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HERTFORDSHIRE'S

# Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for every discerning drinker

December/January 2009

Circulation 7500

No. 232



Our seasonal pub above is the **Robin Hood and Little John** in rural Rabley Heath, near Codicote. This traditional pub serves MacMullen's *AK, Country, Cask Ale*, a seasonal beer and serves home cooked food.



*Spotlight on the White Horse, Hertford*  
Pages 19 - 20



*Watford Beer Festival*  
Report Page 14

*CAMRA's Campaigning*  
activities Page 4



**PLUS: Features, beer and pub articles, county pub news, and a lot more!**

## Pubs under Threat - Council Tax is an Issue Too

A couple of months ago whilst delivering the newsletter I was approached by a customer who highlighted the high council taxes some pubs are paying, as well as their rent reviews - which are always upwards. It appears to some publicans that council tax works in the same way as rent reviews. Owners and brewers are also liable to the tax if the pub is closed -the **Kings Head** in London Colney and the **Swan** in Park Street being local examples. I also know of at least one licensee who is awaiting a council tax re-assessment but this takes a long period of time and has to go before a Review Tribunal made up of three lay representatives who are volunteers and appointed.

To understand what community pubs are facing you can compare by location, floor space and turn over, by entering the post code of the pub or business on the site below. This shows the rateable value in 2000 and last revaluation in 2005. The next review is due in 2010, and in difficult trading times there are many that could do with no more large increases.

They even answer the question of how quizzes, darts and pool contribute to a pub's rental value - at least they left off Sky TV!

All this information is in the public domain. I have picked a few for comparison giving their Rateable Value in 2000 and 2005.

The **Boot**, St Albans: £16,500 and £19,900 (up 20%).

The **Lower Red Lion**, St Albans: £25,750 and £25,800 (up 0.2%).

The **Six Bells**, St Michaels Village, St Albans: £14,000 and £31,500 (up 225%).

The **Swan**, Wheathampstead: £22,500 and £30,900 (up 37%).

The **Nelson**, Wheathampstead: £8,250 and £9,700 (up 18%).

The **Wicked Lady**, Wheathampstead: £42,600 and £35,000 (down 18%).

There are some big step-ups and are primarily related to the turnover, profit or potential at the time of valuation. Some dropped such as the Wicked Lady valued just before the take over when turnover low.

I was quite surprised with the Six Bells; the rateable value has more than doubled in five years but the trade has improved over this period, and it is now a very popular pub, and in the CAMRA

**Good Beer Guide 2009**. The Swan also had a big step up and is now similarly rated. I think that the amount of floor space in the living quarters is also taken into account. On top of that, those living there are paying council tax as well, so effectively two lots are being paid for each room.

There are also some examples that seem to be quite low, such as the Nelson - again valued before trade stepped up significantly two and a half years ago. I know there is a Rural Rate Relief for 3000 or less population, and when you are running the only pub or amenity in a locality a 50% rebate or more can be made at the discretion of the Council. In support of the Sustainable Communities Bill perhaps the Council should give a reduction in situations where the pub is bringing great value to the community. Having said that those in Whitehall are generally an uncaring bunch, if you use the closure of many Post Offices, vital to communities as an example. Once gone so do most of the other shops and amenities.

If you travel along the A40 at Ealing yes that big pile of rubble was a pub and the sign is still there with the 'SORRY MR BROWN NO EMPTY RATES ON THIS ONE!' banner. How they think pub owners can sell on a pub in less than 3 months in

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this climate is beyond me.

So if planning to buy a British pub it may be worth hanging on until after 2010 and you could get five years of low rates! Now here is a controversial thought, I wonder if some pubs wind up their pub games and hide the pool tables around the time of valuation. The next revaluation could be the final straw for even more public houses and it's only two years away.

*Steve Bury*

## Cask Ale is Outperforming the Rest of the Beer Market

The UK's true national drink comes to the rescue of the British, according to **The Intelligent Choice** – a report into the cask ale market for 2008/9. The report, by Pete Brown was published in September, and is backed by: Adnams, Caledonian, Fuller's, Greene King, Marston's and Wells & Youngs, Independent Family Brewers of Britain, the Society of Independent Brewers, the Cask Marque Trust - and the Campaign for Real Ale.

The report shows that real ale is now the star performer in the UK beer market, which is good news not just for curious drinkers, but also pubs that have been hit by the worst combination of business conditions in living memory.

The Intelligent Choice Report 2008-9 demonstrates that:

- Cask ale is showing signs of growth and is outperforming the rest of the beer market
- Well-kept cask ale can significantly improve the profitability of a pub.
- Cask ale is an icon of Britishness and the focus of increasing media attention.
- Cask ale provides a compelling reason to visit the pub, much needed in the current climate.
- Regional and local ale brewers have seen an overall return to net value growth.

The report shows that cask ale drinkers have more money to spend than any other group of drinkers. In a dire year for beer across the board the total beer market has declined 8%, but cask ale has been the star performer, doing better than any other ale or lager category.

The picture gets even better when you strip out the four big multinational corporations that dominate the British beer market, who continue to withdraw investment from the ale sector. Looking at just the regional and local brewers, they have only suffered a volume decline of -0.3%, and in value terms – thanks to a move towards premium ales – these brewers are collectively showing value growth of 1.8%.

The report goes further to say:

- Cask ale is unique to the on-trade – it can't be bought in supermarkets and is proven to drive profitability in pubs where it is stocked and kept well.
- Cask ale drinkers are relatively up-market and affluent being more than twice as likely to earn more than the national average wage.



- Research by Cask Marque among major pub companies shows clear differences in total trade – not just cask ale – between pubs with Cask Marque accreditation and those without. In some like-for-like outlets, those serving good cask ale have seen trade growth of 14%, compared to a fall of -2.5% for those without.
- Cask ale is recruiting new drinkers in the 25-44 age group.
- Cask ale is our national drink. It features in any survey of icons of Britishness, and is sought out

by tourists. Tourism offices have seen a strong demand for information about cask ale across the UK.

- Well-kept cask ale consistently improves a pub's profitability.
- 65% of UK drinkers have never tried cask ale. Among those who do try, 40% convert to drinking it. There is huge potential for growth.
- Cask ale is an enduring British icon.

The British media is showing growing interest in interesting characterful beer, which has cask ale at its heart. There's been scant coverage of any beer – let alone cask ale – in the media over recent years. All this changed in 2008, with newspapers upping their beer coverage, and more than one new TV series devoted to beer about to light up our screens. It's not all about cask ale, but cask is at the heart of it.

[www.caskalereport.co.uk](http://www.caskalereport.co.uk)

## CAMRA's Current Campaigning Activities

### Cider Month

October being Cider Month, CAMRA called on more pubs to stock real cider and perry (which is *not* pear cider – see page 7), and announced the **2008 Cider Pub of the Year** - **The Square and Compass**, in Worth Matravers, Dorset.

### National Cask Ale Week



CAMRA has entered a partnership with Cask Marque, The Independent family Brewers of Britain, Enterprise Inns and Punch Taverns to run the first ever National Cask Ale Week from 5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to

encourage licensees to trial different and more varied real ale brands.

### RAIB (Real Ale in a Bottle) - "One to Try" Pilot Launch

Bottle neck tags have been produced and were trialed at **Great British Beer Festival** with four breweries participating - Durham, Hook Norton, Tryst and Woodforde's. The tags will help participating breweries to stand out from other bottled beers on the shelf. They also provide information on the reverse on the tag on storing and pouring.



### Business and Enterprise Select Committee - Pubco Enquiry

The relationship between pub companies and their tenants is being re-investigated by the Business and Enterprise Select Committee, mentioned in edition 231. In 2004 the predecessor to this committee concluded that the costs of the beer tie were balanced by the benefits also available to tenants, notably a subsidised rent.

CAMRA's submission will argue that:

- Small and medium sized brewers do not get reasonable access to sell their products in the UK's pub market due to present restrictive practices by pub companies and brewers.
- Valued community pubs are being made unviable by high rents and beer prices
- Pub companies are not passing on increased discounts to their tenants thus resulting in inflated consumer prices.

The submission will recommend the following remedies:

- A guest beer right
- Scrutiny by the Office of Fair Trading to ensure that the cost of the beer tie is balanced by benefits available to tenants
- A right of first refusal to buy should the existing freeholder wish to sell the pub
- A ban on the use of restrictive covenants
- An end to upward only rent agreements
- An end to automatic annual RPI increases in rent irrespective of trading conditions.

CAMRA will oppose the recommendation, from the "Fair Pint" organisation, that no company should be allowed to tie more than 500 pubs.

### Coors/Bass Museum

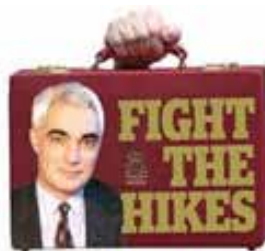
Following the closure of the museum 30<sup>th</sup> June as reported in newsletter 229, CAMRA has pledged financial backing to the steering committee led by Burton MP Janet Dean by putting the proceeds of the Burton Beer Festival at their disposal. Funding needs to be secured by the end of the year. Coors have pledged £200,000 support for the first year and £100,000 thereafter, another £300,000 per annum needs to be found.

### Full Pints

The Full Pint petition total, now at 23,293, is officially closed and has been delivered to 10 Downing Street. The government has not delivered on its manifesto promise in 1997 to bring in "Full pint" legislation, and EDMs (Early Day Motions) since then have received enormous support, but the issue still has not been dealt with. How long will it take for the government to recognise that consumers are being ripped off, and then do something about it?

### Beer Tax Campaign

The beer tax campaign at the Great British Beer Festival saw 1,700 visitors complete campaign postcards to their MPs calling for a fair deal on beer tax. These postcards collected by us have



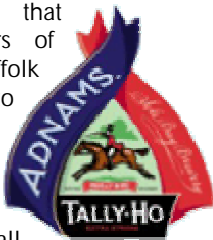
now been sent out to the relevant MPs. We must do everything in our power to stop the chancellor bringing in his proposed increases in excise duty in consecutive budgets. The last increase in tax actually cost the government revenue due to a reduction in sales. When will they learn?

