

FREE

CAMRA

HERTFORDSHIRE'S

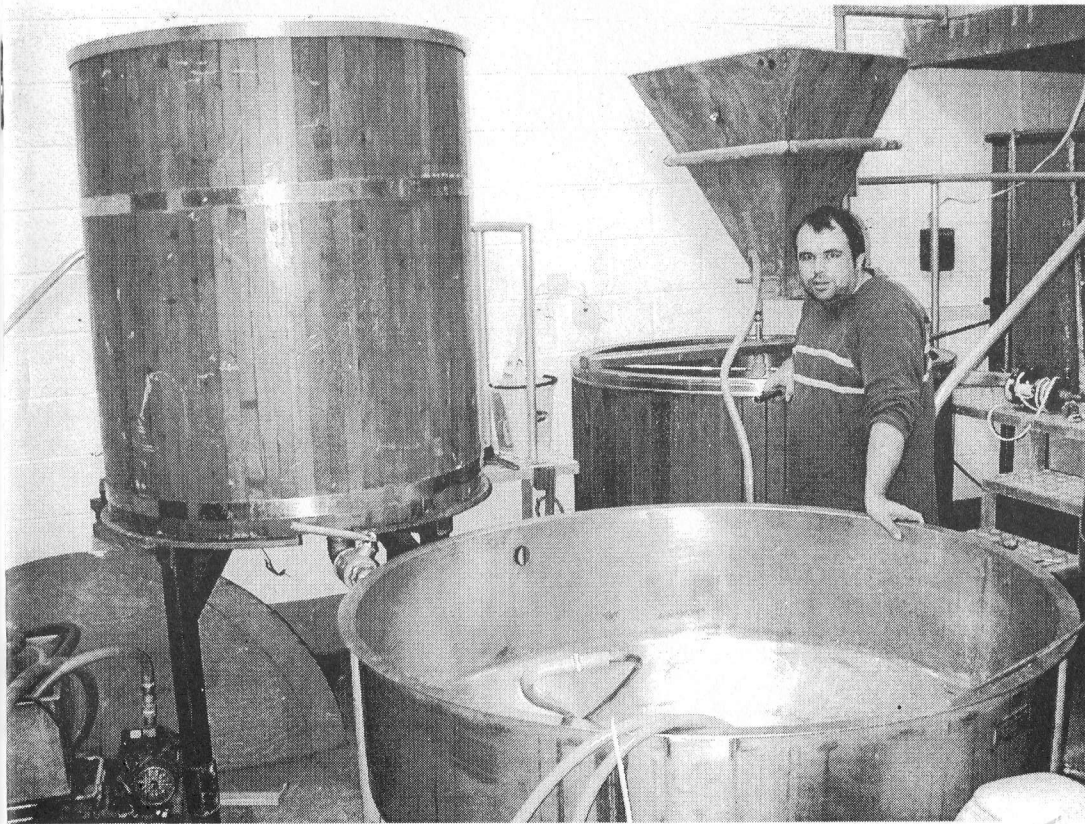
Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

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In this issue:
Extended opening hours
What is a Free House?
Buntingford Brewery

THE BITTER END

Extended licensing hours but not until 2004

On the 13th November reform of liquor licensing law was announced in the Queen's Speech. British pubgoers can look forward to a more flexible approach to pub opening hours from the summer of 2004.

Mike Benner, Head of CAMRA Campaigns and Communications said, "After years of campaigning we can finally look forward to longer opening hours for pubs which will boost tourism and help stamp out binge drinking through a more relaxed and responsible approach to enjoying alcohol".

Recent CAMRA research reveals that seven out of ten British adults support longer opening hours for pubs. Mike Benner added, "This will be a popular change with consumers who are tired of unnecessary restrictions on when and where they can enjoy a drink.

