

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING
TIMES



Issue No 103 Aug/Sept 1999

BRANCH NEWSLETTER
BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 2,000 COPIES

BATEMAN'S
BUY TWO
PUBS

Bateman's of Wainfleet, Lincs have purchased two pubs in our branch area: The Lord John Russell in St. Neots and The White Hart, Great Staughton both previously owned by Pubmaster and it is excellent news for local drinkers.

The Lord John Russell was already improving under landlady Karen Aspinall who stays at the pub under it's new owners. She is currently offering the monthly seasonal beer from Batemans and is giving a trial run to Bateman's Dark Mild served on gravity. In time she hopes to add another beer engine to serve another of the brewery's beers.

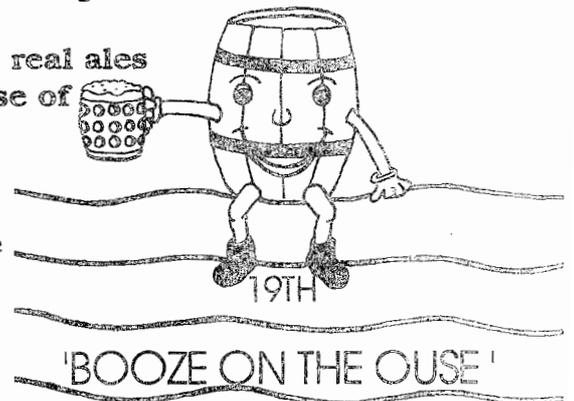
The White Hart also retains its existing landlords Jimmy and June Johnson who have been at the pub for just over two years. They have Bateman's XB and XXB available with Dark Miid shortly to be added.

19th
'BOOZE ON THE OUSE'

16th - 19th September 1999

The 19th 'BOOZE on THE OUSE' will be held at the Burgess Hall, St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives from 16th -19th September 1999.

We will have around 60 real ales available over the course of the four day festival, which will also offer a range of Bottled Belgian beers and some real draught cider.



Opening Times

September 16 - 19th

Thurs 16th	_____	7.00-10.45
Fri 17th	12.00 - 3.00	6.00-10.45
Sat 18th	11.00 - 10.45	
Sun 19th	12.00 - 3.00	

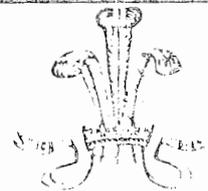
The 19th 'Booze on the Ouse' will be held at the St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives from 16th - 19th September. Once again there will be around 30 kilis of real ale



The Prince of Wales

'That nice pub at Hilton'

(01480) 830257



ADNAMS BEST BITTER ELGOOD'S BLACK DOG MILD GUEST BEERS GOOD FOOD ACCOMMODATION

featuring some 60 real ales over the course of the Festival for your delectation

Againour Beer Festival is being 'twinned' with the North Herts Beer Festival which is being held at the Plinston Hall, Letchworth, Herts from 23rd - 25th September.

The North Herts Festival will offer around 40 Real Ales, making a total of about 100 different beers at the two events, enough for anybody to choose from.

A real collectors item will be the Joint Beer Festival Commemorative pint glass being offered at both festivals, which has the two festival logos printed on the one glass, yours to keep at just £2.00 each

We have a good range of beers from the different categories: Mild, Bitter, Best Bitter, Strong Bitter, Old Ales, Strong Milds, Stouts, Porters, Speciality Beers and Barley Wines

As well as the return of some favourites like Dent Aviator and Hopback Thunderstorm there will be plenty of 'debut' making ales.

Among the beers available at 'Booze on the Ouse' will be some prize winning ales from

CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain awards at the Great British Beer Festival held at Olympia in August, giving you the opportunity to try them. Among them the Champion Beer of Britain 1999 Timothy Taylors Landlord.

Also on our 'ordered' list are to name but a few: Triple FFF Pressed Rat & Warthog, Mighty Oak Burntwood, Tomos Watkin OSB, Fullers ESB, Burntisland Dockyards, Mordue Radgie Gadgie and Dark Star Zingiber.

