

FREE

www.hertsale.org.uk
www.nherts-camra.org.uk



HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

February/March 2007

Circulation 7000

No. 221



Community Pubs Week

17th-24th February 2007 *support your local*
www.pubsweek.org

Use It Or Lose It



Or it could be ..

At least 26 pubs in Britain close every month. Bad enough but recent research suggests that this figure is set to become significantly higher. Worse still, the majority of these pubs are not high street chain bars or theme pubs but our much-loved community pubs, or Locals - pubs which for generations have provided a focus and service for the surrounding community. Don't let this happen to your Local - give it your regular support. Use it or lose it.



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

New Year New Newsletter

We are pleased to announce that our newsletter from now on represents all the CAMRA Branches in Hertfordshire, for the first time since 1992. **Beer Goggles**, the newsletter produced specifically for the North Hertfordshire reader published its last edition in 2006, and they have now amalgamated with "Pints of View". The **Tapler**, newsletter of CAMRA Mid Chilterns branch, covering the westerly part of Hertfordshire from Hemel Hempstead, continues its successful run unchanged.

See also page 6

Also In This Issue:

- Action Needed Against Supermarkets
- A Festival Tour of Hitchin
- Focus on Herts Community Pubs



**Increase your
business profits
for as little as
£17.99
per week with
RBS~StoreVision**

With over **10,000 installations** worldwide, at Retail Business Solutions, we are adding to our existing customer base every day. Public houses have reaped considerable advantages since converting from basic cash registers to an automated electronic, touch-screen EPOS till system. These businesses are enjoying the following benefits:-

- **Kitchen Printing.** The order process is streamlined as your customers' orders are relayed automatically to the kitchen from the dining area, which gives accuracy and reduces user error.
- **Increased Profits.** RBS~StoreVision ensures that every item on your menu is sold for the correct price. Your staff will never mis-key or guess prices again, and you can change these prices from your Back Office system.
- **Various Logon Methods.** The system allows swipe cards, dallas keys, pin numbers and even fingerprint technology to increase security as well as highlight and reduce user error.
- **Reporting.** Detailed sales reports include sales by user, line, date, time, enabling you to maximise dining potential and increase table turn.



**RETAIL BUSINESS
SOLUTIONS**

A vision for retail

www.rbsretail.com Email: info@rbsretail.com

Please Call **John Morrison**
on **01908 226226** for an
informal discussion and to
arrange a no obligation
demonstration.

McMullen Slams Government Over Lack of Support for Pub Trade

Peter Furness-Smith, managing director of Hertford brewer McMullen & Sons, has written to Home Secretary John Reid, slamming the police and enforcement agencies for failing in their duty to the pub trade.

In a strongly worded letter, he has asked the minister to explain the objectives of law enforcement agencies following two incidents in two McMullen pubs.

The company along with the Designated Premises Licence holder of the **Lord Kitchener** in Barnet, North London, were acquitted in court after one of the bar staff mistakenly served alcohol to a 17-year-old. The case saw the barman receive an on-the-spot fine of £80 and hefty court costs to both the company and the taxpayer, he added.

Furness-Smith is outraged that a group who assaulted three members of staff and smashed glassware and wine bottles at the **Fishery** in Elstree, on December 9, 2006 were let off with a caution.

In the letter he said: "I find it incredible that you encourage your police force to commit resources to entrapping and fining honest hard working pub employees who make an error of judgement but take no action against a person who admits to assault and criminal damage". He has asked Mr Reid to explain how the industry can be expected to retain quality staff when "we are constantly undermined by both our politicians and their law enforcement agencies".

By Michelle Perrett

Hertfordshire's Pints of View is produced by the North, 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.

Action Needed as Supermarkets Sell Lager for Just Pennies More Than Water

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is calling for a stop to irresponsible alcohol promotion as supermarkets sell lager for just 5p more than a pint of bottled water.

A survey by CAMRA revealed that in some supermarkets Fosters and Carlsberg was available for the equivalent of just 54p a pint – or 16p before tax. CAMRA, members of parliament, trade press and pub industry chiefs are calling for urgent action to prevent promotions that serve to exacerbate the problem of binge drinking.

Before Christmas 2006 CAMRA carried out a survey of drinks promotions in major supermarkets.

EXAMPLES:

- Sainsbury's selling Carling for 54p a pint (£9.99 for 24x440ml cans). The excise duty on a 4% beer is around 30p, and VAT is 8p.
- Morrison's: Selling Grolsch £16 for 40x300ml. (76p a pint).
- Tesco: Selling Budweiser £9.98 for 20x300ml (95p a pint).

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner (below) said: "The ridiculous practice of the major supermarkets selling below cost for alcohol to out-price each other is reckless, irresponsible and dangerous.

In perspective water in the costs 49p a is not excise duty



CAMRA believes that irresponsible drinks promotions in the off trade are a major cause of binge-drinking incidents, yet it is licensed premises that suffer the fallout while supermarkets continue with impunity.

Mike Benner continued: "Pubs often come under unjustified attack for encouraging binge-drinking, yet the industry has committed itself to curb irresponsible drinking and cheap alcohol promotions in recent years. This hard work is undermined by supermarkets selling enormous quantities of alcohol at prices that simply cannot be justified.

To put it in some bottled supermarket pint and water subject to as alcohol is".

An 18-year-old is free to take advantage of these ludicrous beer prices, walk out the supermarket door and then drink in a completely unsupervised and unsafe environment. Beer can be given by them to under-age drinkers who do not know their limits but pour premium-strength lager down their throats all night. This is in stark contrast to adults enjoying a drink in a pub which is regulated by law as to who they can and cannot serve.

Something has to be done now to make supermarkets stop the damage these promotions can cause".

MP John Grogan of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group has tabled an Early Day Motion urging supermarkets and off-licenses to follow the example of pubs, act to end irresponsible drinks promotions, and not to use alcohol as a loss leader on their premises. CAMRA is urging consumers to lobby their MP to sign Early Day Motion 495 and make supermarkets take their social responsibilities more seriously. 41 MPs have signed the motion so far.

Carlsberg Speculation

According to several financial pages on January 1st papers, Carlsberg is looking to strengthen its position within the UK. Speculation is that it may bid for Scotco but if it is fact then any brewery factory producing lager is a likely target.



Carlsberg's chief executive says there is a lot of room for consolidation in the UK. Carlsberg's position within the UK market has slipped and accounts for just 15% profit margin. Carlsberg's makeover strategy is expected to take place before October when the company's lucrative contract with Punch expires. Punch provides 10% of Carlsberg's income.

DH

THE LORDSHIP ARMS

Herts. Pub of the Year 2002
The Inn In The Sticks
Benington, Nr Stevenage



**REAL ALE OASIS FOR THE DISCERNING
DRINKER**

Fuller's London Pride, Crouch Vale Brewer's Gold
Plus 6 ever changing guest beers from
Independent and Micro Breweries
Also Traditional Cider
A fantastic array of fine ales as usual

Lunchtime Snacks

Curry Night every Wednesday £6.00
Two Course Sunday Roast £11.00

Telephone 01438 869665



**Woodman,
Wildhill**

Guest Beers
Lunchtime Food

45 Wildhill Lane
(Between A1000 and B158)

01707 642618

Current and Seven Times Winner
South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year

Greene King Beers Are Over-Priced - Official!

"We invest in quality ale brands that trade at a premium to their categories" says Rooney Anand, chief executive of Greene King in their interim report 2006/07.

There are many other snippets in the report that give an insight into how executives view our locals. For instance pubs are referred to as 'units' and Belhaven brewery and pubs which were taken over in 2005 are 'At the forefront of Scottish pub development, and Champion of the Independent' – independent they are no more.

Morland of Abingdon were taken over by Greene King in 2000 and they have been brewing *Old Speckled Hen* (OG 1050, ABV 5.2%) at Bury St Edmunds since they closed the Abingdon brewery, Rooney (below) now admits that since August the ABV has been



reduced to 4.5%. Has there been a corresponding reduction in price?

Greene King's takeover of Belhaven has given them an insight into how the smoking ban might affect trade when

the ban is enforced in England in July this year. Smoking was banned in Scotland from 26 March 2006 and Belhaven has seen an increase in profit of 8% with next to no compliance and enforcement issues.

The hot summer and the World Cup Rooney blames for a marked switch from ale to lager. GK's own-brewed ale volume declined by 1% during the 24 week reporting period while total beer volume was up. "Against the backdrop of a decline in the ale market, Greene King brands' share rose.



