

HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

February/March 2005

Circulation 5000

No. 209



19th-26th February 2005

NATIONAL PUBS WEEK

19th-26th February 2005

Celebrate Your Pubs!

~ See Page 13 ~

19th-26th February 2005

NATIONAL PUBS WEEK

19th-26th February 2005

NATIONAL PUBS WEEK

Also In This Issue:

- MPs Call for a Full Pint
- A Trip Round Redbourn
- The Lost Pubs of Watford District

THE BITTER END

MPs Rally Behind Call for Full Pint

A new campaign to put an end to the Great British beer rip-off was launched at a recent reception in the House of Commons. A new cross-party Parliamentary Motion is calling on the Government to protect consumers from short beer measures in forthcoming Weights and Measures legislation, by defining a pint of beer as 100 per cent liquid. The current law fails to protect consumers from short beer measures. As a result:

- 9 in 10 pints are short measured
- 1 in 4 pints is more than 5% short measure
- Short measure costs consumers £400 million a year, or over £1 million a day.

MPs also express concern at Government proposals to redefine a pint as "Not less than 95% liquid". This would make the problem of short measure worse by giving dishonest licensees a green light to short change consumers.

Dennis Turner MP said "This is the only piece of weights and measures legislation that is not on the statute book to protect consumers. Over 15 million beer drinkers lose out because of short measure".

Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive stated "The Government has promised to protect consumers from short beer measures, but the proposal for a 95% pint will have the opposite effect. CAMRA members will be lobbying MPs to get behind the campaign for an Honest Pint Law.

Are you being caught short?

To use CAMRA's online calculator to see how

much short measure costs you visit www.camra.org.uk

Lobby your MP

To send your MP an email or letter asking them to support the campaign for an honest pint law visit www.camra.org.uk

Early Day Motion 331 Measures of Pints of Beer

is signed by 98 MPs.

A full text and list of the MPs can be accessed from <http://edm.ais.co.uk>



Welcome to one of
St Albans' friendliest pubs



The
Mermaid

98 Hatfield Road
St Albans
01727 837758

Food available weekday
lunchtimes

Live music sessions

Two regular and three guest ales
available

mermaidstalbens@btinternet.com

THE BITTER END

Another Pubco Swallowed Up

In the first week of December Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewers Banks's completed a take-over of local competitor Burtonwood based in Warrington, who own 460 pubs. Banks's also own Marston's brewery, in Burton-upon-Trent and are now the UK's largest regional brewer, owning 2,243 pubs. This makes Wolves the second Regional Brewer to break the 1990 Beer Orders and own over 2,000 pubs. Greene King was the first when they purchased 430 Laurel pubs in July (see edition 206). Only half of Burtonwood's estate sells cask ale at present. Hopefully this will improve as Wolverhampton & Dudley have a large number of tenanted and unbranded houses, and promote real ale and community pubs.



The problem is that when pubs that are in competition fall under the same ownership a rationalization takes place that can often lead to closures.

Who Owns What

Enterprise Inns started in 1991 with 372 pubs from Bass and based in Solihull. It is the UK's biggest pub owner with an estate of 9,400 houses. Since 2002 it has swallowed up Whitbread plus Unique, Discovery Inns, Gibbs Mew, Mayfair Taverns, Century Inns (Tap & Spile) and Swallow Inns.

Punch Group based in Burton on Trent with over 8,000 pubs, bought Bass in 1999 then Allied Domecq, and then merged with Pubmaster. Punch Retail, which used to run the company's 1,046 managed pubs has now been renamed Spirit Inns, and is also trading from a different address in Burton-upon-Trent.

In the last three editions we have tried to highlight the reduction of pubs and breweries. In many cases this is not good for the consumer,

the tenants, employees and small regional brewers, as they all get squeezed by these giant companies relentlessly seeking higher profits. Customers are having choice eroded; what you drink and where you drink is being dictated by those who have little or no interest in the local communities that the pubs they own serve.

Want to advertise in Pints of View?

Page Size and Cost:

Back Page Colour 148 x 210 mm = £160.00

Inside Page B&W 148 x 210 mm = £110.00

Half Page B&W 148 x 105 mm = £ 75.00

Quarter Page B&W 74 x 105 mm = £40.00

Artwork can be made up at extra cost. We prefer to receive artwork as a PDF, JPEG or Microsoft Word document.

