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# HERTFORDSHIRE Pints of View



CAMRA  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Summer Edition 2023

Issue No. 307



*Beer Festivals bumper issue:*  
**St Albans Beer & Cider Festival 2023**  
**Local Festivals**  
**Plus lots of other news and features!**



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# Campaign Column

## Festivals – CAMRA at its most popular!

As this magazine is going to press, CAMRA is readying its huge Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in London. If you didn't go this year, or haven't been before, it's a real beer and cider lovers' paradise, and there's always some great food and music to enjoy as well too.

Here, in Hertfordshire, the 10th Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival on the grounds of organising partners Hitchin Rugby Club was held on 15th – 17th June. The first day, appropriately, coincided with Beer Day Britain. So, drinkers, brewers, publicans and volunteers alike raised their glasses in celebration!

'Cheers for Beer' on Beer Day Britain



by Jane Evans Photography

This marquee festival, once again, enjoyed sunshine almost throughout and attracted locals along with visitors, mostly arriving by train from London, Cambridge and Peterborough directions.

**Popular** with drinkers who had a choice of over 200 different drinks: beer, cider, perry and mead.

**Popular** with local businesses and politicians who support the event respectively with sponsorship and positive comments about its benefits for the town. And, importantly, **popular** with the organisers too!

Not only are CAMRA Festivals a major source of fundraising, but they are also where the majority of non-members join CAMRA. Furthermore, festivals give partners like Hitchin Rugby Club an opportunity to boost income for their causes.

The Hitchin Festival also saw a strong presence from its nominated local charity, Feed Up Warm Up, to whom generous festival-goers donated £1,800.



Presentation of Ceremonial Cheque to Shane Cole, Charity Founder, by Dean Barrett, Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival Co-Organiser Photo Artystar Limited

Watford Beer Festival also took place on 20th – 22nd July and we hope many of you enjoyed that. Meanwhile, in this edition of *Pints of View*, we also feature the upcoming St Albans Beer Festival that will take place from 27th – 30th September.

CAMRA Beer and Cider Festivals attract a diverse audience of non-members in far larger numbers than anything else that CAMRA is involved with – all enjoying, sharing and visiting over and over again. They benefit the communities that host them and the brewers and cider-makers who get to showcase what's not normally available in the locale. Local pubs know they're a good thing too, so they freely promote and often sponsor.

So, why not find one you can get to by public transport? Go to <https://events.camra.org.uk/> Just click on 'VIEW EVENTS' and select 'Beer Festival'. You can then scroll through the list or click 'View on Map'.

And don't forget to make a date for your diary for St Albans in late September.

Dean Barrett  
Editor

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# Steve's Shout

## Swan necks & sparklers

Is northern beer brewed differently? Well I don't think so, once you get north of Watford Gap they don't suddenly start brewing using a changed process or ingredients that are not used elsewhere in the UK. What they do do is use swan neck and sparkler dispense. For those who like their beer served this way (and I am not one of them), the claim is that the additional agitation of the beer gives a tight creamy head which stays to the bottom of the glass.

At this point I think it may be useful to explain what the swan neck and sparkler do and what they look like. If you agitate beer it foams up which has the effect of taking bitterness from the body of the beer into the foam. The age old method of serving beer is to pour it direct from a tap in the cask, under the simple influence of gravity (hence the name given to this method of dispense) into a jug or glass. In the pub this could involve a lot of walking either to a barrel store or the cellar below ground level. It was a great relief to publicans, when handpumps or beer engines as they were originally known were introduced. The beer could be drawn over long distances. When clear glass became easier and cheaper to produce beer glasses led to not only customers demanding clear beer but also a head on it. To put a pretty head on the beer it was soon found that holding the glass further below the tap helped.

With the use of handpumps drawing the beer through pipes attached at one end to the cask to the other the spout the beer is agitated a bit more being forced through the pipes, pump and valves. If small bore pipes are employed with many throws of the pump, or impeller pumps are used, the beer is shaken about rather more.

If the spout is simply a tap with no restriction, then the beer is poured into the glass gently. On the other hand, it may be a small diameter pipe, which is often used nowadays in an attempt to reduce wastage. The dispense pipe is often in the shape of a hairpin this has the effect of shooting the beer into the glass and really stirring it up. This small-bore hairpin is called a "swan neck".

By squirting the beer through a nozzle containing small holes in it, called a "sparkler", an even greater effect is obtained. Sometimes a very dull beer can have "life" added to it by passing it through a simple restriction in a plain spout. Normally though the sparkler is used indiscriminately to foam the beer and make it look like you see on the telly. The problem is this agitation when taken to an extreme causes flavour to be knocked out of the beer as well. The foamy beer then flows over the top of the glass over the bar staffs hands and into the drip tray, all very wasteful.

In the good old bad old days "up North" there were beer economisers trays of metal or plastic where all this excess beer which had overflowed from the glass when producing a large tight head went straight back

to the cellar and cask. These of course have now been banned as part of hygiene regulations so the only way to make up for the beer loss when providing a large head is to short measure. You can of course when confronted by a sparkler ask to have it removed (after all it is only a screw-on fitting).

The trouble is that this is not just about what the beer looks like. Bittering agents especially migrate to the surfaces of the bubbles in the foam making the foam bitter, but this flavour comes from the body. (Taste the foam then the beer.) There is a myth that 'Northern' beers have always been served like this. However today this appears to be accepted as fact by many. Assume that country pubs in the south of the country will tend to have plain dispense without swan necks and sparklers and the opposite applies elsewhere. The disputes arise because some people prefer, or are simply used to, having the bite taken out of their beer. Some people don't go by taste at all but assume the beer is flat and therefore "off" if it doesn't foam up, not realising that the appearance is due to the bartenders' muscles, not the condition of the ale.

**Steve Bury**  
Editor-at-large



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# Herts Pub, Club & Brewery News

## The 3 Brewers are 10 Years Old

In May this year, The 3 Brewers of St Albans celebrated their tenth anniversary selling their award-winning real ales and craft beer to local pubs, clubs, restaurants and hotels.



Situated at The Potato Shed at Symondshyde Farm, they moved into the building in August 2012 and spent the next seven months building a modern brewery, sourcing kit, developing recipes and test brewing their launch beers. Beer has been flowing from the brewery since May 1st, 2013; give or take a few gaps due to various lockdowns.

For the past decade their beers have been brewed on third- or fourth-hand kit - none of which was

originally designed for brewing beer! However, the team has just invested in three new Unitanks to replace their old Fermentation Vessels.

The new vessels will increase capacity, reduce manual cleaning, and will enable the team to develop different beer styles.

The team has also taken a big step in reducing their Carbon Footprint by replacing old strip lighting with energy efficient LED lighting. They are actively looking into other ways of decreasing energy consumption and getting the business closer to net zero.

The brewery has increased the outdoor drinking space available for customers and has remodelled the mezzanine to accommodate drinkers indoors.



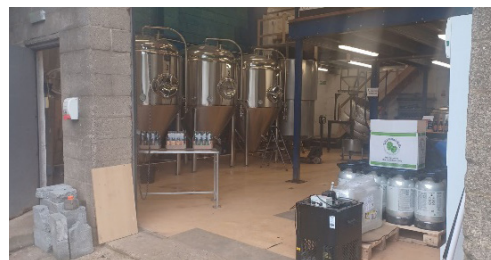
The brewery taproom is open Monday - Friday 8am till 4pm, and Saturdays 11am till 5pm. The brewery is also available for private parties.



Keep an eye on social media for upcoming events including a 10-year celebration featuring a much requested, very limited-edition beer, and the annual Music Festival (Sept 2nd).

