

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



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REAL ALE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Since January 1980 the number of pubs in the St. Neots branch area increased by 4, all freehouses with 3 of them selling some real ale. The picture of the area as a whole was not so impressive. Of the 6 breweries serving the area only 2 put real ale into pubs on any scale namely Tolly Cobbold introducing 'Original' to give all their 7 outlets some real ale and secondly Watney introducing beer to a further 5 pubs, all on handpump. Paines added 2 real ale outlets, Charles Wells, Whitbread and Greene King one each. The Greene King increase was partly due to our handpump loan scheme. Greene King put another pub back onto top pressure. Overall gains were made to put our total real ale outlets over the 50% mark for the first time (105 of 197). BUT there is still plenty of work to do;

Only 7 out of 30 (23%) Greene King outlets sell SOME real ale.

Only 29 out of 55 (53%) Watney outlets sell SOME real ale.

Only 28 out of 41 (68%) Free houses sell SOME real ale.

We don't expect every pub to only sell real ale but we believe in choice and feel that pubs should cater for all their potential customers'.

(SARAH ORBELL)

DEARER BEER

Manns increased the price of a pint by about 2p from the 2nd February.

Tolly Cobbold who previously increased their prices by 2p in September, increased it again by 2p on 9th February. This makes the price in a managed house's public bar 44p for bitter and 46p for Original.

Charles Wells, who last increased their prices on 4th August, have increased their prices from 16th February, effecting the managed houses from 23rd February. The increase adds 3p to a pint, bringing the managed house public bar price to 44p for IPA and 47p for Bombardier.

Expect to pay a few pence extra on these quoted prices in tenanted houses but if you feel a tenant is charging too much please let us know. Also inform us if you find a pub selling cheap beer!

On March 10th, Sir Geoffrey Howe will probably announce very high increases in duty on drink and become the curse of the drinking class.

SOUTH CAMBS PUBS TO OPEN TILL 11.00PM.

The 203 pubs which are situated in the South Cambs District are to open till 11.00pm Monday to Saturday from April 5th. This brings them into line with bordering licensing areas. Whilst giving the extension the Licensing Justices said they expected to see fewer applications for occasional extensions.

Litlington, Abbington Piggots and Tadlow are amongst places to fall into this area.

Cambridge City Licensees are applying for 11.00pm closing for the summer.

ST.NEOTS BANK HOLIDAY EXTENSIONS

EXTENSIONS GRANTED FOR BANK HOLIDAYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

10.30 - 11.00pm.

MONDAYS April 20th, May 4th, May 25th, Aug 31st THURSDAY Dec 24th.

11.00 - 11.30pm.

SATURDAYS April 18th, May 23rd, Aug 29th, NEW YEARS DAY

10.30 - 12.30 NEW YEARS EVE.

11.00 - Noon CHRISTMAS DAY

Applications for extensions on Good Friday and Sundays were refused.

DOMINOES LEAGUE

Some pubs and clubs in the St.Neots area are interested in forming a league for double-set dominoes (for those who are curious these are the ones which go up to double nine and there are 55 in a set), if any pub is interested in including a team please inform the Editor.

PUB NEWS

KINGS HEAD ST.NEOTS NOW SERVES PAINES EG AND 10.41 BY HANDPUMP.

VICTORIA HUNTINGDON IS REPORTED TO BE SERVING 10.41 BY HANDPUMP.

OLD SUN, EATON SOCON IS POSITIVELY REAL. THE DISPENSE MIGHT FOOL YOU, BUT IT IS ACTUALLY ELECTRIC NOT TOP PRESSURE!!!

Wheatsheaf, St.Neots draught beer sales have increased by 19%.

Chestnuts, Needingworth has now added Ind Coope Burton bitter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tues March 3rd 8.00pm: Joint Social with Northampton Branch at the RAFA Club, Station Road, Rushden, Northants.

Wed March 11th 8.00pm: Branch AGM Market Inn, Huntingdon, Cambs.

Thur March 12th 8.00pm: Joint Social with N.Beds Branch at the Anchor, Tempsford.

Wed March 25th 8.00pm: Social (Darts) Wheatsheaf, St.Neots.

Wed April 8th 8.00pm: Meeting, Green Man, Leighton Bromswold.

Any changes will be notified at meetings or contact Roy (Htdn 73364)

TRY IT---THE FIRST TIME---WITH CAMRA

8.00pm the paper said the meeting would start and there is nobody here yet. Hah, now this looks promising. Beards, long scarves and that certain earnest looking impression. Hope they are friendly. Quite a crowd here now and the chairman (a girl) is finding great difficulty in making herself heard. Still the bickering and bantering is all good fun. At least a lot of people are having their say instead of just one or two 'superior' committee members as is often the case. In fact I can't work out who is committee and who isn't; always a good sign. Time for another beer I think-----.

'Buy you a drink?'

"Well thanks, I'll have $\frac{1}{2}$ of bitter."

Things are looking up, buying me a beer no less, a friend for life. We're still not going on about that stupid local paper are we? Just tell them to get knotted! The meeting's sort of ended, just broken into groups who tend to intermingle and everybody talking to everybody including me. Overall a friendly and welcoming crowd.

Is it worth attending another meeting? There's something happening once a fortnight. Why not! It's better than watching the box. Can I afford not to meet such wonderful people again? No way!

Why don't you try it -- the first time -- with CAMRA? You won't regret it (much). (JOE GREENWAY).

MEMBERSHIP OF CAMRA

Become a member now! For details contact Ian Roberts, 122, Queens Gardens, Eaton Ford, Cambs. (Huntingdon 216761)

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