

opening times

Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA
The Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 127
Summer 2006

Go Wild about
Mild in May!



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

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and the Hemingfords

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& breweries in the Eatons

CAMRA slams Gales closure

CAMRA has 80,000 members

New style pumps for real ale

St Neots beer fest success

CAMRA Member Offers

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CAMRA
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Year 2005
and 2006**

**Bob and Wendy Mitchell
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Different Real Ale each week**



Annual Beer Festival

Fri 23rd June—Sun 2nd July

**Over 20 different real ales
over the duration of the
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**Live music: Fri 23rd—Dr Busker
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The Dragoon Brampton



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the Year 2003
Open all day every
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welcome**

- Cask Marque approved real ales, Wells Eagle and Bombardier plus two guest ales changing weekly, good selection of wines and spirits.
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- Children's menu.
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www.thedragoon.co.uk**

THE GEORGE INN RAMSEY FORTY FOOT

**Real ales: John Smiths Bitter
and Old Speckled Hen plus a
guest beer**

(no food Sunday evening)

comfortable village pub.

**1 Ramsey Road
Ramsey Forty Foot
01487 812775**

2 Support your local pub - don't give them an excuse to close it!

Mild Can Make Your May



Discover Mild in May to give a boost to a beer style that is full-flavoured, refreshing and perfect for Spring.

Mild is a beer that is less hopped and usually of a lower alcohol content than many other styles. It gets much of its flavour from malts or roasted barley and is both distinctive and tasty.

Despite a resurgence in popularity amongst real ale fans Mild is still a rare find in many parts of the country, and so CAMRA has dedicated the month of May 2006 to this refreshing real ale alternative to lager.

Key events through Mild Month include:

- National Mild Day on May 6th - a focus of campaigning activity for CAMRA branches.
- The launch of CAMRA's Drinkers Choice Competition where the public can nominate the best Milds they have tried in May and be entered into a prize draw to judge the Champion Mild of Britain at this year's Great British Beer Festival.

Tracy Saunders, Chair of CAMRA's Light and Dark Supporters Group which campaigns specifically for Britain's endangered beer styles, said: "Some Milds are brewed seasonally and so the best time to find them is in May. We are asking licensees to stock at least one mild during the month."



A full history of Mild, a list of seasonal and regularly available milds, and even recipes for cooking with Mild by author of Good

Pub Food and The been Cook Book Sue Nowak, are available at CAMRA's new website www.camra.org.uk/mild.

Tracy continued: "Last year we conducted research that revealed although there are more varieties of Mild being brewed than ever before, few breweries do enough to promote it. We urge them to do all they can to put Mild back on the map."

CAMRA research in 2005 found that there are 154 regularly available Milds and 20 seasonal brews currently available in the UK.

Locally, the Huntingdonshire Branch organised the following events over the weekend of May 6th:

- Friday 5th, visits to St Neots pubs offering mild, including the Rivermill Tavern, Eaton Socon, the Wheatsheaf, Eaton Socon, the Lord John Russell, St Neots and the Woolpack, St Neots.
- Saturday 6th, Green Man, Colne beer festival, which offered Greene King XX and Gales Festival Mild.
- Sunday 7th, a cycle ride to the Grandsdens, visiting pubs offering mild: the Eight Bells, Abbottsley, the Crown & Cushion, Great Gransden, and the Chequers, Little Gransden.

Most of these pubs do not ordinarily stock a mild, and the Hunts branch would like to thank these landlords for making the effort, and making these events so enjoyable for the local CAMRA members that took part.

The following pubs are expected to be offering mild throughout May: the Wheat-sheaf, Eaton Socon, the Chequers, Little Gransden, the Waggon & Horses, Steeple Morden.





Huntingdonshire Branch

BEER FESTIVAL

Thu 14th-Sat 16th
September 2006
St Ivo Centre
St Ives

55+ REAL ALES

(over the duration of the festival)

Cider and bottled foreign beer

Booze on the Ouse

Opening Times: Thu 6pm-10.45pm, Fri 12am-3pm
& 5pm-10.45pm, Sat all day from 12am-10.45pm

Entry (including programme):

50p Friday and Saturday lunchtime

£2.00 Thursday - Saturday evenings (from 7pm)

CAMRA members free entry to all sessions

Happy Hour Thursday 6-7pm and Friday 5-7pm:

Entrance 50p and reduced price draught beer

Families welcome until 9pm No Smoking Area



CAMRA stall
and tombola

Soft drinks, wines
and spirits bar

Free soft drinks for
designated drivers

Bar snacks at
all sessions

THE OLIVER CROMWELL

Wellington Street, St. Ives, Cambs.