**Steve Thompson**

*3 Brewers Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO)  
South Herts CAMRA*





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## Happy Birthday to Mac's AK

### 190 Years Old in 2023

Congratulations to **McMullen's** and their AK Original Mild – a brand that the company trace back to 1833, first brewed just six years after the brewery was founded. Dubbed for most of those 190 years as a mild, or just "AK", the beer has also been labelled as a bitter and its ABV has increased since the 1970's, currently sitting at 3.7%, though pre-WWI it was probably much stronger. Now marketed as AK Original Mild, it is part of Mac's "Authentic Heritage" range of cask ales and is brewed with pale, crystal and chocolate malts and Kentish hops - Whitbread Goldings Variety (WGV) - which add bitterness and a light aroma. It's a light characterful traditional English beer.



malts and hops available to brewers today is enormous. Beers brewed with new and exotic varieties from America, the continent and as far away as New Zealand, have captured the liking of many beer drinkers.

But let's not forget our traditional light bitters and milds in the process. Mac's AK Original Mild is a notable and very drinkable session beer with a worthy and ancient pedigree. It could do with a bit of a beer drinker boost. Time for a pint!

And the two letters, "AK", what do they stand for? Many a beer sleuth has been perplexed (AK beers were once brewed by many brewers in England, particularly those based in the south). The most favoured conclusion is that the letters were used for low-strength bitters and were perhaps first used in the 15thC by immigrant brewers from the Low Countries who were using hops in their beers – ankel koyt – a term meaning single strength in Old Flemish. Could it be that?

Happy Birthday AK.



**Les Middlewood**

*McMullen's Brewery Liaison Officer (BLO)  
South Herts CAMRA*



Throughout those 190 years Mac's AK has always been a live cask ale, brewed with English ingredients. When CAMRA was formed in the 1970's AK often offered a lifeline for real ale drinkers in Hertfordshire, but only when it could be found served direct from the cask or via handpump dispense. At the time Mac's generally preferred to see the beer sold using CO2

top pressure, to replicate the effervescent nature of the keg beers brewed at the time. Yet many traditional beer drinkers and publicans held out for the unfettered version and CAMRA's campaigning led to most bitter and mild drinkers eventually preferring the traditional method of dispense – Mac's re-installed handpumps to their pubs in the ensuing years and this is how we encounter AK today.

AK is still a popular beer in most of Mac's Hertfordshire pubs – its flavour unique and unmistakable. But there are challenges ahead. Now there is a wide range of beers available to drinkers as brewers constantly experiment and innovate. Golden beers and stronger, fuller flavoured beers have gained in popularity. Mac's still brew more AK than any of their other staple cask ales but their Rivertown keg golden beers are becoming extremely popular. The range of

### A Crown made of Hertfordshire Ale



In May, several breweries marked the Coronation of King Charles III with their own specially brewed ales.

In Hertfordshire, **McMullen's**, now in their 196th Year (how many monarchs is that? - we counted nine) celebrated with the amber ABV4.2% cask beer "Fit For A King". Brewed with Bramling Cross, Fuggles and Celeia hops, Best Ale and Crystal malts plus a little flaked maize, head brewer. Chris Evans described the beer as having "floral and pine notes, smooth with a medium body and moderate bitterness levels – finishing with a soft hop flavour". A regal success!

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## Herts & Essex Borders Branch Cider Pubs Of The Year

The Herts & Essex Borders Branch (HEB) Branch is home to two outstanding Cider Pubs both winning awards on a regular basis. They both promote and encourage the sale of quality real cider, perry styles and flavours, and keep the tradition of local and British cider production alive. Both establishments are free houses.



The **Queens Head** Allen Green has a range of ciders and perries, catering for all tastes from sweet to dry, from various producers. The latest awards for the pub include the Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA 2023 Herts Cider Pub of the Year which progressed to winning the Hertfordshire CAMRA Branches 2023 Herts Cider Pub of the Year. Well done to Cliff Casswell and his crew for their success in promoting real cider.

The Queens Head lies just over two miles west of Sawbridgeworth. It has been the HEB branch pub of the year for nine of the last twelve years and was the East Anglia Cider Pub of the Year in 2015 and 2022. Usually there are three local ales on plus a national one or two. Its location makes it a must stop for a swift one from the walking and cycling brigades.

The pub itself dates to the 19th Century but because of the heating problems the place closed in 1995. Resurrected by the local community it was bought by Shire Village Inns Ltd, a company set up by local residents to save the pub. The left-hand side of the large building was sold to finance the purchase for residential use. It reopened to a grateful local population on the 1st of January 2002 after nearly a 7-year break. Since then, through success a modern extension has been added, which is very handy for branch meetings. Outside is a pleasant mature garden.

The **Woodbine** in Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey is just outside Hertfordshire, but due to our boundary is the Cider pub in the Essex part of our Branch. Easily reached from Junction 26 on the M25.

A large range of ciders and perries are available for

all tastes. The pub was awarded the HEB branch cider pub of 2022 and was also in a previous year's best top four Cider pubs in the Country.

Well done to Rob Chapman and Julie and their crew.



Both establishments are well worth a visit to try the great and interesting range of ciders available.

**Janet Gray** (Cider Officer) &  
**Norm Samuels.** (Publicity Officer)  
Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA

A yellow rectangular advertisement for New River Brewery. At the top, the text 'NEW RIVER' is in large, bold, black letters, with 'EST. 2015' in smaller letters below it, and 'BREWERY' in bold letters below that. Below the text are three wavy black lines. In the center, the text 'AWARD-WINNING BEER FROM THE RIVERBANK' is in bold, black letters. At the bottom, the website 'newriverbrewery.co.uk' is in bold, black letters. The background is yellow and features various small black silhouettes of people, animals, and objects.



## Hemel Hempstead pub given ‘amazing’ level of transformation after three-week refurbishment works

This was a headline in HertsLive. The article reported that The Ember Inns pub has a refreshed bar with new soft furnishings and an improved dining area to provide a “warm” touch for guests in a relaxed and “welcoming” environment.



The **Crabtree** offers a reasonably priced menu with three courses on offer for £11.79 from 12pm to 5pm from Monday to Friday, and £14.29 after 5pm from Monday to Friday.

As well as the lunch and dinner menu, the pub will provide a range of delicious and freshly cooked dishes, including chargrilled skewers, stone baked pizzas, steaks, and roasts available every Sunday. The Crabtree - located near St Albans and Watford - is a great place for families to eat, drink and relax.

Guests can enjoy a visit to the pub after a long day spent exploring nearby landmarks such as Jarman

Leisure Park, St Albans Cathedral, or the Warner Brothers Studio Tour. The Crabtree general manager, David Poynton, said: “The level of transformation we’ve had is amazing and both the whole team and I are incredibly excited to reveal the Crabtree’s new look to our guests.”

“Whether you’re looking for a get-together with friends or somewhere to unwind by a crackling fireplace, our pub is ready to welcome guests, both new and old, to enjoy our brand-new look – but with the same cosiness it’s always had.”



For more information, or to make a booking at the new look Crabtree, visit their website **emberinns.co.uk/nationalsearch/eastofengland/the-crabtree-hemel-hempstead/**

Thanks to Paul Woodhouse for spotting this.

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## The Saint & Sinner – St. Albans' latest pub

Many St. Albans residents and visitors will know the detached building on the east side of St. Peter's Street which, for many years, housed the Nationwide Building Society. In 2020 Nationwide moved to the recently closed Royal Bank of Scotland premises further along the road leaving their original address vacant. In spite of already having the Peahen, McMullen saw the opportunity to secure an outlet in the centre of the city.



The building dates from 1764 when it was built for John Osborn, mayor of St. Albans. The Grange, as it was then known, included a farm and encompassed an area now occupied by the council offices, Arena, magistrates court and the Water End Barn. The Adey family was in residence there between 1791 and 1802. Many extensions and alterations appear to have been made over the following century. The main entrance, now the public entrance to the pub, was on the south side of the building and faced onto a walled garden. The property included a piggery, coach house, stables and various outbuildings. In 1809 a brewhouse was included in the facilities according to the London Courier and Evening Gazette. The Grange remained as a dwelling until the early 1900s. By the 1940s St. Albans Council was using the building as offices. More alterations and renovations were carried out in the 1980s.



Further changes occurred in 2021 while the grade II listed building was being converted into a pub for McMullen. Some delays were encountered due to the need to comply with the building's listed status.



The main area in the east has been opened up into a bar and drinking area with other downstairs rooms becoming separate dining areas. Toilets are upstairs as is a meeting/function room.

