



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

FREE

The Campaign for Real Ale

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TRUMANS - DON'T STOP HERE

A recent newsletter article suggested to those residents of Royston that if they fancied a pint of Trumans, a drive to the Pyramid in Stevenage was the quickest answer. Well, the Pyramid no longer exists but the building does. It's now called Bud's, a pseudo American bar, all lager taps, video jukebox's and electronic games, alas no Trumans beer.

Not to worry, I here you say, there are three other Trumans houses in the new town. Let's look at the Herts Guide, the Gamekeeper, well not exactly, it's now called Poachers and is billed, on an enormous sign outside, as a traditional pub. Well the architect may think so but real traditional ale is as hard to find as it was at Bud's.

Let's press on to the Swan, now called the Swan Tavern, after a period of being the Discovery, this pub has an advantage over the previous two as it has three bars, but not one can manage a handpump. So on to the Man In the Moon, the only Truman Pub not to suffer from an identity crisis, having managed to survive any name changes. Well, you will find a handpump in the saloon bar, not dispensing any of the Truman beers but Bulmers Cider.

So if you're after a pint of Trumans, don't stop!

P. Clarke

BBA — BRING BACK AVAILABILITY

I was surprised to read, a few weeks ago, in the **Newsletter's** sister journal, **Norfolk Nips**, that Rayments BBA is now regularly available in two pubs in Norwich, the **Ribs of Beef** and the **Swannington Hall**.

More recently I was astounded to find, on holiday in Suffolk, a handpump in an excellent free house, the **Crown** at Westleton, dispensing Furneux Pelham's finest, Rayments BBA.

And when I arrived home and opened the latest edition of CAMRA's London news-sheet, the **London Drinker**, I was mortified to discover an advertisement for a free house in trendy Islington, the **Clothworkers Arms**, proclaiming the availability of — you've guest, Rayments BBA.

So why all this surprise, astonishment and mortification? Because I live in St Albans and have to travel across the county to Hertford to obtain my nearest pint of BBA. St Albans is in Hertfordshire, for heaven's sake, the county where BBA is brewed, and for some strange reason, this superb beer is available nowhere in its home county to the west of the A1.

It seems, therefore, that while the executives of Norfolk, the farmers of Suffolk and the socialites of Islington can quaff BBA until it's coming out of their ears, this pleasure is denied to half the population of the brew's native county.

Can anyone explain why?

Peter Lerner

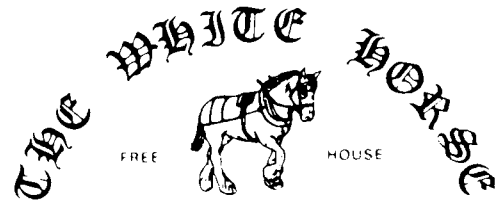
SNAP?

Peter's Bar in Southampton Row, London, often has a placard outside proclaiming the beers and entertainment available, it also states that the bar is 'Camera approved'!

The Crooked Billet Colney Heath
Tel: Bowmansgreen 22128



*One of
Hertfordshires
Old Village Pubs
Traditional
Draught Beer
in Olde-World
surroundings*



castle street ... old hertford

Renovations now complete

...

*Widest selection of real ales
in Hertford with many guest beers
served on gravity and hand pump*

....

Reduced prices on cask ale
5-30 to 7.00 pm Mon—Fri.

...