According to industry statistics our share rose by 0.3 per cent in the on-trade and by 0.7 per cent in the off-trade. Only about one fifth of our own-brewed volume is sold in Greene King pubs – the vast majority goes to external customers." The problem with external customers is that the brewery has little control

over quality and poorly kept beer can soon create a bad reputation.

For the rugby followers; for the next four years "Greene King IPA will be the Official Beer of England Rugby, Greene King pubs will also become Official Supporters' Pubs of England Rugby". That should put the fear of God into the other nations.

Then of course there is the acquisition of Hardy and Hanson of Kimberley, 83 managed and 185 tenanted pubs and a brewery. Well the brewery has gone and with it 3% of the Nottingham jobs. All the beer production has been switched to Bury, so we can all look forward to some more food miles as they shift what is mainly water around the country.

Rooney also comments on the change to opening hours, he thinks that both pubs and the towns they occupy are more pleasant places as a result of a reduced culture of rushed 'drinking up'. On average the managed houses are open an extra four hours a week, and any increase in sales is counter balanced by the increase in cost of being open longer.

Bob Norrish

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

**8 Real Ales and 1 Real Cider
7 Ever-changing guests
Belgian and Czech on
draught
Belgian bottled beers
Malt Whiskies**

Comfortable B&B,
Quiz night Wednesdays
No music or machines

Lunch time meals
Sunday Roast lunch
Regular beer festivals

New Year, New Newsletter

As the more observant readers will have noticed we have been striving to continually improve "Pints of View". The new format; larger editions (more pages) and of course the move to all pages being full colour can be credited to John Kemp who organises the layout. The success of St Albans Beer Festival has provided the extra finance necessary.

So what's new?

Firstly the *Down Your Way* section will cover the whole county, and your input, as has always been the case, is very useful. We will be printing an additional 2,000 copies, so our lucky advertisers are getting a double bonus, which is more coverage exactly where they want it (in

the pubs) at no extra cost (prices and details are published on page 10). Again the observant reader will have noticed the Watford, Hertford/Ware articles regularly featuring and now we will have the opportunity to publicise everything that the active North Herts branch are undertaking as well.

It is pleasing to see that in this edition articles have started to come in from other local writers; please note the credits.

I am looking forward to editing the improved newsletter through 2007. We always welcome and publish readers' contributions and accept constructive criticism, so please tell us, as well as everyone else down the pub what you the Hertfordshire drinker thinks.

Steve Bury Editor

Around North Hertfordshire

The North Hertfordshire Branch of CAMRA covers a wide and diverse area, populated by around 260,000 people. The major population concentration is found in Stevenage where just short of 80,000 people live. The historic towns of Baldock,

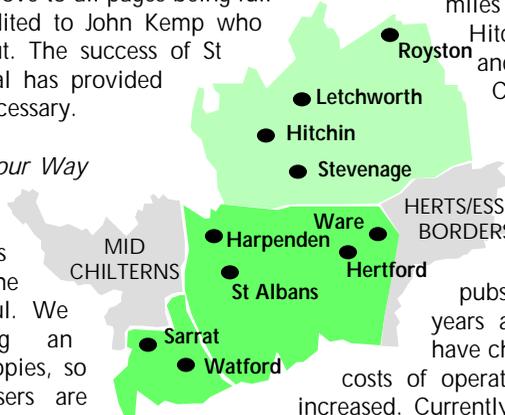
Hitchin and Royston plus Letchworth, the world's first Garden City are the other major population centres. The attractive environment consists of not only the five established towns, but many villages and hamlets. The rural section of the North Hertfordshire District covers around 187 square miles around the towns of Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston, and has boundaries with Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Essex.

Many of the villages, despite modern changes and growth, retain many picturesque and historic features. Sadly, many rural pubs have disappeared over recent years as peoples' pub going habits have changed during a time when the costs of operating a pub have dramatically increased. Currently the area's pub count is 236 with just one single brewery – Buntingford Brewery Co, based on Therfield Heath near Royston.

The local CAMRA branch of CAMRA numbers 520 or so - members who all share a love of good cask-conditioned beer. Unfortunately we rarely see more than a handful of our members at meetings and social events. We try to visit as many pubs in our area as we can during the course of the year in order to 'keep in touch' and continually update nominations for the national CAMRA **Good Beer Guide**.

Besides selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide we present a small number of awards to the good pubs in our area; Pub-of-the-Year, Community Pub-of-the-Year and Most Improved Pub once a year. The recipients are decided by members at Branch Meetings and we try to get as many members as possible to the actual presentations. We hold two beer festivals each year (Hitchin in March, and Letchworth in September) at which a team of hard-working members ensure that beer lovers can sample a wide range of beers not normally found in our area. Our next event is on the 23rd and 24th March at Hitchin Town Hall, see page 12. We'd love to see you there!

*Andy Rawnsley, Chair & Festival Organiser,
CAMRA North Hertfordshire*



Pints of View, previously covering South Herts and Watford & District branches, now also covers the North Herts branch.

The Strathmore Arms, a Community Pub

The present **Strathmore Arms** at St Paul's Walden would appear to have been built in 1877 by Lady Glamis of St. Paul's Waldenbury to replace a small 'beer-house' close by. The reason was to house some of the servants of guests at St. Paul's Waldenbury; not a bad idea.

Prior to current landlord Danny, the pub had been 'bumbling' along for many years without its full potential being realised. Danny arrived via the **Sunrunner** in Hitchin and the **Plough** at Ley Green. Both pubs served excellent beer and with him it continues at the **Strathmore Arms** – pictured below.



The definition of a Community Pub is a pub which organises various activities for and on behalf of the local community, be it in a village or an urban environment. The Strathmore Arms organises and raises money for the local parish church and the village people in the tiny hamlet. In return and to also make money for the community, some local people sell their own produce at the pub. Amongst items sold are locally made jams, vegetables and fresh eggs etc.

The pub also enjoys a very good liaison with the Strathmore Estate and each year it provides the food for the annual Steam Rally event. At the same time it holds a beer festival on that day. This is in addition to the ones held through the year at the pub.

The Strathmore Arms has been in the CAMRA national **Good Beer Guide** every year since 2004, not long after Danny took over the pub. It boasts a wide range of real ale from many micro-breweries nationwide.

The pub is divided into three areas; one is the main drinking area, which as you would expect is next to the bar. The second one is the dining area in which food is served

from Thursday to Saturday evenings only. In the third area various pub games can be played.

Being close to the church, the pub is popular with the local bell ringers, who after ringing the changes, down a few beers before Danny rings *his* bell for time at the bar.

All in all, it is worth a trip to the community-orientated pub the Strathmore Arms at St. Paul's Walden, which stands besides the B651 in North Hertfordshire, about 5 miles south of Hitchin.

Brian Mason © 2007



The Strathmore Arms

St Paul's Walden, Nr Hitchin SG4 8BT

01438 871654

strathmorearms@tiscali.co.uk



North Herts pub of the year 2004

Herts pub of the year 2004

North Herts Community pub of the year 2006

*Woodforde's Wherry & London Pride + 3
constantly changing guests over 1500 so far*

Open

Mon 6pm-11pm , Tue-Thur 12-2.30pm & 5pm,
11pm , Fri/Sat 12pm-11pm , Sun 10am-10.30pm
Sunday Morning Breakfasts & Roast Dinners a
Speciality

BEER FESTIVALS IN 2007

Easter Fest - April 5th-9th
Beer & Steam Fest - Jun 7th-10th
Last Of The Summer Fest - Sept 13th-16th

The Tudor Tavern

By Steve Bury, CAMRA South Herts
Branch Pub Preservation Officer

I thought that the amount of correspondence received following the threat of a change of name and character of the **Fleur De Lys** in French Row St Albans was outstanding but it has been equalled by the interest in the **Tudor Tavern**. One of the oldest pubs in St Albans, dating back to the 13th century (history later) has been taken over by one of the country's leading Thai restaurant chains.

The Herts Advertiser published an article on 14th December with a quote from your editor, who is also the CAMRA South Hertfordshire Pub Preservation Officer.

"Local organisations are campaigning for the Tudor Tavern in George Street to retain its name.

The chain, Thai Square, which was named as the best UK Thai restaurant by the prime minister of Thailand, has 16 restaurants, mainly in London. Managing director Haim Danous said his company intended to operate the first floor of the building as a Thai restaurant and have tea rooms and a bar on the ground floor.

The Tudor Tavern date back to 1401, and is a Grade II listed building.

Mr Danous said: "It is in a poor state and needs a lot of work doing to it. We are already in talks with English Heritage and St Albans District Council's conservation team about it and we will be putting in our plans after Christmas".

