ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT



BRANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 52

FREE BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 800 COPIES OCT/NOV 1983

FUTURE MEETING - EVERYONE WELCOME - MEETINGS START AT AROUND 8PM

Wednesday 2nd November Wednesday 16th November Friday 16th December

White Lion, Bury - A social The Exhibition, Godmanchester - A meeting Wednesday 30th November King William IV, Fenstanton - A social St. Neots Branch Christmas Party

PUB NEWS

Alas, a sad tale, by the time you have read this newsletter, you will probably have missed the chance of a last pint at the Royal Oak, Wennington, as the pub has had to close owing to the lease running out, and the area is to be redeveloped.

The good news in the area is that we now have a new free house in the Mermaid at Ellington, Manns brewery having sold the house with licence to Wendy Minchington, who will be pleased to serve you with Springfield bitter direct from the barrel. Handpumps are being fitted on the bar and may well be serving more different kinds of real ale in the future.

Richard and Macha Pomfrey who used to run the King Of The Belgiums at Hartford have now taken over the newly refurbished Exhibition at Godmanchester, I only hope that the home cooking is coming along with them as well as the real ale.

The Duncan Arms at Warsley has the full range of Greene King real ales, IPA, XX mild and Abbot.

The Golden Ball at Boxworth has a free range of beers including Sam Smiths, Adnams, Greene King IPA and Abbot.

A BREWERY FAR AWAY

Have you ever wanted to visit one of the most historic brewing countries of Europe? Well, now is your chance. Camra has organised a special cut-price trip to Czechoslovakia with visits to most of the famous brewing centres - for one week in February.

REAL ALE - DEFINED

The Oxford English Dictionary latest edition will include a definition of the term 'Real Ale' -"A name for draught (or bottled) beer brewed from traditional ingredients, matured by secondary fermentation in the container from which it is dispensed, and served without the use of extraneous carbon dioxide; Also called 'Cask-Conditioned' and 'Naturally-Conditioned' beer".

Perhaps this will clear the air in any future bar-room arguments!

PUB NEWS CONTINUED:-

The White Horse, Eaton Socon is to be sold by the Whitbread brewery when the present landlord David Wood leaves the pub at the end of next year. David Wood has said he cannot understand the brewery selling the pub after spending the last seven years building up a thriving trade at the pub and restaurant, but the brewery have offered him alternative premises. The White Horse sells Whitbread Flowers Original, Wethereds bitter and Winter Royal, the strong Christmas ale.

Ye Olde Ferryboat Inn at Holywell reputed to be the oldest inn in England, has had to close for the first time in over 500 years, due to building work to ensure the pub stays up for another 500 years. Hopefully it will be opening shortly with the draught Greene King Abbot and IPA along with the Bass served direct from the cellar.

The rumour has it that the Crown at Broughton is to close, but this has not yet been confirmed; it appears that Manns brewery are closing down lots of village pubs all over the place, even if it means leaving a village without a local!

STOCKING FILLERS

The 1984'Beer Drinkers Diary'is now available along with the 1984 Cartoon Calender', available from branch meetings, priced at £2.00 and £2.50 respectively.

P.S. Do not forget those CAMRA underpants for every real ale drinker!

PRICE RISES

In recent months you may have noticed the price of your pint at the local has risen, practically all the local breweries have added 2p - 3p a pint on all beers, it appears that the usual seasonal prices rises have come early this year, perhaps leaving time for another rise before Christmas.

Good luck to Sam Smiths, who have told tenants to not charge more than 5lp per pint.

EDITOR: Mick Ewen, 54 Prospero Way, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambs.

Telephone: Huntingdon 50150

"OPENING TIMES" is published by the ST. NEOTS AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF 'THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE' (CAMRA)