

HERTFORDSHIRE'S

CAMRA Pulling Together

The bi-monthly publication for every discerning drinker

February / March 2021 - Issue 6



cc-by-sa/2.0 - by Graham Horn - geograph.org.uk/p/1150743

The Green Dragon in Flaunden – one of the pubs re-opening as featured in our 2020 pub losses and gains special report

**MBE Awarded to Hertford
pub manager**



**Despite lockdown preserving and campaigning to
re-open the Windmill, Charlton progresses**



Petition to Create a Minister for Hospitality debated in Parliament

A nationwide campaign set up last year to make the government create a dedicated Minister for Hospitality, won sufficient signatures in its petition to be debated in Parliament. The petition calling for a new minister has to date attracted more than 208,000 signatures and was debated in the House of Commons on 11 January. The hospitality industry has suffered catastrophic losses in the past year due to the coronavirus lockdowns, and many small businesses including pubs face an uncertain future.

In many of the country's towns, cities and coastal areas hospitality is also the dominant industry.

The campaign backers - the Institute of Hospitality (IoH) is a professional body for hospitality personnel, and was established in 1938. The IOH says the hospitality industry is responsible for around three million jobs and generating £130 billion, which in turn brings the government £38bn in taxation.

Unlike the arts or sports, it does not have a dedicated minister to liaise with industry representatives. It has been a tough year for hospitality and pubs, cafes, restaurants and hotels are the very backbone of British culture and are seriously under threat. The entrepreneurs who run these businesses contribute billions of pounds to the UK economy, and yet despite that have no representative in government.

The institute was thus encouraged to start a movement to drive support for the hospitality industry. The *Seat at the Table* campaign was created, and upon passing 100,000 signatures, reached the criteria for it to be debated in Parliament.

The Petition:

The UK hospitality industry. Responsible for around 3m jobs, generating £130bn in activity, resulting in £38bn in taxation. Yet, unlike the Arts or Sports, we do not have a dedicated Minister.

We are asking that a Minister for Hospitality be created for the current, and successive governments. A dedicated Minister would liaise with industry representatives. We believe such a Minister would have been beneficial to Government & Industry during the pandemic.

As the UK seeks to encourage investment & tourism

back to the UK in coming years, the vision that UK hospitality industry portrays of the UK is excellence, innovation, inspiration.

We need a Minister who can listen to concerns on taxation & legislation and bring forward suggestions to the chancellor and policy makers on our behalf.

The Government response:

The debate was carried out in Parliament, and the subsequent Government response, dated 11 January is below:

"The Government recognises the importance of the UK's hospitality sector, which plays a vital role in supporting local communities up and down the country and the UK economy. The sector is extremely broad, ranging from the arts and entertainment to pubs, cafes and restaurants, and as such responsibility for the sector as a whole is shared by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

Ministers in both Departments have worked closely with business leaders and representative bodies from across the sector throughout the pandemic to ensure that the interests of the hospitality businesses and their employees are fully represented within Government. Hospitality sector business leaders were consulted on the Government's Covid-Secure Guidance for businesses, and Ministerial engagement with the sector has helped to shape the Government's extensive package of business support measures, which has included the job retention scheme, reduced VAT, rates relief, the commercial rent moratorium, hospitality grants, loan support schemes, the self-employed income support scheme, regulatory easements to support outdoor hospitality and the Eat Out to Help Out scheme."

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Response reply from Seat at the Table campaign:

The campaigners replied the same day as the Government response, and is below:

"Thank you all so much for your support over the last 5 weeks. A number of MPs including Catherin McKinnell (MP for Newcastle; who led yesterday's debate in Westminster Hall) unanimously spoke in favour of increased support for the industry and many supported the motion for a Minister for



Hospitality. Following the debate, it is our hope that this will be recommended to Prime Minister Boris Johnson who will hold the ultimate responsibility in making the decision. We will continue to share voices across #seatatthetable and we would encourage you to continue sharing yours! We can make our voices louder by increasing signatories on the petition so please keep sharing, supporting and signing our petition. As an industry we are resilient and we are full of energy so let's push on.... this is only the beginning! Huge thanks from the #seatatthetable team".

Further links:

Seat at the Table campaign:

www.seatatthetable.org.uk/

Seat at the Table petition:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/552201>

Trading Standards

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Brains Brewery for sale

Samuel Arthur Brain started the Cardiff brewing business in 1882 and it is still family-owned, but the COVID-19 restrictions have had such a detrimental effect on their trade that they have put themselves up for sale. Problems started before the first lockdown with 40 pubs being put up for sale in March last year due to the company experiencing a slowdown in trade and rising costs, and they have hired advisers Avison Young from investment banking specialist Evercore.



