

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

August/September 2004

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No. 206

Festival Awards Triumph

For its eighth year running, South Herts CAMRA are proud to announce their **St Albans Beer Festival** Charity donation. Last year's festival enabled a donation total of **£2,500**. Laura Dunks, President of the St Albans LEO's and Phil Defriez, Chair of South Herts CAMRA were joint masters of ceremonies. Thanks were given to all the volunteers who had made the festival a resounding success on all counts. Phil Defriez reported beer sales up, the number of visitors were up as well, and it was encouraging that the Saturday sessions had seen an increased attendance supported by the live band.

The donation enabled Laura to present awards to a number of deserving local causes:

...See page 3



South Herts CAMRA Chairman Phil Defriez presents £2,500 to the St. Albans LEO's president Laura Dunks

The Beer Festival will be running again this year between 29th September and 2nd October at the Alban Arena. Full details on the back page.

Our Festival would not run without a large number of voluntary helpers. Even if you can only work for one session it will make a big difference and contribute to the overall success. Please contact : John Schmitz on 07968 852024 or E-Mail to: john.schmitz@hertsale.org.uk

Also In This Issue:

- Attack on Pubcos' Control
- Watford & District go to Beer World
- Pub Design Award Winners

THE BITTER END

Three Way Attack on Pubcos' Control Over Pub Tenants & Prices

Political pressure is mounting following Government guidelines being ignored for over two years by Britain's pub owning companies (pubcos). Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott is now moving to legislation following the publication of evidence to the Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry launched last month.

CAMRA is calling for greater freedom for pubco tenants, declaring that consumers are faced with less choice and higher prices because of current pubco ties, and is calling for:

- A guest beer right for all pubco tenants.
- An option of a free of tie tenancy for prospective tenants.
- An end to above inflation increases in beer prices.
- An end to upward only and RPI rent reviews.

The Pubcos' "beer tie" which only allows tenants to buy drinks from one supplier at a price they set is manifestly unfair to tenants and customers alike.

Tenants are unable to source interesting local and regional beers in response to consumer demand, which raises serious competition concerns. The proposal is that pubco tenants should be allowed to source one cask-conditioned beer outside of the tie.

Because Pubcos have control of such a large amount of the market they have been successful in driving down the price paid to brewers for beer, yet these reductions have not been passed on to tenants or consumers. The "beer tie" means that tenants have no choice but to pay uncompetitive prices usually for the same, small selection of brands. This unfair competition has led to Bernie Crehan, a lessee,

taking Japanese Nomura Bank to the Court of Appeal and has won a test case. He was awarded £250,000 damages on the grounds that the lease terms had made it impossible for his two pubs to compete and caused his business to fail. There are now another 600 Intntrepreneur lessees queuing up to sue Nomura. No doubt this case will also spread to other companies and brewers who still own a tied estate. In many cases individuals can purchase beer in quantity, say nine gallons, for a party more cheaply than a publican can buy it from his tied suppliers.



Courtesy, CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004

The plight of pub tenants was also highlighted in a Daily Telegraph article published 14th June "Pub tenants are over a barrel". The Federation of Small Businesses had warned the Trade & Industry Select Committee that large numbers of tenants would be leaving the business because of unfair ties; which had forced a Midlands publican to work for an hourly rate of £2.30, whilst the pub company

had made £48,000 profit from the business. Because of restrictive trade practices drinkers pay as much as 45p a pint too much as owners cream off profits.

A licensee in the West Country had provided the Federation with figures showing that his income was less than £8,000 per annum.

John Walker the policy Chair of the Federation said "Pub companies defend their behaviour saying that it can't be that bad as they have people queuing up to run pubs. People may still dream of running a pub, but the reality is that if they are tenants of a pubco they don't like it much when they get there". Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive, said

"We are not calling for the abolition of the beer tie, but we are calling for pubcos to loosen the beer tie in the interests of their own tenants, consumer choice and competition. Enabling tenants to source one guest beer outside the tie will allow them to be more responsive to consumer demand, benefiting all concerned".

