

**FREE**

[www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.uk)

[www.watfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.watfordcamra.org.uk)

[www.heb-camra.org.uk](http://www.heb-camra.org.uk)

[www.camranorthherts.org.uk](http://www.camranorthherts.org.uk)



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

HERTFORDSHIRE'S

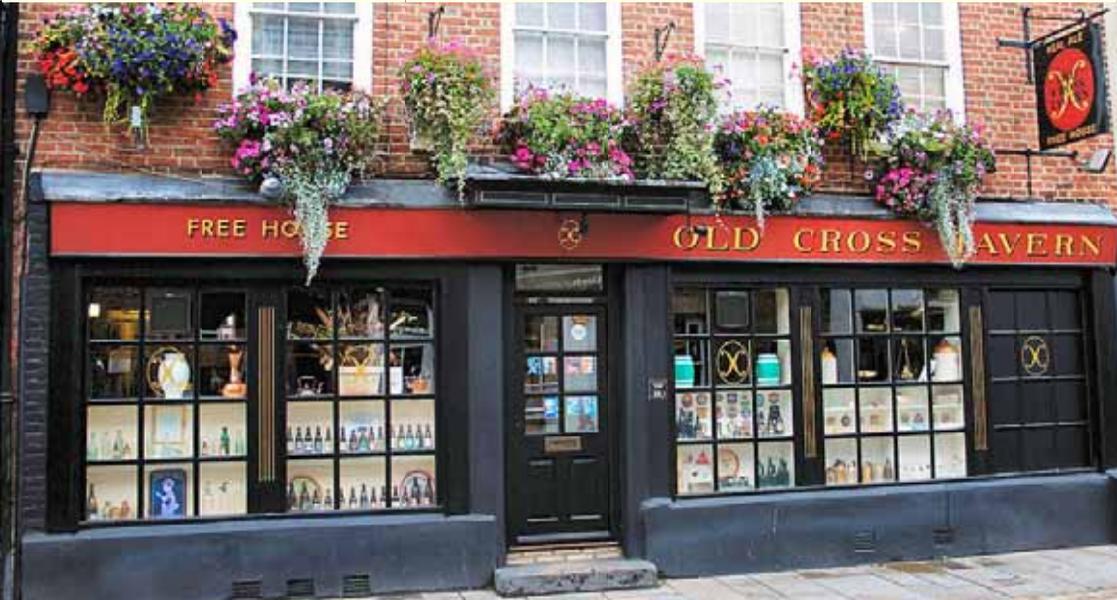
# Pints of View

The bi-monthly publication for every discerning drinker

April/May 2009

Circulation 8000

No. 234



## South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year Announced

Other Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year Winners  
*(Below from left to right):*



The Rising Sun at High Wych - Herts Essex Borders  
The Half Moon in Hitchin - North Hertfordshire  
The Land of Liberty Peace & Plenty - Watford & District  
*See further details on pages 11 and 12*



Take the Mild side of life  
*See page 9*

The Hitchin 2009 Beer and Cider Festival  
*See page 13*



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

## Decline and Turbulence in Early 2009

### Debt levels of larger pub groups and breweries

The level of debt being carried by some of the UK's larger pub groups has caused some to question whether they have a long term future and if they will be able to service their debt. At a recent hearing before the Business enterprise Select Committee Inquiry into Pub Companies the bosses of both Enterprise and Punch gave a robust

A large percentage of the pubs managed by S&N Pub Enterprises is owned by RBS who may well be looking to sell them to raise cash to pay off their debts. So what will happen to these pubs? It is likely that some will close.

Are there enough people in the market to buy all the pubs that could potentially come up for sale?

	Punch Taverns	Enterprise	JD Wetherpoon	Greene King	Marstons	Mitchells & Butlers
Number of Pubs*	7560	7763	700	2560	2249	2000
Net Assets (£BN)	6.5	1.68	0.18	0.66	0.71	1.18
Debt as a % of assets	75%	74%	79%	77%	71%	76%
Share Price 12/01/09 (pence)	65.3	40	316	482	126	182.5
Share Price highest†	714	65.2	360	755	288	442

\*Includes all leased, tenanted, managed and branded pubs

† Past 12 months

Taken from figures supplied by CAMRA

defence of their financial standing pointing out that their level of debt was easily covered by the valuation of their property portfolio (i.e the pubs they owned).

However what would happen if a pub company failed to meet its banking covenants?

Both Punch and Enterprise are currently desperately trying to raise enough cash to pay down their debt. They have both earmarked several hundred pubs for sale. These may well be sold to developers but both companies have said that any reasonable offer from sitting lessees would be considered.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February Punch announced that it would consider reasonable offers from any of their lessees to buy their pub. Punch needs to raise over £200m before the end of next year to pay off one debt. Whilst Punch is not currently looking to sell off all their pub estate they could be looking to sell 1000 pubs. The company has also ring fenced another 1000 of their "problem" pubs which may be sold as well if the staff dedicated to try to turn these pubs round fail.

What will happen to the pubs that are sold off? Some may well cease to be pubs. Of the pubs bought by their sitting tenants will there be an improvement in the range of beers offered or will the lessees have to take out soft loans from breweries to raise the cash needed and thus find themselves loaned tied.

In the end we will end up with much smaller Punch and Enterprise pubcos. There may be some more free houses, but how many of these will be tied via soft loans?

## White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans

Tel: 01727 860974



Deuchars IPA, London Pride  
& three guest beers

Food served lunchtime everyday and  
evenings

Tuesday - Friday

Live music

First Saturday night of month

Large beer garden

All welcome

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

## Axe the Beer Tax - Campaign Update

The Axe the Beer tax campaign started three months ago is going from strength to strength. Since November, over 11,000 people have sent emails to their MP via [www.axethebeertax.com](http://www.axethebeertax.com) and over 22,000 people have joined the fight using the internet on Facebook. Over 120 MPs have now signed a motion in support. We need to build up the pressure in the run up to the Chancellor's budget in April and we need your help. We want you to send the lobby message on [axethebeertax.com](http://axethebeertax.com) to your MP, to help hammer home the message to the Government.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February there was a pre-Budget Beer and Pub briefing at the House of Commons, and MPs were able to join the debate on why the Government should abandon its plans to impose more taxes on beer.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March there was a Pub Crisis Summit - where five Government Ministers answered questions from MPs about the decline of local pubs.

### Other Campaign News

It was scrum down for the beer and pubs trade as our campaign went looking for support among rugby fans at the Six Nations internationals. We thought there might just be a chance that rugby people would get behind the great British pub. And sure enough there have been plenty of conversions at Twickenham and Cardiff. 10,000 postcards were distributed at the events and thousands of rugby fans added their voice to a campaign.

### Pubs Campaign Joins CAMRA Parliamentary Reception

The clamour for action to save the British pub reached Westminster in early February as MPs joined Campaign for Real Ale members at their annual reception. John Grogan MP, chair of the Parliamentary Beer Group, paid tribute to the campaign that's gathering force. Speaking at the reception in the House of Commons, Mr Grogan said that the campaign "has been instrumental in pushing the issue of pubs up the political agenda". The post card and letter campaign run locally and

nationally has brought supportive replies from Conservative MP's, including James Clappison, (Hertsmere) who has written to Angela Eagle (Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury) and received the same uncooperative reply that we published in the last edition. That aside the message seems to be finally sinking in. So it's well done to all supporters for getting the campaign on the map - now we need to keep the pressure up. Axe the Beer Tax e-mail your support at:- [info@axethebeertax.com](mailto:info@axethebeertax.com) [www.axethebeertax.com](http://www.axethebeertax.com)



## CAMRA Responds to Pub SOS Calls

CAMRA's own research has shown how 84% of people believe a pub is as essential to village life as a shop or post office, with 57% of the population citing the public house as an important part of their daily lives.

'Save our Pubs' is an online forum to encourage people to discuss ways in which to help pubs under threat of closure. With the current national rate of closure standing at 39 pubs per week, CAMRA has taken the opportunity to allow consumers to share ideas and experiences of fighting pub closures.

Julian Hough, Chair of CAMRA's Pub Campaigns Committee, said:

"CAMRA has experience in campaigning against the closure of pubs; our online forum is an ideal environment for people to share ideas and devise effective campaigning strategies to promote and protect Britain's 57,000 pubs".

To further champion the cause of British beer and pubs, CAMRA has a separate initiative called 'Local Pubs Week', an on-going campaign where local CAMRA branches organise celebrations of great beer and pubs around their local calendar.



The aims are to:-

- Raise the profile and importance of pubs in the community
- Encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to use community pubs and visit the pub more often than they currently do
- Encourage pubs to organise events during the week to entice more trade

For more information on Local Pubs Week visit:

[www.pubsweek.org](http://www.pubsweek.org)

Help save Britain's pubs at:

[www.saveourpubs.org.uk](http://www.saveourpubs.org.uk)

## Punch the Old Fox and the Old Red Lion

**A**S mentioned in detail later in this newsletter pubco Punch have put all their 7450 pubs on the market. The first possible successes could be the purchase of the **Old Fox** at Old Bricket Wood (right), and we welcome new licensees Ken and Lea Dury and hope they can make the pub viable again. As



suspected Ken is just looking after the pub for Punch as an interim measure, but he put in a bid to buy the place on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The 12<sup>th</sup> was supposed to be the last day for offers, but this date has now been extended, though they should be hearing soon if they have got it.

