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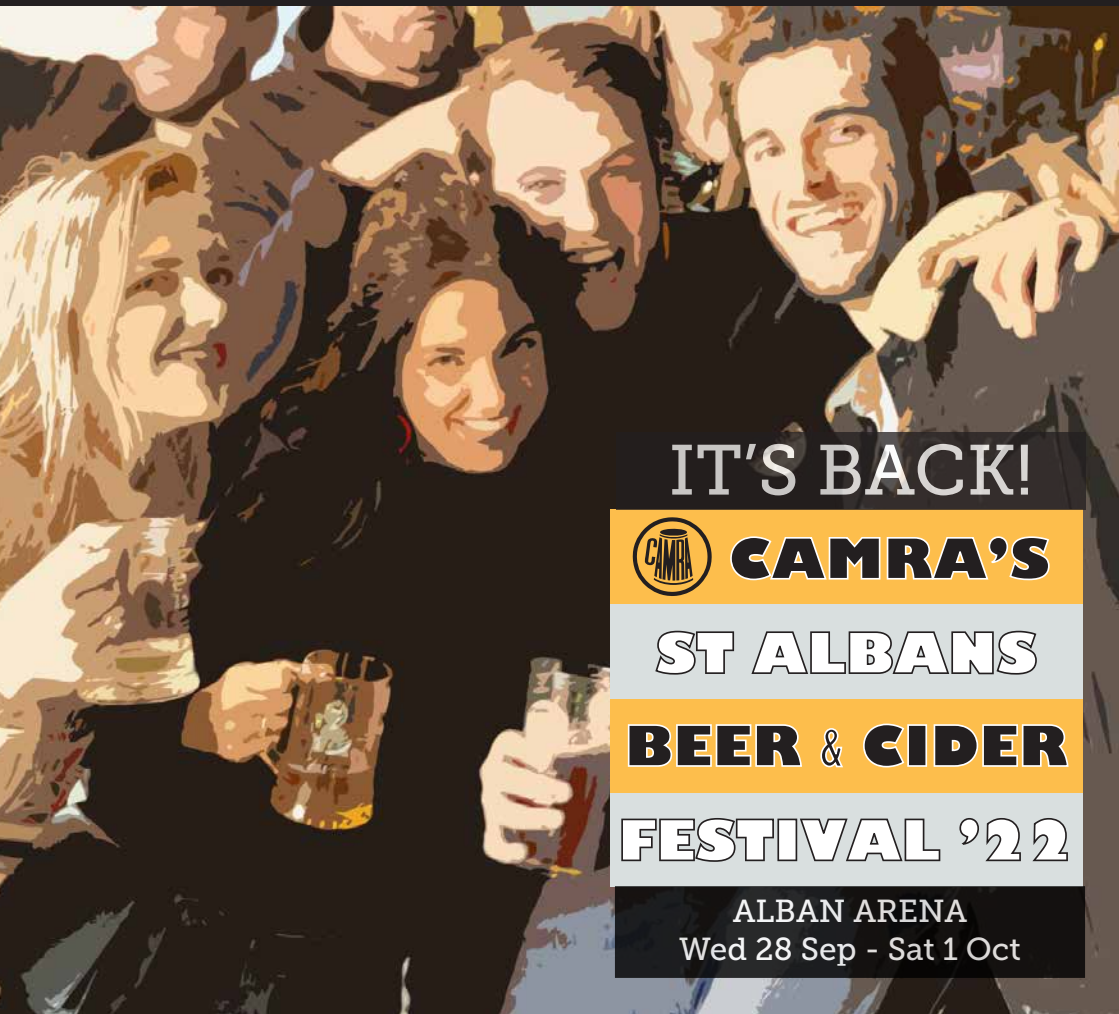
HERTFORDSHIRE

Pints of View



Autumn Edition: Sep - Nov 2022

Issue No. 304



IT'S BACK!



CAMRA'S

ST ALBANS

BEER & CIDER

FESTIVAL '22

ALBAN ARENA

Wed 28 Sep - Sat 1 Oct



Magazine

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Learn How to Score Beer: Page 19

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Festival

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PRESENTS



Billett



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Campaign Column

CAMRA urges Government to put tied tenants' views front and centre of Pubs Code Review

CAMRA is calling on tied tenants in England and Wales to share their views on the Pubs Code and how it is working, via a simple and easily accessible online survey. The survey has the option of responding anonymously and is available here: <https://forms.office.com/r/SBN3ymJax9>

CAMRA played an instrumental role in getting the introduction of the Pubs Code for England and Wales in 2016 and is keen to ensure tied tenants' views are front and centre in the second statutory review of the legislation.

The Pubs Code is a fundamental part of the key legislation that is meant to regulate and balance the relationship between tied tenants and their pub companies. It was brought in after the self-regulation regimes put in place by pub owning businesses were found by Parliament to have fundamentally failed.

A review of how it is working in practice has been launched by the Department for Business, Energy

and Industrial Strategy and will cover the period April 2019 – March 2022.

Nik Antona, CAMRA Chairman said:

"The introduction of the Pubs Code was the culmination of years of campaigning by tied tenants, however, it's not delivering as it was intended. It's vital that tied tenants take part in the Pubs Code Review and are able to be honest and open about where the Code is working and, more importantly, where it isn't."

Every time legislation concerning pub companies is proposed or reviewed, we see the inevitable slew of press-releases and reports extolling the virtues of the tied model. While pub companies certainly offer services for tenants, it is vital that tied tenants are given the opportunity to share views independently of their pub companies, and with the option to remain anonymous if they wish – which our survey allows.

We will be submitting the survey results to the Department for Energy, Business and Industrial Strategy, alongside our formal submission which will raise issues such as inflated dilapidations bills, guest beer rights, and the necessary expansion of the remit of the Code to include more tied tenants and types of operating agreements."



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Steve's Shout

Ask your MP to sign EDM 292

An Early Day Motion (EDM) has been tabled by John Cryer MP (Lab) Leyton and Wanstead on the use of upwards-only rent reviews for pub tenants. In these hard and uncertain times for pub tenants it is completely wrong for the Pub Cos and brewers not to recognise that some businesses are suffering through no fault of their own and should receive rent reductions when reviews are due.

Your first question may be what is an EDM? Early Day Motions are motions submitted for debate in the House of Commons for which no date has been fixed. In essence, they are statements on topics or campaigns that MPs can add their names to in support. While EDMs carry no legislative weight, and cannot compel the Government to act, they can be useful to show cross party support for a range of issues or occasions and present an opportunity to engage with local MPs.

Please note that members of the Government, Parliamentary Private Secretaries (PPSs), and some MPs do not sign EDMs as a matter of course – if that's the case for your local MP, you can always ask them to write to a relevant Minister about the issue, on your behalf.

Hertfordshire has nine MP's and one of the EDM's original six sponsors is Mike Penning (Con) Dacorum. Taking this into account, it would be great to get all the other eight to support, namely:-

Oliver Heald (Con) North Herts
Gagan Mohindra (Con) South West Herts
Daisy Cooper (Lib) St Albans
Oliver Dowden (Con) Hertsmere
Bim Afalomi (Con) Hitchin & Harpenden
Grant Shapps (Con) Welwyn & Hatfield
Julie Marson (Con) Hertford & Stortford
Richard Harrington (Con) Watford

EDM 292 – Pub Tenants was lodged on 15 July 2022 and can be found at: <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59999/pub-tenants>. Those MPs who have signed it are listed at the bottom of the page.

The text of the EDM reads:-

"That this House is deeply concerned at the prevalence of upward-only rent reviews among pub tenants; recognises that large numbers of tenants are being placed in extremely difficult financial positions by such rent reviews and the actions of avaricious landlords; notes that in Ireland and Australia such rent reviews have been made illegal; and calls on the Government to follow those examples and to make upwards-only rent reviews illegal in order to help very hard pressed tenants."

I'm lobbying Oliver Dowden, my local MP, to sign the motion and I would strongly urge all lovers of pubs to do likewise. With the Pub Code Review taking place, it could not be a better time to help get the legislation improved

Steve Bury



Herts Pub & Brewery News

Two South Herts Pubs on National Awards list

The Elephant & Castle at Amwell has reached the final six in the Best Country/Rural Pub category of the 2022 Great British Pub Awards run by the Morning Advertiser (MA). For those of you who don't know the MA is the licensed trade daily newspaper.