Contact: John Bishop on 01582 768478

(Home) 07720 295419 (Mobile)

Email: realales@yahoo.com

LOWER RED LION



36 Fishpool Street
St Albans, AL3 4RX
Tel: 01727 855669

*17th Century Coaching Inn
in the shadow of St Albans Abbey.
Genuine free house with
real ales and accommodation*

www.LowerRedLion.com

**Nine Real Ales
7 Ever-changing guests
Belgian and Czech on
draught
Belgian bottled beers
Malt Whiskies**

Comfortable B&B,
Quiz night Wednesdays

Lunch time meals
Sunday Roast lunch

Nautical Pubs "The Hope and Anchor"

We have received a good response from readers to the 'Nautical Pubs' article featured in our last Newsletter. Firstly, my mother pointed out that the forthcoming anniversary of Trafalgar will be the **two hundredth**, not three hundredth as published. We also received a copy of a page from the *Dictionary of Sea Terms* which reads as follows: '**Hope**: A small bay: it was an early term for a valley and is still used in Kent for a brook, and gives name to the adjacent anchorages'. Hence its usage in name **Hope** and Anchor or Anchor and **Hope** for public houses.

We also received an article from Ian Boyd which we have reproduced below:

"Pubs and taverns known as The Anchor, The Old Anchor, etc., being common in coastal areas, were often initially owned by retired sailors no doubt hoping to attract their working colleagues to sample their offerings. However, similar pub names can also be found within drinking distance of inland navigable channels.

Another possibility for the use of "Anchor" in a pub name refers to the assay mark (a silverware hallmark) of Birmingham. The mark for Birmingham (and indeed Sheffield) were in fact so chosen in the **Crown and Anchor Tavern** at the Strand, London. The Anchor symbol was subsequently adopted for the **Anchor Inn** in Digbeth, Birmingham. Sheffield has at least 4 Crown Inns, a Crown, and a newly-established Crown (micro) Brewery.

Elsewhere, there is "**The Anchor Hotel**" in Cradley Heath (nr. Dudley, W. Midlands), not far from the original site of Noah Hingley's Anchor and Chain works - the company that

made the 16 ton anchor for the Titanic. But it is specific connection of the words "anchor" and "hope" that are found in many pub names.

The connection is Christianity, which adopted the symbol of the anchor through several routes. St. Paul, in Epistle Hebrews 6:19, seems to be the first to connect the idea of hope with the anchor, saying that "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure". Epitaphs on tombs dating from the 1st-3rd centuries frequently displayed anchors alongside messages of hope. Pope Clement in AD100 had an anchor tied around his neck by the Romans and was

drowned in the sea around Crimea. The anchor, ironically was already used by Christians during Roman persecution to secretly resemble the cross, though its usage died out following the Romans' adoption of Christianity from about 300AD on.

The anchor symbol reappeared in the 16th Century

when it began to be used once more on tombs. Why is not clear, perhaps because of its importance in marine navigation, regarded since ancient times as a symbol of safety as well as faith and hope - ocean seafaring by the major European powers by now was becoming prevalent.

Larwood and Hotten, in *The History of Signboards*, 1866, comment: "The anchor was, perhaps, set up rather as an emblem than as referring to its use in shipping. Sometimes a female figure in flowing garments is represented holding the anchor, in which case it is called the Hope and Anchor Hope and her anchor also feature in Lewis Carroll's marine epic, *The Hunting of the Snark*, 1876.

The **Hope and Anchor** in nearby Welham Green



The Hope and Anchor in Welham Green

is not near any navigable channels, but it is reported that its keeper, James Hutson, in 1838 paid the neighbouring North Mymms bell-ringers with beer. Perhaps the Christian link here was the reason for the adoption of its name".

We also received a letter from Ken Crawford of Caterham, Surrey.

Ken states that; "*Brewer's Dictionary* (a guide to the source of cultural references) records the change from Anchor to Crown and Anchor as being the means to identify the Merchant Navy from the Royal Navy. However the old gambling game Crown and Anchor may be a more likely source for the pub name. It also adds the term 'Sheet Anchors' – the largest anchor on a ship, which in severe weather is the sailors' chief dependence".

Lastly, speaking of Admirals, Ken asked: was there ever a real Admiral Benbow? (As featured in *Treasure Island*.) Our research shows that there was in fact an Admiral John Benbow 1653-1702. He was a hero of several battles and fought at Beachy Head 1690 and La Hogue (France) in 1692, and died of his wounds after fighting the French fleet off Jamaica.

Steve Bury

Wetherspoons Update

J.D.Wetherspoon's have reported their first profits fall and Tim Martin has denied rumours that there had been bids for the company. Shares had dropped from a £3.24 high to £2.30 at the beginning of December and one team of City stockbrokers had described the company as "a glorified amusement arcade operator" adding that "the speculation about take over and a management buy out were the only thing keeping the share price where it is". Wetherspoon has reduced its expansion program and said they were facing tough competition on the High Street. A further blow was J.W.Lees brewers of Manchester reporting them to Trading Standards for misquoting the difference in prices between Wetherspoons and Lees pubs in Chester.

