

HERTFORDSHIRE'S CAMRA Pulling Together



The bi-monthly publication for every discerning drinker

August 2021 - Issue 9



The Red Lion in Preston Receives CAMRA Golden Award

Can we be one of the first to congratulate the Red Lion in Preston, North Herts on receiving a CAMRA 50th Anniversary Gold Award.

The awards team said “This attractive free house in Hertfordshire stands on the village green and is the first community-owned pub in Great Britain”. A further write up will be available when the award is made. Several other categories have still to be awarded and will be published when announced.

If 'Freedom Day' which commenced Monday 19th July continues as the government planned, this should be the last edition of Hertfordshire's *Pulling Together*, as we intend to return to the printed version of *Pints of View* edition 300, to be published in September.

To keep the bi-monthly publication cycle this edition of Hertfordshire's *Pulling Together* Issue 9 will only be current for the one month of August. You will notice that this is a very short edition and only contains items that will time expire, there is also no advertising. *Pints of View* 300 will cover September, October and November, and will return to its bi-monthly coverage in the December / January 2022, edition 301.

All the other copy I have received will be carried over to *Pints of View* 300, so don't worry contributors you will see your pieces in print. Please continue to send me news for "Down Your Way" correspondence for "Readers Write" and any other items of interest.

Distribution: Although we have not delivered for over eighteen months, we are hopeful that our *Pints of View* distributors will re-start their rounds in September. Without their help come rain or shine there would be no newsletter. Of course, we intend to keep publishing an on-line version which will be found on our web site, so even if you find the display box empty you can still get all the news and views.

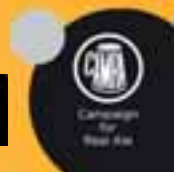
Can I thank you all for your efforts to keep everything together during the last eighteen months and hope that you and your families can look forward to better times in the future?

Steve Bury, Editor



From pocket to pint.

Find pubs recommended by people that know good beer.



Windmill, Charlton Update Summer 2021

Greetings to you all! This is a quick update to assure you that we have been busy behind the scenes working to save **The Windmill**. Those of you who continue to enjoy the walks around Charlton will be aware that the diseased trees have now been cleared letting more light into the area and that the river is overflowing bringing even more vibrancy to this pretty village centre!



Whilst I cannot give too much detail at this stage, I wanted to let you know that since share pledges have reached a level where we can make a credible bid to purchase the pub site at what we believe to be market value, we have been able to engage with council officials in meaningful discussions that I hope will find a way of breaking the current impasse to bring this much-loved community facility back for all to enjoy. The owner is aware from his discussions with North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) that compulsory purchase powers are being considered and has given his assurance that he is working on plans to restore The Windmill to an operating state. We aim to meet with him soon to learn more of his plans and will urge NHDC to set deadlines so that we can be assured that progress will be maintained. In the event that a sale is agreed or forced we will of course be drawing on your share pledges. More details on this will follow when needed. We are very grateful for your continued support and patience, which council officers have recently described as a 'tremendous effort'!!

I am also pleased to say that we have welcomed a new member to our steering group who has recently moved to Hitchin, bringing a wealth of business experience and clout, which has strengthened our negotiating position. We have also received an enquiry from a prospective tenant who has shared with us her vision for bringing fresh artisan bakery and good old hospitality to a wide range of customers. Her ideas are very much in tune with our collective vision.

Finally, those members of the steering group who are Charlton residents, have been involved in forming the Charlton Society Neighbourhood Forum

(CSNF) which has submitted an application to produce our own Charlton Neighbourhood Plan, which we hope will provide further security for preserving The Windmill within Local Planning regulations. CSNF will be organising a litter pick when lockdown restrictions are lifted. I will send out notice of this for those of you who are keen to be involved!

Keep safe!

