



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

opening times

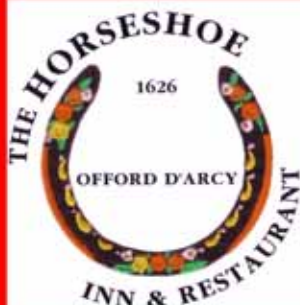
Huntingdonshire Branch of CAMRA
the Campaign for Real Ale

Issue 137
Winter 2008

Chequers, Little Gransden,
East Anglia Pub of the Year



Booze on the Ouse, St Neots Beer
Festival, Thu 19—Sat 21 March 2009



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

Booking Now for The Festive Season.

A Classical 382 year old venue for your Festive Celebrations
Dining and Bar available for Private Parties: up to 75 people. Recently c. 200 customers took the time to show their appreciation of our food, service, and venue. Check us out - www.localsecrets.co.uk.

Always 4 or 5 Real Ales to choose from; Potton, Adnams, Elgoods, Buntingford.

Christmas Day Dinner. Our comfortable restaurant restricted to 50 people on this special day. Midday until restaurant closes at 4pm. Three courses with at least three choices per course. The usual top quality fresh food served to your table. £65.00 per person. Children half price. Begin with the midday drinks reception in our lounge bar. Reserve your table between midday and 2 pm.

Between St. Neots &
Huntingdon on the B1043
01480 810 293

Free House
Privately
Owned

90 High Street, Offord D'arcy.
St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 5RH
www.thehorseshoeinn.biz

The Cock *at Hemingford Grey*



Four Real Ales from breweries such as Buntingford, Digfield, Earl Soham, Elgoods, Fenland, Milton, Nethergate, Oldershaw, Pot Belly, Tydd Steam and Wolf. Also Cromwell Oliver's Choice Cider.

See website www.cambscuisine.com for Christmas menus.
Our heavy weight Christmas beer this year is
Old Growler Porter from Nethergate.

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

Hunts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003
Cambridgeshire Dining Pub of the Year 2006 & 2007

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

CHEQUERS, LITTLE GRANSDEN

East Anglia Pub of the Year



In early September the judges announced their decision regarding CAMRA's East Anglia Pub of the Year - the best pub in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk ... and the judge's decision was ... the Chequers at Little Gransden!



A presentation was made on the opening night of the St Ives beer festival to a surprised and very happy Bob and

Wendy Mitchell, owners and licensees of the Chequers.

The Chequers is now being judged in the competition for the South East Pub of the Year. After that, the next round will be for the national Pub of the Year.

Earlier, it was announced in the Summer edition of Opening Times that the Chequers had been judged Cambridgeshire Pub of the Year, having been chosen earlier in the year as the 2008 Huntingdonshire branch Pub of the Year - the fourth



OPENING TIMES 137 WINTER 2008

year in a row that the pub had achieved this accolade.

CAMRA felt that it would be appropriate to have a special celebration day at the Chequers, and in October, CAMRA representatives from Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, Bedford and Luton joined many locals from the village of Little Gransden in calls of "three cheers" to Bob and Wendy. CAMRA's Regional Director Andrea Briers presented Bob and Wendy with a plaque for the East Anglia award. Bob laid on one of his legendary hog roasts, and five of his Son of Sid beers were available to sample.



This happy occasion was chosen to launch a new CAMRA campaign, **LocAle**, in Huntingdonshire. LocAle promotes locally-brewed beers, and we judged that the Son of Sid beers at the Chequers could not be more locally-brewed, so the Chequers was selected as the first pub to be accredited in this new scheme. For more details on the LocAle campaign, please turn to the next page.



LOCALE SCHEME FOR LOCAL ALES



Huntingdonshire CAMRA is launching a 'LocAle' accreditation scheme for local pubs stocking local real ale.

The free scheme will accredit pubs serving high quality real ale sourced from local brewers and build on growing consumer demand for locally brewed food and drink. This was reflected in the successes of Huntingdonshire District Council's Food and Drink Festival and CAMRA's St Ives 'Booze on the Ouse' real ale festival in September, both of which championed local producers by showcasing their products.

LocAle schemes have been introduced by 21 CAMRA branches around the country following Nottingham branch's lead. They created the first LocAle scheme last year in a bid to support remaining brewers in their area after the closure of Hardys and Hansons brewery by Greene King. Since then, Solihull, Abercolwyn, Derby, North Oxfordshire and Gwent are among branches that have added their own schemes.

Details of the Huntingdonshire scheme are yet to be finalised but local brewers generally available in the area's pubs include Elgoods of Wisbech, Oakham in Peterborough, Buntingford from near Royston, Potbelly at Kettering, Wells & Youngs in Bedford, and the new Son of Sid brewery at Little Gransden and it is likely that pubs serving these beers will be eligible for the scheme.

Pubs in the Huntingdonshire area will soon receive details of the scheme and can apply to Huntingdonshire CAMRA for free LocAle accreditation. Accredited pubs will receive publicity material including window stickers, pump clip crowners, leaflets and posters.

Accreditation will be at the discretion of Huntingdonshire CAMRA and is likely to require the pubs to usually serve at least one locally brewed real ale. The quality of presentation of the beers will be monitored by Huntingdonshire CAMRA's well established beer scoring scheme and accreditation may be withdrawn if standards or availability fall to levels judged unacceptable for the scheme.

