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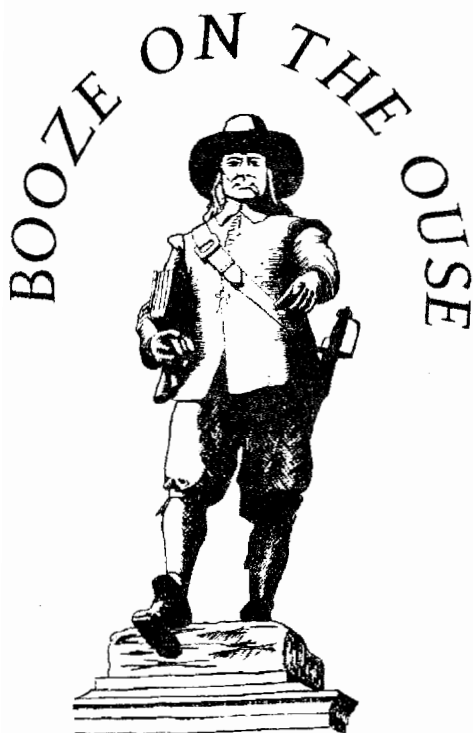
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ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING TIMES



Issue No 81 April 1994

BRANCH NEWSLETTER
BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 1,000 COPIES

1994 BEER FESTIVAL

**BURGESS HALL,
ST. IVO CENTRE
ST. IVES
16 - 19 JUNE**

The plans for our 1994 'Booze on the Ouse' Beer Festival are well advanced. This will once more be held at the Burgess Hall, St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives from June 16th - 19th

The Beers

There will be plenty for all with 30 kils of beer plus ciders being made available. This year we will be offering lots of beers that you you won't have seen available in this area, to make the festival's appeal even greater and there will again be over 50 different ales for you to try, so put the date in your diary now.

Entertainment

This will again be provided on the Friday and Saturday nights.

Friday will see Brian and Miles Cookman playing their special brand of Blues and Folk.

On Saturday we will have the popular Stackyard

Stompers playing their lively repertoire of classic jazz. Entry on these occasions will be £1.00 with free entry at all other times.

Sunday lunch should see the appearance of a Rock Band with details yet to be confirmed.

Commemorative Glasses

As last year, we will be having Commemorative glasses printed with the festival logo. These glasses will of course be the 22 ounce lined, 'oversize' glasses that are starting to appear in our local pubs. This will ensure that you receive your full pint of liquid in return for your hard earned cash.





Guest Beer Market Tightens as SMALL BREWERS FEEL THE SQUEEZE

New, small breweries have been appearing on the scene at a rate of two or three a week, stimulated by the the lure of guest ale sales.

However, they could soon find themselves in financial trouble as the outlets available to them become less and less.

In what has always been an extremely fierce and competitive market place, they could find themselves fighting among themselves for part of the sales market open to them, with reciprocal deals between the larger breweries and large discounts from national brewers cutting out the micros.

NORTHERN INFLUENCE HURTS ALES

Paul Moorhouse, CAMRA Technical Director and Technical Committee Chairman and also local CAMRA Branch member, has expressed his concern about what the Swan Neck dispense method is doing to cask ales up and down the country.

He feels that "as Northern beers become more widespread, the swan neck is unfortunately becoming practically ubiquitous and is often used quite inappropriately. Northern beers have extra hopping to help them cope, and the extra bitterness is knocked out by the dispense. Beers like Sam Smith's and Timothy Taylor's are served through a sparkler, which is fine because it makes them smoother.

But when this form of dispense is used on Arkell's, Eldridge Pope, Wadworths, Youngs or locally Charles Wells, as it all too often is nowadays, it is completely inappropriate.

they are much softer anyway and the sparkler just makes them bland. It also knocks the condition out of the beer, leaving it flat".

Paul feels that "the incorrect use of swan necks and sparklers might be partly down to ignorance or poor cellar skills, but it was mainly due to the standards of presentation set by the various big brewer Northern ale brands. People were now conditioned to expect a big tight head, whatever the type of ale on offer.

