

HERTFORDSHIRE'S



CAMRA Pulling Together

The online publication by Hertfordshire CAMRA branches

June / July 2020

Issue 2



Lordship Arms, Benington - North Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year



**George IV,
Sawbridgeworth
celebrates St
George's day
lockdown style**

**Join in with the
North Herts
CAMRA
festivities 3- 6
June (page 10)**



**Feature on the King
William IV, St Albans**

**McMullen's tackling
the virus and
supporting their
pubs**



CAMRA calls on pub owning companies to cancel rent for licensees

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has called for pub owning companies to cancel rents for licensees during the COVID-19 lockdown.

CAMRA national chairman Nik Antona said: "CAMRA welcomes the move by businesses such as Admiral Taverns, McMullen's and Fuller's to cancel rent for their pub tenants in recognition of the unique circumstances we are in.

"We are now calling on other pub owning businesses to follow those examples and listen to the concerns of tenants, and of pubgoers who want their locals to survive this crisis.

"Pub owning companies must cancel rents during this period – deferring until a later date simply doesn't go far enough. Rent for publicans is based on sales so it makes sense that when a pub is closed and doesn't have any turnover, they shouldn't have to pay any rent.

"The Government is rightly offering support to pub owning companies with financial and employment schemes so that staff can still be paid and the businesses can re-open once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. It is only right that support is passed down to individual licensees in the form of rent holidays to protect their pubs and livelihoods."

Pub group Fuller's was cheered on social media after it stopped collecting rent from tenants.

Admiral Taverns has cancelled rent payments for its licensees, initially effective from 21 March until Thursday 30 April – saying the end date is under review. The company said it is "determined to support" licensees.

The Government's announced measures to mitigate the devastating impact of COVID-19 do not go far enough in ensuring no pub, club or brewery goes out of business as a result of the current crisis.

The business rate holiday for eligible pubs will help alleviate some costs but will do little to compensate for the collapse of cashflow in businesses which have been closed under the lockdown.

Making loans to businesses with no money coming in and multiple overheads to meet through a period of no, or low trading, is simply kicking the can down the road.

Additional measures are needed to ensure that pubs can emerge from the lockdown unsaddled by debt and able to deliver the many benefits to the communities they serve.

Campaign on Pub Rents

Some pub companies have offered support to their tenants but most of the largest have not. They are still charging rent or, at best, deferring payments so

tenants will still be billed for this period of lockdown at a later date.

Pub companies have lobbied for a long time for the principle of rent paid by their tenants being based on turnover. Now that pubs are closed, most have no turnover and CAMRA has been campaigning for their rent be cancelled.

Of the "Big Six" pub companies (those which have over 500 pubs with tied tenants), only Admiral Taverns has cancelled rent for the closure period. We thank Admiral for setting a positive example to the rest of the industry.

Following a call by CAMRA more than 62,000 emails were sent to chief executives of the 'Big Six' pub companies urging them to do the right thing and cancel rents for tied tenants during this period.

Whilst Admiral Taverns – and many smaller pub companies including McMullen's – have scrapped rent payments for tenants of their tied pubs, others are only deferring payments so they'll still have to be paid at a later date, even though most pubs have had no turnover during the period of COVID-19 closures. CAMRA received responses from the pub companies listed below: -

- Greene King
- Marston's
- Star Pubs and Bars
- Ei Group (Stonegate)
- Punch

From the negative content of these responses we know what we are up against – but be in no doubt, your voice has been heard loud and clear and the pressure is now firmly on these companies to do the right thing.

We have not given up and will be working hard to build the momentum further and show the industry that cancelling rents for all tied pub tenants is the only fair option.

CAMRA has written to all pub company chief executives, no matter the size of the company, to ask them to cancel rent for tenants, and we continue to push to make sure government grants and support gets through to those who need it as quickly as possible.

We're also publicly thanking all the pub companies that have supported their tenants by cancelling rent and, if you're a social media user, you may wish to do likewise. The heroes list is available on our website here: <https://camra.org.uk/covid-19-response/save-pubs-cancel-rents/>

Thanks again for your help.

Ben Wilkinson –

Chairman of Pub and Club Campaigns

Pull Together and support pubs

In light of Government advice to avoid pubs and other social venues during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Campaign for Real Ale launched an industry-wide initiative with the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) and Crowdfunder to help support the brewing and pubs industry by promoting their unique initiatives to stay afloat. You can find out more about these activities by visiting www.camra.org.uk/pullingtogether/. While supporting the industry, CAMRA also recognise that many people are losing the valuable social connection that is part of the fabric of pub-going right when they need it most. Which is why we've set up this virtual pub community where we can share a pint, toast to beer o'clock, host pub quizzes and more - all from the safety of our homes. Everyone should follow NHS guidance on Covid-19, including staying at home wherever possible, and ensuring social distancing when leaving their home for essential purposes:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The latest Government guidance on which businesses can remain open and for what types service can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance>

If you run a hospitality business and have questions about licensing or planning that are not answered in the Government guidance, please contact a trade association or your local council - CAMRA cannot offer you professional advice.

Any business which can remain open during the Covid-19 crisis must adhere to government guidance on hygiene and social distancing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses/guidance-for-food-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

Ellie Hudspith



Have a Hadham.