Food and drink transport accounts for 25% of all HGV movement. The positive environmental impact of reducing beer miles is increasingly recognised and supported by consumers and a reduced carbon footprint; less use of resources and less air pollution are all benefits.

And shortening distribution distances is likely to result in improved quality for real ale, which is best served fresh, with minimal handling and without the impact of long distribution systems and unfavourable conditions.

The scheme was launched at the Chequers, Little Gransden, the first local pub to be accredited. A number of other pubs are being assessed, and these are expected to be accredited in the next few weeks. Go to www.huntscamra.org.uk/locale to find details about the scheme, a full list of all the pubs accredited and the qualifying breweries. Updates to the list of accredited pubs will appear in future editions of Opening Times.



North Brink Brewery, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire Tel: 01945 583160

Available all year round



SEASONAL ALES

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

The DOVE
Street Inn, Ipswich.

76 St. Helens St, Ipswich Suffolk
Tel: 01473 211270

www.dovestreetinn.co.uk

FOR UP TO THE
MINUTE BEER INFO
SEE OUR WEB SITE
(ADDRESS AS ABOVE)



NEXT BEER FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER

26th to Sun 30th FROM NOON

50+ BEERS, CIDERS, MILDS
HOT & COLD FOOD ALL DAY EVERY DAY.
FRUIT & MULLED WINES,
LARGE WHISKY SELECTION,
WARM, COSY ATMOSPHERE!

**SUFFOLK CAMRA PUB
OF THE YEAR 2008**

The White Horse Inn

1 Market Street, Swavesey

*Warrren and Pat welcome you to their 17th
century traditional village Inn in Swavesey*



Open all
day at
weekends
**ALL SKY
SPORTS**

- CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed
- Vast selection of malt whisky
- Non smoking lounge bar and dining area
- Beer garden & children's play area
- Darts, bar billiards, separate pool room
- Family Sunday roast lunch
- Function/Party room

Tel: 01954 232 470 for enquiries and bookings
Fax: 01954 206 188

OPENING TIMES 137 WINTER 2008

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

25 YEARS AGO



John Smiths brewery re-introduced cask-conditioned ale in December 1983, seven years after it had been phased out. This was seen as one of CAMRA's greatest success stories; John Smiths, part of the national Courage group, was the last major national brewery in the UK that had refused to supply real ale.



Theakstons, the famous North Yorkshire real ale brewery, was taken over by Matthew Brown brewery of Blackburn at the invitation of chairman Paul Theakston to thwart an unwelcome bid by textile millionaire Michael Abrahams. Matthew Brown thereby became the operator of four sizeable breweries in Masham, Carlisle, Blackburn and Workington. In 2008, Theakston's Masham brewery is the only survivor, owned by four Theakston brewers who bought the brewery back in 2003 after 20 years under the ownership of Scottish and Newcastle.

In Norfolk the Reepham brewery was set up by Ted Willems, a research engineer then recently made redundant by the national Watney brewing group. The new brewing plant was a purpose built plant installed in a new industrial unit in the small town made famous by Norfolk's legendary toper, Parson Woodforde.

At the end of 1983, breweries Tolly Cobbold of Ipswich and Cameron of Hartlepool were bought by hotel entrepreneur

twins David and Frederick Barclay in a bargain buy of the Ellerman Lines shipping and brewing empire for £47 million. The brothers promised not to sell on either of the breweries.



One of the earliest cask beer accreditation schemes for pubs was Ind Coupe's Guild of Master Cellarman scheme, launched for its cask Burton Ale in October 1983. Burton Ale stockists needed to demonstrate that they were serving a sound pint of the ale to the technical and area managers of Ind Coope, part of the national Allied Breweries group.

St Neots CAMRA held meetings in Manns pub the Exhibition in Godmanchester, the Hardwick Arms,



Gamlingay and the Coneygeare at Eynesbury. There were socials at Manns pub the White Lion at Bury and Tolly Cobbold pub the King William at Fenstanton, a Christmas social at the Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots and a pub crawl starting at the Kings Head in St Neots.

The national Watney group introduced new plans for its managed pub sector, known as the Host Group. Its Chef and Brewer estate was divided into a number of themes including 'The English Ale House' and 'The Local', and the other half of the chain, known as 'Open House', included 'Slots of Fun', 'Drive Inns' and 'Mid Atlantic – the ultimate family leisure experience'.

6 Support local breweries - look for LocAle pubs that stock local beers.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

10 YEARS AGO



Burton brewer Marstons faced a takeover bid from Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries after opposition from Marstons shareholders to an earlier company proposal to securitise its tenanted pub estate by selling it to Japanese bank Nomura. This followed the replacement in 1998 of Marstons managing Director David Gordon by Nick Letchett from Bass. CAMRA called for the W & D merger to be rejected because of the potential knock-on effect of other regionals rushing to merge and close breweries.

'Ale', the newsletter of Cambridge CAMRA, was anticipating the arrival of Wetherspoons in the city fairly favourably but appeared dubious on the subject of other drinking circuit pub chains and themed bars that had arrived there, including Bass's 'All Bar One', Greene King's 'Rattle and Hum', Scottish Courage's 'Rat and Parrot' with plans for a second, and Whitbread's Hogshead.

St Neots CAMRA held its late Christmas social at the Green Man, Leighton Bromswood and earlier there was a December pub crawl in Huntingdon, starting at the George Hotel. Open committee meetings were at the Millers Arms, Eaton Socon, and the White Hart in St Ives.

