

# OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS  
& DISTRICT



BRANCH  
NEWSLETTER

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

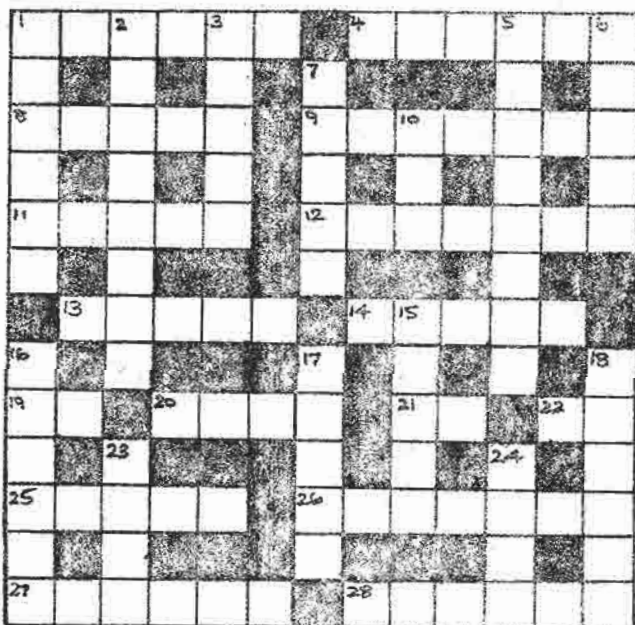
## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 6th Feb: Pub crawl around St.Ives. Meet at the Manchester Arms.  
Wed 20th Feb: Branch meeting at the Royal Oak, St.Neots.  
Wed 5th March: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the Cannon, St.Neots.  
Wed 19th March: Branch meeting at the Royal Oak, St.Neots.  
Wed 2nd Apr: Social at the Barley Mow, Hartford.

All branch and social meetings begin around 8pm.

## CROSSWORD (No 7)

Entries should be given or sent to the Editor by 20th Feb, the winning entry to be drawn at the Royal Oak. The prize as usual is £1. The winner of crossword No 6 was Mr.Moore of the Hardwicke Arms, Gamlingay.



### Clues - Across

- 1.Cambs brewer (6)
- 4&8.Fullers Capital Ale (6,5)
- 9.Suppliers to the Royal Oak ST.Ives(7)
- 11.Take it easy for the first few miles (3,2)
- 12.Drinking vessels (7)
- 13.Flower (5)
- 14.Saintly ale (5)
- 19.-- is K9P (2)
- 20.Tale (4) 21.Ruminant (2)
- 22.You (French) (2)
- 25.(9)'s strong ale (5)
- 26.Flax seed for oil (7)
- 27&17 Down. There's one in Buckden and Croxton (6,5)
- 28.When it's germinated and roasted it's malt (6)

### Clues - Down

- 1.Send McEwans abroad? (6)
- 2.It's good for you (8)
- 3.Large expanse of water (5)

- 5.False hope (8) 6.Birds homes(5) 7.Wells coaching ale (5)
- 10.Same as 3 down(3) 15.Usually bottled mild (5)
- 16.They're alright Jack(6) 17.See 27 across 18.Bad day for Opening Times(6)
- 23.Astral body(4) 24.Not buy(4)

## BOMBARDIER IS COMING

Bombardier, the new draught bitter from Charles Wells, which at present is only on sale in the free trade in the London area is on its way into pubs locally. The beer should be available to Wells pubs from February. According to the brewery the beer was named after a famous boxer, Bombardier Billy Wells, and has an original gravity of 1042. (C.W)

## PUB NEWS

The Cross Keys in St. Neots is now selling Paines 41.

The branch handpump is being installed at Kisby's Hut to serve Tolly Bitter.

The interior of the Poyal Oak in St. Ives has been redecorated and recarpeted during the last month, thereby making this traditional old pub an even brighter place to enjoy a pint of Burton with your ploughman's lunch.

We welcome Alan and Norma Denison to the Sun, Kimbolton. Paines EG should already be on handpump as you read this and XXX Bitter will be on handpump as soon as possible.

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE WATNEYS PUBS GONE

Over recent months Watneys pubs have apparently been changing to Manns. Don't be fooled, they are still owned by the same group except that in this area the name has been changed to Manns. Beers on sale inside the pubs are just the same with the occasional addition of Stag Bitter and Manns IPA. The new Manns company has no brewery and therefore all its beers come from other Watneys breweries, in fact the two mentioned above come from Watneys in Norwich, now called the Norwich brewery.

Watneys, sorry I mean Manns, still own most of the pubs in and around Huntingdon, however as mentioned above some are now selling pub conditioned Stag and IPA sometimes served using electric pumps but mainly using air pressure pumps. However the company seem to be having problems with the air pumps and are trying conventional handpumps in the Northampton area. One handpump has appeared so far in this area at the Waterloo in Huntingdon and two have appeared in Peterborough, let's hope more are to follow. (C.P)

## RUDDLES BREWERY VISIT (17TH JANUARY)

After a confusing start (everyone offering £5 notes for a £3 fare) we set off for a flying trip up the A1. We arrived at the brewery in Langham at about 11.15am and started as we meant to go on i.e. a visit to the loo followed by free flowing County and Pitter. It was one of the best bars we've visited, for a start it didn't have a till! After two or three drinks (or was it 3 or 4) we were shown around the brewery (well, that was what we went for, wasn't it?).

By the way, if you want to drink Ruddles at home, buy Sainsbury's or Waitrose, they are both canned by Ruddles, but beware, Waitrose stock 4 different types and Ruddles only brew 3 of them (which set us all wondering what went into the 4th.) And did you know you pay around 20p for a large can even before it's filled with beer. (Educational these trips).

Anyway, after sniffing the hops, savouring the yeast and watching it all gently bubbling away we made our way back to the cellar (well, that's where the bar was) for a lovely dinner and a few more drinks before stocking up at the cash and carry across the road (never seen a thatched cash and carry before).

We then boarded the flying minibus to wend our way home and recover from the ordeal, the journey home being enhanced by a raffle (even if only two people bought tickets).

Many thanks to Ruddles and to Sarah for organising it all.

P.S. When is the next one?

(S.T)

## MEMBERSHIP OF CAMRA

Anyone wanting to join the Campaign for Real Ale should write for a membership form to Geoff Parsons, 12, Green Lane, Great Staughton.

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