

A Guide To REAL ALE in HERTFORD



Guide To Ware Overleaf

Hertford, the county town of Hertfordshire, is situated on the River Lea 20 miles north of London and is thought to be the site of the first Church Synod in 673AD. It is blessed with many fine buildings including Hertford Castle, the Shire Hall, the Friends Meeting House and St.Nicholas Hall. Hertford is the home of the family brewer McMullen and Sons with its proud 196-year history – its former Victorian brewery having a landmark presence in the town. The town has a rich brewing history and a wealth and variety of pubs selling real ale – all waiting to be discovered by thirsty visitors. Hertford Museum in Bull Plain is worth discovery with its wide range of local (including brewing) collections – open Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday 12 noon - 4pm. Our Hertford cover drawing depicts the former McMullen tower brewery in Hartham Lane.

Travelling to Hertford

Hertford North Railway Station connects with Kings Cross, Moorgate and Stevenage. Hertford East Station links to VWare then Liverpool Street and to Cambridge via Broxbourne. Local buses include the 310, 331, 395, 341, 641 and 907 services and the cross-Hertfordshire 724 route. By road, Hertford can be found on the A414, near the A10 and 8 miles from the A1 (M) junction at Hatfield. Ware lies 2½ miles to the north-east.

Black Horse (1)

29-31 West Street, SG13 8EZ

01992 583630 324, 333, 395 (300yds)

A timbered 17thC Free House popular with community groups. Rarely, it has an RFU-affiliated rugby team. The well-kept hillside garden has a wood-fired pizza oven (Fri and Sat). There's a full menu of traditional meals lunchtimes and evenings (all day Fri and Sat and until 6pm on Sun for roasts). Children welcome until 8pm. Open all day from 12.30 (4.30pm on Mon). *Six ever-changing real ales.*

Blackbirds (2)

15-17 Parliament Square, SG14 1EX

01992 509286 333, 395, 907

Recently refurbished, this is a comfortable, traditional pub during the day, changing to a young, lively atmosphere at night. Karaoke on Thurs and Djs/live bands on Fri and Sat. Quizzes on Tues and Thurs. Pub fayre meals offered onwards from lunchtime. Opens at 10am and until 2am at weekends. *Sharp's Doom Bar plus 3 changing cask ales.*

Golden Griffin (3)

Windsor Drive, SG14 2DQ

01992 582733 324, 395, 724

A lively and friendly community pub in the Sele Farm area of town popular for TV sport and with darts and pool. Live music or karaoke on Sats, disco on Fri, the pub holds a number of charity events during the year. Open all day from noon. *McMullen AK Original.*

Great Eastern Tavern (4)

29 Railway Place, SG13 7BS

01992 582048 310, 395, 907

A fine, popular, two-bar local with a beautifully kept paved garden at the rear. There's often interesting rock and blues piped music. A folk club operates on the first Tues of the month. Watch out for the annual chili challenge held on a Saturday lunchtime in February. Open all day from 1pm weekdays and noon at weekends. *McMullen AK Original plus two from the McMullen range.*

Greyhound (5)

146 Bengoe Street, SG14 3EY

01992 676402 333

A comfortable two-bar local, the first in the UK to house a defibrillator. A Thai menu is available evenings Tues-Thurs and lunchtimes and evenings on Fri and Sat, plus all day Sun when "street food" is also featured. Quiz night is the third Thurs of the month. Closed Mon. Opens 4pm Tues-Thurs and from noon Fri-Sun. *McMullen Country Best Bitter & AK Original.*

Hertford Bell (6)

24 Railway Street, SG14 1BA

01992 581445 All

A single-bar town centre pub formerly known as the Duncombe Arms, with a lively modern feel and plenty of outside drinking areas. There is a monthly open-mic session on Thurs and live music at weekends. Open all day from 11am with hearty meals from 12-6pm. *Greene King IPA and Abbot.*

Hertford Club (7)