Phil Jarvis, The Windmill Community Pub Ltd

Let's Lend Our Support to A Herts Pub

Well, this is a bit of a rallying call. As our pubs have re-opened, we have witnessed a sort of stumbling back to normality – and in the case of some pubs, there are a few more paces to go. But in July the Government removed the last distancing and mask-wearing measures, leading to a reasonably clear road ahead for Herts' pubs. What seems apparent is that, generally, vibrant town centre and entrepreneurial community and village pubs are recovering and doing reasonably well – those with a clear and enticing offer and where that offer meets with the hopes of sufficient drinkers and customers. On the other hand, some smaller pubs and maybe those that are restricted in size and location – are struggling to attract enough customers to continue profitably. And many customers, for their own good reasons, are hesitant to return – some have become used to drinking bottled, canned and cask-conditioned take-away beer at home during the long periods of pub closure.

What can we do to help our pubs?

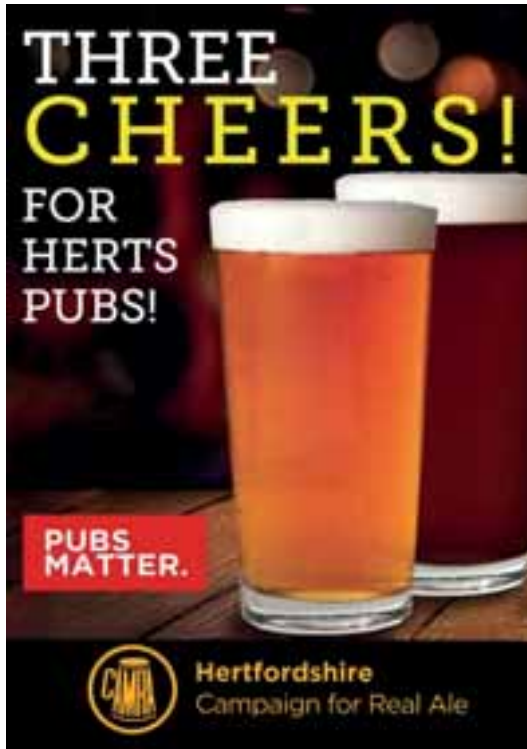
Call in for a pint, obviously. But maybe also see if we can entice friends and neighbours in for specific events – be it a celebration, or maybe a pub quiz or something of that ilk. Something that will put some money over the bar – we all want our pubs to survive and to continue be part of our community and national spirit. Perhaps ask a landlord to arrange some beer-related evenings – for those that have a freedom from tie, maybe a golden beer night for a summer's evening - with 2 or 3 real golden ales – or a traditional bitter night with a small range of beers on offer. Put the word out – encourage people to attend. For those that are brewery or pub company-tied, maybe a beer and cheese evening, songs from some local musicians or a history walk around the neighbourhood.

Whatever your ideas are, most publicans are prepared to lend an ear, particularly if it might help or boost trade. And if you have a success story to tell

please let us know – other pubs around the county might also benefit. Contact us at:

pintsofview@hotmail.co.uk

Support Your Herts Local



Lowewood Museum, Hoddesdon Welcomes you back

Lowewood Museum in High Street, Hoddesdon will be opening its doors once again on Saturday 17th of July. The museum has been closed for over a year, but work has been going on behind the scenes since the new Lowewood Museum Trust CIO was formed, securing the future of this wonderful resource for the Borough and beyond.

Lowewood
MUSEUM

The small team has recently been recruiting volunteers to help welcome visitors and work with the museum's collections of over 40,000 items. There is still much to do and many returning visitors

won't see too many changes to the first floor displays but David Dent, the Chair of Trustees says:

"As a fledgling trust here at the museum, it's been a steep but enjoyable learning curve for us all, and there is still much to do, but bear with us as we have lots planned over the coming years to appeal to our residents across the borough. We are all incredibly grateful for the support we've received over the past year, and now it's coming to fruition. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the museum again."

