

FREE

www.hertsale.org.uk
www.heb-camra.org.uk

www.watfordcamra.org.uk
www.camranorthherts.org.uk



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

HERTFORDSHIRE'S

Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for every discerning drinker

August/September 2008

Circulation 7500

No. 230



Top left: A last visit is made to the Coors Brewery Museum. *See page 33 (also page 5)*

Top right: 30 years service is achieved at the Holly Bush in Potters Crouch. *See page 12*

Centre: The **Rising Sun** at Halls Green is North Herts CAMRA Community Pub of the Year. *See page 12*

Bottom right: A Leicester trek and fest. *See page 25*

Martin Few and Gill Gibson celebrate their **Land of Liberty Peace and Plenty** pub in Heronsgate being awarded Watford & District CAMRA's 2008 Pub of the Year. *See page 18*

Beer with the feelgood factor www.stalbansbeerfestival.com





**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.



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

Will Removal of the Tie Stop Pub Closures?

Firstly some of you may be asking - *what is the tie?* It comes in many forms but is an agreement that all alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, snacks and food come from suppliers named by the pub's owners. Well you may think this is a fantastic opportunity to fix prices at the point of dispense (that's to you the customer) and to drive down the price charged by the suppliers as they are buying in bulk, and the suppliers and brewers can't get access to the outlets without the owner's consent.

Some pubs are owned by brewers and others by pub companies (pubcos). The numbers of these are supposed to be controlled by fair trading legislation to ensure that no one company owns a monopoly in a particular area or the country as a whole. It is sometimes very hard to find out exactly who owns a pub, and to get around previous legislation the pub estate and breweries parted company, running as separate entities. Some like Whitbread stopped brewing altogether and a large amount of Britain's brewing capacity is owned by multinationals such as Coors of Colorado or In Bev a - Belgian/South American conglomerate.

Of course we do have our large brewing and pub owning companies, Greene King and Marston's for example, who are constant predators, buying up any local independent brewer with a tied estate that they can. The main incentive for this is of course the tie, which ensures that as beer and lager sales are in decline, they can rationalize by closing the breweries they take over in order to ensure that their existing plant runs at full capacity.

Some publicans are lucky enough to have partial ties; pubcos and brewers charge different amounts for their products to individual pubs - in fact the price range is very broad. Pubs in the same locality can be charged different rates, making some much less viable. The publican is tied through a lease which is negotiated with the owners - again, some are reasonable and some are not.

For those of you who read the trade press, an organization called "Fair Pint" was set up earlier this year to try and get a better deal from the pubcos for their tenants. One of their aims is to break the tie and allow publicans to source their beer from wherever they chose. They do not wish to remove the tie completely and state that brewers who own less than 500 pubs should be able to continue as they are now. A lobby to Parliament

was featured on the front of the *Publican* (30th June) accompanied by a photo of some high profile supporters - including St Albans MP Anne Main, who also supports the *Full Pint* Campaign.

The original legislation should have allowed at least one draught beer to be free of the tie and without a sales cut-off level. It should have been a glorious moment for publicans and drinkers alike. The customers would get a say in what they actually wanted to drink rather than some of the uninspired brews being offered, and it could be bought at a reasonable price - which in turn should be passed on to the customer.

The legislation however was ignored, or the owners found ways around it. Pubcos increased the range of beer on offer (often called a portfolio), but these were only made available through them at a premium price, so that they could not be sold at a competitive price against existing products.

In 2004 a Trade and Industry Select Committee was set up and made recommendations. Following a large number of complaints from licensees and their representative bodies the Business and Enterprise Committee will be investigating whether the guidelines are being followed, and will make recommendations. It is hoped that the government may be persuaded to legislate to ensure fairer treatment.

The Pubcos have immediately denied that they are doing anything wrong; Punch Taverns - the country's largest pub owner commented: "This will give us the opportunity to demonstrate how Punch has positively acted on the recommendations of the original committee report and will reinforce our commitment to safeguard the future of the Great British pub".

Now comes the cautionary tale and it highlights exactly what is happening within our caring pubcos. The **Old Fox** at Bricket Wood featured in an article in the *Herts Advertiser* dated 28th June. The pub in School Lane was at one time on the road to Watford but then the M1 was built and it was cut off with just pedestrian access under the motorway. The Fox is set in beautiful surroundings in Bricket Wood itself but has now obviously got a much better summer trade than in winter months. The pub has changed hands reasonably regularly and a year ago was taken over by Gary and Sandra Higginbotham who took out a lease with Punch Taverns that included £3000 a month rent. The

THE BITTER END

trade has been hit hard even before the Chancellor's tax increases, and Gary and Sandra last December negotiated a deal that meant they paid half rent in the winter months and one and a half rent in the summer ones. The owners then struck them another blow by removing their credit and made them pay for all their supplies in advance. My comment was that Punch Taverns should have set Gary's rent in line with the amount of trade that was possible, and that if the pub's licensees' ability to purchase alcohol on credit was removed, they were in serious financial trouble. My view is that at this point Punch viewed the Old Fox as a bad risk.

The Higginbothams carried on at the pub - after all it was the also the family's home, and they had already invested a large sum of money in the lease. Things picked up in early May when the weather was exceptionally good, but as they were paying in advance (Gary had now taken on another job to enable him to meet the bills) they could not afford to increase the beer order and subsequently one weekend, during which no supplies came through Punch they were forced to use an alternative

supplier. Gary claims Punch fined them £1000 as a result.

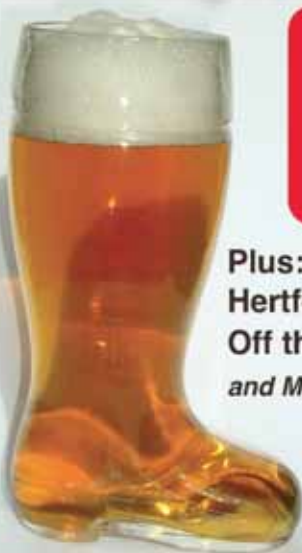
The Higginbothams now face the possibility of eviction and could lose up to £70,000. Gary said "I do not believe that anybody else would do better with this pub than we are doing. It is a little country pub at the end of a lane, strangled by exorbitant rent and premium prices on beer. We don't stand a chance of making a profit. We are not unsuspecting and not stupid - we didn't come here with the intention of making a lot of money and we never thought we would, but we never thought that we wouldn't make ends meet".

Punch Regional Operations manager Ian Marchant said "We are committed to building long term relationships with our licensees. Terms and conditions are clearly outlined and the licensees had a responsibility to ensure they complied with the agreement". He added; "Now more than ever, Punch offers unrivalled support to its licensees".

I think Gary, Sandra and the large number of licensees and others who are supporting "Fair Pint" would disagree. **Use Them Or Lose Them!**

Steve Bury, Editor

What's Brewing in your County Magazine?



Christopher Fisher's TOP TEN PUB WALKS

Plus: Collectors' Corner by Curio
Hertfordshire Highways by Nodding Dog
Off the Beaten Track with John Pilgrim
and Much, Much More all in the August issue of

Hertfordshire
Countryside

£2.25



Coors Close Bass Brewery Museum

Following the article in our last newsletter, and with an outstanding response from around the country, some progress on the Museum closure was made.

Marston's indicated an interest in the campaign to save the museum in line with their long historic brewing ties with Burton.

East Staffordshire Borough Council committed £10,000 to pay for a feasibility study and this could lead to a joint venture.



Coors also pledged a donation of £20,000 and £100,000 per annum towards running costs to any organization which would have become the new permanent owner. Unfortunately time ran out before anyone made a commitment and the museum closed on 30th June. Campaigners including Burton & South Derbyshire branch of CAMRA and Roger Protz, editor of the **Good Beer Guide**, laid a wreath to mark the demise. The museum could still re-open; there is no reason why with the right publicity and support that it would not be successful.

See also *Coors Brewery Museum visit on page 33*

Petitions Rejected

A number of e-petitions on HM Government's 10 Downing St website, requesting Alistair Darling is sacked, dismissed, required to resign, removed from office, is relieved or asked to step down - have been rejected.

This includes one from Mark J Daniels of the **Tharp Arms** (sic), which reads:

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to get Alistair Darling to shave his eyebrows as punishment for ruining the pub trade.

It details further:

For encouraging supermarkets to continue to sell their alcohol cheaply, allowing them to continue promoting such prices on television and in the newspapers and thus encouraging young people to consume more alcohol away from socially responsible environments such as the great village pub – and thus committing the village pub to go the way of the dodo and developing a nation of people who binge-drink at home – and for creating yet another Labour Stealth Tax in the fact that alcohol will rise at 2% above the rate of inflation for the next four years, potentially damaging the pub trade irreversibly, we the undersigned petition that Alistair Darling should be forced to shave his eyebrows in public as punishment.

The petition was officially rejected because 'It was intended to be humorous, or have no point about government policy'.

It has also been suggested that the Chancellor be banned from petrol stations as well as pubs. This may concern him a little more as I am led to believe that he is teetotal or at least abstemious. With this in mind perhaps he should be encouraged to enter a few pubs, meet the customers and landlords and see for himself the consequences of his actions.

Steve Bury



10 DOWNING STREET

Want to Advertise in Pints of View?

Page Size and Cost (excl. VAT)

Back page: 148 x 210 mm = £160.00

Note:

October/November 2008 newsletter back pages are reserved.

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 October/November newsletter is:
14 September 2008**

First time advertisers to confirm in writing please.

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

Hoppy Days are Here Again

By Les Middlewood

These days golden ale is recognised as one of a number of British brewing styles. Beers of this type have recently found much favour amongst real ale drinkers, now featuring on the hand pumps in some of the best pubs in Hertfordshire. But, twenty-five years ago this wasn't the case. So, how has this all come about? *Pints of View* investigates.

The story starts back in the early 1980s and correlates with the upsurge in real ale interest and the new wave of micro-brewers that was beginning to emerge around that time. Eager to please the inquisitive palates of real ale drinkers, most of these new brewers were free to experiment with new brews. Here entered the Golden Hill brewery of Wiveliscombe in Somerset – who can claim to be inventors of the modern golden ale brewing style with their *Exmoor Gold* (ABV of 4.5%). Changing their name to Exmoor Ales - let the company website explain what happened....



"In the world of beer the eyes have it when it comes to ordering ale, something that Exmoor completely understood back in 1986 when they produced the first modern Golden Ale, Exmoor Gold. Designed as a single-malt beer, this was a stunning counterbalance to the traditional view of beer – where it had to be as brown as an old sideboard or as coal black as Irish Dry Stout.



Exmoor Gold, instead, was the colour of Chardonnay or Carling, sparkling in the glass and appealing to both ale drinkers and lager lovers. As well as looking good, by golly it tasted good, with fresh and fruity flavours tripping across the tongue hand in hand with a soft and comforting malty centre".

Hard on their heels came the Hop Back brewery of Salisbury with their ABV 5.0% *Summer Lightning*, so light, and quaffable and belying its own strength. Whilst Exmoor had first come up with the style, Hop Back broadened its horizons, the brewery mostly building its reputation on the back of its light golden ales and deliberately aiming them at not just existing real ale drinkers but at a

younger audience and the wider lager-drinking fraternity – and with fantastic success.

