

# THE HERTFORDSHIRE NEWSLETTER

The Campaign for Real Ale

CAMRA

FREE

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 1987

CIRCULATION 5000

NUMBER 100

## WHAT'S IN YOUR PINT?

The launch of the 1987 Good Beer Guide stirred up a torrent of controversy after comments made by the editor, Neil Hanson, about additives in beer.

Neil said that a special analysis of some brands of beer and cider carried out for CAMRA had shown "enough arsenic, lead and zinc to start a heavy metal band". He appealed for all ingredients to be listed on labels, like other foodstuffs.

But this demand for information did not meet with approval from the brewers. The Brewers' Society described CAMRA claims over additives as "absolute tripe".

Neil described the reaction of brewers in general, and the Brewers' Society in particular as "bordering on the hysterical." He added: "We have obviously touched on a very raw nerve. The Brewers' Society over-reaction shows that the stone we have lifted conceals some very nasty things.

"What we have said is that some brewers - not all - are using undesirable additives. But until they all come clean with the customer about what exactly goes into our pint, then a cloud of suspicion must hang over them all."

In their counter attack, the Brewers' Society rejected the idea of listing ingredients in beer. "Most of the things which start out to be used in the production of beer are not there in the final product," said spokesman Kenneth Dunjohn.

The whole uproar is not unlike the controversy a decade ago surrounding the declaration of original gravities. Then it was CAMRA who had to analyse beers to find out their strength, and to campaign for the consumer to be told basic information.

## 100 ISSUES AGO

This is the 100th issue of the Hertfordshire Newsletter, which first appeared in February 1978, hence the celebratory colour.

The lead article in issue Number 1 was concerned with Ind Coope having slapped 2p on a pint, having found a loophole in the then Prices Commission rulings. The piece berated the tactics of Ind Coope, who had made profits of £77M in the previous year, and asked if the reader could now afford Burton Ale at 40p a pint.

Other matters of concern in the first issue were the threat to the survival of XX Dark Mild from Greene Kings Biggleswade brewery (still here despite the continued lack of advertising), and the suspect activities of Watneys and Trumans in dispensing real ale. More specifically, Herts North Branch was about to celebrate its Pub of the Year at the **Cabinet**, Reed; handpumps had just been installed at the **Star**, Furneaux Pelham; and the Herts/Essex Borders Branch had just noted the 100th real ale pub in its area, a doubling in numbers in two years.



castle street ... old hertford

Renovations now complete

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

....  
Reduced prices on cask ale  
5-30 to 7.00 pm Mon-Fri.

...  
Home cooked food at all times

**The Crooked Billet** Colney Heath  
Tel: Bowmansgreen 22128



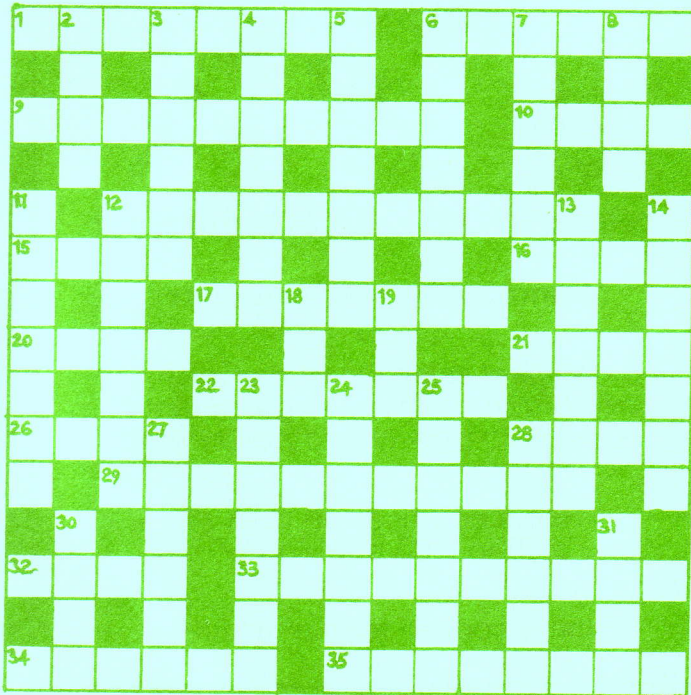
*One of  
Hertfordshires  
Old Village Pubs  
Traditional  
Draught Beer  
in Olde-World  
surroundings*

