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HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

December 2003/January 2004

Circulation 5000

No. 202

A Merry Xmas to all our readers



Our Christmas pub above is the **Red Cow** in Harpenden, which was awarded second prize in this year's council-run Harpenden in Bloom competition.

In this issue:

Watford and District's best-ever festival

The death of cheap lager

Mile House campaign gains momentum

Mile House Campaign Gains Momentum

Weston Homes, who acquired the Mile House in London Road and demolished it without permission, have caused a bigger reaction than the pub's previous conversion to the **Grill Bar**. A large number of local residents including CAMRA activists Mike Higham and Mike Lloyd are mounting an increasingly successful campaign against the VANDALS who destroyed the building. More than 380 residents signed petitions against the plans to put 44 flats on the site and the council rejected the planning application. There is a great deal of money to be made by Weston Homes who, as Mike Higham has stated, will burden the local community with an "horrendous and unwanted development". Weston have lodged an appeal with the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate. Because of the level of opposition this will mean a Public Inquiry, which should be heard in February 2004. The closing date for letters to the inspector was 28th November, one occasion where our bi-monthly newsletter could not help. Weston have rejected the proposal that the best thing for the community would be a few attractive properties

and a pub on the site, though they claim that they will attempt to change the plans to a more traditional design for the block of flats. This is of little consolation to residents who are faced with increased traffic on an already overcrowded and dangerous junction.



APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

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SIGNATURE.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER/S.....

I/we enclose a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd for membership for one year (tick applicable box).

Single £16

Joint £19

Send to:

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD., 230 HATFIELD ROAD, ST.ALBANS HERTS AL1 4LW

SHE POV #202

Hertfordshire's Pints Of View is produced by the Hertfordshire South and Watford & District Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). 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.

Good Beer Guide 2004 Pubs by Public Transport

Our thanks go to John Crowhurst for helping us all to be more environmentally friendly, as he has produced the definitive guide to the 2004 Good Beer Guide listed pubs (for Hertfordshire) by public transport. As well as details on transport the guide contains CAMRA branch contacts and the web site addresses of service providers, plus information on current railway works. If you require a copy at the princely sum of 25 pence please contact our branch contact John Bishop on 01582-768478, or contact CAMRA direct on 01727 867201.

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St Albans Beer Festival Logo Causes Controversy

We have received feedback about the tongue-in-cheek image of Boudicca used as the logo for the St Albans Beer Festival 2003. Comments have been made about her female attributes, which are best summed up by Mick Lewis, Chair of the North London Branch of CAMRA in their newsletter 'The Full Pint' – "I have just come across a copy of 'Pints of View' the Hertfordshire CAMRA magazine advertising the St Albans Beer festival on the back cover. They have used a drawing that looks remarkably like Boadicea with **Cher's** head stuck on. Inside is a flyer for the same festival, but this time the drawing is mysteriously different. Cher's head is still there, but now rests on a body that would put even **Jordan** to shame. Are they by any chance related? I think we should be told".

The Ed replies: For Boadicea (or Boudicca) the image was supposed to be of Madonna following her recent admission on TV's Jonathan Ross show that she liked Real Ale and drank Timothy Taylor's Landlord. This explains the red hair, although Madonna has completely changed her hairstyle and the colour since. There were several slightly different images used, in one there are Romans fleeing from a burning Verulamium in the background - if you look carefully. In my view it was our best logo to date.

The Death of Cheap Lager

By Brian Wheeler, BBC News Online business reporter

The decision to kill off Hofmeister and other low-strength lagers, marks the end of an era in British culture - and in advertising.

As advertising icons go, George, the Hofmeister bear, lacked a certain glamour. A pork-pie-hat-wearing figure in a shiny velour jacket, he was invariably surrounded by a group of generic

Cockney geezers marvelling at his skills with a snooker cue.

For a brief period in the 1980s the UK's drinkers seemed happy to "follow the bear".

But George's antics quickly palled and the ads now look as dated as an episode of Minder.

So news last week that Scottish and Newcastle (S&N) is to axe Hofmeister along with a raft of other long-neglected lager brands including Kestrel and McEwans, came as little surprise.

