

Opening Times



Issue 166 Spring 2016

Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA
The Campaign for Real Ale



Booze on the Ouse St Neots Beer & Cider Festival Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th March 2016



PIG n HOG - St Neots

Winter Festival - Thu 28th Jan - Sun 7th Feb 30 different real ales, ciders and craft beers every day

Pig n Falcon



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

Live Music Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun

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

Hog & Partridge



Russell Street, PE19 1BA
Sun & Mon open by request
Tue & Wed 6.30-11pm,
Thu 6-midnight,
Fri 4-midnight, Sat 1-midnight

Tapas Thu, Fri & Sat

Min 4 real ales plus 4 real ciders, draught foreign and craft beers. Quiz on Thursday night.

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





CAMRA members get 40p per pint discount on Real Ales







Tel 07951 785678 - www.PIGnFALCON.co.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE DINING PUB OF THE YEAR 2015

(GOOD PUB GUIDE)





REAL, LOCAL ALES

From Breweries No More Than An Hour's Drive Away

8

HOMEMADE SAUSAGES

WILD GAME NIGHT 24th February

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



A Look Back In Time

10 Years Ago



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London family independent brewer Fullers closed the Gales brewery in Hampshire four months after buying it for £91.8

million, and despite a vigorous campaign by CAMRA branches, supported by a House of Commons Early Day Motion.



Greene King put its Ridleys brewery site in Essex up for sale for redevelopment after buying it and closing

production the previous year.

Legislation to ban smoking in pubs entered the report stage in the House of Commons with CAMRA supporting an amendment to allow multi-rooms pubs to designate smoking rooms. The Bill proposed to exempt social clubs and pubs that do not serve food, but MPs were to be allowed a free vote on another amendment for a total ban.

Admiral Tayerns boosted its estate of tenanted pubs with the acquisition of Pyramid Pub Management and the 376 pubs that it operated for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Admiral had set up two years earlier by buying 85 pubs from Enterprise Inns, then adding more batches of pub acquisitions from Punch Taverns, Avebury Taverns, Globe and Greene King.

Caledonian Brewery of Edinburgh bought Scottish brewer Harviestoun. This followed a chance meeting at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival between the heads of the two



breweries, Stephen Crawlev of Caledonian and Ken Brooker, Ken had founded Harviestoun with his partner Ingrid in 1985 and moved to a

bigger site in 2004. Harviestoun had won a string of awards for its beers, including Bitter and Twisted, CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain in 2003.



South London brewer Young's denied that it was giving up brewing and moving production to another

regional brewer, following a story in The Times naming Charles Wells, Fullers and Shepherd Neame as possible partners in the deal. Young's directors had been considering moving out of their historic Ram Brewery site in Wandsworth for around two years. Options were to move to a new brewery site or give up brewing and outsource production. Talks had been held with town planners, who had ruled that the current use of the site was a hindrance to regeneration of the area.



Cornish brewer Skinners announced plans to

double production, with an upgrade of all brewing equipment at its Truro site. This followed a record year during which production had reached its current capacity of 250 barrels a week during the peak summer season.

A Look Back In Time

25 Years Ago

The UK's 'Big Six' brewers were continuing to scheme their responses to the government's new beer orders, which had ordered them to free-up tied supply arrangements to half of their pubs over a ceiling of 2000. Grand Metropolitan finalised their deal with Fosters, the Australian group formerly known as Elders IXL. Fosters' Courage brewing empire took over Grand Met's Watney group breweries. This deal also created the UK's then largest pubs group, Inntrepreneur Estates, jointly owned by Grand Met and Fosters, with 8450 pubs, 4910 former Courage group pubs and 3540 of Grand Met's pubs. After this, secret talks between Allied Breweries and the Whitbread led to speculation of a merger and split of their combined brewing and pubs operations into two separate brewery and pub companies - a deal which was destined not to occur.

Meanwhile Whitbread asked the government for an additional three years to turn 2000 of their pubs into free-of-tie houses. The UK's biggest brewer, Bass said they would have no problem in meeting the 1992 deadline for freeing up their pubs.



Courage launched a major £7m TV advertising campaign for its John Smiths Bitter, dropping the word Yorkshire from its name but introducing sparklers, swannecked dispense spouts and quarter-pint pull handpumps for the cask version of the

beer to deliver a traditional Yorkshire creamy head.



