

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

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TRIP TO NORWICH

There are still plenty of spare places available on the forthcoming trip to Norwich which is taking place on Saturday 14th November. The coach will leave St. Neots Market Square at 1.00pm and will pick up at the stops that are requested between St. Neots and St. Ives i.e. if you want to be collected by the coach you must let Mick Ewen know before the day of departure. The cost is £2.00 to members and £3.00 to non-members and your place can be reserved by contacting Mick Ewen at the next meeting or on Huntingdon 50150.

In the past certain branch members have been most vesiferous in their demands for trips and then have opened themselves up to derision and scorn by failing to turn up on the day. I hope these people will make the effort this time.

GREENE KING GAS BUBBLE BURST

We are awaiting results from the recent claims of Greene King (GK) that they have turned the pressure off their landlords and abandoned the rule that only 25% of their pubs can serve real ale. Our area has a large proportion of fizz pubs, GK run, and we would welcome attempts at introducing more real beer. We have battled long and hard at GK with little or no success. So if your local is GK and serves top pressure beer why not try and persuade your landlord to go 'real'; remember this Branch has a handpump available for 3 months trial in any pub.

Roy Endersby.

PUB NEWS

The Old Sun, St. Neots is no longer selling Wethereds Bitter. The Landlord Jim Nichols blames poor sales for its demise, although brewery (Whitbread) policy has encouraged his decision with its large range of Keg beers, unfair pricing of real ale and poor delivery record. It is hoped that Real Ale may reappear next summer.

Red Cow, Covington no longer sells real ale.

The Rocket, Eaton Socon, has a handpump saying Fined Stag. But, has it the beer?

Charles Wells have started putting their Totty Potties in all of their Pubs!

Finally, come on Dave of the Whitehorse. Eaton Socon, take the plunge and brew your own!!

ROYAL WEDDING ALES

I am sure many of you must be sick to death of hearing about the Royal Wedding. However one of its side effects was a flood of 'Wedding' souvenirs and the brewing industry was not slow to cash in. Many of you must have seen the embryonic collections sprouting from many publicans shelves. Here I hope to give you a short guide to Wedding Ales.

To start with, if you want a complete collection, forget it, you're far too late. Limited Editions of 250 by Woods Brewery and Three Tuns Brewery, both in Shropshire or the 50 bottles by Yates and Jackson from Lancaster make those some of the rarest. Whitbread and Carlsberg produced bottles for staff only. Locally Paines (Young Rowley), Greene King (Royal Wedding Ale), Tolly Cobbold (Royal Wedding Ale), Wells (Wedding Ale) all produced brews. Watneys caused some confusion by importing Ushers Celebration Ale from their Trowbridge brewery into the area, although Watneys (London) Royal Celebration Ale, complete with box, is available in selected outlets. Altogether about 90 different brews have been produced.

For anyone who has a complete set of Jubilee Ales collectors estimate that it is worth up to £3,000, so the sky is the limit for a complete Royal Wedding Ale collection!

Happy Collecting!!!

Roy Enderby

FUTURE DATES

Wed. 4th Nov. Darby and Joan, Abington Piggots, a social.
Sat. 14th Nov. Trip to Norwich.
Sun. 15th Nov. Barrel rolling competition at Kimbolton.
Wed. 18th Nov. Black Bull, St. Ives, a meeting.
Sun. 22nd Nov. King of the Belgians, a darts match.
Sat. 23rd Dec. Waterloo, Huntingdon, a social.

REAL ALE DEFINED

Publicans offering keg beer, who claim 'it's all real ale', can now be told 'not according to the dictionary, mate!' The latest volume of the supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary includes for the first time ever the phrase 'real ale'.

The dictionary's definition is 'draught beer that has been brewed and stored in the traditional way and is served by methods which do not involve the use of carbon dioxide under pressure.'

The entry could be important, for legal cases are sometimes decided by recourse to the Oxford English Dictionary. The entry also notes that the first known mention of the term real ale was in the October 1972 edition of 'What's Brewing', when CAMRA was still known as the Campaign for the Revitalization of Ale.

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