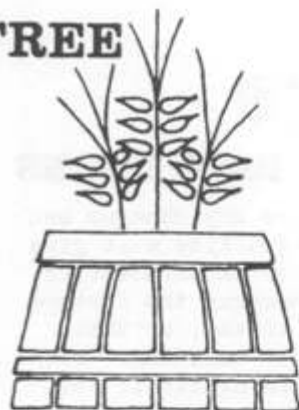


FREE



# The Campaign For Real Ale HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

September 1978 • Number 8



## G.King: More Real Ale?

The Annual General Meeting of Greene King this year, at Bury St. Edmunds, was a quiet affair but one change in the company's policy towards real ale was made public for the first time. The chairman, Sir Hugh Greene, announced that in any area where the company do not offer a choice of methods of dispense of draught beer, they will look favourably upon any request from a landlord for a change, if the conditions are such that good beer will continue to be available for the customers. So, landlords, this means that if you are in a geographically under-privileged area, and you want to please your customers and exchange your pressure taps for some genuine traditional handpumps, now is the time to approach Greene King. Try it! - you won't be sorry and neither will your customers.

BY PETER LERNER



## New For Old

Amidst much bally-hoo from the local press, McMullen's opened their newest development, The Crocodile, just off the A10 in College Road, located in the Churchgate area of Cheshunt, on 22 August. This new building has been erected to the rear of the old Crocodile, which is now being demolished. A large new pub with extensive car parking is the Macs formula for getting a bigger slice of the action in this heavily populated part of the county, and the enormous half-built GLC housing estate just down the road ensures its future trade.

## Night Follows Day

Mr Edwards, recently retired head brewer at Macs, told us at a recent CAMRA meeting that capital invested in large drinking emporiums created trade as surely as night follows day. This has been proven yet again with the Crocodile already attracting large numbers of people at peak times, making it to my mind, overcrowded. The pub boasts one handpump serving Country Bitter in the saloon bar and it is a bit of an effort to explain to some of the bar staff that you want a pint from the pump and not one of the many pressure taps. Despite this difficulty it was good to see a lot of customers in both bars demanding their beer from the pump.

## Sensible Decor

The comfortable saloon has large seating areas with sensible wood furniture and a pleasing lack of plastic and it's good to find that Macs have retained the Public Bar complete with dart board. With the whole place geared as much for eating as drinking (the impressive menu is reasonably priced for the area, although I was disappointed with the quality of my pizza and chips) the Crocodile is obviously Macs idea of what a good pub should be. I think it's worth a visit to make up your own mind.

BY RUSSELL PATTEN

## ALLY PALLY '78

From Tuesday to Sunday, September 5 - 10, CAMRA will once again be staging the Great British Beer Festival - for the second year running at Alexandra Palace in North London. There will be over 145 different beers from over 70 breweries. The 1978 Festival will be bigger and better than last year's event, so make sure you come along to sample some of Britain's finest ales! Exact opening times are:

## IND COOPE CHANGES

Another Ind Coope landlord swap around took place last month in the south of the county. Terry and Barbara Mason of the Railway Bell in New Barnet fame, have taken over the White Horse in Potters Bar and Terry will soon be installing a handpump for the Bitter - to sell alongside the Burton Ale. John O'Hara and his family have moved to the Railway Bell from the Garibaldi in St. Albans and Mild is back alongside Bitter and Burton. Good luck to everyone involved in these moves.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP OFFER

In a new membership drive, it has been decided that all new members joining between now and the end of this year will automatically become members of CAMRA until the end of next year - and just for the normal annual fee of £4. So now is the time to get the most out of your membership subscription and help us in the battle for better beer and better pubs. Why not fill in the Membership form on the back page of this Newsletter and join today!

# Preserving Our Heritage

Whenever the brewers make the decision to 'improve' yet another splendid old pub and the builders move in, the result is usually another example of twentieth century vandalism laughingly described as interior design. All too often the pub's customers must stand by, helpless to stop the desecration. There are, however, means by which some pubs could be saved and that is by having them listed. This measure does not put the building absolutely beyond the threat of being ruined by an overdose of the brewery's good taste (or the owner's in the case of a free house), but it does go some way towards it.

