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HERTFORDSHIRE'S

# Pints of View

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The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

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April/May 2004

Circulation 5000

No. 204

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# THE BITTER END

## What is it about Watling Street? – More Pub Losses

**W**atling Street was built by the Romans; starting from Dover (from where parts of the A2 road are still as called) to Wroxeter near Shrewsbury. In line with Roman tradition it is very straight and exceedingly well constructed, running through the county from Elstree to Radlett, St Albans and Redbourn, on to Dunstable and Milton Keynes. The road was used by mail coaches, carters and large numbers of pilgrims into St Albans from north and south to visit the Abbey. It is not surprising that there were a large number of pubs and inns along the route, which became less used with the advent of the Midland Railway and the building of the M1.

On the ten-mile stretch between Elstree and Redbourn we have now lost **six** pubs - two in the last month:

- **October 1997** George & Dragon, Colney Street.
- **September 2001** Black Horse, Colney Street.
- **August 2002** Red Cow, Frogmore
- **September 2002** Saracens Head, Redbourn
- **February 2004** The Railway, Radlett
- **March 2004** Plough, Elstree.

### *Why did they shut?*

The **George & Dragon** closed through lack of trade which is strange considering that it closed weeks before the film crews moved in opposite to make a James Bond film on the old Handley Page airfield opposite. To be fair the pub had survived on the lunchtime trade generated by the industrial estate and people's attitudes towards drinking had changed. There are a few chimneys nearby but not enough to sustain a pub in modern times unless of course it had been able to be converted

to a free house. It was a classic 16<sup>th</sup> century two bar with a front door four feet from the road, now changed to residential use.

The **Black Horse** - It is forgotten how long ago the pub shut again. It had been built in the sixties to meet the needs of the workers in the industrial estate, which at that time was a major employer. Things changed and although the pub had an excellent outgoing couple running it up until closure it was sold by then owner Pubmaster to a mystery buyer. It was later revealed that the owner lived in Thailand, but this was never confirmed and the pub site soon fell into disrepair. There were several dumped cars in the car park and it was finally security-boarded up and steel girders buried into the entrance months after closure. Apparently the new owner was having trouble getting planning permission to redevelop the site and despite the now high level of security the building spontaneously caught fire. The only seemingly conceivable way this happening was if a bird had flown by and dropped a flare down the chimney. The site is still empty to this day; the pub sign removed and the pub a heap of rubble in the car park.

The **Red Cow**, Frogmore. Another sad loss and not for want of trying. The pub had a lot of money spent on it in the two years leading to closure; a new extension at the rear to attract eaters, and a very competitively priced menu available. It was originally a carters pub (those carrying goods) who used to carry goods to and from St Albans, and it had two small bars but plenty of ground at the side and rear. There are plenty of houses nearby but the pub failed and is now an antique shop. It is unknown whether this is a success as we don't use them ourselves, and depending on what has

# THE BITTER END

been done to the interior, we hope that it may at some point become the Red Cow again.

The **Saracens Head**, Redbourn (picture, front cover) currently hangs in the balance. Prior to closure, the pub went through a period with a number of landlords, and no doubt the pub needed considerable money spent on redecorating it prior to its closure. But the pub along with the grounds behind it was eventually sold to a property developer. The developers applied to turn the pub and the grounds behind into a residential development, but permission was refused. Both the pub and the grounds are currently up for sale again.

The proposed closure of The **Railway** and the campaign mounted by the locals brought about a large amount of publicity in the local press, and the pub featured on the front cover of our last newsletter. As the article stated it was a cynical closure of a viable town pub. The owners, Spirit Inns, are the country's largest managed pub owners and are willing to sell off any pub that receives a good enough offer, it does not matter about the trade or location. The customers had mounted a series of protests including taking their drinks chairs and tables onto the roundabout outside severely disrupting the traffic; we applaud their tenacity and determination. The objectors were becoming too successful and in cynical move Spirit in conjunction with ASK, the St Albans Pizza chain that bought the pub, closed it one week early. The only hope is to object to the change of use and no doubt the new owners will wait until the protesters are dispersed before they make their move. They can't knock it down like the **Milehouse** (well they could but it is listed) but irreparable damage will be done to the interior of this 150-year-old building. As said in our last

Newsletter, the last thing Radlett needs is another restaurant or take-away.