**Pre-Budget Report condemned – see page 27**

## Tally Ho Rallying Call

**W**e were advised that Adnams - brewers of Southwold in Suffolk took a decision in September to axe *Tally Ho*. The excellent seasonal beer was due to be brewed in December but following the brewery expansion the small experimental tun had been discarded, and Adnams decided it was no longer economical to produce it in the large lauter tuns. In October there was a reprieve and Tally Ho is going to be produced this year after a general revolt in the tied trade persuaded Jonathan Adnams to review the situation.

Adnams beer is readily available in Hertfordshire and we ask is the future of Tally Ho secure? One of the best ways of ensuring this is to persuade your local Adnams outlet to order some up this Christmas.



## Otter Pays Record £25K for Sky Sins

**F**ollowing conviction for five offences of dishonest reception of Sky television transmissions, Lorraine Andrews and fellow licensee Anthony Van Broeck were recently fined £15,000 and £9,000 respectively, with over £1,000 in costs. The conviction was for screening Sky football in their pub via a domestic card. There have been 900 similar successful prosecutions to date, with 200 during the last season, and 100 pending. The *Otter* in Bushey Mill Lane does not serve real ale.

## MP Seeks Skull Splitter Support

**A** House of Commons motion has been tabled aimed at protecting the Scottish ale called *Skull Splitter*.

The Orkney Brewery fears the product could be withdrawn from sale following a report commissioned by alcohol watchdog the Portman Group.

It has been claimed its Viking-branded bottles have an aggressive theme.

Orkney and Shetland MP Alistair Carmichael said losing the name would be a serious setback, and

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called for the complaint to be rejected.

Skull Splitter, an 8.5% ale created more than 20 years ago, is sold internationally.



The brewery said the ale was in fact named after Thorfinn Hausakluif, the seventh Viking earl of Orkney, nicknamed "Skull Splitter".

Mr Carmichael said the name would be inappropriate if it were a low-priced drink aimed at youngsters.

But he said it was an award-winning beer, which is bought by "discerning drinkers who appreciate its quality and who drink it responsibly".

Orkney Brewery's parent company, Sinclair Breweries Ltd, earlier said it was "stunned" by the complaint and hoped for "common sense" to prevail.

The Portman Group confirmed a complaint was being investigated

*BBC News Scotland, November 9, 2008*

## Plastic Glasses Enforcement Overturned

**T**he **24-7 Club** (previously: Fudge, Spritzers and originally the Punch Bowl) on the Redbourn Road, St Albans — was banned from serving drinks in glass containers at a licence review in May, which followed an assault at the premises. The licence was suspended for two months.

Licensee Ferdinand Konig appealed the suspension and licence conditions, including the compulsory use of polycarbonates. He wanted to attract a more "upmarket" customer who wouldn't accept a cocktail in a polycarbonate container. Real Ale has not been served since being converted from a pub. James Anderson of Poppleston Allen, representing Konig, said: "The Police argument was based on the fact that the three other similar venues in St Albans, that are trading late with music and very little food, had already agreed voluntarily to have polycarbonates.

"There was clearly a police policy that these venues which the police termed 'high risk' should have polycarbonates to prevent incidents of glassing." Anderson said the bar should be deemed "low risk" because no incidents had ever been

reported involving either the use of a glass as a weapon, or injury caused by broken glass.

"The magistrates indicated in their reasons that the local authority argued that it was 'desirable' for all venues to use polycarbonates but there is nothing in law that currently requires it".

Magistrates ordered St Albans District Council to pay unspecified costs to Konig.

## Alcohol Disorder Zones

**A**s mentioned in previous editions of the newsletter, regulations allowing Councils to introduce "Alcohol Disorder Zones", have now been endorsed by the government. These zones have the potential to cost large community pubs in excess of £100 a week if they happen to be located within a zone supposedly to pay for extra Police supervision.

The very good news is that councils and the police seem reluctant to make use of Alcohol Disorder Zones. The Local Government

Association describes the legislation as "over-bureaucratic, over-complicated and unnecessary". Ipswich Council's view on the Zones is that they "appear complex and resource-consuming in comparison with existing powers". A quick search of news stories suggests that Liverpool is the only major council actively considering introducing an Alcohol Disorder Zone.

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**Advert deadline for our February/March newsletter (233) is 7 January 2009**

**Copy deadline for 233 is 14 January 2009**

## There is no Such Thing as Pear Cider

As many of you are aware, the use of the term 'pear cider' has become more common in the last year or two, and there are now a number of products on the market using this name. This is classic ignorance and marketing that ignores the history of perry as a traditional drink made from pears.

The term 'pear cider' could confuse the consumer as to what they are actually buying.

Cider can only be made from apples - the drink produced by fermenting the juice of pears is 'perry'. There should, therefore, be no confusion between 'cider' and 'perry', and it is CAMRA's view that there can be no such thing as 'pear cider'.

## Drinkers Fall into 'nine groups'

The government believes it has identified nine types of heavy drinker as it launches a new alcohol campaign.

Research by the Department of Health in England with focus groups found heavy drinkers often fell into one of a number of categories.

These ranged from de-stress and depressed

drinkers to people who boozed because of boredom or to bond.

### THE NINE TYPES OF DRINKER

- Depressed drinker
- De-stress drinker
- Re-bonding drinker
- Conformist drinker
- Community drinker
- Boredom drinker
- Macho drinker
- Hedonistic drinker
- Border Dependents

Experts said helping people to understand the reasons for their drinking habits was "very useful".

The research showed that those drinking heavily - defined as consuming 35 units a week for women, 50 for men, which is twice the recommended limit - did so for a variety of reasons. For example, de-stress drinkers were defined as people in pressured jobs who used alcohol to relax.

Whereas it said bonding drinkers could be anyone in society who had hectic social lives and lost track of their drinking.

The research was done to inform a new drive by ministers to crack down on heavy drinkers.

A pilot is being run in the north west of England over the coming months to specifically target heavy drinkers.

*Cont/d*

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# Beer News and Features

Over 900,000 households will receive leaflets through the post highlighting the link between drinking and conditions such as cancer and liver disease.

The campaign is focusing on adults aged over 35 who fall into the nine drinking categories.

Along with the information about disease risk, people will be given details about where they can go to get help.

This will include a website where they can calculate their own individual risk from drinking and get access to a self-help manual. A telephone helpline will also be set up.

The government hopes the tailored approach will help 4,000 people in the region to reduce their

drinking within a year.

If it is successful, officials hope to roll it out to other parts of England.

Public health minister Dawn Primarolo admitted these heavy drinkers were a "tough one to crack".

But she added: "This is a totally fresh approach to helping people understand the effects of their drinking habits and help them make changes for the better".

Alcohol Concern chief executive Don Shenker said: "This type of marketing is very useful.

"In order to get people to examine their drinking they need to become aware of why they are doing it and what motivates them".

*BBC News, 18 September 2008*

## The Nine Types of Drinker

Name	Characteristics	Key motivations
Depressed drinker	Life in a state of crisis e.g. recently bereaved, divorced or in financial crisis	Alcohol is a comforter and a form of self-medication used to help them cope
De-stress drinker	Pressurised job or stressful home life leads to feelings of being out of control and burdened with responsibility	Alcohol is used to relax, unwind and calm down and to gain a sense of control when switching between work and personal life. Partners often support or reinforce behaviour by preparing drinks for them
Re-bonding drinker	Relevant to those with a very busy social calendar	Alcohol is the 'shared connector' that unifies and gets them on the same level. They often forget the time and the amount they are consuming
Conformist drinker	Traditional guys who believe that going to the pub every night is 'what men do'	Justify it as 'me time'. The pub is their second home and they feel a strong sense of belonging and acceptance within this environment
Community drinker	Drink in fairly large social friendship groups	The sense of community forged through the pub-group. Drinking provides a sense of safety and security and gives their lives meaning. It also acts a social network
Boredom drinker	Typically single mums or recent divorcees with restricted social life	Drinking is company, making up for an absence of people. Drinking marks the end of the day, perhaps following the completion of chores
Macho drinker	Often feeling under-valued, disempowered and frustrated in important areas of their life	Have actively cultivated a strong 'alpha male' that revolves around their drinking 'prowess'. Drinking is driven by a constant need to assert their masculinity and status to themselves and others
Hedonistic drinker	Single, divorced and/or with grown up children	Drinking excessively is a way of visibly expressing their independence, freedom and 'youthfulness' to themselves. Alcohol used to release inhibitions
Border dependents	Men who effectively live in the pub which, for them, is very much a home from home	A combination of motives, including boredom, the need to conform, and a general sense of malaise in their lives

## Hops are Life Savers - Beer Drinkers Rejoice!

Article from the National Research Council (NRC), Canada, dated 3 November, 2008

It is the season to be merry, so beer drinkers rejoice! With help from NRC researchers, your favourite beverage will not only quench your thirst, but also help ward off cancer.

Studies conducted over the past decade show that a natural product found in hops (a key flavouring agent used in beer) packs a powerful punch for both the prevention and treatment of certain types of cancer, says Dr. Jonathan Page, a research officer at the



NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon. The phytochemical, called xanthohumol, can activate antioxidant proteins in human cells that help protect us against cancer or other diseases. And in lab studies, the compound has been shown to selectively kill and prevent the growth of cancer cells.

Dr. Page cautions that xanthohumol will never be a "first line" anti-cancer drug, primarily because its "bioavailability" – that is, the "effective dose" that can circulate in the body and reach cancerous targets – is limited. "Xanthohumol is viewed more as a chemical that could be incorporated into our diet and work over a long period of time to prevent certain cancers, particularly colon cancer, since it can get into the intestinal tract through food", he says.

**Ed Says:** I'm doing all the field trials I can handle at the moment. Drinking a variety of different beers from around the UK must help, and I am sure our readers will be taking part enthusiastically as well.