Ken & Lea used to run the **Oddfellows Arms** in Apsley (below) where he re-introduced real ales



and is so keen that he has stopped stocking any lager, and wants to turn the pub into an ale and cider house. Brews on our visit were Adnams *Bitter* (which he plans to alternate with *Black Sheep*) and Ruddles *County*. Next on is *Old Speckled Hen*. *Addlestone's* cider is also on hand pump and he is looking to get more ciders (Millwhites was recommended to him).

He was also talking of holding a beer festival in the garden and he already owns a marquee.

The **Old Red Lion**, Park Street has been closed for some time and as we went to press it was having

building work undertaken. We have been informed that it is being converted into offices. The pub sign has been taken down but other signage attached to the pub remains. Planning permission for change of use been not been agreed or even applied for. We have also been informed that the



pub has been sold delicensed under a covenant, which will not allow it to be used as a pub. When Punch, who originally owned the pub, were approached they

claimed that this made business sense, as they had four other pubs close by whose trade would suffer. This of course is incorrect (nothing new for Punch). The nearest pub, the **Overdraught** (above) was Inn Business which

became part of Punch. Further along Watling Street the next nearest pub is the **Falcon** (right), Greene King. These are the only two pubs within walking



distance, and the third nearest licensed premises is the **Moor Mill Bar**, Restaurant and Travel Lodge (below) owned by Whitbread. In Bricket Wood some two miles away there is the **Gate**, Wells &



Young's (below) and the **Fox & Hounds**, which is Punch, and has the honour of being the only pub listed so far that does not sell real ale.

CAMRA is opposed to the selling of pubs delicensed. After all, if Punch sold the Old Red Lion and it became a genuine Free House it could damage the trade in the Overdraught and Falcon. Under Punch's



stewardship the Old Red Lion had not served any real ale for years and had a series of de-motivated licensees, with a very unflattering and over-the-top interior refurbishment. They have simply let the pub run into the ground.

*Steve Bury*

## JD Wetherspoon Placates Greene King on its 99p Pint

JD Wetherspoon has brokered a deal to placate Greene King that will see Ruddles Best replace IPA as the 99p-a-pint offer within its 715-pub estate.

Wetherspoon chief executive John Hutson said "Rather than fall out with Greene King we're happy to stock Ruddles Best. It's slightly stronger at 3.7% abv and it's every bit as good a pint".

Industry watchers believe that volumes of Greene King IPA more than quadrupled after Wetherspoon began selling IPA for 99p at the start of the year.

David Elliott, head of Pub Partners, Greene King's tenanted division, also wrote to tenants insisting Greene King was not supporting the IPA offer (this letter was published in our edition 233).

Justin Adams, managing director, Greene King Brewing Company said: "We have made no secret of our discomfort with the 99p promotion on Greene King IPA, which we weren't aware of and didn't support. However we have great respect for JD Wetherspoon who are long-time supporters of cask ale and very good customers of ours. They have always said that their aim was to get people off their sofas and back into the pub – a worthwhile aim – and we are delighted that they have now decided to focus on Ruddles Best to lead their offer".

*Paul Charity, Morning Advertiser, 17/02/2009*

**Ed Says:** Will Ruddles Best sell as well as Greene King IPA? I can quite believe the quadruple increase in sales, on one of my visits to the Wetherspoons in Watford they had sold out of IPA and were selling Courage Best at 99 pence a pint instead. It appears that Wetherspoons want to run a 99p pint deal and will do so at least until the end of March. Ruddles and IPA are both brewed by GK at Bury St Edmunds, the Courage Best is brewed by Wells & Youngs at Bedford. I have also been informed that I misled the readers of the last edition about the Greene King "buy three get one free" promotion in Jan/Feb. Apparently you received a loyalty card which was stamped on each purchase so that you got the fourth pint free even if the other three were bought on different occasions. The deal only applied to a small number of pubs near Wetherspoons outlets and has now finished. I apologise for any confusion I may have caused.

*Steve Bury - Editor*

## McMullens Expand Tied Estate

Hertford brewers, McMullens, have acquired two new pubs, one a Grade 2 listed pub in Hertfordshire, the other way beyond their traditional trading area - in Kent....

**The Nag's Head, Bishop's Stortford**

Macs have bought the **Nag's Head** in Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford (below). Built in 1934, this art deco pub was designed by E.B. Musman and is featured in many architectural books of the day – an



example of how new pubs were going to be. Unlike its sister pub, the **Comet** in Hatfield, which has been largely denuded of all its former internal brilliance, the Nag's Head has most of its internal features intact and is Grade 2 Listed. It is also the



only Hertfordshire pub that features on the CAMRA

National

Inventory of Pub Interiors of

Outstanding

Historic Interest.

The inventory

explains "The public bar is remarkably intact, retaining its L-shaped layout, bar fittings, windowsills which bulge out to form tables, marble-slab fireplace and doors. The corridor leading to the lounge has post-hole windows (the pub was designed to resemble a ship). The present lounge was formerly two rooms – a saloon bar with private bar behind. The bar counter and bar back survive though, as does the fireplace". Renovations by previous owners have been sympathetic to these features. Fergus McMullen says "We felt this was a wonderful opportunity – such an amazing building. There are great spaces inside and out. We intend to cherish the pub - it has got a little lost of late. Architecturally, I suppose this is a building that to the modern eye divides opinions, but our aim is to make best use of the excellent existing spaces and features – to create a superb working pub. We want to bring the Nag's Head back to life".

## *The Bullfinch, Sevenoaks*

Further afield Mac's have bought the **Bullfinch** in Sevenoaks, Kent (below). Peter-Furness-Smith, MD, said "We are delighted to have been able to expand our trading area into Kent with the acquisition of such a good site".

Christie + Co who handled the sale pointed out that this sale "was a perfect example of



how in the current climate regional brewers are able take advantage of the lack of competition from major chains, to increase their freehold estates...."

Look out for still further acquisitions by Macs who have for some time been trying to find the right outlets to add to their 135-pub estate.

*Les Middlewood*

## Brewery & Pubco Updates

### Punch Taverns put 7,560 Pubs on the Market

**P**unch Taverns Plc, the U.K.'s largest pub owner, is offering to sell all 7,560 of its outlets to licensees in a bid to reduce 4.7 billion pounds (\$6.8 billion) of debt.

'Any reasonable offers' will be considered, John Kiely, a spokesman for Punch, said in a phone interview. He wouldn't say how many pubs would actually be sold, adding that the company usually disposes of about 100 a year.

Punch shares plunged 94 percent in the last year as investors grew concerned the Burton-Upon-Trent-based company won't be able to repay its debt. Punch has already offered 500 of its pubs to existing lessees and another 400 have approached the company, Kiely said. The pub owner has a 209 million-pound bond due in 2010, according to Bloomberg data.

"Debt reduction is now the single issue" for pub companies, according to Paul Hickman, an analyst at KBC Peel Hunt. With a "sell" recommendation on the stock, said in a note. "These companies are strongly cash-productive and downsizing debt is



currently the best route to transforming the equity", he said.

Punch shares fell 0.75 pence to 40.75 pence in London trading recently, giving the company a market value of £108.7 million. The pub owner reported reduced sales and profitability in January as food and energy costs hit margins and consumers spent less. Chief Executive Officer Giles Thorley said business conditions are likely to remain difficult for the "foreseeable future". Kiely said rents to tenants will also be reduced this year as they base them on the retail price index. Brewer price increases of about 4 percent won't be passed on to tenants until April, he added.

14<sup>th</sup> January was the day of the Punch AGM and shareholders expressed their displeasure at the company's performance, or rather lack of, when 37% of them voted against the remuneration package for Directors of the company.

Punch is cutting 100 of the 700 jobs at its Burton HQ. Both Punch and Enterprise Inns showed a slight upturn at the end of February but not enough to make a difference to quarterly trading figures which are just as dismal as those of Punch.

60% of Punch's shares are owned by US hedge funds. *Sarah Shannon - Bloomberg, 13/02/2009*

**Ed Says:** If Punch sell a large number of their pubs freehold they will hopefully be trading completely 'Free of Tie'. One publican told me that if he could raise the funds and get a reasonable offer accepted his mortgage would be cheaper than his rent, in which case his calculations showed that with getting all his products from a cheaper source outside the tie, he would be at least £160 per week better off. Presumably this would be a real boost for LocAle and micro-brewers, who would at last be getting some opportunities to sell their wares direct to a larger number of pubs local to them.

As far as Punch is concerned they would be in an ever downward spiral - as they would not be ordering beer in the same large quantities from the big brewers, and therefore would not get the same discounts. Let's face it, they are buying the beer from Greene King, Marston's etc. at the same price as Wetherspoon's, but they are just not passing this discount onto the publicans, and are therefore inflating the price to us the customers.

### Marstons to take Price Increase

**T**here was better news from Marston's who have announced that they will be absorbing beer price increases from suppliers such as

Scottish & Newcastle, Diageo and InBev until 20<sup>th</sup> April this year. The deal will apply to all tenants and lessees. Good news on pricing but Marston's also have their own toxic loan to worry about and has negotiated an extension to their £400m debt to 2013. They intend to reduce the loan to £295m by August this year.

Conversely, against all the trends Bedford brewers Wells & Youngs have increased their prices in their managed estate by 8 pence per pint.

## Admiral Taverns' Problem Pubs

**A**dmiral Taverns have come up with a new way to handle their problem pubs. They have hived 400 of their worst performing pubs into a ring-fenced separate company. Peter Brook, ex-head of Tattershall Castle and Innspired is to head this new division.

## Royal Bank of Scotland Sell up

**W**ell you may be asking what has the bank whose shares dropped 70% and got a second enormous government bail out doing in here? The answer is simple - they own 1,000 pubs which are run by Scottish & Newcastle

Pub Enterprises for them, and which they now wish to sell. The estate which they purchased in 2000 is valued today at £600 million. The pubs will need to sell as a whole because the agreement with S&NPE does not end until 2010. News of the sale comes as S&NPE struggles with the under performing Globe Pub Company owned by Robert Tchenguiz.

