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HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

April/May 2006

Circulation 5000

No. 216

New Lease of Life for St. Albans Brewery



A brewery re-launch at the **Farmers Boy** in St. Albans is promising an exciting new range of beers. See Page 11.

Also In This Issue:

- New Licensees for our Pub of the Year
- The Best Pub in Britain
- Watford & District's Mild Mecca

THE BITTER END

Budget Hike on Top of 4% Rise in Beer Prices

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has increased beer and cider in the 2006 budget despite real ale prices rising by 4.28 per cent in 2005. Although only a 1p increase, this will multiply for the consumer.

A beer prices survey carried out by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) across the UK has shown that the cost of a pint of real ale has now risen to an average of £2.24 from £2.15 in early 2005. The average price of a pint of lager has risen from £2.36 to £2.45.

CAMRA has been urging the Government to freeze or cut the amount of excise duty on beers and ciders to stop prices from skyrocketing. Brewers Greene King for example, have just had a 10p per pint increase (it is obvious others will follow) and any excise rise will be on top of that.

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: "Even the smallest increase in tax will blast a hole through the pocket of the pub-visiting public. Last year the Chancellor increased beer duty by only a penny - however as our survey proves the cost passed on to consumers has been considerably higher. Also a reduction in excise duty would reduce incentives for smugglers to bring cheap alcohol from abroad into the UK".

Small Brewers Relief

Small brewers lack the economies of scale and access to the market from which larger brewers benefit. CAMRA is lobbying the Government to retain the current system of Small Breweries Relief, which is essential to enable small breweries to compete on a level playing field.

The Survey (See opposite on Page 3)

CAMRA branches around the UK have run an annual prices survey for the last 18 years. The surveying was carried out during February 2006. The 1,121 pubs visited were a mixture of managed, tenanted and free houses and those owned by brewers and pub companies.

Key findings of the survey:

- The average price of real ale rose by nine pence (4.28%) to £2.24.
- The average price of lager rose by nine pence (4.04%) to £2.45.
- The cheapest region is the North West where a pint of real ale costs £1.97 and lager costs £2.21.
- The most expensive regions were London and the South East where a pint of real ale costs £2.42 and a pint of lager costs £2.64 and £2.61 respectively.
- The highest beer price rise was in the North West where real ale went from £1.84 to £1.97 (6.88%), and lager in the North rose from £2.23 to £2.35 (5.12%).

Hertfordshire's Pints of View is produced by the South Hertfordshire and Watford & District Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches.

THE GARIBALDI

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Year/ % Change/ £ Extremes:	2006	2005	% Change	Cheapest	Priciest
Real Ale Prices per Pint					
UK Whole:	£2.24	£2.15	4.28%	£0.99	£3.10
East Anglia	£2.37	£2.25	5.14%	£1.60	£2.80
East Midlands	£2.10	£2.06	1.92%	£0.99	£2.50
London	£2.42	£2.36	2.40%	£1.35	£3.00
North	£2.06	£1.96	5.34%	£1.26	£2.50
North West	£1.97	£1.84	6.88%	£1.21	£2.60
Scotland	£2.32	£2.29	1.19%	£1.49	£2.70
South East	£2.42	£2.32	4.40%	£1.36	£3.10
South West	£2.27	£2.18	3.85%	£1.39	£2.90
Wales	£2.14	£2.05	4.48%	£1.39	£2.70
West Midlands	£2.08	£2.04	2.33%	£1.29	£2.72
Yorkshire	£2.05	£1.95	4.77%	£1.25	£2.90
Real Ale Prices per Pint for:					
National Brewers' Beers	£2.14	£2.04	4.65%		
Independent Brewers' Beers	£2.27	£2.20	3.34%		
Micro-Brewers' Beers	£2.18	£2.09	4.37%		
Real Ale Prices per pint by Outlet:					
National Chain Pubs	£2.21	£2.13	3.70%		
Independent Brewers' Pubs	£2.26	£2.18	3.62%		
Free Houses	£2.24	£2.15	3.62%		
Lager Prices per Pint					
UK - Whole	£2.45	£2.36	4.04%	£1.45	£3.30
South East (this region)	£2.61	£2.52	3.63%	£1.64	£3.30
North West (cheapest region)	£2.21	£2.11	4.70%	£1.45	£2.90
London (priciest region)	£2.64	£2.54	4.04%	£1.64	£3.10
Other Drinks Prices per Pint – South East Region					
REAL CIDER	£2.55	£2.52	1.32%	£1.99	£2.90
KEG CIDER	£2.63	£2.53	3.89%	£1.99	£3.10
NITROKEG	£2.41	£2.31	4.02%	£1.59	£2.85
KEG STOUT	£2.77	£2.67	3.75%	£1.99	£3.10

Who'd want to drink in Hertfordshire?

Ed Says: There is no doubt Hertfordshire is in the South East and although Wales, Yorkshire, East Anglia, the North and North West saw higher percentage price rises, we are still paying the highest average price per pint in the UK. The question is why? Although the survey shows that prices across the UK are levelling and overheads are more expensive in

the South East, I still feel that the price is set by what the market will pay. I would go as far as to say that pricing policies by brewers and pub owners are contributing to pub closures and the decline in sales. With the smoking ban just over the horizon it is hard times ahead for the licensee and customers alike.