Cambridgeshire brewer Elgoods launched a new cask stout with yet another dog-orientated name, Old Black Shuck, 4.5% alcohol by volume, named after a mythical



hound of hell. Meanwhile Elgoods Black Dog was crowned CAMRA's East Anglia Beer of the Year. CAMRA's Paul Ainsworth said 'Anyone who thinks mild is a wishy-washy drink should try this. It simply explodes with flavour'.

Rural pubs in East Anglia began to benefit from new rules allowing councils to cut the business rates of small rural pubs in single-pub villages in an effort to slow the rate of closures. South Norfolk District Council was one of the first to announce rate cuts for pubs.

The former chief executive of Oxford brewers Morrells, Charles Eld, went to an industrial tribunal with a case for unfair dismissal after he was sacked for opposing plans to sell the family brewery. Mr Eld had wanted to retain the brewery and invest in it, but other directors and shareholders had called for the company to be sold according to the recommendation of a strategic review conducted by Price Waterhouse. The brewery had closed in late 1998, soon after the sale of Morrells and its pubs to pub tycoon Michael Cannon, formerly of Devenish brewery.

Greene King launched a seasonal real cask version of its bottled Strong Suffolk ale, 6% alcohol by volume, famously produced by a blending process more usually seen in the breweries of Belgium, and involving a 12% alcohol beer, '5X', matured for two years in large wooden vats at Greene King's Bury St Edmunds brewery. In 2008 the bottled version is still produced in this way and, although not a real ale, is nevertheless an impressive beer, unique in the UK.



HALF PINTS

Real ale is bucking the trend of falling beer sales. Overall UK beer sales were down 4.5% this spring compared with last year, but real ale is edging closer to growth. Real ale sales declined by only 1.3% in 2007 and the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) reports record year-on-year growth of 11%.

HARVEYS Family brewers Harveys of Lewes in Sussex have announced higher sales and an 8% boost in pre-tax profits to £3.31 million for the year 2007.



Another family brewer, Batemans of Wainfleet in Lincolnshire, has seen rises in cask and bottled beer sales and turnover up by 14% to £11.41m in the year to the end of January 2008.

Wells and Youngs of Bedford are boosting their Courage brands with a £2 million investment, including a new logo and advertising campaign. A new 'smooth' nitro keg version of Courage Best is included in the package, as well as the re-launch of Courage Directors in cans. Courage Best is the UK's third biggest standard cask brand.

CAMRA is backing a campaign to enforce minimum prices to end irresponsible cut-price alcohol sales by retailers. The campaign, launched by 'The Publican' newspaper, suggests minimum prices based on 50p per unit of alcohol (£1.14 for a pint of beer containing 4% alcohol by volume). This would end prices such as 29p a pint for Skol lager seen recently in one supermarket. In Huntingdonshire, a CAMRA survey recently revealed average prices between 79p and 99p a pint for lager in supermarkets.

Meanwhile a government draft code of practice proposes a ban on 'happy hour promotions' in pubs amongst other proposed rules covering labelling, noise and training for the on-trade.



Chiswick brewer Fullers has launched 'Brewers' Reserve', a limited edition 7.7% alcohol blend of 1845, ESB Export and Golden Pride that is matured in old whisky casks with the aim of introducing malt whisky flavours.



Hydes mild has shown increases sales of 12% since the rebranding of its cask light mild as Owd Oak in 2007.



Another North West family brewer, Thwaites of Blackburn, saw sales of its dark mild soar by 90% after renaming it Nutty Black.



CAMRA is calling for an investor to save Liverpool's Cains brewery, which is in administration. The brewery has remained open for business and administrators have said that there has been some interest in the company.

Wetherspoons is offering real ales from around the world at its 18 day international real ale festival which runs at its pubs until November. Wetherspoons announced that American, Australian, Danish and Japanese brewers had brewed festival beers at UK breweries including Banks's and Shepherd Neame.

8 Contact the editor: news@hunts.camra.org.uk, (01480) 355893

Market Inn

Rear entrance at
All Saints Passage

REAL ALE SPECIALITY

Potbelly Beijing Black ABV
4.4%

back by popular demand

Youngs Bitter ABV 3.7%

A new guest ale every month
through SIBA

Smirnoff, Gordons,
Bells & Morgan Spice
Special double-up for £1 extra

Tea/Coffee £1 a cup

Everyone Welcome
From Paul & Nicola Harvey

Entertainment for November

- Fri 14th** — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 15th — MID LIFE CRISIS—*Rock Covers band* 9pm
Fri 21st — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 22nd — KARAOKE T.C.Ent 9pm
Fri 27th — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 28th — KERRY—*Soul motown female singer* 9pm

Entertainment for December

- Wed 3rd** — CRAZY QUIZ 8.30pm
Fri 5th — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 6th — TNA—*Rock covers band* 9pm
Fri 12th — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 13th — KARAOKE T.C.Ent 9pm
Fri 19th — DISCO, RACES, OGNIB Wii 8pm
Sat 20th — STOLEN HAT—*Rock & Blues band* 9pm
Wed 24th — KARAOKE T.C.Ent 9pm
Wed 31st — KARAOKE PARTY T.C.Ent 9pm

Function Room for Hire

*Holds up to
70 people
For parties etc*



THE OLIVER CROMWELL

Wellington Street, St. Ives, Cambs.

