



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

# opening times

Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA  
the Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 139  
Summer 2009

## MAD CAT, PIDLEY PUB OF THE YEAR



### Also inside:

- Market Inn, Huntingdon  
Most Improved Pub of the Year
- May boost for mild ale

**Booze on the Ouse, St Ives Beer Festival  
Thu 10—Sat 12 September 2009**



## MAY BANK HOLIDAY EVENTS

Monday 4th May

All you can eat BBQ & Live Music £10

Bar Open 12pm—6pm

Food Served 12pm—3pm

Sunday 24th May

Crown Birthday Beer Festival & Live Music from 'Cadillac Arrest'. Beer & Cider from £2 per pint. We will also be cooking burgers, sausages & veggie burgers on this evening.

Beer Festival 5pm—late

Monday 25th May

All you can eat BBQ & Live Music £10

Bar Open 12pm—6pm

Food Served 12pm—3pm

The Crown Inn Broughton

For Info Tel: 01487 824 428

[www.thecrowninnrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thecrowninnrestaurant.co.uk)

# MAY BOOST FOR MILD ALE



One change that has resulted from the CAMRA-energised revival in real ale choice is a tendency for pubs to offer potentially bewildering ranges of real ales, often with names that give no clue as to the style of the beer they designate.

Time was when most pubs were tied to a local brewer and offered an unwavering selection of just a couple of styles of real ale with uncomplicated names such as 'Mild', 'Bitter', or 'Best Bitter'.

But real draught mild remains as a refreshing and flavoursome low alcohol style of beer that has seen a revival in recent years.

Most milds are dark but they can range from black to dark brown to pale amber in colour. Malty and sweetish tones usually dominate the flavour profile and there is often a light fruity background, but there can be defined touches of dark chocolate or roasted flavours from highly kilned malts and impressions of liquorice or caramel are not uncommon.

CAMRA runs an annual May mild promotion to support this great beer style and will be celebrating National Mild Day on Saturday 9 May. Huntingdonshire CAMRA in particular is keen to point out the local revival being enjoyed by draught mild and its drinkers.

On Friday 15 May two groups of local CAMRA members will be touring pubs stocking real cask mild in the pubs around St Neots and St Ives - full details will be published in the diary section on [www.huntscamra.org.uk](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk) when finalised.

In St Neots the Lord John Russell stocks Batemans Dark Mild, a ruby-black gem of a mild from the Lincolnshire brewer. The Hyde Park in St Neots and George and Dragon in Eaton Socon are also regular outlets for real mild.

The recently reopened Pig n Falcon in New Street S Neots regularly offers the dark roasty 4.4% abv Beijing Black from Kettering's Potbelly brewery. In Huntingdon the Market Inn is another popular outlet for Potbelly Beijing Black.



Greene King's deeply satisfying 3% abv cask mild, XX, is rare, but availability is increasing. The Cock at Gamlingay is a great place to enjoy this beer in fine fettle.

Son of Sid Muckcart Mild is another roasty brew often on offer at the Chequers, Little Gransden, where it is produced.

Other notable Cambridgeshire-brewed milds are Milton Brewery's malty and roasty Minotaur and the impressive bitter-sweet Black Dog from Elgoods of Wisbech, sometimes on sale at the Cock at Hemingford Grey and the Floods Tavern in St Ives.

The Green Man at Colne is another regular outlet for real mild and the malty and hoppy Tetleys Mild is usually on sale. Nearby, the Mad Cat at Pidley is also expected to be offering mild this May.

May is a good time to find draught mild in local pubs and others are likely to be stocking mild in addition to those mentioned here. Just ask for it. Most pubs serve real draught bitter these days – so why not real draught mild?

# PUBS OF THE YEAR



The Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA has selected the **Mad Cat** in **Pidley** its branch **Pub of the Year 2009**.

CAMRA gives this annual award to the pub that it judges to provide the widest appeal for its combination of good beer, atmosphere, style, service and value.

The Mad Cat was taken over in July 2007 by Darren Tomkins and Sinead Nicholson. They redecorated the pub and introduced new food menus with locally sourced ingredients and a range of local real ales on rotation that quickly began to achieve recognition by local beer enthusiasts for their consistent high quality on dispense.

In Spring 2008 the Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA recognised the Mad Cat as it's Most Improved Pub of the Year, acknowledging the significant enhancements Darren and Sinead had made in just 6 months.

In Summer 2008 the pub was shortlisted for the Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Awards Best Pub.

The Mad Cat was one of the first pubs to be accredited in the branch's Locale scheme, in Autumn 2008. This celebrates pubs that regularly stock beers brewed within 25 miles of the pub. The Mad Cat always has at least one such beer, with Oakham and Elgoods featuring regularly. Darren And Sinead have also achieved membership of Oakham's exclusive 'Oakademy of Excellence', with exclusive guest beers.