## How to Look After Real Draught Ale

A friend of mine recently was fortunate enough to get nine gallons of beer following a function on a Saturday night, which was excess to complement to quote a military term, in other words free. He got in touch with me and said that he did not know how to look after a barrel and when I visited his house on the Wednesday the

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# Beer News and Features

barrel, which had been tapped and spiled was stored end up in his garden shed. This was the beginning of October and the temperatures were beginning to change, with cold nights and then becoming hot and sunny between twelve and four each day. I went and got a stillage and set the beer up correctly on his back garden table, I also replaced the spile (for those of you that don't know it is the peg in the top of the cask) with a polythene "Race Spile" which acts as a one way release valve. On the Friday seven days after the cask was broached a few friends had an excellent evening drinking the beer. The turn out was not as good as expected and can I say those who were not there missed a treat. On Saturday we were a little the worse for wear and the barrel was not revisited until Monday lunchtime, when the beer was still in very good condition. The problem was that it had to be returned, so a number of containers were used to decant the remaining three gallons, which although separated from the yeast and secondary fermentation was perfectly drinkable up until the following Friday. I will add that the beer lacked some condition (was not very lively) but it most certainly was not off. This beer in my opinion was perfectly drinkable for a period of two weeks in

adverse conditions. So my next question is; how is it that customers are being served up bad beer?

Recently on two occasions in different pubs I have been served beer that has gone to vinegar, I have also been given very tired offerings, which are very near to being on the turn.

The problem lies with the pub's turnover - so bad that they cannot sell seventy-two pints in a reasonable time. *Do they sell too big a beer range?* If this is the case is ullage (slops) being returned to the barrel and tainting good beer with bad? This can only be a desperate act of money-saving.

*Is the equipment cleaned regularly?* Handpumps and pipes need a proper flush through with cleaning fluid at least once a week. This is time-consuming, so is your publican just lazy? I have experienced new barrels being put on directly after the old cask has been finished and pulling through the new beer with the old. In some cases I have seen this done with a different brew; no wonder the beer tastes odd.

Cleanliness and turnover is the key and I am amazed in these times of recession and high prices how willing some establishments are to try and serve customers below quality ale.

*Steve Bury*

## The Farmers Boy

134 London Road, St Albans, AL1 1PQ, Tel: 01727 860535

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## Legal Defeat for Pub Noise Complainant Neighbour

**A** High Court judge has ruled that incomers, who knew about the potential disturbance before they moved in, had few grounds for challenging any noise nuisance. The ruling meant defeat for St Albans Council, Herts, which had supported a complaint from a woman that she could hear drinkers chatting in a pub beer garden



after moving in next door. The court was told that Jane Lockley's garden adjoined the grounds of **Mokoko** on Verulam Road (above). The case originally went before magistrates who were satisfied that there was a noise nuisance.

However, taking into account that Mrs Lockley had known about the pub when she moved in, and following efforts by the publican to reduce that nuisance, they dismissed the case against Jass Patel, proprietor of Mokoko.

That decision was upheld by Mr Justice Forbes, who dismissed an appeal from the local authority. "I am satisfied that none of the matters raised by the council has called into question the correctness of the decision reached by the magistrates in this case", he said.

Although he said it would be going too far to say that Mrs Lockley had "brought the nuisance upon herself", the judge added that the courts were entitled to take into consideration the fact she knew that the pub was there before she moved.

He backed the magistrates who had said earlier that while the pub had become livelier since Mrs Lockley's arrival, it was "the nature of things" that the business at licensed premises changed.

Mr Justice Forbes also noted that Mr Patel had done his best to help neighbours and had installed

secondary glazing in one person's property. In addition, Mr Patel had closed part of the pub garden and had restricted the number of people entitled to be in the garden to less than half the legal limit.

**Ed Says:** There have been many cases brought about pub nuisances, including ones relating to the use of pub gardens following the smoking ban. Let's hope that Mr Justice Forbes' decision will bring about some common sense. St Albans District Council has had their problems with the Licensed Trade lately; the repeal of the outside drinking restrictions after the intervention of the Ombudsman, and the removal of the glass ban at 24/7 being two examples. Mokoko, named after a small Ugandan town, is a cocktail bar with no real ale. Previously it was the Harrow - a traditional locals' local, then much more to my liking.

*Original article by Graham Tibbetts*

*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.

## White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans  
Tel: 01727 860974



Deuchars IPA, London Pride  
& three guest beers

Food served lunchtime everyday and  
evenings

Tuesday - Friday

Live music

First Saturday night of month

Large beer garden

All welcome

## Danny Blyth 1957 - 2008

Former research officer Danny Blyth who was one of CAMRA's greatest 80s campaigners died suddenly in early October following being diagnosed with stomach cancer.

When he joined the staff in St Albans in 1983 from the Scottish Brewing Archive, he leaped straight into the (successful) fight to stop Wolverhampton and Dudley seizing Davenport's of Birmingham.

And within a year had helped to spike the first attempted takeover by a national brewer for a decade, when he ensured Scottish & Newcastle's bid for Camerons of Hartlepool was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He was always at the heart of the battles to save breweries, organising petitions and reports to government, mass marches and publicity campaigns.

He was the campaign's non-stop action man, even leaping on his bike in 1987 to cycle around Rayment's pubs in Hertfordshire and Essex to highlight Greene King's plans to close the county brewery.

He was also very involved with the, ultimately successful, campaign to save Batemans Brewery. From that he developed a friendship with the Bateman family, and with Stuart Bateman this led to the formation of the CAMRA national football team. This team played various brewery sides - including Bateman's and Marston's (or was it Burton Albion?) - with mixed success. The photo (taken in 1985) relates to one occasion when the team played the Rodenbach brewery and found themselves playing against a team which regularly played in the Belgian league.

I first came across Danny shortly after he joined the CAMRA full time staff when he visited Bristol as part of a National Executive (NE) weekend in the early 80s. In those days in order to save money NE and HQ staff were put up with local CAMRA members, so I accommodated Danny. In subsequent years I met him on numerous CAMRA travel trips abroad, including one where he persuaded me to alight at a railway station in the middle of France to check out the pub next to

station. Needless to say there was no pub, the train we descended from was the last that night and there were no buses or taxis to get back to where we had been originally heading.

A couple of kilometres up the road we did find a bar and beer and an underwater welder from Algeria called, I think *Zyminski*, who was working on the nearby canal, and who offered for a small sum to drive us back to Nancy. But not before he had consumed several glasses of some strong spirit. We survived. But it was typical of the sort of scrape you could get into when with Danny.

Danny was a great friend of the South Hertfordshire branch and campaigned against the Rayments brewery closure with the Burns brothers (themselves prominent CAMRA activists). He also campaigned with *Pints of View* editor Steve Bury on the extension of opening hours in St Albans, when we succeeded in its moving from 10.30 to 11 o'clock.

I decided apply for his job when he left CAMRA in 1988 - upon telling him he shook his head and asked me if I really knew what I was getting into. It is some testament to the work that he did in his time at CAMRA, that his one job of CAMRA research officer *and* assistant on CAMRA's *What's Brewing* national newsletter - is now filled by half a dozen people!

CAMRA has lost a great campaigner.

*Iain Loe*



## Local Pubs Update

Following the edition 231 article on the Local scheme (a new accreditation scheme to promote pubs that sell locally-brewed real ale), the list of pubs that meet the criteria is as follows:-



Colney Heath: **Crooked Billet** - Tring & others  
Hertford: **Great Eastern Tavern** - McMullen, **Old Cross Tavern** - Red Squirrel and Old Cross  
South Mimms: **White Hart** - Mc Mullen

St Albans: **Farmers Boy** – Alehouse, **Farriers Arms** – McMullen, **Lower Red Lion** – Alehouse, **Mermaid** – Tring, Ware: **Rose and Crown** - Maccs  
Wild Hill: **Woodman** - McMullen & others

There has been a great deal of interest in the scheme and we hope to be able to add to this list in forthcoming editions. Unfortunately some pubs cannot do their bit for local brewers and the environment because of the restrictive practices of their owners. Ask for LocAle in your local and prove there is a demand.

Remember, as well as being local the beer must be served in perfect quality (no cask breathers).

## Should A-Boards be banned?

Things are hard for the licensed trade - it is the story we hear again and again in this newsletter and elsewhere in the press. Licensees are willing and having to try a lot harder to keep the trade they have and generate new customers, so it is not surprising that more advertising boards are on our streets and grass verges.



Some are tactful, some are not, and the sizes vary a great deal. The whole thing is not regulated and sometimes meets with criticism from local residents,

who are often perceived by publicans in return as nimbys (not in my back yard). Other than being a bit in-your-face the only people with a real problem are the partially sighted or blind, but for them all street furniture, road-works and uncared for trees and bushes are a potential hazard.

There have been complaints and publicans who have removed signage claim that trade can be reduced by up to 25%, Councils also have the power to levy fines on signs they feel are inappropriate. The problem is what is acceptable - I find those plastic banners hung over the outside of traditional and historic pubs advertising lagers, alcopops, football, other sporting events on pay TV and happy hours more offensive than A-Boards. But maybe that is just me.

Blocking the footway is inexcusable whether it's an A-Board or a badly parked car, and the desire to drum up trade has led to an unfortunate disregard for others.

*Steve Bury*

## The Horn Wins the Double

After winning UK Music Pub of the Year back in March at The Publican Awards, the **Horn** stepped up again to receive UK Entertainment Pub of the Year at this year's Great British Pub Awards. It was presented at the Park Lane Hilton in London on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, by comedian Hugh Dennis from the BBC2 show "Mock of the Week". Sam Henry (manager), Hansi Koppe (entertainment promoter) and Adrian Bell (owner) all accepted the award. "It is very rare for a pub to win both awards and credit must go to the fantastic team who all work at The Horn" said owner Adrian Bell.



Live music features six nights per week except on Mondays, which are DJ led, and over the past 12 months, the Horn has aimed at booking as many original acts as possible.

**Ed Says:** We mentioned the Horn's first success in edition 229 and also that the real ale was not on sale on a regular basis. It's obvious you are doing a good trade, and regular decent beer would be the icing on the cake.

## The White Lion



### SOUTH HERTS CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP

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

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

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

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

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

**www.TheWhiteLionPH.co.uk**

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Watford Beer Festival

Given the current financial climate a surprisingly large number of beer festivals have reported great success this year, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Watford Beer Festival was no exception. The overall attendance was up compared to previous years, which seemed to be partly due to increased daytime attendances on Thursday, and to daytime Saturday attendances holding up well despite the fact that Watford FC were not playing at home; which is normally a factor that can be relied upon to produce a large number of customers and increased turnover before the match starts. 65 beers were available during the festival, along with four ciders and two perries. About 4500 pints of beer were sold during the three days, along with 160 pints of cider and perry.

