



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

# opening times

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

**Issue 145  
Winter 2010-11**



**Booze on the Ouse, St Neots Beer Festival  
Thursday 10—Saturday 12 March 2011**

# Pig n Falcon - St Neots

LIVE MUSIC

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Pot Belly  
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Greene King  
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Plus 5 Guest Ales  
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**455**

FROM 9/4/09

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**2010**

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CAMBRIDGE WINE MERCHANTS - COLNE: GREEN MAN - EARLTH: RIVERVIEW - HOUGHTON:  
THREE HORSESHOES - LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD: GREEN MAN - LONGSTOWE: THE RED HOUSE - OFFORD  
D'ARCY: HORSESHOE INN - OLDHURST: JOHNSONS FARM SHOP -  
ST IVES: OLIVER CROMWELL, WADSWORTHS - ST. NEOTS: PIG + FALCON

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

# CASK ALE WEEK 2011

## NATIONAL Cask Ale WEEK

National Cask Ale Week, will run from 26 March - 3 April 2011, covering two week-ends and not including Easter this time.

Licensees are encouraged to put these dates in their diaries now and look out for further details as they are released.

Objectives are to:

- Raise the profile of real cask ale with the consumer
- Encourage pub goers to try cask ales
- Create an umbrella under which cask ale can be promoted.

Cask Ale Week, organised by CAMRA, the pubs and brewing industry and Cask Marque, the industry-funded real ale quality scheme, will aim to encourage pubs to get involved in a 'Try Before you Buy' initiative, quiz nights, beer tastings, 'Meet the Brewer' evenings, food and beer matching and pub trails.

Cask Marque will focus on 'Try Before you Buy' and will encourage all 6600

Cask Marque outlets to participate.

CAMRA will contact all pubs listed in the Good Beer Guide to encourage them to get involved and participate in 'Try Before you Buy'.

All other brewers, pub groups and licensees will be encouraged to join in with their own initiatives.

All participating pubs will be listed at [www.caskaleweek.co.uk](http://www.caskaleweek.co.uk)

£10 kits of promotional material, beer mats, and posters will be available for pubs.

FemAle Day will be celebrated on Thursday 31 March, presenting an opportunity for pubs to run themed evenings, tastings, beer and food matching and other events aimed at women.



## *The Green Man*



Hunts  
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'Highly  
Commended'  
Pub of the  
Year 2010

Picturesque 16th century village pub, The Green Man serves a choice of cask ales and traditional home cooked meals, by courtesy of 'Bennett's'. Together with a sociable friendly atmosphere, and typical pub games, we also have a converted barn for celebration's or meetings.

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# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## 25 YEARS AGO

Scottish and Newcastle's £134 million takeover bid for Blackburn brewer Matthew Brown failed in a dramatic twist to the nine months affair in December 1985. S & N claimed over 50% of Brown shares after a 90-minute extension to the deadline for bids which was then reversed on appeal, with S & N reverting to a 29.9% shareholding.



James Paine responded to CAMRA's public criticisms of its beer quality by inviting members of local CAMRA branches to a blind tasting of

the beers at the Kings Head in St Neots. Opening Times felt that the beers presented were in reasonable condition, but that the 'XXX and EG could be improved'. The Queen Victoria in St Neots and the Bell at Sawtry had become Tolly Cobbold houses, although Paines XXX was on offer at both of them.

Following the news of Australian brewers Elders IXL's £1.8 billion takeover for Allied Breweries, another of the UK's big six brewing groups, Courage, was under threat after a £1.9 billion bid from the Hanson Trust for the Imperial group, Courage's parent company.

A number of local pubs were changing hands at the end of 1985. Richard and Sue Bellamy took over as managers at Ind Coope's Royal Oak in St Ives. Charles Wells installed new tenants at the Angel in St Neots as previous tenants Brian and Meg Walker moved to the Bell, Eaton So-

con. And Tom and Betty Thompson took over at Whitbread's Ye Olde Sun in St Neots, replacing Jim and Ve Nicholls who had run the pub for over 20 years.