In Liverpool, Cains Traditional Bitter was launched from the old Higsons brewery site by its new owners, GB Breweries. This was seen

as a major victory for Merseyside CAMRA branches. They had organised boycotts of pubs owned by Whitbread in response to its closure of the Higsons plant. Previous owners Boddingtons of Manchester had sold their brewing business, including Higsons, to Whitbread when they decided to quit brewing and became a non-brewing pubs group.

An early day motion demanding that real ale be sold in the House of Commons was supported by 26 MPs after an amendment calling for CAMRA to be consulted for 'a shortlist of suitable beverages brewed by members of the Small Independent Brewers' Association rather than mock real ales produced by the big five brewing conglomerates'.



Czech president Vaclav Havel famously heeded letters sent to him from CAMRA and ordered a stop to talks between the Budweiser Budvar brewery and American brewing group Anheuser Busch, owners of the rival US Budweiser brand. The talks had been seen as a threat to the continued independence of the Czech brewers of the revered Budvar beer.

Pub Pieces



The Nelson's Head. St Ives has recently featured quest ales from local breweries Oakham. Moonshine and Nene Valley breweries. Bottled beers from Belhaven are also available.

This part of

the re-branding by owners Greene King as a Local Heroes pub.

The new food menu at the Merchant House, St Ives has proved popular, and the bar manager usually offers two real ales on. For Christmas week Castle Rock Snowwhite was available.

The Royal Oak, St Ives had guest ales from local breweries Oakham, Tydd Steam and Nobbys over the festive season.

The Golden Lion, St Ives sometimes features guest beers from smaller breweries. In the run up to New Year these were from Saffron Brewery and Julian Church Brewery.



The Hotel Bar at the Slepe Hall Hotel, St Ives has recently been refurbished, and as a result now

sells real ale. Two handpumps offer a regularly changing variety of ales. A local CAMRA member has reported Adnams Southwold Bitter and a Christmas seasonal beer from Elgoods.



Wetherspoon have announced that their plan to open a new pub and hotel in Huntingdon have been delayed because they want to carry out a review. The company purchased the Old Post Office and George Hall in 2013, and originally indicated that a pub and hotel would be open by the end of 2014. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the heritage of these Grade II listed buildings is fully reflected in the designs when remodelling and adapting the buildings, and it is hoped that a lot of the original interior features of the buildings will be retained. A 22-bedroom hotel is part of the £2.3million development. In another recent Wetherspoon pub, the Cheif Justice of the Common Pleas in Keswick, the layout and many of the fittings of a police station and court house (including prisoner's cells) have been retained in the conversion to a pub, creating an extremely atmospheric environment.

A planning application to convert part of the Old Falcon, the Market Square, St Neots into three flats has been turned down. Concern has been expressed that no overall plan for the development of the entire site was being put forward, and that the planning development committee would prefer to see the building back in community use as a pub, hotel or shops. It has been highlighted by Cambridgeshire County Council that an archaelogical dig on the site should be carried out before any development commences, given that remains from a Benedictine monestary have been found in the area.





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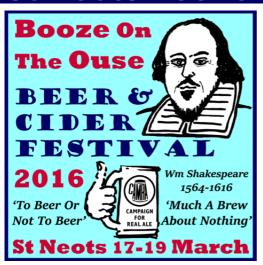
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St Neots Beer & Cider Festival





OPENING TIMESThu 17th - Sat 19th March

Thursday 17th: 5pm–11pm Friday 18th: 12 noon–11pm Saturday 19th: 12 noon–11pm.

All three 6 Nations matches will be shown on the TV in the Café area on Saturday 19th.

ADMISSION

Thu: From 5pm £2.

Fri: Before 5pm: £1; After 5pm £3. Sat: Before 5pm: £2; After 5pm £1.

Families welcome until 8pm. No entry or re-admission after 10.30pm.

Free entry to CAMRA members at all sessions - a good reason to join CAMRA!



BEERS and CIDERS Real Ales

We hope to serve over the course of the festival over 70 real ales from all over the UK, both from the well-established independent breweries and the newer, smaller breweries, with a focus on local East Anglian and East Midland breweries.

Bottled Beers

The popular cider and bottled beer bar will be selling a range of Belgian, Dutch, German, and American bottled beers including examples of the most distinctive individualistic beer styles in the world, such as Trappist, lambic and wheat beers

Cider and Perry

A selection of tasty traditional draughts and bottled cider and perry, focussed on Cambridgeshire suppliers.