The Mad Cat is a community local on the edge of the fens in a village that is the home of the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team, a charity supporting local disabled

people. A sociable bar has a welcoming open fire, crib and dominoes. A separate dining room is popular with villagers and visitors, especially for the Sunday lunch carvery. The food offered is varied, includes numerous vegetarian options, and blackboard specials. Most ingredients are locally sourced, including their meat which comes from a local farm shop. There is a large garden with a decked patio.

The pub was jam packed full on an evening in March when Huntingdonshire CAMRA visited to present the award. All the regulars turned out to see the presentation and there were two birthday parties and a wedding anniversary involving people from the local community.

Pictured are left to right, Sinead, Darren and Branch Chairman Keith Lawson.



# PUBS OF THE YEAR



The **Market Inn at Huntingdon** has won the **Most Improved Pub of the Year** award for 2009, presented by the Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA.

The Market Inn is a busy town centre local in the very heart of Huntingdon, tucked down a alley. The pub was originally created from a series of cottages adjacent to the old Fountain Hotel brewery that used to be situated on the opposite side of the alleyway. The pub retains some well preserved features dating from the 1930's including original fireplaces and wood panelling.



Over the last two years the enthusiasm of the pub's management has been self-evident, and the improvements and increase in popularity of the pub are clearly seen. The cask beer range has been boosted by some excellent locally brewed products, and the presentation of the beers is of a consistent high quality. The Market Inn has



been awarded the branch's Locale accreditation for its well kept local ales. Pot-belly Brewery of Kettering has a regular slot, and the superb Beijing Black is a current regular.



Pictured in the presentation above left to right are Nicky and Paul Harvey, branch representative Kathy Hadfield Moorhouse, and licensee David Norman.



# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## 25 YEARS AGO



Since the late 1990s, Yorkshire brewers Samuel Smiths have been known for producing just one cask beer, the revered Old Brewery Bitter. But 25 years ago they launched two new cask beers, 4X Mild and Tadcaster Bitter.

A self-cook barbeque was introduced in summer 1984 at James Paine pub the Victoria in Huntingdon. Tenants Ted and Gill Morgan picked up the idea on a Spanish holiday. Customers were invited to buy steaks and sausages at the bar and cook them in the pub garden to enjoy along with Paines XXX and EG cask beers.

National brewers Scottish and Newcastle pulled out of a takeover bid for Cameron's of Hartlepool following its referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after a campaign by CAMRA.

Another national brewer, Whitbread, closed its giant Luton plant 25 years ago following a six-week industrial dispute. 300 jobs were lost at the plant, which had produced keg beers and lagers but no real ale.

St Neots CAMRA held a summer social in 1984 at Manns pub the Jolly Sailor in Ramsey. There was also a minibus trip to Peterborough and a short pub crawl visited the Hardwicke Arms, Arrington and the Queen Adelaide at Croydon. Branch meetings were held at the Old Ferryboat free house at Holywell and Tolly Cobbold pub, the Red Lion at Kneesworth. At Great Staughton a branch social visited Charles Wells pub, the New Tavern and Manns pub, the White Hart.

Summer 1984 saw the launch of cask Flowers IPA by Whitbread. Their Cheltenham brewery replaced its cask Whitbread Bitter with the



new beer, which was destined to become a national cask ale brand and eventually survive the demise of Whitbread as a brewing name. Today it is brewed under licence by independent cask ale brewers for brand owners InBev.

Ipswich brewer Tolly Cobbold re-assured CAMRA 25 years ago that it was not pulling out of Cambridge after the closure of a number of their city pubs. The Foresters, Locomotive and Dewdrop Inn were all closed and the future of the Station Hotel was under question.

West Midlands regional brewer Banks's moved north with the establishment of a trading estate in the Manchester area in a mixture of acquisitions and new builds. Banks's was aiming for an estate of 15-20 pubs in the region by the end of 1985.



Also in summer 1984, Salisbury brewer Gibbs Mew launched Salisbury Best Bitter, a new cask beer brewed to an original gravity of 1042.

Meanwhile their local rivals Wadworth of Devizes was struggling to cope with demand for their new 1046 dark premium bitter, Farmers Glory.



**6 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!**

# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## 10 YEARS AGO

Green King's new head brewer Iain Mason experimented with ginseng as an ingredient in Old Horny, a seasonal special cask beer for spring 1999. Iain had taken over as head brewer from Alistair Healey, who had retired after 22 years at Greene King and recently won plaudits from all directions for the new 4.3% alcohol Triumph cask bitter and a seasonal cask version of the epic bottled beer Strong Suffolk.

Breweries Vaux in Sunderland and Wards in Sheffield closed in July 1999 as owners the Swallow hotels group turned down a management buyout bid. Local protests included thousands of football fans raising red cards at a home match of Sunderland Football Club, which was sponsored by Vaux. And Vaux pub tenants mounted a bid to buy their pubs from the Swallow group in the face of talks with Pubmaster as preferred buyer for the 670 pubs.