Chief executive Alastair Darby has constantly argued that pubs are being unfairly targeted by the government's COVID-19 policy. The brewery has 160 pubs, but they didn't all survive the first lockdown. Many employees have already lost their jobs.

Prior to the firebreak lockdown, Darby told BBC News: "You know, you can't just keep chipping away at an industry, knocking it down, expecting it to get back up again in great shape.

"Every time we lose turnover, we lay off people, we have to close pubs, sell pubs, the business gets smaller and weaker, and that is not just us, it will be affecting everybody in this sector."

Brains beer is available in Hertfordshire, the most regular is *Reverend James* 4.3% ABV.

New Under Brewer at Mac's

We welcome to Riaz Razaq, new under brewer at McMullen's. Riaz will be helping head brewer Chris Evans with cask, keg and bottled ales and the developing of new seasonal and special beers, some under the Rivertown banner. Riaz's arrival also follows the departure of Jack Baron who is hoping to move on to new local brewing challenges. Mac's bottled beers are available at their Drive-Thru shop at the brewery in Hartham Lane, Hertford – weekdays between 10am and 3.30pm.



Oakman Inns to Expand

Oakman Inns Ltd, owners of 27 food-led pubs and hotels are looking to double the size of their estate by 2026.

To fund their expansion, they are offering shares at £2.75 with a minimum holding of 350 shares. That will set you back £962.50 or more. Shareholders are being offered generous discounts, invites to launches and openings, and peeks at new menus etc. Remember shares can go down as well as up and you may not get back all that you invest.

The group founded by Peter Borg-Neal fourteen years ago is ranked at number 27 in the Sunday Times's 100 Best Companies to Work For 2020, and was recently reported to be worth £44m with a workforce of 1000. Five of their properties are in Hertfordshire: the **Akeman**, Tring; **Banyers House**, Royston; the **Penny Farthing**, Berkhamsted; the **Red Lion**, Water End, near Hemel Hempstead, and the **Beech House**, St Albans.

To find out more go to www.oakmaninns.co.uk

Bob Norrish



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Victoria's Lesser-known Reign

Forty years ago, the great swell of British brewers that we witnessed in the 1990s and 2000s was merely a pipedream. True, there were some green shoots in the late 1970s - the likes of Ringwood and Butcombe were starting out and making a name for themselves, notably in real ale circles. But the industry was still strangled by the overbearing grip of Britain's big brewers of the day - the marauding, faceless giants of Whitbread, Grand Metropolitan, Courage, Allied and Bass Charrington who were still remorselessly acquiring, ransacking and then closing smaller breweries as they grimly tried to asphyxiate us all into drinking their appalling tasteless keg beers. Today, how good it is that younger beer drinkers have been spared the curse of *Double Diamond*, *Tankard* and *Watney's Red*! During the 1970s interest in real ale grew quickly with CAMRA as a vanguard, giving enterprising Hertfordshire's free house owners confidence to seek out interesting cask beers from smaller breweries - often long-established family brewers - from outside of the county. Beers from Ruddell's, Adnams, Brakspear, Everard's, Theakston's and Sam Smith's were just some of the favourites that could be found.

The early 1980s saw a number of beer enthusiasts try their luck at brewing commercially in Hertfordshire



including CAMRA members Tony Burns and Alan Swannell who set out to find a base for their brewing ambitions - settling on the Victoria Maltings in Broadmeads, Ware. The building was in the ownership of Paul and Sanders, East Anglian maltsters, who had constructed a more modern maltings next door, built in 1965 and which had long rendered the Victorian maltings mostly redundant - much of the old building by 1980 leased to small businesses. With the support of associate Chris Storey, around 40 shareholders and an army of keen friends and helpers, 3,000 sq. ft of the southern

end of the building, mainly on the first floor, was prepared for the arrival of brewing vessels. The adaptation of electrics and water supplies and full decoration of the disused space took place over a number of weeks and the hoist to the delivery bay was overhauled.

Incoming brewing equipment was mostly second-hand, Alan particularly proud that the acquired brewing copper was actually made from copper - now a rarity in these 'stainless steel' days. Some of the casks were obtained from Courage's brewery at Horselydown in Bermondsey, London and others from Greenall Whitley in Warrington, Cheshire. The "Victoria Brewery" was primed and ready.