Home cooked food at all times

DOWN AT THE BREWERY

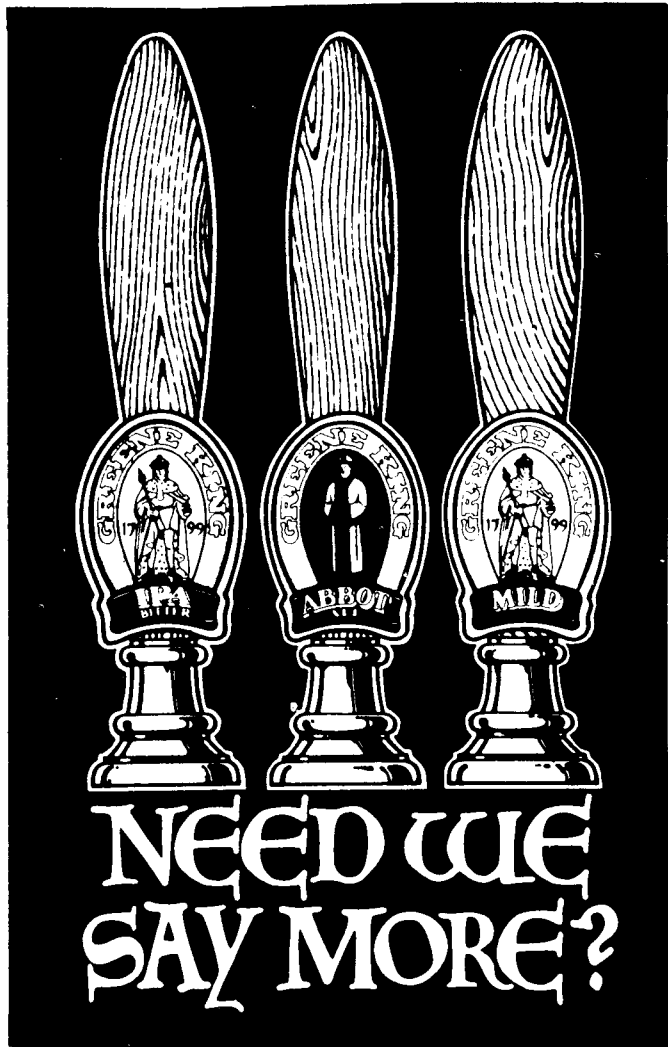
Our intrepid reporter recently had the pleasure of paying a visit (incognito) to McMullens brewery in Hertford. As usual the hospitality in the brewery's cottage bar was excellent, and after a few pints the conversation turned to previous trips when behaviour of certain groups (who should have known better) was brought into question:

"And what about that CAMRA crowd?" piped up our correspondent.

"Oh, they behave alright," said the brewery rep, "but I've never seen such a scruffy bunch in all my life!"

This conjures up visions of the public image of the typical CAMRA member.

A special prize awaits the winner for the best cartoon, sent to the Editor by 1st November.



MORE REAL AK?

It is a well known fact that in most Mac's pubs AK mild is the most popular beer, often outselling Country by two to one. Despite this, many Mac's pubs serve only Country on handpump. During the past few months we have been surveying for the new Herts Beer Guide, and during conversations with several Mac's tenants it turned out that they wanted to sell real AK but the brewery had refused to allow them to do so.

However, one of these pubs has managed to get McMullens to change its mind, and handpulled AK is now on sale in St. Albans in the **Peahen**, alongside the long established real Country. This is the first time real mild has been available in St. Albans town centre for quite a few years, and if the **Peahen's** AK continues to be as good as it was on my visit then I shall certainly drink there more often.

Adrian Jolliffe

FESTIVAL SUCCESS

North Herts CAMRA held their first Beer Festival for several years recently in the village hall at Wallington near Baldock. It was a joint venture with John Walsh, the landlord of the **Plough** at Wallington, who arranged the steam engine and organ, along with a car boot sale at lunchtime and a barbecue in the evening. A rather risqué folk band rounded the evening's entertainment off. The Beer Festival was small in comparison with the Cambridge Festival which also took place on the same weekend, but was a significant step forward in branch fortunes. Most popular of the beers was the Festival Ale, specially brewed by the Fox and Hounds at Barley. In fact it did not last into the evening session, being completely sold at lunchtime; considering the strength of 1052, this was somewhat surprising.

Also extremely popular were Rayments BBA, probably due to its rarity in the west of the county, and Eastcote Ale from Banks & Taylor, Shefford. All in all it was a most enjoyable day, so here's to the next one.

Peter Clarke

HELP

Are you a member in the Watford and District area? Could you spare the odd hour a month to help the branch? If so we would very much like to see you at any of our meetings, or if you could just deliver newsletters to your local once a month, or keep us up to date on what is happening at your local then get in touch with our branch contact.

JS

PUB OF THE MONTH

North Herts

Lilley Arms, Lilley

This month sees North Herts branch almost out of the county, when they visit the village of Lilley, situated on the edge of Luton but just in Hertfordshire.

