

# OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS  
& DISTRICT



BRANCH  
NEWSLETTER

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## BOOZE BY THE OUSE AS USUAL.

The annual St. Neots Riverside Festival may be a thing of the past, but the Booze by the Ouse will flow again in June. The CAMRA beer tent has been a popular feature of the riverside event for the past six years and the local branch is determined not to disappoint its loyal supporters. The ale will this year be served over the water in the Priory Centre. Labelled "Booze by the Ouse", regular favourites of the festival are included in the line up of activities: the yard of ale contest, and folk and jazz evenings. For those not old enough to appreciate a fine brew, organisers are hoping to lay on some childrens entertainment to make it a family affair. The festival will run from June 3rd to June 5th, so make sure you take a note of those dates in your diaries and come along so that this new CAMRA venture is a success.

## FUTURE MEETINGS.

Wed. 3rd March	Royal Oak, St. Ives, a social.
TUE. 16th MARCH	CANNON, ST. NEOTS, THE AGM.
Wed. 31st March	Black Bull, Godmanchester, a social.
Wed. 21st April	Kings Head, St. Neots, a meeting.
Wed. 5th May	Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots, a social.

## HUNTINGDON NEEDS REVITALIZING.

Seeing the recent report in the Hunts Post about the result of a study into the lack of atmosphere in Huntingdon town centre after 6pm, I was surprised that they hadn't hit on what I think is one of the obvious causes. That is that Watneys hold nearly a monopoly on the pubs in Huntingdon. Nothing against Watneys beers but I feel that a town centre like Huntingdon should have a greater representation of brewers products.

Watneys hold 56% of the town centre pubs and if you spread the net further to include Hartford and Godmanchester it is a massive 65%.

I call for Watneys to voluntarily reduce this percentage by swapping pubs with another brewery i.e. Watneys only hold one pub in St. Neots (the Plough, Eynesbury); if they would swap a pub with Greene King, it would give Greene King a welcomed outlet in Huntingdon and Watneys a second pub in St. Neots.

Until Watneys near monopoly is reduced I cannot see much hope for Huntingdon town centre.

SARAH ORBELL.

## NATIONAL AGM 1982.

The 1982 National CAMRA Annual General Meeting will be held at the University of Bradford on March 26th, 27th and 28th. Members should consult their What's Brewing for accomodation details if they wish to attend.

## PUB NEWS.

The Three Jolly Butchers, Wyton, is being redecorated and the old fireplaces opened up again. The Manns IPA air pressure pump has at last been changed for a traditional handpump.

The new Manns Bitter will be introduced there shortly - but it will be the keg version and will replace Watneys Special bitter. Likewise in the King of the Belgians with Manns Mild. However, landlords apparently do have a choice of real or keg.

The Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots, was enlarged and much improved without losing any of the old village pub character. From the end of January, the separate dining area is available for full meals, by prior booking, but Pat also serves bar snacks. Either can be enjoyed except on Tuesday evenings.

An entertaining evening was had there when Pat and Brian held a Valentines Day Fancy Dress party. The winning couple won a Valentines cake.

The Tudor, Fenstanton, had real ale from the beginning of February; Greene King IPA and Wethereds. On the eve of March 4th there will be cheaper Whitbread prices as a promotion campaign. Apparently the barmaids and manager have just heard they have all won holidays in a competition run by the Daily Star newspaper and Schweppes.

The Three Horseshoes, Longstowe, is now serving Brakespeares.

The Pear Tree, Bassingbourne real ale line - up is now Greene King IPA, Wethereds and Adnams bitter. The pub is reported to be up for sale.

The Red House, Longstowe no longer has Charringtons IPA on handpump, only draught Bass. The Montague Arms, Grafham also no longer has this beer.

Sam Smiths is coming back into the area via Scot-Grange, after a period of some 4 years. It will be the next guest beer at the Darby and Joan, Abbingdon Piggotts.

The Vine, Buckden is now selling Flowers Original Bitter.

## GOOD BEER GUIDE 1982.

The new 1982 Good Beer Guide is available now. The cover price will be £3.95. The price to members will be £ 2.95, a generous discount. Copies can be obtained from most committee members or at our branch meeting. This years issue contains more than 6,000 of the best houses serving the finest pints in England, Scotland, Wales, The Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and for the first time ever, bars in the Irish Republic. Special features include a history of pub signs, the threats to the modern public houses and a plea for urgent changes in our outdated and restrictive licensing laws.

ROY ENDERSBY.

"OPENING TIMES" is published by the ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT BRANCH OF "THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE" (CAMRA).

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