Tel: 01480 465601

Serving six real ales:
Beers from Adnams and
Oakham plus regularly
changing guest beers



Enjoy a good pint of traditional ale in traditional surroundings.
Reasonably priced lunchtime bar snacks available Mon to Sat
Evening meals Mon-Wed 6-8.30pm

Hunts DC Food & Drink Awards Pub of the Year 2008
Huntingdonshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2006

PUB PIECES

Somersham Windmill has reopened after it closed unexpectedly in September. New tenants are the Heath and Green Pub Company, based in Essex, and Jamie McCarthy is their manager at the Windmill. There is a new menu and locally sourced food is expected to remain as a feature.



King mild at the **George and Dragon** in **Eaton Socon** and the arrival of new management at the **Eight Bells** at **Abbotsley**.

In **Earlith**, the **Crown** and the **Riverview**, which have been under common proprietorship for some time, also have new incumbents.

The closure of the **Globe** in **St Neots** follows the decision of the tenant to leave. Owners Charles Wells are reported to be planning to sell the property - it is to be hoped that the sale will encourage its continuation as a pub. Charles Wells had previously advertised the tenancy of the Globe as a potential speciality cask beer house.

Elsewhere, Charles Wells have advertised the tenancy of the **Royal Oak** at **Hail Weston** and the tenants from their Fenstanton pub the Crown and Pipes have been rumoured to be taking over the **Swan** at **Offord** - interior renovation work is being carried out here.

The **King of the Belgians** in **Hartford** is for sale, freehold, for £299,500. Also for sale freehold is the **Trinity Foot**.

At **Brampton**

Black Bull a popular beer festival recently sold out twelve real ales in two days and the



two regular real ales, Timothy Taylor Landlord and Oakham JHB are selling so well that the landlady, Sharon Lewis, has asked the freeholders, Enterprise Inns, to install more equipment to up the range of real ales to four.

Whitbread have rebranded the **Brampton Hut** as a Table Table in association with the Premier Inn next door, and it now sometimes sells Greene King IPA on handpump.

Also in **Brampton**, the **Mill** has transferred from Whitbread to the M&B pub/restaurant chain. The



popular riverside pub/restaurant will close for two months on 5th January 2009 for rebranding. Whitbread have a policy to concentrate on hotels and have taken 21 hotels from M&B in exchange for 44 pub/restaurants with no potential for bedrooms or a Premier Inn next door - including the Mill.

The **Harrier** in **Brampton** has reopened as part of the small local Montaz chain of Indian restaurants and take-aways. No Real Ale!

Another Indian restaurant appears close to opening at **Kneesworth**, near Bassingbourn, in the former **Red Lion**. This is another loss of a pub to the rule

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

PUB PIECES

that such changes do not require planning permission – CAMRA is campaigning for an end to this planning loophole.



The **White Horse** at **Eaton Socon** is hosting an Everards 'meet the brewer' evening on 3

December 2008 from 7.30pm. Everards are bringing samples of Beacon, Tiger, Sunchaser, Original and the Christmas Ale Sleighbell. The White Horse will be providing food - chilli con carne with jacket potatoes. Advance booking is £2.50 including food and tastings. For tickets, contact Stephen at the White Horse on 01480 474453.



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

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

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



The Rivermill Tavern

*A warm welcome from Jan and Trevor Partt.
Five real ales including three regularly changing guest beers.
Good food, 7 days a week, all day on Saturdays and Sundays.
Live music Friday, Open 'mic' on Tuesday. Quiz every Sunday.
Open Mon-Sat 12-11pm, (Fri until midnight), Sun 12-10.30pm.*

School Lane, Eaton Socon
(01480) 219612

OPENING TIMES 137 WINTER 2008

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

WHITE HORSE, EATON SOCON

St Neots in the 18th century was something of a focal point for the coach trade. It was an important crossing point of the River Ouse, where roads from Cambridge and Bedford fed into the Great North Road, and as the market town for a prosperous and fertile agricultural region, it also generated a large volume of local traffic.

How sad, then, the fate of its great coaching inns. Of the three in the town centre, the riverside Bridge Inn is a steakhouse; the big, rambling Falcon is closed for redevelopment; and the ancient Cross Keys is a shopping mall. Of those on the Great North Road itself, the Brampton Hut has vanished beneath an interchange of the A1. Only the White Horse at Eaton Socon survives, by-passed and fronting what is now a suburban street rather than the national aorta this quiet stretch of road once was; but it lives.

The attractive, brick-fronted creeper-clad Georgian inn you see today stands on foundations that go back at least to the 15th century if not further. Refronted as a posting house in the early 18th century, it did not become one of the great coaching inns until the large, rather square extension was added two or three generations later. Sir Albert Richardson proposes the picturesque pre-extension inn as the model for both the Black Lion in Tobias Smollett's *Sir Launcelot Greaves* and the inn in Goldsmith's *The Deserted Village*.

Smollett describes its kitchen, which we may take to be typical, thus: 'The kitchen, in which they assembled, was paved with red bricks, remarkably clean, furnished with three or four Windsor chairs, adorned with shining plates of pewter and copper saucepans nicely scoured; a cheerful fire

of sea-coal blazed in the chimney.'

