

# OPENING TIMES



BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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## PUB NEWS

The Globe in Huntingdon Street, St. Neots re-opened on 15th June after being refurbished and extended at a cost to Charles Wells of £100,000. The 600 year old pub has retained its public bar and landlords Geoff and Jenny Gough are happy that the new decor is in keeping with the original pub and has not taken on the 'modern' look. Handpumped Eagle and Bombadier bitters will continue to be available.

The Swan Inn at Offord Cluny has new landlords Salvador and Jackie Valderas who have introduced Eagle bitter on electric pump. The Green Man at Colne also has new landlords Frank and Audrey Hillaby who will continue to sell Wilsons Original Bitter, Manns Bitter, Manns IPA and Stag. The Dun Horse, St. Ives also now has Wilsons available as has the Longbow at Sapley. The Crown at Earith is also a possible new outlet for Wilsons. Also the Kings Head in South Street, St. Neots has a special brew available, called Kings Head strong, it is O.G. 1200 and is for sale in half pint measures and only three per person in total!. The Woolpack at Eynesbury points out to us that it has recently refurbished throughout and also has a beer garden, Greene King I.P.A. is available here on handpump. Memo to landlords - if you have a newsworthy item about your pub the editor will be delighted to hear about it.

The New Sun in Kimbolton has been sold by James Paine to a consortium which though becoming a free house will continue to sell Paine's beers. The Plough at Abbotsley has now been sold by Paines. The new owner Malcolm Brownie who also runs the George and Dragon at Elsworth will spend three months doing extensive alterations once plans are approved by Huntingdon District Council. No real ale is currently available.

Watney's are replacing Stag (O.G. 1044) in our area with Ushers Founders (O.G. 1045). It is currently available at the Axe and Compass Hemingford Abbots and will shortly be available at the Three Jolly Butchers at Wyton. The Montague Arms at Graffham a free house has introduced Springfield bitter, while The Vine, at Buckden now has Castle Eden available. Manchester Arms, Tilbrook is now serving by top pressure, Prince of Wales, Hilton selling Ruddles Rutland Bitter and Ye Olde Ferryboat, Holywell also has Adams.

## CROSS KEYS - ST. NEOTS

Paines tied estate is declining rapidly with other pubs already having been sold and the Engine and Tender being demolished. Also as I am sure many of our readers are aware The Cross Keys Hotel, St. Neots has now been closed since November, this is despite initial claims from Paines P.L.C. (The Malters) that it was only to be temporary, pending repairs. Therefore, we were horrified to find that plans had been submitted to re-develop the site into 21 retail units, 4 flats and offices, in effect a glorified shopping arcade.

This campaign is extremely concerned that yet another pub in St. Neots is closing. The Royal Oak Hotel, High Street and the Engine and Tender, Cambridge Road, both former James Paine houses have been closed within the last twelve months, also the future of at least two other St. Neots pubs hangs in the balance. St. Neots is fortunate in having a varied selection of public houses, compare the choice with Huntingdon, a town dominated by one national brewer. Therefore, The Cross Keys a

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fine example of a 17th century coaching inn and part of our local heritage should remain a pub as it was intended.

#### BREWERY NEWS

##### Greene King Biggleswade Brewery by Ken Page

Ken, a long time employee of the brewery has put together an excellent booklet which is recommended to any one interested in local brewing history. A total of 50 pages with 29 photographs and what the author describes as 'notes' give the history of over 200 years of brewing at Biggleswade. Ken promises a more detailed book in the hopefully not too distant future. To which end he would like to hear from any one who has any old photographs connected with the brewery and its public houses. The booklet is available from Ken Page, Greene King and Sons plc, Biggleswade Brewery, Biggleswade, Beds for 50p plus a 21p s.a.e. which represents remarkably good value.

##### Brewery Trip

On Thursday 5th July, St. Neots Branch visited the Hoskins Brewery in Leicester and spent an enjoyable couple of hours touring the brewery, followed by sampling of the brew in the brewery tap The Tom Hoskins, with only a small tied estate of three public houses, Hoskins beers are not widely available so this was a rare opportunity to partake of their ales.

##### Future Meetings

All meetings start around 8pm.

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|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 11th July      | - Social Jolly Sailor (Manns)  |
| Wednesday 25th July      | - Social Hardwicke Arms (Arrington) (Free)<br>8.00 - 9.30 - 9.30 onwards Queen Adelaide (Free)<br>Croydon          |
| Wednesday 8th August     | - Meeting - White Swan, Bluntisham (Tolly)   |
| Wednesday 22nd August    | - Social - Lord John Russell, St. Neots (Paines)<br>8.00 - 9.30 - 9.30 onwards Globe, St. Neots<br>(Charles Wells) |
| Wednesday 5th September  | - Social - Swan, Offord Cluny (Charles Wells)  |
| Wednesday 19th September | - Social - Montague Arms, Graffham (Free)  |

##### Beer Festival Trip - Cambridge Beer Festival 25/29 September

We are proposing to run a coach from St. Neots/Huntingdon area to the Cambridge Beer Festival Guildhall, Cambridge. Proposed date for the trip is 25th September at a cost of approximately £3.00. For further details contact Steve Leader on Huntingdon (0480) 75095.

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