The Grange comes with its own ghost, a lady in grey, reputed to be ghost of Dorothy Osborn, daughter-in-law of John Osborn. she committed suicide when she discovered her husband was having an affair.

**John Crowhurst**  
South Herts CAMRA

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## Hadham Brewery Closure

Like many sections of the business community brewing is continuing to have problems. One of the latest to hit the buffers is Black Sheep Brewery near Ripon in Yorkshire. A very successful brewer with a national outlook was thriving, but Covid restrictions and rising costs have clearly hit them, as well as the new factor of interest rate rises. At present they are in administration with the workforce of 50 wondering what the future has in waiting for them. But at least there is interest from potential buyers.

Locally Hadham Brewery, a very local and small operation of ten barrels, compared to the mighty Black Sheep has also stopped trading. Sited on Hadham Industrial Estate, a former farm, at Little Hadham right next to the parish church of St. Cecilia. In this case the owner who was one of the former founders of the brewery back in 2015 has decided to retire and sell the operation. In this case the brewery was technically in profit and has no debts, or to put it another way, it is a going concern. However, it was down to a single employee doing the brewing, selling, delivering, bottling and just about everything else. A ten-barrel brew plant is not sustainable as a one-man band – and to employ any more would make it unviable. So, if you are interested give them a call as the brewery is up for sale. On the downside brewing stopped on 21st April and the last deliveries have been made. The Tap Room which only started operation soon after the lifting of Covid restrictions is also naturally closed. Will Compton was the main brewer behind the excellent beers, and credit to him for them. Jake Cox was the last employee, and much credit must be paid to him for trying to keep it going on his own.

Hadham Brewery only recently came under the Herts and Essex Border (HEB) zone of operation thanks

to central government in the form of the Highways Agency. The A120 on it's westward journey passes over the M11, and having been realigned around Bishop's Stortford, from the old route through the old town, it then moves on to join the north south running A10. While the road is a good drive for most of this route with little in the way of obstruction traffic, there was the single bottle neck at the village centre of Little Hadham, where the Cross Road junction became single line traffic under lights control. The majority of the village and facilities including the one pub, the Nag's Head now an Indian restaurant, came under HEB as they were on the south side of the A120. The farm, now industrial units plus the church were on the north side of the A120 and fell into the North Herts zone.

When the realignment of the A120 came about a local agreement between the two Camra groups saw Hadham Brewery and the church, now on the south side of the bypass pass into HEB control. A similar situation happens further west before joining the A10 where the boundary between the same two Camra groups follows the road and not the settlement, and so splits Standon. The two pubs, The Bell, and The Star along with the parish church are in HEB, the China Garden/The Heron restaurant (former pub – the station hotel prior to the Beaching Report) falls into North Herts.

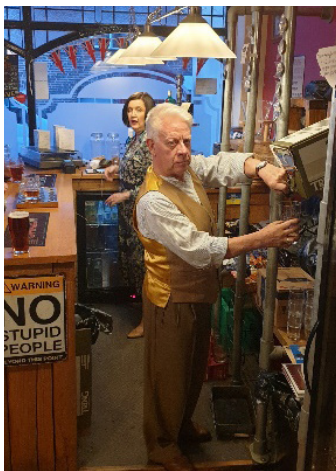
So, if you have the time and money, there is a fine local brewery for you with new excellent transport links. The brewery also had a fine line of beers from golden to a porter which has its own borehole into the chalk aquifer of the Ash Valley.

**Norm Samuels.** (Publicity Officer) &  
**Brendan Sothcott** (Chair)  
Herts & Essex Borders CAMRA

## The Local MARKYATE Closes

Good Friday 2016 was a good day in Markyate when The Local micro-pub opened its doors for the first time. May 20th 2023 was not such a good day when the Local closed its doors for the last time.

The Local was Martin Dale's project which he set up in an ex-estate agent's shop. He fitted a six firkin stillage unit with a water cooling system for dispensing by gravity beers from local breweries and bag in a box real ciders, later a fridge was added for the sale of bottled UK and international beers. Pre-covid all seemed well with a faithful following and a good turnover of beers and ciders as the 400 odd pumpclips on the walls and ceiling will testify, quiz and music nights were particularly popular. During



the pandemic Martin would sell take-aways from the doorway which unfortunately probably got people into the habit of drinking at home. Post-pandemic custom never return to its previous levels, firkins were replaced with pins which turned into 20 pint boxes and with ever increasing overheads and a cost of living crisis closure looked inevitable.

The last night saw custom back to its old level but this was too little too late. The picture is of Martin dispensing the last pint which accounts for his unhappy expression.

**Bob Norrish**  
South Herts CAMRA



# Beer, Cider & Industry News

## Changes to the Alcohol Duty system from 1 August

A new Alcohol Duty regime comes into force from 1 August 2023. This includes the new, lower, draught duty rate which will apply on many draught beer and cider containers. This is good news and very welcome. Unfortunately, the legislation underpinning the new system bans any sales from draught duty-paid containers for consumption off the premises, which includes from CAMRA festivals.

This means that from 1 August it will be an offence for festivals to decant from a draught duty-paid container for off sales. This also affects pubs who currently offer takeaway. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure this does not happen.

Therefore, from 1 August CAMRA has asked all CAMRA festivals to stop providing draught takeouts (whether sold to customers or given free to volunteers) until Events Committee have held more

detailed discussions in September. Please note that this also applies to customers decanting draught dutypaid beer or cider from a glass to a bottle (or other sealable container).

The Treasury has clarified that unopened/unbroached draught containers can be sold on to local pubs and clubs provided it is for consumption on their premises.

The CAMRA Campaigns Team, along with its campaigning committees and network of Public Affairs Officers will continue to campaign for changes to the new legislation.

**Tim Webb**, Vice-Chair (Beer)  
Real Ale, Cider & Perry Committee  
National CAMRA

# VALE BREWERY

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOME

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@VALEBREWERY

# The Royston Club

## **SOUTH HERTS CAMRA AWARD WINNER AGAIN!**



**4 Real Ales - Open All Day, Every Day.**  
**LIVE MUSIC • MONTHLY QUIZ • BEER GARDEN**  
**DARTS & POOL • BT SPORTS & SKY SPORTS**



**A WARM WELCOME TO CAMRA MEMBERS & ALL**  
**12 College Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 5ND**  
**01727 853656**  **@roystonclub**

## EBCU Style Guide

After two years and innumerable rewrites, EBCU (European Beer Consumers Union) has formally published its guide to the major and established beer styles of the world, compiled from the European perspective (as opposed to North American) and aimed at the consumer.

It won't take a genius to spot that I have skin in this particular game, as its main author, and curator of the site's words. We believe it to be unique in the world and to have hit the ground running. However, it is a living document and all politely worded suggestions for its improvement are welcome.

**Please see the introductory sections below:-**

### What is a beer style?

*"A beer style is an informal agreement between a brewer and a customer, expressed through a name on a label, by which the former gives the latter a rough idea of what they are about to buy..."*

### Groups, styles & sub-styles

*"In order to try to help people make sense of the world of beer styles that have been revived, recreated, devised or otherwise conjured up in the last few decades, we have divided the whole of beer into six major groups..."*

### Lager versus ale

*"The German word 'lager' means 'warehouse', or 'store', implying that a lagered beer has been stored for a time to mature. Sadly, to save costs, the most popular lagers, are not lagered, making them dull..."*

See the whole thing at <https://beer-styles.ebcu.org/>

### How much and how many

Stonegate, which is owned by private equity firm TDR Capital, is £2.6 bn in debt and plans to sell 1,000 of its pubs for an estimated £800 million, according to Bloomberg.

The company owns Walkabout, Sailors, Be at One and Slug & Lettice chains as well as the total Ei Enterprise Inns estate which they bought three years ago for £1bn. It is reported that any sales were not imminent and would be in line with Stonegate's long-term plan to dispose of sites that did not meet its strategy. To raise £800m Stonegate will have got £800,000 per pub, if my calculations are correct, and in the present financial climate this may not be possible. It is quite possible that as Stonegate own many pubs in Hertfordshire some pubs locally will be on the market.

