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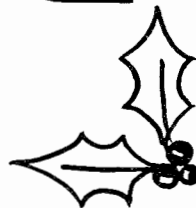
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OPENING TIMES



BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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Issue No 80 December 1993

BUDGET GLOOM FOR DRINKERS

BEER DUTY FROZEN

First of all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers. These wishes were not expressed by the Government in the recent Budget

Beer Duty was frozen and while this is a small glass of cheer for drinkers and brewers alike. what CAMRA had campaigned for was a reduction in duty.

Beer Duty was increased by 8% in March and unless it is cut over the next few years, pubs and breweries will be driven out of business by the competition from abroad.

Travellers to the Continent are able to bring back, effectively unlimited quantities of alcohol for personal use, without paying British levels of

tax. There is a massive 29 pence a pint excise duty difference between Britain and France - and then VAT on top.

This is undermining the ability of British brewers and pubs to compete on fair terms.

The massive differential between Britain and the Continent will lead in the long term to a smaller UK brewing industry, pub closures, and revenue loss as beer is increasingly brewed and brought abroad. Such considerations have caused the Danes to reduce their beer duty twice, to avoid unfair competition from Germany.

With Beer Duty now calculated on the actual alcohol content of the beer, since a new system was adopted in June, some large brewers have reduced the strength of their beers, and thereby worsening the quality of the product. Reducing strength being a price increase under another name.

GOVERNMENT U-TURN

The Government has backed down on legislation to guarantee a full pint of beer in our glass in pubs. Section 43 of the Weights & Measures Act, stating that 'a pint of beer shall contain 20 Fl. Oz of liquid, with the head not constituting as part of this' has been scrapped.

This is a craven capitulation to the brewing industry and does licencees nor drinkers any favours.

Nationwide, many licencees and pub chains have already switched to metered dispense systems or larger 22Fl. oz. glasses.

At present, the frothy head on a pint of beer is counted towards the volume. Hence a pint may be 5% or even 10% short of a full pint of liquid.

If Section 43 had been implemented, the customer would have got a full pint, and as much frothy head as they wanted. The legislation would not have removed the head, popular
.....continued over

in some parts of the country.

However, the Government have backed down to pressure from the big brewers, paymasters of the party funds, as their complaints rained in about the cost of the Act.

The Government has decided to ignore knowledgeable Consumer Groups and Trading Officers. Furthermore it means that they have changed their policy twice in three years.

Short measure would now seem to be actively encouraged, under a voluntary code stating that 95% of a pint should be liquid. In no other industry is the customer expected to ask for a full measure, rather than it being given as a matter of course.

CAMRA urges drinkers to ask for a top-up every single time they feel that they've been given an under-measure pint. Hopefully, in our area Landlords will use common sense and serve correct measures.

If not, then make full use of the guidance notes issued by the Brewers Society and licenced trade organisations after the Governments climbdown. These state that 'a head is excessive and unreasonable if, after it has

collapsed, the glass is 95% full' and clause 6 of the notes reads 'If... the liquid level of the beer does not meet the customers requirements, it must always be recognised that he can ask for a top-up to meet them. Such a request should always be received with good grace and should never be refused'

Certainly, a good publican will always accede to his customers wishes, because unhappy customers eventually mean, no customers.

Winter Ale Season is Here

The one good thing about these cold winter months is the arrival of the warming winter ales on the scene. So look out for them: Adnams Old and Tally Ho, Elgoods Winter Warmer, Greene King Winter Ale, Tolly Old Strong, McMullens Strong Hart, Nethergate Old Growler, Nene Valley Santa's Tipple Woodforde's Norfolk Nog to name but a few. But treat with respect, they are all powerful brews!

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO JOIN CAMRA AS MEMBER SHIP REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

CAMRA's latest membership is 41,000 - 14% up on this time last year. CAMRA's membership has more than doubled in five years, and is now higher than at any other time in its history.

Thousands of ordinary drinkers are flocking to join CAMRA - the organisation that stands up for traditional beer, the British pub, and drinkers rights. Real ale sales are booming - but drinkers still see a need for the real ale champions. CAMRA relies entirely on its members and their fundraising for its cash: it is not funded by brewers, pubs or the Government.

With the rising interest in real ale, and traditional pubs, we expect further membership growth over the years ahead. CAMRA sails into 1994 in excellent form. So if you want to add your name to our membership list, then complete the form below and send it off to the editor or CAMRA HQ in St. Albans. If you are a member living in our area, then come along to a branch social or meeting and meet like-minded people.