Short Measures Update

Following the lead article in Edition 214 "Santa Says Fill It Up" Parliament was in recess until the middle of January 2006. In the article I commented on the position of Claire Ward MP for Watford stating that she could not sign EDM 404, being a Parliamentary Private Secretary (P.P.S.) but could enter into a written dialogue with the DTI (Department of Trade & Industry) expressing her views.



Both MPs Claire Ward and Mike Penning support our short measures campaign.

I am grateful to a CAMRA member of Watford & District Branch (name and address supplied), who has sent me copies of two letters exchanged in October last year between Claire Ward and Peter Sutcliffe of the DTI. From this it is clear that Claire is supporting our Short Measure Campaign and that Peter is being very non-committal in his reply. I then received a copy of a letter from Claire Ward to L.M. Quinn of Abbots Langley, in which she reiterates her support for our "Honest Pints" campaign, and reminds him that she is a paid up member of CAMRA - something of which I was not aware. I am sorry if we have misinterpreted Claire Ward's position on Short Measure, and I am happy to place her name in the YES column.

Since December the number of MPs who have signed EDM 404 has risen by 10 to 241. I am glad to announce that Mike Penning, MP for Hemel Hempstead, was one of the new signatories. Only 4 out of Hertfordshire's 11 MPs are in support of the "Honest Pints" campaign. So let's keep up the pressure.

Steve Bury

Black Day for Brewing in Hampshire

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has condemned Fuller Smith and Turner's decision to close Gale's brewery in Horndean, Hampshire, having bought the company for £91.8m in November 2005. The closure is a contemptible disregard over 5,000 for people who signed a petition to keep the brewery open and retain more than 150 years of brewing



heritage. Gale's Brewery (above) is housed in a 158-year-old Victorian building and 21 jobs will be lost at the brewery when it closes on March 31st.

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: "This is a black day for the people of Wessex who fought so hard, only to be let down so badly. Thousands of supporters rallied behind the Wessex branches of CAMRA when the 'Save Gale's Campaign' was launched. But Fuller's have simply brushed the overwhelming public concern aside and continued with their own agenda".

Mike continues: "Fuller's has made assurances that the main Gales brands – *HSB*, *Butser*, *Festival Mild* and *Prize Old Ale* – will remain. However only time will tell, and we must campaign to ensure they do not become seasonal beers, or disappear altogether. It's questionable whether '*Horndean Special Bitter*' (*HSB*), brewed in Chiswick, will appeal to Hampshire drinkers, or indeed whether the beers will taste the same".

Finally, Mike adds: "Fuller's justified the closure by saying it expects to make savings of around £3 million. This is a small amount to gain in return for destroying a century and a half of Hampshire's heritage and dealing a blow to all fans of Gale's beers".



Award Winning Licensees Leave Award Winning Pub

John and Jo Tibble were due to leave the **Carpenters Arms**, Cravells Road, Harpenden at the end of January and retire to Suffolk, but some minor hitches delayed their well-earned retirement.

There had been some speculation about the intentions of the new owners of the lease - Tony Hedigan and Maria Hesketh, mainly because they trade as H&H Elite Catering. I have been contacted individually by three CAMRA activists from the Harpenden area who have given me the following update. We welcome Tony and Maria who were previously stewards and in charge of the catering at the Aldwickbury Golf Club. Before that they ran the **Market Porter**, in Stoney Street, London Bridge and another **Carpenters Arms**, at Marble Arch. They do plan to run regular BBQ's during the summer and install a TV for the World Cup. The Mild will stay; so any changes will be minor.



Landlord Tony pulls a guest beer

Those of you who read our newsletter on a regular basis will know that John and Jo have won many prestigious awards during their 20 years at the pub. The Carpenters won South Herts CAMRA **Pub of the Year 2001**. Also John and Jo received the **Dave Burns Memorial Award**, presented to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to real ale in the county. In 2002 the Carpenters was POTY runner up and was winner again in 2004.

What makes the Carpenters, one of Harpenden's smallest pubs, so special? Well of course it was the hosts John and Jo who have always been dedicated to real ale and served a variety of different ales in excellent

quality, which have ensured their numerous and continuous entries in the CAMRA **Good Beer Guide**. Most importantly they always served a dark mild, from a large number of brewers, unlike the seasonal offerings of others. The pub also won the Harpenden in Bloom competition on several occasions, and John with his friend Peter Madden ran the pub's Classic Car Club and has organised the *Classics on the Common* since 1994. John, as well as owning a 1961 Jaguar is a motorcycle enthusiast, and tours on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. It is not surprising therefore that the pub has a motoring theme with every spare bit of breathing space not covered with awards taken up with memorabilia. The large number of foreign number plates and motoring bric-a-brac will be staying, to be cherished by the new tenants.

John and Jo previously ran the **Fighting Cocks** in St Albans and are Harpenden's longest running licensees. Again we wish them all best and a long and happy retirement.

We welcome Tony and Maria who have a hard act to follow.

Steve Bury

Ware 2006 Real Ale Festival

~ At ~

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What is the Future of the King Harry?

For those of you who know St Albans the junction at the top of St Stephen's Hill can be a nightmare traffic bottleneck, causing long tailbacks. It is also the home of the grade II listed **King Harry** pub, which sits directly on the corner, and has had to have one its original entrances blocked off, as after the road was widened the footway had been removed. Now planners desperate to alleviate congestion were looking at running a relief road behind St Stephens Church and moving the pub. These plans were opposed and now what appears to be an even worse scheme is before the City planning committee, which would allow the building of 250 homes on the St Albans School playing fields and the King Harry being demolished. Other than the fact that the pub is an historic building, it has a large catchment area, has been featured in the **Good Beer Guide**, and is perfectly viable. Let's hope that the St Albans City planners take the views of the petitioners and Civic Society into account, and protect the pub.