Few tears will be shed by members of the Campaign for Real Ale at the demise of these low-strength, low flavour beers.

But for aficionados of Britain's drinking culture - and students of advertising - it surely marks the end of an era.

Pint-drinking culture

The 3.2% "standard" lager is a peculiarly British institution - the product of a mix of economics and cultural factors. Millions of Britons

returned from their first package holidays in the 1960s and early '70s with a taste for lager.

This continental brew was stronger than the real ale they were used to drinking - at about 5% alcohol content - and served in

smaller measures than the traditional British pint pot.

The breweries liked lager because it could be served from bottles and cans easier than traditional British ale.

But they were worried that the British drinker could not consume the stronger beer in the large volumes they were used to - and the breweries needed to keep their profits up.

So the first lagers created for the UK market were watered-down versions of their continental cousins, brewed for a shorter period of time and, therefore, with less flavour.

Enter Hofmeister, Harp, Carling, Skol and a dozen other "standard lagers".

The apparently thankless task of selling this weak and flavourless fizz was handed to the marketing department. The result was some of



Nobody wants to follow the bear anymore

the most memorable advertising ever created.

Random lagers

Heineken hit on the much-copied formula of emphasising "refreshment", masking its lack of potency with its thirst quenching qualities.

While Carling's long-running "I bet he drinks..." formula cornered the market in matey camaraderie and surreal humour, catapulting the brand into first place in the UK market, a position it holds to this day. What spurred the advertising creatives on was the need to differentiate between virtually identical products - or "random lagers" as one long-forgotten ad had it.

That and the millions being thrown at the market by the breweries.

Pretty soon adland had a new mantra - "People don't drink lager they drink advertising".

But the best was yet to come.

Great British lager

Marketers have always made the most of lager's "brand heritage", deliberately hyping up its exotic foreign roots - even though it is invariably brewed in the UK.

The only known attempt to create a self-consciously British lager - GB, brewed by Whitbread's at 4.4%, ended in failure.

The ill-fated brew was dispensed from a large bar-mounted bathroom tap, to emphasise its quirky no-nonsense British charm.

As a drink, it was essentially a smoother, slightly weaker version of the best-selling Stella Artois.

But it was withdrawn earlier this year by new owners Interbrew - in favour of a new marketing push for old Australian favourite Castlemaine XXXX.

"GB actually did quite well in the test areas, but we decided in the end that it was better to build up an existing brand, rather than start from scratch", an Interbrew spokeswoman told BBC News Online.

'Reassuringly inexpensive'

The plain fact is Britain has always liked its lager to have a foreign accent.

And this was never more apparent than in the British love affair with Stella Artois - possibly the biggest marketing triumph of them all. When Stella - a Belgian beer brewed in Wales and sold on its French heritage - was unveiled in the 1980s, it caused something of a stir in marketing circles.

Its "reassuringly expensive" tag line looked like commercial suicide - and was met with anger by the company's bemused sales reps.

But the aspirational tone chimed perfectly with the times.

Unlike the lumpen Hofmeister devotee, the Stella drinker liked the finer things in life and was not afraid to pay for them.

Sophistication

The irony, of course, is that Stella has become about as mass market as it is possible to be.

"Managing to position something as reassuringly expensive, when it isn't, is hard to beat in marketing terms.

In fact, Stella is anything but expensive. It is on discount nearly

everywhere you go", says Kevin Baker, of drinks analyst Canadean.

The television ads for Stella ooze quality and continental sophistication.

But they are created specifically for the UK market. Elsewhere in Europe, Stella advertising is more cheap and cheerful.

It helps, of course, that Stella is considerably stronger than its predecessors.

'Fuller flavour'

Despite initial fears, the British drinker has risen heroically to the challenge of sinking export strength lager by the pintful.

"There is definitely a move towards more premium beers within the UK market, coming more into line with Europe, with a pint of beer being 5% rather than 3.5%", says Kevin Baker.

"Because of the volume we drink, our lager has traditionally been weaker. But you are seeing Carling - which is still the market leader - making a point of the fact that their beer is brewed to 4.2% for a fuller flavour", he adds.

