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Pints of View



Winter Edition: Dec 2022 - Feb 2023

Issue No. 305



CAMRA'S

ST ALBANS

BEER & CIDER

FESTIVAL '22



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Advertising & Accounts

Paul Donatantonio 07894 658958

advertising@pintsofview.camra.org.uk

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Editorial Team:

Dean Barrett, Steve Bury, Paul Donatantonio
editor@pintsofview.camra.org.uk

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Webmaster & Social Media

Dean Barrett
webmaster@pintsofview.camra.org.uk
socialmedia@pintsofview.camra.org.uk

Distribution

John Kemp
distribution@pintsofview.camra.org.uk

Layout & Printing

Jam Print Design and Printing Ltd
Calne, Wilts. SN11 9PT
info@jamprint.co.uk - www.jamprint.co.uk

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Campaign Column

Drinkers back CASK as greenest choice at the bar

CAMRA urges pub-goers to use the *Good Beer Guide* to find the best pubs serving cask beer as new research shows consumers view traditional cask to be the most eco-friendly drink.

New YouGov research commissioned by CAMRA has found that nearly 70% of consumers in the UK believe that having a draught beer or cider in a pub is the greenest way of enjoying a tipple.

Draught beer or cider served in a licensed premise such as a pub, social club or taproom is seen as the greenest option above and beyond consuming bottled or canned beer, cider, wine or spirits bought either in a licensed premise or in a supermarket or off-licence.

Alongside being stored and served in reusable containers from barrel to glass, cask beer is usually brewed locally and served locally – cutting down on beer miles and helping drinkers discover new flavours with a local provenance.

The survey comes as CAMRA releases the 50th edition of its *Good Beer Guide*, (see pages 6 & 7) which celebrates the very best pubs serving cask beer across the UK. This year's Guide highlights the environmental benefits of choosing to drink cask beer and outlines how CAMRA aims to support sustainability initiatives across the sector.

Writing in the Guide, Campaigns Assistant Cam Waddell said:

“Cask forms the ultimate circular economy with almost every part of the supply chain – from grain to glass – being reused countless times. As a further benefit, much of this equipment is made from material that can be fully recycled at the end of its lifespan. Stocking locally produced beers has a huge range of benefits for consumers in the trade: pub-goers get to enjoy distinctive local beer styles; it improves consumer choice and supports brewers with

increased sales; which in turn creates more local jobs; and increasing the resilience of the local economy, with more money being generated and spent in the area.”

CAMRA is throwing its weight behind initiatives to improve sustainability throughout the sector, such as

calling for technology exemptions in Business Rates to allow businesses to invest in innovative energy generation and storage, supporting a ban on single-use plastic pints and campaigning for minimum juice content in cider to highlight the role orchards play in biodiversity.

CAMRA Chairman Nik Antona commented:

“Enjoying a pint of cask in your local is one of the most environmentally friendly ways to enjoy a drink and boasts a huge range of social and wellbeing benefits. It's great to see that 69% of drinkers recognise that it is the best way to drink greener too – especially when you choose a local brewery or cider maker to cut down on carbon

emissions when compared to imported products.

“Traditional cask beer is a no-waste option with every element of the process from brewery to bar being able to be reused. That's one of the many reasons beer drinkers can feel excited to use their *Good Beer Guide* to find their next pint – it's the only Guide that showcases the very best in cask across the UK!”

Note that casks are normally cellared horizontally and dispensed either by gravity (via a simple tap) or by “pulling” a handpump (as in the photo). Unlike keg, no gas is required to “push” beer out of the barrel.



*Pure theatre!
Pulling a pint of Real Ale up from the cask.*

Steve's Shout

How Much a 22/23 Premier Pint?

I published an article in *Pints of View* many years ago making comparisons based on inflation between the cost of a pint of beer, public transport and a visit to a top division football match. A visit to a football match at the weekend was always considered to be a worker's right, but for a large section of the population this, like a pint in the pub, is out of reach.

West Ham United have threatened to sue the owners of the London Stadium unless they cut beer prices before the club's next home match which, at that time, would have been their third game of the season.

The Premier League side stood ready to take legal action after the cheapest pint for their season-opener against Manchester City was £7.30 – 40% more than the equivalent beverage at Tottenham Hotspur (£5.19).

The threat followed fan anger at the beer prices being charged, which West Ham neither set nor profit from under the terms of their tenancy of the former Olympic Stadium. As all catering at the London Stadium is contracted to caterers Delaware North, West Ham were told no reductions could be made without the stadium owner's permission.

There is a 'Comparable Clubs' clause in their catering agreement which states food and drink at their

matches should cost no more than the mean average of the amounts charged by Arsenal, Chelsea and Spurs. That would put the cost of the cheapest pint at £5.75.

In August West Ham declined to comment but said they were confident that the matter would be quickly resolved. This was strange as in another report it was announced that the reduction in price per pint was only 20 pence; considering the increase of £1.45 and the formula that should have been used, this would hardly be satisfactory.

Below is a list of prices charged at Premier Division Clubs ranked from highest to lowest that makes interesting reading. It may be the only occasion when fans will want to see their club at the foot of the table!

Those at Brighton & Hove Albion are fortunate to have Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter on tap at their Amex stadium, and the price of £4.95 along with 3% increase over last season are both below the average. I invite readers to confirm whether the fans at their ground are lucky enough to be served real ale. Results will be published next edition.

Steve Bury

	Price	Increase	
West Ham Utd	£7.30	£1.45	25%
The Arsenal	£6.35	£0.45	8%
Fulham	£5.80	£0.30	5%
Leicester City	£5.80	£0.50	9%
Chelsea	£5.70	£0.00	0%
Southampton	£5.50	£0.50	10%
Brentford	£5.25	£0.25	5%
Aston Villa	£5.20	£0.60	13%
Nottingham Forest	£5.20	£0.40	8%
Tottenham Hotspur	£5.19	£0.70	16%
Crystal Palace	£5.00	£0.00	0%
Leeds Utd	£5.00	£0.05	1%
Wolverhampton Wanderers	£5.00	£0.00	0%
Brighton & Hove Albion	£4.95	£0.15	3%
Newcastle Utd	£4.90	- £0.10	- 2%
Manchester City	£4.60	£0.10	2%
Everton	£4.55	£0.55	14%
AFC Bournemouth	£4.25	£0.00	0%
Liverpool	£3.30	£0.30	10%
Manchester Utd	£3.00	£0.00	0%
Average	£5.09	£0.31	6%

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Good Beer Guide

The 50th Edition!

It's out now, and it's a pre-Christmas cracker! So it's time to congratulate all 65 Hertfordshire pubs who are in it. There are only spots for a small percentage of the country's pubs, and they go to those who've consistently impressed during the last year with their beers.

CHEERS to (alphabetically by town/village):

Allens Green:	Queen's Head
Anstey:	Blind Fiddler
Baldock	Orange Tree
Benington	Lordship Arms
Berkhamsted	Crown
	George Inn
	Rising Sun
Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust
	Star
Buntingford	Crown
Bushey	Swan
Colney Heath	Crooked Billet
Croxley Green	Sportsman
Flaunden	Green Dragon
Green Tye	Prince of Wales
Harpenden	Carpenters Arms
	Cross Keys
	Harpenden Arms
Hatfield	Horse & Groom
Hemel Hempstead	Full House
	Monks Inn
Heronsgate	Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty
Hertford	Black Horse
	Great Eastern Tavern
	Hertford Club
	Old Barge
	Old Cross Tavern
High Wych	Rising Sun
Hitchin	BB's Bar
	Half Moon
	Victoria
Knebworth	Lytton Arms
	Station
Letchworth	Garden City Brewery & Bar
London Colney	Bull
Oxhey	Railway Arms
Park Street	Overdraught
Potters Bar	Admiral Byng

Potters Crouch	Holly Bush
Preston	Red Lion
Puckeridge	White Hart
Royston	Manor House
St Albans	Garibaldi
	Great Northern
	Lower Red Lion
	Mermaid
	Portland Arms
	Robin Hood
	Six Bells
	White Hart Tap
St Paul's Walden	Strathmore Arms
Sandridge	Green Man
	Rose & Crown
Sarratt	Boot
Sawbridgeworth	Bull
	George IV
Stevenage	Broken Seal Tap Room
	Chequers
	Dun Cow
Tring	King's Arms
Ware	Crooked Billet
Wareside	Chequers
Watford	Wellington Arms
	West Herts Sports Club
Wild Hill	Woodman

There is a mix of new or returning entries. So well-done licensees and staff for climbing up the rankings into the elite and to those others for staying at the top of your game!

To get all the information about them, and all pubs nationally who qualified, get yourself a copy of The Guide at shop1.camra.org.uk




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In The Guide, you'll also find information about all of Hertfordshire's Breweries. In short, the real ale breweries currently operating are:

3 Brewers of St Albans	Hatfield
The Belgian Brewer	Bishop's Stortford
Bowtie	Watford
Buntingford	Near Royston
Crossover Blendery	Near Weston (NEW)
Farr Brew	Wheathampstead
Garden City Brewery	Letchworth Garden City
Hadham Brewery	Little Hadham
Mad Squirrel Brew	Potten End
McMullen	Hertford
New River	Hoddesdon

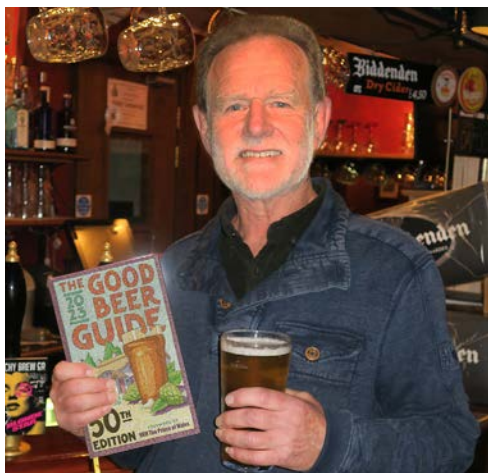
Oxhey Village Brewery	Watford
Paradigm Brewery	Sarratt
Pope's Yard	Apsley
Six Hills Brewing	Stevenage Old Town
Tring Brewery	Tring

Much to enjoy in the *2023 Good Beer Guide*, in Hertfordshire's pubs and from our breweries.

Dean Barrett

Hertfordshire Area Organiser

Anarchy in the UK!



A GBG 2023 in one hand and a *Blonde Star* in the other: Photo of Bob taken in **The Flower Pot, Maidstone**, which is slightly out of Pints of View territory, but as the beer is brewed by Anarchy, it made a good headline!



Bob's books - all 50 of them!

