

THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

FREE



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 1986

CIRCULATION 5000

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A CLIP ROUND THE BEER 'OLE?

Any salesman worth his salt will agree that if a manufacturer doesn't advertise and promote a commodity then it will not sell. This premise is especially relevant to beer sales, where real ale is allotted such a pitifully small proportion of most large breweries advertising budgets – in comparison to lager – that it is surprising that many beer drinkers still demand handpumped beer at all, especially when we consider the barrage of t.v. adverts and posters exhorting us to drink keg beer and lager. Such is the power of advertising that male teenage drinkers invariably order lager because they 'know' of the product before they ever set foot in a pub.

In contrast, the only advertising material for real ale in many pubs is the pumpclip itself. I've recently noticed that several pubs have not even got these on their handpumps. This is annoying because handpumps have their own special language: if the clip is turned to face "behind the bar" then the beer is temporarily off; similarly with a towel over the pump, which signifies of course that "time" has been called. In the north-east of England, where I spent several years boosting the profits of Camerons and Vaux, a naked handpump is always an ornament, a sad reminder to the days when all beer was real ale. However, in Hertfordshire a bare handpump means "we haven't had a pumpclip for years" or "they get nicked". Not surprisingly, the beer dispensed from such handpumps is often pretty horrible, probably because the landlord doesn't care much about it, and most people are hardly going to ask for it if they don't know what it is anyway. Guilty pubs include the Pineapple, St. Albans (Benskins), the Red Cow, Batford (Watneys) and the White Swan, St. Albans (Ind Coope). The Brewery Tap in Ware (Greene King) has pump clips for IPA and Abbot (which tasted excellent) but no pumpclip for the KK mild (which tasted like Sarsons). "It's because we don't sell much of it" apologised the barman.

Of course there are exceptions, such as the specially made handpumps in Charles Wells houses which have the beer name inscribed in the body of the pump itself. The White Hart in St. Albans has the product names inscribed on brass plaques on the bar top. In the Baron of Beef in Welwyn it would be impossible to fit an AK pump clip to the amazing horizontal handpump in the saloon bar.

A.J.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to Landlords and Staff of all real ale pubs in Hertfordshire and to all Newsletter readers.

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.

Food always available.

Seasonal greetings to our customers

**PLEASE NOTE NO COACHES
INCLUDING MINIBUSES**

BROCKET ARMS

— Ayot St Lawrence —

*Drink in the rural atmosphere of
George Bernard Shaw's haunt*

A well-sampled real ale pub

**Greene King IPA & Abbot
Hook Norton Old Hookey**

Wadworth 6X

Youngs SPA

Bed & Breakfast

**Evening meals Tuesday to Saturday
Buffet lunches served every day.**

Enquiries welcome ☎ Stevenage 820250
Dogs on leads, but no motorcycles please.

BENSKINS PUBS SURVEYED IN THE WATFORD AREA

Over the past couple of months members of the CAMRA Watford and District Branch have visited a sample of 45 Benskins pubs in the area to find out the situation regarding prices, quality, choice and service.

Prices

The average price for bitter (Benskins, Friary Meux or Ind Coope) was just over 84p per pint. The cheapest pubs surveyed were the **Feathers**, Rickmansworth, the **Bedford Arms**, Watford, the **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge and the **Duke of York**, Croxley Green, all selling Benskins at 78p (Saloon Bar price). The Public Bar price in the **Feathers** was even less at 76p. Also in Watford, the **Sir Robert Peel** was selling Ind Coope bitter at 78p.

The most expensive pub in the area was the **Olde Greene Manne**, Batchworth Heath selling Benskins at 92p, two pence more than the **Two Bridges**, Croxley Green and the **White Horse**, Bushey, both recently renovated.

The cheapest area for bitter drinkers is North Watford and Garston where all pubs checked served bitter at 81p or less. Central Watford had four pubs selling bitter at 81p or less and no pint was over 86p in this area. The top price in Bushey was 85p, but drinkers in Bushey Heath were paying a minimum of 85p, as was also the case in Kings Langley.