The **Plough**, Elstree High Street. Once a fine pub, with a large garden sloping away to give views of the countryside. There was car parking, which for the area is a premium, and the pub used to do a good food trade when it was part of the Big Steak chain. Some excellent Burton Ale used to be consumed in the pub too, but sadly no more. We have not visited the Plough from some time, but it had been sold and was in private ownership. Then came Tony Chan who closed the pub. It was thought that this was for a major refurbishment but no one except the *Borehamwood Times* realised how extensive the work would be. It will now be an Oriental Restaurant. Exactly what this means we do not know; Mr Chan was not available for comment and it has been suggested that the work may have been undertaken without permission. The new establishment is due to open according to a sign outside on the 18<sup>th</sup> March I wonder what eastern delights will be waiting for us inside.

## **Use Them or Lose Them:**

It's all too easy these days to spend all your time in cut-price city centre pubs, there is a price and that is the closure of many unique smaller boozers. Once these historic pubs, which have evolved over decades and in some cases centuries, are destroyed they cannot be replaced. Many historic interiors have already gone into skips and items once used and cherished have become display items or bric-a-brac. The country pub and side street locals may well become a rarity and the only true way to preserve these places is to make the effort to spend the extra per pint and get out and visit them.

**You have been warned** - once they're gone they're gone for good.

## South Herts Branch Visits Nottingham

A group of keen enthusiasts from the South Herts Branch of CAMRA left St Albans station at 9.30 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March for a dual brewery trip to Hardy's & Hanson's at Kimberley and Castle Rock, Nottingham. We took lunch at the Vat & Fiddle near the station, which is the Castle Rock Brewery Tap and then took a short mini-bus trip to Kimberley where Andy Hislop, who would be our tour guide for the trip, met us. Andy has an abundance of knowledge about the brewery and licensed trade and gave us an informative tour from the grist mill at the top of the traditional Victorian tower brewery down through the sparging vessels to the brewing squares conditioning tanks and barrel filling area.



*Hardy's & Hanson's Brewing Square No2*

The site is a strange one insofar as it is the amalgamation of Hardy's brewery, which opened in 1832, and Hanson's brewery, which opened opposite on the other side of the road in 1847. I have no doubt that there was a very competitive atmosphere in the early days but in 1930 they merged to form the Kimberley

brewery, which continues to this day.

It is pleasing to note that Hardy's & Hanson's do not pasteurise any of their draught beers and we sampled a good range and would like to thank them for their most generous hospitality. We do have a special relationship with Hardy's and Hanson's through the St Albans beer festival where we feature their full range of beers whose distinctive flavour and quality always ensures that they are some of the first to be finished.

It was almost a pity when the bus turned up but we had a trip around Castle Rock to do and after a vote of thanks moved on.

Castle Rock is on a different scale situated on a site attached to the pub and can produce a maximum of 100 barrels (1 barrel equals 36 gallons in brewery terms) per week. They brew a wide range of beers swapped with other micros and to 40 regular outlets. We enjoyed the visit and a few more pints in the pub with a few of our group visiting the Fellows Morton & Clayton before our train journey home.

An excellent day out was had by all and I thank Chris Bozier for the organisation and John Bishop for arranging the Hardy's & Hanson's visit. – *Steve Bury*

**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.**

**Subscriptions: £4 for 18 issues. Send to: John Lightfoot, 66 Dryfield Road, Edgware, Middx., HA8 9JT. Cheques made payable to: CAMRA South Herts Branch.**

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# WATFORD & DISTRICT FEATURE

## Watford & District: Grand Union Brewery Trip

February 6th 2004, and myself and a group from Watford & District branch made our separate ways to Hayes to present Grand Union Brewery with the 2003 Beer of the Festival award for One Hop Crystal. The journey from Paddington station during rush hour wasn't ideal but some members took solace before boarding a packed train by popping into the **Mad Bishop & Bear**, a Good Beer Guide listed Fuller's house overlooking the station concourse.