FEATURES

Venue

The festival is being held at the Priory Centre, Priory Lane, PE19 2BH, close to the Market Square, in the centre of St Neots.

Booze on the Ouse



Food and Drink

A variety of snacks and food will be available at all sessions. Free soft drinks will be available for the designated driver of your party, and a selection of wine will also be available.

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 Stand

Come along and chat to our staff and learn about CAMRA, beer, brewing and pubs. Here you will be able to join CAMRA, and we will have special offers for anyone joining at the festival.



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 if you can help at any session please contact Andy Shaw: 01480 355893, or volunteer@hunts.camra.org.uk.

Thu 17th - Sat 19th March

Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots, PE19 2BH

70+ Real Ales plus Cider, Perry, Foreign & British Bottled Beer



Contact Information

Festival organiser, Richard Harrison, festival@hunts.camra.org.uk, 07740 675712 (evenings preferred).

Also visit our web site for updates www.hunts.camra.org.uk/festivals.



Half Pints

Market Research company Mintel has reported that lager is struggling in Britain as it faces increased competition from ales. Lager sales have fallen by 8% in the last five years and only 49% of British drinkers opted for lager in the six months to October 2015, compared to 54% previously. Sales of bitters and other ales were expected to have topped 913 million litres in 2015 compared with 895 million litres in 2014. Overall beer volume sales continue to show a slight downwards trend but the report forecasts an increase in the value of sales going forward. The changing preferences of UK beer drinkers is seen by CAMRA as positive for real ale, with increased and more diverse tastes amongst UK beer drinkers for beer styles such as hoppy golden ales, bitters, India Pale Ale, red ales, porter, mild, speciality beers and many different international beer styles replacing previous leanings towards lager.

Meanwhile, a number of the UK's biggest brewing companies have signed new deals to distribute overseas lager brands in the UK. Molson Coors is now the exclusive supplier to the UK outlets of Czech beer Staropramen and Red Stripe is now included in Heineken's UK range alongside other international brands including Tiger and Sol. Marston's has become the sole UK distributor for German beer Warsteiner.



Production at Potton
Brewery in
Bedfordshire has ceased and it has been reported to Opening Times that brewing

equipment has been stripped out and put into storage. The likelihood of Potton recommencing brewing at any other site is uncertain but it is understood that the unit in which the brewery was housed is available for lease.



Greene King has announced a freeze for the third year in a row on prices of the beers it

brews. January saw Molson Coors increase most of its draught drinks by around 3.5p per pint and Heineken increased theirs by 2.5 p. Commentators have argued that increases should not be necessary because of low inflation and falling ingredients prices, but Molson Coors and Heineken have admitted that the increases will fuel investment programmes.



More than 1,200 pubs celebrated the start of 2016 with the added protection of being listed as Assets of Community Value (ACVs), thanks to their local communities and CAMRA members. The

number of pubs nominated as ACVs doubled in the second six months of 2015. This was fuelled by a joint government and CAMRA initiative to protect England's most valued pubs, announced by Pubs Minister Marcus Jones at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival at London Olympia last August. Pubs listed as ACVs are now protected from being demolished or converted to another use without planning permission. CAMRA branches and community groups across the country are now working hard towards a target of 3,000 pubs listed as ACVs by the end of 2016, to help stem the number of pub closures - currently running at a rate of 29 a week. In the Huntingdonshire CAMRA branch area, a total of 14 pubs are now registered as ACVs: Eight Bells, Abbotsley; Hardwicke Arms, Arrington; Crown Inn, Broughton; Queen

Half Pints

Adelaide, Croydon; Cambridgeshire Hunter, Eynesbury; Wheatsheaf, Gamlingay; Crown & Cushion, Great Gransden; Bell, Great Paxton; Three Tuns, Guilden Morden; Royal Oak, Hail Weston; Three Horseshoes, Houghton; Anchor, Little Paxton; Bulls Head, St Neots; Waggon & Horses, Steeple Morden.



SHEFFIELD 16-19TH MARCH 2016

BeerX, a trade show and beer festival organised by the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA), is to be staged in Sheffield from 16-19 March 2016. The event will feature the beers of 20 SIBA members selected by a lottery. Each participating member will run their own bar.



