



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

opening times

**Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA
the Campaign for Real Ale**

**Issue 140
Autumn 2009**

AXE THE BEER TAX



Also inside:

CAMRA celebrates 100,000 members

**Booze on the Ouse, St Ives Beer Festival
Thu 10—Sat 12 September 2009**

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Fine food, real ales

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We look forward to welcoming you soon.

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www.thecrowninnrestaurant.co.uk



AXE THE BEER TAX

Save The Pub

Britain's pubs are under severe and sustained pressure. Sales of beer in pubs are now at their lowest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and 36 pubs are closing every week. More than 44,000 jobs were lost from the industry between 2000 and 2005 - and further redundancies are inevitable. CAMRA has predicted that up to 7,500 pubs could be lost by the end of 2012.

The situation is being made worse by the impact of the wider economic slowdown. Pub goers are facing a New Year kick in the teeth with CAMRA predicting the price of a pint could go up by at least 8p.

From 1 January next year, the chancellor is returning VAT to its usual 17.5 per cent when the temporary period at the current lower rate, designed to stimulate the economy, comes to an end.

But, Alastair Darling says he has no plans to change the excise duty on beer, which was increased by 8 per cent in last year's pre-budget report, to compensate for the cut in VAT and ensure retailers didn't drop the price of beer.

CAMRA's head of policy and parliamentary affairs Jonathan Mail said: "It really is time the chancellor gave pubs a break. By not cutting the duty rise he is foisting yet another tax increase on the pub-going public."

With tax already taking up a third of the price of a pint of beer, further hikes can only accelerate the decline of the pub.

Pubs play a vital role in the social life of communities up and down the country - and are an essential part of promoting a more responsible drinking culture. It is

time to stand up for a Great British tradition and save the pub.

Over 58,000 people have joined the Facebook group in support of lower beer tax, and over 25,000 emails have been sent to MPs. In total over 70,000 members of the public have given their support to the campaign via the Axe the Beer Tax - Save the Pub website, Facebook and Twitter.

How can you help?

Now the Huntingdonshire branch of CAMRA brings this campaign to our area. We want local CAMRA members and pub users reading Opening Times to join the Axe the Beer Tax - Save the Pub campaign, run by the British Beer and Pub Association and the Campaign for Real Ale, to highlighting the plight of the British pub and urging Government to take action to prevent pub closures.

You can show your support for the campaign by visiting www.axethebeertax.com. Join with us to lobby our local MP, Jonathan Djanogly, and show him the level of feeling about the future of our local pubs.





CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is delighted to announce for the first time in their 38 year history that they have 100,000 members signed up to the organisation.

CAMRA is a not-for-profit, volunteer-led consumer organisation that campaigns for real ale and good community pubs. It was founded in 1971 by Michael Hardman, Jim Makin, Graham Lees and Bill Mellor, when an idea of a campaign arose whilst they were bemoaning the state of British beer and pubs whilst on holiday in Ireland.

Popularity for the then named 'Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale' quickly grew, and by the end of 1973 the organisation boasted 5,000 members.

By 1974, the membership number had risen to 9,000 and the first branches had been formed of which there are over 200 today!

In 1976, CAMRA campaigned for breweries to reveal the OG's (Original Gravities) of their beers after they had initially refused. By testing the beers themselves, CAMRA published the OGs in the 1976 Good Beer Guide. It is now common practice for many breweries to promote the strength of the beer on promotional material and on pump-clips, helping consumers know what they are drinking.

The organisation's membership continued to grow following CAMRA's success to persuade breweries such as Bateman's of

Lincolnshire not to close, despite some of the family wanting to sell up, and Fuller's to reverse their decision to stop brewing real ale. Can you imagine a Fuller's pub with no London Pride, ESB or Chiswick today?

In more recent times CAMRA has been delighted to see responsible adults being given the option to go for drink at a time that suits them. This decision was made following the campaign's support for the new licensing laws that now allow pubs to stay open beyond the traditional 11pm closing time and all day on Sunday.

There are now approximately 700 breweries in Britain brewing more than 2,500 different real ales. Many of the new breweries that have started since 2002 have benefitted from Progressive Beer Duty, which CAMRA campaigned for, giving small brewers tax relief to help set up and grow their business. The variety of real ales now available for consumers to enjoy is probably CAMRA's biggest success.

Reaching the 100,000 members milestone and achieving so many campaign successes over nearly four decades would not have been possible without the dedicated CAMRA volunteers. It is estimated that more than 5,000 CAMRA volunteers give up their time to organise over 150 CAMRA beer festivals a year, survey pubs, write and distribute local newsletters, manage local branch websites, organise petitions to save local pubs and

4 Join 100,000 members of CAMRA and fight for Britain's beer heritage



breweries, present pubs with awards for good practice and sit on local and national committees.... plus much, much more!

To help celebrate the 100,000 landmark, CAMRA branches across the country will be raising a glass, or two, of real ale and organising their own events over the coming months to thank members for their support – so watch this space!

