



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Opening Times



Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA

Issue 163

The Campaign for Real Ale

Summer 2015

King of the Belgians, Hartford Huntingdonshire CAMRA 2015 Pub of the Year



Booze on the Ouse
St Ives Beer & Cider Festival
Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th October 2015



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FOR THE



MOMENT

SINCE 1799



GREENE KING
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Pub of the Year

Last month CAMRA announced a list of over 200 Local Pubs of the Year to help launch April's Community Pubs Month.

CAMRA volunteers across the UK judge the pubs in their area to find their Branch's Pub of the Year - looking at decor, value for money, customer service, and of course, the quality of their real ale. The local branch winners then go forward to battle it out in the regional heats in their quest to become National Pub of the Year, announced in early 2016.

Our own very worthy winner of the Huntingdonshire Branch Pub of the Year competition is the **KIng of the Belgians, Hartford**. Congratulations to Jim and Bernie Taylor, Jane and Matt Spicer.

Community Pubs Month is about highlighting the important role pubs play in Community life.

Recent CAMRA research showed 75% of pub-goers believe a well run community pub is as important to community life as a post office, local shop or community centre – but despite this 29 pubs are still being lost in the UK every week.

Pubs play an essential role in our communities and are clearly very highly valued, but despite this are still being lost at an alarming rate across the UK. The best way people can protect their local's future is by getting down there and supporting it.

Our own Huntingdonshire Branch Pub Awards presented at the St Neots Booze on the Ouse Beer and Cider Festival, included awards for urban and rural pubs, best all round performers and most improved pubs, the best pub for real cider, and the club who has most actively promoted real ale.

There is much diversity offered in our local pubs and clubs, and much to be celebrated. See pages 14 and 15 for more the details.

LocAle Pub Trail

Another initiative from Community Pubs Month is the launch of our LocAle Pub Trail, celebrating both local pubs and locally brewed beer.



On page 12 you will find a list of 16 local pubs which sell locally brewed beer (LocAle).



RED BREWERY
QUALITY & TRADITION

Visit these pubs and get a sticker in each pub, and you will win bottles of beer

donated by Red Brewery of Great Staughton.

Our LocAle Pub Trail is an opportunity to drink great locally brewed beer, support local community pubs, support local brewers, and win prizes donated by Red Brewery. Please join our LocAle Trail!

Pub Beer Fests

As Summer gets into full swing, we are into pub beer festival season, and this starts with a bang over the late Spring bank holiday weekend when at least four local pubs we know about are holding beer festivals.

Details of these and others throughout June, July and August are to be found on page 9.

There are more pub beer festivals that we know are likely to be held during September and October.

As we hear about other pub beer festivals, we will add them to our branch website, on a page dedicated to local pub beer festivals - www.hunts.camra.org.uk/pubbeerfest.

If you are a pub licensee and we are not listing your pub's beer festival, please send us the details at news@hunts.camra.org.uk or 01480 355893.

Cheers, Andy Shaw

Inns and Meals Out



Continuing on our discovery of what food is being offered by the pubs in the Huntingdonshire area we visited the Crown and Cushion in Great Grandsden for a few pints and a meal out.

The traditional beamed pub interior was welcoming with a real log burning fire in the main room on entering from the car park corridor. Steps up to the bar area allowed us to view the three real ales the pub was serving that evening. We were shown to our table to discuss and decide on our dinners while drinking our one and a half pints of Adnams Southwold Bitter and nibbling on Indonesian prawn crackers

While weekday lunchtime menu served on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is the more traditional offer of soup, sandwiches and homemade fruit crumble (yummy), in the evenings the pub specialises in the cuisine from Indonesia.

The first page of the menu offered the regular favourites of Chicken Satay as starter or main course, and mains comprising of Beef Rendang with hot chilli sauce on the side, Nasi Goreng vegetarian version and Nasi Goreng Udang which is a prawn dish.

The second page of the menu showed the month's specials. Altogether the menu offered four starters (one was vegetarian) and nine mains, which included three vegetarian choices.