# NORTH HERTS CONTINUES

CAMRA North Hertfordshire recently called an extraordinary general meeting to see if there was sufficient interest to continue. I'm happy to report that, without being overwhelmed, enough members showed interest to warrant the branch continuing. A new committee was formed and a meeting was arranged to sort out specific functions for those people. It would be a great help to the new committee if other campaign members in North Hertfordshire support them.  
PC

**Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to Landlords and Staff of all real ale pubs in Hertfordshire and to all Newsletter readers and advertisers.**

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



### Across

1. I told Pam to become a state representative (8)
6. Beer brings in additional correspondence at start of year near Hemel Hempstead (6)
9. Old form of transport in Boxmoor (10)
10. To put beer in casks in a kind of torture (4)
12. Nelly gets 34 mixed up with Hitchin pub (6,5)
15. Team entranced by film – they head here when it's over (4)
16. Pub in Potters Bar often associated with 14 (4)
17. Tree, if left to develop, will be capable of producing fruit (7)
20. You need some for collection when in church (4)
21. Smart chap, something of a male chauvinist (4)
22. Herts village ready-made for the French or Spanish to take up residence (7)
26. Casino house, initially, wanting a penny for this? Probably rather more(4)
28. Dry up right after the drink (4)
29. D.C. to inspect disturbance in vicinity of Boar's Head (8, 3)
32. We have a right to enter town (4)
33. Buffalo's Head regulars here might call Cupid Greek by mistake (10)
34. Neighbour of nine making rape-seed extract (6)
35. Resist change in inside left (8)

### Down

2. Letter from abroad, the first nine here returned (4)
  3. Found out how to make money in London Transport (6)
  4. Came the revolution, cuts hereby made (7)
  5. Bridge partners in characteristic pasing (7)
  6. Fag remains in good health after drinking at the Engine here (7)
  7. Following silence, stream is strident (6)
  8. Eat out in quiet Chinese (4)
  11. Two gallons with company in St. Albans pub (7)
  12. It gives an overview of a politician's initiative to contain Irish troubles (7)
  13. Eyelid with red end fluttered and gave up (7)
  14. Drink her in Abbots Langley, no longer in Hertford (7)
  18. Colour of house in Croxley Green (3)
  19. Instil lager to some extent – what you might be if you did (3)
  23. They show you right pieces to cook (7)
  24. Tempts wayward eastern section to give nothing away (7)
  25. Great pub in Hertford (7)
  27. Small dog running around in local estates starts to cause accident (6)
  28. They go on a crawl and get lass in trouble (6)
  30. Just one goes in a long way (4)
  31. Monster about – turn back at the outset (4)
- The sender of the first correct entry opened on 1st February 1987 will receive a CAMRA PVC Apron.



## SEPTEMBER COMPETITION

The winner of the September Competition is Mr. P. Sutton of Hitchin, who receives a copy of Brian Glover's CAMRA Dictionary of Beer.

The season of good cheer is upon us once again, but for real ale fans it is also the season of good beer! I refer of course, to those traditionally brewed winter ales, which make their welcome appearance around this time, each year. In St. Albans last Christmas it was possible to carry out a pub crawl with a difference, sampling a different draught winter ale in each of half a dozen pubs in walking distance of each other. Here are some of the seasonal specialities to look out for this winter.