For a tenanted house, the **Western** in Rickmansworth proved extremely good value compared with other pubs run on a similar basis. In general, prices in managed houses are cheaper than in tenanted ones because tenants have to pay high rents to the brewery. However, in the **Western** Benskins was available at 80p in the Saloon Bar and 78p in the Public Bar.

Since the survey was completed, Benskins have increased their prices by as much as 4p a pint. The prices in the **Two Bridges** have been held and higher prices than theirs are now being charged in somewhat less salubrious establishments.

Quality

During the survey the various bitters in each pub were sampled and given a quality rating between 1 and 5. Although we would obviously not wish to recommend or condemn the beer sold in specific pubs on the basis of just one visit, the figures do give an overall picture of the condition of beer on sale at one time. Where pubs were normally frequented on a regular basis by branch members, a more accurate indication of the usual quality of the beer was available. The overall results were: 7% of the bitter sampled was excellent, 40% good, 31% acceptable, 20% below par and 2% undrinkable.

Landlords told us of instances where they had problems keeping their cask conditioned beer in good condition because of poor beer being delivered or because brewery assistance was needed for improvements to a cellar.

Choice

Of the pubs surveyed, 40% offered an alternative real ale to the ordinary bitter on sale. This was in the form of Burton Ale which was on sale at between 86p in the **Kings Head**, Hunton Bridge and 98p in the **Black Boy** and **Devonshire Arms**, Bushey Heath and in the **Rose and Crown**, Kings Langley.

Two pubs, the **Two Bridges** and the **White Horse**, Bushey Heath had a choice of three real ales with the addition of Friary Meux bitter on sale at 90p, the same as Benskins.

Price lists

By failing to display a price list in one or both of their bars, 18% of the pubs surveyed were breaking the law. A further 11% had a price list that was obscured or inadequately displayed. Many publicans seemed shy about displaying price lists; we suspect that this may have something to do with the high prices being charged.

Quality of service

The attention given to customers by bar staff in terms of friendly, polite and courteous service was in 40% of cases specifically remarked upon as being good. However, one particularly disconcerting aspect of the service was apparent. This was the large number of short measure drinks being dispensed. When a customer is served with less than a full pint or half pint, it is only the minority who will complain. Some licensees realise that in the majority of cases they can get away with dispensing less than a full measure and consequently this practice has become widespread. We are not suggesting that this trend is more common in Benskins pubs than elsewhere, merely that it has come to our notice during the survey.

In conclusion

We feel that prices are not competitive in the Watford area because Benskins have a virtual monopoly of ownership of local pubs with very little competition from other brewers. Another major factor is the exorbitant rates charged by Watford Borough and Three Rivers Councils.

The lack of a price list in a pub is unlawful. Excuses from publicans about renovations or redecoration are no justification. Short measures are also both illegal and absolutely inexcusable.

It seems unfortunate to us that Benskins see fit to spend many thousands of pounds restyling some of their pubs, yet fail to help with improving a cellar in a pub where a landlord is desperately keen to keep his beer in the best possible condition.

We appreciate that there are many factors affecting the ultimate quality of beer served in a pub, but feel that a level of 22% of pubs selling beer which is below the minimum expected quality is unacceptable; we know that Benskins share in our concern. The reputation of Benskins beers could be greatly enhanced if a significant increase in the 7% of pubs serving a pint in peak condition could be achieved.

P.M.



ANTI-SOCIAL IN WARE

A tremendous turn-out of over twenty branch members made light work of the Ware Anti-Social held in September. The idea was to survey every town pub in one evening to collect information on prices, beers available, games, food etc. "Anti-social" because we all meet in one pub, collect our survey forms and then disappear into the night. A rendezvous of 10.15pm was set at the **Old Bull's Head** for hard-earned food at the end of a liquid evening.

Ware has 24 tied houses and one free house (Ben's Brasserie which alas only sells Benskins). The spoils are split as follows:-

McMullens 13 real; Ind Coope/Benskins 6 (5);
Greene King 3 (3) and Whitbread 2 (0).

