

FREE



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

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A BATTLE LOST

A well-presented and convincing case cut no ice with the Stevenage Licensing Magistrates on 11th March, when they threw out the proposal of the local Licensed Victuallers Association to extend drinking hours in and around the town until 11pm, Mondays to Thursdays.

The case was introduced by Ted Norton of the **Dun Cow**, Stevenage, chairman of the licensees' association. Mr. Norton said that his members had been balloted about the proposed change and had come out in favour of it, as they were particularly concerned that they would lose trade to those pubs in areas which had recently been granted an 11pm extension, such as Hitchin, Hertford and Bedfordshire.

Alec Reeve of the **Buck's Head**, Great Wymondley, took up the same point, saying that pub-goers could enjoy an extra half-hour's drinking in pubs not a couple of miles away from his own, and that he foresaw a dramatic down-turn in his trade if the application was not allowed.

The next speaker was Graham Rust, the new tenant of the **Waggon and Horses** at Graveley, who said in evidence that he had previously run a pub in Bedfordshire which had lost out in similar circumstances, and that if he closed his pub shortly after 10.40pm drinking-up time, he could travel a short distance and find his customers drinking until 11pm legally in a different licensing area.

The customers' point of view was put forward by Peter Lerner, CAMRA's North Herts Branch secretary, who told the court that CAMRA was in favour of increased choice for customers, that there was demand for social drinking until 11pm, and that he had recently visited pubs in both Hertford and Hitchin where the 11pm rule now operates, and found them to be flourishing.

The theme of allowing the customers to choose sensibly was echoed by Peter Reeves of Stevenage's **Elizabethan Wine Bar**, who said that he would welcome the opportunity to serve his customers for a further 30 minutes.

The World's Largest Pub?

... see inside



The opposition to change was led by Mr. Bickerstaffe of the **King Pin** in Stevenage. He felt that there was no call for any change to the established hours, and that his bar staff would be inconvenienced by later closing times. He was supported by Mr. Carroll of the **St Nicholas Tavern** in Stevenage, local chairman of the pub managers' union, who told the court that the union would oppose anything which caused its members to have to work longer hours. Under cross-examination, both landlords said that if the extension were granted, they would feel obliged to keep their pubs open for the extra half hour; both also agreed, however, that they did not make use of the whole of the permitted hours allotted to them at the present time.

Finally, Mr. Fred Roberts, the managers' association's regional organiser indicated that he agreed that pubs were part of a customer service industry which existed to serve the public, but that if his members objected to a change of this type, then he must support their objection.

Continued on page 4

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THE BARLEY MOW



TYTTEHANGER GREEN

WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF REAL ALES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

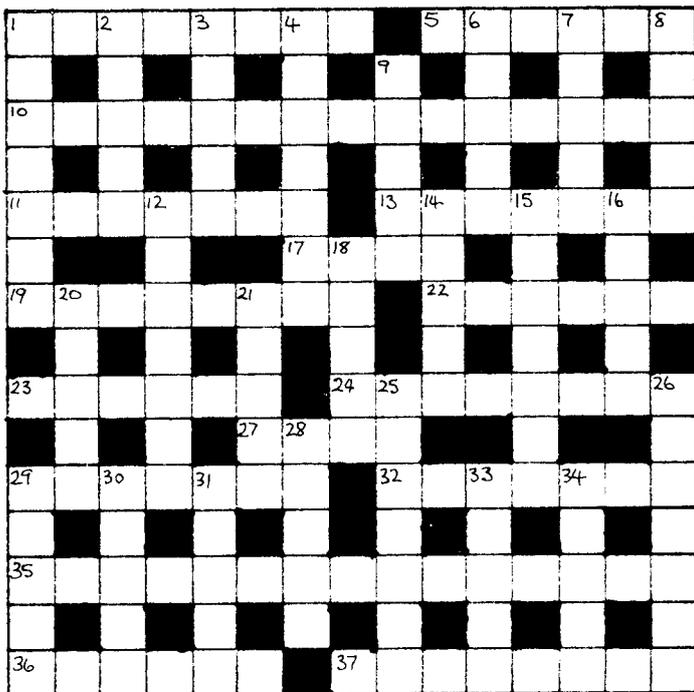
We also pride ourselves that they are all in the best of condition. Why not try our menu of hot and cold meals at lunchtime?