DeKoninck Wetherspoon pubs across the UK are now exclusively serving a Belgian ale on draught. It means it is the only UK pub

company to list a cask Belgian ale among its beer portfolio.

The beer, De Koninck Ambree, has been brewed in Antwerp since 1833, and has an ABV (alcohol by volume) of five per cent. It is described as "a full-bodied, top-fermenting ale, with velvety-smooth flavours".



Beer writer and editor of the Campaign for Real Ale Good Beer Guide, Roger Protz, said: " De Koninck Ambree is the stand-out beer brewed in Belgium and it is great news that it is now available to people across the UK. The beer has a lovely peppery hop character, with a nice biscuity malt flavour."

Who Says Women Don't Like Beer?

CAMRA is constantly proving the point that more women are drinking beer and real beer at that, and we have uncovered some interesting historical facts about our ale drinking females.

For centuries pure water was hard to come by and beer was everyone's staple drink. The old adage "you can make good beer from a bad well" was a necessity and in the 14th Century convent nuns were given eight pints each day.

Lady Lucy, a maid of honour in Henry VIII's court outdid most of the men by drinking 32 pints of ale per day. She is reported to have drunk a gallon at every meal, breakfast lunch and dinner finishing the evening with another gallon as a nightcap.

Queen Elizabeth I was a keen brewer producing her own strong ale that was so potent a courtier was reported as saying "it be so strong as there is no man able to drink it".

Smoking Ban Could Become Food Ban Instead

The Government White Paper "Choosing Health" which could instigate widespread smoking bans in pubs by stealth, could have a completely different effect on the trade. The British Beer & Pubs Association is predicting that pubs will discontinue food rather than lose smokers' trade. In what seems to go against all previous information they say that over 6,000 pubs would discontinue food as the profit margins are only a third of those on drink. A poll in the Publican newspaper supported this claim with six out of ten of those who responded saying they would stop food service if bans were imposed.



© Nicorette. Pfizer Ltd

Food or Faas? Pubs must decide.

To be honest we are dumbfounded. The number of good pubs that have been desecrated to introduce an eating environment in the last ten years has always been justified by their owners as being profit driven-are they now saying this was not the case?

Segregated areas are the answer: CAMRA with licensees' organizations supports a self regulated approach with segregated smoking areas being provided. Ted Tuppen of Enterprise Inns said "Segregation would protect rural and community pubs that not only provide an important service but also rely on a broad range of trade to support a sustainable business". The Councils have a different point of view and both Westminster and Liverpool Council are saying that the white paper's proposals do not go far enough, and are putting forward Private Bills to Parliament. *Steve Bury*

White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans
Tel: 01727 860974

Deuchars IPA, London Pride
& two guest beers

Food served lunchtime
everyday

Live music
Saturday night &
occasional Sundays

Large beer garden

All welcome

www.whiteharttap.co.uk

THE GARIBALDI

61 ALBERT STREET
ST. ALBANS
01727 855046

*"A back street Victorian gem, well
worth hunting out."*

Now offering a selection of FIVE
different cask ales.

Open All Day, Every Day.

The Garibaldi is proud to present
St Albans' latest dining
experience.

- Being served -

Lunch times 12pm - 2.30pm
Evenings 6.30pm - 10.00pm

“Old English Gentleman”

Alive and Kicking

As editor I apologise to Greg Burns, licensee of the Old English Gentleman in Waltham Cross for announcing that the pub was shut in Edition 207. It is also **not** owned by McMullen’s but is a leased Free House. The pub under Greg’s stewardship has sold over 200 different real ales in 2004 and sells Nethergate beer on a regular basis.

There are two beer festivals a year on May and Aug bank holiday, which have 25 to 30 beers on. The three-day events have live music, yard of ale drinking (3 pint yard record for the OEG 41.3sec), barrel rolling, pig roasting, tug-o-war and much more entertainment.



Greg feels that the situation of the pub on the border of Herts and Essex has not helped him get the recognition he deserves from CAMRA.

The threat of closure however is very real and British Waterways who own the pub are intending to redevelop the site into riverside flats with a pub/restaurant underneath. At the moment Fairview Homes is the front-runner to undertake the destruction of this historical gem, situated directly on the tow path. Greg has a two-year lease which has a clause in it allowing the owners to give him six months notice to quit. British Waterways have not given notice as yet, so the two beer festivals are still planned for 2005. If you wish to support the campaign to save the Old English Gentleman (OEG) visit the pub (which is well worth the effort) and sign the petition.