He added: "This is a beautiful building and I really can't see why anyone would want to change what is there.

"Since we bought the freehold, a large number of other chains have approached us because they would like to operate restaurants there but we intend to bring our own style of Thai dining to the city".

St Albans Civic Society chairman, Eric Roberts, said: "It is very good that the company is aware of its responsibilities in owning such a historic building, but I would appeal to them to retain the Tudor Tavern's name even if they have to incorporate their

own brand name into it, because everyone in St Albans knows it as the Tudor Tavern".

He added: "I am not sure that we need another Thai restaurant in George Street. There are already three others in the immediate vicinity".

The local branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is also concerned about the proposed changes. Branch pub preservation officer Steve Bury said: "We are losing too many local pub names which have significance in the community. Although this has only been known as the Tudor

Tavern since 1932 that is how everyone knows it".

Mr Bury said the building got its name after two adjoining pubs, The George and The Swan, were knocked together to form one unit.

He added: "I have no doubt members of the branch will be campaigning to keep the

name but there is very little anyone can do if the owners decide to go ahead with the change".

I was slightly unhappy with my quote and wrote the following which was published in the papers 21st December edition.

"Following my quote in your story headlined "Thai takeover could end Tudor reign" about the Tudor Tavern in St Albans (Herts Advertiser, December 14), I would like to add the following:

Firstly I was not misquoted but some other key issues I mentioned were not included. Firstly George Street already has three Thai restaurants. One is in another lost local pub, the Old Kings Arms.

CAMRA is more worried about the loss of the public house than the loss of the name. We would be happy to see it remain open using any of its previous names - the Swan, the George or even the Kings Arms, which was used for a short time in the 17th century.

I do not deny that the Tudor Tavern has not been run properly for a long period of time and this includes the beer quality. There is a compromise here - the new owners could run a pleasant bar on the ground floor serving real ale, open to the public as well as the first-floor diners. Thai Square upstairs, Tudor Tavern downstairs with everyone happy. I invite the new owners to comment and perhaps offer a meeting to the interested parties.

Steve Bury



Obituary

Reg Thomas 1944 - 2006

Reg Thomas who died aged 62 on 11th December, will not be a familiar name to most readers of this newsletter, but in the early days of CAMRA, and before, he supported its aims in the very best way possible - he consumed copious amounts of real ale. Reg was a sort of cross between Oliver Reed and Andy Capp, concurring wholeheartedly with the latter's definition (courtesy of cartoonist Reg Smythe) of a "part-timer" - someone who only drinks when they are thirsty.

There are many legendary stories about Reg, still often recounted by those who knew him, but two will suffice.

After a visit to his sister Rose, and a few lunchtime beers, we spent the afternoon hiatus (no all-day opening hours

then) watching St Albans City playing at Hitchin (where Rose still lives), and at one point during the exciting match Reg was asleep and snoring whilst standing unsupported on the sparsely populated terraces. He was, as usual, wide awake again by opening time.

Another uniqueness occurred on one of our visits to the Munich Oktoberfest in the 70's: Reg had bemoaned the traditional well-short measure we had just received, so he returned to the servery to request a top-up. Who else but Reg could have come back, as he did, with a full litre?

Amongst many Reg coinages, two that will forever stick in the mind are "an incidental", which was a pint Reg bought for himself between rounds, the rest of the company being somewhat slow by his standards; and his derisive description of the standard beer



Reg in his heyday

glasses (20cl, about one third of a pint) used in the Netherlands (on the way to or from Munich) as "Thimbles".

Despite his enthusiasm and capacity for beer, Reg never displayed any of the traits associated with drinking, always remaining endearingly gentle and genial whatever his consumption.

Reg retired as a "full timer" after a birthday celebration evening in the late 70's, when his 6 pints of *Rutland Barley Wine* (abv 7.5%) at the Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger were followed by another 6 of *Fargo* (abv 5%) at the **Jolly Sailor**, St Albans, then another 6 of Fuller's *ESB* (5.5%) at the **West Herts Sports & Social Club**, Watford. Reg then returned to Wales to live quietly with his now late father.

We will not see his like again. Thanks, Reg, for the memories.

John Green

Banks's Becomes Marston's

The Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, PLC ("W&DB") reported another year of strong financial results in its preliminary results announcement for the year to 30th September 2006 released to the Stock Exchange. At the same time, W&DB has also announced its intention to change the name of the company to Marston's PLC, which was effective from 8th January 2007.

Along with the change of company name, its trading divisions will become Marston's Beer Company (formerly WDB Brands); Marston's Inns and Taverns (managed pubs, formerly Pathfinder Pubs); and Marston's Pub Company (tenanted and leased pubs, formerly The Union Pub Company). Commenting on the name change Ralph Findlay, Chief Executive, said: "Our new name reflects the fact that we have become a national business in recent years. It will also enable us to promote more clearly to our customers across the whole business our traditional values and the product and service quality associated with the Marston's brand.

Marston's is one of the strongest beer brands in the UK with its growth being supported over recent years by increased marketing investment, including becoming the 'Official Beer of England' through our sponsorship of the England and Wales Cricket Board".

Cont/d

W&DB operates 2,352 pubs across England and Wales, and three breweries; Marston's brewery in Burton-upon-Trent, Banks's brewery in Wolverhampton and Jennings brewery in the Lake District.

W&DB is the UK's largest brewer of cask ale, with beer brands including *Marston's Pedigree*, *Banks's*, *Mansfield* brands and *Jennings Cumberland Ale*. The company head office will remain in Wolverhampton and none of the brewing operations is affected by this proposed name change. You don't see much Jennings or Banks's beer in Hertfordshire but *Marston's Pedigree* is available in abundance.

Pedigree is a classic Burton-brewed beer and has a distinctive sulphur flavour which softens the palate. Unfortunately if the beer is not looked after correctly this can turn to a nasty aroma likened to that of rotten eggs or stink bombs. Unfortunately, I am constantly finding such lack lustre Pedigree these days.



Steve Bury

THE CHEQUERS INN

6th Beer Festival

5pm Thur 29th March – Sun 1st April

Food available

Live music Saturday night



Open Monday 4pm – close
Tuesday to Sunday noon – close
Food all days except Monday
Accommodation available

16 London Road
Woolmer Green, SG3 6JP
01438 813216

www.benicksatthechequers.co.uk

It Couldn't Happen to My Hertford Local, Could it?

It already has. In Hertford alone, since 1950, over 30 pubs have closed. Whilst this has not always been for economical reasons (Hertford's road improvements claimed five by itself), the loss in

numbers has coincided with a dwindling of people using their community pubs, or locals as we prefer to call them. Maybe this is fine so long as there is another just up the road but what happens when that one closes? Though the traditional pub has had to compete with the rise of other pastimes and activities, the Local still holds a place dear to most drinkers' hearts. Many residents use theirs – but maybe not often enough. With the worrying trend of pub closures across England, our message has to be "Use It or Lose It". For the record (and lament,



Want to Advertise in Pints of View?

Page Size and Cost (excl. VAT)

Back page: 148 x 210 mm = £160.00 – For 2007 only Apr/May and Dec/Jan 2007/8 issues are now available.

Inside back page: 148 x 210mm = £125.00

Half Page: 148 x 105 = £90.00

Quarter Page: 74 x 105 mm = £50.00

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

Copy and advert deadline for our Apr/May issue is 18 March 2007.

First time advertisers to confirm in writing please.