We will also have some traditional cider and perry and the ever popular Belgian Beer stand with a good range of some excellent imported bottled beers.

A full range of of tasty bar snacks will be available throughout the festival and there will also be a soft drinks and spirits bar for those of you that are driving or don't like real ale!

If you want to bring the family along, children are welcome and will be allowed in the main hall until 9.00pm

For music lovers, there will be the 60/70's sounds of TWO TRUE on the Saturday night, but its a 'talk zone' the rest of the time.

As last year we will have some traditional pub games for you to try your skills at and of course 'every one's a winner' on the Tombola Stall.

Admission is free to CAMRA members but join CAMRA at the CAMRA stall and get free admission to other CAMRA Beer Festivals as well as receiving the national CAMRA newsletter 'What's Brewing and other membership benefits.

STAFF NEEDED

What we do need desperately is staff, particularly on the Friday night of the festival when we anticipate the usual 500+ drinkers to come through the doors and it takes a lot of work to make sure that they all go home happy.

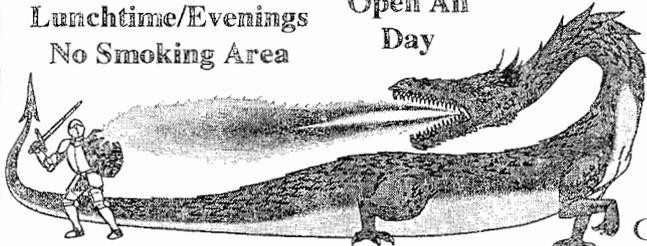
So please contact Staffing Manager Mike Birch on 01480 395505 if you think you can help in any way whatsoever. We need all sorts of helpers not just bar staff, so if you don't like bar work you may still be able to help.

Contact us as soon as you can, it helps us tremendously in our planning if we know our staffing levels in advance.

So in whatever capacity you intend to come along we will be very pleased to see you.

Food Available
Lunchtime/Evenings
No Smoking Area

Open All Day



The George & Dragon

267, Great North Road, Eaton Socon
(01480) 474381
'Probably the Cheapest Bar Food in Town'

Greene King Ales IPA XX Mild Plus Guest Beer

LOCAL M I L D OUTLETS

We have lost one Mild outlet, with the Cock at Gamlingay ceasing to serve a mild. However, the good news is that the George and Dragon, Eaton Socon is offering Greene King XX Mild (and has been since January, only we didn't know about it, sorry) and the Lord John Russell in St. Neots is serving Batemans Dark Mild. The White Hart, Gt. Staughton will shortly add Bateman's Dark Mild to its range of beers.

Eaton Socon,
Millers Arms
Greene King XX Dark

Eaton Socon
George & Dragon
Greene King XX Dark

Hilton,
Prince of Wales
Elgoods Black Dog

Huntingdon,
George Hotel
Theakstons Mild

St. Ives,
Black Bull
Ansells Mild

St. Neots,
Lord John Russell
Batemans Mild

Coming Soon:
Gt. Staughton
White Hart
Batemans Mild

LOCAL NEWS

The **George and Dragon, Eaton Socon** has experienced a transformation. Mine hosts Malcolm and Pat Fleetwood who have been at the pub since September have completely changed the ambiance of the pub, turning it into a very pleasant watering hole.

The couple have been in the trade for over 20 years, having started out with Norwich Brewery and since then working for Greenalls, John Smith's and Watney's among others.

The good news is that they are offering Greene King XX Mild and it is doing well since its introduction in January and was in superb condition when I tried it recently. Other beers are Greene King IPA and a changing guest, currently Charles Wells Bombardier. With real ale sales in the pub increasing since the couple took over, Malcolm is hoping to be able to offer two or three guest ales at any time in the near future. With excellent value bar food to soak up the ale the pub which is open all day is well worth a visit.

