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CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING
TIMES



Issue No 98 Sept 1998

BRANCH NEWSLETTER
BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 2,000 COPIES

19 *Booze on the Ouse* 98

BOOZE ON
THE OUSE

September 17 - 20th

Thurs 17th 7.00-10.45
Fri 18th 12.00-3.00 6.00-10.45
Sat 19th 11.00 - 10.45
Sun 20th 12.00 - 3.00

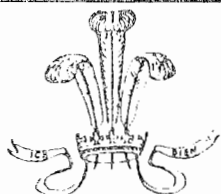
The 18th 'Booze on the Ouse' will be held at the St. Ivo Centre, St. Ives from 17th - 20th September. Once again around 30 kils of real ale featuring some 60 real ales for your delectation

In a unique event our Beer Festival is being 'twinned' with the North Herts Beer Festival which is being held at the Plinston Hall, Letchworth, Herts from 17th - 19th September. Anyone attending one festival will be given a ticket granting them free admission to the other festival.

Special attention has been paid to the respective beer lists with no duplication apart from the 'Special festival ale', which is a

wheat beer brewed especially for the two events by North Herts CAMRA members at Museum Brewery. The North Herts Festival will offer 40 Real Ales, making a 100 different beers at the two events, enough for anybody to choose from. A real collectors item will be the Joint Beer Festival Commemorative pint glass being offered at both festivals, which has the two festival logos printed on the one glass, yours to keep at just £2.00 each

We have a good range of beers from the different categories: Mild, Bitter, Best Bitter, Strong Bitter, Old Ales, Strong Milds, Stouts, Porters, Speciality



The Prince of Wales

'That nice pub at Hilton'

(01480) 830257



ADNAMS BEST BITTER ELGOOD'S BLACK DOG MILD GUEST BEERS GOOD FOOD ACCOMMODATION

Beers and barley wines

As well as the return of some hot-selling favourites like Dent Kamikaze and Hopback Summer Lightning there will be some 'debut' making ales.

Among the beers available at 'Booze on the Ouse' will be some prize winning ales from CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain awards at the Great British Beer Festival held at Olympia in August, giving you the try to try them.

Also available are hoped to be Coniston Bluebird, Marches Jenny Pipes' Summer Ale, Goff's Joust, Rooster Scorch, Cheriton

Diggers Gold, Dark Tribe Galleon, Buffy's Strong Ale, Salopian Iron Bridge Stout, Passageway Rauchbier and Uley Old Spot to name but a few.

We will also have some traditional cider and perry and the ever popular Belgian Beer stand with a good range of some excellent imported bottles beers.

A full range of of tasty bar snacks will be offer and there will also be a soft drinks and spirits bar for those of you that are driving or don't like real ale!

If you want to bring the family along, children are welcome and will be

allowed in the main hall until 9.00pm

For music lovers, there will be some live Jazz on the Saturday night, but its a talk zone the rest of the time.

As last year we will have some traditional pub games for you to try your skills at and of course 'every one's a winner' on the Tombola Stall.

Join CAMRA at the CAMRA stall and get free admission to CAMRA Beer Festivals as well as receiving the national CAMRA newsletter 'What's Brewing and other membership benefits.

RISE OF NITRO BEERS BEGINS TO SLOW DOWN

The speed at which nitro-keg beers are spreading through the country's pubs is beginning to slow - at least, it is according to a survey conducted by one CAMRA sub-branch.

Gloucester's annual snapshot of all the pubs in the city has revealed 15 brands of of nitro-keg being served through 129 pumps, compared to 18 brands through 105 last year, a virtual standstill, given nitro-kegs growth in the last three years.

More good news came when it was reported that the decline in real ale volume had also levelled out

CAMRA HITS BACK IN SHORT PINT FIGHT

CAMRA is going on the offensive in the continuing fight against the short-pint scandal.

Following Tory back bencher Eric Forth's single-handed assassination of the Private Member's Bill which would have introduced fair play for Britain's drinkers, CAMRA is reissuing its popular beer rip-off calculators in

a bid to draw public attention to the hidden profits unscrupulous pub landlords are making.

CAMRA issued over 20,000 of the credit-card sized calculators when they were launched three years ago, playing a vital part in raising public awareness of the short pint issue.

Even though the Wines & Spirits (Beer & Cider) Bill has been killed off, full pints will become a legal requirement in due course. CAMRA is working with the Department of Trade on a full-pint regulation which may be introduced as secondary legislation.

GREENE KING TAKEOVER BEARDS OF SUSSEX

ALE CHOICE WILL NOT SUFFER SAY GREENE KING

Our local regional brewer Greene King has completed a £12million takeover of Beards Brewery of Sussex. Beards in fact stopped brewing in 1959 and had its own label beers brewed by Harveys until 1986, since when it sold its wholesaling division to The Beer Seller in 1994, its 34 tenants and 9 managers have stocked ales from Scottish Courage, Harvey's and The Beer Seller with a house bitter supplied by Arundel Brewery.