38 Station Rd, Welham Green, Hatfield AL9 7PG, UK
01707 263275

Real Ale £2.90 a pint £2.10 a pint in Happy Hour

Pull up a comfortable chair or lean on the bar.
CAMRA members welcome as guests £1



Mon - Thurs 12.00 - 14.00 17.00 - 23.00
Fri - Sat - Sun 12.00 - 24.00 (23.00 Sun)
Happy Hour Mon - Fri 17.00 - 19.30

One beer finishes, another beer from a different brewery replaces it. Two hand pumps, a supply of different beers, with a smile.

facebook.com/NorthMymmsSocialClub/



CAMRA
FOR
REAL ALE

WHAT?PUB

National Beer Scoring System

McMullen's Tackling the Virus

Supporting the Pubs

Congratulations to local brewers McMullen's who, because of the coronavirus pandemic and closure order on its pubs, have taken a positive and honourable stance and wiped April and May rents completely for their tenants – they will continue to assess the position if the closure order continues into June and beyond. Whilst the greatest number of McMullen pubs are managed these days, the brewer still has 30 or so pubs that are tenanted – most in Hertfordshire.

This move is in no way typical of all pub companies – many of the largest are still charging tenants rent or just delaying rent – even though most have little way of opening to make a living during the crisis.

Take Home beers

Mac's have opened their Hertford brewery yard to the public for takeaway bottled beers, wine and 10 and 20 ltr boxes of their draught AK,



Country and IPA beers. It's a drive-thru' so best precautions have been taken.

For timings and details go to their website:

www.mcmullens.co.uk/beershop

Mac's Fresh Produce cheers for the NHS

And if you are working for the NHS, Mac's are showing their support by opening brewery and pub-based drive-thru' shops for NHS workers to buy fresh produce at



cost price – just pre-order via the website and collect 2-3 hours later:

www.mcmullens.co.uk/macsgroceries. These can be found at the brewery in Hartham Lane, Hertford and at the **Bull**, Broxbourne - **Millstream**, Hitchin - **Red Lion**, Hatfield - **Nag's Head**, Bishop's Stortford - **Three Horseshoes**, Hooks Cross.



a craft beer bar in the heart of Hertford

-weekly and monthly events-

- open mic
- weekly quiz
- live sports
- food nights
- mik keller running club
- meet the brewer and many more!

28 Parliament Square, Hertford

Real Ales and Craft Beers

13+ Beers on Tap!

10% off for CAMRA Members!

the crafty duck

opening times

tues-thurs 12-10 fri-sat 12-11 sun-mon 12-8

What's being said in the Press

Wetherspoons criticised

Tim Martin, owner of Wetherspoons, is always ready to comment on issues facing the licensed trade and was criticised by the *Morning Star* in March for suggesting that his laid off staff should go and work for Tesco's during the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of Wetherspoons staff are on zero hours contracts and it is not at all clear if they would meet government guidelines for financial support and Tesco was recruiting albeit part time workers at the time.

The BBPA the British Beer & Pubs Association has expressed their disappointment that the chancellor has not suspended Excise Duty as part of the bailout package during the pandemic. It is obvious that a large amount of beer will go to waste in pubs and breweries following the government pub and club shut down and they had requested the tax break to offset this loss. Again, will pubs be expected to carry on paying their business rates during the closure period?

Fake brews

In Iran more than 300 people have died and a further 1,000 have fallen ill after consuming a quack cure containing methanol alcohol in the belief that it will protect them against the coronavirus. Fake remedies have spread across Iran with this methanol alcohol remedy being the latest supposed cure. As an Islamic nation, the consumption of alcohol is banned, but bootleggers have distributed industrial alcohol and put extra pressure on Iran's overstretched medical resources.

Corona curtailed

Mexico's *Grupo Modelo* said on Thursday 2nd April it will temporarily stop brewing (the unfortunately named) Corona beer and other brands exported to 180 countries after its business activities were declared non-essential under a government order aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus. A mountain of boxes of reduced-price Corona beer were available in Sainsbury's Colney Fields on a recent visit.

Business blossoming in Garden City brewery

BBC News interviewed Holly-Anne Rolfe who runs the Garden City Brewery bar and microbrewery in Letchworth with husband Nick - and says they've been kept as busy as ever, by adapting to provide a takeaway and delivery service.

But she said it appeared they had a new set of regulars - with business as busy as usual, albeit in a different way.

"It's definitely a community support thing," she said, with locals wanting to help businesses. "But people

are also trying to have a nice experience in their own homes."

They are only opening a few days a week for limited hours - but brewing the same amount as normal.

"A lot of the older regulars haven't ordered, but it's just not something they would do," she said.

"Because they usually come to us for the social experience."

Those coming down to collect a takeaway from the bar - socially distanced, with a one-in-one-out system - are seeing it as a "bit of normality", she added.

"It's nice for them to come down and see people they know and to get out of the house," said Holly-Anne.

"It's about keeping routines going".

Bar Humbug

22nd April saw Independent columnist Jane Fae admitting to not being interested in pubs or drinking in an article headed "Pubs Shut 'til Christmas" a sobering thought for many readers. She then goes on to start banging the teetotal drum talking about drink related deaths and crime. The figures she uses have already been challenged, found to be inaccurate and misleading, and do not relate directly to the UK. Fae then pillories *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* for being too pub-centric rather than showing them as centres of social interaction and ends up by saying that after COVID-19 is controlled we should be seeking family friendly alcohol-free venues for social gatherings.