Suddenly beers had been discovered that would match the sunshine and quaffing needs of hot summer days and balmy summer evenings.

So what are the characteristics of good golden ale? CAMRA describes it thus - "Strengths will range from 3.5% to 5.3%. The hallmark will be the biscuity and juicy malt character derived from pale malts, underscored by tart citrus fruit and peppery hops, often with the addition of hints of vanilla and corn flour. Golden ales are pale amber, gold, yellow or straw coloured and above all, such beers are quenching and served cool". They always surprise the palate with their welter of flavours making them downright sinkable.

During the Nineties, many other small breweries joined the trail – Oakham's *JHB* and Eastwood and Sanders *Beyond the Pale* taking the style to a new level of paleness – so that by 2000 the golden ales began to dominate



CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1997 - 2008 Cask Marque Certification



The ELEPHANT & CASTLE

AMWELL LANE, AMWELL,
WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.

Tel: 01582 832175

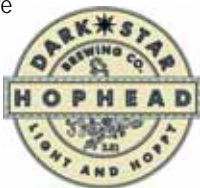
QUALITY FOOD

Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale
Hardy and Hanson Bitter
Guest Beer



in the annual CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain competition – won by Coniston *Bluebird* in 1998 and *JHB* in 2001. Caledonian *Deuchars IPA* (2002), Harviestoun *Bitter and Twisted* (2003) and Kelham Island *Pale Rider* (2004) continued the trend, leading to Crouch Vale's two-year domination of the competition with the

beautifully rounded *Brewers Gold* in 2005-2006. With most small brewers by now including a golden ale in their range of beers, other notable beers in this category are Butcombe *Blond*, Dark Star *Hophead*, Rooster *Yankee* and York *Guzzler* - each new arrival bringing with it a feast of new flavours but all with the same underlying golden characteristics. In Hertfordshire search out Tring's *Side Pocket for a Toad*.



If a little slow to first catch on, many of the more longstanding brewers have since entered the fray – Fuller's with *Discovery*, Greene King with their seasonal *Ale Fresco*.

So, a beer style initially associated with the sunshine of summer has now become an all-year round favourite. But will it last? It has to be said that golden beers are not to everyone's taste – many preferring traditional bitters and dark beers – but it looks as if they are here to stay and if that is what it takes to attract more people to real ale then that's fine – drinkers now have a much richer and wider palate of beers to choose from. Join the glistening golden age of real ale.

- Britain's quest for the clear pint was accelerated by the introduction of transparent glass drinking vessels, and the brewing of lighter amber beers such as IPA – India Pale Ale – a heavily hopped strong beer brewed to withstand the rigours of transport to satisfy drinkers in the far-flung empire. IPA's popularity spread back home amongst the upper and middle classes who began to prefer the crystal clarity of the lighter beers. In the 20th Century porter and mild beers - as traditionally favoured by the working classes - declined so up rose the popularity of pale ales and bitter.

Our Mutual Friend

Broadwater Crescent, Stevenage, 01438-312282



Friendly atmosphere, 2 bar pub
North Herts Pub of the Year 2006/2007/2008
Continuously Changing Real Ale Menu

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

Old Cross Tavern

"The Way Pubs Used to Be"

8 St Andrew Street, Hertford 01992 583133

Award Winning Freehouse



4 Regular & 4 Guest Ales
Including a Mild, Stout or Porter

An Excellent Selection
of Belgian & Bottled Beers

Home Made Pies & Pasties

End of May & Early October Beer Festivals

Is This the Drinker's Future?

Earlier this year *nvokh* (pronounced 'invoke'), a crowd-funded and crowd-managed eco clothing company was set up. Now BeerBankroll is taking a similar approach to the creation of a new, community-managed brewery. Although this sounds very American a British company is at its initial stages, but does not have a lot of details on its web site as yet. Beer Bankroll aims to start a brewery and pub, in which many of the key decisions will be made by the members who will have contributed financially to set it up. They intend to recruit a minimum of 50,000 members, each will contribute approx £30 in exchange for voting rights on ideas such as the company name, logo, product design, product mix, marketing plan, advertising and sponsorship. Profits will be divided three ways: one part to members in the form of reward points redeemable for products from the Beer Bankroll store; one part back to the company; and one part to charity. BeerBankroll says it has no set timetable or target dates, preferring instead to leave that up to members. The company's FAQs do state that "if for

BeerBankroll.com

some reason we are unable to get a brewing company started [...], then we will take the remaining money after administration and operating costs and give it to charity". Meanwhile, beer lovers can also join *OurBrew*, a very new start-up from New Zealand that has similar ambitions, but aims to work with existing breweries. Is it feasible for tens of thousands of people to jointly make key decisions for these two proposed breweries? Only time will tell. What are the safeguards with crowd-funded projects? Surely until the minimum amount of funds have been collected they should be returned to members if the project doesn't come to fruition. Anyway, if you are still interested the web connections are below:-



www.beerbankroll.com – www.ourbrew.co.nz

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

HOWARD & WENDY WELCOME YOU TO THE HALF MOON QUEEN STREET HITCHIN FOR GOOD BEER & FOOD



WHY NOT TRY OUR
HOMEMADE TAPAS
AVAILABLE LUNCH
EVENINGS AND 6-11PM

ALWAYS AVAILABLE
ADNAMS BITTER, YOUNG'S SPECIAL
PLUS 4 CHANGING GUEST ALES
OFTEN FROM LOCAL MICROS
REAL CIDER AND PERRY

NEXT BEER FEST
16TH - 19TH OCTOBER

NORTH HERTS CAMRA
COMMUNITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2007

OPEN
MONDAY - THURSDAY 12-NOON - 2.30PM 5-12PM
FRIDAY, SATURDAY 12 NOON - 1AM
SUNDAY 12NOON - 11PM
FOOD AVAILABLE
LUNCH TIMES 12-2.15 EVERY DAY
EVENINGS FROM 6- 11PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY
BEER GARDEN, PATIO, CAR PARK

BBQ EVERY SUNDAY 1-6PM
WEATHER PERMITTING

TEL: 01462 452448 EMAIL: halfmoon@btconnect.com

Australian Man Spent £487 a Week on Beer

SYDNEY (Reuters) - An Australian man convicted of his seventh drink-driving charge was spending about A\$1,000 (487 pounds) a week on beer -- enough to buy more than 2,500 small bottles a month, a newspaper said on Tuesday 15 July.

The heartbroken construction worker began drowning his sorrows after breaking up with his partner five years ago, the Northern Territory News said, quoting his defence lawyer as telling a court in Australia's remote, tropical north.

The magistrate declined to jail the father of four, Michael Leary, noting he had quit drinking since his latest arrest, but he banned Leary from buying or even holding a beer for 12 months.

The magistrate also poked fun at Leary's favourite beer, Melbourne Bitter, in a part of the country where drinkers can be as loyal to beer brands as they are to football teams.

"(That is) poor judgement on two counts there -- drinking that much and drinking Melbourne Bitter", magistrate Vince Luppino was quoted as saying.

Editing by David Fox

One Good Thing in Terminal 5

Forget possible luggage problems in Terminal 5 by visiting Wetherspoon's new **Crown Rivers** bar. It is their 9th pub at Heathrow and is named after two royal rivers diverted to enable the Terminal 5 build. In addition to the standard JDW offerings at reasonable prices, they serve a new 3.9% House beer from Loddon Brewery called *Crown Rivers Ale*. At £1.95, it is actually a blend of Loddon's *Hoppit Bitter* (3.5%) and *Hullabaloo* (4.2%). The mix of goldings and fuggles hops gives the brew a full and refreshing rush. No luggage lost, but a second pint meant the flight nearly was...!

Ed Says: Like Terminal 5, Wetherspoon's pubs and bars are not without their critics and it was announced in April this year that an extra £4 million was to be spent on increasing staff at peak times. One might think that the delays in getting served would be a thing of the past, but the new staff will be introduced to ensure that tables are cleared and glass washing is done, this may well have a knock on effect. Comments from readers please.

"We've been brewing award-winning fine ales for more than 180 years, therefore our heritage is well worth the taste"

Naturally Whole Hopped McMullen Ale

Order online an 18/36 pint beerbox or case of bottles - delivered direct to you:
mcmullens.co.uk

The advertisement features a central portrait of a man with a mustache. To the left are three dark glass beer bottles. Below the portrait are three circular logos: 'COUNTRY Bitter', 'McMULLEN AK', and 'McMULLEN CASK ALE'. To the right is a large cardboard beer box with a white tap and a glass of beer filled with golden ale.

Thanks from the Editor

You may well have not noticed but I did not edit edition 229, and so thanks go to Roger Filler who stepped in whilst I was away during May. As you may know Roger has previously edited many editions and banner headlined articles into different categories in the June/July POV. More thankyous go to; CAMRA South Hertfordshire Branch, the St Albans Leo's, Communications Workers Union North West London Branch, and John Crowhurst who made the donations that allowed me to take part in the Humanitarian Aid Convoy to Lithuania on 4th to 17th May. Being one of the drivers on the 4,000 km return trip in a 7.5 ton lorry to Vilnius was hard work but very rewarding. Thanks again for the support.

Steve Bury, Editor.

Pinching Match at the Bell

If you were hoping to see this extraordinary event, a competition between a "Knight of the Thimble" a man of small stature and puny appearance and a stout athletic husbandman, you have missed it as it took place in the Bell, Hunsdon Road, Widford in August 1825. The set-to between the two persons as to which could bear the most pinching, and continue to pinch his opponent for the longest time. Observers noting that if during the engagement either party should betray any angry feeling, or swear, the offender should forfeit the wager.

The two contestants pinched each other with great pleasure for up to an hour chiefly upon the fleshy points of the arm, at which point the arms of the stout man fell powerless to his sides. He was obliged to give in from exhaustion and pain. The gallant Knight offered a challenge to any man in the land for the title of "Champion of Pinching".

The most famous customer of the Bell was Charles Lamb (1775-1834, right), the essayist who lived nearby and mentioned the Inn in his *Confessions of a Drunkard*. It is recalled that after an evening's jollification he would plunge his head into the horse trough beside the front door to sober himself up for the walk home. Lamb's portrait used to hang



in the Inn next to a picture of the building as it was in his day, at least until 1979.

The Bell Inn, which had been on the site



since 1560, sadly closed on 28th January 2001, and was redeveloped into housing. Having reported in newsletter 227 that the **Green Man** (above) in Widford had been closed by police in November 2007, this re-opened on 10th July. Widford, which used to have five public houses, now has only the one. In 1998 following purchase and closure, 850 people signed a petition to keep the Green Man open. I remember commenting at the time that if the 850 had used the pub on a regular basis it would never have shut in the first place. The comment is my old adage: **Use them or lose them.**

Steve Bury, Editor

South Herts News

I have been contacted by two regulars of the **Kings Head**, in London Colney since plans were presented to knock down the pub and redevelop the site as housing. The first sets of plans were rejected, as reported in the last newsletter, the council believing that the redevelopment would be too high density. This decision was appealed but whilst that is in progress another set of revised plans have been submitted. The new plan is for seven flats and five houses with twenty two parking spaces. Councillor Brazier who is portfolio holder for planning and conservation has commented that this gives the developers D.B.Rees builders two bites at the cherry because if the second scheme is rejected they can still proceed with the appeal on the first.