Another legendary cask ale brewer exiting brewing was Mitchells of Lancaster, which blamed the national downturn in cask ale sales for its decision to close its brewery in July 1999. In 2009, despite recessionary times having returned, the strategy has been reversed as Mitchells, which has continued in business as a pub chain, have bought the York microbrewery as a source of its own real les.

In summer 1999, CAMRA called upon the Office of Fair trading to block a bid by national brewer Whitbread for the pub estate of its rival Allied-Domecq, which would have given it a 12% share of the UK pubs sector.

CAMRA was fighting the planned closure of the Courage brewer in Bristol, then the

home of Courage Directors and Courage Best Bitter. Owners Scottish and Newcastle announced in May 1999 that the site would close by the end of the year, and CAMRA was urging them to sell the plant as a going concern.

CAMRA's St Neots branch held its 1999 summer meetings at the Royal Oak at Hail Weston, the Prince of Wales in Hilton and the Chequers, Little Gransden, and visited the City of Cambridge brewery.

Ten years ago, the Cask Marque real ale quality accreditation scheme was planning a network of brewery training courses to help licensees improve cellar skills before their Cask Marque inspections. Greene King, a founder member of Cask Marque, was one of the first breweries to offer its facilities for the new initiative.

CAMRA in North Bedfordshire was supporting villagers in Milton Earnest seeking to save their local, the Swan. Greene King had closed the pub in February 1999 and it was feared that they would sell the site of the large 1930's roadhouse style pub for redevelopment.

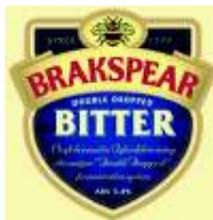
CAMRA went on the offensive against 'smooth' nitrokeg beers. Its 1999 conference agreed to highlight the negative qualities of nitrokeg beers as well as pointing out the superior distinctive and varied flavours of real ales.

The well-regarded and pioneering Tap and Spile chain of managed real ale pubs was sold to Enterprise Inns after their hostile takeover bid for owners Century Inns and its 500-strong pub chain. The future of the Tap and Spiles was uncertain because of Enterprise's status as a tenanted pub chain. The pubs were expected to be let individually or sold on.

# HALF PINTS

CAMRA has hit out at the government's rejection of its Chief Medical Officer's proposal for minimum unit pricing for alcohol. An emergency motion at CAMRA's national members' conference in Eastbourne pointed out that the proposal would have curbed irresponsible alcohol promotions in supermarkets but would not have affected prices in well run community pubs, which have the added benefit of a supervised environment for alcohol consumption.

CAMRA's members' conference also called for reduced VAT and duty on draught beer and cider sold in pubs and supported demands for a ban on restrictive covenants being imposed by pub companies to prevent pub buildings remaining as pubs when sold.



Good news for tenants of the 145 pubs in the Brakspear chain is that their pub company is to absorb the 2% rise in alcohol duty imposed at the budget last month –

part of duty escalator programme announced last year. The increase took place from 23 April despite a huge campaign of opposition, 'Axe the Beer Tax', supported by CAMRA.

CAMRA's Cambridge Branch has objected to a planning application to convert the Duke of Argyle pub in Argyle Street to housing. Paul Ainsworth, Cambridge

CAMRA's Pubs Officer said 'It could be a really valuable community asset'.

CAMRA has launched an on-line 'Save our Pubs' forum to provide advice and

downloadable resource material to help communities combat pub closure plans. The forum can be reached by going to [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) then clicking on 'Forums'.

CAMRA is urging councils to opt in to the new Sustainable Communities Act to help residents to get government help to support vulnerable local amenities such as pubs and post offices. Councils must sign up by the end of July to use the new powers. There is more information at [www.localworks.org](http://www.localworks.org)

Greene King is to roll out its 'Revolution' dispense font system for IPA to two thousand outlets by the end of the year. The font, previously used for cask St Edmund Ale, allows customers to choose between a tight head, as generally preferred on draught beer in the North of the UK, and a loose head with a fizzier taste, as is preferred in the South and traditional for Greene King beers.



In another move, Greene King has announced a proposal to subsidise sales of Greene King IPA to allow its tenanted pubs to sell the beer for £1.99 a pint. Meanwhile pub chain Wetherspoons has replaced its 99p a pint promotion for IPA with a 99p promotion for Greene King's Ruddles Best Bitter.



# HALF PINTS

Britain's small brewers bucked the trend in the declining overall UK beer market and increased their beer sales by 10% over the year 2008. The figures, released by the Small Independent Brewers' Association, refer to brewers producing less than 350 barrels a week.



Oxfordshire brewer Hook Norton's cask Hooky Bitter is now available nationally following its addition as a permanent part of Carlsberg UK's 'Tapsters' Choice', which provides a range of

regional real ales to Carlsberg's free trade customers. Hooky Gold is also available occasionally.