Three pints out rule

On 28th April several papers, the *Metro*, *Sun* and *Guardian* to name three announced that when pubs reopen people could be limited to two or three drinks. Eyal Winter an economist suggested that there would need to be new rules in place and pub landlords would have to monitor customer numbers to ensure physical distancing. Winter, an economist at Lancaster University, has been advising the government as part of a team of behavioural experts. He said that after people had had their allowed two or three pints they could be politely asked to leave. This I suppose would not cause a problem if you were in a town centre as another pub would hopefully only be a short walk away but in rural areas (as highlighted by the newsletter) there may only be one pub in the village. I remember a similar scheme being introduced in parts of America where staff in restaurants and bars were told to remind customers how much they were drinking and suggest that they should not have more than three beers for example. This of course was not very kindly received

and had a very detrimental effect on tips on which a large percentage of US staff rely. If Winter is a behavioural expert (though it appears his qualification is as an economist) he should know better than to make suggestions like this the last thing the re-opened pubs customers want or need is this nanny state interference.

Horn e-Appeal

On 8 May 2020 it was reported that the **Horn**, St Albans was "gobsmacked" at support following a fundraising appeal set up in a bid to survive beyond coronavirus restrictions.

The music venue, in Victoria Street, opened as The Horn of Plenty in the early 1970s and was in financial trouble before the COVID-19 shut-down but support by acts including Paul Young and Enter Shikari, the appeal reach £17,000 through crowdfunding site www.crowdfunder.co.uk

Owner Adrian Bell said "lockdown restrictions meant the Horn faced an unpredictable and potentially very grave future".

Celebrity supporters of the appeal include David Bowie's guitarist, Reeves Gabrels, and Paul Young. The venue has is estimated to be £54,000 in debt which includes a £32,000 VAT bill. Mr Bell, who has been there for 20 years, said it did not qualify for a government grant. If the Horn were to close it would be taking consistent live music out of the city.

THE WOODMAN

— WILD HILL —

Hatfield. AL9 6EA

An unspoilt, traditional country pub

8 Times 'CAMRA' South Herts 'Pub of the Year'

Serving 6 Quality Real Ales

Food Served 12noon - 2pm : Mon to Sat

Large Beer Garden



**NEW
Beer Garden
NOW OPEN**



The Six Bells FREEHOUSE

Real Ales



2 Guest Ales & Real Ciders

Home Cooked Food
Served Every Day

Garden & Parking

Live Music

Children & Dogs Welcome

16-18 St Michaels Street, St Albans, Herts, AL3 4SH

www.the-six-bells.com info@the-six-bells.com 01727 856945

Online beer sales spike as Brits find new ways to enjoy their favourite tittle

CAMRA launched a new beer delivery app Brew2You on 6 May with more than 5,000 users flooding the platform to get their beer ordered in time for the bank holiday weekend. The app, which is available for both iOS and Android, allows customers to search for and purchase beer and cider sold directly from more than 400 pubs, clubs, breweries and cider producers who are open during the Coronavirus lockdown.



Support pubs and breweries during lockdown

Developed by the Campaign for Real Ale, the new platform has received widespread support with endorsement from the British Institute of Innkeepers (BII), the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) and Cask Marque.

CAMRA is now calling on beer and cider lovers to use the app to support small businesses which will help the industry re-open once the crisis passes.

CAMRA National Chairman Nik Antona said: "The

Brew2You app is a lifeline for an industry that has been devastated by the current lockdown measures. Hundreds, if not thousands of pubs and breweries risk permanent closure the longer the lockdown measures carry on.

"Many breweries have had to very quickly change their business model from selling to pubs to consumers directly, and this is one way to help them to get their product to market.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for pub-goers and beer lovers to access locally produced real ales, ciders and perries during lockdown to keep struggling businesses afloat. It's fantastic to see such a huge take up for the platform, which demonstrates the real appetite and support out there for the nation's producers and pubs."

Brew2You is available to download on iOS devices. The Android app is currently under review, but customers can download the app from the website and sideload or sign up to be notified when the Android app is released by visiting site:

<https://brew2you.co.uk/>

AWARD WINNING BEERS BREWED IN HERTFORDSHIRE

For 2019 our Monthly Specials will be raising funds and awareness for Gaddesden Row Riding for the Disabled

**COME AND
VISIT OUR
BREWERY
SHOP**

- DRAUGHT & BOTTLED BEER TO TAKEAWAY
- LIMITED EDITION BREWS
- EXPERIMENTAL BREWS
- T-SHIRTS & GOODIES
- GIFT VOUCHERS
- GOLDEN TOAD MEMBERSHIP
- PICKLES & PRESERVES
- TOUR BOOKINGS



Dunsley Farm, London Rd, Tring HP23 6HA



01442 890721



www.tringbrewery.co.uk



Windmill, Charlton Update - Spring 2020

We wanted to give you an update on our campaign to save the **Windmill** pub in Charlton, and to thank those of you who visited Mill Corner in December for our Christmas gathering.