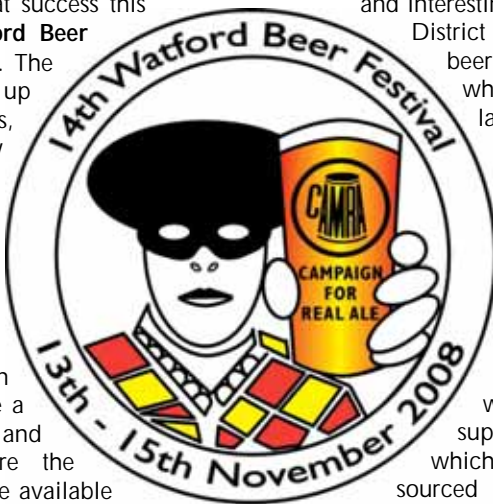
The festival has taken place at the West **Herts Sports & Social Club** since its inception in 1995. The club bar is listed in the **Good Beer Guide 2009** and true to the club's GBG status stewards John and Louise Langhorne had 6 beers available in the function room bar in addition to the festival's beers. The club once again supplied hot food over the three days, which proved very popular with the festival's customers.

Since its first year Watford Beer Festival has grown steadily, which has in previous years resulted in the existing function room and attached bar becoming overly crowded on Friday nights. Last year the decision was taken to increase the available space by having a heated marquee outside the club. This was a tremendous success and was repeated this year. In addition to those who sat in the marquee, the unseasonably warm weather on Friday and Saturday meant that plenty of people took advantage of the uncovered outdoor seating, all of which meant that the function room was at no stage as cramped as it had been in the past. It now looks like the marquee will be a permanent feature and we may well need to use a bigger one in future to accommodate changes in the festival layout.

Many of the comments we receive about the beer festival are in praise of its relatively intimate scale and interesting range of beers. Watford & District branch have always run the beer festival without sponsorship, which means we don't have the larger sums of money other festivals use when they want to expand. Instead we expand steadily on a budget, so we're unlikely to be moving to a huge venue any time soon. Independence from sponsorship also guarantees us complete freedom to buy what beers we want from the suppliers we want to work with, which means all of our beer can be sourced from smaller independent breweries or microbreweries.

Watford & District branch once again extends its thanks to all of those volunteers and customers who made the festival such a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

*Andrew Vaughan*



*More space available now in the Function Room, above, with the addition of the Marquee, below.*





## St Albans Pubs - a history lesson

Having acquired the latest CAMRA **Good Beer Guide** I noticed the statement against the Farriers Arms that it was first a pub in the 1920s and that it was previously a grocer's and butcher's. It was certainly a beer house in 1869 and it continuously maintained a licence thereafter. It is true that part of the present building was a shop; however, I believe that the 1920s dates refers to when the shop part was incorporated into the pub. If you have any evidence to the contrary I would like to know about it.

While I'm here, I had a quick look at the excellent on-line guide for historical references. Against the **Black Lion** you have a build date of 1837. It was built about 1700 and is first recorded as having a licence in 1792. As for the **Boot** you have it that it dates back to 1400. This is a long way before any reference that I know or to the best of my knowledge the estimated date of the building.

If you ever have any historical questions regarding St Albans' pubs then I'm more than happy to let you have any information that I have.

Finally, a couple of weeks ago I had the misfortune to go into the **White Hart** – quite unbelievable – what have they done to this fine old inn? It was full of machines, no customers (other than the 3 druggies doing something dodgy in the lavs) and the beer was horrible.

*Graham Jolliffe*

## Support for Sportsman, Croxley Green:

As mentioned in edition 231 the bicycle and the sign have been removed but did anyone actually call in the pub? (The sign blew down and is being repaired.)

The new licensees Jason & Tracy are doing a fantastic job promoting real ale, especially supporting local breweries and other micro breweries in their refurbished very popular locals' pub. They are strong supporters of the CAMRA LocAle (local ale) accreditation scheme, the poster is proudly displayed on the wall to confirm their commitment. Their house beer is *Side Pocket* from Tring Brewery and there is always a beer from The Red Squirrel Brewery, often ales from Buntingford Brewer,y plus many other unusual ales. Jason is always open to suggestions and always uses lined glasses where possible. They have already held a successful beer festival and are hoping to hold a



winter ale festival. The pub is going from strength to strength and we are looking forward to their inclusion in the next Good Beer Guide. Jason is a signed up member of CAMRA. Why not meet us for a pint sometime to see for yourself how excellent this pub is.

*John Hanscomb*

I write in response to your article on Page 3 with regard to the Local Ale Accreditation Scheme. Can I draw your attention to the **Sportsman** in Croxley Green which has been supporting local brewers for some time now?

The pub has four handpumps (five at weekends). One handpump is permanently dedicated to Red Squirrel Brewery from Hertford and a second permanently serves *Side Pocket* from Tring. In addition to these two the Sportsman regularly sells beers from Buntingford Brewery and Rebellion in Marlow. These local beers are complemented by some guests from further afield. Only last night I was drinking Acorn Brewery's *Barnsley Bitter* in Croxley Green, wonderful.

The Sportsman recently held an extremely successful beer festival and a Winter Ale festival is being planned for the end of November.

Rather disappointingly, It states on page 32 of the October/November issue that "The pub sign and the bicycle have both been removed from The Sportsman. The pub is still trading". I can confirm that not only is the pub still trading, it is attracting customers from the other local pubs due to the well kept real ales and a warm welcome from the current occupants. The Sportsman will be nominated (and will hopefully win) the Watford CAMRA Branch **Pub of the Year** thanks to the dedication of Jason, Tracy & Dan.

Perhaps Points of View could give The Sportsman the credit that it deserves in the next issue.

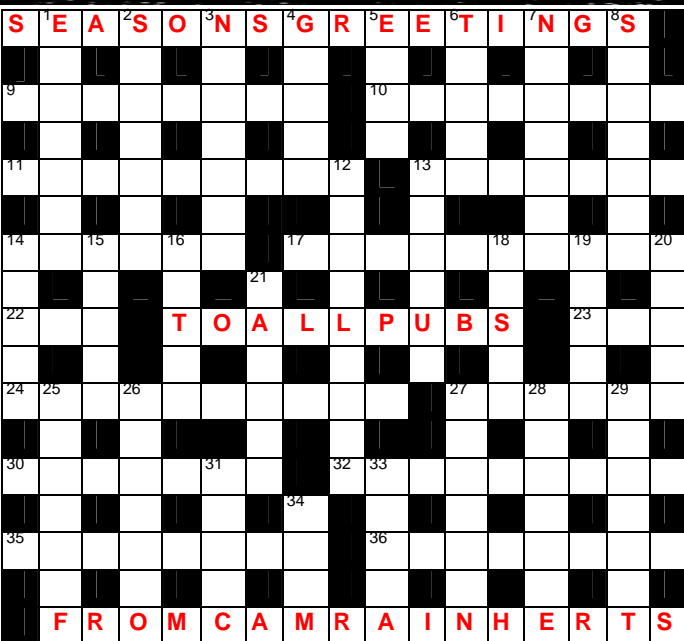
*Chris Hyde (A*

*Sportsman regular and CAMRA member)*

**Ed Says:** The local CAMRA branch - Watford and District has visited the pub and delivered the LocAle publicity material. I am also informed that they are very pleased with Jason & Tracy's progress since their arrival, and agree with all the comments published above.

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](mailto:pintsofview@hotmail.co.uk)

# Christmas Prize Crossword



A CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2009 is to be won by the first two correct entries drawn after the closing date of **10<sup>th</sup> January 2009**. Photocopies of this page are acceptable.

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

Your

Name:.....  
.....

Your

Address:.....  
.....  
.....

Your

Postcode:.....

## ACROSS

- 9 Drink before meal, i.e. if part drunk (8)
- 10 In Glasgow kiss top of beer cask (8)
- 11 Makes one less vicious, mostly (9)
- 13 Boy eats tip of cheese (7)
- 14 They could be liquid, like gels (6)
- 17 Fining cures pains in leg... (10)
- 22 ...except where beer's served (3)
- 23 Depart into eternity's beginnings? (3)
- 24 Funfair game not finished – ruined by this young urchin? (10)
- 27 Are pastries part of this? (6)
- 30 One year, TV could provide ----- (7)
- 32 Laborious, like Poirot? (9)
- 35 I'm taking chance reforming worker (8)
- 36 Boat, neat one, scuttled (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Downs steep – I'm shattered (7)
- 2 Emperor missing starter to eat fish (7)
- 3 Can raising intelligence help such as these? (7)
- 4 Mistake when landlord fails to close (5)
- 5 Resonance found in the choir (4)
- 6 Child drinks ales without body (brown) (5)
- 7 Bible reprint, poles apart, is nuts? (7)
- 8 Towns I'd revisited to relax (3, 4)
- 12 Inconsiderate drunken rendition of *Cockles and Mussels*? (9)
- 13 Like some meals provided by pals? (4 – 2)
- 14 Colour of ale maybe a warning (5)
- 15 Gesture of indifference when quietly lying on carpet (5).
- 16 Carry half my emblem (5)
- 18 Is girl put out? (5)

## DOWN (continued)

- 19 Type of 28 found in main diagonal (5)
- 20 Visitor from east breaking wind (5)
- 21 It doesn't live long and might depart hurriedly (6)
- 25 Knowing about a battle, with enemy retreating (5, 2)
- 26 By the sound of it, what's required for sneeze (7)
- 27 Brawl resulting in court reappearance (7)
- 28 See 19 (4, 3)
- 29 Drink at *The Sailor* with crisp flavour (3, 4)
- 31 Spirit on ice might also contain this (5)
- 33 Essex trains carry more (5)
- 34 Pond life – found in total about a hundred (4)

## The Good Beer Guide 2009

Now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the CAMRA **Good Beer Guide 2009** is fully revised and updated, with information on more than 4,500 pubs, and a unique section listing all the breweries - micro, regional and national - that produce cask beer in the UK.