First of all from McMullens of Hertford comes their superb strong dark Christmas Ale (OG1070). This is available from the brewery in 4 ½ gallon polypins, so if you drink in a Mac's pub ask your landlord to get some in. You'll even find it in some McMullen pubs which only sell pressurised beer for the remainder of the year.

Greene King Christmas Ale (OG1052) is not so strong but still worth seeking out. The polypins and accompanying beer mats feature an appropriate snippet of brewing history – the fact that a certain Captain Christmas owned a brewery in Haverhill, Suffolk, which Greene King took over when he died in 1918. So raise your glasses to the memory of Captain Christmas!

Wethered's Winter Royal (OG1055) is a rare animal indeed – a winter brew from one of Britain's Big Seven brewery giants, and an excellent beer at that. Whitbread produces around 100 barrels a week for 20 weeks at its Marlow brewery, and last year promoted it in South East England through its 'Traditional Beer Club'. So request Winter Royal from Landlords who already serve Wethered's Bitter.

Adnams of Southwold are well represented in the free trade in Hertfordshire and their seasonal offering is Old Ale (OG1040), a dark and malty brew. Hopefully Benskins, having no winter brew of their own, will, as last year, make polypins of Adnams Old available to their landlords.

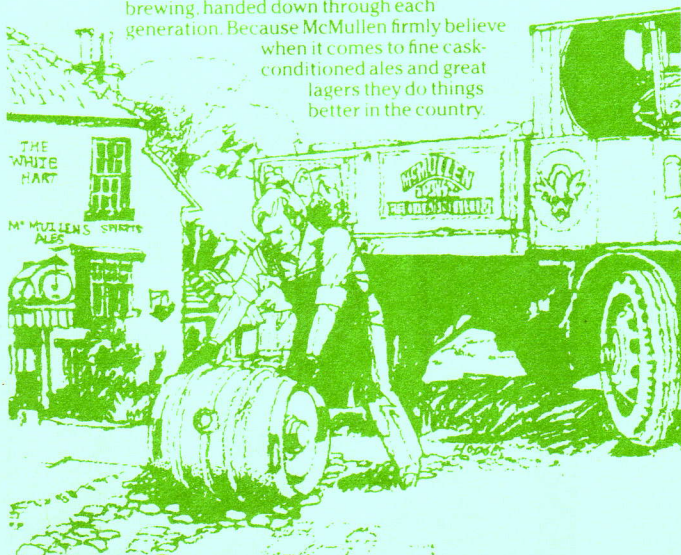
Free houses which sell a good range of real ales can usually be relied upon to offer at least one winter ale. Some other beers to watch out for in our area are Young's Winter Warmer (OG1055), Brakspear's Old (OG1043), Mauldon's Christmas Reserve (OG1065) and Woodforde's Old Norfolk Ale (OG1043), the last two from the enterprising new independent breweries in East Anglia.

Finally, a word of warning. Most of these winter ales are a lot stronger than your typical draught bitter, so make sure you're not driving.

GA

## When it comes to Country Best - McMullen deliver

In 1827 Peter McMullen founded his brewery in Hertford. Today it is still very much a family business, employing traditional time-proven methods of brewing, handed down through each generation. Because McMullen firmly believe when it comes to fine cask-conditioned ales and great lagers they do things better in the country.



**Brewers in Hertfordshire since 1827**

A side-effect of that most splendid of pastimes, beer drinking, is drunkenness. The state of obfuscation, brought on by imbibing too freely, can be described in many ways, some old and some of more recent origin.

The word "drunk" and phrases like "on the drunk", "drunk as a wheelbarrow" and "quite the gay drunkard" date from the late nineteenth century; in 1883 the charge of being "drunk and disorderly" was introduced. From about the same time came descriptions such as "unable to see a hole in a ladder", "drunk as a rolling fart", "so drunk he opened his shirt to piss".

"Plastered" comes from 1916 – "plastering" was originally slang for shattering a bird with shot. During the Great War it was used to mean "shelling heavily" and the "plastered" became army slang for drunk.