We are always first so come and try our indoor Beer-B-Q

PLEASE NOTE NO COACHES INCLUDING MINIBUSES

COMPETITION

The sender of the first correct entry opened on May 12th will receive a CAMRA bartowel. Please mark envelopes April Competition.



Across

1. Work for them at last? – Nonsense! (8)
5. see 2 down
10. and 24. Burton brewing trio – sons and mothers prove them wrong (7,8,8)
11. What's achieved between going in and getting out? (4)
13. It's clear something done outside is laughed at (7)
17. Was a customer in house drunk? (4)
19. One of eleven Post Office mislaid? (8)
22. International trade show is not justified (6)
23. Hot sun tans our legs, etc., not heads (6)
24. see 10
27. Central part of body, they say (4)
29. Exchanging parts in this child's enclosure's what Will would often do (4-3)
32. To betray trust is a disappointment (3,4)
35. Sign of the *Prince of Wales* in Tewin (5,2,8)
36. This fixed *Unicorn's* opening arrangements for Tuesday (6)
37. How one with cold might say this cola's causing indigestion (8)

Down

1. Get-together with firm (M & B) at beginning of evening (7)
2. and 5ac. *Bull's Head* to offer a bone cooked in Welwyn pub (5,2,4)
3. The French can speak this, perhaps (5)
4. Calls Morris Men to drink (5,2)
6. Female, having lost her man, knocks back drink and shows a bit of leg (5)
7. Became less in demand so relaxed (5)
8. Real beer is penalised (5)
9. Some goldfish a delicate degree of colour (5)
12. Lazily quaffing brew of ale in the best possible way (7)
14. Extract from cow's diet shows up in beer's ingredients (5)
15. Steeped in liquor, pub didn't close and supplied food with us inside (7)
16. The best part of barrel I tested (5)
18. Where waste material is found, one will make clothes, perhaps (5)
20. Country of birth (5)
21. At one time you, it's said, included a minute quantity (5)
25. Soft and smooth, 'e repeatedly replaces nothing in car test, losing right (7)
26. Day without a nauseous TV programme (7)
28. Sort of switch like unsteady relationship (2-3)
29. They have bowls – some can be played (5)
30. A pretty small angle (5)
31. Ask urgently for play to begin with first card (5)
33. Add to turnover of place (3,2)
34. Somebody well-informed has a slight advantage (3,2)

MAC'S CLASSICS

by Roundsman

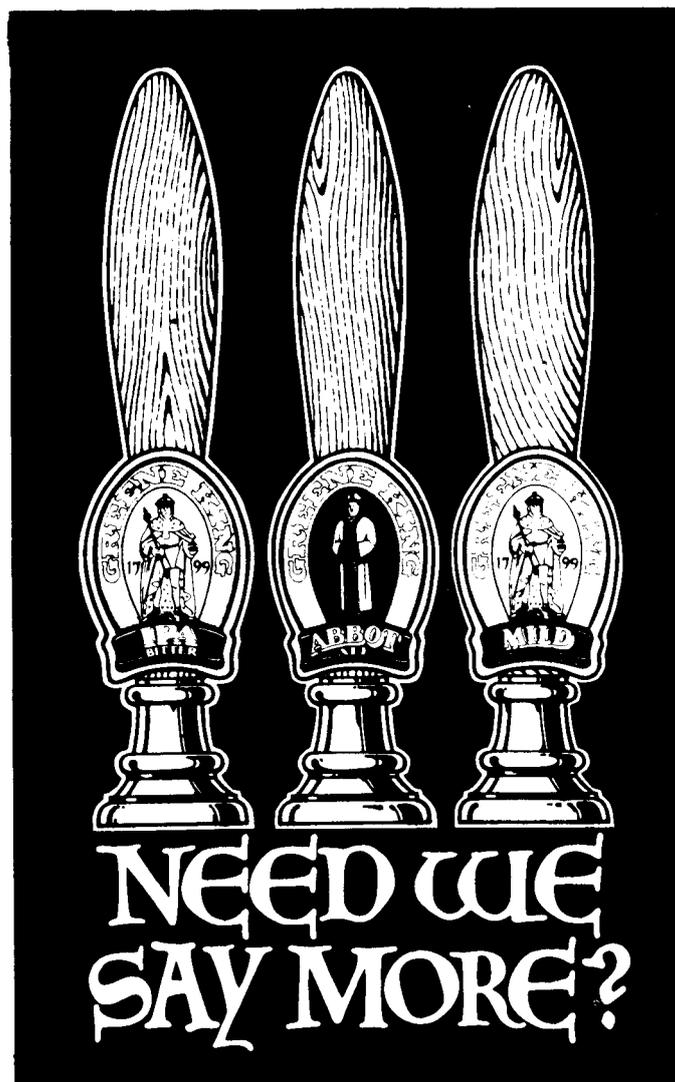
A former colleague of mine, for whom I have much respect, would turn several shades of pink and visibly bristle if a trip to a McMullen's pub was suggested. I should make it clear that this person had no interest in real ale and no connection with CAMRA, but had a mental image of those many large McMullen's pubs, built or enlarged in the 1960s and 1970s, which we have all seen and which I need not dwell on in this article.