Pubco take-overs

As if the villains mentioned in the above article were not big enough, consumer choice has been further reduced by the bigger fish again swallowing up their smaller counterparts.

400 Laurel Inns sold to Greene King: Greene King has taken over what are quaintly called the community pubs owned by Laurel Pub Company, which was a spin-off from Whitbread ceasing to brew beer.

These were sold by the Laurel Pub Company for £645m, over £1.5m per pub. Analysts are heralding this as recognition that the remaining good locals, with regular customers, are going up in value. Many of Greene King's acquisitions are in Hertfordshire; the **William IV** in Shenley being an example. We will no doubt be seeing a change of beer ranges and some possible refurbishments.

Wizard Inns bought for £90m: Wizard Inns, set up by Chris Hutt (one of the early Chairmen of CAMRA) and run from an office in Victoria Street, St Albans, has been bought by Wolverhampton & Dudley Brewery for £90m. Their 63 pubs were all within the M25 and are seen as good viable prime properties.

Festival Awards Triumph

...Continued from front page

£500 St Albans Fire Service Trauma Teddies appeal, **£250** St Albans Youth Talk a counselling service for 14-25 age group, **£400** Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled, **£500** Dunstable & District Sports DADS, **£300** The Bereavement Network, £130 of which was sponsorship of Jim Millar who ran the London Marathon, **£500** Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, **£150** Sue Ryder Care, **£200** Royal British Legion.

A full colour version of this newsletter is available on our website at www.hertsale.org.uk

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New Brewery Commission with Conservation in Mind

The newly formed Red Squirrel Brewery in Hertford announces the commissioning of its brand new ten-barrel brewery.

For the past three months Red Squirrel Brewery has been developing its unique range of the highest quality hand crafted ales on a two-and-a-half barrel prototype brew plant.

To coincide with the commissioning of the new plant, Red Squirrel Brewery will donate one penny to red squirrel conservation for every pint of Conservation Bitter sold.

The beer has been exceptionally well received, the plan is to increase production and make Conservation Bitter a best seller. Therefore by drinking Conservation Bitter the general public will also be helping British Conservation.

Red Squirrel Brewery



Hertford

Gary Hayward named the brewery Red Squirrel because it was a unique sub-species indigenous to the British Isles, which is fighting against strong competition from the introduced North American grey squirrel, disease, and environmental destruction. However, recent reports have stated that in some areas of Britain the red squirrel is so rare that the gene pool is not sufficiently diverse to maintain the species. This puts it in the same class of endangerment as the Bengal tiger or the white rhino. The difference here however is that the red squirrel is right here in the British Isles, and conservation begins at home.

About Gary Hayward

Age 42. Degree in Chemistry, Diploma in Management Studies. Associate Member of the Institute and Guild of Brewers. Twenty years experience in manufacturing including defence, electronics, telecommunication and space project management. Lives in Hertford. See Red Squirrel on the Internet at: www.redsquirrelbrewery.co.uk

Young's Brewery update

We have received correspondence from Paul Kirsten of Morden, London to rectify some issues in our article on Young's Brewery in Newsletter 203. He states "It is quite correct that brewing has been carried out on the site since at least 1581, but as I have pointed out to John Young, the oldest brewery is Shepherd Neame (1698) as against Young and Co's was built in 1831. This mistake appears in some of their publicity material and he has vowed to change it. As for the development plans this will be a long process which will take about two years before anything is published. The amount of traffic flowing around the Young's island site on the High Street can be quite treacherous so I believe something needs to be done now, but it looks like nothing will change for some considerable time".

Paul ends by assuring our readers that the South West London branch of CAMRA have some excellent campaigners amongst their membership who will be utilised to the maximum, if defence of the site is necessary.