100,000 members is a great achievement but there are plenty more campaigns to win and the 200,000 member milestone is CAMRA's next aim to give the organisa-

tion even more lobbying influence to campaign for consumer rights.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join CAMRA, then there is a great membership offer available... see below.

CAMRA would like to thank every member who has joined the organisation over the last 38 years! They couldn't have achieved so much with out you.

CELEBRATING 100,000 MEMBERS!

Join CAMRA today...

In our quest to reach 200,000 members!

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA, Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4JW.

Your Details Applications will be processed within 11 days

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address

..... Postcode

Email address

Tel No (x)

Partner's Details (if joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership (UK & EU) £20 £23

Joint Membership (Partner at the same address) £25 £27

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

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 £/00

Signed Date

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd,
 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4JW

NAME AND FULL POSTAL ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

To the Branch: Bank or Building Society

Address

..... Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

.....

Bank or Building Society Account Number **Branch Sort Code**

.....

Reference Number

.....

Originator's Identification Number **9 2 6 1 2 9**

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- The reliability and security of the Scheme is monitored and guaranteed by your own Bank or Building Society.
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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

25 YEARS AGO



In September 1984 the Barclay Brothers abandoned the proposed sale of their Camerons brewery at Hartlepool when the planned merger with Scottish and Newcastle was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after a campaign by CAMRA. In East Anglia, CAMRA was concerned that the other brewery owned by the Barclay Brothers, Tolly Cobbold of Ipswich, appeared to remain under threat.



A plan to convert the 400 year old Cross Keys, a listed building in St Neots, into 20 shopping units was approved

by the district council, despite objections from CAMRA.

25 years ago, St Neots CAMRA held branch meetings at the White Swan in Bluntisham, then a Tolly Cobbold pub, and the Royal Oak, Hail Weston. There were autumn socials at the Swan, Offord Cluny, the Montagu Arms at Grafham, the Three Horseshoes, Longstowe and Ind Coope pub the Pickled Skittle in St Ives – now the Haywain.



Adnams of Southwold tried out a new light cask bitter, LBA, brewed to an original gravity of 1032. The light coloured, dry beer was selected from num-

ber of new experimental brews.

In St Neots, Charles Wells pub the Globe was enjoying a new lease of life following its refurbishment at a cost of £100,000. Tenants Geoff and Jenny Gouch were happy that the new decor was in keeping with the pub. Sadly, the Globe closed in 2008 and its future remains uncertain.

25 years ago beer swaps between brewers were rare, but Greene King set up a deal to sell their cask Abbot Ale in Whitbread pubs in London. In return Greene King took supplies of Whitbread's Gold Medal barley wine. Their own bottled barley wine, Audit, was discontinued.



Mansfield Brewery, the large regional brewer, opened a new £4million brewhouse to replace its original brewery, built in 1906. The new computer-controlled plant provided a 50% increase in capacity. But Mansfield was not a real ale brewer, and had only recently launched cask beer, XXXX, on trial. CAMRA was hopeful of more cask ales from the new plant.

Whitbread began producing Everards' Bitter, and Bass were expected to win contracts to brew Everards Tiger and Mild, following the closure by Everards of their Burton on Trent brewery. A small new brewery being built by Everards in Leicester was planned to produce its Old Original real ale.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

10 YEARS AGO



In the autumn of 1999, local real ale drinkers were celebrating the arrival of Lincolnshire brewers

Batemans, who had purchased the Lord John Russell in St Neots and the White Hart at Great Staughton from Pubmaster.

Greenalls, once Britain's largest regional brewer, became purely a hotel and leisure group after selling the final tranche of its pubs to Scottish and Newcastle. Greenalls had met troubled times after abandoning brewing ten years earlier, and were considered to have overpaid for the Boddingtons and Devenish pub estates.

Another large regional brewer, Mansfield, was under threat after trustees decided to sell their 48% share of the firm. The most likely predator was seen as Wolverhampton and Dudley, even though they had bought Marstons brewery earlier in the year.

St Neots CAMRA held monthly meetings at the Black Bull, Godmanchester, the Prince of Wales at Hilton and the George and Dragon in Eaton Socon. There were also visits to CAMRA's Bedford beer festival and Adnams Brewery in Southwold.



Suffolk brewers Greene King announced its plans to close Morlands after buying the Oxfordshire brewery and its 450 pubs in July 1999 for £180 million. Greene King's Director of Strategy Jona-

than Paveley said that 'brewing on one site instead of two will increase the viability of cask ale production' CAMRA pledged to fight the closure and its head of Campaigns Mike Benner warned that 'consolidation was killing Britain's independent brewing sector as everyone was obsessed with getting bigger'.

Ten years ago national UK brewers were investing in the cask beer market. Courage announced a £750,000 press and poster campaign for Courage Best and Bass published inserts in two



trade papers proudly proclaiming its cask beer range – Draught Bass, Worthington Bitter, Hancocks HB, Stones Bitter and Brew XI. In truth this range was considerably pared down compared with earlier years, and previously Bass had been criticised by CAMRA for its focus on alcopops and nitrokeg and comments by its marketing head Mark Hunter that publicans couldn't be expected to look after a 'living organism' in their cellar and 'brewers should not be investing in cask beer'.