Contact:

John Bishop, Tel: 01582- 768478

Email: realales@yahoo.com

over a pint, in a Hertford local) below are the pub closures since 1950. Maybe your town

has a similar tale to tell. Send us **your** locals' favourite stories - past and present,

Les Middlewood

Pub	Year	Brewery at Closure	What's There Now
Albion, Railway Place	1966	Allied	housing
Bear's Ear, Cowbridge	1955	McMullen	offices
Bell and Crown, Cowbridge	1990	McMullen	house
Black Swan, West Street	1959	Allied	by-pass
Brewery Tap, Millbridge	1958	Wells & Winch	gardens
Cold Bath, North Road	1962	McMullen	flats
Cranbourne Arms, St.Andrew St.	1954	Wells & Winch	house
Dimsdale Arms, Fore Street	1994	McMullen	restaurant/flats
Dolphin, Railway Street	2004	McMullen	soon to be flats
Gladstone Arms, Castle Street	1965	McMullen	by-pass
Globe, Bengoe Street	1961	Allied	housing
Green Dragon, Maidenhead St.	1952	McMullen	shops/flats
Greyhound, Port Vale	1978	McMullen	house
John O' Gaunt, Pegs Lane	1994	McMullen	club
Kings Head, St.Andrew Street	1955	McMullen	shop
Lion's Head, Railway Street	1961	Free House	flats
Little Bell, St.Andrew Street	1959	McMullen	shops
Nag's Head, Ware Road	1994	Whitbread	flats
Old Oak, Hertingfordbury Road	1983	Allied	widened road
Plough, London Road	1990	Allied	offices
Punch Bowl, Railway Street	1980	McMullen	shop
Queens Head, Fore Street	1956	Taylor Walker	shop and flats
Red Lion, St.Andrew Street	1961	McMullen	by-pass
Reindeer, Port Hill	1993	Allied	restaurant
Rising Sun, Balfour Street	1958	McMullen	house
Salisbury Tap, Church Street	c1970	McMullen	hotel extension
Ship, Old Cross	1974	McMullen	shop
Talbot Arms, Fore Street	c1960	McMullen	shop
Three Tuns, St.Andrew Street	2003	Pub Co.	restaurant
Unicorn, Hartham Lane	1984	McMullen	still empty
Warren House, Railway Street	1980	Allied	shop

Ed Says: St Albans has also lost its share of locals. Although I do not have all the dates it is as follows:- **Abbey Tavern** Holywell Hill - offices, **Bat & Ball** Chequer Street - shop, **Cricketers** - Indian restaurant, **Crystal Palace** London Road - offices, **Great Red Lion** French Row - restaurant, **Mile House** London Road - demolished and due for redevelopment to flats, **Midland Railway** Alma Road - flats, **Old Kings Arms** George Street - Thai restaurant, **Queens Hotel** Chequer Street – shop.

A Festival Tour of Hitchin

Are you thinking of attending the joint CAMRA-Round Table Hitchin beer festival? This year's beer festival will be held in the town hall in Brand Street Hitchin on the 16th and 17th of March. Here you will be able to sample over 50 beers and ciders and full details can be found in our advertisement opposite. To get to the festival from the railway station you turn left into Walsworth Road and continue past the **Radcliff Arms** until you reach the traffic lights at the top of Hermitage Road. Turn right past the parade of shops until you reach Wilkinson's store, where you turn left at the lights, and Brand Street is on the right.

Once you have visited our beer festival in the town hall you may wish to visit a few pubs that are close by. Turn left out of the town hall into Brand Street and at the traffic lights turn right and continue towards the town square, keep going straight and you



will enter Bucklersbury; on your left hand side you will see the **Kings Arms**, above. This is a fine old multi-roomed pub where you will usually find *Adnams Bitter* and *Broadside*, *Deuchars IPA* and possibly a *Potton* beer. It stays open until 1am at weekends. Turn left out of the pub and continue into Tilehouse Street. If you go up the hill you will find the **Coopers Arms** (below)- a McMullen's pub.



Here you can sample *AK*, *Country* and their seasonal beer. This is the best pub in town if you want to watch Sky TV. Food is served lunchtimes. On entering Tilehouse Street if you go down the hill joining Bridge Street you will reach a mini

roundabout, where you will encounter the **Half Moon**. Here Howard and Wendy will be happy to serve you with *Adnams Bitter*, *Youngs Special* and two guest beers; along with a cider and perry. They serve food at



lunchtimes and early evenings. The pub also stays open until 1am at weekends. On leaving the Half Moon (left) go back up Bridge Street and turn right into Sun Street. Passing the **Sun Hotel**, below, (*Greene King IPA* and *Abbot* on hand pump) you will find yourself back at the town square. Continue straight keeping the church on your right-hand side, and at the end of the passage to your right you will see a set of traffic lights. Crossover as if you were going to visit Wilkinson's then bearing right you will reach the **Sunrunner** (below)



with its tables and chairs outside. This pub is like a mini beer festival in its own right and I am sure that most of you will have been there before. They serve up *Potton Shannon IPA*, *Bass* and up to six changing guest beers *Paulener* and *Lefe* are sold along with two changing ciders; fruit wines are also available. Food is served here at lunchtimes.



Closing time at weekends is midnight. If you are heading back to the station you will need to continue along Bancroft into Nightingale Road and the station is at the end by the roundabout. Just before you reach the station, beside the B&Q store you will find the

Nightingale, right. Here you will be able to quaff three *Nethergate* beers and *Wychwood's Hobgoblin*. This is a fine watering hole to end an enjoyable day's drinking at the Hitchin Beer Festival!



Richard Emeritt MBE



2007
Hitchin



Beer & Cider Festival

"The Best of Beers"



50 Cask Beers

Hitchin Town Hall , Brand Street, Hitchin

Friday 23rd March, 12 -11 Saturday 24th March, 11 -11

Entry: £1 Fri Lunch, £2.50 all other times
Round Table, CAMRA, EBCU & OAPs FREE

Hitchin Town Hall is a Non Smoking venue
Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

Borehamwood is a Beer

Desert - Official

Many publicans are in for a surprise visit from the Campaign for Real Ale as we start to survey every pub in Hertfordshire for our forthcoming new Real Ale Guide. The last edition was printed in 2000 so it is now getting out of date, and the information when completed will be available free on the web.

As the one-man survey team for Borehamwood I wrote an article in edition 182 August /September 2000 "Is Borehamwood becoming a beer desert?" stating that since 1995 the choice and variety of beers available had dropped to an alarming level. The **Shooting Star**, **Green Dragon**, **Cannon**, **Woodcock** and **Woods** had ceased serving real ale. The **Wishing Well** was serving *Courage Best*, the Suffolk Punch, now the **Willow Tree**, served **Bass**, the **Wellington**, served *Worthington Bitter* and the Elstree Moat House, now the Holiday Inn, *Wadworth 6X*. All four have now discontinued real ale and the **Directors Arms**, which was at some time between 2000/2006 serving *Courage* real ale, but now the pumps lie idle. The **Enigma** opposite the station also served real ale for a short period when it re-opened following conversion from the Rhythm Room.

The single champion of the cask ale cause is the **Hart & Spool** (Wetherspoon's) which serves Greene King *Abbot Ale*, Shepherd Neame *Spitfire* and Marston's *Pedigree*, plus guests.

The **Mops & Brooms** on the outskirts of the town in Well End, a McMullens, house has continued to serve Macs *Country Bitter* and *AK*, and occasional seasonal offerings.

So what is the problem? The publicans will tell you that the customers are not interested in drinking real ale and they cannot keep the beer in drinkable condition. The more likely answer is that in many cases the licensees and staff have no interest in the quality or condition of the beer they sell, so the decline was inevitable.

I can add little more than the customer gets what they deserve and it appears that Borehamwood's real ale drinkers do so elsewhere.

Steve Bury

THE GARIBALDI

61 Albert Street St Albans

01727 855046



Now offering a selection of **FIVE** different cask ales.

Open All Day, Every Day.

- Food Being Served -
Lunchtimes 12 noon - 2.30pm



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

Selection of Belgian Beers

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

No Smoking in Pubs – What Does it all Mean?

There has been much debate about the rights and wrongs of smoking in pubs, and how the new regulations will change English pubs and affect their future. This article is not the place to continue this but aims to give some clarity as to what you can expect from 1 July 2007 – the implementation date.

Made under the “Health Act of 2006”, “The Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006” state that smoking will not be allowed in enclosed and substantially enclosed premises. This will directly hit pubs. Premises are considered to be enclosed if they:

- a) Have a ceiling or roof; and
- b) Except for door, windows and passageways, are wholly enclosed either permanently or temporarily.

Straightforward really. If you are in a bar you will not be allowed to smoke. Premises are considered to be substantially enclosed if they have a ceiling or roof but there is

- a) An opening in the walls; or
- b) An aggregate area of openings in the walls, which is less than half of the walls, including other structures that serve the purposes of walls and constitute the perimeter of the premises.

In determining the area of an opening or an aggregate area of openings of a substantially enclosed space, no account can be taken of openings in which there are doors, windows or other fittings that can be open or shut. The word “roof” includes any fixed or moveable structure or device which is capable of covering all or part of a premises as a roof, for example a canvas awning.

So that also rules out smoking in a, sometimes, “roofed” patio or the like, a conservatory or enclosed lean-to. Smoking in an open space such as a garden will still be allowable.

All around Hertfordshire pub owners and landlords are considering what is best for them, their customers and the future of their business.

Most will still want to cater for smokers as best they can. Around the County you will now be seeing a rash of construction at our pubs – as open-sided but roofed shelters, verandas, walkways and “bandstands” are being erected to cater for smokers. Smoking in these is permitted under the Act so long as they meet the above criteria.

