

**FREE**



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

# THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

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## WHITBREAD CLOSE LUTON BREWERY

In an astonishing move, Whitbread have announced the closure of their strike-hit brewery at Luton. The huge modern brewing plant at Luton was built during the 1960s to replace the older brewery which they inherited on taking over Flowers, previously known as J.W. Green's. However, in recent years Whitbread have built two further enormous beer factories at Magor, South Wales, and Samlesbury, Lancashire, and were experiencing an excess of brewing capacity. This is even after, in the last decade, having closed traditional breweries at Blackburn, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Portsmouth, Cardiff, Romsey, Tiverton and Watlington (Kent).

So far as we know, the Luton mega-brewery never brewed a drop of real ale, but concentrated on national keg and lager brands. Real ale has recently been supplied to local pubs from Whitbread's breweries at Marlow (Wethered's), Cheltenham (Flowers) and Faversham (Fremlins).

While CAMRA very much regrets the loss of 300 jobs at Luton, we cannot mourn the closure of this beer factory which has contributed little or nothing to the improvement of choice for the local drinker. Indeed, it gives us a further opportunity to question the curiously outmoded policies of Whitbread and some other national brewers, who still see bigger as ever more beautiful, and would prefer to trunk insipid brews all over the country from Lancashire and South Wales, than to concentrate on brewing good local beers to suit local tastes.

We understand that Whitbread have already found a purchaser for their land in Luton, and no doubt, to their Directors, this is one more property deal. We suggested in this Newsletter as long ago as May 1978 that Whitbread should stop playing property developers and concentrate on brewing good beer. Never were truer words written, nor more heedlessly ignored. May we now suggest that Whitbread devote just a tiny proportion of the proceeds from the disposal of Luton to researching local beer preferences and satisfying them? Just like J.W. Green's used to.

Meanwhile there is some good and some bad news concerning the fate of the breweries mentioned in last month's "What's Brewing" column. The giant Scottish and Newcastle company have withdrawn their bid for Cameron's of Hartlepool, following CAMRA-led protests in north-east England leading to the reference of the deal to the Monopolies Commission. The Border Brewery of Wrexham has not been so lucky; following its take-over by Marstons, it is to cease brewing, and its famous Exhibition Ale will be no more.

### Henekey Inns

Whitbread moved further into the catering and leisure market recently with the acquisition of the Henekey Inns chain from Trusthouse Forte for £10.5m. The name Henekeys will now change.

The 22 inns, nine of which are also small hotels, are mainly in the South-East where Whitbread is now converting pubs over to Beefeater steakhouses at the rate of one every ten days. The Henekey deal has helped move Whitbread into second place in the steakhouse league, behind Grand Met.

## Pints 'n' Litres

REAL ALES TO TAKE AWAY

Greene King IPA only 49p per pint

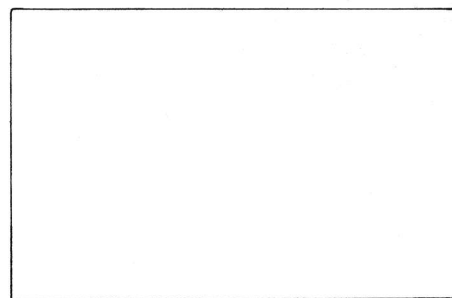
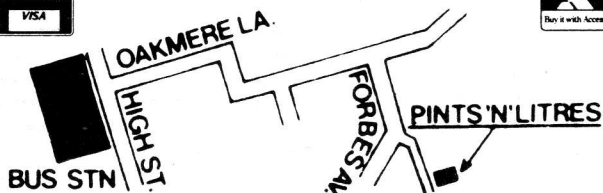
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## GUESS WHAT?

# COMPETITION

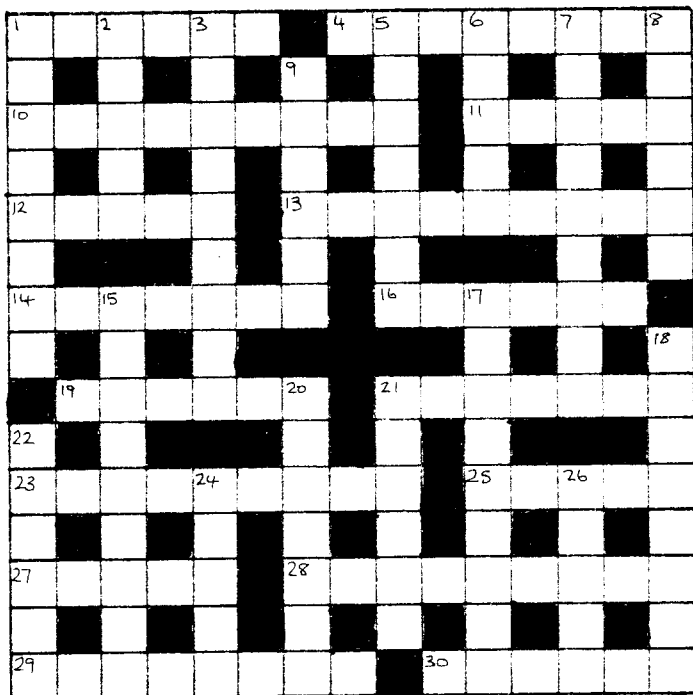
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# PROFILE