Goldsmith takes us to the parlour:

'The whitewashed wall, the nicely sanded floor,
The varnished clock that clicked behind the door.
The pictures placed for ornament and use,
The twelve good rules, the royal game of goose,
The hearth, except when winter ruled the day,
With aspen boughs and flowers of fennel gay,
While broken teacups, wisely kept for show,
Ranged o'er the chimney, glistened in a row.'

In 1838 the inn – extended by now – played host to Dickens, who was travelling north on the Glasgow Mail to research some local colour for *Nicholas Nickleby* and, in particular, Dotheboys Hall. He was so struck with the White Horse that he used it under the guise of the Cock, Eton Slocomb, for the scene in which Wackford Squeers and his caravan of doomed boys break their northward journey to dine.

At the time of Dickens's visit the inn was run by a former Royal Mail guard, Charles Fox, who according to the census of 1841 had seven children and five servants, so the inn had expanded more than somewhat since it so enchanted Smollett and Goldsmith. Its location in the middle of a growing village, and the residue of local horse-drawn traffic, enabled it to survive the collapse of coaching.

Ted Bruning



12 Join 95,000 members of CAMRA and fight for Britain's beer heritage



Oakham ales

White Dwarf
WHEAT & RYE
MULTIUM IN PARS
ABV 4.3%

Bishop Farewell
ABV 4.6%

Inferno
4.0% A.B.V.

JHB
JEFFREY HUDSON
BITTER
ABV 3.6%

Oakham ales

www.oakhamales.com Tel 01733 370500

THE THREE HORSESHOES

Graveley



George & Lesley welcome you
to our friendly village pub

- Two real ales
- Hot & cold home-cooked food
 - Daily specials
- Traditional Sunday Roasts
 - Ample parking

Opening times:
Tuesday-Saturday 11.30-2.30, 6.30-11
Sunday 12-2.30pm
(closed Sunday evening and all day
Monday)

Food served:
12-2pm and 6.30-9pm
(Friday and Saturday until 9.30pm)

23 High Street, Graveley, St Neots, Cambs PE19 6PL

Tel: 01480 830992

'BOOZE ON THE OUSE' GOES LOCAL



C A M R A 's 'Booze on the Ouse' beer festival in St Ives in September was one of the best ever with a record

number of East Anglian brewers and cider makers.

More than half of the real ales ordered for the event were from East Anglia and fourteen were from within 25 miles of the Huntingdonshire area. There were also real draught ciders from new cider makers in Huntingdonshire, Cromwell Cider and Ouse Valley Cider, and for the first time at a 'Booze on the Ouse' festival since the 1980's, real ale brewed in the branch area, from the new Son of Sid brewery at the Chequers in Little Gransden.

The local theme obviously appealed to local real ale lovers. 1,440 people, the best attendance for four years, enjoyed 3,830 pints of real ale, 470 pints of cider, and 750 bottles of foreign beer over the course of the event, from Thursday to Saturday.

The favourite real ale at the festival, as voted by those attending, was Triple

FFF Altons Pride - crowned Champion Beer of Britain 2008 at CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival at

Earls Court in August. A close second and third were Phoenix Wobbly Bob and Tipples Ginger.

Festival charity Magpas raised £600. To quote one contributor "never has giving to charity been more entertaining".

Congratulations to the winner of the Hunts Post competition, Mrs J L Harmes, who won a copy of the 2009 Good Beer Guide which was launched at the beer festival and was so delighted that she joined CAMRA at the festival along with her partner, Alan.

Congratulations also to local CAMRA member Robin Walters, who also won a 2009 Good Beer Guide in a draw for all those who completed a feedback form. Robin decided to give the guide as a present for his son's 18th birthday.

Don't forget to put a note in your diary for the St Neots 'Booze on the Ouse' Beer Festival - 19th-21st March, 2009, at the Priory Centre, St Neots.





BEER FESTIVAL

Thu 19th—Sat 21st
March 2009
Priory Centre
St Neots

40+ Real Ales

(over the duration of the festival)

Cider and bottled foreign beers

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

Entry (including programme):

£0.50 Friday lunchtime 12am-5pm

£1.00 Thu 6-7pm, Fri 5-7pm, and all day Sat (incl evening)

£2.00 Thursday & Friday evening (from 7pm)

CAMRA members free entry to all sessions

Happy Hour Thursday 5-6pm: Free entrance and reduced price draught beer

Families welcome until 8pm

No smoking area

CAMRA stall and tombola

Bar snacks at all sessions

Free soft drinks for designated drivers



BOOZE ON THE OUSE
ST. NEOTS BEER FESTIVAL 2009

www.huntscamra.org.uk/festivals for more details

The Mad Cat



2 real ales from local breweries, constantly changing

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

Christmas party menu, 5 courses for £13.95, including coffee and mince pies.

Bookings now being taken with the option of a carvery for 20 people or more.

High Street, Pidley, PE28 3BX

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

DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS?

Various brewers around the world have been considering how to make beer that appeals to women. SABMiller's Redd's is a sweetish beer targeted at women in its marketing. It has been popular in South Africa and Russia but there are no plans for a UK launch.

Coors has set up a female market research team, 'Project Eve', which is considering small feminine shaped glasses, sweeter beers and ways to sell beer to women as a premium product.

In Germany, Karla attempted to improve beer's healthy image by adding folic acid, lecithin and soya extracts in a bid to appeal to women. Polish brewer Karmi added coffee, fruit or mint to three versions of a low alcohol beer aimed at women.