**"The definitive rundown of the best places in the UK to get a pint of real ale, from cosy country inns to upmarket style bars."** *Time Out Magazine*. Available from all good bookshops or direct from [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) for £13.99 or £11 (CAMRA member price). RRP £14.99.





**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*

## Hertford in 1900 – Now That’s a Pub-Crawl

**D**ream back 108 years to 1900. A dull, damp and dusky evening in the Victorian shadows of Hertford town centre. A little daunting and dark perhaps - poor street lighting, no borrowed light from shop fronts or restaurants and hardly a flicker in the way of a night-time economy. Hertford had a population of little over 7,000, yet the thirst of the townsfolk could be well and truly quenched – the town had a total of over 85 pubs. Hertford was a working county town, much less in the pull of London, much more still the hub of a wider agricultural community and like most other comparable towns in Hertfordshire beset by the social, political and economic conditions of the day. How the pubscene has changed. As the Twentieth Century flowered new innovations such as the radio, cinema and TV offered wider opportunities for entertainment. Two world wars changed the nation socially – no longer were those who gave so much for their country prepared to put up with the squalor of the slum areas many of them had left. In 1900 Hertford remained a town of small traders with dozens of butchers, bakers and grocers and other small shops strewn around the motor-free streets. The temperance movement, the advent of strong early-century political change, social mobility and housing improvements all played their part as the trappings of the modern world changed the way we live. Many a pub has struggled to compete and has had to close or diversify to find new ways to survive – each trying to find a niche that will satisfy today’s drinker. Today, fewer than thirty pubs and bars meet the needs of 25,000 inhabitants. And it’s the traditional smaller pubs that mainly hold our affection – make a note to get out there and support them.

Late in October, thirty Hertford and Ware CAMRA members walked a route from the **Black Horse** via the **Salisbury Arms**, to the **Old Barge**, then through Folly Island and on to the **Old Cross Tavern**. A pub-crawl linked to pub history – a chance to learn a little about the pubs that existed



in 1900. Many thanks for the warm hospitality offered by the landlords of all four of our hosting pubs.

So, Hertfordian drinkers, how many of these three photographs and pub names would you be able to identify and locate along the way?



**Black Horse, Black Swan, Gladstone Arms, White Horse, Old Waggon and Horses, Blackbirds, Salisbury Arms, Victoria, White Hart,**

**Vine, Red Cow, Flower Pot, Bull, Old Barge, Unicorn, Red Lion Railway Tavern, Great Northern Tavern, Ship, Prince Albert, Cranbourne Arms.**

For answers and full details of the walk together with photographs of the pubs please go to the South Herts Branch of CAMRA’s website, [www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.uk) .

*Les Middlewood*

## 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**

## In the Annals of Hertfordshire Real Ale – The White Horse

When CAMRA surfaced locally late in 1972, the number of real ale outlets in Hertfordshire was at a perilously low ebb – less than 90 remained. A sprinkling of (mainly) small pubs still held a torch for beer served in the traditional way. At first the decline continued but as the Campaign's noisy tactics began to take effect this number slowly grew. Few of those remaining outlets can claim to have a place closer to the hearts of longstanding local CAMRA members as the **White Horse** in Hertford. A beerhouse (probably since around 1810 though the building is in parts much, much older) and in the ownership of Nicholl's the nearby brewery, the pub had in the mid-sixties become free of tie when the brewery was sold and demolished to help create the controversial inner Hertford by-pass, Gascoyne Way. The White Horse suddenly found itself in a quiet cul-de-sac with little passing motor traffic. As a Nicholls pub (Nicholls only operated with three tied houses – all in Hertford) it had spurned keg and top pressure beers and in leaseholder, landlady Connie Harvey, real ale lovers had a friend. With straight-from-the-barrel Youngs bitter (then in wooden barrels) and Courage bitter, the pub soon caught the interest of the Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood and, soon after, CAMRA.

At that time the pub still only had a beer licence and a single bar – that to the left of the front door - the other downstairs room being living accommodation. Connie helped CAMRA by obtaining all the beers for the CAMRA New Year Parties which were initially held at Waterford Village Hall. Ged Griffiths, long time regular and barman of over 34 years, remembers..."Connie's son, Edward, Head of Music at Haileybury College, could sometimes be persuaded to play the piano which was positioned where the long settle now stands. The bar was within a sort of hatch, topped with fairy lights and although the licence was for just beer, a discretely hidden bottle of Mr Haig's Best Sherry offered the only alcoholic alternative. The outside toilets were then open to the sky. On Saturday nights Connie often left the bar in the trust of the locals as she disappeared

next door to be heard singing along to her favourite radio programme. The growth in interest unfortunately coincided with a downturn in Connie's health. During a stay in hospital the locals took it on themselves to redecorate the pub but sadly Connie passed away shortly after. In April 1974 the new incoming leaseholders were Mick and Mona Peck who continued to lease the pub from Charlie Nicholls (former owner of the brewery) who lived in the cottage next door. The pub featured in the very first **Good Beer Guide** published in 1974 (then a thin volume compared to today's). It was Mick who opened up the second bar and widened the choice of beers which were often rotated. Mick doubled up as a bus driver and Mona, effectively, ran the pub. Sadly Mona succumbed to bone cancer at the young age of 54. Next year, poor old Charlie Nicholls, still living next door, was discovered dead on Christmas Eve. Many a CAMRA plot to attack Britain's big brewers and promote real ale was hatched in the White Horse in the 1970s.

*The White Horse, pictured in the 1970s*



Mick retired as a bus driver, running the pub single-handed and after the death of Charlie Nicholls bought the pub in 1980 continuing until December 1985, still helping CAMRA to obtain beers for the now legendary New Year Parties which were then held at Bramfield Village Hall. New incoming owners were Ian and Janet Harvey (no relation to Connie) and it was the enterprising Ian who had the vision of the tasteful refurbishment that followed and for what we see as the White Horse today. No gaming machines, no piped music – just conversation and good ale. Initially running the pub themselves, Ian and Janet soon passed over the day-to-day reins to Ian's sister Jenny. Ray and Gloria Stewart were the next managers. Ray's talent for keeping great beer soon spread around East Herts whilst Ian continued to set about refurbishing the pub. With seemingly no bounds to Ian's enthusiasm, next came a full two-storey extension and in 1992 (everyone said he must be mad) the tricky task of digging a cellar. Duly completed, barrels were lowered to the cellar stillage and handpumps appeared on the bar – with a wonderful ensuing rotation of *Cont'd*

# Local Features

of beers. By 1992 the upstairs rooms had opened. El Rose was next at the tiller with a three-year stint, cementing still further the pub's reputation for good ale and winning the South Herts Branch of CAMRA's **Pub of the Year** award in 1995. Then followed a succession of shortish-stay managers until 1999.

In the meantime Ian had tried his luck with brewing, in 1994 opening the Dark Horse micro-brewery which operated from the cellar with brewers Rob Jones and, later, Bruce Heron, producing most of the beers. Its success quickly outgrew its location and in 1996 Ian took on premises in Adams Yard in the town centre, where brewing continued until Ian's interest faded and the business was sold to others - to close in 2002.

Nigel Crofts arrived as landlord in March 1999, soon to be told that the pub was to be sold. With great concern for the future of the pub amongst Hertford drinkers and in CAMRA circles, there was some initial dismay when it was heard that Fuller's were the successful bidders. Not because Fuller's were reviled - they brewed good beer - more that the loss of the free house aspect of the pub would surely inhibit the range of beers. The story goes that Fuller's interest was initially borne out of their curiosity as to why sales of *London Pride* at the diminutive White Horse outsold any of the pubs in the Fuller's tied estate. On 1 December 1999 the pub opened as a Fuller's pub - but with a twist - the pub would be unique in Fuller's estate - a Fuller's Free House - allowed to sell, alongside their own ales, 2-3 beers from other breweries. Nigel was to continue as landlord, and with Mike Mills-Roberts a new partnership sprung up, though this lasted barely 12 months when Nigel took on the lease himself.

The newly-opened rooms upstairs acted as a groundbreaking smoke-free area and an early evening place for families. Bar billiards appeared. CAMRA regularly used these rooms for branch meetings. With twice yearly beer festivals and Nigel's involvement in the first **Hertford Beer Festival** (in 2002, held in the castle grounds), Nigel's reputation as the keeper of great ale was soon underscored - the pub featuring in every edition of the Good Beer Guide during his stewardship. The pub was in good hands. It was added to CAMRA's Regional Inventory for East Anglia - of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest, and the links with local CAMRA members

continue today with the pub a compulsory stop on their campaigning tours in the town. All through the years the pub has enjoyed a loyal core of regulars,



many of whom help organise and staff the annual summer Castle Street Party in aid of The National Deaf Children's Society. But these days visitors arrive from all corners of Hertfordshire, to soak up the atmosphere and the ale.

In October 2008, after a lick of paint and some organisational changes, the White Horse relaunched, with Nigel still at the helm, offering Fuller's, Adnams and guest ales, country wines, lunchtime food and the revered Monday night menu of the "Gastronomic Tour" - the start of another fine chapter in the life of one of Hertfordshire's best real ale pubs - where the quality of the beer is the No.1 priority.

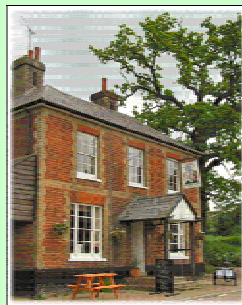
*Les Middlewood*

## The Strathmore Arms

St Pauls Walden, Nr Hitchin, SG4 8BT

01438 871654

[strathmorearms@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:strathmorearms@tiscali.co.uk)



**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

## I want a Full Pint, not a Twother

Many readers may have seen recent coverage in the media stating that the Weights & Measures Laboratory have come up with the absurd suggestion to introduce a two thirds of a pint glass. This really does show how out of touch the government are with drinkers when there are so many other important issues related to the drinks trade, such as short measures, irresponsible alcohol promotions in supermarkets and high beer tax – all of which are having a devastating effect, as so many good local pubs are closing as a result.

These glasses bring no advantage to the consumer and there's no demand for them. It will cause confusion as drinkers will need to be mathematicians to add up the number of two third of a pints they've drunk in an evening and work out the number of units.