As I said in the last edition the Kings Head has not sold real ale for many years and was never a favourite of CAMRA. That aside it could be a viable pub if the right person got the right deal from the owners and started selling traditional beer and food. There is no other pub serving the northern end of London Colney, which stretches for about a mile and a half along what was the old St Albans Road. This once busy through route has now been bypassed for over forty years. There has been a pub on the site called the Kings Head since the 14th Century and possibly even before (it did

have a name change to the Meeting Place for a short while).

Unfortunately the present modern building is not and would not be listed and those wishing to save it have a real battle on their hands.



At the other end of London Colney on the corner of St Ann's Road is the **White Lion**, left. This is a real locals' local and does serve real ale. It has been reported that the application made last

year to close and develop as a residential site has now been withdrawn.

Further south just across the bridge is the **Bull** (below). The two-bar pub is circa 16th Century and is listed. They have been running a reduced price beer night for CAMRA members (don't forget your membership card)

and ran a beer festival with a difference on 12th April, which provided a pint of each of the beers plus a meal at



an inclusive price. Numbers needless to say were limited to ensure that there was no wastage. Unfortunately I did not hear of the event until we had gone to press on edition 228 and they had inadvertently clashed with the Ware Beer Festival that weekend. Also in London Colney the **Caledonian Social Club** (no real ale) has lost its licence after a series of violent incidents that required police attendance. A plan had been agreed last September with the authorities, which was hoped would stop the problems, but the licence was withdrawn in June. The Club Committee had twenty-one days to lodge an appeal.

Meanwhile, in St Albans, after recent problems



with beer supply, we are pleased to report that normal business has resumed at the **Garibaldi** (above) in Albert Street, thanks to input from Martin Brown and Steve

McConnell of the **White Hart Tap** and David Worcester from the **White Lion**. The pub was re-launched on 3rd June. Sara Dale is now settled in at the **Portland Arms** (top left page 12), Portland Street. This is Sara's first pub having (Cont/d)

The White Lion and White Hart Tap present **THE LION-HART BEER FESTIVAL**

ST ALBANS

FRI 22nd from 6pm TO

MON 25th AUGUST (BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND)

OVER 60 ALES AND CIDERS

LIONHART CHARITY MUSIC FESTIVAL MONDAY

FREE ENTRY, BBQ ALL WEEKEND

The White Lion
91 Sopwell Lane
St Albans
AL1 1RN
01727 850540

The White Hart Tap
4 Keyfield Terrace
St Albans
AL1 1QJ
01727 860974



come into the trade from the Health & Hygiene section of Westminster City Council. She has already come up with some new ideas. Music and a quiz

both feature on different nights every week. A value meal for the over sixties is also available during the week as well as a Saturday breakfast club from 08.00.

At Potters Crouch we congratulate Ray and Karen Taylor clocking up a fantastic 30 years in the **Holly Bush**, last year.



With the help of their daughter Vanessa and her husband Steve, food is now available on Wednesday to Saturday evenings. Ray has, over the years, won many master cellerman awards from Fuller's. This year, he and Steve Williams are in the top eight again. They will know their final placing by the time you read this, as the awards are made at the brewery and the presentations made at the trade session of the CAMRA **Great British Beer Festival** at Earls Court in the first week of August.

Steve Bury - Editor

North Hertfordshire

Community Pub Award Winner

The **Rising Sun** at Halls Green (top right) is this year's winner of the Ted and Josie Arnold Award - the North Herts branch's award for

Community Pub of the Year.

Landlords Simon and Mandy have truly thrown themselves into village life since taking over the McMullen's pub in September 2006.

Halls Green is a hamlet near Weston, just north of Stevenage. Having no village hall, shop or village green, the pub and its large garden is the real focal point of this tiny community.

The pub offers up its car park for the mobile library and soon hopes to have its neighbouring field used by the local school for football.

The pub holds many events, open to all age groups, including summer day-long events, a



Halloween party and a popular 'Meal or No Meal' evening', all of which raise funds for local charities. The local vintage car club hold their monthly meeting at the pub and the Rising Sun has 3 petanque teams that play throughout the year. Says North Herts branch member and pub contact, Andy Brockhurst: "I nominated the Rising Sun for Community Pub of the Year as Simon and Mandy are always keen to support their local community. This even extends to Great Ashby, which has no pub. They have been supportive of so many local charities and groups, raising money and offering their time, advice and raffle prizes".

New Forum on North Herts Website

Recent visitors to the website at www.northhertscamra.org.uk may have noticed the addition of a discussion forum to the site. While still in its infancy the committee are hoping more CAMRA members will sign up to the forum and help make it a place for lively discussion about all things beer and pub related. In a similar vein a new system is now in place to send out broadcast emails to members who have registered their email address with the branch. The first trial of this revealed that some 50 odd emails are no longer valid, due to people changing jobs or internet service provider. If that might be you, or you want to register a new email address, send your details to: membership@northhertscamra.org.uk and regular social diary updates, beer festival news and the like will drop into your inbox.

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.



*Steaks in the
Evening at*

THE SPOTTED BULL

**The finest cuts of beef at
affordable prices**

**8oz RUMP £9.95 8oz SIRLOIN £12.50
12oz T-BONE £12.95**

8oz Fillet £15.95 BEEF AND REEF £13.95

all prices include your choice of jackets/chips vegetables/salad

★ **An ever changing selection of Starters and Desserts**

★ **Vegetarian options available**

served tues/thurs 6.00 till 9.00 friday/sat 6.00-10.00

**The Spotted Bull,
43-45 Verulam Rd, St Albans AL3 4DG
Telephone: 01727 830495**

**check out full menu
@ www.spottedbull.co.uk**

BIG VALUE FOR HEARTY EATERS



Hertfordshire's Autumn Beer Festivals **How to get There by Public Transport**

By John
Crowhurst

There are two CAMRA local beer festivals in Herts for our enjoyment this autumn. Adverts for them appear in this issue of *Pints of View*.

Letchworth, 18 – 20 September 2008, is in the Plinston Hall, Broadway, SG6 3NX. See next page or visit www.camranorthherts.org.uk. Plinston Hall is under 10 minutes walk from Letchworth railway station. Leave the station, cross the forecourt and go down the road opposite Broadway. As the road widens out to a dual carriageway with a very wide central reservation, the hall is on the right.

Letchworth is served by First Capital Connect trains on the Kings Cross – Hitchin – Cambridge route. Buses connect Letchworth with Bishops Stortford (700), Buntingford (700) Royston (90, 91), Standon/Puckeridge (700) and Stevenage 54, 55, 700). National Express (Airports) 787 links Letchworth with Cambridge, Hemel Hempstead, and Luton. It is advisable to book in advance for this service.

The following week is **St. Albans, 24 – 27 September 2008** in the Alban Arena, AL1 3LD. See back page or visit www.stalbansbeerfestival.com.

The Arena is a ten minute walk from St. Albans City station and 12 from St. Albans Abbey station. The main station is on the First Capital Connect (Thameslink) cross London route from Brighton to Bedford. The venue, the Alban Arena is 10 minutes walk west of the Thameslink station – exit via platform four. Cross the car parking area to the **Horn** P.H. and cross the junction, keeping the church on your right. Continue along Victoria Street to the very end – about 10 mins. Walk - then turn right into St. Peter's Street. Turn right before Barclays Bank and the Arena is directly in front of you.

By bus: St. Albans is well served by local bus and coach services most of which run during the evenings. The main bus connections are set out below:-

Barnet and Potters Bar (84), Watford (321, 724), Rickmansworth and Uxbridge (724), Hemel Hempstead (300/301), Dunstable (34) (not beyond Markyate in the evening), Harpenden and Luton (321 and Thameslink), Wheathampstead (304 & 320), Hatfield (300/301, 602, 655, 724),

Welwyn Garden City (300/301, 601, 724), Stevenage (300/301), Hertford, Ware and Harlow (724). St. Albans can be reached from Hitchin by 304 but not in the evening. If using the 724, please note that it no longer stops in St. Peter's Street but now stops in London Road 100 metres from the Peahen junction.

There are, at the time of writing, two special rail ticket offers available.

For St. Albans, the **Daysave** ticket at £12.50 for one person or £30 for 3, or 4 people travelling together offers unlimited travel on First Capital Connect (Thameslink) trains for a day. On Monday – Friday it is not valid before 09.30 or for travel from London between 16.30 and 19.01 and **MUST** be purchased in advance at tourist offices in Bedford, Luton or St. Albans; and One Stop Shop in Edward Street, Brighton. It cannot be bought at stations. It is not valid on the Kings Cross – Cambridge/Peterborough line. For more details visit the website at www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk

The other bargain ticket, **Groupsave**, is sold 'on-demand' by most rail operators in the south east. This allows three or four people to travel together for the price of two.

For those of you coming on London Midland or Virgin services can reach St. Albans via Watford Junction and the local train to St. Albans Abbey. Groupsave is available on London Midland while Virgin has its own range of cheap fares. London Midland is also running a late train back to Watford at 23.00 while the beer festival is open.

If you are coming down the Kings Cross line then First Capital Connect offers Groupsave tickets. Book to Hatfield as there is a good bus service (8 per hour daytime, 2 per hour evenings) between Hatfield and St. Albans. The journey takes 20-25 minutes and the bus drops you right by the festival.

On the buses, the **Intalink Explorer** at £7 allows one adult or £10 for up to 4 people to use MOST buses within Hertfordshire and many in surrounding counties. If two people come together then this is the cheapest ticket for most journeys of more than 5-6 miles. It is not accepted on TfL services.

Continues on page 16

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

2008 Beer & Cider Festival

18th - 20th September



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**




50+ Cask Beers Foreign Beer
Cider - Perry - Wine

Tombola, Products, Hot & Cold Food

Thur 18th Sept. 5pm - 11pm
Fri 19th & Sat 20th Sept. 12noon - 11pm
Plinston, Broadway, SG6 3NX

Entry: £2 with 50% discount before 4pm
CAMRA, EBCU members & OAPs FREE
Family Area available Saturday till 7pm

Check www.camranorthherts.org.uk for info
Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

A bit further out: For another visit it's worth noting that, for £1.70 more than a return train fare, the local buses can be added to your ticket. This allows unlimited travel from either station to **Good Beer Guide 2008** pubs in Colney Heath, Redbourn, Sandridge, Tyttenhanger and Wheathampstead. Wheathampstead is also the nearest point for Amwell. This add-on fare is not available with Daysave and Groupsave tickets. There are fourteen CAMRA **Good Beer Guide** pubs in the St. Albans  area.

St Albans Beer festival has once again put together a deal with Intalink to give free entry to the festival to all those travelling on a Intalink ticket.