Brewing commenced in 1981 using malt from next door, hops from Sussex and Herefordshire, mains water and yeast kindly lent from Rayments of Furneux Pelham. There were to be no additives. By July the first beer, a traditional English-style quaffing bitter brewed at an Original Gravity (OG) of 1037 was ready and heading for the Cambridge Beer Festival.

Initial responses were encouraging and Victoria set out to brew 25 barrels of Victoria Bitter per week - soon to be supplemented with a heady winter strong ale - at OG 1063 - initially aimed for the Christmas period. A friendship was made with the lads at Crouch Vale who were also starting around that time and whose empty barrels were often found next to those of Victoria in pub



yards around Essex, Herts and London. In December 1981 a firkin of *Victoria Bitter*, fresh from the brewery, cost £28.08p, that's 39p per pint.

By late 1982 Alan Swannell had left to form the short-lived Swannell brewery in King's Langley and brewing at Victoria was taken over by Paul Tweeddale, sometimes aided by Tony's brother Dave and with Tony concentrating on marketing and deliveries. Colin Mercer became Victoria's Chairman and Ralph Lawday took a financial role. The strong ale had a new recipe and was renamed Hellfire and a further beer, *Victoria Special Bitter* (OG 1041) emerged. Thoughts of naming it Albert Ale were initially withdrawn as Andover's Bourne Valley brewery had already bagged the name. As with many nascent breweries a yeast infection stalled



quality and progress for a time but this was meticulously overcome and in March 1983 a promotional evening was held at the **Buffalo's Head** in Puckeridge to provide new impetus – the

three beers by now a standard offering regularly reaching pubs in the Home Counties. To name a few, in Hertfordshire, familiar outlets were the **White Horse** in Hertingfordbury, the **Chequers at Wareside** and the **Crooked Billet** in Colney Heath. In London, Victoria had won a contract with the pub chain **Nicholsons** – their beers regularly appearing at the **Argyll** (opposite the London Palladium), the **Westminster Arms** (near the Houses of Parliament) and the **Blackfriars**, close to the Thames.

Victoria eventually did rename their Special Victoria Bitter as *Albert Ale* (OG1043) and the three beers, with their distinctive steel pump clips, ticked over. Yet sadly all was not quite well. Many landlords were tardy with payments whilst still making new orders and Victoria eventually fell into the trap of chasing and chasing non-payments and then not having the capital to buy more malt and hops to brew beer or even pay their own bills. Attempts were made to recover the situation and Victoria also moved into the world of wholesale, their beers travelling through distributors such as Scotgrange to pubs far and wide in Britain. But soon this too presented a problem. At that time there were no cask distribution and collection agreements with other breweries and Victoria were losing one cask in four, each wiping out profits made on a number of casks. The financial position had become irretrievable and by June 1985 Victoria Brewery was no more. Its beers had won awards at CAMRA beer festivals and it had gained a good reputation for consistency and quality with Herts drinkers but, along with some other young breweries at the time, cash-flow had become an immovable albatross.

It is a shame that Victoria Brewery only survived for 4 years - it deserves to be more than a brewing footnote. Its existence was spurred by the optimism and exuberance that existed as Britain discovered pride in its brewing tradition and enjoyed newfound interest in the whole world of brewing. Victoria was one of the first to leap from the springboard that has led to the rich brewing landscape and wide range of resultant beers which we all enjoy today.

Cheers to its memory.

***Below** – The Hertfordshire Newsletter (forerunner to Herts Pints of View) reported the demise of Victoria Brewery in its June 1985 edition*

DEATH OF VICTORIA

The Newsletter sadly reports the demise of **Victoria Brewery**, the first of Hertfordshire's new generation of independent breweries to challenge the might of the established companies. **Victoria** has brewed its last pint and will be sadly mourned.

Operating from the handsome Victoria Maltings in Ware, the brewery was founded three years ago by beer enthusiasts, and earned an increasing reputation for good quality ale. Victoria Bitter, Albert Ale and Hellfire became well known in the free trade into London, Cambridgeshire and Essex and won well-deserved awards at various beer festivals.

It is clear that the failure of this enterprising company is not, unlike some of its contemporaries due to poor management, but because it has fallen foul of the more dubious practices of some of the less scrupulous elements of the beer trade, with resulting cash flow problems.

Victoria Brewery now joins Mickles and Swannells as part of a brief but glorious chapter in this county's proud brewing history.