The new 'Slang Thesaurus', compiled by Jonathon Green lists scores of words for being drunk. Among these are: fractured, fried, juiced, laced, legless, mulled, sloshed, smashed, sozzled, spifficated and stewed. Also included is the term immortalised by George Brown: "tired and emotional".

No particular Hertfordshire terms for drunk are known; however, 'Hertfordshire Heritage', a book of Hertfordshire words published in 1948, defines these terms:

'Unlawfully drunk': unable to keep balance, aggressive and trying to 'kick up a row.' In that state a man is liable to be summoned.

'Lawfully drunk': A man lawfully drunk is intoxicated, but quiet and able to keep on his feet:

'A chap isn't drunk

If he, from the floor

Can get on his legs

And drink one glass the more.'

## GOOD BEER IN HARROGATE

Armed with my copy of the Good Beer Guide for 1986 I set off to survey the recommended pubs in Harrogate. Time was short, for I only had a few days. There are six in this years guide, but due to lack of time and one located some distance outside of the centre, I only managed to visit four. It was going to be interesting to see how accurate the guide is in selecting pubs and beer.

I commenced the venture at **Hales Bars** in Crescent Road and as the guide states, 'a fascinating old pub with gas lighting'. The Bass (1036) was superb but, the Stones Best Bitter (1038) was excellent and both are handpumped. According to an old gentleman in a corner seat, the pub has not changed in 50 years. In fact there are still two large 'bunsen burners' on the bar top for customers to use as cigarette lighters.

The next was **Gladstones** on Prospect Place, a smart pub with two real ales on handpumps. First I tried Youngers Scotch Bitter (1036), a fine ale, then I tried Youngers No.3 (1043) a beautiful beer. It was really smooth and went down a treat. Four pints in one lunchtime testifies to the quality of No.3. **Gladstones** is noted for its famous individual meat pies. Each one is served in its own dish and topped with suet pastry. There are six different fillings and they are served with a salad or roast potatoes, great value at £2.35. By 1.00p.m. the pub was quite full and the pies were selling like 'hot cakes'. The Victorian theme of this smart pub is everywhere and it is one not to miss if you visit Harrogate.

I next went in search of Taylor's famous ales. According to Michael Jackson's 'Pocket Beer Book', Taylor's Landlord is worth seeking out, so off I went to the **Old Tradition** in Cold Bath Road. A large friendly pub set into the side of the large victorian building. The internal decor is in need of freshening up, but the pub is one of the old type with two long bars. I ordered a pint of Landlord (1042) and settled back to listen to the live entertainment. There is a different 'act' on each evening from Monday to Thursday every week. Taylor's Ram Tam and Porter were not on, neither was Theakston's Bitter, but the Landlord (bitter) was in first class condition, matched only by the barmaid. I stayed longer than I should have, but it was worth it after seeking out such a quality beer.

My fourth and final pub was a visit to the **Coach & Horses** in West Park. 'A pint of Johns Smith's Bitter (1036) please' – pause – what a beautifully smooth glass of beer. The fine creamy head lasted all the way down to the bottom of the glass – three times. The pub was rather modern looking, but had a friendly atmosphere. As with this pub and the others, the prices were reasonable, varying from 76p to 86p a pint.

I can truly recommend Harrogate for its pubs if not the weather. It was wet and windy outside, but very warm and friendly inside. As to the recommendations in the G.B.G., very accurate. If this is a reflection of the guide nationwide, then I can recommend you to buy one for 1987. Cheers.

**Brian Mason**

# CONKER CRACKER

The South Herts conker match was held this year at that shrine to Greene King ale, the **Plough**, Datchworth Green, where sixteen contestants in varying states of lubrication vied for the championship of this ancient English game.