The sender of the first correct entry opened on August 10th will receive a copy of Michael Jackson's Pocket Guide to Beer. Please mark envelopes July competition.

## 'FIRST AID'

The initial letters of each answer, in the order printed, form a phrase which should be of interest to all local drinkers, and is a good example of a 13. Initial letters at 1 and 21 are each used once only in the sequence.



- 15d Fried rice and salt I find acceptable in practice (9)
- 10a Cooking implement, for example, British consumer provides (3-6)
- 22d Failed to break away (6)
- 6d In local it requires a measure (5)
- 20d Get rid of ice stored haphazardly round top of freezer (7)
- 1a This might purge teacher returning with grand entry (6)
- 1d Brought up bent, you say? Quite the reverse — a sort of staff of life (3,5)
- 14a Bubbly is dear, tea otherwise (7)
- 3d Pick topless nude romping about without a seat (9)
- 13a see preamble
- 21a Base structure in female that's no longer useful (3,4)
- 21d One who has a kind of ale in her (6)
- 11a Heavy drinker recovered from difficult operation (5)
- 25a Get hold of back end of the vessel (5)
- 8d Claim of old-timer who came from Bath? (6)
- 27a Come in and take part (5)
- 19a Attacked assistant in garden centre (6)
- 18d Where campers sleep with one on purpose (9)
- 17d See old Ben in melee — might this result (4-5)
- 4a He wants a new refill of strong local beer (8)
- 5d Previous nobleman? That's right (7)
- 16a Clear, but can go off internally, like bad beer (6)
- 2d Allowing little time to get drunk (5)
- 23a Correct sailing manoeuvre: backing round is terrible (9)
- 28a Try too hard to involve King and Queen in rigged vote (9)
- 26a Magistrate is a super man, in a word (5)
- 29a Almost destroy team playing on first of month? (8)
- 9d A Watney's beer, an old one without head, is put on (6)
- 24d Where women are kept by high and mighty leaders (5)
- 7d Ad lib is in progress (9)
- 12a Make another knot, one in knotty tree (5)
- 30a Advantage over having side forward (4,2)

## What the public wants (Vittle Inns style)

What does one do on a wet Bank Holiday Monday? Well I, together with a large proportion of Watford, or so it seemed, decided to have a look at Allied Breweries' (Vittle Inns division) newly-opened restaurant, cafe and bar called **Callendars**. This establishment (for it is not called a pub) is picturesquely situated opposite the Garston Bus Garage, on the site of the old Crown pub.

Externally, it combines the looks of a ladies hairdressers, a modern factory and an airport terminal building — truly an 80s design. It is surrounded by a sea of tarmac (called the car park) which presumably will one day fill right up. Pass through two sets of doors and a small reception area and there it is, in all its glory. The bar (always a focal point) is raised above floor level — presumably this is how they can allow young children into the large restaurant area. Climb up to the bar and you get a better view of the interior. Fronts of cars protrude from the walls. Bicycles dangle from the ceiling, and collections of everything collectable cover the walls and shelves. If you like horse brasses and other bric-a-brac, you will love the trumpets, clocks, film adverts and potted plants (was that a plastic cactus?) I didn't actually see any horse brasses, but they must be there somewhere. Tucked amongst this vast array sat, rather incongruously, a TV (showing the golf, but no sound). Overpowering everything else came disco music — even down to a recorded disc jockey (I didn't find a live one.) The car headlights flash in time to the music — nice.

After this I needed a drink. Real ale? — No. Guinness? — No. But you can have jolly John Bull at £1 a pint, or Skol lager at £1.20. A bottle of Orangeboom will set you back 90p, and there is of course a good selection of cocktails, also (I'm told) not cheap. It's surprising that in this and other of their 'renovated' pubs, Vittle Inns don't consider real ale drinkers to be part of their desired market.

The bar snack menu seems to consist of the starters for the main menu, and at the same prices. So I went for the main menu. To start, onion soup — very tasty. And for the main course — London broiled steak — not so wonderful.

It tasted as though it had been cooked in OK sauce and was served with saute potatoes (ours are the best) like soggy crisps. To follow — double sherry trifle. I think the double referred to the sherry, which could definitely be tasted. A cup of coffee to finish.