The current laws are largely based on laws introduced during the First World War and have no place in today's society". CAMRA has dismissed claims that the new Act may lead to a free-for-all, with all pubs opening 24 hours a day and unrestricted access for children. Pubs will have to submit operating plans to the licensing authority and the police and local residents will have a say on the hours the pub will be able to stay open. It is likely that most pubs will just apply for an

extra hour or two on Friday and Saturday nights. The licensing authority will decide on the suitability of premises for children. It is not the case that kids will have access to premises without restriction, but it will mean that pubs will become more family friendly which will benefit millions of people". The anti-drink lobby feared that our streets would be invaded by drunks when the law was changed in 1988 to allow pubs to stay open through the afternoon, but were proved unfounded when no increase in alcohol consumption or alcohol-related disorder happened. The same will be true following these changes and we can all look forward to the benefits of a more relaxed approach to enjoying a drink.

WANT TO COMPLAIN?

Local Trading Standards exist to protect the interests of consumers.

If you are experiencing short measure after politely asking for a top up, if you find pubs do not show an accurate price list or if you feel a pub is deliberately ripping you off Trading Standards will investigate.

Trading Standards Department
45 Grosvenor Road
St Albans, Herts. or Tel: 01992 556799

Hertfordshire's Pints Of View is produced by the Hertfordshire South, Watford & District and Herts-Essex Borders Branches of the Campaign For Real Ale. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches. Any articles or letters for publication should be sent to Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts WD7 9EA.

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THE BITTER END

What is a Free House?

The number of pubs that are branded as free houses and in fact are not, is causing a great deal of concern, to the point where a seminar was held at the Campaign's AGM this year to discuss the issues. This form of misleading advertising leads customers to believe that they will be getting choice in drinks, which in many cases does not exist when they enter the premises.

The reason for this is that more pub companies and brewers are falsely signing their tied houses in an attempt to increase trade.

So what is a free house? We know what the customer expects it to be, which is a family-run outlet able to supply the drinks they desire, not tied to any brewer or have an agreement that ties them to an individual food or soft drink supplier.



The Old Cross Tavern, Hertford. A true free house

The faceless companies that own the majority of our pubs control the market within them totally. Many stories are flying around the county about free houses but I will quote two examples from one of my local pubs, and neither is to do with real ale. A lunchtime regular used to drink double Gin and Tonic and on arrival one day he found his drink tasting differently. Upon complaining he was informed that the brewer had stopped trading with Schweppes. He had no power and neither did the publican to change this decision and he ended up drinking elsewhere, which is only possible if you have another pub locally which is not owned by the same company. The same thing happened with another customer the same week when ordering some food across the bar. When his burger arrived it was something that you would even return at a football ground. "Sorry" was the reply. I knew they were c**p as soon as they were delivered but our supplier has changed."

The difference in both cases was a financial one. Same price to the customer but poorer quality product.

Only a publican that has some control over their supplier can provide what the customer really wants.

Steve Bury, Editor

Lin & Dick
welcome you to



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CAMRA 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4LW
Tel: 01727 367201 Fax: 01727 367670 Email: camra@camra.org.uk



JOIN CAMRA NOW!

Help protect Britain's Real Ale Heritage
by joining the Campaign for Real Ale



Fill in this form and send it, together with a cheque
made payable to CAMRA Ltd. to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4LW

Membership rates: Single £16 Joint £19
Under 26 £ 9 Retired £9 Retired Joint £12
Overseas £20 Overseas Joint £23 (tick appropriate box)

Name.....Address.....

.....Postcode.....

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles
of Association

I enclose a cheque for £.....

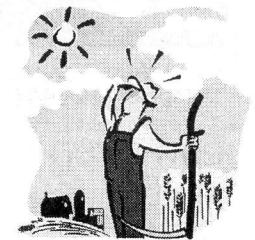
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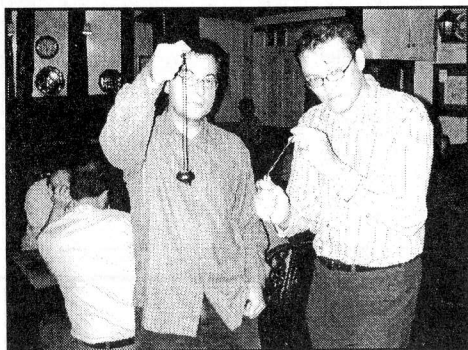
Home of Verulam Brewery

"One of Britain's Best 500 Pubs"
Roger Protz

SWIFT HALVES

Bonkers about conkers

The annual South Herts CAMRA Conkers tournament was held at the beginning of November. As usual The Lower Red Lion, St Albans, was the venue for this popular annual event. Sixteen players went into the hat and for the first time in several years it was a pub regular, Laurence Hallam (below right), who won the title, beating CAMRA member, Graham Skeggs in the final.