## Credentials

Buildings are generally listed if they are of architectural or historic interest. They need not necessarily be attractive and one that would be listed in one area may be of no note at all in another. Generally, if some notable event took place there or if it has some unusual constructional or architectural feature, then it may be considered for listing. Buildings can also be listed as part of a group, such as the Royal Crescent in Bath.

## Grades

There are three main grades of listing; Grade I, II\* and II. Grade I indicates those of special interest - the Buckingham Palaces of this world - and consequently receive the greatest degree of protection. Grade II\* are also buildings of note which are regarded as special in some way. Grade II comprises the vast majority of listings. There is also a Grade III although this grade has no statutory significance, serving merely to draw the building to the attention of the local planning office, so that if it is threatened it can be decided whether the grading should be raised to II or removed altogether.

## Listing

The responsibility for listing buildings belongs to the Secretary of State for the Environment, ie the Department of the Environment. Their surveyors go around deciding whether buildings should be listed and their standards are continually changed or extended so that, for instance, more modern buildings can be included before they are altered. If a building is in imminent danger the local planning office can serve a Building Preservation Notice, which gives statutory protection for six months while the D.O.E. inspectors decide on what should be done. The local planning office or private individuals can also suggest to the D.O.E. that a building should be added to the lists - and obviously this is where people can do something to protect their local. That individual should have some justification for the proposed listing and so it's advisable to have a good case made out when forwarding your suggestion. It may be advisable to approach the local planning office first.

## What is Protected?

When you've finally got your local listed then what's protected? In fact nearly any feature can be, not only the exterior but also the interior and even the mahogany bar, moulded ceiling or carved staircase, if these items warrant it. Internal decorations and furniture are generally not. Grading does not mean that the building can't be touched, it merely means that special

BY GEOFF HILL & DAVE BURNS

permission is required before any changes can be made. The local planning office must give this permission and the usual requirement is that the changes will not destroy the feature for which the building was listed, or that they are in sympathy with the building. This not only applies to the building itself but also to anything immediately around it which may affect its setting.

## Offence

Doing nasty things to a listed building is a criminal offence which generally brings a £250 fine, plus £20 per day until any remedial work is done. However, penalties may vary depending under which section of the relevant act charges are brought, but suffice it to say that they exist in one form or other.

## Public View

Any applications to alter listed (or any other) buildings are open to public view at the local planning office so you should be able to gauge the extent of any damage intended by the brewer and plan any objections accordingly. Naturally these will carry more weight when dealing with a listed building. It should also be borne in mind that objections need not only relate to work done on the building itself. Loss of amenity or increased public inconvenience or annoyance may be grounds for refusal. In the recent case of the Swan, Bushey, a preliminary application to demolish the pub and replace it with a bigger one was turned down partly on the grounds that the area around could not cope with any extra traffic. It is obviously best to look at the problem from as wide a viewpoint as possible.

## The Acts

The above is a very potted version of what listing is all about. If you feel you would like a little light bedtime reading, the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 (sections 54-58, 96-101, 277), the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 (section 10), the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974 (sections 7, 8, 10, 277, 277A), the Local Government Act 1972 and the Town and Country Planning (General) Regulations 1976 should either enlighten, or confuse, you further.

And then there are Conservation Areas - but that's another story.

## PUB NEWS

Aldenham The Aldenham Golf Club now has hand-pumped Charles Wells Bitter.

Northern Heights The Edwarebury Country Club now has Whitbread's Marlow bitter on handpump.

St. Albans The Bunch of Grapes is now selling Whitbread's Marlow bitter by handpump. The Crown has added Ruddle's Bitter to its range of real ales. The Midland Railway now has Courage Director's Bitter.

Lemsford The Crooked Chimney, between Wheat-hampstead and Lemsford, now sells Ind Coope's Burton Ale.