The first announcement was that our locally headquartered pub chain JDW was putting their prices up by 7.5%, even though they had declared sales were up for the last quarter by 13.1%. Tim Martin said that this would still mean that Wetherspoons are competitively priced in the marketplace and the rises were not above inflation. He was not wrong, almost immediately afterwards Black Sheep announced a 19.5% increase in their prices warning that a pint in the pub could reach £10, if things do not change. The next was Carlsberg Marston's who announced a 11% price increase on all draught drinks so I suppose it should not come as a surprise that the return of



customers to the pub has been slow.

Marston's who bought the Wells Eagle brewery in Bedford have now sold it on to Damm of Barcelona.

JDW's pub disposal has started with ten pubs being sold leaving another 35 mainly leases to close, they have also announced the opening of two new venues.

A report from UHY Hacker has highlighted that pub insolvencies have increased by 83% since 2020. The rise from 280 to 512 is blamed on the cost of living crisis and excessive overheads so nothing new there.

**Tim Webb**, Vice-Chair (Beer)  
Real Ale, Cider & Perry Committee  
National CAMRA

## What is the EBCU?

European Beer Consumers Union - formed in May 1990 by beer organisations from UK (CAMRA), Belgium (Zythos) and Netherlands (PINT) to give voice to the beer consumer at the European level, both within and beyond the European Union (EU).

An advertisement for 'The Six Bells Freehouse'. The background is a light yellow. At the top, it says 'The Six Bells FREEHOUSE' in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says 'Real Ales' in a smaller, black, serif font. Underneath are four circular logos for different beers: 'RIDGEWAY', 'ABBOT ALE', 'JHB', and 'TIMOTHY TAYLOR LANDLORD'. Below the logos, it says '2 Guest Ales &amp; Real Ciders' in a black, serif font. Then, 'Home Cooked Food Served Every Day' in a black, serif font. Below that, 'Garden &amp; Parking' in a black, serif font. At the bottom, it says 'Children &amp; Dogs Welcome' in a black, serif font. On the left and right sides of the bottom section, there are two circular logos for 'GOOD BEER GUIDE 2023 WE'RE IN IT'. At the very bottom, it gives the address '16-18 St Michael's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL3 4SH' and the website 'www.the-six-bells.com' along with a phone number 'info@the-six-bells.com 01727 856945'.



As HCBC hadn't previously distributed externally, when I took over brewing duties we felt it was important to have a strong and varied core range to offer initially in order to build our reputation outside of the taproom. For our core range I made it my mission to create beers that are both accessible and full of flavour. For me it's all about balance. These beers taste like beer. There's no messing about. Just quality ingredients simply combined and brewed with care and attention before being given the time they need for the perfect conditioning. The core range has been extremely well received, winning several awards including a clean sweep of Gold and Double gold medals for each of the beers in the European Beer Challenge as well as a range of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in the SIBA Regional and National Competitions. Alongside these core beers I've now started brewing an exciting range of seasonal specials, exploring a wider variety of flavours and styles – some classic, some more unusual, but most importantly – all delicious.



It has been an amazing opportunity for me to come



to Hackney Church Brew Co, hit the reset button and see what beers people are getting excited about. I would never have imagined that my Hackney Hefeweizen, St Clements, would have been such a hit with customers but that's part of the joy – seeing what beers connect with who. I'm determined to always keep a varied range of styles on our tap list so that there's always a something new to try and enough choice to keep everybody satisfied. It's important to me that alongside the latest trends there are always some classics that my available – just in case my Dad drops down to London for a pint.

Hackney Church Brew Co



## Pints of View 307 St Albans Beer &amp;



TWO competitions • FOUR

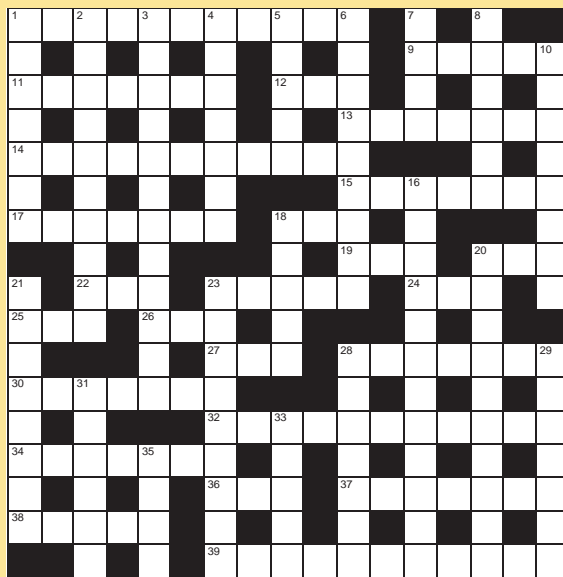
Each winner receives

The 2023 CAMRA

pl

St Albans Beer &amp; Cider Festival FAST-TRACK EN

## CAMRA Crossword Competition

First two correct entries drawn each wins a **DOUBLE PRIZE**

## ACROSS

- 1 Style of beer goes with pub steak (11)
- 9 Meant to take major road to the sea shortly (5)
- 11 Ship's barber? (7)
- 12 Pub in Pinner (3)
- 13 Old time club, say, a throwback (4, 3)
- 14 Chelsea goon misbehaving for coppers (5, 6)
- 15 Unlamented brewer who made us see Red (7)
- 17 Pestered without right, unusually laid-back (7)
- 18 Foreign letter posted hastily in western parts (3)
- 19 Taste in beers, I presume (3)
- 20 Silly pint pot? (3)
- 22 Fly high without starting row (3)
- 23 It's said trails might be common (5)
- 24 Home side in scoreless draw – that's a surprise! (3)
- 25 Gossip which shouldn't be applied to beer (3)
- 26 Part of circle in star chart (3)
- 27 Beer, with or without soft starter (3)
- 28 Temporary halt in Minehead? (7)
- 30 Surfer aboard ship? (7)
- 32 Change in sex English creep undergoes (11)
- 34 Account including non-U manual, revised yearbook (7)
- 36 Cancelling outing at first brings a tear (3)
- 37 Line on map is given zero weight (7)
- 38 Sign of victory in outskirts of towns (5)
- 39 Poor news – the collapsing pub chain (11)

## DOWN

- 1 Drunk's choice was first (7)
- 2 What might charge his corner nothing, strangely (10)
- 3 State exercise which rarely stops (7, 5)
- 4 What doesn't begin to underlie difficult protection? (4, 3)
- 5 Where some learn briefly about marriage (5)
- 6 Bond selector, knowledgeable comedy playwright (5, 4)
- 7 Here's angelic light over heads (4)
- 8 One politician has beer to run through (6)
- 10 Des's gear replaced for riding discipline (8)
- 16 Old programme for best dad? (3, 2, 3, 4)
- 18 Some coppers go round nicking criminals at first (5)
- 20 Central distraction in low gambling venue (5, 5)
- 21 Stupid Spaniard loses his head over insect (8)
- 23 Worried cows race right away from this? They're not the target (9)
- 28 Crop raised in East suitable for pigs (7)
- 29 One delivering compost manufactured contents (7)
- 31 Belgian beer a hit with writer (5)
- 33 Bird seed produced by computing (5)
- 35 Boy returned hot grub (4)

# Cider Festival Competition Special

**PR winners • EIGHT prizes**

**es DOUBLE PRIZE:**

**Good Beer Guide**

**US**

**NTRY + £10 BEER TOKENS + SOUVENIR GLASS**



## CAMRA Beer Names Sudoku competition

First two correct entries drawn each wins a **DOUBLE PRIZE**

						H	T	K
		S						
K	I		G		Y	L		E
	H		Y	G				
		Y		L		G		
				T	S		I	
E			I		L		G	H
						Y		
L	S	G						

### Beer Names Sudoku

Fill in all the squares in the grid, so that every row, column and each of the nine three-by-three squares contains all the letters of a cask ale brewed in Scotland.