What chance did Hofmeister - at a puny 3.2% - stand in this brave new world?

But the weakness of the liquid is not what ultimately killed Hofmeister and the other standard lagers.

Sticky carpets

Much has changed in lagerland over the past 20 years.

More women are now drinking pints. Alco-pops have appeared on the scene. And some people have even stopped going to pubs altogether,

preferring to stay at home - drinking wine.

Even Carling has dropped the blokey double-act that dominated its TV ads for so many years, in favour of a more surreal gender-neutral approach.

One recent ad saw a man cleaning out a toilet bowl with his tongue, encouraged by his watching girlfriend.

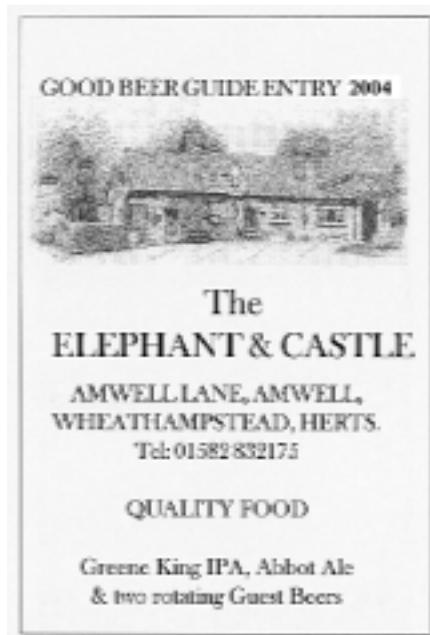
It's all a far cry from sticky-carpeted locals and cheeky Cockney geezers. And that, ultimately is why Hofmeister - and the other standard lagers - had to die.

They belonged to a time when lager was still slightly exotic, something to be approached with caution - preferably in the reassuring company of your mates in the local pub.

Or failing that, a bear in a pork pie hat.

Story from BBC NEWS, 16/10/03

© BBC MMIII



The Death of Cheap Lager - The Ed Says...

CAMRA couldn't be happier that this low gravity, low taste lager has been withdrawn. We have always felt that if you wanted a drink below 3.5% ABV then you should be seeking out good British Mild, which does have taste and character – a good example being Greene King XX mild at 3.0% ABV.

As most pub goers will testify Stella is not cheap when you buy it in your local, though I concede that it is discounted everywhere else.

Let's name and shame: -

Stella is brewed in Wales.

Carlsberg, If you believe the advertisements, is brewed by Danes - in Northampton. Skol is also made in the same plant.

So-called Australian lager Fosters is produced at John Smith's brewery in Tadcaster, Yorks. Castlemaine XXXX is brewed over here under license at much lower gravity than in Australia.

Cobra, to accompany your curry is brewed at Charles Wells in Bedford, Kingfisher at Shepherd Neame, Faversham, Kent.

Budweiser, brewed in Mortlake, S.W.London uses large quantities of that 'traditional brewing ingredient' rice (check the label).

Asahi the Japanese lager is brewed under supervision in the UK.



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"One of Britain's Best 500 Pubs"

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This food served
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Watford & District 9th Beer Festival Report

More, More, More!

That certainly was the theme of Watford and District's branch 9th Beer Festival, which took place at West Herts Sports Club on Friday 31st Oct and Saturday 1st Nov:

More beer drunk – 44 firkins drained dry by 9.30pm on the Saturday

More people – 815 drinkers compared to 724 last year

More new members – 20 signed up, an increase of 80% on 2002.

Which all went to make it our most successful festival ever.

Barring a minor mix-up with one of the deliveries, there were no dramas to distract from the serious business of relishing the fantastic selection of real ales and

enjoying the relaxed and chatty atmosphere.

Topping the poll as Beer of the Festival was a new brew from (semi) local Grand Union Brewery, One Hop Crystal (4.2% ABV) – as the name suggests a wonderfully crisp and hoppy pale beer. (So next year's write up of our branch trip to present the first prize certificate will be full of the delights of Hayes – watch this space). Second place, and in

complete contrast was Triple Dick Porter (4.5% ABV) from Mighty Oak, and third was Cheriton's Village Elder (3.8% ABV).