Pete and Sylvia Brown took over the pub two and a half years ago and have installed handpumps and are selling Greene King IPA and Abbot. The **Lilley Arms** dates from 1735 when it was a farmhouse. It belonged to the Sowerby family for many years and was known as the Sowerby Arms. It was sold earlier this century to Wells and Winch and it was at this time the name is thought to have changed.

The pub is thought to be haunted by small people in old fashioned clothes but it is hoped the only spirits to be seen on Thursday September 25th will be in the optics.

P. Clarke.

South Herts

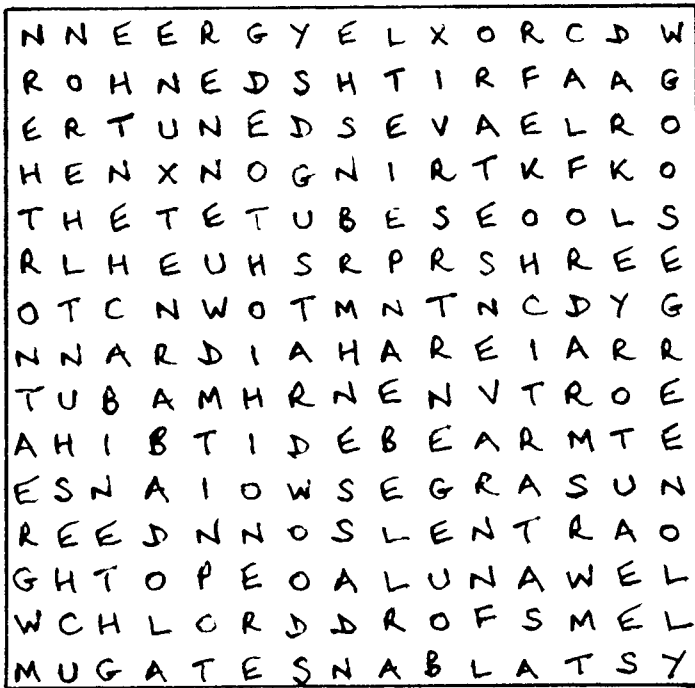
Roundbush, Aldenham

Many thanks albeit a little late to Phil Ashcroft of the **Roundbush** Aldenham. His pub deservedly won the pub of the month for May against keen competition in the area. The presentation was on May 23rd with excellent food and live music provided in this lively country house. Phil is a real entrepreneur, when we first met he said the aim is to give the customer good beer and a laugh. The regular live music, Bar-B-Ques and extensive menu are the icing on the cake.

The Press also attended, printing a large photo with reverse captions.

Much as I would like to be publican at the **Roundbush** unfortunately I am not and Phil does not represent the Campaign, he just supplies what we crave – consistent excellent beer.

Steve Bury



The names of sixteen pubs and sixteen locations, all in 'Real Draught Beer in Hertfordshire', can be found by reading in straight lines in any direction, including diagonally. Names may cross others in the diagram, but do not overlap in the same direction and no required name forms part of another. When all are found there should be no ambiguities in the matching process.

Competitors are asked to list the sixteen pubs beside their appropriate locations. The sender of the first correct entry opened on 1st November will receive a copy of Brian Gover's CAMRA Dictionary of Beer. Please mark the envelope 'September Competition' and do not forget your name and address.

WHO'S KIDDING WHOM?

The Herts newsletter published 1st April 1982 announced the launch of a new small brewery, the Hedgehog Brewery, set up 'in an old shoe shop in Watford'. Among its supposed attractions were a beer with an original gravity somewhere in the range 1030 to 1055, and a production run of six pints. For some peculiar reason nothing was heard about the brewery until recently when respectability was belatedly bestowed upon the brewery with its inclusion in a new 48 page book 'Directory of New Mini-Breweries and Home Brew Inns' by Jimmy Young and Keith Osbourne. Copies, price £3 plus a large sae, are available from Better Pubs, 2 Mill House, Mill Lane, Countess Weir, Exeter, Devon. BA

FREE BEER GUIDES

Watford and District have 6 copies of the 1986 Good Beer Guides to give away. To qualify for this marvellous gift you just have to be one of the first 6 people from our area to join CAMRA. Interested? then send a cheque to HQ in St. Albans, along with your name and address, as well as this article. HQ will send your details to me, the local membership secretary, and we will then send you your Guide, plus an invitation to join us at one of our meetings when we will even buy you a pint to say welcome. JS

A belated welcome to Roy and Mildred Schofield, tenants of the **Duke of Marlborough**, Holywell Hill, St. Albans since early this year. Although this is their first venture into the trade, the **Duke** has already been transformed into a well run community pub with a pleasant saloon and traditional public bar, which Roy has no intention of removing. The well kept Benskin Best Bitter is very popular with the folk club who meet in the function room and Mildred is gaining a reputation for her food on weekday lunchtimes.