Some brewers appear to be using swan necks on Southern beers deliberately to alter the presentation, but there is too much emphasis these days on questions of presentation, such as head quality, head retention and clarity and not enough on matters of flavour".

JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the details below and send with a cheque for £12 or £14 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 £12 (£16 if overseas).

Signed.....

Date.....

LOCAL NEWS

The **White Hart, Gt. Staughton** a Pubmaster house, has increased its real ale range. It now has Tetleys, Bass and Tolly Original as regulars with Flowers IPA and Greene King alternating on the fourth handpump with a fifth handpump offering a regularly changing guest beer.

The **Hare and Hounds, Eynesbury** has Highgate Dark Mild on regularly.

Chris and Barbara Clark are leaving the Guide beer Guide listed **Crown and Cushion** at **Great Gransden**. They are leaving to take on

a Suffolk free house and we wish them luck, having served quality ales, for which they received a CAMRA certificate for being in the GBG for ten successive years.

The Mill Tavern, Eaton Socon has become part of the Splash Inns Group and as a result expanded its real ale range. Beers that will be permanently available are Theakstons XB, Boddingtons, Charles Wells Eagle and Bombardier. However, six new handpumps are to be installed and these are expected to serve:

Adnams Bitter, Felinfoel Double Dragon, Morland Old

Speckled Hen, Wadworths 6X, Youngs Special and Courage Directors.

The man in charge is Mike Menday, who whilst holding a licence for the first time has long experience in the trade.

The Cannon, St. Neots has now been sold by Charles Wells and the new owner is Jean Lowe, who locals will know from her time behind the bar at the nearby Wrestlers. The pub is currently undergoing refurbishment, but will re-open in the next few weeks and it is expected that some real ales will be available.

THE STORY OF BIGGLESWADE BREWERY

BY KEN PAGE

This is a comprehensive history of the Greene King Brewery at Biggleswade dating from 1764 when Samuel Wells- already a brewer- completed the purchase of a House, Brewhouse and Maltings in Back Lane, Biggleswade, to 1993.

Written by Ken Page a keen historian and employee at the brewery for 49 years, he is well equipped to write such a volume - which includes many black and white photographs and reproduces some brewery advertisements of bygone years - and gives histories of not only the

Greene King Brewery from its beginnings but the likes of demised breweries of the not too distant past such as Rayments and Simpsons.

Copies of the 100 page A5 book are available from Mike Birch, 37 The Broadwalk, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 3SG. Cover price is £3.50, please send £4.00 to cover post and packing with cheques payable to St. Neots CAMRA.

1764

The Story
of



BIGGLESWADE
BREWERY



By
Ken Page

CAMRA PUB OF THE WINTER

This award went to **The Wheatsheaf** in **Church Street, St. Neots**.

This Greene King house run by Ann and Tony Tuck offers a permanent range of three cask ales, Abbot, IPA and XX Mild, but during the winter months also offered Greene King Winter Ale, direct from polypins on the bar.

The pub managed to sell 18 polypins of this, a massive amount for a pub of its size and for this and its all year round serving and promotion of quality real ale we decided to make it our Pub of the Season for the Winter.

The couple were presented with a certificate to mark the accolade and are pictured with regular Fred Posnett who had a great deal to do with amount consumed, and was also presented with a certificate in recognition of the fact!



Photograph shows, from the left, Fred Posnett, Tony and Ann Tuck, with their respective certificates. Photograph by courtesy of the Town Crier.

Real Ale Guide To Cromwell Country

We have available our 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, or 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 12th APRIL
ST.NEOTS CAMRA BRANCH
AGM 8.30pm
Chequers, Little Gransden All card carrying members welcome - First pint free.

Tuesday April 26th Social with Northampton CAMRA Branch.
Swan, Old Weston 8.30pm and then **The Green Man, Leighton Bromswold 9.45 onwards.**

Tuesday 10th May, Meeting - **Oliver Cromwell. St.Ives 8.30pm**

Tuesday 24th May - Southoe Social - **Bell 8.30pm** and then **The Three Horseshoes 9.45pm**




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