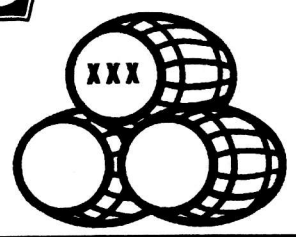


FREE



THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER



A bi-monthly publication for the discerning real ale drinker

October/November 1991

CIRCULATION 4000

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WHAT'S IN YOUR PINT? —YOU SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

The Campaign for Real Ale has called for the ingredients of all alcoholic drinks to be listed, whether draught or bottled. CAMRA's call comes in a submission to the Food Advisory Committee, which is reviewing food labelling law. CAMRA has also written to the European Commission, urging it to bring forward a directive on ingredients listing for alcoholic drinks.

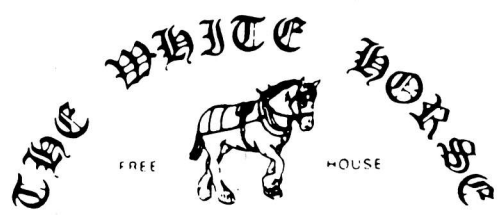
The customer should have a right to know what is in their pint, says CAMRA. But most brewers keep the ingredients of their beer shrouded in secrecy. Other foods, and low alcohol drinks are exempt from the relevant legislation.

This means that if you buy a pint of beer, an orange juice, a low alcohol lager, and a pack of crisps, you have the right to know what is in everything but in the beer.

"We believe it is time for glasnost in the brewing industry. A more health conscious and intelligent

consumer wants to know what they are drinking. The brewers should have nothing to fear from openness."

CAMRA's submission also calls for the place where beer is brewed to be listed, to expose brewers who brew at more than one site; and for compulsory listing of whether beers and ciders are processed or 'real'. Finally, CAMRA wants racking and bottling dates listed, which it says are more relevant than 'best before' dates for beer.



castle street ... old hertford

Widest selection of real ales in Hertford with many guest beers served on gravity and hand pump

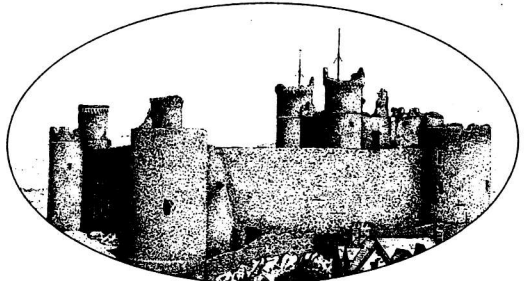
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Reduced prices on cask ale
5.30 to 6.30 pm Mon – Fri

....

Home cooked food weekday lunchtimes

Gordon and Sorrell
invite you to try their award-winning
Fuller's Chiswick, London Pride & E.S.B.
at the



Gibraltar Castle
Lower Luton Road, Batford, Harpenden
Meals now available all opening times

BREWERY NEWS

Burts Brewery on the Isle of Wight, recently taken over by a midlands consortium led by barrister Ken Bruce, has stopped brewing until October while £100,000 is spent replacing the brewery equipment. Their beer is currently being produced by Allied at Burton. **Burts** beer range will change with the introduction of **Yachtsman Bitter**, **Lighthouse** (medium strength) and **Needles**, a strong beer. It seems likely that bottling will stop and a canning line will be installed.

Burts are about to face local competition for the first time for a few years. **Hartridges**, who have concentrated on soft drinks since their brewery at Hambledon near Portsmouth was destroyed by bombs in 1940, are to start brewing in Newport, IoW. They plan to produce an ordinary bitter, **Nipper**, a **Newport Best Bitter** with a winter warmer to follow. The ex-Matthew Brown brewer, Jim Botur, has set up his own brewery, **Lion Original Brew**, in Burnley. It's close to **Moorhouse's** brewery which has itself installed new equipment to meet increased demand.

Youngs have bought the Finch's chain of 22 pubs for a reported £11.951 million. At the other end of the scale, **Palmer's** of Bridport have joined the pub buying crowd: they've added one to their 70 strong estate. As they said, they're not rushing into things.