In the UK, Greene King have introduced a lighter bottle containing less glass for their beers, although they have not yet announced any new shapes or beers being put in them that are specifically designed with women in mind.

'PUBS OF ST IVES'

BOOK AND EXHIBITION

An exhibition on 'The Pubs of St Ives' runs from 1 December 2008 to 31 January 2009 at the Norris Museum on The Broadway, St Ives. In October the Friends of the Norris Museum published the third edition of a fascinating book 'The Pubs of St Ives' by museum curator Bob Burn-Murdoch.

The exhibition and the book give details of the former locations of over 120 pubs in the town. The book provides interesting historical accounts of them and has been

revised to add more historical information about the pubs and update details of present day occupation.

The highest number of pubs that ever existed in St Ives at any particular time is uncertain, but the author's researches conclude that from the 1830's to the 1870's there were between 60 and 70, around four times the present day 17.

The book is £3.95 and is available at the Norris Museum and Walkers bookshop in St Ives.



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

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

**Open all day Saturday and
Sunday.**



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

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

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

The Pig and Abbot

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

Manor House Hotel

A traditional old country pub

Serving Greene King IPA

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



Full bar snack and restaurant menu.

Plus now serving "A new Black Rock menu"

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



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

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL SUCCESSES

The Oliver Cromwell in St Ives won the CAMRA-sponsored 'Best Pub' prize in the Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Awards in September, and Huntingdonshire CAMRA chalked up its own success in its exhibition stand at the main Huntingdonshire Food and Drink Festival event at Wood Green Animal Shelter.

The festival is the second annual event run by Huntingdonshire District Council and sponsored by Anglian Water, Tesco, Waitrose, the Huntingdon Marriott, The Hunts Post and the Old Bridge Hotel. The festival includes the awards, which are arranged by the Hunts Post in association with Huntingdonshire District Council.



The main festival event at the Wood Green Animal Shelter was declared an even bigger

success than the first event in 2007; it showcased local producers, suppliers and retailers, demonstrating the quality of local food and drink on offer. Over 2000 visitors were able to sample these products and for the first time this included a CAMRA exhibit with local bottled real ales and three local cask real ales for free tasting, from Cambridge Moonshine brewery, Oakham Ales of Peterborough and the Son of Sid brewery at the Chequers in Little Gransden. The event also featured the judging of a 'Best Sandwich in Huntingdonshire' competition and a 'Ready - Steady-Cook' event.



Oliver Cromwell licensee Gerry Schoenfeld and chef Carole Wareing were delighted to receive the



'Best Pub' award from CAMRA's Andy Shaw at an awards evening at the Old Bridge in Huntingdon, attended by representatives from the final three shortlisted pubs for the award, Pidley's Mad Cat and the Cock at Hemingford Grey, as well as the Oliver Cromwell.

The judges were impressed with the well kept and well selected real ales at the Oliver Cromwell - typically six beers are sourced mainly from breweries in East Anglia. Also noted were a wide variety of outstanding food and wine. Lunchtime food options range from snacks to three-course meals, including a broad and imaginative range of vegetarian options, and there is a constantly changing dinner menu. The judges felt that the food is prepared to an exceptional quality.

CAMRA members score pubs in the Huntingdonshire area all the year round for the standards of their cask ales, and all the pubs shortlisted were amongst the top scorers. The final judging looked at the choice of cask ales, the quality and choice of food, the use of locally sourced ingredients, the choice of wines, and value for money.



The Mad Cat offers two real ales, always at least one from a Cambridgeshire brewery. The food menu

is varied and interesting, and most ingredients are sourced from a local farm shop. Huntingdonshire CAMRA gave a 'most improved pub' award to the Mad Cat in 2008 to acknowledge the efforts of the publicans who took over the pub 12 months earlier.



The Cock offers four real ales, and has a policy of only taking real ales from breweries within a one

hour drive of the pub. An outstanding food menu offers quality, variety and originality and the choice of wines is exceptional.



All of these three pubs are expected to be accredited under the new **LocAle**

scheme (see **page 4** for details).

THE CHEQUERS

71 Main Road, Little Gransden

Tel: 01767 677348



**East
Anglia
CAMRA
Pub of
the Year
2008**

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

Different Real Ale each week

The Hyde Park

New street, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1AS



01480 351629

Ali & Steve invite you to join
them at their new Local pub
Come and enjoy a friendly
atmosphere. Enjoy good quality Real Ales,
Great Entertainment and Home cooked food



A.B.V. 3.6% Malty bitterness with
a surprisingly long citrus hop finish

5 REAL ALES ~ always available ~
~ Courage Directors ~ Flowers I.P.A ~
~ John Smith Cask ~ 2 Guest ales ~



A.B.V 3.8% Malty, bitter-sweet and
slightly fruity, to boot.

Traditional Sunday Lunch

Roast Chicken, Beef, Lamb or
Pork served with seasonal
fresh vegetables

Served from 12 til 5

Children welcome

Meat supplied by local family butchers



A.B.V. 4.8% strong
English ale ruby tinged
with a distinctive rich fruity
flavour underpinned by
dry hoppy undertones

Live Music Every Saturday Night

Introducing lots of new acts
to St Neots. Solo and duo artists. A
variety of easy listening, popular music,
including theme nights, 70/80's memo-
ries, soul / motown, comedy acts and
discos.