MPs were due to debate pub ownership and the beer tie at the end of April following criticism of the tie by MP John Pugh, who was to lead the debate. A parliamentary committee has also been investigating pub companies but is yet to report. CAMRA is in favour of retention of the beer tie as its loss in other countries has led to brewery closures and reduced choice and competition.



A new cask ale brewery, Sambrook's, has opened in Wandsworth, the former home of the regional brewery Youngs. Sambrook's 3.8% ses-

sion bitter is named Wandle Ale after the river that flows through Wandsworth.

Pub trade newspaper The Publican is

supporting British beer with a campaign entitled 'Beer Matters', aimed at ensuring that beer is 'front of mind for publicans'. The campaign includes guides to better beer quality for licensees and initiatives to improve beer promotion.

London brewer Fullers is advertising its London Pride real ale on ITV in the London and meridian regions during breaks in football coverage, following an earlier campaign two years ago. The new promotion will emphasise ingredients and quality.



A new beer quality training scheme has been introduced by Scottish and Newcastle Pub Enterprises for its new leased pub licensees.

Cask Titanic Anchor Bitter from the Stoke on Trent microbrewery went on sale in the Strangers' Bar at the House of Commons in March.



South Norfolk District Council has launched a new 'Community Pub of the Year' award in support of its campaign



to prevent pub closures. The council's tourism and leisure team will organise a celebratory event at the winning pub. Councillor Margaret Dewsbury said "Celebrating community pubs means we can pass on the secrets of their success."

# PUB PIECES



The Falcon on New Street in **St Neots** has reopened as the **Pig n Falcon** with a new range of cask beers from independent brewers and is being operated as a free house under a new relaxed Greene King tenancy tie arrangement termed 'Independence Pubs', with local CAMRA member and retailer John Nunn at the helm. The Pig n Falcon is offering a wide range of beers from local breweries like Potbelly, Oakham, and Cambridge Moonshine, as well as local cider from Pickled Pig. It is understood that other local Greene King pubs may be offered as tenancies with similar relaxed beer tie arrangements.



During the recent Local Pubs Week coach tour CAMRA members called in at the **Pheasant at Keyston** to make a special presentation, celebrating the fact that the Pheasant has been in 10 consecutive editions of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. This is an outstanding achievement by the licensees of the Pheasant and increasingly rare when pubs change hands on an ever more frequent basis. Congratulations to owners and managers Jay and Taffeta Scrimshaw.

In response to the chancellor's latest beer duty rise, the **Horseshoe Inn and Restaurant, Offord D'Arcy** has decided to 'swallow' the duty



increase and offer their customers two other incentives: 50p off a pint for CAMRA members showing their membership card, and a 'Local Secrets' loyalty card. This is otherwise known as The Cambridge Card, The Huntingdon Card, or The St Neots Card. Using this card allows their customers to collect points worth 4p for every £1 spent, effectively reducing the average price of real ale to £2.25/pint. Points can then be spent at the Horseshoe to buy more ale or food, or at any of over fifty outlets in Cambridgeshire. The Horseshoe serves Potton Shannon IPA and Fullers London Pride and two guests change every week; these have recently included Buntingford's Golden Plover and Squadron 92.

Following serious damage by fire to the **White Hart at Bythorn**, Huntingdonshire District Council has indicated that listing building consent to demolish would probably not be granted if requested.

Opening Times has been receiving more reports of changes of licensee at pubs around the area. Peggy, formerly of the **Elephant and Castle, Woodwalton** is the new landlady at the **White Hart, Warboys**. There has been a change of manager for Greene King's holding company at the **Merry Boys in Eynesbury**. The lease of the **Wheatsheaf at Eaton Socon** has been reported to be available, a previous incumbent having moved to the **Wrestlers in St Neots**.

Belatedly, Opening Times can also welcome Kevin and Lucy Whittle, who took over the lease of Greene King pub the **Bell at Great Paxton** last year, and the arrival at **Ellington Mermaid** of a new landlord and a wider range of cask ales, from the Greene King range.

**10 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!**

# PUB PIECES

Greene King's **Windmill** at **Somersham** has closed again. Last year it closed when the leaseholders pulled out and following the installation of new incumbents shortly thereafter it closed earlier this year due to flooding damage.



An interesting development at the **Racehorse** at **Catworth** has been the advertising of bottled beers and spirits to

take away.

Punch Taverns leases have been advertised for the **Royal Oak** in **St Ives** and the **Hardwick Arms**, **Gamlingay**.

At **Stukeley**, the **Three Horseshoes** has reintroduced real ale in the form of John Smiths cask bitter after a number of years with no real ale on sale.



The historic **Lion Hotel** at **Buckden**, notable for some original features dating back as far as the 15th century,

has been reported to be undergoing renovations to extend the bar area into the restaurant.