Whilst many pubs will have land on which to erect these shelters, spare a thought for landlocked town pubs, with no outside areas to convert – this Act will give them even harder choices than most – one of the reasons recently given by Greene King

as to why they decided to sell 150 pubs to Admiral Inns - that the pubs concerned lacked opportunity to continue to cater for smokers.

And policing of these regulations? Your District or Borough Councils will take on this role. Landlords will be liable to substantial penalties or fines if they do not display a No Smoking Premises sign (£200 penalty or fine up to

£1000) or for failure to prevent smoking (fine up to £2500). The smoker can be given a fixed £50 penalty or fine up to £200.

Evidence from similar smoking bans in Ireland and Scotland is that regulations are rigorously implemented and that the early years following bans can be difficult for some pubs to endure.

However let’s hope that the new smoke-free pub environment will encourage new customers (hitherto put off by the smell and smoky air). Maybe some smokers will give up or just, if reluctantly, get used to the new order – after all, in many cases it will still be possible to go outside for a puff.

But most of all, if we want to see our pubscene left unchanged by these regulations, we must (all of us) still get out there and support our pubs and publicans, particularly during that difficult initial period.

Les Middlewood



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.



Herts Readers Write



Mokoko Shaken but not Stirred

I am writing to you to make some observations about an article which appeared in your August/September edition written by Mr. Steve Bury (pp.14-16). My name is Tim Watson and I am the head bartender at **Mokoko**, Verulam Road, St. Albans.

I appreciate that the lack of "real ales" at Mokoko may make the venue unappealing for Mr. Bury due to his personal drinking tastes. However, I would disagree most strongly with the depiction of the bar as insidiously destroying the heritage of St. Albans. Having seen the state of the Harrow public house when acquired, I would contend rather than being "excellent", it was in fact in a very seriously dilapidated state, the implications of which presented concerns that were more than merely cosmetic.

Having refurbished and reopened, I am extremely proud of what the owner, Mr Patel, has achieved, rather than catering to the teenage binge drinking market (a significant source of income for many of the large pub chain companies in St. Albans, which is I

would suggest a major contributor to numerous social problems in the community, particularly on weekend nights), Mokoko is aimed at adults, promoting alcohol as a beverage to be enjoyed responsibly. We have extremely talented and well trained staff. The two head-bartenders are national cocktail competition finalists (Bombay Sapphire gin and Finlandia vodka) and are currently completing their advanced certificates in Wines and Spirits from the highly respected Wine and Spirit Education Trust. The bar has an excellent and eclectic spirit selection, with unusual products ranging from Japanese single malt whiskies to 23-year-old rums from Guatemala. I spent two weeks in September of last year working in Champagne, in order to learn more about the production of the wine. We also regularly run "connoisseur nights" for the public, where a particular spirit or theme is chosen and a tutored tasting is held. With regard to cocktails and the identification that is made between them and "alcopops" on p.16, though I am sure this is primarily humorous, I would contend that the history of cocktails is extremely rich and there is absolutely no connection whatsoever between these two concepts. *Cont'd*

**CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1997 - 2007
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

The White Lion



Open 5.30pm-11pm (Mon), 12pm-11pm Tue-Sun

**Black Sheep Bitter & Young's Special,
plus 4 ever-changing guest beers**

**Exceptional home-cooked food
lunchtimes and evenings**

**Tues-Sat 12-2pm, 6.30-8.30pm
Sunday lunches served 1pm until 4**

**91 Sopwell Lane, St. Albans
Herts AL1 1RN
Tel: 01727 850540**

**Live Acoustic Music Every Tuesday
Night and Sunday from 5 pm**

www.TheWhiteLionPH.co.uk

Herts Readers Write continued...

I would advise Mr. Bury to head over to the Duke's Hotel in St. James' Place and order a dry martini if he would like to sample a superb drink! Indeed, I would be delighted to make him a fine classic cocktail (perhaps a Harvard?). I accept that there are bars that serve fundamentally poor cocktails on a volume basis with cheap ingredients in order to maximise profit. However, the approach at Mokoko is absolutely the antithesis of this. Premium spirits are used and lemon and lime juice are squeezed freshly on site every day. I am very aware of the soapbox from which I have been shouting loudly during this email, but I feel that there is a legitimate position to be defended.

Passion for real ale as I understand it (taste, small boutique producers, provenance, origin etc.) seems to me far from unrelated to interest in the smaller independent whisky distillers like Bruichladdich (which, as I'm sure you're aware, was recently purchased by the extremely charismatic Mark Reynier with a number of Islay residents - by the way the 15-

year-old Sauternes cask finish expression is delicious!) or a family owned Italian winery. As one of CAMRA's stated aims is to "promote quality, choice and value for money", I think Mr. Patel should be supported for attempting to promote responsible enjoyment of high quality drinks. Although the focus of the organisation is of course real ales, a more inclusive and perhaps open minded approach to the appreciation of other forms of alcohol is I think warranted. Consumers in the UK are getting gradually more educated and interested in quality, though it is certainly an uphill struggle. I certainly applaud CAMRA's efforts in this regard. *Tim Watson*

Ed Says: This has arrived a little after the event but the comments about the "Mokoko" on page 14 of edition 218 actually came from Tony Billings, and the article plainly said so. Other comment in *Herts Readers Write* page 12 of the same edition came from Tim Holman. Tim Watson is correct though in the fact that the lack of real ale does not meet with my approval, and the change of name is equally as bad and pointless. The point that is being missed is CAMRA's aim is to *Cont/d*

THE LAND OF LIBERTY, PEACE AND PLENTY FREEHOUSE

CAMRA Hertfordshire Pub of the Year!

Various events for
Community Pubs Week
17-24th February
Come along and celebrate!

Gourmet **Thai** Food Night
Wednesday 6th March

EASTER Beer Festival !!!



- **5+ Real Ales**
- **Real Food**
- **New Belgian Beers In Stock**
- **Free soft drinks for drivers of 3 or more beer drinkers**
- **Over-sized lined glasses**
- **Real Log Fire**
- **Dog Friendly**
- **No under 14s in bar**

See www.landoflibertypub.com for more details

The Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty

Long Lane, Heronsgate, Hertfordshire, WD3 5BS 01923 282226

R4 Bus Direct from Watford & Rickmansworth

2/3 mile M25 Junction 17, Follow sign to Heronsgate; 1 mile Chorleywood station

promote traditional ale in traditional pubs. Tim is entitled to his point of view in the same way as our contributors are. As it says on the front of each edition; this is "The bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker" *not* Cocktail Monthly.

P.S. The only cocktail I remember drinking was a few Abbot and Eddies in my misspent youth. (for the un-initiated that's half of *Abbot Ale* mixed with a *St Edmunds* strong ale - sadly the Eddie was pasteurised).

Threat of Pub closures far from true

I'm writing in response to the letter from Tony Billings in PoV 220. He states that four St Albans pubs have either been re-branded out of all recognition, or else "are not in business, with their future far from certain". Happily the true situation isn't quite that bad.

Starting with the **Farmer's Boy**: whatever one thinks of the new "tfb" logo outside, the pub itself has not been renamed, and appears to be thriving.

The **Duke of Marlborough** (shown below), meanwhile, is very much in business. It is undergoing modest refurbishment, but this is being done during working hours. I have even witnessed the manager doing a quick bit of plastering during a quiet moment. It's probably fair to say that this pub has been badly run in the past, but the current team are making a good effort: more beers are now available, and food is again being served.



The poor old Duke might have been on his death bed, but is now making a strong recovery.

Meanwhile The **Fleur de Lys** is indeed closed, but not for much longer. The owners have at last received planning permission for the improvements they want to make, and the pub will reopen in March. The staff is currently being recruited. Although the emphasis will be on food, cocktails and wines, the managers are keen to

cater for real ale drinkers too. One of them, Andy Perkiss, has written to me: "We plan to be as diverse as possible with beers and, any advice and encouragement from such a passionate organisation as CAMRA is always welcome!" That's good news, surely? But finally we come to the **Peacock**, and here I must agree with Mr Billings that all is not well. This pub has gone from one extreme to another, and got lost in the process. A year ago it was a tatty place, populated by youngsters drinking lager and alcopops (oh dear). Then it had an impressive makeover and became a high-class restaurant, with an expensive bar at the front (£3 for a pint of **Bombardier**). But it seems that the new venture hasn't worked: the building has been shut for several weeks, and there is nothing to indicate what is going on. The omens are not encouraging.

