



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

FREE

The Campaign for Real Ale

JULY 1986

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 95

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ALL-DAY OPENING

After long deliberation, Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has now announced that the Government is in favour of limited reform of licensing hours which would allow all-day opening of the 69,000 pubs in England and Wales.

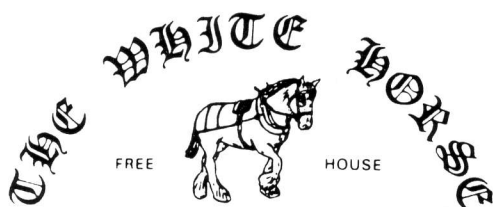
Mr Hurd is understood to be in favour only of limited measures of liberalisation. This would allow licensed premises to determine their own opening times between 11a.m. and 11p.m., thus removing the much criticised afternoon break when public houses have to close. The Home Secretary, however, is opposed to any extension of hours beyond the normal closing time of 11p.m.

There is though still no Government commitment to introduce early legislation to change what is accepted as outdated licensing law. Following defeat of the Sunday shopping bill in April, the Cabinet decided against including such a controversial issue as licensing law reform in the Queen's speech for the next session of Parliament. If public reaction is favourable, it is more likely to become a manifesto commitment for the next Tory Government. However, there is a possibility that the Government would be ready to back a private member's bill in the next session of Parliament, provided it put forward only limited reforms.

Nevertheless, the Government's support is a considerable advance for those campaigning for liberalisation. Since the report of the Erroll Committee in the 1970s, which favoured major reform, Governments of both parties have backed away from tackling the drink laws, largely because of worries that it could lead to an increase in alcohol abuse. This seems to ignore the increase in alcohol abuse that has resulted from its all-day ready availability in supermarkets in recent years.

A recent official study of the more liberal drinking hours in Scotland, where all-day opening is permitted, showed that reform had led to more civilised and sensible drinking rather than to increased consumption, although women were drinking more.

There has also been a growing clamour from MPs and the tourist industry for reform, not to mention CAMRA. More than 200 MPs from all parties have signed a commons motion calling for the Government to introduce legislation to permit longer and more flexible opening hours.



castle street ... old hertford

Now under new ownership

....

*Widest selection of real ales
in Hertford with many guest beers
all served on gravity*

....

Large open log fire

....

Home cooked food at all times
Sunday lunch a speciality

THE BARLEY MOW



TYTTENHANGER GREEN

**WE HAVE THE FINEST SELECTION OF
REAL ALES IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

We also pride ourselves that they
are all in the best of condition.

Outside Barbecue now in full swing.

Why not try our menu of hot and cold meals at
lunchtime and bar snacks in the evening.

Childrens Pony rides at Weekends.

**PLEASE NOTE NO COACHES
INCLUDING MINIBUSES**

PUB OF THE MONTH

Herts North

Crown, Buntingford

The Herts North Pub of the Month for July is an attractive little one bar free house right on the market place in Buntingford's High Street. The pub appears to have been known as the Crowned Lion in the seventeenth century but, by the time it had been sold to Richard Flower, brewer of Hertford, in 1792 it had become the **Crown**.

More recently the pub was part of the Ind Coope estate until closed in 1984. Since the beginning of 1985 the **Crown** has been run as a free house by Peter and Helen Burisky, run so well in fact that they merited immediate inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. Redecoration has retained the essential character of this small market town pub. Of particular note is the fact that there are no keg bitters on sale in the **Crown**. There are four handpumps, two of which dispense Greene King Abbot and IPA with the other two offering a variety of guest beers: Fullers ESB, Wadworths 6X and Hall & Woodhouse Badger Best Bitter are regular favourites. Peter ensures that the beers are always in excellent condition and thus have a good following amongst local drinkers. Also to be recommended is the food on offer: meals are available lunchtimes and evenings.

To try the **Crown** for yourself why not come along on the evening of Thursday 31st July – or any other time; as well as the usual hours the pub is open until 4p.m. on Mondays to serve the market.