Tel: 01480 465601

Serving six real ales:

Adnams Bitter plus

regularly changing guest beers

No smoking bar



Enjoy a good pint of traditional ale in traditional surroundings.

Reasonably priced lunchtime bar snacks available Mon to Sat

Huntingdonshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2006

The Pig and Abbot



The Pig and Abbot is a traditional old country pub and restaurant with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

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.

Traditional Sunday Lunch. Children's menu available.

Open all day Saturday and Sunday.

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THE VICTORIA

Under New Management



Phil and Teresa welcome you to the recently reopened Victoria.

Good selection of cask ales.

Adnams Bitter plus 3 guest beers.

Refurbished restaurant offering an excellent selection of home cooked fare, featuring steaks.



**52 Ouse Walk
Huntingdon
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A LOOK BACK IN TIME

25 YEARS AGO

In summer 1981 national brewers Whitbread were back on their brewery 'tour of destruction', as CAMRA put it. They closed their Romsey brewery in Hampshire and announced the closure of their Fremains Phoenix brewery at Watlington, Kent. Meanwhile Whitbread were re-introducing brands from breweries they had closed earlier, such as Duttons in Lancashire and Bentleys Yorkshire Bitter. CAMRA chairman Tim Amsden welcomed the increased choice, but said 'it's a shame they had to close the original breweries in the first place'.

A new real cask mild was unveiled as Manns, the Midlands arm of national brewers Watney, Mann and Truman, launched Manns Mild.

Further south CAMRA were supporting Whitbread cask mild brewed at Portsmouth, where production had fallen below 250 barrels a week and the future of the brew would be threatened it fell much more.

Another national brewer, Bass, increased the strengths of its cask Highgate Mild and M & B Mild - the original gravity of both brews was increased to 1036.

Burton brewers Marstons renamed its two cask milds. 'PXX' light mild became Capital Ale and 'No. 3' Dark Mild became Meridian Mild.

In an acerbic 'Greene King Special' edition of 'Ale', the organ of CAMRA Cambridge branch, the Suffolk brewers were castigated for a number of their policies, with particular emphasis on their 'top pressure policy' for cask beer. In 1981 three quarters of Greene King pubs used pressurised carbon dioxide to dispense cask beers, instead of pumps. 'It don't half spoil the taste', wrote CAMRA member Bob Flood. The branch banned Greene King ales from their July beer festival.

Greene King hit back at CAMRA when Sir Hugh Greene told the annual brewery shareholders' meeting that the unpressurised Abbot in CAMRA's pub, the Salisbury Arms in Cambridge, tasted like 'soup'.

Bass announced the closure of their famous Burton Union system, used to ferment Draught Bass and bottled Worthington White Shield.

Norfolk brewery Woodforde's was born after a number of failed attempts to find premises. Wherry Bitter began to flow from a converted barn in Drayton, near Norwich, set up by banker and keen home brewer Ray Ashworth with the help of brewing consultants Peter Austin and Colin Lloyd.

Following complaints from drinkers, Shipstones of Nottingham admitted that they had reduced the hop rate of their bitter after being taken over by Warrington brewer Greenall Whitley, following an 'extensive market research consumer report'.

St Neots branch of CAMRA advertised a 'Booze by the Ouse' beer tent at the St Neots Riverside Festival. The branch met at the Crown and Cushion, Great Gransden, the Lord John Russell in St Neots, the Bell in Huntingdon and the Three Horseshoes at Southoe. Summer socials visited the Pike and Eel, Needingworth, the Jester at Ashwell and the King William at Fenstanton.

David Bruce was moving west in summer 1981 with his fourth firkin brew pub, the Fleece and Firkin in Bristol, following the success of his first three Firkin pubs, all in London.

10 YEARS AGO

In summer 1996 Steve Nuttall, the new owner of Britain's sole mild-only brewery - Highgate Brewery in Walsall, sold by national brewers Bass - staked his future in real cask mild ale as he changed the

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

name of his top brand 'Highgate Dark' back to 'Highgate Dark Mild'.

CAMRA's Norwich Branch was reeling over pub closures. 'Norfolk Nips', the branch's newsletter, blamed draconian leases, high prices and the trend for impersonal single bar interiors for a spate of pub losses in the Norfolk area.

600 pub goers at Stow-cum-Quy, near Cambridge, signed a petition opposing a name change for the Prince Albert, a popular local that had served over 1000 guest real ales. There were also fears of possible closure, but the owners appointed a new tenant and the Prince Albert continued trading.