The proposals could be brought into effect next April – a perfect April Fools' day present. Third of a pint glasses are in use by Wetherspoons and some CAMRA beer festivals, and the standard glass measures of a pint and a half have been with us for over 300 years. There was major opposition to the proposal to change to 500ml glasses following membership of the European Economic Community, and the idea was shelved.

Where does this idea of a two third pint measure come from? Weights & Measures suggest that it will encourage ladies to drink draught drinks as they find a pint too large a measure; this is supported by the British Beer and Pubs Association, who seem to have lost their way on this one as well.

The next question is will the *twother* – as it is called – replace pint glasses or be sold alongside normal measures? Wetherspoons admit they get very little demand for their third pint glasses – in fact they normally only come out during beer festivals.

There may well be publicans like the one in Southwold who refused to serve pints, and would only dispense halves. He may only serve twothers, probably at the same price as a pint, seeing it as a good opportunity to make a killing.

If pints can be replaced by twothers at nil cost, then our existing brim measure pints could be replaced by lined pints and halves on the same basis.

Tell the Government to stuff the twother and give the consumer something they do want – a "Full Pint" in a lined glass.

Steve Bury

- The twother measure (approx 380ml) is already in use in Australia, where it is known as a *schooner* (pictured right). It became popular because of the warm climate, since a full pint of beer will become too warm before it is finished.



## German Woman Fails in Stein Carrying Attempt

A nita Schwarz, from Eichenau, had to transport the mugs across a distance of 40 metres to be successful.

Wearing traditional dress, Schwarz, 48, began with all 21 mugs balanced in pyramid-fashion.

However, she soon lost control and the tower toppled, sending the contents of every mug spilling out onto the floor of the tent near Zeltingen, in Germany.

Only last month the city of Munich in Bavaria celebrated Oktoberfest, its annual sixteen-day festival, which attracts some six million people each year.

The original Oktoberfest occurred in Munich on October 12, 1810. To commemorate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen, a horse race was organised. Since temperatures can be as high as 30 degrees Celsius in that part of Germany at the end of September, large quantities of beer were served to quench the thirst of all of the visitors. The tradition has continued and it is now a yearly event.

Oktoberfestbiers are the beers that have been served at the event in Munich since 1818 and are supplied by six breweries known as the Big Six: Spaten, Löwenbräu, Augustiner, Hofbräu, Paulaner and Hacker-Pschorr.



Daily Telegraph, 10 November 2008

## You're Barred and Don't Argue About it

I was reading an article about a 75-year-old grandfather who was refused service in the **Windmill** pub in Kidderminster because he was wearing a track suit. He was not at all happy as it was lunchtime, and he was accompanied by his wife. He explained that it was the actual tracksuit that he had worn when raising £40,000 for charity, but it made no difference. The manager of the pub said that they applied a strict dress code, no work clothes and no tracksuits and this applies to anyone from a 75-year-old great-granddad to an 18-year-old. Eric Perks the 75-year-old in question said "I don't think I have been kicked out of anywhere in my life. It's quite insulting". Eric is pictured above outside the Windmill (picture from the Daily Telegraph). I have also had the experience of being barred



over thirty years ago in Brighton of all places for having long hair, also, more recently over articles I have written in this journal, and once by a publican because he said I had insulted the brewer who owned the pub - anyway enough about me.

The Law: A public house is not a public place. It is a private establishment open to the public. When a person enters they have been invited in to ask for a drink or something to eat. The law is that it is the customer who makes the offer to purchase, and the licensee or their representative who accepts, not the other way round. So if the licensee or member of staff does not wish to make the contract they can decline without giving a reason.

The exception to this is if it can be proved that the refusal was on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation or age (which clearly excludes under eighteens). Licensees are perfectly within their rights to ban someone whose views they disagree with (which covers my newsletter articles and brewer comment).

There is now a Court Of Appeal case being pursued by a young male banned by Buckingham Pubwatch claiming that his blanket ban is illegal. Unfortunately I do not have all the details but if you are banned by one licensee from one pub and

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they do not have to give a reason, how can you then be banned from other pubs that you may never have been in? If you are given a reason you may not feel it is justified or the ban warranted. How do you appeal? I understand that part of the challenge is about Pubwatch's right to blanket ban and what authority they have within the law.

Before Pubwatch all this was the domain of the licensing magistrates who would make "pub exclusion orders" against individuals, and these could be appealed against. This of course could be very time consuming and costly, and since the changes to the law in 2003 local councils have been in control of all licensing matters.

South Herts CAMRA does have representation on St Albans Pubwatch and I am informed that anyone barred from a pub for serious misconduct or violence is automatically barred from all the pubs. A letter is then sent to the individual involved explaining the situation and the length of the ban. The individual can appeal - or subsequently make a request for the ban to be reconsidered or quashed - and a committee within Pubwatch, usually about 4 - 5 members meets and considers the request. Most Pubwatches and LVAs operate in a similar way and keep a 'banned book' which is a loose leaf binder containing mug shots of undesirables who have been banned. They also have the date of expiry of the ban. These are distributed by the police and photos are collected again once the ban expires, or has been lifted, by the Pubwatch committee. It is unfortunate that the worst offenders who get barred will still try to get into pubs and cause more trouble.

If an individual does something silly, for example drinking drinks not purchased in the pub, they may be barred from that pub alone.

I will be one of the first to admit that there are some pub customers whose behaviour warrants a ban, and having worked behind the bar, have seen my share of these people - and have barred several myself. My view was that people do not get barred for minor offences and if I excluded anyone it was for life, if you let them back your authority is gone. Putting the problems in prospective; everyone deserves the right to challenge the reasonableness of a penalty metered out by an individual, especially if it has implications on others who were not involved, but it appears that in the eyes of the law "the publican is always right".

*Steve Bury*

## Bedford Pub Awards

Lesley Griffin and Royston Beer, landlords of the **Wellington Arms**, Bedford, believe it is the bar's atmosphere and variety of 12 real ales and ciders, on tap at all times, that won the pub the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) North Bedfordshire's **Pub of the Year 2008** award.

The pint-pulling pair (right) only took over the Wellington Street pub in May last year, although the 'Wellie' as it is known to local real ale lovers,



has previously won the award four times since 2000 - and was named East Anglia's **Pub of the Year** in 2001.

A transformation from a faded 1930s suburban beer house into an excellent pub diner has also won Bedford's **White Horse** an award. The pub (pictured below) in Newnham Avenue has been named as CAMRA North Bedfordshire's **Most Improved Pub 2008**.

Judges praised Nigel and Sue Anstead, for turning a neglected pub into a busy thriving establishment with a well deserved reputation for good food and beer in the three years they have been licensees which has assured them entry in the **2009 Good Beer Guide**.



A special Innovation Award to mark what judges called "an exceptional initiative" has also been presented to Charles Wells Pub Company for re-opening the **Bedford Arms** as a speciality beer house. The Bromham Road pub was run down and in need of refurbishment before Charles Wells transformed it in May last year.

A spokeswoman for Charles Wells said: "So much has been written about the demise of the great British pub and it's important to keep that atmosphere and experience by looking at new ideas like speciality beer houses. To be recognised by CAMRA is just really exciting and is a seal of approval that we are moving in the right direction".

## Mile House Remembered

A plaque charting the history behind a new development of flats in St Albans has been unveiled.

The development - known as The Grange - stands on the site of the former Mile House pub in London Road, which was first mentioned on a map in 1766. It was originally a coaching inn for travellers passing through St Albans. Some years ago there were protests when the name was changed to 'Grillbar' and then after a long planning battle the building was demolished and 20 flats built in its place.

The plaque was unveiled by Bob Weston, chairman of Weston Homes, watched by Mike Higham of the Mile House Residents' Association who said: "I think Weston Homes can be proud of what they have created here. The development certainly echoes the original Mile House building and is architecturally in keeping and sympathetic with the surrounding area".

*Herts Advertiser, 14 November 2008*

**Ed Says:** What he forgot to mention is that they have left a large part of the city without a local hostelry.

## Credit Crunch fails to sink British Tradition of Round-buying

New research is set to put paid to stereotypes that Scots pinch their pennies - they are revealed today as the most generous round buyers in pubs around the UK.

Research carried out by Greene King reveals that despite tough times, the British spirit of round buying is still thriving in pubs up and down the country. And it is North of the Border where most round buying goes on, with just under two thirds (64%) happy to put their hands in their pockets for people they don't even know very well. Londoners came second in the league, followed by Brummies, East Anglians and Southerners.

Research shows:

- 1 in 4 Britons are happy to buy a round that includes people they don't know very well, and 27% say they don't mind if they don't get a drink back in return
- Only 13% expect to get as many drinks back as they buy when they get a round in and just 1 in 10 say they try to avoid buying rounds

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- Men are twice as generous as women when it comes to putting their hands in their pockets – 31% are happy to buy rounds for people they don't know well, compared to just 16% of women
- 25-34 year olds are the most generous round buyers, and 18-24s the least
- Drinkers in Newcastle make the most demands on having their round reciprocated once they've put their hands in their pockets, while London is the place where pub punters bear the least grudges if there's no payback of a pint.



"neutral territory". More than 40% also voted the pub better for family get-togethers than hosting at home.

The Greene King Round Buying League – the top five most generous areas of the UK where people will buy a round including for people they don't know - are:

1. Scots (64%)
2. Londoners (29%)
3. Brummies (25%)
4. East Anglians (24%)
5. Southerners (24%)

The research was conducted by the Social Issues Research Centre (SIRC), an independent, not-for profit research

organisation based in Oxford. SIRC combined qualitative focus group research and quantitative omnibus research carried out by YouGov (2,217 sample)

**Ed Says:** I am one of those who expects to get a drink back if I buy a round and will not join a group in round buying if there is for want of a better phrase someone with short arms and deep pockets amongst them. Round buying is a great tradition but only if everyone plays the game.

The findings are part of a Greene King-funded report by leading social anthropologist Kate Fox and her team at the Oxford-based Social Issues Research Centre, to examine the role of the British pub in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain. Findings shows that the pub plays an essential role in keeping local communities, family relationships, working relationships and 'sociable networks' alive in a society that is becoming increasingly fragmented by virtual communities.