Short measure plan will mean even bigger "Rip Off"

Chris Howell, Britain's top Trading Standards Officer has seriously criticised the Government's 95% liquid pint plan. As lead Officer on Weights & Measures he has pointed out that the plan to make 95% the legal minimum would actually mean a 92% pint because magistrates would count minor infringements as acceptable in the same way as speeding and even drunken driving are dealt with at present. Prosecutions would only be possible against licensees who consistently served pints 7-8% short, something which our surveys have shown is exceedingly rare at the moment. He also pointed out that the number of pints tested falling short of full measure had risen

from 20% to 50% over the last twenty years, proving CAMRA's point that short measure is becoming standard practice throughout the trade.

NitroKeg beers are the most regularly served short but every regular draught drinker knows the problem is experienced with lager, cider and real ale as well. Please join us in writing to the DTI :-

Mr Greg Vaughan
Consumer Affairs Directorate
Room 459
Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street
London SW2H 0ET

and also your MP to raise this issue and stop the continual customer "Rip Off".

Tring pub wins CAMRA award

The King's Arms, Tring, has won the CAMRA Pub Of The Year Award for the Central Southern area. The town pub, which is considered to be the Tring Brewery tap, is now getting the attention it deserves. Congratulations to all concerned. The pub will now be considered in the next stage of the competition to find the CAMRA National Pub of the Year.

The Last Witch

Hertford drinkers who were expecting to be drinking in the new Wetherspoon's in Hertford's The Wash by now will have to wait a few months longer. The hold up has been because JDWetherspoon's want to demolish the public toilets in the grounds of Hertford Castle. If everything goes to plan the pub should open spring next year. The pub company will also be paying for new paving and other enhancements in front of Castle Hall. The pub will be called the Last Witch, so named because Hertford was the last town in Britain to convict a woman of witchcraft.

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GOOD BEER GUIDE ENTRY 2002



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QUALITY FOOD

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& two rotating Guest Beers

CHAMPION BEERS OF BRITAIN 2002

At this year's Great British Beer Festival at London's Olympia, the following beers were selected by the Campaign's tasting panel.

SUPREME CHAMPION

Deuchars IPA - Caledonian (Edinburgh)
Silver:
East Street Cream - RCH (Somerset)
Bronze:
Moondance - Triple fff (Hampshire)

MILDS

Gold: Pressed Rat & Warthog -Triple fff
Silver: Man In The Boat
Bronze: Black Cat - Moorhouses

BITTERS

Gold: Deuchars IPA - Caledonian
Silver: Viking -Rudgate
Joint Bronze: Hewish IPA - RCH & JHB - Oakham

BEST BITTERS

Gold: Moondance - Triple FFF
Silver: Brewers Gold - Crouch Vale
Joint Bronze: Red Macgregor - Orkney & London Pride - Fullers

STRONG BITTERS

Gold: East Street Cream - RCH
Silver: ESB - Fullers
Bronze: Hop Garden Gold - Hogs Back

SPECIALITY BEERS

Gold: White Dwarf - Oakham
Silver: Schiehallion - Harviestoun
Bronze: Umbel Magna - Nethergate

GUARDIAN/CAMRA BOTTLE-CONDITIONED BEERS

Gold: 1845 - Fullers
Silver: Live Organic - Brakspear
Bronze: Summer Lightning - Hop Back

DOWN YOUR WAY

Our information comes from a wide variety of sources and it is inevitable that some errors will occur. Please inform us of any mistakes and the appropriate correction, apology or retraction will be published. Ed

