

# OPENING TIMES



BRANCH  
NEWSLETTER

PLEASE  
TAKE  
ONE

Issue No. 3

May/June 1977

It makes a change in these depressed times to talk about something that will bring a lot of happiness to people in this area. What is it you may ask.....The Real Beer Tent at the RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL in St. Neots. Many hours have been spent by keen CAMRA Members and friends to bring about the largest beer exhibition ever to be staged in this area.

Lessons have been learned from our successful event last year to help us bring to you a well organised and memorable few days drinking.

Great consideration has been given to supply a good variety of beer with an emphasis on most local brews. Several brews are also making their first appearance in this area which to many people will be a great attraction.

No fewer than THIRTY THREE different beers will be available for sampling.

Breweries Represented at the festival include Paines, Greene King, Charles Wells, Fullers, Batemans, Elgoods, Ruddles, Tolly Cobbold, Litchborough, Morells, Donnington, Hook Norton, Adnams, Marstons, McMullens, Theakstons, Boddingtons, Pollards and even a real ale from Watneys. Try also our "Eynesbury Midget", a beer made specially available for the Riverside Festival and never to be tasted again.

If the range of draught beer is not sufficient to quench your thirst, by popular demand we are also offering almost 300 gallons of REAL CIDER. Brewed by Bulmers in Hereford, we have both Dry and Medium Sweet available served direct from a wooden cask in the same manner that it has been served for centuries.

Should you still feel thirsty or want drinks for the children, we also have a full bar offering lager, bottled beer, spirits and soft drinks.

If this is not enough, what else can we do??

We also have available a limited quantity of festival glasses. Government stamped to hold one pint and printed in two colours, these glasses will prove a collector's item and should be bought early.

A 24 page programme (only 10p) will give full details of all the beers available, including their original gravities and taste to help you to choose the beers which suit your palate.

Don't forget also the grand draw with over 50 prizes. Tickets will be on sale over the weekend and the draw will take place at 5.00 p.m. on Sunday 11th June.

For those who want to learn more about CAMRA and find out where REAL ALE is available a CAMRA stall will be staffed all weekend, where we will try to answer all your queries.

Now that we have wetted your appetite with the above list of beers available you will want to take a note of the times that this delectable range of beers can be consumed.

Friday 10th Jun. Private Preview to CAMRA and ROUND TABLE MEMBERS + GUESTS

6.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

Saturday 11th June, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. General Public

Sunday 12th June, 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. General Public

### News from the Editor

Just a reminder to you that May is an official MILD month which means that every beer drinker should consume as many pints of MILD as is humanly possible. Mild is a very good value for money drink. Not as heavy as some premium grade bitters but a lot kinder to you after a session. The highest price of Mild can be no more than about 26p per pint and comes in many forms.

For instance:

PAINES of St. Neots Brew an Extra Special Mild with a gravity of 1032

You can obtain it in the Royal Oak, High St., St. Neots,

The Prince of Wales, Upper Dene, Beds.

Victoria Inn, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon, just to name a few.

GREENE KING (Biggleswade) Brew KK 1030.8 a light mild

Available at The Crown at Litlington,

Blue Ball, Toseland,

Old Sun, Eaton Socon.

They also Brew XX 1030.8 a dark mild.

This can be obtained at

Windmill, Somersham,

Cross Keys, Caxton.

TOLLY COBBOLD of Ipswich brew a Mild 1030 sweet and full bodied.

This regrettably can only be found in one house,

King William IV in Fenstanton.

If you used to drink Mild in your earlier days and now have switched for one reason or the other, to drinking bitter, try ordering a pint of mild again and hopefully, like me, you will be drinking gallons of it in the future.

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Now here's a chance for the Comedian element in everybody to come to the surface. I am doing a Survey (call it what you will) to discover how many varied expressions there are, to describe your mouth the morning after a heavy drinking session. The more humorous the better of course! Just to start the ball rolling I have been able to discover one or two that might get the imagination working a little.

My mouth feels like:

The inside of a Busdriver's Glove.

A Japanese Wrestlers Jockstrap.

A gorilla's Armpit

Inside of a Royal Marine's Boot.

The bottom of a Baby's Pram (all wee and biscuits)

The bottom of a birdcage.

A Tesco Carrier bag.

The sole of a Zoo keepers boot.

If you have any more phrases on the tip of your tongue that you think I should know about, please telephone me on St. Ives 69362 (Richard Heaver) and I shall print them in the next edition.