Greene King Chief Executive Rooney Anand commented, "Pubs have a tradition that goes back centuries, and while many of these traditions are evolving and changing over time, some elements of pub etiquette such as the practice of round buying remain very important to modern pub culture – particularly north of the border, as the findings show. This report – a combination of focus groups and consumer polls - shows that the pub is not only relevant now, but that its appeal is abiding over time and the landscape of who is going continues to evolve, with more women and families discovering the pub as a social venue than ever before".

Social anthropologist Fox, who worked with Desmond Morris on his Pub Watching study in the early 90s, said The Great British Pub Report shows how unique the pub remains in British culture.

The report reveals many Britons believe that pubs are now responsible for boosting family life in the UK, particularly when it comes to getting different generations together. A third of people quizzed said meeting up with brother, sisters and in-laws in the pub led to fewer family rows because it is

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**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 15.

**Ayot St Lawrence:** the **Brocket Arms** is currently shut for some building work and while a new tenant is being found.

**Bricket Wood:** Michael Menehan is now managing the **Old Fox**. He has spent some time in Scotland managing various pubs for Belhaven. He is very keen on his real ales and is hoping to extend the range at the pub as trade becomes more established; Black Sheep *Bitter* and Taylor *Landlord* are likely to be the staples. By the time you read this food should be regularly available.

**Colney Heath:** The **Queens Head** whose lease has been up for sale for a very long period is now closed.

**Croxley Green:** The **Sportsman** goes from strength to strength. Jason and Tracy are now offering Red Squirrel *Conservation* as regular ale, with plenty of other local brewery pump clips to be found on the bar. See *Readers Write* page 15.

**Elstree:** we have a very belated welcome to Rob & Darren who took over the **Waggon & Horses**, Medburn, last Christmas. It is pleasing to see that they have revitalized the pub which had been mis-managed for a long period. They now have a regular acoustic music night on Wednesdays and live music on other occasions as advertised. The beers on sale are Fuller's *London Pride*, Greene King *Old Speckled Hen*, and a regular guest.

**Great Amwell:** The **Waggon and Horses** has reopened after a major re-fit and change of direction. Now leased by the owners of the **Red Lion** in Stanstead Abbots, the pub will heavily feature food but has retained a handpump for Black Sheep *Bitter*.

**Hertford:** A big welcome to Chris and Kim, new mine hosts of the **Black Horse** in West Street. After a lengthy stay as temporary landlords they have enjoyed the experience so much that they have decided to make the move permanent. Alongside the Greene King *Abbot* and *IPA* are guest beers from the GK range. With the pub now open all day seven days a week, the pub is gaining a great reputation for its good value food. Chris will be carrying out some internal redecoration but the Horse will be retaining its timbered charm. The **White Horse** has re-charged its batteries with a general sprucing up and internal re-decoration. Gone is the infamous threadbare stair carpet which, in handy lifeless chunks, achieved £250 for

charity following an auction among the customers. Fuller's beers, Adnams *Bitter* plus guest ales continue to feature at the bar. See also *White Horse* article, page 19. Dim the lights: In a first for the area the **Old Barge** is now showing films (on a big screen at the back of the pub) on occasional Tuesdays. There are changes at the **Hertford House Hotel** where a neighbouring shop has been subsumed into the premises, giving the opportunity for a better split between diners and drinkers. Along Fore Street work continues apace at what will be the **Masters House Hotel** which will feature a "boutique bar" for the town's drinkers. Due to open in March 2009 we await any announcements about real ale. Still no takers for the **Hillside**, once better known as the Reindeer, at the foot of Port Hill, so it remains closed.

**Hertford Heath:** Another pub fallen on hard times is the **Townshend Arms**. Currently closed, this large village community pub with a large garden seeks loving landlords who can attract customers and breathe life back into its walls. And, along the road, the stop-start pattern at the **College Arms** has once again moved to stop, with the pub once again closed and no interest on the horizon.

**Hertingfordbury:** Something must be up at the **Prince of Wales**, which has been closed for some months. A planning application for a conservatory for the use of drinkers and diners has been lodged.

**Kinsbourne Green;** the **Peppercorn**, (nee Harrow), is still closed as building work continues. It looks like it is to be renamed the **Green** according to a licensing application by Universal Cuisines Ltd.

**Letchmore Heath:** The acoustic music team mentioned under **Waggon & Horses**, Elstree also visits the **Three Horseshoes** on Sunday afternoons.

**London Colney:** A third planning application to convert the **White Lion** pub into housing will be heard by St Albans council 1<sup>st</sup> December. The **Kings Head** remains closed and boarded up even though the latest plans were rejected in October.

**Park Street:** St Albans District Council planners turned down an application by Idealrise Ltd. to demolish the closed and boarded-up ex-Fuller's pub, the **Swan**.

**Radlett:** The **Railway Bar**, previously Brookes, reopened in October. They have also acquired the shop next door and should be extending the

premises in the near future. It is reported that they are selling Fuller's *London Pride*. The **Red Lion Hotel** has submitted an application for a rear extension to provide an extra 13 bedrooms.

**Sandridge:** The **Rose & Crown** is up for sale again.

**St Albans:** The third planning application was granted to convert the **Bell** in Chequer Street, which has now been closed for some time. This will involve demolition of the rear of the building, and building three new retail units. The good news is that the public house will be retained with a slightly reduced floor space. The next question is who will be the new owners and what sort of pub will it become? Something that will please Tony Billings and all other traditional pub sign lovers (which includes the **Ed**) is that the new licensees in the **Farmers Boy** are to reinstate a traditional sign rather than the very unpopular 'TFB'. Unfortunately the old sign was beyond repair so a new one, apparently depicting their son, will be on display in due course.

**Stevenage:** **Our Mutual Friend** is holding what is now its annual Beer Festival from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January. Given previous experience there will be some excellent but unusual beers on offer.

**Turnford:** At the time of going to press, the **Bull's Head** was expected to re-open at the end of November following a major refurbishment.

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## Late Extras

### Pre-Budget Report: Beer Drinkers Slam Mini Budget that Threatens 7,500 Pubs

The Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report announced at the time of going to press has increased alcohol duty almost 8 per cent - slapping a 3p increase on a pint of beer. The increase which comes into force on 1 December is expected to offset the *temporary* VAT cut from 17.5% to 15% - due to end 31 December 2009. This *permanent* increase in duty comes **on top** of the 4p increase in duty on a pint of beer made earlier this year, **as well** as the already announced above-inflation increases for the next four years.

CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale has condemned the decision by the Chancellor to hit pubs with an increase in beer tax.

CAMRA Chief Executive, Mike Benner, said: "The Chancellor's refusal to allow beer drinkers to benefit from a VAT reduction means that 7,500

pubs could close by the end of 2012. The Government's failure to support pubs will undermine community life, ruin livelihoods and deprive people of an affordable night out at a local pub".

The British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) said the surprise rise had caused "genuine disbelief" among its members. Mark Hastings, at the BBPA, said: "There is genuine dismay and disbelief that the Chancellor is turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to the economic plight of Britain's traditional beer and pub sector". The changes will also add 3p to a litre of cider and perry, 17p to a bottle of sparkling wine, and 53p to a bottle of spirits.

## Pubcos Savaged in MPs Inquiry

*Beer tie is the "killer" for tenants, MPs told*

Pubcos and the beer tie have been given a fierce mauling in front of a committee of MPs today. Opponents of the pubcos - including campaign

group Fair Pint - were giving evidence to a panel of seven MPs on the Business & Enterprise Committee, as part of a review of pubco power.

Brian Jacobs, co-founder of Fair Pint, said the beer tie was the "killer" for struggling tenants. He said an end to the tie would "open up the opportunity for more pubs to survive".

Jacobs also disputed the claim that the majority of pubs which are closing were free-of-tie.

Earlier, he declared: "The pubcos are in a mountain of debt and they are trying to service it out of a trade that is slowly imploding".

The MP-led review has been launched to investigate whether pubcos are following the recommendations of the 2004 Trade and Industry Select committee inquiry into the relationship between pubcos and their tenants.

But Jacobs said if the pubcos had adopted the recommendations there would be "fewer pubs closing today". He told MPs that rents were still RPI-linked. "But if turnover is going down, there is only one thing that is going to happen, he said",

On the issue of tenants' relationships with business development managers (BDMs), Jacobs said the "paternalistic" approach had "gone forever".

"Today the accountants have taken the pubs out of brewers and they run them like a financial vehicle," he said,

Later Enterprise lessee Paul Daly told the committee: "They (BDMs) turn up sometimes, but they are working for the man and the man tells them to collect their rent".

Daly said the beer tie was "an outdated model". He said: "It's not a question of if but when it goes".

Clive Davenport, the Federation of Small Businesses trade and industry chairman, said it was looking at what further support it could offer licensees, because it was a "dire situation".

Later the three were asked by MP Anthony Wright why a prospective licensee would enter a pubco tenancy agreement. Daly said: "They own so much of the stock, it's a law of averages thing".

Jacobs said: "The market is very narrow for free-of-tie, so you are forced into a corner if that's what you want".

The three speakers also questioned the length of

a Fair Pint? Campaign



the three-month "cooling-off" period that new licensees are offered by pubcos.

Davenport said: "You are still in a positive mindset, three months is nothing".

And on the issue of tenant deals on AWP income, Jacobs claimed that pubcos were keeping 80-85 per cent of the total takings from pubs. "That's not a partnership situation, that's not fairnes", he said.

Punch Taverns, Enterprise Inns, the British Beer & Pub Association and Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers are all due to give evidence at the next session of the review on December 9.

The Campaign for Real Ale will also be making submissions to the enquiry as mentioned in the *CAMRA's Current Campaigning Activities* article on Page 4.

## It's Time to Wassail Again

For those of you who don't know, wassailing goes back to medieval times and maybe even before. The staple drink of the working classes, at that time serfs followed later by farm labourers, was cider, so the apple crop was very important. The wassail is a ritual conducted to ensure that the harvest is good and the orchard is protected from a late frost or blight.