Steve Bury

Adnams Expands Brewery to

Meet Increased Demand

As we go to press, Adnams will complete the third and final stage of the development to its fermenting room, with the installation of seven additional fermenting vessels.

The vessels and two hot water brewing tanks came to Southwold from Burton-upon-Trent and will be lifted into the brewhouse using vast mobile cranes. The engineering team is confident that months of meticulous planning will ensure that all goes well. Adnams are confident that supplies of their beer will continue uninterrupted. Managing Director, Jonathan Adnams commented “We are delighted that we are completing the final stage of the expansion. The completion of the fermentation room will give us the most modern cask beer fermenting room in the UK” Phases I and 2 of the development were completed in 2000 and 2003.

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 £18 **Under 26/OAP Single £10**

Joint £21 **Under 26/OAP Joint £13**

Send to:

**THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA
LTD., 230 HATFIELD ROAD, ST.ALBANS
HERTS AL1 4LW SHE POV 209**

A Trip to Redbourn

From time to time I have requested pub crawls for publication and have finally received the following from Simon Fyffe. The comments made are his and residents and visitors to Redbourn will note that the crawl took place a fair while ago in the summer of 2004. All the same it makes good reading and it is always helpful to get a different view from someone who is not a local active CAMRA member, so read on – Ed.

Although I live some distance from Hertfordshire, I regularly make a pilgrimage to St Albans to visit The Lower Red Lion, The Farmer's Boy. One summer Saturday I decided to extend the usual crawl and visit the pubs in Redbourn. The descriptions in the *Herts. Guide to Real Ale* sounded tempting, two of the pubs are also in the 2004 Good Beer Guide and, on paper, there is a regular bus service from St Albans.

I arrived at St Albans bus station and did not wait long for a bus that was bang on time and arrived in the centre of Redbourn about twenty minutes later. One of the first buildings I saw was The Saracens Head and it looked like a good old-fashioned boozery. The only problem was that it was boarded up and had a 'for sale' board on it. A short walk south of town and straight down Watling Street took me to The Chequers. This was the first Good Beer Guide entry and deservedly so. The pub was mainly laid out for food but there were some drinkers' tables and the service was efficient and welcoming. Three beers were available, two of which were unusual for the area. I opted for a pint of Hydes' latest seasonal beer from this very good Manchester brewery.

The next port of call was the Hollybush, the

second Good Beer guide entry. This was very hard to find and I managed to make what should have been a 15 minute walk into a pleasant 30 minute one. I was expecting a genuine free house but it looked like it had been sold to Brakspear's brewery, which subsequently had closed and reopened. This cosy little pub has two separate bars and had 4 beers on offer on my visit. These were Adnams Bitter, Brakspear's Bitter (at that time brewed at Burtonwood), Brakspear's latest seasonal beer, Three Sheets (brewed at Wychwood) and another that I now forget. I tried the Three Sheets and it was ok but nothing to write home about. As I write, Brakspear's has reopened in Witney, on the same site as Wychwood. I have yet to try the new brews but I hope they have the same flavour as the excellent products once brewed in



Hopefully, The Chequers will be restored to its former glory



The Hollybush – refurbished in late 2004

Henley.

A short walk back towards town took me to The Cricketers. This was another small, two bar pub, advertised as a free house. I expect it is nothing of the sort and owned by a pub company with an agreement with Bass as it sold two beers, Worthington Bitter and Draught Bass. I opted for a half of the former and it was awful - a very bland concoction that was also slightly past its best. This and the fact there was a caged parrot squawking away meant I did not hang around for

long. Although this was a pleasant pub, I felt it had seen better days. Interestingly, I noticed a '10 years in the Good Beer Guide' certificate behind the bar but I expect those were in the early days of CAMRA. Now, if the current beers were axed and replaced by say one from a local brewery such as Verulam or Tring, it could be a contender again.

Once back in town (or village), I had a swift half of Tetley Bitter that was the only real ale



The Cricketers is now a genuine free house

available in The **George** on the High Street. Close by is The **Bull** and this was the final pub I had a drink in. This is a McMullens pub selling both AK and Country Bitter and the AK was in tip top condition. Interestingly, this was the first pub visited that had more than one other customer. Obviously this is far more central but probably it's also a sign of the times.