Les Middlewood

Ed Says: I remember Victoria brewery well. The brewer Paul Tweedale lived round the corner from me at the time (he has since moved to Sussex) and I persuaded my mother to invest. I still have the £100 share certificate somewhere which she gave me as a very generous birthday present.



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Windmill Charlton Update December 2020

What a year this has been! In writing this I am only too aware that some of you will have been seriously affected by Covid 19. My thoughts are with you and I sincerely hope that the coming year will be more positive. I also hope this Windmill update will provide everyone with a welcome relief from the relentless churn of Covid bulletins that are difficult to avoid at this time.



Land by the river

I want to assure you that work has been going on behind the scenes, even though our steering group has been unable to meet. Our request for Herts CC Highways to take responsibility for maintenance of the grassed area of land in their ownership which fronts the river has been successful.

Thanks to the support and intervention of Cllr Derrick Ashley, I am pleased to say that work will soon commence on clearing two diseased trees by the river. The big poplar and tilting willow were assessed as being a danger to pedestrians. There is also agreement for the lawn area to be regularly cut and for an open post and rail fence to be erected to mark the boundary between land owned by the current pub owner and HCC Highways. Improvements to the river-bank structure are also being assessed by the relevant authorities.

This marks a significant step in ensuring that a precious open space within Charlton is preserved for public use. We hope that when the weather improves, and Covid restrictions allow, we will be able to clear the river and bring life back into what has become a dark and sorry corner of the village. More news on this in the spring!

Preserving the Windmill

Steps are underway for Charlton village to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The plan will be an opportunity to ensure that The Windmill is preserved as a community facility, which has already been recognised in NHDC's Conservation Area Statement for Charlton village.

Share Interests

Our share interest register continues to grow steadily.

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Just this week I have received another enquiry from a hospitality business owner who wished to discuss the potential for purchasing the pub and restoring it to use. Of course I would like to say that our strengthening position has finally persuaded the current owner to agree a sale, but this is a marathon, not a sprint. I need to say a big thank you to you all, for sticking with us and being patient!

Lockdown and Beyond

Covid has delivered a harsh blow to pubs up and down the country, but it has been heartening to see how many have provided a lifeline to their local communities, providing pop up shops and takeaway services, and looking out for the isolated and vulnerable. Over the last few months, Charlton has become increasingly popular, as more people visit for exercise and relaxation. We look forward to a time when The Windmill will again offer a welcome place to rest and socialise, for everyone who enjoys visiting the village and surrounding countryside. Please spread the word so we can build our support. Here is the address for share information on our website!

Phil Jarvis, The Windmill Community Pub Ltd

www.savethewindmillpub.com/shares.html

www.Savethewindmillpub.com

Hertfordshire Area Organiser Appointed

We are pleased to announce that Dean Barrett (North Herts branch) has been appointed as CAMRA Hertfordshire Area Organiser.

On his appointment Dean said "Due to Covid, no meetings are taking place other than by Zoom so getting to actually meet local activists will need to be put on hold. I'd really like to know your views about

how we can move the county forward within CAMRA, especially in our organisation's 50th anniversary year that's just ahead.

I'm relatively new to

committee

membership and active volunteering, by comparison to most of you, I'm sure, and haven't had the pleasure of meeting many of you.

So, here's a little about me. I was converted to Real Ale umpteen years ago as a freshman in Loughborough – what a sight to behold the university's main bar sold Castle Eden, sadly no more which was my session ale of choice and Old Peculier was known to burn a hole in my student's budget.

I have long lived in Letchworth Garden City and my first CAMRA experiences and sign-up were at the Festivals held here. I really didn't do much more than enjoy ale and attend festivals until 2019 when, having taken early-retirement, I got more active in CAMRA and here I am.

I bring to my volunteering, as many of us do, my skills from professional life. I had a 36-year career with General Motors, serving the well-known European and international brands along the way and some less well-known, all of it in commercial areas - sales, marketing, systems, and dealer network development. I have swapped dealerships for pubs (and breweries), cars for pints and, well, the people are always the most important.

So, as your Area Organiser and North Herts' Publicity Officer, Social Media Coordinator and (informally) 'Webmaster', it probably won't surprise you that I'm keen on communication – technology-

driven and traditional – and brand development, (yes, I see CAMRA as a brand), as means to, with you, develop ways of bringing more members into the fold, helping them make the most of their membership and, very importantly right now, getting behind campaigns – our original remit – to secure the future and grow beer, cider, brewery and pub businesses.