It was good to receive my *2023 Good Beer Guide* through the post to complete my set of all fifty! The first in 1974 was a rather flimsy thin edition with nearly all the known pubs still selling real ale listed, along with all 180 remaining breweries. The number of pubs in later editions grew and grew meaning that branch nominations for inclusion had to be more selective. Now only the crème de la crème are afforded a much sought after entry. The number of breweries was still declining in the early seventies until the tide turned and the real ale revolution exploded – now there are getting on for 2,000.

While pubs are closing at the most alarming rate for generations, there never seems to be a shortage of beer enthusiasts wanting to start their own breweries. While many have thrived, many have also fallen by the wayside – and with more breweries chasing an ever diminishing market while an even bigger economic crisis looms, things do not look promising for the pub lover.

On the brighter side, the new guide does mark a few milestones for some Hertfordshire pubs and clubs: in Hertford, the **Hertford Club** has notched up its 10th consecutive entry, while just round the corner the canal-side **Old Barge** has 20 entries. With 15 is the **Victoria** in Hitchin; also with 20 entries is the **Green Dragon** in Flaunden. Two with 25 is another canal-side pub, the **Rising Sun** in Berkhamsted and the multi-award winning **Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty** in Herongate. Outshining all these is the **Crooked Billet**, in Colney Heath and the **Kings Arms**, in Tring, both on 40 apiece.

I can't finish without mentioning the wonderful **Rising Sun** in High Wych with its 49 consecutive entry, only, sadly, being overlooked in 1974 to stop it having a full set. However, we do look forward to celebrating its 50th next year.

Bob Norrish

South Herts CAMRA

Herts Pub, Club & Brewery News

Garden City Brewery & Bar – Two Reasons to Celebrate!

22 The Wynd, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3EN



Wednesday 26th October saw a double celebration in Letchworth Garden City's only brew pub. A constant entry in the *Good Beer Guide* (GBG) since qualifying after opening in 2016, they also have a house band whose 1st anniversary of 'Brewery Sessions' took place that night. The band features a mixture of enthusiastically played covers, tributes – most notably the Beertles – and has party-style fun with the audience.



The Garden City Brewery & Bar House Band:
(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): Tom Fox-Connor,
Mark Gale, guest drummer Andy Gallo and Ted Brogan.

It was also the night before the embargo on *GBG* 2023 was lifted. So, taking the opportunity to be theatrical, I decided not to tell owners **Holly & Nick Rolfe** and their team in advance.

After games, including music bingo and guess-that-song, the band invited Nick and me to take the stage for 'something special'. I played the straight man and plugged the 50th edition of the *Good Beer Guide* and explained that GCB, as it's affectionately known, is currently the only place in Letchworth to feature in *GBG*. Then I asked if, sworn to secrecy overnight, the audience thought we should award Garden City Brewery *GBG* status again. The reaction was tumultuous! Then John Hamblin, the Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO), handed over the 2023 licensee pack.

Nick was momentarily speechless, before exclaiming "You b#\$#@xd!". Apparently, he'd been worried that they weren't in the guide as I hadn't turned up sooner. He then went on to say how much being in the guide means to him, and how it rewards all the team's efforts to maintain brewing quality. I wonder if I'm the first CAMRA local officer to be called a rude name and then given a hug by a brewery owner!?

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It was a fabulous night of fun, music and, of course, real ale, brewed 3 metres from where we were enjoying the music. Now that's entertainment! The evening's entire set is available on Spotify as **Brewery Sessions #12**.

Garden City Brewery & Bar has a 2.5-barrel plant and serves a selection of its own cask ales plus regular guests on gravity along with many real ciders. Their ales are exclusively available in the bar and at local beer festivals. It is a previous winner of North Herts Branch Cider Pub of The Year and a Lockdown Hero award winner for its delivery and takeaway services. It's not only music that entertains regulars, there are frequent quiz nights and seasonal events, either outside in 'The Wynd' or in 'The Storeroom' next door, initially just that, but now a multi-use events space.

GCB is certainly a go-to destination! And should you want to venture elsewhere in Letchworth town centre, you'll be spoiled for choice with six other places serving real ale, all within 5 minutes' walk of the railway station. **'Love Letchworth'** is the name of the Business Improvement District (BID), that acts as a voice for local businesses and organises events in the town. I live there and I love it!

Dean Barrett

*Website and Social Media Coordinator
North Herts CAMRA*



Nick Rolfe, GCB Co-Owner and Head Brewer, has a laugh at the expense of Dean 'hands-on-hips' Barrett.

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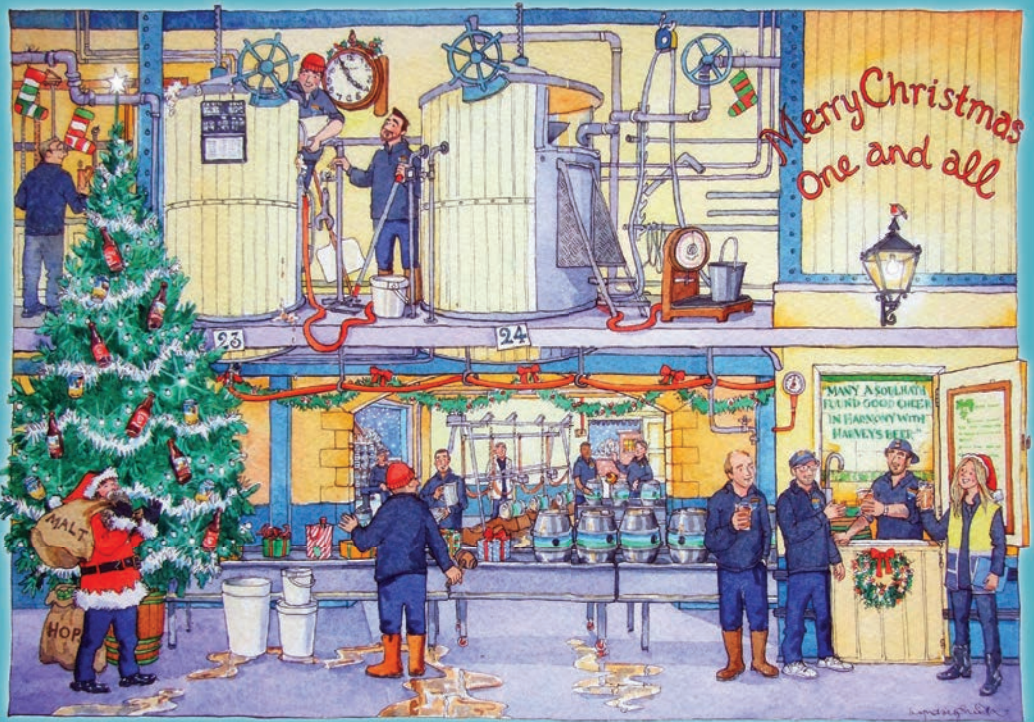
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I bumped into Miles Jenner, Head Brewer at Harvey’s Brewery, Lewes, Sussex during his visit to the Trade Session of the St Albans Beer & Cider Festival on 28th September. It is always a pleasure to see Miles and hear his entertaining stories.

After visiting the festival, Miles dropped by the **Robin Hood** in Victoria Street for a pint with landlord Jim Pratt.

“It may not be an obvious outlet for Harvey’s”, Miles reported, “but the Robin Hood in St Albans receives weekly supplies of Sussex Best Bitter, via Stonegate Pub Company, and it is permanently on the bar – alongside two rotating guest ales.”

Having sampled the Sussex Best, Miles continued:

“I was bowled over by the beer quality – temperature, clarity, condition and taste were outstanding. It transpired that we were drinking Gyle 235, racked exactly three weeks previously.

It was encouraging to know that the pub chain logistics were operating in a manner that gave the potential for optimum beer quality, but landlord Jim Pratt deserves every accolade going. It is a prime example of how a high-street pub with no obviously outstanding features can be taken to great heights by simple standards of décor, cleanliness and quality.”

High praise indeed for the Cask Marque accredited South Herts CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2021

which, since Jim took its stewardship, has continuously been voted a place in the CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*, now *GBG 2023*.

Steve Bury



Harvey’s Head Brewer **Miles Jenner** (on the left) raising a glass to Robin Hood Landlord **Jim Pratt**

**South Herts CAMRA
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BSST - East Anglia Club of the Year 2022

Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2TD

On Thursday 20th October the **Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (BSST)** was awarded the CAMRA **Regional Club of the Year**. This means CAMRA consider it the best club in the six counties in East Anglia Region and it goes forward for judging against the three other regional English winners for the national award.

The award was presented to the club by Andrea Briers, the CAMRA Regional Director. Andrea told the gathering how delighted she was to present the certificate and thrilled that BSST was amongst the best four clubs in the country having, for several years, been Herts and Essex Borders CAMRA Club of the Year.

Paul Carter, the Club's Managing Director, said that the staff at the Club – all volunteers – were elated with the award. Paul paid tribute to Neall Range, the Bar Manager, and the rest of the team, whose hard work serving great regional and national ales, in a welcoming environment had clearly paid off.

Talking about the quality of the beer, Neall enthused about the link up with Hadham Brewery, which had resulted in an extremely popular beer being brewed specially for the Club; Community Gold (3.7%). The name was chosen due to the Club being for everyone, not just sports members. Other than Hadham, the selection on the four handpumps often includes Real Ales from Mauldon, Tring, Wolf and Adnams.

The bar profits have helped develop the club's sports facilities for the local community: a huge cricket



*Andrea Briers (East Anglia CAMRA Regional Director) holding the Certificate presented to **Paul Carter (BSST Chairman)** and **Neall Range (BSST Bar Manager)**, with members of Herts Essex Borders CAMRA including **Brendan Sothcott (Chair)**.*

field, tennis and squash courts. Whilst the large club house is open to all, annual membership of £30 gives members a 10% discount on drinks.

The Club is open seven days a week until 11.00pm; from 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 12 noon at weekends. If you would like to drop by, they would be very pleased to see you!

Chris Sears
*Herts Essex Borders CAMRA
Publicity Secretary*

CAMRA unveils the UK's Top Member Clubs

The best clubs across the UK have been announced as part of CAMRA's prestigious Club of the Year competition 2022.

The 14 regional finalists will now have a chance to compete for the National Club of the Year crown, one of the highest accolades afforded to Britain's clubs. The competition has been on hold over the last two years due to COVID-19 restrictions and was last won by Cheltenham Motor Club in 2019, following-on from wins in 2013 and 2017.

The Club of the Year competition is run in conjunction with Club Mirror magazine with the simple aim of finding the best clubs with the greatest commitment to quality real ale served in great condition, and offering a fantastic atmosphere with welcoming surroundings. The overall winner will be announced early in 2023.

The regional announcement comes as CAMRA urges the Government to address the burgeoning energy

crisis and commit to urgent support to help the nation's pubs and clubs.