Graham Simpson, Chair of Watford FC, made a personal appearance on Friday evening and we were visited by CAMRA members from as far afield as Bristol, the Midlands and even N Ireland! Satisfied customers' comments included: "Gets better and better! Well done. ☺"

"Watford Beer Festival always seems to have the one beer from each

brewery that I haven't had before. Excellent!"
"Very good evening – even for a 26 year old."
"Excellent beer and good company."
"Not a bad one among them...superb Porters, Stouts and Milds. Don't remember a better



Branch Chair Rachel Curren serves the first beer

selection, not even Peterborough..."

And my favourite..." Great – we should do this again next month!"
Well, we are already looking forward to the next one, our 10th, which will be in November 2004 at the same venue. The success of this year has got us thinking about a three day event and we will certainly be increasing the number of beers, so go and buy a 2004 diary and book it in now!

*Rachel Curren
Chair, Watford & District Branch*

SWIFT HALVES

Borehamwood Times Gets it Wrong

Sometimes we wonder where local papers get their information from, the Borehamwood Times being no exception. In their 24th October edition under the headline "Ale and hearty" they state that the **White Horse**, London Road, Radlett, is in agreement with Belgian brewery Interbrew, who have conducted nationwide research, and found that beer is winning back its place in the hearts of the dining public. They then continue by describing the White Horse as a traditional pub and quote landlord Peter Stocks "I hope we can make recommendations to guests in terms of what drink would best accompany which meal". It's doubtful if he would have a problem recommending real ale as he only serves two - Bass and Tetley bitter, (spin a coin?). Some customers may be in difficulty finding the pub, let alone the right drink as it is situated in Shenley, **not** Radlett (which is three miles away). The menus also read White Horse, Radlett, adding to the confusion. Once you have found the White Horse there may be disappointment as the paper describes it as a traditional pub. It is in fact a branded Vintage Inn dedicated to eaters, not drinkers. The menu is a national portion-controlled one provided by the holding company Six Continents,

which runs more than 2,000 licensed premises from its Birmingham base. When the pub was converted from a traditional pub in February 2001 and the name was under threat of being changed to the "Fox Cub", it was no less than the Borehamwood Times that supported the objectors. Bob Cartwright, the person in charge of the conversion, admitted that he had never been to the pub, but had a quota to reach. During the closure the upper bar, its entrance door and the ground floor beer cellar were removed along with a lot of the other original features. Of course this was all before present incumbent Peter Stocks arrived.

LOWER RED LION



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Grumpy Old Men Section **Be a legend in your own lunchtime**

Over the last ten years lunchtime drinking has been in decline and some people are attempting to make it almost like smoking - an anti-social pastime. I can remember a time when if you arrived at the pub ten minutes past either twelve or one o'clock you were lucky to get a seat. The banter, jokes and opportunity to meet people who worked or lived locally to the pub were unrivalled and these sessions contributed to an understanding and social bond on local issues.

So what has changed? Funnily enough larger businesses' canteens and restaurants are in decline as well, so it is not that top quality subsidised food has become available elsewhere. It is the culture predominated by the whispering dogooders, who would like us to believe that their workmate who pops out for pint or two and a sandwich is on the slippery slope to oblivion.

What is being missed is that in the modern workplace there is pressure and stress that was never there ten or twenty years ago. It is crucial that staff get a proper break away from the workstation or bench and the opportunity to relax with people who are not going to interrupt them with work-related issues.

I read an article in the *Watford Observer* written in February where

the correspondent (I would not call him a journalist) stated that he could not work out where the people who used the pub at lunchtime came from, did they not have jobs to go to? It is this sort of unenlightened attitude that has encouraged the decline in lunchtime pub use. In reply to the accusation, because that is what it is, some workers start very early in the morning; postmen, milkmen, newsagents and shift workers to name just a few. Even if you have got to return to work in the afternoon why should it be wrong to be in the pub? Sometimes I feel that we are reaching a level of control freakism that will inevitably destroy our culture.

