

# A Guide To REAL ALE in WARE



Guide To Hertford Overleaf

Ware is situated on the River Lea where the town's riverside gazebos are an attractive feature. Once a significant crossing point for stage coaches travelling between London and Cambridge, its High Street is marked with many former coaching inns. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ware had become the leading maling town in Britain and many of these buildings remain, now put to other uses. The picturesque Bluecoat Yard and Scott's Grotto, which is open at times during the warmer months (bring a torch!), are worth a detour from the town's welcoming wide variety of pubs. Ware Museum in the High Street has many displays that are worth discovery – open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 11am – 4pm and Sunday 2 – 4pm. Our Ware cover drawing depicts the former Wickham's Star tower brewery in Watton Road.

## Travelling to Ware

Ware Railway Station connects with Hertford East and with Liverpool Street and to Cambridge via Broxbourne. Local buses include the 310, 331, 395 and 907 services and the cross-Hertfordshire 724 route. By road, Ware can be found just east of the A10, north of the A414 and is some 10 miles from its junction with the A1 (M) at Hatfield. Hertford lies 2½ miles to the south-west.

### Angel (1)

54 Star Street, SG12 7AQ  
07772 135212 395, M1, M3

A friendly community pub with distinct bar areas and a child-friendly artificial-grassed garden where tasty stone-bake pizzas are available. Keen on sport, Spurs and Arsenal fans have their own bars. The garden has a large TV and 3 pods with smaller screens. Occasional live music on Saturdays. Open all day from noon. *Black Sheep Bitter, Adnams Ghostship or Timothy Taylor Landlord served in rotation.*

### Beefeater (2)

Marsh Lane, SG12 9QB  
01920 459859 310, 395, 907

Large, modern steakhouse next door to a Premier Inn. Open all day from 11.30am with breakfast served from 6.30am-10.30am weekdays and 7am-11am weekends. Dogs only allowed outside. *Greene King IPA and Sharp's Doom Bar.*

### Brewery Tap (3)

83 High Street, SG12 9AD  
01920 468549 331, 384, 907

A warm and friendly, busy town centre pub with courtyard seating. There is a public car park next door. DJs and live music feature at weekends, karaoke every Sunday fortnight. Inside find the penny wall and wallpaper map depicting the area. Opens 1pm Mon-Tues and all day Wed-Sun from noon. *St Austell Tribute, Oakham Citra, Greene King Abbot & Timothy Taylor Landlord, a house beer and one guest.*

### Crooked Billet (4)

140 Musley Hill, SG12 7NL  
01920 462516 395 (In Homefield Rd)

Friendly and cosy gem of a traditional community pub with two bars. Outside there are tables to the front and rear. A beer festival is held in September. CAMRA's South Hertfordshire Pub of the Year Silver award winner in 2023. Families with children welcome until 8pm. Opens from 4pm Mon-Fri and all day from noon at weekends. *Three to four guest ales – often a dark beer at weekends.*

### High Oak (5)

26 High Oak Road, SG12 7PD  
07770 537071 395 (in New Road)

A charming, terraced, family-friendly pub with a patio garden to the rear and a decked area at the front. There are strong links with Hertford Rugby club. Tuesday is quiz night and weekends sometimes feature acoustic music sessions. There's a popular quarterly psychic night. Closed Mon, opens 5pm Tues-Thurs, 3.30pm on Fri and all day from noon at weekends. *Sharp's Doom Bar plus a further rotating cask ale.*

### Kings Mead (6)

Hertford Road, SG12 9LE  
01920 896800 310, 395, 907

A family-orientated pub and golf centre. The pub is food led with daily chef specials but there is an area for drinkers near the bar and plenty of space outside - the pub overlooking Chadwell Spring (a fount of the New River) and the Lea Valley. Occasional music at weekends. Opens at 10am daily. *Three alternating beers from the McMullen range.*