## 20% of Pubs Sold Result in Change of Use

**A** survey of over 100 members of the Association of Valuers of Licensed Property (ALVP) showed that leasehold prices have fallen 37% and freehold prices 22% over the last year. Inquiries for licensed property have dropped by 19%.

"This survey shows some interesting information – perhaps the most poignant relates to the change of use stats, with one in every five sales resulting in a change of use", said honorary secretary of the AVLP Bob Whittle.

*Taken from an article published in the Morning Advertiser*

**THE LAND OF LIBERTY, PEACE AND PLENTY**  
**National PotY Finalist 2007!**  
**Watford Branch Pub of the Year 4 times!**

**Music Quiz by Ian**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Kozmik Kwiz**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**The Not Whitsun BeerFest**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - 31st May**

**Easter Beer Festival**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April**



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

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

**See [www.landoflibertypub.com](http://www.landoflibertypub.com)**

For more information & beer list

- ❖ 6+ Real Ales
- ❖ 3 Real Ciders & Perry
- ❖ Bar Snacks All Day
- ❖ Free Soft Drinks for Drivers of 3 + beer drinkers
- ❖ Regular Events

**Ed Says:** My view is that these statistics were generated last year. Things are changing and developers are in trouble with the recession – the conversion of public houses to private accommodation is no longer as lucrative. Councils are also very reluctant to allow pubs to be demolished, so the opportunities for new build are only applicable to the land attached to the pubs, and proper access and car parking must be part of the planning application. Taking all this into account, the drop in property prices, Punch putting 7,560 pubs on the market which others will soon follow, desperate to sell properties to pay off their toxic debts, now must be the best time in years to buy that free house you have always longed for.

*The information above came from several sources, including Iain Loe – CAMRA Marketing Research Officer.*

## Pub Chain Attacked over 1p Pint Promotion

The Dukedom Group, a pubco which owns 32 venues across (the Midlands and the North of) the UK, is offering a pint of bitter for 1p to customers who buy a £1.89 house spirit.

Joanne Reid, of Alcohol Support, said: "There has been an increase in irresponsible drinks promotions nationwide and these deals encourage people to drink irresponsibly and are a cynical move by pubs and clubs to get more punters through the doors and drinking more. It is my belief there should be a minimum price set for alcohol depending on the strength of the drink, which would help combat some of the more extreme social ills".

Don Shenker, chief executive of Alcohol Concern, said: "Alcohol is not an ordinary commodity like bread or milk, it causes harm to the nation's health and there appears to be a strong link between cheap alcohol and the high levels of binge drinking in the UK.

Russell Vickers, operations manager, of Dukedom said: "We hope that the offer of a pint of Tetley beer for 1p with an order for a spirit of vodka, brandy, whisky, rum or gin, which normally costs

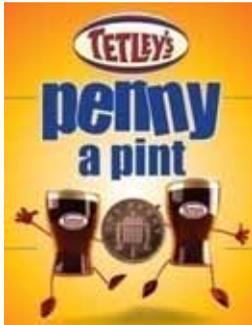
under £1.99, will encourage our customers to feel that they can still enjoy the conviviality and comfort of their local pub without running up a big bill".

Mr Vickers denied suggestions the drink promotion could encourage binge drinking and claimed they were targeting older drinkers.

"Our staff are trained to refuse to serve anybody who they think might have had too much to drink and we will be introducing refresher training in the pubs where the offer is running", he added.

*Daily Mail, 29/01/2009*

**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.



**Lower Red  
Lion**

36 Fishpool St, St Albans  
Tel: 01727 85566

The 17<sup>th</sup> Century coaching inn  
Under new management

Now open all day  
Serving 6 real ales including Fuller's  
London Pride, Oakham JHB  
& real cider

Real open fire & a selection of games  
for long dark winter afternoons

Home made food served lunchtimes  
Bed & Breakfast at reasonable rates

Email: [thelowerredlion@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thelowerredlion@tiscali.co.uk)  
[www.thelowerredlion.com](http://www.thelowerredlion.com)

## The Mild Side of Life

Get ready for the month of May, when CAMRA again celebrates "Make May A Mild Month" and the ale turns dark. Pubs all over Hertfordshire will be serving mild, helping to promote a beer style that until the 1950s was mainstream in Hertfordshire, but which by 1980 had become hard to find.

By the time that CAMRA was formed in the early Seventies none of Hertfordshire's remaining brewers still brewed dark mild. McMullen's *AK*, then weaker than it is today, was considered a light mild. A well-kept pint of *AK* still has that nutty first taste, sometimes missing when the beer has not been given enough time to fully condition in the cellar. Rayment's, too, brewed a light mild. A few pubs sold *Ind Coope Dark Mild*, and in the east of the county a few stalwart *Greene King* pubs still persisted with *XX Mild*. The lights were going out on dark mild.

With the disappearance continuing at an alarming pace, CAMRA launched its "Make May a Mild Month" campaign in 1977, and although we cannot claim to have restored mild to its former prominence, we can at least claim to have helped halt its extinction, holding a torch for the beer for long enough during the 1970s and early 1980s, until it made a comeback, as many of the emerging small brewers and regional brewers began seeing an opportunity, if sometimes seasonal, to explore the wonders of mild.

**So, what is mild?** Developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries as a less aggressively bitter style of beer than porter and stout, early milds were much stronger than most modern examples. Most milds today fall into the 3%ABV to 3.7%ABV category, though some of the more sensational milds are still

brewed up to and around 6%ABV. Mild's usual darkness is attributed to the use of well-roasted malts, roasted barley or caramel.

One strong bastion of support for dark mild is the West Midlands, another being parts of Lancashire.

Locally, many of our local micro-brewers now have a mild in their portfolio. Tring have *Mansion Mild*, Red Squirrel *Dark Ruby Mild*, Alehouse *Commercial Mild* and Buntingford *Pargeter Mild*.



Milds have won major beer competitions in recent years both at a local and national level – in 2007 Mild from the Hobsons brewery of Cleobury Mortimer in Shropshire was crowned Champion Beer of Britain.

In 2008 silver was won by Beckstones of Millom in Cumbria with their *Black Gun Dog Freddy* mild. Hertfordshire Branches of CAMRA will be having a number of socials around the county to promote mild – on Tuesday 12 May join us for our 'Make May a Mild' event starting at the **Black Horse** in Hertford at 8pm.

Les Middlewood

## Adnams Extra Special Bitter Returns for Cask Ale Week

The UK's first ever National Cask Ale Week, will be held during Easter 6 – 13 April 2009, to promote the importance and pleasures of

drinking real ale in pubs. Adnams are bringing back Adnams *Extra Special Bitter* which was crowned the **Champion Beer of Britain** at the **Great British Beer Festival** in 1993. Roger Protz, Editor of the *Good Beer Guide* comments, "Adnams Extra deservedly won the **Champion Beer of Britain Gold** award in 1993, made with English hop variety, the Fuggle and the finest Maris Otter pale and crystal malts. Following the copper boil with hops, the beer then lies on a deep bed of Fuggles to absorb even greater hop aroma and flavour. A classic!"



CAMRA has teamed up with Cask Marque and The Independent Family Brewers of Britain, to launch the first ever National Cask Ale Week. The week will provide essential support for community pubs whilst also promoting real ale as the unique selling point for the British pub.

Look out for the posters and events in your local pubs and for the additional beers that should be available during this period.

## Red Squirrel Has the Bottle

Now you can enjoy bottle-conditioned Red Squirrel beers delivered direct to your door. In March, brewer Gary Haywood launched his new on-line home delivery service – award-winning beers arriving at your home within 24 hours of order. Beers available are Red Squirrel



*Bitter* (RSB – 3.9%ABV), *Conservation Bitter* (4.1%) and *Red Squirrel IPA* – *IPA in the USA* (5.4%). These can be ordered either in a case of one beer type, or a selection. The 500ml bottles have words from the brewer and clearly state the number of UK units that each bottle contains, reminding the purchaser about responsible drinking. Gary said “I feel there may be a market for my beers with real ale drinkers who prefer to drink at home or who don’t live locally. In this difficult economic time I want to explore as many avenues as possible for my beers – I hope that this new venture will prove to be successful”. To find out more look at the Red Squirrel website:

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

## Morris Men’s Seasonal Beer Launched

Greene King has launched a new seasonal beer to raise awareness of the plight of Morris dancers.

The spicy, fruity *Morris Mayhem* ale will be available throughout the month of May.

“It would be a crying shame to see Morris Dancing disappear particularly since their activities so often revolve around the pub,” says Greene King’s head brewer John Bexon. “Since Morris Men themselves are known to enjoy the odd pint now and again, we’re joining in the crusade to raise awareness of this quirky British pastime and brewing the new beer as a tribute to those who participate in it”.

**Ed Says:** I know we still have some active Morris and Clog Morris troupes in Hertfordshire. Can anyone out there send us an article and information to publish?