At our Christmas gathering we told those in attendance that our MP Bim Afolami had offered to host and chair a series of mediation meetings with the owner of The Windmill in the hope that a way forward could be found. These meetings took place in January and February when the pub owner made



it clear that they would not be prepared to sell the freehold of

The Windmill pub and car

park to the community. They did however make an offer to lease the pub and half of the car park in return for us not mounting a campaign of objection to their plans to build on the remaining half of the car park. We considered the offer carefully and took advice from Bernard Lee, a pub industry expert who recently completed a viability assessment of The Windmill. The offer was not one that we could accept. The leasehold value was considered to be well above the market rate and the terms too restrictive for the pub's future viability and development. In particular we were advised that any loss of car parking space could potentially choke the viability of the pub, given that it is a 'go to' destination for visitors from Hitchin. We were however encouraged to hear the owner describe The Windmill as a pub with tremendous potential set in an idyllic location! In the future we might need to remind the owner of these words should any future planning application for change of use be submitted! On the subject of planning applications, our supporters will be heartened by a recent 'Conservation Area Character Statement' that has been commissioned by North Herts District Council on Charlton Village, which has been published here on their website:

www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/Charlton%20CA%20Character%20Statement_0.pdf

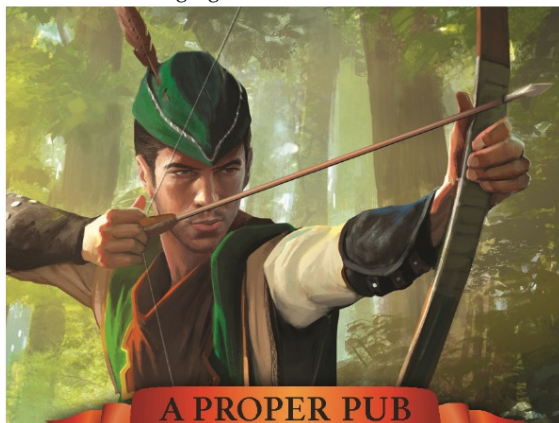
This statement refers to the 'prominent position' of the pub and its garden and lists within 'Opportunities for Improvement' the 'retention of The Windmill Pub

as a community facility'. This is an important statement of support from the planning department, which we hope might persuade the owner to reverse their decision and return the pub to the community!

From a campaign strategy point of view, we will continue to maintain and build The Windmill Community Pub Ltd share interest register and keep members and supporters updated should the owner ever decide to change their decision and offer the pub and car park for sale. We now have almost 300 individuals who have registered their interest in purchasing shares should the opportunity for the community to purchase the Windmill arise. We have applied for the current ACV listing to be renewed and will update our supporters on the progress of this application. The current listing expires in June. We will of course keep you posted if any planning applications are submitted concerning The Windmill site and we will be pushing ahead with our plans to work with Herts County Council and the river authorities to improve and maintain the publicly owned river/pub frontage for the benefit of the community.

In the meantime, we wish all of our supporters well in these challenging times!

Phil Jarvis



A PROPER PUB

**ROBIN HOOD
ST ALBANS**

Real ales and ciders

Beer garden ♦ Jukebox ♦ Bar skittles

126 Victoria Street, St Albans AL1 3TG

01727 856 459

The William IV, St Albans

St Albans is famous for such ancient inns as the **Olde Fighting Cocks** and the **Boot**, both rich in history. But more recent pubs have equally fascinating stories to tell.

Take for example the **King William IV** at 185 Sandridge Road. It was built in 1937 in the popular roadhouse style that offered the aspiring middle-class restaurant meals as well as drinks at the bar. It was far removed from the everyday street corner boozer: it was trilbies and cravats rather than flat caps and whippets.

There's nothing special, you might think, about this large 1930s hostelry, save for the fact that it was owned by a brewery in Northampton called Phipps. What on earth would a company with a large estate of pubs in the Midlands want with an outlet in far-away St Albans?

The answer lies in the tangled economic

realities of the 1930s. On the one hand, there was mass unemployment

that followed the recession of the 1920s. A year before the King Will opened, 200 unemployed workers marched from Jarrow in the North-east to London to highlight the plight of the jobless.

And yet – to quote a prime minister in the 1950s – some people had never had it so good. “Ribbon development” saw smart new houses built alongside arterial roads, enabling the middle class to own their own homes rather than paying rent. And they also had sufficient income to buy the first mass-produced motor cars.

So, if Claud and Cynthia were motoring down to London for the weekend, what could be better than to turn off the Great North Road at Hatfield and mosey over to St Albans for a spot of luncheon and a snifter in the King Will.

In short, Phipps in Northampton saw an opportunity to boost the balance sheet with the steady income from their smart and welcoming roadhouse 50 miles away.

Phipps had a chequered history that reflected the turbulent times in the brewing industry following World War Two. It was opened in 1801 by Pickering Phipps in Towcester. He was so successful that he built a second brewery in Northampton in 1817 and subsequently moved all his production there. His

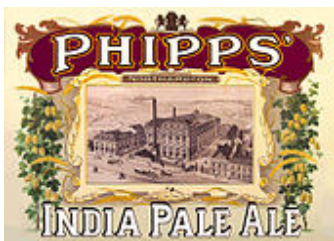
beers included popular dark milds and stouts and he soon joined the rush to produce fashionable pale ale and IPA.

By the end of the 19th century Phipps was the biggest brewery in the Midlands. A rival brewery NBC, standing for the Northampton Brewery Company, stood cheek by jowl on Bridge Street, where both availed themselves of the fine brewing waters in the town.

