

OPENING TIMES—FESTIVAL SPECIAL!!

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ST. NEOTS
PRIORY CENTRE

BEER FESTIVAL

PRIORY CENTRE THURSDAY 3RD JUNE - SATURDAY 5TH JUNE

THE ORIGINAL BOOZE BY THE OUSE

This year the beer festival is being held at the Priory Centre, a site which was until 1919 a brewery, brewing having started there in the 18th century. William Fowler established his business there in 1782, just 200 years ago, and he passed control of the brewery to his younger son, William, in 1800. In 1789 the Fowlers had acquired the site of Joseph Eayres bell foundry which had adjoined the brewery. William, the younger son, died in 1814 and the business was sold by his executors to John Day of Bedford and his son John Hill Day. The Fowlers had already acquired over 40 public houses by 1814 and expansion continued under the Day's, brickyards at Hail Weston and Eynesbury coming under their control together with more public houses. In 1824 the business employed 18 men and 2 boys and brewing was carried out 2 or 3 times a week. John Hill Day was succeeded by his son Francis Day who died in 1863 and the business was carried on by his widow Emily Anne until their son Frank Day took over.

Unfortunately Frank Day never married and when he died in 1919 after a long illness, the business was put up to auction.

There were 21 lots, lot 1 comprising the brewery and 61 public houses (34 fully licensed, 19 beer only and 8 leasehold) lot 1 was sold for £40,000 to Mr. A.J. Redman who was bidding on behalf of Wells & Winch, Biggleswade (now Greene King). Wells & Winch subsequently sold half of the pubs to Charles Wells and the brewery to Jordon & Addington who used it as a mill. Today little remains of the brewery except the Oast House and a few outbuildings (opposite the Priory Centre).

100% REAL ALE PUBS IN BRAMPTON

Garry and Elaine Field have recently taken over the Dragoon in Brampton and have installed handpumps dispensing Charles Wells Bitter and Bombardier. Ignoring the fizzy only Brampton Hotel, all the pubs in Brampton now sell Real Ale.

A good nights crawling can be had at the Dragoon (Charles Wells) Black Bull and Harrier (Watneys IPA) and the Grange (Greene King). If you are a C.I.U. member you can also pop in the Brampton Institute for a very cheap pint of Stag. Even the R.A.F. camp bars and the Clan Astra club sell Real Ale; Where else can boast of a Real Ale monopoly?

G.C.

TOP PUB IN THE AREA

The branch have now voted for the entries to the 1983 G.B.G. and for the second year running "The Royal Oak" St. Ives has come out as the best Real Ale house in the St. Neots CAMRA area. Congratulations to Peter and Jean for their Ind Coope beers, lets hope one day Mild will be added too.

Their menu has also been extended for meals in the evenings as well as lunchtimes apart from Sundays.

FUTURE MEETINGS. ALL WELCOME

Wed. 9th June Globe, St. Neots, a meeting
Tues 15th June The Bell, Eaton Socon, Joint social with North Beds branch.
23rd June - 26th June GAMLINGAY BEER FESTIVAL, Community Centre, Stocks Lane.

WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER?

Why not become a member of CAMRA and help to protect your beer heritage? Membership costs only £7.00 a year and for this you will receive the Campaign's newspaper "What's Brewing" every month and also get the opportunity to purchase the "Good Beer Guide" at a reduced rate. This is on top of being able to attend brewery trips and other local events.

Come to one of our next meetings, or contact any committee member.

NEW LOCAL BEER GUIDE

Just hot off the press "The Real Ale Guide In And Around Huntingdon" listing all pubs in the area selling Real Ale and beers available, price 20p at this festival.

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"Opening Times" is published by the ST. NEOTS AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF "THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE" (CAMRA).