The number of pubs for a town of 14,000 souls is high but sadly as can be seen from the above figures, Ware is well down the list of towns with real ale – only 64% offer the real thing. McMullens's are the worst culprits, with five fizz outlets. Ind Coope/Benskins have one and Whitbread offer no real ale in either of their pubs.

Prices ‡

Ware comes out very well however in the prices league, certainly on average one of the cheapest places to drink in south Hertfordshire:-

McMullens AK Mild	71p per pint
McMullen Country	79p per pint
Benskins Bitter	79p per pint
Ind Coope Burton Ale	86p per pint
Greene King KK Mild	73p per pint
Greene King IPA	79p per pint
Greene King Abbot Ale	89p per pint

Ironically, the cheapest pint spotted was keg Ind Coope Pale at the Rising Sun – 69 pence.

* Prices, of course were pre the recent spate of brewery increases.

Food

Ben's Brasserie offers the best menu but then it isn't a pub in the traditional sense of the word. For 'pub food' lunchtime is undoubtedly the best time to visit Ware – most pubs offering at least snacks. **The Brewery Tap, John Gilpin, Punch House, Royal Oak, Saracen's Head** and **Victoria** were pubs displaying interesting menus. As with most parts of Hertfordshire, Sunday is very hit and miss for pub food.

Pub Games

By a long chalk, the **Old Bull's Head** is the best pub for pub games. With darts, crib, dominoes, shove ha'penny, bar billiards and out in the garden Aunt Sally, no one else comes near. Strange to report that no less than eight pubs have shove ha'penny, a fast disappearing game in these parts. Not surprisingly these days darts is the most popular game – 21 of the pubs have boards.

Facilities

Ware has a good selection of pubs but with four brewers supplying all the real ale is surely crying out for a good free house. To find any other real ales you'll have to travel to Thundridge (**Windmill**), Wareside (**Chequers**) or neighbouring Hertford. Ware does however have a high proportion of traditional two bar pubs, many tucked away amongst the locals who frequent them. As you would expect, the more boisterous are generally in and around the immediate town centre. For the young family, it's bad news though – not one children's room in sight!

On the evening of the survey, which was mid-week, our surveyors particularly enjoyed the following:-

Albion	"Nicely hidden backwater from the High Street"
Bell	"Well cared for with potential" (Fizz)
Brewery Tap	"Good atmosphere; cellar drinking area"
French Horn	"Very pleasant" (Fizz)
Jolly Bargeman	"Interesting canal pictures"
Millstream	"Small and cosy" (Fizz)
Old Bull's Head	"Good pub – plenty to look at or do"
Rifle Volunteer	"Busy but pleasant – caters for all ages"
Rising Sun	"Smart and comfortable local"
Royal Oak	"Comfortable – friendly staff"

Spreadeagle	"Small and friendly local"
Station Hotel	"Small and friendly"
Victoria	"Friendly with traditional flavour"

I should like to thank Ian and Di at the **Old Bull's Head** for putting up with our comings and goings and for supplying us with good food so late in the evening.

Ware is worth a visit. With its interesting skyline of many redundant or converted maltings, High Street littered with ex-Coaching Inns and the River Lea there is much to commend it. Its pubs are worth seeking out too. It is said that once there was a pub for every day of the year. Not any more, but the remaining 25 should keep you busy for a while.

LES MIDDLEWOOD

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on Mr J. D. Hughes of Benskins response to the Newsletter article on Castlemaine Fourx Lager. He claims that the ingredients are shipped all the way from Australia. Does he include the cheapest ingredient, liquor (water) which they would presumably ship in oil tankers? As regards hops, I presume these are extracted from kangaroo glands!

Thinking about the economics of transporting these ingredients one can suspect that they import a lager concentrate and add yeast, sugar and water at Wrexham. I wonder if Mr Elliot of Elders IXL treats his Fosters this way or relies upon British or Continental ingredients.

