

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

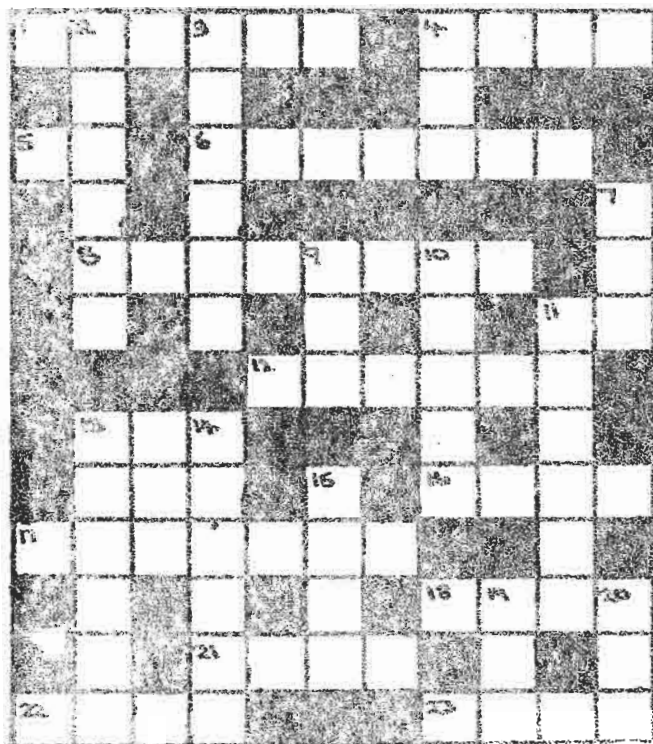
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APRIL 1981

KARENS' CROSSWORD NO 1

All entries to be received by the Editor by April 7th. The winning entry will be drawn at the Green Man, Leighton Bromswold and the winner will receive \$1.00.



CLUES - ACROSS

- 1) Ingredient used in brewing (6)
- 4) Measure of liquid (4)
- 5) Not off (2)
- 6) A five pence weed (7)
- 8) Place where 1 across is converted into malt (8)
- 11) Daytime, perhaps? (2)
- 12) Small Fenland brewery (6)
- 13) Slice (3)
- 16) A cheese (4)
- 17) Some people collect them (7)
- 18) Container for holding beer (4)
- 21) Point on compass (4)
- 22) Carries casks and bottles from brewery to pub (4)
- 23&19 down is what it's all about (4,3)

CLUES - DOWN

- 2) Suffolk Ale? (6)
 - 3) Small (6)
 - 4) Container, vessel (3)
 - 7) General nesting yearly (1,1,1)
 - 9) How you might feel if you drink too much ale (3)
 - 10) St. Neots pub selling Charles Wells (5)
 - 11) Same as 1 down (6)
 - 13) Who makes and repairs wooden casks (6)
 - 14) Name of Northern beer, Leeds and Yorkshire (6)
 - 15) Insects that collect pollen (4)
 - 19) See 23 across
 - 20) Cask of 18 gallon capacity (3)
- (Karen Ewen)

WE WANT YOU NOW!

Join the Campaign for Real Ale now! For a yearly membership of \$5 for an individual and \$6 for a husband & wife. You will receive the Campaign's newspaper "What's Brewing" free every month and also get the opportunity to purchase the "Good Beer Guide" at a reduced rate. This on top of being able to attend brewery trips and local events. Contact Karen on H. 50150.

THE EDITOR

The Editor is anxious that all members and all interested parties should contribute to the newsletter. It is hoped that the articles should be sufficiently interesting to provoke some response from the people who read them. If you disagree with something that is said in this or any future newsletter write it down and send it in!!!

Just talking about it will not get you anywhere.

It should be stressed that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer alone. They are not necessarily the opinions of the St. Neots Branch as a whole. All articles for inclusion in the next newsletter must be in the hands of the Editor by April 9th 1981.

EDITOR: Joe Greenway, Flat 5, The Holme, 21 Post Street, Godmanchester, HUNTINGDON, Cambs.

Published by the ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT BRANCH OF CAMRA.

MAKE A DATE OF OUR FUTURE MEETINGS

Wed March 25th: Riverside Festival meeting, Kings Head, St. Neots.

Sat/Sun March 28/29th CAMRA AGM Durham University.

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

Wed April 22nd: Social 8.00 - 9.30 Vine, Buckden.

9.30 - 10.30 Spread Eagle, Buckden

10.30 ----- Chinese Takeaway, Buckden.

Tues April 28th: Joint meeting with Northants Branch.

Wed May 6th: Meeting Crown and Cushion, Great Gransden.

Note all meetings start 8.00 pm Prompt.

SPECIAL EVENT - COACH TRIP TO LINCOLN

A coach trip is being organised on SATURDAY APRIL 25th to sample the ambiance and ales of the beautiful Cathedral City of Lincoln.

The Coach departs:-

St. Neots	(Market Square)	3.30 pm
Godmanchester	(ROYAL OAK)	3.45 pm
Huntingdon	(Opp Bus Stn)	4.00 pm

The coach will return after closing time (naturally), the cost will be about £3.50 but this will depend on the attendance. This sort of event requires maximum support from all the members for it to be a success and I sincerely hope that this will occur.