Next year, I will be co-Organiser of CAMRA Hitchin 2021. What will that be? A 'normal' summer festival, or – more likely – an adapted event that lets us do something that our visitors can enjoy. I'll be interested in your approaches to festivals and generally keeping in touch with members.

Cheers

Dean Barrett, Hertfordshire Area Organiser



Sharon awarded an MBE

Congratulations to Sharon Howell, Manager at McMullen's Salisbury Arms Hotel in Hertford. Sharon was awarded an MBE in the

recent New Year's Honours List, for her extraordinary charity work.

McMullen's reported "Whether it is cycling India, Kenya or Italy, walking the Great Wall of China, Canadian Rockies, Mont Blanc or Edinburgh,

organising charity

events and raffles, donating food and offering help, or pulling trolleys out of the river, Sharon is there to talk to, to encourage, listen, guide and advise, whether we are in lockdown or not".

Les Middlewood



Hertfordshire's Pulling Together 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.

Hertfordshire's Pub Losses and Gains 2020

By Steve Bury

I don't think anyone would argue that 2020 has been a disastrous year for pubs and brewers, and it is also suggested that 2021 could actually be worse. Entrepreneurial publicans and brewers have been selling and delivering takeaways but beer production has hit an all-time low - possibly down by as much as 80%. The government has shown how out of touch it really is, firstly with ten o'clock closing - we are all safe at 21:59 and in serious danger at 22:01. Then it was ten o'clock closing with one hour's drinking up time, an equally ineffective scenario which when challenged,



we were informed it would mean a staggered exit from pubs (no pun intended). Having been hit with a second lockdown we then had drinks only served if accompanying a 'substantial meal' which turned out to be a scotch egg or a pasty. This of course was abused and at least one pub in Hertfordshire was fined for serving drinks to customers who did not consume a culinary delicacy - perhaps because there was no vegetarian vegan alternative. Pubs are now shut again with no reprieve date and the *Morning Advertiser* carried a summary of a debate between Emma Clarkin of the BBPA (British Beer and Pubs Association) and Tom Kerridge the gastro pub chef. How many pubs may not reopen or close permanently because of Covid restrictions in 2020? Both agreed that following 994 pubs closing in 2019 over double that - another 2,500 would close in 2020/2021 which they said was 5% of the total pub stock. How this figure was calculated I do not know. The Office of National Statistics recorded 38,815 pubs were open at the start of 2018 whereas the BBPA say that 40,748 pubs were open at the start of 2020. I suppose it is what you recognise as a pub and this is where the 2,500 figure comes from, which again the BBPA say is 5% of the total. On my calculations if any of the figures are correct it does not get much above 2,000. This is still a frightening figure. Over double the pubs lost in the years before and when losses appeared to be levelling off. The big question is how many pubs will not reopen after the lockdown which seems to be here indefinitely. CAMRA has raised issues about compensation for the licensed trade and business rates, which have not

been addressed and are still unreasonable. Many pubs have only had their rent deferred by the pubcos and brewers who own them. Somehow, they are supposed to come out of this lockdown and increase their trade to cover the shortfall - an impossible task. As I mentioned earlier in this article beer production is at an all-time low and although real ale took a larger share of a shrinking market in 2019 the year ended with less brewers than at its start. The government wants to revise small brewers' relief (opposed by CAMRA and SIBA) which will disadvantage many of our micro-breweries and favour their larger competitors. The whole issue of taxation including VAT needs to be urgently addressed to help the whole industry. Again as 2021 progresses we will see brewers as well as pubs closing permanently.

I have been asked as to why the Losses & Gains article has been produced for this newsletter. The answer is we have lost and are going to be losing pubs, but let's be focused and do everything we can to support this crucial part of the British way of life. The message is the same as in 2020: "use them or lose them".



Pub Losses

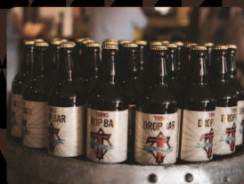
Aston: The **Rose & Crown** closed since 21 November 2015 is no longer listed for lease with Everard Cole. There is a good amount of detail on the Aston Parish Council website: <http://astonparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/RoseCrown>

The two planning applications referenced by the Parish Council (3/20/1154/FUL & 3/20/1155/FUL) are 'awaiting decision'. Both of these retain a pub.

Baldock: The **Boot** closed in July and plans to convert to residential were lodged 6th October.