## The White Lion



**SOUTH HERTS CAMRA  
PUB OF THE YEAR BRONZE AWARD**

**Open all day: Monday – Sunday 12 Noon  
to 11pm**

**Black Sheep Bitter & Young’s Special,  
plus 5 ever-changing guest beers**

**Food Served**

**Lunchtimes: Mon to Sat 12 Noon – 2pm  
Evenings: Mon to Fri 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
Sunday lunches served 1pm until 4pm**

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

**[www.TheWhiteLionPH.co.uk](http://www.TheWhiteLionPH.co.uk)**

## South Herts Pubs of the Year 2008

### The Old Cross Tavern Strikes Gold

Many congratulations to Bev, Mary and the staff of the **Old Cross Tavern** in St. Andrew Street, Hertford, winners of the 2008 - South Herts Branch's **Pub of the Year** competition. In a year of celebration for the pub – it has now reached its first ten year milestone – Bev continues to keep some of the best-kept beer in Hertfordshire, now added to by his own beers *Laugh n' Titter* and *OXT ale*, brewed exclusively for the pub in the on-site micro-brewery. Twice a former winner of this competition (in 1999 and 2000), and regularly in the top three, the Old Cross Tavern continues to embody some of the pub principles that many CAMRA pubs hold so dear – a place for great ale and conversation (usually 7 real ales at the bar, including a dark ale, and two beer festivals each year – all unhindered by piped music, TV or noisy gaming machines). As the pub's motto says – "The way Pubs Used to Be". In its ten years of being, the Old Cross Tavern has forged a huge reputation across Hertfordshire and beyond, for the range and quality of the beers purveyed, featuring in every edition of the **CAMRA**

**Good Beer Guide** since 2000. Expect a full report on the pub in the next edition of *Pints of View*, but in the meantime come along on Tuesday 21 April to celebrate the pub's triumph in this year's competition.

### The Silver Woodman

Silver goes to the **Woodman**, Wildhill. What more can be said about this wonderful pub? Current holder and seven times former winner of the competition, Tom and his family and staff, continue to sell superbly-kept real ale from Hertfordshire and much further beyond - and in the warm and conducive atmosphere of the Woodman – a pub popular with locals and regulars – and those who just stumble across it – what a find. Try standing at the bar and not joining in the friendly conversation. Another **Good Beer Guide** evergreen, our celebrations here will take place on Tuesday 28 April.

### The White Lion in Bronze

Bronze was awarded to the **White Lion** in Sopwell Lane, St. Albans. With gold, silver and bronze collected in the last three years, this is due reward for the consistently high quality of beer, food and atmosphere created by David

## Old Cross Tavern

*"The Way Pubs Used to Be"*

**South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beer Festival**

**Starting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**



**30 REAL ALES**

**Including Mild, Stout, Porter**

**Special Anniversary Brew**

**By Bev (Old Cross Tavern) and  
Gary Hayward (Red Squirrel Brewery)**

**Hog Roast Saturday**

8 St Andrew Street, Hertford SG14 1JA 01992 583133

Worcester and his staff. There is always something going on – from occasional beer festivals to regular music evenings. A charming warm traditional pub with exposed beams and two contrasting bars, no visit to St. Albans should fail to include a visit to the White Lion. Thursday 30 April will see the Branch enjoying David's hospitality and celebrating the pub's continuing prominence in the South Herts Pub of the Year competition.

Come along and join CAMRA members at any of the above events – all start at 8pm - and look out for reports in the next edition of Pints of View.

To see the roll of honour of former winners in this competition, look at the Branch's website, [www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.uk).  
*Les Middlewood*

## Watford & District Branch Pub of the Year 2009

**W**atford & District Branch's Pub of the Year award for 2009 went to the **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty** in Heronsgate.

Despite some stiff competition this is the fourth year in a row that the pub has claimed the award. In the last three years the pub has gone on to claim the **Herts Pub of the Year** award, and made it to the finals of the **National Pub of the Year** competition in 2007. Watford & District branch would like to congratulate Martin Few, Gill Gibson and all their staff, and wish them luck in the forthcoming county competition.

### *Pictured below:*

Watford & District CAMRA Branch Chairman Andrew Vaughan (centre) presents Gill and Martin with their Pub of the Year winner's certificate.



## Manager of the Year at the Crown, Borehamwood

**W**hen Brian and Elaine Ferris arrived at the **Crown** Borehamwood (below) the pub was selling one barrel of Wells *Bombardier* per week, now under their stewardship they are selling three *Bombardier*, three *Old Speckled Hen* and five Young's *Special*. Needless to say Barracuda who own the pub were



most impressed and it is the complete package which includes an extensive competitively priced food menu which has helped to improve sales so much. The pub was refurbished and returned to its original name in 2007 and is now one of only two real ale outlets in a town that has been described a beer desert. This is not the first pub that Brian and Elaine have run previously working for Young's. We congratulate them again-Barracuda Managers of the Year.

### Want to Advertise in Pints of View?

#### Page Size and Cost (excl. VAT)

**Quarter Page:** 74 x 105 mm = £55.00

**Half Page:** 148 x 105 = £100.00

**Please contact us for other advert size rates.**

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

**First time advertisers to confirm in writing please.**

Contact: John Bishop, Tel: 01582 768478

Email: [realales@yahoo.com](mailto:realales@yahoo.com)

**Advert deadline for our June/July newsletter (235) is 7 May 2009**

**Copy deadline for 235 is 14 May 2009**

## MP Opens Biggest and Best Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival

Peter Lilley, MP for Hitchin and Harpenden launched Hitchin's biggest and best **Beer and Cider Festival** on the afternoon of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. There is a lot of talk in Westminster and elsewhere of the current economic recession and the organisers were somewhat concerned that it might put a dampener on the event. How wrong we were!

With 20% more stock than last year we hoped to see a similar number of visitors to 2007, but that didn't happen – we got almost as many on the first day this year as we had for the whole event last year! It was frantic and everyone was having a great time supping the 60 British cask beers, 10 ciders and 30 foreign beers we had on offer.

We had to close the doors at 7pm on the Saturday after literally everything had been drunk. It was so painful to see prospective customers being turned away but those coming along earlier had drunk their way through 6,550 pints in a record 19 hours – that's an average of 344 pints served per hour or about 1 pint every 10 seconds!

There were several 'classics' on the list of cask beers, many of which have been multiple award winners in the past. Local breweries were well represented once again this year with several beers each from B&T, Buntingford, Crouch Vale, Red Squirrel, Saffron and Tring. The visitors selected B&T's *Black Dragon Mild* as their **Beer of the Festival**. It's pleasing to see a local product win an accolade and really endorses CAMRA's LocAle initiative.

For more on ale, CAMRA and people trying desperately to enjoy ale in an outrageous fantasy world, you might like to get a copy of 'The Quest for the Holy Ale', by Gene Rowe and Andrew Schofield, published by Melrose Books ([www.melrosebooks.com](http://www.melrosebooks.com)) and available to order from their website, or from any decent online book retailer. It's also an ideal gift for any boozy friend! See Melrose's website for a bit more info...and good luck, ale warrior!

The Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival is a joint venture between North Herts CAMRA and the Hitchin Round Table. The Chairmen and the Organising Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who visited the festival and drank all the beer. Equally we'd like to apologise to those who made a journey to find nothing left.

We hope to return in 2010, which will be the 10<sup>th</sup>

birthday of this event. After uncertainty for two years over the future of the Town Hall we have been told it will still be available for us to hire next year. We hope to be back on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010, and we'll try to cram in some more beer.... See you next year?

*Andy Rawnsley & Chris Owen*



←  
*Peter Lilley MP (second from right) formally opens the 2009 Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival.*



→  
*View of the festival hall from the stage.*



←  
*The cask ale bar*



→  
*Fresh olives were also for sale at the festival*



## Not Inn Lemsford

I found the article in *Pints of View* 233 very interesting on pubs around Lemsford and Ayot St Peter describing their history around the Great North Road. However I think the description of the **Red Lion**, Digswell as run by Vintage Inns (M&B) "serves good food and great beers" presents a rosy image and completely at odds with my experience. I went in a couple of years ago and had the most dreadful beer you can imagine, no condition whatsoever and never been back since! The barman showed absolutely no interest in beer whatsoever and gave the impression he only wanted me to buy some of their quick prepared food. The **Crooked Chimney** does at least make an effort to provide three real ales in good condition for punters to have with their food. It is still not a drinkers' pub and hence I do not frequent it. I do not have such an issue with the other pubs described as serving 'fine ales', such as **The Long and The Short Arm** (Macs) as this is a historic local brewer, and the term 'fine ales' is in keeping with the article on the historic pubs, which used to put that on their walls and outside signs. In those days 'fine' was a general term used in selling all sorts of items cotton, matches, hats etc.

The only other minor gripe with the newsletter is the *Axe the Tax* replies from two MPs two are identical apart from a couple of paragraphs - namely from MP Mark Prisk and Mike Penning. The article does say they made the same points, but they are worded identically - looking like one emailed their reply to the other and copied into their reply. We probably all did the same on the morning of handing in our homework at school!

*Rob Strachan*

**Ed says:** Rob, we appreciate your contributions and I apologise for spelling your name incorrectly in the last edition. On your first comment about the Red Lion, Digswell it was as you say two years ago. I hope our article writer has visited the pub more recently. I do know that some Vintage Inns discouraged those who did not wish to eat (there aren't so many of them about now as many have been re-branded). Any comments/updates would be welcome. On the MPs' letters I could have probably saved space by not printing both in full but I was making the point that the Conservatives are sending out an identical message except for Peter Lilley MP for Hitchin and Harpenden who it appears wants to wash his hands of anything to do

with the licensed trade.

## You're Barred Again

Great article - *People get barred for the Strangest of Reasons*. Here are two of my favourites: One early evening in the **Green Man** in Wymondley, where the then landlord was a retired officer from the catering corp., barred a customer who had just purchased a bag of pork scratchings for making too much noise eating them. The other was an old mate of mine who regularly drank in the **Sun** at Lemsford and who was barred for being so boring.