A new real ale outlet in Abbots Langley is the **Rose and Crown** in the High Street, a small locals pub belonging to Whitbread which now sells Flowers IPA; let's hope the demand is there for this to remain a real ale pub.

Also in Abbots Langley, the **Kings Head** is now a Benskins house selling an excellent drop of Benskins Best Bitter; the Ind Coope bitter and Burton Ale have gone, the latter due to lack of demand. The **Kings Head** is looking forward to some changes: a small steak bar and a children's room are planned. The extension to the lounge bar at the **Royal Oak**, Abbots Langley is nearing completion and could be finished by the time you read this newsletter.

The **Crooked Billet**, Colney Heath now has a piano complete with candelabra. The only problem is the lack of a genuine pub pianist. The long awaited official re-opening of the **Candlestick**, West End, Essendon took place on the last day of July. The ceremony was ably performed by Richard Whitmore of T.V. fame and McMullen's intrepid P.R. man, Dennis Rutledge. The public bar has been retained, but the lounge has been greatly enlarged and is well in keeping with this delightful country pub where you will always receive a friendly welcome from Carol and Stan. Country Bitter is now available on handpump: "And very nice it is too," reports our correspondent.

Stevenage's newest pub, the **Coopers Apprentice** on the Poplars estate, has Old Brewery Bitter and Museum Ale on handpump, a first for Samuel Smiths in Hertfordshire.

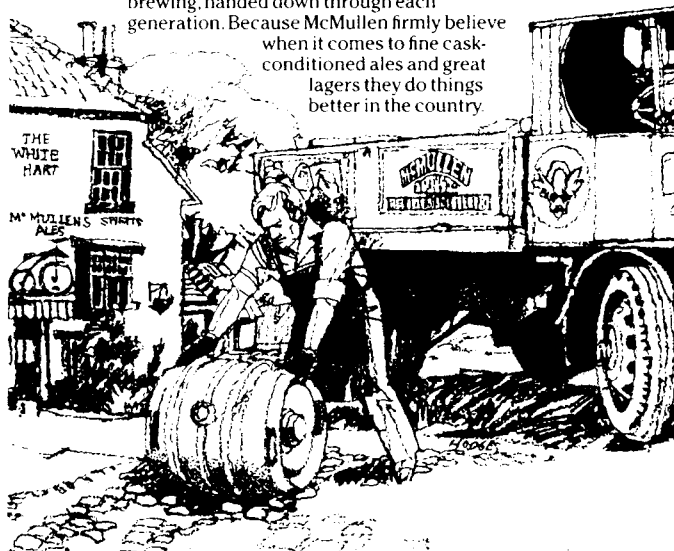
The **Roebuck**, Stevenage now has Adnams bitter on handpump at £1.05 a pint.

The recently refurbished **Fox** in Pirton now offers Castle Eden ale alongside the Wethereds bitter.

If you are a non-smoker then go along to the **New Inn**, Holwell on a Tuesday which is now 'No Smoking Night'.

When it comes to Country Best- McMullen deliver

In 1827 Peter McMullen founded his brewery in Hertford. Today it is still very much a family business, employing traditional time-proven methods of brewing, handed down through each generation. Because McMullen firmly believe when it comes to fine cask-conditioned ales and great lagers they do things better in the country.



Brewers in Hertfordshire since 1827

ALL HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCHES

Thursday 11th September

Herts liaison at Duke of Marlborough, St. Albans 8pm.

Saturday 20th September

Regional meeting at Duke of Marlborough, St. Albans 8pm.

NORTH HERTS BRANCH

Thursday 4th September

Social at New Found Out, Hitchin, 8pm.

Thursday 25th September

Pub of the Month social at the Lilley Arms, Lilley, 8pm.

Thursday 2nd October

Social at the Plough, Ley Green, 8pm.