New beers include an **Extra Special** (5% abv) from **Vaux**, and a "deceptively pale in colour" **Formidable Ale** (1045-1050 og) from **Cains**. **Cains** have managed to get their Bitter into Tetley Walker's guest list, and expect it to be on sale in 30 pubs of another big brewer.

The Redruth Brewery, bought by the management from **Devenish**, have won a contract with Whitbreads to brew **Cornish Original**. Whitbread bought all the brand names from Devenish a few months ago.

The **Ushers** brewery has been bought by its management from Grand Metropolitan along with 430 pubs.

At the time of writing another possible management buyout, that of **Cameron's** from **Brent Walker**, was still in doubt. The stumbling block appear to be the need to obtain 250-plus pubs to make the brewery viable. There was news that **Vaux** could be interested in buying the brewery and 300 pubs, and that if that went ahead the long-term future of the brewery would be in serious doubt.

Hertfordshire's **McMullen** have won awards at the brewing trades international event, the Monde Selection, where **Charles Wells** have done well in recent years. Grand Gold Medals went to No 1 Pale Ale, castle Special Pale Ale and Crafter Low Alcohol Bitter, and Gold Medals to Hartsman lager, Premium Export Lager and last, but not least, Country Best Bitter. Expect to see font adornments soon.

SOUTH HERTS PUB OF THE YEAR 1991

On Tuesday 8th October South. Herts branch members will present their pub of the year award to Mike and Solveig Barrowman of the **Plough** at Tyttenhanger, near St. Albans.

The **Plough** is a very popular free house offering a choice of nine real ales, including Adnams, Brakspears, Fullers, Greene King, Hook Norton and Marstons.

Any visitor will be struck by the impressive displays of bottled beers, numbering over 1200. These are strictly not for sale, representing Mike's personal collection from around the world. Indeed, his reputation as a real ale landlord has spread far and wide. He has been featured on

Radio 4's Today programme, and in the pages of the New York Times! Furthermore, the **Plough** has appeared in every Good Beer Guide since 1987. So it is a fitting and worthy winner of the Pub of the Year award. Please come along and join in the celebrations on the evening of October 8th.

P.S. Mike is off to New York in November to run in the Marathon where he hopes to raise lots of money in aid of a Romanian orphanage, which will be rebuilt by Harpenden builders, Grimwade. So bring lots of spare cash with you.

FESTIVAL FEVER

Dockland drunk dry –

Huntsman sell out and more to come in Letchworth.

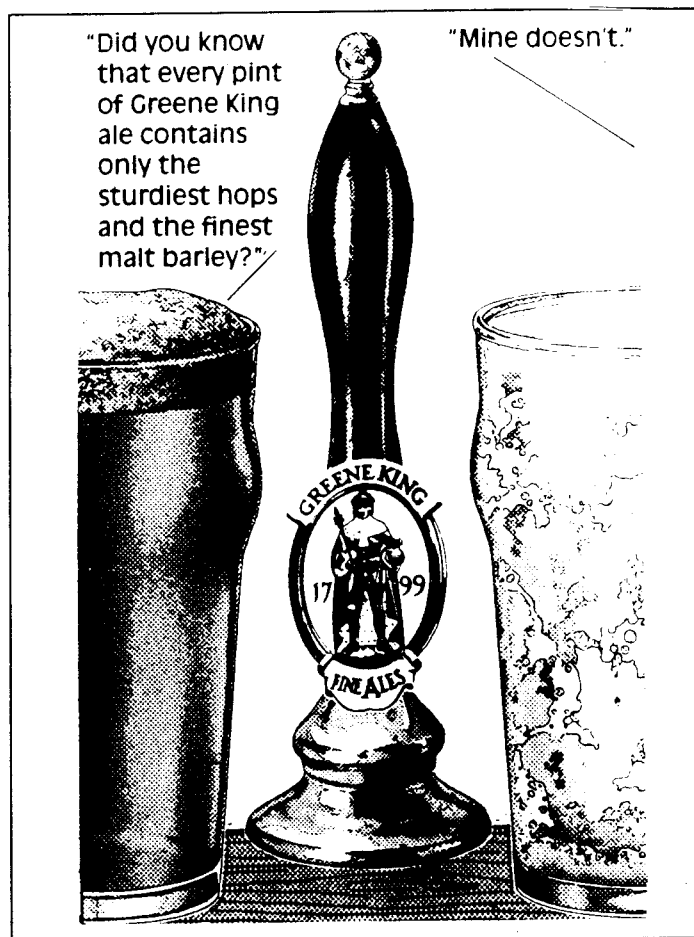
The return of the Great British Beer Festival to London proved a great success despite the transport problems many visitors experienced. Over 34,000 people visited the festival at the Docklands Arena and that figure would have been higher if the Docklands Light Railway replacement bus service had run efficiently on the Saturday.