Just as Allsopps and Ind Coope merged in Burton-on-Trent by – as one director said – “knocking down the wall between us”, Phipps and NBC joined forces in 1957. Between them, they owned a formidable estate of pubs numbering 1,131.

But in the 1950s and 60s, as big breweries went on the rampage, there was a danger in owning a lot of tempting real estate. In 1960 the London brewer Watney Mann bought Phipps NBC and started to brew its infamous keg beer Red Barrel there. It went so far as to truck water by tanker from London to Northampton to replicate the taste – or lack of it – of its gassy apology for good beer.

By 1968 all traditional draught beers had been axed at the Northampton plant and handpumps were ripped out of former Phipps NBC pubs. This



The Orange Tree Norton Road, Baldock



**13 Hand Pumps
8 Draught Ciders
Biggest Range
of Ales & Ciders
for miles!**

Ale & Sausage Heaven! Bob Chapman's Sausage Emporium

Proper home-made food served 12-2 and 6-9 daily
Chapman's Meats, Pies, Scotch Eggs & Biltong.

Traditional Sunday Lunches served 12-6pm

Perfect for parties, celebrations and meetings

Huge Beer Garden and Pétanque Piste

www.theorangetreebaldock.com

**Passionate about local sourcing and real home cooking
Gluten Free and Vegetarian home made food**



01462 892341



Follow us on
twitter



@Orange_Tree_BDK



Facebook.com/The.Orange.Tree.Baldock

appalling betrayal of drinkers in the area was one of the driving forces behind the creation of CAMRA in 1971.

In 1970 Watney formed a partnership with Carlsberg in Denmark to brew lager in Northampton. A year later, Watney became the brewing division of the giant leisure group Grand Metropolitan. The former Phipps NBC plant was transformed into a lager-only operation, with the production of any type of ale halted there.



The King Will in St Albans (pictured above) was not immune to the changes in the Midlands. As a result of the government's Beer Orders in the early 1990s, ownership of the GrandMet breweries passed to the Foster's Group between 1992 and 95. Those brewing and pub interests became part of Scottish & Newcastle.

For a number of years the King Will was a Chef & Brewer restaurant rather than a pub. This change of use was heightened when it became a Jim Thompson Thai restaurant. That proved a flop and as new pub companies proliferated the King Will became recognisably a pub once more as an Ember Inn, part of the national Mitchells & Butlers chain. The beer range may not be exciting but at least there are handpumps back on the bar.

In Northampton the name of Phipps has been restored with a 15-barrel plant at the Albion Brewery, 54 Kingswell Street, a few hundred yards from the Carlsberg factory. The beer range includes a number of ales that use original Phipps' recipes, including *Celebrated Stout* and *IPA*.



The beers can be sampled in a taproom and some are also available in the **Malt Shovel Tavern** (left) at 121 Bridge Street, opposite Carlsberg. A brewer from Carlsberg once told me in the pub that he had to cross the road to get a decent beer. He preferred to remain anonymous.

Roger Protz

Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival 2020 GOES VIRTUAL!

To mark the dates planned for its festival, normally partnered with the town's Rugby Club and Round Table, CAMRA North Hertfordshire is encouraging members and the public to order or collect beer & cider from local pubs and breweries and inviting them to participate in a number of online activities from 4th to 6th June. For information and to take part go to any of the following:-

www.instagram.com/nhcamra/
www.facebook.com/NHcamra/
<https://northherts.camra.org.uk/our-festivals/hitchin-2020/>

We really got the bit between our teeth last week at committee. We're also doing:-

Open Virtual Social on June 3rd at 8 PM. Event is posted on web and social media.

And a North Herts Red (On)Lion table is always available for casual get-togethers with table code **VSE-345**

<https://theredonlion.co.uk/bar/join/fe34aec0-e2c4-447b-858c-3b4150c6f39c>



Dating in parts from the 15th century and a Grade II listed building, Lombard House has been home to this Private Members Club since 1897*

**CAMRA Good Beer Guide
2014/15/16/17/18/19/20**

4 hand pumps and real cider

New members are currently welcome although we are quickly becoming full

THE HERTFORD
CAMRA members may be signed in on production
of their CAMRA membership card

CLUB

Lombard House, Bull Plain, HERTFORD, SG14 1DT

Tel: 01992 421422

Lordship Arms, Benington - North Herts Pub of The Year

The North Hertfordshire CAMRA Branch is pleased to announce that the **Lordship Arms**, Benington, its Pub of the Year for 2020.



The Lordship was runner up to last year's winner the **Red Lion** in Preston and is located a few miles north east of Stevenage, and offers a range of nine cask ales which are always served in excellent condition. Alan and Daphne Marshall have run the pub since 1993, congratulations to them and the Lordship Arms team for winning the North Herts POTY.

Garden City Brewery, Letchworth - North Herts Cider Pub of the Year

North Herts CAMRA's Branch Cider Pub of the Year is the **Garden City Brewery** in Letchworth Garden City. Congratulations to Nick and Holly and their team on winning the Cider POTY, an award they previously won in 2018. The pub is

currently offering a take-away and delivery service, please check their Facebook page for opening times and the beers and ciders available.

We will announce the date for the presentation once the current restrictions are lifted and the pubs reopen. At present the county and regional stages of the POTY competition are also on hold.