*Colin Allen*

**Ed Says:** These weird barrings could run and run. I remember a pal of mine was barred from the Sun, Lemsford after he addressed the landlord as "Orson" our host at the time (1980s) was rather rotund, wore a beard and took offence to being likened to Mr Welles



- who at the time was doing a series of rather bad Domecq Sherry advertisements on the TV. Another case was one where a customer visiting a pub with an exceedingly bad tempered landlady addressed the host "Hello George where's the Dragon" making a play on the pub's name. Unfortunately for him the said dragon was out of sight but within earshot and did not see the joke, he was speedily ejected. I must stress that mine and Colin's remarks do not apply to the Sun's current tenants, who we have found most welcoming on all our visits.

## It's Those Half Pints Again

Here's a conundrum for you.

If a Pub sells a pint of beer for £3.00 and charges £1.55 for a half, is the half pint drinker paying a premium or is the pint drinker getting a discount? Either way is the publican encouraging binge drinking? I don't know worried wine drinker.

*Eric Sim*

**Ed Says:** I do not understand why a premium should be charged for half pints. Why also is a pint or a half of shandy (hate the stuff) more than the price of the equivalent beer? This problem has been with us since before I, and even you, started drinking.

## Are Business Rates Pub Rates?

With regard to the articles on rateable values in the Dec/Jan edition 233, it may be different for pubs,

# HARPENDEN BEER FESTIVAL 2009

**Fri 26 – Sat 27 June 2009**

Harpenden's first ever beer and cider festival at the Public Hall with the support of Harpenden Town Council. Organised by South Herts CAMRA – the organisers of the ever successful St Albans Beer and Cider Festival.

Up to 60 quality real ales featuring many champion winning beers from Hertfordshire and throughout the UK, plus ciders, perries and foreign beers from around the world.

**Harpenden Public Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 1PD**

Friday 26 – Saturday 27 June, 11.00am – 10.30pm

Admission £3.00 (CAMRA members free at all times)

Further information: [www.harpendenbeerfestival.com](http://www.harpendenbeerfestival.com)

Or email [realales@yahoo.com](mailto:realales@yahoo.com) (please put Harpenden Beer Festival in subject line).



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**



**HARPENDEN Q  
TOWN COUNCIL**

QUALITY  
SUPPORT  
FINANCE

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

## THE WOODMAN

**SPRING WOODFEST May 15-17**

**Mini Beer Festival with Music**

***Real Ales and Cider***

**Friday 8pm - Folk On Friday**

**Saturday 8pm - Swinging Saturday**

**Sunday afternoon - Morris Mayhem**

***try your hand at Morris Dancing***

**BBQ Saturday lunchtime & evening**

**BBQ Sunday lunchtime**

**30 Chapmore End**

**Ware**

**Hertfordshire**

**SG12 0HF**

**01920 463143**

**[www.woodmanware.co.uk](http://www.woodmanware.co.uk)**



Open Monday 5:30-11

Tue-Thur 12-2:30 & 5:30-11

Friday 12-2:30 & 5-11

Sat-Sun 12-11

**Lunch:** Tuesday to Friday 12-2

Saturday & Sunday 12 - 2:30

**Evening meals:** Wednesday

to Saturday 5:30 - 7:30



but for most commercial properties the rateable value for April 2010 will be based upon the rental values as at April 2008.

*David Read*

can hopefully help to stop the decline. "At My Local" is a Free Social Network promoting and supporting local pubs in the UK - With Your Help We Can Succeed!

*John Bishop*

**Ed Says:** I haven't a clue.

### **Help Save the Great British Pub!**

Iconic 70's Punk Rock band "Sham 69" have thrown their support behind a new online social network **atmylocal.com** which has been created to "Save the Great British Local Pub". The band have donated the use of their 1978 top 10 hit record "Hurry Up Harry" as the soundtrack to the "atmylocal" promotional video that has been launched on Youtube.



At My Local [www.atmylocal.com](http://www.atmylocal.com) is being launched this week via Facebook, Myspace, Bebo & Youtube. The aim is to build a nationwide social network of pub customers who are each proud to promote and support their own local pub. Our hope is that this will stimulate people back across the doors of local pubs and in doing so, we

### **It's not about the Pub**

In South Herts 27 pubs from our area are selected for entry into the **Good Beer Guide** for the high quality of ale being served.

To the 27 pubs, this is an achievement as competition is fierce, as most pubs in the area are well managed, and we are very fortunate in having a large number of good real ale pubs in the area - especially in St. Albans.

The process for selection is always an area of lively debate, as the matter is very subjective. And although the process is not perfect, it generally works as the true test of a pub's quality continuous entries in GBG year on year.

It also allows pubs with new owners to keep established pubs on their toes as entry is not guaranteed for old favourites.

It is especially warming to see new pubs gain entry for the first time (or to return) as it shows that the management team has worked hard to maintain consistent beer offering.

*Continued/*

# THE HALF MOON QUEEN STREET HITCHIN FOR GOOD BEER & FOOD



**5th ANNIVERSARY BEER FEST APRIL 23rd - 26th**

**25 + REAL ALES**

**CIDERS & PERRY**

**THURSDAY CURRY & STEAK & ALE PIE NIGHT**

**NORTH HERTS CAMRA  
COMMUNITY PUB OF THE YEAR 2007**

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

**FOOD AVAILABLE  
NOON-2.15PM & 6-11PM EVERY DAY**

**BEER GARDEN, PATIO, CAR PARK**

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

TEL: 01462 452448 EMAIL: [halfmoon@btconnect.com](mailto:halfmoon@btconnect.com)



Unfortunately, the odd "not so good" pub slips in or a consistently good pub can be squeezed out, but that is a general flaw in any democratic process and is worth the hassle.

However, the process does throw up some anomalies and perhaps this is where the process could be tuned to provide a more consistent selection of good real ale pubs.

Several issues spring to mind, which provide an example of where the process is not the best, but still works. These are detailed below and will perhaps enable the selection process to become more objective.

- Separating the pub, landlord and clientele from the beer

The GBG is all about the beer quality, not the establishment, the management team or the customers in the pub. To a very small degree, this has certainly affected voting in the past where certain hostelrys had long-term reputations, but still gained GBG selection despite a long-term drop in beer quality. Conversely this has also restricted pubs where the clientele is outside normal CAMRA demographics.

- Selectors must try different beers in a nominated pub.

A recent example of where selectors have only based their voting on a single beer on offer in a pub was heard by the author recently. When the selector in question tried a certain ale that was well below par in a reliable GBG pub, this caused him to vote against that pub. The pub did get in as its other beers are always high in quality and other selectors recognised this. When asked if he tried other beers in the same pub, he did not. Members have a responsibility to give feedback to the landlord and ask for the beer to be replaced if it is of bad quality. Sometimes, an ale will suddenly degrade despite the best efforts of the managers. If this is refused, the pub should be withdrawn from GBG nomination.

- Ethical standards

The GBG is held in high esteem as an independent publication to give drinkers an accurate view of a pub's ale quality and is core to CAMRA values and

positioning. It is most useful when travelling and this can enable a pub to obtain additional revenue as a GBG reader will always select a GBG pub in an area where he has no other supporting

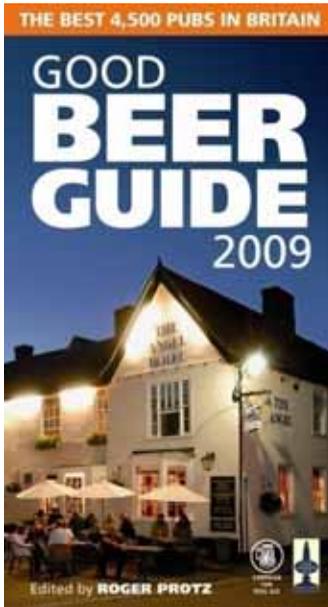
information. Therefore, it is a huge conflict of interest if a landlord can vote against a pub in their own area and also if they are involved in the process of deciding zones and voting patterns. This is a matter which could perhaps be taken up at national level. Some landlords do follow the honourable path, a shame not all do.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of individuals present at the selection process to act objectively and fairly as inclusion in the GBG is a financial and status reward for the pub and its management. However the independence of the publication must be maintained and this is the real responsibility of all CAMRA

members involved in the GBG selection process.

*Martin Mitchell*

**Ed Says:** I suppose this is where I say the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor the editorial sub committee or CAMRA nationally and locally. That said Martin makes some pertinent points and I see no reason why our readers should not see his concerns in print. If you wish to take part in the Good Beer Guide selection process you must first be a member of CAMRA and of the branch in whose area you wish to vote. South Herts branch, of which Martin is a member of, has already made a commitment to try and change its selection process, to remove some of the anomalies he mentions This will not be an easy task. Can I just assure you all that the selection is freely open to be viewed by any CAMRA member and the process is a democratic one?



**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)**

# Pints of View Beer Name Prize Sudoku

M	L	S	U					Y
P								
	Y			M	T			L
			S			Y	U	
O		Y		P				D
L	D		U					
D		L	T				U	
								S
S				U	L	O	M	

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that every row, column and each of the nine 3x3 squares contain all the letters of Stumpy's brewery beer: **OLDSTUMPY**

Completed entries by 21 May 2009 to: Steve Bury, 14 New Road, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9EA.  
1<sup>st</sup> winner drawn wins a CAMRA 2009 Good Beer Guide.

Your Name:.....

Your Address:.....

Postcode:.....

### Subscriptions for Pints of View

£7 for 18 issues. Send to: John Lightfoot, 66 Dryfield Road, Edgware, Middx., HA8 9JT.  
Cheques payable to: CAMRA South Herts.