A colleague of mine was surprised when his manager suggested that the staff should go out for a drink one lunchtime. The enlightened camaraderie lasted about forty-five minutes until the host started to get very agitated about what the other people working in the office would think about what he done. This was then followed by the suggestion that they should all partake of some peppermints that he just happened to have on his person to mask the smell of alcohol.

I want to invite you all out down to the pub, not just Saturday before the football or Sunday before lunch but Monday to Friday, "yes every day" let's become a legend in our own lunchtime and enjoy the good ale, good company and good food.

Steve Bury - Editor

SWIFT HALVES

Licensee gets Red Card

William Clark, the Licensee of **Ryan's Bar**, Watling Street, Radlett has become the first person to be prosecuted for illegally screening a live soccer match.

William was fined almost £2000 for showing a live Premiership game at the Hertfordshire bar using a foreign satellite decoder.

The action was taken by the Football Association who sell the rights to games to a variety of different broadcasters in the UK and abroad.

Clark did not attend the hearing at St Albans Magistrates Court and was convicted of showing Chelsea v Leicester football and England v Wales rugby matches when he had not paid his Sky subscription fee, and was ordered to pay costs.

The FA Premiership League has been cracking down on pubs and clubs to stop people tapping into live screenings in order to protect their £1billion – plus contract with Sky. A large number of licensed premises have been removing Sky from their pubs after yet another round of excessive increases in fees. It has now reached the point where most normal pubs cannot gain enough additional trade to cover the cost of live sport viewing.

IDS Drinks Real Ale

Iain Duncan Smith may no longer be the leader of the Conservative

Party but he does at least like a decent tippale. The Daily Telegraph, no less, reported that he attended the student demonstration against tuition fees for university graduates (in support) and joined a few of the protestors in the Marlborough Arms, in Belgravia, just around the corner from the ULU (University of London Union) for a pint of Shepherd Neame Spitfire. I doubt this had anything to do with the company that claims to be Britain's oldest brewer.

Announcing its 28th year of profit growth, Bobby Neame, Chairman, said "Profit has been strong across the whole of the business, led by Spitfire sales - up by 24.9 percent".

Old Cross Tavern



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"The way pubs used to be"

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Food available lunchtimes

Monday-Saturday

**SOUTH HERTS PUB OF THE YEAR
1999 & 2000**

Brewery Names Wordsearch

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

Answers to Brain Teaser in 201

Beer Types. ALE, BEER, MILD, PORTER, STOUT.

Cask Sizes BARLEY MOW, BARREL, FIRKIN, HOGSHEAD, KEG, KILDERKIN, PIN, TUN.
Jobs BREWER, COOPER, DRAYMAN.

Brewing Ingredients BARLEY, HOPS, LIQUOR. YEAST.

Types of Hop BRAMLING CROSS, CHALLENGER, FIRST GOLD, FUGGLE, GOLDING, MARIS OTTER (sorry this is a barley) NORTHDOWN.

Items to do with casks BUNG, CHOCK, GYLE (the brew number marked on the cask), HOOP, SPILE, STAVE, SHIVE, STILLAGE, TAP.

Below are the clues to the thirty Brewers' names listed in the CAMRA 2003 Good Beer Guide, which are in the above grid.

- Mountain or map book. (5)
- Windmill at Wainfleet. (7)
- Noel in Birmingham blue fowl.(7)
- Eco light (8)
- Stoop, Port ---- FC near Chelmsford (6, 4)
- Washed up timber (9)
- Vile Len (7)
- Area found in Norfolk and Lincolnshire (7)
- In Scottish iff fence (4)
- Very wet and windy in Horndean (5)
- In Yohan Byers (5)
- Pushy Des in Manchester (5)
- Channel Island jumper (6)
- Male Ruler (4)
- Dye Len (6)
- An army ----- on its stomach (7)
- Blind burrowers (5)
- Wyn's web key isn't in the south (5, 4)
- Where apples grow on trees (7)
- Ampler ales in Bridport (6)
- Cockerels in America (8)
- In story burnt at Halifax (6)
- Put right and left into Leicestershire shadow (8)
- Inclement weather (5)
- Yule (4)
- Tall din (7)
- In wet ring love (5)
- Isle of Wight capital (7)
- Cow rap in South Wales(6)
- Paula and Jess at the Wine Lodge (5)