Lombard House, Bull Plain, SG14 1DT

01992 421422 All

A Grade II* listed building with a delightful walled garden and riverside terrace. CAMRA members are welcome and may be signed in with membership card. Music nights include a fortnightly Wednesday folk club and fortnightly rock night on Thurs. Open all day from noon (11am on Sat). Closes Sun at 8pm. *Two or three changing real ales.*

Lord Haig (8)

South Street, SG14 1AZ

01992 582706 All

A traditional town centre local with a friendly welcome. There are live bands or karaoke on Fri and bands on Sat. A shack offers Caribbean food Wed to Sun 12:30pm-8.00pm. The pub opens all day from 11am (closes 8pm on Sun). *McMullen AK Original plus a McMullen seasonal guest.*

Millstead (9)

88 Port Vale, SG14 3AF

01992 582755 333, 395, 724 (400yds)

A local in a quiet Hertford backwater with a beautiful garden at the rear featuring heated hireable dining booths with music. Strong in the community, the pub has gained a good reputation for its lunchtime and evening food offering. There's a selection of over 60 gins. Open all day from noon. *McMullen AK Original, Country Best Bitter plus a Mac's seasonal guest.*

Old Barge (10)

2 The Folly, SG14 1QD

01992 581871 All

A free house pleasantly situated canalside on the River Lea, offering locally-sourced food which is served all day. There's a music quiz on the last Thurs of the month. The Spring Fling mini-music festival takes place on the second May bank holiday Monday and an annual duck race on Easter Monday. Occasional live music at weekends. Dogs allowed outside only. Open all day from 11am. *Marston's 61 Deep plus up to three guest cask ales.*

Old Cross Tavern (11)

8 St. Andrew Street, SG14 1JA

01992 558061 333, 390, 395

An excellent town free house offering a warm welcome with up to six real ales usually including a dark beer and a fine choice of Belgian bottle-conditioned beers. No TV or music here, just good old-fashioned conversation. Locally made pork pies and scotch eggs are available. There is a public car park opposite. Opens 4.30pm Mon-Thurs (4pm Fri) and all day from 2pm Sat and Sun. *Timothy Taylor Landlord plus up to 5 guest beers.*

Quiet Man (12)

2-4 Parliament Square, SG14 1DA

01992 517440 All

A busy sports led town centre pub where pizzas are served Mon-Sun from 4pm to 9pm. There is a regular pianist most Fri and Sat evenings encouraging sing-songs with songs for all ages and occasional weekend live music. Outside tables are on the square to the front and also at the rear. Open all day from noon (3pm on Mon). *Dark Star Hophead, St. Austell Tribute and Fuller's London Pride.*

Salisbury Arms Hotel (13)

Fore Street, SG14 1BZ

01992 583091 All

Historic hotel with a pedigree traceable to 1431. Refurbished in 2022, there is a large restaurant, sizable bar, an atmospheric snug room facing the street and a courtyard to the rear. The car park is in Bell Lane. Open for breakfasts from 8am, the bar opens all days from 10am. There is a seasonal British menu with a modern take - food until 9pm. *Two McMullen cask ales available.*

Six Templars (14)

1 The Wash, SG14 1PS

01992 517430 All

A Wetherspoon's with a two-storey glass frontage. Inside there are two areas - the main bar and a smaller lounge. Some seating is also available upstairs. The sun-trap patio rests against the walls of Hertford Castle. There are regular beer and cider festivals - food is served from 8am. Opens all day from 8am (alcohol served from 9am). *Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale, Sharp's Doom Bar plus 4 changing real ales.*

White Hart (15)

Salisbury Square, SG14 1BW

01992 583605 All

Much altered historic town square pub with additional rooms to the rear. A large sunny terrace at the rear and tables and chairs on the town square at the front. Evenings take off with Djs at weekends. Street food stalls on the last Thurs of the month. *Occasionally McMullen seasonal real ales are available.*

White Horse (16)

33 Castle Street, SG14 1HH

07803 878821 324, 333, 395 (250 yds)

A charming timber-framed 16thC cottage building with two downstairs bars and rooms upstairs, where bar billiards and darts can be found, or where vinyl records can be played and children are welcome. There are benches front and back. Opens 2-8pm Mon, 2-10pm Tues-Thurs, from noon Fri-Sun. *Fuller's London Pride, ESB, Dark Star Hophead. Occasional guest.*