One final point to note is that cash machines at First Capital Connect stations are serviced by Moneybox. A 'convenience charge' (of under £2.00) is levied on all cash withdrawals. Bank ATMs are available in Letchworth opposite the station at the top of the Broadway. In St. Albans, they are located within one minute of the venue.

CAMRA Announces the Best Pub Designs in the Country!

The winners of CAMRA's annual Pub Design Awards, which celebrate the very best in vision, imagination and restraint in Britain's pubs have been announced.

Pub Design Award judge, architectural historian and writer Steven Parissien said: "The pub is at the hub of our way of life. And much of the pub's importance derives from its architectural form. Pubs depend not just on their beer, their food, or their landlord for their success, but on how they look both inside and out. Pub design is an element that can make or break a pub – and can, in turn, either enhance or injure its local community. And it is this element that the Pub Design Awards aims to celebrate and publicise. Thankfully 2007-8 has been an exceptional year for pub role-models for the future."

The Winners

Refurbishment Award and CAMRA / English Heritage Conservation Award - The Weaver Hotel, South Parade, Weston Point, Runcorn, Cheshire.

The judges said: "Carefully conserved by Maddocks Design Partnership of Altrincham for Barnsley's Oakwell Brewery, this jaunty former

commercial hotel and bar has been through decades of neglect and decline, but has now been restored to something like its Edwardian glory.

"Internal archaeology revealed the original room plan, which was faithfully reproduce. 'Period' light fittings have been installed; genuinely Edwardian paint colours – and, encouragingly, even wood graining – applied; superlative stained glass windows restored; dado tiling and the old column radiators repaired; a new but harmonious bar counter inserted; the original ceilings uncovered; the double-leaf front doors retained, and copied for the former off-sales entrance; and real fires reintroduced. Outside, the brickwork and stone dressings have been sensitively reappointed, and the roof appropriately re-slated.

"A pub that just two years ago seemed not long for this world has been rescued and rejuvenated. Altogether a highly impressive job, worthy of two awards – and of the notice of pub owners across the UK. Here's a fine example of what can be done to reinvigorate a pub and its surrounding community, using relatively meagre resources but a lot of common sense and well-placed enthusiasm".

Conversion to Pub Use Award – The Tobie Norris, St Paul's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire

The judges said: "Rebuilt by local architect Philip Heath for owner Michael Thurlby, this building originally dates back to 1280. The Norrises were local bell-makers, and several generations of 'Tobies' can be linked to the pub name. Converted from a former private club, the building's original room plan has been largely retained or revived, creating a variety of enticing spaces, upstairs and down, each with its own individual ambience. "This interior makes full use of the architectural



features uncovered when the 1960s hardboard, which had been tacked onto nearly all the wall and ceiling surfaces, was stripped away. The medieval roof in the main upstairs



room is particularly stunning. All rooms have been carefully conserved and new introductions – for example, of fitted seating in one of the downstairs rooms, plus the new bar counter itself – have been sympathetically



Throughout the pub, open fires, flagstones, old mix-and-match furniture, and appropriate and

inserted. "The reintroduced panelling is reclaimed 1760s work, and the new plasterwork has been painstakingly recreated to an 18th century recipe.

complementary paint colours – from a rich cream to crimson to leaf green – all create a hugely welcoming and cossetting atmosphere. The overall feel is intimate, historic, and innately 'pubby': no doubt that within a few years people will be claiming that it has been a pub for centuries. Altogether a worthy and much-praised winner of the Conversion award".

(Pub pictures from www.beerinthevening.com)

New Build Pub Award – The Black Horse Inn, Walcote, Leicestershire

The judges said, "For the first time in many years, the judges are delighted to be able to present an award for a New Build Pub. Local architects Twigg and Associates,

working closely with the owner Andy Clipston, (shown right) have replaced the pub that originally stood in this village. The



old pub was deemed by the thoughtless local authority to be 'too close to the road' and in the way of a planned 'executive housing estate' – as blatant an instance of urban vandalism *Cont/d*

The Queens Head, Allens Green



Herts & Essex Borders branch of CAMRA's Pub of the Year 2004, 2006 & 2008. Runner-up 2005 & 2007.

open Monday & Tuesday evenings only, Wednesday - Friday lunchtimes & evenings, Saturday & Sunday all day.

Pub food and a range of teas & coffees are available, together with a changing selection of real ales, ciders & perry.

May & August Bank Holiday Beer Festivals.

Real Ale weekends third weekend of each month.



and detrimental 'improvement' as you can get. Then the White Knight rode in: A former pub regular, Andrew

Clipston, intervened to buy the site and rebuild the pub – ensuring that the new building was now a regulation two metres from the main road. This pub has had both critics and defenders – but one which, we feel, on balance deserves an award, if only to celebrate the Phoenix-like rebirth of the village's social focus".

Steven Parissien concluded the judges' report saying, "Disappointingly, no submitted entry was deemed worthy of CAMRA's Joe Goodwin Award for Best Street Corner Local this year. However, the judges have singled out three pubs all of which, in their own ways, point to a bright – and profitable – future for the traditional British pub. If only more pub owners would begin to realise this."

Julian Hough, CAMRA's Pub Director, was very happy to see pubs getting some positive exposure at a worrying time for the pub industry. He said, "Our research shows that almost 60 pubs are permanently closing every month. That means they are being bulldozed or changed into houses and will never be pubs again. I am delighted that these awards are promoting something positive in the pub industry and I would like to congratulate all the winners on their pub design work and wish them all the success for the future".

(Pub pictures from www.guardian.co.uk)

3rd Successive Award for the Land of Liberty

The Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty in Heronsgate was packed with members of the various Hertfordshire CAMRA branches on the evening of Friday 20th June as the pub was named Hertfordshire Pub of the Year for the third year running. The pub is run by Martin Few and Gill Gibson, long-standing Watford & District CAMRA members who, after spending many years drinking real ale in pubs, decided to take a more proactive role and take over a pub themselves. One of their stipulations was that the pub should be free of tie, a tall order in south west Hertfordshire, but they were lucky when the lease

for the Land of Liberty became available. The lack of a beer tie now means that the pub can offer a changing range of ales from even the smallest microbrewers, who may find it difficult to get their beers into tied houses. This, together with Martin and Gill's commitment to real ale from independent breweries, means that the Land of Liberty boasts the widest range of ales in the Watford & District area.

Quality of ale and commitment to CAMRA's aims are just two of the reasons why the pub has won this accolade for the last three years. Gill and Martin have ensured that the atmosphere of the pub and friendliness of the staff, together with clever use of the pub's garden and pavilion, and regular events including a book club, knitting club and classic car club, give the pub a level of liveliness and intimacy that even non-regulars can appreciate. In short, it's the sort of pub everyone would want as their local.

In addition to the Herts Pub of the Year award CAMRA regional director Mike Harvey was on hand to present the pub with its Finalist award for last year's CAMRA National Pub of the Year competition. The Land of Liberty was pipped at the post by the Old Spot in Dursley, Gloucestershire, but we have high hopes for this year and would like to wish Martin and Gill the best of luck for the coming stages of the competition.

BELOW:

Watford & District CAMRA branch Chairman

Andrew Vaughan (centre) presents Gill Gibson and Martin Few with the Hertfordshire Pub of the Year Award.



LEFT:
Regional Director Mike Harvey (left) presents the Finalist – National Pub of the Year award to Gill and Martin

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

**CAMRA National Pub of the Year
Finalist 2007!**

Herts PotY 2006, 2007 and 2008!



Call us or
see our
website for
more
events

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

R4 Bus Direct from Watford & Rickmansworth
2/3 mile M25 J17; 1 mile Chorleywood Stn

See www.landoflibertypub.com

For more information & beer list

- ❖ NEW Book Club monthly
- ❖ 6+ Real Ales inc. a dark beer
- ❖ 3 Real Ciders & Perry
- ❖ Garden Pub Games - Petanque & Aunt Sally
- ❖ Great Bar Snacks All Day
- ❖ Free Soft Drinks for Drivers of 3 + beer drinkers

Lunches Mon to Sat
Hot Pasties only Sunday
Lunchtime

August Beer
Festival!!!
Thurs 21st
(eve) to Mon
25th

Peter and Katie give you a warm welcome to -

The Mermaid Public House

ALE & CHEESE NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY

**6 Cask Ales
Draught Cider**

**Selection of Wine and
Belgian Beers**

**Home Made Food
Served Mon-Sat 12-3pm
& 5-7pm**

Fresh Coffee



Jam Session Every Mon

**Karaoke Every Other
Sunday 6-10.30pm**

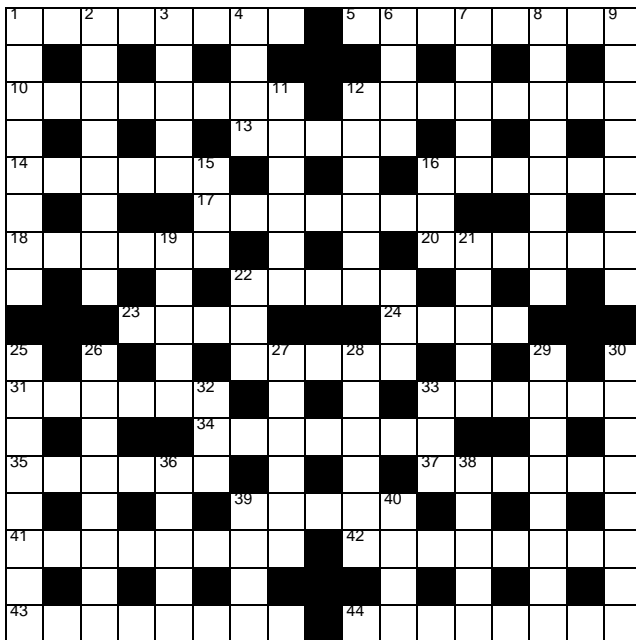
**Backgammon Night
Every Tuesday from
8pm - All Players
Welcome**

**Live Music Every
Weekend**

Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RL, Tel 01727 837758
Open 12-11pm Mon-Thurs, 12-12 am Fri & Sat, 12-10.30pm Sun
Car Park and Beer Garden

Prize Crossword

Win free Beer at our St Albans Beer Festival



1 pair of tickets **plus £15** worth of beer tokens for any single session of the **12th St. Albans Beer Festival** at the Alban Arena (24 – 27 Sep) will be won by the first **3** correct entries drawn after the closing date of **13 September 2008**. Photocopies are acceptable.