CAMRA's East Anglia regional director Paul Ainsworth urged CAMRA to focus on quality and answered the often-asked question of how CAMRA can identify beers of quality and distinctiveness, given the disparate nature of the judgement of individuals. 300 CAMRA members scored a list of real ales regularly available in East Anglia. At the bottom of the list were 10 national brewery offerings, whilst the top scores were achieved by local brewers including Oakham, Adnams, Woodfordes and Nethergate and independent brewers from outside the region such as Batemans, Fullers and Hook Norton.

HALF PINTS



Local cider maker Tony Hobbs has won CAMRA's top prize at its East Anglian bottled cider competition.

Oliver's Choice, from Tony's Cromwell Cider, was a big hit in draught form at Huntingdonshire CAMRA's last two 'Booze on the Ouse' beer festivals and has now been declared the region's best bottled cider at CAMRA's Cambridge Beer Festival in May. Tony said 'It is the first time I have gone in for something and I have come first. As you can imagine I am over the moon to have won first prize for Oliver's Choice.' Tony brought a redundant orchard at Fenstanton back to life and has been producing cider for around four years. He is planning a large increase in production.

Suffolk brewer Adnams has arranged exclusive distribution and sales of Hogans Draught Cider and will be offering the 4.5% alcohol by volume to their tied pubs and free trade accounts.

MP John Grogan has tabled an early day motion in Parliament urging a lower rate of duty on draught beer sold in pubs. This is currently prevented by a European Union rule but the European Commission is expected to review the rules later this year.

Meanwhile Greg Mulholland MP has been urging the government to oblige the Royal Bank of Scotland to sell its pubs to sitting tenants who he says are complaining about high rents and beer prices. The bank, which is part owned by the government, owns 1000 pubs in association with Scottish and Newcastle.

Wells and Youngs brewery has been introducing a new hand-pull for its Bombardier cask ale. Marketing Director Chris Lewis said the new design takes its inspiration from lager fonts. 'We know that when we can get young people to try cask ale four out of ten keep drinking it', he said.



The Cask Marque organisation is to provide satnav software and a text messaging service to provide directions to local pubs accredited by Cask Marque for the quality of their real ales. In addition, the Cask Marque web site is to offer a pub search facility. Satnav software is also available from CAMRA to provide directions to pubs listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

Cask Marque is also considering a trial of a Cask Marque Premier award for pubs scoring exceptionally high marks in its accreditation scheme for cask beer quality in pubs.

The first national Cask Ale Week, held in May, has been hailed a success. CAMRA joined forces with Cask Marque, brewers and pub companies to run the event, which included real ale trails, FemAle Day tastings and beer and food promotions, all aimed at celebrating Britain's national tipple and encouraging customers to try real ale.

Brewing of Theakstons Best Bitter is returning to Masham in Yorkshire, five years after the Theakston family regained control of the Masham based company from

HALF PINTS



national brewers Scot-tish and Newcastle, who have produced much of the Theakston range for the past 35 years. The full range of Theakstons cask beers will now be produced at Masham.



Lincolnshire brewer Batemans has launched a new draught golden ale, the 4.2% abv GHA, possibly a reference to the Batemans 'Good Honest Ales' slogan. The new beer is produced with East Anglian Maris Otter malt and a combination of East Kent Goldings and Challenger hops giving the beer a spicy aroma and a balanced, fruity taste. It is available throughout the Batemans tied estate and via free trade wholesalers.

Punch Taverns has changed the names of its managed and tenanted pub businesses. The former Spirit Group managed house operation is now Punch Pub Company and the leased pub chain is Punch Partnerships.

Visitors' enjoyment of the Cornish summer has been augmented by Liquid Sunshine, a light, thirst quenching, 4% abv summer seasonal ale from St Austell brewery that has been going down well across the St Austell tied estate.

Brodies is a new name on the London microbrewery scene. James and Lizzie Brodie restored the Sweet William brewery behind the King William IV pub in Leyton High Road and their real ales include Mild, IPA and Special.

Production of Cobra beer is to be

switched from Wells and Youngs brewery in Bedford to Coors in a new joint venture between Cobra and Molson Coors to produce and market the beer. Coors has a 50.1% stake in the Cobra Beer Partnership, which has world rights to the beer, except for the Indian sub-continent.



Anheuser-Busch-InBev is withdrawing its Castlemaine XXXX lager from the UK following the end of an arrangement to produce the beer under licence from brand owner Lon Nathan.

Belgian brewer Duval has bought Liefmans brewery of Oudenaarde, Belgium. It also owns the Belgian La Chouffe brewery and is now Belgium's 5th largest brewer.

32nd Bedford Beer & Cider Festival
 Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SL
 Wed 7th - Sat 10th October 2009

Over 100 real ales! 30 ciders and perries!
Draught and bottled foreign beers!