Bricket Wood: The **Old Fox**, School Lane, Old Bricket Wood closed in 2016 for urgent structural work. I was informed that the floor of the bar had collapsed due to dry rot. Whether this was true or that the work has been completed or not is unknown. The pub and ground behind it are now on the market price £1 million. There was a full report in HPT5 saying that planning permission would be needed to convert to residential. The Old Fox is listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) on the St Albans

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District Council web site and this does not expire until 15th October 2022.

Bushey: The **Royal Oak** has been closed for over a year. Planning permission has been approved for flats, but no work has begun, and the pub has been advertised for sale.

Charlton: The **Windmill** remains closed since Aug 2015 when it was sold to a developer. Since then a concerted campaign has been organised by local residents to get the pub reopened and there is a crowd funding appeal to buy back the pub. The ACV on the pub and car park has been extended for another five years. A full update is on page 8.

The Windmill Community Pub Ltd (WCPL) was formed as a Community Benefit Society and launched a Share registration in July 2019.

Cheshunt: The **Green Dragon** remains closed and planning permission has been given to convert to residential.

Chipping: The **Countryman** has not re-opened since the first lockdown.

Colney Heath: The **Chalkdrawers** closed May 2018. Awaiting new tenant, the pub remains boarded up and security fenced off.

Elstree: **Kiss Kiss** (previously the **East** and originally the **Plough**) is closed and boarded up. The pub has been shut for nearly two years but is now shrouded in scaffolding, and it looks like a new roof is being put on. It has been rumoured that it will reopen as the **Aldenham Arms**. A sign on the outside announces that Star Pubs and Bars (part of Heineken) have the lease for sale. All may not be lost. The **Fishery** opposite Aldenham Reservoir is reported to have been sold by owners McMullen. The pub has been shut for the best part of a year and has building materials blocking the entrance.

Essendon: The **Rose & Crown** closed in 2018 with a pledge to reopen in 2019. Though there is evidence that work has been going on, ominously all signage suggesting it is still a pub has been removed.

Gaddesden Row: It is reported that the **Old Chequers**, closed in 2017, is still standing and has the car park blocked off.

Harpenden: The **Mad Squirrel Tap Room** closed 8th February.

Haultwick: We reported last year that the long-awaited plans were lodged 3rd April to do major structural works and re open the **Rest & Welcome** looked good, but the council did not agree. Further discussions are underway. Update appreciated.

Hertford: The **Hummingbird** closed in 2019 when the pub company owning it ceased trading. Currently still closed with no clear future apparent.

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
2014/15/16/17/18/19/20/21**

South Herts CAMRA Club of the Year

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New members are currently welcome although we are quickly becoming full

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CAMRA members may be signed in on production
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CLUB

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Tel: 01992 421422

Hitchin: The **Venue** was demolished in October.

Kimpton: We have been informed by the Save the **White Horse** campaign that the new owner put the pub up for sale by Dutch auction. The locals and several others bid but a guy called Ross Tomlinson won and bought the pub in September 2017. Since then the locals have been in regular contact and he has finally submitted a pre-planning application for major structural changes to the local planners. If accepted it would mean that the White Horse reopens as a sort of gastro pub. No other formal planning application has been submitted since — appears in limbo, no updates for over a year.

London Colney: The **Golden Lion** closed Dec 2017, and has now had the car park garden and hall at the rear cleared and blocks of flats built. Planning permission to convert the pub to residential has now been lodged.

Mill Green: No change from last year, the **Green Man** is closed and remains boarded up. However, planning permission has been granted to reopen as a pub with brewery by the Gascoyne Estate (the owners) but no date has been given for work to commence.

Potters Bar: The **Chequers** closed 30/12/19 - update needed.

Radlett: The Grade II listed **Cat & Fiddle** closed again on 25th August 2019 and in 2020 a planning application was lodged with Hertsmeire Council to convert the pub into a cardiac centre saying that the pub has been bought by Barnet Football Club. The application was withdrawn we await further information on plans for the Cat's future.

Reed: The **Cabinet** was bought at auction and has had the pub interior removed for conversion to a house. This met with a sustained campaign to get it re-opened and on 11th December 2018 the application for retrospective planning permission to convert to residential was dismissed. The pub was put on the market again in January 2019 with Fleurets asking £595K for the freehold. The latest position is that the council have confirmed that the pub interior must be restored and the pub has not been sold. We have received no further information since February 2020.

Royston: The **Chequers** closed in August. The **Coach & Horses** is closed and boarded up.