**The Six Bells**

St Michael's Street  
St Albans

TEL: 01727 856945

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.the-six-bells.com](http://www.the-six-bells.com)



### FIVE REAL ALES:

Deuchars IPA  
Abbot Ale  
London Pride  
Black Sheep  
Timothy Taylor Landlord

### OPEN ALL DAY

Home Cooked Food  
Lunch & Evening  
Function Room  
Great Beer Garden

**Good Beer Guide 2008 & 2009**

## New Sign at Farmers Boy follows Tradition

When the pub sign on the **Farmers Boy** in St Albans was changed to the 'TFB' the outcry was large to say the least, but now under new management we are pleased to announce that the traditional sign has been replaced. The tradition has been to have the licensee's son depicted on the sign, and the latest is no exception, now with 3-year-old Cameron Kintu replacing a previous landlord's son, who was in the original sign. The background too has been lovingly reproduced exactly to the original.

Says landlord, Doug Kintu; "The artist, Mark Kingett, has done gardening work for us for a few years. When I mentioned to him that we were re-doing the old sign, I hadn't realised that he was also an artist. Working around his gardening schedule, it took him about 4 months to complete. We are proposing some kind of tribute to him, as he would not charge for his time or the paints, which he had at home. All we paid for was the varnish, to weatherproof it!!!!

We will be getting a sepia print of Mark, by the sign, which will be framed and hung in the pub, with some kind of inscription to thank him for his work, which will have contributed to the history of The Farmers Boy".

*Douglas Kintu*

*Below: Young Cameron with Doug and Ros Kintu*

## Wild Food Nights at Local Pubs

Several real ale pubs in Hertfordshire, notably the **Red Lion** in Woolmer Green (below), **Robin Hood & Little John** in Rabley Heath, and the **Strathmore Arms**, St Paul's Walden have enlisted the skills of Stuart, otherwise known as The Country Bumpkin. Stuart lives in Woolmer Green and has a passion and love for all things rustic, wild and rural. Oh, and he can cook a bit as well. On the night, Stuart cooks a 6-course meal using seasonal ingredients. The menu changes throughout the year as Mother Nature's offerings come in and out of season, and not forgetting the dependency on what we have managed to catch and forage. Where else can you try rabbit, venison, pigeon, pheasant, crayfish and even squirrel! Not to mention the wild fruits & greens. Please note that there is not an alternative veggie option. For more details try: -

[www.thecountrybumpkin.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.thecountrybumpkin.co.uk/index.htm)



**THE WOODMAN**  
— WILD HILL —  
Hatfield. AL9 6EA

*An unspoilt, traditional country pub*  
7 Times 'CAMRA' South Herts 'Pub of the Year'  
Serving 6 Quality Real Ales  
Food Served 12noon - 2pm : Mon to Sat  
Large Beer Garden



*Real Ale, Real Atmosphere  
& Reasonable Prices*

Telephone: 01707 642618

## Pub Signs - an Important Part of our Heritage *By Steve Bury*

I was looking through some old newspaper cuttings and came across a letter published in one of the local papers by Dennis Owen, who was then and may still be president of the St Albans Art Society.

He wrote "The English pub is a wonderful institution, properly unique to this country and the envy of less happier lands. Poor sun-chasing expats on the Costa del Sol might pass their regular nostalgic happy hour with a can of export in a bar called the Crown & Anchor, but they don't fool anybody.

For more years than anyone can remember pubs have announced their presence by a sign; illustrating the name with a painted picture, a coat of arms, a portrait, a bird - the range of subjects is endless. They made every street an art gallery and enhanced and enriched our towns and villages in a very special way.

Ask yourself which is more interesting and attractive: a rectangular dark coloured board with the words THE PEAHEN in block capitals or a well-done oil painting of a peahen in full colour? And which makes the more welcome contribution to the street scene?

Look at it this way. You have friends who have a delightful oil painting of roses in a fine vase on their living room wall. The next time you visit them you find they have painted the canvas dark blue and in neat white capital letters there are the words PINK ROSES IN A VASE. Would you think it a good idea?

It is a matter of regret that many Inn signs have gone. In some cases it was inevitable because the pub closed. But in recent times there has been, it seems, a conspiracy among a number of publicans to get rid of the original attractive lively pictorial signs that gave each pub a distinctive character and to replace them with banal and charmless written signs. Why, for heaven's sake?

We have more than enough mediocre visual clutter in our streets and I hope that publicans will realise that their signs are modest national treasures and should be lovingly preserved for all to enjoy.

Pub signs have been around since Roman times, if not before. Originally branches from a bush often in the shape of a wreath or brewers' poles used to stir the brew were hung outside to denote it was the place to come to get a drink. *Continued/*

## The Farmers Boy

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

Five real ales, including a weekly guest ale.

Food served every day between 12 and 3pm, and between 5pm and 8pm on weekday evenings.



Quiz nights every Wednesday.

Informal acoustic night 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. All singers, musicians and listeners welcome.

Family run pub under new management, with St. Albans' only micro brewery, selling our own Clipper IPA and Farmers Joy ale, both brewed on the premises.

Also stocked are Timothy Taylor's Landlord, Fuller's London Pride, plus other guest ales. Wide range of bottled beers with a good selection of Belgian beers.

Extensive menu of home cooked food, including our famous home made, hand-chopped chunky chips.

***Pleasantly laid out Beer Garden and a damn fine welcome for all those who enjoy a decent pint!***

# People, Pubs and Places

As villages became towns and cities pubs proliferated, and a variety of different signs were hung normally made of clay and baked. Simple symbols of the Sun the Moon or Stars were used to direct the then mostly illiterate population to their favourite Inn. When Richard II came to the throne there were still problems recognising public houses and as most brewed on the premises the excise man had to be able to identify hostelries easily. In 1393 a law was passed that the King's insignia must be displayed on a sign outside every pub - in this case it was the White Hart. Much later in 1751 a law was passed that all pubs must have a suitable name registered with the magistrates, and the now traditional sign swinging from a gantry became the norm. Although stupid and unwelcome pub name changes have decreased lately, in fact some pubs have returned to their original traditional names. There is a question however as to what a suitable name is".



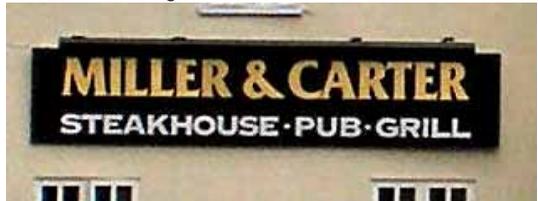
Where Dennis Owen goes wrong is that in the majority of cases it is the responsibility of the owner or brewer, not the landlord, to maintain the pub signs and keep them in good order. There are very few genuine free houses about where his comments would apply. In his letter he mentions the **Peahen** in St Albans (left) owned by McMullen's of Hertford, and I must check whether the pictorial sign has been replaced yet.



Other pubs in St Albans that have had problems in recent times are the **Farmers Boy** whose sign became 'TFB' but has now been returned to a traditional pictorial display of the present landlord's son. Another pub in St Albans which went astray was the **Speckled Hen** previously the Bunch of Cherries and was the only pub with that name in the country. Greene King changed the name to celebrate the re-launch of *Old Speckled Hen*, which they now brew at Bury St Edmunds having closed the Morland brewery in Abingdon,

Oxfordshire where the beer was originally brewed. The second unfortunate part of the change was when a corporate Greene King pub sign was put up, which just depicted the company logo and the name - as faceless as a MacDonaldis yellow 'M'. After a few comments in this newsletter and a response from the GK's Business Manager (it is pleasing to know he reads *Pints of View*) an appropriate pictorial sign was re-instated.

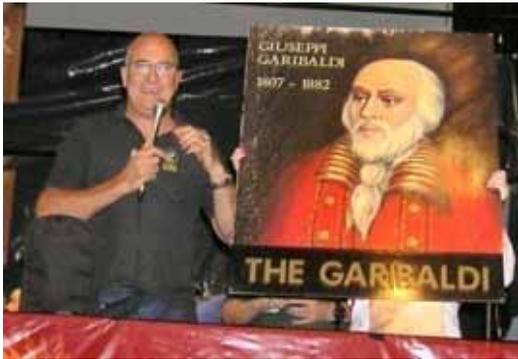
Unfortunately local planning authorities do not have power to stop name changes so long as the signage is not offensive or completely out of keeping with the local environment. Therefore, very little can be done to stop owners changing signs for the worse. Do not lose hope though; the **Bull** in Wheathampstead is a good example of where a concerted local campaign succeeded in getting the large unpleasant illuminated Miller & Carter signage (pictured below) removed from the historic building.



Should you find yourself in the position where your local's sign has seen better days and needs an urgent refurbishment, where do you go? There are no less than eleven pages of pub sign manufacturers including traditional artists on the internet, so no shortage of competition or finding someone relatively local - after all if the job is done properly it won't need to be done again for many years.

Pub signs are a matter of taste and I must say I prefer traditional to modern witty. My nearest pub - the **White Horse** - had a frozen horse as the sign for many years, fortunately now replaced with a happy horse grazing in a field. There have also been some gaffs, and it has been suggested that a good pub sign should not need the name written on it. A perfect example being the **Garibaldi** in St Albans, whose sign, again a good few years ago, showed an aging Garibaldi resplendent in his red shirt. The inscription read Giuseppe Garibaldi 1807-1882 unfortunately the artist had spelt Giuseppe incorrectly, much to the amusement of the customers.