Send Entries to: J. E Green, 63 Green Lane, St. Albans, Herts, AL3 6HE

Your Name:

Your Address:

Your Postcode:

CLOCKWISE

22 See 13 and 17 (4, 8)

ACROSS

- 1 Dregs of society finally sleep on ploughed field (4, 4)
- 5 In petrol company reps are drunk – not from this (8)
- 10 Party poster displayed large sandwich (8)
- 12 Sweet centre (5 - 3)
- 13 (& 39 across) Where to go for the 22 and real banana split (5, 5)
- 14 The alternative is to break wind aplenty (6)
- 16 A Merc's broken down – what a laugh! (6)
- 17 You'll find this 14 at the 22 in the 13 39 across (4, 3)
- 18 White material excavated from copper mines (6)
- 20 Sit beside a record player, with No. 1 playing (6)
- 23 Where you'd love, in the middle, to get a fifty?(4)
- 24 Produced round cheese (4)
- 31 Control for head of spanner left for good (6)
- 33 Every newcomer starts at the centre again (6)
- 34 You might see one (or two) watching cricket (in both forms) (4, 3)
- 35 Reflexively the thing is felt to be different (6)
- 37 Bars need cook with energy (6)
- 39 See 13
- 41 Fit of rage produced by poxy pale brew (8)
- 42 Altering incorrect figure (8)
- 43 Queen gets involved in tax practice (8)
- 44 Cuts, then splits, fruit (8)

DOWN

- 1 Gripped about beer's contents – this one's? (8)
- 2 Light, me? No plan to change (4, 4)
- 3 A kind of light ale's drunk, right? (5)
- 4 Shuffle around to some extent, in jumper (4)
- 6 'It's a Knockout' – silly people turn up (4)
- 7 Dug-up article, one time forgot? (5)
- 8 Type of key concealed in cupboard? (8)
- 9 Do men nip out, with this undecided? (4, 4)
- 11 Asleep? Being disturbed won't ----- you (6)
- 12 Market which almost sounds weird (6)
- 15 Before beer loses its head, shake it (3)
- 16 In various places it's Black, White, Red or Yellow (3)
- 19 Five take part in Christmas story (5)
- 21 Tied, as draught beers are (5)
- 25 Give up *The Crown*, when drunk, i.e. bad act (8)
- 26 London or Havana? (3, 5)
- 27 Six have entry barred at first in St Albans pub (6)
- 28 Ability to consume beer in explosive surroundings (6)
- 29 Leaderless idiot, I hang around criminally (8)
- 30 Worshipful always in regular payment (8)
- 32 Angel face? That conceals a mischief-maker (3)
- 33 The curate's, for example, only a little good (3)
- 36 Colour showing up in medical illness (5)
- 38 Greek island, it's said, but some are Roman (5)
- 39 A big hit overthrowing combined powers (4)
- 40 It's cunning to ignore first of month (4)

Solution to Apr/May Sudoku in Edition228, page 30



Observations on Supermarket home delivery

The e-mail below was sent in late May to Tesco: Although Tesco drinks promotions are nothing new, I am rather concerned at all the publicity given to low cost alcohol and the links to health problems. Many in the health profession have highlighted alcohol abuse of late and the take up by the Chancellor of raising duty on beer with this in mind absolutely nothing has changed with supermarket promotions.

I am not levelling this solely at Tesco. Rather I would like an explanation of how you can sell Carlsberg for 57p a pint, 18 x 440ml x 2 for £16, when the on-trade have been forced to pass on rising costs and duties to the public, now tipping in at around £2.90 to £3.20 a pint - which is over five times as much. Of course the comparison is not like for like as a service sector has many additional costs and added value in providing the drink and surroundings, however it does seem to me this is a very unfair playing field where the encouragement is for people to drink at home.

This study on effects of supermarkets on alcohol prices is presented well and seems to me a close reflection of this country over the last two decades. www.alac.org.nz/InpowerFiles%5CPastEvents%5CEvent.Document2.17411.16002a77-de62-433f-a79b-6319c1018eba.pdf

A couple of questions:

What is the overall plan with Tesco pricing and promotions on beer, wine and spirits now and into the future both in terms of margins to drinks suppliers and responsibility as an alcohol vendor and how this fits in with the market place?

Have the competition commission's investigation and subsequent conclusions on drinks promotions and loss leaders had any influence on the Tesco operation?

I did receive an official reply which is copied below with no real surprises saying they are unable to make any comment, but at least have not closed the door on future discussions. My next line with Tesco will target their van deliveries. This does have an alcohol link, as £4 or £5 allows anyone to have their drinks order of beer and wine delivered to the most remote parts of Hertfordshire, so again this erodes locals supporting their pubs, although I shall mostly object to the very late night deliveries which run up to 11pm Monday to Friday (thankfully only to 8pm Saturday and 3pm

Sunday). The main two lines of reason will be: Are they increasing the supermarkets' dominance of competition with local shops and pubs in villages and towns. Secondly, deliveries disturb the tranquil countryside by delivery vans - especially in the evenings when cyclists, joggers and horse riders like to enjoy quiet country lanes only to meet a van travelling very fast head-on whose driver is unfamiliar with the area.

My thinking on this is that Tesco, Sainsbury's, ASDA, Somerfield, Ocado (Waitrose) deliveries have a larger effect on how people buy drink in villages such as Wheathampstead. I say this as often many of the pubs during the week are quiet; getting hold of info on how much drink their delivery contains is probably next to impossible.

Rob Strachen

Tesco Reply

Thank you for your email.

I am sorry, but I am unable to answer your questions as this information is company sensitive and not available to the public. I am sorry I cannot help you further on this occasion.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us at customer.service@tesco.co.uk quoting TES5151438X. Kind Regards, Ruth Orchardson
Tesco Customer Service

Guess I asked for it, this is the reply to my questions on Tesco drinks promotions - a link to the Tesco Beer Festival!

Their usual wide range of beer includes some bottle conditioned ale - most bottled beers reduced 30 to 40p, have GK IPA Export Strength 5% 500ml for £1.10 a bottle.

Cheers, Rob Strachen

Ed Says As Rob says it is not only Tesco who are happy to deliver alcohol to your home, the facility has been there for a long time and the impact on pubs during promotions has already had its negative effects. If you use a supermarket loyalty card all your purchases are recorded and there is a record of everything that is being delivered - otherwise, how would the supermarkets know if the service was viable or how much to charge for delivery? Big Brother is watching you, but how you could get the information released is beyond me. The best way to bring beer home is inside you, after a visit to your local. **Use them or lose them.**

31st Bedford Beer & Cider Festival

The Corn Exchange, St. Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SL

8th ~ 11th October 2008



**Your opportunity to try more than 100 real ales
along with 30 traditional ciders & perries !**

- ✔ Live music on Wed and Sat evenings
- ✔ Exclusive souvenir festival 2008 glass
- ✔ Tasty hot and cold food
- ✔ Foreign speciality beers
- ✔ Tombola and Shut The Box
- ✔ Clothing, gifts and books for sale

Sponsor a cask of ale !

Email sponsor@northbedscamra.org.uk

Festival volunteers needed !

Contact John Martin on 01234 768 294

or email: festival@northbedscamra.org.uk

Opening Times:

Wed 4 - 11pm. Thu, Fri & Sat 11.30am - 11pm

NO ONE UNDER AGE 18 ADMITTED !

Admission charges:

FREE admission to all before 5pm all days

After 5pm: £2 Wed, £3 Thu, £4 Fri & £1 Sat

Free to CAMRA members at all times

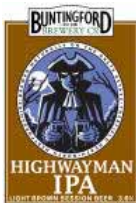
Evening pass-outs for smokers

Wheelchair access to all floors

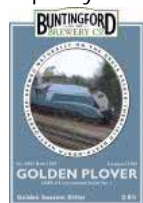


Buntingford Brewery News

Steve and Catherine at the Buntingford Brewery have recently appointed David Jarvis to handle trade sales. As a result sales have leapt forward and expansion of brewing capacity is firmly on the cards with a hope that, by year end, brewing capacity will reach 70 barrels a week. This increased capacity will mean that a wider



range of regular, seasonal & special beers will be available. Currently *Highwayman IPA* (3.6%) & *Golden Plover* (3.8%) are the two regulars, alongside which there is a range of 4.4% beers named after Britannia class steam locomotives, with *Polar*



Star being the most recent. These beers are in lieu of the fact that hop shortages have meant that *Britannia* cannot be brewed all year. It is planned to brew *Britannia* every 3-5 weeks from now until the new season's hops are available, when it should be back as a regular brew in the Buntingford portfolio.



The Sword in Hand – an Apology

In *Pints of View* edition 229 we incorrectly reported that the **Sword in Hand**, Westmill was now owned by Enterprise Inns. We are pleased to confirm that the pub remains a Free House in private ownership, and unreservedly apologise to Heather Hopperton and Geoff Brook.

Competition News

The Wells and Young's Wordsearch in edition 229 offered prizes of a case of the new Farm Assured Beers. We have received an exceptionally high response to this competition (hope I did not make it too easy - Ed) which must have some bearing on the prizes. It now appears that the lucky winners may be receiving a mixed case containing all the new beers, I hope this will not come as a disappointment. The winners will be announced in edition 231.

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 £12.00

Telephone 01438 869665

The Strathmore Arms

St Pauls Walden, Nr Hitchin, SG4 8BT
01438 871654
strathmorearms@tiscali.co.uk



2008 Beer Festivals

Bank Holiday – Thu 1 to Mon 5 May
Summer – Thu 31 Jul to Mon 3 Aug

Hertfordshire Pub of the Year 2004

Woodforde's Wherry & London Pride + 3
constantly changing guests, over 1900 so far

Mon 6pm–11pm, Tue–Thu 12–2:30pm, 5pm–11pm
Fri/Sat 12pm–11pm, Sun 10am–10:30pm

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Save money by paying by Direct Debit!

Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



Your Details

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address

Postcode

Email address

Tel No (s)

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in?

| | Direct Debit | Non DD |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Single Membership (UK & EU) | £20 <input type="checkbox"/> | £22 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint Membership (Partner at the same address) | £25 <input type="checkbox"/> | £27 <input type="checkbox"/> |

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

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

Mem Form 0108



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Originator's Identification Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

9 2 6 1 2 9

Address

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY
This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Postcode

Membership Number

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Name

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Postcode

Branch Sort Code

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Reference Number

Signature(s)

Date

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- The Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid or the payment date change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

attached and retained this version

Leicester Trek and Festival

By Ian Boyd

On Saturday 15th March, a mere £12.50 each to the poorer, a gang of well-seasoned South Herts quaffers claspings "Foursights" tickets headed to Leicester to check out its bars and beer festival. Held in the north of the city, the venue was the **Charotar Patidar Samaj** centre, owned by a private Hindu organisation originating from the Indian state of Gujarat.

In addition to the efficiently packed stillage room, there was an adjoining seating room where local pork pies, sausage rolls, and amply filled cobs complemented an excellent variety of generously served house curries. Almost two thirds of the advertised 200+ beers were still available – excellent for a festival Saturday. But we had to be quick, for as the afternoon wore on, more and more "Sold Out" signs started appearing on the barrels!

Eight of 12 festival specials, *Parish Wreake Havoc*, *Langton Lock Keeper*, *Dowbridge Corbita*, *Oldershaw Towpath Tipple*, *Full Mash Sence-less* and *Jolly Fisherman*, *Belvoir A Cut Above*, *Nobbys All Well and Good*, *Church End Fruity Skipper* and *Cherry Boat*, *Shardlow Locking Down*, and *Kinver Nine Locks Pale Ale*, were also still on - and 14 breweries located within 20 miles of the city centre were very well represented. Great to see the idea of the award-winning "Locale" scheme, initiated by the nearby Nottingham branch in 2007, being supported.