### Maltings (7)

35 Watton Road, SG12 0AD  
07595 599055 384, 907

A popular, tidy community pub with darts and live music once a month on a Saturday. Dogs are not allowed inside but welcome on the patio at the front of the pub. Opens at 3pm Mon-Thurs (2.30pm Fri) and all day Sat/Sun. *Greene King IPA, Abbot, Adnams Ghost Ship.*

### Old Bulls Head (8)

26 Baldock Street, SG12 9DZ  
01920 413564 331, 384, 907

This attractive, timbered, 17thC building marks the west of the town centre. Look out for the parliamentary clock, ingle-nook fire place and list of former Ware pubs. The garden and patio are popular with families. Opens 3pm Mon-Thurs, all day Fri-Sun. Meals 6-8.30pm Mon-Thurs, 12-2.30pm and 6-8.30pm Fri, 12-6pm Sat and Sun. *Theakston Best, Old Peculier.*

### Punch House (9)

7 West Street, SG12 9EE  
01920 467675 331, 384, 907

A large town centre pub (once two pubs) mostly dating from the 18thC, popular with families and eaters, offering meals all day until 9pm. Poker on Mondays and live bands and DJs at weekends. To the rear there is a large outside drinking area. Open all day from noon. *Greene King IPA, Abbot, House Beer; 1 guest ale.*

### Quiet Man (10)

23 High Street, SG12 9BP  
01992 517440 331, 395, 907

A welcoming pub with keen sports fans and with live music every Saturday. A piano player tinkles the ivories every other Friday. Wheelchair users should note that there is a step up into the pub – please ask for assistance. Seating available street-side. *Dark Star Hophead, St. Austell Tribute, Sharp's Doom Bar.*

### Rose and Crown (11)

65 Watton Road, SG12 0AD  
01920 462371 907

A traditional comfortable family-friendly pub built from locally made Hitch bricks. There is a range of pub games available including darts and pool and there is a pleasant grassed garden at the rear. Opens 2pm Mon-Wed, all day Thurs-Sun. *McMullen AK Original.*

### Royal Oak (12)

20 London Road, SG12 9LP  
01920 462755 310, 724, 907

A friendly, charming and comfortable, timbered pub close to Ware Regional College. A secluded walled patio is at the rear. Varying opening times but generally from 5pm Wed-Sat and 3pm on Sun (closed Mon and Tues). *One guest ale usually from Sharp's Doom Bar, Timothy Taylor Landlord or Fuller's London Pride.*

### Spread Eagle (13)

37 Amwell End, SG12 9HP  
01992 303716 310, 395, 907

An old-fashioned, small and friendly locals pub close to the town centre. Next to Ware Station's level crossing and opposite an entrance to the New River Walk, there are occasional live music nights at weekends. Open all day from 12. *McMullen's AK Original Mild.*

### Waterside Inn (14)

Bridgefoot, SG12 9DW  
01920 468628 331, 395, 907

Large popular pub with a sun-trap patio alongside the River Lea. Navigation and its passing narrowboats. Eight cask ales sometimes including one from a Herts brewer. There's a quiz every Tuesday and on the last Sunday of the month. Open all day from 10am, good pub fayre food is served all day. *St. Austell Proper Job, Sharp's Doom Bar, Brain's Reverend James, Adnams Ghost Ship plus 4 guest ales.*

### George IV

Cautherley Lane, SG12 9SW  
01920 870039 310, 351, 907 (500 yds)

A vibrant food-led and comfortable village pub, located uphill from the picturesque New River path offering quality meals during opening hours and until 4pm on Sun. Parking can be difficult. Dogs allowed in the outside areas at the front and rear of the pub. Opens noon until 3pm and 6pm to 10pm Wed-Sun (closed Mon and Tues). *One changing cask beer, sometimes from a Hertfordshire brewer.*

### Hailey

#### Galley Hall

Hailey Lane, SG13 7NY  
01992 462906 310, 907 (750 yds Ware Rd)

With an atmospheric bar, old timbers and flagstone flooring (and a new separate extension for functions), there is an emphasis on providing well-prepared good-value meals. Note the old Christie brewery sign high on the pub fascia. Opens all day from noon until 10pm midweek, 11pm Fri-Sat and 9pm Sun. Meals are available lunchtimes and evenings and all day at weekends. *Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Greene King IPA plus 2 guest beers*

