

OPENING TIMES

ST. NEOTS
& DISTRICT



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

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ST. NEOTS BRANCH A.G.M.

All CAMRA members should note Tuesday 22nd March in their diaries as this is the date of our A.G.M. to be held this year at the Cannon, St. Neots at 8.00p.m.

St. Neots, has been over the years, one of the most successful branches of The Campaign with a number of popular beer festivals to our credit which have enabled us to often be one of the top branches for financing central CAMRA activities. An active diary of social events and meetings, brewery trips and coach and rail outings have also kept us one of the top branches for local activities. The national and local efforts of The campaign have led to this area being one of the best supplied in the county for choice and availability of real ale. For this to continue we need the ideas, interests, views and efforts of all our members locally and for this reason we are asking as many of you as can spare the evening to come along to our A.G.M. Hopefully, you will be so interested in taking part in our activities, it will be the start of many more evenings out to come.

Just to tempt you a little more, there will be at least a free pint for every CAMRA member who attends. Just one final request, as it is the A.G.M. please bring along your membership card.

See you all on the 22nd.

FUTURE MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME

Tues. 22nd Feb. - Downing Arms (Scratching Cat) Tadlow, a social
Wed. 9th March - Royal Oak, Hail Weston, a meeting
Tues. 22nd March - A.G.M. Cannon, St. Neots
Tues. 12th April - Green Man, Colne, a meeting
Wed. 27th April - Hare & Hounds, Eynesbury, a social

COACH TRIP - SAT. 16th APRIL

A coach trip is being arranged to visit the many pubs of Oxford. This fine University city has many Olde World pubs with a good selection of real ales. Morrell's brewery is situated in Oxford itself and the Morland brewery is not far away at Abingdon. Along with these excellent beers you can also try Hall's bitter, Ind Coope burton ale, brakspear's mild and bitter.

Come along to a future meeting to book your seat.

LUTON BEER FESTIVAL

St. Neots Town F.C. are running a coach from St. Neots to the beer festival in Luton on Friday 25th February at approximately 7.30p.m. for further information ring Chris Knowles on Huntingdon 215501.

PUB NEWS

Out of a total of 199 pubs in the St. Neots branch area, 122 now serve real ale. Is this not giving the drinking public a choice, which is what CAMRA is all about?

The Cross Keys, Upwood, now sells Mann's IPA on handpump.

The Bell, Southoe, has now gone real, with the introduction of Charles Wells bitter and bombardier on handpump.

The Stag and Hounds, Oldhurst, has Mann's IPA on handpump.

The Old Falcon, St. Neots, now has Adnams as well as Charrington's IPA.

The Peartree, Bassingbourne is selling the new stronger ale from the Mickles brewery "Oak Ale".

The White Swan, Bluntisham, has all the real Tolly ales available on handpump, bitter, mild and old strong.

WHITBREAD LUTON BREWERY VISIT

When an invitation from another CAMRA branch arrived to visit Britain's first Mega-Kegery namely Whitbread - Luton, gasps and horrors were abundant. As regular readers will be aware, we normally have no qualms in attempting to drink some unsuspecting brewery dry. However, three members did pluck up enough courage to accept and on a dark, cold and windy night in January, toured the brewery.

Fortunately, our fears of being forced to drink gassy beer were unfounded, as two casks of beer, Wethereds bitter and Winter Royal had been laid on especially for our visit, The first time real ale has been available at the brewery.

After a pint at the bar, we were shown around yards and yards of pipes, tanks, switches, dials and flashing lights without ever seeing any beer at all, but did manage to find the way back to the bar. A serious attempt was then made, with the help of high ranking CAMRA officials, including the National Chairman to persuade the Whitbread management to change their policy towards real ale.

Whether our efforts were a success, remains to be seen, but thanks to all at the brewery for the hospitality anyway.

JAMES PAINE BREWERY

The new local brewery have been selling off a few of the outlying pubs, The Three Cranes at Turvey and Ye Olde Plough at Bolnhurst, have been sold for around £100,000 each, The Prince of Wales at Upper Dean is still on the market. Perhaps the profit from the these sales will be used to modernise the rest of the brewery's houses?

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