Thousands of people have admired the art of David Young and yet very few know his name, or



*Above: The errant Garibaldi sign I put to auction at the 2005 St Albans Beer Festival – it didn't sell.*

for that matter Rob Rowland or Andrew Grundon who are three of the remaining few traditional pub sign painters. David Young has painted no less than 250 signs from his workshop just around the corner from Wadworth's of Devises, which is the only brewery in the country with a dedicated sign-writing department

Rob Rowland who is freelance and based in Gloucester said "You have more control over the image with a true hand painted pub sign, which is more geared to that warm atmosphere a pub is supposed to have. A computer generated image is so smooth it is like a transfer".

A good traditional pub deserves a proper painted sign so let's campaign to retain them for posterity.

## Free Beer for Her Majesty

You may have read the story that a lorry mistakenly attempted to deliver 12 barrels of lager to the Queen at Windsor Castle rather than the **Windsor Castle** pub in nearby Maidenhead - an easy mistake to make! A dishonest, unscrupulous person may have decided to accept the wayward delivery, but Her Majesty is clearly not such a person and the lager was refused and her staff helped find the rightful owner. Now had it been 12 barrels of Oakham JHB or Dark Star Hophead would she have been tempted to keep it?

**South Herts CAMRA Branch Contact:** John Bishop, Tel 01582 768478, Email: [realales@yahoo.com](mailto:realales@yahoo.com)

**Socials Contact:** Barry Davis. Tel evenings and weekends only - 07719 407544 .

Email: [b.davis70@btinternet.com](mailto:b.davis70@btinternet.com)

Branch Internet site: [www.hertsale.org.uk](http://www.hertsale.org.uk)



The  
Prince of Wales  
Green Tye



## PRESENT THEIR MAY DAY BEER FESTIVAL

30+ BEERS FROM ALL OVER THE UK.

OPEN FRI 1 MAY 6PM-11PM

SAT, SUN & MON 2, 3 & 5 MAY NOON-11PM

MUSIC FRI EVE— PINCH OF SNUFF

SAT AFTERNOON 16-STRING JACK

SAT EVE—ANTICLOCKWISE. SUN EVE IS MUSIC HALL NIGHT.

The Prince of Wales,  
Green Tye, Much  
Hadham, Herts SG10  
6JP

Tel 01279 842517

[info@thepow.co.uk](mailto:info@thepow.co.uk)

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



## CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1997 - 2009 Cask Marque Certification



## The ELEPHANT & CASTLE

AMWELL LANE, AMWELL,  
WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.

Tel: 01582 832175

QUALITY FOOD

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

## Can't Sell your Pub? Raffle it

**T**he **High Park Tavern**, Ryde, Isle of Wight (right) is being sold by raffle after being on the market for over twelve months. The owners of the High Park are selling 50,000 tickets at £20 each which if the article is correct means they will raise £1M. If you go to their web site [www.winapubaffle.com](http://www.winapubaffle.com) they value the freehold at £350,000 but you will get all the fixtures and fittings as well. In the event that the reserve price is not met the winner will receive all the cash that is in the pot less expenses. My view is that if all the tickets are sold over 50% profit could be made which would be outside current lotteries legislation.

The draw is due to take place in July and Sharon Milner the manager came up with the idea after hearing about another pub in Devon being sold by raffle.

The High Park is not alone as, the 16<sup>th</sup> Century **Filly Inn**, near Lymington, Hampshire is on offer as the main prize in a quiz due to take place in the next three months. Again I went on the web and find no indication that the Filly Inn is for sale *Steve Bury - From The Publican, 14/01/2009*

## Historic Pub Conversion Rejected

**H**opefully the tide of pub closures is turning partly because it is not so lucrative to convert to housing in the recession. Locally we have had a great success with the **Grandison Arms** in Bramfield to re-open as a free House following the planning application to convert to residential being rejected. Now we have the story of a Scottish borders pub saved in much the same way.



Plans to convert the 17<sup>th</sup> Century **Crook Inn** at Tweedsmuir (below left) into flats have been rejected by the Scottish Government, who backed Scottish Borders Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the site.

The decision brings to an end a long-running wrangle over the plans for the inn, which dates back to at least 1604. SBC rejected plans to convert the building into housing but developers Inverwest Ltd appealed against that decision.

The Recorder said: "Conversion to a residential use would bring to an end more than four centuries of public house use at the site and the impact on the local community would be significant. The loss of the services and facilities provided by the hotel would have a disproportionate effect on the Tweedsmuir community".

Residents in the area have formed a community company with a view to buying the property and running it as a pub.

**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)

## Our Mutual Friend

Broadwater Crescent, Stevenage, 01438-312282



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

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



## Health Police in the Press Again

Strangely enough it was not beer drinkers or pub users that have come under criticism this time in figures released by Government statisticians on 22<sup>nd</sup> January but middle class wine drinkers. Following a General Household Survey of almost 13,000 homes it was found that 37% exceeded Government guidelines consuming more than 21 units and 20% drank double the recommended figure. The figures also showed that managerial and professional workers drank far more than those in routine or manual occupations. The *Daily Telegraph*, who has previously claimed genuine shock and horror over other binge drinking exposés, on this occasion has commented "Guilty about a glass of wine it's enough to turn you to drink", and; "The nanny state is enough to drive anyone to drink".

Obviously there are two classes of drinker and the Government seem to support this as they have already removed some of the additional taxation that was to be levied on spirits. The other point is that the units system, which allows 21 for men and 14 for women per week, is flawed. One of the so-called experts who calculated the alcohol units has

now stated that a lot of the figures used were plucked out of the sky. If drinking above the limit is so widespread - and it now appears to be across all social classes - why is society not falling into decay?

When the clipboard brigade come around asking about alcohol consumption we should all politely tell them 'no comment', or the next move will be alcohol tokens to ensure that we cannot buy more than is good for us.

An extract from 'Selling alcoholic drink to a person under 18 years of age', published by Essex Police: 'Research shows that teaching young people to drink responsibly doesn't reduce the risk of problematic drinking later in life. In fact current research shows that we may be teaching them how to binge drink.'

**Ed Says:** Where do they get this research from? The statement is a total contradiction, if you have taught someone to drink responsibly, then they will do so. I am now convinced all this research is made up.

# THE ROBIN HOOD

Tessa welcomes you to 126 Victoria St., St Albans, AL1 3TG  
Tel. 01727 856459



- ◆ 3 Cask Ales
- ◆ Fine wines
- ◆ Home Cooked Food (11am-3pm)
- ◆ Live Music (Weekends)
- ◆ Quiz Night (Wed 7.30pm)
- ◆ Curry Night (Thurs 7pm)
- ◆ Sunday Lunch (12.30pm-3.30pm)
- ◆ BBQ Area
- ◆ Party bookings



**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 18.

**Ayot St Lawrence:** After a lot of speculation and interest including the local press we finally have an update on the **Brocket Arms**. Apparently work is well underway to bring the pub's facilities into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; hopefully this will not damage the pub's unique character. We are informed the work should be completed in time to open for Easter. As yet no new manager has been appointed.

**Bricket Wood:** As reported in the *St Albans Review* on 25<sup>th</sup> February, the freehold of the **Old Fox** has been bought and will be run by Ken & Lea Dury, See article page 4.

**Graveley** The **George and Dragon** (Greene King) now has a caretaker landlord, still looking for new tenants.

**Harpenden:** The **White Horse**, according to the *Morning Advertiser* of 12 Feb; 'Two high-profile celebrity chefs have closed their leased pubs. Jean Christophe Novelli's two leased pubs, an Enterprise site and a Greene King site, have gone into administration.' The other chef is Antony Worall Thompson who has two pubs in Oxon. Our correspondent noted that there were plenty of cars in White Horse car park in mid Feb and customers could be seen through the windows. The **Three Horseshoes** re-opened on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March. Initially it was only open lunchtimes but is by now open in the evenings as well. They are selling *Courage Directors* and *Adnam's Bitter*, and there is a possibility of an additional beer - trade permitting.

**Hertford:** The **Masters House** in Fore Street seems to have had work stopped. Our correspondent has seen plans of the proposed result, described as a 'restaurant, bar and hotel'. As for comments that real ale will feature - we shall wait and see. At last, root and branch refurbishment work is underway at the **Sportsman**, also in Fore Street - but it looks as if the historic pub is to become a bar and up-market restaurant called The Piano Lounge - there are other branches outside of Hertfordshire. Congratulations to Bev and Mary at the **Old Cross Tavern**, winners of South Hertfordshire Branch's 2008 **Pub of the Year** award - see separate article on page 12. Pop in to the **Millstream** in Port Vale, where you will find a well-kept range of McMullen's ales - featuring *Cask Ale*, *Country Bitter* and *AK*. A new lunchtime and evening menu is available. Along the street the **Two Brewers** is real again and has been having St.

**Austell's Tribute** as a regular handpumped beer. With TV sport popular here, you can enjoy your pint whilst looking at the pictures of Hertford or the many boxing greats that feature on the walls.

Real ale is going so well at the **Old Barge** that the bar has sprouted two new handpumps. The **Hillside** (formerly the Reindeer) remains closed.

**Hertford Heath:** No change, with the **Townshend Arms** and the **College Arms**, both still closed.

**Hertingfordbury:** Call in to the **Prince of Wales** on a Tuesday and you can take part in the new quiz which starts at 9.30pm.

**Hitchin:** The **Radcliffe Arms**, 31 Walsworth Road, will soon be open. We welcome Stuart; the landlord who has pledged that as a genuine free house he will be serving real ales from local breweries, Buntingford and Red Squirrel. There will be a restaurant area with freshly baked bread. You can also join "Friends of the Radcliffe Arms" on *Facebook*.