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Brakspear Beers Back to Oxfordshire

Brakspear beers have been rescued following the loss of the Henley brewery. Following the closure of the Henley Brewery in 2002, the Brakspear brands were taken on by Refresh UK and a new brewhouse and Brakspear fermenting room has been built on the expanded site of their Wychwood brewery in Witney, Oxon. Brakspear beers have a huge following and Refresh have taken steps to make sure the beers taste exactly as they should. The new brewery features much of Brakspear's old brewing equipment including the unique 'double-drop' fermenting system. This has been used in the brewing of Brakspear for many years and is believed to be key to the flavour and complexity of their beer..

APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

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

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Welcome in Beer World!

May, and in the spirit of international fraternity, several members of our branch travelled to Brussels to give a well-earned boost to the Belgian brewing business. After arriving at Gare Midi, we booked into our inexpensive but comfy hotel and headed out to explore beer drinking in the hometown of the European Union.

The Belgian approach to beer drinking is somewhat different to our own. Table service is the norm and the strength of Belgian beers precludes knocking down pints (generally). What we might recognise as a pub is a rarity, cafés rule on the continent, but sometimes there's a strange familiarity about a place that makes you think "this is a pub!". One of our members, Martin Few, drew comparison between a little local café near the Place du Jeu de Balle and the Swan in Bushey.

Social secretary Malcolm Brown led us round the pick of the bars that were open for business, as some of our targets were closed for Ascension. Our first port of call was the Fleur en Papier Dorée, erstwhile haunt of the artist René Magritte. Many other artists must have frequented the place over the years, judging by the paintings that fill the walls.

Home brew was available on the bar but I'm ashamed to say that none of us had the courage to try it. Instead, I plumped for a bottle of the Trappist classic, Orval. We moved on to

Ultime Hallucinatie, whose Art Nouveau design is thrown strangely into relief when you see the full size model bull and fountain in the courtyard. This was the first bar we visited to stock the excellent Cantillon Gueuze, so I had some of that. In the touristy heart of Brussels there are a number of traditional, large cafés, like Falstaff, Cirio and Mort Subite, which are reminders of a bygone age in the same way as big old gin palaces are in Britain. These are places where you can while away a day as you admire the décor and work your way through the beer list. I seem to remember some John Martin's Pale Ale, Rochefort 8° and St. Feuillien Blonde going down in those places.

Tucked away down alleyways, hidden unless you know where you're looking, are such bars as Les Bon Vieux Temps and La Becasse, mediaeval-looking beer houses that resemble chapels or guildhalls. I especially enjoyed the latter, which has Timmermans Lambic Doux on draught and an array of wooden holders for the weird, round-bottomed Kwak glasses. The following day we paid a visit to Cantillon Brewery, the last remaining lambic brewer in Brussels. Lambic beers are indigenous to the Belgian Payottenland and are fermented by wild yeast that drops into the brew from the

surrounding atmosphere. Cherry flavoured Kriek lambic beers are becoming more familiar in the UK. Less well known are the Gueuzes, which are blends of old and young lambic. Cantillon



Rue de la Bouchers, Brussels



"Delirium – Welcome in Beer World!"

10th Anniversary Watford Beer Festival

After the roaring success of last year's event we're pleased to announce that the 10th Watford Beer Festival will be taking place from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th November 2004. Once again it will be held at the West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Avenue, Watford, WD18 7HP. 50+ beers will be available as well as an extended range of ciders and perries. Doors open at 5pm on Thursday 4th. Opening times will be 11am to 11pm on Friday and Saturday. See our web site for future details - www.watfordcamra.org.uk

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.

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Awards For Best Pub Design In Britain

The Campaign for Real Ale, in association with the English Heritage and Victorian Society, has announced the winners of their 21st annual National Pub Design Awards. The winning pubs are situated in Nottingham, Peterborough and Lincolnshire. Pubs from Harrogate, Hereford and London have also been 'Highly Commended' by the judging panel.