The **Angel, St. Neots** has been sold by Charles Wells and is now liveried as a Free House. However, one suspects a Whitbread tie-up when surveying the beer range.

The **Merry Boys, Eynesbury** a Greene King house has added cask Abbot to its range and our man on the spot spoke highly of its quality.

BRANCH DIARY

All are welcome to attend our socials and meetings, which are held at different pubs throughout our branch area.

Friday 24th September - **Royal Oak, St. Ives** - New Members Social - 8.30pm

Tuesday 7th October - **Trip to Bedford Beer Festival** - Contact Kathy Hadfield 01480 496247

Tuesday 12th October - Meeting - **George & Dragon, Eaton Socon** - 8.30pm

Friday 5th November - **Trip to Adnams Brewery, Southwold** (Places Limited - Contact Kathy Hadfield 01480 496247)

Tuesday 9th November - Meeting - **White Hart, St. Ives** - 8.30pm

Friday 26th November - Mini Bus Trip to:
Crown, Earith - Green Man, Colne - Prince of Wales, Bluntisham - Pike & Eel, Needingworth - Queen's Head, Needingworth.

For further details contact:
Roy Endersby (Chairman) on 01480 473364

MAJOR CAMRA FIGHTING FUND LAUNCHED

**YOUR SUPPORT
IS NEEDED**

REAL ALE IS IN DANGER. EVEN IF YOUR LOCAL STILL SERVES A RANGE OF TASTY BREWS, MAKE NO MISTAKE: REAL ALE IS IN DANGER.

Only three of four years ago, journalists, City analysts, and even some brewers were saying CAMRA's work was done and real ale's place in the market was assured.

But now real ale is in danger. According to the Brewers Association, real ale's share of a declining beer market fell to just 10.9 per cent in the year to the end of June 1998.

That's just 3.8 million barrells compared to 6 million in the early 80's and even if you add the output of the micro's not counted by the BLRA, total real ale production in 1997-98 was not much more than 4 million barrels. It may be even less for 1998-99. Real ale is in danger, partly from the country's growing taste for

lager, but largely from the big brewers' displacement of real ale in favour of the new wave of consistent, landlord-proof, wastage-free and highly-profitable nitrokeg in pubs across the land.

What does this mean to 54,000 CAMRA members and real ale lovers throughout the country who are pledged to defend and promote real ale?

It means that all our campaigning in nearly 30 years could be in vain. All our victories in nearly 30 years could be in vain.

The enemy we have to fight is the power of advertising. Thanks to the ad-man's cynical blurring of distinctions between keg and cask, how many of today's customers even realise they're being fobbed off with second best?

And thanks to the unholy alliance of lazy landlord and greedy brewer, both

bent on sweeping cask ale off the counter, how many younger drinkers have even had the chance to discover the real, the authentic, the best?

Regional and local brewers do their best to promote and advertise their brands - Greene King spent £4 million doing just that last year. But it is up to us real ale lovers to promote cask ale generically, to rekindle the enthusiasm for proper beer we aroused 20 years ago.

CAMRA is launching The Real Ale Fighting Fund, where every penny raised will be invested in raising the profile of real ale, in re-awakening the nation's jaded tastebuds, in making consumers young and old aware that the image the big brewers and their patsies in the press have saddled real ale with is a cynical ploy.

Already the Fund has raised thousands of pounds. But so far it's mostly come in as large donations from a small number of CAMRA members

So if you would like to add strength to the fight by sending a donation, please do so. No contribution is too small.

Send to CAMRA, 230, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send your remittance (Payable to CAMRA) to The Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

Rates are Single £14, Joint £17 (at same address)

Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £8 Joint OAP £11 (at same address)

Under 26: £8 date of birth

For Life/Overseas rates please ask for details

NAME.....

Opening Times

103

ADDRESS.....

St. Neots

.....POSTCODE

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Rules.

I enclose a cheque for

Signed.....

Date.....