Entertainment for every taste!

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Join CAMRA today...

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



Save money by paying by Direct Debit

Your Details

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address

..... Postcode

Email address

Tel No (s)

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in?

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>

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

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for

Signed Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108



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

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



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

Originators Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured 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.

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- 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.

Detached and retained this section

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

20 Read Opening Times online: www.huntscamra.org.uk/news



The Eight Bells Abbotsley

Now taking bookings for
the Christmas period
Festive menu available
30th November – 30th December*
3 Courses, £19.95
*Bookings only

Under New Management

The Eight Bells, High Street, Abbotsley, Nr. St Neots, PE19 6UJ
01767 677305

Food Served

Tuesday-Saturday: 12-2.30pm, 6-9pm

Sunday: 12-3pm

Full menu served on Sundays
plus traditional Sunday roast.

20% Senior Citizen's Lunchtime Discount,
Tuesday to Saturday

**Take Away Fish & Chips, Scampi
or Homemade Burgers Available**
Weekly changing Guest Ale

★★ Quiz night plus 'Play Your Cards Wrong' ★★
Every Wednesday night from 8.30pm

CAMRA GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Buy a CAMRA Gift Membership Pack and win Woodforde's beer for yourself!

Looking for new ideas for presents to buy friends and family this Christmas? CAMRA has put together a few great CAMRA Gift Membership ideas for you to choose from. CAMRA will also enter every Gift Membership into a prize draw and three lucky winners will win one of two 18-pint beer boxes of Nelson's Revenge or a 12-bottle case of the same beer. You can either keep the prizes for yourself or alternatively you could give it to the person you have bought the membership for.



CAMRA Gift Membership

CAMRA Membership is the ideal gift for anyone who loves good beer and great pubs. For just £22 the gift membership includes:

- £20 worth of JD Wetherspoon real ale vouchers
- A copy of our new quarterly magazine BEER
- A monthly copy of our newspaper What's Brewing
- Reduced or free entry to over 150 national, regional and local beer festivals
- The chance to support our campaigns such as saving pubs and breweries under threat of closure and reducing beer duty
- Discounts on all CAMRA books including the Good Beer Guide



CAMRA Membership with Good Beer Guide 2009

For just £33 (£32 if bought online) CAMRA Membership with CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2009 is a superb gift for someone who loves trying different pubs that serve quality real ale. This book features the best 4,500 real ale pubs in Britain according to the CAMRA membership. It also provides comprehensive information on more than 650 breweries, from massive to micro.

CAMRA Membership with A Beer A Day

A Beer A Day is a beer lover's paradise, crammed with beers from around the world to enjoy on every day and in every season, and celebrating beer's connections with history, sport, music, film and television. CAMRA Membership and A Beer A Day is a superb present for just £36.99



Please complete the following details and tick the gifts you would like to order:

Gift Memberships:

- ☐ CAMRA Membership with Good Beer Guide 2009 £33 (£32 online) ☐
- ☐ CAMRA Membership with A Beer A Day £36.99 ☐
- ☐ CAMRA Membership £22 ☐

Your details:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Are you a CAMRA member? Yes/No

If Yes, please state your CAMRA Membership

Number: _____

Details of the person you are buying the gift for:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Please state which address you would like the gifts to be sent to:

Your address ☐

Address of the person you are buying the gift for ☐



Payment

Please add £2.50 for postage if you are buying a CAMRA Gift Membership package that includes a book.

There are four ways you can pay for your gifts:

- Cheque - please make payable to CAMRA Ltd and send to CAMRA Membership, 230 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, Herts AL1 1BW
- CAMRA Go-line Shop - please visit www.camra.org.uk/shop
- Call CAMRA HQ on 01727 867201
- Complete the following to pay by credit card:

Name (as appears on card)	
Address (if different to the above)	
Total Cost	
Please charge my Access / Mastercard / Visa / Delta / Switch card	
Card Security Code (3 digits)	
Issue Number for Switch card	Expiry Date
Signature	

All gifts listed on this page are valid until 31 December 2009. Please note all Christmas orders need to be placed by 17 noon, 10 December. All membership packages are based upon standard full membership rates. Please contact 01727 867201 for Under 26 and other concessionary rates. Offer only open to new members and not renewals.

EVENTS AND SOCIALS

Nov 2008 – Music Quiz

Tues 25th Music Quiz, **Market Inn, Huntingdon**. Whether you know a lot about music or just wish to come along for a good evening's entertainment, the quiz will last about 1½ hrs with plenty of time for beer. (Quiz Start 8.00 pm)

Dec 2008 – Local Pubs of St Ives

Tue 2nd Open Committee Meeting, **Green Man, Leighton Bromswold**, (8.30 pm).

Fri 12th Local pubs of **St Ives**. A trip around the pubs of St Ives starting in the **Floods Tavern** 8:30 / **Nelsons Head** 9:15 / **Royal Oak** 9:45 / **Oliver Cromwell** 10:15

Jan 2009 – Christmas Social

Mon 12th Open Committee Meeting, **Rivermill Tavern, Eaton Socon**, (8.30 pm).

Fri 23rd Christmas Social & Home-cooked Produce Competition, **The Chequers, Little Gransden** (8.00 pm). The pub will host the yearly competition (details on the web site) plus an evening of entertainment with a buffet.