White Lion (17)

59 Bengoe Street, SG14 3ET

01992 509717 333

A family friendly pub with a fish and meat grill menu and roasts on Sundays. Mon and Tues are Fish 'n' Chips nights. A pizza van attends on Wed and Sat. Live bands at weekends. A keen supporter of community and charity groups there is a tractor run held during the summer. Opens 3pm Mon - Wed and all day from noon other days. *Timothy Taylor Landlord, Sharp's Doom Bar. Occasional guest beer.*

Woolpack (18)

Millbridge, SG14 1PZ

01992 583766 324, 333, 395

McMullen's 'Brewery Tap' is riverside (with terrace) at the head of the River Lea Navigation. Brewery artefacts adorn the walls. Outbuildings contain games rooms for pool, darts and crazy golf. The menu has a variety of burgers. Live music on the first and last Fri of the month. A quiz on Tues. *McMullen AK Original, Country Best Bitter, IPA plus seasonal ale.*

Symbols

Bus Numbers	Parking
Meals	Garden/Patio
Wheelchair Access	WC Accessible WC
TV Sport	Dogs Allowed

Bayford

Baker Arms

Ashdene Road, SG13 8PX

01992 511235 304

An early to mid-19thC building set in a quiet village with a garden. Temporarily closed at the time of guide publication. *McMullen's beers.*

Bramfield

Grandison

18 Bury Lane, SG14 2QL

01992 554077 379

A family-friendly pub with contemporary decor and a snug restaurant. There is a strong emphasis on locally-sourced and home-cooked food but the pub caters well for real ale drinkers. There are gardens to the rear; tables at the front. *Three changing guest ales.*

Brickendon

Farmers Boy

1 Brickendon Lane, SG13 8NU

01992 661309 304

A fine two-bar pub with restaurant where the food emphasis is on freshly prepared local produce and includes Sunday lunches and fish 'n' chips Friday. Open-mic last Thurs of the month. A large garden is at the rear. Further seating is opposite the pub where petanque is played adjacent to the car park. Children allowed until 9pm. Open all day from 11am. Meals from noon. *Sharp's Doom Bar plus three guest beers.*

Chapmore End

The Woodman

30 Chapmore End, SG12 0HF

01920 463339

Classic two bar gem of a country pub in a quintessential English hamlet off the B158, popular with walkers and cyclists. Beer is served direct from cooled casks behind the bar. A dining area is at the rear. Chinese meals are available 5.30-9.30pm Wed-Sat, 1-7pm on Sundays. Opens 5pm on Mon, then all day from noon Tues-Sun. *Greene King IPA, Abbot plus a guest beer usually from Ting brewery.*

Hertford Heath

College Arms

40 London Road, SG13 7PW

01992 941565 341, 641

Close to the Hertford Heath Nature Reserve, an appealing pub with modern décor and gastro twist. Food is British in style with seasonal a la carte. There is a sizeable garden to the rear. Opens all day from noon. Meals from 12-3pm and 5-9pm Mon-Thur; 12-9pm Fri-Sat and 12-7pm Sun. *Timothy Taylor Landlord, St. Austell Tribute. Occasionally a third cask ale.*

Goat

25 Vicarage Causeway, SG13 7RT

01992 535788 341, 641 (250 yds)

Popular 16thC pub on the village green, with restaurant and low ceilings. Classic cars meet first Sunday lunchtime of each month - motorbikes meet on the first Saturday. Quiz last Thursday of the month. Locally sourced food is presented with a modern take. There are fish Fridays and Sunday roasts. Open all day from noon. Meals served lunchtime and evenings Mon-Fri, all day Sat and until 4pm on Sun. *Greene King IPA, Timothy Taylor Landlord plus 1 guest ale.*