St Albans: The **Rose & Crown** St Michaels is closed and it has been reported as being sold to Philip Moxom of Merchant Holdings who appear to have no record of pub management. It is possible that the pub will re-open in 2021. The **Bell** in Chequer Street converted to a Jamie's Italian Restaurant some years ago (no real ale) and closed May 2018. It is one of the oldest pubs in the city and has now become a deli.

Rickmansworth: The **Tree** is still closed and boarded up with its lease is being advertised. The **Waterside** is now advertising itself as a venue for weddings, parties, and other events. The bar is no longer consistently open for walk-in customers.

Shenley: The **William IV** closed on 30th August 2019 after being sold to Griggs the developers. Building work is well underway to convert and extend the pub into apartments.

Ware: The **Victoria** remains closed though plans for refurbishment lodged with East Herts District Council (EHDC) seem unlikely in the current climate. The **Albion** is closed, hopefully awaiting a new tenant.

The **Red Lion** opposite Watford FC in Vicarage Road is closed and boarded up. The **One Bell** is being converted into a Taco Bell restaurant.

Welwyn: The **Rose & Crown** is closed for major refurbishment.

Widford: The **Green Man** closed early 2019, an ACV application has been successful and a planning application for conversion to residential has been lodged. This information is now two years old - can

I request an update?

Wormley: The **Old Star** is reported as closed - update required please.

Pub Gains

Ashwell: The **Bushel & Strike** re-opened in December with new tenants in place.

Ashwell: The **Three Tuns** closed Mar 2020 and re-opened 20th November.

Baldock: The **George IV** re opened 6th October.

Flaunden: The **Green Dragon** has now re opened after a one year closure.

Hoddesdon: The **Bell Inn** has reopened as the **Bell Hotel** selling real ales.

Knebworth: The **Station** reopened on 14th February 2020.

Potters Bar: It has been reported that the **Green Man** could be re-opened as a pub when the garden and car park are converted to sheltered accommodation. No progress for two years.

Royston: The **Jockey** re opened in October.

St Albans: A new Young's pub, the **Gabriel Inn**, was due to open in the old BHS premises on St Peter's Street in 2020, progress is delayed due to the lockdowns. The **Verulam Arms** closed following financial difficulties. It was then acquired by some joker called Warren who renamed it the **Rabbit Hole** and as far as we know it had no real ale. Unfortunately for them the pandemic arrived and it was only open for a short time. The pub is now under new ownership and new licensees. All traces of rabbits have been removed including the sign outside '**Rabbit Hole Public Living Room**!' and so it is now back to the **Verulam Arms**. One real ale from 3 Brewers was on sale before the second lockdown and the food service was due to return as well.

Watford: The **Prince George** initially closed in January then reopened with temporary managers until November. New tenants were due to start at the beginning of November, but lockdown prevented this. It looked like the pub opened briefly for one evening at the beginning of December but then had to close again because Watford went into Tier 4.

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

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
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- 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!**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

English pub moved to Germany

Paul Moss a developer from East Yorkshire has moved a complete English pub to Iserlohn near Dortmund in Germany. He hopes to introduce the locals to a traditional English boozer by moving the **New Crown**, Quay Road in Bridlington in October 2019 and rebuilding it piece by piece.



English, German and Irish beer will be served at the new New Crown alongside English breakfasts, Sunday roasts and traditional fish and chips.

The New Crown Bridlington was converted to nine flats. The pub is pictured above at its new home of

Iserlohn, near Dortmund. This must put a whole new angle on pub preservation. Let's hope they serve some real ale upon re opening.

Allan Ross Obituary

It is sad to announce that Allan Ross of the St Albans Lions has died after a long spell of ill health. Allan unfortunately had a stroke last summer and later suffered from cancer which led to his death at 84. Allan was part of the team who worked with South Herts CAMRA to set up the **St Albans Anniversary Beer Festival** in 1996 which then became a regular yearly event in the Alban Arena, unfortunately cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid outbreak.

As well as working at the Beer and Cider Festival Allan worked tirelessly to raise funds for local charities through the St Albans Lions, holding the position of President on two occasions. Allan will be missed by his many friends in the local area and beyond.



Cross Keys

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Due to government lockdown pubs are currently closed (unless for takeaway food or beer delivery). Pub updates in this newsletter are in our 'Pub Losses and Gains' article pages 10 - 13.