Phil Gregg, National Coordinator for the Club of the Year competition says:

"This is an incredibly difficult time for many of our beloved clubs as they jump from one crisis to yet another one. The fact that we're still seeing such shining examples of club excellence, despite these challenges, is incredible and a real testament to the winners.

"We believe that member only clubs are important community assets that promote the social wellbeing of the local area, and this competition aims to highlight the very best examples across the country."

The Top 14 Regional Winners included **Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (BSST)** from East Anglia. (See above).

Congratulations to Vale Brewery

Tramway Business Park, Ludgershall Road, Brill HP18 9TY



Vale Brewery Tap Room & Garden.

Congratulations to **Vale Brewery** who have won two recent awards for Gravitas: 2nd place at the CAMRA St Albans Beer & Cider Festival in September was followed with 1st place at the Longparish Beer Festival in October. These awards were hot on the heels of a 3rd place at the Society of Independent Brewers Association (SIBA) Beer Awards for VPA & Red Kite earlier in the year!

Vale beers can now be found across the UK and at the Vale Taproom – now open every Friday and Saturday 12 noon - 6pm. The monthly brew tours are very popular events, and there is also the opportunity to book private events. For more information visit www.valebrewery.co.uk.

New brews available for the cooler, darker Autumn/Winter evenings include:

Brock's Den (4.0%) Ruby – A dark malted ruby beer, with a sweet honey aroma, balanced with earthy taste notes and brewed in partnership with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). 10p from every pint sold (in taproom or retailer) will be donated to the charity.

Rock the Kazbek (4.0%) Pale Amber – Hopped with the first Czech hop, aromas of grapefruit and spice give way to a malty biscuit finish.

Santa's Ale (4.1%) Russet – A traditional chestnut bitter, said to be brewed for Santa himself! Deep roasted malts give a bold malty taste, with festive aromas of orange, spice & pine.

Good King (4.9%) Ruby Brown – A rich, malty seasonal bitter.



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Mermaid swims off with Cider Pub of The Year '22 Gold Award

98 Hatfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RL



The **Mermaid** in St Albans has again been awarded **Cider pub of the Year** by **South Hertfordshire Branch CAMRA**. The pub, which also sells an excellent range of ever-changing cask beers, has now won the award every year since its inception.

An average of eight still ciders, served cool from the cellar, is always available; their cask labels prominently displayed on a high board to the right that faces customers as they enter the pub.

Mark Powell, on receiving the certificate from Branch Chair Ian Boyd, stated how proud he was that the pub had yet again won the award, and that CAMRA had recognised the quality of the ciders and the hard work put in by his staff. He added that in these difficult times, it is appreciated that CAMRA continues to work together with pubs, to protect and promote real beers and ciders – a win-win situation for both.

The Mermaid holds several Real Ale and Cider festivals throughout the year, and local CAMRA

members are regular volunteers in helping to serve the public. Watch out for future events in upcoming editions of *Pints of View*.



Licensee **Mark Powell** (on the left) with South Herts CAMRA Chairman **Ian Boyd** and the award.

The Feathers – refurbished (but A10 bypass takes its toll of other pubs)

49 Cambridge Road, Wadesmill, SG12 0TN



The Feathers Inn – a Greene King establishment with 30 bedrooms plus function rooms – closed in October for a huge refurbishment to give it a ‘contemporary country pub feel’. The renovation will include new

furniture and furnishings, plus three outdoor areas with a pergola to increase seating capacity in the beer garden. The pub should reopen in November under the Chef & Brewer banner.

It’s good to see investment in pubs; especially in this area where the bypass has contributed to the recent loss of: the Sow and Pigs, Thundridge (now a restaurant); the Angel, Wadesmill, which remains closed; the White Horse, High Cross (planning granted for housing); and the Lamb and Flag, Colliers End. The rural area around it has also suffered, with many pub closures in the last 40 years – no lunchtime drinkers from the land and not enough evening drinkers to make up the difference.

Steve Bury



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A WARM WELCOME TO CAMRA MEMBERS & ALL



Royston Club, St Albans

12 College Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 5ND - 01727 853656

Brewing a Collaboration Porter

In September, Hertford brewer McMullen's and South Herts CAMRA joined forces to brew a beer celebrating 195 years of McMullen's (founded in 1827) and 50 years of the Branch, formed as the Hertfordshire Branch in 1972 – the beer to be made available to all Mac's pubs and to feature at the St. Albans Beer and Cider Festival.

Following earlier discussion, it was decided to mark the dates with a traditional porter to be brewed in the company's main brewery plant; a 50-barrel brew made solely from British malt and hops. As the brewing day approached, a "1950" pump clip was designed and agreed.

Branch members Ian Boyd, Matt Handford and Les Middlewood met Mac's Head Brewer Chris Evans and assistant Eva Butters for a 7am Wednesday start.

The first task was to mill the malted barley: Pale Ale, Crystal, Dark Crystal, Chocolate and Amber malts plus a little flaked maize sourced from Crisp Malting of Fakenham in Norfolk and local maltster French and Jupp of Stanstead Abbots with whom Mac's have had a commercial relationship for over 100 years.

In the ensuing brewing process, heating and cooling temperatures were closely set and monitored throughout. The milled grain was mixed with heated liquor (water) in an insulated vessel called a 'Mash Tun' to form a wort which was stood for an hour before the draining away of spent grain and transferring of the liquid to the Copper where hops and Irish moss (a fining agent used to clarify the beer) were added. The hops chosen for our brew were: Bramling Cross, Fuggles, WGV and Harlequin, from hop distributors Charles Farran, of Malvern.



Ian Boyd, late hopping at the Hop Back

The wort passed through a calandria (heater) and was recirculated before transferring to the Hop Back where late hops were added and additional brewing liquor. The wort then stood for a short time before working through a heat exchanger and the adding of McMullen yeast – a strain which harks back for many decades.

Samples were taken along the way to assess quality and help indicate the final gravity, before a transfer of the beer to a fermenting vessel where it would stay for 3.5 to 4 days before a final transfer to a conditioning tank. Casks would then be filled ready for despatch to pub cellars where the beer would undergo secondary fermentation, ready to serve a day or so later.



All smiles after completing the brew: Eva Butters, Ian Boyd, Matt Handford, Chris Evans and Les Middlewood

This was an excellent brewing experience for the CAMRA team for which we must thank our hosts McMullen's and particularly long-time Head Brewer Chris and Assistant Brewer Eva who joined Mac's a year ago, following her brewing degree at Heriot Watt University.

With the day's process completed it was time for a pint or two of McMullen's beers in Hertford town centre at the nearby Woolpack – a pub which displays many Mac's artefacts representing the company's history.

Two weeks later the porter was sampled at the brewery before its launch at the St. Albans Beer and Cider Festival and in some of Mac's 125 tied houses.



"1950" with Mac's regular cask beers on the handpumps in the brewery sampling room

And the result? "1950" (ABV 4.6%) porter is dark ruby red in colour with a distinct coffee and chocolate roast, not dry or thick, but smooth and well-balanced with a strong caramel finish and eminently drinkable as witnessed at the Festival where the beer was actively sought out by drinkers and the stock of barrels quickly sold out. Indeed, esteemed beer writer Roger Protz, thought the beer impressive and a panel of judges, in a Festival blind tasting, awarded

it Bronze in this year's Hertfordshire Beer of the Year competition.

We hope that you were able to taste the beer during its tenure at the Festival and at the Mac's pubs who took it.

A final note: Mac's pubs will soon be stocking the company's popular annual seasonal beer, Bootwarmer (ABV 5.2%), in December and over the New Year period - it will also be available in boxes from the brewery shop and website.

Les Middlewood

McMullen's Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO)

Mac's on the Mile End Road

Hertford brewer McMullen's have extended their growing London tied estate with the purchase of the White Hart, a landmark pub at 1 Mile End Road in Whitechapel featuring a notable etched glass partition and mirrors. Due to close during 2023 for a Mac's refurbishment, the pub is currently open and featuring Mac's cask ales plus a guest beer.

Les Middlewood

McMullen's Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO)



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50 Years of Hertfordshire Real Ale

A Celebration and a Special Award

South Herts Branch marked its 50th anniversary with a special event held at the Lower Red Lion in St Albans on Saturday 19th November. Attended by over 50 members who spanned the last half a century of real ale campaigning, some had travelled from far and wide and six current and former chairmen were there to help the proceedings.



It was a time to reminisce about times past, the japes and scrapes, the campaigning wins and to remember some of the friends lost along the way. But campaigning was not far from people's thoughts – the Chancellor's Autumn statement, given just days before, reminded members that this was no time to just sit back to enjoy past glories; in fact it was time for more and more effort to secure and promote cask ale, to get behind local publicans and pubs and to support our breweries. The pub and brewery scene today is different from that of 1972 and the challenges might be different but the current economic conditions are becoming life-threatening for many of our pubs and deserve new and urgent campaigning.

The huge gathering along with local MP Daisy Cooper, were also there to witness a very special presentation to one special campaigner. Attending that very first meeting in 1972 was a young Steve Bury, full of campaigning zeal and a newfound passion for traditional cask ale. As the Hertfordshire Branch (as it was then known) found its legs, it began campaigning for more cask ale and the return of

handpumps – and most pressing, the eradication of the desperately poor keg beers wrought on drinkers by the big brewers of the day. Steve was in the forefront of things, often becoming the face of the campaign in Herts and soon a strong prominent national figure known for keeping the Campaign in line, with speeches at CAMRA's National Annual General Meetings. His name is synonymous with South Herts branch. During the past 50 years



Steve holding his award, is joined by local MP Daisy Cooper

Steve has held most Branch Committee positions, has been the long-time editor of *Pints of View* and has held rock steady in his cask ale views in the quest for a quality, clear and well-kept traditional pint and supporting the pubs that sell it. Steve's imminent move to Kent might mark the end of his campaigning in Hertfordshire (though he will still write for *Pints of View*) but it will be to Kent's advantage. Ian Boyd presented Steve with a unique Lifetime Achievement Award. Well done, Steve, you deserve it!

Over the weekend many members also made the pilgrimage to the nearby Farriers Arms where CAMRA



Steve Bury receives his Lifetime Achievement Award from Ian Boyd, current South Herts CAMRA Chair



South Herts Branch Members outside the Farriers Arms

Hertfordshire campaigning was founded on the 20th November 1972. It has legendary status in Hertfordshire CAMRA but is currently up for sale – we hope that a buyer can be found to keep it operating as a great pub serving the community for many years to come.