Silver Fox

16-18 London Road, SG13 7RH

01992 589023 341, 641

Friendly village pub at the centre of the village, attracting darts players from far and beyond - there are now five boards! Find the patio garden at the rear. Traditional home-made food available most evenings with roasts on Sundays - but please ring ahead to confirm meal times. Open 4pm Mon-Sat and all day from noon on Sunday. *Greene King IPA.*

Hertingfordbury

White Horse

234 Hertingfordbury Rd, SG14 2LB

01992 586791 308, 641

Grade II listed. In the major refurbishment of 2017 the building was carefully re-organised to create a comfortable bar, plush restaurant and meeting space. There is a grille-style menu lunchtime and evenings Wed-Sat with roasts on Sunday until 4pm. Closed Mon and Tues; Open from 9am Wed-Sun. *St. Austell Proper Job, Timothy Taylor Landlord. One guest ale.*

Letty Green

Cowper Arms

57 Station Road, SG14 2NL

01707 330202

A contemporary-furnished country pub, enjoyed by families and walkers on the Cole Green Way. There's an open fire and a large eating area to the rear. The British menu has continental influences and brunches are available on Saturday and Sundays (from 9am) with roasts on Sunday. Open all day from 11am weekdays with meals available from noon till 9pm. *Two guest beers, often including Timothy Taylor Landlord.*

Little Berkhamsted

Five Horseshoes

1 Church Road, SG13 8LY

01707 875055 308

A rambling old timbered pub opposite the village cricket ground. A Chef and Brewer, the menu includes pies, grills and burgers plus a range of "pub classics". There is a separate gluten-free menu. Open All day from 11am (9.30am Sat & Sun). NOTE: At the time of print, the pub was operating a cashless policy. *Greene King IPA or Old Golden Hen.*

Tonwell

Robin Hood and Little John

14 Ware Road, SG12 0HN

01920 463352 383, 384

A bright Grade II listed Free House offering accommodation, with split-level bar and pleasant patio. Closed Sundays and Mondays the pub opens Tues-Sat noon till 2.30pm and 6-11pm. The wholesome home-cooked food attracts walkers, cyclists and motorists during each opening session. Dogs not allowed inside. *Two changing guest cask ales.*

Real Ale – cask ale - is brewed from the traditional ingredients of malted barley, hops, water and brewer's yeast then kept in casks which allow for secondary fermentation and conditioning in the pub cellar. Most pubs in this guide use handpumps to dispense cask-conditioned beer to the customer. Since 1971 the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has fought tirelessly to promote Real Ale and continues to be the beer drinkers' foremost champion on matters as diverse as pub closures and preservation, the scourge of high Beer Duty levels, Planning, Business Rates and Pub Company restrictive practices.

Cider, Perry and CAMRA

Traditional Hertfordshire cider makers may be few in number but the likes of Apple Cottage (Baldock) are making CAMRA-approved award-winning ciders and perries and an increasing number of pubs are occasionally stocking real ciders and perries including half a dozen or so in this Guide.

South Hertfordshire Branch

Formed in 1972, the Branch is CAMRA's oldest Branch, covering an area from Ware in the east to St. Albans and Harpenden in the west and south to the Greater London boundary. It meets monthly and arranges a range of events from Brewery and Beer Festival visits to pub trails. Its St. Albans Beer and Cider Festival, held each year at the end of September, is one of England's leading provincial Beer Festivals. Branch Pub, Club and Cider Pub awards are made annually. Our yearly Hertford town pub trail has been described as a "beer festival on the move". To find out more about Branch activities please go to www.southherts.camra.org.uk Pubs east of Ware are covered by the Herts/Essex Borders Branch, www.heb-camra.org.uk.

Hertfordshire Pints of View Magazine

The printed Hertfordshire CAMRA quarterly magazine "Pints of View" is a lively read that keeps drinkers abreast of news and changes in the local cask ale, pub and brewery scene. It can be found in many local pubs, in libraries, museums and tourist offices - also on-line at www.pintsofview.camra.org.uk

CAMRA Membership

To become a CAMRA member visit www.camra.org.uk or telephone 01727 867201. CAMRA's national administration is currently based in Hatfield Road, St. Albans, due to relocate to Luton in 2024.