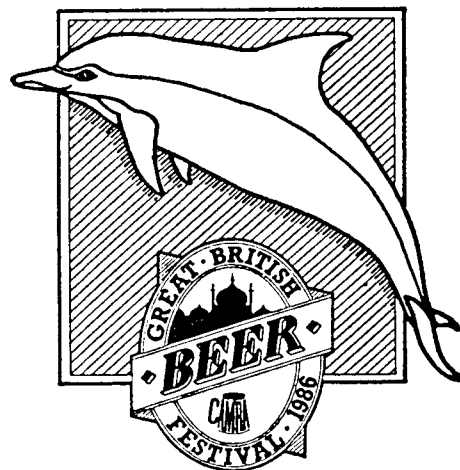
J.F.F.

South Herts

The White Horse, Hertford

Congratulations to Ian and Janet Harvey of the **White Horse**, Castle Street, Hertford, who won the April Pub of the Month award from Herts South Branch. In the short time that Ian and Janet have been in charge, strong support has been gained from local drinkers for their tiny unique pub and the renovations that they are carrying out. Work progresses steadily on the interior of the pub and already genuine beams of antiquity have been exposed from underneath the wall panelling together with two huge fire places. These will feature strongly in the completed renovations but Ian is quick to stress that another "beams and brasses" pub (of which Hertfordshire has all too many) is not being created here. His aim is to enhance the character of the **White Horse** leaving its atmosphere intact. If this is achieved local drinkers, punch-drunk by the recent spate of homogeneity perpetrated by brewers in the area, can relax. On the beer front Ian's zest for real ale has resulted in a rotation of over 40 different ales in the last five months. Six to eight beers are normally available with Mauldon's (a rare migrant from Suffolk) usually featuring in the line-up. All beer and traditional cider is served direct from the cask and the selection of Gale's country wines is the best available in Hertfordshire. The **White Horse** is also gaining a stout reputation for its home-made food (you'll need to book for traditional Sunday lunches) – some of which was sampled at our presentation social evening on 29 April. The Branch would like to thank Ian and Janet (and a hard-working Bill behind the bar) for their warm welcome and generosity and offer them good wishes in a venture that should place the **White Horse** up among the county's foremost freehouses. This summer it should be dry – hop over to Hertford for a quencher.

LES MIDDLEWOOD



**BRIGHTON METROPOLE
AUGUST 5-9 1986**

Open

Tues. August 5th: 6.00-11.00

Wed.-Sat. August 6th-9th:

11.00-2.30 5.00-11.00

Admission

£1 after 6.00. Free all other times.

Free for accompanied children.

Season Tickets £2.50 and free admission details for groups of 12 or more are available from CAMRA 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

FIVE YEARS AGO

In July 1981 the Newsletter headlined the celebrations that were to take place in St. Albans to mark the tenth anniversary of CAMRA and the centenary of St. Albans Licensed Victuallers Association. At the beer festival to be held, it was hoped that Victoria Bitter from the county's then new brewery in Ware would be making its debut. Also then new on the scene was the real ale off licence in Albert Street, Stevenage, opened, after local trade opposition, by CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments. After a survey of all the pubs in Hertford, average prices found for bitter were: McMullen Country 51p, Greene King IPA 53p, Ind Coope Bitter 54p and Bass 56p a pint.

BENSKINS

Lifts up Herts.

Benskins Bitter Draught Burton Ale

DRINKING IN BERMUDA

There are no locally produced beers in Bermuda, but a variety of types are imported: Becks, St. Pauli, Amstel from Europe; Budweiser, Miller from the U.S.A. and various keg and bottled beers from the U.K.: Courage Bitter and Lager, bottled Bass and even Watney's Red Barrel!

Along with beer, practically everything has to be imported into Bermuda, so this, together with the local currency being based on the U.S. Dollar, makes everything very expensive. Generally a 330ml bottle of beer costs \$2.50 (£1.70).