<p>Opening hours Wed 4-11pm Thu-Sat 11.30am - 11pm</p> <p>Admission FREE refreshment before 5pm After 5pm: Wood £2, Thu £3, Fri £4, Sat £1 Child's members free at all times</p> <p>Refreshments for members from 5pm Wholesale prices for all items NO ONE UNDER AGE 18 ADMITTED</p> <p>Sponsor a cask of ale! £50 per cask (includes on the bar) (open to all) info@bedfordbeerfestival.co.uk</p> <p><small>Organised by COBRA Beer Bedfordshire</small></p>	<p>Other attractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Souvenir glasses £2 each or return • Tasty food and cold food • Free car parking • Tents to sit the fine autumn sun • Clothing, gifts and books for sale • Enigmas! <p>Volunteers needed! Phone: 01334 832498 staff@bedfordbeerfestival.co.uk</p> <p>Use entertainment! Sit at one of our bars See lovely Bedford Maids sing See even: Hair of the Dog</p> <p><small>www.bedfordbeerfestival.co.uk</small></p>
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PUB PIECES



The Royal Oak at Warboys has been taken over

by Darren Thompson and Sinead Nicholson, owners of the award-winning Mad Cat free house at Pidley. The Royal Oak has already reopened under its new management and will launch a major new high quality food offering there in October, with free samples of all dishes at the opening. Darren and Sinead took over the Mad Cat in 2007 and in the following two years won Huntingdonshire CAMRA's 'Most Improved Pub' award and then 'Pub of the Year'.

Congratulations are due to Elgoods pub the Boat at Whittlesey which has won CAMRA's Pub of the Year award for Cambridgeshire. The Boat was nominated by CAMRA's Peterborough branch and judged against this year's other branch winners the Mad Cat at Pidley, the West End House in Ely and the White Horse, Swavesey. The Boat now goes on to judging in the East Anglia regional round of the award, won last year by the Chequers at Little Grandsen.

The Bell at Sawtry has closed. Owners Punch Taverns refused to give any reasons for the closure of the business by their lessee. Currently this leaves the large village of Sawtry with just one pub, the Greystones, but CAMRA is hopeful that the Bell will reopen.

The Charles Wells pub estate has increased to a total of 260 on their purchase of 26 pubs from Punch Taverns. Fullers, Shepherd Neame and Lees breweries have also been snapping up managed and tenanted pubs from Punch, and

Greene King has bought 11 Punch managed houses in the South East of England, London and Scotland for £30.4 million and is selling 11 of its Belhaven pubs in Scotland.

The Windmill at Somersham is back in business with Justine Mackenzie at the helm following work completed there to repair flooding damage which occurred shortly after new leaseholders had taken on the popular village dining destination.

It is also business as usual at the Snooty Tavern, Great Staughton which has been sold on behalf of administra-



tors. Nick and Caroline Benson, who were previously employed by Snooty Inns as the pub's managers, are still in charge there after owners Snooty Inns went into administration earlier this year.

Elgoods cask beer has been noted on tap at the George in Buckden. Other great choices in Buckden of late have included Adnams Oyster Stout at the Lion, and the ever-popular Taylors Landlord at the Vine.

Marstons cask beers Marstons Pedigree and Banks's Original have been noted at their Priory pub in St Neots.

Buntingford cask ales are no longer on sale at the Cock, Hemingford Grey. Other regulars remain, including real ales from Wolf, Nethergate and Potbelly breweries. All cask beers at the Cock are sourced from suppliers within an hour's worth of beer miles. And the Cock also offers Cromwell Cider, produced in the Hemingfords.

PUB PIECES



The **Three Horse-shoes, Abbots Ripton** has switched from handpumps to

servicing its real ales from a tap room, direct from the cask. Four real ales are regularly available, including local ales from Elgoods, Buntingford, and Oakham.

Pub Beer Festivals

Wyboston Lakes are holding a beer festival from Sat 8th to Sun 16th August, with a selection of up to 10 real ales each day. Live music on the 14th and 15th.

The **Waggon and Horses, Steeple Morden** beer festival is on Sun 15th August, with 6 real ales, cider and live music.

The **White Hart, Godmanchester** is running a beer festival from Thu 13th to Sun

16th August, with 20+ local real ales, and 8 ciders, a hog roast and live music.



The **Cock, Hemingford Grey** has a beer festival August bank holiday weekend from Friday 28th pm to Sunday 30th pm with local bands, a BBQ and 25 real ales.



The **Pheasant, Keyston** is holding its 4th annual beer festival on August 30th.



Why Choose The Horseshoe Inn Restaurant?

The food was fabulous but it was the "Service with a Smile" made our evening out with friends all the better ! Nick R 18 Jul

"Best Sunday Lunch in the South" ! Brian 16 Jul

Passionate Chef. Fine Quality Food. Impressive Wines. 4 Real Ales.

This 382 year old Inn offers a large dining area and two comfortable bars. Parking for 50+ cars, a big grassy green garden, with a safe children's play area.