I do not share the view that all of McMullen's pub restorations are over-sized and tasteless, and would put forward the **Ram** in Hertford and **Three Horseshoes** outside Sawbridgeworth as examples worthy of comparison with the efforts of any larger brewery with more spending-money at its disposal. But in this article I do not want to discuss the pubs which Mac's have altered, whether well or badly. I want to talk about those superb pubs which they have had the good sense to leave alone.

Most Newsletter readers should have been, at least once in their lives, to the **Farriers Arms** in St Albans and the **Two Diamonds** in Stevenage Old Town, both small, homely town locals, where the atmosphere of the pub and the quality of the drink are rightly considered to be far more important than gimmicks of decor or trendiness of image. Equally good, although perhaps less well-known, as unspoilt town locals are the **Baron of Beef** at Welwyn, the **Bell and Crown** in Hertford, and the excellent **Spread Eagle** and **Station Hotel**, both in Ware.

Many of McMullen's country pubs also hold unexpected delights. The beautifully located **John Bunyan** at Coleman's Green, near Wheathampstead, is neither ancient nor modern, but Mac's have carefully resisted the temptation to knock it into a beams-and-brasses, four-a-penny rural eating-house. Another pub in the same category, although unfortunately it sells no real ale, is the **Farmer's Boy** on the green at Brickendon. Other real village locals include the lively **Rest and Welcome** at Haultwick, and the comfortable **Fox** at Woolmer Green.

While the bigger brewers are restlessly turning their pubs into games rooms, discos, cocktail bars, bistros or amusement arcades, I have the feeling that by keeping these excellent pubs unspoilt, someone at the Hertford Brewery recognises that the most important features of a pub are the people behind the bar, the people at the bar and the drink which is being handed over the bar.



GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

The luxurious Exhibition Halls behind the Metropole Hotel, Brighton (30 yards from the seafront) will be the venue for CAMRA's *Great British Beer Festival* this summer, from Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th August. Visitors will be able to choose from over 200 real ales from all parts of the country, as well as 20 or so real ciders on sale in a special 'cider room'.

Some 30,000 people are expected to visit the Festival and to consume about 100,000 pints of real ale over the five days. In addition to the vast range of beers and ciders there will be food available, plus live entertainment, and a special children's room will be provided in the Festival complex.

The Festival will be open from 7-11pm on Tuesday 13th, and from 11am-2.30 and 5-11pm on all other days.

Admission to the Festival is FREE at lunchtimes and from 5-6pm, 50p on Tuesday evening and £1 from 6-11pm Wednesday to Saturday. Children will be admitted free as part of a family group.

Season tickets are available in advance for the 5 days. Send a cheque for £2.50, payable to CAMRA Ltd, to CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW by no later than 31st July.

Organised groups of 12 or more people can be admitted FREE at all times, by contacting Adrian Hall on 01-471 5361 (home) or 01-405 7686 Ext. 501 (office) by no later than 31st July, giving the name of your party, how many, when you're coming and a contact address.

Souvenirs: Souvenir glasses will be on sale at the Festival. For those who want to come dressed for the part, souvenir ties, t-shirts and sweatshirts can be bought in advance from CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. Prices: Ties (blue or burgundy) £3.75; t-shirts (white or grey with logo) £3.25; sweatshirts (beige or navy with logo) £8.50 (XXL 9.40). All prices include postage and packing, and cheques should be made payable to CAMRA Ltd.