Both articles - Jeremy Kitson

Cross Keys

**39 High Street
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 2SD**

Tel: 01582 763989

VISIT US FOR

A warm welcome
Beautiful beer
Green and peaceful garden



**Home-prepared food served
Monday to Saturday 12-2pm**

www.cross-keys-harpenden.co.uk

George IV, Sawbridgeworth celebrates St George's Day

The 23rd April in normal times would see many pubs in England celebrating St George's day we are now of course in "Lockdown" but that did not stop Dawn Hoddle (pictured below) the landlady of Mc Mullens **George IV** in Sawbridgeworth decorating the pub in traditional fashion and enjoying the sunshine.



The St George's display was followed by a singalong socially distanced of course on Friday 8th May. The message here is don't let the corona pandemic beat us, the pubs will be open again and it just brings home to me how much we all miss the fun and social interaction.



Old Cross, Hertford

We just wanted to get in touch to let you know what is happening at the **Old Cross Tavern**. "We" being Nigel (Bev), Graeme (our manager) and me (Mary). Firstly, we know the South Herts CAMRA Pub of the **Year Gold** award presentation night needed to be postponed. We're looking forward to a point in time when it can be rescheduled, as are many of the regulars here at the Tavern.

Starting this Thursday, 7 May – the Old Cross Tavern is launching a Take Away service which will offer real cask ales in boxes & takeaway containers. I've created a menu of available beers to order. Some items will require pre-orders and some takeaway option will be available on the day (in takeaway containers). There is also a detailed explanation on website news page (with the downloadable menu for what is available & prices). See our website at: <https://www.oldcrosstavern.com/news>

See also our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/oldcrosstavern/>

Our Take Away service is simply not going to be the same as having the pub open. We truly are missing people, one of the essential ingredients for a pub. Our goal is to make it possible for local people to access some cracking pints.

While our Take Away service isn't doing delivery across the board, we do have the capacity to make local deliveries to those who are not able to come out for takeaway (due to self-isolation or things along this line). We are just asking persons to arrange this with us. If we can manage it, we will.

Mary Gianoli, Nigel Beviss and Graeme McKendry

Robin Hood, St Albans

Can I bring to members attention that the **Robin Hood** in St Albans has really been supporting LOCALE. Three Tring beers on recently and I see now that three 3 Brewers are on sale.

There may be others too. Check on the CAMRA Whatpub site for opening times for takeaways. Containers are provided.

John Bishop

Ed Says: I have had it confirmed by one of the Robin Hood's near neighbours that beer from Chiltern Brewery was on sale in the pub on a recent visit. All the real ales are £3.50 per pint and they are also selling real cider. Pub is open as an off licence from 2pm to 6pm every day.

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

White Hart Tap

4 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans

Tel: 01727 860974

www.whiteharttap.co.uk

We are extremely happy to announce our new takeaway service in conjunction with our sister pub the White Lion.

Starting from Friday 15 May we are offering a food and drink collection service. Collections from the White Hart Tap. We're keeping it simple for now and will ramp it up as we understand more about the logistics of this new path for us. Future menu suggestions welcome...but for now some classics...

the white lion

whiteharttap

Lion on Tap

Takeaway Food Menu

OLD CROSS TAVERN

"Pubs the Way They Used to Be"

Award winning Town Centre Real Ale Free House
South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018



Serving ales of differing styles from diverse breweries including dark beers / Belgian beers

www.oldcrosstavern.com

8 St. Andrew Street, Hertford SG14 1JA



Planners – Don't Be Pressurised on Pubs

We are all hopeful that the effects of the Coronavirus can soon be mastered and that pubs can re-open. A pint at the local or in a sunny pub garden certainly appeals after all this time.

But CAMRA has growing concerns that some pub owners and developers may well see the current crisis, and its impact on pub businesses, as an opportunity to try and obtain planning permission on pubs for change of use to other purposes, which, in normal times, would likely be refused.

We will, of course, see the real lie of the pub landscape as they are allowed to re-open.

In the meantime, CAMRA has written to all Hertfordshire Planning Authorities appealing for them to stand firm and adhere closely to the national and local policies that protect community facilities like pubs.

The reality is that, before the virus struck, the pub trade was in its healthiest state for many years. The annual survey of pub numbers by the Office for National Statistics found that they had increased by around 300 in 2019 – chiming with CAMRA's own findings which identify new openings outstripping closures.

The public's enthusiasm for pub-going will surely return once life is back to normal - we need to keep our pub stock intact. We ask all members to keep an eye of what is happening in their locality. Please report any concerns to your CAMRA Branch – details under Branch Contacts on Page 15.

CAMRA's Public House Viability Test is just one of the tools that can be found on CAMRA's national website:

https://camra.org.uk/campaign_resources/saving-your-local-pub/

This also contains the guide "Saving Your Local Pub" providing in-depth support and advice on the practicalities of saving a pub. It explains how to use the planning system to combat unwarranted change.

South Herts win CAMRA Web Site of the Year for the 2nd time

For the second year running South Herts have scooped the Gold Award for the CAMRA branch national website of the Year.