Ware The New Rose and Crown has recently had a handpump installed for Greene King Abbot.

# Growth in St. Albans

The growth of real ale in St. Albans over the past couple of years has been rapid to say the least. A major reason for this has been due to the promotion of traditional beer by Ind Coope, whose tied estate in the city amounts to over 25 pubs. Real ale is currently sold in 17 of these outlets.

## ONE OUTLET

In the early days of 1976, of Ind Coope's pubs, only the White Hart Tap in Keyfield Terrace refused to be washed into the sea of fizz. However, the well promoted introduction of Burton Ale in mid-1976 boosted the numbers of real ale pubs in St. Albans overnight. Today the situation is encouraging for CAMRA, with continued installation of Burton Ale on handpump but more noteworthy is the re-introduction of handpumped Bitter, either as the sole real ale or alongside its stronger but rather overpriced partner. The more recent conversions are as follows:

The Duke of Marlborough, with Burton and Bitter on handpump, situated at the foot of Holywell Hill. This is a surprisingly drab pub, especially for one of the more pleasant areas of the city. Don't be fooled by the Burton Ale sign as "it's only on during the winter".

## MORE BITTER

Two similar pubs, the Rat's Castle in Hatfield Road and the Horn of Plenty in Victoria Street had Burton Ale installed as their first real ale, with Bitter the more recent addition. Although they both have the greater emphasis on entertainment, with live music in separate function rooms, the bitter is well recommended in either house. A few yards from the 'Horn' is the Acorn, now serving traditional bitter alongside its fizzy counterpart. This is a friendly street-corner pub with a good public bar incorporating a bar billiard table.

## LACK OF REAL MILD

Despite these successes for Bitter, with only the Rose and Crown, Garibaldi and White Hart Tap selling Ind Coope's real mild, it must be with this underadvertised beer that further campaigning lies. Meantime, let's look for more real Bitter and Burton Ale in such pubs as the Kings Arms, Fighting Cocks and particularly the White Swan in Upper Dagnall Street (where fizz at present comes from dormant handpumps), and press for more real mild in the houses already established as real ale outlets.

BY NICK PAGE.

# John & Joan retire

Saddest news last month was the departure of John and Joan Fish from the Windmill in Thundridge after 8 years hard work. Apart from serving excellent pints of McMullen's Country Bitter and AK Mild, John and Joan gave great support to local CAMRA branches, even to the point of letting us have committee meetings in their front room. We know they will be missed greatly by locals and CAMRA members alike and we would like to record our thanks and send our best wishes to them in their retirement in Norfolk. Good luck also to the incoming tenants.



# TWO STEPS BACK....

Two major catastrophes have taken place recently and seem to have passed without much fuss (perhaps we have been too busy filling in next year's Good Beer Guide entry forms). One of CAMRA's early ideals (and I hope still is) was to get back to small local breweries, brewing to local tastes, with minimal transport costs, charging a reasonable price, in

good local pubs. One of the great joys of travelling for me is passing one brewery area to another sampling the goods, but there seems little point going anywhere when I can get Stan Sniff's or Puddle's Bounty down the road. Not that I have anything against the Free Trade - they have played an important role in showing publicans and brewers that there is a living to be made in selling real draught beer.

## Shipstone's

The first catastrophe is that of the take-over of Shipstones by Greenall Whitley - which now ranks them alongside the other big six of the brewing world. Shipsto's of Nottingham was amongst the tastiest and cheapest beer in the country and it enjoyed a great cult following in the area. Of course GW say that it will remain the same but it will never seem the same - and how often have we heard those promises before. Rumours are rife that this and the take-over of Tolly Cobbold by Ellerman Lines herald the start of a new wave of brewery take-overs. One can only take hope from the words of no less a man than Keith Showering the Babycham man, who became head of Allied Breweries. After their bid for Jo Lyons he said "We wanted to expand into a related field since we are too big to be allowed to make further acquisitions in the drinks business..." (Daily Mail 5.8.78).