But to conclude, three of the four pubs to which Mr Billings refers should have a good future ahead of them.

Tim Holman

(PS Between ourselves, it's a bit of a cheek for TB to quote the "Victoriana" book so extensively, since he is its author!!!)

Tony Billings Challenged

As a regular visitor to the **Farmers Boy** in St Albans I would like to respond to the comments made by Tony Billings in the last issue of *Pints of View* about its new pub sign (below) and the pub in general.

Tony appears to have a rather short memory as when I moved to St Albans in 1988 the pub was shut and boarded up. It was only in 1996 when Viv



Davies rescued it from its alter ego, the Wine and Ale Café that it became the **Farmers Boy** once again. So I am afraid that the 'lovely old sign' to which Tony refers is in fact barely ten years old.

He refers twice to a recently published book 'Victoriana' which he claims is a 'book of St Albans pubs'. I have a copy of this book and it is nothing of the sort. In fact it only has 5 of its 66 pages devoted to pubs. I am surprised that Tony should make such a claim as he is after all the author of this book! (nice plug Tony).

Herts Readers Write continued...

If he had bothered to visit the pub and ask about the sign, as I did, then he would have discovered that the reason for the change was to indicate to passers by that the pub has changed – and much for the better. There can be no doubt as to the name of the pub, as 'The Farmers Boy' appears in large lettering in two places on the pub walls. Inside Gerry and Heidi have renovated the pub in a tasteful manner retaining the traditional character of a community local. They have introduced a permanent guest beer – multi-award winning *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, which is relatively hard to find in Hertfordshire - as well as other varying guest beers served in very good condition. They have also safeguarded the future of the brewery on the premises – the only brewery in St Albans – and regularly feature beers brewed there.

Notwithstanding any desire to retain traditional pub signs I am far more interested in what happens inside the pub. Unlike the Mokoko and the **Blue Anchor**, which have recently been ruined as pubs for beer drinkers, the Farmers Boy remains one of the best pubs in St Albans and I hope that traditionalists will not be deterred from visiting this pub just because of its sign. *Phil Defriez, St Albans*

Ed Says: Tony has, it appears, upset two of our correspondents and pulled a fast one when stating "It would appear that the old sign ("Quite the best inn sign in St Albans today", says the new "Victoriana" book of St Albans pubs (available at...) is no longer with it". The author of "Victoriana book of St Albans is the Tony Billings who wrote to the newsletter. I would like to draw Tony's notice to the fact that advertisements in the newsletter are very reasonably priced - see page 10. I have also been informed by other local St Albans drinkers that although there may be some reservations about the change of signage at the Farmers Boy the beer, service and interior makeover have met with approval, and they are very happy with the new licensees.

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

Our Mutual Friend

Broadwater Crescent, Stevenage, 01438-312282



Friendly atmosphere, 2 bar pub
North Herts Pub of the Year 2006
Continuously Changing Real Ale Menu

 Keith & Yvonne and their staff
look forward to seeing you soon 

THE BLACK HORSE

29-31 West Street, Hertford
01992 583630

Good Beer Guide 2007 - We're In It!

Serving Award Winning

Greene King Ales,

Guest Beers and Fine Wines

Home Made Meals and Soups,

Sandwiches & Toasted Baguettes

Daily "Specials" and Desserts

Lunches 12-1:45 Monday & Wednesday - Saturday

Evening meals Monday to Thursday 5:30-7:30

Friday 5:30-8:00

Sunday Roasts from 1 to 3:00

Closed Tuesday until 5pm

Less than 5 minutes walk from the town centre, just over the crossing

www.blackhorseherts.co.uk

Tony & Linda are CAMRA members

Send your comments to us – see above or send to pintsofview@yahoo.co.uk

Pints of View Real Ale Prize Sudoku

								S
	R	V	E	I			C	
	C	D			R			
Y	I		R	C	E			
				O				
			Y	V	D		I	O
			O			V	Y	
	O			R	S	C	D	
I								

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 Fuller's **DISCOVERY**.

Completed entries by 1 April 2007 to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.

1st winner drawn wins a CAMRA 2007 Good Beer Guide.

Your

Name:

Your

Address:

Postcode:

10th Ware 2007 Real Ale Festival

~ At ~

Ware Arts Centre, Kibes Lane, Ware
Fri – Sat/13 - 14 April 2007

26 Real Ales & 3 Ciders

Opening Times: 7.00-11.30 both nights.
Entry price £3 both nights.

Tickets on sale now at:
Genesis Jewellers, 16 High St, Ware, Herts.

All proceeds will be shared amongst
local charities

For further information contact:
01920-424095 or email:
ihatelager@yahoo.co.uk

Solution to our Pints of View Pub Sudoku in edition 219 below. Winner of a 2007 Good Beer Guide: Paul Denniss, Great Wymondley, Herts. Our thanks to all who entered.

B	A	R	L	E	Y	M	O	W
W	Y	M	B	A	O	L	E	R
L	E	O	M	W	R	A	Y	B
Y	B	A	O	R	M	W	L	E
R	M	L	E	B	W	O	A	Y
O	W	E	A	Y	L	B	R	M
A	O	W	Y	M	E	R	B	L
M	L	Y	R	O	B	E	W	A
E	R	B	W	L	A	Y	M	O

Deal Sees Bedford Brewer Take Portfolio Including Directors

Wells & Youngs Brewing Company (W&YBC) has stepped up a gear in the cask ale market by buying the rights to brew, market and sell the Courage ale brands from Scottish & Newcastle (S&N) for an undisclosed sum.



said. McNally said the deal was a "significant first major acquisition" for W&YBC "and firmly cements our commitment to brew and develop specialty cask ale".

Courage Best and Directors were among the best known beer brands in the country, with

special interest in the south east and London, McNally said.

He added that W&YBC would still be committed to the Young's brands it acquired last year, while more than £2m would be spent on marketing its own *Bombardier* brand this year.

John Dunsmore, managing director of S&NUK, said that "under the stewardship of W&YBC, we will see substantial new investment in these classic cask ale brands which will be able to flourish under the new arrangement".

A spokesman for S&N confirmed the deal would enable the group to focus on its four core brands of John Smiths, Kronenbourg, Fosters and Strongbow cider. He said "We recognise W&YBC as a centre of excellence and we're keeping our hand in with the 17 per cent stake".

The Publican, 17 Jan 2007

The deal sees the formation of a venture called Courage Brands which will be 83 per cent owned by W&YBC, with S&N owning the remaining 17 per cent.

The transfer of brewing of Courage's beers, which include *Best*, *Directors* and *Light Ale*, from S&N's John Smith's Brewery in Tadcaster to W&YBC's operation in Bedford will be undertaken in the coming months.

Nigel McNally, W&YBC's managing director, said the acquisition of the Courage brands gave his brewery the critical mass it had been looking for.

"This arrangement means we're buying in more than 100,000 barrels of annual production, taking our total production to more than half a million barrels a year," he



Producer of the finest quality hand-crafted cask conditioned ales.

Red Squirrel Brewery supports local small business, commerce, employment and positive environmental conservation.

For more information contact:-

Red Squirrel Brewery
14B Mimram Road
Hertford, Hertfordshire
SG14 1NN
Tel 01992 501100

gary@redsquirrelbrewery.co.uk

How many road miles has your pint travelled?



Local beers for the concerned drinkers of Hertfordshire.

www.redsquirrelbrewery.co.uk

CAMRA Young Members Meeting Invite

Hello All! My name is Gemma Collins and I have recently taken up the position of Young Members Coordinator within North Herts CAMRA. Even though I only joined CAMRA in 2005, I have been visiting beer festivals and real ale pubs in my native Birmingham ever since I started drinking, which like all sensible adults was of course 18 ;-). It was through these beer festivals that I became interested in CAMRA - who could fail to be interested when they can fill a room with so many different beers! I remember walking into my first beer festival at Aston University a few years ago, and my eyes positively lit up! Although, at this point, I really should make a bit of a confession (whisper it) that I'm actually more of a cider drinker. The cause of traditional cider and perry was picked up by CAMRA a few years ago as its profile is in the same state as real ales was 30 years ago. Now, at every beer festival I've attended, there is an array of dry or medium or ruby(!) ciders available. Keeps me quiet

anyway.

My hat goes off to the original members of CAMRA. Over the last 30 years you have lifted the real ale industry to where it is today. There is still plenty of room for improvement, but without your efforts, I may not have had the pleasure of drinking a pint of Oscar Wilde, or even a *Young's Special*. However, the future of this organisation exists with the newer members - after all, individually we can only go on so long.