Shrapnel-proof underwear was advisable for the brave contestants as shattered horse-chestnuts ricocheted around the bar. Demon hitter Bob Norrish smashed his way to the final, whilst Wendy Casey made it an almost husband-and-wife climax by adopting a more subtle approach: this involved allowing more aggressive opponents to self-destruct their nuts, leaving hers undamaged. In the final this ladylike approach won the day, with Bob almost assassinating his pet dog when his conker disintegrated.

Afterwards the participants partook of the excellent food provided by the landlord and landlady, Nigel and Charlotte, and tended their post-combative wounds – notably stringers' digit (laceration of the finger caused by tangled strings) and conkers groin (this occurs when a hard shot misses with painful results).

More excellent ale and Charlotte's pickled onions ended a most enjoyable evening.

AJ

## EAST LONDON & CITY BEER GUIDE

The second edition of the East London and City Beer Guide has now been published by the Campaign for Real Ale. The Guide to beer drinking in 1,006 pubs in East London and City, points out that in the last 3 years 30 pubs have been demolished or turned into discos or restaurants, against only 6 new pubs. 'This is a picture of doom for the traditional British pub in this area' said Keith Emmerson, head pub information officer for East London and City Branch of CAMRA. Real ale is just about holding its own in East London and City's pubs: 65% of them sell it in 1986, compared with 64% three years ago. 'The real problem is quality at the moment: many landlords have no idea how to sell real ale', said East London and City Branch Chairman Adrian Hall.

The 280 page Guide lists all pubs in EC1 to EC4 and E1 to E18, with notes about real ale availability and pub facilities. There are full street maps and an index of all pubs at the back, plus plenty of photos. The Guide shows in full the rich variety of the British pub:

Pub in a cinema	Victoria E17
Lenin's former local	Crown & Woolpack EC1
Haunted by George IV's mistresses	George IV, Goswell Rd EC1
First pub to be lit with electricity	Viaduct Tavern EC1
Continual cricketing videos	Pavilion End EC4
Model railway around the bar	Queens Head E15
Upstairs was a World War II brothel for US servicemen	Norfolk Village, Shoreditch High St.

The Guide may be bought for a limited period from Peter Roberts, 34, Meadow Way, Upminster for £2 plus 40p SAE, cheques to East London and City CAMRA. The cover price is £2.25.

## WATFORD AND DISTRICT JANUARY SOCIAL EVENING

In the Watford area, which is dominated by Benskins outlets, an alternative brew is a refreshing change. There are only four Courage pubs within a mile of Watford town centre, and one of these has changed hands within the last few months.

Alec and June Bassett are the new tenants, and full marks are due to them for the way in which the **Rifle Volunteer** on Villiers Road, Oxhey Village is now being run.

This pub dates from the 1860's, and is situated in the centre of an established residential area to the south of Watford. Despite the presence of at least half a dozen other pubs within 10 minutes walk, the **Rifle Volunteer** retains a busy, cosmopolitan ambience, which is complimented by landlord Alec's beerkeeping skills. Handpumped Courage Best Bitter at 93p a pint, and Directors at just over a pound, are consistently in prime condition.

To their credit, Alec and June have resisted the temptation to install superfluous trappings: no pool tables or juke-boxes here. Instead they have improved the lunch-time fare: the quality and quantity of reasonable priced food from June's kitchen will please all tastes.

Alec and June are no strangers to the trade, having run a successful Norwich pub for some years. They now bring this experience to Hertfordshire.

Oxhey Village already boasts two GBG '87 pubs (**Haydon Arms** and **Villiers Arms**); will Alec and June complete the hat-trick with the **Rifle Volunteer**?

Come and see what you think at the Watford and District Branch Social of the month in January (see Branch Diary for details).

# GREENE KING GASSY BEER SHOCK

Greene King have admitted that they have issued "cask breathers" to over 500 pubs in their estate. These controversial devices are designed to allow cask beer to be stored under carbon dioxide gas without pressurising the beer. The effect is to prolong the life of the beer in the cellar and the intention is that the beer will not become fizzy up as a result. However, there is no doubt that some licensees are already misusing cask breathers to the detriment of their ale.