In all, a reasonable meal, served quickly and efficiently with a smile by waiters and waitresses who looked as though they should have been at school (a sign of growing old!) The bar service was also friendly and fast.

To conclude. Provided you are not dressed in jeans (this, I was told, was to keep the young people out!) and around the 25 to 30 age group, and a wealthy bus-spotter (but not a real ale drinker), then this is the place for you. If it's a wet Bank Holiday Monday, then it's the place for everyone.

**John Hurrell**  
Watford & District

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



## THE STAR INN



FURNEUX PELHAM

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GOOD HOME-COOKED FOOD  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

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☎ Brent Pelham 227

## In the picture

How many readers can claim to be celebrated in cartoon form in their local? Well, this honour certainly goes to CAMRA members brothers Bruce and Dennis Ward, and to Dennis' wife Pam, whose likenesses can be found in a place of honour at the bar of the Feathers, Wadesmill. Ask the manager, Chris Severn, for a pint of Truman's Mild, and we are sure he will point you in the right direction, if you haven't already found it.

The winners of the May Competition were Kevin and Sue Campbell of the Lord Haig, Hertford. The correct solution was: Across — Banks and Taylors, Ingle, Angostura, Ghosts, Stellate, Well End, Consign, Ova, Trivial, Seventh, Romantic, Acting, Retribute, Opera, Seven Deadly Sins. Down — Bridgewater Arms, Negro, Sceptre, Neat, Tight, Ypsilon, Ovulation, Snake in the grass, Idol, Leitmotiv, Cask, Inn sign, Victory, In use, Iceni, Head.

## SUPPING IN MALTA

Increasingly CAMRA members taking their holidays away from our shores, and then going in search of a 'decent pint', can find themselves looking in vain. 'Foreign beers also available' is commonly a synonym for cans of Guinness and Heineken, their supposed expiry dates probably long since lapsed. In the sea of lager that characterises our mainland continent and, in particular, its Mediterranean side, however, a surprising oasis is available with a strong British connection. This is a 17-mile by .9-mile island: Malta.

The British connection is evident everywhere: red pillar boxes, English-style telephone boxes, many with the old imperial crown, old London single-decker buses everywhere at very cheap rates, English spoken very widely and English fare the order of the day in the cafes and restaurants. Out of season (we went in May) it isn't too hot or crowded, and even the hotels see their prices as negotiable.

We avoided the main tourist centres, didn't go on a package tour, booked our own flight and hotel, and had a lovely time without too much expense.

The local brewery is SIMONDS, FARSONS, CISK Ltd, commonly referred to as Farsons. The beers are top-fermented in the British tradition, using English hops, and bottled on a massive scale in bottles imported from Belgium. Draught beer is gradually increasing in outlets but is still quite rare and, even when available, tends to be taken in many bars only in the tourist season. Whether draught or bottled, however, they are flash-pasteurised at the brewery and served under CO<sub>2</sub> pressure.

Bottled beer seems to be available in a wide range of outlets including bars, general stores, cafes and restaurants, even beach kiosks and some chemist shops. Many places close between 1 and 4pm. Evening closing tends to be variable, and many places we visited were virtually empty, as were the streets, although stray cats were plentiful. We tended to frequent the genuine Maltese bars rather than tourist traps. Not only was the beer generally cheaper, but we were always made welcome, given free snacks in the early evening, the best seats were often given up for us and the TV or soft music changed over to English programmes. I wonder what Jean-Paul Sartre would have made of sitting in a bar in the Mediterranean, drinking bottles of pale ale, surrounded by Maltese-speaking people and watching the Benny Hill Show?

By far the most popular beer is HOP LEAF — a 1040 straw-coloured pale ale. It is usually served from the cold shelf. We often got strange looks asking for 2 bottles each at room temperature, having the tops taken off all 4 and drinking 2 while the gas disappeared from the others. Described as a hoppy ale, I personally found the Hop Leaf rather bland, refreshing the thirst but not really satisfying the palate.

Preferable by far was the BLUE LABEL — a 1039 mild, darker in colour, sweeter and more hoppy. Blue Label was much less common than Hop Leaf. Draught Blue Label we didn't find anywhere, though a couple of bars told us they were getting it in from late May onwards.

My favourite ale, available in bottles only, was the LACTO — a Vitamin B enriched milk stout. This is a genuine old-fashioned dark stout, brewed in the best tradition but virtually unavailable. Asking for it in the Maltese bars, I was frequently met with roars of good-natured laughter from both barmen and clientele, and asked if I were pregnant. Apparently it's marketed and advertised mainly as a tonic for nursing mothers and invalids. We only found it available to drink on the premises in one restaurant and one bar, both in Valletta, the capital.