St Neots CAMRA met at the White Hart, Godmanchester, and the Millers Arms, Eaton Socon. A May social was held at Houghton Three Horseshoes and Wyton Three Jolly Butchers. The branch put on a beer tent at the St Neots Riverside festival and held a joint social with Bedfordshire branches at the Sir William Peel, Sandy. In June a summer social visited pubs in Ellington, Spaldwick and Old Weston.

Alan Hey, head brewer at Timothy Taylor, castigated short cuts and penny pinching in the modern brewing industry as small brewers took all but one of the medals in the Brewing Industry International Awards. 'At Timothy Taylor we rely on three basics, said Alan, 'Good materials, good brewing and taking the time to do it right. We use no hop pellets, no hop oil, no rice grits, no nitrogen and definitely no widgets'

Nearly 2000 pubs were on the market as Intreprenuer sold 1400 leasehold pubs and Interbrew offered its 517 John Labatt pub chain for sale.

CAMRA was defending the UK's brewery tie for pubs in a tripartite lobby of the European Parliament by CAMRA and the brewers' and licensees' associations. In the face of an EEC review, CAMRA was

supporting the tie to prevent 'scores of regional brewers from giving up the candle and quitting brewing'.

In June 1996 CAMRA's newspaper 'What's' Brewing' carried a photograph of local CAMRA member Paul Moorhouse, who was captioned as looking 'slightly shell-shocked' after standing down from CAMRA's national executive after eight years. The picture was taken at a reception for St Neots and Bedfordshire CAMRA branches put on by Greene King at their Old Maltings in Biggleswade. Other local CAMRA notables at the reception were Pubs Group Chair Kathy Hadfield and John Walsh, a member of CAMRA's cider and perry group, APPLE.

St Peters Brewery was founded in Suffolk by multi-millionaire Richard Eyton-Jones at the medieval manor house at South Elmham.



PUB NEWS

Bedford brewers Charles Wells have been reported to be looking to buy 50 pubs to take their estate up to 300.

Phil Beer and his partner Teresa will be a hard act to follow at the **Green Man, Colne**, where the lease has been sold and new licensees took over in early May. Phil and Teresa have steadily built a local enthusiasm for a constantly changing selection of quality cask beers from brewers around the UK and this has helped to build sales there across the board. There is a similar approach at their other pubs the Cherry Tree at Haddenham and the **Victoria** in **Huntingdon**, where Phil and Teresa are now based. Opening Times extend good wishes to them and the new lessees at the Green Man.

The **Unicorn** in **St Ives** has been sold freehold by Enterprise Inns and will re-open soon as a Chinese restaurant and take-away.

A reprieve for the **Rivermill Tavern** at **Eaton Socon** has been won by locals with the support of Hunts CAMRA. Owner Nick Bennett had applied for planning permission to convert the riverside pub to three homes. Trevor and Janet Partt returned from holiday to face a battle to keep the pub, which they have run for ten years. 1100 people signed a petition objecting to the proposal to close an important tourist attraction as well as an important part of the economic and social heart of the community. Mr Bennett withdrew his application on the day of a public meeting attended by 400 supporters of the pub. Hunts CAMRA chairman Andy Shaw, who lives in Eaton Socon and orchestrated the branch's support, said at the meeting 'We have won a battle but need to make sure we keep the pub open in the long term'.

As the new ban on smoking in public places was agreed by Parliament, to take effect in summer 2007, the **Mad Cat** at

Pidley was completing an attractive covered outdoor terrace which looks sure to be popular in summer.

And the **Wheatsheaf** in **Eaton Socon** is reported to be exploring a refurbishment to allow direct service into a semi-open conservatory area that could be popular with smokers.

But an increasing number of pubs are going no smoking throughout—the latest includes the **Chequers, Eynesbury**.

Elsewhere in Eaton Socon, the **White Horse** is serving Fullers London Pride and a guest beer following a change of hands.

A tapas bar is expected to be added at the **Sun** at **Kimbolton** where a new long lease has been agreed.

Increased ranges of real ales have been reported at a number of local pubs. The **Woolpack** in **St Neots** now has six hand-pumps and the **Rivermill Tavern**, recently saved from closure, has increased its range to five cask beers, including a permanent line from Elgoods.

Cask beers from Potton Brewery have been added to the ranges at three local pubs, the **Tavern on the Green** at **Abbottsley**, the **Tavern on the Green** at **Great Staughton**, and the **Crown and Cushion** at **Great Gransden**, for whom Potton are brewing a house beer Aurburn Ale, and where Highgate Mild has also been on offer recently.