Nick Farr, managing director of the pub's owners Farr Brew, said: *"We are delighted that Farr Brew's flagship pub has been recognised nationally. This beautiful pub was restored by us over lockdown and is now proving that our hard work was well worthwhile. There are five rotating Farr Brew ales, extraordinary gardens with wildflower areas and a large lawn for lazy summer days. We have external bars and covered space in the event of the weather deteriorating. There is also a play fort and swings, plus a secret hidden castle. Internally we have a pub which retains all its character features whilst catering for all. Getting into the top six nationwide is an incredible accomplishment for our team already, and judging will be taking place during the summer months with the results announced in October."*

The other shortlisted pub is Dylans at the King's Arms in St Albans, this time for the Best Young Pub Chef category.

Owner Sean Hughes said: *"We are delighted that one of our apprentices from Oaklands, Eddy Moore, has reached the finals of the Great British Pub Awards. Eddy joined us around four years ago and has trained in the kitchens. He is soon due to move on to Trinity Restaurant in London and we are all very proud of him and wish him every success in his new venture moving up the ladder in hospitality."*

Below is the list of finalists in the categories featuring Hertfordshire pubs:

Best Country/Rural Pub

- The Elephant & Castle - St Albans, Hertfordshire
- The Old Queens Head - Penn, Buckinghamshire
- The Cherry Tree Inn - Catthorpe, Leicestershire
- The Red Lion - Cranford, Northamptonshire
- The Three Hills - Bartlow, Cambridgeshire
- Ye Olde Bridge Inn - Oxtun, Nottinghamshire

Best Young Pub Chef

- Eddy Moore - Dylans at the Kings Arms, St Albans, Hertfordshire
- Ellie Fitch-Goodwin - The Pitymee Inn, Wadebridge, Cornwall
- Albert Kingwell - The Kings Arms, Bexleyheath, Kent
- Tiffany Long - The White Hart Free House, Ashill, Thetford, Norfolk
- Ewan Lawrenson - The White Cross, Lancaster, Lancashire
- Jack Cronin-Aldridge - The Old Ram Coaching Inn, Tivetshall St Mary, Long Stratton, Norfolk



East Anglia Club & Pub of the Year 2022 Winners

Thanks to everyone who helped judge this year's competition.

Club winner is the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (<https://whatpub.com/HEB/11466>) and Pub winner is the Kings Head, Norwich (<https://whatpub.com/NOR/813>). Arrangements are being made for the presentation, and branches will be notified once details have been confirmed.

Congratulations to both winners. We look forward to printing a write-up on the presentations in the next edition of PoV.

Andrea Briers, East Anglia Regional Organiser



GREAT BRITISH PUB AWARDS 2022 FINALIST

Elephant & Castle.

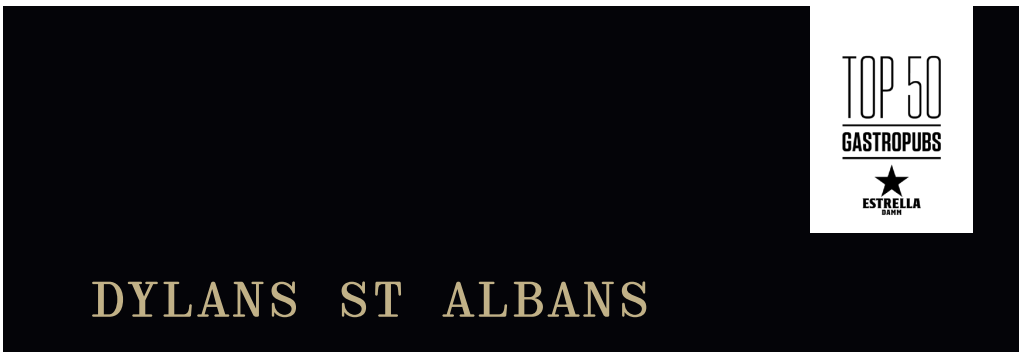
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South Herts Awards Trip

July 30th saw South Herts branch make visits and present five awards. The weather was very warm, as it has been for about a month, and although it was dry and arid, outside there was plenty of excellent beer to be had to quench the party's thirst.

First point of call was the **White Lion** St Albans which has been taken over by Big Smoke brewery. The 16th century Grade II listed pub has been recently refurbished, balancing the traditional with contemporary. The intimate front bar remains and is dominated by six hand pumps, while a larger main bar offers comfort for drinkers and diners. The large rear garden is a sunny summer haven. Excellent home-cooked food is served every day. Events include beer festivals and quiz nights. Areas inside and outside can be booked for functions and meetings. Outside there's a bar-in-a-van at the weekends. The **White Lion** before the take-over had seen a series of managers and had been neglected. It is pleasing to see the new enthusiasm; "Most Improved Pub" award is truly deserved.



Adrian Roberts, **White Lion** manager receives the award from Ian Boyd, South Herts CAMRA Chair.

The next stop was the **Royston Social Club**, College Road, St Albans which is something of a hidden gem in an area of St Albans that does not have many other real ale options. A warm welcome awaits card-carrying CAMRA members who can use the bar facilities as guests. A large function-room at the back, complete with a stage, is available for hire. Entertainment provisions include a juke box, pool table and several dart boards. Unfortunately, the snooker hall at the rear is currently out of commission although the club's management aim to refurbish this in the future. Awarded South Hertfordshire CAMRA's joint Club of the Year award in 2021, South Herts branch have held their AGM at the Social Club and members have enjoyed the ales on offer. It is not surprising that the Club has



Joy Lloyd from the **Royston Club** receives the award from Ian Boyd

received another award for 2022.

The visit to the Royston Club was then followed by a short trip east to Potters Bar and the **Cask & Stillage** in the High Street. A single bar local, with an inglenook fireplace and interesting display cabinets, specialising in Thai food. There's Karaoke every Saturday evening from 9pm. A very large beer garden with three TV's adds to a further three inside the pub for watching different sports. It can become very busy at weekends and is very much supported by the local community of Potters Bar. A real local's local! Although owned by Heineken, the pub serves a selection of beers from small brewers. On the day, Northern Monk Eternal 4.1% ABV and Vocation Heart & Soul 4.4% ABV were on cask and were superb. The pub is certainly deserving of "Most Improved Pub" award.



James and Elizabeth McLaughlin, **Cask & Stillage** Licencees, being presented their award by Ian Boyd

At this point it should be explained that "Most Improved Pub" awards are presented on merit to pubs nominated by active members. Both the period of time and number of awards are flexible.

Following a pleasant couple of pints and the award being presented, the minibus took us on to the

Brookmans. This was the only pub on the trip not getting an award but the branch had not visited for a long time, and for some of the team it was a first. The building circa 1930 retains many of the original features including American Diner seating which has been restored. Posters with a transport theme are on display in the highceilinged bar area. Three real ales (GK IPA and two micro brewers) are on hand pump on the central bar separating the drinking and dining areas. Don't forget to log in at bar if using the car park.

Back on the award trail, the next stop was the **North Mymms Club** in Station Road, Welham Green.

This is a warm and friendly, fully air-conditioned, village social club. Members only but card-carrying CAMRA members are welcome on signing-in (£1 requested). Knock on the door and wait for admittance. Two cask beers are available from a rotating list of around a dozen. There are two full size snooker tables upstairs, and pool and darts are popular in the main bar area with teams competing in local leagues. A large screen TV shows sporting events and the club hosts a monthly Saturday night quiz, occasional live music as advertised and various 'themed' days throughout the year. Competition for



L-R: Steve Seal (North Mymms Social Club Chair), Michelle Collings (Bar Manager), Bernadette Sullivan (former Bar Manager) holding award, Ian Boyd (South Herts CAMRA Chair), Dianne Taylor (Membership Secretary) and husband Andy.

the Club award is fierce and we are pleased to announce that the **North Mymms Club** was the South Herts overall winner and will now go forward into the county stage of the National Competition.

This year the **North Mymms Club** got gold, the **Hertford Club** in Bull Plain, Hertford got silver and had its award presented on the 16th August and the **Royston Club** received the bronze award.

The last stop of the day was the **Woodman** at Wildhill which is the winner of the gold award in the "Pub of the Year" competition. For those of you who

have been remiss not to have visited the **Woodman** a treat is in store; this is a superb boozer. The pub is in the second generation of being family run and is a friendly, 90% wet-led establishment, twelve times winner of South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year and three times Hertfordshire Pub of the Year. The pub has been winning CAMRA awards for decades and has dedicated a full wall to display them. This is an excellent unpretentious rural community local which thrives on, and is a staunch supporter of, real ale. Six ales including four guests. Lined oversized glasses are available on request. The large garden is ideal in summer and a Woodmanstock music festival takes place once a year. Good pub grub is served lunchtimes (no food Sunday). Look out for God's Waiting Room! For those who like a walk, Welham Green railway station is just under three miles away.