Redbourn's other pub (still open) is The **Bell & Shears**. There was no real ale but a bank of garish fizz fonts that were almost as loud as the music playing. Not surprisingly I voted with my feet. Finally, the bus I had planned to get did not turn up and I was left with the dilemma of waiting to see if it turned up late or returning to The Bull to try the Country and catching the next bus. I decided to wait and see, and ended up reading the paper for about half an hour. The day was far from over, as St Albans' finest awaited.

Our thanks to Simon Fyffe

Subscriptions for Pints of View

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

A Trip to Redbourn – 2005

Update

Chequers owners Spirit Group have pledged to return the pub to its former glory following serious damage caused by fire last November. They have warned however that work to rebuild the pub will take a long time.

The **Saracens Head** is still vacant.

The **Hollybush** has since joined the saloon and public bars into a horseshoe shape, and has created an additional dining area.

The **Cricketers** changed landlord in late 2004 and following redecoration it now stocks a selection of Everards beers plus guest. The parrot has gone too!

John Kemp

Hertfordshire's Pints of View is produced by the South Hertfordshire 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 should be sent to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.

The 2005 Ware Beer Festival

~ At ~

Ware Arts Centre

Kibes Lane, Ware

Fri - Sat 8 - 9 April 2005

25 Real Ales/Ciders

**Opening Times: 7.00-11.30 both nights,
entry £3**

Tickets available from:

**Genesis Jewellers, 16 High St, Ware,
Herts, SG12 9BX**

Or

Contact Jan on: 01920-424095

The Lost Pubs of Watford District

It has been five years since the publication of the last Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale. Since then there have been many changes to the pub sector in the county. What we could regard as traditional pubs have been under constant threat of redevelopment, as property companies seek to maximise the profit from potentially lucrative pieces of real estate. This has led to a number of such pubs in our area being closed and earmarked for conversion or demolition.

I decided to take a look at some of the pubs listed in the Herts Guide for the Watford & District area, to see what we have lost in the last five years.



The Sportsman Hotel

The Herts Guide prophetically stated that the Stag, Merry Hill Road, Bushey was 'possibly under threat for development.' The land belonging to this tucked away pub was built on and the pub was finally converted into residential property. The New Victoria (AKA the Tantivy), Queens Road, Watford, once a favourite of long-standing CAMRA members, was recently knocked down and is being replaced by flats. The Sportsman Hotel, Station Approach, Chorleywood (see picture), a huge building immediately opposite Chorleywood tube station, closed a couple of years ago and is supposedly going to be turned into flats but, on the last visit, no work had started. The Haydon Arms, Upper Paddock Road, Oxhey, was another pub popular with local CAMRA members. The pub closed several years ago and has sat empty ever since. All of the above pubs were essentially community locals and these are

precisely the establishments that are most in danger of closure and conversion. Reading into the Herts Guide shows that high street pubs and bars remain open in one form or another so long as the high street has a regular and large population of drinkers. Large main-road pubs risk conversion into family restaurants, a change that seems to be complete in the Watford district. Local pubs, distant from the town centre action and too small or poorly situated to interest restaurant chains, are attractive for the short-term profit to be made from residential development. British pub culture is unique and the loss of such pubs as the one you're sitting in contributes to the erosion of that culture and may eventually result in its disappearance. The Campaign for Real Ale seeks to protect all pubs, even those that don't serve real ale, and our branch has just gathered signatures for a pub preservation petition, to be presented to Watford Council. The Watford & District branch also covers pubs in the Three Rivers, Hertsmere and Dacorum areas and we hope to produce similar petitions for these councils too. If you want, you can do your bit too by joining CAMRA and helping us in our campaign to protect the Great British Pub.
Andrew Vaughan

Old Cross Tavern



Real Ale Free House

"The way pubs used to be"

8 St Andrew Street, Hertford

Tel: 01992 583133

*Food available lunchtimes
Monday-Saturday*

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

Pub Names Wordsearch

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

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

The first correct entry opened on the 1st April 2005 will receive a copy of the 2005 Good Beer Guide.

Winners 207 Oct/Nov. As published in Newsletter 208 there were three mistakes in the grid. CAMRA Head Office kindly donated two extra prizes. So the winners were:-

1st John Gee, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. Good Beer Guide

2nd Richard Palmer, St Albans 2005 Calender

3rd Graham Jolliffe, St Albans 2005 Calender

Below are the twenty-nine pub names in the grid to find:

ANGEL, BEEHIVE, BULL, CANDLESTICK, CHEQUERS, CHIEFTAIN, DOLPHIN, DOVE, FOUNTAIN, FOX, GATE, HEDGEHOG, HOLLYBUSH, HOOPS, LUDWICK, MAYFLOWER, OAK TAVERN, PEARTREE, RATS CASTLE, RAVEN, RED COW, ROYAL OAK, SPORTSMAN, SWAN, TILBURY, VAULTS, VINE, WELLINGTON, WHITE HORSE.