The two positive things which a cask breather can achieve are to stop the beer from turning vinegary with age and to stop infection from wild yeasts entering the barrel; the latter problem is perhaps best dealt with by cleaning the cellar. The problem of oxidation – exposure to the air – comes along 48 hours after the cask is opened. So if the turnover of the beer is high enough, and the casks ordered are small enough, then the problem will not arise.

There is no doubt that in pubs which have a low turnover of, say, mild the quality of the beer improves overall, but there is the suspicion that a number of licensees are using the system badly or when there is no need.

Problems arise when the cask breather is applied too early to fresh beer. If the beer in the cellar has not gone through its "secondary fermentation" then it will not have developed the subtle and delicious flavours that make traditional beer so much better than other types. Applying the breather to casks which have lain in the cellar for only a day or two means that the fresh, immature, bland flavour is preserved – the beer is strangled at birth. Worse still is to apply the valve midway through secondary fermentation where it appears a build-up of pressure can arise, making the beer quite unpleasant. Almost as gassy as lager.

Greene King have issued cask breathers to the majority of their pubs and instruction seems to be that their use is at the landlords discretion. But when pubs which turn over enormous amounts of beer are using them on the top-selling IPA as a matter of course, then it is clear that discretion is not good enough – a bit of education is needed.

Greene King should issue clear guidelines as to when a cask breather might be used, how its use can be avoided and, most importantly, when it should not be used.

Tim Webb



## PUB NEWS

Welcome to Brian and Fionna Ward who have taken over the manership of the **Barley Mow**, Tyttenhanger. Brian is no newcomer to the **Barley Mow** as he worked for many years for John Blackwell. His aim is to continue to provide the quality of beer the pub was always well known for; the range will be geared to the requirements of customers. Fionna has introduced evening as well as lunchtime meals, with the accent on home produced fare.

In Welwyn Garden City, the **Hedgehog** is now serving Benskins Best Bitter and Burton Ale on handpump.

The **Rose and Crown** in Watford has re-opened after refurbishment. It now has two bars, both offering Charrington IPA and Bass on Handpumps. At the time of writing, the future of the **King's Head**, Bushey Heath was still uncertain. Benskins' planning application, to sell the pub without a licence and develop the remainder of the site, had been refused, but they were to appeal against this decision. Meanwhile, a campaign was being mounted by regulars and the Watford branch of the Campaign to keep the pub open.

The **Cork & Bottle**, Great Gaddesden has Trumans' Sampson and Marstons' Pedigree and Mercian Mild on the handpumps, the 'house ale' having been discontinued. On weekdays there is a happy hour from 5.30 to 7.30 when the real ales are available at 60p a pint.

In Hemel Hempstead, the **Princes Arms** has re-opened after a second lengthy closure; Benskins Best Bitter is available on one of the two handpumps.

Alterations are reported under way at the **White Lion**, St. Albans, whilst in the same city the **Midland Railway** looks set to close to make way for a car park. At the **Milehouse**, also in St. Albans, planning permission has been refused for a twelve feet high 'Herbie Tree', an all-in-one childrens playground in the car park. Meanwhile at McMullen's **Camp**, staff and customers on a sponsored run raised £800 towards a Sunshine Coach Appeal.

Benskins have applied for planning permission for extensions and alterations at the **Cross Keys**, Gustard Wood.

Beers from the enterprising Burton Bridge brewery of Burton-on-Trent have been making a regular appearance in Hertfordshire free houses of late. One of these, the **Crown**, Buntingford has been selling Bridge Bitter (1042) and Old Expensive (1066), a dark winter warmer.