### Spotlight on Inn Signs

After the Church, the most powerful influence upon the development of inn signs was the Monarchy and nowadays there are probably more "Crowns" and "Kings Heads" than any other sign. The reasons are obvious. Many of our inns date back to times when the royal succession was anything but certain and anyone proclaiming

his trade as obviously as a publican had to be sure of keeping in with the authorities. During the Wars of the Roses, keepers of "Kings Head" inns and "Rose" inns must have been continually hopping up ladders to change the face of the Monarch or the colour of the Rose, and no doubt many changed over to the less specific Crown in the hope of pleasing anyone who happened to be wearing it at the time. A consequence of the marriage of Henry VII to Elizabeth of York was a rash of Rose and Crown signs.

Most of the Kings of England since the conquest have used the lion as part of their coat of arms, but Edward III used a Rising Sun and may be the origin of many signs of that name that still exist. Later, when Edward claimed the throne of France, he incorporated the French emblem the Fleur de lys - into his arms, and innkeepers followed his lead. In some cases this became altered to a plume of feathers after Edward's son, the Black Prince, adopted the feathers as his badge. At Princes Risborough, when the Prince's palace once stood, is a sign, the Black Prince.

A very popular sign is the White Hart. The origin of this creature goes back to Alexander the Great who is supposed to have caught a pure white stag and placed a gold collar round its neck. The Portcullis is a sign that originates from a badge of the Tudors.

On the occasion of the accession of Charles II a forest of Royal Oaks sprouted all over England. The sign commemorates Charles' escape from the Parliamentary army by hiding in a Oak Tree at Boscobel. The Royal Standard of England at Forty Green, near Beaconsfield, claims to have received its name from Charles II for sheltering him during his escape.

Just as inns on Royal land publicised their allegiance to the Crown, so inns on manorial lands supported the local baron. Complete coats of arms are familiar on inn signs, but again some signs are a symbol only, that refers to some noble family. For instance, the Red Lion was the sign of John of Gaunt: The crest of the powerful Earls of Warwick was the Bear and Ragged Staff, the White Bear was that of the Earls of Kent, The Green Dragon that of the Earls of Pembroke, and the Swan, the Dukes of Buckingham.

A survey of 19,000 British Inn names lists the most popular as follows: Red Lion (386); Crown (350); White Hart (269); Kings Head (178); Kings Arms (159); Royal Oak (159).

(From Inn Signs by Cadbury Lamb - Shire Publications).

Mr. John Winbourne and his wife Chris have recently taken over the Prince of Wales at Upper Dene which is a Paines Tied house. He reports that since real ale has been installed approximately seven weeks ago his trade has doubled. Not surprisingly I tasted all beers on my visit and found that he did justice to Paines good range of beers. Mild is served from a "Pin" on the bar whilst bitter and E.G. are gravity fed from the room behind the bar. It is a pub well worth a visit especially if you like a bite to eat with your pint. You can choose from a bar snack from one Menu or a full a la Carte Menu in the Restaurant.

John likes to cater for every body and has included a Skittles Table and dart board in addition to the comprehensive and well stocked bar. With summer coming the garden will be open to relax in while drinking with the family.

John and Chris who moved from Potton, said "We spent more time in the Rising Sun in Potton than at home, so it became natural to take on a pub of our own." Best of luck to both of you, keep up the good work.

QUIZ OF THE MONTH - answers in Beer Festival Programme

1. Which pub in East Anglia is reputed to be the smallest in Britain?
2. What was the name of the now defunct Barnsley Brewery?
3. Which famous national bitter has been increased in strength recently?
4. What does sparging mean?
5. Who was James Toller?
6. Which town in East Anglia did Dales have a brewery?
7. What is the name of Watney's real ale?
8. How many different real ale brewers are represented in St. Neots?
9. Where do finings come from?
10. Which year was CAMRA formed?

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The next meeting of the St. Neots Branch of CAMRA are as follows. Please feel free to come and voice your opinions. We will be happy to see you.

Wednesday 15th June : Branch Meeting at Lord John Russell, St. Neots.  
(Paines) 8.00 p.m.

Thursday 23rd June : Joint Social with N. Beds Branch at the Bell, Eaton  
Socon (Wells) 8.30 p.m.

..... : Brewery Trip to Greene King (Biggleswade) 2.00 p.m.  
Tuesday 28th June : Contact Robin Lee (Biggleswade 313664)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a member of Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign, and I enclose £4 (£5 for overseas members) as my annual membership subscription. (Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation.)

FULL NAME (Block capitals).....

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals).....

.....COUNTY.....

SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited and sent to Derek Giles, 16 Merlin Close, Longsands Road, St. Neots.  
Telephone - Huntingdon 74436

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