Cask Marque Say St Albans is the Best Place for Beer

According to Cask Marque (a beer-keeping accreditation body) St Albans is the best place in Britain for a pint of ale. There are nearly 4,000 Cask Marque-accredited pubs in the UK, and CM's assessors tested a total of 19,278 pints to identify its best UK towns and cities for cask conditioned beer. Assessors tested beers for their temperature, appearance, aroma and taste and then awarded each beer a score out of 20. In its top-10 places St Albans finished ahead of; Plymouth, Truro, Taunton, Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Bristol, Hemel Hempstead, Bradford and Guildford.

Pubs in St Albans had an average score of 19.7 (out of 20) with 83% scoring full marks.

I would be interested to receive any views from St Albans drinkers, or indeed anyone who drinks real ale in Hemel Hempstead. Ed

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New Hertford and Ware Guide Launch

CAMRA's local guide "Real Ale in Hertford – Real Ale in Ware" was launched in February at the Old Cross Tavern in Hertford. The free guide is widely available in the Hertford and Ware area and can now also be downloaded from South Hertfordshire's website, www.hertsale.org.uk. Many thanks to all of the staff at the **Old Cross** for their hospitality on the day.



Pictured, clockwise from the bottom left are CAMRA's editorial team, (inset) Linda Howe, Brian Page, Jan Ordon, Les Middlewood and Tony Dawes together with our hosts Mary and (seated) Bev.





Herts Readers Write



Editor Steve Bury replies to correspondence we have received from our readers.

More Binge Drinking

Following the article in 215 on extended licensing hours and binge drinking I received correspondence from Dee Monaghan of Harpenden - some further thoughts on the binge-drinking article.

1. Over the last ten or so years the media say binge drinking has increased. During this time beer sales have fallen.

2. Alco pop sales, lager and wine sales have increased.

Conclusion: Inge drinkers are predominantly alcopop, wine or lager drinkers, and therefore, the government should be increasing the tax on these drinks, and not real ale if they wish to stop binge drinking.

Mike Moran of Clapham made the following point in *London Drinker* (London CAMRA branches' newsletter); "As far as 24-hour opening is concerned, the real winners are the supermarkets, not real ale pubs. Supermarkets can sell mass-marketed discounted alcohol 24 hours a day free from concern as to its consumption, which will be off the premises anyway".



At this point I feel it would be appropriate to print the following from the latest edition of *Ale* - the Cambridge CAMRA newsletter "What the media hasn't grasped is that binge drinking and licensing hours are entirely separate issues. If people want to drink themselves stupid they'll do it whatever the opening hours happen to be. Fans of car-crash telly may have seen a Channel 5 series called *Booze Britain*, which offers a frightening insight into the mentality of the binge-drinker. Most are well oiled even before setting out, having chucked several supermarket lagers or other cut-priced offerings down their throats for starters. Then it's a hideous cocktail of lager and "shots" until they begin to lose

control of their bodily functions. At this point you can't go any further, even if the pub is still open, because you are incapable of the added intake (or you've been arrested)". I think that's enough on binge drinking - Ed.

What we need is Brains:

I have also received a postcard from a certain RWC relating to the article on CAMRA Watford & District branch's *Pre-Christmas* London pub crawl from the Barbican to Holborn. "Re Pints of View 215 page 17 - if Andrew Vaughan read his **Good Beer Guide 2006** he would find stated (when it was printed at least!) that Mitchells & Butlers (M&B) - *Brew XI*, was brewed by Mr Brain of the principality of Wales". (*Brains brewery in Cardiff*). For those of you who do not have a copy of Edition 215 handy; Andrew originally asked where the M&B beer, found in the **Pendrals Oak**, Holborn was produced, as M&B had ceased brewing several years ago.

I See no Success:

Ken Crawford of Caterham a, regular correspondent, commented on the "Beer advert banned for sex link" article in 215. He says: "The kerfuffle over the Young's poster is amusing. That poster could have been better with more of the statuesque lady in the frame. The chap in the long johns is clearly having a bad hair day; if that is social success, I am thankful that I am a failure! To use a judicial phrase from a few years ago, 'not even a moron in a hurry would be misled'. The ASA has over-reacted spectacularly, thereby shouting from the rooftops that Nannyism (sic) is, er, rampant. I for one will carry on enjoying Young's Special as often as I can".

Any comments, articles or letters for publication are welcome. Please send to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.
Or Email us at: pintsofview@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions for Pints of View
£5 for 18 issues. Send to: John Lightfoot, 66 Dryfield Road, Edgware, Middx., HA8 9JT. Cheques payable to: CAMRA South Herts.



Send your comments to us. See box on above for details.

Drinkers' Proverbs

Following the festive season let's end it on a lighter note with some continental proverbs:-



Ireland

Drink precedes a story.

A drinking man's words are a sober man's thoughts.

Good as drink is it ends in thirst.

It is sweet to drink but bitter to pay for.

When the drink is inside the sense is outside.



Serbia

He who drinks on credit will get drunk twice.



Portugal

One drink is enough, two drinks is too many, three drinks are not enough.



Russia

The church is close but the road is icy; the bar is far but I will walk carefully.