Vicky Craig (Woodman Licencee) holding shield with, to her right, Ian Boyd (South Herts CAMRA Chair) and to her left, bar staff Anna Judson and Chris Castle. Behind Vicky are Ros and Tom Craig (previous licencees) and Andrew Craig who provided a short speech

The photo shows the winning team outside the pub. Graham and Ros Craig also personally hold the branch's highest award, the Dave Burns Memorial Award (DBMA) for dedication to cask ale. If you visited the pub today it would be hard to imagine that it nearly closed permanently in the 70's. The Woodman was bought from Ind Coope by the Gascoyne Estate and has been leased ever since. A true free house that keeps its prices at a competitive level.

Congratulations to all the award winners; the other presentations are eagerly anticipated!

Paul Woodhouse & Steve Bury



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Royston Club, St Albans

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Awards aplenty – The Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty scoops more honours



The consistent excellence under Martin and Gill's management has now led to the pub winning Watford & District branch Pub of the Year competition 13 times, Hertfordshire Pub of the Year competition seven times and even reaching the CAMRA National Pub of the Year finals on one occasion. Quite an achievement.

As well as a reputation for top-quality ales that draw customers from all over the country, the pub's other attractions include an outdoor wooden pavilion with seating and a spacious hop garden that's ideal for summer al fresco drinking. It's well located for Junction 17 of the M25 and has a large car park, but if you don't have a designated driver the pub's only a 20-minute walk from Chorleywood tube station on the Metropolitan Line.

The Pub of the Year certificates will be presented at 8.30pm on Thursday 6th October. I'm sure plenty of excellent beer will be available as always. Definitely a date for your diary!

www.landoflibertypub.com/

Andrew Vaughan

It's award-time again for the Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, which has won both the Watford & District Pub of the Year and Hertfordshire Pub of the Year awards once again.

The Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty is located in rural Heronsgate, near the commuter village of Chorleywood and a short distance from the M25 and the Metropolitan Line. In the 19th Century Heronsgate was the location of the Chartist settlement O'Connorville, founded by Feargus O'Connor and intended to be run as a self-sufficient farming community populated by families from the industrial North. The Chartists forbade pubs in O'Connorville, but a beer house was just outside the borders of the village and became known as the Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty as a tribute to the Chartist ideals and possibly a rebuke to their restrictions. The pub was owned by Harman's Uxbridge Brewery Ltd during the 20th Century and became a Courage pub after Harman's was taken over by Courage, Barclay, and Simmonds in 1962. Even in recent years Courage Directors had been available as a regular beer on the bar. However, since 2005 under the management of Martin Few and Gill Gibson the pub has become a Real Ale haven, with an ever-changing range of beers from small, independent breweries, all beautifully kept thanks to Martin's dedication and experience.



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Borehamwood becomes a beer desert, Again

At the end of July I did a tour of Borehamwood pubs to update WhatPub the CAMRA national pub database. The results I must say were disappointing and reminded me of an article I wrote following another survey of the town over twenty years ago.

When Borehamwood was built as a new town after WW2 the pubs were left in the ownership of the council and were looked upon as a civic amenity leased out to the brewers. This unfortunately failed and the fifteen pubs has now reduced to eight. The Suffolk Punch (named after the breed of dray horse) originally Charrington's and then Wells was renamed the Willow Tree and converted to housing. The Bull & Tiger in Manor Way was originally Watney's then Courage, was renamed the Directors Arms (or the Injectors Arms as it was jokingly referred to, locally) again went to housing. The Canon in Thirsk Road which was originally Taylor Walker which had an incredible selection of single malt whiskies at one time, also had its lease returned to the council who have it listed for development to residential. The Woodcock in Croxdale Road originally Watney's was closed after a large amount of antisocial behaviour by customers. The licensee won an appeal and the pub re-opened for a period before also being closed. Although metal-shuttered, it still managed to catch fire and there is now a block of flats on the site. Two early losses were the Elstree Arms which was an Allied Brewers training pub, closed and converted to

offices, and the Red Lion originally Benskins opposite Tesco's and the studio's which was converted into a McDonald's. The Crown, which was opposite the station got into private hands and was leased to a small Pub Co called Barracuda which went bankrupt. Even though the Crown had an ACV, Hertsmere Council removed its status and the pub was converted into a Sainsbury's convenience store. So these have all gone, but what about those that have survived? The Wellington in Theobald Street, which has now had WD6 added to the name had the car park developed for housing. Upon re-opening it had been tastefully refurbished and served two real ales. I had high hopes for this pub, but after the lockdowns cask beer did not return. The Green Dragon in Leaming Road has discontinued the cask Doom Bar and the Oak, previously the Shooting Star, has not served real ale for many years. The same applies to the bar attached to the Toby Carvery at Oaklands which did serve Doom Bar but I was informed on my visit that it had been removed due to lack of demand.

The Hilton, previously the Thatched Barn, has not served real ale for many years. In Shenley Lane the Alfred Arms was at one time a Hogshead run by Whitbread and served a variety of real ales, but cask beer stopped well in advance of the pandemic. The Wishing Well, also a shop conversion, has never served cask ale in my memory.

Last but most important are the two remaining real ale outlets. The Hart & Spool Wetherspoon's at the Tesco end of Shenley Lane serves a good variety of real ales and does a very good trade. My only criticism is that it could do with a make-over.

The Mops & Brooms, Rowley Lane, Well End is a Mac's pub which serves AK and Country Bitter plus the guest beers brewed by Mac's. The pub has a large garden and is an oasis in the Borehamwood beer desert.

So the question is why is there so little real ale in Borehamwood (I am not ignoring that other areas are going the same way). The downturn due to the pandemic must be one of the major factors, but there is also a lack of interest by the pubs themselves. As real ale has a limited shelf life and needs more looking-after (cellarmanship) they cannot be bothered. We are now getting back to the situation that started CAMRA in the first place and the only way to get more cask ale and more outlets serving it is for us to build up the demand again. This means targeting specific pubs and asking why they do not sell real ale. As customers you should be telling those on the other side of the bar what you want. Let's face it, most beer in Hertfordshire is now the wrong side of £4 a pint so when you are parting with your hard earned income you should expect to get what you want not what the Brewers and Pub Co's tell you can have.

Steve Bury



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Farriers Arms a Community Asset



Pub lovers are cheering the news that the future of the much-loved Farriers Arms is more secure thanks to action by St Albans Council.

The council has awarded the pub in Lower Dagnall Street an Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing. The ACV imposes a moratorium of six months on the possible sale of the pub, giving its supporters time to find a new owner or to raise the funds to buy the pub themselves and run it as a community local.

The Farriers has played a key role in the history of the Campaign for Real Ale, which has its head office just over a mile away in Hatfield Road. A plaque on the outside wall of the pub celebrates the fact that the first CAMRA branch was founded there in the 1970s.

Fears were raised in 2021 when the owners of the pub, Tony and Jannine Passmore, announced they planned to retire and put the Farriers up for sale. Members of the South Herts branch of CAMRA and LibDem district councillors voiced concern that the pub might be turned into private housing, robbing the area of a traditional pub that served cask beer and good food.

An ACV listing means the council could step in if a new owner was considered unsuitable. The legislation covering ACVs means the council could make a compulsory purchase order to take over the pub to stop it falling into the wrong hands.

But the six months moratorium doesn't prevent the Passmores from selling the pub during that period if all sides are happy with a new owner who will maintain the Farriers as a pub.

It has been a pub since the 1920s. Before that it was a corner shop and then a butcher's. The pub was owned for many years by Hertford family brewers McMullen's, who sold it to the Passmores in 2013. They ran it as a free house.

CAMRA members from all parts of the country visit the pub as a result of its important role in the history of the campaign. The plaque was placed there by the Society for the Promotion of Historic Buildings and the wording says: *"The first branch meeting of the Campaign for Real Ale was held here 20th November 1972."*

Steve Bury, one of the founding members of the branch and still active as editor of its newsletter Pints of View, recalls: "The plaque wasn't well made and after a few years most of the letters had fallen off!"

"Fortunately, McMullen came to the rescue and erected a better-quality plaque that has survived to this day."

Now he and his colleagues in the South Herts branch hope the ACV listing will give them, councillors and residents the opportunity to find new owners who will maintain the Farriers as a popular community local.