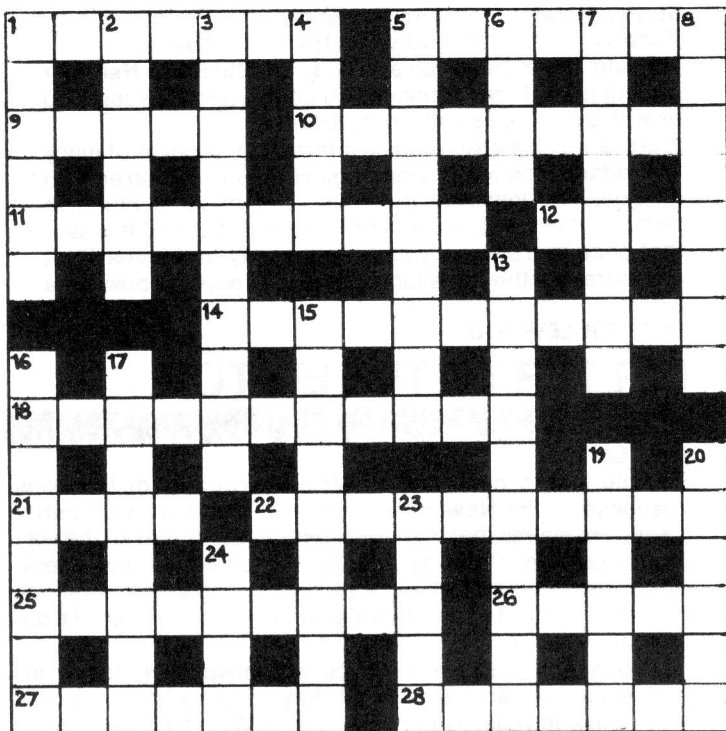
I will close by stating that CAMRA is for choice and if people wish to drink Castlemaine, good luck to them. But please Allied Breweries, don't mess about with the ingredients of your real ale as those produced by this country are good enough.

Yours sincerely,
Eric W. Sim
Hatfield, Herts.



COMPETITION

HI-DE-HI



Across

- 1&9 Lake still, yet flows into game area (7,5)
- 5 Catch sight of, following refusal (non-real), one who's pernickety (7)
- 9 See 1 across
- 10 On which drinkers throw up before a double (9)
- 11 End twice with tops to make your opponent thus (10)
- 12 Piece of news in the evening main headlines (4)
- 14 If hops are overlooked, one goes of in a huff (11)
- 18 Vet has a kind of power to falsify (5-6)
- 21 A solid, like 8 or 27 (4)
- 22 Use one rock to play? No, this and a lot of balls (7,3)
- 25 Call back a number - it returns what's come out (9)
- 26 External surroundings of the *Magpie*? (5)
- 27 In a state of worry, Herts village looks into specific gravity (7)
- 28 One with teeth which chatter uncontrollably (7)

Down

- 1 Soft drink convenient after Sunday opening (6)
- 2 I shall employ maltreatment (3-3)
- 3 One of small army out to destroy oil (3,7)
- 4 McMullen dedication partly over (5)
- 5 In favour of getting drunk round the *Nag's Head* 26 times a year (9)
- 6 Cries thus on Boddingtons losing body (4)
- 7 Italy breaks up in afternoon - start of evening break (8)
- 8 What Bill uses to conceive his neat cartoons? (4,4)
- 13 Left angrily - it's most rude to, somehow (7,3)
- 15 Spring in a mixed gin is plentiful (9)
- 16 14 is one of 24 for this in US (8)
- 17 In which 15s are 15 (8)
- 19 Frustrate the spirit (6)
- 20 Search out measures involving a posh car (6)
- 23 One who has worn out end of engine internally (5)
- 24 I follow leaders of nefarious, autocratic zealots (4)

The winner of the first correct entry opened on January 1st will receive a copy of Brian Glover's new CAMRA Dictionary of Beer. Please mark your entry "Christmas competition".

Cowboys, a baby, a priest and tarts! No. Not some Carry On Film but a few of the sights that were seen at the **Lytton Arms**, Old Knebworth on Tuesday 8th October. What was intended as a quiet joint social between North & South Herts branches, erupted into a fantastic Fancy Dress party thanks to Mike and Mary Spencer.