Both pub-goers and the pub industry are encouraged to enter pubs they feel deserve an award for design. The only criteria to enter this year's competition was that the work was completed in 2002. The awards are split into four different categories: **1) Refurbished Pub, 2) Conversion to Pub use 3) English Heritage Conservation Award and 4) New Build.**

Taken from the Judges' final report: **Category 1) Reburbished Pub: Winner: Wortley Almshouses, Peterborough, Highly Commended: Red Lion, Ealing 'The Wortley Almshouses,'**

Peterborough has won this year's 'Refurbishment' category and is a clever adaptation by Samuel Smiths, Tadcaster of a series of almshouses linked by a passageway. It provides intimate cosy drinking spaces and the judges were impressed by the easy separation of drinking and eating areas. They also commented on the no-nonsense furniture, heavy and strong and the unified blend of the overall colour palette throughout. It allows the structure to speak for itself. This plain, direct and mellow atmosphere is

achieved without strain or 'design'. The architect, Christopher Hearn, and his team, have produced an extremely assured and confident refurbishment scheme."

The Red Lion, Ealing has been 'Highly Commended' in this category of the Pub Design Awards. Owned by Fuller's of London, this pub was praised by the judges for the historic front



The Red Lion, Ealing

part of the pub that preserves its traditional community atmosphere and is not overpowered by what is, effectively, a substantial extension to the rear.

Category 2) - Conversion to Pub Use: Winner: Smiths of Bourne, Lincolnshire. Highly Commended: Kings Fee, Hereford and Winter Gardens, Harrogate.

"The Smiths of Bourne", Lincolnshire was a pub before the mid 19th Century but until recently was a grocers. It was taken over by Michael Thurlby, who owns three pubs in the area and is a huge enthusiast for good pubs and real ale. It was Mr Thurlby and a manager of another of his



Inside the Winter Gardens, Harrogate

pubs, Will Fry, who dreamed up the overall scheme which was realised by architect Philip Heath and project manager Rod Townsend. Their objective was to create a pub for anyone aged from 18 to 80. The furnishing can be described as modern, colourful and squashy. Judges remarked on the easy alliance of the old building fabric, which the architects have been at

pains to preserve, even emphasise, and the new furniture. "Youthful without being callow, joyous without being raucous, this building has received original and imaginative treatment. Truly a delight."

Two J.D. Wetherspoon pubs have been Highly Commended in the 'Conversion To Pub Use' category. **The Kings Fee, Hereford**, Architects, Tuffin Ferraby Taylor, were congratulated on its conversion from a Kwik Save Supermarket and their detail was described as 'exemplary.'

The second J.D. Wetherspoon pub, **Winter Gardens, Harrogate**, was also another design by Tuffin Ferraby Taylor described as a "marvellous, spacious, ceremonial building.

Both parties have worked with the building to bring it back to life for public enjoyment".

J.D. Wetherspoon Regional Development Manager, Paul Gillings, said, "The Winter Gardens forms part of a large re-development of a landmark building within Harrogate and we believe that people in the town have been impressed with the transformation of the former building into a JD

Wetherspoon pub". Mr Gillings continued, "J.D. Wetherspoon are also pleased to be have been recognised for the quality of

building work at the Kings Fee, and this has been borne out by the popularity of the pub".

Category 3) - The CAMRA/English Heritage Conservation Award: Winner: **The Bell Inn, Nottingham**. Owners Hardys and Hansons are getting to be regular attendees at these ceremonies, having received awards in recent years for their distinguished refurbishments as the celebrated **Olde Trip to Jerusalem**, and the wonderful 1930's **Test Match** in West Bridgford. The architects for the work at the Bell are the Maddocks Shelley Partnership of Stockport. Their cheery treatment of the frontage commended itself to the judges - as they say the yellow is an 18th century colour that could well have been used to enliven such a building in the 18th or early 19th centuries. The content of the hand-written signage is largely taken from old advertisements and the Hardys and Hansons brewery. The internal

works were deliberately unobtrusive with no attempt to impose modernity where it did not exist and certainly was not needed. Many a pub could benefit from the lesson that to spend less is to get more.