Completed entries to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley Herts, WD7 9EA

The first correct entry opened on 1 February 2004 wins a 2004 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

SOLUTIONS TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD AND WORDSEARCH

Solutions to our Prize Crossword in Issue 200

Across: 1 Kneecaps, 5 Plus-fours, 10 Nitre, 13 Heart, 14 Shut, 15 Equal, 16 Car, 17 And so forth, 19 Rig, 20 Abroad, 22 Ascended, 26 Replayed, 28 Hating, 29 Eli, 30

Astronomer, 34 Ill, 35 Cured, 36 Atom, 37 Royal, 40 Aloud, 41 Stridency, 42 Seedsman

Down: 2 Extravagant, 3 Cheated, 4 Power Point, 5 Pitcher, 6 Unhitch, 8 Untrue, 9 Supplied, 18 Over, 21 Orderly Room, 23 Considered, 24 Dear, 25 Blancmange, 27 Wimbledon, 28 Hercules, 30 Alamein, 31 Trolley, 33 Brewer

Un-clued Answers were: White Hart Tap, Lower Red Lion, King Harry, Farmers Boy and Mermaid – the St. Albans entries in the CAMRA 2004 Good Beer Guide.

Winners: Carol Sparks - Welwyn Garden City, Tim Regan - St Albans, Sandy Glover - St Albans.

Solutions to St. Albans Beer Festival Programme Wordsearch

There were 28 St. Albans thoroughfares hidden in the grid containing pubs listed in the latest Hertfordshire Pub Guide selling real ale at the time of publication.

(NOTE: *St* = Street, *Rd* = Road)

Abbey Mill (Lane), Albert (St), Brelade's (Place), Camp (Rd), Catherine (St), Chequer (St), Fishpool (St), French (Row), George (St), Harpenden (Rd), Hatfield (Rd), Holywell (Hill), Keyfield (Terrace), London (Rd), Lower Dagnall (St), Market (Place), Portland (St), Redbourn (Rd), St. Michael's (St), St. Peter's (St), Sandridge (Rd), Sopwell (Lane), Stonecross, The Ridgeway, Upper Dagnall (St), Verulam (Rd), Victoria (St), Wallingford (Walk)

The first prize of £50 worth of beer at a selected pub went to: Graham Jolliffe of St. Albans.

Second prize of a St. Albans Beer Festival polo shirt went to Lindy Thomsen, also of St. Albans.

*** Thanks to all those who entered ***

DOWN YOUR WAY

Berkhampstead: The **Rising Sun** has now moved to Pubmaster and is selling Greene King Abbot Ale/IPA.

Enfield Updates: The **Five Bells** N2 demolished, **King William IV** due to be converted to a Pizza

Restaurant. **Moon Under Water** EN5 and Mac's **Jolly Farmers** EN2 have been closed for refurbishment.

Flamstead: The **Spotted Dog** is now selling Ansells Bitter, Fullers London Pride and Old Speckled Hen

DOWN YOUR WAY cont.

High Wych: The **Half Moon**, High Wych Lane, was sold in October. The asking price for the freehold was £310,000.

Hunsdon: The **Fox & Hounds** in the High Street is closed and it is reported that the freehold is for sale. Any further details would be well received and printed in due course.

Letchmore Heath: We welcome Paul and Janice to the **Three Horseshoes**, which is due facelift after Christmas, to convert the public bar into a snug. This will be followed by the introduction of a new extended menu.

Radlett: We would like to give a warm welcome Rebecca and Justin, new licensees who started at the **Red Lion Hotel**, Watling Street, 1st October. They previously ran another Young's house; the **Windmill** at Clapham Common.