Emily Ryans, who has been CAMRA's liaison member with the council, says: *"The Farriers has a rich and important history for St Albans' beer drinkers and it can have an equally bright future."*

Our city has seen many fine pubs close over the years but it cannot afford to lose one as special as the Farriers and this new ACV status recognises that."

Roger Protz

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Wishing a welcome to the Cother Arms

Cask ale has made a return at the Cother Arms on St Albans Road in Watford. Until very recently the pub was named the Wishing Well but underwent a refurbishment and took on a new name after becoming part of Stonegate Group's Craft Union Pub Company. As part of the renovation two handpumps have been installed, with the pub most recently serving Sharp's Doom Bar and Timothy Taylor's Landlord. It's certainly a welcome development at a time when some other pubs in the area having been removing their handpumps.

The open-plan interior has been tastefully refurbished in warm colours with wooden panels and flooring, and brown leather seats. A wall-size reproduction of an early Ordnance Survey map of North Watford overlooks the dart board and pool table. It was interesting to see from the map that it really was all fields in the area back then. The pub's name is also of historical significance. It refers to the brothers Jack and Edwin Cother, who played for Watford FC in the late 19th century. According to Geoff Wicken, chairman and editor of the Watford Treasury magazine, the brothers had an Indian father and Jack was the first player of Asian heritage to play professionally; eventually making a further mark as the first player to play more than 100 games for



The Cother Arms in Watford



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CAMRA members may be signed on production of their CAMRA membership card

Lombard House, Bull Plain, HERTFORD, SG14 1DT 01992 421422

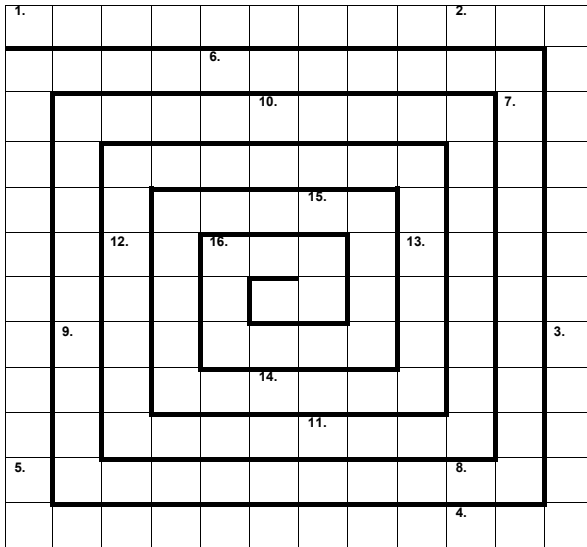
Watford FC. A photo of Jack in action can be seen on the pub's sign.

Entertainment currently includes a Friday night disco, open mic night on Thursday and a monthly LGBTQ night, so there's plenty going on. There's also the traditional diversion of sports TV. The pub has both Sky Sports and BT Sports and there are TVs in every part of the pub, so you won't miss a thing. For more information about the pub and the Cother brothers, go to:

www.craftunionpubs.com/cother-arms-watford
www.watfordfc.com/news/club/news-jack-cother-remembered-at-the-vic

Andrew Vaughan

Brewery Names Catherine Wheel



Completed entries to: Steve Bury,
14 New Road, Shenley, Herts. WD7
9EA.

Closing date: 17th September.

3 x 1st Prizes will be drawn from
the correct entries.

Forename.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

There are sixteen brewers in the Catherine Wheel above and all are listed in the 2022 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

Starting from 1. in the top-left

corner, fill in the answers from the clues which are **ANAGRAMS** of brewers names. The last letter of each answer is also the first letter of the next.

3 x 1st Prizes

VIP Fast-Track entry to



CAMRA'S
BEER & CIDER

ST ALBANS
FESTIVAL '22



Each prize comprises:

Entry for one to **any** session

Festival glass (choose pint or half)

Four pints worth of beer tokens

Winner of Pints of View 303
Beer Name Sudoku

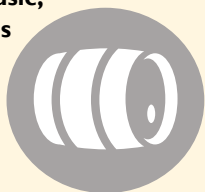
D. Gregory, Stevenage, Herts.

Clues:

1. THICK METER in Cornwall
2. TAKE SIGNS in W Sussex
3. FIND EEL in Edmonton
4. NEVER A DOLLY in Derbyshire
5. RISK TORY CHASE in Bridlington
6. KEY SLANT in Sidcup
7. HES ONE GENT in Salisbury
8. EEC BRIT CLEAR in Bath
9. I RENT MOPED in Tottenham
10. PERISH WREN THORN in Lancs
11. OUR CHARGE in Cambs
12. STEER SEX SET in London
13. IN DEATH in Bury
14. ROAD PARTED in S Yorks
15. TEAK SPHERE in Lancs
16. RINSE in Berks

St Albans Beer & Cider Festival is back for 2022!

After three years away, we return to the **Alban Arena this September for our 25th Festival**. With this year also marking 50 years of CAMRA in Herts, it's a silver and golden jubilee for us all in one – as reflected in the colours of this year's logo. Whether you're a festival regular or a first-timer, we'd love to welcome you for what promises to be a **fantastic pageant of real ale, craft beer and cider** – with **delicious street food, great live music, and other attractions** thrown into the mix. Expect all your favourite festival features, plus some new twists for 2022.



With a revised layout and some brand new bars, this should be our best festival yet!

- A huge range of outstanding, chilled cask ales
- Delicious, modern craft beers, served cold
- Many brewery showcase bars
- A specially-curated selection of the county's best beers on our Hertfordshire Bar
- Bottled foreign beers from all over the world
- Traditional real ciders and perries
- Indoor and outdoor bars and seating
- Souvenir glass in a choice of pint or half-pint
- A selection of traditional snacks and street food for all tastes
- Live entertainment during some sessions



stalbandsbf.org.uk



facebook.com/stalbansbf



instagram.com/stalbansbf



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CAMRA'S

BEER & CIDER



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PLUS MORE

Wed 28 Sep - Sat 1 Oct
Noon - 11pm every day



ST ALBANS FESTIVAL '22



An incredible range of beers, ciders & perries

In addition to our main bars, serving products from all over the UK, we're also joined by these fantastic breweries. Each will be showcasing their line-ups and there to answer any questions on their own dedicated bars. **For the first time, we'll be maintaining a live, online beer list so you can see exactly what's available at the time of your visit. Check out our website for details.** Once again, we'll be operating a token card system to make service at the bar as fast as possible. You'll be able to buy token cards in £5 increments and get a refund on anything you haven't spent when you leave.

Phenomenal street food for all tastes!

- **Returning once again are The Crusty Pie Company.** From delicious traditional flavours like the original pork pie, meat and potato or steak and ale, to more adventurous offerings like sweet chilli, wild boar or chicken Balti, you won't be able to resist.



- **Making their debut are Kell's Kitchen.** Kell's began as a restaurant in Camden and became an award-winning eatery. In 2018, the team embarked on a journey to share their culinary delights by hitting the road. They'll be offering gourmet burgers, loaded nachos, scrumptious hotdogs, and more.
- **Back by popular demand, Little Panjab Food Company** are an artisan producer of authentic Panjabi cuisine. Their meals are prepared with home ground spices, organic fresh vegetables and locally-sourced meat from responsible and ethical suppliers. They will be selling a range of authentic Indian curries and snacks including gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options, plus hot drinks.
- **Also available at the festival will be a range of exciting snack options** to provide the perfect complement to your chosen beer or cider.



BREWRIES TBC

Great live entertainment & special events

- **Thursday** and **Saturday** are our music evenings at the festival. From 8pm on **Thursday**, local legends **The Landlords** make their return by popular demand. Then on **Saturday** at 5pm we welcome **Sweetcornbread**, a unique, fun fusion band guaranteed to get your feet tapping.
- Throughout the festival we'll be hosting our **famous auctions** - giving you the opportunity to bid on all kinds of lots, including fantastic pub and brewery collectables you won't find anywhere else.
- You can try your hand at **traditional pub games**.
- And on **Wednesday** evening, world-renowned beer writer **Roger Protz** hosts a very special tutored beer tasting event. Tickets for this are limited, so get yours via our website now!

How to find us

The festival takes place at the **Alban Arena**, just off **St Peter's Street** in the centre of **St Albans**. It is easily reached via rail or bus and detailed public transport information can be found on our website.

Special advance package deals

For the first time this year, we're offering advance tickets, enabling you to skip the queue and head straight to the bar. But that's not all - our great value ticket packages also include a souvenir glass and a £10 beer token card to get your festival experience started. These packages are guaranteed to save you money.