Jonathan Webster of Hardys and Hansons, said, "We are delighted to receive the CAMRA/English Heritage Conservation award. This is the third time we have won an award from CAMRA and English Heritage for conservation of historic

pubs. This underlines our commitment to preservation of character pubs, which is an important responsibility for pub operators". Unfortunately there were no winners in the 'New Build' category for Work completed in 2002. Geoff Brandwood from the Pub Design Award Judges Panel said, "We were disappointed not to be able to present a 'New Build' award in this year's competition. The building of new pubs that reflect pubs of the past, or have a modern design that use



The Bell Inn, Nottingham

material and influences from the 21st Century, are on the decrease".

Mr Brandwood continued, "We are currently losing 20 pubs a month, with the majority of these disappearing in rural areas. Unfortunately a number of the picturesque village pubs that are lost and are being replaced with town centre 'one-roomed' drinking dens, that all look the same. This is worrying for the future of the British pub industry. It is about time that a number of pub companies sat up and examined the success stories of today's winning pubs, and realized that money should be invested into individual pub design that will last for generations, and not on themed bars that have a short shelf-life".

Subscriptions for Pints of View

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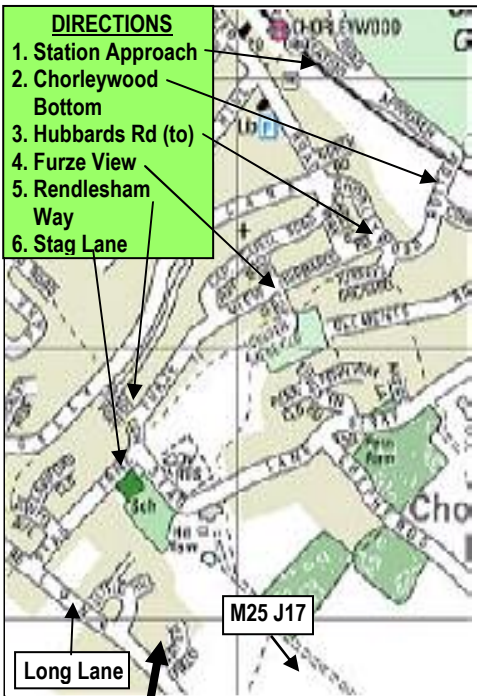
"...one of the more interesting beer ranges in the area"

- Watford & District CAMRA, June 2004

★★ **Good Beer Guide Entry 2004** ★★

DIRECTIONS

1. Station Approach
2. Chorleywood Bottom
3. Hubbards Rd (to)
4. Furze View
5. Rendlesham Way
6. Stag Lane



Long Lane

M25 J17

We are Here. Approx. 20 minutes walk from Chorleywood tube/train station. **Red Rose** Travel operates the R4 shuttle bus, which starts in Watford Town Centre and visits Long Lane.

BEER FESTIVAL

15 REAL ALES



1 CASK LAGER



6 KEG LAGERS



OLD ROSIE CIDER

**28th, 29th & 30th
AUGUST 2004**

CRAZY BIKES

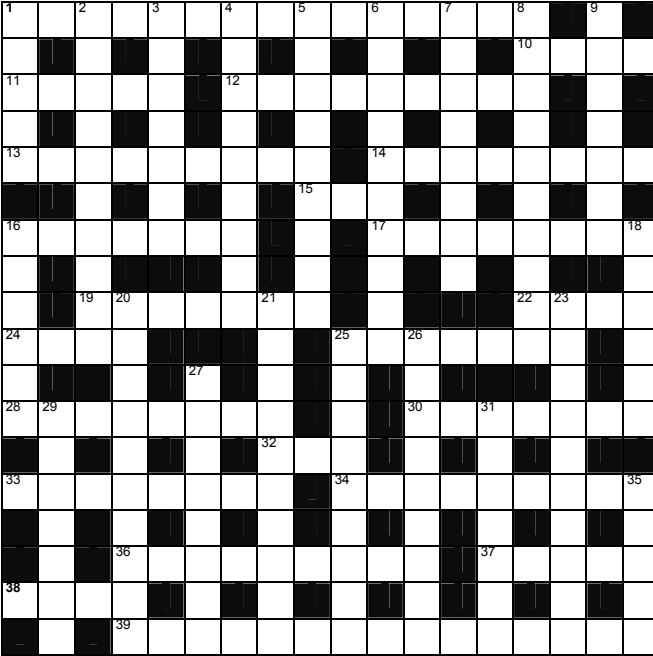
PIG ROAST (Sat)

BOUNCY CASTLE

ENTERTAINMENT

Prize Crossword

Win free tickets to our St. Albans Beer Festival - with free beer too!