The existing Beards pubs will go into the Greene King Pub Company, while the tenancies will be operated by Greene King Pub Partners with "an extension to the range of beers available rather than a contraction" according to a spokesman. The acquisition gives Greene King a foothold in attractive locality, with their attitude towards Beards seeming to be a second step in a gradual change of culture at a brewery once known for its rigid maintenance of the traditional tie: top-selling tenants are already being offered a narrow choice of guest ales.

BUT PUB CLOSURES GATHER PACE

Although Greene King are said to turning back to community pubs as its main growth area, it still shows a disturbing trend of closing pubs and delicensing them. There is a provision in the Beer orders that bans brewers from selling pubs with delicensing covenants, but Greene king appear to have found a loop hole in this. The Office of Fair Trading has confirmed that the wording of the ban on brewers selling pubs with delicensing covenants did not cover leasehold transactions. A spokesman said the Beer Orders banned the transfer of interest with a restrictive covenant - not the creation of a new interest. The fear is unless an amendment is made to the orders, other brewers will use the loophole to close surplus pubs rather than sell them as going concerns.

LOCAL NEWS

Greene King have continued their pub closures in St. Neots with the **Woolpack, Eynesbury** now closed following the Wheatsheaf and Blue Ball in the town. Whether this is the end of the Breweries' rationalisation programme in the town is open to debate. The two other closed pubs stand empty awaiting buyers as private residences. Greene King would not sell as licensed premises in case of competition.

Two of the areas notable freehouses have changed hands. **The Old Ferryboat Inn at Holywell** has now been purchased by Marstons becoming a tied house selling their ales and the **Crown, Eaton Socon** has been sold to Scottish and Newcastle.

The Jolly, Abbot at Abbotsley has now re-opened as a Free house.

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL TICKETS WINNER

The winner of the two free tickets in our Great British Beer Festival competition was Mr Brian Larkins of Huntingdon. Congratulations to him and we hope he enjoyed attending the 21st such event.

Answers were:

Across. 1. Rabbit s 5. Alexandra
6. Queens 7. Terry Jones 11. Car
Park

Down. 2. Tramshed 3. Arena
Twenty one 8. Olympia 9. Beach
10. Three

JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send your remittance (Payable to CAMRA) to
The Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 4LW

Rates are Single £14, Joint £17 (at same address)

Student/OAP/Unemployed/Disabled £8 Joint OAP £11 (at same address)

Under 26: £8 date of birth

For Life/Overseas rates please ask for details

NAME.....

Opening Times 98
St. Neots

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Rules.

I enclose a cheque for

Signed.....

Date.....

BREWERY CLOSURES.....

R U D D L E S DEMONSTRATION

Rutland Conservative MP has joined a demonstration against Morland's brutal axing of cult brewery Ruddles of Langham.

The MP helped bury a PET bottle filled with cask County to symbolise the death of one of Britain's best known breweries, saying "If it isn't brewed in Rutland, it can't be Ruddles". The demonstration attracted CAMRA members from all over the Country as well as local branches. Campaigners would continue to rally public opinion against the devastation of Rutland's heritage being wrecked by a company of incomers, especially as CAMRA helped Morlands escape a similar fate only five years earlier.

MORRELLS, OPPOSITION MOUNTS

CAMRA is planning a two-pronged assault on the asset strippers who want to sell Oxford's historic Morrell Brewery to property developers.

It was announced in July that the brewery and tied estate were up for sale.

At national level, the campaign is taking the fight to Morrells' trustees and shareholders, seeking to persuade them that a fire sale of a valuable long term proposition is in no-body's best interests.

And at local level, Oxford CAMRA

branch is to run a publicity campaign aimed at persuading city councillors not to grant change of use permission on the valuable St. Thomas Street site.

Local press and TV coverage has already been won as the fight gathers momentum. There is also a campaign to win statutory listing for as many of the brewery's 130 pubs as possible and oppose all future change of use applications.

CASTLE EDEN, HOPES RISE

A consortium of North-East businessmen is hoping to rescue Castle Eden, Whitbread's brewery near Hartlepool which the national beer giant plans to close on October

1st with the beers being moved to the Boddingtons, Manchester plant.

The group has made a bid for the site and if successful would continue to brew there. The only stumbling block appears to be the value of the brands produced at Castle Eden.

Miles Templeman, MD of the Whitbread Beer Company confirmed that he was pursuing the sale of the brewery as a going concern and added that the deadline could be extended.

Whitbread's Flowers Brewery in Cheltenham is also due to close on October 1st, with staff having been given their statutory redundancy notices.

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.

Friday 4th September - **Mini Bus Trip to Bassingbourne and Abington Pigots** Contact Kathy Hadfield 01480 496247

Wednesday 23rd September - Social - **Royal Oak St. Ives** 8.30pm

Wednesday 7th October - **Mini Bus Trip to Bedford Beer Festival** Contact Kathy Hadfield 01480 496247

Tuesday 27th October - Open Committee Meeting - **White Hart, St. Ives** 8.30pm

Friday 13th November - Social with N.Beds CAMRA Branch **Queens Head, Sandy** 8.30pm

For further details contact:
Roy Endersby (Chairman) on 01480 473364