The lease of the **Alconbury Manor** has been sold to a local businessman, who is set to run the pub from May onwards.

An conservatory style extension overlooking the riverside beer garden has been added to the **Floods Tavern, St Ives**. They also have a new menu and a non-smoking dining area.

The **Anchor, Little Paxton** will be closed from May 1st to June 9th for interior refurbishment and the building of a conservatory.

The Inns and Outs of the Eatons—Book Review

Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford have always had a large number of public houses, but back in the early 1800's with the volume of traffic on the Great North Road, the M1 of it's day, there were far more than now.

There are 12 "Inns", pubs still operating, and another 12 "Outs", pubs now closed. This booklet, published by the Eatons Community Association (Escan), provides information about each of these public houses, past and present, derived from a wide variety of sources, and in doing so paints a colourful picture of life in the Eatons over the last 200 years.

The anecdotes and memories of the "Inns" are enjoyable, such as the regular of the Old Sun who developed a way of throwing from his chest in darts to compensate for the low ceiling, and another Old Sun regular would actually kick the ceiling if he made a bad score at skittles.

The research into the "Outs" is comprehensive, some of which are residential buildings that still stand, and others that have long since been demolished. The Cock which was next to St Mary's church was a notable inn that even enjoyed royal patronage.

Which breweries supplied all these fine taverns, beerhouses and inns? The ownership records suggests many had their own small brewhouses prior to 1800, but during the 1800's shows transfer to established breweries like Day's Priory brewery. The Eatons had two breweries: the Old Sun Brewery behind the pub of the same name, and the Eagle Brewery which was on the site of the now Texaco Garage.

Escan produces a wide variety of publications of local history. Inns and Outs costs £3.00. Visit www.escan.org.uk, or call Sue Jarrett on (01480) 216065.

Rockinbeerfest 17th 18th 19th 20th August 2006

Thursday: RockTech & Beerfest
Raw Gallagher, Highway 5, Stingray, Chadden School

Friday: Dropouts

Saturday: **Frankie Miller's Full House**
The Blockheads, Deborah Bonham
Medicine Hat, Larry Miller, Innes Sibun
The Soul Kitchen, Badger, Litmus, Morph

Sunday: **Mostly Autumn, Bluehorses**
John Otway, David Fisher, Big 10
AWT, UXL, Ellenby, Chapter xiii
The Fondas, Split Whiskers
Advance Weekend Tickets £65/£59 (B4 1/5/06)
Camping £15 - 2/3 man tent, Caravans £30
0845 299 0845 or rockinbeerfest.co.uk

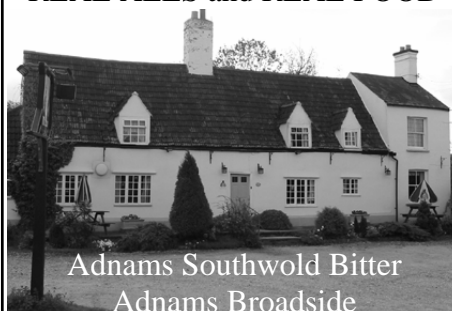
The Kings Bush Centre (Wood Green Animal Shelter)
Godmanchester Cambs PE29 2NH

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

CIDER: THE BEST IN THE EAST

Everyone working on a cider bar is asked from time to time "what is the best" or something to that effect. There is no straightforward answer (is there ever!). Everyone's taste is different.

To help in the search to answer this question, CAMRA announce the judging of the Champion Cider of East Anglia at the next Norwich Beer Festival. East Anglian ciders are often neglected in competition against the more fashionable West Country ciders. For this competition any traditional (ie. made from freshly pressed apples and not micro-filtered, pasteurised or artificially carbonated) produced in CAMRA's East Anglian Region (ie. Nor-

folk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire) is eligible. Only one cider (and/or perry) per producer will be judged and makers are to be asked to nominate which is entered.

All East Anglian ciders present at the Norwich Beer Festival and any other producer, large or small, who can provide at least 2 ½ gallons on the day are eligible. I know we don't need this much for the tasting but if it wins, people at the festival will want to drink it and we will certainly be showcasing it in the publicity material.

Andrea Briers

Regional Cider Co-ordinator – East Anglia



EAST ANGLIAN CIDER COMPETITION



East Anglian Cider Producers are invited to enter our inaugural East Anglian Cider Competition. Judging will take place at CAMRA's Norwich Beer Festival, St. Andrew's and Blackfriars' Halls on Monday 23rd October 2006. Producers can enter 1 cider and/or 1 perry into the competition. Please indicate below the name of the products you would like to enter.