After arriving at Hayes & Harlington station the route to the brewery took us a mile or two through an area heavy with light industry. Like many smaller breweries these days, Grand Union is located on an industrial estate. Unusually, the brewery and offices are in separate units. We were greeted in the office block and treated to Grand Union Gold and a new brew, One Hop Progress, which uses a different hop variety to the winning beer and tastes considerably different. I recently spotted it at the London Drinker Beer and Cider Festival and it's well worth trying if you can find it.

Branch chair Rachel Curren was sadly unable to attend so Martin Few, from the festival organising committee, presented the certificate to sales manager Ian Jordan, who later spoke to us about plans

the brewery has to expand its distribution in the central southern area. Hopefully we'll be seeing more of their beer in the Watford area. They could ship it up to us by barge.

Ian had suggested pointing us in the direction of some good local pubs to visit after the presentation but, as it turned out, the casks of beer available to us at the brewery sustained us for the evening. We



*The branch at Grand Union Brewery.*

even got to take away some beer in fizzy drink bottles, which must have looked strange on the bus home. At least Rachel got to try out some of the One Hop Progress the next day.

*Andrew Vaughan*

## The Swan: Watford & District's Pub of the Year 2003

For the third year running the **Swan** in Bushey is Watford & District branch's Pub of the Year. The pub, which is often packed on a Friday night, was even busier on the 13th February when branch members arrived for the award ceremony. Branch chair Rachel Curren presented the award to manager Gavin White, who took over the running of the pub from his father Peter during 2003. Throughout the evening branch members and the clientele enjoyed the hospitality of the pub, the free sausage rolls and, of course, the beer. Gavin's made a few changes to the beer range since he's been in charge.

Jennings Cumberland Ale is now regularly available in place of Adnams Bitter and the Ansells Mild is now on gravity dispense from a cask on the bar.



*Barman Keith Osbourne (left) and manager Gavin White share the congratulations for the Swan's Pub of the Year win.*

The pub itself is a cosy, single-bar establishment decorated with local and pub memorabilia and warmed by real fires in winter. Definitely worth a visit if you're in the area.

*Andrew Vaughan.*

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## SWIFT HALVES

### Half Pint News

We have received correspondence from C. Whitlock of Harpenden following the "Should a Half be a Half" article in edition 203, who was unhappy about his experiences in the **Skew Bridge**, Southdown Road, Harpenden last summer.

He writes "I ordered a pint of Pedigree which was decidedly pricey at £2.50 and decided that as I was recovering from an illness to follow this with a half. The barman attempted to charge me £1.30. I pointed out that half of £2.50 was £1.25 and offered him that sum he very

reluctantly accepted the sum rather than waste the beer".

**Ed Says** - I am very pleased to see some positive action on the issue - more customers should follow this example. More experiences please.

#### 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  
Tel: 01992 556799

## Russian Army Rescues Kegs of Beer

Russian troops have retrieved 10 tonnes of beer trapped under the Siberian ice after a week-long operation. A lorry carrying the beer was lost while crossing the frozen River Irtysh, near the city of Omsk, about 2,200 kilometres (1,400 miles) from Moscow.



The driver managed to jump out after the ice gave way, but the lorry and its cargo sank. Six divers, 10 men with electric saws and a tank pulled the beer kegs - but not the truck - to safety.

### ***Beer Going Cheap***

With temperatures reaching -27C, the rescue mission was fraught with problems. Russia's *Tass* news agency reported that the recovery team eventually managed to pull the vehicle through a hole in the ice. They retrieved the kegs of beer but the rope snapped and the truck slipped back under the water. The Rosar brewery in Omsk said the freezing temperatures probably kept the quality of the beer from deteriorating and said it will still take the delivery. It plans to sell the beer at a discount.

*BBC News: Tuesday, 20 January 2004*

## Pub Offers Pints and Burial Plots

A game of darts or a packet of peanuts are what most pubs sell customers to go with their beer, but one landlord is offering them something rather more lasting -- a final resting place.