Following our report of a notable range of cask beers being served direct from the cask at the Riverview, Earith,

Opening Times has received a report that the **Three Horseshoes**, **Abbots Ripton** is now also serving their entire range of cask beers direct from the cask.

## Pub Beer Festivals

The **White Horse** at **Tilbrook** is having a real ale and music festival Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th May, featuring 12 real ales including 6 locally brewed ales.



The **Green Man** at **Colne** is putting on a bank holiday beer festival at the pub on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May.



The **Cock** at **Gamlingay** is having a mini beer festival Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July with a range of Greene King seasonal beers plus guest beers.



The **Mad Cat** at **Pidley** will celebrate the second anniversary of Darren and Sinead taking over the pub, with a beer festival running from Thursday 30th July to Sunday 2nd August.



The **White Hart** at **Godmanchester** will stage a beer festival from Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th August following the



success of its first event last August when 22 local real ales and 5 local real ciders were on offer. There will again be live bands, a barbeque and a hog roast.



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# The White Horse Tilbrook

## Real Ale and Music Festival 23rd to the 25th May.

The White Horse Tilbrook launches "Tilfest 2009" a three day Real Ale and Music Festival over the late May Bank Holiday with charity fundraising events in aid of the MS Society.

12 Real Ales featuring 6 Charles Wells and 6 local guest ales with BBQ Food.

We would love to see you there!



Live bands across the 23rd and 24th with fantastic local band Joker featuring Owen Edwards, Split Whiskers, The Ouse Valley Jazz Band, Midlife Crisis and other acts to be announced starting at 3pm and finishing 11pm.

Charity prize draws with all proceeds going to the MS Society.

**White Horse, High Street, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0JP**  
**Tel: 01480 860764**

12 Join 98,000 members of CAMRA and fight for Britain's beer heritage

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Ely & District Branch

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the City centre

Look out for further posters containing  
more information

For more information visit  
[www.elycamra.org.uk](http://www.elycamra.org.uk)  
or  
[www.elyale.co.uk](http://www.elyale.co.uk)

E-mail [elybeerfestival@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:elybeerfestival@tiscali.co.uk)

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**Huntingdonshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2006**



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**Available all  
year round**



### SEASONAL ALES

Thin Ice 4.7% Jan/Feb Old Wagg 4.0% March/April  
Double Swan 4.5% May/June Mad Dog 4.4% July/Aug  
Barleymead 4.8% Sept/Oct Old Black Shuck 4.5% Nov  
Snickalmas 5.0% Wenceslas Winter Warmer 7.5% Dec

## King of the Belgians Hartford

Three real ales changing weekly  
Traditional pub food served  
Tuesday-Saturday 11-2.30pm, 5.30-  
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Traditional big Sunday roast.



Opening times: Monday-Thursday 11-3pm, 5-11pm, Fri-  
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**27 Main Street, Hartford, Huntingdon,  
Cambs, PE29 1XU. Tel: 01480 52030**



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

**GOING OUT LIVE**

Pub event guide, Huntingdonshire and surrounding areas



To find out about live music events in Huntingdonshire and surrounding areas go to [www.huntscamra.org.uk/gigs](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk/gigs).

To subscribe to our weekly newsletter send an email to: [camragol-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:camragol-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk)

To submit an event to the guide, send the details to: [gigs@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:gigs@huntscamra.org.uk)  
or  
(01480) 477118

## THE CHEQUERS

71 Main Road, Little Gransden

Tel: 01767 677348



**East Anglia  
CAMRA  
Pub of  
the Year  
2008**

**Bob and Wendy Mitchell** invite you to try their unique unspoilt village local with its own special atmosphere

Different Real Ale each week

# The Cock

*at Hemingford Grey*



Four Real Ales from breweries such as Buntingford, Digfield, Earl Soham, Great Oakley, Milton, Nethergate, Oakham, Oldershaw, Potbelly, and Wolf. Also Cromwell Oliver's Choice Cider.

**Beer festival 2009: August bank holiday weekend Friday pm to Sunday pm.  
Local bands, BBQ and 25 real ales.**

In a continued effort to source all of our produce locally we have adopted a policy of only using breweries for our real ale within a one hour drive.

**Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003  
Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2006/7 & 2007/8**

# BREWING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

'Brewers and Brewing in Huntingdonshire — A social and economic history' by Evelyn Lord was published in 2008. This comprehensive book starts with an outline description of the brewing process from the perspective of brewing in centuries past.

It continues with a chronicle of brewing in the middle ages, including an excellent account of the historic St Ives fair. What sets this book apart from the typical catalogue of brewing history is that the author brings the topic alive and places brewing in it's historical context. Tales of fairs, trading between brewers, and alewives appearing in court for debts paint a clear picture of medieval St Ives. Brewing did not just take place in towns of the size of St Ives. In medieval times each village would have had a number of alewives, often prominent members of their community.