THE FARMER'S BOY

134 London Road
St Albans
Tel: 01727 766702

Delicious home made food,
served all day

Sunday Roasts

No Smoking Section

St Albans' only brew Pub

"One of Britain's Best 500
Pubs"

Roger Protz

The White Lion



Under new, caring ownership

Fine Ales & Fine Wines await you,
soon to be followed by Fine Food.

91 Sopwell Lane
St. Albans
Herts

AL1 1RN
Tel: 01727 850540

Live Acoustic music every Tuesday
Night

More to follow... Watch this space!

Flipping Heck, He is a Good Catch!

You get to meet all sorts down at the pub including flippers, shredders and flyers, say researchers.

The character of a drinker can be identified - not by the ale they sup but by the way they fiddle with beer mats, a study found.

A third of pub-goers are **flippers**, who place mats on the edge of the bar, flip them into the air and catch them.

A quarter are **shredders** who fold mats before tearing them to pieces. **Scribblers** (12 per cent) use them for pub quizzes or jotting down phone numbers.

Sculptors (11 per cent) make origami figures out of mats. **Collectors** (six per cent) pocket any not already in their collection. **Flyers** (four per cent) Frisbee them across the bar.

'We were astonished,' said a spokesman for Gaymer's Olde English cider, which conducted the study. 'Beer mats have a place in the hearts of millions.'

(Metro Newspaper, 15 December 2004)

Pints of View has investigated further into the art of beer mat flipping and has uncovered more interesting facts about this and other pub-oriented activities:



Dean's still the best catch...

Flipping Record Breakers

Matt Hand flipped and caught a pile of 112 beer mats on May 9, 2001, at Waterstone's Bookshop Gallery, Nottingham. It took Matt over 4 hours and 129 attempts before he broke the previous record of 111, as set by **Dean Gould** of Felixstowe, Suffolk (pictured). Dean still holds the record for flipping 65 beer mats with both hands, as well as for beer mat throwing (2204).

Dean's is an impressive array of records, as listed below (those in *italics* since broken):

- coin snatching (328 - pictured)
- *pancake tossing (399 in 3 minutes - pictured)*

- stamp licking (309 in 5 minutes)
- needle threading (3471 times within 2 hours)
- *eating 63 grapes with a plastic teaspoon in three minutes*
- *eating 51 grains of rice with chopsticks in three minutes*
- *eating 113 pieces of sweet corn with a cocktail stick in three minutes*
- *eating three dry cream crackers (3:07 minutes)*
- picking 50 winkles (with a straight pin) from their shells (1:22 minutes)

Further Record-Breaking Achievements:

Balancing Glasses on Chin

Ashrita Furman balanced 75 pint (20 oz) beer glasses on his chin for 10.6 seconds in his backyard in New York, USA on April 26, 2001.

Fastest Beer Bottle Opening

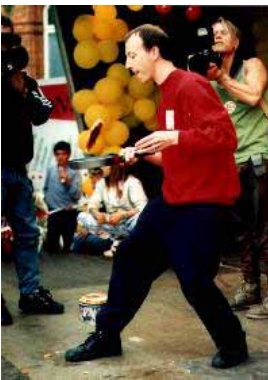
The fastest time for opening 300 bottles of beer, by a team of three, is 1 min 47 sec, on the set of *Guinness - Die Show Der Rekorde*.

Fastest Yard Of Ale

Peter Dowdeswell of Earls Barton, Northants drank a yard of ale containing 1.42 litres (2 pints) in 5 sec. at RAF Upper Heyford, Oxon on May 4, 1975.

Loudest Recorded Burp

188 decibels as set by Paul Hunn of London on April 5, 2000. Paul's burps



...but not now the greatest tosser

are as loud as a pneumatic drill and are reportedly heard above loud music in night clubs. Paul would love to throw caution to the wind and burp as loud as he likes whenever, and wherever, he wants. However, he's learned to control his draughty desires and only produces his piercing puffs of air on request. "I won't do it in an inconvenient place, because people give you those 'you pig' looks," Paul reveals. (*He must drink lager - Ed*)

(Our thanks to: www.guinnessworldrecords.com and www.recordholders.org)

John Kemp

National Pubs Week Events

British pubs are unique. They offer consumers a wide choice of different products, usually at fair prices. They offer different levels of amenity to suit different customers. And they offer choice and diversity, which gives you the option to choose pubs which meet you and your family's needs.