According to the judging panel's chair, NE member Ash Corbett-Collins, "the website is built on an intuitive and visually striking platform, and is full of

THE LORDSHIP ARMS Repeat Herts Pub of the Year Winner The Inn In The Sticks Benington, Nr Stevenage



NORTH HERTS CAMRA BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR 2020

Crouch Vale Brewer's Gold

Black Sheep Best Timothy Taylor's Landlord
Plus 5 changing guest beers from Independent
& Micro-Breweries including a mild, stout or porter.
Also Traditional Cider

See our fine selection of current & coming beers
online

Lunchtime Snacks

Curry Night every Wednesday £10.00

Classic Car meetings April to September

Tel 01438 869665

www.lordshiparms.co.uk

engaging content on local awards, pubs to visit and ways to get involved in campaigning."

The branch's webmaster Tom Blakemore is to be congratulated for all his work in developing our branch's website, along with other members of the branch. It has been a team effort.

On receiving the award Tom said "The Branch and I are very excited to have won the award a second year running. It's a massive team effort writing the content and keeping it up to date, so really great that it continues to be recognised."

If you haven't visited the branch website for some time why not investigate it now?

Unfortunately, because of the current lockdown there won't be an official presentation, so the branch will receive its Gold Award certificate by post.

However, when our pubs re-open the branch will be organising a celebration of the win.

Ash Corbett-Collins - CAMRA Commercial & Communications Director

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

Dave McKerchar - Obituary

It is sad to report that Dave McKerchar, a former Regional Organiser for Hertfordshire's branches, has passed away. Many readers may not have heard of Dave. He lived in Reading but spent hours and hours helping with campaigning in Hertfordshire - in the heady nascent days of the real ale fight in the mid to late 1970s and the early 1980s.

At the initial Great British Beer Festivals (1977-80), all held at Alexandra Palace, he stood alongside several South Herts members as a Bar Manager -



each of us looking after the beers from a dozen or so brewers. No

coolers or modern spiles in those days, no barrel lifts, just hard work rolling and throwing barrels around and nurturing them to

get the beers in top condition for the thirsty public who were by now increasingly interested in real ale. He was on hand to help at the Hertfordshire Beer Festivals that were held at Hatfield Polytechnic at the end of the 1970s and his verve and energy was soon being experienced by CAMRA's National Executive - he served on it from 1977-83.

Dave was full of fun and was someone who wanted to get things done, impatient to see real ale thriving, taking every opportunity to move things forward. In less "pc" times one of his humorous badges said "Get drunk now before the Christmas rush". It was September. Once, when things got laboriously bogged down at a meeting that he was chairing he just got up and walked out - better to drink a pint of real ale than get stuck in an endlessly tedious discussion about it.

Before it became fashionable Dave had a quest to discover and visit as many "heritage pubs" as he could find - in later years often coinciding with the days of away games for Reading FC - he was an avid supporter. In Scotland his home town team was St Johnstone.

Along with his wife Ann, Dave annually joined South Herts members on narrowboat holidays where real ale was an intrinsic constituent. I particularly remember a crazy night in Market Drayton in Shropshire where he sat at the piano in the Coach and Horses, a wonderful (at the time) Marston's pub, now closed. As the night proceeded and Dave

THE RED LION

16 Chapel Road, Breachwood Green, Hitchin, SG4 8NU

Tel: 01438 833123

Email: contact@redlionbreachwoodgreen.co.uk



Greene King IPA, St. Austell Tribute, Greene King Abbot and 1 Guest Beer

Great home cooked food at affordable prices served lunchtime and all week evenings Monday - Saturday

Sunday Roasts

Regular quiz nights and various sporting events

Large Beer Garden and Al Fresco Dining Area

Three large detached double guest rooms all with en-suite facilities. One of the guest rooms has full disabled access and wheelchair accessible shower

Free Wi-Fi

Dog Friendly

www.redlionbreachwoodgreen.co.uk

played, more and more locals came in and at the end of a riotous singing evening - by now around 2am - the landlady implored Dave and all of us to return the next night for an encore. We did, although it blew our waterways itinerary for the remainder of the week! It is just one of the colourful, spontaneous and entertaining moments I will remember of time spent with Dave over many, many years. He will be remembered with great affection by all of his friends in Hertfordshire.

Our condolences and thoughts go out to Ann and to Dave's family and friends.

Les Middlewood

Trading Standards

If you have a complaint about short measure, lack of a price list or misleading promotion of products, and fail to get a satisfactory response, contact:

[Citizens Advice consumer helpline](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/#h-how-to-report-a-trader-to-trading-standards)

Telephone: 03454 04 05 06

Internet link:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/#h-how-to-report-a-trader-to-trading-standards

DOWN YOUR WAY

Hoddesdon: The **Bell Inn** was refurbished in December, mainly external work. It has been renamed the **Bell Hotel**. Real ales are Fuller's *London Pride* plus a guest at the time was McMullen AK. There is a new management team at the **White Swan**, Tim and Ethal.

Wormley: The **Old Star**, McMullen's is closed and boarded up with the car park blocked. Mac's plan to get a new manager and change the pub's style. With the lockdown they have plenty of time to sort it out.

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

All CAMRA branches pub events, visits and engagements are currently suspended. Please check individual branch websites for individual Hertfordshire branch updates.



**AWARD-WINNING
CRAFT BEER
FROM THE
RIVERBANK**

www.newriverbrewery.co.uk

CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA

Chairman – Brendan Sothcott, Tel: 01279 507493

Minibus Bookings – Call Graham on: 07753266983,
Email: mini-bus@heb-camra.org.uk

Pubs Officer – Vacant, any urgent enquiries to Chairman Brendan Sothcott.

