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ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING TIMES



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BRANCH NEWSLETTER
BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 1,000 COPIES

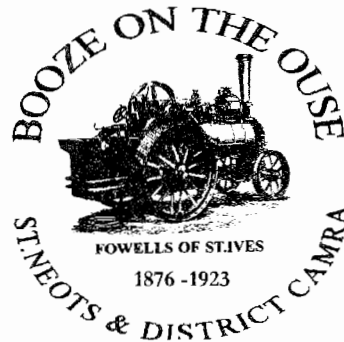
IT'S BEER FESTIVAL TIME at St. Neots and St. Ives

Two 'Beer Festivals' are looming on the horizon for the St. Neots Camra Branch. Having held our second Winter Ale Festival in January in St. Neots we are now a 'three festival a year' branch.



Firstly we have our one day Beerex at the Riverside Park, St. Neots on July 14th in conjunction with the St. Neots Round Table organised Riverside Challenge, so there are things for all the family to do while a pint of real ale is enjoyed at our marquee.

We anticipate being open from 12.00 until the beer runs out at about 18.00, with some 15 real ales being available on the day along with some local cider from James Cassells of Cambridge.



This is followed up by our main event - The 'Booze on the Ouse' at the Burgess Hall, St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives from September 12th -15th where once again we expect 2,000 people to enjoy the 60 real

ales on offer.

There will be Jazz on the Saturday night with Amadeus Bold Wickets Red Hot Peppers and hopefully some Folk on the Sunday lunchtime, with Friday a music free night for drinkers to enjoy a 'talking atmosphere'.

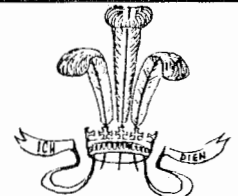
We are still finalising our beer order, but expect to see an even more varied selection of ales than ever, with hopefully some ales that will be new to everyone, even the the real connoisseurs among you. Look out for our August newsletter which will give you more details on the beers that we will have available.



The Prince of Wales

'That nice pub at Hilton'

(01480) 830257



NETHERGATE IPA DRAUGHT BASS GUEST BEERS GOOD FOOD ACCOMMODATION

CAMRA LAUNCHES 'Under 25's RECRUITMENT DRIVE.

Although CAMRA's national membership figure now stands at around a very healthy 50,000 mark, there is an increasing number of middle aged drinkers in that number.

YOUNG BLOOD NEEDED

Under 25's are not being attracted because of the continuing image of CAMRA members as long haired, bearded, beer-bellied individuals, which although true in some individual cases is not so among the vast majority.

For example, though Cambridge is only just up the road to our branch area, there are only SEVEN student members signed up, although of course there could be more using their home addresses.

Young people join but are fearful of involvement which is something CAMRA has to remedy if the campaign is to move forcefully into the next millenium. CAMRA needs those young people who appreciate real ale not only to spread the message to their friends but also to get involved at Branch level to ensure continuity. It is not true that young people do not drink real ale, younger drinkers tend to drink a wider range of drinks. In their early twenties, people have been drinking for a few years and their taste buds develop and their palates change with a taste

for cask beer arriving. If you are one of these people become an active CAMRA member.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE CAMRA MEMBER?

There was a good letter in a recent issue of What's Brewing - CAMRA's Newspaper, regarding the definition of an 'active' CAMRA member.

Somebody who had signed up for the Campaign but was unable to attend Branch meetings and socials listed the things that he did:

Discussing beer with friends and recruiting some new members on the way.

Informing landlords of my liking for real beer and why.

Writing to ministers and brewery chiefs expressing my views on their policies.

Financially supporting the Campaign by paying subscriptions, buying products and attending festivals.

Drinking real ale.

Due to other commitments, our friend was unable to attend branch meetings, demo's or AGM's and asked was he an active CAMRA member?

The answer is of course Yes, as we need any degree of involvement

from drinkers. So if his contributions also apply to you, we thank you for that. However, we do need members who are happy to be involved in the running of the Branch, so come along if you can. If not there are other ways you can help:

PUB LIAISON

We always need information on what's happening at our pubs, change of landlords, change of available beers, guest beers etc. So if you have that information, send it in to the editor.

TWO FREE PINTS AT ST.IVES

If you are thinking of joining CAMRA or are already a member and dubious about attending meetings and socials then come along to the 'Booze on the Ouse' Festival and introduce yourself to the man on the CAMRA stand and he will answer your questions on CAMRA and it's aims. As an added bonus, if you join CAMRA at the St. Ives Festival we will give you two free pints as an introduction to CAMRA.

Because whilst we are seeking young members, we certainly also appreciate that our older brethren also have something to offer, so all are welcome

**THE
WHITE HART,**
Sheep Market, St.Ives
Tel: 01480 463275

REAL ALES AVAILABLE:
Fullers London Pride
Fullers Chiswick
Flowers IPA
Boddingtons Bitter

Outside Bars Catered For

BED & BREAKFAST
Discount to CAMRA Members

RURAL RATES RELIEF FOR PUBS?