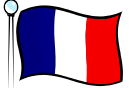
Denmark

The drunken man's joy is the sober man's regret.



Germany

The drunken mouth lets slip the heart's secrets



France

There are more old drunkards than there are old doctors.

Anon:

Always do sober what you said you would do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut.

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.

Teach him to fish and he will sit about in a boat and drink beer all day.

When the drink goes in the secrets come out.

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Essex Pub Voted 'Best in Britain' for the Second Time!

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has announced **The Swan**, Little Totham, Essex, has fended off competition from thousands of other pubs in the country to win the prestigious title of **National Pub of the Year 2005**.

It is the second time The Swan - a 16th century cottage-style pub - has won the coveted award. The last time was in 2002 and owners John Pascoe and his wife Valerie say they could not be more delighted that their hard work and attention to detail has been



*The Swan at Little Totham (near Maldon) in Essex – a picturesque pub,
(All pictures taken from the pub's website: www.theswanpublichouse.co.uk)*

recognised once again – particularly as the pub was threatened with closure before they took it over.

"When the pub was up for sale the parish council made representations to the selling brewery begging to keep it as a local pub for the community rather than being converted into housing."

Valerie and John took over the pub in 1996. "And from those early days we set out to get the pub recognized by CAMRA and have been delighted with the level of support we have received from local branches."

The presentation of the award took place at The Swan in February to mark the beginning of National Pubs Week 2006, which aims to encourage more people to visit pubs regularly at this quiet time of the year for the trade.

In CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2006 the Swan is described as "An archetypal heavy beamed village pub. The unspoilt public bar has billiards and darts, while the comfortable saloon has open fires."

Bob Stukins, CAMRA's Pubs Director and one of the final judges said: "It has been wonderful to be able to revisit The Swan three years after it last won National Pub of the Year and see that it is still a shining example within the industry. Through their devotion to maintaining the very highest quality in all aspects of the pub John and Val have prospered and shown others what a marvellous asset the community pub can be."

Mike Harvey, CAMRA Regional Director for East Anglia, said: "I always make a point of calling into the Swan whenever I can because it is such a



pleasure to visit there. John and Valerie have taken a pub that was once threatened with closure and turned it into a magnet for real ale enthusiasts from across the country".

**The 11th St. Albans Beer
Festival is on at St. Albans
Arena - 27 to 30 Sept 2006...**

...and Dr Feelgood
- Britain's No. 1
Rhythm and Blues
Band will be there
on Saturday 30th
too!



Pints of View Pub Sudoku

	R	A		U			N	
	B				O	A		G
					G		U	L
		E			R		G	O
		U	N		E	B		
B	G		U			E		
A	E		G					
O		N	L					R
	L			A			N	B

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that every row, column and each of the nine 3x3 squares contain all the letters of the word **LOUNGEBAR**.

Completed entries by 1 June to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA

1st winner drawn wins a CAMRA 2006 Good Beer Guide. 2nd and 3rd winners drawn win a 2005 St. Albans Beer Festival T- Shirt.



The 2006 St. Albans Beer Festival: 27 - 30 September. Now make a note in your diary!

Winners of the Brewery Names anagram Catherine Wheel in Edition 214: 1st prize (2006 Beer Guide 2006) – Alan Southgate of Hitchin. 2nd prize (St. Albans 2005 Beer Festival T-Shirt) – Ian Dobson of St. Albans.

SOLUTION BELOW:

1	S	U	M	M	E	R	S	K	I	L	L	2	S	C	A	T	
	I	B	8	E	A	G	L	E	S	B	U	S	9	H	A	R	T
R	R	K	S	H	I	R	14	E	M	P	I	R	15	E	V	O	
T	O	S	T	E	20	R	E	E	P	H	A	21	M	N	I	R	
K	Y	A	W	E	N	24	T	I	M	O	T	E	V	E	R		
R	H	C	R	P	S	Y	T	O	A	H	L	I	S	O			
A	T	N	E	I	M	O	O	29	R	27	D	Y	B	L	T	C	
7	D	R	A	23	D	26	X	O	W	A	O	T	O	L	O	3	K
O	O	19	L	N	O	28	E	B	N	I	W	A	U	16	E	U	E
O	13	N	E	A	O	G	D	I	R	B	Y	R	L	10	N	M	
W	O	D	L	H	S	D	E	25	R	O	L	22	N	G	E	P	
T	D	N	R	E	B	M	U	H	T	R	O	O	T	T			
S	L	U	R	18	A	E	S	N	A	W	17	S	D	O	H	O	
A	A	12	M	A	H	S	E	V	11	E	T	A	G	R	E	W	
6	E	U	D	R	O	5	M	A	H	G	N	I	T	T	O	4	N

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There is still an active brewery in St Albans. When Viv and Tina Davies decided to take a break from running the **Farmers Boy** and associated Verulam brewery, and sell the lease, there were concerns that any new licensees might not want to continue with the brewery. But that was not the case when Heidi Bancroft and Gerry Madden took over the reins. Keen to build on the firm foundations and reputation of the pub, they were determined that the brewery continued. They did however recognise that they did not have the expertise required. But help was at hand. Kevin Yelland, co-licensee of the **Lower Red Lion** and keen home brewer, heard about the situation and came to a deal whereby he would manage the brewing operation. Kevin already had brewing experience under his belt as he had had six months experience working at Church End Brewery - where he had done everything from brewing to delivering the beer, washing casks and running the attached pub.