I was surprised to find myself the attention of a German Nazi Officer who later turned out to be the man that fitted my gas fire only the week before. Mary was great as Gladys of Hi-De-Hi fame, showing off her legs in her 'Yellow Coat' and shorts. Mike's legs were also in evidence as he was an Edwardian Bather. (Loved the stripes, Mike.) The 'Ladies' present were quite startling in appearance, displaying plenty of facial and chest hair. One 'Lady' even had her wellies on the wrong feet.

CAMRA members were pleased to have the choice of four beers, namely SOS, Shefford, SPA and Bishops Tipple, whilst Mike Desquesnes from the Banks & Taylor brewery kept an eye on the rapid consumption.

The entertainment was provided by Shaky Jake's one man band and his dancing dog. With the accompaniment of his marvellous puppets, Jake provided us with a wide variety of songs which everyone joined in with, including the dog.

The evening was also arranged to present money collected in bottles to the headmaster of Longfield School. A total of £188.46 was raised and the prize for guessing the total amount went to Dave Giddons.

Raffle tickets sold like Hot Cakes, or rather like Faggots & Mushy peas which were the reward for anyone buying £1's worth of tickets. Having already had tea before leaving home, I was unable to clear the plate but my friend and yours, Dick Pease helped solve the situation by scoffing the lot.

Even though there was a special extension to the licence, the evening sped past far too quickly. Thus onto the Fancy Dress Competition. Third place went to Pat Mush as a country gentleman. Second was Andrew Smith wearing a nappy and little else. It was noted that the liquid in his babies bottle was not milk. The most deserving winner was Norman The 'Postie'. As a vagrant he would not have looked out of place under newspaper on a park bench. I don't know how they let him in the pub.

The evening drew to a close with many cries of "Let's do it again next year" and "I can't get out of the carpark".

Thanks again to Mike and Mary for a marvelous time, not forgetting the bar staff who put in tremendous effort to keep the beer flowing.

Diana Clarke

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

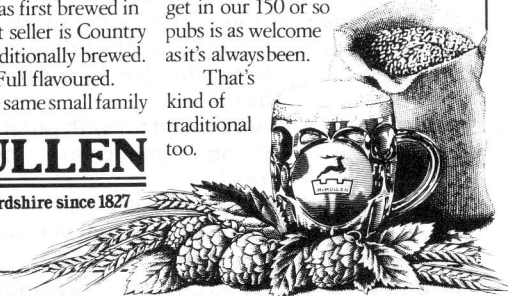
business we've always been. Still brewing traditional beer in Hertford. Every bit as genuine as we were when we started.

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



LABEL CORNER



Back in the early years of this century Ashwell must have been a quite remarkable place for lovers of beer. For, in those days, there existed in that very small village tucked away on the Cambridgeshire border two breweries, and by no means small breweries at that. The secret, as in all brewing centres, no matter how large or small, was, of course, the water. It is not uncommon as one surveys the brewing scene in this country to come across small centres of habitation with more than one brewery, where it would seem impossible economically to sustain even one successfully.

Of the two breweries in Ashwell that of E.K. & H Fordham was by far the largest, and eventually the longest lived, surviving as a going concern into the 1950s, when it was taken over by J.W. Green Ltd. of Luton, and transformed into a bottling plant. As a matter of interest Green's must be the only company in the history of the British brewing industry to adopt the name of a company it has just taken over, and to simultaneously drop its own name. This occurred when Flower's of Stratford upon Avon and Cheltenham were swallowed up by the Luton brewers. The eventual fate of Fordham's was an all too familiar one, with the brewery closed and destroyed.

The label illustrated comes from the Fordham company, and represents what might well be described as 'classical' label design. On a personal level I find labels of this kind very aesthetically pleasing, although the colour scheme, blue printing on buff and red background, leaves a little to be desired.