All the main courses came with steamed basmati rice except for the fried rice Nasi Goreng dishes. Many of the dishes have a gluten free option and the side dishes of stir fried vegetables or stir fried pak choi are vegetarian and also are available as gluten free options.

I couldn't resist the Chicken Satay starter served with pickled cucumber plus freshly prepared peanut soya and chilli sauces – lovely – while Andy selected Pempek Goreng; Indonesian fish cakes served with a sweet and hot tamarind sauce.

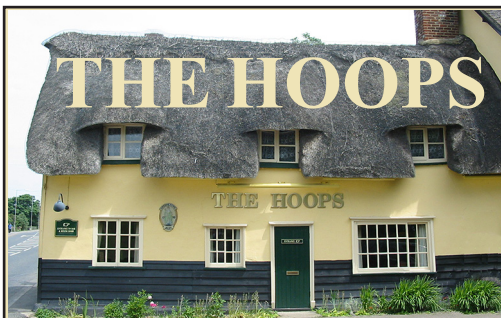
For main course I had Babi Panggang Tauco, a gorgeously tasty large piece of pork, marinated, roasted and glazed with honey and black bean sauce plus my rice. Andy had the Beef Rendang which consisted of a mildy spiced casserole of beautifully cooked beef chunks accompanied by a bowl of rice and a hot chilli sauce in a little bowl to be added to the dish as required (carefully as it was very fiery in the mouth!). We also had a side dish of Tumis sayur, stir fried oriental vegetables between us. Andy had a pint of B&T Shefford Biter.

On the dessert menu was Caramelised Pineapple with almond nougat and cream which I had never had before. It was a delicious, very concentrated flavour of pineapple brought out by the hot melted sugar with the brittle texture of the nougat.

Andy chose a selection of the luxury fruit ices offered. He chose one scoop of blackcurrant, one of stem ginger and rhubarb and one of gooseberry and elderflower (the greedy thing!). The fruit in the ices were wonderfully intense. (home made fruit crumble with custard was also available).

While Andy drank the last of his Oakham JHB, I finished my meal off with a pot of tea which came with four tiny almond macaroons. A perfect end to a wonderful meal.

Sonia Clarke



Great family run village pub with 3 x cask ales, Greene King IPA, Speckled Hen and Dark Mild

Home made food available Midday - 10pm
SEVEN days a week

Also showing Sky and BT Sports in main bar

Cask Marque accredited and Greene King
Head Brewers Club member.

Open all day everyday

74 High Street, Bassingbourn, SG8 5LF
tel 01763 244990

THE WAGGON & HORSES



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

3 x cask ales - Timothy Taylor Landlord,
Sharp's Doom Bar & Greene King IPA

Home made food available
12 - 2pm, 6 - 9pm Tuesday to Friday,
all day Saturday and Sunday.

Large garden and touring caravan site.

19 Church Street, Steeple Morden, SG8 0NJ
tel 01763 853311 (new number)

The Falcon

Market Hill,
Huntingdon, PE29 3NR

15 Real Ales and 10 Ciders,
Live music every Saturday
and Sunday 3pm - 6pm,
Courtyard garden and
rear garden
with seating for over 200



Hunts CAMRA
Most Improved
Urban Pub 2015



Poacher, Elsworth

A Look Back In Time

10 Years Ago

Cumbria brewery Jennings and its pubs estate were taken over by Wolverhampton and Dudley breweries. CAMRA sent a top level delegation to W & D brewery bosses to seek assurances about the future continued operation of the Jennings brewery. W & D pledged that the brewery was safe in their hands, that they would spend £250,000 on the site at Cockermonth and that Jennings brands such as Cumberland Ale, Cockerhoop and Snecklifter would be distributed throughout the existing estate.

Huntingdonshire CAMRA members travelled to Telford by rail to visit mild passport pubs. There was also a summer rail trip to Faversham to enjoy its heritage pubs and a visit to Wissey Valley brewery in West Norfolk, with a mini beer festival and food provided for CAMRA members and their guests.

CAMRA was urging the government to allow multi-room pubs to retain one room as a smoking area, following the publication of a government consultation paper on the possible banning of smoking in public places.