## LOST HERTFORDSHIRE PUBS

In 1962-3 the late W.Branch Johnson published a two volume survey on all the Hertfordshire Inns and Beerhouses in existence, that were established before 1860. While leafing through these fascinating volumes, now sadly out of print, it is soon apparent that an extraordinary number of pubs have shut since W.Branch Johnson's research, 25 years ago.

During the next few months there will be a series of articles listing these lost pubs with a few descriptive details. Unfortunately it is very difficult to discover information about pubs which closed earlier than the mid-seventies, which is where you the reader might be able to help. When was the pub shut? Why? Can you tell us any interesting memories of these lost pubs? What was the beer like in those days? Please write and tell the newsletter, or those memories might be lost forever. Also, this list cannot be entirely accurate, as some pubs may have changed their names since 1963.

### Part One:

#### Albury:

**Fox:** Owned in 1856 by the Archdeacon of Merioneth. McMullen.

**Royal Oak:** (Clappgate) The village local until closure by Rayments/Greene King in 1985, without a licence.

#### Amwell Wheathampstead):

**Red Cow:** Closed by Ind Coope

#### Apsley:

**Salmon:** Closed by Ind Coope.

#### Baldock:

Note Greene King owned 12 of the towns 16 pubs in 1983.

**Black Eagle:** Because of their local monopoly Greene King were able to close this 19th century town pub in 1984. Owned by Wells and Winch Brewery of Biggleswade in 1962.

**Eight Bells:** An inn since at least 1727. Green King.

**Stag:** Established in 1732. Greene King.

#### Barnet:

**Old Bull:** Had stabling for 16 horses in 1756. Closed in 1963 by Ind Coope.

**Wellington:** An Inn in 1785. Owned by Manns brewery of Northampton in 1962.

**White Horse:** Once owned by Benjamin Bennett of Dunstable. Closed by McMullens.

**Old Bell:** (Barnet Gate) Mentioned in 1756. Ind Coope.

#### Berkhamsted:

This is what happens when one brewery owns nearly all of a town's pubs...

**Carpenters Arms:** (Park Street) Closed by Ind Coope.

**Castle:** A beerhouse in 1834. Ind Coope.

**Gardeners Arms:** (Castle Street) Ind Coope.

**Queens Arms:** In existence prior to 1607. Ind Coope.

**Railway:** Ind Coope.

**White Hart:** On a very ancient site. Ind Coope.

#### AJ

To be continued.

## PUB OF THE YEAR

### South Herts

#### The Woodman, Wildhill

After a year of good fun and social events around our part of the county, the first South Hertfordshire Branch Pub of the Year has been decided. During the year our 330 Real Ale Pubs were voted on by the active membership at branch meetings. The area was set out in geographical zones, each containing approximately 30 pubs of which one could be nominated per member per month. The resultant monthly winner received an award in the form of a commemorative plaque.

All the pubs of the month were then voted on for Pub of the Year, the **Woodman** at Wildhill deservedly winning this coveted title. A large gathering of members and friends took place at the presentation on September 30th.

The **Woodman** is a classic pub (GBG of course) and provides the cheapest Greene King Abbot Ale and IPA in South Hertfordshire, a large amount of the said brews being consumed at much reduced prices for this occasion.

We thank Ann and Dave Roberts for all their welcomes as well as the hospitality that evening.

The voting started again in November for 1987's award and we look forward to the same support, interest and publicity last year's events brought.

SB



# BRANCH DIARY

# WHAT'S ON AT YOUR PUB

## HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH BRANCH

**Thursday 11th December**

Pub Crawl of Stevenage Old Town. Meet in the Coach & Horses, 8p.m.

**Thursday 18th December**

Pub of the Month social at the Bird in Hand, Gosmore, 8p.m.

Contact Peter Clarke ☎ Stevenage 365957

## SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH

**Monday 1st December**

Committee Meeting at the Duncombe Arms, Hertford, 8p.m.