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17th-19th September 2009

50+ Cask Beers - Foreign Beer
Cider - Perry - Wine
Tombola, Products, Hot & Cold Food

Thur 17th Sept. 5pm - 11pm
Fri 18th & Sat 19th Sept. 12noon - 11pm
Plinston, Broadway, SG6 3NX

Entry: £2 with 50% discount before 4pm
CAMRA, EBCU members & OAPs FREE
Family Area available Saturday till 7pm
Check www.camranorthherts.org.uk for info
Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

THE SWAN

Main Street, Old Weston

Tel: 01832 293400

REAL ALES and REAL FOOD



Adnams Southwold Bitter
Adnams Broadside

Greene King Abbot + Guests
Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2004
Fish & Chips Wednesday Evening
Restaurant open Friday & Saturday
evenings & Sunday lunchtimes

The White Horse Tilbrook

Enjoy Summer in great gardens, eating fab food and enjoy a choice of three real cask ales.

Join us in August for these fantastic events:

10th August Brewery Tour of Charles Wells in Bedford - tickets £5 each with coach leaving from the White Horse at 6.15pm

20th August Wine Tasting at the pub - free entry and complimentary food

28th August listen to a great live duo, Narrow Daylight, as they perform jazz,



blues and folk music whilst you eat

29th August Iain Sparks and Friends will entertain you with his tribute to Roy Orbison, Van Morrison and The Commitments - Eat all you can buffet for £5 and free entry - Food from 6.30 to 8.30pm and music starts at 8.45pm

Book now for all of these events by ringing 01480 860764 - Don't miss out and see you soon!

White Horse, High Street, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0JP

Tel: 01480 860764

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THE HYDE PARK

46 New St, St Neots, PE19 1AJ
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The White Hart

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PE29 2BW



AUGUST BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday 13th August 6pm - Late
Opening Night for our popular
Beer Festival

20+ Local Real Ales, 8 Homebrew
Ciders

Friday 14th August Midday - Late
Hog Roast & Barbeque from 5pm
Live Music from 'The Agenda' fol-
lowed by Soul DJ

Saturday 15th August Midday -
Late

Hog Roast & Barbeque from 1pm
Live Music from 3pm followed by
Soul DJ

Sunday 16th August Midday -
11pm

Hog Roast & Barbeque from 1pm
Live Music from 'Burlesque' Rock-
band & 'Grande union Revival'
Restaurant Open as Usual for
Food, Bar Snacks Available - All
sessions

32nd BOOZE ON THE OUSE



OPENING TIMES

Thursday 6pm–10.45pm

Friday 5pm–10.45pm

Saturday All day; 12 noon–10.45pm.

Entry Including Programme:

Thursday - £1 6-7pm; £2 after 7pm

Friday - £1 5-7pm; £2 after 7pm

Saturday - £1 12noon-10.30pm.

Early Bird entrance - Thursday 6-7pm and

Friday 5-7pm; Entry £1.

Families welcome until 8pm.

Please Note: No entry or re-admission after 10.30pm.

Free entry to CAMRA Members at all sessions - A good reason to join CAMRA!

BEERS

REAL ALES

We hope to serve *over the course of the festival* around 55 real ales from all over the UK, both from the well-established independent breweries and the newer, smaller micro-breweries.

FOREIGN BEER

The popular Foreign Beer bar will be selling a range of Belgian, Dutch, German, and Czech bottled beers including examples of the most distinctive individualistic beer styles in the world,

such as Trappist, lambic and wheat beers.

CIDER AND PERRY

The traditional cider bar will be serving a selection of tasty traditional cider & perry.

FEATURES

VENUE

The festival is being held at the Burgess Hall, in the St Ivo Centre, Westwood Road, PE27 6WU, close to the centre of St Ives.

FOOD AND DRINK

A variety of hot and cold food will be available at all sessions. Free soft drinks will be available from the cider and foreign beer bar for the designated driver of your party.

CHILDREN AT THE FESTIVAL

Whilst lunchtime is the ideal time to bring the family to the festival, we do allow children into the hall up to 8pm in the evening.

CAMRA PRODUCTS STAND

Come along and chat to our staff and learn about CAMRA, beer brewing and pubs. CAMRA and brewery products will be on sale, including sweatshirts, t-shirts and polo shirts, as well as books, pens, badges and beer mats. Adjacent will be the fabulous 'Every One's A Winner' tombola stall.

OTHER DETAILS

THE WORKERS

The Festival is organised and run by members of CAMRA who are all unpaid volunteers. We



always need more helpers so join at the festival's CAMRA stand.