The World's Largest Pub?

Well actually, the world's largest beer selling emporium, according to the Guinness Book of Records, is the Mathaser in Munich, which each day sells 84,470 pints, give or take a few hundred steins. The Mathaser was established in 1829, reduced to rubble in World War 2 and rebuilt in 1955. There is seating for 5,500 people in this lager palace.

But for the week of the Festival, Brighton's Exhibition Halls will certainly be the largest pub in Great Britain - 8 times larger, in fact, than the Downham Tavern in Bromley, Kent which sells a mere 2,500 pints a day to qualify as the largest pub in the UK.

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



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GOOD HOME-COOKED FOOD
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

☎ Brent Pelham 227

PUB OF THE MONTH

The Bell, Therfield

This pub has frequently featured in the columns of the Newsletter from the early days - landlord Bill Sawkins was particularly helpful to the Branch in its formative years. In March 1981 the tenth anniversary of the arrival of Bill and Marie Sawkins was recorded.

The Sawkins are well known for their fundraising activities: every autumn sees the Harvest Festival Auction to raise funds for local charities, particularly ole people. Also well supported is the Lifeboat Institute - Bill has particular reason to be grateful from his seafaring days.

The **Bell** is situated in a village that has often been successful in local best kept village competitions. Also "best kept" are the Greene King ales on handpump; equally to be recommended is Marie's home cooking.

Do come along on Wednesday 17th April and try the **Bell**, a pub that has been described as 'all that a village pub should be'. If one evening is not enough for you, bring a tent - there is a field behind the pub in which the Sawkins are frequently happy to accommodate campers.

JFF

The Pub of the Month award is made each month by CAMRA's Hertfordshire North branch, and is limited to pubs in the North Herts branch area.

Elsie Smith

Her many friends, both inside and outside CAMRA, will be saddened to learn of the death in late February of Mrs Elsie Smith, landlady of the **Chequers** at Wood End, near Ardeley, for over 20 years until its closure five years ago. Elsie took pleasure in serving her customers as if they were part of her own family and both she and her pub are sadly missed.

Good beer is a tradition with us.

The McMullen family have been brewing beer since 1827, making us Hertfordshire's oldest independent brewery.

Our AK Mild is as popular today as it was when it was first brewed in 1829. Another best seller is Country Bitter. Both are traditionally brewed. Cask conditioned. Full flavoured.

We are still the same small family

business we've always been. Still brewing traditional beer in Hertford. Every bit as genuine as we were when we started.

And the kind of welcome you get in our 150 or so pubs is as welcome as it's always been.

That's kind of traditional too.

McMULLEN

Brewers in Hertfordshire since 1827



BENSKINS

Lifts up Herts.

Benskins Bitter • Draught Burton Ale

PUB NEWS

The **Plough** in Hertford has been re-named the **Warehouse** and transformed into a "fun pub" - that's if walls lined with tea-chests and packing-cases, stuffed rats in barrels, ultra-loud music and flashing pop bottles are your idea of fun. Benskins Bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale are available on handpump.

An unusual beer for Mid-Herts is Taylor Walker Bitter, which has recently been available, served straight from the cask, at the **Elephant and Castle**, Amwell, near Wheathampstead. Benskins Bitter, Ind Coope Bitter and Burton Ale are also on handpump.

The **Windmill** in Thundridge is at present serving Young's Bitter and Special, together with McMullen's AK, on handpump. Staying with the free trade, the enterprising **Crooked Billet** at Colney Heath was reported to be selling beer from the Blue Anchor home brew pub, at Helston in Cornwall, a couple of months back. Also in Colney Heath, the **Queens Head** has added Winter Royal and Flowers IPA to its range of Whitbread group ales.

The **Old George** in Ickleford is a new real ale outlet, with Green King KK Mild and IPA on handpump. Sadly though, the **Green Man** in the same village no longer seems to sell real ale, the one handpump serving Macs Country being apparently out of use.