Regulars at the Church Inn need not leave their favourite drinking spot even when their time on Earth is up, because landlord Julian Taylor has turned a field next door into a cemetery.

"The idea came about when my dad was ill," said Taylor, who bought the country pub near Manchester 11 years ago.

"We are in a beautiful spot at the top of a hill and he said he'd like to be buried looking down into the valley."

Locals liked the idea and have started buying plots themselves, he told Reuters on Friday. "One regular has even asked his friends to take their pints out into the cemetery on Friday nights after he dies -- in memory of his happy nights in the pub," Taylor said

*Reuters: Friday 30 January 2004*

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## Wetherspoon Scores in 90 Pubs

J.D.Wetherspoon whose headquarters are in Watford and own 600 pubs including at least twenty in Hertfordshire are going through a period of change. Tim Martin (who lives at Hadley Green, Barnet) is to give up control of the company, which he started 25 years ago with his first pub in Muswell Hill, N. London. He will now become non-executive chairman working two days a week and John Hutson the managing director will become chief executive. Half year profits rose 9% to £27.8 million; shares are up 23% and dividends increased by 10%. It has been suggested that changes may be on the way; the first being the introduction of televised football to 90 of their outlets for Euro 2004. The second, which is more important, is a change to pricing policy. Wetherspoon have always

driven volumes by a discounting strategy that has had its rivals screaming for mercy. Recent evidence is that the company's profit margins have reduced and some changes may take place to combat this.

The group also intends to continue to open 30 new outlets each year but is also selling pubs as well. The Times 4th March edition recommends that the stock is worth holding.

## Tipplefair

Sunday 23rd May, will see the 7th Tipplefair held at the Leadenhall, Milton Keynes. The event is organised for breweriana Collectors and runs stalls selling beer, spirit and alcohol related collectables. The flier says "come and join like-minded collectors for a social gathering at the largest UK event of its kind".

## CAMRA South Herts Pub Of The Year Announced

**W**e would like to congratulate the winners of the South Hertfordshire 2003 Pub Of The Year. As usual a short list drawn from the Good Beer Guide entries was voted on at the branch AGM. We do seem to get the same pubs in the final voting every year but this is because they are the best there is and their standards are so high.

**Winner: Woodman, Wildhill.**

**Presentation Thu 29<sup>th</sup> April, 8.00 PM**

**Runner Up: The Lower Red Lion, St**

**Albans. Presentation Fri 7<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 PM**

## Red Squirrel - Hertford's New Brewery

**W**e are pleased to welcome Hertford's new microbrewery, which has already started producing its first test brews that will be available in local pubs. At present the plant situated in a Mimram Road factory unit is producing two and a half barrels each week but as the building is refurbished extra equipment will be installed by Graham Moss which will take the capacity to 10 barrels (a barrel being 36 gallons in brewing terms).

The yeast has come from Sunderland and a wide variety of different brews are planned; the No1 test brew being a 4.1% Bitter. Beers will be available in the **Old Cross** and the **White Horse** in Hertford and at other free houses in the county. Gary Hayward the brewer has a wealth of experience and intends his brews to be demand driven. So if you like them let it be known; the customer is truly in control this time. Gary attended the South Herts CAMRA branch meeting as we were going to press and we will be doing a full feature with photos for the next edition.

**Red Squirrel Contact Numbers 01992-  
501100 or Mobile 07905370180**

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GOOD BEER GUIDE ENTRY 2004



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# Chancellor Gives Small Brewers a Break

Gordon Brown has been named as 'CAMRA's Parliamentarian of the Year 2004' in recognition of his contribution to the future of the small breweries sector following the introduction of small breweries' relief in the 2002 Budget.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications, praised the Chancellor. He said, "The introduction of small breweries' relief has benefited hundreds of small local brewers making their businesses more viable and enabling them to invest in new plant and jobs. Gordon Brown has played a key role in supporting small brewers and the fairer excise duty system he introduced has already led to a more vibrant beer market making it easier for small brewers to compete with their larger competitors, leading to greater choice for consumers".

