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ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING TIMES



BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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BEER FESTIVAL 1993 -

an even bigger success

We are very pleased to report that our 1993 'Booze on the Ouse' was even better attended than last years event. We had over 1500 people through the doors, an increase of 25% on last years attendance. The event now seems to be well established in the local calendar, with people coming from far and wide to be there.

30 Kils Consumed

We are pleased to say that 30 kils of real ale, plus cider and perry was consumed, with no less than 58 different beers on sale.

Trade Night Boom

We were also very pleasantly surprised with our Thursday night attendance of 250 people.

This was our trade night and we were pleased to see many local landlords come along, as well as quite a few brewery representatives. Certainly this evening in particular was very worthwhile as beers from Elgoods and Nethergate Breweries have now found their way into some of our local pubs as regulars - see

local news for more details on that front.

Friday and Saturday evening were both well attended, with live music on both occasions to supplement the excellent ales. Sunday lunchtime was also a bonus in terms of attendance, with over a hundred people coming along. Live music was experimentally tried at this session and was obviously successful.

So thanks to one and all for coming along and thanks to all those CAMRA members, both local and from our branches in Cambridge and Norfolk who gave up their time to work unpaid at the festival and without whom the event could not take place. A last vote of thanks to the St. Ivo Centre for their assistance and co-operation in helping us to get the event on.

See you all next year.





The Happy Brewer

**For Bedford's
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Bedford's Homebrew Centre

15 Union Street
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9.30 - 5.30

This newsletter is published by the St. Neots branch of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. (CAMRA). The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA Ltd or its branches. Articles or letters for consideration for publication are always welcome. Advertising rates £5.00.psci (column width 4"). Artwork can be made up. Series discount 6 insertions less 15%. 3 insertions less 10%.

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Wolves a draw

**Or the trip to
Wolverhampton as I
remember it.....**

Independents weekend in July saw the intrepid members of the local CAMRA Branch clamber aboard their mini-bus and head along the A604, up the M1 and M6 into the West Midlands and Wolverhampton City Centre.

Despite the (un)expected roadworks on the main road into the city, where we sat so near but so far, from our delightful destination, we eventually arrived in plenty of good (drinking) time at The Great Western, Wolverhampton.

For those of you that have never been, this a Holdens House selling their excellent range of beers plus Bathams Best Bitter as a guest. The pub, although in the city centre, is tucked away by the old low

level railway station, near the main line station, but away from the city hubub.

With the expected 'railway' decor, the beers were perfect and good speedily served Black Country food with which to soak up that wonderful liquid, made for a very quickly passing couple of hours.

I even managed to squeeze in another excellent pint of the mild, while our train buffs went to play 'looking at trains'. One must ones priorities right!

Then it was onward to the Sarah Hughes establishment, The Beacon Hotel at Sedgely. This particularly suited me, as my height, or lack of it allowed me the distinction of being the only one not have to stoop to see through the serving hatch.

The Victorian pub with its own brewery at the rear was another delight as was the superb Ruby Mild on offer.

From here it was on to my personal favourite of the day - The Batham's brewery tap, The Bull and Bladder at Brierley Hill.

Ah heaven, I'm there!

Well that's me propped on the bar, talking football and beer to a Wolves supporter, supping pints of Bathams Mild and promising to see him there again when Wolves gain their expected promotion and play Arsenal in the Premier League. All too soon I'm being told, it's time to move on. Farewell Batham and Wolves, see you again very soon I hope.

Where are we heading for now, well a quick snooze and I wake up as we approach the Shoulder of Mutton at Stretton-upon-Dunsmore. It's busy today as its village fete day or something. Anyway I engage the locals in conversation as I down my M & B Mild, telling them all about the article in the Guardian on the 19th-century pub that prompted us to put their local on our itinerary. A complete timewarp is how the Good Beer Guide describes it, and they are not wrong.

Again after what seemed all too short a visit we are on our way, heading eastwards towards home with stamina running out.

No real plans now, so we head for Northampton, where we try the home-brew pub, The Abington Park Hotel. Big and bustling this is, with a doorman to boot!

The pub and beer pales by comparison with whats gone before and not begrudgingly I clamber aboard our bus for the last time and its home we go.

MIKE BIRCH

The White Hart Inn

The Highway, Gt. Staughton Telephone 0480860345

**Carol and John Brittain look forward to
meeting friends old and new in this delightful**

17th century coaching inn.