50 years have passed. So where to next? In the wake of the Chancellor's statement, CAMRA's National Chairman, Nik Antona, made plain what CAMRA wants to see:

"In the coming weeks and months, we will be keeping up the pressure for pubs and breweries to get support with rocketing energy bills beyond April 2023. The Government has said they will be making decisions before Christmas. We are also campaigning for a freeze in alcohol duties. A decision on this is going to be made separately, as part of the Alcohol Review which will see a new, lower rate of duty charged on draught beer and cider served in pubs and clubs introduced in August 2023. This new draught rate is something CAMRA has long campaigned for and it's positive that the Government remains committed to its introduction. And we'll be pushing for wholesale reform of the business rates system, which unfairly penalises pubs in its current form."

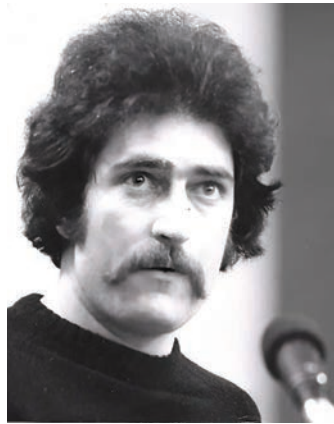
Nik's words are both national and local – important aims that Hertfordshire branches will be playing their part in campaigning for in 2023.

In 1974 the Lower Red Lion became the first Free House in St Albans to convert to real ale. We would like to thank everyone at the pub for hosting our celebratory event.



Six South Herts Chairmen, present and past

L-R: Ian Boyd, Les Middlewood, Phil Defriez, Steve Bury, Dave Andrews and Bob Norrish



1978 CAMRA AGM in Cardiff

Double act – Big Steve and little mic

If you are not already a member, why not join CAMRA to help us protect pubs and cask ale – and this winter please make regular visits to our Hertfordshire pubs. We need them to prosper, serving our communities in these difficult coming months.

And right now? Well, how about a seasonal drink or two with friends in your favourite local. What could be finer? Cheers!

Les Middlewood
South Herts CAMRA



At the "Lower Red" – raising a glass to real ale!



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fair deal
for your
local**

**Promote
beer quality**

**Support
pubs and
breweries**



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at beer festivals
or local branch

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pubs**

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www.camra.org.uk/join

St Albans Beer & Cider Festival '22 - Report

After three long years, September saw thousands, once again, descend on the Alban Arena for Hertfordshire's biggest celebration of beer and cider.

With a new organising team in place, led by veteran festival volunteer Adrian Saunders, the aim was to give the event a fresh look and updated atmosphere, while retaining people's favourite features. Based on a gold and silver theme, reflecting South Herts CAMRA's 50th anniversary and it being the 25th festival held, the occasion also needed to live-up to the expectations built-up during the enforced hiatus.

So, while much was familiar to returning visitors – including the huge range of cooled cask ales, the famous international bar in the basement, and other key features including the Hertfordshire breweries selection on the stage – other parts of the venue saw a completely new layout.

For the first time, the floor of the main hall boasted two brewery bars – from new participants, Buckinghamshire's **Vale Brewery** and West Yorkshire's **Ossett Brewery**. And on the stage, alongside a more general showcase of local ales, longstanding festival supporters **Tring Brewery** had their own dedicated bar, too.

The Arena's balcony area had a new occupant for the first time in many years – **Mad Squirrel Brewery**, with a focus on live beer served via KeyKeg. And downstairs we welcomed two more newcomers – fledgling St Albans start-up **Lost Boys Brewery** and, from the world famous Bermondsey Beer Mile, **Spartan Brewery**.

The fresh and exciting brewery line-up was completed by Surrey's **Big Smoke Brew Co**, which served its beers from a classic French van parked on the patio.

Also benefitting from a revamp was the festival's food offering. Returning once again to give everyone their pastry-fix was the **Crusty Pie Company**, while also back by popular demand were the **Little Panjab**

Food Company and **Henley's Sweets**. But joining them for the first time was Camden-based street food truck **Kell's Kitchen**, plus deli-stall **No2 Pound Street** offering the most incredible cheeses. We also had a brand new snack supplier, **Just Crisps**, offering an array of flavours from the traditional to the outlandish.

Top class entertainment complemented the food and drink. Thursday saw popular local covers band **The Landlords** perform to an appreciative crowd, while on Saturday we were joined by folk-

rockers **Sweetcornbread** who provided the perfect soundtrack to the weekend party atmosphere. Offering more sedate entertainment, legendary beer writer Roger Protz dropped in to sign his books and run a tutored beer tasting session. And we had a new auctioneer – with Steve Bury unavailable this year, Bill Austin stepped-in to take the bids on all manner of brewing and pub collectables.

After all the upheaval of the Covid period, bringing the festival back after its enforced break was no easy task, and to make it financially viable the organising team had to make a number of efficiencies and difficult decisions. Working alongside Adrian Saunders, the wider team of Tom Blakemore,

Phil Defriez, John Lightfoot, Mark Ostrowski, Emily Ryans, Cherry Saunders, John Tubridy, and Dave Wright [Ed: And, of course, Ben Wilkinson!] all put in a huge effort over many months.

But even more important than their input was the contribution of hundreds of volunteers who filled a variety of different roles during the festival itself – from building the bars and setting up the barrels, to serving, processing tickets at the entrance, washing glasses, handling cash, and all manner of other tasks besides. Running the festival would have been simply impossible without the time these fantastic men and women gave up.

(Cont. ➔ p24)



Everyone having a good time - both sides of the bar



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ber 2023

T FREE!



(Cont. ← p21)

Thanks are also due to the Alban Arena staff who, once again, went above and beyond to transform their venue and help us make the festival a success. And to our sponsors, inc. **Tring Brewery, Mad Squirrel Brewery, McMullen's Brewing & Pubs, Vale Brewery, Ossett Brewery, Big Smoke Brew Co, Harvey's Brewery, Oakham Ales, St Albans Car and Van Hire, Uno buses, Selectaglaze, and St Albans pubs the Robin Hood, Great Northern and Mermaid.**

Above all though, a huge and heartfelt thank you to all who came to enjoy the festival and make it a success.

Looking ahead, **we'll be back at The Arena from Wed 27th to Sat 30th September 2023** – but we need your help on a few fronts:

- **New volunteers** – inevitably as some of those involved in the festival move on, move away or get older, we always need to keep bringing new people on board. Could you play a role, either during the festival itself or in some of the organisation? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact: chairman@southherts.camra.org.uk
- **New sponsors** – financial and in-kind support is essential to the viability of the festival. There are a range of advertising and sponsorship packages available to suit all budgets, so please get in touch if this would be of interest to your business. Or perhaps you could offer a useful service to us in return for some promotion? Please get in touch with: sponsorship@stalbansbf.org.uk
- **New ideas** – the festival will only continue to be a success if it continues to evolve. We know there is always room for improvement, and we really value constructive comments or suggestions. When we return next year, we want the festival to be even



The Rhythm
Festival hits a high note



The Booze
Every pint poured c-a-r-e-f-u-l-l-y

better! If you have any thoughts you would like to share, do please drop an email to: publicity@stalbansbf.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and until next year... CHEERS!

Ben Wilkinson
SAB&CF
Publicity Officer



Roger Protz tutored tasting
The ultimate multi-task - listening and drinking

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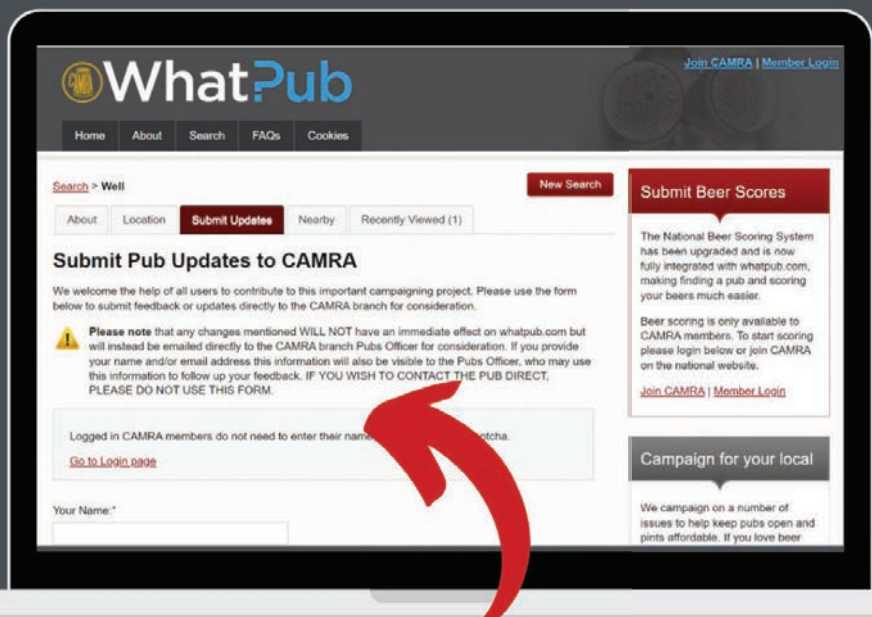
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Campaign
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26th Watford Beer Festival - Report

August saw the belated return of the Watford Beer Festival. This year's event was the 26th and took place from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th August 2022. The last event took place in 2019 and much has occurred in the intervening years.



At the 26th Watford Beer Festival in Halsey Hall.

Pandemic restrictions and lockdowns prevented the event from taking place for a long time, but even after restrictions were lifted, our organising team found that the festival could not simply carry on as normal. The previous venue, the West Herts Sports Club, was undergoing renovation during the planning phase of the festival, and the function room and bar were demolished, which left no venue for the event. With the new function room's opening date uncertain and doubts about the space that would ultimately be needed, we took the decision to look for an alternative venue.

Finding venues of a suitable size was a challenge, which was made more difficult by the need to judge what effect the pandemic would have on custom. Other beer festivals that had taken place since restrictions were lifted had experienced varying attendances. CAMRA beer festival budgets are scrutinised to minimise the chance of losses, so we needed to plan conservatively to get the budget approved.

It was hard to find venues of an equivalent size to the previous site that were also convenient for public transport and had the necessary facilities. Luckily, we were able to book Halsey Masonic Hall, which is located on Rickmansworth Road directly opposite Watford Town Hall. The venue is in use late in the year which meant we had to hold the festival earlier than previously, but it fit the bill for convenience, being right in the centre of town. It also has a professional kitchen, which was essential for glass-washing and catering.

Holding the festival in summer meant we had to give a lot more thought to cooling the beer than in previous years. All our other festivals have been held in October

or November, so we relied a lot on the generally lower temperatures to make a simple evaporative cooling approach work. This involves covering casks with damp muslin and towels. As the water evaporates the loss of latent heat cools the casks. Holding the festival over the summer Bank Holiday a mere few weeks after the country had 'enjoyed' 40-degree temperatures meant this approach was unlikely to work. We therefore made use of the beer coolers available from the CAMRA warehouse. These hefty devices cool water to zero degrees and pump it into metal saddles that sit in close contact with each cask. The drawback is they pump out plenty of heat themselves, which made for some uncomfortable sessions for the bar staff.