ST IVES BEER FESTIVAL

PROVISIONAL REAL BEER LIST

MILDS

- B&T Shefford Mild
- Grainstore Rutland Panther
- Moorhouse Black Cat
- Son of Sid Muckcart Mild
- Waveney Valley East Coast Mild

BITTERS

- Cambridge Moonshine Thunder Moon
- Elgoods FeElgood Fresh
- Humpty Dumpty Little Sharpie
- Milestone Lion's Pride
- Milton Jupiter
- Nobby's Best
- Orkney Raven
- Potton Shannon IPA
- Tring Brock Bitter
- Winters Bitter

BEST BITTERS

- Cairngorm Nessie's Monster Mash
- Castle Rock Preservation Fine Ale
- Frog Island Shoemaker
- Hoggleys Kislingbury Bitter
- Oldershaw Newton's Drop
- Potton Shambles Bitter
- Son of Sid Best Bitter
- Spectrum 43
- Tunnel Late OTT
- Wolf Coyote

STRONG BITTERS

- Burton Bridge Stairway to Heaven
- Grain Tamarind IPA
- Hopshackle Double Momentum
- Inveralmond Lia Fail
- Ufford Nirvana

GOLDEN ALES

- Concrete Cow Midsummer Ale
- Dark Star American Pale Ale
- Elgoods Golden Newt
- Elland Beyond the Pale
- Frog Island Head in the Clouds
- Hopshackle Cascadia
- Kelburn Goldhops
- Nobby's Monster Mash
- Nottingham Extra Pale Ale
- Oakham Inferno
- Oldershaw High Dyke
- Salopian Shropshire Gold
- Son of Sid Light
- Stewart Pentland IPA
- Titanic Iceberg
- Tydd Steam Barn Ale

OLD ALES

- Digfield Mad Monk
- Great Oakley Delapre Dark

STOUTS

- Milton Babylon
- Spectrum Black Buffle

PORTER

- RCH Old Slug Porter

SPECIALITY BEERS

- Brentwood Chockwork Orange
- Cambridge Moonshine Red Watch Blueberry Ale
- Fat Cat Honey Cat
- Fox Grizzly Beer
- Green Jack Orange Wheat
- Nethergate Umbel Magna
- Oakham White Dwarf
- St Peters Grapefruit
- Williams Fraoch Heather Ale

**Thursday 10th –
Saturday 12th
September 2009**

Burgess Hall, St Ivo Centre,
Westwood Road, St Ives,
PE27 WU

55+ REAL ALES

(over the duration of the Festival)

**Plus Cider and
Bottled Foreign Beer**



STAFF NEEDED

The Festival always needs more staff, so if you can help at any session please contact Andy Shaw (see below).

CONTACT

Festival Organiser, Newsletter & Festival Programme Editor, Andy Shaw - 01480 355893 - festival@huntscamra.org.uk. Also visit our Web Site for updates www.huntscamra.org.uk/festivals

ADVERTISERS

A 32-page programme will be produced for the festival. Advertising at competitive rates. Reach 3,000+ beer drinkers. Contact the Programme Editor for more information.

CAMRA BID FOR FAIRER TIE

CAMRA is calling for pub companies to work together to deliver a fairer beer tie and has lodging a 'super-complaint' with the Office of Fair Trading under its new 'super-complainant' status, granted by the government to a select number of consumer groups. This requires the OFT to act within 90 days with proposals to resolve issues raised. CAMRA is hopeful that this could be a fast-track solution that will force pub companies to adopt voluntary legally binding agreements for fairer beer tie arrangements with its lessees.

CAMRA's action follows a Commons Business and Enterprise Select Committee report which criticised the unbalanced relationship between pub companies and their lessees and recommended a ban on pub companies imposing restrictive covenants that prevent buildings being used as pubs after sale.

An end to restrictive covenants would boost competition and consumer choice but CAMRA is wary of moves to refer the beer tie for lengthy investigations by the competition commission or the European Commission.

One of the Commons Select Committee's recommendations was to refer the beer tie for investigation by the competition commission. And the 'Fair Pint' campaign, run by a consortium of publicans, the GMB trade union and the Confederation of Small Businesses, challenges the beer tie and is calling for it to be reviewed by the EC.

The UK beer tie is allowed by an exemption from European competition law that expires next year. The tie is supported by CAMRA provided there is a balance between rents and beer prices charged to lessees and a right to stock a guest beer.

In the 1990s the government beer orders restricted numbers of tied pubs for large national brewers and led to the formation of huge pub companies that had no restriction on numbers of tied houses provided they did not own a brewery. Although some independent brewers benefited by buying up tranches of the national brewers' pubs, others exited brewing to focus their businesses on running pub chains.

CAMRA sees any end to the tie as a catastrophe for pub owning brewers in the face of the discounting power of the global brewers, with pub owning cask beer breweries closing and pub operators growing their businesses by focussing on heavily discounted brands – mostly lagers and nitrokegs from the global brewers. This would mirror the situation in many countries that do not allow a beer tie and where local scale brewing has not survived.



CAMRA
CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

GOING OUT LIVE
Pub event guide, Huntingdonshire and surrounding areas

To find out about live music events in Huntingdonshire and surrounding areas go to www.huntscamra.org.uk/gigs.