**Tuesday 9th December**

Goodbye to Waterford Arms? Social, Waterford. Phone contact to check if pub is still open.

**Tuesday 16th December**

Annual General Meeting at the Goat, St. Albans, 8p.m. All welcome.

**Saturday 27th December**

Mid-winter ramble. Meet at southern turn to Chapmore End on the B158 north of Hertford (OS Ref. TL160331) at 11.00a.m. Circular walk - Stout shoes recommended.

### JANUARY 1987

**Monday 5th January**

Committee meeting at the Barley Mow, Tyttenhanger, 8p.m.

**Friday 9th January**

All Hertfordshire Annual Xmas party, Bramfield Village Hall. Contact Eric Sim - Hatfield 60647 for details.

**Tuesday 13th January**

Branch Meeting at the Queens Head Colney Heath, 8p.m. All welcome.

**Tuesday 20th January**

Trip to Ind Coope Brewery, Burton-on-Trent. Limited places, £5 for coach. Contact Bob Norrish - Harpenden 69923 for details.

**Wednesday 21st January**

New real ale outlet social at the Greyhound, Bengoe, 8p.m. Newcomers welcome.

**Tuesday 27th January**

Pub of the month. Phone contact for details.

Contact Adrian Jolliffe ☎ St. Albans 69675

## WATFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH

**Wednesday 10th December**

Branch Meeting at the Three Crown, Bushey, 8p.m.

**Friday 19th December**

London Xmas pub crawl. Start at the Windmill (Free House), Tabernacle St., EC2. 5p.m.

**Saturday 27th December**

Post Xmas pub crawl/ramble. Starting in Berkhamsted. Phone Contact.

### JANUARY 1987

**Wednesday 14th January**

Branch Meeting at the Wheatsheaf 8p.m., including guest speaker from Benskins.

**Wednesday 21st January**

Social at the Rifle Volunteer, Oxhey Village, 8p.m.

Contact Tony King ☎ Garston 672587

## MID-CHILTERN BRANCH

Contact Peter Freeman ☎ Hemel Hempstead 69773

5th December: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Singaround at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

7th December: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Adrian May at Ware Folk Club.

12th December: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Mick and Sarah Graves at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

13th December: **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge** from 8p.m. Chinese food night with set meal at £6.50 per head.

14th December: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Derek Brimstone at Ware Folk Club.

19th December: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Christmas Party at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

21st December: **Brewery Tap, Ware**, 8p.m. Christmas Party at Ware Folk Club.

31st December: **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge**, New Year's Eve party. Set supper at £4 per head.

2nd January: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Singaround at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

9th January: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Ragged Robin at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

16th January: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Johnny Collins at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

23rd January: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Hoddesdon Folk Club.

25th January: **Buffalo's Head, Puckeridge**, Burns Night with haggis, neeps and tatties. Please book your meal on Ware 821949.

30th January: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Geoff Higginbottom at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

6th February: **Crown, Stanstead Abbots**, 8p.m. Singaround at Hoddesdon Folk Club.

Listing in the What's On column is **FREE**. Send details to the address below by 1st February for March edition.

Peter & Lesley Reynolds welcome you to



**THE STAR INN**  
FURNEUX PELHAM



Rayments BBA ★ Greene King KK & Abbot

**GOOD HOME COOKED FOOD**  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

☎ Brent Pelham 227

## PUB OF THE MONTH

North Herts

### Bird in Hand, Gosmore

The last pub of the month for 1986 in North Herts goes to the **Bird in Hand**, Gosmore. Situated in the delightful village of Gosmore, just outside Hitchin, the **Bird in Hand** has been selling ale since 1886. The pub was sympathetically altered some two and a half years ago but maintains its character.

Keith Elliot has been running the pub for the last twelve years and an excellent reputation for beer and food has been achieved.

Thursday December 18th has been chosen as the date. So come along and sample the Greene King beers and wish the other members a Merry Christmas.

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