Good Beer Guide. The asking price? 'In excess of £80,000.'

The **Longship**, Stevenage is selling Watney Fined Stag on handpump. Also in Stevenage, the **Leisure Centre** has been selected as a guinea pig for Carlsberg's new dark lager. Response to this Dark Nectar is mixed, with reactions ranging from 'I don't like it' to the more emphatic 'I thought it was foul'.

The **Black Squirrel**, Letchworth is advertising Charrington IPA on handpump. The **Chequers**, Sandon now has Adnams Bitter and Everard Tiger on gravity, and Flowers Original and Wethered on handpump.

The **Heath Park**, Hemel Hempstead is undergoing extensive redevelopment and conversion into a twin-bar tavern with conference room upstairs. The pub will remain open during the alterations. The **Pheasant**, New Mill, Tring has a new licensee, Mr Jim Squires. He replaces Mr Reg Irving, who has gone to live in Spain. Reg, famous for his single-handed recapture of the Falkland Islands, is presumably making ready to repel the Spanish from Gibraltar should the need arise.

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR PUB

Morris dancing again dominates the August Diary. Your Diarist will present, at his own expense, a CAMRA bar cloth to the first real ale landlord to send him details of any pub event other than morris dancing.

- 1 August Lemsford:** Sun, 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
Hatfield: Wrestlers, 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
8 August St Pauls Walden: Strathmore Arms, 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men and Offley Morris Men.
15 August Sandridge: Rose and Crown, 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men
Nomansland: Wicked Lady, 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
22 August Shenley: Black Lion, 8.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.
Ridge: Old Guinea, 9.15pm. St Albans Morris Men.

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.

BRANCH DIARY

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday 3rd August

Social, Plough, Datchworth, 8.00 pm

Wednesday 10th August

Social, Plume of Feathers, Little Wymondley, 8.00 pm

Saturday 13th August

Minibus trip to SW Herts and N Beds

Wednesday 17th August

Therfield Social. Start Bell 8.00 pm, Fox & Duck 9.15 pm

Wednesday 24th August

Pub of the month, Windmill, Charlton, 8.00 pm

Wednesday 31st August

Social, White Hart, Stevenage, 8.00 pm

Contact John Law Stevenage 721015

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Monday 8th August

Committee Meeting, Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger, 8.00 pm

Tuesday 16th August

Branch Meeting, St Albans, 8.00 pm. Contact Eric Sim for venue.

Tuesday 23rd August

Boules social, White Lion, St Albans, 8.00 pm

Contact Eric Sim Hatfield 60647

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Friday 5th August

Committee Meeting, West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford, 8.00 pm

Saturday 6th August

Grand treasure hunt around Watford. Start at the Horns, Hempstead Road, 6.30 pm

Saturday 3rd September

Lunchtime family social (bring the kids), Artichoke, Croxley Green, 11.00 am

21st-23rd October (advance notice)

Weekend trip to Isle of Wight, including Burts Brewery

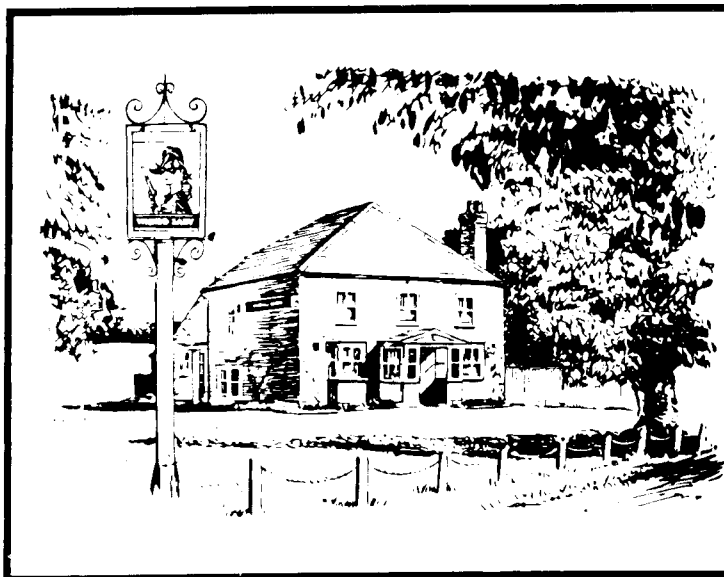
Contact Tony King Garston 72587

MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

Thursday 18th August

Social, Barley Mow, Hyde End, Great Missenden, 8.30 pm

Contact Del Allen Chesham 776141



The Wicked Lady

NOMANSLAND • WHEATHAMPSTEAD

Telephone 2128

A FREE HOUSE OF DISTINCTION
selling probably the best selection
of real ales

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reasonably-priced cuisine. Naturally, it's all
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Off sales of all beers and wines offered at very reasonable prices

Enquiries welcome

BEER GARDEN NOW OPEN

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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