The Waggon and Horses free house at Milton was sold to Neil and Sue Grundy, previous incumbents at two pubs that

had won CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards. A rotating guest real ale was added to the range at the Waggon and Horses from Adnams, Hall & Woodhouse and Ruddles.



St Neots CAMRA visited the Banks and Taylor brewery at Shefford in November 1985 and held a social in Huntingdon at the Market Inn and Falcon. There was a Christmas party at the Crown, Eaton Socon and January joint socials with neighbouring branches at Wyboston Lakes Social Club and the White Horse at Conington.



Allied Breweries decided to drop cask beer from its Ind Coope brewery in Romford, with new investment going into the plant for the production of Castlemaine 4X lager.

Brewers Devenish announced that it was to stop brewing at its Weymouth brewery and concentrate production at its Redruth plant.

# A LOOK BACK IN TIME

## 10 YEARS AGO

The government reviewed the Beer Orders and scrapped the restrictions on brewers owning more than 2000 pubs, giving a green light for large brewers such as Greene King to build up their tied estates, and an option for large global brewers to get back into pub ownership in the UK.



St Neots CAMRA went to Milton brewery in November 2000 and held its winter meetings at the Prince of Wales Hilton, the Millers

Arms at Easton Socon and the Oliver Cromwell in St Ives. The Christmas social in January was at the Green Man, Leighton Bromswold.

Charles Wells launched a new seasonal cask beer, Noggin Warming Winter Ale, brewed to an ABV of 5%.



The Crown at Broughton was sold to a group of locals who jointly raised £180,000 to

buy and renovate the pub, saving it from closure in the face of a number of alternative bids that would not have kept it as a going concern. The group was planning to enlarge the pub's restaurant, install tenants to run the pub and eventually re-sell the re-vamped business.

The Black Bull in St Ives was converted to an Indian restaurant - an early example of

such a change, which requires no planning permission and has led to the loss of large numbers of pubs in the local area. CAMRA is calling for restaurants to be given a separate use class to enforce planning applications for such changes.

In Huntingdon, Irish theme bar O'Reilly's closed in January 2001 to be refurbished as a 'traditional ale house' and renamed the Samuel Pepys.

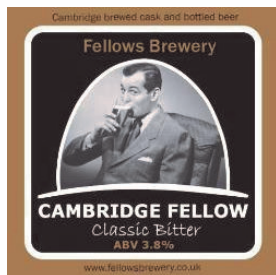


Greene King head brewer Iain Masson left after two years in the post to take up a place on the board at Hardys and Hansons.

In November 2000, Cask Marque, the industry-funded real ale quality scheme, announced new measures to boost real ale's quality and image. Cask Marque accredited pubs would provide 'try before you buy' opportunities and brewers would provide more information on cask labels, including handling tips and taste guidelines.

Scottish Courage launched a canned version of Theakstons Cool Cask with the slogan 'All the Taste of Cool Cask', prompting CAMRA accusations of 'betrayal' and 'muddying the waters'. CAMRA's Head of Campaigns Mike Benner fumed 'At the time of Cool Cask's launch we felt very positive. Now we feel betrayed by a claim that the canned beer will taste the same as the cask version. How can it be real ale?'

# HALF PINTS



Fellows Brewery has been set up in the Cambridgeshire village of Cottenham. Beers are brewed from East Anglian malted barley by

a brewer trained at the brewing school at Birmingham University. Real ales so far have included session bitter Cambridge Fellow and stronger bitters Gulpin Fellow, Clever Fellow and Jolly Fellows.

Lord Conrad's Brewery, based outside



Cambridge at Bar Hill, was set up in 2007 and has been supplying real ale and bottled beer and cider for festivals and

parties but is now targeting the pub trade. Beers have included 'Pheasants Rise' and 'Conkerwood'. 'Spinney' cider included a shot of blackcurrant with every bottle and recent brews have been using wild hops and hedgerow fruits. There have been plans to meet increased demand for Lord Conrad beers by brewing at another brewer's plant in another county.