Pubs are modelled on the English style with beams, brasses, etc. to attract the many American tourists. They all have restaurants attached and are usually located in Hamilton, the capital, or in one of the small villages or towns. Here is a brief guide to some Bermudian pubs:-

Ye Olde Cock and Feathers On the waterfront in Hamilton. Live music most nights, popular with the young. Five handpumps, all for decoration! Usual range of imported beers plus Carlsberg Stout – very tasty.

Henry VIII Near the beaches on the south coast. Up market pub and restaurant, very expensive. Ten handpumps for show only, plus a sign proclaiming "Real Ale". Watney's Red on keg, but bottled Guinness available (Foreign Extra Stout – stronger than usual in the U.K.). Hilarious and rather obscene English pianist/comedian most nights.

Robin Hood Just outside Hamilton. Trendy meeting place for the young. Good value food and Happy Hour 17.00 -21.00 with beer \$1.50 a bottle. Three bars, one with a TV showing the U.S. music channel MTV live (very entertaining!).

White Horse On the waterfront in St. Georges, Bermuda's second town. Nice setting with a good range of beers including Guinness. Slow service and a surfeit of loud American tourists on our visit.

All in all Bermuda is a wonderful place. It has clear, blue water, dazzling pink beaches, picturesque, white roofed houses, very friendly locals and a reasonable selection of beer. It is also very expensive, so I won't complain when I come to pay £1 for my pint in Hertfordshire!

Tim Bracey

GOTTA LOTTA BOTTLE?

Recent Brewers Society figures show that UK beer production fell by 51 million pints in March, a drop of 6% over March 1985. Undoubtedly there are many factors contributing to this continuing decline, not the least of which is the spiralling price of a pint. While the Chancellor of the Exchequer graciously left the duty on beer unchanged this year, the brewers themselves show no restraint in their pricing policies. As a result, many pub-goers have reduced the frequency of their visits to the bar and are choosing to drink at home, either brewing for themselves or buying from off-licences and supermarkets.

Now the big brewers appear to have hit on another way to reduce UK beer production – by weaning the big spending, big drinking 18-30 year olds off home produced beer and larger and on to imported bottled beers selling at premium prices. Whitbread have been promoting the Belgian Logurg and more recently the Canadian Moosehead, Courage have the original Czech Budweiser, while Ind Coope have come up with their own bizarre offering, Smithwicks from Ireland. The opportunity to sample some interesting and genuine foreign beers is to be welcomed, but one cannot help being suspicious of the big brewers motives. One possible explanation is that they may well be hoping to convert sufficient drinkers to start producing keg versions under licence in this country. Undoubtedly they would then retain the premium prices but reduce the strength, just as Watneys did with Fosters and Allied did with Oranjeboom and Castlemaine XXXX.

Footnote: In Scottish & Newcastle's new American style bar at the Noke near St. Albans, curiously titled the Baltimore Bean Company, there is a range of these imported bottles, most of them European rather than American, all selling at £1.25 for around half a pint. Be warned: its not just the bottled beers that are pricey here. No real ales are offered but a pint of fizzy Newcastle Bitter will set you back £1.10. And after a pint of that your system won't need any beans!

G.A.

McMULLENS STRENGTHEN FAMILY CONTROL

McMullens of Hertford, among the most quiet and private of brewers, have been effecting a capital reorganisation plan that other family independents who wish to stay that way could do worse than copy. The complex plan includes these features:

- The making of a bonus issue of ordinary and preference shares to existing shareholders.
- New preference shares made available to the ordinary and preferred shareholders.

The new preference shares are to be traded on the London stock exchange. It will be possible for existing shareholders to raise capital by selling their new preference shares, without altering the balance of control by parting with their voting shares.

McMullens have never featured in any of the current takeover speculation. And this is unlikely ever to affect them as the scheme includes a plan for the brewery to buy its own shares. This option would only strengthen the family control of the business.