Previously we'd also been using scaffolding platforms as a stillage for the beers. These were easy to put together, but it was difficult to fit the beer casks in, especially on the bottom shelf. Since we were getting a delivery from the warehouse anyway, we decided to use CAMRA's very handy warehouse shelving, which also clips together easily and can be assembled with the shelves at different heights, making it easier to fit in the casks.

We had to reduce our beer order by about 50% this year because the venue's fire limit and the lack of a marquee restricted the number of customers we could accommodate. We still had about 40 firkins of ale from local breweries and from further afield. Breweries represented included Oxhey Village Brewery, Paradigm and Pope's Yard from the local area. We also had beers from Farr Brew, Mad Squirrel, New River, 3 Brewers and Tring in Hertfordshire, and Leighton Buzzard Brewing, Vale, and XT from just outside the county.

One tradition that we did continue from the last event was the 'Beer of the Festival' competition, voted for by our customers. Paradigm Brewery carried on as they left off in 2019 and won with the unseasonal Watford Winter Warmer. The top ten beers are listed below.

1. **Paradigm** – Watford Winter Warmer
2. **Industrial Ales** – Coal Face Stout
3. **Pope's Yard** – Watford Summer Stout
4. **Paradigm** – Seven 'C's
5. **Tring** – Wooden Wonder
6. **Paradigm** – Cassiobury Sunshine IPA, and **Tiny Rebel** – ODB Plum Mild
8. **Brew York** – Calmer Chameleon
9. **Cross Bay** – Halo, and **Five Points** – XPA

The organisers are looking forward to the next event and we hope you are too.

Cheers!

Andrew Vaughan
Watford & District CAMRA

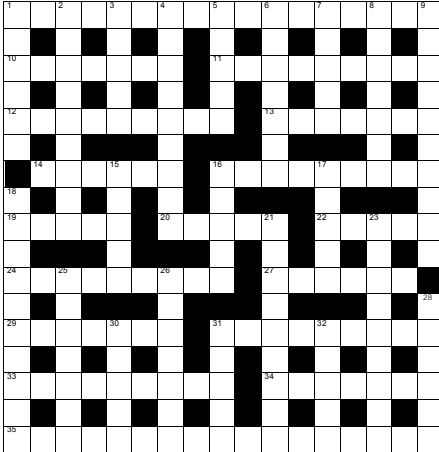
Pints of View 305 Christmas Prize Crossword

First correct entry drawn wins:

The 2023 CAMRA Good Beer Guide

Second correct entry drawn wins:

The 2023 CAMRA Good Beer Guide Glass Cloth



DOWN

- 1 You are best served up potatoes? (6)
- 2 Give up being consumed by ale – be somehow fair (9)
- 3 Better being dismissed before party (5)
- 4 Being lazy, ruined the garlic (9)
- 5 Passage in the centre of Paisley (5)
- 6 Providing cards (ID), angle for special treatment (7)
- 7 This joint, nothing except sandwiches (5)
- 8 Nice lad travels somewhere abroad (7)
- 9 Brew of yeast and er, rye in the past (10)
- 15 Swimmer is warmer taking top off (5)
- 16 Tend to some ales running back (5)
- 17 Warning later revised (5)
- 18 Hot gardens may give you rash (10)
- 21 Book-keeper, 28, in a right mess (9)
- 23 It's a dreary routine to ferment mild later (9)
- 25 Somehow roped in to produce weapon (7)
- 26 Spaniard perhaps missing introduction to Russian (7)
- 28 English sign for majority at 21 (6)
- 30 A defender might be taken so (5)
- 31 Wines mixed for a bit of body (5)
- 32 Crop puzzle engrosses one (5)

ACROSS

- 1 A seasonal 20 (17, 5 words)
- 10 Bird, not a redbreast? (4,3)
- 11 Pure lass isn't travelling around east (9)
- 12 Reason to restrict beer (9)
- 13 Repeat it? Perhaps, but not softly (7)
- 14 Blog on unusual shape (6)
- 16 Tight guard lying about missing uranium (9)
- 19 Occurrence in the middle of '70 (5)
- 20 See 1) and 35) Across
- 22 More wide, maybe (5)
- 24 Put off explosive work out (9)
- 27 It's cold and dry in funeral carriage (6)
- 29 Find queen in row of houses (7)
- 31 Occasional pass goes astray with old youth
In charge (9)
- 33 Choice involving long term surgery (9)
- 34 First in, one turned tail (7)
- 35 A seasonal 20 (17, 3 Words)

Entries by Fri 13th Jan to:

PoV Competition
5 Manor Way, Potters Bar,
Herts, EN6 1EL

Photocopies/scans/photos are acceptable

Your Name

Your Address

.....

.....

.....

Your Postcode

Sincere apologies to Catherine Wheel entrants in POV 304

Firstly, as a few of you pointed out, there were several mistakes not picked-up at the proof-read stage. Despite this, there were five correct entries, so very well done to all of you!

Secondly, as some of you may already be aware, after over 20 years I have (finally) stood down as editor of Pints of View, due to an imminent relocation to Kent (though I will remain part of the editorial team). The relevance of this? Well, in my enthusiasm to clear out ready for the removal team, I appear to have lost all the competition entries ie. including the correct ones.

What can I say, other than sorry? I hope this does not put you off taking part in future competitions, when the responsibility for organising them will rest with another member of the team.

Steve Bury

Awards presentation at the Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty

Long Lane, Heronsgate, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5BS

On Thursday 6th October Watford & District branch paid a visit to the **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty** in Heronsgate to present not one, but two awards. The first was for winning the competition for **Watford & District Branch Pub of the Year 2021**. The Land of Liberty has dominated this competition in recent years, receiving the award 13 times in the 17 years that licensees Martin Few and Gill Gibson have been in charge.



Gill Gibson and Martin Few, licensees of the *Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty*, with their winning certificates.

The presentation coincided with a beer festival the pub was holding to celebrate Gill's birthday and a range of superb beers from microbreweries were available on the bar.

Unsurprisingly, the pub is regularly included in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide*, and excellent quality beer is one of the prerequisites of the Pub of the Year competition. However, there are other criteria that must be satisfied. For example, as well as selling a well-kept pint, the pub must actively promote real ale. Martin and Gill were volunteers in Watford & District branch before moving into the Land of Liberty and after taking over the pub they put their campaigning into practice. They gradually increased the number of real ales from smaller breweries, eventually replacing the regular beers with a changing range of micro-brewed ales. Even the keg beers and snacks were swapped out for equivalents from smaller producers so customers could benefit from a broader offering than most other pubs. They then proceeded to go further and started holding regular beer festivals, promoting a wider range of real ales than they would normally stock.

As well as enjoying the beer, visitors to the pub can also take part in one of the regular charity quizzes; and other pub and local events are advertised on the noticeboard. The pub has close links to the local community and has a historical connection with

nearby Heronsgate village. A local history account of the 19th Century Chartist commune of O'Connorville located in Heronsgate was written by pub regular Ian Foster and the pub itself has been the subject of an exhibition by photographer Tom Warland.

Another criterion that the Pub of the Year must satisfy is that the décor must be respectful of the character and age of the building. After taking over, Martin decorated the pub with the collection of bottles, brewery mirrors and other breweriana that he had acquired over the years, which complements the style of the traditional village pub and is also of interest to fans of brewery history and breweriana alike.

However, now the mirrors on the walls are sharing space with the many awards received over the years, and they're not just from the local branch. The second certificate presented on the 6th was the **Hertfordshire Pub of the Year 2021** award, voted for by all the Hertfordshire branches. It's now the 7th time the Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty has won that award. On behalf of the Hertfordshire branches I would like to congratulate Martin, Gill, and their staff for the pub's success in both competitions and to thank them for serving such excellent beer over the years.

Andrew Vaughan
Watford & District CAMRA

A yellow rectangular graphic with a black border. At the top, the text 'NEW RIVER' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'EST. 2015' in a smaller font below it. Below this, the word 'BREWERY' is in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath 'BREWERY' are three wavy horizontal lines. In the center, the text 'AWARD-WINNING BEER FROM THE RIVERBANK' is in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website 'newriverbrewery.co.uk' is in a bold, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic is decorated with small, stylized icons of various objects related to beer and nature, such as a bottle, a glass, a hop, a leaf, and a bird.

Summer Bronze for the Old Cross Tavern

8 St Andrew Street, Hertford SG14 1JA



A busy **Old Cross Tavern** in August, full of regulars, witnessed the **South Hertfordshire Branch 2022 Pub of the Year** competition Bronze plaque being awarded to owners Nigel "Bev" Beviss and Mary Gianoli who founded the pub in a former antiques shop back in 1999 and have run it ever since! The Old Cross Tavern has become ever popular for real ale drinkers in Hertford and is no stranger to award winning having picked up no less than six Golds, three Silvers and four Bronzes in the annual competition.

The ethos of the pub, which carries the apt slogan: *"Pubs the Way They Used to Be"*, is all about serving great, well-kept cask ales, in an ambience of conversation and fun, and unhindered by piped music, fruit machines or suchlike.

Presenting the award, Branch Chair Ian Boyd paid tribute to the owners, saying:

"The pub has become a firm favourite, not only in Hertford but in South Herts and beyond, always keeping well-kept, quality cask ale at the top of its agenda and always having a great selection of beers on the bar. Congratulations to all concerned."

With Timothy Taylor's Landlord as the pub staple, there are usually five other beers on handpump sourced from near and far, often from Mighty Oak and Tring breweries, and there is always a dark ale. The pub also offers an extensive range of Belgian bottled beers and a craft keg ale, and has pork pies and scotch eggs on the bar.

Bev was keen to underscore nationally-expressed concerns for pubs and small businesses in the current fuel and energy crisis and voiced his life-long love for the traditional pub and what it brings to the community – to lose them would be very sad.

Mary praised CAMRA's continuing support for traditional cask ale and pubs like the Old Cross Tavern. She had a special mention for her strong, young team of cellar and bar staff – most of whom were in attendance that night.

The Old Cross Tavern is open from 4.30pm Monday – Thursday, 4pm on Fridays and 2pm at weekends.

Les Middlewood
South Herts CAMRA




Owners **Nigel "Bev" Beviss** and **Mary Gianoli**, receiving the award with South Herts CAMRA Chairman **Ian Boyd** (centre).