As the Young Members Coordinator, my goal is to get all you under-30s out and drinking. See, I'm a nice person really! I have noticed more and more young people and members at the beer festivals over the last few years. In fact, most of those I have seen have attended in groups, almost like an alternative night out. I would love to continue that theme and

encourage the younger members out to some of the fantastic pubs in the area. We are fortunate in North Herts that we have so many pubs which are prepared to stock milds, porters, light ales, real cider and perry. A mini beer-festival in your local pub! The first event to be organised for the young members will be on Friday 23rd February, and we will be touring the **Good Beer Guide** pubs of Hitchin. Future events will be touring the outskirts pubs that you normally wouldn't get to, Beer Festival meet-ups and maybe even some brewery trips. So, if any of you young members fancy coming out and drinking with other considered drinkers of your own age, I expect to see you out on the 23rd, and keep an eye on the branch diary (page 26) for future events. If you have any questions about young membership in CAMRA, any of the events, or would just like to say hello, I am always reachable on my email address: gemma.collins@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to drinking with you all in 2007!



The Red Lion

Preston Village
Very Near Hitchin, Hertfordshire



The First Community Owned Public House in
Great Britain

Ever Changing Real Ales
Recent Beers:
Cairngorm – Trade Winds
Cheriton – Village Elder
Tring – Side Pocket for a Toad

Everyday Good Home Made Food
Proper Roasts on Sunday Lunch
Large very Well Kept Garden and log Fires

01462 459585

Herts. Pub of the Year 2000, 2005
North Herts. Pub of the Year 2005
Cask Ale Pub of the Year Bronze Award



Ware Winter Wobble – Tuesday 20 February



As part of Community Pubs Week, local CAMRA members and friends will be



where Helen and Co continue to find some excellent guest beers to supplement the



supporting four brilliant "Locals" in Ware with an evening tour, the **Ware Winter Wobble**, starting at 8pm at the **Crooked Billet** in Musley Hill (above). Now an Admiral Inn following the pub's sale by Greene King,

Bombardier and *IPA*. Another excellent Bonfire Night Beer Festival last year. At the **Worppeil** (above) in Watton Road (9.30pm) George and Pat are entering their 24th year at the pub. *IPA* and



Stuart and Sue remain at the helm but with a wider range of beers to choose from. Expect to find interesting ale here tonight.



Abbot of the highest degree to be found here. And finally the **Rose and Crown**, also in Watton Road (left) where Richard and Liam's well-kept *McMullen ales* have

On to the **High Oak** (above) in High Oak Road for 8.45pm,

been rewarded with an entry in the **2007 Good Beer Guide**. Come and join us!

Find out more about Ware pubs – see www.hertsale.org.uk/hm/WarePubCrawl.html



Join CAMRA Today...



Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd). All forms to be addressed to: Membership Secretary, Camra, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Alternatively you can join online at www.camra.org.uk. Rates for single membership are £20 and for joint £25 (single £11 for Under 26/Over 60 – partner at same address add £3).

Title Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

P'tner Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

Address Postcode

Tel. no(s):

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

I enclose a cheque for..... Signed..... Date.....

Applications will be processed within 21 days

I decided to join CAMRA after reading Hertfordshire's **Pints of View!**

DOWN YOUR WAY

This section contains information from a large number of sources and occasionally errors may occur. Comments or additional information should be sent to our contact details on page 19.

North Herts Pub News

Albury: Planning permission has been granted for a new pub to replace the **Catherine Wheel**, which was burnt down a few years ago. Permission is subject to an archaeological survey of the site being completed, so it may be a while before beer flows again yet.

Baldock: The **George and Dragon** has been closed for a while, and the lease is for sale at £90k. The **Boot's** tenancy is up for sale.

Barkway: The **Tally Ho's** new kitchen is now complete.

Barley: The Punch tenants' merry-go-round at the **Fox and Hounds** seems to have stopped with the arrival of Brendan, Paul and Sue, who also manage the GBG-listed **Nightingale** in Hitchin. Watch this space to see if they last.

Brent Pelham: Licensees Christine and Margaret recently celebrated their first year in charge of the **Black Horse** with a hugely

successful party.

Buntingford: **Brambles'** Bar Manager Bob has returned to work following his operation. Beer quality has now returned to its previous high standard.

Codicote: The **Globe's** licensees have left.

Halls Green: The **Rising Sun** has a new licensee.

Hitchin: The tenancy of the **Anchor** is up for sale. The **Bricklayers Arms** has a new landlord.

Kimpton: The **Boot** has a new landlord from the same village.

Preston: The **Red Lion** has won the *Morning Advertiser East Anglia Best Village Pub of the Year*. National winner will be announced on Feb 1st.

Reed: A new python has been installed in the **Cabinet**, so the real ale is not tooth-crackingly cold any more.

Royston: The **Jockey** is closed following a recent fire.

Stevenage: There has been a reported change of landlord at the **Old Forge** but it is no longer selling real ale. *Cont/d*

**BEER FESTIVAL
26TH - 29TH APRIL**

MONDAY - THURSDAY 12-NOON - 2.30PM 5-12PM
FRIDAY, SATURDAY 12 NOON - 1AM
SUNDAY 12NOON - 11PM



**THE HALF MOON
QUEEN STREET HITCHIN
FOR GOOD BEER AND FOOD**

**REAL ALES: ADNAMS AND
YOUNG'S SPECIAL
PLUS 2 GUEST ALES
REAL CIDER AND PERRY**

**FOOD AVAILABLE LUNCH TIMES
AND EVENINGS FROM 6- 9PM
BEER GARDEN
PATIO
CAR PARK**

TEL: 01462 452448
EMAIL: howen.halfmoon@btconnect.com

Let us know if you have any pub news. See page 19 to contact us

DOWN YOUR WAY

Little Wymondley: There is a new landlord at the **Plume of Feathers**.

South Herts Pub News

Aldenham: The **Roundbush** changed hands first week in December and we welcome Alan and Sanja. On our visit very little had changed. The new licensee previously ran the **Kings Head** in Islington.

Hertford: There have been problems at the recently opened **Hertford House Hotel** resulting in its closure to drinkers just before Christmas. The hotel part of the business remains open but there is currently no news as to when the bar will re-open. Problems, too, at the **Bridge House** where opening times have become extremely erratic – a new tenant is awaited. Work on the former Unionist Club (due to become the **Five Bishops**) has reduced to a trickle, though a summer opening is still being advertised by Wetherspoons. A significant re-fit has been completed at **Baroosh**, McMullen's managing director Peter Furness-Smith explaining to the *Hertfordshire Mercury* that "The bar opened six years ago and it has taken a lot of use in that time. The

floor needed to be replaced and we thought we would do the kitchen and a few other things as well to bring the bar up to scratch".

Redbourn: The aptly named **Fudge** has become the **Metro Bar**.

St Albans: The lease of the **White Hart Hotel** is up for sale.

Ware: Refurbishment continues at the former **Waterfront** with owners, Barracuda, running a competition locally to find a suitable new name for the riverside pub. The **Albion's** lease is for sale.

Watford & District Pub News

Chorleywood: Geoff and Rhonda have bought the freehold of the **Rose & Crown** from Save Investments Ltd; a rare occurrence of a freehold falling into private hands. *Highgate Mild* is currently available. Expect to see more unusual guest beers here.

Watford: We are expecting Bannister Properties to make an imminent application to demolish the **Robert Peel**, which stands in the way of their development plans. The pub is in a conservation area.

Watford & District Branch Annual General Meeting

CAMRA Watford & District Branch will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 26th March, 8pm at the **Estcourt Arms** (Lynch's), St. John's Road, Watford, WD17 1PT.

The Branch AGM is an opportunity for us to take stock of the year's events and to look forward to future campaigns; as well as to social events and, of course, the beer festival. The AGM is open to all members and provides the perfect occasion for local members to air their opinions, meet the branch and drink real ale. We're always looking for members of any age to get involved in such CAMRA activities as organising the beer festival, pub campaigning and promoting Real Ale in the local area. We hold regular social events, and I personally am keen to see more trips to visit breweries and classic pubs both near and far. If you haven't been to a local CAMRA social before and you're keen to find out more about the Campaign or are curious about your local branch's activities or CAMRA's national activities then come along on the 26th March or contact me, Andrew Vaughan, on 01923 230104 or at chair@watfordcamra.org.uk. We'll even buy you a pint!
Andrew Vaughan

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!'

BRANCH DIARY

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Mon 5 Feb: Committee Meeting - **Sunrunner** 8pm sharp.