The museum will once again be offering teas and coffees in its ground floor area, along with space to sit out in the rear garden area of the museum. Another thing to quench visitors' thirst is a brand-new exhibition on the ground floor of the museum, entitled 'Tankards, Tales and Taverns' where visitors can discover more about local pubs past and present. The museum has thousands of photographs in the collection and some of these feature pubs, alehouses and inns dating as far back as 1900. A selection of these will feature in the exhibition, along with paintings (some of which are for sale) of pubs created by members of the Broxbourne Arts Forum (BArts). Lee Rayner, Director of Programming for the BAarts commented,

"During lockdowns and restrictions, many local artists and groups have been able to continue their activities which has been part of their 'survival' strategy. Our 'Paint A Pub' mini project has been a particularly pleasant diversion, focusing on something outdoors, but tantalising if the pub has been closed! The pictures will be interesting to compare with old images held by Lowewood Museum."

On display will be a small selection of pub and brewery related items from the museum stores and not normally on show at the museum, as well as few pieces kindly borrowed from McMullen's.

Below - image on show at the museum



For visitors who haven't had the chance to see the nationally significant Tudor wall paintings at The Star pub on Hoddesdon's High Street, there's a chance to find out more about these discoveries that were found during renovation work in 2014 after being hidden away for hundreds of years. A great introduction to these amazing historic gems before you go and have a proper look in the pub itself, which is half a mile away! Wetherspoon have given a donation to help fund this part of the display which is much appreciated.

Children and adults alike can take part in our 'design a pub sign' or sit and colour in pub signs inspired by local pubs and designed by local artist and museum volunteer Suse Nielebock.

Lowewood Museum, High Street, Hoddesdon
EN11 8BH, Tel: 01992 554496

Open Fridays and Saturdays, 10am – 4.30pm
Free admission

Internet: www.lowewoodmuseum.com

email: museum@lowewoodmuseum.com

Extra information:

- 'Tankards, Tales and Taverns' Your local, past and present exhibition runs from Saturday 17th July to Saturday 6th November 2021.
- Lowewood Museum is a registered charity (no: 1192966)

CAMRA Campaigns for real cider and perry

Real cider and perry grows on trees

Real cider is made from fresh apple juice, and real perry is made from fresh pear juice. Naturally fermented and free from concentrate or artificial processing.

Visit www.whatpub.com to find real cider and perry guide.

The graphic features a green background with a branch of an apple tree on the left and a branch of a pear tree on the right. Two glasses of cider are shown in the center, one with a yellowish-orange liquid and the other with a lighter, more golden liquid. The CAMRA logo is in the top right corner.

Help us power

WhatPub



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:

www.whatpub.com



This section contains information from a large number of sources and occasionally errors may occur. News items are supplied to meet newsletter deadlines, and which in some cases may unfortunately be out of date upon publication.

Comments or additional information should be sent to our contact details below

Ashwell: For most of 2020, the **Rose and Crown** was the only active pub in Ashwell. However, both the **Three Tuns** and **Bushel and Strike** re-opened just before Christmas. According to social media accounts, the **Three Tuns** has changed hands again and is due to re-open in early July. The **Rose and Crown** has also re-opened after lock down and the pub is still being advertised to let at an annual rental of £24,000.

Baldock: planning permission has been granted to convert the **Boot** which closed in 2019 into six flats for residential use. This is despite local opposition and concerns that the four parking spaces for this development were inadequate.

Great Horstead: It was sad to learn that Doris, the legendary pub cat at the **Three Tuns**, has died at the grand age of 27 years. RIP Doris.

Great Chishill: Just across the border in Cambs the **Pheasant** has been taken over by the team at the **Woodman**, Nuthampstead. Both pubs offer real ales.

Hertford: The **Hummingbird** in Fore Street has reopened, now operated by the owners of the **Belle** pub in Bassingbourn, Cambs. It's primarily a gastropub specialising in cocktails. A further report in the next edition. The **Crafty Duck** in Parliament Square is currently not selling real ale – hopefully a temporary measure as the pub re-emerges from the pandemic. Real ale has also been withdrawn at the **Saracens Head** in Ware Road. And sadly, there has been no real ale in McMullen's **White Hart** in Salisbury Square – possibly the only Mac's house not selling cask ale.