A report by a select committee of MPs called for a pilot scheme of planning controls to curb numbers of city centre youth-oriented venue bars. The scheme was aimed at reducing disorder and violence, and improving public safety by taking more control over the night time economy that they said was an 'unplanned economy driven by market forces'. The report also called for minimum pricing to control irresponsible drinks promotions.

A group of Greene King pub tenants mounted a legal challenge to the brewery's wholesale prices that they claimed contravened the Competition Act because pubs free of the brewery tie were charged less for the same beers.

The entire workforce of beer wholesaler Waverley TBS joined CAMRA at the company's annual sales conference after a speech by

CAMRA's Roger Protz, urging them to continue their good work, which had earned them the title of the UK's number one cask beer supplier.



pub is the hub

Helping pubs provide
community services

The 'Pub is the Hub' organisation announced that it was expanding its operations to provide

more help to struggling village pubs. 'Pub is the Hub' was founded by the Prince of Wales to encourage rural pubs to provide vanishing village services such as shops and post offices.

Admiral Taverns doubled in size after buying 2453 pubs from Avebury for £69.75m. The Admiral group had only been formed a year earlier, and had previously bought pubs from Enterprise, Punch and Eldridge Pope.

25 Years Ago

CAMRA slammed Britain's national brewers for using 'dirty tricks' in their implementation of the guest beer provision – part of the new government beer orders in response to an investigation by its Monopolies and Mergers Commission of competition in the brewing industry. One of the orders required all brewers with more than 2000 pubs to allow its tenants to purchase a guest beer from the supplier of their choice. Allied, Bass, Courage and Whitbread had all published lists of preferred guest beers, many of which were actually produced from within their own groups. Whitbread's list of 23 guest beers included only two not brewed by their own breweries. CAMRA pointed out that tenants were entitled to select another guest beer from outside the tie in addition to such 'in-house guest beers'. And Bass and Courage had refused permission for tenants to dispense other brewers' beers via their beer pumps or buy new pumps independently for such use. Brewers were also causing upset by threatening to increase rents in return for granting tenants the right to take guest beers from outside the preferred lists. Brewing industry legal expert Peter Coulson said that he believed that the brewery would be acting illegally if it prevented



A Look Back In Time

tenants from taking a guest beer from their chosen supplier or penalised them for so doing.

Ipswich brewery Tolly Cobbold bounced back in a management buyout in June 1990, a year after being closed by its new owners Brent Walker. Brian Cowie and Bob Wales, joint managing directors of the new company, were planning to brew 25-30,000 barrels of beer a year – all cask-conditioned. Brent Walker had bought Tolly from David and Frederick Barclay in the summer of 1989 and announced plans to concentrate production at the other brewery included in the sale, Camerons of Hartlepool. The new buyout was made possible by the support of the Tolly Cobbold Action Group, organised by local CAMRA members, and Ipswich Borough Council, who had placed a preservation order on the brewery, foiling Brent Walker's plans to convert it to a yachting marina. It was now expected that, in addition to the renewed use of the historic brewing site for beer

production, part of it would be turned into a brewery museum.



Higsons brewery in Liverpool was also expected to brew again. New owners GB Breweries had bought the brewery from Whitbread, who had closed it shortly after buying out the parent company Boddingtons. GB were planning to produce canned beer for supermarkets and hoping to brew cask beer.

St Neots CAMRA held summer evening two-pub socials at the White Horse, Kimbolton and Montagu Arms at Grafham, the Woolpack, St Neots and Cambridgeshire Hunter in Eynesbury, and also in Needingworth, at the Queens Head and Chestnuts. There was also a stroll around the pubs of Ramsey, beginning at the Jolly Sailor.

PIG n HOG - St Neots

Pig n Falcon



New Street, PE19 1AE
Mon-Thu 10-late
Fri/Sat 10-2.30am
Sun 11-late

Hog & Partridge



Russell Street, PE19 1BA
Mon & Wed closed
Tue 6.30-11, Thu 6-12.30, Fri
4-12.30, Sat 12-12.30, Sun 1-7

Live Music Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun

Min 8 real ales plus 6 real ciders,
bottled foreign beers.
Potbelly Best £2.90/pt

Tapas Thu, Fri & Sat

Min 4 real ales plus 4 real ciders,
draught foreign and craft beers.