Real ale outperformed the beer market last year. The fourth annual Cask Ale Report, backed by the brewing industry and CAMRA, shows that cask ale volumes were steady in 2009 against a fall of 4.1% in the total UK beer market. The value of real ale sales was up by 5% against an overall decline of 2%. 3000 new pubs started stocking cask and one in six pints served in UK pubs was real ale. Report writer Pete Brown concluded, 'The con-

*sumer trends around provenance, heritage, taste and so on should give cask brewers and pubs grounds for cautious optimism.'*

Punch Taverns is to dispose of 20% of its estate. They say that they are looking to sell pubs with mostly wet-led sales and many can be expected to be in deprived areas. Punch has previously agreed not to impose restrictive covenants on pubs it sells preventing their future operation as pubs.

Grainstore Brewery in Oakham, Rutland

has launched Rutland Bitter, a real ale brewed to 3.4% ABV. Rutland Bitter was awarded a Protected Geographical Indication whilst the 3.4% ABV beer was brewed by

Ruddles at its Langham brewery close to Oakham, but the name disappeared when Ruddles was closed and production of the brands was moved out of the county. The PGI means that beers with that name must be produced in Rutland, and Grainstore have now gained permission to reclaim the PGI status for Rutland Bitter.

Bedford brewers Wells and Youngs are expected to lose brewing and distribution contracts for Red Stripe and Corona lagers, which account for around 40%

of Wells and Youngs turnover, as the owners of the brands, Desnoes and Geddes (part of Diageo) and Grupo Model





# HALF PINTS

respectively, end contracts and take back control of the brands. Red Stripe has been brewed in Bedford for thirty years and Corona for fifteen years.

New government figures show that just four percent of all licensed premises in England and Wales have a 24-hour licence. Most of them are hotel bars and supermarkets. 4,200 are hotel bars, 1,700 are supermarkets and 950 are pubs, bars and nightclubs. In total there are 178,600 licences to sell alcohol.

Camerons Brewery will brew Tetleys keg Mild and Imperial at its Hartlepool plant from the middle of 2011. Carlsberg, the



Danish owners of Tetleys, are to close the Leeds brewery, home of the iconic Yorkshire beers, in 2011. Cask Tetleys will be brewed in the Midlands. The two

cask milds are already brewed by Marstons in Burton-on-Trent and cask Tetley Bitter will move to Banks's Wolverhampton brewery, also part of the Marstons group, in 2011.

Smaller measures of wine (125ml) and a choice of 25ml or 35ml measures of spirits must be offered by pubs in England and Wales in new rules that came into force in October 2010 and that also include a mandatory age verification policy. New rules from April 2010 outlawed 'irresponsible' drinks promotions and insisted that pubs should offer free tap water to their customers.

The Government has said that there are no plans for a minimum alcohol pricing policy following calls for minimum prices

of 50p per unit of alcohol and a 1,062-strong petition organised by the Publican magazine.

The supermarket chain Asda has introduced a policy not to sell alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT. It means that a pack of 20 of Carling lager will now not be priced below £7.17.

Alcohol consumption in the UK dropped by 6% in 2009, the largest fall in alcohol consumption since 1948. Consumption has fallen by 13% since 2004 and is below the EU average. However, beer sales rose 2.9% in the second quarter of 2010, the first rise in beer sales since 2006. The figures were released by the British Beer and Pub Association

Pubs Group Mitchells & Butlers continues to focus on food led outlets and has sold 333 mostly smaller and unbranded pubs for £375m to a private equity firm.

Belgian brewer Duvel Moortgat has bought the Antwerp-based De Koninck brewery. The deal includes 63 pubs and bars and the beer distributor Brouwerij de Valk, a key supplier to several hundred bars in the Antwerp area.