In the late medieval period, inns and taverns created greater demand for ale, and brewing started to become a concentrated production activity. The Lion, Buckden and the George, Huntingdon are noted as early inns.

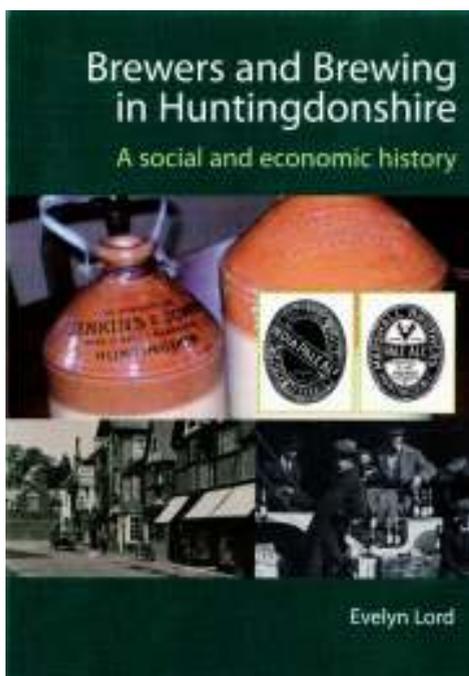
The narrative continues with the introduction of hops from Flanders, and the migration from ale to beer, but its probable that such new fangled ideas were not introduced into Huntingdonshire until much later. The licensing of brewing in the 1600's saw the real commercialisation of the industry, and a large number of town breweries were set up in Huntingdonshire at this time. Common brewers as they were known, typically distributed within a 6 mile radius, clearly nowadays this would meet CAMRA's criteria for LocAle.

The 17th century also saw the establishment of many local inns, taverns and ale-houses that still exist today, including many coaching inns along the Great North Road. The establishment of the breweries of John Day, James Paine and William Herbert is described in colourful detail, as are the accounts of famous travellers the day such as Daniel Defoe.

The book traces the subsequent development of all of the county's breweries during the 18th and 19th centuries, including details of brewing activities and tied pubs.

Evelyn Lord's book is a good read and not a dry reference work, but the depth of her research makes this an excellent source book too.

Published by EAH Press, ISBN 978-0-9560384-0-1, price £6.99.



# *The Mad Cat*



2 real ales from local breweries, constantly changing  
Food available daily. Traditional home cooked pub  
food. Mon-Sat 12-2.30; 6-9, Sunday carvery 12-4.

## **Beer Festival 30th July—2nd August**

Beers to include: Elgoods, Oakham, Church End and  
others, plus three ciders available

*Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2009*

High Street, Pidley, PE28 3BX

Telephone: 01487 842245, [www.madcatinn.co.uk](http://www.madcatinn.co.uk)

## Manor House Hotel

A traditional old country pub

Serving Greene King IPA

Plus two other ever changing Real

Ales. 130 different Guest Ales

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Full bar snack and restaurant menu.

Plus now serving "A new Black Rock menu"

Come and cook your own meat or fish on the Hot Rock

**Black Rock**  
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Telephone: 01480 890423

# 'BOOZE ON THE OUSE' SUCCESS

The St Neots Beer Festival in March this year was a huge success, with attendances 50% greater than previous events. 1,440 visitors enjoyed over 3,800 pints of real ale, over 400 pints of cider, and around 500 bottles of foreign beer.

Congratulations to local Digfield brewery in Barnwell—their Fool's Nook was voted beer of the festival. In second place was Cambridge Moonshine Pig's Ear Porter, and in joint third place were Oakham Asylum, Taylor Best Bitter and Tring Side Pocket for a Toad.

The theme of the festival was local beers and ciders, and the feedback from attendees was very positive. Cambridgeshire and its neighbouring counties have many breweries and cider producers, but their products are not often seen in our local pubs. Following the festival we hope that

more licensees will be asked by their regulars to stock these products.

Congratulations are also due to Paul Roberts of St Neots who was the winner of our prize draw for those completing a feedback form. He wins a copy of CAMRA's book Brew Your Own Real Ale.

Volunteers from our charity for the festival, the Huntingdonshire local group of the Wildlife Trust, did sterling work dishing out glasses, and collected funds in the process.