CAMRA Award Winning Pubs John Nunn - Hunts CAMRA Pub Champion 2013



Real Ales - 40p per pint discount
for CAMRA members



PIG n HOG Summer Festival - Thu 9th - Sun 19th July
30 different real ales, ciders and craft beers every day

Tel 07951 785678 - www.PIGNFALCON.co.uk

Three Tuns, Guilden Morden

The following update has been provided to us by the Three Tuns Action Group.

Following a review, the South Cambridgeshire District Council's decision to list The Three Tuns as an Asset of Community Value (or ACV) has been upheld. It will now remain on the ACV register until October 2019.

With the support of the Parish Council, the District Council originally listed The Three Tuns as an ACV in March 2013 shortly after Greene King announced it wished to sell the property. Due to a legal technicality the ACV status subsequently lapsed and needed to be re-instated, which was done in October 2014. The new owner had requested a review of this decision to re-instate the ACV listing.

The review process considered the importance of The Three Tuns to the local community for over 160 years and concluded it had played a meaningful and positive role in village life. The review also concluded that the new owner had not presented sufficient evidence that a public house on this site would be unviable as a business. Indeed, parallels were drawn to other village pubs where legal challenges to ACV status had been unsuccessful. The Reviewing Officer concluded "it is not unrealistic to think that there may be a time in the next five years when the use of the building as a pub might resume".

The new owner, Ms England of Steeple Morden, has stated that she has no intention of running The Three Tuns as a pub or of selling it to someone who might. Instead she would like to convert the property into a house and build more housing on the pub garden. The ACV status should help prevent this happening until at least October 2019. In the meantime the new owner has decided to use the property as a business premises for Florin Interiors.

Royal Oak, Hail Weston

At the second annual meeting of the Hail Weston Community Pub Society (HWCPS)

members reaffirmed their determination to purchase the freehold of the Royal Oak and to reopen this once thriving community pub.

As a result of an Article 4 Direction by HDC as well as recent changes in legislation, the pub can now only be changed to a shop or restaurant by the approval of a planning application.

In addition it has been established that any planning application would be unlikely to be approved on the basis of the registration as a community pub. This means that the current owner of the Royal Oak is very unlikely to have any other option that to sell the pub as a pub, either to HWCPS or another buyer. The pub is currently subject to a second moratorium period, and until this period ends, only HWCPS may purchase the pub. HWCPS is actively seeking additional members and shareholders - please see www.savetheroyaloak.org.uk and contact chairman@savetheroyaloak.org.uk.

Royal Oak, Warboys

Since manager Nick Stops took over at the Royal Oak, Warboys 6 months ago, both the quality and choice of the real ales offered has improved. Before Nick arrived the pub only offered Woodforde's Wherry, which was more than often off rather than on. Since then the number of real ales increased to two and now three real ales available all the time. Typically beers like St Austell Tribute, Wychwood Hobgoblin and Timothy Taylors Landlord are on offer. Join us at the Royal Oak on Friday 29th May when the branch will be having a social event there.

Bulls Head, St Neots

The Bulls Head in Cambridge Street St Neots re opened on Saturday 2nd May 2015. For the first time in some years, real ale will be available in this pub, with Greene King IPA, and a guest from the Greene King range. The Bulls Head is run by the same team that run the Cambridgeshire Hunter, Eynesbury and the Old Sun, Eaton Socon.

Pub Beer Festivals & Events

Crown, Broughton: Sat 23rd - Mon 25th May, Beer Festival, 12.30-10 Sat, 12.30-late Sun, 12.30-late Mon. 10 real ales, BBQ food, live music.

King of the Belgians, Hartford: Fri 22nd - Mon 25th May, King of the Beerfest, over 38 real ales and ciders, live music and food. BBQ on the Sunday afternoon.
See www.kingofthebelgians.com for more details.