After being shown the works by Viv, Kevin took over brewing at the Verulam at the beginning of March. He is brewing the regular Verulam beers for the **Farmers Boy**, *Best*, *Farmers Joy* and *Clipper IPA*, and under the **Alehouse** banner specials for both the **Farmers** and **The Lower Red Lion**, and other free house outlets.

Kevin already had the Alehouse Company set up to take over and run a pub in Huddersfield when he graduated. That did not eventually materialise so the Alehouse Co was "mothballed", only to be brought out of hibernation to brew his specials.

Kevin has already brewed his first special *A Headful of Cascade* a pale, well hopped beer that has gone down a storm with customers in both the Lower Red and the Farmers Boy. He is now busy brewing a range of experimental brews which will be available at a Beer Festival at the Lower Red Lion from 31st March - 2nd April. He is experimenting with various yeasts from America, Germany and Britain, and looks forward to hearing the comments of customers.

Kevin will use his favourite malted barley /cont'd



THE BOOT

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Morlands Bitter, Guest Beer**



Halcyon for the Farmers regular beers, but for beers such as *Head Full of Cascade* he has used Maris Otter. He has ordered a supply of new plastic 9 gallon firkins, done out in the Alehouse colours of black, orange and white (reminiscent of Wolverhampton Wanderers colours, Kevin's favourite football team). The specials will also be distributed via beer wholesaler High Spirits of Bedford, so expect to find Alehouse beers being served far and wide. Other regular outlets for the beers are the **Strathmore Arms**, St Pauls Walden, the **Engineers, Henlow** and the **White Horse, Hedgerley**.



Gerry and Heidi - continuing the heritage

His hop supplier is Charles Faram who also supplies his yeasts which come in liquid form. Malted barley is from Muntons and from Fawcetts of Castleford. Currently the brewhouse behind the Farmers Boy is filled, not only with the original brewing equipment installed by Viv but also with Kevin's old home brew equipment, the large fermenting buckets of which he is using to produce a range of specials using the different yeasts, which he is using to produce 20 different beers for the end of March beer festival at the Lower Red Lion.

The next few months should see an interesting range of beers emanating from the Alehouse Brewery as well as the regular Farmers Boy beers. And for those of you who are fans of the Farmers Boy regular beers, (including Clipper IPA), Kevin assures us they will be available on a regular basis. So in the end, a great result. Heidi, Gerry and Kevin working in partnership to ensure that St. Albans keeps its unique heritage. **Cheers!**

Want to Advertise in Pints of View?

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 Artwork made up at extra cost, preferably in JPEG, Word or PDF format.

The deadline for our Jun/Jul 2006 issue is Sunday 21 May 2006.

Contact: John Bishop, Tel: 01582-768478 Email: realales@yahoo.com

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 216



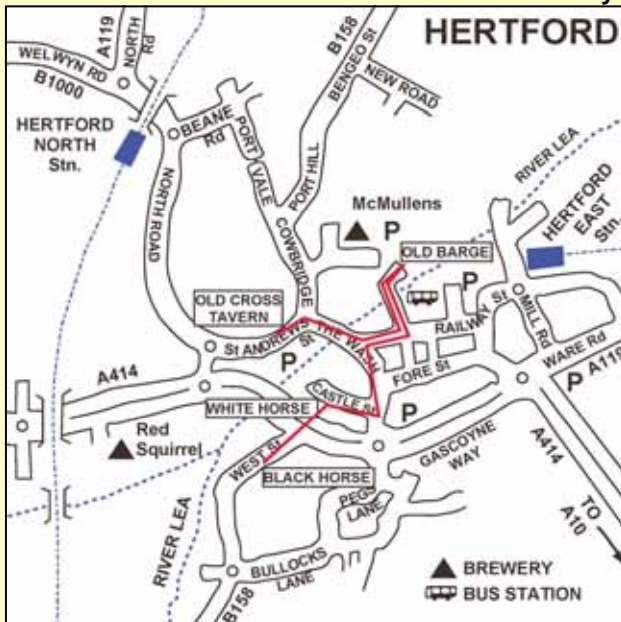


Take A Walk On The Mild Side and join CAMRA members for a walk-about mild tasting session on Tuesday 23 May in Hertford. Centred on four pubs, each one will offer at least one scrumptious Mild for you to savour. No need for you to be a CAMRA member, just come along and join in the fun.

Mild is a traditional British beer style that has been lightly hopped and is usually of lower alcoholic strength – but there are some striking exceptions! Milds are often less bitter than highly-hopped bitters and are usually darker and slightly sweeter than bitter. There are currently around 150 refreshing milds produced by British brewers, offering plenty of diverse flavours to try.

Our evening starts at the **Black Horse** at 8pm, moving to the **White Horse** at 8.45pm, then the **Old Barge** at 9.30pm and finishing at the **Old Cross** at 10.15pm. See our route map below:

Make May a Mild Month!





Enjoy your pint of mild - at each of these three great CAMRA 2006 Good Beer Guide listed Hertford pubs...