The St Neots Beer Festival will return in 2010 from the 19th to 21st of February. Please make a note in your diary. But you do not have to wait that long for another breathtaking selection of real ales, since the St Ives Beer Festival will take place on the 10th to 12th of September 2009



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Huntingdonshire Branch

## BEER FESTIVAL

Thu 10th-Sat 12th  
September 2009  
St Ivo Centre  
St Ives

### 50+ REAL ALES

*(over the duration of the festival)*

Cider and bottled foreign beer

**Opening Times:** Thursday 6pm-10.45pm, Friday 5pm-10.45pm, Saturday all day from 12am-10.45pm

**Entry (including programme):**

£2.00 Thursday & Friday evenings (from 7pm)

£1.00 All day Saturday *CAMRA members free entry to all sessions*

Early Bird Entrance Thursday 6-7pm and Friday 5-7pm: Entry only £1.00

Families welcome until 8pm

[www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival) for more details

CAMRA stall  
and tombola

Soft drinks, wines  
and spirits bar

Free soft drinks for  
designated drivers

Bar snacks at  
all sessions

## THE SWAN

Main Street, Old Weston

Tel: 01832 293400

REAL ALES and REAL FOOD



Adnams Southwold Bitter  
Adnams Broadside

Greene King Abbot + Guests

Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2004

Fish & Chips Wednesday Evening

Restaurant open Friday & Saturday  
evenings & Sunday lunchtimes

## Nene Valley Railway

### Ticket to imbibe!

A great day awaits you and your friends  
on the Nene Valley Railway on

**Sat/Sun 4th & 5th July**

A superb selection  
of real ales will be  
served for your  
delectation as you  
roll through the  
Cambridgeshire  
countryside. Free  
parking and hot  
meals in the  
Turntable Café.



**NVR, Wansford Station, Stibbington (on  
the A1), Nr Peterborough PE8 6LR  
01780 784444 [www.nvr.org.uk](http://www.nvr.org.uk)**

## The Crown Inn Broughton

EATING & DRINKING HOUSE



**10% OFF.** Go to our new website & join our mailing  
list to receive a 10% off voucher for your next visit.

Featured in all of the top food guides, our style is Modern  
British with French & Italian influences. We always offer a  
selection of well looked after Ales including Greene King IPA  
& others from local breweries.

Situated only 7 miles from Huntingdon in the picturesque  
village of Broughton, Chef David Anderson & his team look  
forward to welcoming you to the Crown soon.

Booking is highly recommended especially at weekends.

Tel: 01487 824 428

[www.thecrowninnrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.thecrowninnrestaurant.co.uk)

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Save money by paying by Direct Debit!

# Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



## Your Details

Title ..... Surname .....

Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Email address .....

Tel No (s) .....

## Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title ..... Surname .....

Forename(s) .....

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? .....

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for .....

Signed ..... Date .....

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108



## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



### Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

### Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

### Bank or Building Society Account Number

.....

### Branch Sort Code

.....

### Reference Number

.....

### Origination Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

### FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

### Membership Number

Name

Postcode

### Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards covered by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

## The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society
- If the amount to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or in otherwise agreed
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your request to us.

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.


**Oakham ales**  
[www.oakhamales.com](http://www.oakhamales.com) Tel 01733 370500

A traditional old country  
pub and  
restaurant with a warm  
and friendly atmosphere.

Traditional Sunday Lunch.  
Children's menu available.

Open all day Saturday and  
Sunday.

4 real cask ales served including Adnams Bitter, Fullers London  
Pride plus 2 guest ales. Bar Meals are available every day.

A la carte menu is served in our restaurant Monday to Saturday.

The menu caters for all tastes including vegetarian and  
any special dietary needs.

## *The Pig and Abbot*

High Street, Abington Pigotts, Nr. Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 0SD  
Telephone: 01763 853515



# EVENTS AND SOCIALS

## May 2009 – Mild Month / Pub tours

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Open Committee Meeting, **Manchester Arms, St Ives** (8.30 pm).

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> **Mild Month** – Mild is a lovely beer style and several pubs will be stocking milds during May to coincide with the CAMRA promotion. Tours will be arranged around the pubs of St. Ives and St. Neots that will be selling milds, plus some car tours around local village pubs. These will probably include: St Ives / Pidley, Mad Cat, / Colne, Green Man / Hemingford Grey, Cock / Huntingdon, Market Inn / St Neots, George and Dragon, Hyde Park, Lord John Russell, Pig n Falcon / Little Gransden, Chequers / Gamlingay, Cock. Final details including times will be published in the web site diary a week before the date.

## June 2009 – Stamford Train Trip

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Committee Meeting, **Market Inn, Huntingdon**, (8.30 pm).

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> **Train trip to Stamford** to tour the pubs of the town. St Neots station: 10:15am, Huntingdon station 10:20 am. Starting with a hearty breakfast in the market square we will then tour the pubs of Stamford before catching the return train at 5:59 pm, with a stop at the Brewery Tap/Drapers Arms in Peterborough.

## July 2009 – Cambridge Pubs Trip

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Open Committee Meeting, **Pig n Falcon, St Neots** (8.30 pm).

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Trip to the **Pubs of Cambridge**. Starting in the Castle, in Castle Hill at 12 noon the group will then tour the some of the vast array of pubs which Cambridge has to offer. Transport via public services.

## August 2009

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Open Committee Meeting, **Three Horseshoes, Abbots Ripton** (8.30 pm).