### PINTS OF VIEW 306 SPRING WORDSEARCH

**Congratulations to our two winners!**

**1st prize 2023 CAMRA GBG:**

John Lucas, St. Albans, Herts.

**2nd prize 2023 CAMRA GBG Glass Cloth:**

Alistair Wills, St. Albans, Herts.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

Telephone.....

**Entries to either or both  
competitions by**

**Friday 16th September to:**

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



# St Albans Beer & Cider Festival is back for 2023!

Returning for its 26th year, the organisers are working to make this their best event yet. So expect all your favourite festival features, plus some exciting new twists that may surprise you.

Whether you're a festival regular or a curious first-timer, you'll be welcomed to what promises to be a fantastic pageant of real ale, craft beer, cider and perry – with delicious street food, great live music, traditional pub games, and special events thrown into the mix.

Look forward to:

- A huge range of outstanding, chilled cask ales
- Delicious, modern craft beers, served cold
- Many brewery showcase bars, including new bars for this year
- A specially-curated selection of the county's best beers on the Hertfordshire Bar
- Bottled foreign beers from all over the world
- An expanded selection of real ciders and perries
- Indoor and outdoor bars and seating
- Souvenir glasses in a choice of pint or half-pint
- A selection of traditional snacks and street food for all tastes
- Live entertainment and special events

## An incredible range of beers, ciders and perries

In addition to the main bars, serving products from all over the UK, the festival will also be joined by several fantastic breweries. Each will be showcasing their line-ups and there to answer any questions on their own dedicated bars. For full details of the latest brewery line-up, see [stalbandsbf.org.uk/bars](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/bars)

Once again, there will be a live, online beer list so you can see exactly what's available at the time of your visit, and use the festival website to build your own personal list. But in addition to this, in response to customer feedback, the traditional printed beer list is being brought back for those who prefer to tick off their favourites in the old-school way!

The usual token-card system will make service at the bar as fast as possible. You'll be able to buy token cards in £5 increments (using cash or card), and get a refund on anything you haven't spent when you leave.



## What's even better St Albans Beer & Cider Festival Being part of the team

The Festival simply wouldn't happen without our amazing volunteer team - and we'd love you to be part of it!

There are many different roles, both customer-facing and behind the scenes. So whatever your skills, age or physical ability, there's a job that's just right for you!

In return, you'll get access to food and drink, but best of all, you'll be part of a fantastic team. To sign up, visit [stalbandsbf.org.uk/volunteers](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/volunteers)



# Better than visiting & Cider Festival? that makes it happen!

Turn up for your time, you get **free beer or cider**, plus  
**vouchers** to spend with our Festival vendors.  
 Best of all, it's an opportunity to become part of a  
 fantastic, friendly team, have lots of fun, and perhaps  
 make new friends.

Sign up, head to [stalbandsbf.org.uk/staffing](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/staffing) - or if  
 you'd like a chat before you commit, email Dave:  
[dave@stalbandsbf.org.uk](mailto:dave@stalbandsbf.org.uk)

## Improvements for this year

Despite a great festival in 2022, there's always room  
 for improvement and feedback from guests is taken  
 on board. Improvements you'll notice for this year in  
 response to your comments include:

- A revised festival layout including an expanded  
cider and perry bar and a relocated Hertfordshire  
Bar dedicated to beers from the county
- A new beer ordering policy, meaning less of what  
you already see regularly and more brews that  
are rare to find in this area
- An improved food offering (while keeping some  
of your favourites) – for full details see [stalbandsbf.org.uk/food](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/food)
- More live music – the main hall will now be  
showcasing excellent live bands throughout the  
day on Saturday, as well as on Thursday evening.  
For the full line-up see [stalbandsbf.org.uk/music](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/music)
- Better glasses – as well as having a more striking  
festival logo to put on them this year, (following  
enormous demand!) the half-pint tankards that  
so many of you love, are returning.

## Special events

As part of this year's festival, there will be a very  
 special tutored tasting session on Wednesday  
 evening, hosted by world-renowned beer writer Roger  
 Protz. Starting at 7pm, Roger will take participants  
 through a selection of six different beer styles. While  
 you enjoy generous samples of each ale (included  
 in the ticket price), you'll also get an expert-take on  
 the different characteristics of these beer styles, their  
 origins and history, pointers on how to assess quality,  
 and suggestions of further examples to look out for.

Then on Saturday, pub heritage expert and author  
 Paul Ainsworth will be joining you. Starting at 2pm  
 from the Arena, Paul will lead a trail of St Albans' most  
 historic drinking establishments, explaining their  
 fascinating history and how they have changed over  
 the years. He'll be on hand to answer any questions  
 throughout and, after the tour, will take you back to  
 the Alban Arena to enjoy the final day of the festival.

To get your tickets for either of these special events,  
 see [stalbandsbf.org.uk/events](http://stalbandsbf.org.uk/events)

## Low price admission

St Albans Beer & Cider Festival is non-profit making.  
 The event is organised and staffed by volunteers,  
 and all proceeds go towards campaigning and  
 local charities. Not only does this benefit the local  
 community but it means you are offered a much  
 better value experience than commercially-run beer  
 festivals.

This year, on-the-door admission is just £3 on  
 Wednesday and Thursday and £5 on Friday and  
 Saturday. CAMRA members receive 50% off.

Pints of View | St. Albans Beer & Cider Festival

We can get busy though, so the best way to guarantee entry is to purchase one of the advance ticket packages – which, because they also include a souvenir glass and a £10 beer token card, will save you money too. Also online, you can find special tickets for beer tastings and other events, and even VIP ticket options with extra features thrown in. And, for those who want to make multiple visits, season tickets are available too. Check out the offers now at [stalbansbf.org.uk](http://stalbansbf.org.uk)

How to keep up to date and find the festival

For all the latest festival news, be sure to follow the social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and

Instagram - all with the handle [@stalbansbf](https://www.instagram.com/stalbansbf). The website is also regularly updated, so keep checking back!

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 the festival website [stalbansbf.org.uk](http://stalbansbf.org.uk)

Handy Festival Comparison

Check out the cheeky chart below, published on social media by St Albans Beer & Cider Festival.

	<i>Pub in the Park St Albans 8 - 10 Sep</i>	<i>Hertfordshire Oktoberfest 27 - 28 Oct</i>	<i>St Albans Beer &amp; Cider Festival 27 - 30 Sep</i>
Extensive range of chilled cask ales	✗	✗	✓
Extensive range of UK craft beers	✗	✗	✓
German beers	✗	✓	✓
Selection of beers from all over the world	✗	✗	✓
Greene King bar	✓	✗	✗
Real ciders and perries	✗	✗	✓
Quality food and snacks	✓	✓	✓
Special events with renowned beer experts	✗	✗	✓
Live original music acts	✓	✗	✓
Live covers bands	✓	✗	✓
Oompah band	✗	✓	✗
Outdoor bars, ideal for good weather	✓	✓	✓
Bars in a building, ideal for poor weather	✗	✗	✓
Open for four days	✗	✗	✓
Celeb food critic Jay Rayner playing piano	✓	✗	✗
Dudes strutting around in Lederhosen	✗	✓	✗
Chance of meeting Ainsley Harriott	✓	?	?
Distance from St Albans City Station	1.5 miles	6 miles	750 yards
Drinks priced no higher than in a typical pub	✗	✗	✗
Cheapest price for admission only (adult)	£47.20	£17.99	£1.50
Most expensive price for admission only	£58.64	£19.99	£5.00



# Bits & Pieces

## St Albans Mild May Trails

To celebrate the "Mild Month" of May, South Herts CAMRA teamed up with 14 pubs and clubs across St Albans to showcase this special British beer style.

While initially one organised pub trail was envisaged, with so many venues choosing to participate this ended up being expanded to two trails on two consecutive days.

On Saturday 13th May we covered the west of St Albans - calling in at the Six Bells, Lower Red Lion, Portland Arms, Boot, Peahen, White Lion and White Hart Tap. Then on Sunday 14th May we covered the east - with stops at the Royston Social Club, Mermaid, Victoria, Beehive, Farmer's Boy, Great Northern and Robin Hood.