White Horse, Tilbrook: Sat 23rd - Mon 25th May, Tilfest beer and music festival. Over 30 real ales, 4 craft lagers, and lots of real ciders. Live music and food everyday.
See www.tilfest.com for more details.

Oliver Cromwell, St Ives: Fri 22nd - Mon 25th May, Beer Festival, with 14 real ales including 6 real ales in the main bar and 6-8 in the beer patio area, with a BBQ and live music in the beer patio area.

White Hart, Alconbury Weston: Sun 7th June, Tour of Cambridgeshire Gran Fondo 126km, www.tourofcambridgeshire.com, will pass by the pub. Sun 28th June, the Original Thai Company will be offering an All You Can Eat Buffet. Bookings only.

New Sun, Kimbolton: 24th June 5pm, BBQ and live music event.

Black Bull, Godmanchester: Sat 4th of July, Pork, Cider & Music Festival, with BBQ, many different music acts, and a range of ciders.

Pig and Hog, St Neots: Thu 9th - Sun 19th July, Summer Beer and Cider Festival, 30 different real ales, cider and craft beers available every day between the two pubs Pig n Falcon and Hog & Partridge, St Neots. For more details see www.pignfalcoln.co.uk.

Waggon and Horses, Steeple Morden: Sat 25th July, Steam Ahead at the Waggon, family

fun day, mini beer festival, steam engines, live bands, fairground rides, tug of war.

White Hart, Godmanchester: Thu 6th - Sun 9th August, Beer Festival, 20+ local real ales and 10+ ciders, hog roast and BBQ, live entertainment, covered marquee. See www.whitehart-godmanchester.co.uk for more details.

George, Spaldwick: Thu 13th - Sun 16th August, Beer Festival, 20+ local real ales and 10+ ciders, hog roast and BBQ, live entertainment, covered marquee. See www.thegeorgespaldwick.co.uk for more details.

Cock, Hemingford Grey: Fri 21st - Sun 23rd August, 25 real ales, BBQ food, live music.



Traditional village pub offering fine ales, fine food and a warm welcome

Under new management

Food all day Saturday and Sunday roast

Cask Beers:
Greene King IPA,
Sharp's Doom Bar,
Timothy Taylor Landlord

Huntingdonshire CAMRA
Most Improved Rural Pub 2015

Eight Bells

High Street
Abbotsley
PE19 6UJ

(01767) 677305

Open: 5-10 Mon & Tue;
12-3, 5-11 Wed-Fri ;
11-11 Sat; 11-9 Sun



Booze on the Ouse St Neots 2015



Over 1,450 people attended the St Neots Beer & Cider Festival from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th of March. 4,300 pints of real ale and 600 pints of real cider were enjoyed.



St Ives 2014 Cider of the Festival



On January 16th representatives of the branch visited the Five Miles Inn, in Upware, south of Ely and close to Wicken, the home of Spinney Abbey, the winner of the 2014 St Ives Cider of the Festival competition, our purpose being to enjoy some fine cider and make a presentation. Pictured are on the left, the guys from Spiney Abbey and on the right Andy Blagbrough, the festival cider bar manager.

St Ives Beer and Cider Festival



Our next Booze on the Ouse is at St Ives, in the Burgess Hall, from Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th October. Please make a note in your diary.



BEER FESTIVAL 21st-23rd August

At the Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2015 (Good Pub Guide)



25 Real Ales | BBQ Food | Live Music

47 High Street, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, PE28 9BJ, 01480 463609 www.cambscuisine.com



Hunts CAMRA LocAle Trail 2015



Join our LocAle Trail!

Drink great locally brewed beer!

Support local community pubs!

Support local brewers!

Win prizes donated by Red Brewery!



What is a LocAle Trail?

Our LocAle Trail aims to encourage local drinkers to visit local pubs, especially pubs they might not know, and sample beers they might not have tried before. The trail concentrates on pubs which (usually) sell locally brewed real ales (LocAle).

How Does it Work?

Go to a participating pub (see the form on page 12).

Order a pint or half of LocAle (or other real ale if a LocAle is not available) and ask to have your form marked with a sticker.