An up to date listing of Social Events can also be found at the web site:  
[www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary).

# WHO TO CONTACT

**Chairman: Keith Lawson**, 01480 352632 (h), 8 Peate Close, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 2DX.

**Secretary: Richard Harrison**, 01480 406987 (h)

**Treasurer: Edric Ellis**, 01480 492213 (h), [treasurer@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@huntscamra.org.uk)

**Membership: Margaret Eames**, (01480)

385333 (h)

**Pubs Info: Roy Endersby**, (01480) 473364, [pubs@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@huntscamra.org.uk)

**Campaigning: Kathy Hadfield-Moorhouse**, (01480) 496247 (h).

**Going Out Live Event Guide: Chris Knowles**, 01480 477118 (14:00-22:00).

## TRADING STANDARDS

Your local Trading Standards organisation is Cambridgeshire County Council Trading Standards. If you have any complaints about trading standards issues at local pubs, such as short measure or misleading product promotion, please contact them.

They have a role to protect consumers from errors or frauds concerned with quality, description or price of goods, services or facilities and to detect and rectify unfair advertising practices.

Contact **Cambridgeshire Trading Standards** helpdesk on 08454 040 506, or at Trading Standards Division, Sackville House, Sackville Way, Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB2 6HL. The local trading standards web site is [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/trading/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/trading/). The national trading standards web site is [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk).

## OPENING TIMES

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### To Advertise

To place an advert or enquire about our rates please contact:

Neil Richards: 01536 358670 or [N.Richards@btinternet.com](mailto:N.Richards@btinternet.com)

Printed by Lodge Printers Ltd Tel 01487 832629

**Deadline for Autumn 2009 issue (140) is Friday 17th July 2009.**



# 2009 BEER FESTIVAL



**Thurs. July 30th ~ 7pm-11pm**  
**Fri. July 31st ~ 11am-Late**  
**Sat. August 1st ~ 11am-Late**  
**Sun. August 2nd ~ Noon-4pm**

**55+ BEERS & CIDERS**  
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL FOOD AVAILABLE**

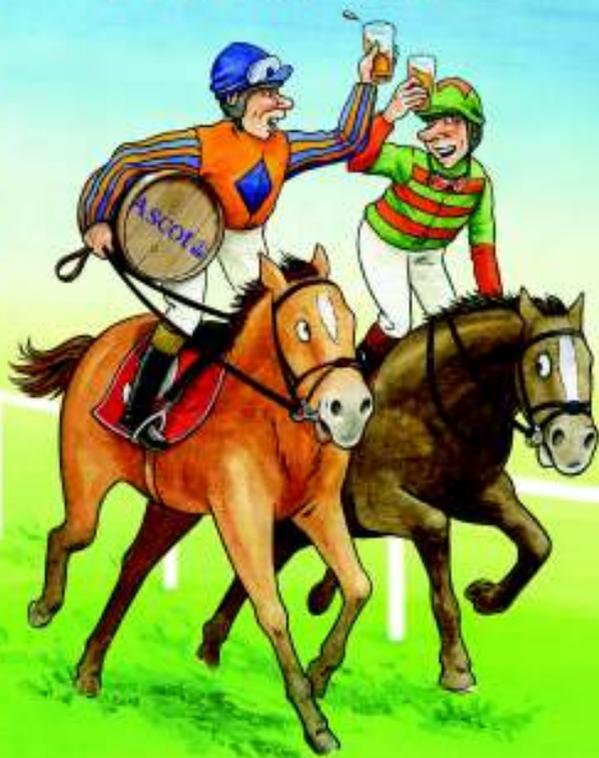
**Tel: 01536 512475**  
**or see [www.wicksteedpark.co.uk](http://www.wicksteedpark.co.uk)**

*For Wicksteed Park, Kettering follow the brown signs from Junction 10 of the A14.*

To allow selling, not all beers will be available at any one time. Also some beers will become 'ICE D-DUT' as the festival progresses. Entertainment is an evening session only.

**Entry ticket £2.00 per session (CAMRA card carrying members £1.00)**

“LAST ONE BACK GETS  
THEM IN.”



## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASCOT RACECOURSE BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009

- Exclusive HALF PRICE admission for CAMRA members – prices from just £4.89 on Friday and £9.79 on Saturday.
- Excellent programme of racing.
- Over 150 real ales, ciders and perries to sample supplied predominantly from local craft brewers. All at £1.25 per half pint and £2.50 per pint. Free tasting notes provided.
- Hot and cold food available all day.
- Gates and Bars open at 11am. Last orders 4.55pm on Friday and 5.30pm on Saturday.
- Live music on both days.
- Free parking or a 7 minute walk from Ascot Railway Station.



To book tickets, call 0870 727 1234  
or visit [ascot.co.uk](http://ascot.co.uk) quote CAMRA09.

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