The hospitality extended to us on our brewery trip (a Wednesday morning) was very welcoming. I have never seen so many bottles and crates anywhere! CAMRA members will be disappointed to learn that beer canning is due to commence on a big scale from next September; understandable from the point of view of economy — bottle losses, especially from tourist spots, and the enormous cost and difficulties of bringing the bottles over from Belgium. Bottled beer production will still continue, being much in demand as the favoured form of beer consumption by the Maltese.

Due to the sampling room being closed for modernisation, we were given our tastings in the staff mess, temporarily converted for the purpose (and no Lacto available!) Also present was a coach party, many of whom were drinking Cisk Lager, which I didn't try. Asking about the brewery workers' consumption rights during working hours, we were told that they do not have a quota but can drink as much as they like. Given these generous 'limits' it has been found that they keep a better sense of proportion and the working atmosphere is happy and contented. One particular memory from our tasting session is that I saw more pint glasses there than I had seen anywhere in all of our stay in Malta.

So, for the intending visitor to Malta, a welcome respite from Continental lagers is available. We were frequently told 'come again', and it is no mean commendation that we might well do that.

Apparently Farsons hold a Beer Festival for several days in August each year. Sadly, its timing might put off many, not only due to the peak holiday prices but, as one Maltese policeman told me, "If you come in August, then bring your oxygen, that's all I can say . . . the heat! Nobody does anything in Malta in August."

## RURAL RIDES

### No. 2: Perry Green to Sawbridgeworth

This walk, drive or ride takes in the pleasant countryside between the valleys of the rivers Ash and Stort, in the eastern part of the county. Coincidentally, all the pubs encountered are McMullens.

Starting on the B1004 Ware to Bishop's Stortford road, turn off eastwards between Widford and Much Hadham, and follow signs to Perry Green. This charming little place is the home and workplace of the sculptor Henry Moore. Unfortunately, its only pub, the **Hoops** is, at the time of writing closed.

Pressing on and heading north-east the equally pretty hamlet of Green Tye is soon reached. The **Prince of Wales** is a small cottage-style pub, serving AK and Country on handpumps, but with the music played slightly too loud for my taste.

South and then east across unusually open country, with long views over towards Harlow, the next stop is Allens Green. Mac's AK is on handpump in the **Queen's Head**, an upright and imposing building. Music-lovers beware. At the time of my visit, pop music was blaring from some innermost recess, and what sounded like grand opera was shouting from behind the bar. No, the two don't mix.

Following signs south-eastwards towards Sawbridgeworth you will be stopped in your tracks by a children's play area with assorted adventures and climbs. After having had a go, you will notice that you are in the splendidly equipped garden of Mac's newly refurbished **Three Horseshoes**, where real AK and Country are available, indoors, on pump. Evening dress is not compulsory here, but on my visit some splendidly-attired young ladies certainly added style to the place, about 3/4 mile to the west of the town centre.

This is a splendid trip through some of the less-known parts of the Hertfordshire countryside, to be enjoyed in good weather when outside drinking is a must.

Peter Lerner

*(Rural Ride number 1 was published in the February 1980 Newsletter — Ardeley to Great Munden. Suggestions for further countryside pub crawls will be welcomed by the Editor).*

### BOOZER'S BOOKSHOP

IF YOU are building up your own beer drinker's library, here are a few volumes you should not be without:

- The Traditional English Pub — A Way of Drinking by Ben Davis. **£12.50.** (An expert's eye view of our famous institution, complete with fine photographs).
- Bricks and Beer, **£2.** (A well-illustrated history of pub architecture produced for a London exhibition).
- A Good Head for Beer by Gareth D. John. **£6.50.** (The latest report on the British brewing industry).
- Time Gentlemen Please! by CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group and SAVE. **£3.50.** (A critical examination of the fate — and future — of many of our finest houses).
- Pub Preservation Booklet. **90p.** (The Pub Preservation Group's guide to the threats facing the British pub).
- Pocket Guide to Beer by Michael Jackson. **£2.95** (The instant handbook for drinkers who wish to learn about beers from around the globe).
- Hops and Hop Picking by Richard Filmer. **£2.65** (All you ever wanted to know about the history of beer's bitter ingredient).
- Capital Ale by Roger Protz. **£1.75** (A book describing 200 of London's best pubs).
- Brewing and Breweries by Maurice Lovett. **£1.10** (An easy-on-the-eye journey round Britain's brewing heritage).
- Cidermaking by Michael B. Quinion. **£1.10** (A guide to the traditional delights of scrumpy).
- The Traditional Cider Directory by David Kitton. **£3.15.** (An invaluable new guide to scrumpy, the pubs which sell it and the people who produce it).

