

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

ST. NEOTS & DISTRICT

OPENING
TIMES



Issue No 108
August/September 2000

BRANCH NEWSLETTER
BI-MONTHLY CIRCULATION 2,000 COPIES

**20th
BOOZE
ON
THE OUSE
14th-17th**

SEPTEMBER



55 REAL ALES

(over the duration of the Festival)

PLUS CIDER AND BOTTLED FOREIGN BEERS

OPENING TIMES:

Thursday 14th 7.00 - 10.45
Friday 15th 12.00 - 3.00 6.00 - 10.45*
Saturday 16th All day from 11.00 - 10.45**
Sunday 17th 12.00 - 3.00

*Entry £100 Thursday and Friday Nights

** £2.00 Saturday night (from 6.00pm) Free Entry all other sessions
 Families welcome until 9.00

Live Entertainment Saturday Night - Collectors Item

The Festival to be held at the Burgess Hall, St. Ivo Centre will feature around 55 fine British ales during the course of the festival, plus the usual cider and perry and the bottled foreign beers that are becoming increasingly popular

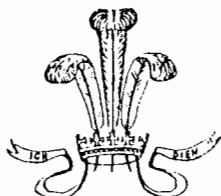
We hope to have some of the Champion Beer of Britain Award winners available with the winners announced at the Great British Beer Festival in early August.

Some of the hoped for beers are: Triple FFF Pressed Rat and Warthog,, Bullmastiff Gold, Harviestoun Brooker's Bitter and Twisted, Beartown Kodiak Gold, Concertina Bengal Tiger, York Yorkshire

Terrier, Cropton Monkman's Slaughter and Pembroke Dimond Lager as well as some of the more well known favourites; Hopback Summer Lightning, Fullers ESB, Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild and Gales HSB.

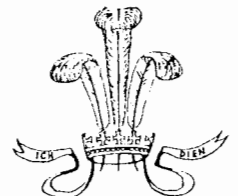
TWINNED FESTIVAL

Again our festival is being twinned with that being held at Letchworth just a week later with our joint commemorative glass which this year is being sponsored by Charles Wells a real collectors item



The Prince of Wales

'That nice pub at Hilton'
(01480) 830257



POTTON BREWING REVIVAL

Local CAMRA members were entertained recently at one of our newest local brewers, Potton Brewery which came on stream a year ago at the hand of Clive Towner in partnership with Bob Hearson, former engineering manager at Mortlake and then Greene King's Biggleswade brewery until its closure.

In 1922 the original Potton Brewery existed in what became a co-op store ñ the brewery building is still there, but brewing ceased after takeover by Lark Street brewery of Bedford, themselves swallowed up by Wells and Winch at Biggleswade who eventually became part of Greene King. The story has now come full circle, with a Greene King brewer now brewing in Potton, and it would have been a perfect twist to the tale had the new brewery been located in the original brewery premises. This almost occurred, because the premises were offered, but planning permission was not forthcoming,

surprising for what was after all once a brewery.

The new brewery can produce 10 barrels at a time although some brews are 5 barrels. A new 10-barrel fermenting vessel is to be added, giving a capacity of 30 barrels a week. The beers are named after local connections. Bob offered us samples of Shannon IPA, named after a locomotive that once plied the local railway, and Shambles, named after a part of Potton market. Shambles is a 4.3% alcohol malty bitter with a gentle hoppiness and some sweetness. Shannon IPA at 3.8 % is bitterer and a little less full-bodied. Hops used include Target, Cascade and First Gold varieties, plus Styrian Goldings in Shambles and Sticklebract hops from New Zealand.

Other beers include Phoenix, 4.8%, named after Potton brewery rising from the ashes and Pride of Potton at 6%. Dumb Blonde is a ginger and citrus flavoured summer ale. The origin of that name may or may not be shared by Village Bike at 4.3%. Bottled beers are also produced, including Butlers Ale, produced for the National Trust and sold at Wimpole Hall.

Most of the beer is delivered direct to outlets in an area bounded by Stamford, Hertford and Cambridge to the west of Bedford. Shannon is the best selling beer, but Shambles is increasingly popular. More excellent beer was sampled in the Rose and Crown in Potton. We wish Bob and Clive all the best with their venture, and thank them for an interesting and hospitable evening.

OTHER CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS

**23rd
PETERBOROUGH BEER FESTIVAL**
Tue 22 to 27 Aug

Under canvas on the Embankment, Bishops Road. Over 300 real ales plus cider and European bottled beers. website www.realale.org.uk

**23rd
BEDFORD BEER FESTIVAL**
Wed 4th to Sat 7th October

Bedford Corn Exchange, St. Pauls Square
At least 50 real ales plus draught German and bottled Belgian beers.

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

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ADDRESS.....

St. Neots

.....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.....

