

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



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PAINES BREWERY TAKEOVER

A consortium of travel agents led by David Miller of Beach Villas, have bought the brewery on the Market Square, St. Neots including 20 of Paines's pubs. On 1st November the company will become James Paine Brewery. Real ale production will be continuing at the brewery and it is hoped that the consistency of the brew will improve. We wish the new owners good luck for the future.

NEW MICRO BREWERY

Hot on the heels of Mickles, the Luton based small brewery, now available in a few local outlets, comes Banks & Taylor's Shefford Bitter. After being made redundant by Whitbread, Martin Ayres decided to start his own brewery, together with partner Mike Desquesnes. They have just produced the first pints of Shefford Bitter and Whitbread have decided to sell the beer in two of their pubs in the Beds. area.

EATON SOCON 100% REAL ALE

With the conversion of the George and Dragon, Eaton Socon, to real ale, the stretch of the Old North Road through the village can now claim 100% of it's seven pubs offers a chance of traditional beer. Indeed the entire village may be able to claim that distinction, but at the time of writing it was not known if the new landlord at The Millers Arms would be continuing with the Abbot on gravity. The pubs, from the south end of the village, officially in Bedfordshire in the case of the first two are: The Crown, Adnams; The Bell, Wells; The White Horse, Wethereds and Flowers; The Wheatsheaf, Wells; The Old Sun, Greene King; The Wagon and Horses, Paines, plus a guest beer, and now The George and Dragon.

The George is a large lively pub and in many ways a contrast to the other pubs in the village. There are two bars both of which have just been re-decorated. Food available at lunchtimes, and for what is left of the summer there are swings etc. for families with children, in the garden. The beers, all on handpump, are Greene King IPA, Abbot and Light Mild.

After all Camra has said about Greene King's policy in the past, this prime example of their new-found faith in real ale must surely bode well for the future, both of the Campaign and of Greene King and is to be more than welcome (especially as the pub is about 200yds. from the home of your's truly)

PAUL

BEDFORD BEER FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 30th SEPTEMBER sees the opening of the 5th BEDFORD BEER FESTIVAL in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, running until SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER. Some fifty real ales will be available.

FUTURE MEETINGS- ALL WELCOME

ALL MEETINGS START AT 8PM

- Wed. 29th Sept. Bedford Beer Festival preview night (Hardwick Arms, Gamlingay cancelled) landlords and members only.
- Wed. 13th Oct. Royal Oak, Warboys - a social.
- Wed. 27th Oct. Hardwick Arms, Gamlingay - a meeting.
- Wed. 10th Nov. Wrestlers, St. Neots, start of pub crawl of St. Neots.
- Wed. 24th Nov. Waterloo, Huntingdon - a meeting.

PUB CHANGES

The Engine and Tender, Royal Oak, Cross Keys and Queen Victoria, in St. Neots are now selling Bulmers Cider on handpump.

The Royal Oak, Warboys no longer sells Manns Mild on handpump, but has Manns Bitter, IPA and Stag for you real ale fans.

The Manchester Arms, Tilbrook, has a new landlord, Kevin Atkins selling Paines EG and XXX Bitter on handpump, meals available lunchtimes and evenings, a games room with darts, skittles and pool, and also a large function room for meetings etc.

The Old Ferryboat Inn, Holywell, has a new landlord, Martin Westby, Greene King, Abbot, IPA and Bass are available in this pub reputed to be the oldest in the country.

Floods Wine Bar in St. Ives Has just reopened after extensive redecoration by the new owners David and Pat Cole and is now serving Greene King real ale.

PUB CRAWL/ BREWERY TRIPS

- Thurs. Oct. 7th - A trip to Shepherd Neame is being arranged.
- Tues. Oct 19th - A trip around Greene King brewery in Biggleswade.

TRY REAL ALE IN YOUR PUB

Any landlords interested in trying real ale in your pub, let us know, we could help in persuading your brewery to install handpumps. Alternatively we do have a handpump available on free loan and can help in setting the beer up etc.

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