Tony & Linda Welcome You To

The Black Horse

29-31 West Street, Hertford
01992 583630

Greene King Ales & Guest Beers
Home Made Meals and Soups,
Sandwiches & Toasted Baguettes

Daily "Specials" and Desserts
Sunday Roasts from 1pm
Quiz Night Sunday 8:30

Closed Tuesday until 5pm
Food available until 10pm Friday & Saturday
Large garden, traditional pub games
Less than 5 minutes walk from town centre

www.blackhorseherts.co.uk

Good Beer Guide 2006 – We're In It



Old Cross Tavern

"The Way Pubs Used to Be"
8 St. Andrew Street, Hertford
Tel: 01992 583133

Ales

4 Regulars & 4 Guests incl. a Mild, Stout or Porter

Good Home Cooked Food

Daily Specials & Lunch Menu Mon-Sat
12:00-3:00

Sun Roast 12:00-4:00 optional 3 courses
incl. Vegetarian option

Beer Festivals

End of May Bank Hol. & Early Oct.

Log Fire – Patio Garden

"Hertford's Premier Real Ale Free House"

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

BEER FESTIVAL

Friday April 28th to Monday 1st May
Approx. 50 beers from around the country
Good pub food served 12.00 - 2.00pm daily

Traditional Sunday Roast served 1.00 - 3.00pm

WELL SUPERVISED

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



**THE LAND OF LIBERTY,
PEACE AND PLENTY
FREEHOUSE**

CAMRA Pub of the Year – Watford & District



Easter Beer Festival

13th-17th April inc.

20+ Ales, real Cider, Perry &
Belgian Bottled Beers
Live Jazz Friday Eve

Hog Roast & Morris Men
On May Day

- Lunches
- Sunday Roasts
- Large Car Park
- Dog Friendly
- Large Beer Garden
- Real Log Fire
- Over-sized lined glasses
- No under 14s in bar

Real Ales, Real Food and a Real Welcome in a Real Pub!

See www.landoflibertypub.com for Real Ales on soon and future Events

The Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty, Long Lane, Heronsgate,
Hertfordshire, WD3 5BS 01923 282226
2/3 mile M25 Junction 17 Follow sign to Heronsgate 1 mile Chorlevwood station

The Farmers Boy

Still

- The only pub in St Albans with its own micro brewery
- Stocking a wide selection of real ales & Belgian beers
 - Serving good quality home-cooked food
- With a crackling open fire & a warm welcome to all

But now you'll notice some differences.....

- A smart new décor throughout
- Even cosier and even more welcoming
- Budvar and new guest ales on draught
- And two new hosts!

Gerry and Heidi invite you to take a look at the new Farmers Boy....

134 London Road, St Albans

01727 800029



Watford's Mild Mecca

Watford is a long way from the heartland of mild ale in the Midlands, so its scarcity in the area over the years has been no real surprise. In recent months, though, the Nascot area near Watford Junction Station has become a bit of a mild oasis, with not one but two pubs regularly stocking a mild.

The ball started rolling when the management at the **Southern Cross** on Langley Road decided to replace the underperforming

Courage Best and give *Theakston's Mild* a go.

They would probably have been happy to see its sales ticking over, but

the mild's popularity has caused them some surprise. Fans of mild in the area caught on quickly and started making regular visits to the pub, and visiting football fans, perhaps alerted by the Southern Cross's

entry in the **Football & Real Ale Guide (Championship) 2005-6**,

have helped to give the beer a push. The mild's popularity, however, has extended beyond those drinkers who might have been expected to seek it out, and it's now not unusual to find someone up at the bar ordering the mild when you walk into the pub. It's even become a popular alternative for some of those who normally drink lager, which is rather surprising.

A couple of months later the Southern Cross was joined in its mild offering by the **Nascot Arms** around the corner on Stamford Street. The Nascot is a Greene King pub and has started to regularly stock *XX Mild*, which has

been doing well. One of our members even said it was one of the best pints he'd had in the area for years. Although milds mostly tend to be of low alcoholic strength this does not explain the name 'mild'. It's usually thought that 'mild' refers to the fact that they are more lightly

hopped and less bitter than some other beers; although Martyn Cornell, in his book 'Beer: The Story of the Pint', says that the name dates back to a time when ales were aged for some time and then blended with freshly brewed ales. The young ales had not picked up the sour taste of the aged beers and were referred to as mild ale.



The Southern Cross, Langley Road, Watford

Mild was once the biggest beer style in Britain, but a decline in consumption began in the 50s, as mild began to be replaced in popularity by bitter and eventually lager. Mild continued to be widely consumed in the Midlands and North West, and

has always been available in certain outlets in other regions, but now perhaps the general resurgence in interest in Real Ale could cause the decline in mild's fortunes to reverse. There certainly seems to be a significant population in Watford who have been waiting for a mild to pop up, their numbers perhaps



The Nascot Arms, Stamford Street, Watford

hidden by pubs' and pub companies' unwillingness to take what they perceive to be a risk. It's certainly heartening to see the Southern Cross and the Nascot Arms taking the risk and finding that covert mild-drinking market. Maybe other pubs should follow their lead; they might be surprised by the result.

Andrew Vaughan

'Creative plumbing' Delivers Beer

Norwegian beer prices are some of the highest in the world.

A woman said she thought she was in heaven when she turned on the kitchen tap to find a plentiful supply of beer.

Haldis Gundersen was planning to do the washing up when she made the unusual discovery at her apartment in Kristiansund, west Norway.

But two flights below, workers in a bar faced the more disappointing realisation that water was flowing from their beer taps.

A worker had connected a beer barrel to the apartment water pipe by mistake.

"I turned on the tap to clean some knives and forks, and beer came out," Ms Gundersen told Reuters news agency. "We thought we were in heaven."

But the beer was flat and tasted odd, she said.