St Albans: The **Clannad** has its 20-year lease, which started in February '03 up for sale, and is advertised by Christie & Co at £75,000. Hopefully the new owner will return the pub to its original name the **Acorn**. As reported in the last edition the **Cricketers** reopened 3rd October and has been knocked through into one bar. They are selling real ale, which seems to be alternating between Courage Directors, Courage Best and Greene King IPA. The landlord of the **Duke of Marlborough**, Holywell Hill left on 17th November and has moved to the **White Lion**, Sopwell Lane and will be the fourth landlord in there this year. We welcome the new

Licensees to the **Duke of Marlborough** who have come from the GBG-listed **Albion**, Union Street, Barnet. The **Spotted Bull**, Verulam Road, is now serving food in the evenings and a good pint of Fullers London Pride. **Wetherspoon** appear to be having problems following a number of objections to the proposed conversion of the **Water End Barn**, St Peter's Street into a **Lloyds No1 Bar**. The St Albans City and District council ran a City Pub competition and the winners received their awards at the St Albans Beer Festival. 1st came The **Rose & Crown**, St Michael's and 2nd the **Goat**, Sopwell Lane. Congratulations to the pubs, both of which sell real ale.

Wheathampstead: The **Nelson**, closed in October, has since re-opened. This was as we were going to press, with more information in the next edition.

Whetstone: London N20, good news that the historic **Griffin** is no longer a Scruffy Murphy.

Wildhill: Graham and Ros Craig at the **Woodman**, Wildhill - current South Herts CAMRA pub of the year - have now won the prestigious accolade of being the best Greene King free trade outlet in the UK. The plaque now takes pride of place amongst the many other awards that the pub has won for beer quality over the years. The Woodman although stocking two Greene King beers also stocks up to four other beers - up to three of which are from micro breweries. Always worth a visit.

BRANCH DIARY

SOUTH HERTS

Thu 11 December: Social - New Members night. The **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans, 7.30pm (Existing members also welcome)

Tue 16 December: Branch Meeting, **White Horse**, Hertford, 8pm

Tue 20 January 2004: Annual General Meeting, **CAMRA**

Headquarters, 8pm

Tue 27 January: CAMRA 2005 Good Beer Guide survey trip – details tba

Branch Contact: John Bishop,
Phone 01582-768478, Email:
j.bishop@forumforthefuture.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Mon 1st December: Committee Meeting, **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8.15pm. Contact branch to confirm venue and time.

Wed 3rd December: Social at **Pig's Ear Beer Festival**, Stratford

Wed 10th December: Branch Auction of Breweriana, **West Herts Sports Club**, 8pm (viewing 7.30pm). Come along and buy those last-minute Christmas presents!

Tue 16th December: Christmas Curry Evening. Please get in touch for details and booking.

2004

Fri 9th January: Social: **Swan**, Pimlico, 8.30pm; **White Hart**, Bedmond, 9.30pm; Bell, Bedmond, 10.15pm

Fri 16th January: Post-Xmas London Pub Crawl. Details to follow.

Wed 21st January: Bushey Social.

King Stag, 8.30pm; **Swan**, 9.15pm

Mon 26 January: Committee meeting **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8.15pm.

Contact branch to confirm venue and time.

Tues 27th January: Watford Social.

White Lion, 8.30pm; **Wellington Arms**, 9.15pm; **Estcourt Arms**, 10pm

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan.
Phone 01923-230104.

Email: watfordcamra@hotmail.com

**Want to advertise in our
Newsletter?**

Contact John Bishop on
01582-768478 for details

White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans
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Deuchars IPA, London Pride
& two guest beers

Food served lunchtime
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Saturday night &
occasional Sundays

Large beer garden

All welcome

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Local Works: Campaign for the Local Communities Sustainability Bill

We have received a copy of "Local Works", the newspaper that supports the Campaign for the Local Communities Sustainability Bill.

Under the banner "We need to stop Ghost Town Britain" the problems are made clear. We have all experienced the situation where a decline in local economic activity has affected both public houses and local brewers. The world has gone mad with the "Big Boys" forcing a local brewer to transport their beer 100 miles to a depot to be returned to a pub 100 yards from the plant.

It is estimated that it may take three years to get the bill through parliament, which will not only support local pubs and regional brewers but also provide: -

- More local schools and health facilities.
- Local job creation so that people can spend more time in their own communities.
- More and better public transport.

If you wish to join the campaign, be kept informed of progress and possibly distribute literature to others please contact:-

Jonathan Mail (jonathan.mail@camra.org.uk)

Campaign for Real Ale Limited, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Jennie & Nathan
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