Open all day Monday - Saturday
Superb restaurant & bar meals

Sunday Lunchtimes a speciality

Outside bars & catering

Children welcome

Afternoon Teas

Tetleys, Flowers Original plus guest ale



LOCAL NEWS

The **White Lion Ramsey St. Mary's** a Charles Wells house is on the market, with Freehold offers invited, based on £125,000.

The **Queens Head, Needingworth** has now added Chiltern Beechwood to it's regular range of beers, which also include Butterknowle Conciliation and Hull Brewery's Mild and Bitter.

The **Olde Sun, St. Neots** a Whitbread house, is giving a try to West Country Pale Ale, a 1030 OG beer, brewed at their Cheltenham brewery.

We hear that **The Cannon, St. Neots** a Charles Wells house has been sold as a free house.

Welcome to Martin Spencer at **The Blue Ball, Russell Street, St. Neots**, who tells us that he is shortly to install three handpumps to dispense his Greene King XX Mild, IPA and Abbot ales. This is especially welcome news, as this particular pub was the birthplace of the local CAMRA Branch, when the inaugural meeting was held there. hopefully we can celebrate our approaching 20th anniversary at the pub.

The **Wheatsheaf, Eaton Socon** is now selling Mansfield Mild from the Charles Wells guest beer list.

The **King of the Belgians, Hartford** has added Morland Speckled Hen to its existing range of Websters and Ruddles Best, as has **The Waterloo** in **Huntingdon**.

The **Eaton Oak, Eaton Ford** a Charles Wells house regularly changes its guest beer and for August it is Brains SA.

Welcome to Richard and Carol Pryor at **The Cock, Gamlingay** a Greene King house. The couple have previously run three Greene King pubs in five years, one of which was the Weathercock at Woburn Sands, but say that in **The Cock** they have found their ideal 16th century pub.

Still in **Gamlingay, The Hardwicke Arms**, Free House has now completed the laying of the outside patio at the rear of the pub.

The **Oliver Cromwell** in **St. Ives** has installed an extra handpump to accommodate

Elgoods Cambridge Bitter. This is as a direct result of our trade night at the Booze on the Ouse Beer Festival.

The beer is also making appearances at the **Aviator, St Ives** and **The George at Ramsey**, so we are glad to see that our efforts to promote the County's only brewery are paying off.

Also as a result of our festival, Nethergate Old Growler is to be found at **The Aviator, St Ives** and the **Old Ferry Boat** at **Holywell** and Nethergate Bitter is to be found at **The Green Man, Leighton Bromswold**.

THANKYOU.....

to **Jim Hardy** at **The George Ramsey**, for hosting the joint social between St. Neots and Peterborough CAMRA branches, laying on the buffet and the donation of the sweatshirts.

We especially enjoyed the excellent Elgoods Cambridge Bitter at 99p per pint! and some of us really appreciated sinking the Harveys Armada!

THE GEORGE AT RAMSEY

An historic Inn dating back to 1630 with modern amenities

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with

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CAMRA PUB OF THE SUMMER

This award went to **The Millers Arms, Eaton Socon** a 'country pub' in a built up area.

Mine hosts Charlie and Audrey have won the award for serving the three Greene King ales including the XX Mild and for their excellent family garden, making it a haven for real ale lovers in the summer.

Real Ale Guide To Cromwell Country

We have just produced our new local real ale guide to the area, price £2.00 per copy. This lists real ale outlets throughout our branch area and is available from local pubs. In cases of difficulty send a remittance of £2.30 to cover post and packing to Mike Birch, 37, The Broadwalk, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 2SG

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 17th August - Meeting at **Hardwicke Arms, Gamlingay** (Free) 8.30pm

Tuesday 7th September Social **Fox, Catworth** (Pubmaster) - 8.30pm. and then **Racehorse, Catworth** (Free) - 9.45pm

Tuesday 21st September Joint Social with Cambridge Branch at **Hardwicke Arms, Arrington** (Free) 8.30pm

For further details contact: Roy Endersby (Secretary) on 0480 473364



Pictured above are Charlie and Audrey at The Millers Arms, Eaton Socon, receiving their CAMRA 'Pub of the Summer' certificate from local branch chairman, Kathy Hadfield

Don't Forget

PETERBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL

August 24th - 29th

Situated next to the Regional Pool, Bishops Road, Peterborough

Over 100 beers, plus foreign beers, Cider & Perry and English Country Wines

Live Music
Wed - Sat

Tombola

Food

CROWN & CUSHION

Barbara and Chris Clark

- ★ Outside Bars - Home Cooking ★
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- ★ Live Music Tues-Thurs ★

Charles Wells
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Morland
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