1 pair of **free** tickets **plus** **£10** worth of beer tokens for any single session of the **9th St. Albans Beer Festival** at St. Albans Arena (29 Sep – 2 Oct) will be won by the first 3 correct entries drawn after the closing date of **18 September 2004**. Photocopies are acceptable.

The solution and winners of our previous newsletter's 'Cryptic Brewery Names' competition will be announced in our next newsletter.



Completed Entries to: J. E Green, 63 Green Lane, St. Albans, Herts, AL3 6HE
 The *Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale* may be useful for this crossword – available from: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA, price £1.00 + 50p postage (cheques payable to South Herts CAMRA); or the Lower Red Lion (see their advert on page 5), price £1.00.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A grand show's gone to ruin at pub in Watton-at-Stone (6, 3, 6)
- 10) Royal associate of Messrs. Greene and Barnes (4)
- 11) Staff employed by *The Old Shepherd?* (5)
- 12) Brewing initially porter and ale, Peter provides source of cider (5, 4)
- 13) Thinks too much of progress in cricket matches (9)
- 14) Festival site with banal dancing in streets (2, 6)
- 15) Somewhat cubic extra? (3)
- 16) Late train? (7)
- 17) Mince pies prepared, missing one sample (8)
- 19) Six-monthly overheads of *The Sun* seen here (7)
- 22) One obtained outside one of four Hertfordshire pub(4)
- 24) A selection of some nutrients (4)
- 25) Discusses appointments involving unlimited debt (7)
- 28) Singer regularly getting high? (8)
- 30) There's room in the Army to be neat and tidy (7)
- 32) Pupil's in this key education section (3)
- 33) Long and short location where car parks behind diseased elms (8)
- 34) These often result in bird being consigned to different scene... (9)
- 36) ...so get rid of bird in the best surroundings (9)
- 37) He's tight but deserves a bit of commiseration (5)
- 38) It might be seen at a market or a circus (4)
- 39) Dread top grading being wrongly given to Hunton Bridge pub (3, 3, 9)

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Nuts, which are common kinds of heads (5)
- 2) Where the Huntsman operates is silly and immature (5, 5)
- 3) Harpenden pub formerly patronised by odd fellows (3, 4)
- 4) Some chaps are in at home (9)
- 5) Poor diets perhaps cause someone to lay down (9)
- 6) Map one sees spread, showing entry key (4, 6)
- 7) Comes up with experts on main board? (8)
- 8) South Surrey river crossing Harpenden pub (4, 6)
- 9) Keen pub, it's said, having present for one (7)
- 16) My clues difficult? One's ending goes ungainly (6)
- 18) Inform on return if in outskirts of Thorley (6)
- 20) "8" previously found on coins and stamps (6, 4)
- 21) Did one roll around pub in Park Street? (3, 3, 4)
- 23) Do cats sire faultily if cut off? (10)
- 25) Hah! We drunkenly leave Wheathampstead staggering - this'll tell you when (4, 5)
- 26) Brother comes upon new bar when wandering in Braughing (5, 4)
- 27) Oversupplying, sell short, doing badly (8)
- 29) In early evening, watch sign of Watford pub (3, 4)
- 31) Walter Mitty, maybe, one of Freddie's colleagues (7)
- 35) What bar staff do first or second? (5) 13

GOOD BEER GUIDE ENTRY 2004



The ELEPHANT & CASTLE

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DOWN YOUR WAY

Croxley Green: The Sportsman will be running its annual Beer Festival 17th -19th September, with "Stepping Out" playing on Saturday Evening. The landladies are considering housing a micro brewery in the outbuilding.