- ☐ **APSLEY:** The **Bell** is now a McDonalds
- ☐ **HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:** Hopes that The **Bell**, Two Waters, might reopen as a pub have been dashed. The pub has been turned into a McDonalds.
- ☐ **KINSBOURNE GREEN:** Plans to extend the **Fox**, a listed building, and enlarge its car park have been shelved by its owners Six Continents after strong local opposition. Meanwhile The **Harrow** is closed and is to become a Peppercorn pub-diner.
- ☐ **RADLETT:** Congratulations to Stewart and Sue of the "Good Beer Guide" listed **Red Lion** who have won the Young's garden award for their floral displays.
- ☐ **OLD KNEBWORTH:** Steve Nye has finally left the **The Lytton Arms** and it has a new licensee.
- ☐ **PARK STREET:** The **Old Red Lion** has been refurbished with a light-coloured decor, complete with pinewood and tiled flooring. It is currently serving Marston's Pedigree and Adnam's Bitter.
- ☐ **ST ALBANS:** The **King William** in Sandridge Road has recently reopened and become an oriental restaurant. The **Abbey Theatre** now sells real ale
- ☐ **ST PAUL'S WALDEN:** The **Strathmore Arms** is fast becoming a champion of the small micro brewer and is well worth a visit if you are out Hitchin way. Recent guest beers have come from Bullmastiff, Boat Brewery, Nursery, Kelburn and Oldershaw. Chiswick and London Pride are the two regulars. It is also rumoured that the pub might start brewing itself in the future so watch this space.
- ☐ **WHEATHAMPSTEAD:** Public opinion has persuaded the new owner's of the **Wicked**

Lady, on Nomansland Common, not to change its name to The **Strawberry Tree**. The pub's name commemorates Lady Katherine Ferrers, Britain's best known, if not the only, lady highwayman, why plyed her trade on the common, and around whom, a feature film was made in the 1950's called "The Wicked Lady".

A visit to the newly refurbished pub was made recently by CAMRA member John Green. He writes: "It seemed quite hopeful on arrival: empty casks outside from Marston's, Brain's, Mansfield and Old Mill, but the bar offered the dreary usual suspects of Courage Best, Marston's Pedigree and (Greene King) Old Speckled Hen. Certainly an improvement on no real beer, but uninspired choices.

The establishment styles itself "Country Pub and Dining". There is a restaurant at one end, but the rest of the bar bears no resemblance to a country pub, consisting of broken areas in white and purple, having all the atmosphere of a hotel or office reception lounge.

Food arrives in modest portions on huge plates and is not at the cheap end of the market. It is to be wondered what the target clientele will make of the drivellish pop music piped, inescapably as ever, into every corner".

Find out what is happening in the world of real ale in your area by logging on to:

- South Herts:** www.hertsale.org.uk
- North Herts:** www.nherts-camra.org.uk
- Mid- Chilterns:** mysite.freemove.com/midchilternscamra
- Herts/Essex Borders:** www.heb-camra.org.uk
- Watford & District:** www.watfordcamra.org.uk

Pub names Wordsearch

K	L	A	W	D	A	O	R	B	U	L	L	M	D	G
E	U	L	N	O	S	L	E	N	D	R	O	L	A	K
L	T	B	F	H	M	E	A	V	S	N	E	T	E	H
T	K	I	C	L	O	G	Y	M	K	T	E	G	H	O
S	R	O	A	T	E	N	R	E	O	M	R	P	S	L
A	O	N	B	V	D	A	N	H	L	O	B	F	G	L
C	Y	O	I	G	S	H	Y	A	E	K	H	J	N	Y
S	O	N	N	O	E	R	G	C	U	R	D	I	B	
T	E	V	E	L	L	D	G	O	D	S	T	A	K	U
A	K	E	T	D	N	N	C	H	E	Q	U	E	R	S
G	U	R	A	A	I	S	M	E	G	W	M	Y	A	H
Q	D	H	X	K	W	H	I	T	E	L	I	O	N	E
G	R	E	E	N	M	A	N	J	E	S	T	E	R	R
B	L	A	C	K	H	O	R	S	E	C	R	P	O	O
A	S	M	R	A	T	H	G	I	R	B	E	S	H	N