OLD CROSS TAVERN

"Pubs the Way They Used to Be"

Award winning Town Centre Real Ale Free House
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Serving ales of differing styles from diverse
breweries including dark beers / Belgian beers

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The Crooked Billet's Double Silver Lining

140 Musley Hill, Ware SG12 7NL



At an award ceremony in September, a hearty round of applause was given to Bev Gefaell, landlady at the **Crooked Billet**, Ware, Silver award winner in **South Hertfordshire Branch 2022 Pub of the Year** competition. The "Billet", a former winner, attained silver just twelve months ago.

The Crooked Billet is found high on Musley Hill in the north of the town and has proud community credentials, something the Branch representative, Brian Page, was keen to underscore as he said when making the award:

"Bev has now run the pub for three years and had to endure a tough start - two years of Covid and Lockdowns. But the pub has now had a welcome and tasteful refurbishment; local people and regulars have kept supporting it, making the Billet a wonderful community pub.

This was more than evident on the day: the pub being packed with people enjoying themselves at the beer festival (held outside at the rear), watching the day's



Brian Page from South Herts CAMRA with landlady, **Bev Gefaell** holding her silver award.

football scores, or just chatting in the two contrasting bars. However, Bev insisted:

"The pub is really not about me, it's about the people who use it. I'd like to thank them for their continuing support and CAMRA for this award."

We all know, of course, that the success of a community pub depends on the drive and personality of those running it. Bev oversees a fine community atmosphere, selling a diverse range of two or three well-kept real ales on handpump. At weekends one is often a dark ale – a mild, stout or porter.

The Crooked Billet is open from 4pm Monday to Friday and from noon at weekends. Go along; you'll be made very welcome!

Les Middlewood
South Herts CAMRA

No Smoke without fire?

It has been reported that two Hertfordshire pubs operated by brewery and pub company **Big Smoke** – the **Queen's Head** in Harpenden and the **Crystal Palace** in Berkhamsted – are being "handed back" to Punch Taverns. Prior to going to press, no response had been received from the company when asked for further information.

Cross Keys

Harpenden



39 High Street
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 2SD
Tel: 01582 763989

Warm welcome
Beautiful beer
Green, peaceful garden





The Windmill – finally reopens

Charlton Rd, Charlton, Hitchin SG5 2AE



*Artist impression of the pub
(from Save the Windmill website).*

The Windmill at Charlton near Hitchin reopened in September after a 7-year hiatus. Seems like good news. But there remain concerns.

First a brief history – Charles Wells closed the pub in 2015 and sold it to a private buyer who then removed fixtures and fittings before applying for retrospective planning permission, which was refused. Since then, there has been a vigorous campaign to get the Windmill reopened, led by the 'Save the Windmill' campaign group who set up 'The Windmill Community Pub Ltd' with a vision to run the Windmill as a community hub, owned by the community, for the community.

Back in April, when building works were going on, it was understood that the owner had given assurances to North Herts Council that The Windmill would be open for business late Spring. This would have been ideal, as it had traditionally been a summer pub and England enjoyed months of hot weather!

However, it was not until early Autumn that The Windmill re-opened; fully 7 years since being granted Asset of Community Value (ACV) status. Phil Jarvis, contacting Pints of View on behalf of The Windmill Community Pub Ltd, wrote:

"We would like to make it clear that The Windmill remains in the same ownership, with a lease agreement in place. The owner has refused to discuss or consider a market-based purchase offer from The Windmill Community Pub Ltd. We consider the price of £600,000 to be unrealistic and unlikely to attract a buyer.

"We were not informed of the opening date, [though] are aware that the new tenants, Madelaine and Adrian, [planned] a 'soft opening' to allow their operation to 'bed in'. We wish them every success.

"In terms of our share interest register, I want to reassure people that we will continue to maintain and build this register of pub supporters and

potential investors; community pubs up and down the country continue to provide a viable business option for these essential community hubs."

We have not been able to get an update from Mr. Jarvis. In the meantime, why not give the pub a try and write to *Pints of View* with your comments. At the time of writing, there are a number of real ales being served, including a range from Hertfordshire's Buntingford Brewery: Hurricane Bitter (4.0%), Polar Star Pale Ale (4.4%) and Oatmeal Stout (4.4%). The pub is open Mon, Wed & Fri from 10.00am to 10.00pm; Sat & Sun 2.00pm to 10.00pm and is closed Tue & Thu.

Includes information provided by:

Mick Woodhouse
North Herts CAMRA
Pubs Protection Officer



Recent photo of the pub (provided by Bryan Bird, North Herts CAMRA Pubs Officer).

Pubs in Town

A NEW PUB GUIDE



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ON?**

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South Herts Pub of the Year 2023

Since its inception in 1986, South Herts Pub of the Year has been won by 17 different pubs. The branch area is divided into four regional zones, each with a similar number of pubs. A coordinator for each zone is appointed and a shortlist of pubs drawn-up from those nominated by Branch Members:

North West zone – Matt Handford

- Carpenters Arms, Harpenden
- Cross Keys, Harpenden
- Harpenden Arms, Harpenden
- Horse & Groom, Hatfield
- Green Man, Sandridge
- Rose & Crown, Sandridge

North East zone – Joe Saunders

- Black Horse, Hertford
- Great Eastern Tavern, Hertford
- Old Barge, Hertford
- Old Cross Tavern, Hertford
- Crooked Billet, Ware

West zone (St Albans) – Phil Defriez

- Garibaldi
- Great Northern
- Lower Red Lion
- Mermaid
- Portland Arms
- Robin Hood
- Six Bells
- White Hart Tap

South zone – Paul Woodhouse

- Crooked Billet, Colney Heath
- Bull, London Colney
- Green Dragon, London Colney
- Admiral Byng, Potters Bar
- Holly Bush, Potters Crouch

Members are encouraged to get involved! All it requires is going to **every pub in any zone**, drinking real ale and filling in a short form with scores out of ten. Go to <https://pintsofview.camra.org.uk/> and click on 'Pub of the Year Judging Form' (under Please join in!).

The criteria to be judged are:

- Quality & Condition of Beer/Cider/Perry
- Promotion & Knowledge
- Cleanliness & Staff Hygiene
- Service, Welcome & Offering
- Style, Décor & Furnishing
- Community Focus & Atmosphere
- Sympathy with CAMRA Aims
- Overall Impression & Value

Please note that for a member's scores to be included, **ALL the pubs in any zone** must be surveyed (and ideally more than once and at different times) and the scores sent to the zonal coordinators by **Sunday 15th January 2022**.

What a great reason to visit our pubs. Cheers to every member who gets involved!

Phil Defriez

*Pub of the Year Coordinator
South Herts CAMRA*

Beer, Cider & Industry News

32 Spoons to fork off

JD Wetherspoon, whose headquarters are in Watford, is to put 32 of its pubs on the market saying that the reduction of their 800+ estate was a “commercial decision”.

The pubs are in viable town and city centre locations, with more than half of the ten freehold and twenty-two leasehold sites being in London and the south-east.

Below is listed the 32 pubs for sale:

SOUTH EAST SPOONS	... NOT SOUTH EAST
Beaconsfield – Hope & Champion Bexleyheath – Wrong ‘Un Bournemouth – Christopher Creeke Harrow – Moon on the Hill Hove – Cliftonville Inn London Battersea – Asparagus London East Ham – Miller’s Well London Eltham – Bankers Draft London Forest Gate – Hudson Bay London Forest Hill – Capitol London Holborn – Penderel’s Oak London Hornsey – Toll Gate London Islington – Angel London Palmers Green – Alfred Herring Loughton – Last Post Purley – Foxley Hatch Sevenoaks – Sennockian Southampton – Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis Watford – Colombia Press	Barnsley – Silkstone Inn Cheltenham – Bank House Durham – Water House Halifax – Percy Shaw Hanham – Jolly Sailor Loughborough – Moon & Bell Mansfield – Widow Frost Middlesbrough – Resolution Redditch – Rising Sun Stafford – Butler’s Bell West Bromwich – Billiard Hall Willenhall – Malthouse Wirral – John Masfield

As Wetherspoon’s estate numbers more than 800 pubs, the loss represents less than 4%, but should clear their predicted losses. Furthermore, only one is in Hertfordshire and that, The Colombia Press in Watford, has another Wetherspoon’s, The Moon Under Water, less than a quarter mile down the High Street.

Whilst JD’s will dispose of what appear to be successful pubs, the chain favours freehold premises and as 22 of the 32 pubs are leasehold, selling them

The last *Pints of View* included an article in which Wetherspoon’s announced that they could have losses of around £30m after raising staff wages and spending on repairs.

Wetherspoon spokesman Eddie Gershon said: “We understand that customers and staff will be disappointed. The pubs will continue to operate as Wetherspoon outlets until they are sold.”

will increase the proportion of estate owned by the company. With that in mind, if a suitable agreement cannot be reached on renewal of the lease... then they go!

On a more positive note for Herts Spoon Fans, the company will not rule out opening more pubs in the region. However, the rumour doing the rounds that the current Ware library building is being targeted has been flatly denied.

First Damm brewery in UK

Hot on the heels of closing its Jennings Brewery site in Cockermouth, Carlsberg-Marstons Brewing Company (CMBC) has now sold the Eagle Brewery in Bedford to Spanish producer Estrella Damm. These are just the latest in a series of sales and closures in a beer market dominated by international brewing businesses. London-based Fuller's passed into the ownership of Asahi, whilst many smaller independent breweries have been swallowed up by global giants that now produce around 70 per cent of beer made in the UK.

CAMRA chairman Nik Antona commented:

"This latest news highlights a global brewing market which is massively unbalanced, grants too much power to the international brewing giants and increasingly makes it impossible for independent, British brewers to compete. We believe that the UK beer market, and particularly the on-trade, needs constant monitoring by Competition Authorities, as a result of the continual consolidations that have taken place in the last five or so years.

"It's small comfort, but at least the Eagle Brewery in Bedford is being sold as a going concern, and

the brands which were born and brewed there will find new homes at other Carlsberg-Marstons breweries. We're also optimistic that maximising production at Carlsberg-Marstons's remaining breweries will maintain profitability and dissuade the company from further site closures and job losses."

To quote from a letter in the recently published Beer Winter 2022:

"... it's clear the Carlsberg-Marston's Brewing Company is the only one of the four massive brewers with a commitment to cask beer."

Maybe, maybe not. The joint announcement by CMBC and Estrella Damm made the Eagle Brewery deal sound extremely positive for all-and-sundry. Perhaps tellingly, though, neither the word "ale" nor "cask" was mentioned once. And whatever the company's commitment might be to cask beer, it certainly doesn't extend to the *history* of cask beer. If it did, the company would not be closing the iconic Burton Brewery Museum, originally known as the Bass Museum prior to Coors takeover in 2003.