### St. Margarets

#### Jolly Fisherman

8 Station Road, SG12 8DH  
01920 870125 310, 351, 410

A large family orientated pub, next to the River Lea where there is plenty of seating to enjoy the passing boats. Thursday is quiz night, a themed quiz is on the last Tuesday of the month. The all day pub fayre menu includes roasts on Sundays. Opens all day from 11am Mon-Sat and from noon on Sundays. *McMullen AK Original Mild, Country Best Bitter, IPA plus a Mac's seasonal brew.*

### Stanstead Abbotts

#### Oak

36 High Street, SG12 8AG  
01920 633228 351, 410

A busy and lively community local in the heart of the village with music on Fridays (DJs) and Saturdays (live bands). Opens all day commencing at noon (closed on Tues, meals until 8pm). *Fuller's London Pride and ESB plus a Fuller's guest ale.*

### Red Lion

1 High Street, SG12 8AA  
01920 410056 351, 410

A characterful 15thC pub where the modern meets the old. A quiz on Tues. The menu includes steak night on Wed. Occasional live music at weekends and look out for cinema nights in September. Open from 3pm Mon and Tues and all day from Wed. Food from noon until 3pm and 6-9pm (no food Mon and Tues), Sun noon until 4pm. *One changing cask beer.*

### Feathers

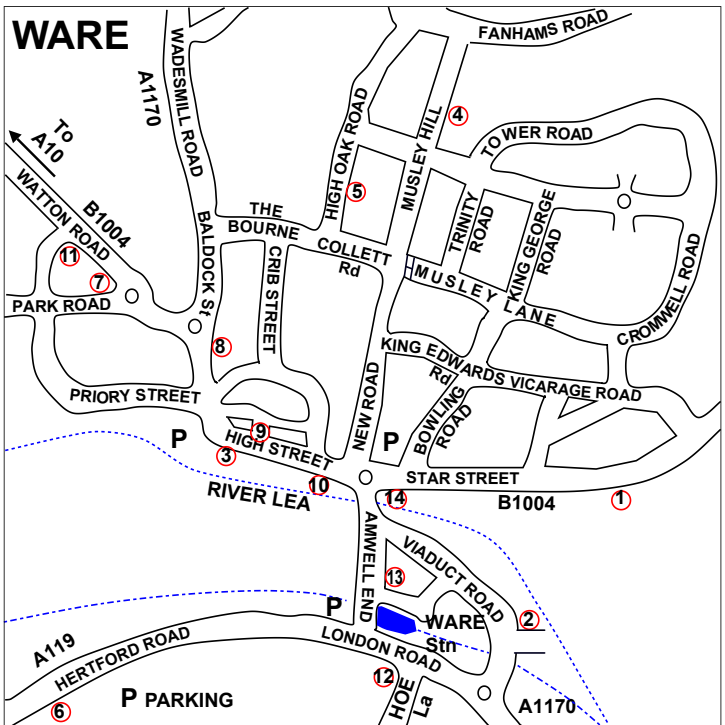
44 Cambridge Road, SG12 0TN  
01920 462606 331

Fully refurbished internally in 2022, this historic 400 year-old Chef and Brewer and hotel has open fires and three garden spaces. Open all day from 11am (breakfasts and brunches are served from 7am Mon-Fri, 8am at weekends). NOTE: At the time of print, the pub was operating a cashless policy. *Greene King IPA, Abbot plus one guest.*