Collect stickers from at least twelve different pubs on the trail over the qualifying period to receive the prize of one or more bottles of LocAle Real Ale in a Bottle from **Red Brewery**. (12 pubs = one bottle, 14 pubs = two bottles, 16 pubs = three bottles).

Send your entry by 5th September 2015, to 13a Peppercorn Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8HL.

Anyone collecting a sticker from all the pubs on the trail will go into a draw for a special prize, a package of free entrance and free beer/cider at the St Ives Beer and Cider Festival, 8-10 October.

In addition to taking part in this trail, if you are a CAMRA member, you might wish to score the

quality of your beers using the CAMRA National Beer Scoring System - please go to www.whatpub.com. We use beer quality scores to help select which pubs go into the Good Beer Guide.

Public Transport

Most pubs on the trails are accessible by public transport, though buses are of limited frequency to some of the rural pubs. For details, visit our website at www.hunts.camra.org.uk

Please don't drink and drive.

My favourite LocAle was:

.....

in (Pub)

My Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

I would like to collect my beer from:

Huntingdon

St Ives

St Neots

Hunts CAMRA Local Trail 2015

**White Swan,
Bluntisham,
PE28 3LD**

**New Sun,
Kimbolton,
PE28 0HA**

**Green Man,
Colne,
PE28 3LZ**

**Chequers,
Little Gransden,
SG19 3DW**

**Addison Arms,
Glatton,
PE28 5RZ**

**Oliver Cromwell,
St Ives,
PE27 5AZ**

**King of the Belgians,
Hartford,
PE29 1XU**

**Royal Oak,
St Ives,
PE27 5EB**

**Cock,
Hemingford Grey,
PE28 9BJ**

**Hog & Partridge,
St Neots,
PE19 1BA**

**Falcon,
Huntingdon,
PE29 3NR**

**Pig n Falcon,
St Neots,
PE19 1AE**

**Old Bridge Hotel,
Huntingdon,
PE29 3TQ**

**Weeping Ash,
St Neots,
PE19 1AD**

**Pheasant,
Keyston,
PE28 0RE**

**White Horse,
Tilbrook,
PE28 0JP**



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Free House and Restaurant

Huntingdonshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2012

A traditional old country pub and restaurant with a warm and friendly atmosphere. Serving imaginative, freshly prepared food daily with a children's menu available. Open all day Saturday and Sunday.

- Real Cask Ales (Adnams, London Pride + 2 Guest Ales)
- Bar meals and à la carte menu available every day
- Traditional Sunday lunch with choice of meat
- Vegetarians and special dietary need catered for

High Street, Abington Pigotts, Nr. Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 0SD
 Telephone: 01763 853515 Web: www.pigandabbot.co.uk

2015 Huntingdonshire Branch



The following Huntingdonshire branch pub awards were presented during the Press and Trade Preview at the St Neots 'Booze on the Ouse' Beer and Cider Festival

on 12th March 2015. Congratulations to all winners and nominees.



The awards were presented by Branch Chairman, Richard Harrison.

Branch Pub of the Year

Winner: King of the Belgians, Hartford.



In the photograph from the left, Jim Taylor, Richard Harrison and Jane Spicer.

The King of the Belgians, which was also last year's Branch Pub of the Year, offers a choice of four constantly changing real ales, as well real cider, organises a wide variety of community events, with regular live music nights, and hosts an annual beer festival.

The King of the Belgians now goes forward into the Cambridgeshire Pub of the Year competition, the results of which will be announced in late May.

Rural Pub of the Year

Winner: Addison Arms, Glatton

Nominations: Addison Arms, Glatton; White Horse, Tilbrook; Chequers, Little Gransden



In the photo is Mick Soulsby, licensee of the Addison Arms, Glatton, accepting the award on behalf of himself and his wife Katy. Mick and Kate have been running

the Addison Arms for two years, and the pub, which was last year's Rural Pub of the Year, offers a fine selection of well kept real ales, including several LocAles, real cider, and organises various community events.