**Kinsbourne Green:** The Peppercorn (nee Harrow) has reopened as **The Green**. There were three new

## The Mermaid

The St. Albans Bareboard Alehouse

Real Ales, Real Cider, Real Food, Real Music.  
Listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2009

<p><b>Opening Times:</b>  <b>Monday to Thursday:</b>                  12 - 11; Food: 12 - 2:30pm &amp; 5-8pm  <b>Friday:</b> 12 - 12;                  Food: 12 - 2:30pm &amp; 5-8pm  <b>Saturday:</b> 12 - 12; Food: 12 - 3pm  <b>Sunday:</b> 12 - 11; Food: 12 - 3pm</p>	<p>98 Hatfield Road,                  St. Albans,                  AL1 3RL,                  ☎ +44 1727 837758</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"> <a href="mailto:contact@mermaidalehouse.com">contact@mermaidalehouse.com</a>  <a href="http://www.mermaidalehouse.com">www.mermaidalehouse.com</a> </p>
--	---

2 Permanent Ales, 4 constantly changing Guest Ales & 1 Real Cider

- Backgammon Tuesdays
- Ale & Cheese from 7pm
- Ladies Darts on Wednesdays
- Thursdays
- Sunday Roasts
- Live Music every Saturday Night 9pm




Supporting Hertfordshire Brewers

Alehouse: Sauvín So Good 4%, always available.  
 Guest beers from Tring Brewery regularly featured.

# DOWN YOUR WAY

handpumps in situ on the bar but none were in use on our visit 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**London Colney:** The **Bull** beer festival will take place on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> April and will hopefully be serving; Buntingford *Highwayman* 3.6%, Everard's *Beacon* 3.8%, Sharps *Doom Bar* 4%, Wychwood *Dragonbite* 4%, Bateman's *Eggs-B* 4.2%, Cairngorm of Aviemore *Nessie's Monster Mash* 4.4%. Accompanied also with live Jazz music.

**Park Street:** The **Old Red Lion** was closed in early Feb - see article page 4.

**South Mimms:** After over fourteen years Chris and Lorraine have left the **Good Beer Guide**-listed **White Hart**. This classic two-bar country pub, one of the regular McMullen pubs to gain entry to the guide, is a testament to their keeping of good cellarmananship. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours - they will be a hard act to follow.

**St. Albans:** At **Batchwood Hall** (no real ale) Peter Bell has returned from the group's club in Blackpool in early November 2008. Peter has resumed his post of chairman for St. Albans Pubwatch. At the **Waterend Barn**, Steve Strange is the new manager. The **Fighting Cocks** has been

closed since 25<sup>th</sup> January for an extensive uplift, which was planned to take several weeks, but it now appears that the pub will be open again for Easter. We welcome David Wright the new landlord in the **Great Northern**, which has been bought by a small pub chain who own 16 pubs. Their current single handpump has been serving ever-rotating beers. It is hoped that three handpumps will be in use on a regular basis. A planning application has been made to convert the furniture shop opposite the **Peahen** into a bar and restaurant which if agreed may serve real ale. No further details available at present.

**Ware:** It is great to see Red Squirrel ales now featuring regularly on the bar at the **Royal Oak**, a true free house, which has hitherto sold mainly GK *IPA* and Fuller's *London Pride*. The IPA remains but Red Squirrel's *RSB* or *Conservation Bitter* are now also at the bar and going down well with the locals. Following a flood, part of the pub has been refurbished but it very much retains its traditional atmosphere.

**Weston:** The **Red Lion** (Greene King) has new tenants. They have previously run the **George and Dragon** at Graveley.

Welcome to

## The Swan

56 High St. Wheathampstead, Herts, AL4 8AR

Tel: 01582 833110



- ❖ 5 real ales now available
- ❖ Sky Sports and Premiership Plus
- ❖ Quiz every Wednesday night

Open all day, every day

Food Served 7 Days 12 Till 3, Sunday Roast 2 Course £7.95

# BRANCH DIARY

## HERTS ESSEX BORDERS

**Sat 4 Apr:** Mini-Bus to start surveying Essex Branches Pubs of the Year. 10.00 to early Evening  
**Mon 6 Apr:** Branch Meeting - **Victoria Tavern**, Loughton. Start 8.30pm. Mini-Bus trip, see below.  
**Fri 17 Apr:** Branch Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green 8.30pm.

**Sat 25 Apr:** Mini-Bus to complete surveying Essex branches Pub of the Year. 10.00 to early Evening.  
**Sat 9 May:** Mini-Bus trip to survey Hertfordshire Branches pub of the Year. 10.00 to early evening.  
**Mon 11 May:** Branch Meeting - **Rising Sun**, High Wych 8.30pm.  
**Fri 15 May:** Branch Social - **Queens Head**, Allens Green 8.30pm. Mini-Bus trip, see 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)

## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

**Mon 6 Apr:** Committee Meeting - **Sunrunner**, Hitchin 8pm. All members welcome.  
**Mon 6 to Mon 13 Apr:** National Cask Ale Week beer trail (see our website for details).  
**Wed 15 Apr:** Pub Crawl, venues TBC. 8pm  
**Sat 18 Apr:** Minibus Ramble 7pm. Pickups from 6pm, venues TBC (contact us to book).  
**Thu 23 Apr:** Herts Liaison Meeting - **Wenlock Arms**, London 7pm  
**Fri 24 Apr:** 7pm, Herts BOTY Award to Tring Brewery. Minibus TBC (contact us to book).  
**Sat 25 Apr:** Hitchin Beer Fest BOF Award, venue and time TBC with the winner when known (see our website for details).  
**Wed 29 Apr:** Pub Crawl - venues TBC 8pm.  
**Sat 2 May:** Hitchin Beer Fest COF Award, venue and date TBC with the winner, as announced on page 13 (see website for details).  
**Tue 5 May:** Branch Meeting, venue TBC. 8pm  
**Sat 9 May:** Herts Pub of the year Survey trip, venues TBC. 11am,  
**Fri 15 May:** Local Pubs Week stand at **Baldock Festival**, details TBC.  
**Wed 20 May:** Pub Crawl, venues TBC. 8pm  
**Sat 23 May:** Herts Pub of the Year Award - venue and time TBC.  
**Sat 23 May:** Minibus ramble - venues TBC (if not the Herts POTY Award) 6pm.

## 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 7 Apr:** Pub crawl round Ware and presentation to the **Crooked Billet**.  
**Tue 14 Apr:** Branch meeting - **Six Bells**, St Albans 8pm  
**Fri 17 – Sat 18 Apr:** **Ware Beer Festival** - Ware Arts Centre, Kibes Lane, Ware  
**Tue 21 April:** - Pub of the Year (POTY) presentation (1<sup>st</sup>) **Old Cross Tavern**, Hertford 8pm. Minibus from St Albans City Station at 7pm.  
**Thu 23 Apr:** Herts Liaison meeting - **Wenlock Arms**, London 7pm.  
**Fri 24 Apr** - Herts Beer of the Year presentation - **Tring brewery**. Check with Socials Contact below.  
**Tue 28 Apr:** POTY presentation (2<sup>nd</sup>) - **Woodman**, Wildhill. Minibus from St Albans City Station 7pm.  
**Thu 30 Apr:** - POTY presentation (3<sup>rd</sup>) - **White Lion**, St Albans 8pm.  
**Wed 6 May:** Beer Festival Committee Meeting – **Garibaldi**, St Albans 8pm  
**Tue 19 May:** Branch Meeting – **Red Lion Hotel**, Radlett 8pm  
**Fri 5 Jun:** Beer Festival Workers Party – **White Lion**, St Albans 7.30 pm.  
**SEE PAGE 22 FOR BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS**

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

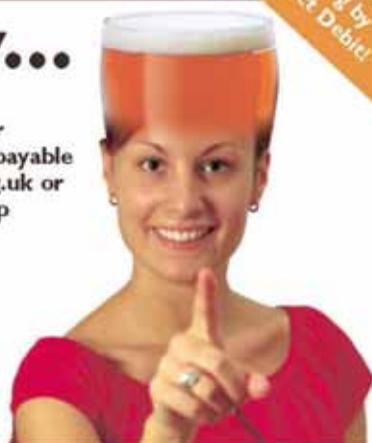
**Fri 3 Apr:** Social - Croxley Green. **Coach & Horses** The Green, 830pm; **Artichoke**, The Green, 9.15pm; **Sportsman**, Scots Hill, 10pm.  
**Tues 21 Apr:** Open Mic Night - Colne River Rooms, **Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre**, Local Board Road, Watford, 8.30pm.  
**Mon 27 Apr:** Branch AGM - **Estcourt Arms**, St John's Road, Watford 8pm.  
**Fri 8 May:** Herongate social - Stag, Long Lane, 830pm; **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty**, Long Lane 9.15pm.  
**Thu 14 May:** Quiz Night. -**Southern Cross**, Langley Road, Watford 830pm.  
**Mon 18 May:** Branch Meeting - **Estcourt Arms**, St. John's Road, Watford 8pm.  
**Thu 28 May:** Annual Branch Darts Tournament - **West Herts Sports Club**. Contact us for details.  
**SEE PAGE 23 FOR BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS**

# 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) .....

### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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

Forename(s) .....

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

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

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

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

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

I enclose a cheque for .....

Signed ..... Date .....

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108



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

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



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

Originator's Identification Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

9 2 6 1 2 9

Address

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
This is not part of the instruction to your bank or building society

Postcode

Membership Number

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Name

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Postcode

Branch Sort Code

Instructions to your bank or Building Society  
Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards 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.

Reference Number

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

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

detach and retain this section