Pub Names: ALBION, ALEXANDRA, ANGEL, ARKLEY, BLACK HORSE, BOOT, BROADWALK, BULL, CABINET, CASTLE, CHEQUERS, COCK, DUKE O YORK, GATE, GREEN MAN, HADLEY HOTEL, HERON, HOLLYBUSH, HORN, JESTER, KING GEORGE, KINGS HEAD, LORD NELSON, MITRE, MONKEN HOLT, QUEENS ARMS, SEBRIGHT ARMS, STAG, VINE, WHITE LION.

Completed entries should be sent to Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.

The first correct entry opened on the 1st January 2003 will receive a copy of the latest "Hertfordshire Guide To Real Ale".

COMPETITION RESULTS

Double Top for Jeff

Prize Crossword answers

The winners, who each received a free ticket to the St Albans Beer Festival and £10 of beer vouchers, were:

- ☐ **Jeff Harber, St Albans**
- ☐ **Kathryn Elmer, Letty Green**
- ☐ **David Hodgkinson, Potters Bar**

Answers

Across: 1. Garibaldi 6. Outstrip 10. Nitre 11. Walkern 12. Eyes 13. Rooster 14. Concentric 16. Litre 18. Entrails 23. Tulip 24. Silver Lion 27. Perry Green 28. Tonic 29. Huntsman 33. Bathe 35. Nascot Arms 37. Equates 39. Menu 40. Involve 41. Otter 42. Hatfield 43. Saturdays. Down: 1. Generalisation 2. Ratio 3. Breathe 4. Lower Red Lion 5. Illicit 6. Oceania 7. Tonwell 8. Twenty 9. Icen 15. Carpenters Arms 17. Talent 19. Rune 20. Infringement 21. Stag 22. Albert 25. Each. 26. Opus 30. Untwine 31. Thrived 32. Muscles 33. Boudoir 34. Scruff 36. Arena 38. Tetra

Pub Names wordsearch

(St Albans Beer Festival programme)

Winner

- ☐ **Jeff Harber, St Albans** (£50 worth of beer at chosen pubs)

Runner-up

- ☐ **Sheila Openshaw, Lytham St Annes** (Beer Festival shirt)

Pub Names:

Elephant and Castle, Woodman, Crooked Billet, Cross Keys, Carpenters Arms, Old Cross Tavern, White Horse, Three Horseshoes, Coach and Horses, Two Brewers, Holly Bush, Red Lion, Black Horse, Farmers Boy, Farriers Arms, Lower Red Lion, Mermaid, White Hart Tap, White Lion

BRANCH DIARY

SOUTH HERTS

■ Tues 10 December. St Albans Beer Festival wipe-up meeting. **CAMRA HQ**, Hatfield Road. St Albans. 8pm.

■ Tues 28 January 2003. Branch Meeting and AGM. **CAMRA HQ**, Hatfield Road, St Albans, 8pm.

Branch Contact: John Bishop
01582 768478

MID CHILTERNES

■ Wed 11 December. Branch Social and Christmas Dinner, **The King's Arms**, Tring.

Branch Contact Richard Healy
rhealey@medphys.ucl.ac.uk

HERTS/ESSEX BORDERS

■ Mon 9 December. Branch Meeting, Prince of Wales, Iye Green. 8.30pm.

■ Tues 24 December. Rising Sun, High Wych from 2pm.

■ Mon 30 December. Anti-turkey Social,

Forest Gate, Epping. 8.30pm.

■ Mon 13 January. Branch Meeting, **Crown**, Old Harlow. 8.30pm. TBC.

■ Mon 10 February. Branch AGM. **Rising Sun**, High Wych. 8.30pm.

Branch Contact Graham Darby
(H) 01279 415895

ENFIELD & BARNET

Branch Contact: Brian Willis
(H) 020 8441 1892

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Branch Contact:
Martin Few 01923 252412

MID CHILTERNES

Branch Contact: (H) 01494 783198

NORTH HERTS

Branch Contact: Martin Ford
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