CONTACT: Mick Ewen, Huntingdon 50150 for full details.

STOP PRESS

Since the Durham AGM is almost certainly going to recommend an increase in the membership fee, now is the time to join. Contact any branch member soon!!!!

SOUND APPEAL

The EATON SOCON HANDBELL RINGERS thank publicans for the response to their requests to be invited to play Christmas Carols in pubs. They apologise for not being able to get round all the pubs that requested them, but they will try to get to different ones next year. They managed to buy two sets of handbells from the money they collected. (C.P)

ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT BRANCH AGM

On Wednesday March 11th, the St. Neots & District Branch held its annual General Meeting in the upstairs room of the Market Inn, Huntingdon. The meeting lasted a full two hours and over 20 members attended. In her report, the Chairman said that the number of pubs in the area had increased by 4 and that the percentage of pubs now serving real ale was 53%. Many Tolly Cobbold and Watneys pubs had turned real, a few Paines, Charles Wells and Whitbread also but unfortunately no Greene King outlets took the plunge. A great effort was called for, on the part of the membership to convince them of the error of their ways. The membership number was about 90-100 strong and it was recommended that a strong campaign drive should be held at the forthcoming Riverside Festival to increase this. Finally the Chairman thanked the outgoing committee for all their support and wished the incoming committee every success in the year ahead.

The Treasurer said that the branch had made an overall loss on expenditure due to a loan made to CAMRA HQ. But that an overall profit of £201 had been made on the year. This was lower than last years profit and this was directly due to the Riverside Festival being less of a success in money making terms.

Finally the following members were elected to the committee for 1981/82

Secretary: Geoff Parsons

Treasurer: Ian Roberts.

Committee Members: Joe Greenway
Roy Endersby
Mick Ewen
Karen Ewen
Sue Roberts

As a Chairman was not elected, he/she will be elected from one of the above at the next committee meeting.

The Editor

PUB NEWS

- 1) Vic, the Landlord of the Plough, Abbotsley has got an electric organ and would appreciate anyone who is willing to play it for one evening a week to contact him.
- 2) Pear Tree, Bassingbourne has now got Youngers No3 instead of Everards Old Original.
- 3) Darby & Joan, Abbington Figgots; guest beers for future months should include Wadworth's 6X and Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter.
- 4) Huntingdon Research Social Club (open to members and guests only) has installed Greene King XX Mild instead of Bass.
- 5) Not previously reported, but in January the Pike & Eel, Needingworth installed Greene King Abbot and IPA, and Tolly Old Original on hand pump.
- 6) Kings Head, St. Neots sells Paines EG and XXX Bitter on handpump. The 1041 is on top pressure.

IF YOU SMOKE, DRINK OR DRIVE..... UP YOURS, from the Chancellor.
So ran the headline in the "Daily Mirror", March 11th 1981. The long-suffering British workers have been clobbered with 3 straight lefts by the man who said he would put money back into peoples' pockets, to spend how they wanted, and not how the Government decreed. With the increase of 14p on a packet of cigarettes, 4p on a pint of beer and 20p on a gallon of petrol, Mr.Average is going to have to fork out a hell of a lot more for his meagre pleasures than he did before. Sir Geoffrey Howe totally ignored the warnings given to him by the brewing industry and by C.A.M.R.A. The increase in beer taxation will hit many beer drinkers very hard, particularly those who are unemployed, or on short time as a result of the present Government's policies. Also, the additional duty could accelerate pub closures and increase the number of forced lay-offs in the Brewing Industry.

The comments made by people in the brewing industry have been little less than scathing. With the combination of the increase in the price of petrol, the budget has very likely hammered another nail into the coffin of the English country pub. People are going to think twice about driving out to a pub serving Real Ale when it is going to cost them more to get there and more to buy the drinks when they arrive! It is therefore likely that any rise in duty will not bring in extra revenue because there will be a slump in demand. This is a reasonable assumption since beer production is at its lowest since 1975. Last year beer production in Britain was down to 39,614,613 bulk barrels as compared to 41,194,572 bulk barrels in 1979. This is a drop of 3.8%. In the last quarter production was down by 5.9%.

From these figures, it appears that Sir Geoffrey Howe has definitely picked the wrong item to tax. A suggestion by the Wirrel Branch of CAMRA is that a tax be put on one-arm bandits and their modern counterparts such as the Space Invader machines. Considering their popularity this seems to be a good idea since it enables the Chancellor to get his money (a possible Jackpot) while allowing us mere mortals to get what we go for at a reasonable price, that is, a decent drink!!!

(The Editor)

BAR BILLIARDS MATCH

On Wednesday, Feb 12th, we challenged the Hardwicke Arms, Gamlingay, to a friendly bar billiards match. We did this as they had previously slaughtered us in a friendly darts match. The branch managed to hold its own but we were eventually beaten in the 5th leg. The result was 2780 points to the Hardwicke (3 legs) and 2070 points to St.Neots CAMRA. The Editor would appreciate it if some enterprising member could come up with a game at which the branch stands a reasonable chance of winning or at least a chance of coming 2nd., as opposed to nowhere!

(C.P)