Norwegian beer prices are some of the highest in the world

'Really creative'

Downstairs at the Big Tower Bar, workers realised what the problem was - a new barrel had been misconnected to Ms Gundersen's water supply.

"The water and beer pipes do touch each other, but you have to be really creative to connect them together," said Per Egil Myrvang from the local beer distributor. He helped employees to rectify the problem over the telephone.

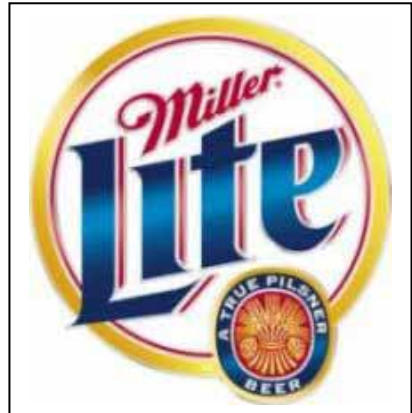
Ms Gundersen bore no grudge. "If it happens again, I'm going to order Baileys," she said. In Norway, the sale of alcohol is controlled through a state monopoly and beer prices are

some of the highest in the world.

BBC News, 13 March 2006

Who Was Joe Owades?

Joe Owades, who died in Sonoma, California, on 16th December 2005, aged 86, was the inventor of that sign of the times, "lite" beer. A biochemist, he invented what was a reduced cholesterol beer by discovering an enzyme that reduced the starch produced from the grains in brewing. The brew was marketed initially in 1967 by the New York brewer Rheingold as Gablingers Diet Beer. It was a resounding failure as most people at the time neither knew nor cared what cholesterol was. The formula was sold to Chicago brewers Peter Hand. Brewery mergers in the States followed the same pattern as here and Hand was taken over by Miller brewing, which was then bought by the cigarette company Philip Morris in the 1970's.



The tobacco company introduced Miller Lite with a high profile advertising campaign and revolutionised the American beer market. Lite beers are now the largest segment of the global market and represent half the beer sold in the US. Owades also worked for Anheuser-Busch who produce Budweiser and Carling beers in Boston and in 1975 went into consultancy and craft brewing. He produced recipes for dark beers for discerning drinkers and was instrumental in the Boston Beer Company's production of the Samuel Adams range. Owades was the author of over 40 papers on the brewing process and helped many of the new American microbreweries to start production.



DOWN YOUR WAY

Baldock: The Good Beer Guide (GBG) listed **Cock** has now become non-smoking.

Berkhamsted: The **Barrel & Bottle** GBG-listed off licence is closed but may re-open.

Bovingdon: The **Royal Oak** is serving *Black Sheep Best Bitter*.

Boxmoor: The **Harvester** sells no real ale (no surprise - Ed)

Bushey Heath: The **Forrester's Arms** is closed and shut for refurb. It is rumoured that it will become a gastro type pub

Bambora has been converted to an Indian restaurant.

Harpenden: All change at the **Carpenters Arms** see page 5.

Heronsgate: Congratulations to Martin Few and Gill Nicoll of the **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty** for being named Carlton Region Best Newcomers at the Morning Advertiser Best Pub awards, and for winning Watford & District Branch's **Pub of the Year** for 2005.

Hertford: News on Hertford's ageing **Wetherspoon** saga. They've agreed to take over the responsibility for the public toilets and after years and years of delay, the aim is to open the pub in February 2007. A licensing application has been submitted; it will be a **Lloyds No.1** pub, likely to be called the **Five Bishops** (after the first synod held in Hertford in 673AD) - so the Jane Wenham "last witch" historical connection has been dropped. The **Saracens Head** is due to close for 8 weeks for a major re-fit including extension by owners Punch. No real ale at present but this is being promised on re-opening. The **Ram** - finally a stop to the relentless manager-go-round in this town centre McMullen's local. New managers Bernie and Gerry know the Ram inside out - Bernie being a longstanding barmaid here. Already things are on the up. The **Bridge House's** much-disliked green interior has been redecorated and a new landlord has been appointed to this McMullen's house. The **Hillside** (previously the **Hooden Horse** and before that the **Reindeer**) has had real ale withdrawn in this (mainly) restaurant - not enough diners drinking the *London Pride* to

Millstream has had a change of licensee, and the publican at the **Warren House**, Hertford's longest running licensee, is due to retire.

Hertingfordbury: **Prince of Wales**, - a new lease has been taken and a new manager is aiming to put this pub back on the map.

Redbourn: The tenant of The **Bull** is leaving the pub due to his wife's ill health.

St Albans: Kevin Yelland from the **Lower Red Lion** has signed a contract to brew at the Verulam Brewery behind the **Farmers Boy**, (see page 11). He will be brewing *Best* and *Farmers Joy* on a regular basis and also other beers badged as '*Alehouse*', which will be on sale at the Lower Red and in the free trade. The Farmers Boy will also be stocking *Courage Directors* and a guest beer. Kevin also reported that he is hoping to brew *IPA* on an occasional basis. Pete McCaskill has been in the **Hare & Hounds** (Enterprise Inns) since December, in January *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, Fuller's *London Pride* and *Wadworth 6X* were available. The **King Harry** is under threat see page 6.

Watford Heath: The **Royal Oak** has two new landlords (ex-coppers apparently) who have been there about 6 weeks.

Watford: **Flynn's** on Estcourt Road has been closed for three months after a licensing review. Several conditions have been attached to its reopening; including a change in the tenant, a change in the premises name and reduced opening hours.