All prices include postage and packaging, and are available from CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. Make your cheques payable to CAMRA Ltd.

## SEEN AND HEARD AT THE CHILTERN BEER FESTIVAL

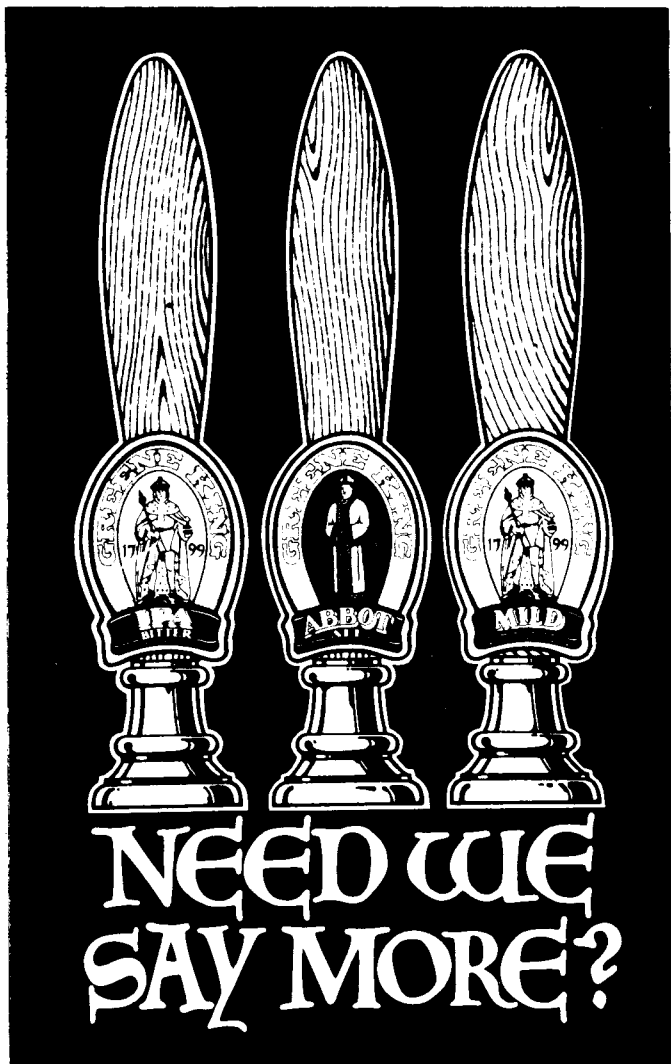
Hemel Hempstead's multi-storey Pavilion was not at its most hectic for the Thursday trade-only session of the Chiltern Beer Festival this year. However, those who weren't brewery executives, glaring at the opposition, were following the lead of the local council's Chairman and enjoying themselves mightily.

It was easy to tell the men from the old-established breweries, anxious and be-suited, from the new breed of small brewers, dressed as if straight from the mash-tun. While the men from **McMullens** were pushing Hartsman Lager for all it was worth, the representative of **Victoria Brewery** was showing keenness to remove one appallingly filthy pair of trousers and substitute a slightly more desirable pair. All the way from Oxfordshire came **Morrells** with a huge range of real ales, and wanting to expand into the Herts free trade, while the tiny **Glennys** of Witney, almost a one-man band, just wanted to sell the (quite excellent) beer they had brought.

Local publicans were there, enjoying an afternoon on the other side of the counter. Chris and Ron, from Puckeridge's foremost free house, were searching in vain for Marston's free trade rep (they wanted to return an antique Marston's cask before Victoria got their hands on it), while the landlord of a notorious South Herts free house was looking daggers (or perhaps he always looks like that) at a certain CAMRA official whom he believes, quite wrongly, to have perpetrated a dastardly insult against himself and his family.

And what of the other CAMRA members? We spotted the Editor of the Campaign's national newspaper enjoying a pint or six; subsequent enquiries revealed that he had told his hard-pressed colleagues that he would be spending the afternoon "at home". There was a rare sighting of a Herts-Essex Borders member, while the CAMRA Products stand was in the capable and colourfully tattooed hands of the Mid Chilterns Branch. Herts South members, on the CAMRA beer stand, were muttering imprecations about the local landlord who serves John Bull Keg via handpumps — we know who you are, squire, and it's just a matter of time . . .

Rip-off of the Festival? The 1982 commemorative beer glass handed out on the door. (Or perhaps not, as it was free). Most noted absence? Benskins, where were you?



## Real Hertfordshire Cider?

One of the most interesting and pleasantly-staffed stands at the Chiltern Festival was that of Bullfinch Hertfordshire Ciders. This new company hope to produce a range of real Puddingstone Ciders, produced in this county. At present, they are marketing under their own name ciders produced for them in Herefordshire.