US brewer Sierra Nevada is to launch a Trappist style Abbey range of beers in March 2011 in partnership with monks at a Cistercian abbey close to the brewery in California. Proceeds from sales will support the rebuilding of a 12th century Cistercian chapter house in the abbey grounds. The beers will be brewed at Sierra Nevada's brewery.

# PUB PIECES

*Reports in Pub Pieces are provided by local CAMRA members and Opening Times readers. Further news of changes at local pubs is welcome. Please send news to [andy.shaw@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:andy.shaw@huntscamra.org.uk)*

**Wetherspoons** will open its new pub in **St Neots**, the **Weeping Ash**, by Christmas. Priorities for other Wetherspoons developments led to suspension of conversion work on their former post office building in New Street after a planned opening date of February 2009 had been announced. Work has now restarted, though, and Wetherspoons say that the new pub will open in December.

The Kings Head in St Neots could reopen as a pub following the withdrawal of plans to convert it to a branch of the West End DIY and wallpaper shop chain. Planners had asked for a revision of plans for the grade II listed building, but architects for the applicants said that this advice came too late for a revision in time for the planning deadline.

The future of the Merry Boys in Eynesbury is uncertain after withdrawal of a planning application from GPS Properties for a housing development that would involve demolition of the pub. Admirals Taverns sold the pub to GPS earlier this year. The plan was withdrawn after concerns were aired by councillors and local residents about the impact on traffic and the loss of an important community amenity if the plan goes ahead. Current plans for the site are unclear.

The Saddle in Kimbolton has returned. It was converted to the La Sella Italian restaurant just over a year ago but is now once again a pub, with its name changed back to the Saddle.



The Hardwicke Arms at Gamlingay has been converted to an Indian restaurant which opened during the summer. Planning permis-



sion is not required for such changes, as restaurants and pubs are included in the same use class. CAMRA is campaigning for this to be changed to allow public objections to changes that would involve the loss of community pubs.

In Eynesbury, the Nags Head, which has been operating as a guest house, is advertising 4pm to 8pm opening of its bar to the public. Opening Times has as yet received no reports of whether any real ale is available here.



A change is under way at the Royal Oak, Hail Weston where the licensee has confirmed that they will be leaving. It is understood that the lease is under offer.





# PUB PIECES



New lessees at the Eaton Oak, Eaton Socon are Paul and Karen Beer, who also run the George & Dragon, Elsworth and the Rose,

Stapleford.

Opening Times has also received reports of new incumbents at the King of Belgians in Hartford, the Market Inn in Huntingdon and the Crown at Broughton.

There is a temporary manager at Charles



Wells pub the Wheatsheaf in Eaton Socon. It has been reported that the White Horse in Eaton Socon

also remains under a temporary manager and that the lease here with Enterprise Inns is 'under offer'.

Huntingdonshire District Council and the



Huntingdon and Godmanchester Civic Society have expressed concerns about deterioration in the fabric of the Falcon, Huntingdon's oldest historic inn, which has been closed for around two years. Punch Taverns have promised to address the issues. The grade II listed pub is available on a new 10, 15 or 20 year as-

signable free of tie lease and a rent free period is offered for the first 6 months of the term.

The lease for the Wrestlers in St Neots is currently available.

Changes are afoot at the Three Horseshoes in

Houghton where a new 20-year lease is available. Real draught Cromwell Cider is a recent



addition to the offering and has been reported to be very popular here.



Real draught cider is now also stocked on a permanent basis at the White Hart, Alconbury Weston.

The Mill in Alconbury has also closed again following a brief reopening after its closure earlier in the year.

The St Ives Motel has closed and is advertised for sale with 'alternative leisure use potential'.

The Globe in St Neots has been sold. This pub had been closed for some time, but the future now is unclear.

The Lion in Buckden is being refurbished.

There are also proposals for an extension to the Three Horseshoes at Great Stukeley.

There have been reports that the Exhibition and the Royal Oak in Godmanchester

# PUB PIECES

are offering wider ranges of guest beers.