National Pubs Week 2005 runs from 19th to 26th February and is all about promoting the British pub - not just local community boozers, but all kinds of pubs. Thousands of pubs across the land are joining forces with CAMRA to run special events throughout the week. This year pub goers are being urged to play a bigger part in National Pubs Week than ever before. As well as visiting pubs during the week itself, you can also participate in our fantastic competitions.

'Giant Jigsaw Beer Mat' Competition

First off there's the giant jigsaw beer mat competition. In each participating pub there are four different types of beer mats making up the 4-piece jigsaw (as per the front cover) - 3 have a different question on the back of them and the 4th is the entry mat needed to write the answers on and send into to CAMRA. Find the missing quarter, answer the three questions on the other beer mats, and enter a competition for the chance of winning a SONY DSC-P12 Cybershot digital camera worth £350.

'Celebrity in a Pub' Photo Competition

Then there's the 'Celebrity in a Pub' photo competition for your chance to win an Apple iPod Photo 40GB, worth £350. Maybe a local celebrity already drinks in your local, or maybe you happen to be enjoying a pint when someone well known walks in? Simply have your picture taken with them and forward it to CAMRA. You could even take the photo with a picture phone. Please note that members of the public should ask the celebrity's permission before taking their photograph.

Entries can be sent in either digitally (200 - 300 dpi), by hard copy format or emailed from a mobile and should be sent no later than midday Tuesday 1st March 2005 to: celebrity@camra.org.uk or NPW Celebrity Competition, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW



19th-26th February 2005
www.pubsweek.org



DOWN YOUR WAY

Aldenham: The GBG listed **Roundbush** will be serving Thai food from 1st February.

Enfield & Barnet News: The **Tudor Inn** N9 (formally the **Horse and Groom**) is closed and has been boarded up. It will be demolished and a block of flats built. The **Black Horse** EN5 is also closed. **O'Connor's**, N13 has been converted into a shop. The **Volt** EN4 is now a restaurant. **Rosie's** N9, (formally **The Rose & Crown**) **Autumn House** N12, **Alexandra** EN4 and **Bar Square** EN5 (formally the **King George**) have all discontinued Real Ale.

The **Windsor Castle** N2 has now become a tenancy. **Oliver's**, N3 is now called **Winters** and **Kelly's Bar** N9 is now known as the **Steps-Murray's Bar** (how odd).

The **Old White Lion** N2 has re-opened after refurbishment as a Mitchells and Butler pub selling **Pride**, **Young's Special**, **Landlord** and **JHB**. The **Bank** N11 (previously **The Bankers Draught**) has been refurbished and re-opened as a Smith & Jones pub part of the Barracuda group selling **Abbot**, **Pride** and **Courage Best**. The **Beef & Barrel**, EN3 has re-opened as **Scream Pub** (whatever that is).

Flamstead: We welcome Neil Whyte new landlord of the **Spotted Dog** at Flamstead since 26th November. He is an ex-restaurateur, the pub has recently been refurbished and is doing an interesting range of rotating beers. Previous guests were **Tolly Original**, **Batemans Rosey Nosey**, **Everards Sleigh Bell**. **Batemans XXXB**, **St Austell Tribute**, and **Wadworth Henry IPA**.

North Mymms: There are new licensees who took over in December at the **Maypole**.

Radlett: We welcome Daniel and Nina who took over at the **Red Lion Hotel** (Young's) in mid December.

Ridge: We welcome Gerry and Lesley to the **Old Guinea** which has had an interior redecoration, with other work intended.

Redbourn: Owners of The **Chequers** have warned it will not re-open for a long time (see Redbourn feature page 8/9).

St. Albans: The **Cricketers** has stopped doing a Sunday breakfast. Another planning application has been submitted to build 24 flats at the site of the former **Mile House**. There is no provision for

any licensed drinking or eating premises in the application, however.

Ware: Robert Tchenguiz former owner of Pubmaster has bought 364 pubs from Spirit Group, including, it is understood, the **Old Bulls Head** in Ware. The pubs will be managed by Scottish & Newcastle Enterprises so changes to the beer range and pricing policy may follow. The two meals for £5.99 has already been discontinued. It has been suggested that Scottish and Newcastle intend to place tenants in all their new pubs and the **Old Bulls Head** is being advertised by Fleurets letting agency for £50,000 minimum capital to secure a 20 year lease. So the future for Stewart the current manager and his staff looks bleak. Where S&N intend to find 364 wealthy prospective tenants from we don't know, but this does appear to be the death knell for reasonably priced beer and spirits in Ware.

There are also rumours that the **Rising Sun**, **Musley Hill** is under threat of closure to be converted into flats. Can anyone confirm whether planning/change of use has been applied for?