Much depends on how receptive local publicans may be to selling real local cider, something which hasn't been produced in Hertfordshire, we would guess, since Wright's of Walkern stopped making their own many years ago.

CAMRA wishes Bullfinch every success and hopes to be able to record, in this Newsletter, the future progress of the company.

## Another for Sawbridgeworth

**McMullens closed the original Three Horseshoes in West Road, Sawbridgeworth some years ago. It was not greatly mourned as it had not sold real ale. Its location on the western extremity of the town seemed relatively unfavourable, but to the surprise of many people Macs applied for consent to demolish and rebuild anew, and were successful.**

**The replacement Three Horseshoes commenced selling real ale on 16th May following a 'Grand Re-opening'. It has a comfortable single bar which is broken up into smaller areas and contains all the predictable features of the newer Macs' houses. An item which is given pride of place is an old Victorian engraving which was rescued from the previous pub. AK and Country bitter are served from two sets of handpumps.**

**Perhaps the most striking feature of the new Horseshoes is outdoors — a well-equipped children's playground offering various large objects to climb and sit upon.**

Brian Fletcher

## Passing the fizzical

Congratulations to Hitchin Express journalist Dave Mullahey, who recently had the courage to sample 10 different keg lagers in his local pubs, all in the course of duty.

Dave gave highest marks to Charles Wells' Red Stripe, which he described as "not too cold and above all a tasty tangy flavour". Lowest marks went to Holsten, "uncomfortably gassy and very cold; couldn't hold the glass for more than a few seconds without feeling anaesthetised." McMullen's new Hartsman was complimented for its individual taste and reasonable price, but the heavily advertised Carlsberg was described as "very cold, gassy and insipid".

Younger's Kestrel suffered, according to Dave, from "excess gassiness", while Skol had "a nasty chemical after-taste". Meanwhile Kronenbourg "tends to repeat on you before you've even reached the bottom of the pot."

"Cold". "Gassy". "Nasty". Strong words those, Dave. You wouldn't find a reputable publication like the Hertfordshire Newsletter being so rude about the tastes of its readers. After all, one man's drink is another man's . . .

## Watford Winners

Although Watford didn't quite manage to win the FA Cup this year, local publicans were reportedly not too unhappy over the Cup Final weekend. West Herts drinkers were particularly keen to visit their local, either in anticipation of celebration or to drown their sorrows, and pub takings boomed.

Landlord Bob Hallett, of the Duke of York, Croxley Green, was reported in the local paper to have taken more over the counter on the morning of Watford's big day than he normally would over a whole weekend.

Meanwhile, ever hopeful, Benskins brought out a special limited edition FA Cup Commemorative Ale of high strength (OG 1051-55) and with a specially designed label featuring Watford FC's logo. Many people have found it very difficult to obtain one of these bottles, and if any landlord with spare supplies would care to contact the Newsletter, we are sure that we will be able to find some willing purchasers.

## Not so much fun . . .

"Fun pubs" are now all the rage with the big brewers, who are falling over themselves to turn their pubs into trendy joints for the "high-spending" 18 to 25 year age group.

However, according to top stockbrokers Buckmaster and Moore, this time the brewers might have really done their sums wrong. For population predictions show that, by the year 2001, the number of people within this age group is likely to fall by some 19 per cent. Add to this the increasing level of unemployment amongst young persons, and it may well be that the brewers should look elsewhere for their profits.

We in CAMRA say that all pubs should be fun. Perhaps the brewers will get it right when they truly start to consider the preferences of their customers, rather than slipping them into categories.

## FIVE YEARS AGO

July 1979's Newsletter featured a crawl of the 6 real ale pubs of Ware; now, according to the latest Herts Real Ale Guide, there are 15 in this pretty little town. However, as some compensation for the lack of choice of real ale, the average price of a pint of bitter had just risen, after Chancellor Howe's Budget, by two pence. The best-value beer in the county was deemed to be Mc Mullen's Country, at 36p per pint. Like the number of real ale pubs in Ware the price of a pint has more than doubled in the last 5 years.

## Sign of the times?

The **Fox & Hounds** at Bricket Wood has a new, and highly original, inn sign. Landlady Peggy Skillings was offended by the traditional hunting scene, and decided it was time for a change. The result? Considering the overriding passion of her 'regulars', the choice was obvious. The 'fox' has become a referee, and the hounds are dressed as footballers. In Watford colours, of course!

## LETTERS

**Pete Freeman of Mid-Chilterns branch has been foiled in his attempt to sample some new pubs . . .**

Dear Newsletter,

I would like to point out a slight misfortune I have recently had. After reading adverts for pubs in the Newsletter, I decided to visit a couple of them. My only form of transport is a motorcycle. When I reached the Wicked Lady, gasping for a drink, I was alarmed to find a sign saying 'no motorcyclists', so I decided to move to the Brocket Arms, Ayot St Lawrence — only to find the same sign.