Cider

Perry

Producers Name:-

Address:-

.....

Phone No.:- E-Mail (if available):-

- All cider and/or perry must be produced in the CAMRA's East Anglian Region.
- All products must be in draught form, not bottled.
- All products must be real, i.e. made from freshly pressed apples and not artificially carbonated, micro-filtered or pasteurised.
- Cider generally available at the festival will be judged from the cask supplied, otherwise a minimum of 2.5 gallons of each product must be provided for competition purposes. Producers are responsible for delivery of their own cider.

If you have any queries please contact:-

Andrea Briers (Norfolk) 01553 766904

Susan Brook (Hertfordshire) 01462 630663

Alan Edwards (Norwich Beer Festival) 01603 661440 (h) 0781 0300 535 (m)

Forms should be returned to Andrea Briers, 7 George Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 2AQ by the 1st September 2006.

Huntingdonshire *CAMRA PUB of the Year 2003*

The Cock

at Hemingford Grey

Real ales include:

- **Woodfordes Wherry** • **Earl Soham Victoria Bitter** •
and two guest ales

Recently refurbished and now non-smoking throughout

Delightful garden

Attached restaurant you can find in the Good Food Guide
Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2005 (Good Pub Guide)

Set in a beautiful village, on the Ouse river,

Between Huntingdon and Cambridge—2 minutes from the A14.

47 High Street, (01480) 463609

The White Horse Inn

Swavesey

WARREN & PAT

Will be pleased to welcome you to their
17th Century traditional village Inn

- Selection of Fine Real Ales
- No Smoking Restaurant Area
- Two Bars
- Children's Play Area
- Darts and bar billiards
- Separate pool room
- Beer garden
- Pub and restaurant meals,
including sunday roast lunch
- Open all day at weekends
- Real log fires in both bars for those cold winter nights
- Function/ children's room available for private dinners, birthday
parties or club/board meetings.

Tel: 01954 232470 For Enquiries & Bookings. Fax: 01954 206188

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale



Join CAMRA Today...

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque (payable to CAMRA Ltd) or for Three Months Free membership (for those renewing or joining by Direct Debit) complete the Direct Debit Form. All forms should be addressed to membership secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Alternatively you can join online at www.camra.org.uk. Rates for single membership are £18 and joint £21. Concession rates are available on request.

.....
 Title Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

 P'tner Surname Forename(s) Date of Birth

 Address Postcode

 Tel. no.(s)

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..... Signed..... Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit		DIRECT DEBIT	
<p>Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW</p> <p>Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>To The Manager Bank or Building Society</p> <p>Address</p> <p>Postcode</p> <p>Name(s) of Account Holder(s)</p> <p>Bank or Building Society account number</p> <p>Branch Sort Code</p> <p>Reference Number</p>		<p>Originator Identification Number</p> <p>9 2 6 1 2 9</p> <p>FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY</p> <p>This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>Membership Number</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Postcode</p> <p>Instruction to your Bank or Building Society</p> <p>Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the guarantee issued by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so, will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society</p> <p>Signature(s)</p> <p>Date</p>	
<p>Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account</p>		<p>This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.</p> <p>The Direct Debit Guarantee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. ■ If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. ■ If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. ■ 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. 	

CAMRA Membership Promotions

Father's Day Sunday 18th June

CAMRA is offering a fantastic offer of CAMRA membership and a copy of the Big Book of Beer for Father's Day for just £25, or £17 if he is over 60 years old.... That's a saving of £7.99 or £15.99!!!

If your Dad loves beer and pubs and you struggle to buy him something different every year for Father's Day then CAMRA membership and the Big Book of Beer will be the ideal gift. Not only will you save £7.99 (or £15.99), your Dad will receive the following:

- A monthly copy of our exclusive members' newspaper – What's Brewing
- A newly designed Membership Pack which includes a CAMRA membership handbook and of course his special membership card!
- Free / Discounted entry to over 150 beer festivals, including the Great British Beer Festival which this year will be held at Earls Court, 1st – 5th August
- Book Discounts including our best selling, annual Good Beer Guide
- Branch Social Activities
- Access to the Members' Area of the new CAMRA website
- The chance to join exclusive free Brewery Complimentary Clubs that provide members with a number of free pint vouchers, brewery tours, discounts from brewery shops etc
- A copy of the Big Book of Beer. Usually priced at £14.99, this book, written by beer writer Adrian Tierney Jones, will tell your Dad everything he needs to know about the World's Greatest Drink!