## Ruddle's

The second disaster is that of Ruddle's decision to sell off their tied houses and concentrate on the more lucrative free trade including canning etc. A lot of their houses are going to Everards, brewers who do not seem to have the best of reputations around Leicestershire. People used to travel miles to get to a Ruddle's house - they are not likely to if all they get is beer they can get down the road - and what happens to the poor old landlords. I for one, hope this policy proves to be a failure, as a lesson to brewers that they should listen to their locals. To add injury to insult, Tony Ruddle, chairman of the company whose slogan was 'much in little' admitted in a letter to 'What's Brewing' that Oakham was now in Leicestershire - we've all heard how the local people are proud to live in Rutland.

## Too Successful?

Well I for one will not be drinking anymore Ruddles. Perhaps CAMRA has been too successful in ensuring the survival of some independent breweries?

BY BOB NORRISH.



# Membership

CAMRA is an independent organisation fighting to improve the quality of beer and pubs throughout the country. Why not join and help us improve the lot of Britain's drinkers. For your £4 subscription you will receive, monthly, 'What's Brewing', CAMRA's newspaper on what is going on in the world of beer.

## HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

I wish to become a member of CAMRA Ltd. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign. I enclose £4.00 as my annual subscription.

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

Signature . . . . . Date . . . . .

Please send to: The Membership Secretary, The Campaign for Real Ale, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW.

## Newsletter

In our travels we have met beer drinkers, Licensees and even brewers who have disagreed violently with what has been written in the newsletter. It's your privilege, but don't just vent your spleen upon the first CAMRA member you meet - tell us all by putting your views on paper and writing to the Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter has a circulation of 2000 and as it is distributed mainly to pubs and libraries, is probably read by 3 or 4 times as many people. If you feel that what you say is important, and it's relevant to the topics of beer and pubs, why not let us all know. Editor: Les Middlewood, 81a Linden Way, Southgate, London, N.14 4NG.

## Branch Contacts

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### HERTS/ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

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# What's On

## HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

- 2 Sept (Saturday) The branch will have an information and products stand at the Watford Show.
- 19 Sept September Branch Meeting  
The Dimsdale Arms, Fore Street, Hertford (McMullens) 8pm. Real ale will be available in the meeting room.
- 10 Oct Darts Match v Hawker Siddely Social Club at the club, in Stevenage.
- 17 Oct October Branch Meeting  
The White Hart, South Mimms (McMullens) 8pm.
- 24 Oct Real Ale and Real Railways! A 'Brewers Droop' Train Trip to Sheffield and Cambridge along unscheduled routes. Sheffield lunchtime; Cambridge evening. £4.65 (2nd class), £6.25 (1st). Further details from Tony Burns, Tel: Welwyn 7805 (home).

## HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

- 13 Sept September Branch Meeting  
The Old Bull, Royston (Bass, Charrington and Courage) 8pm.
- 20 Sept Social: The Red Lion, Woolmer Green (Ind Coope) 8pm.
- 23 Sept Branch Beer Exhibition at the Village Hall, Ickleford (Tickets only available at branch functions).
- 27 Sept Social: The Greyhound, St. Ippolytts (Ind Coope) 8pm.
- 11 Oct Annual General Meeting  
The George, Bucklersbury, Hitchin (Ind Coope) 8pm.
- 25 Oct Darts Match v pub team: The Fox and Duck (Greene King) 8pm.

## HERTS/ESSEX BORDERS BRANCH

- 11 Sept September Branch Meeting  
The Axe and Compasses, Aythorpe Roding (Ind Coope) 8pm.
- 25 Sept Social: The Hare and Hounds, Matching Tye (Courage) 8pm.
- 9 Oct Social: The Old English Gentleman, Waltham Abbey (McMullens) 8pm. The social marks the retirement of Bernard Appleby, landlord of the pub for the last 11 yrs.

Bishop's Stortford The Triad Leisure Centre is now re-opened with Charrington's handpumped ales. St. Margarets The Crown now has Ind Coope Bitter.