**** Any updates would be thankfully received ****

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

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

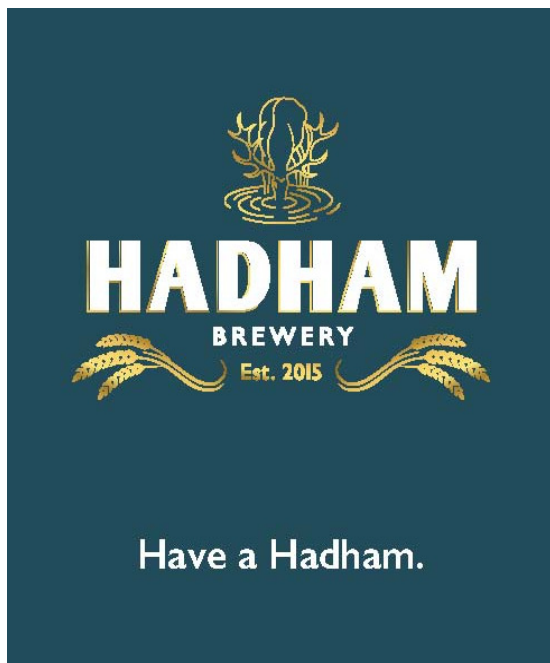
Watford & District CAMRA

Branch Contact: Andrew Vaughan.

Email: branch@watford.camra.org.uk

Phone: 01923 230104. Mobile: 07854 988152.

Internet: www.watford.camra.org.uk



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A celebration of 50 years of the Campaign For Real Ale

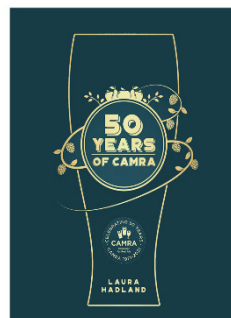
The 50th anniversary biography of CAMRA written by Laura Hadland is available to pre-order now!

Beer lovers can immerse themselves in a new biography of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), which promises to reveal its history, "warts and all", as the campaigning organisation celebrates its 50th anniversary.

50 Years of CAMRA, by beer writer Laura Hadland, contains first-hand accounts from members and industry professionals, detailing the highs and lows of one of the world's most successful consumer organisations. It is now available for pre-orders with copies officially available on CAMRA's birthday, 16 March 2021.

<https://shop1.camra.org.uk/>

Paperback edition



Help us power What?Pub

A screenshot of the What?Pub website interface for the 'Mermaid' pub. The page includes a search bar, navigation tabs (About, Location, Submit Updates, Nearby, Recently Viewed (1)), and a 'Submit Beer Scores' form. A red box highlights a feedback notice, and a large red arrow points from it towards the bottom right of the page.

Search > Mermaid

Submit Beer Scores

About Location Submit Updates Nearby Recently Viewed (1)

Updates

Four real ales available to take away including one dark beer. Open 2-7 Monday to Friday, 1-8 Saturday, 1-6 Sunday. Strictly one in one out for collections, and home delivery is also available for orders over £20. All draught beer is £3 a pint, and cider £3.50 a pint - served in either two or four pint containers. See the pub's social media pages for the latest on beers and ciders available.

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

#PullingTogether - [Find out more](#)

NOTICE: As venues recover following the coronavirus lockdown period they need your support more than ever. But please be aware that some special restrictions may apply, opening hours may be different to those displayed here, and some venues may be yet to re-open at all. Before visiting any venue, we strongly advise you to check its website or social media, or get in touch with them first to avoid disappointment.

If you see any details here that need updating, please let us know by submitting [feedback on the pub](#).

Mermaid

96 Hatfield Road
St Albans
AL1 3RL

Features

- Real Ale Available
- Real Cider Available
Westons Old Rosie plus 12 to 15 ever changing ciders and parties.
- Quiet Pub

Facilities

- Disabled Access
- Evening Meals
- Pub Garden

Submit Beer Scores

* fields are required

Date of visit: *
07 / 07 / 2020

Score (0-5): *
e.g. 3.5 (required)

Brewery: (optional)
e.g. Greene King

Beer: (optional)
e.g. IPA

[Show advanced options](#)

Submit Score

[Enter Tasting Card](#)

Campaign for your local

We campaign on a number of issues to help keep pubs open and pints affordable. If you love beer and pubs, get involved today!

[Find out more](#)

Things are a little different right now. Help CAMRA keep WhatPub up to date by using the feedback form to let us know about any changes at the pub:
www.whatpub.com



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CAMRA
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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

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Single Membership (UK)	£26.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£28.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Under 26 Membership	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership	£31.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£33.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
(At the same address)		
Joint Under 26 Membership	£23 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>

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

By Email ☐ By Post ☐ 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.

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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



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
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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.