We also have special discounts for groups of four, so if you're coming with friends, be sure to check out our website: stalbansbf.org.uk

ADMISSION £2/£5 on the door

50% off admission for CAMRA members
SAVE MONEY AND GET FAST-TRACK ENTRY BY
BOOKING A TICKET PACKAGE IN ADVANCE
www.stalbansbf.org.uk

- As always, we've kept our admission prices as low as possible. All proceeds from the festival go towards campaigning or to charity.
- This year, admission is just £2 before 4pm on Wednesday and Thursday, and £5 for all other sessions.
- CAMRA members receive 50% off admission prices. If you're not already a member, go to camra.org.uk/join to find out about all the many benefits and apply online, or join at the festival and we'll give you two free pints!
- See back cover for 10 reasons to join CAMRA

Be a festival hero

There's only one thing that's more fun than visiting St Albans Beer & Cider Festival - and that's being part of the team. There are many different roles available, both customer-facing and behind the scenes, so whatever your skills, age or physical ability, we've got a job for you! Our festival couldn't run without our volunteers, so we treat them well. In return for your time, you get free beer or cider, plus food vouchers to spend with our festival vendors. To sign up, see stalbansbf.org.uk/staffing

Keep up to date

To keep up to date with all the latest festival news, be sure to follow our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - all with the handle [@stalbansbf](https://www.instagram.com/stalbansbf). Our website is also regularly updated, so keep checking it!

National Beer Scoring System

Have you ever wondered how pubs are selected for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide?

Scoring beer in pubs is really easy!

The National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) is a 0-5 point scale for judging beer quality in pubs. It is an easy to use system that has been designed to assist CAMRA branches in selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide and also monitor beer quality by encouraging CAMRA members from any part of the world to report beer quality on any pub in the UK.

If you are a CAMRA member, we want you to tell us about the quality of beer in the pubs you visit. If you are not a member, why not join Europe's most successful consumer organisation? As an incentive, when you score a beer you get entered into a prize draw to win free CAMRA books!



How do I score my beer?

You can score your beer online at home or if you have a smart phone in the pub!

To submit your scores just visit whatpub.com.

Log into the site using your CAMRA membership number and password. Once you have agreed to the terms and conditions and found a pub on the site, you can start scoring.

You can find out more here whatpub.com/beerscoring

What do I need to record?

- The location and name of the pub
(WhatPub mobile can work this out).
- The date you visited the pub
- A score out of 5
- The name of the beer
- We will also need your name and membership number, but once you have registered these are recorded automatically in WhatPub

What if I can't decide on a score?

The NBSS allows you to enter half scores

How do I edit my scores?

To edit your scores go to

<https://whatpub.com/beerscoring>



What do the scores mean?

0. No cask ale available

1. Poor

Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2. Average

Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3. Good

Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4. Very Good

Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5. Perfect

Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

How is the information being collated?

Once beer scores have been submitted online, CAMRA branches can download them and use them to help in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide selection process.

For more information, CAMRA members can go to:

<https://camra.org.uk/beer-and-cider/beer/national-beer-scoring-system/>

Mad Squirrel Tap & Bottle Shop opens in Watford



One of the newest real ale venues in Watford is the Mad Squirrel Tap & Bottle Shop, which opened on Wednesday 29th July in a converted Zizzi Italian restaurant on King Street. Mad Squirrel opened their first taproom in Chesham in 2013 and have been expanding their outlets ever since. The new bar now joins five other Mad Squirrel Taps in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, as well as a bar at the brewery in Potten End.

The Watford tap has a modern, open-plan layout characteristic of high street venues and has been refurbished with parquet flooring, muted colours, pot plants and hanging hops, and a bit of neon for contrast. There are three handpumps and a copper tap wall that can dispense up to 25 craft beers. I visited in early August, while the area manager and bar team were overseeing the finishing touches during the opening week. I ordered a pint of Tri-Hop to start, a 4% gluten-free pale ale flavoured with three hop varieties. Also available on the day were Mister Squirrel bitter and London Porter. Area manager Jack explained that there would be a changing range of cask ales on the bar, but that the flagship Mister Squirrel would be making frequent appearances. Another regular beer is \$umo American Pale Ale, which is stored and served unpasteurised from the copper tank at the back of the bar. Mad Squirrel initially started selling \$umo tank beer at their tap in St Albans and have duplicated that in Watford. In St Albans the vessel has been affectionately dubbed 'Frank the Tank'. So far, the Watford tank remains nameless but Mad Squirrel will no doubt be looking for suggestions soon.

The bar will be hosting regular live music and also serves food from the kitchen at the back, where you can watch as your food is prepared. The pizza oven was left behind when the previous restaurant closed, which was handy because pizza is one of the main items on the food menu and it meant the bar could start serving food while the rest of the kitchen was being sorted out. In fact, as Jack explained to me, it would have been much more expensive to remove the oven as the building was effectively built around it.

Most of the Mad Squirrel tap rooms are closed on Mondays, but the Watford tap is currently open seven days a week. Closing time on Monday is 9pm, but the bar will be open later when there is a Watford FC home game. For more information about Mad Squirrel Tap, visit their website and the CAMRA WhatPub guide.

www.madsquirrelbrew.co.uk/taprooms/watford

Instagram: @madsquirrelwatford

Andrew Vaughan

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Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival report

The Festival successfully returned to an unrestricted format on 9th -11th June.

The advertised 200 plus drinks comprised over 90 real ales, plus 54 ciders and perries, 18 KeyKegs, an international beers bar, and mead. Advance ticket packages were sold through CAMRA's own excellent Tkty system and half the visitors took advantage of that. Overall three times as many attended as 2021's festival. Good job we were well stocked!

Running from Thursday 4PM, starting with a dedicated trade hour for local pubs and all supplying breweries, the footballing analogy would be that it was a game of two halves. Doesn't work for three days, but anyway, CAMRA members from near and far were prevalent Thursday and Friday afternoon, while Friday evening was the after-work it's-the-weekend crowd, even the local MP, our busiest and way up on anything previous. Saturday was an impromptu family day, due to the fine weather, with picnics on the field for children much in presence and groups of friends.

All of this was helped by a fine group of vendors. First-timer at Hitchin, Major Crusts, sold out of dough so good were their pizzas, while Little Punjab, Amani Kitchen, Cantina Carnitas & Quali-



ty Catering ensured nobody went hungry across a wide range of tastes.

Another first-time for Hitchin, our merch maker Artystar was on site printing T-shirts and tote bags live to order. Other visitors were picking up lucky winnings as the tombola sold out!

Our one restriction compared with 2019 was a smaller marquee (due to limited availability) and, therefore, a slightly reduced ale selection, meaning visitors were drinking the festival dry of draught beer, both cask and KeyKeg, but many lingered into the evening trying the last few.

We are extremely grateful to our generous customers, who donated over £1,000 of unused tokens to this year's nominated charity, Garden House Hospice Care. Lyndhurst Financial Management, Flip Connect & Buntingford Brewery were our major sponsors and we had super support from another sixteen local companies and friends of the festival.

Our long-term partners Hitchin Rugby Club and Hitchin Round Table made sure everything went up, on and down smoothly.

All round: everyone happy! So guess what – it'll be back: SAVE THE DATE – June 15th -17th 2023.

See you there and follow us at northherts.camra.org.uk/hitchin or on Facebook and Instagram.

Dean Barrett, Festival Co-Organiser

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Beer & Cider News

Wetherspoon announce losses and predict more to come

One thing I always used to announce was that JD Wetherspoon's head office was in Watford and that Tim Martin lives in Knebworth. According to the Plymouth Herald Tim Martin is now based in Exeter, so one of us must be wrong.

Anyway Tim Martin has blamed the Government for spreading Covid "fear" which he says has caused a staffing crisis at his pubs ramping up wages that could lead to a £30m loss. Martin blames the lockdowns and restrictions which he says continue to keep workers and drinkers at home and also blames ministers for causing inflation which is also keeping customers away.

The company's new trading update showed like-for-like sales in the first 11 weeks of its fourth quarter to July 31 were 0.4% below

the same pre-pandemic period in 2019 – an improvement on the previous quarter, when they fell 4%. Wetherspoon said that although sales were now matching those seen in 2019 before the pandemic struck, staff costs were far higher than pre-Covid as firms across the sector have had to hike wages to overcome recruitment difficulties. It added that it was now "with minor exceptions, fully staffed".

