

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

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All material for inclusion in the February newsletter should be in the Editor's hands not later than 24th January.

On behalf of the committee of the St. Neots branch of CAMRA the Editor would like to wish all readers of Opening Times a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 9th Jan: Social at the Bell, Great Paxton.

Wed 23rd Jan: Branch meeting at the Royal Oak, St. Neots. The February and March branch meetings will also be held here, partly because it is winter and it is better to keep to the town and partly to encourage members (or anyone interested) who do not normally attend meetings to come along.

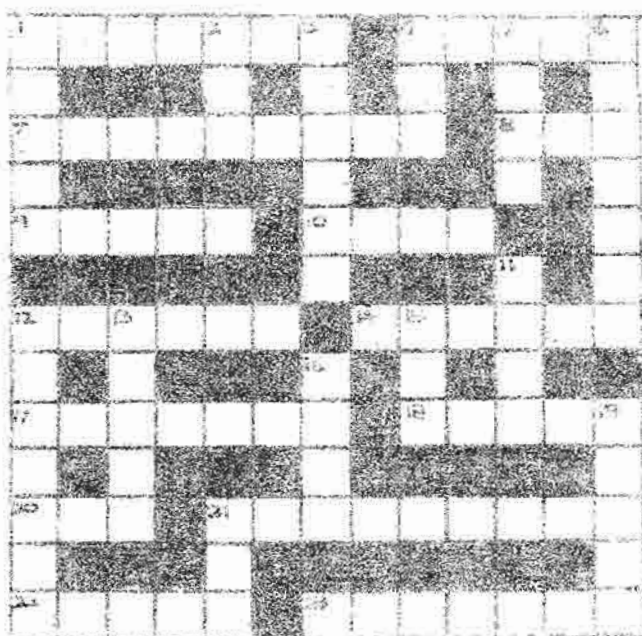
Wed 30th Jan: Social at the Lion, Ramsey with the Peterborough branch.

Wed 6th Feb: Pub crawl around St. Ives. Meet at the Manchester Arms.

All branch meetings begin around 8pm.

CROSSWORD(No 5)

Entries should be given or sent to the Editor by 23rd January. The winner will be decided at the Royal Oak on the 23rd and the prize is £1.



Clues - Across

1. Lincolnshire brewers (7)
4. Fermented apple juice (5)
7. Papworth's only pub (6,3)
8. Also (3)
9. Liquid refreshment (5)
10. Fruit (4)
12. The Lion here has guest beers (6)
14. Suffolk's seaside ale (6)
17. They don't get older daily (7)
18. A salty racecourse (5)
20. Old age (3)
21. There's a castle but only half a moon (9)
22. Suppliers to 7 (5)
23. Brewed in Wisbech (7)

Clues - Down

1. Sun scorched (5)
2. Month (3)
3. Little chance (2,4)
4. Sever (3)
5. Beer lorry (5)
6. Oakham's family brew (7)

11. Deep sounding ale (4)
12. Greene King in Essex (7)
13. Fungus (5)
15. A river (3)
16. Musical instrument (4)
19. Brewed in Norwich (5)
21. The solution (3)

(RO)

PUB NEWS

The Wheatsheaf in St. Neots has now had a set of 3 handpumps installed, serving Greene King Dark Mild, Bitter and Abbot. At last real Greene King has returned to the town, thanks to Tony Tuck, the landlord.

The Cross Keys in St. Neots, which was leased by Paines to Chef & Brewer around May of last year, has just been completely redecorated.

The extension at the Old Sun in Eaton Socon should be open towards the end of the month, hopefully electric pumps are to be used to dispense the beer.

Vic & Sal at the Plough, Abbotsley now have their own handpump and the branch handpump has been removed.

The Waterloo, High Street, Huntingdon has joined the growing numbers of Watney pubs selling Manns IPA. A handpump has been installed in the public bar and according to Taff sales are very good.

IND COOPE GO BACK IN TIME

Ind Coope are to revive the famous old names of Benskins, Friary Meux and Taylor Walker as part of a major reorganisation of the company's structure. Also on the way are four new local cask-conditioned beers, one for each of the new trading areas to be set up as a result of the reshuffle.

Ind Coope's step back in time will mean the formation of six separate companies: four trading companies, a production company called Ind Coope Romford Brewing Company, and a catering operation.

From March old colour schemes will be revived and pubs in London will again bear the name of Taylor Walker; those to the north of London will change to Benskins and those to the south, Friary Meux. Some pubs in each area will retain the Ind Coope identity, although only those in East Anglia will remain wholly Ind Coope in name and image. (WB)

LONDON DEPOT

Greene King are due to open a new depot in Islington, North London, early this year. It will be served from the Biggleswade Brewery and Furneaux Pelham, and should substantially increase the company's ability to penetrate the London free trade. (WB)

BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Editor on behalf of the committee would like to thank Wendy Endersby for baking such a super cake for the party. Over 40 people came along and the evening was very successful.

OLD SUN, EATON SOCON

The seemingly endless alteration work at the Old Sun is now nearing completion (of the first stage at least) and the new lounge, formed out of a former brewery cottage next door, should be open (subject to completion of the new cellar fittings) by the beginning of February. Once this happens, what is now the pub will close, to be knocked through into one large public bar.

Sadly, the present handpumps are to be removed in the alterations, but they are to be replaced, for every day use, by electric pumps which Greene King feel are more suitable for the new cellar arrangements. Thus real ale should still be available at this popular outlet. The handpumps may be retained in the pub for use in power cuts etc.

Landlord Tony Chapman, with whom St. Neots CAMRA seem to have had somewhat patchy relations in the past, plans to do a full range of lunchtime bar-food in his enlarged pub and we wish him well in his new ventures. (PH)

MEMBERSHIP OF CAMRA

Anyone wanting to join the Campaign for Real Ale should write to the Editor at the address overleaf.

Published by the St. Neots & District Branch of CAMRA.