In a package worth £15 million the Department of Environment has announced plans for rate relief for village shops and Post Offices in communities of less than 3,000 people. The proposals apply to businesses with a rateable value of £5,000 or less by at least 50%.

Additionally, Local Authorities will be able to provide assistance to other rural shops and businesses - including pubs - with cuts in rates bills of up to 50%.

Unfortunately a discretionary scheme such as this rules out any



assistance for equally worthy, first class, town pubs not in rural areas.

With over 1,000 pubs closing last year any support is obviously welcome. Pubs are an essential part of any community, providing meeting places and support a network of social activity, not least charitable fund-raising and are not just places where one can have a drink.

SWAN NECKS WITH TIGHT SPARKLERS

One of the CAMRA's big fights is against the use of swan neck dispense allied to the fixing of a tight sparkler. This method consists of the replacement of the traditional short down spout with a curved spout shaped like a 'swan-neck'. At the end of this is fitted a 'sparkler', an attachment with small holes out of which the beer is forced. This creates the tight creamy head on a pint, currently fashionable, aka nitro keg - Caffrey's etc.

Unfortunately, whereas this is traditional in some parts of the country, with beers specifically brewed to be dispensed in this way it is highly inappropriate to use this form of dispense indiscriminately on all beers. Beers will taste blander than the brewer intended because the sparkler leads to a reduction in the amount of dissolved carbon dioxide in the body of the beer.

Discerning publicans will not use the system incorrectly, but where you do find the sparkler fitted it is in order to ask the publican to disconnect it if you prefer your beer served in that manner. A simple process and most publicans will oblige.

CAMRA are not alone in their thoughts, many Southern brewers believe that serving their beers through a tight sparkler brutalises the palate of their flowery, hoppy beers. Bitterness levels fall by a small but significant amount and flavour intensity is reduced. The sparkler is a prime example of 'prettiness over palate' and sight over smell

LOCAL NEWS

The Cambridgeshire Hunter, Eynesbury, St. Neots a Charles Wells house is having a conservatory built as the pub expands.

The Wheatsheaf, Eaton Socon another Wells pub, currently in the hands of a temporary landlord is also about to embark on some long planned refurbishment. and a new landlord will be installed once the work is completed.

19th PETERBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL
The Embankment Peterborough
August 20 - 25th

The Happy Brewer

For Bedford's
 ★★★ Best Selection of ★★★
 Homebrew Kits

Come to
Bedford's Homebrew Centre

15 Union Street
 Bedford
 Tel: 353856

Opening Times Monday to Saturday
 9.30 - 5.30

REFORM ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY PUB HOURS?

CAMRA has welcomed Government proposals for more flexible pub licensing with an extra hour of trading on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Although only a modest reform it will bring pub hours into the nineties, based on how people live and work nowadays.

With the new Sunday opening hours having been successfully received this will be seen as another step forward, although the proposals are not a free-for-all. The concerns of local residents regarding late night noise and nuisance must be met, allowing enforcement of 11.00 closing where genuine causes for

complaint exist. This will undoubtedly lead to blanket bans in one area and a more liberal policy in the next, leading to people crossing district boundaries searching for late night pubs!

Although some nightclubs already have late licences CAMRA believes that additional freedom for nightclubs compared with pubs is unjustified. Pubs should be able to compete on equal terms.

If you want to see an extended hours drinking time on Friday and Saturday evenings then write to the Home Office, LGDP Unit, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT and your MP in support of the proposals, otherwise if they are thrown out at this stage it could be a long time before they come up for review once again.

SWIFT HALVES...

CAMRA celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and already three breweries have announced that they will produce special ales to commemorate the silver anniversary. McMullens of Hertford are bringing out their ale in September and Mansfield and Robinsons are also following suit.

The British Medical Journal says that **any** alcohol in moderation reduces heart disease, not just red wine as was once thought. And teetotallers face a risk of heart disease from cholesterol five times greater than moderate drinkers. So drink on - in moderation.

Carlsberg-Tetley have announced the launch of Calder's Cream Ale as a rival to Caffrey's as the nitro-keg bandwagon gathers pace.

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, 230, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

APPLICATION FORM

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
POSTCODE

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Signed.....

Date.....

BRANCH DIARY

All are welcome to attend our socials and meetings, which are held usually every other Tuesday at different pubs throughout our branch area.

Tuesday 9th July - Social - **King of the Belgians, Hartford** (Manns) 8.30pm. followed by **Barley Mow, Hartford** (Wells) 9.45pm

Tuesday 23rd July - Meeting - **Blue Ball, St. Neots** (Greene King) - 8.30pm

Tuesday August 20th - Meeting - **Nelson's Head, St. Ives** (Greene King) - 8.30pm

For further details contact: Geoff Parsons (Secretary) on 01480 350260

Landlords Book Your Advertising Space Now for inclusion in our August issue. Ring Mike Birch 01480 395505 Rates are detailed below