Elstree: The **East**, previously the **Plough** is now a Chinese/Thai restaurant. There is a small bar area but it is specifically for diners. The good thing is, they sell hand pumped Fuller's London Pride. The food is very good as well.

Enfield & Barnet Branch news: The **Old Sergeant**, EN2 which was in danger of being demolished has re-opened and is selling Tetley Bitter and Imperial. The **White Lion**, N2 is now selling Fuller's London Pride. The **Cock Tavern**, N9 has now become the **Pitcher & Pint**.

Flamstead End: The White Horse has become Zen's Chinese restaurant. How many more of these pub conversions will be viable remains to be seen.

Great Munden: We have received correspondence from T. Edwards of St Albans informing us that the **Plough**, Herringworth Hall Road shut last summer. He continues by saying that the outhouses were converted and the pub remains boarded up and for sale. The pub was famous for its 1938 Compton Theatre Organ which apparently was removed well in advance of the closure. Any further information greatly received.

Gustard Wood: The Tin Pot is now open only six hours a week, four hours on Saturday between 7pm and 11pm and two hours Sunday between 12am and 2pm. The Change of Use application was withdrawn on 27th May (as reported in the last newsletter) and Lane Fox the estate agents who have the pub on their books say that the sale is on hold whilst the landlady considers her options, and the offers that have been made.

Harpenden: The **Harpenden Arms** is closed for several weeks for refurbishment, reopens early August. We extend our congratulations to John and Jo Tibble of the **Carpenters Arms** on their 30th wedding anniversary. The **Plough and Harrow** and the **Bell** are joint winners of the Harpenden in Bloom competition.

Hertford: Work has finally started on the

Wetherspoon's pub, planned for over two years. As reported in edition 191 (Feb 2002) there were some problems with the proposed name; *The Last Witch* after Jane Wenham, the last witch tried in England at Hertford Assizes in 1712.

High Barnet: The Crown & Anchor opposite Barnet church on the corner of Wood Street and the High Street is closed and boarded up.

Kinsbourne Green: The Fox is closed for major works and will re-open early in August

North Mymms: The Maypole was due to change hands early July but was delayed - watch this space. The Carvery restaurant at the **Woodman** was closed in June for refurbishment. We have also heard its freehold is up for sale.

South Mimms: We welcome Martin and Sue Whitmore who took over the **Black Horse** on 30th June.

Radlett: Although all signage has been removed, **Ryan's Bar**, Watling Street is still under reconstruction. The **Railway's** conversion to an ASK Pizza parlour is almost complete.

St Albans: The **Cock**, Hatfield Road has had one bar converted to an eatery as well, at least the St Peters Street bar has been saved for drinkers and real ale is available. Our investigator commented on the increase in prices on some beers of up to 30 pence a pint or more, the extreme brightness of the white walls, the table cloths and numerous candles. Let's hope that it is no smoking or they won't be white for very long. The **Casa Bar**, Victoria Street owned by Laurel Inns has been refused a late license. The **O'Neill's** next door already has a license until 1am but complaints about noise have been received from residents in the flats above the Maltings shopping centre. St Albans Council Committee Chair Cllr Geoff Harrison said "Because the building has a glass front which can be opened when the weather allows, more noise escapes than from other local buildings. We felt this justified us refusing Casa's application for extended hours." The **Mile House** public enquiry took place on 15th June, which we are informed ran for three days. With such a large amount of evidence from both sides it will be some time before the findings and conclusion are published. The **Boot** also underwent a refurbishment which completed in May. We are

pleased to note that there are now five real ales on sale, no muzac or fruit machines, which is a great improvement. Well worth a visit. The **Acorn**, which we hoped would remain a pub and get its original name back, has been converted to a Wine bar called the **Glass House**. Not a military prison as the name suggests and no real ale either. We are beginning to wish it had stayed as the **Clannad**. At lunchtime on 28th June two assailants knocked a female employee of the **Bunch of Cherries** pub Hatfield Road from her moped, and after stabbing her in the leg escaped with the takings. The **King William IV** has been sold by Noble House to Mitchells & Butlers. M&B will operate the pub as an Ember Inns, so cask beer should be back in the King Will soon.