Urban Pub of the Year

Winner: King of the Belgians, Hartford

Nominations: King of The Belgians, Hartford; Hog & Partridge, St Neots; Royal Oak, St Ives

Most Improved Rural Pub of the Year

Winner: Eight Bells, Abbotsley

Nominations: Three Horseshoes, Houghton; Eight Bells, Abbotsley; White Swan, Bluntisham



In the photo, Oliver Reynolds, the licensee of the White Horse, Eaton Socon, who also holds the lease of the Eight Bells. Oliver also holds the lease of the Rose and Crown,

Somersham, and the Vine, Buckden. The Eight Bells was recently sold by Greene King to pub company Hawthorn Leisure. Since Oliver took over the management of this pub, the Eight Bells has once again become the hub of the village hosting many community events including a beer festival.

Pub Awards

Most Improved Urban Pub of the Year

Winner: Falcon, Huntingdon

Nominations: Falcon, Huntingdon; Old Sun, Eaton Socon



In the photo on the left is Paul Hepworth, the lease holder of the Falcon, who also runs the Olde England, Northampton and the Olde England 2 in Wellingborough.

Following a major restoration, the Falcon reopened just before Christmas after being closed for six years. The Falcon now has 15 handpumps dispensing a good range of well kept real ales, including many LocAles from Northamptonshire, plus real cider and perry. Paul has many more plans to further enhance the Falcon, including pub food, a function room and a pub games room.

Cider Pub of the Year

Winner: Pig 'n' Falcon, St Neots

Nominations: Pig n Falcon, St Neots; Falcon, Huntingdon; Chequers, Little Grandsen



In the photo is John Nunn. This is the third successive year that John has won this award. The Pig always offers a good range of cider and perry, with the range extending during each of the four quarterly beer and cider festivals held at the Pig and Hog. The Pig 'n' Falcon

now goes forward into the Cambridgeshire Cider Pub of the Year competition.

Club of the Year

Winner: St. Neots Rugby Club, St Neots

Nominations: St. Neots Rugby Club, St Neots; Comrades Club, Godmanchester; Yelling Social Club, Yelling

The club regularly offers two real ales in their function room, and holds a beer festival in May. A major refurbishment of the main club room is planned when handpumps will be installed offering an improved range of real ales.

We will be making an number of additional pub related awards at the Press and Trade Preview at the St Ives 'Booze on the Ouse' Beer and Cider Festival on Thursday 8th October 2015:

- Community Pub of the Year
- Mild/Dark Ale Pub of the Year
- LocAle Pub of the Year
- Pub Champion of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award



CAMRA
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FOR
REAL ALE

WHAT?UB

whatpub.com
Featuring over 35,000 real ale pubs

- Over 96% of Britain's real ale pubs featured
- Information updated by thousands of CAMRA volunteers
- Created by CAMRA who produce the UK's best beer & pub guide

Thousands of pubs at your fingertips!

Half Pints

The long awaited pub company reform has become law to provide a fairer deal on beer prices and rent for pub licensees, following ten years of campaigning by CAMRA, licensee groups and MPs. The Small Business Enterprise and Employment Bill gained royal assent and the bill become an act of parliament in March 2015. The introduction of a 'market rent only' option will allow publicans to buy their beer on the open market, keeping the price of a pint down. A new adjudicator will also provide publicans with an independent body to rule on disputes.

Lancashire family-owned brewer Thwaites is selling most of its brewing business for just over £25m to the Marstons brewing group, who have been brewing most of Thwaites beer for over a year, since the Blackburn brewer closed its main production site in Blackburn. Thwaites have been gradually downsizing their brewing business and had planned to move to a new site at Mellor Brook, near Blackburn. Thwaites is to keep its 300 pubs and 6 hotels as well as a microbrewery plant in Blackburn and its Crafty Dan range of seasonal beers. Tom Stainer, CAMRA's Head of Communications said 'While Marstons has a relatively good history of respecting brewing heritage when it has previously taken over other breweries, such as Wychwood and Jennings, CAMRA will be paying close attention to its plans for the Thwaites brands it has just acquired. We'd urge Marstons to ensure that the individual nature and taste of Thwaites' brands are not diluted and lost as a result of this acquisition.'