The Watford branch would like to welcome John and Louise Langhorne, the new bar managers at the **West Herts Sports Club** on Park Avenue.

Pub Demolitions

We list below pubs that have been demolished in recent years.

St Albans: The **Mile House**, London Road, (re named the **Grill Bar**) was closed September 2003 and was demolished without planning permission for redevelopment by Crest homes. The site still lies vacant as local residents have successfully blocked all planning applications to date,

Colney Street: (Frogmore). The **Black Horse** on the A5183 (Watling Street). Closed in September 2001 and boarded up. The pub then mysteriously



caught fire when planning permission was refused and the shell was then demolished. A heap of rubble on the site remains but the plot was sold at auction in September 2005. We do not know who bought it.

Waltham Abbey: The **Old English Gentleman**, owned by British Waterways, was closed in December 2005. If you are quick you might catch Fairview Homes actually knocking it down. It is planned to build a marina and posh canal-side residences on the site. The pub was perfectly viable and a little gem - run by an enthusiastic real ale lover who campaigned to keep it open. It will be a sad and unnecessary loss.

Turkey Street: (Enfield) The **Plough** was demolished in September 2002 by Fairview Homes (again) the day before it was due to be visited by English Heritage to assess it for listing. It was rumoured they were fined £20,000, though this has not been confirmed.

The last two pubs to be demolished in St Albans before the Mile House were the **Abbey Tavern** at the bottom of Holywell Hill, and the **Crystal Palace** at the corner of London Road and Lower Marlborough Road.

BRANCH DIARY

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Tue 4 Apr: Watford High Street social. **Moon Under Water**, 8.30pm; **Counting House**, 9.15pm; **One Bell**, 9.45pm; **One Crown**, 10.30pm.

Tue 11 Apr: Abbots Langley social. **Swan**, College Road 8.30pm; **Compasses**, Tibbs Hill Road, 9.15pm.

Mon 24 Apr: Branch committee meeting. **Estcourt Arms**, St. John's Road, Watford, 8.15pm. All members welcome.

Sat 29 Apr: Weekend social. **Rose & Crown**, Hatfield Road, Rickmansworth, from 1pm.

Wed 10 May: **Ealing Beer Festival** social. Ealing Town Hall. Meet at the products stand at 6pm and on the hour thereafter.

Tue 16 May: Social at the **Paper Mill**, Stationers Place, Apsley. Opposite Apsley Station, 8.30pm.

Mon 22 May: Branch committee meeting, **Estcourt Arms**, St. John's Road, Watford,

8.15pm. All members welcome.

Thu 1 June: Rickmansworth social. **Feathers**, Church Street, 8.30pm; **Pennsylvanian**, High Street, 9.15; **Druids**, High Street, 10pm.

Wed 7 June: Social at the **Nascot Arms**, Stamford Street, Watford, 8.30pm.

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan. Phone: 01923 230104. Mobile: 07854 988152.

Email: branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

Internet: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Tue 18 Apr: Branch Meeting, **Lower Red Lion**, St Albans.

Thu 20 Apr: Herts Liaison meeting 7pm **Wenlock Arms**, London N1

Fri 21 – Sat 22 Apr: Ware Beer Festival, see page 5

Tue 25 Apr: Pub of the Year Runner-Up presentation 8pm. **Old Cross Tavern**, Hertford

Tue 2 May: Pub of the Year Winner presentation 8.00pm, **Woodman**, Wildhill

Fri 5 May: Beer Festival Party and New Members Night 7pm onwards (invitation only) **Lower Red Lion**, St. Albans.

Wed 10 May: Pub of the Year bronze award presentation, 8.00pm **White Lion**, St Albans

Tue 16 May: Branch Meeting, **Red Lion**, Radlett

Tue 23 May: Walk on the Mild Side crawl – Hertford. Mild Campaigning. 8.00 **Black Horse**, 8.45 **White Horse**, 9.30 **Old Barge**, 10.15 **Old Cross**. See page 13 for details.

Branch Contact: John Bishop 01582 768478,

Email: realales@yahoo.com,

Internet: www.hertsale.org.uk



Don't forget to mark your diary.
The St. Albans
2006 Beer
Festival - 27 to
30 September.



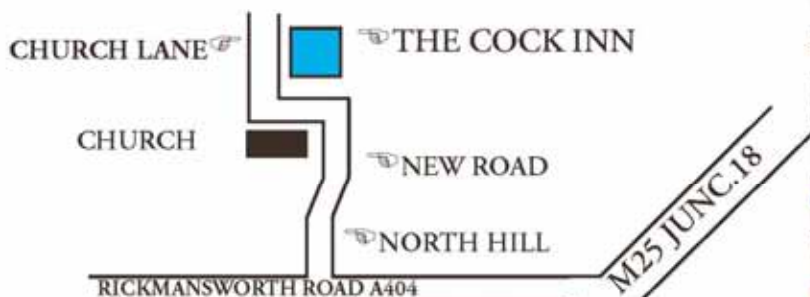
THE COCK INN SARRATT

BANK HOLIDAY BEER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 27th MAY - MONDAY 29th MAY

20 REAL ALES & CIDERS

- BOUNCY CASTLE
- COCONUT SHY
 - JAZZ BAND (SATURDAY)
 - PIMMS TENT
- SUNDAY - CARIBBEAN THEME*
 - HOG ROAST



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