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 365957

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Saturday 6th September Aunt Sally at the Peyton Arms, Stoke Lyne. Possible evening trip to Stoke Row.

Wednesday 10th September

Branch meeting at Blakes Wine Bar (downstairs) 8pm.

Wednesday 24th September

Darts at the Stag, Bushey 8pm.

Sunday 28th September

Committee meeting at West Herts Sports & Social Club 8pm.

Wednesday 8th October

Two pub social 8pm Kings Head, Abbots Langley, 9.30pm Rose & Crown, Abbots Langley.

Contact Tony King ☎ Garston 672587

SOUTH HERTS BRANCH

Monday 1st September

Committee meeting at Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger 8pm.

Tuesday 30th September

Pub of the Year at the Woodman, Wildhill. Excellent beer at good prices, ring Adrian Jolliffe for free transport. All welcome

Contact Adrian Jolliffe ☎ St. Albans 69675

MID CHILTERN BRANCH

Tuesday 2nd September

Social at Full Moon, Hawridge 8.30pm.

Tuesday 9th September

Pub crawl in Sarratt. Start at Cock. Finish at Boot. 8.30pm.

Tuesday 16th September

Pub crawl in New Denham. Start at Lambert Arms 8.30pm.

Tuesday 23rd September

Branch meeting at Royal Oak, Chipperfield 8.30pm.

Saturday 27th September

Treasure Hunt in Chesham. Start at Queens Head 8.30pm. 50p entry.

Tuesday 30th September

Social at Crown, Little Missenden 8.30pm.

Contact Peter Freeman ☎ Hemel Hempstead 69773.

SEPTEMBER'S SOCIAL AT THE STAG

Watford and District are holding their September Social at the Stag, Merryhill Road, Bushey on the 24th.

This Benskins pub is run by Mrs. Kate Goad, who is looking forward to our visit. So why not come along and make this evening even more enjoyable. New members and those of our Bushey members we have not seen for a while are particularly welcome.

JS

4th September: Standon Morris Men at the **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge**, 8.15pm

7th September: **Brewery Tap, Ware.** Richard Grainger at Ware Folk Club, 8pm.

8th September: St. Albans Morris Men at the **Wicked Lady, Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead**, 8.30pm.

12 September: Singalong Cockney Night with pie & mash and seafood at the **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge** from 8pm.

14th September: **Brewery Tap, Ware.** Roy Harris at Ware Folk Club, 8pm.

18th September: St. Albans Morris Men at the **Ludwick Arms, Welwyn Garden City**, 9.30pm.


21st September: **Brewery Tap, Ware.** Harvest Home Evening at Ware Folk Club, 8pm.

28th September: **Brewery Tap, Ware.** John James at Ware Folk Club, 8pm.

5th October: **Brewery Tap, Ware.** Scotch Measure at Ware Folk Club, 8pm.


Listings in this What's On column is FREE. Send details to the Editor by 1st October for the November edition.

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

NORTH HERTS BRANCH TO FOLD

There has been a successful branch of the Campaign in North Hertfordshire for twelve years – perhaps at one time one of the more successful in the country.

That you are reading this Newsletter is due to a local member delivering it in his own time. The Newsletter and other campaigning are funded by members money raising efforts. The Hertfordshire Guide and the national Good Beer Guide are published following surveys by local branch members. However, over the last two years, there has been a drop in the number of active members in North Herts carrying out these functions. Some members have left the area, others have commitments at work or with young families; many are content to join the growing passive membership of the Campaign. This has left an intolerable burden on the remaining few active stalwarts.

Despite a concerted effort by the North Herts Branch Committee to attract attendance at last year's AGM, and subsequently, there has been virtually no active response during the past twelve months – apart from some criticism of pubs selected for the Guide.

Therefore, an Extraordinary General Meeting has been called for October 23 at the **Bull, Watton-at-Stone**, starting at 8.30p.m. All present members of the Committee have notified their intention not to stand for re-election at the end of this year. In the absence of adequate replacements being nominated, the resolution will be put: "That the North Herts Branch of CAMRA be wound up; any assets (or debts) to be passed to the Headquarters funds of the Campaign." The dissolution of the North Herts Branch now looks to be most likely . . . unless there is a sudden flurry of activity by local members.

Peter Clarke

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.**

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