A group of cider lovers meet and proceed to the nearest orchard. A Queen and Princess are chosen who approach a tree and recite the following:

*Here's to the old apple tree,  
That blooms well, bears well,  
Hats full, caps full,  
Three bushel bags full,  
All under one tree.*

The Queen then places a cider soaked piece of toast or bread in the fork of the tree, then three baked apples are thrown at the trunk. Shots are then fired through the branches. This is optional and is often replaced by the gathered party making as much noise as possible with stones in biscuit

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tins or just banging metal objects. The wassail song is then sung by all present:

*A wassail, a wassail, the moon she shines down,  
Our apples are ripe and the nuts they are brown,  
Whence thou mayest bud dear old apple tree,  
And whence thou mayest bear old apple tree,  
And when thou mayest bear we sing unto thee*

Followed by the chorus:

*With our wassail a-wassail a-wassail.*

*And joy come to our jolly wassail*

*Oh apple tree prosper, bud bloom and bear.*

*So that we have plenty of cyder next year,*

*And where there's a barrel we hope there'll be ten.*

*That we may have cyder when we come again.*



The wassail bowl is circulated amongst those present so that they can dip their cups and drink the mulled cider, which should of course be in plentiful supply if the wassail was successful in the previous year.

Every orchard should have a chosen tree and the ceremony is varied slightly from place to place and has been adapted over the years, but remains a piece of true folklore. Wassailing has had a revival in recent years so if you hear chanting and unexpected loud noises in the night don't be alarmed, it is all in a good cause.

## Nerds' Revenge

*By Brian Groom*

It is payback time for real ale drinkers. After all those jibes about beards and cable-knit jumpers ("just like trainspotters, only drunk"), the tide of lager is receding and cask ales are becoming more popular.

Pubs may be closing by the barrel-load and Carlsberg's plan to shut the 186-year-old Tetley brewery in Leeds is a stake aimed at traditionalists'

hearts. But the Society of Independent Brewers last week reported an 8 per cent rise in sales of locally produced beers in the first half of the year, while wider beer sales are dropping. Pub groups confirm the trend.

This is seen as part of a broader consumer shift towards quality products with an identifiable provenance. It has also been aided by cold, wet weather, which helps real ale sales while depressing those of cold drinks such as lager and cider.



Changing the image of real ale drinkers will be a harder task. In part, they brought it on themselves. The Campaign for Real Ale was fantastically successful in the 1970s but too many pursued it in a way that came to seem nerdy and exclusive. Now the quest for "authentic" products gives them a second chance.

*Financial Times, 10 November 2008*

## BRANCH DIARY

### HERTS ESSEX BORDERS

**Mon 8 Dec:** Xmas Dinner - The **Chequers**, Wareside. Must be pre-booked, details from Brendan - [chairman@heb-camra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@heb-camra.org.uk)

**Fri 12 Dec:** Branch Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green. 8.30pm start.

**Wed 24 Dec:** Not the Xmas Shopping Social - **Rising Sun**, High Wych. Start about 2.00pm until early evening.

**Mon 29 Dec:** After Xmas Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green. Start 8.30pm. Mini Bus running to this event. Book with Mini Bus contact below.

**Mon 12 Jan 2009:** Branch Meeting - **Black Lion**, Epping. 8.00pm. Mini-Bus running to this event. Book with Mini Bus contact below.

**Thu 15 Jan:** Herts Liaison meeting - **Wenlock Arms**, London N1. 7pm

**Fri 16 Jan:** Branch Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green. Meet 8.30pm.

**Sat 31 Jan:** Mini-Bus Crawl to survey **Good Beer Guide** pubs in the branch area. Start pick up 10.30 - home by 6.00pm. Mini-Bus running to this event. Book with Mini Bus contact below.

**Mon 9 Feb:** Branch AGM & Good Beer Guide Selection & Pub of the Year Selection. **Queens**

# BRANCH DIARY

**Head**, Allens Green. 8.00pm. Mini-Bus running to this event. Book with Mini Bus contact below.

**Herts/Essex Borders Mini Bus Contact:** Gavin Chester, Tel 01279 304823 or 07825446586 – email: [mini-bus@heb-camra.org.uk](mailto:mini-bus@heb-camra.org.uk)  
**Socials Contact Email:** [social@heb-camra.org.uk](mailto:social@heb-camra.org.uk)  
**Email:** [Secretary@heb-camra.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@heb-camra.org.uk)  
**Internet:** [www.heb-camra.org.uk](http://www.heb-camra.org.uk)

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

**Thu 4 Dec:** Social - **Watford Town & Country Club**, Rosslyn Road, Watford, WD18 0JX.

**Thu 11 Dec:** Social in Oxhey. starting at the **Villiers Arms**, 108 Villiers Road, Watford, WD19 4AJ, and moving on to the **Railway Arms** and **Victoria**.

**Wed 17 Dec:** Branch Christmas Curry, venue TBC, Contact branch for details.

**Mon 22 Dec:** Branch Meeting - **Estcourt Arms**, St. Johns Road, Watford, WD17 1PT.

**Thu 15 Jan:** Herts Liaison meeting – **Wenlock Arms**, London N1. 7pm

**Fri 16 Jan 2009:** Branch “Pre-Xmas” London Pub Crawl. Contact Branch for details.

**Mon 26 Jan:** Branch Meeting - **Estcourt Arms**, St. John’s Road, Watford, WD17 1PT, 8pm.

**Sat 31 Jan:** Visit to the **Rose & Crown**, Harefield Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 1PP. R21 Bus from Rickmansworth High Street at 11:49am.

**Watford & District Contact:** Andrew Vaughan.  
**Phone:** 01923 230104. **Mobile:** 07854 988152.  
**Email:** [watfordcamra@googlemail.com](mailto:watfordcamra@googlemail.com)  
**Internet:** [www.watfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.watfordcamra.org.uk)

## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

**Wed 17 Dec:** Social event - **Strathmore Arms**, St Paul’s Walden, SG4 8BT. 8pm

**Fri 19 Dec:**, Hitchin Xmas crawl - **Nightingale** SG5 1RL, **Victoria** SG5 1TJ, **Sunrunner** SG5 1JW, **King’s Arms** SG5 1BB and **Half Moon** SG4 9TZ. Starts at 8pm. Contact Tony Driscoll 07802-662826 or [diary@camranorthherts.org.uk](mailto:diary@camranorthherts.org.uk).

**Wed 7 Jan 2009:** Branch Meeting - **Our Mutual Friend**, Stevenage SG2 8EH. 8pm

**Sat 10 Jan:** Minibus Trip east of branch area, venues TBC, pickups from 6pm to 7pm in Stevenage, Hitchin and Baldock, contact us before 4 Jan to be sure of a seat.

**Thu 15 Jan:** Herts Liaison meeting – **Wenlock Arms**, London N1. 7pm

**Wed 21 Jan:** Ickleford or Baldock crawl - venues TBC. Starts at 8pm

**Mon 2 Feb:** Committee Meeting - **Sunrunner**, Hitchin SG5 1JW. 8pm

**Wed 4 Feb:** Hitchin crawl - venues TBC. Starts at 8pm.

**Sat 14 Feb:** Minibus Trip south of branch area - venues TBC. Pickups from 6pm to 7pm in Stevenage, Hitchin, Baldock onwards, contact us before 7 Jan to be sure of a seat.

**Wed 18 Feb:** Branch Meeting (GBG Selection) - **Highlander**, Hitchin SG5 2EF. 8pm

## North Herts Branch Contacts:

**Chairman** - Andy Rawnsley, Tel: 01438 816938.  
**Email:** [chairman@camranorthherts.org.uk](mailto:chairman@camranorthherts.org.uk),  
**Socials Contact** – Graham Perry, Tel: 07956 564606  
**Email:** [diary@camranorthherts.org.uk](mailto:diary@camranorthherts.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.camranorthherts.org.uk](http://www.camranorthherts.org.uk)

## SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE

**Tue 16 Dec:** Branch meeting – **Six Bells**, St Albans (St Michaels Village) 8pm

**Thu 15 Jan 2009:** Herts Liaison meeting – **Wenlock Arms**, London N1. 7pm

**Tue 20 Jan:** Branch meeting and AGM – **CAMRA HQ**, St Albans. Starts 8pm sharp.

## GOOD BEER GUIDE SURVEY TRIPS

Five trips listed below are by mini bus, at a cost of £10 per person per trip. Collection is from outside **St Albans City Station** main entrance at 7pm sharp. **All CAMRA members are welcome.** To reserve a minibus seat contact Barry Davis, evenings and weekends only, on 07719 407544, or Email: [b.davis70@btinternet.com](mailto:b.davis70@btinternet.com)

**Tue 27 Jan:** Trip location to be announced

**Fri 6 Feb:** Trip location to be announced

**Fri 13 Feb:** Trip location to be announced

**Tue 17 Feb:** Trip location to be announced

**Tue 24 Feb:** Trip location to be announced

**Fri 27 Feb:** St Albans crawl - Meeting point to be announced. Starts from 6pm. Contact Branch Contact for further details.

**Tue 3 Mar:** Good Beer Guide selection meeting – CAMRA HQ, St Albans 8pm.

**South Herts Branch Contact:** John Bishop, Tel 01582 768478  
**Email:** [realales@yahoo.com](mailto:realales@yahoo.com)  
**Internet:** [www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.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](http://www.lemonrock.co.uk) For all gig listings.

## CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009.

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



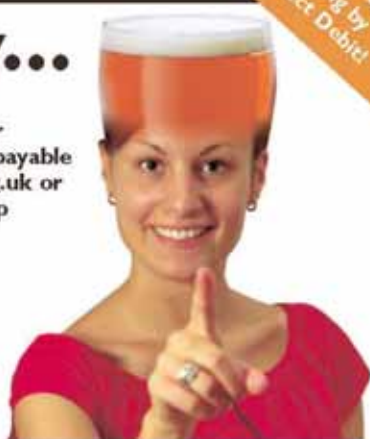
**New Suntrap Garden  
Now Open**

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](http://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) .....

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in! .....

Direct Debit      Non DD

Single Membership      £20       £22   
(UK & EU)

Joint Membership      £25       £27   
(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

## Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title ..... Surname .....

Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

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



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager      Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

### Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

### Bank or Building Society Account Number

### Branch Sort Code

### Reference Number

### Originator's Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

### FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

### Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards issued 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.

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 if your account being debited or is 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.

detached and retained by payer

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