We had arrived at the station on time at 10.55, turning right to the underpass and on to Granby St. With admirable willpower, and more likely the knowledge that we had a short-list of about a dozen pubs on our list, we decided to miss out the Everards-owned "Barley Mow" and nearby Wetherspoon's "Last Plantagenet" and made a right onto Rutland St to catch the Leicester 2004 PotY, **The Ale Wagon** (right) at the junction with Charles St. Run by the Hoskins family, it is a



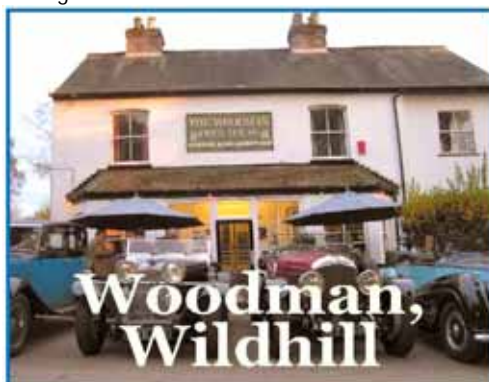
1930s, 2 roomed, tile-floored street corner boozier, and offered a good Hoskins range (*D.A.F.T.*, *Green & Gold*, *HOB*, *EXS*, and *Brigadier*, in addition to



Burton Bridge
Damson Porter and
Sharp's Bruised Ego.

Continuing down
Rutland St, and
turning right on to
Southampton St
found the newly re-
opened **Queen
Victoria** (left), now

run by Tony Francis owner of "Ales of the Unexpected" agency on a 5-year lease from Punch Taverns. But unlike in other Punch pubs, the landlord here has a free choice of beer range, and very exciting it was too; let's have more of this PT!! As first customers of the day at noon, we joyfully sampled Sam Smiths *OBB* (£1.50 for attendees of the BF), *Red Rock Red Rock Ale* and *Humber Down Milk St Beer*, *Shardlow Frostbite*, and *Glastonbury Spring Loaded* and *Boadicea's Revenge*. There's always debate on the pronunciation (and spelling) of Boadicea (vs Boudicca) the Iceni queen, but this time it was made clear it was Bo-diss-eea - it was the name of their dog!
Cont/d



**Guest Beers
Lunchtime Food**

45 Wildhill Lane
(Between A1000 and B158)

01707 642618

**Seven Times Winner South Herts
CAMRA Pub of the Year**

Local Features



With a mindful eye on the time and distance to cover, we shared a taxi to the festival – probably the best £4 spent on the day! After a few wonderful sampling hours and meeting

some old festival-going faces, we turned right out of the festival, crossed Vaughan Way down to Church Gate, where, through the car park on our right we found the **Salmon** (above) on Butt Close Lane. This was an ex-Bank's 2-roomed corner free house, offering 4 ales, including the delicious Potbelly *Beijing Black*, winner of several awards including **Beer of the Festival** in St Albans in 2006. Strangely, the pub closes at 8pm every evening (closed all day Sunday). But, wonderfully, they served huge plates of free sausages and baps during the live rugby. It was half time in the Wales v France match so you might guess what time of the day it now was!

Inside knowledge from the landlord got us to our next port of call by turning left onto Causeway Lane, entering



Debenhams, going upstairs, through and out of the store, meandering through the Shires shopping centre, and out to Loseby Lane, to reach the **Globe** (above) at the corner with Silver Street. The full range of Everards was on tap together with 2 guests, including Brewster's *Rutterkin* and Marston's *Sunbright*. One option was to go along the High Street to the **Highcross** (another Wetherspoons) but with time ticking, three more



"must visits" beckoned. Turning left onto Southgates took us to what was undoubtedly the ugliest pub of the tour, the **Shakespeares Head** (above – this picture from pub's website does it justice - Ed), abandoned and unattached on a lonely corner. The exterior looks suspiciously like

a Martello tower while on the inside it's like a 1960's airport lounge. Formerly owned by Shipstones, now Oakwell beers are served in top condition at very keen prices (£1.70 for *Barnsley Bitter*). Cheese rolls were £1. From the wide windows we could see our next pub, The **Criterion**, on Millstones



Lane. Owned by the Pig Pub Co, Oakham *JHB & Bishops Farewell* are regularly joined by 7 micro and regional guests (Tower, Morton and Potbelly samples on our visit) and dozens of Belgian bottled beers. It has been and is Leicester's PotY in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Left to Oxford St down to Infirmary Rd on the right found



the **Swan & Rushes** - another 7 guests (and more than 100 bottled international beers) including Oakham regulars and Inferno, Batemans, and

Grainstore Springtime.

With less than an hour left, we didn't go down Deacon St to Gateway St to the ex-hosiery factory now run as the **Leicester Gateway** by Tynemill, but instead crossed Oxford St, up Carlton and Marquis streets, to King Street and our last watering hole, **Out of the Vaults** (below), 3rd in the Leicester 2008 PotY. Eight guests adorned the bar, again including Oakham *JHB* and *Farewell*, along with a Millstone, Leeds *Ascension*, and Kelham Island *Arcade*.

Unfortunately, the others on offer remain listed on a beer mat left behind in our haste to catch our train. We left by the back door, turned right



along the pedestrianised tree-lined New Walk, a conservation area, then left at the footpath parallel to Waterloo Way and straight to the station, where we met the 8.35 train bang on time.

IB



The Old Manor is up a side turning off Darkes Lane in Potters Bar, just near the station. We are opposite the Wyllyotts Theatre and about ten years ago we used to be known as The Wyllyotts Manor. We are a small business and the people here work hard to make your visit a good one. We have a good selection of real ales along with a full bar and restaurant menu so whether you pop in for a drink, come for a meal or just feel the need to succumb to the pleasure of a cream tea you will be made most welcome here.



*Wyllyotts Place, Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2JD.
Telephone 01707 650674*

DOWN YOUR WAY

Disclaimer: 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 30.

Abbots Langley: The **Royal Oak** on Kitters Green has reopened after full renovation and is now under new management.

Aldenham: The **Roundbush** is selling locally produced organic red wine at £9.95 per bottle.

Bedmond: The freehold of the **White Hart** has been advertised for sale.

Bishops Stortford: The **Kings Arms**, 82 South Street, already closed for a long period is now boarded up together with adjacent buildings suggesting that the area may be due for redevelopment. The **Red, White and Blue** in Haseland Road is also closed with steel shutters over the doors and windows.

Borehamwood (Well End): The **Mops & Brooms** which reopened in April has had the public bar knocked out and gone all foody. The décor is modern minimalist and the dartboard, TV etc., which were previously in the public bar, have gone. In fact, there is no distinct drinkers' area. The Nelson pub sign still remains over the fireplace - possibly the only individual feature in the pub. Real ale, Mac's *Country*, *AK* and *Cask Ale* are available.

Bramfield: A planning application has been lodged for the conversion of the **Grandison Arms** - controversially closed for many years - into a house, with further houses proposed for the car park and gardens. The closure of the pub - the only pub in the village - is still bemoaned by many of the villagers. CAMRA wants to see village pubs given the chance to thrive not be closed at the whim of an individual and to the detriment of the local community.

Bricket Wood: The **Fox & Hounds** appears to be closed. It wasn't trading on the lunchtime of 23rd May, on b/h Monday 5th May or on the evenings of 9th or 13th May

Bridens Camp: We owe Jim and Jane North of the **Crown and Sceptre** an apology after saying in POV 229 that they also owned the **Old Chequers**, Gaddesden Row. They are of course previous owners; the Old Chequers is now one of Punch Taverns (they are however owners of the **Red Lion**, Studham in Bedfordshire). It is good to see this lovely old pub back in good hands after a spell with Greene King. The refurbishment has not taken any of the old charm of this country pub away, the two real fires have been retained and the toilets

have been brought into the 21st Century. The seven hand pumps will be serving Greene King *Abbot Ale* and *IPA* alongside a selection of guest beers. The kitchen is to be brought back into action very shortly serving lunches, evening meals and snacks.

Furneux Pelham: The **Brewery Tap** tenancy is up for sale.

Great Amwell: The **Waggon and Horses** on Pepper Hill has been closed of late - but at the time of going to press is due to open under new management.

Harpenden: The **Three Horseshoes** is currently shut. A notice on the door refers any creditors to the administrators of *Spice Inns*, effective from 11 July.

Hertford: The **Black Horse** currently has temporary management whilst Greene King search for new tenants. *IPA*, *Abbot* and guest ales are still available. At the **Old Cross Tavern**, Bev's new micro-brewery is bedding in with further trial brews being presented to the eager customers. Still no sign of the significant refurbishment work planned for the listed **Sportsman**, closed now for a year and showing growing signs of dilapidation - broken windows, exposed woodwork etc.

Hertingfordbury: The topsy-turvy world of the **Prince of Wales** continues. Closed, re-opened and now closed again, this is a worrying pattern for the pub's future.

Hitchin: The **Orchard & Anvil** is closed and boarded up. Any more details would be gratefully received.

Hunton Bridge: The **King's Lodge Hotel** has changed hands and is now operating under the name **Hunters Bar & Restaurant**.

Kinsbourne Green: The **Peppercorn** (nee Harrow) is closed and having some extensive building work done.

Little Wymondley: The **Bucks Head** has been awarded a Beautiful Beer Gold Award. The award was presented by Peter Lilley MP on the 18th July. The Beautiful Beer Awards are presented to pubs that display excellence in all their beers, cask, draught and bottled, with the audit checking everything from the cellar to the bar. In addition the pub has had the Cask Marque status renewed for a second year.

Markyate: The lease on the **Sun** is for sale. The **Swan** is to close in September for refurbishment.

Preston: The **Red Lion** has a new landlord who is from Texas, USA. Our visitor reported that overall not much change had taken place, five real ales on including regular Young's *Bitter* at £2.50 and Skinner's *Helligan Honey* (4.0%) at £2.80. The landlord is keeping a running log on the blackboard of different real ales sold since starting on 1st April. He also sells *Old Rosie* cider at £3.00 a pint.

Redbourn: The lease on the **Bell & Shears** is up for sale.

St. Albans: we belatedly welcome Dorothy Randles to the **Baton** (Bar Group). She is selling *Rebellion IPA*. At the **Crown** (Bar Group) a welcome to Dan Currie who offers Adnams *Bitter*, Greene King *IPA* and Adnams *Broadside*. The **Jolly Sailor** reopened after a full and tasteful refurbishment on 5 July. Five real ales from Wells & Young's brewery and their guest list are now available. It is planned to hold a bottled beer festival there later in the year. At the **Pre Hotel**, our local contact could not see much evidence of refurbishment - a lick of paint here and there, but no major changes, same old carpets and furnishings as several years ago when visited. The huge garden is much in need of attention. Fuller's *London Pride* is being served from one of three straight aluminium hand pumps at £2.66 a pint. The bar manager apparently fought hard to get it on, but if he doesn't sell 27 gallons a week it will have to go. The carvery is **very** good value at £3.25, served until 9pm (Monday - Saturday).