Feb 2009 – Community Pubs Tour

Tues 10th Open Committee Meeting, **King of the Belgians, Hartford**, (8.30 pm).

Fri 20th Social around **St Neots** pubs, starting the **Woolpack** at 8:30 pm, the **Hyde Park** at 9.00 pm, and from 9.30 pm at the **Lord John Russell** beer festival.

Sat 28th **Community Pubs Tour**. Coach tour around the village community pubs **West of St Neots**. Pick-ups in St Ives, Huntingdon and St Neots and then return (1:30 pm – 7:30 pm). Free to CAMRA members and £5 for guests.

March 2009 – St Neots Beer Festival

Tues 10th Pre-festival meeting, at the **Lord John Russell**, St Neots (8.30 pm).

Thurs 19th to Saturday 21st **St Neots Beer Festival – Priory Centre, St Neots**.
Opening Times: Thurs: 5-10.45 pm; Fri 12-10.45 pm; Sat 12-10.45 pm.

April 2009 – AGM

Fri 3rd New members' social, **Lord John Russell, St Neots** (8.30 pm).

Tues 21st **Annual General Meeting, The Anchor, Little Paxton** (8.30 pm).

For further information contact Pete Godfrey, Social Secretary, on 01480 212849 or e-mail: socials@hunts.camra.org.uk. An up to date listing of Social Events can also be found at the web site: www.hunts.camra.org.uk/diary.

WHO TO CONTACT

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

Secretary, Press & Publicity: Paul

Moorhouse, (01480) 496247 (h)

Treasurer: Graham Mulchinock, (01480) 474472 (h), treasurer@hunts.camra.org.uk

Membership: Margaret Eames, (01480)

385333 (h)

Socials: Pete Godfrey, (01480) 212849 (h), socials@hunts.camra.org.uk

Pubs Info: Roy Endersby, (01480) 473364, pubs@hunts.camra.org.uk

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

22 Updates to Branch Diary - www.hunts.camra.org.uk/diary

TRADING STANDARDS

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

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

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

OPENING TIMES

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

Views or comments expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the Editor or of CAMRA.

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

To Advertise

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

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

Printed by Lodge Printers Ltd Tel 01487 832629

Deadline for Spring 2009 issue (138) is Friday 16th January 2009.



The Three Horseshoes Inn Abbots Ripton



Village pub with quality ensuite rooms
Greene King IPA and three constantly changing guest beers, including Oakham Ales, plus Westons Old Scrumpy Cider

Opening Times	Modern British cuisine using seasonal and locally sourced ingredients
Monday - Saturday 11.30am - 3pm 6pm - 11pm	Food service 12pm - 2.30pm 6pm - 9.30pm
Sunday 12pm - 5pm	Food service 12pm - 3pm

Accommodation—6 rooms with 4 star AA rating

Moat Lane, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2PA — (01487) 773440
Email: thethreehorseshoes.com@btconnect.com
www.thethreehorseshoes.com

Now Available... THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2009

The *Good Beer Guide* is the long-established pub guide which is beloved by beer enthusiasts. The Guide contains 4500 of the top real ale pubs in the UK including details of which beers they serve, opening hours and address and additional information on food, amenities for families and atmosphere.

As well as being a pub guide, the book contains details on all the country's breweries from the largest companies to the smallest microbreweries. It also includes tasting notes for the vast majority of beers brewed in the UK. *This guide is indispensable for beer lovers and includes a selection of features on beer, brewing and pubs.*

You can buy the *Good Beer Guide* from bookshops but CAMRA makes more money which we then plough back into campaigning if you buy directly from us.

NEW!

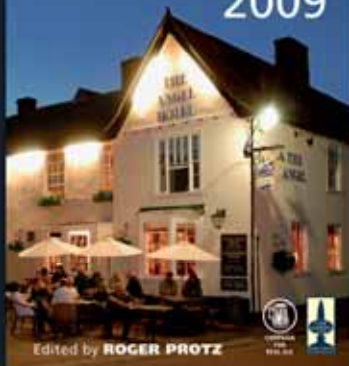
Find the best pubs on your mobile phone

CAMRA is launching a new mobile phone service to help you track down the best real ale pubs from the *Good Beer Guide*. This new service will coincide with the launch of the 2009 *Good Beer Guide* and will feature full contact details, pub descriptions and maps sent direct to your phone.

A new satellite navigation service is also available featuring *Good Beer Guide* pubs for TomTom devices. Further information at www.camra.org.uk/gbg

THE BEST 4,500 PUBS IN BRITAIN

GOOD BEER GUIDE 2009



HOW TO ORDER

Post: Complete the form on this page and send to:

CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW

Phone: To order by credit card please phone 01727 867201 during office hours.

Online: Please visit www.camra.org.uk/shop

Your details (please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

☐

I wish to buy the 2009 Good Beer Guide for £11.00 CAMRA Members only plus p&p

☐

I wish to buy the 2009 Good Beer Guide for £14.99 plus p&p

POSTAL CHARGES

UK orders £1.50 per order plus £1.00 per book.
EU £4.00 per book. Rest of the world £7.00 per book.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone number

CAMRA Membership number

☐

I wish to pay by cheque (payable to CAMRA) **Please remember to add postal charges to all orders**

Charge my

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

☐ Delta

☐ Switch

Card number

Expiry date

Issue Number for Switch Cards

Validation number (last 3 numbers on reverse of card)

Name of cardholder

Signature