Every stop promised at least one cask mild to try, with some offering two. Milds sampled over the weekend ranged between light and dark, traditional and modern, and included Brentwood "Marvelous Maple Mild"; Church End "Grave Digger's Ale"; Lister's "Westmorland Dark Mild"; McMullen's "AK Original Mild"; Nethergate "Melford Mild"; Rudgate "Ruby Mild"; Timothy Taylor "Golden Best"; Tring "Mansion Mild"; Wantsum "Black Prince"; Wilde Child "Migration of Chronology"; and Wiper & True "Heading Home."

As well as some stalwarts of our social gatherings, it

was excellent to welcome some new faces who have never joined us before, including two members who travelled across to St Albans from Potters Bar. We hope to see them again on future occasions.

A big thank you to South Herts Branch committee member and Robin Hood landlord Jim Pratt, who liaised with all the other pubs to ensure such wide participation. Thanks also to the trade group Save St Albans Pubs who helped promote the weekend.

If you've not joined us on one of our pub trails before then they are a great way to explore pubs and make new friends, so please consider it in future. To get all the latest information, please make sure you're signed up to receive branch emails, and if you're a Facebook user follow the South Herts CAMRA page where all the information is also shared.

**Ben Wilkinson**

*South Herts CAMRA*

## Bus Fare Cap

There's been an update on the £2 bus fare cap, introduced by the government in December 2022. The current £2 cap is to be extended to 31st October 2023. From 1st November 2023, the bus fare cap will change to £2.50 for single tickets. This cap will last until 30 November 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap>

## THE WOODMAN

— WILD HILL —

### Free House

South Herts Pub of the Year  
2023 and 12 times previously

5 Real Ales inc. 4 guests






Wildhill, Nr Hatfield AL9 6EA  
01707 642618  
[www.thewoodman.uk](http://www.thewoodman.uk)



## OLD CROSS TAVERN

*"Pubs the Way They Used to Be"*



Award winning Town Centre Real Ale Free House  
South Herts CAMRA Award-Winning Pub



Serving ales of differing styles from diverse  
breweries including dark beers / Belgian beers

[www.oldcrosstavern.com](http://www.oldcrosstavern.com)

8 St. Andrew Street, Hertford SG14 1JA

# A Short Summer Real Ale Ramble:

## Hailey, Hertford Heath and Hertford



*It's summer! And if you haven't done it already, it's time to explore the great Hertfordshire countryside and enjoy some real ale in our welcoming country pubs. Of course, this can be done anywhere in the county but to wet your whistle here's a manageable four-mile walk, connected by the 310 bus route at each end and with the 341/641 route running through its heart. Our walk starts at Hailey, finds Hertford Heath and ends in Hertford, with four real ale pubs en-route (all with gardens in which to enjoy the sunshine) and many more in Hertford town centre.*

1. Take the 310 bus from Hertford/Ware or Waltham Cross/Cheshunt/Hoddesdon, alighting at the "Bridle Way" bus stop in north Hoddesdon. From both the north and southbound bus stops, step west toward Ware Road. At the roundabout turn north, cross the road and in 50yds find the



public footpath leading west. Follow this for 3/4 mile. It leads directly to the Grade II listed **Galley Hall** which still wears its old Christie's brewery pub sign. Now a free house, the timbered inside offers a range of handpumped cask ales, typically Greene King IPA and Shepherd Neame Spitfire plus guest ales and hearty lunchtime and evening pub fayre meals. It's popular. The unusual **Galley Hall** name may have morphed from "Collewelle Haugh", a farmhouse that existed in the 14thC. Open all day from noon, a large drinking area can be found at the rear.

2. On leaving the pub turn right and mindful of occasional traffic, proceed under the A10 bridge, then 1/2 mile further, past houses and a Kier building development until the White Gate entrance to Haileybury College. Turn right, entering the college grounds, landscaped by Humphry Repton. Admire the building frontage now on your left, designed by William Wilkins who went on to design the National Gallery. Famous Haileybury alumni include actors Stephen Mangan and Simon McCorkindale, dramatist Alan Ayckbourn, Prime Minister Clement Attlee and writer Rudyard Kipling. Continue up past the main college buildings and before the sports complex ahead of you turn left following the driveway and water course up into Hertford Heath where you will find the Grade II listed **College Arms**. Named after the East India Company College as it was formerly known (now Haileybury) the pub has gained a good reputation for its interesting gastro twist menu which is available lunchtime and evening. There are usually two beers on the handpump, often St.Austell's Tribute and Timothy Taylor Landlord and there are tables and a large garden to the rear. Open all day from noon.

3. Leaving the pub turn left and proceed along the main B1197 London Road (part of Roman Ermine Street) finding the **Silver Fox**, a Greene



King tied house and village local popular with dart players – there are five dart boards! Named after a former footballing landlord, Greene King IPA is usually the only cask ale, sometimes added to with the company's Speckled Hen. There is a walled garden to the rear. Opens at 4pm (Mon-Sat) and noon on Sunday. Ring ahead for food times.

4. From the front door turn left and cross over, proceeding as far as Church Hill. Turn right and follow the residential road up to the village green. The **Goat** will be facing you at the top - also a Greene King pub but this time with a wider range of real ales including Greene King IPA,



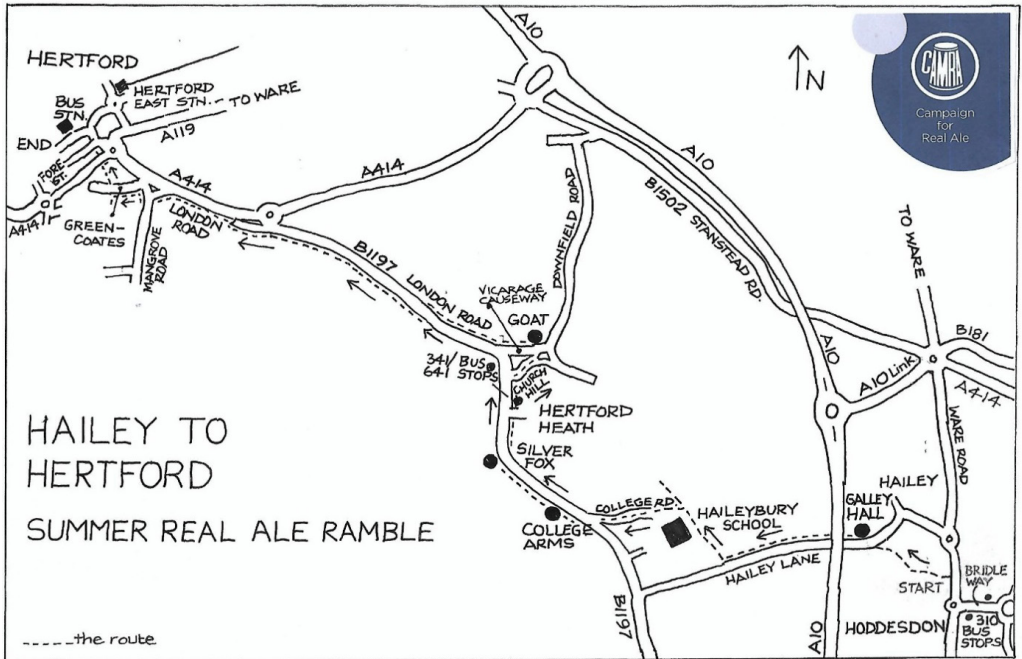
Timothy Taylor Landlord and up to two further interesting guest ales sourced from far and wide. The **Goat** is a popular timbered and low-ceilinged village local, Grade II listed. Open all day from noon, there's a hearty lunchtime and evening menu and outside tables pleasantly overlook the village green. On the first Sunday of the month there is a classic car meet and it's the turn of the motorbikes on the first Saturday.