Albatross RAFA Club



Cheltenham Motor Club



Kinver Constitutional Club

Four clubs catering to members with interests as farranging as motoring, the RAF and politics - but sharing a love of real ale have been named the finalists in CAMRA's Club of the Year competition. The Albatross RAFA Club in Bexhillon-Sea, the Cheltenham Motor Club, the Kinver Constitutional Club and the Orpington Liberal Club have all won through to the



Orpington Liberal Club

final round of the competition. Club Mirror magazine and CAMRA join forces annually in the quest to find the best clubs serving real ale – those which offer a fantastic

atmosphere, welcoming surroundings and, most importantly, top quality real ale served in great condition.

The Co-op has become the first major retailer to commit to protecting Britain's valued community locals in a set of development guidelines for convenience stores on pub sites, jointly developed by the Co-op and CAMRA. The Coop will assess the social value of trading pubs before agreeing to convert them to convenience stores and will not stand in the way of any group seeking to acquire and run a community pub. The retailer will make information public as soon as possible about sites in which it is the developer. It will encourage developers to do the same, and to use the planning permission process rather than relying on permitted development rights to convert pubs into alternative uses. The Co-op has also committed to listen to the views of the local community individuals, groups including CAMRA branches, and local elected representatives - and be willing to meet appropriate local representatives to discuss concerns. The guidelines highlight the importance to communities of retaining successful community pubs but also recognise that some locals close because of poor trading and cannot be retained in pub use. The principles do not relate to those pub sites where the Co-operative Group has existing legal arrangements but will cover any new contracts with developers and property owners from the start of 2016.



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(please see website for further details)



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The Falcon

Market Hill. Huntingdon, PE29 3NR

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St George's Day



22nd - Sun 24th April 2016



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The Chequers, Little Gransden sonofsidbrewerv www.sonofsid.co.uk







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.

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Events & Socials

February

Tue 2nd Open Branch Meeting - **Anchor**, **Little Paxton**, 8.15pm.

Sat 20th Rail Trip to National Winter Ales Festival, Roundhouse, Derby. Catching the 09:14 train from St Neots, 09:22 fro Huntingdon.

March

Tue 8th Open Branch Meeting - Black Bull, Brampton, 8.15pm.

17th-19th St Neots 'Booze on the Ouse' Beer & Cider Festival - Priory Centre, St Neots. Thu - 5pm to 11pm, Fri - Noon to 11pm, Sat Noon to 11pm. See page 8 for more details.

Wed 23rd Post Festival Social - Hog & Partridge, St Neots, 8pm.

April

Fri 8th Quiz Night - **Falcon, Huntingdon**, 7.30pm.

Tue 19th Annual General Meeting - **Falcon, Huntingdon**, 8.15pm.

Sat 23nd Bermondsey Beer Mile - Rail Trip to London to complete the Bermondsey Beer Mile, a collection of small breweries. One day travel cards cost £22.70 as individuals or £15.00 each in groups of 3 or more. 09:00 train from Huntingdon 09:08 train from St. Neots will get us to South Bermondsey at 11:01.

May

Tue 10th Open Branch Meeting - **Venue TBC**, 8.15pm.

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

social secretary, Juliet Ferris, on socials@hunts. camra.org.uk, 07590 579283.



Opening Times

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Editor: Andy Shaw, 01480 355893 (h), 07802 485449 (m), news@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 www.matelotmarketing.co.uk Printed by Portland Print, Tel 01536 511 555

Deadline for Summer 2016 issue (167) is Monday 2nd May 2016

Who to Contact

Chairman: Richard Harrison, 07740 675712 (m), chairman@hunts.camra.org.uk

Secretary: Ray London, 01480 390135 (h), secretary@hunts.camra.org.uk.

Treasurer: Andy Blagbrough, 01480 810756 (h), treasurer@hunts.camra.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Margaret Eames, 01480 385333 (h)

Cambridgeshire Trading Standards: 08454 040 506.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/trading/

Opening Times by Post: If you would like to receive Opening Times by post, please send a cheque for £2.50 for an annual subscription (payable to Huntingdonshire CAMRA) to Graham Mulchinock, 17 Park Drive, Little Paxton, PE19 6NS.



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Huntingdonshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2014 & 2015, Community Pub of the Year 2013

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