Over 152,000 pints of real ale were drunk; over 8,000 prizes were given away on the tombola and other games and 1,200 new members joined **CAMRA** taking the total membership to around 29,200, the highest figure in the campaign's 20 year history.

Given the success it's not surprising to learn that it is hoped to run the GBBF in London again next year as part of CAMRA's 21st Birthday celebrations. Although the actual location is to be finalised, it is provisionally scheduled for the 4th to 8th August.

Over the August bank holiday Ken Fagin of the **Huntsman**, Goose Green near Hoddesdon, staged a beer festival in the extensive grounds of the pub.

Ken was absolutely bowled over by the popularity of the event, he had 75, 9 gallon barrels of 44 different beers all from independent brewers and every drop was drunk by



Monday evening, all his emergency supplies were exhausted and he had to arrange extra parking space with a neighbouring farmer. Needless to say you can expect bigger and better next year.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BEER FESTIVAL

A selection of 40 cask conditioned ales from many of Britain's independent breweries, plus traditional cider and perry, will be on sale at the **North Hertfordshire Beer Festival**, on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November at the **Plinston Hall, Letchworth**.

Unusual beers being ordered for the festival include Big End Old Lubrication, Bunces Benchmark, Goldfinch Flashmans Clout, Hanby Treacleminer, Sarah Hughes Sedgley Surprise, Moorhouses Black Cat Mild, Robinwood Old Fart, Woodfordes Baldric and the 1991 Champion Beer of Britain. Mauldons Blackadder, plus many of your favourite brews.

Opening hours will be, Friday 11.30 to 3, 5 to 11, and Saturday 11 to 3 and 6 to 11. A small admission charge will be made, of 50p lunchtimes and £1 for evening sessions. CAMRA members with cards free of charge. The beer will be on sale at reasonable prices and commemorative glasses are being produced. Food will be available during opening hours and other attractions include a tombola with many prizes to be won and a CAMRA product stall.

TOWN AND AROUND

Its nice to know that someone reads these words of wisdom. A couple of issues ago we asked for more information on the new licencees of the **Peacock**, St. Albans, and who should write in but the landlord himself; Liam Hayes. He says he is running the pub as a family concern, currently stocks Wethereds, Castle Eden, Flowers Original and intends to have a fourth brand soon the choice of which he is open to suggestion. The theme is the country pub in the city, home cooked food is available noon – 9.30 and the pub is open all allowable hours. The house charity is for mechanised wheelchairs for disabled children and he plans many sports and community projects.

Another Whitbread house in the city is up for sale, the **Beehive** Watsons Row is looking for offers in the region of £210,000. The **Beehive** is well known in folk circles for the club run in the upstairs function room. We hope a sympathetic owner can be found.

Two Benskins landlords in the city are on the move in disgust at the new Vanguard leases being introduced by Allied Breweries; John Wells left the **Harrow**, Verulam Road in September and James Lennon of the **Verulam Arms**, Welclose St. is working his notice.

The **Saracens Head**, Redbourn's lease is up for grabs under the Intntrepreneur scheme run by Grand Metropolitan. These schemes have come in for a lot of criticism of late for charging landlords crippling rents. In fact Intntrepreneur Estates Ltd. have recently been advertising for a 'senior treasury professional' to 'optimise the rental and capital returns for the portfolio' and the salary £70,000+ bonus + car.

If money is no problem, you may be interested in the **Prince Henry**, Great Offley near Luton yours for £450,000. This freehouse and restaurant was called the Gloucester Arms until 1988 when it was renamed after a locally produced Vauxhall car.