**The Budget 2004:** We would like to think that the CAMRA award made a difference and led Gordon to improve small brewers' tax relief in the 2004 budget. He raised the progressive duty ceiling from 18,300 to 37,000 barrels a year. This will help local brewers Mc Mullen and could allow them to re-introduce contract brewing and use more of their spare capacity in the new brewery.

Unfortunately there was a down side with one penny a pint tax added to beer which will be more on stronger beers and will be added to by brewers, so expect up to five pence with twelve pence predicted on some pints. Cider duty was not increased but the price rise at the point of dispense will only add to smuggling and the illicit sale of bootleg booze.

Mr. Benner added, "Small breweries' relief is a winning formula, which has boosted local economies and led to more choice for beer drinkers. With about 85%

of the UK beer industry in the hands of just four global companies, the extended relief will make many of Britain's traditional independent family brewers more competitive and bring benefits to Britain's consumers and small brewers at very little cost to the Treasury."

CAMRA reveals that 31% of regular pub goers would buy a locally brewed beer in preference to non-locally brewed beer and has called upon the National pub chains to stock more locally produced beers.

*The presentation of the award to Gordon Brown was made by Colin Valentine, Vice Chairman of CAMRA, at the Treasury on Wednesday 3rd March.*

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# Pub Names Wordsearch

A	L	S	J	H	E	R	O	N	H	A	R	E	W	B
G	R	I	F	F	I	N	W	O	O	L	P	A	C	K
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R	A	E	B	N	W	O	R	B	E	N	A	L	K	O

**Below are the thirty pub names in the grid.**

ALMA, ARTICHOKE, BLACK HORSE, BLUE BELL, BROWN BEAR, CASTLE, CHEQUERS, COCK, CROWN, DAGMAR, EAGLE, FALCON, FLAG, GEORGE, GREENMAN, GRIFFIN, HALF MOON, HARE, HERON, HORN, KINGS HEAD, OARSMAN, PLOUGH, RED COW, REINDEER, SHIP, VAULT, VINE, WHITE LION, WOOLPACK.

Completed entries to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA. The first correct entry opened on the 1st April 2004 will receive a free copy of the CAMRA 2004 Good Beer Guide (rrp £12.99).

**Winner of Brewery Names Wordsearch 202 was L.D.Jenkins of Hemel Hempstead**

## McMULLEN Move Back to Tenancies

Following the announcement of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004, the Company now announces that the 18 managed houses to be transferred to tenancy are:

Almond Tree, Stevenage

Baker Arms, Bayford

Bright Star, Peters Green, Nr. Luton

Fox, Woolmer Green

Globe, Codicote

Green Man, Ickleford

Greyhound, Bengoe

Jolly Bargeman, Ware

Kings Head, Barnet

Royal Oak, Stevenage

Spotted Cow, Waltham Abbey

Stag, Ongar

Steamer, Welwyn

Tavern, Welwyn

Two Diamonds, Stevenage

Welsh Harp, Waltham Abbey

White Hart, Puckeridge

Windsor Castle, Finchley

There appears to be a variety of different pubs across the whole of the McMullen estate to be returned to tenancy. CAMRA has always felt that the tenant has always had more of an incentive and a better opportunity to meet their own customers', local preferences. Tenanted Mac's pubs should also have the choice whether or not they use cask breathers on their beers. We wish all the new McMullen tenants every success.

### Will the "Mile House" be Reborn?

The Herts Advertiser 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004 carried an article headed "Flats drinks plan" and states that the developers Weston Homes have now changed their planning application to include a bar or restaurant in one of the two blocks. It was understood that councillors would be discussing the new plans now for 38 flats on the Mile House site in London Road, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The officers are still recommending the scheme be refused as it will dominate the surrounding area, car parking was not adequate and would lead to the loss of the trees on the site.

As we go to press the outcome of the meeting is not known.