Repair costs have also soared, with the group saying it will have spent about £99m in the current year, compared with £76.9m in 2018-19, due to "catch-up" work since Covid restrictions were lifted. Mr Martin complained about the effect of price rises on his business and blamed ministers and bankers.

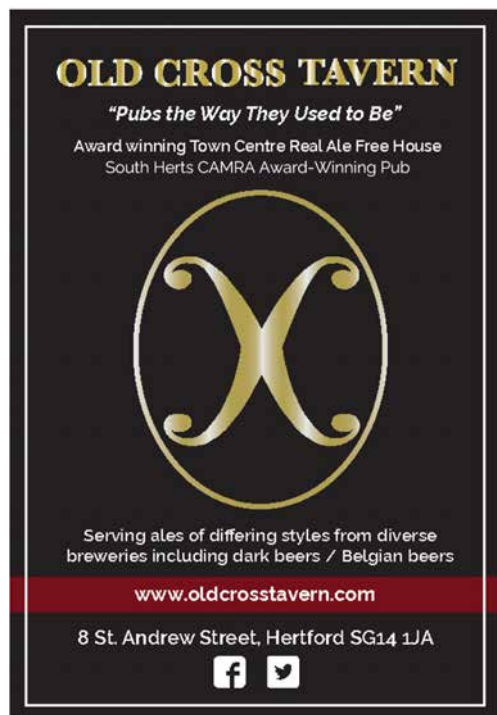
Love or hate them, it's hard to find a cheaper pint anywhere else, which should keep the punters coming back, even if the economy hits the ropes.

Steve Bury

RedCat gets bigger

RedCat Pub Co started with the purchase of 42 pubs in March 2021, ten pubs from Stonegate Inns and 32 from Ei (formally Enterprise). This followed a Competition and Marketing mandate and was the beginning of a pub buying spree led by their managing director Rooney Anand. The pub chain now owns over 100 pubs including two in Hertfordshire, the Bricklayers at Flaunden and most recently the Cricketers at Weston bought from Anglia Country Inns.

Rooney Anand is best known as the CEO of Greene King's 2,800 pubs, a job which he left in April 2019 prior to starting RedCat in March 2021.



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LWC

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Readers Write

Chairman's Challenge almost completed

Towards the end of 1999 I completed my tour of Hertfordshire pubs which I had pursued on and off for about 15 years, predating my move to St Albans. The branch was kind enough to present me with a plaque to recognise my 'achievement' and Viv Davies at the Farmer's Boy brewed a special beer called Chairman's Challenge which went on sale at the 1999 SABCF. In all, a total of 968 pubs including many keg pubs. Since then, I have been visiting any new pubs to maintain my record. I resumed this last week after three years' Covid hiatus with a visit to Baldock & Letchworth. I then realised that since 1998 I had visited over 100 new pubs which surprised me. Although the current total for Hertfordshire on WhatPub is 751, compared to the 1,069 I have visited reflects how many pubs have closed in the meantime,

it is good to see that this has not stopped more than 100 new ones appearing on the scene. (I still have 9 more to do, by the way!). These pubs are a mixed bag, including bars, clubs opening their doors to the public, hotels and a few genuine pubs like the Waterend Barn in St Albans, the Paper Mill in Apsley, the Port Jackson in Bishop's Stortford and the Mad Squirrel pubs. Some of these have in turn closed, but it does seem there is some hope for the future.

Phil Defriez

This is a great achievement by Phil considering that he visits all these pubs by foot and public transport. I understand that he intends to complete Bedfordshire next.

We welcome articles, anecdotes, comments, criticism, feedback and funnies. Please send to editor@pintsofview.camra.org or by letter FAO: Steve Bury at CAMRA (see page 2 for contact details).



An interactive Herts Branches Pub Map, available in one click at <https://pintsofview.camra.org.uk/> showing most of the pubs still open that have been visited by Phil.

Going Cashless

Derek worked in the city, in a modern high tech office environment. He had all the latest gadgets at home as well.

Between work and home, Derek also enjoyed a pint, and would frequently stop-off at a pub near the office. This place was an ancient coaching inn and part of the history of the city. 'Ye Olde Inn' represented a sharp contrast to his technological lifestyle, which he rather enjoyed, and his choice of beverage was the traditional style that goes with it...proper beer...naturally alive in the barrel. But when it came to payment, Derek preferred to 'tap' (or 'snap with an app') and scoffed at those still using cash. He had even suggested to the landlord that cash was no longer needed, citing a list of all the practical benefits.

Derek didn't mind when the ATMs disappeared. He didn't care less soon thereafter, when all cash was withdrawn for 'good'. Then one day after work, he went for his usual pint. As he approached the bar he was sorry to see a sign over the hand pumps..."VERY SORRY - NO MORE REAL ALE"

He was disappointed, and read it again..."NO MORE REAL ALE".

"You mean you can't get it?" enquired a now worried Derek.

"That's correct sir. New law" replied the barmaid. "Rushed through, yesterday with effect from midnight tonight" added a fellow imbibor at the bar.

Derek looks at his smart watch "We've got six hours then!"

"Yes, but that chap over there had the last..."

"DAMN" shouted Derek interrupting. "I'm off then. Maybe there'll be something on at the Red Lion..." But he stopped in his tracks as two chaps who just came in to join the group were shaking their heads.

"We just came from there...all sold out."

The barmaid joined in "Well, they say all beer should be pasteurised to avoid infection" to which Derek replied "BULLSHIT".

A few weeks later, Derek joined the Campaign for Real Ale. "After all" he thought "CAMRA has a record for saving good beer". Derek paid the subscription on his phone, and it was immediately logged at the Home Security Office. Derek had joined an organisation known to be at odds with government policy and was now a citizen with a mark against his name.

There were small operations brewing illegally, but it only took one 'tap' transaction to alert the authorities, and many were shut down. A few micro-breweries survived, but did so by taking payment in kind or alternative (real) currency like gold or silver coins. Derek eventually found a way to smuggle beer into his home, without collecting any more marks against his digital character. As a dissident member of society, he ran the risk of getting caught, which carried the possible penalty of having the connection to his money 'switched off'. Imagine if he couldn't pay his mortgage; he could become homeless. He had seen homeless people outside the station, begging for a biscuit or banana. Derek was scared.

The pubs, of course, suffered from massive loss of trade and some became fast food outlets. Food prepared from fresh became prohibitively expensive or otherwise restricted. Everything of quality became the reserve of the 'controlling class' who thought that the lower middle classes wouldn't miss good taste if they never had it, while the extensive use of refined sugars and other toxins would ensure the early onset of diabetes and conveniently limit lifespan...

Behind this little story, the point is; if we have no physical means of purchase, no free currency, choice goes with it. Everything you buy with your card or app is monitored. So far it is only the promotion of what they think you will buy, but it will get worse. Society may thus be controlled and divided, as our elected dictators will literally control what people consume, not just by advertising junk food and pasteurised beer, but with laws made by unelected officials.

Imagine going to the shops to discover a stick of broccoli costs £10 due to the added 'fresh food tax', but a Bug Burger with GMO corn chips is only £2.99. Ponder on that...And just in case you haven't heard, US policy under Biden is to make meat unavailable in two years, partly because cows fart! Most vegetarians would think that's crazy, but 'let them eat bug-protein' is real. Do you think this controlling class care about America's, or Britain's, small breweries...? All this is down line if people don't wake up to the techno-society many have signed-up to, without a second thought for the total loss of freedom that inevitably follows. You've had a taste of it already..

Imagine going to the pub, if they still exist, and signing-in with your phone, BY LAW, then being told that your Vaccine Log Book is not up to date, so no beer for you today.

The real motive driving GM crops, including barley, is a potential global monopoly of agriculture, and seed stock in particular. Millions of hectares are under the control of 'Big Ag' producing high-yield soy and corn in partnership with 'Big Chem', leaving far less land for healthier crops. Even Bill Gates has a finger in the mud having acquired 242,000 acres of prime agricultural land in recent years.

So then, the global fat-controllers and their minions will be free to eat fresh produce in nice restaurants with fine beverages, funded by profits from their inferior crops, while the masses are virtually forced to consume bug-protein and drink pasteurised beer not fit for your windscreen-washer.