CAMRA members celebrated a historic third cut in beer tax following the Chancellor's March 2015 Budget, which will help to keep beer prices affordable for pub-goers across the country.

15 June is Beer Day Britain, a big celebration of the UK's national tipple. Beer Day Britain is about all beer - real ale, lager, keg ale, bottled and canned beer. 15 June also marks the 80th anniversary of Magna Carta, which has also been linked with beer in other promotions this

year, including Huntingdonshire CAMRA's 'Booze on the Ouse' beer festivals.

New laws to protect pubs listed as Assets of Community Value (ACVs) in England have come into effect. From 6th April, 2015, when a pub is listed as an ACV in England it will receive full planning protection, ultimately giving communities a say in what happens if the owner wishes to demolish the pub or convert it to another use. This is a powerful step towards protecting valued community pubs. The new measures provide a powerful incentive for communities to apply for ACV listings. All it takes is a local group of 21 locals to start the process via their local authority.

The government has cut red tape for licensing of music in pubs. From 6 April amendments to the licensing Act allow live and recorded amplified music on all on-licensed premises up to 11 pm for audiences up to 500 – this was previously limited to 200.

CAMRA has launched a new campaign to support small cider makers under serious threat from the European Union (EU), which has demanded the UK Government remove its excise duty exemption for small producers. CAMRA fully supports real cider and perries and is concerned that the proposed action will see small cider producers landed with a tax bill of up to £2,700 every year. The duty exemption applies to producers who make less than 70 Hectolitres (hl) of cider a year, which is about 12,000 pints a year. In general, these producers are hobbyists or make cider as a side business, earning less than £10,000 a year. A tax of £2,700 would have a serious impact on their income, and is likely to lead to widespread closures.

Greene King have increased prices for Greene King IPA, offsetting the tax reduction in the March budget. The 1p a pint duty cut led to a drop in price of £2.04 per 36 gallon barrel, but this was offset by a rise of £1.80 a barrel because of a reduction in sediment allowance

Half Pints

after a review by HMRC concluded that yields from casks of IPA had increased; Greene King say that licensees can sell up to six extra pints a barrel.

Five hundred election candidates from across the parties pledged support for community pubs and real ale ahead of the general election. CAMRA issued a challenge to each of the parties to get their candidates to add their support. The five hundred candidates pledged to support well-run community pubs, promote Britain's 1,300 breweries and represent pub goers and beer drinkers.

Comedian Bob Mortimer has taken on the late



Rik Mayall's former role as Bombardier Bedford in Charles Wells' new TV campaign for its Bombardier bitter.

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Events & Socials

May

Fri 29th Social, **Royal Oak, Warboys** (8.30-9.15); **Three Horseshoes, Wistow** (9.20-10.20); **Crown, Broughton** (10.25-11).

June

Tue 2nd Open Branch Meeting, **White Horse, Eaton Socon**, 8.15pm

Fri 19th Social, **Manor House, Alconbury** (8.30-9.15); **Greystones, Sawtry** (9.25-10.15); **Addison Arms, Glatton** (10.20-11.00).

July

Sat 4th Open Branch Meeting, **Falcon, Huntingdon**, 2pm

Sat 18th Social, a pub tour around the pubs in St Neots, starting at the **Olde Sun** (12 noon), and continuing at the **Hog & Partridge** (1pm), the **Weeping Ash** (2pm) and the **Pig n Falcon** (3pm).

August

Sat 1st A coach trip to **Tinshed Brewery** in Kimbolton, and visits to pubs in Kimbolton (Saddle and New Sun), Tilbrook (White Horse), Catworth (Racehorse), Leighton Bromswold (Green Man), Eillington (Mermaid) and Buckden (Vine and Lion). Please contact Andy Shaw (andy.shaw@hunts.camra.org.uk) to book your place. Free to CAMRA members, £5 for non-members.

Tue 4th Open Branch Meeting, **Cock, Hemingford Grey**, 8.15pm

An up to date listing of events can be found at: www.hunts.camra.org.uk/diary.



Opening Times

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Deadline for Autumn 2015 issue (164) is Monday 13th July 2015

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