**WALLINGTON REAL ALE
AND STEAM FESTIVAL
JULY 26th 1986
IN THE VILLAGE HALL
A VARIED SELECTION OF
REAL ALES AT LUNCHTIME
AND EVENING. BAR
EXTENSION**

TIED HOUSES WITHIN 30 MILES OF ROYSTON

Pubs in the town are excluded and real ale houses only are listed.

Tolly Cobbold
Greene King
Charles Wells
Ind Coope
James Paine
Rayments
Benskins
McMullens
Charrington
Ridley
Truman
Fullers
Manns
Banks & Taylor
Courage
A.B.C.
Adnams
Taylor Walker
Norwich
Scottish & Newcastle
Adrian Jolliffe

Red Lion, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, 2 ½ miles
Bell, Therfield, 2 ½ miles
Waggon & Horses, Whaddon Gap, Cambridgeshire, 3 ½ miles
Kings Head, Elmdon, Essex, 7 miles
New Inn, Sandy, Bedfordshire, 9 miles
Axe & Compasses, Arkesden, Essex, 9 miles
Crown & Thistle, Great Chesterford, Essex, 10 miles
White Hart, Puckeridge, 10 miles
Fox, Willian, Letchworth, 11 miles
Sun, Saffron Walden, Essex, 12 miles
Pyramid, Stevenage, 12 miles
New Found Out, Hitchin, 14 miles
White Swan, Shefford, Bedfordshire, 14 miles
White Horse, Deadmans Cross, near Shefford, Beds., 17 miles
King William IV, Sawbridgeworth, 18 miles
Swan, Goldington, Bedford, 19 miles
Red Lion, Great Wrattling, Suffolk, 23 miles
King & Tinker, Whitewebbs, Greater London, 26 miles
West End House, Ely, Cambridgeshire, 28 miles
Rose & Castle, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, 30 miles

HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

Thursday 3rd July

Anti-social in Baldock; meet in the Rose & Crown, 8p.m. sharp.

Thursday 17th July

Social at the North Star, Royston, 8p.m.

Thursday 31st July

Pub of the Month social at the Crown, Buntingford, 8p.m.

Thursday 7th August

Social at the Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge, 8p.m.

Contact **Peter Clarke** ☎ **Stevenage 65957**

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday 1st July

Pub of the Month (for June!) social at Pinks Hotel, near Shenley, 8p.m.

Monday 7th July

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

Tuesday 8th July

Joint social with Watford & District Branch at the Fox & Hounds, Croxley Green, 8p.m.

Tuesday 15th July

Branch meeting at the Beehive, St. Albans, 8p.m.

Tuesday 22nd July

Pub crawl of Wheathampstead: meet at 8p.m. in the Abbot John, then on to the Bull, etc.

Contact **Adrian Jolliffe** ☎ **St. Albans 69675**

MID-CHILTERNES BRANCH

Tuesday 1st July

Anti-social in Hemel Hempstead: meet in the Boar's Head, Piccotts End, 8.30p.m. and finish in the Leather Bottle, Leverstock Green Road.

Tuesday 8th July

Pub crawl of Great Missenden starting in the Nag's Head, 8.30p.m.

Tuesday 15th July

Social in the Potter's Arms, Winchmore Hill, 8.30p.m.

Tuesday 22nd July

Social at the Windmill, Chipperfield, 8.30p.m.

Tuesday 29th July

Social at the Carpenter's Arms, Slapton, 8.30p.m.