The Horseshoe at Offord has joined Oakham's 'Oakademy of Excellence' scheme,



and will now be permanently featuring Oakham Ales. Their 5 real ales usually

includes Potton, Elgoods and Chirch End. The Horseshoe has also received a maximum five-star 'Scores on the Doors' food hygiene rating from local environmental health officers, and the pub has submitted a planning application for a single storey extension.

The Crown, Litlington has been recently refurbished inside and out, and is reported to be a thriving local village community pub. It will be one of the pubs the Hunts branch visits on its Community Pub Tour in February.



The number of real festivals at local pubs seems to be greater every summer. In addition to eight festivals listed in the pre-



vious issue, Opening Times has received reports of successful recent

festivals at the Plough in Eynesbury, the George and Dragon, Eaton Socon and the White Hart at Godmanchester.

Changes of management are reported at

the White Swan, Bluntisham, the Green Man, Colne and the Black Bull, Somersham.

Black Bull owner Stephen Wadsworth contacted

Opening Times to tell us of the completion of a major refurbishment of



the pub and kitchen and a change to a more relaxed atmosphere. There is a rotating guest beer alongside the Greene King cask beers.

A serious fire at the Chequers in Eynesbury has caused damage to the living quarters but does not appear to have affected trading at the pub.

## The Three Horseshoes

### Wistow

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- Beer garden.
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Adnams Broadside

Greene King Abbot + Guests

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Restaurant open Friday & Saturday  
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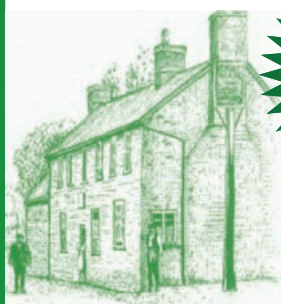
## THE CHEQUERS

71 Main Road, Little Gransden

Tel: 01767 677348

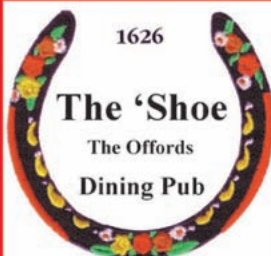
*Bob and Wendy Mitchell  
invite you to try their unique  
unspoilt village local with its  
own special atmosphere*

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



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St. Neots. Cambs.  
PE19 5RH*



# ‘BOOZE ON THE OUSE’



CAMRA's 'Booze on the Ouse' beer festival in St Ives in September continued the success of last years event with a large number of East Anglian brewers and cider

makers represented.

Our policy of offering a good selection of locally produced real ales and ciders continued to prove popular, with 1,440 people enjoying over 3,800 pints of real ale, 570 pints of cider, and 430 bottles of foreign beer.



The favourite real ale at the festival was Historic Porter from Hopshackle brewery in Market Deeping, Lincolnshire. Historic Porter is a 4.8% dark beer tasting of bitter chocolate and liquorice. Second was Orkney Blast from Highland, which recently won the award Champion Beer of Scotland. Third was Golden Shower Extra from Son of Sid.

The most popular cider was Oliver's Choice from Cromwell. At the festival Tony Hobbs of Cromwell Cider was presented with an award for the Champion Bottled Cider for

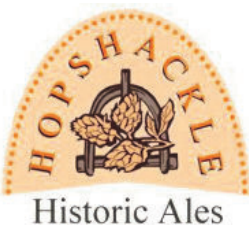


East Anglia, for the second year in a row.

Congratulations to Mick Shanley from St Ives, the winner of the Hunts Post competition, who won a copy of the 2011 Good Beer Guide which was launched at the festival.



We are already planning the next 'Booze on the Ouse', to be held at the Priory Centre, St Neots, 10th-12th March, 2011. Our theme will be CAMRA's 40th Birthday, so we hope you will come and join in the celebrations!