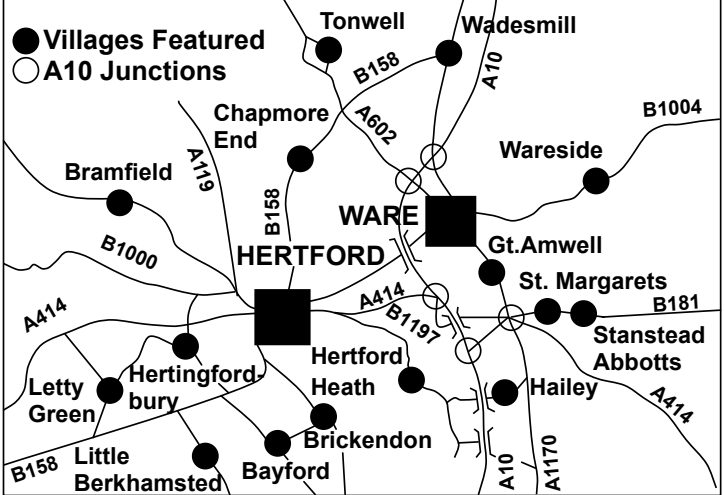
### Chequers

Ware Road, SG12 7QY  
01920 467010 M3, M4

A charming quiet and characterful 15thC village Free House with four distinct bar areas and a small number of outside tables. All the food is home-made using local produce enticing walkers and cyclists who make the pub a good base for a ramble. Open 12-3pm and 6-11pm Mon - Sat (10.30pm Sun). Food served every session. *Two ever-changing real ales.*



## LOCATION MAP



Cask ale (Real Ale) and the pubs that sell it need a lift - they need all of us to support them. We hope that this guide will encourage you to enjoy cask ale and the pubs in the district that are selling it. All of the pub information included here was collected by local CAMRA surveyors in the spring and summer of 2023. As the pub scene is forever developing, please excuse any inaccuracies you may encounter. Edited by Les Middlewood, Joe Saunders and Brian Page. This guide can also be found on-line and enlarged at [southherts.camra.org.uk/campaigning/local-pub-guides/](https://southherts.camra.org.uk/campaigning/local-pub-guides/)

## Other Pubs and Bars

You may find other pubs and bars in the area. They are not included in this Guide because they either do not currently sell cask ale or operate restrictive entry practices. CAMRA's pub database [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com) lists all Hertford and Ware district pubs in greater detail. The Hop Box in Amwell End, Ware specialises in a wide range of craft keg beers.

## Clubs and Real Ale

The following clubs are known to sell a range of cask ales – a small entry fee is applicable for guests of club members at the Bengoe Club (Bengoe Street, Hertford). Membership can be applied for at Allenbury's Sports and Social Club (Harris Lane, Ware).

## Sports and Real Ale

Hertford Rugby Club (Hoe Lane, Ware), Hertford Football Club (West Street, Hertford) and Hertford Cricket Club (Mangrove Road, Hertford) offer cask ale on match days.

## Opening Hours

Many publicans, for personal, local or economic reasons, operate reduced opening hours, some not opening on certain days of the week, some not at lunchtimes. These hours can also be seasonal. We give indicative hours but please check [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com) for more detailed information. Most local pubs also have their own websites and/or Facebook pages.

## Children

The great majority of pubs in this Guide are pleased to welcome adults with children so long as they are closely supervised. However, there may be some time restrictions particularly in the evening. It is recommended that you telephone ahead. Note: Only a few pubs currently offer baby changing facilities.

## Accessibility

The pub entries include symbols for wheelchair accessibility and WC facilities. To determine more precise facilities please telephone ahead.

## Dogs

Many of the pubs in this Guide welcome well-behaved dogs. However, some do not allow dogs inside, particularly in restaurants.

## Local Breweries

McMullen's have been Hertford family brewers since 1827 - now with 125 pubs, including a significant contingent in Hertford and Ware. The compact brewery brews the award-winning AK Original Mild and Country Best Bitter cask ales supplemented with IPA and regular seasonal beers sometimes badged under the Rivertown banner. Come to Hertford on brewing days and there is no mistaking the aroma that weaves through the town centre streets. Other Hertfordshire real ale brewers are often represented in the pubs of the area. Look out for cask ales from Tring Brewery, New River Brewery (Hoddesdon), 3 Brewers of St. Albans (near Wheathampstead), Farrbrew (near Wheathampstead), Buntingford (Therfield) and Mad Squirrel (near Hemel Hempstead).

## Symbols