Contact **Ken Smith** ☎ **Watford 31226**

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Contact **Tony King** ☎ **Garston 672587**

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



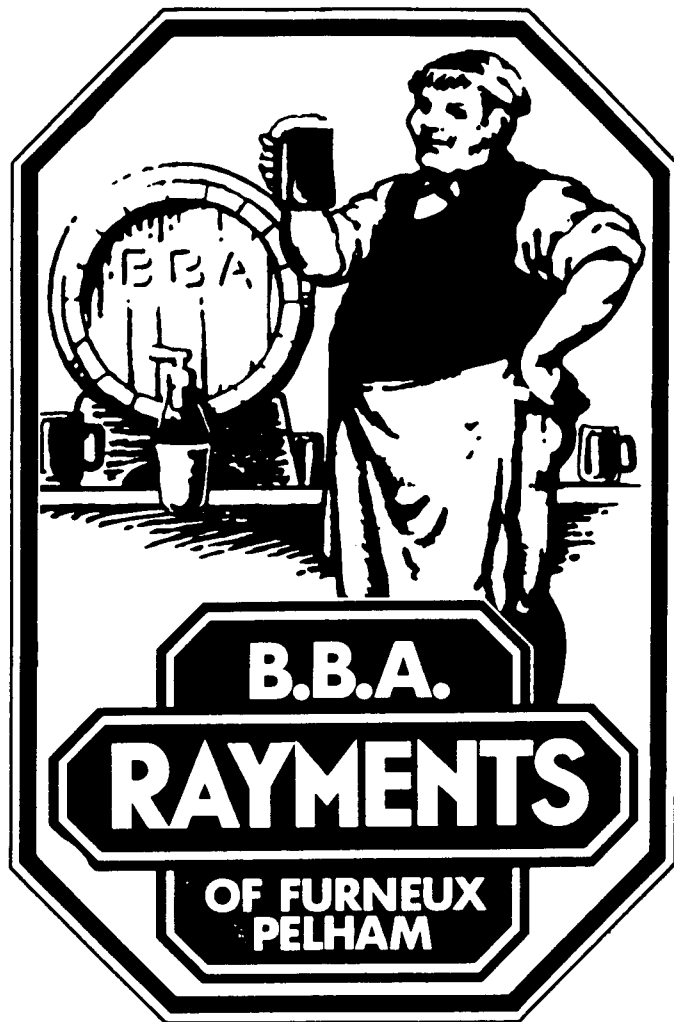
THE STAR INN
FURNEUX PELHAM



Rayments BBA ★ Greene King KK & Abbot

GOOD HOME COOKED FOOD
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

☎ **Brent Pelham 227**



10th July **Nuthampstead: Woodman.** Standon Morris Men at 9.15p.m.

17th July **Hertford:** Standon Morris Men at the **Two Brewers** at 8.15p.m. and at the **White Horse** at 9.15p.m.

24th July **Bishops Stortford:** Standon Morris Men at the **Jolly Brewers** at 8.15p.m. and at the **Fox** at 9.15p.m.

31st July **Ware:** **White Horse.** Standon Morris Men at 9.15p.m.

Remember that listing in the Whats On column is FREE. Please use a separate sheet of paper for each month and send details to the Editor by August 1st for the September edition and by September 1st for the October edition.

HEARTS OF GOLD

Thomas and Carol Lindores of the **White Hart Tap** in St. Albans have hearts of gold – and now they've got a plaque to prove it. The couple raised nearly £3,000 for charity last year through sponsored darts matches, collections and raffles. The money was for the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Multiple Sclerosis Society of which Thomas is branch president.

In May Benskins named Thomas and Carol licencees with a Heart of Gold and presented them with a heart-shaped plaque, plus £150 for their chosen charity.

"We have marvellous regulars who have helped all the way," said Carol. Next year the Lindores plan to more than double their charitable efforts at the **White Hart Tap**, with a target of £8,000.

PUB NEWS

Thatchers Cider is now available on handpump in the **Plough**, Wallington which also now has a range of vegetarian meals. The handpump has disappeared from the **Fold**, Stevenage.

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire North, Hertfordshire South, Watford & District and Mid-Chilternes 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: £8 per 2.5cm column. Artwork can be made up at extra cost. Contact **Eric Sim** ☎ **Hatfield 60647** for details

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