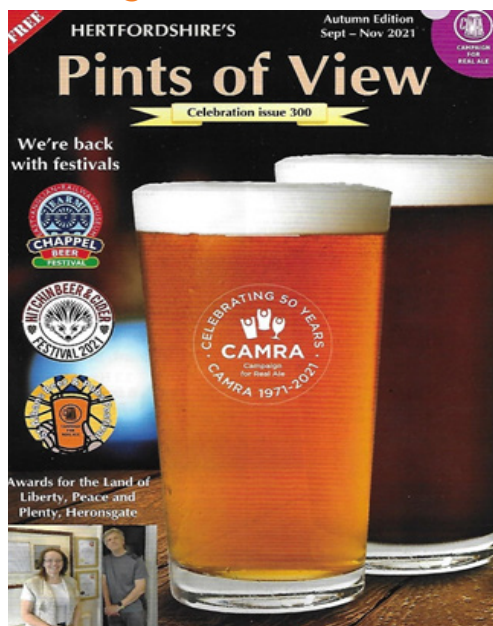
So be careful what you 'tap' for.

Malcolm Chapman

Ed Says: *This reads like Derek, and I assume Malcolm, are living in a 1984 totalitarian world. I'm afraid it's going to be quite some time before I start chopping up my Debit and Credit cards.*

People & Places

Brewing a Hertfordshire Beer & Pub Archive!



"Pints of View" is the newsletter (I've been told we should now call it a magazine - Ed.) of four Hertfordshire CAMRA Branches and has an unbroken pedigree stretching back to July 1976, now with over 300 editions and still counting. In its infancy it was known as the "South Herts Newsletter" becoming the "Hertfordshire Newsletter" in 1978, finally taking on its current title in the year 2000. Pints of View (and its forbears) is not the oldest CAMRA Branch newsletter but with 47 years of continuous publication, chronicling what has happened in the county's pubs and breweries, it is a significant resource. Without it, much of Hertfordshire's pub and brewery history would have passed by unrecorded. Today, the collection of editions has become a worthy archive in its own right.

Pints of View initially became available on-line via the South Hertfordshire Branch website in 2003, complementing the printed editions and with the aim of stimulating a more global interest. It established a permanent, publicly available copy of the newsletter. With this in mind a decision was taken in 2011 to make all of the pre-2003 paper editions available on-line, as well.

John Kemp, long-time Pints of View production manager, set about the task of scanning, using OCR software to ensure a good quality, Internet searchable, text and image result. Over the ensuing six months

John doggedly ploughed on with the task until its completion. All printed editions going back to 1976 are now available on the South Herts Branch website, providing an unbroken on-line collection of newsletters stretching back almost half a century.

Like the Hertfordshire Branches, a small number of other Branches have implemented similar archiving ideas. But imagine if every CAMRA newsletter could be archived. We would then have the most amazing record of brewing, drinking, pub going, campaigning and socialising - in many cases almost 50 years' worth of valuable information - from all over Britain and all freely available 'on tap' for historians and those who are inquisitive.

We hope that more Branches will consider archiving their newsletters. Given the right OCR software and a scanner, it's a job that can be done from home by someone with a steely determination to complete the task.

<https://southherts.camra.org.uk/news/newsletter-archive/>

Les Middlewood

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McMullen and South Herts CAMRA – A New Collaboration

Three South Herts CAMRA members have joined Mac's brewing team of Chris Evans and Eva Butters to help make a special cask ale to celebrate 50 years of the Branch and 195 years of McMullen brewing in Hertford.



The brew, a porter, will be present at the 2022 St Albans Beer and Cider festival at the end of September and will be found in many of McMullen's 125 pubs this autumn – Mac's pub estate now stretches from Essex to Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire to Hampshire, not forgetting its heartland in Hertfordshire and an ever-increasing presence in central London.

The porter features crystal dark, pale ale and chocolate malts together with progress, bramling cross and fuggles hops. As we go to press the beer has yet to be sampled but we hope you will seek it out.

Mac's 195-year history in brewing commenced when Peter McMullen began brewing from his home on Back Street (now Railway Street) Hertford. The business was soon regularised with the opening of a brewery at Mill Bridge, the William IV brewery, on the site of the current Woolpack pub. Peter's beers quickly gained a reputation for quality and consistency and the company expanded quickly in the 19thC culminating in 1897 with the construction of the landmark tower brewery in Hartham Lane. Today Mac's brew on the opposite side of the road in a new modern brewery designed and built in 2004.

Throughout 2022 Mac's have been celebrating their 195th year with a range of events in Hertford and across some of their tied-estate of pubs – more events are to follow.

The South Herts Branch history now reaches back a half a century, formed in St Albans in 1972, all explained and summarised in

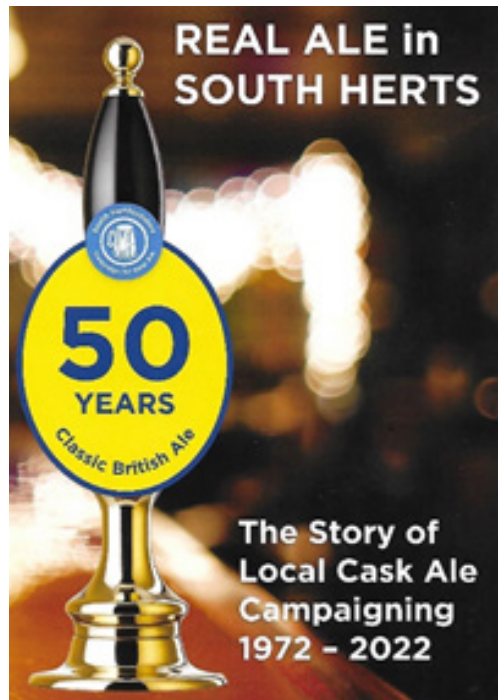
the booklet "Real Ale in South Herts – The Story of Local Cask Ale Campaigning 1972–2022", copies of which, priced £4.50, are available at the St. Albans Beer and Cider Festival or for £5.20 (incl p&p) by post and cheque made payable to "CAMRA South Herts Branch"

from Les Middlewood, 67 Cromwell Road, Hertford, SG13 7DP. For those wishing to pay by BACS please email booklet@southherts.camra.org.uk with your name and address, confirming a transfer payment of £5.20 to Sort Code 60-10-18, Account No. 81509626. Please enter your name as the reference.

Look out for Mac's and South Herts Branch celebratory events this autumn. You'll be made very welcome.



Les Middlewood



What is a Schooner?



Well starting with a historic answer, it is a sailing ship. It is also a glass that sherry is served in. Yates's Wine lodges used to specialise in selling different sherries and would advertise them in schooner measures.

More recently we have imported from Australia 2/3 pint glasses called schooners, which cause a certain amount of confusion. Normally found in craft beer establishments, they are used to give the impression that you are getting a better deal before you realise that you have happily parted with £6 plus for 2/3rds rather than a full pint. So the answer to "what is a schooner?" is: "it is a big con"!



Steve Bury

St Saviours Festival 2022

The 4th Beer and Fizz Festival was held between 8th and 10th July at St. Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans. The Church provides a splendid venue and was dedicated in 1902. The elegant, high ceilinged building was perfect, offering a cool location during the weekend heatwave. For those who preferred the



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sun, tables were available outside, along with three food trucks. Relaxing jazz was played during the day while live music took over in the evening with entertainment on Sunday provided by the St. Albans Morris Dancers.

The event has grown since its inception and around 30 ales, dispensed directly from the barrel, were available from a variety of local and national brewers. A selection of ciders could also be purchased. Everything I tried was in good condition and the service was excellent from a large group of Church volunteers, including the current Mayor Geoff Harrison.

The atmosphere of the Festival differs from the more traditional CAMRA event. This is partly due to the grand and ornate surroundings. There are the usual beer tickers and local landlords in attendance but an equal number drinking the gin and fizz are available for customers and members of the Church supporting the event. It all adds to the relaxed feeling that many people commented on and is an ideal introduction to beer festival novices.

Father Richard, the vicar of St. Saviour's, is a supporter of real ales and can be seen occasionally sampling them in local hostelrys. This year's chosen charity for the Festival is St. Albans for Refugees.

Let's hope this success story continues to flourish in future years.

Duncan McLeod

DOWN YOUR WAY

This section contains information from a large number of sources and occasionally errors may occur or the information may be out-of-date upon publication. Comments or additional information should be sent to the editor (see page 2 for contact details).

BALDOCK: The **Templars** in the High Street outlet which has not reopened since covid, is subject to a planning application to convert the bar area into ten en-suite units for the homeless. There is local opposition to this plan.

BOREHAMWOOD: There are now only two pubs in the area that serve real ale: the **Hart & Spool** Wetherspoons and **Mops & Brooms** Well End, Mac's. See article page 12

BOVINGDON: The **Bob Sleigh Inn** closed for some time has now had a planning application presented to convert the site to 67 homes.