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

Email: Secretary@heb-camra.org.uk

Internet: www.heb-camra.org.uk

North Hertfordshire CAMRA

Chairman – Paul Coard

Email: chairman@northherts.camra.org.uk

Branch Contact - Jeremy Kitson

Email: secretary@northherts.camra.org.uk

Socials Secretary – Brian Mason

Email: socialsecretary@northherts.camra.org.uk

Internet: www.northherts.camra.org.uk

South Hertfordshire CAMRA

Chairman – Iain Loe

Email: iain492002@yahoo.co.uk

Branch Contact: John Bishop, Tel: 07720 295419,

Email: realales@yahoo.com

Socials Secretary: Ian Boyd, Tel: 07402 323525

Email: ian.boyd@me.com

Internet: www.hertsale.org.uk

Watford & District CAMRA

Branch Contact: Andrew Vaughan.

Email: branch@watford.camra.org.uk

Phone: 01923 230104. Mobile: 07854 988152.

Internet: www.watford.camra.org.uk

Winner of Herts Pulling Together Issue 1 Prize

Catherine Wheel competition:

Mark Nichols of Rugby

SOLUTION BELOW

D	O	W	N	H	A	M	I	S	L	E	A
O	K	S	A	N	D	S	T	O	N	E	S
O	R	E	D	E	M	P	T	I	O	I	T
R	E	N	K	E	Y	S	T	O	N	G	Y
B	K	O	A	T	O	A	K	N	E	H	O
M	A	D	E	F	A	L	L	E	T	T	R
A	M	O	R	O	E	E	A	H	A	K	
S	L	O	G	D	R	A	Y	G	E	R	S
R	I	W	A	R	C	S	E	L	R	C	H
E	A	S	I	L	L	E	T	A	G	H	I
T	N	U	O	T	S	E	I	V	R	A	R
S	O	O	R	E	V	I	R	N	E	D	E



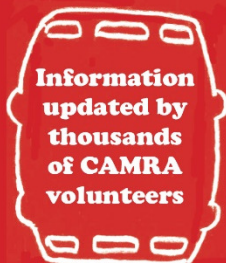
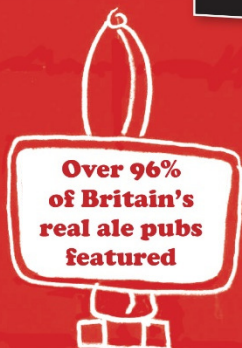
CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

WHAT?UB



whatpub.com

Featuring over 35,000 real ale pubs



Thousands of pubs at your fingertips!



Join up, join in, join the campaign

From
as little as
£26.50*
a year. That's less
than a pint a
month!

Protect the traditions of great
British pubs and everything that
goes with them by joining today
at www.camra.org.uk/joinup



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Or enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive
15 months membership for the price of 12 and save £2 on your membership subscription

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form,
visit www.camra.org.uk/joinup, or call **01727 798440**. * All forms should be addressed to
Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your details:

Title Surname
Forename(s)
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)
Address
.....
Postcode
Email address
Daytime Tel

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname
Forename(s)
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership (UK) £26.50 ☐ £28.50 ☐
Under 26 Membership £18 ☐ £20 ☐
Joint Membership £31.50 ☐ £33.50 ☐
(At the same address)
Joint Under 26 Membership £23 ☐ £25 ☐

Please indicate whether you wish to receive
What's Brewing and *BEER* by email OR post:

What's Brewing By Email ☐ By Post ☐ *BEER* By Email ☐ By Post ☐

Concessionary rates are available only for Under
26 Memberships.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and
agree to abide by the Memorandum and
Articles of Association which can be found on
our website.

Signed

Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days.



Campaign
for
Real Ale

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

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen 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

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number

.....

Branch Sort Code

.....

Reference

.....

Service User 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 Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits
from the account detailed on this instruction subject to
the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I
understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign
For Real Ale Limited and, if so, will be passed electronically
to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date



This Guarantee should be detached
and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks
and building societies that accept
instructions to pay by Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount,
date or frequency of your Direct Debit,
The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify
you 10 working days in advance of your
account being debited or as otherwise
agreed. If you request The Campaign
for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment,
confirmation of the amount and date
will be given to you at the time of the
request
- If an error is made in the payment of
your Direct Debit by The Campaign
for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or
building society, you are entitled to
a full and immediate refund of the
amount paid from your bank or
building society
- If you receive a refund you are not
entitled to, you must pay it back
when The Campaign Real Ale Ltd
asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any
time by simply contacting your bank
or building society. Written confirmation
may be required. Please also notify us.

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

*Price of single membership when paying by Direct Debit. *Calls from landlines charged at standard national rates, cost may vary from
mobile phones. New Direct Debit members will receive a 12 month supply of vouchers in their first 15 months of membership.
The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

Attention ALL CAMRA members!

Want to get more from your membership?
Like to attend a future brewery trip in your area?
Understand more about local branch campaigns?
Want to know more about your local beer & cider
festival and how to get involved?

**Things are changing - you can now choose
exactly what you want to hear about from CAMRA.**

**Make your information preferences clear by
updating your CAMRA member record:**

- 1 Sign in using your membership
details at www.camra.org.uk**
- 2 Select 'Edit your membership information'
to update your contact preferences**
- 3 Sit back and enjoy getting the information
that matters to you!**