Please could advertisers and guide compilers mention in their adverts or pub descriptions that a certain pub will not allow some groups on their premises, to save a lot of disappointment and wasted time?

Yours faithfully,  
**P.S. Freeman**

## JUKE FOX FURY

"Local drinker's" article "Quiet, please!" in the April Newsletter, advocating peace and quiet in pubs instead of recorded music, has certainly created a storm in some Hertfordshire pubs. Our anonymous contributor graciously conceded that he might spare the odd 10p to hear the music of Gracie Fields, Flanagan and Allen, Nat King Cole or the Andrews Sisters. Does anyone know of a juke box in a local pub which plays 78s, so that our refugee from the 1940s can jump and jive again? It has always struck me, as a refugee from the '60s, that many of our local pubs have an extremely good selection of records old and new, and I would particularly compliment the **Abbot John** at Wheathampstead, the **Rest and Welcome** at Haultwick and the **Black Horse** at Hertford.

Surely the most unusual record I have seen on any Herts. juke box is at the **Bull** at Watton at Stone, where you can pay your 10p to hear "The Coventry City Song" by Alan Randall. Does anyone know of a more unlikely record on a pub juke-box?

**Peter Lerner**

- 8 July **St Albans:** Old Kings Arms. 8.30pm. Traditional and modern folk and country music.
- 9 July **Burnham Green:** White Horse. 9.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans Morris Men.  
**Tewin:** Rose and Crown. 8.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans Morris Men.
- 12 July **Boxmoor:** Fishery Inn. 9.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans Morris Men.
- 15 July **St Albans:** Old Kings Arms. 8.30pm. Traditional and modern folk and country music.
- 16 July **Wadesmill:** Feathers. 9.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans and Standon Morris Men.  
**Watton at Stone:** Bull. 8.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans and Standon Morris Men.
- 18 July **Harpenden:** Engineer. 9.30pm. Morris dancing. Cottonmill Clog Morris.  
**Harpenden:** Queens Head. 8.30pm. Morris dancing. Cottonmill Clog Morris.
- 22 July **St Albans:** Old Kings Arms. 8.30pm. Traditional and modern folk and country music.
- 23 July **Nomansland:** Wicked Lady. 9.15pm. Morris Dancing. St Albans Morris Men.  
**Wheathampstead:** Cherry Trees. 8.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans Morris Men.
- 25 July **St Albans:** Acom 9.30pm. Morris dancing. Cottonmill Clog Morris.  
**St Albans:** Blacksmiths Arms. 8.30pm. Morris dancing. Cottonmill Clog Morris.
- 29 July **St Albans:** Old Kings Arms. 8.30pm. Traditional and modern folk and country music.
- 30 July **Abbots Langley:** Royal Oak. 9.15pm. Morris dancing. St Albans Morris Men.

## BLAKES

96 Queens Road, Watford

5 Real Ales ● Draught Cider ● Wines

GOOD FOOD AT ALL TIMES  
Open pub hours, 7 days a week

## HAPPY HOUR

Sunday 12 — 2 pm  
25% off all drinks

Traditional Sunday Lunch £3.95 Children £1.95

## THE ROYAL OAK, BUSHEY

Free House

★ 6 Real Ales □ Food ★  
★ Guest Beers ★

Restaurant and carvery now open

Reservations preferable ☎ 01-950 2865

SPARROWS HERNE ★ ON THE A411

## GARDEN OF THE MONTH by Groundsman

The **Huntsman** at Goose Green, near Hoddesdon, is a great little pub set in wooded countryside, and serving handpumped Rayments BBA, Greene King Abbot Ale, Adnams Bitter and Younger's No.3. Its garden is large and spacious, with a pond, and a paradise for adults and children alike. Unquestionably the Garden of the Month.

Close runners-up, with well-kept gardens suitable for families with children are the **John Bunyan** at Coleman Green near Wheathampstead (McMullen); the **Waggoners** at Ayot Green (Whitbread) complete with donkey; and the **Bull** at Watton-at-Stone (Benskins) complete with disorientated cockerel.

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## PUB NEWS

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Victoria Brewery tell us that their prize-winning Albert Ale is now on sale at the **Two Brewers**, Hertford, and the **Lord Louis**, Stanstead Abbots. Their Bitter can be found at the **Prince of Wales**, Hertingfordbury.

The new addition to Wadworth's range, Farmers Glory, can be sampled at the **Kings Arms** in Tring, where it is available as a guest beer. Also in Tring, the **Royal Hotel** (Tring station) has added Chiltern Beechwood Bitter to its range.