The dust has now settled on the alterations to the **Anchor**, Hitchin and the **Rising Sun**, Stevenage and the range of

beers are Greene King IPA, Abbot and Rayments Special but alas no XX Mild.

A recent convert to Real Ale is the **Thatched House**, Weston with McMullen Original AK and the **White Horse** in the village has added a conservatory/family room. The **White Bear** Royston formerly a Whitbread house is now a freehouse selling Adnams and Ruddles Best Bitter. Courage Director's is now available at the **Black Bull**, Buntingford, and Hall & Woodhouse Badger Best Bitter is on at the **Plough**, Great Mundon. The bad news is that Country Bitter is now keg at the **Lamb & Flag**, Colliers End but the AK is still real.

The **Gibraltar Castle**, Batford, has re-opened after a six-week refurbishment. Gordon and Sorrell Cunnigham, the tenants of this Fuller's House, have taken great care to keep the character of this old pub intact, while adding to both the bar and drinking areas. In keeping with its name, the Gib has been tastefully renovated to reflect its military associations, with a collection of genuine uniforms and artefacts dating back some two centuries. The new Gib is spacious and comfortable, yet cosy. Food, including a vegetarian choice, is available all opening hours. Chiswick Bitter is a welcome addition to the range which includes the ever popular London Pride and ESB.

Fullers are now busy in Hemel Hempstead, where they have closed the **White Horse**, Apsley for refurbishment. While down the road the **Fountain**, closed since January by Benskins has been demolished. At the other end of town at Piccotts End, the ex Charrington house, the **Marchmont Arms** has now reopened as a Whitbread Beefeater. In Berkhamsted the **Black Horse** closed for sometime, is to become an Indian restaurant and the **Swan** remains closed.

The **Inn on the Green**, Datchworth has changed ownership and the range of beers has been extended to include Timothy Taylors Best Bitter and Landlord, Fullers Pride, Youngs Special, Bass and Adnams plus guests. The name of the pub may be reverting to one of its former names, the Tilbury.

The extension to the **Oddfellows Arms**, Harpenden is beginning to take shape. It's a pity that the council insisted on over half the garden becoming an 11 space car park, especially when there is a 400 space car park only a stones throw away. Round the corner the **Inn on the Green** has had its plans for a conservatory on the front turned down; Greene King are likely to appeal. The **Plough** Tyttenhanger has also had plans for a conservatory and extra parking turned down.

The **Farmers Boy**, Brickendon which has been closed for some time is now for sale. Rideleys IPA is now a regular guest at the **Sportsman**, Hertford, and the **Tudor Tavern** St. Albans has been featuring beers from Glenny; Wychwood Best and Dr. Thirsty.

The **Railway Arms**, Oxhey, has started using its spare handpump. Currently Hook Norton Bitter and Tetleys are alternating, Greene King IPA continues to be available.

The much renovated and extended **Bedford Arms**, Watford, has reopened selling Benskins and Tetleys. It's pricier (though the real ales are comparable to other Watford pubs), plusher and noisier than before and now has some seats outside at the back of the pub.

The **White Horse**, Chorleywood, has stopped selling Greene King Mild due to lack of sales. It's replacement in one bar by Rayments Special obviously didn't help.

Stop Press: A new outlet for real ale; the **Gloucester Arms**, Hitchin is now selling Greene King Abbot and IPA on handpump.

DIARY DATES

HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Tuesday 8 October, **Pub of the Year, Plough**, Tyttenhanger, near St. Albans, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 22 October, Branch meeting, **Rose & Crown**, Welwyn, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 29 October, Conkers match, **Rose & Crown**, St. Michaels St., St. Albans, 8.30pm.

Tuesday 19 November, Branch meeting, **Gibraltar Castle**, Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, 8.30pm.

New Year Party; details later, 10 January 1992

Contact: Bob Norrish; 0582 763 133 x 2554 or 0582 769 923

WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

Wednesday 2 October: Rickmansworth crawl – **Feathers** 8.30pm, **White Bear** 9.15pm, **Coach & Horses** 10.00pm.