For further information on the Mile House site, visit the Internet on:

***[www.milehouse.com](http://www.milehouse.com)***

### Ware Beer Festival

We have been assured by Jan Orden, one of the organisers and a South Herts CAMRA member, that every effort will be made to hold another Festival this year. The "Ware Arts Centre" Kibes Lane which hosts the Beer Festival has received a lottery grant and is due for renovation. This means that the 8<sup>th</sup> Festival will have to be postponed until work is finished and cannot be held until May or June. This means that as the next newsletter is not due until June we may not be able to publicise the event this year.

**Ring Jan for details on 01920-424095**

# DOWN YOUR WAY

**Elstree** The **Plough**, High Street, which moved to private ownership after being a Big Steak pub has been sold to a Mr Tony Chan who has converted it to an Oriental Restaurant called "The East" which opened 21st March (see article page 3).

**Enfield & Barnet news:** **Red Lion** NW2 closed with an application for conversion to flats. The **Old Sergeant** EN2 is boarded up and likely to be demolished. Good news is that the **Mops & Brooms** N12 is selling real ale either Bass or Fullers London Pride. The **Hop Poles** EN1 has reopened. The **Triumph** N2 no longer sells real ale.

**Gustard Wood:** We have received a public notice that an application has been made for change of use from A3 to C3, Public House to Residential Dwelling, for the **Tin Pot**.

**Medburn (Elstree)** The **Waggon & Horses** has been redecorated and will soon have an additional handpump fitted. The beer range will be Courage Best, Adnams Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire and a guest ale. The pub has opened up a new non-smoking dining area and intends to have a conservatory fitted overlooking the fields at the rear of the pub.

**Mill Green:** A belated welcome to Richard & Steve Watkins who took over the **Green Man** two years ago. They are keen to promote real ale and ran a mini beer festival last autumn. At present they are selling Greene King IPA and Adnams bitter rotating guest beers on their other two hand pumps.

**Northaw:** The landlady of the **Two Brewers** has left the pub due to ill health. The head chef and former manager of the **Sun** have moved to the **Kings Head** in Winchmore Hill. The pub is owned by a small company, ChasMo Inns, who have acquired properties from Spirit Inns.

**Radlett:** A correction: it was reported in

the last edition that Terry Mancini brother of Mike Mancini new landlord of the **Cat & Fiddle** played for Chelsea when it was in fact QPR and Arsenal. Sorry, Terry. We are sad to report that the **Railway** was closed by Spirit Inns one week earlier than expected in February (see article page 3).

**St Albans:** The **Spotted Bull** is serving a regular guest ale. The **King Harry** is running a Beer Festival for six weeks finishing in April. The **Cock** St Peter's Street has changed hands to become tenancy. Rumours have been circulating that the listed building may have major building work planned. Andrew Wixley of owners Greene King has categorically denied that any such plans exist.

**Ware:** The **Albion** has been sold.

## APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME/S.....

ADDRESS.....

POST CODE.....

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**

# BRANCH DIARY

## ENFIELD & BARNET

**Thursday 1 April:** Social, **Lord Nelson**, Barnet

Wednesday 7 April: Social, **Three Hammers**, Mill Hill NW7

**Wednesday 14 April:** Social, **Cock & Dragon**, Cockfosters EN4

**Friday 16 April:** City Crawl. Meet at **Lamb**, Leadenhall Market EC3 (6pm)

**Wednesday 21 April:** Social, **Winchmore Hill Cricket Club**, Firs Lane N21

**Thursday 29 April:** Social, **Stag**, Enfield Town EN2

**Tuesday 4 May:** Social, **Olde Mitre**, Barnet

**Tuesday 11 May:** Social, **Jim Thompsons** (9pm) then **Half Moon** (10pm) Winchmore Hill

**Wednesday 19 May:** Social, **Maddens**, East Finchley

**Tuesday 25 May:** Social, **Mabels Tavern** (8pm) then **Head of Steam** (9pm) Euston

**Tuesday 1 June:** Social, **Malt & Hops**, Finchley N12

All socials start at 9pm unless otherwise stated.