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1997 - 2005 Cask Marque Certification



The ELEPHANT & CASTLE

AMWELL LANE, AMWELL,
WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.

Tel: 01582 832175

QUALITY FOOD

Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale
Morlands Bitter, Guest Beer

BRANCH DIARY

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Sunday 6 February: Quiz Night at the **Southern Cross**, Watford, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 15 February: Open Mic Night at the **Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre**, Local Board Road, Watford, 8.30pm.

19 – 26 February: National Pubs Week. See dates below. More events may be added in due course. See the branch web site or contact the branch for details.

Pubs Week: Saturday 19 February: Social at the **Rose & Crown**, Woodcock Hill, Rickmansworth, 1pm onwards.

Pubs Week: Wednesday 23 February: New Members' Social, **Southern Cross**, Langley Road, Watford, 8.30pm. New members: Turn up and we'll buy you a beer!

Pubs Week: Friday 25 February: Pub of the Year Presentation, venue to be announced. Contact branch for details.

Monday 28 February: Committee Meeting, **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8.15pm. All members welcome.

Thursday 3 March: Bushey Social at the **Three Crowns**, 8pm; **Lazy Fox**, 8.45pm; **Horse & Chains**, 9.30pm; **Swan**, 10pm

Tuesday 8 March: Social on International Women's Day at **Bar Bodega**, the Parade, Watford, 8.30pm. Ladies: Turn up and we'll buy you a beer!

Wednesday 16 March: Social at the **London Drinker Beer Festival**. Meet at the Products Stand from 6pm onwards.

Thursday 24 March: Watford Social at the **Essex Arms**, 8.30pm; **Southern Cross**, 9.30pm; **Nascot Arms**, 10.15pm

Monday 28 March: Branch AGM, **Estcourt Arms**, Watford, 8pm. All members welcome.

Friday 8 April: Social at the **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue, Watford, 8.30pm.

Wednesday 13 April: Oxhey Social at the **Royal Oak**, Watford Heath, 8.15pm; **Villiers Arms**, Oxhey, 9pm; **Victoria**, Oxhey, 9.45pm.

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan. Telephone: 01923 230104

Email: branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Tuesday 1 February: South Herts Annual General Meeting and Branch Meeting – **CAMRA HQ** 8pm. All members welcome.

Tuesday 8 February: Good Beer Guide 2006 survey trip - Harpenden/Redbourn area.

Tuesday 15 February: GBG 2006 survey trip - Park Street /Radlett Area

Tuesday 22 February: GBG 2006 survey trip Potters Bar, Northaw and Wildhill.

For survey trips, meet outside St. Albans Thameslink station at 7pm for transport (available at cost)

Tuesday 1 March: Good Beer Guide 2006 selection meeting, **CAMRA HQ**, 8pm.

Tuesday 15 March: Branch meeting – **White Horse**, Hertford, 8pm. All members welcome.

Branch Contact: John Bishop. Telephone: 01582 768478

Email: realales@yahoo.com

Website: www.hertsale.org.uk

THE WHITE HORSE

33, CASTLE STREET, HERTFORD

01992 501950

One of Hertford's oldest pubs, offering a fine selection of up to 10 cask conditioned ales from around the country

Good pub food served 12.00 - 2.00pm daily.
Traditional Sunday Roast served 1.00 - 3.00pm

NO SMOKING AREA
in the upstairs function rooms.

WELL SUPERVISED
Children permitted, upstairs only.
Bar Billiards Room and Traditional Pub Games.

'Simply A Proper Pub!'

The Silver Cup



*Where you will
always find a warm
welcome, friendly
service and a passion
for fabulous food!*

**We now offer
accommodation!
Contact us for details
on
01582 713095
Email:
info@silvercup.co.uk**

Following an extensive refurbishment, The Silver Cup is open for business with a great range of facilities and comfortable furnishings to ensure your welcome is a warm one.

There is a friendly bar and comfortable lounge where you can enjoy a delicious snack at any time of the day.

We have a great selection of wines by the glass, 4 real ales including Charles Wells Eagle & Bombardier and two rotating guest ales. A full range of spirits, minerals, bottled beers and soft drinks are also available.

The cosy restaurant has an a la carte menu with full table service where you can enjoy freshly prepared food produced by our professional kitchen staff. The wine selection is second to none with quality wines from all over the world, many being served either by the glass or bottle. The Restaurant menu is served 12.00am to 2.30pm and 6.00pm to 9.30pm.

**Why not pay us a visit
St. Albans Road, Harpenden AL5 2JF**