Despite the Campaign's efforts, Greene King's XX dark mild has sadly been discontinued at the **Red Lion**, Stevenage, as the pub could not sell enough to keep the beer in good condition. Bad news also from Hitchin - real ale is no longer available at the **Woolpack**, and at the last visit the **Albert** was selling Watney's Stag only. The latter pub has been advertised for sale in the Morning Advertiser - any takers?

Another new convert to real ale is the **Waggon & Horses** at Graveley, between Hitchin and Stevenage, which now sells Wethereds Bitter.

A warm welcome to Les and Barbara Roberts, who have recently taken over Greene King's **Jolly Waggoner** at Ardeley, one of the few remaining pubs in the county where beer is served straight from the cask. Les and Barbara plan to maintain their pub's reputation for good-quality food, and to improve its garden in time for the summer.

Welcome also to Andy and June Johnson, the new landlords of the **Cabinet**, Reed. Andy was previously steward of the **Manor House** social club in Royston for five years, during which time real ale was introduced. The Johnsons have been quoted as being impressed with the friendly atmosphere and variety of real ale at the **Cabinet** and determined to keep things that way.

THE ROYAL OAK, BUSHEY

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Monday to Saturday

Closed Sunday

BRANCH DIARY

ALL HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCHES

Wednesday 24th April

Inter-branch Liaison Meeting at the Red Lion, Old Town, Stevenage, 8pm.

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Wednesday 3rd April

Social at the Rising Sun, Halls Green, 8pm.

Wednesday 10th April

Branch Meeting at the Fox, Aspenden, 8pm.

Wednesday 17th April

Pub of the Month social at the Bell, Therfield, 8pm.

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 65957

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Wednesday 17th April

Branch social at the Red Lion, Radlett, 8pm.

Contact Adrian Jolliffe ☎ St Albans 69675

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Friday 12th April

Weekend trip to Southwold, home of Adnams. Details from branch contact.

Wednesday 17th April

Branch Meeting at the Wheatsheaf, Lower High Street, Watford, 8pm.

Friday 26th April

Joint social with North London branch at the George IV, 60 Copenhagen Street, London N1 (Thwaites house), 8pm.

Contact Tony King ☎ Garston 672587

MID-CHILTERN'S BRANCH

Tuesday 2nd April

Social at the Jolly Cricketers, Seer Green, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 9th April

Social at the Full Moon, Hawridge, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 16th April

Pub crawl of Markyate. Meet Plume of Feathers, 8pm.

Tuesday 23rd April

Social at the Swan, Pimlico, 8.30pm.

Contact Pete Freeman ☎ Hemel Hempstead 69773

QUICK ONES

'Here for the Beer'

Hertfordshire's itinerant brewery exhibition leaves Royston Museum on 6th April, heading in the direction of **County Hall, Hertford**, where it will be appearing from 13th April until 17th May. It will then move on to the **Pavillon, Hemel Hempstead**. With something to interest everyone, it's well worth a visit - so don't miss it when it passes your way!

Another Beer Festival

Want to get into training for the Great British Beer Festival? In that case, a trip to Colchester this month is just the thing, as the local CAMRA branches are holding the *First Colchester Beer Exhibition* from 11th to 13th April (Thursday to Saturday), at the Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester (off Cowdray Avenue, Inner Ring Road). The opening hours are 6 - 11pm Thu, 11 - 3 and 6 - 11 Fri, 11 - 4 and 6 - 11.30 Sat. 40 different beers will be on sale from 20 breweries, plus hot and cold food and entertainment during the evening sessions.

From page 1

The magistrates retired after a break of half an hour, and announced their decision on a case which had lasted 3½ hours by stating that they were not satisfied that any change would meet the requirements of the district, and that therefore there would be no change.

A disappointing and totally unpredicted outcome, as most of those in court thought that the case for a limited change had been well made, and that no coherent arguments - certainly no objections from the customers' point of view - had been put forward by the opposition.

The Newsletter would welcome readers' views on this subject, whether you are a landlord or a customer, and whether or not you live in an area which has recently gained the 11 pm extension.

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire North, Hertfordshire South, Watford & District and Mid-Chilterns branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches. The Editor gratefully receives articles or letters for publication. Send to **Cathy Totman, Flat 1, The Old Stables, Woodside, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.**

Subscriptions: £2.25 for 12 issues. Send to address above. Cheques/POs payable to CAMRA Herts Campaigning Fund.

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