Contact CAMRA and sign-up your Dad to CAMRA for Father's Day and give him something interesting to read on his special day!

Either Telephone 01727 867201 or visit www.camra.org.uk/join and make sure to quote 'Father's Day Promotion' to receive your discount!

Please note that you must contact CAMRA before Monday 5th June to make sure we can get your CAMRA Gift Membership sent to you in time for Father's Day.

Woodforde's CAMRA Gold Club

Woodforde's has set up a free CAMRA Woodforde's Gold Club that will offer those that sign up a variety of exclusive promotions throughout the year.

Woodforde's have been running a successful Woodforde's club for many years and has now introduced an exclusive Gold Club membership that is exclusive for CAMRA members.

This new club will offer the same as the current Woodforde's Club but also provide you with extra free promotions including free pints of beer, competitions, free bottled beer, free brewery tours and well as regular newsletters from Woodforde's.

Woodforde's has designed some fantastic artwork to support this initiative and we will be sending promotional vouchers to your home address and emails with competitions and latest Woodforde's news once you have joined the Gold Club.

So what's the catch? There isn't one, the club is free and a benefit to you as a valued CAMRA member. Your free offers from Woodforde's will be worth the CAMRA membership fee alone! You will receive offers and important beer information from Woodforde's.

It is couldn't be easier to join the Woodforde's CAMRA Gold Club. Just visit www.camra.org.uk/woodfordescompclub and enter your name, address, email address, and CAMRA membership number.

HALF PINTS

CAMRA SLAMS GALES CLOSURE

CAMRA has hit out at Fullers brewery after closing Gales brewery in Hampshire following their £91 million takeover of the company last November. Fullers expect to save around £3 million from the closure.

CAMRA's chief executive Mike Benner said 'This is a small amount to gain in return for destroying a century and a half of Hampshire's heritage and shows a contemptible disregard for consumers. It's questionable whether Gales brands brewed at Fullers in Chiswick will taste the same or have the same appeal'.

CAMRA campaigns against consolidation in the industry and brewery closures as they reduce consumer choice, beer quality and variety. They also bring less value for money and act against the interests of all beer drinker and pub goers.

Fullers claimed that all options had been explored, including keeping the brewery open. Fullers director John Roberts said that this would have needed a large investment. 'Gales had run a very tight ship, and that doesn't always mean the right level of investment'.

80,000 CAMRA MEMBERS!

CAMRA membership has reached 80,000 – up 6% in the past year - as the Campaign celebrates its 35 years of existence. CAMRA's chief executive Mike Benner welcomed the 80,000th member as 'a real milestone, but we would still like more people to join us to make sure consumers of real ale will always have a powerful voice to speak on their behalf'.

NEW STYLE PUMPS FOR REAL ALE

A new dispense system for real ale is appearing in more outlets. InBev UK, the Belgian and South American giant who run UK brewers previously owned by Whitbread and Bass, are introducing cylin-

derless beer engines for Bass and Bodingtons. Brains and Fullers are among other brewers who have used the system, which eliminates the traditional cylinder under the bar counter and thereby prevents beer from warming up when throughput is at a low rate. Another feature of the arrangement is that the dispense font is in a more visible position at a high level above the bar counter.

BOOZE ON THE OUSE SUCCESS

Our 'Booze on the Ouse' beer festival came to St Neots in February in a triumphant return to the Priory Centre. The organisers were very pleased, if a little overwhelmed, by the public demand for the event, and it was only with two extra deliveries of beer that the festival was able to continue until the advertised end time on the Saturday.

Feedback from festival goers was very positive. All were very impressed with selection and quality of real ales and foreign beers.

It is hoped that 'Booze on the Ouse' will now run twice every year, alternating between St Neots in the spring, and in the autumn at the Burgess Hall in St Ives, where the next Booze on the Ouse is from September 14-17th 2006.

HOW TO KEEP PUBS ALIVE

CAMRA has asked for pub tenants to be given the right of first refusal when their pubs are sold. This is one of a number of proposals to prevent pub closures in a CAMRA submission to the all-party Parliamentary Beer Group's enquiry into the threat to the UK's community pubs.

WIN TICKETS FOR TOP FESTIVAL

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival moves from Olympia to Earl's Court this year. After 14 successive years at Olympia and a record attendance in 2005, the

HALF PINTS

time was right for a move to a larger venue and the festival will run from 1- 5 August 2006 at Earl's Court.