GREAT BRITISH PUB AWARDS 2022 FINALIST

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www.farrbrew.com

Readers Write

Political incorrectness

In relation to your article 'Steve's Shout', on page 5 of the Autumn Edition of Pints of View, you need to check your facts before going to press!

There are, in actual fact, 11 Hertfordshire MP's and not 9 as stated by you:

Richard Harrington is no longer MP for Watford and hasn't been since 2019 having been elevated to the House of Lords as Baron Harrington of Watford. The current MP for Watford is Conservative Dean Russell.

In addition to those mentioned by you, there are Stephen McPartland, Conservative, Stevenage and Sir Charles Walker, Conservative, Broxbourne.

Robert Butler

Ed Says: *Thanks for the message. Others have noticed one or other of these errors, but you, Robert, are the first to notice what we believed to be all of them, until an eagle-eyed Branch Chair spotted a spelling error (apologies to Mr Afolami)!*

We have published an erratum on our new website <https://pintsofview.camra.org.uk/> which gives us the flexibility to publish news (or corrections) between editions.

Bearing in mind the political climate, we decided to be more wary when naming Members of Parliament in this issue as, even if correct at the time of writing, they could be out-of-date when the magazine is printed.

Thanks for taking the time to read the magazine and contact us. We hope you enjoyed the read.

Writer's right

As I continued to work my way slowly through the Sep-Nov edition, I came to Malcolm Dean's article [Ed: I think you probably mean Malcolm Chapman's letter] which stated that:

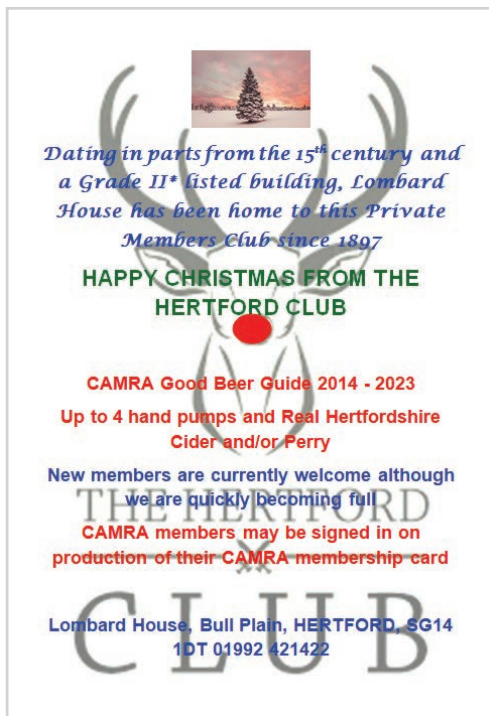
'... US policy under Biden is to make meat unavailable in two years.'

Seriously I have no problem with people expressing a different view - and I am aware that CAMRA began as, and still is, a campaigning organisation as - at this Alt Right conspiracy drivel has no place in an excellent magazine which is devoted to beer, pubs, brewing and the like.

I regret to say it was a very poor editorial decision to run the article.

With all good wishes

Robin Bishop



Ed Says: *I think this is an issue of freedom of speech. You ought to have inferred from my (witty) response to his letter that "I don't agree with what Malcolm Chapman has to say, but I will defend his right to say it". In fact I very rarely reject copy for Pints of View and when I do it's normally for legal reasons. I know Malcolm quite well, and yes he can be a bit of a conspiracy theorist, at times, but there is no malice and I take it all with good humour. Can I also add that CAMRA is still a campaigning organisation though no longer with the 'you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs' approach.*

Readers Write

\$@B&#F! (St Albans Beer & Cider Festival)

Three of us, all CAMRA members, travelled up from Worthing for this year's festival.

We bought season tickets for £11, but even if we had attended on all four days, the cost would have been only £7 [£1 for pre-4pm entry Wed & Thu, + £2.50 for Fri & Sat], so this was a waste of money. In fact we did not attend on the Saturday, so purchasing tickets on the day for three days would have cost only £4.50. I was advised that the pricing was stated clearly on the website, but this was not the case when I booked.

This event has been free for CAMRA members arriving early in the day in previous years. This year's arrangements also made the wait to get in much longer and more chaotic [Ed: *Strange. Booking ahead should have given you Fast-Track Entry*].

There was no programme, and a printed beer list was not available when we arrived, but someone very kindly found one for me, after a couple of hours.

The venue is handy for the centre of the city and there are sandwiches and rolls available at Greggs and Tesco. The local Wetherspoon's is next door for more substantial meals.

Regards

Dave & Deborah Marcus

Ed Says: *I passed your letter to Ben Wilkinson, SA&CBF Publicity Officer. He responded as follows:*

We offered a range of advance ticket options. The "season passes", by definition, were intended for people who wanted the flexibility to drop in and out of the festival, at will, throughout the four days, and were priced on that basis. They would not have been the most cost-effective option for visitors "staying put". Various other ticket packages were available on our website for several weeks leading up to the festival. We will, of course, take people's comments on board as we review pricing for next year.

I apologise to anyone who felt they had a "chaotic" experience entering the festival. I spent much of the four days working in the foyer along with other volunteers and, aside from a small number of occasions when large groups arrived together, I observed queuing to be minimal.

With regard to beer-lists, I have to admit we fell short here. Inevitable last-minute changes make it extremely difficult to have a full-and-correct

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Continuous rotation of great ales from a wide range of breweries

South Herts CAMRA Club of the Year 2022

facebook.com/NorthMymmsSocialClub/

printed list available at the start of the festival. It will always be a compromise, but we were a little late this year. Also, whilst the festival was running, a higher-than-expected demand for printed lists, combined with an unanticipated problem with printing capacity at the Alban Arena, caused us to occasionally run-out for short periods. We will be taking steps to avoid a repeat, next year. On a more positive note, our new real-time online beer-list was well received.

In conclusion, I would like to remind readers that the festival is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom juggle this around full-time jobs, family commitments and other responsibilities. Whilst there will always be room for improvement, on balance, I think the event succeeds in offering hundreds of quality beers and ciders to thousands of visitors, in pleasant surroundings, and at reasonable cost. Anyone who feels their involvement could help us improve the festival in future years, do please consider joining us as a volunteer. See page 24 for contact details.

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).

BENINGTON: The grade-2-listed ***Bell***, which has not reopened since Covid and was granted Asset of Community Value status by Benington Council in the summer, is being advertised for sale by agent Bradleys Countrywide at £799K.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Congratulations to the ***Bishops Stortford Sports Trust*** which has won the award for East Anglia Club of the Year (see page 12)

BOREHAMWOOD: The ***Wishing Well***, has now been renamed ***The Good Companion*** "a traditional Craft Union Pub Company free house". They have two hand pumps, one serving Doom Bar the other for guest beers. This is a recent renovation just too late for the last edition. It also puts a dent in the "beer desert" article!

BRICKENDON: ***The Farmer's Boy*** has re-opened with new management after a refurbishment. There is a good range of real ales and a new menu of fresh food pub favourites. The pub is open all day.

CHARLTON: The ***Windmill*** re-opened on 10th September and has real ale and cider available. (See page 31)

ESSENDON WEST END: The ***Candlestick*** has re-opened with new management after a period of closure. Open Wednesday - Saturday 11am -10pm and Sunday 12 - 8pm, there is a new and interesting menu and beers initially from Tring brewery.

GREAT HORMEAD: The ***Three Tuns***, re-opened on 17th September after a 12 month closure during which a refurbishment was carried out. Tim Taylors Landlord and 2 beers from New River brewery were on offer at time of re-opening.

HATFIELD: The ***Harrier*** is to be refurbished by McMullen and renamed the ***Hatfield Tap***. The pub has had many re-incarnations and was originally known as the Hilltop.

HERTFORD: Pub of the Year (see page 29), The ***Old Cross Tavern*** has been put up for sale by owners Bev and Mary who are hoping to retire. Work on the ***Salisbury Arms Hotel*** continues with the pub and hotel accommodation due to re-open, stage by stage, in December. Sad news, meanwhile, that the ***Crafty Duck*** has closed. It specialised in new wave craft keg beers but offered one or two handpumped ales and was an interesting alternative place to drink in the town.

HODDESDON: The ***Bell Hotel*** no longer serves real ale.

ICKLEFORD: ***The Cricketers*** is up for sale at £850k with agent Sidney Phillips & Co.

MUCH HADHAM: ***The Bull*** now has Asset of Community Value status, thanks to the Save the Bull action group.

ST ALBANS: The ***Hare & Hounds*** closed for only three days in September when the previous landlord left (unable to agree terms of a new lease with pubco Stonegate) and a new publican took on management of the pub. Work on McMullen's new pub, the ***Saint and Sinner*** in St .Peter's Street, has slowed due to some structural difficulties. Opening is likely to be delayed until the New Year.

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS: ***The Oak*** closed in October 'for the foreseeable' future; presumably, Fullers will be seeking new leaseholders.

STEVENAGE: ***The Fisherman*** in Fishers Green has been bought by McMullens. The pub was closed for a refurb but should have re-opened in November. Sorry to report that the Almond Tree no longer serves real ale.

WADESMILL: ***The Feathers***, a Chef and Brewer pub with accommodation, has had a internal/external refurbishment. (See page 14)

WARESIDE: The long-term closed ***White Horse*** has been listed as an Asset of Community Value. following a campaign by the Wareside Community Group. It is understood, however, that the owner is appealing the decision.

WATFORD: A branch of the ***Beech House*** pub chain has opened in Watford Town Centre. Whilst there are three handpumps, only Fuller's London Pride was available in early October. ***The Horns*** closed its doors on 30th October for what might have been the last time due to energy prices, the impact of Covid, and low footfall. However, the renowned music venue pub opened up again on 18th November after the general manager decided to fight to keep it running. There is a fundraising page and some musicians are donating 100% of ticket sales to #SaveTheHornsWatford.



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A new CAMRA Publication 2022/3!

If you are interested in pubs and need something to read over Christmas, here's the answer...

This guide will lead you to 100 pubs throughout the East of England that retain interior features of real historical significance. They range from rural 'time-warp' pubs to old coaching inns and include some unsung pub interiors from the inter-war and post-war periods.

Fully updated and illustrated with high-quality photographs throughout; discover the variety of historic pub interiors in the East of England, while informative articles explain their significance. It champions the need to celebrate, understand and protect the genuine pub heritage we have left with every pub described, highlighting its special historic features.

- Includes Lord Nelson's local; one of the claimants for the smallest pub in the county; and two of only eight pubs still operating without a bar counter.
- Visit genuinely old pubs, some 500 years old; the East of England has the largest number of ancient snugs formed by settle benches.
- Find where you can play some of the most unusual pub games in the country.
- Includes contact details and information about the availability of real ale, accommodation, and food.