To subscribe to our weekly newsletter send an email to: camragol-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

To submit an event to the guide, send the details to: gigs@huntscamra.org.uk
or
(01480) 477118

16 Find local pub music and other events www.huntscamra.org.uk/gigs

The Mad Cat



A warm welcome from Sinead and Darren
2 real ales from local breweries,
constantly changing

Food available daily. Traditional home cooked
pub food. Mon-Sat 12-2.30; 6-9,
Sunday carvery 12-4.

Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2009

High Street, Pidley, PE28 3BX

Telephone: 01487 842245, www.madcatinn.co.uk

THE CHEQUERS

71 Main Road, Little Gransden

Tel: 01767 677348



East
Anglia
CAMRA
Pub of
the Year
2008

Bob and Wendy Mitchell
invite you to try their unique
unspoilt village local with its
own special atmosphere

Different Real Ale each week

The Royal Oak

Hail Weston

*Angie and Ants welcome you to their
traditional village pub*



Youngs
Bitter,
Wells Eagle
IPA and
guest beers

- Traditional pub food served Wed-Sat 12-2.30pm; Tue-Sat 6-8.30pm
- Sunday Roast served 12-4pm
- Large beer garden
- Traditional pub games
- Opening Times: Mon-Tue 3-11pm, Wed-Sat 12-11pm, Sun 12-10.30pm

High Street, Hail Weston, PE19 5JW
(01480) 472527

PUB FOOD HYGIENE & SAFETY

Your local council is responsible for the enforcement of food hygiene and health and safety legislation at the pubs in the branch area. If you have any complaints or concerns about hygiene or safety at local pubs then contact the Environmental Health Department.

The pubs in our branch area are covered either by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) or South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) but don't worry if you're not sure which one to contact as your complaint will be passed on to the correct office.

HDC covers most of the branch area; this includes Huntingdon itself, Sawtry, Alconbury, St Ives, Warboys, St Neots, Buckden, Kimbolton and the surrounding villages. The villages in the south of the branch area that border Hertfordshire and

Bedfordshire are within SCDC's area and include Graveley, Gamlingay, Little Gransden, Longstowe and Abington Pigotts.

Look out for certificates and window stickers too. Both councils operate the scheme in which food businesses are issued with a star rating based upon the standards of food hygiene at the last inspection: the more stars the better the standards.

Contact details:

HDC

Tel 01480 388302 Monday-Thursday (0900-1700); Friday (0900-1630)

Tel 01480 388388 at other times

Fax 01480 388

Email Envhealth@huntsdc.gov.uk

SCDC

Tel 01954 713375 Mon-Fri (0830-1700)

Tel 03450 450500 Mon-Sat (0800-2000)

Fax 01954 713149

Email Duty.Envhealth@scambs.gov.uk



North Brink Brewery, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire Tel: 01945 583160

Available all year round



SEASONAL ALES

Thin Ice 4.7% Jan/Feb Old Wagg 4.0% March/April
Double Swan 4.5% May/June Mad Dog 4.4% July/Aug
Barleymead 4.8% Sept/Oct Old Black Shuck 4.5% Nov
Snickalmas 5.0% Wenceslas Winter Warmer 7.5% Dec

The Royal Oak



Now under new management

Darren Tomkins and Sinead Nicholson of the Mad Cat, Pidley
(the Mad Cat is the Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2009)

Interesting range of real ales on it's way

New food menu planned from October

Open all day every day 12 noon–11pm

70 Mill Green, Warboys, PE28 2SB

Telephone: 01487 824248

The Cock

at Hemingford Grey



Four Real Ales from breweries such as Buntingford, Digfield, Earl Soham, Great Oakley, Milton, Nethergate, Oakham, Oldershaw, Potbelly, and Wolf. Also Cromwell Oliver's Choice Cider.

**Beer festival 2009: August bank holiday
weekend Friday pm to Sunday pm.
Local bands, BBQ and 25 real ales.**

In a continued effort to source all of our produce locally we have adopted a policy of only using breweries for our real ale within a one hour drive.

**Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003
Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2006/7 & 2007/8**

Manor House Hotel

A traditional old country pub

Serving Greene King IPA

Plus two other ever changing Real Ales. 130 different Guest Ales over the last year.



Full bar snack and restaurant menu.

Plus now serving "A new Black Rock menu"

Come and cook your own meat or fish on the Hot Rock



20 Chapel Street Alconbury,
Cambs, PE28 4DY
Telephone: 01480 890423

**A traditional old country
pub and
restaurant with a warm
and friendly atmosphere.**

**Traditional Sunday Lunch.
Children's menu available.**

**Open all day Saturday and
Sunday.**



**4 real cask ales served including Adnams Bitter, Fullers London
Pride plus 2 guest ales. Bar Meals are available every day.**

A la carte menu is served in our restaurant Monday to Saturday.

**The menu caters for all tastes including vegetarian and
any special dietary needs.**

The Pig and Abbot

**High Street, Abington Pigotts, Nr. Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 0SD
Telephone: 01763 853515**

“LAST ONE BACK GETS THEM IN.”