Royston: The Green Man, having remained closed since the first lockdown last year re-opened in April. Real ale is not available.

Sleapshyde: The **Plough**, a very old pub and one of the last few in Hertfordshire that is thatched, is up for sale - freehold £1.2- £1.3 m.

Tea Green: The **White Horse** outside drinking area, costing £25,000, was destroyed by fire the day before it was due to open. The attack is being treated as arson, undeterred the pub did re-open as planned on 15 April.

South Mimms: It's sad to report that the **White Hart**, parts of which are listed, was closed by the owners McMullen's on 24th July. It has not been possible to find out who the new owners are. The pub has one of the last public bars in Hertfordshire and is a local landmark. Any further information will be gratefully

received.

Stevenage: The **Vincent Motorcycle** has been renamed to the **Shephall Tavern** following a refurbishment. It has now re-opened and offers both real ale and cider. A 10% CAMRA member discount is available. Full day opening every day. The **Royal Standard**, closed since the original lockdown in March 2020, remains shut.

Ware: The **Albion** remains closed with rumours that it has been sold – its future remaining unclear. McMullen's have sold the long-closed **Victoria** – its future as a pub is also unclear.

Weston: The **Red Lion**, a free house has now re-opened. Real ale is available, usually from Hadham brewery.

Whitwell: Farr brew have taken on the lease at the **Bull** which re opened on 10th July.

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

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA

See [branch website](#) for any updates

North Hertfordshire CAMRA

Wed 4 Aug: Branch Meeting – **Dun Cow**, Stevenage 8pm

Wed 18 Aug: Royston Social - Branch Social visiting **Heath Cafe Bar**, Jolly Postie, **Banyers House** and **Manor House**. Commences at Heath Cafe Bar 8pm.

Wed 1 Sept: Letchworth Social - Branch Social visiting **Arena Tavern**, **Crafty's**, **Three Magnets** and **Garden City Brewery**. All welcome! Commences at the Arena Tavern 8pm.

South Hertfordshire CAMRA

Thu 5 – Sun 8 Aug: GBBF at your local at the Harpenden Arms, Harpenden. Held in line with CAMRA's "GBBF at your local", cask ale from all around the UK across all 10 lines in the pub with some rotating options over the weekend, as well as a few boxes of real cider. Further information on CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival at your local at: <https://local.gbbf.org.uk/about/>

Tue 24 Aug: Committee Meeting - **Cross Keys**, Harpenden 7.45pm

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

Watford & District CAMRA

Fri 6 Aug: Pub of the Year 2019 presentation - **The Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty**, Long Ln, Heronsgate, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5BS. Social get together and belated presentation of the 2019 **Pub of the Year** and **Cider Pub of the Year** awards. 8:30pm. The pub is also participating in CAMRA's **GBBF at Your Local** from 5 - 8 August.

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.

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

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

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
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Watford & District CAMRA

Branch Contact: Andrew Vaughan.
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Phone: 01923 230104. Mobile: 07854 988152.
Internet: www.watford.camra.org.uk

Hertfordshire Pubs participating in the GBBF at Your Local in August

August 5 th – 8 th	Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty	Long Lane, Heronsgate, Rickmansworth Herts WD3 5BS
August 5 th – 8 th	Harpenden Arms	188 High Street, Harpenden, AL5 2TR



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

3 Enjoy CAMRA
BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar

4 **GET INVOLVED**
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

Get great
7 **VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 **DISCOVER**
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

Enjoy great
9 **HEALTH BENEFITS**
(really!)

10 **HAVE YOUR SAY**

What's yours?

Discover your reason
and join the campaign today:

www.camra.org.uk/10reasons



Campaign
for
Real Ale