Watford: After 20 years of working behind the bar at the **Estcourt Arms**, Russell Weston-Barrett has decided on a change of career. His happy, smiling demeanour, particularly on a Sunday evening, will be sorely missed (a certain police officer told us to write that). We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Wheathampstead: The Bull, a Beefeater will be closed until the 6th August for a £450,000 refurbishment. This follows complaints from local residents and parish councilors about the listed building's state of repair. It is hoped that the refurbishment will provide 10 extra jobs.

BRANCH DIARY

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Friday 6 August: Social at GBBF, **Olympia**. Meet at Membership Stand 6pm, and hourly thereafter (<http://www.gbbf.org>).

Friday 13 August: Social at **Rose & Crown**, Woodcock Hill, Rickmansworth, 8:30pm; **Ye Olde Greene Manne**, Batchworth Heath, 9:15pm.

Sunday 22 August: Minibus trip to Oxfordshire. Contact for details.

Monday 23 August: Committee meeting, **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8.30pm. All members welcome.

Monday 30 August: Bank Holiday Sarratt Visit.

Cock, 12 noon; **Boot**, 1pm; **Plough**, Belsize, 2pm.

Wednesday 8 September: Watford Social. **Champions Bar** (formerly Leviathan,) 8:30pm; **Nascot Arms**, 9:15pm.

Wednesday 15 September: Oxhey Social. **Royal Oak**, Watford Heath, 8:30pm; **Villiers Arms**, 9:30pm; **Victoria**, 10:15pm.

Tuesday 21 September: Mill End Social. **Whip & Collar**, 8:30pm; **Tree**, 9:15pm; **Bell, Book & Candle**, 10pm.

Monday 27 September: Committee Meeting, **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8.30pm. All members welcome.

Friday 1 October: Social at **St. Albans Beer Festival**. Meet in venue at 7pm.

Branch Contact: Andrew Vaughan. Telephone: 01923-230104.

Email: branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

Web site: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Tuesday 17 August: Branch Meeting - **White Horse**, Hertford 8pm. All members welcome.

Wednesday 25 August: Social trip to **Peterborough Beer Festival** – meet at St Albans City (Thameslink) station 6pm for minibus transport.

Tuesday 7 September: Beer Festival committee meeting - **Lower Red Lion** 8pm

Tuesday 14 September: Branch Meeting - **Green Man**, Sandridge 8pm. All members welcome.

Saturday 18 September: Beer Festival Publicity crawl – Harpenden. Meet at 6pm (place tba – contact for details).

Saturday 25 September: Beer Festival Publicity crawl - St Albans. Meet 6pm (place tba – contact for details).

Wednesday 29 September to Saturday 2 October: St Albans Beer Festival, Alban Arena.

Branch Contact: John Bishop. Telephone: 01582-768478

Email: realales@yahoo.com

Website: www.hertsale.org.uk

Minibus transport reservation: 07903 174444

ST ALBANS 2004 BEER FESTIVAL

29TH SEPTEMBER - 2ND OCTOBER



ALBAN ARENA  CIVIC CENTRE, ST ALBANS
OVER 300 REAL ALES, FOREIGN BEER, CIDERS AND PERRIES

WEDNESDAY 29 TH SEP				5.00PM - 10.30PM	£2.50
THURSDAY 30 TH SEP	11.00AM - 4.00PM	£2.00		4.00PM - 10.30PM	£2.50
FRIDAY 1 ST OCT	11.00AM - 4.00PM	£2.00		4.00PM - 10.30PM	£3.00
SATURDAY 2 ND OCT	11.00AM - 4.00PM	£2.00		4.00PM - 10.30PM	£3.00

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