THE 3RD ASCOT RACECOURSE BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September 2009

- Exclusive HALF PRICE admission for CAMRA members – prices from just £4.89 on Friday and £9.79 on Saturday.
- Excellent programme of racing.
- Over 150 real ales, ciders and perries to sample supplied predominantly from local craft brewers. All at £1.25 per half pint and £2.50 per pint. Free tasting notes provided.
- Hot and cold food available all day.
- Gates and Bars open at 11am. Last orders 4.55pm on Friday and 5.30pm on Saturday.
- Live music on both days.
- Free parking or a 7 minute walk from Ascot Railway Station.



To book tickets, call **0870 727 1234**
or visit ascot.co.uk quote **CAMRA09**.

Ascot 
The World's Most Famous Racecourse

EVENTS AND SOCIALS

August 2009

- Tues 11th Open Committee Meeting, **Three Horseshoes, Abbots Ripton** (8.30 pm).
Sat 29th Visit to the **Cock, Hemingford Grey Beer Festival**, (see advert on Page 19) (meet at the bar in the garden at 8.30 pm).

September 2009 – Booze on the Ouse Beer Festival

- Tues 1st Pre-festival meeting, at the **Oliver Cromwell, St Ives** (8.30 pm) for all those helping with the St Ives Beer festival. If you would like to help at the festival, please contact Andy Shaw, on 01480 355893.
- Thurs 10th to Saturday 12th Booze on the Ouse – **St Ives Beer Festival** Burgess Hall, St Ivo Centre. Opening Times: Thurs: 6-10.45 pm; Fri 5-10.45 pm; Sat 12-10.45 pm. FREE ENTRY to CAMRA members. For more details see pages 14-15.
- Fri 25th New members' social, at the **Oliver Cromwell, St Ives**, (from 8.30 pm onwards), for members who joined at the St Ives Beer Festival. A FREE PINT for new members and all those who helped at the Booze on the Ouse festival.

October 2009

- Tues 6th Open Committee Meeting, **White Hart, Alconbury Weston** (8.30 pm).
Thur 8th Visit to **Bedford Beer and Cider Festival**, Corn Exchange, St Pauls Square (see advert on Page 9) (meet at Foreign Beer Bar at 8.30 pm).

November 2009

- Tues 3rd Open Committee Meeting, **Swan, Old Weston** (8.30 pm).
Fri 13th Pub stroll around **Huntingdon**: starting at the **Old Bridge Hotel**, 7:30 pm, **The Victoria**, 8:15 pm, **Samuel Pepys**, 8:45 pm, **George Hotel**, 9:15 pm, **Market Inn**, 9:45 pm.

An up to date listing of socialevents can also be found at the web site:
www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary.

WHO TO CONTACT

Chairman: Keith Lawson, 01480 352632 (h), 8 Peate Close, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 2DX.

Secretary: Richard Harrison, 0774 067 5712 (h), secretary@huntscamra.org.uk

Treasurer: Edric Ellis, 01480 492213 (h), treasurer@huntscamra.org.uk

Membership: Margaret Eames, 01480

385333 (h)

Pubs Info: Roy Endersby, 01480 473364, pubs@huntscamra.org.uk

Campaigning: Kathy Hadfield-Moorhouse, 01480 496247 (h).

Going Out Live Event Guide: Chris Knowles, 01480 477118 (14:00-22:00).

TRADING STANDARDS

Your local Trading Standards organisation is Cambridgeshire County Council Trading Standards. If you have any complaints about trading standards issues at local pubs, such as short measure or misleading product promotion, please contact them.

They have a role to protect consumers from errors or frauds concerned with quality, description or price of goods, services or facilities and to detect and rectify unfair advertising practices.

Contact **Cambridgeshire Trading Standards** helpdesk on 08454 040 506, or at Trading Standards Division, Sackville House, Sackville Way, Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB2 6HL. The local trading standards web site is www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/trading/. The national trading standards web site is www.tradingstandards.gov.uk.

OPENING TIMES

Opening Times is published by the Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale (Copyright 2008) All rights reserved.

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Editor: Andy Shaw, 01480 355893 (h), 07802 485449 (m), andy.shaw@hunts.camra.org.uk, 13a Peppercorns Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8HL.

To Advertise

To place an advert or enquire about our rates please contact:

Neil Richards: 01536 358670 or N.Richards@btinternet.com

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Deadline for Winter 2009 issue (141) is Friday 16th October 2009.



The Three Horseshoes Inn Abbots Ripton



Village pub with quality ensuite rooms

Greene King IPA and three constantly changing guest beers, including Oakham Ales, plus Westons Old Scrumpy Cider

Opening Times

Monday - Saturday	Food service
11.30am - 3pm	12pm - 2.30pm
6pm - 11pm	6pm - 9.30pm
Sunday	Food service
12pm - 5pm	12pm - 3pm

Modern British cuisine using seasonal and locally sourced ingredients

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www.thethreehorseshoes.com

green is the new black

At Stagecoach Cambridgeshire we believe we have a responsibility to look after our environment, while continuing to provide the excellent public transport that people increasingly are choosing to use to get into and around the historic city of Cambridge.

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