Branch contact: Brian Willis 0208 441 1892(H)

Email: [publicity@camra-enfieldandbarnet.org.uk](mailto:publicity@camra-enfieldandbarnet.org.uk)

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

**Sunday 4 April:** Quiz Night at the **Southern Cross**. Meet in the **Nascot Arms** at 8.30pm. Quiz starts at 9pm.

**Monday 5 April:** Branch AGM. **Estcourt Arms**, 8pm. All members welcome.

**Wednesday 21 April:** Annual Darts Tournament. **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue, Watford. Meet at 8pm for an 8.30 start.

**Monday 26 April:** Committee Meeting. **Estcourt Arms**, 8.15pm. All members

welcome.

**Tuesday 27 April:** Watford Social. **Essex Arms**, 8.30pm; **Southern Cross**, 10pm.

**Saturday 1 May:** Heronsgate Social. **Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty Beer Festival**.

**Wednesday 5 May:** Watford Social. **One Crown**, 8.30pm; **One Bell**, 9.15pm; **Moon Under Water**, 10pm.

**Saturday 15 May:** Out of Area Social in St. Albans. **Farmer's Boy**, 12 noon; **Mermaid**, 1pm; **Lower Red Lion**, 2pm.

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan. Tel: 01923 230104.

Email: [watfordcamra@hotmail.com](mailto:watfordcamra@hotmail.com)

Web site: [www.watfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.watfordcamra.org.uk)

## SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

**Tuesday 20 April:** Branch Meeting - **Lower Red Lion**, St Albans 8pm

**Thursday 29 April:** Pub of the Year Presentation - **Woodman, Wildhill** - 8pm (We will be hiring a bus from St Albans station)

**Friday 7 May:** Pub of the Year Runners Up Presentation - **Lower Red Lion**, St Albans from 7pm

**Tuesday 11 May:** Festival Committee Meeting - **Lower Red Lion**, St Albans - 8pm

**Tuesday 18 May:** Branch Meeting - **Red Lion Hotel, Radlett**

Branch Contact: John Bishop, Phone 01582-768478

Email: [j.bishop@forumforthefuture.org.uk](mailto:j.bishop@forumforthefuture.org.uk)

Website: [www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.uk)

# Save Your Local - Buy It

**A**t the end of February, a new Guide for communities on how to save and buy a pub threatened with closure was launched. Produced jointly by CAMRA, Pub is the Hub and Business in the Community, "Saving Your Local Pub" is launched at a time when dozens of community pubs are being closed and turned into private houses or business premises.

HRH The Prince of Wales, President of Business in the Community, has provided the foreword and launched the Guide at a pub which was saved by the local community.

The Guide is a tool-kit to help those communities which are considering 'taking the plunge', giving them a clear way forward by providing knowledge about how to do it and pitfalls to avoid. Information from hundreds of people who have already saved their pubs, gives an invaluable 'how-to' approach. It is hoped that this guide will give to those who want to follow in their footsteps the help that they need. The British pub is recognised as an essential amenity at the heart of the community, however, many pubs are still closing and this can have a severe impact on the community. Running a pub is never easy, but communities can draw on their collective talents and experience to turn a dying pub into a successful thriving business.

The Guide offers advice on how to stage a campaign, set up a steering committee, deal with planning applications and appeals, prepare a business plan and secure finance. It includes case studies on the community-owned pubs such as Dykes End in Reach, Cambridgeshire and the Old Crown in Heskett Newmarket, Cumbria.

Other examples of community-owned pubs: The Jolly Farmer, Cookham Dean, Bucks; The Harrow, Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire; The Fox & Hounds, Llancarfen, Vale of Glamorgan; The Angel Inn, Grosmont, Gwent; The Crown, Broughton, Cambridgeshire; **The Red Lion, Preston, Hertfordshire;** The Robin Hood, Cragg Vale, West Yorkshire and The Plough, Horbling, Lincolnshire.

The Guide is supported by a detailed new web site at [www.pubisthehub.org.uk](http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk).

*It's coming...*

**The 9<sup>th</sup> St. Albans Beer Festival will be taking place at the Alban Arena – Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. to Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.**

*...so make a note in your diary!*