Tuesday 8 October: Social in Bedmond – **Bell** 8.30pm, **White Hart** 9.30pm.

Tuesday 16 October: **White Lion**, Watford 8.30pm – students especially welcome.

Tuesday 29 October: Local Good Beer Guide launch at the **Black Horse**, Chorleywood, 8.30pm.

Wednesday 6 November: Bushey crawl – **Horse & Chains** 8.30pm, **King Stag** 9.15pm, **Swan** 10.00pm

Wednesday 13 November: **Breweriana Auction** at **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue, Watford, starts 8.00pm.

Tuesday 19 November: **Land of Liberty**, Heronsgate 8.30pm, **Stag**, The Swillett, Chorleywood, 9.30pm.

Transport available from Watford Junction 8.00pm.

Wednesday 27 November: Watford crawl – **Golden Lion** 8.30pm, **Estcourt Tavern** 9.15pm, **Estcourt Arms** 10.00pm

Contact: Martin Few 0923 52412

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Wednesday 9 October, 8.30pm Branch meeting at the **Coach and Horses**, Royston.

Wednesday 23 October, 8.30pm Ickleford crawl, starting at **Old George** then **Plume of Feathers** and **Cricketers**

Wednesday 6 November. 8.30pm. Codicote Area crawl, starting at **Globe** then **Goat**, on to **Robin Hood & Little John**, Rabley Heath, and **Lytton Arms**, Old Knebworth.

Friday 15/Saturday 16 November **North Hertfordshire Beer Festival**, Plinston Hall, Letchworth.

Wednesday 27 November, afternoon; Visiting **Ridleys Brewery** (Essex)

Wednesday 4 December, 8.30pm. Branch meeting at **Royal Oak**, Stevenage.

Wednesday 18 December, 8.30pm Christmas Crawl around Royston, starting at **The Chequers**.

Contact: Paul Coard, 0462 - 437249

ALL HERTS LIAISON MEETING

Monday 21 October **Chequers** Wareside 8.30pm. Herts–Essex Border Branch hosting.

MID-CHILTERNES BRANCH

Contact: Chris Pontin 0494 78624(w) 0494 775409(h)

HERTS-ESSEX BORDERS

Contact: Angie Wright 0277 225815

BREWERIANA AUCTION

The Watford & District branch of CAMRA will be holding an auction of breweriana on Wednesday 13th November at the **West Herts Sports Club**, Park Avenue (off Rickmansworth Road), Watford. The auction will start at 8.00pm, with viewing from 7.30pm. Amongst the lots will be ash trays from Duttons and Grays, bottle openers from Hodges and Phipps, pump clips, commemorative and brewery glasses, beer mats, bottle labels and brewery mirrors. Further details from Martin Few 0923 52412.

CAMRA HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCHES ANNUAL BREWERY WEEKEND

Friday 11th October to Sunday 13th

Visiting Uley Brewery Friday evening. Joint Social with Gwent Branch.

2 Nights at Hunters Hall Hotel, Kingscote (6x; Uley Old Spot; Hook Norton Bitter; Bass – Lates 'No Problem')

Approx Cost £80 including Luxury Coach Travel

Contact Ian Turvey (0763) 61570 (w)

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 22 November 7.45pm, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow. Teams of 1 to 6, tickets in advance by 8 November. Contact: Andy Speller: Harlow 434555 or Mick Gill: Harlow 428812.

APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign. I am/We are over 18 years of age (AGE)*

NAME(S)

DATE

ADDRESS

.....

.....

SIGNATURE

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for

one year: **U.K. £10**

Overseas £14

I/We would like to receive further information about CAMRA

* Knowledge of the average age of our members would be helpful. The information need only be given if you wish **ALL MEMBERS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:

**THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD.,
34 ALMA ROAD, ST. ALBANS., HERTS. AL1 3BW
OR WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DIRECT DEBIT?**

The Hertfordshire Newsletter is produced by the Hertfordshire North, Hertfordshire South, Watford & District and Mid-Chilterns branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, CAMRA Ltd or its Branches. Any articles or letters for publication should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced; handwritten items should also be well spaced and as legible as possible please. Send to: Eric Sim, 10 Heron Way, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8QL.

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