The organisers have hand picked over 700 tasty tipples – more than ever before – to be supplied from the smallest micro-brewery to the largest regional brewers. Wheat beers, golden ales, stouts, porters, milds, old ales, ciders, perries and high quality lagers will be available from brewers around the world.

To win one of 25 free tickets, send in your answer to this question by Friday 7 July: "Where is the Great British Beer Festival moving to in August 2006?"

Send your answer to Tony.Jerome@camra.org.uk or post with your name and address to Tony Jerome, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW

BEER IS GOOD FOR YOU

Another survey has reported health benefits from moderate beer consumption. A ten year study of over 4,000 people in the USA found that those who drink an average of fourteen glasses of beer or wine a week have a 40 percent reduced risk of a heart attack compared with teetotallers. For seven to thirteen drinks a week, the risk was reduced by 20 percent, and for between one and six drinks, 7 percent.

However, higher levels of consumption are not good for the average person. UK government recommendations are that men should drink no more than four units of alcohol a day, and women no more than three units. For men, this means four half pints of a beer containing 3.5% alcohol by volume, or three halves of a 4.7% brew, and for women, three halves of a 3.5% beer or two halves of a 5.2% beer.



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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

ROY RIDES

Introduction

For CAMRA's Pubs Week we decided to attempt a new ride. Parts of this route have been covered in Shaw's Strolls (OT116), but it also is a good cycle tour.

Distance: 13.5 miles. (From Huntingdon railway station). The ride should take around 4 hours, depending on how many pubs you visit and how long you stay in each.

The Ride:

One fine sunny, but cold Saturday morning in February we took the train from St Neots to Huntingdon. Taking bikes on trains is OK, as long as it's not during the busy peak periods. We started at Huntingdon railway station, but really the best place to start would be the Old Bridge Hotel, in Huntingdon by the river and the road bridge across the River Ouse to Godmanchester.

Here you have a choice either take the road to Hartford or cycle through Riverside Park alongside the river. The river is a much more attractive route and traffic-free route. Follow this route until you approach Hartford church, but just before you get there, turn left down a narrow footpath. This will lead out onto the main Hartford road.



Cross the road and you will see the first pub, the **King of the Belgians** (2.2 miles). This pub was recently saved from closure.

The locals mounted a successful campaign to fight the proposed redevelopment. CAMRA's involvement was critical in providing the expertise on how this could be achieved. The pub itself is a historic village pub and the bar ceiling is covered with WW2 aircrew adornments. On sale during our visit were Mordue Workie Ticket, Marstons Old Empire, and Timothy

ST IVES AND THE HEMINGFORDS

Taylor's Landlord.

Turn right outside the pub, and turn right at a T junction at the end of the High Street. The Barley Mow, a Charles Wells house, is opposite. Turn left on to the main St Ives road, and proceed until just before the main roundabout. Take a side road to the right. This leads to a path along a former section of the old St Ives road and will save you negotiating the roundabout. At the end of the path, rejoin the main road and head right towards Houghton and Wyton. A word of warning—this is quite a busy road, so do take care. Turn right off the main road into Wyton.



The **Three Jolly Butchers** (4.0 miles) is on the right hand side. This is a large roadside pub, which has been opened up to make a comfortable interior. On offer today was Greene King IPA and Abbott.

After leaving the pub turn right and head towards Houghton. The **Three Horseshoes** (4.2 miles) is an attractive feature of the village centre complete with its thatched clock tower. Four beers were on tap—Oakham JHB, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Greene King IPA and Morland's Old Speckled Hen.

Leave Houghton on Thicket Lane to the right of the Three Horseshoes. At the end of the village the lane becomes a good bridleway through 'The Ticket', a field maple and ash wood alongside the river. Eventually the path ends at All Saints Church in St Ives.

St Ives has plenty of good pubs, but we only visited two, as time was short and there were more pubs to visit later.

Pass to the left of the church to the main road, with the Aviator pub on the left-hand side. We didn't stop, but there are always a couple of good beers on tap here. Turn

ROY RIDES

right into The Waits.

The **Floods Tavern** (6.35 miles) is just down the road. The Floods is an Elgoods tied pub, the only one in our branch area. It is popular for live music and features a riverside patio area. Elgoods beers on sale on our visit were Cambridge Bitter, Thin Ice, and Greyhound.

Leave the Floods and turn right towards the Nelson Head in Merrylands. Turn right again into Bridge Street, and turn left just before the bridge along the quay.