The **Bell**, already reported as closed, is now sporting a notice on the window quoting a planning application to demolish the conservatory at the rear and convert the building into three retail units. The **Cross Keys** (Wetherspoon's) in Chequer Street recently had their application for longer hours approved, so if you so desire you can be drinking a freshly poured pint of beer from 9:00 to 00:00 all 365 days of the year except New Year's eve when you can drink all night. This may sound like a lot but they are only extending their normal hours by one per day. **Batchwood Hall**, a no real ale nightclub situated in the Golf Club grounds has permanently scrapped glasses for plastic replacements. The **Garibaldi** is now open with a full range of Fuller's beer. At the **King William IV** Nathan Laflin has moved on. Interviews are being held for the next licensee; meanwhile Emma the deputy is holding the fort. We welcome new

THE WOODMAN

30 Chapmore End, Ware SG12 0HF
01920 463143
OS Ref: TL328164

BEER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21
With Live Music - Folk On Friday and
Swinging Saturday, both from 7:30

Lunches: 12 - 2 Tuesday to Friday
12 - 3 Saturday & Sunday

Evening meals: Wednesday to Saturday 5:30 - 7:30
Closed Monday until 5:30

Check the website for special evening food events
Large garden with children's play area

Dogs welcome

Traditional Pub Games & Petanque

www.woodmanware.co.uk

Good Beer Guide 2008 - We're In It!

Tony & Linda are CAMRA members

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

Sunday Roast lunch
Regular beer festivals

DOWN YOUR WAY

licensees Rosie Leigh at the **Blackberry Jack** (in Jersey Farm), Dan Currie at the **Crown**, and Sara Dale at the **Portland Arms**. Good news at the **Six Bells**, St Michaels, where lined glasses are being phased in. No short measure and an example to other licensees. The **Mermaid**, St. Albans, hosts a 'real ale night' every Thursday from 19.00. All ales are £2/pint. A cheese & biscuits selection is also available.

Stevenage: The tenancies of the **Crooked Billet** and the **Granby** are up for sale.

St Paul's Walden: The **Strathmore Arms** is probably the first pub in Hertfordshire to stock Will's vodka. Will Chase, proprietor of Tyrrells Crisps, has started producing vodka using potatoes too small to be made into his crisps.

Waltham Cross: Extensive internal refurbishment works have been completed at the McMullen's **Vine**.

Ware: The **Albion** - Since April John Hawthorn is the new landlord where Adnams *Bitter* and Flowers *IPA* are still served in tip-top condition. Steve and Ruby Dunn are back at the **Rifle Volunteer** where the ales come from Greene King.

Rose and Crown: After 8+ happy years Richard and Liam have retired from this McMullen's pub. Formally at the **John Gilpin** they took over an average Mac's pub, the Rose & Crown, and turned it into a GBG regular. We wish them well in their retirement and welcome John and Liz from Harrow and trust they'll continue running this cracking pub in the manner it deserves.

Westmill: In Pints of View edition 229 we incorrectly reported that the **Sword in Hand** was now owned by Enterprise Inns. We are pleased to confirm that the pub remains a "Free House" in private ownership and unreservedly apologise to Heather Hopperton and Geoff Brook.

Widford: The **Green Man** re-opened Thursday 10th July under new management. The pub was closed following a police raid in November last year.

Woolmer Green: The **Chequers** organised a charity bike ride at the end of June in aid of the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Trust. Over 70 cyclists rode a ten mile course in fancy dress and raised over £13,000.

Corrections to Pints of View Edition 229, both on page 25:

Woodman at Wildhill

Having checked the station database, visiting the **Woodman** at Wildhill is better achieved from Hatfield as there is no taxi rank at Welham Green station.

Abbey Line Anniversary Ale:

Silverlink has been succeeded on the Abbey Line by London Midland and not London Overground, who run the stopping service south of Watford Junction. Apologies to our friends at London Midland for the Freudian slip.

Pub Leases Currently for Sale:

Enterprise Inns leases:

Inn on the Heath - Bushey Heath, **RJ's** - Cheshunt, **Queens Head** - Colney Heath, **Waggon and Horses** - Elstree, **Sailor** - Hitchin, **Bridge** - Potters Bar, **Bell and Shears** - Redbourn, **Queens Head** - Sandridge, **Rose and Crown** - Sandridge, **Mallard** - Stevenage, **Pig and Whistle** - Stevenage.

Greene King leases:

George and Dragon - Graveley, **King Pin** - Stevenage.

Punch Taverns leases being advertised (as per their website at time of going to press):

Albion - Barnet, **Goat** - Berkhamsted, **Black Boy** - Bushey Heath (GBG listed 2008), **Waggon and Horses** - Great Amwell (currently closed), **Townshend Arms** - Hertford Heath, **Well** - Hitchin,

Winner of the Sudoku Apr/May 08, Edition 228 is R Onslow of Bushey, Herts, who wins a CAMRA 2008 Good Beer Guide.

SOLUTION BELOW:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | A | G | O | N | F | L | Y |
| N | O | F | R | L | Y | D | G | A |
| G | Y | L | F | A | D | N | O | R |
| F | D | O | N | R | G | Y | A | L |
| L | G | Y | O | D | A | R | F | N |
| A | N | R | Y | F | L | G | D | O |
| R | F | N | L | G | O | A | Y | D |
| O | A | G | D | Y | R | L | N | F |
| Y | L | D | A | N | F | O | R | G |

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

The Boot Inn, 1420



LIVE MUSIC

Our Live Music scene is becoming one of the most famous in St Albans with more and more bands performing. Please call us or visit www.lemonrock.co.uk

For all gig listings.

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2006, 2007, 2008.

7 Ever-Changing Real Ales

9 Continental Lagers

Huge Selection of Bottled Ciders and Lagers.

Massive Wine List with all wines from independent Vineyards.

Built around 1420, The Boot Inn has low ceilings and exposed beams. A truly Stunning Building.

Free Cheese Club every Wednesday, 6pm Start. Please bring an unusual or favourite piece of cheese with you!

4 Market Place, St Albans,
AL3 5DG (01727) 857533.

St Alban's Free-Range Pub...

***NEW* Monday is home-made Pie night. £7.95 including a pint of Real Ale. First Come, First Serve...**

4 Ever-Changing Real Ales

Extensive selection of foreign Beers

Fabulous Wine List with all wines from independent Vineyards.

Superb Home Cooked food served from 12:00 to 14:30 Tuesday to Saturday (lunch)
18:30 to 21:00 Monday to Saturday (supper)

Award Winning Sunday Lunch Served 13:00 to 16:00 (Bookings recommended)

41 Lower Dagnall Street,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
AL3 4QE
(01727) 833323

The Verulam Arms 1854



New Suntrap Garden
Now Open

BRANCH DIARY

SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Tue 12 Aug: Branch Meeting – **White Horse**, Hertford 8pm.

Wed 20 Aug: Branch trip to the **Peterborough Beer Festival**. Minibus leaves St Albans City station at 7pm. Contact Branch Contact to book seat (£12).

St Albans Beer Festival Publicity Crawls (3):

Fri 12 Sep: **London** 6pm onwards. Meet at the **Market Porter**, Stoney St., Borough SE1 to 6.45pm.

Sat 13 Sep: **Harpenden** 6pm onwards. Meet at the **Cross Keys**, Lower High St., to 6.40pm.

Sat 20 Sep: **St Albans** 6pm onwards. Meet at the **Mermaid**.

Tue 16 Sep: Branch Meeting – **Green Man**, Sandridge 8pm.

Fri 19 Sep: Branch trip to the **Letchworth Beer Festival**. Minibus leaves St Albans City station at 7pm. Contact Branch Contact to book seat (£10).

Wed 24 – Sat 27 Sep: **2008 St Albans Beer Festival** – Alban Arena. See back page for further details.

South Herts Branch Contact: John Bishop, Tel 01582 768478

Email: realales@yahoo.com

Internet: www.hertsale.org.uk

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Wed 6 Aug: Branch day trip to the **Great British Beer Festival**. Noon at Earl's Court. See www.gbbf.org.uk

Sat 9 Aug: Minibus Ramble, **East of Luton**.

Wed 13 Aug: Committee meeting - **Three Magnets**, Letchworth, SG6 3EW, 8pm. All members welcome.

Thu 21 Aug: Branch day trip to the **Peterborough Beer Festival**. Meet from noon at the event. See www.beer-fest.org.uk.

Fri 29 Aug: Ted & Josie Community Pub Award presentation to the **Rising Sun**, Halls Green. See article on page 12.

Wed 3 Sep: Branch Meeting & Social - **Crown**, Buntingford, 8pm

Sat 13 Sep: Minibus Ramble - Kimpton and Whitwell: **White Horse** then **Boot** (both Kimpton), **Bright Star** (Peters Green), **Bull** then **Maidens Head** (both Whitwell).

Tue 16 Sep: Letchworth Beer & Cider Festival Set Up - **Plinston Hall**, Letchworth.

Wed 17 Sep: Branch Social in the Hitchin area promoting the **Letchworth Beer & Cider Festival**.

Thu 18 – Sat 20 Sep: The **2008 Letchworth Beer & Cider Festival** - **Plinston Hall**, SG6 3NX. See Page

15 for further details.

Sun 21 Sep (am): Letchworth Beer & Cider Festival Take Down - **Plinston Hall**, Letchworth.

Wed 24 Sep: Branch Social - **Our Mutual Friend**, Stevenage, 8pm.

North Herts Branch Contacts:

Chairman - Andy Rawnsley, Tel: 01438 816938.

Email: chairman@camranorthherts.org.uk,

Socials Contact – Chris Strong, Tel 07784453767

Email: chrishstrong_86@hotmail.com

Website: www.camranorthherts.org.uk

HERTS ESSEX BORDERS

Mon 11 Aug: Branch Meeting - **Forest Gate**, Epping. 8.30pm Start. Mini Bus running to this event. To book place see Mini Bus contact below.

Fri 15 Aug: Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green. 8.30pm Start. Contact **Socials Contact** for details.

Mon 1 Sep: Branch Meeting - **Queens Head**, Churchgate Street. 8.30 pm start. NOTE NOT SECOND MONDAY THIS MONTH ONLY

Mini Bus running to this event. To book place see Mini Bus contact below.

Fri 12 Sep: Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green. 8.30pm Start. Contact **Socials Contact** for details.

Herts/Essex Borders Mini Bus Contact: Gavin Chester, Tel 01279 304823 or 07825446586 – email: mini-bus@heb-camra.org.uk

Socials Contact Email: social@heb-camra.org.uk

Email: Secretary@heb-camra.org.uk

Internet: www.heb-camra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Wed 6 Aug: Social at the **Great British Beer Festival**. Meet at the membership stand at 6pm and every hour thereafter.