CHARLTON: The **Windmill** has been subject to a long campaign by local people to reopen the pub. A private buyer has now been found so expect some further reports on progress.

ESSENDON: The **Candlestick** owned by the Gascoyne estate has been empty for some time whilst new Gascoyne Estate tenants are found.

GREAT HORMEAD: The **Three Tuns** village pub closed in September last year. Good news is that according to a twitter message by vendors Everard Cole (18th July), a buyer has been found and the sale completed. Plans are for a refurbishment to be undertaken and for the pub to re-open.

HERTFORD: The **White Horse** has re-opened, now in the hands of Dan Cory. Fullers ESB, London Pride and Hophead are on the pumps and an occasional fourth beer. The tiny courtyard at the rear is now bedecked with seating, flowers and plants – and room for a few customers! Work on the **Salisbury Arms Hotel** continues with significant alterations planned for the ground floor layout, affecting all bars and the restaurant. Work will also provide a newly-designed outside drinking area. The pub is expected to re-open in December.

HIGH CROSS: Closed for a number of years, the **White Horse** has finally been given the go ahead for a Change of Use to a residential future – despite much local opposition, most wanting the pub to re-emerge. This is the second time East Herts District Council has gone against the wishes of local people – just down the road the **Anchor** in Wadesmill suffered the same fate. This confirms High Cross as yet another pub-less Hertfordshire village.

HITCHIN: The **Coopers Arms** has had a McMullen re-fit, with AK and IPA on handpump.

LONDON COLNEY: After a lot of speculation about the future of the **White Horse** it re-opened on 24th June. Initially Punch the owners wanted to convert the car park and garden into housing which was opposed by the Parish Council and local objectors who applied for an ACV (Asset of Community Value). After a closure of six months the pub has had a £500K refurbishment. Painted dark blue externally the interior has been

uplifted keeping the original character of the pub. Unfortunately, Cask Ale has been removed (the two handpumps are gone) and on my visit they said that it will not return. The pub is now managed.

MUCH HADHAM: The long-closed **Jolly Waggoners** was again subject to a planning application for demolition and the construction of four houses – again withdrawn.

OLD BRICKET WOOD: The **Old Fox** which has been closed for several years and put up for sale even though it is ACV listed, has now had some building work started. After a closure of this length repairs to keep the pub structurally sound must be in order. Any further details would be most appreciated.

ROYSTON: The **Coach & Horses** which reopened last year following two years closure has closed again and is up for let.

ST ALBANS: The new Macs pub in St Peter Street will be called the **Saint & Sinner** (sounds very Blackpool seafront) and is due to open in September. The **Farriers Arms** has been given ACV status. See article page 29

WARE: Following a successful planning application for a change of use, in July the **Hop Box** opened in Amwell End – a new craft keg and bottled beer bar.

WARESIDE: The **White Horse** is up for sale as a pub advertised at £699,950. There is also a back-up plan to convert to residential which has been opposed.

WATFORD: The **Mad Squirrel Tap & Bottle Shop** has opened on King Street and the Wishing Well on St. Albans Road has reopened as the **Cotter Arms** after a refurbishment. Cask ale is available in both establishments. See further details elsewhere in this issue.

WELHAM GREEN: The **Hope & Anchor** which has not sold real ale for many years and has had a succession of closures has been sold by Stonegate. The building is very old and must be listed. It is rumoured that a residential development is planned. If you have any further details or a planning application number, please contact PoV.


WELWYN GARDEN CITY: New to the town centre and outside the main entrance of the Howard Centre in Howardsgate is **Bedtime Beers** a new craft beer and bottle shop currently offering one real ale with a chance that handpumps will follow. There are also plans for food and music to widen its appeal.

WESTON: It is reported that Red Cat have acquired the **Cricketers** from Anglia county Inns. See article page 22.




WORMLEY: The **Old Star** was sold by McMullen's. It has been closed for sometime and has been converted to Manto's, a Meze Bar & Grill restaurant. No Real Ale.

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HERTS CAMRA DIARY

*The listings below are colour-coded **North Herts**, **South Herts**, **Herts & Essex Borders** (no entries this edition) and **Watford & District**. However, all CAMRA members are very welcome to attend all CAMRA Branch Meetings and Social Events. Please visit the Herts Branch websites for up-to-date information. Addresses can be found on page 30.*

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 3rd: SAB&CFestival Promotion + Pub Surveying

Meet 12 noon Red Lion, Hatfield.

TUESDAY 6th: W&D Bushey Social

8.30pm Horse & Chains, 79 High Street, WD23 1BL.
9.15pm King Stag, 15 Bournehall Road, WD23 3EH.
10.00pm Swan, 25 Park Road, WD23 3EE.

WEDNESDAY 7th: NH Branch Meeting

8.00pm at the new function room of Garden City Brewery, Letchworth.

FRIDAY 9th: SAB&CFestival Promotion + Pub Surveying

Meet 7.00pm Hart and Spool, Borehamwood.

SATURDAY 10th: SAB&CFestival Promotion + Pub Surveying

Meet 12 noon Robin Hood, St Albans.

TUESDAY 13th: SH Branch Meeting

8.00pm Robin Hood, St Albans. Speaker: Bill Austin "The History of the Beer Bottle Label".

SATURDAY 17th: SAB&CFestival Promotion + Award Presentation + Ware Social

Meet 12 noon Spread Eagle. 3.00pm Crooked Billet, Ware POTY (Silver) Social. 4.00pm Presentation. The pub has 'Billetfest' running, so should be a good choice of beers.

WEDNESDAY 21st: CarShare Countryside Crawl

Starts 8pm at Three Horseshoes, Norton, then on to Two Chimneys, Letchworth; Cricketers, Ickleford, and Sports Club, Ickleford.

MONDAY 26th: W&D Branch Meeting

8.00pm West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Avenue, Watford, WD18 7HP.

WEDNESDAY 28th: SAB&CFestival Social

From 6.00pm Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, AL1 3LD. Meet at products stand hourly.

WEDNESDAY 28th- SAT 1st: SAB&CFestival

From 11.00am to 11.00pm Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, AL1 3LD. Volunteers welcome!

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY 5th: Baldock Social

Starts 8.00pm at Old White Horse, then on to White Lion, Cock and Orange Tree.

THURSDAY 6th: Award Presentation

8.30pm Branch and Hertfordshire Pub of the Year presentation, Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long Lane Heronsgate, WD3 5BS.

FRIDAY 14th: Rickmansworth Social

8.30pm Coach & Horses, 22 High Street, WD3 1ER.
9.15pm Pennsylvanian, 115 - 177 High Street, WD3 1AN. 10.00pm Wishful Drinking, 124 High Street, WD3 1AB.

TUESDAY 18th: SH Branch Meeting

8.00pm Bull, London Colney (TBC). Speakers: Iain Loe and Dave Wright "The CAMRA Investment Club".

WEDNESDAY 19th: CarShare Countryside Crawl

Starts 8.00pm at Boot, Kimpton, then on to Bright Star, Peters Green; Red Lion, Breachwood Green, and Bull, Whitwell.

MONDAY 31st: W&D Branch Meeting

8.00pm West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Avenue, Watford, WD18 7HP.

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 2nd: NH Branch Meeting

8.00pm (venue TBC).

THURSDAY 10th: Watford Social

8.30pm Two Trees Micro, 18 Vicarage Road, WD18 0EH. 9.15pm Market Tavern, 28 Market Street, WD18 0PY. 10.00pm Mad Squirrel Tap Watford, 3 King Street, WD17 2EN.

WEDNESDAY 16th: Letchworth Social

Starts 8.00pm at Broadway Hotel, then on to Crafty's, Garden City Brewery and Three Magnets.

SATURDAY 26th: Hertford Ale Trail

A tour of seven or eight Hertford real ale pubs. Details TBC. Check SH Branch website for updates.

MONDAY 28th: W&D Branch Meeting

8.00pm West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Avenue, Watford, WD18 7HP.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 6th: SH Branch Meeting

8.00pm (venue TBC). Speakers: Steve Bury and Les Middlewood "Stories from the Early Branch Part.2" Check SH Branch website for updates.



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

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for great beer, cider and perry

2 Become a
BEER EXPERT

3 Enjoy CAMRA
BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar

4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends

5 Save
YOUR LOCAL

6 Find the
**BEST PUBS
IN BRITAIN**

7 Get great
**VALUE FOR
MONEY**

8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the
great outdoors

9 Enjoy great
HEALTH BENEFITS
(really!)

10 HAVE YOUR SAY

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and join the campaign today:

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