£8.99 (CAMRA Members Price £6.99). Visit the CAMRA shop at camra.org.uk to place your order.

Buy the book, read the book... then go out and explore for yourself!

Herts CAMRA Diary

South Herts CAMRA Branch *Good Beer Guide* 2024 Selection meetings – January 2023

It's time to select the 26 pubs that the Branch is allotted for the 2024 edition of the *Good Beer Guide* (GBG).

The GBG is about guiding visitors to the pubs serving the best beer in the area. In South Herts the allocation split was decided to ensure a fair geographical coverage of pubs up to GBG standard. The area is arranged into four Zones and each Zone is allocated a number of pubs.

The dates, times and venues for the January zone selection meetings are:

- **North West zone**
8.00pm Monday 9th January
Cross Keys, 39 High St,
Harpenden AL5 2SD
- **North East zone**
8.00pm Thursday 12th January
Hertford Club, Lombard House,
Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DT

- **West zone (St Albans)**
8.00pm Tuesday 17th January
Robin Hood, 126 Victoria Street,
St Albans AL1 3TG
- **South zone**
8.30pm Tuesday 17th January
Robin Hood, 126 Victoria Street,
St Albans AL1 3TG

Members intending to attend the January zone selection meetings should bring along their CAMRA membership card and use the interim period to visit and assess pubs for possible inclusion in the Guide.

To view the nominated pubs please visit our website (members only).

<http://southherts.camra.org.uk/members/gbg/pubs>

Proxy Voting

Members who are unable to attend the meetings but still want to vote will be able to do this by mid-December by making proxy votes via the branch website.

Good Beer Guide procedures can be found in the members' area.

Formal Notice South Herts CAMRA Branch AGM 2023 Saturday 21st January

The Hertford Club, Lombard House, Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DT

The branch will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 21st January 2023 at The Hertford Club, Lombard House, Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DT. The AGM will be preceded by a normal branch meeting which will start at 1.00pm. This will be followed at approx. 3.00pm by the AGM. At the AGM our branch committee for 2023 will be elected by the members in attendance.

Please note the following arrangements for holding the AGM, as agreed by CAMRA's National Executive:

Nominations for membership of the Branch Committee shall be in writing or by email to the current Chair: Ian Boyd, 3 Nunnery Stables, St Albans AL1 2AS; chair@southherts.camra.org.uk

In each case, nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder, both of whom should be members of the Branch, and accompanied by evidence of the nominee's willingness to stand. If a vote is required, a secret ballot will take place at the AGM.

Closing date for nominations is 14 days prior to the AGM, i.e. Saturday 7th January 2023.

If you are intending to attend the branch meeting and AGM, please make sure you bring your CAMRA membership card; you will need it to vote and also to enter the Club.

A buffet will be provided and please note The Hertford Club usually has 3 cask ales on offer.

Hopefully you will be able to attend the AGM and seriously consider standing for membership of the Branch Committee. There are many positions to fill. Our branch has over 2,000 members and I hope that, from amongst this membership, there are enough enthusiastic people to take on the challenge of being an active member of our branch committee.

We are delighted that our guest speaker will be local brewery owner Joe Brouder, from Vale Brewery.

Stay tuned to my monthly Newsletters to keep up to date with other announcements!

Ian Boyd
Branch Chair
South Herts CAMRA



The Sopwell Sweep Ale Trail

Wednesday 28th December

1.30pm	Beehive - AL1 1QL
2.15pm	Hare & Hounds - AL1 1RL
3.00pm	Goat - AL1 1RN
3.45pm	White Lion - AL1 1RN
4.30pm	Garibaldi - AL1 1RT
5.15pm	White Hart Tap - AL1 1QJ
6.00pm	Robin Hood - AL1 3TG

Seven Pubs – Over 20 Real Ales

Relax with a Pint and a Chat

For those with a spare Yuletide afternoon

Everyone Welcome!

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 43.*

DECEMBER

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th: **100th Anniversary Beer Festival**

From 12 noon to 11.00pm **North Mymms Social Club**, 34 Station Road, Welham Green, Hatfield AL9 7PG. Free Entry to CAMRA Members.

Tuesday 6th: **SH Branch Meeting**

8.00pm **Royston Club**, 12 College Road, St.Albans AL1 5ND. **Speaker: TBC**

Thursday 8th: **W&D Club Social**

8.00pm **Regent Club**, 227 St Albans Road, Watford WD24 5BH.

Friday 9th: **Hitchin Christmas Social**

Starting 7.30pm at **Albert**, 50 Walsworth Rd, Hitchin SG4 9SU, then on to **Victoria, Bricklayers Arms, BBs Bar** and **Half Moon**.

Wednesday 28th: **Sopwell Sweep Ale Trail**

1.30pm **Beehive**, 2 Keyfield Terrace, St Albans AL1 1QL, then on to **Hare & Hounds, Goat, White Lion, Garibaldi, White Hart Tap** and **Robin Hood**.

JANUARY

Monday 2nd: **W&D**

'Get Away from the Family' Social

1.00pm **Nascot Arms**, 11 Stamford Road, Watford WD17 4QS.

Monday 9th: **GBG 2024 Selection Meeting North West Zone**

8.00pm **Cross Keys**, 39 High Street, Harpenden AL5 2SD

Wednesday 11th: **NH Branch Meeting**

8.00pm Venue TBC (check website & Facebook)

Thursday 12th: **GBG 2024 Selection Meeting Nort East Zone**

8.00pm **Hertford Club**, Lombard House, Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DT

Friday 13th: **W&D**

Annual 'Pre-Xmas' London Pub Crawl

Starting 6.00pm **Doric Arch**, 1 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1DN.

Monday 16th: **W&D Branch Meeting**

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

Tuesday 17th: **GBG 2024 Selection Meeting West & South Zones**

8.00pm **Robin Hood**, 126 Victoria Street, St Albans AL1 3TG

Wednesday 18th: **Stevenage Social**

Starting 8.00pm at **Dun Cow**, 32 Letchmore Rd, Stevenage SG1 3PR, then on to **Old Town Bar, Broken Seal** and **Standing Order**.

Saturday 21st: **SH Branch AGM**

1.00pm **Hertford Club**, Lombard House, Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DT. **Speaker: Joe Brouder, Co-Owner, Vale Brewery**

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1st: **Royston Social**

Starting 8.00pm at **Jolly Postie**, 2 Baldock St, Royston SG8 5AY. then on to **Old Bull, Banyers House** and **Manor House**.

Wednesday 15th: **Hitchin Social**

Starting 8.00pm at **Highlander**, 45 Upper Tilehouse St, Hitchin SG5 2EF, then on to **Coopers Arms, Angel Vaults** and **Half Moon**.

Friday 17th: **W&D Abbots Langley Social**

8.30pm **Swan**, College Road, Abbots Langley WD5 0NR11, 9.15pm **Compasses**, 95 Tibbs Hill Road, WD5 0LJ.

Wednesday 22nd: **NH Branch Meeting**

8.00pm Venue TBC (check website & Facebook)


Monday 27th: **W&D Branch Meeting**

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




**Are you a CAMRA
member?
If not, why not join?**

Herts CAMRA Contacts

NORTH HERTS CAMRA

 northherts.camra.org.uk
Chair: Paul Coard
chairman@northherts.camra.org.uk




Branch contact: Jeremy Kitson
secretary@northherts.camra.org.uk

 facebook.com/CAMRANorthHerts
 instagram.com/camranorthherts
 twitter.com/nh_camra


SOUTH HERTS CAMRA

 southherts.camra.org.uk
Chair: Ian Boyd
chair@southherts.camra.org.uk

Branch contact: Ben Wilkinson
contact@southherts.camra.org.uk


 facebook.com/camrasouthherts
 instagram.com/southhertscamra
 twitter.com/SouthHertsCAMRA

HERTS & ESSEX BORDERS CAMRA

 heb-camra.org.uk
Chair: Brendan Scott
chairman@heb-camra.org.uk

Branch contact: Graham Darby
secretary@heb-camra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT CAMRA

 watford.camra.org.uk
Chair: Andrew Vaughan
chair@watford.camra.org.uk

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan
branch@watford.camra.org.uk

 facebook.com/watfordcamra
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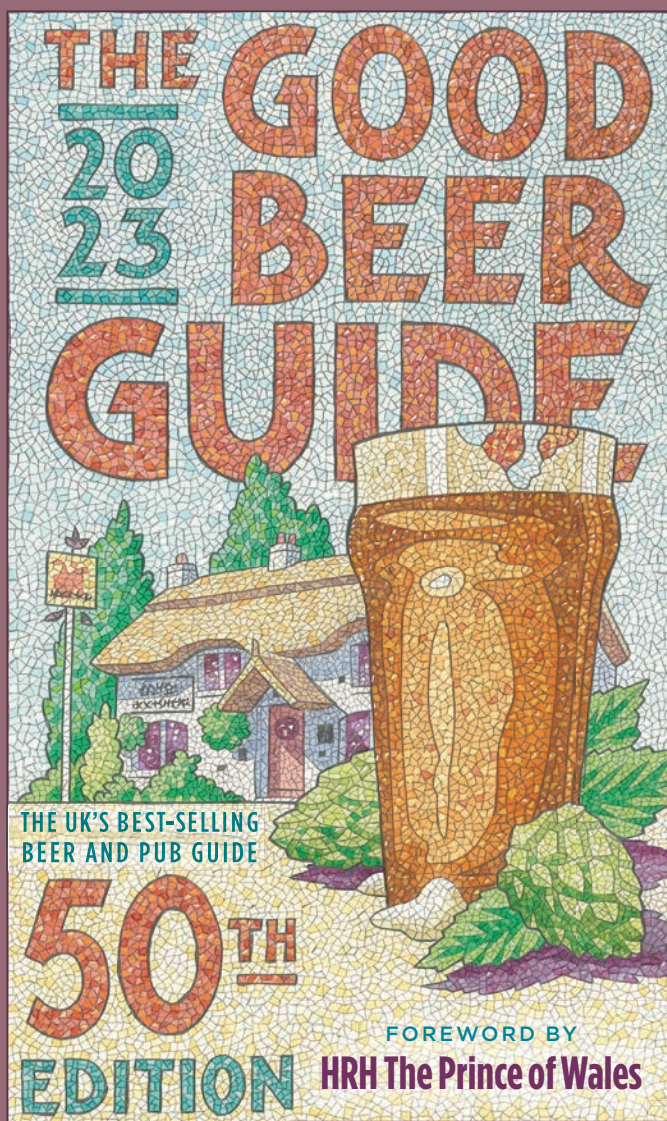
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