Thu 14 Aug: Branch Social - **Abbots Langley & Hunton Bridge:** **Unicorn** (Gallows Hill, Abbots Langley), 840pm, **Waterside Tavern** (Bridge Road, Hunton Bridge), 930pm, **Hunters Bar & Restaurant** at the **King's Lodge Hotel** (Bridge Road, Hunton Bridge), 10.15pm.

Sun 24 Aug: West Hyde, Maple Cross, Horn Hill & Heronsgate walk. Meet at the **Oaks** (Old Uxbridge Road, West Hyde) at about 12.10pm. Number 6 bus goes from Watford Town Centre at 11.30am.

Mon 1 Sep: Branch Meeting - **Estcourt Arms**, St. Johns Road, Watford, 8pm. All members welcome.

Sat 13 Sep: Belsize & Sarratt Social – **Plough** (Dunny Lane, Belsize), 12.45pm, then the **Boot** and the **Cock** in Sarratt. Number 352 bus leaves

Watford Town Centre at 12.15pm.

Wed 24 Sep: Social to the **St Albans Beer Festival**, Alban Arena, St Albans. Meet at the products stand at 6pm and every hour thereafter.

Mon 29 Sep: Branch Meeting - **Estcourt Arms**, St. Johns Road, Watford, 8pm. All members welcome.

Thu 2 Oct: Quiz night at the **Southern Cross**, Langley Road, Watford. 8.30pm for a 9pm start.

Watford & District Contact: Andrew Vaughan.

Phone: 01923 230104. **Mobile:** 07854 988152.

Email: watfordcamra@googlemail.com

Internet: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

Coors Brewery Museum Trip

As Coors had announced the imminent closure of the old Bass Brewery Museum, a small party from North Herts CAMRA decided to visit before the opportunity was lost. The first part of the tour comprised the usual description of how beer is made; along with the story of how Burton-on-Trent became the beer capital of England, due to the local water quality and good transport links to bring in raw materials and ship the finished product all over the world. The thing that struck us when looking at this was that the whole thing was a bit tatty and tired, with faded displays including crossed out spelling mistakes. It has clearly been neglected by the current owners, and really needs an enthusiast to come in and give it some love and attention.

Also on the site are the Bass Shire Horses (future uncertain), right next to the Museum Brewery and the Engine House where the steam engine which powered the whole site via underground belt, pulley and shaft systems is located. This little grouping gives an interesting experience for the



collection is displayed in the building which formerly housed the Bass Joiners Department. In here on the ground floor are several steam-powered water pumps used to extract the famed Burton brewing water from nearby wells. Most of these are now electrically powered to give a

nose; malt and beer aromas from the brewery mingle in with horse and straw, hot metal and oil.

The bulk of the museum

demonstration of their operation. There is also a recreated Edwardian bar complete with traditional pub games. This compares favourably with some pubs on CAMRA's National Inventory of historic pub interiors.

The first floor is devoted to a history of Burton and the importance of brewing to its growth and prosperity, and the vast array of different trades needed to keep the breweries going. Alongside that is a display of advertising and promotional materials through the ages. Some of the Carling TV adverts from the 60s are almost unbelievably crass to the modern viewer, and most of them probably wouldn't be allowed any more.

The top floor is probably the most interesting as it shows how Burton beer was transported all over the world. Burton really



started to take off with the advent of a canal linking it all the way to Hull, which allowed much easier large-scale movements of raw materials and finished beer. This in turn meant it was worth investing in bigger breweries which needed even better transport links. The coming of the railways helped Burton breweries to reach the heights of their powers in the late 19th Century, and the breweries had a complex rail system of their own all across the town with thousands of stock movements every day at its peak. This system was not removed until the 1960s.

The centrepiece of the transport display is a model of Burton in 1921. It shows quite how much the brewing industry dominated the town to the exclusion of virtually everything else. It is interesting to compare with similar plans of Ware in the heyday of the malting industry. The model even has small trains running around it on the brewery railway.

No visit would be complete without the free beer in the bar, and this one was no exception. Here of course it had to be Worthington White Shield on draught, just yards from where it was brewed. Very nice it was too. In the shop we bought some bottled White Shield, but decided against the Carling, Grolsch, Coors, and Caffreys all on prominent display.

Graham Perry

Loud Music in Pubs Makes you Spend More – Say Scientists

Ear-splitting music in pubs helps to fuel binge-drinking, scientists have said. A study showed cranking up the volume made customers buy more alcohol and drink it faster.

The researchers said deafening music did not just drown out conversation, encouraging people to drink more, but it also aroused the brain, speeding up drinking.

The findings will add to concerns about the binge-drinking epidemic and the rise of huge town centre pubs, which are known as 'vertical drinking dens'. Designed to sell large quantities of alcohol as quickly as possible, they have few seats, which makes customers stand and crams in more drinkers, and few places to rest glasses, encouraging them to drink more quickly.



Dr Nicolas Gueguen (left), of the University of South Brittany in France, discreetly watched 40 men aged 18 to 25 as they entered city centre bars on Saturday nights, bought drinks and left.

With permission from the owners, he randomly turned the music up and down and observed the effect on different drinkers.

Dr Gueguen said: "We need to encourage bar owners to play music at more of a moderate level and make consumers aware that loud music can influence their alcohol consumption".

Prof Adrian North, of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh - one of Britain's leading experts on music psychology - said: "I don't believe bars play loud music in a cynical attempt to get people to drink more but they need to be aware it can have this side effect".

From the Daily Mail, 19 July 2008

Ed says: Drinking real ale down your traditional community pub in relaxed company saves both your money and hearing.

A Pub with a Difference

The **Halal Inn** in Oldham, Manchester, offers many of the traditional pub activities including snooker, darts, and quiz nights.

There is no rush for that extra pint at last orders as the pub is completely teetotal. This is Britain's first Muslim pub converted from the empty Westwood Inn by Aziz Rahman and Muzahid Khan (right), who had spotted a gap in the market.

With a mainly male clientele, the establishment has a prayer room, study room and a restaurant serving Asian food. As the Halal Inn looks like a normal pub from the outside, occasionally customers come in looking for an alcoholic drink and have to be directed elsewhere.



Common Sense Returns to St Albans with Support of the Ombudsman

The illegal booze ban in St Albans is over and that is official after a ruling by the Local Government Ombudsman. They have ruled that the District Council was wrong to stop people using the outside of five pubs in St Albans.



In September last year the pubs reluctantly took away their outside tables and stopped their customers drinking outside

after the Designated Public Place Orders legislation was misinterpreted.

A campaign ensued led by Brian Parker, a regular of the White Swan (pictured above with landlady Julie Barnes), supported by the *Review* newspaper, and of course the South Hertfordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The pubs affected were The **Boot**, the **Snug** (formerly the Fleur De Lys), **Harry Smiths**, the **Great Northern**, and the **White Swan**.

The Ombudsman wrote in June: "I confirm that I do not accept the Council's view that it had not been at fault and instead I found fault because its initial advice and subsequent actions were wrong. It stated that there was a ban on drinking alcohol outside when this was not the case".

An apology has been asked for from the Council's Chief Executive Mr Goodwin, but he still insists that the Council did nothing wrong.

Who Will Pay for Hand Pumps?

The question put by Paul Nunney, the director of Cask Marque is who will fund dispense equipment for cask ale, as volumes shift from the national brewers towards Regionals and Micros. The Multinationals InBev, Carlsberg, Coors and Scottish & Newcastle have diverted their attentions to brewing lager brands. In turn the Regionals and to a lesser degree the Micros have filled the gap and increased sales. Scottish & Newcastle say that they fund nearly 50,000 hand pump installations in UK outlets originally to dispense their own cask ale brands which they have now discontinued brewing. Their comment was that equipment that does not dispense their brands is an unnecessary trading cost and can present a risk to beer quality. Where the beer quality issue comes from I do not know. Maybe they are suggesting that if they do not maintain the



hand pumps no one else will.

Coors will maintain existing equipment and for any new installations but will not

pay for the upgrade or replacement of old equipment with new.

Pubcos must take responsibility for hand pump replacement but my view is that the lessee will end up footing the bill. Will publicans be expected or be forced to repair their own kit rather than pay a recognised dispense specialist?

Paul's final comment was "Licensees will do well to remember that whoever foots the bill, what matters most of all is that the equipment is good enough to do justice to what goes through it".

Spice Inns Receivership

On the 18th July the **Three Horseshoes**, Harpenden was closed by the Receiver for Spice Inns in a rather dramatic fashion.

On the day of closure, customers were told to leave once they had finished their meals, but without having to pay for them.

On Spice Inns' website, they show four pub/restaurants;

the **Dukes Head** (Hatfield Broad Oak) and the



Cricketers, Rickling Green (both in Essex), the **College Arms** (Hertford Heath), and the **Three Horseshoes** in Harpenden, pictured above.

The **Hillside** in Port Hill (no real ale for several years) in Hertford was also closed due to "financial difficulties" and "until further notice". John Lodge, director of Spice Inns has said, "We do not yet know what will happen regarding the ownership of the restaurant. We hope to reopen it in the near future". The **College Arms** in Hertford Heath, however, remains open. Along with the **Cricketers Arms** in Rickling Green it has been taken over by a company called Life's Kitchen.

The UK's Oldest Landlady?

I have received a hand written post card referring to our *Happy Birthday Judy* article on page 21 of the last edition. I must say the handwriting leaves a lot to be desired and it is signed simply Eric. Anyway it reads as follows: "At 88 Judy Wilding is a mere stripling. Josie Lane at the Sun, Leirwardine (almost certainly Britain's most basic pub) is nearer 100 than 90 and is I suggest, the oldest. Even Mary Wright at the second most basic pub the Luppitt at Luppitt is 89".

Ed says: According to a *Daily Telegraph* article dated 27 June 2006, The **Sun Inn**, *Leintwardine*, Herefordshire is run by *Flossy Lane*, 94 (92 at time the article was published). According to an article in the *Guardian*, dated 23 July 2005, the **Luppitt Inn**, Luppitt, Devon is run by Mary Wright, 87 (84 at the time the article was published). Assuming both these landladies are still running their pubs, Flossy Lane at least can not take anything away from Judy's achievement. For those unfamiliar, Judy Wilding is landlady of the **Rose and Crown** at Trowley Bottom, near Flamstead.

Steve Bury



Wed 24th - Sat 27th September
ALBAN ARENA THE ALBANS ST ALBANS

OVER 300 REAL ALES plus CIDERS, PERRIES & FOREIGN BEERS



| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 24th | 5.00pm - 10.30pm | £2.50 | |
| Thursday 25th | 11.00am - 10.30pm | £2.50 | (£2.00 before 4.00pm) |
| Friday 26th | 11.00am - 10.30pm | £3.00 | (£2.00 before 4.00pm) |
| Saturday 27th | 11.00am - 10.30pm | £4.00 | (£2.00 before 4.00pm) |



Beer with the Feelgood Factor! Sat. Sept. 27th Dr FEELGOOD

CAMRA MEMBERS FREE EVERY DAY, ANY TIME. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 CAN BE ADMITTED
www.stalbansbeerfestival.com Box office 01727 844488 Contact: realales@yahoo.com