This leads to the **Oliver Cromwell** (6.65 miles) This pub is currently CAMRA's local town pub of the year. It was also our lunch stop for good

pub food. The pub has undergone a very sympathetic renovation and extension, which has greatly enhanced it. Six beers are normally on offer.— on our visit the range was Adnams Bitter, Oakham JHB, Woodfordes Wherry, and Coachouse Flintlock.

Retrace your steps to the town bridge, and note the interesting 15th century chapel on the bridge, a rare survivor. Cross the bridge and into London Road.

An Indian restaurant on the left was formerly the Black Bull, now sadly lost as a pub. No planning permission is required to convert a pub into a restaurant. CAMRA is seeking for this to be changed to allow formal public objections to such changes of use.

At the end of the road turn right into Hemingford Road. Follow this road for a mile or so into Hemingford Grey High Street, where you'll find the **Cock** (7.35 miles). There is an excellent restaurant available (booking essential) but no bar snacks. A good choice of micro brewed beers is always on offer in the non-smoking bar,

ST IVES AND THE HEMINGFORDS

such as Nethergate IPA, Woodfordes Wherry, Pot Belly Ayling, and Wolf Gordon Jackal.

On leaving, turn right and continue down the High Street. Turn left into Braggs Lane, then right into Manor Road. This leads into the High Street in Hemingford Abbots, where the Axe & Compass is worth a visit if you have time. From the Axe & Compass, continue into Common Lane. This eventually leads into a meadow and a bridleway at the end of the meadow. Turn left, rather than back towards the river, down Cow Lane. This takes you past the delights of the local sewage works and eventually to the Godmanchester roundabout under the A14. Go right along the footpath around the roundabout into Godmanchester.

This leads into Cambridge Street and the **White Hart** (11.85 miles), another pub now non-smoking throughout. This food-oriented pub is decorated in a modern bistro style and usually features a couple of real ales. On sale during our visit were Greene King IPA and Adnams Bitter.

Continue down Cambridge Street and left into Post Street and pass the Black Bull pub towards Huntingdon. Follow the road under the A14 and over the river bridge and you will end up back at the **Old Bridge Hotel**. On our visit the hotel bar was closed for a private party, but it is highly recommended and usually offers Adnams Bitter and a guest beer.

Continue over the ring road into the High Street for a beer in the **Samuel Pepys** (12.75 miles), with usually a good choice of four beers (on our visit Theaksons Mild, Youngs Bitter, Timothy Taylor Landlord, and Everards Tiger).

At this point the ride ends and you can either explore more of Huntingdon's pubs (the Market Inn and Victoria are recommended) or make your way back to the railway station.

Roy Endersby

EVENTS AND SOCIALS

May 2006 – Social Around Somersham

Fri 19th Social around **Somersham**, starting at the **Windmill** at 8.30 pm, the **Rose & Crown** at 9.15 pm, the **Black Bull** at 9.45 pm, finishing at the **Green Man, Colne** at 10.30 pm

June 2006

Tues 6th Open Committee Meeting, **White Hart, Great Staughton** (8.30 pm)
 Sat 24th A trip around the **Ufford Ales Brewery** at Ye Olde White Hart Pub, Ufford, near Peterborough. Starting at noon with food and beer flowing freely. Travel by train to Peterborough and taxis.

July 2006

Tues 4th Open Committee Meeting, **Black Bull, Godmanchester** (8.30 pm)
 Sat 22nd **Roy's Rides**. A leisurely bike ride around the villages of Abbotsley, Gransdens and Gamlingay visiting local pubs en route. 11am start from St Neots Market Square and it will take about 4 hours - may be postponed to Sunday if weather dictates.

August 2006

Tues 8th Open Committee Meeting, **Rivermill Tavern, Eaton Socon** (8.30 pm)
 Wed 23rd Trip to **Peterborough Beer Festival** by rail. Meet at Tombola at 8pm.

September 2006

Tues 5th **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 14th to Sat 16th **Booze on the Ouse** – St Ives Beer Festival, Burgess Hall, St Ivo Centre. Opening Times: Thurs: 6-10.45 pm; Fri 12-3 pm & 5-10.45 pm; Sat 12-10.45 pm. **Free entry to CAMRA members. Volunteers Welcome!**

For further information please contact Pete Godfrey, Social Secretary, on 01480 212849 or e-mail: socials@huntscamra.org.uk.

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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 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 0845 3030666, or at Trading Standards Division, Sackville House, Sackville Way, Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB3 6HD. The trading standards web site is www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

OPENING TIMES

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To Advertise

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N.Richards@btinternet.com

**Deadline for Autumn 2006 issue (128)
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