5. From the pub turn right and down Vicarage Causeway back to the B1197 main road where you will find the village War Memorial. Tired individuals might turn left and time their arrival for the 341/641 bus which takes you (Mon-Sat) either north-east to Hertford or south-east to

Hoddesdon. However, energetic walkers should turn right and follow the main road for 1 mile, passing Foxholes Farm, towards the roundabout that connects with the A414. Immediately before the roundabout turn left and follow the quiet road down. Opposite the brick pillars of the gates to Balls Park take the short footpath on the right up to the A414 then turn left and walk downhill. In 200yds follow the pavement as it curves left, away from the A414. At the 'T' junction turn right and then, after 50yds downhill, turn left into Greencoates. Pass the Post Office delivery office entrance and turn right at the footpath known locally as Rookes Alley (just before the Churchfields Family Centre). At its end bear right and take the slope down spotting, on your left, the underpass that leads you to Hertford's Fore Street and a choice of a dozen town centre real ale pubs – The **Lord Haig**, **Hertford Bell**, **Old Barge**, **Salisbury Arms**, **Blackbirds**, **Quiet Man**, **Six Templars**, **Woolpack**, **Old Cross Tavern**, **White Horse** and **Black Horse** or, 250yds east of Hertford East Station, the **Great Eastern Tavern**.

Cheers!

**Les Middlewood**  
South Herts CAMRA



Ordnance Survey Explorer Map No.194 – Hertford and Bishop's Stortford – covers the area and shows all of the many local footpaths. For more information on the pubs including opening times go to [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com) and search Hailey, Hertford Heath and Hertford. 310 and 341/641 bus times can be found at [www.intalink.org.uk](http://www.intalink.org.uk)



# Local Festivals

## The Sound of Watford meets the Oxhey Village Brewfest

The stars aligned for music and ale fans on Saturday 22nd April when the Sound of Watford music festival and Oxhey Village Brewfest coincidentally took place on the same day.

The Sound of Watford is a series of concerts by local music artists that takes place all day in a number of venues in the centre of town. It's organised by the LP Café with the support of West Herts College and Watford Borough Council and coincides with Record Store Day, an annual event that supports independent record shops around the world by promoting gigs and other related activities and issuing exclusive record releases only available from participating outlets.



Left: Pope's Yard beers in the LP Café. Right: Tom Craven performs in Watford Museum.

Since several of the venues were pubs or other ale outlets, and the route took me down the High Street

to Oxhey Village, it seemed expedient to unofficially link the two events. I started my day in the **LP Café**, where music fans can enjoy coffee and cake while crate digging. Customers were queuing for Record Store Day exclusives, but it wasn't just vinyl crossing the counter; the shop was also doing a good trade in bottled beer from the local Pope's Yard Brewery. Sadly, no-one from Pope's Yard could attend because they were busy moving equipment to the brewery's new home in North Watford, but from what I could see the beer was selling briskly anyway.

Around the corner from the LP Café the first acts of the day were performing on stage at the top of the Parade. I caught some of Mikyla Cara's RnB/Soul before heading downhill to **Watford Museum** for more acts. The museum is based in Benskin House, once the HQ of Benskin's Brewery. Fittingly the museum has a large collection of memorabilia associated with the pubs and breweries of Watford's past, and the acts were performing next to the old bar taken from the Pennant pub, which is now O'Neill's by Watford Junction station.

After enjoying the acoustic set from local singer/songwriter Tom Craven I carried on down the hill and into Oxhey Village for the Brewfest, which is a collaboration between **Oxhey Village Brewery** and two local pubs, the **Rifle Volunteer**, and the **Villiers Arms**. At the Villiers Arms landlord Jason Gutteridge and staff were outdoors, serving festival ales from various local brewers. Tring Brewery had provided



the racking for the casks, and several of their beers were available alongside ales from 3 Brewers, Chiltern, Rebellion and, of course, Oxhey Village Brewery.



Left: Customers outside the Rifle Volunteer during Oxhey Village Brewfest. Right: In the garden at the Villiers Arms.

After enjoying a drink or three in the beer garden, I headed down the road to the Rifle Volunteer, where landlord Chris Pyrke was serving a selection of ales from Tring, Exmoor Ales, Vale, Portobello, and Oxhey Village Brewery. I enjoyed the Oxhey Village Brewery IPA and Tring Citra Session, which is always a dependable beer. I also liked the Vale Red Kite, which I drank in tribute to the red kite that always seems to be circling in the skies over Watford these days.

While in the Rifle Volunteer I met up with Oxhey Village Brewery's Shaun Blake. The brewery has recently been producing small batches of high strength, specialty beers in keg, such as the Imperial Stout recently seen in Two Trees Micro, but Shaun told me they want to start producing more cask beer, which they had been supplying quite recently to the Load of Hay in Watford Heath. Shaun persuaded me to help with judging the Beer of the Festival, so of course I had to sample all the festival beers in the Rifle Volunteer and then do the same at the Villiers Arms, where the sun had come out and the beer garden was gratifyingly busy.



Skarlet Envy (left) and Mute Servants (Right) at the Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre

Once I'd discharged my judging responsibilities it was time to re-join the Sound of Watford. The next venue on the list was the **Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre** on Local Board Road, where the acts were performing in the Colne River Room. The venue is normally used for regular jazz, folk and open mic nights but the music on Record Store Day was at the noisier end of the spectrum. The Pump House had a couple of Tring ales on, so I enjoyed a pint of Mansion Mild while taking in the gothic metal of Skarlet Envy and the punk power-duo Mute Servants.

It was getting late in the evening, and it had been a long day, but I still managed to make it to **Mad Squirrel Tap** for more hard rock from Cloak of Starsky.

I bumped into Paul Terris from the LP Café, who was due on stage later with his band The Social Club. I thanked him for the effort he'd put in and bought him a beer, but sadly the effects of the day meant I couldn't quite make it to the other venue involved in Sound of Watford, which was the renowned music pub the **Horns** at the top of the town. Maybe next time I'll make it to all the venues. If by chance or design the two events coincide next year, I look forward to accepting the challenge.

- **LP Café**, 173 The Parade, Watford, WD17 1NJ
- **Watford Museum**, 194 High Street, Watford, WD17 2DT
- **Villiers Arms**, 108 Villiers Road, Oxhey, WD19 4AJ
- **Rifle Volunteer**, 36 Villiers Road, Oxhey, WD19 4AJ
- **Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre**, 5 Local Board Road, Watford, WD17 2JP
- **Mad Squirrel Tap**, 3 King Street, Watford, WD17 2EN
- **Horns**, 1 Hempstead Road, Watford, WD17 3RL

**Andrew Vaughan**  
Watford & District CAMRA



## THE HERTFORD CLUB

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## How Real Ale answered Fundraising Prayers

The responsibilities of a vicar are varied, but beyond baptisms, weddings and funerals, regular services and visits to the sick, elderly and bereaved, we must get to grips with an entirely different skill set: finances.

Churches are individually responsible for raising tens of thousands of pounds a year in order to simply stay open, and at a time when a cost-of-living crisis is engulfing the country, which is an ever-present challenge for people like me and the teams of volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our churches running.

Which is why in 2022 here at All Saints Church in Kings Langley we organised a real ale festival - inspired by one at St Saviour's Church in St Albans and the long association between churches and brewing - aided by friendly local publican Kevin Yelland and overseen by unsuspecting volunteer Chris Hughes.

With zero budget we promoted the event on social media and in regional press and hoped for the best. Over three days we saw hundreds of people flood through the doors of our 800-year-old church, sampling some of our 20 real and craft ales and various champagnes and Proseccos.

Our motto is 'Church in the community, community in the church' and we are committed to being a place for anyone and everyone to find refuge during

hard times and to celebrate happy times. So at a time when encouraging folk inside a church is harder than ever, it turned out that real ale was the answer.

The event brought our community together like never before, while raising vital funds for the church and for DENS, our local foodbank. Which is why we have pledged to run it every year going forward. Wish us luck!