Contact the editor by E-Mail

If you wish to contribute to

Opening Times you can

E-Mail to:

mike@rowleypark.

freeserve.co.uk

Two local publicans celebrate over 10 years in the Good Beer Guide

The Prince of Wales , Hilton



In the last couple of months, two local publicans achieved that ultimate accolade, more than 10 consecutive editions in the Good Beer Guide.

In celebration, the Branch presented certificates to commemorate the occasions. It's important to note that these are awards to the publicans and not to the pubs, since consistent quality real ale over these sorts of time periods reflects commitment and dedication by the individual publican/cellarman.

Robin Doughty (left) receiving the certificate from St. Neots CAMRA Branch Chairman Roy Endersby (centre) under the thoughtful gaze of Judith (right)

Robin and Judith Doughty have been in 12 consecutive appearances of the Good Beer Guide since 1989. Robin's enthusiasm for well kept real ale is further shown by his preference for stocking distinctive locally brewed beers, including the rare dark mild Elgoods Black Dog.

Robin and Judith have extended and improved the pub over the years, adding accommodation, but the pub retains the feel of a traditional village pub and the pub plays a full role in the community life of the village.

Green Man, Leighton Bromswold

Toni Hanagan (centre) receives certificate from St. Neots CAMRA Branch Chairman Roy Endersby (left) with Dave (right) enjoying a celebratory drink.



Dave and Toni Hanagan have been at the Green Man since 1990, and have been in every edition of the Good Beer Guide since 1991 including the current 2000 edition.

Dave is a true enthusiast regards beer and pubs. Not only does he stock a wide range of distinctive real ales, all from independents and micros, he also stocks ranges of Belgian and German beers, and English bottle conditioned beers. The decor of Green Man reflects Dave's passion for pub memorabilia with a vast assortment of mirrors, bottles and signs, and pub has been continually enhanced and improved over the years, usually by Dave's own hands. In his "spare" time, Dave is a keen skittles player and he regularly joins branch members on tasting trips to Belgium. The Green Man has been an East Anglian Pub of the Year and was the Cambridgeshire Pub of the Year in 1999.

LOCAL NEWS

The **White Swan, Bluntisham** has now been refurbished.

The **George at Spaldwick** has now been sold to the lessee by Charles Wells.

Freehouse, The **Chequers Inn, Eynesbury** continues its policy of two changing real ales on tap. Beers from Maulden and Nethergate have been spotted recently.

The **Windmill, Somersham** a Greene King House has earned plaudits for its good beer quality as has the **Green Man at Colne** where Adnams Broadside has appeared as a guest.

In **Godmanchester**, the **White Hart** and its sister pub the **Exhibition** both have plans to stock City of Cambridge Brewery beers.

ST.NEOTS CHANGES

Lots of changes in the St. Neots area

Visit **St. Neots CAMRA**
Branch website:

www.stneotscamra.co.uk

News about your local pub
for inclusion in
Opening Times is always
gratefully received.

Write or E-mail the editor:
mike@rowleypark.freeserve.co.uk

with The **George and Dragon, Eaton Socon** now a tenancy after a short period under a manager with Stan and Mandy Innes taking over after previously spending over eight years at the **Queen Edith** in Cambridge.

Sue Ayres has become licensee at Greene King's **The Falcon, St. Neots** which is stocking Greene King IPA and Ruddles County as a guest.

The **Kings Head, St. Neots** has applied for planning permission to extend into an unused, adjacent shop premises.

Over the bridge in the Eatons we hear that the **Millers Arms, The Wheatsheaf** and **Barley Mow** are all changing hands.

Further down the Great North Road, **The Crown** has Courage Directors, Theakstons BB plus two guests, one of which recently was Hopback Brewery's seasonal beer **Crop Circle**.

OTHER NEWS

ADNAMS CHANGE BEER RANGE

Adnams of Southwold, well known in our area, have made some controversial changes to their beer range with the withdrawal of some favourites: **EXTRA, DARK MILD, OYSTER STOUT** and **OLD ALE**, evidently due to poor sales and with Adnams brewing at beyond its capacity of 66,000 barrels a year rationalisation took over. These have been replaced by a new cask beer **TRINITY** at 5.2% abv (alcohol by volume). Brewed from pale and wheat malts it will be launched early next year and is aimed at "the first time drinker" although it will have a distinctive flavour.

As 'compensation' for the lost beers, new seasonal **FISHERMAN**, a dark red 4.5abv will be launched in the Autumn

BRANCH DIARY

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

Thursday 8th August - Open Meeting - **Old Bridge Hotel, Huntingdon**, Patio 8.30pm

Wednesday 23rd August - **Train Trip to Peterborough Beer Festival** - 19.13pm from St. Neots, 19.24pm from Huntingdon. Leave Peterborough at 22.20pm.

Friday 8th September Social **Grange, Brampton**, 8.30pm and then **Harrier, Brampton** 9.45pm

Friday 22nd September - Staff Social- **Royal Oak, St. Ives** - 8.30pm

Tuesday 10th October - Open Meeting - **Chequers, Little Gransden** 8.30pm

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