## Beer and Cider Festival St Neots — 2011



**Happy 40th Birthday CAMRA**  
**10-12 March 2011**

**Over 55 real ales**

**Real cider & perry**

VENUE Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots, PE19 2BH  
OPENING TIMES  
Thu 5pm-10.45pm, Fri 12 noon-10.45pm, Sat 12 noon-10pm

**Foreign beer**

**Food & soft drinks**

ADMISSION (including programme)  
Before 7pm: £1, After 7pm: £2 Thu, £3 Fri, £1 Sat all day.  
CAMRA members free admission  
Families welcome until 8pm sessions

[www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk/festival) for more details

**12 Join 120,000 members of CAMRA and fight for Britain's beer heritage**

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Applications will be processed within 21 days

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Forename(s) .....  
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Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....  
Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? .....

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Direct Debit £20 ☐ Non DD £22 ☐

Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)

£25 ☐ £27 ☐

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://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 .....

0709

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

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



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Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.  
230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



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To the Manager Bank or Building Society

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Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code

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 **Oakham ales**  
[www.oakhamales.com](http://www.oakhamales.com) Tel 01733 370500

# EVENTS AND SOCIALS

## November 2010 - Pub Quiz

- Tues 9th Open committee meeting at the **Market Inn, Huntingdon** (20:30)
- Fri 19th Pub quiz at the **Market Inn, Huntingdon**. 20:30 start in the function room. Come and join us for our general knowledge quiz, and knowing Keith there's bound to be a music round too!

## December 2010 - Pubs of Huntingdon

- Fri 3rd A stroll around the pubs of **Huntingdon**. Meet at the **Old Bridge** from 19:30, **Victoria** 20:30, **Samuel Pepys** 21:15, **George Hotel** 21:45, **Market Inn** 22:15
- Tues 14th Open committee meeting at the **Hyde Park, St Neots** (20:30)

## January 2011 - Post-Christmas Social

- Tues 11th Open committee meeting at the **King of the Belgians, Hartford** (20:30)
- Fri 28th Christmas at the **Chequers, Little Gransden** (20:00). Annual (post) Christmas bash with Bob and Wendy at the Chequers. As usual, there will be; the customary 'cook off' competition (details tbc), food and Bob will be making sure that there will be an appropriate selection of real ales.

## February 2011 - Community Pubs Tour

- Tues 8th Open committee meeting at the **Market Inn, Huntingdon** (20:30)
- Sat 19th **Community pub tour**. Coach tour to visit and support village pubs south and east of St Neots, including the Pig & Abbot, Abington Pigotts, the Red House, Longstowe. Free to CAMRA members. See website for more details.

## March 2011 - Pubs of Huntingdon

- Tues 1st Pre-festival meeting at the **Anchor, Little Paxton** (20:30)
- Fri 25th Post-festival social at the **Weeping Ash, St Neots** (20:30).

## April 2011 - Annual General Meeting

- Tues 5th Annual general meeting at the **Black Bull, Brampton** (20:30)
- An up to date listing of social events can be found on the website: [www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary](http://www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary).

# WHO TO CONTACT

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

**Vice-Chairman:** Richard Harrison, 07740 675712 (m), [vicechairman@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:vicechairman@huntscamra.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Helen Barnard, 07866 171176 (m), [secretary@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@huntscamra.org.uk)

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

**Membership:** Margaret Eames, 01480 385333 (h)

**Pubs Info:** Roy Endersby, 01480 473364, [pubs@huntscamra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@huntscamra.org.uk)

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

**14 Updates to Branch Diary - [www.huntscamra.org.uk/diary](http://www.huntscamra.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/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/trading/). The national trading standards web site is [www.tradingstandards.gov.uk](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk).

## OPENING TIMES

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### To Advertise

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

Neil Richards: 01536 358670 or [N.Richards@btinternet.com](mailto:N.Richards@btinternet.com)

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**Deadline for Spring 2011 issue (146) is Friday 14th January 2011.**

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# The White Hart

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**[www.whitehart-godmanchester.co.uk](http://www.whitehart-godmanchester.co.uk)**



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