I regret to have to tell you that I do not have any labels in my collection from the other brewery in Ashwell, J.R. Page & co., who were taken over by Wells & Winch Ltd. of Biggleswade in 1921, and the brewery closed in 1926.

Graham Tubb

Editor Labologists Society
66, High Street, Puckeridge.

PUB OF THE MONTH

North Herts — December

Horse and Jockey, Hitchin

North Herts Pub of the Month for December takes us to the **Horse and Jockey** on the one way system in Hitchin. In researching for information, surprisingly little is known about it. The first mention in any records is in 1846 although it is believed to have been named The Horse and Groom before this date.

This small two bar Greene King house has been run by Keith and Cherrie Russell for the last fifteen months and they have organised darts marathons for charity and many possibly have got in the Guinness Book of Records.

I.P.A. and Abbot are the order of the day so why not pay a call at the **Horse and Jockey** on the 19th December.

Peter Clarke

North Herts-January

The Bucks's Head, Wimley Parva

January's North Herts Pub of the Month is the 400-year-old **Buck's Head** in Wimley Parva, better known as Little Wymondley. The pub is easy to find on the busy A602 Hitchin to Stevenage road which runs through the middle of the village.

The pub sign depicts a local incident in which King Henry VIII is said to have fallen off his horse into a pond near the pub. He was rescued by a footman, to whom the king paid a reward of a penny a day for life (he was obviously tight in both senses).

The **Buck's Head** has been run since 1962 by Alec and Sheila Reeve and their staff, who have retained a quiet and comfortable atmosphere in the rambling bar area, complete with genuine beams, inglenook fireplaces, and olde worlde decor. Alec has led the LVA's campaign to extend permitted hours to 11pm in several licencing areas of Hertfordshire. Hitchin area drinkers can thank him for that success. CAMRA has supported him in court, and as you know, the battle continues.

Alec has always been keen to serve as many real ales as his Whitbread tenancy has allowed him, but, as you would expect from a GBG pub, only where top quality can be maintained. If you like Wethered Bitter, Brakspear Bitter, Flower Original Bitter and Samuel Whitbread, then try them with us on the evening of Thursday 23 January.

SPB

PUB NEWS

If you are in the rural area of Hertfordshire between Ware and Bishops Stortford, then the **Fox and Hounds** at Hunsdon is well worth a visit. The present landlord installed his handpumps some three years ago but doesn't seem to have been mentioned within these pages yet, so better late than never. As in most McMullens pubs the AK outsells the Country and both were in excellent condition at the time of our correspondents visit. Just up the road he found the **Crown** serving a decent pint of Benskins, but Hunsdon's third pub, the **Turkey Cock**, was well and truly closed, although the landlord had a sign up saying that he hoped to re-open soon.

As usual this time of year special stronger brews are on sale for the winter period. The **Alford Arms**, Frithsden is selling Wethereds Winter Royal and the **Crown and Sceptre**, Bridens Camp has regular guest winter beers on offer alongside Greene King Abbot and IPA, Adnams Bitter and Extra and the full range of Banks and Taylor ales. In Little Gaddesden the **Bridgewater Arms** has its own Old Santa ale on sale; all beers from the Bridgewater Arms Brewery will soon be available in the free trade.

Other additions for the winter include Burton Ale at the **Tantivy**, Watford and Fullers ESB alongside the Charringtons IPA and Bass at the **Horse and Chains**, Bushey. Now that the **White Lion**, Apsley serves Websters Yorkshire Bitter all pubs in the village sell real ale.

The **Green Man**, Great Wymondley now has Greene King IPA on handpump for the first time; other beers remain on top pressure.

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



THE STAR INN
FURNEUX PELHAM



Rayments BBA ★ Greene King KK & Abbot

GOOD HOME COOKED FOOD
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

☎ Brent Pelham 227

BRANCH DIARY

ALL HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCHES

Wednesday 8th January

Inter-branch liaison meeting at Rose & Crown, Hoddesdon, 8p.m.

Friday 10th January

Hertfordshire Branches Party at the Village Hall, Bramfield. Tickets £7 available in advance from Eric Sim.