A new real outlet is the **Bull**, Whitwell, now selling Wethered Bitter. All three pubs in this village now sell real ale — a worthwhile mini-pub crawl!

The **Yew Tree**, Walkern now sells McMullen AK alongside the Country Bitter. AK is also available at the **Compasses**, Waltham Abbey, as well as Greene King Abbot. The **Roebuck**, Stevenage, has Greene King Abbot and Rayments BBA. The **Pyramid** in Stevenage, though, has discontinued its real ale until modernisation is completed — about September.

The **Green Man**, Ickleford, no longer sells real ale.

The current range at the **Valiant Trooper**, Aldbury includes Greene King Abbot, Fuller London Pride, Marston Pedigree and Ruddle Bitter. The **Kings Arms**, Berkhamsted is selling the full Truman range except the mild. The **George**, Berkhamsted has Everard Tiger. The **Waggoners**, Ayot Green sells Fremilns Bitter; the **Queens Arms**, Waltham Abbey Websters Yorkshire Bitter.

The **Cock and Bottle**, Great Gaddesden, a new real ale outlet, is currently serving Fullers ESB, but the landlord is planning to sell a different beer every week. The **Happy Man**, Rickmansworth is selling Charrington IPA.

With the advent of summer, outdoor drinking is the order of the day. The **Three Crowns**, Bushey now has an outdoor drinking area and offers evening barbecues, whilst the **White Hart**, Bushey and the **Tantivy**, Watford have added children's play facilities to their gardens.

More news from **London Vintners**: the off-licence in Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead is now selling Adnams Bitter alongside Ruddles.

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## JOIN CAMRA NOW

Full Membership £7 (£10 overseas)  
Joint husband/wife membership £7

### Standing Order 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.

To \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of your bank here)

Please forward to Barclays Bank Limited, 3 High Street, St Albans (20-74-09) for the credit of CAMRA Ltd.  
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\*delete as appropriate

Send to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

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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, Flat 1, The Old Stables, Woodside, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

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## BRANCH DIARY

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### HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 65957

### HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

**Tuesday 17th July**

Branch Meeting at the Abbot John, Wheathamstead, 8pm

**Tuesday 21st August**

Branch Meeting at the Cricketers, Redbourn, 8pm

Contact Eric Sim ☎ Hatfield 60647

### WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

**Saturday 7th July**

All-day coach trip to the Black Country. Phone Branch Contact for details.

**Thursday 12th July**

"Kevin's Round" — birthday social at the West Herts Sports & Social Club, Park Avenue, Watford, 8pm

**Wednesday 18th July**

Branch Meeting at the Sir Robert Peel, King Street, Watford (upstairs room), 8pm

**Saturday 28th July**

Bushey Treasure Hunt. Meet Foresters Arms, Bushey Heath High Road, 6pm. Small prize for the winner.

**Wednesday 1st August**

Social at the Three Crowns, Bushey Heath, 8pm

Contact Tony King ☎ Watford 672587

### MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

**Thursday 12th July**

Pub crawl of Denham Village. Meet at the Plough, 8.30pm.

**Saturday 21st July**

Family social at the Bridgewater Arms, Little Gaddesden, 12.30pm. Children's room available.

**Tuesday 31st July**

Pub crawl of Sarratt. Meet at the Boot, 8.30pm.

Contact Pete Freeman ☎ Hemel Hempstead 69773

### ALL HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCHES

**Tuesday 10th July**

Inter-branch Liaison Meeting, Two Diamonds, Old Town, Stevenage, 8pm. All members welcome

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## PUB OF THE MONTH

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### The Cabinet, Reed

The first issue of the Newsletter in February 1978 announced that the **Cabinet** in Reed had been chosen as the first North Herts Pub of the Year following its selection as Pub of the Month in July 1977. The **Cabinet** thus has a long pedigree of success; it was first included in the Good Beer Guide in 1975.

The **Cabinet** is a white painted weatherboard building dating from 1629. It has been known as the **Cabinet** since early in the last century and at one time was owned by Phillips of Royston. It is now a free house, one of the first of many in the villages around Royston.

The **Cabinet** retains a separate public bar and a very comfortable lounge which has been described as like drinking in a private front room. The extensive garden for summer drinking with the family is complete with a childrens bar.

All the real ales are dispensed by gravity; the selection can vary but usually includes Greene King XX dark mild, Adnams bitter, Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter, Everards Tiger and Tolly Cobbold Original.

Humphrey and Joan Cook have now been at the **Cabinet** for 10 years and sadly this year will be their last for they have announced their retirement in the autumn.

The streets of Reed (just off the A10) are formed into squares dating back to Roman times. The **Cabinet** is in the High Street and is not as difficult to find as some would have you believe — it is certainly worth the effort.

J.F.F.