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and the happiest of New Years

from

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JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the details below and send with a cheque for £10 or £12 for joint membership (Payable to CAMRA Ltd) to
The Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 34, Alma Road,
St. Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW

APPLICATION FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POST CODE.....

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide
by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
I enclose a cheque for £10 (£14 if overseas).

Signed.....

Date.....

LOCAL NEWS

The **Prince of Wales** at **Hilton** is offering a fine range of Winter Ales including Highgate Old, Mansfield Christmas Ale, Lloyds Vixen Velvet Porter, Mitchells Single Malt, Adnams Tally Ho and Everards Daredevil amongst others, these complement the pub's regular beers of Highgate Dark, Fullers London Pride and Adnams BB.

A new real outlet in **Eynesbury, St. Neots** is the **Nags Head Hotel**. A handpump has appeared on the bar and currently dispenses Fullers London Pride, although other beers may be tried in the future.

Still in **Eynesbury, The Hare and Hounds** is currently serving Bass, Burton, Flowers Original and Tetley.

Ye Olde Sun in Huntingdon Street, **St. Neots** has added Whitbread Winter Royal to its range of beers and just down the road at **The Wheatsheaf**, Church Street there is Greene King Winter

Ale available.

Roy and Anthea Wilkes have taken over at **The Racehorse, Catworth** where Theakstons XB, Theakstons Best and Younger's Scotch Bitter are available.

Another new outlet for real ale in the south of our branch area is **The Wheatsheaf, Gamlingay** where handpumps have been installed to serve its Greene King beers, since the arrival of new landlord, Anthony Harris who was formerly at The Edward the Confessor in the Town Square at Stevenage.

The **Blue Ball, St. Neots** is now open all day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to sell its handpumped Greene King XX Mild, IPA and Abbot ales.

The **Bell, Eaton Socon** currently has Hall and Woodhouse, Tanglefoot available from the Charles Wells guest beer list.


The former Charles Wells house, the **New Tavern at Great Staughton** has now closed and former landlords

John and Gina have moved across the road to the Crown. They have purchased the free house and re-named it **The Tavern**.

The **Leeds Arms, Eltisley** has Hook Norton Best Bitter and **The Oliver Cromwell, St. Ives** has Elgoods Cambridge Bitter, Greene King IPA and Adnams Broadside.

The Chequers, Little Gransden has a different beer each week on it handpump. Worth a visit just to see this pub, which is throwback to bygone days.






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 Normal Sunday Hours

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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes

GOOD FOOD GOOD BEER GUIDE LISTED HOOD SKITTLES

CAMRA PUB OF THE AUTUMN

This award went to **The Queen Adelaide at Croydon**

Mine host, Walter and Jean Buck who purchased the pub 18 months ago have managed to re-build the trade at the country pub, which had closed for a considerable time. The pub now sells Greene King IPA, Rayments and Mansfield Riding in fine form. For these reasons the pub justifiably won its award.

CROWN wins 20 Year accolade

Another pub to receive a CAMRA accolade is the **Crown at Litlington**, which has been in 20 out of 21 editions of the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. Present landlord Keith Dewhurst was presented with a certificate to mark this achievement.

Real Ale Guide To Cromwell Country

We have 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

THIRSTY WORK

I had to smile when I saw a recent letter in one of the national newspapers. This said that 'all those who want all-day shopping should also put their weight behind all-day Sunday opening hours in pubs. The thought of being dragged around stores by my wife and then not being able to get a pint at the end of the ordeal fills me with dread' A plea from the heart!

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday December 30th 1993 -
Social - **Chequers, Little
Gransden** (free) 8.30pm

Friday January 7th - **CAMRA
Christmas Party - Green Man,
Leighton Bromswold** - Mini Bus
Organised - Ring Steve Leader
0480 475095 for further details.

Tuesday January 18th - Meeting -
Prince of Wales, Hilton (Free) -
8.30pm

Wednesday 8th February -
Gamlingay crawl - commence
Wheatsheaf (Greene King) -
8.30pm

1994 BEER FESTIVAL

We have set the date for our 1994 Beer Festival, which will again be held Burgess Hall, St. Ives. This will be from 16th - 19th June 1994 inclusive, so make a date in your brand new diary now, to make sure that you are there!

CROWN & CUSHION

Barbara and Chris Clark

- ★ Outside Bars - Home Cooking ★
- ★ Buffets - Small Parties ★
- ★ Live Music Tues-Thurs ★

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