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Thursday 5th December

Joint social with South Bedfordshire Branch at the Lilley Arms, Lilley, 8p.m.

Thursday 12th December

Branch meeting at the Maiden's Head, Whitwell, 8p.m.

Thursday 19th December

Pub of the Month social at the Horse & Jockey, Hitchin, 8p.m.

Thursday 16th January

Social at the Mallard, Stevenage, 8p.m.

Thursday 23rd January

Pub of the Month social at the Buck's Head, Little Wymondley, 8p.m.

Thursday 6th February

Social at the Old Red Lion, Shephall, Stevenage, 8p.m.

Thursday 20th February

Branch meeting at the Crown, Buntingford, 8p.m.

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 65957

MID-CHILTERNNS BRANCH

Tuesday 3rd December

Social at the Swan, Northall, 8.30p.m.

Monday 9th December

Joint Social with Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe at the Chequers, Pitstone 8.30pm

Tuesday 10th December

Xmas party at the Bridgewater Arms, Little Gaddesden. All members welcome. Cheap Beer.

Friday 27th December

Camramble—start Tring station 10.30am. Approx. 11 miles.

Contact Peter Yorke ☎ Rickmansworth 770488

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Wednesday 4th December

Social at the Horse and Chains, Bushey 8pm

Wednesday 11th December

Branch Meeting at the Fox and Hounds, Rickmansworth 8pm. All welcome free pint for all newcomers.

Friday 20th December

Christmas pub crawl. Start 5.30pm at the Pint pot, Pentonville Road, London N11, 6.15pm Lord Wolseley, White Lion Street. For further times phone contact.

Friday 27th December

Camramble with Mid-Chilterns Branch. Meet Tring Station 10.30am.

Wednesday 15th January

Darts Match v. the Vine, Rickmansworth 8pm. All welcome

Wednesday 22nd January

Branch Meeting at the Wheatsheaf, Watford 8pm.

Wednesday 29th January

Games/Social evening at the Swan, Leavesden 8pm

Monday 3rd February

Darts tournament at West Herts Sports Club, Watford, 8pm

Wednesday 12th February

Branch Meeting at the Fox and Hounds, Rickmansworth, 8pm

Contact Tony King ☎ Garston 672587

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Monday 2nd December

Committee meeting at the Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger, 8p.m.

Tuesday 10th December

Annual General Meeting at the Crown, St. Albans, 8p.m.

Sunday 22nd December

Pub of the Month social at the East India College Arms, Hertford Heath 8.p.m.

Tuesday 14th January

Joint Social with Mid-Chilterns Branch in Hemel Hempstead. Venue to be announced.

Contact Adrian Jolliffe ☎ St. Albans 69675

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

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR PUB

1 Dec **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guest: Mabsant.

6 Dec **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guest: Joe Locker

8 Dec **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guest: Bernard and Jill Blackwell.

13 Dec **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guest: Jim Couza.

15 Dec **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guest: Jim Couza.

20 Dec **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club Christmas party.

22 Dec **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club Christmas party.

3 Jan **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guests: Singaround.

5 Jan **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guest: George Norris.

10 Jan **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guest: Geoff Higginbottom.

12 Jan **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guests: Calico String Band.

17 Jan **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guests: Scotch Measure.

19 Jan **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guests: Chris Pitt and Gavin Atkin.

24 Jan **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guest: Paul Metsers.

26 Jan **Ware:** Old Bulls Head. 8pm. Ware Folk Club. Guests: Singaround.

31 Jan **Stanstead Abbots:** Crown. 8pm. Hoddesdon Folk Club. Guests: Singaround.

Don't forget the singsong at the **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge** every first Wednesday of the month.

Advertising in the What's On column is FREE. Send details to the Editor (see back page) by 1st January for February.

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 **Nadine Fynn, 78 Old North Road, Royston, Hertfordshire.**

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

Advertising: £7 per 2.5cm column. Artwork can be made up at extra cost. Contact **Eric Sim ☎ Hatfield 60647** for details

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