Sat 10 Feb: Branch Mini-bus Ramble: **White Horse** - Kimpton 7:00pm, **Boot** - Kimpton 7:45pm, **Bright Star** - Peters Green 8:30pm, **Bull** - Whitwell 9:15pm, **Maiden's Head** - Whitwell 10:00pm.

£5 per person. Pick-ups: Stevenage 6:15pm, Baldock 6:30pm, Hitchin 6:45pm, drop offs close to home. Please book by 30th January.

17-24 Feb: Community Pubs Week -CAMRA's major initiative to appreciate Pubs at the heart of their communities.

Wed 21 Feb: Branch Meeting - **Highlander**, Hitchin 8pm - **GBG 2008 Selection Meeting. Make sure your beer scores are in please.**

Fri 23 Feb: Pub Crawl for Young Members around Hitchin. If you're between 18 and 26 come along and find out what's it all about. See article page 22.

Wed 28 Feb: Branch Social - Buntingford crawl. Local members especially wanted. Come out and meet each other. **Brambles** - 8:00pm, **Fox & Duck** - 8:45pm, **Black Bull** - 9:30pm, **Crown** - 10:15pm. Last 700 bus westwards leaves outside the Crown around 10:30 if you want to avoid driving.

Mon 5 March: Committee Meeting - **Nightingale** 8pm sharp.

Sat 10 Mar - Branch mini-bus Ramble: **Live and Let Live**, Pegsdon - 7:00pm, **Raven**, Hexton - 7:45pm, **Musgrave Arms**, Shillington - 8:30pm, **Motte and Bailey**, Pirton - 9:15pm, **Fox**, Pirton - 10:00pm.

£5 per person. **Pick-ups:** Stevenage 6:15pm, Baldock 6:30pm, Hitchin 6:45pm, drop offs close to home. Please book by 28th February.

Wed 14 March: Branch AGM - **Three Horseshoes**, Willian 7:30 for 8pm.

Election of Officers for 2007/8. Voting for **2007 Pub of the Year**. Bring your membership cards to vote.

Fri 23 - Sat 24 March: Hitchin Beer and Cider Festival - Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street.

More beer, more seating, and more products than ever. See **advert page 13**. Volunteers wanted. Contact Chairman See opposite.

Wed 28 Mar: Branch Social - **Tally Ho**,

Barkway 8pm, then on to the **Woodman** Nuthampstead when you are ready. Two great country pubs ideal for miserable winter evenings. No agendas, no committees, just beer drinking for its own sake.

Fri 30 Mar: Provisional date for presentation of **2007 Pub of the Year** award. Watch this space for details after the AGM.

Mon 2 Apr: Committee Meeting - **Brambles** 8pm sharp.

Wed 1 Apr: Branch Social - **Kings Arms**, Hitchin 8pm.

Sat 14 Apr - Branch Mini-bus Ramble: **Three Horseshoes** - Norton 7:00pm, **Three Horseshoes** - Hinxworth 7:45pm, **Rose and Crown** - Ashwell 8:30pm, **Three Tuns** - Ashwell 9:15pm, **Bushel and Strike** - Ashwell 10:00pm. £5 per person.

Pick-ups: Stevenage 6:15pm, Baldock 6:30pm, Hitchin 6:45pm, drop offs close to home. Please book by 28th March.

Contacts Chairman: Andy Rawnsley, Tel 01438 816938, email chairman@camranorthherts.org.uk, **Socials contact:** Graham Perry, Tel 07956 564606, email secretary@camranorthherts.org.uk

Maidens Head

High Street, Whitwell



Good Quality Cask Conditioned
McMullen's Beers

East Anglian Pub Of The Year 1997
Herts Pub Of The Year 2003

Continual Cellarmanship Award

Food Available
Monday to Saturday Lunch
12.00 - 2.00pm & Wednesday
to Saturday Evenings

Tel: 01438 871392

BRANCH DIARY

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Good Beer Guide 2008 Survey Trips:

Tue 06 Feb* – Harpenden area (NW zone)

Tue 13 Feb* – Central/Redbourn area.

Tue 20 Feb* – Central/SE Area

Tue 27 Feb* – Ware/Wildhill area

* = Transport from St. Albans City station 7pm

- cost is £8. Contact Branch Contact to book.

Tue 20 Feb: Ware Winter Wobble – see p23

Tue 06 Mar – GBG 2008 selection meeting –
CAMRA HQ, St Albans, 8pm

Tue 13 Mar: Branch Meeting: **White Horse,**
Hertford 8pm.

Tue 12 Apr: – Herts Liaison Meeting.

Wenlock Arms, London N1 7pm

Branch Contact: John Bishop 01582 768478,

Email: realales@yahoo.com

Internet: www.hertsale.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Tue 6 Feb: Open Mic Night: **Pump House,**
Watford (normally three real ales available).
8.30 pm.

Sat 10 Feb: Lunchtime crawl: Stanmore to
Bushey Heath; starting at the **Man in the
Moon,** Buckingham Parade, 1pm and
finishing in the **Black Boy,** Bushey Heath.

Tue 20 Feb: Southern Cross Real Ale Evening.
Contact John Ross at the **Southern Cross,**
Langley Road, Watford for details (tel: 01923
256033).

Fri 23 Feb: **Pub of the Year** presentation. To
be arranged.

Wed 7 Mar: Rickmansworth social at the
Feathers, 8.30 pm; **Pennsylvanian,** 9.15 pm;
Druids, 10.15 pm.

Thu 15 Mar: Watford Heath/Oxhey social at
the **Royal Oak,** 8.30 pm; **Villiers Arms,** 9.30
pm; **Victoria,** 10.15 pm.

Mon 26 Mar: Branch Annual General
Meeting. **Estcourt Arms** (Lynch's), 8.00 pm.

Sun 1 Apr: Lunchtime out-of-area social in St.
Albans at the **Farmer's Boy,** 1pm; **Lower Red
Lion,** 3 pm (with other stops en route).

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan.

Phone: 01923 230104. Mobile: 07854
988152.

Email: branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

Internet: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

The Bull

London Colney



***Traditional, newly refurbished, 17th
Century Inn**

***Lunchtime food 12-3pm daily**

***Children's Play Area**

***Secluded Beer Garden**

***Real Ales**

***Curry Night once a month.**

**Monday evenings, Real Ale Club, all
Real Ales**

£1.90 a pint for CAMRA members

Tel: 01727-823160

White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans

Tel: 01727 860974

**Deuchars IPA, London Pride
& three guest beers**

**Food served lunchtime
everyday and evenings
Tuesday - Friday**

**Live music
First Saturday night of month**

Large beer garden

All welcome

www.whiteharttap.co.uk



The Boot Inn

(Opposite St Albans' famous Clock Tower)
"Stunning Old Pub with Friendly Staff and Superb Beer"

7 Ever-Changing Real Ales
Including Deuchars IPA, Young's Special and Bitter

Excellent Selection of Continental Lagers
including Leffe, Staropramen, Lowenbrau and Hoegaarden

Live Acoustic Music Every Tuesday Evening
Quiz Night every 2nd and 4th Monday of every Month
Building Aged from 1400s with Low Ceilings and Exposed Beams
Open Log Fire During The Winter Months
Freshly Prepared Food served Tuesday to Sunday lunch

**OFFICIAL SARACENS
RUGBY AND GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP PUB**
Regular Coaches to
Home Games

Outside Catering and Event
Management Services
All Provided in Conjunction
with The Verulam Arms

**Call Rebecca or Sean on (01727) 857533
for Bookings, Events or Location Hire**

The Boot Inn, 4 Market Place, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 5DG

THE VERULAM ARMS

Just Re-Opened under same ownership as

The Boot Inn

*"A Beautiful Relaxing Pub with a Secluded Sunny Terrace Area
5 minutes from St Albans City Centre"*

VERULAM ARMS BEER FESTIVAL: 4 - 7 MAY 2007



St Albans' first central Non Smoking Traditional Pub

4 Real Ales including Young's Bitter and Black Sheep
(4 ever-changing guests)

Excellent Selection of Continental Lagers
Extensive Selection of Wine and Fine Malt Whisky
Superb Food served Tuesday to Sunday lunch
and evening (Tue-Sat eve)
Fish fresh from Markets daily



Saracens Rugby Tickets and
Coach to Home Games
In association with The Boot

Call Sean on (01727) 833323 for Events, Bookings or Private Hire
The Verulam Arms, 41 Lower Dagnall Street
St Albans, Herts, AL3 4QE