*Father James (left), Chris (centre) and Kevin (right) at the 2022 Festival*

The Kings Langley Beer & Fizz Festival is running from 8-10th September at All Saints Church, WD4 8JS [www.klbeerandfizz.co.uk](http://www.klbeerandfizz.co.uk)

**Father James McDonald**  
Vicar

*All Saints Church, Kings Langley*



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# CAMRA Beer/Cider Festivals

*The festivals listed below are all CAMRA events, unless otherwise stated. Festivals shown as \*TBC\* are proposed but unconfirmed. Other festivals are scheduled to take place, as shown, but maybe subject to changes or cancellation. We suggest you check directly with the organiser.*

*Full national list at <https://events.camra.org.uk/>*

## AUGUST

### **Peterborough Beer Festival**

Tue 22nd – Sat 26th Embankment,  
Peterborough

### **East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival**

Wed 23rd – Mon 28th  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

## SEPTEMBER

### **\*TBC\* Chappel Summer Beer Festival**

Tue 5 – Sat 9 Sep  
East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel

### **St Albans Beer & Cider Festival**

Wed 27 – Sat 30 Sep  
Alban Arena, St Albans AL1 3LD

## OCTOBER

### **Bedford Beer & Cider Festival**

Wed 4th – Sat 7th  
Corn Exchange, Bedford

### **\*TBC\* Sth Wood'm Fer's Beer & Cider Fest**

Thu 5 – Sat 7 Oct  
Village Hall, South Woodham Ferrers

### **Norwich Beer Festival**

Mon 23rd – Sat 28th  
St. Andrew's & Blackfriars' Halls, Norwich

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

### **Pigs Ear Real Ale Festival**

Tue 28th Nov – Sat 2nd Dec  
Round Chapel, Hackney, London



# Readers Write

Les Middlewood's story on how Hertford's Black Horse pub became a sporting haven for local rugby players (Pints of View No. 306), reminded me of how my former football club started.

De Hems is a 19th century pub and oyster house in the heart of London's Soho. It prides itself on being the only authentic Dutch pub in the capital and was also the unofficial headquarters of the Dutch resistance during World War II.

In the late 1950s and early 60s it was run by Ben and Molly Short who served ale, oysters and champagne to their customers, who included many local, up and coming musicians like Georgie Fame, Alan Price and the soon to be manager of the Rolling Stones, Andrew Loog Oldham.

When Ben and Molly realised Soho might not be the ideal place to raise their young family they moved to St. Albans, where, in the summer of 1961, they took over the White Hart Hotel on Holywell Hill.



Their daughter Di explains how the move went: "I travelled to Hertfordshire with my Nan and my three brothers Brian, Alan and Nick. St Albans was very different then and arriving from London we were in for quite a shock. For example in the sixties pubs closed at 10.30 at night and on Sundays they were only allowed to open between 12 and 2 lunch time and 7.30 and 10 in the evening, "Di explained.

*"Mum and Dad soon made friends with Jake and Hilda Ewing, who lived round the corner in Belmont Court, and I became friends with their two sons Mike and Phil, also known as Pip. As a result a younger element started to come to the pub. These included Peter Lingham, Ron Spiking, Howard Baxter, Jeff Evans, Peter Kingaby and also David and John Dickson. Little did we know it but the birth of White Hart Wanderers, later to become St Albans Wanderers, was imminent."*

These lads, most of whom played cricket for St Albans during the summer months, would complain that there was nothing to do in the winter. That's when Ben Short, Jake and Geoff Slade suggested they get together and form a football team and join the Sunday League. And so the club was formed.

A number of friendly games were held and in September 1962 the team took part in their first competitive game against Hillborough in the Herts & Beds Sunday League game at Stockwood Park, Luton. The team that day was: Stuart Lovatt, Bill Dixon, Bruce Wallis, Peter 'Jock' Melvin, Chris Barker, Mike and 'Pip' Ewing, Geoff Evans, Brian Short, Peter Lingham and Ron Spiking.



Peter Lingham and Ron Spiking were to become important players to me some 15 years later when I joined the club. Peter was a good communicator, both on and off the pitch. He also edited the club newsletter for many years.

Here's Peter's description of Ronnie Spiking: *"In that first match there was one imperishable favourite who seemed likely to go on indefinitely. Apparently slight of build and not particularly quick, Ronnie Spiking was nevertheless surprisingly durable, naturally two-footed, well balanced and capable of manipulating the ball with minimal fuss and no embellishment. Crucially, though, Ron invariably selected the best option and, aside from being such a lovely unassuming bloke, he was probably the cleanest either-foot striker of a football club has ever had."*

I can vouch for Peter's description of Ronnie Spiking. I had the pleasure to play in the same side as Ronnie when turning out for the Sunday second team in the late 70s. He was, indeed two-footed and a little quicker than Peter remembered. First impressions mean a lot and Ronnie certainly looked like a footballer, having a 60s Brylcreem-boy slicked-back hairstyle, similar to Johnny Haynes.

He was also capable of playing like Haynes, invariably selecting the perfect pass. Polite, well-mannered and quietly-spoken, Ronnie let his football do the talking. He soon assumed the mantle of a father figure, not just to me but several other of the younger players. A class act!

When Ben and Molly left to go to The Bull at Stanborough the club decided to move to the Lower Red Lion. The team had grown by then with several new players including Peter Mardle, Alan Brooke and Jerry Stone. The Wanderers then joined the reformed North Herts Counties League and in 1969 became the first side from St. Albans to win a County Cup.

In 1974 the club changed its name to St. Albans Wanderers in order to fulfil the link between St. Albans and its German twin-town – Worms.

### The Pubs

The club's 'headquarters' after The Lower Red Lion were as follows: The Cricketers, The Duke of Marlborough, The Hare and Hounds, The Garibaldi, The Harrow, The Spotted Bull and last, but not least, The Mermaid.

At its peak, during the late 1970s, the club ran five sides, two Saturday teams in the Mid-Herts League and three Sunday teams in the Review Sunday League. Sadly by 2012 the club were down to a solitary team and after a few games were unable to field a side and the club folded.

Along with the football and the beer the diversity of the club was a big positive. Playing for us we had butchers, bakers, bankers, builders, company directors, advertising executives, air-traffic controllers, policemen, plumbers, teachers, chefs, couriers, taxi drivers, you name it. The common denominator was a love of the game.

Although St Albans Wanderers are no more, there are several former players who still meet up, reminisce and talk a good game in one of the city's many watering holes. These have included The White Lion, The Crown, The Garibaldi, The Boot, The Beehive and The Mermaid

**Paul Bishop**

*Dear Dean, Steve and Paul*

*I have just read issue#306 PoV while sampling the excellent beers on offer at the Lower Red Lion public house in St Albans.*

*I wish to congratulate you on a splendid issue.*

*Very informative and entertaining.*

*I particularly liked the piece on page 25 about "beer engines". Well crafted.*

*Best wishes*

**Ian Peel**

*Sir, The "Elephant and Castle" at Wheathampstead has been named, by the Society of Independent Brewers, as the "U.K's Best Rural Craft Beer Pub".*

*It is certainly a delightful rural pub with a traditional "pub" feel to the bar. The staff are efficient and courteous the food is good and the range of beers adequate.. The one drawback is that the cask conditioned beer is too cold! If it is to come into perfect condition cask conditioned beer needs to be stored and served at between 54 to 57\* F; (12 to 14\* C). I suspect the beer at the Elephant and Castle is nearer 9 or 10\* C. This means that when drunk the beer is cold to the palate and lacks the glorious full texture flavour of a properly conditioned draught beer. Assuming that Craft Beer is a form of cask conditioned beer I would have thought that, of all people, Independent Brewers should have known better!!*

**Sam Hall**



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# 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).***

**ASPENDEN** The landlord of the **Fox** left, the pub closed and Admiral Taverns are advertising the tenancy for sale.

**BRAMFIELD** After a short period of closure the **Grandison** has re-opened with two real ales

**BRICKET WOOD** The planning application for change of use on the (closed since 2016) **Old Fox** in appears to have been refused.

**CHESHUNT** McMullen's have carried out a snappy refurbishment (including a new extension) at the **Crocodile** on College Road. With a new inviting menu, real ales are from the Mac's range.

**COLEMAN GREEN** McMullens have sold the **John Bunyan** to their tenants - Anthony and Faith Denoronha, whose family have been Mac's tenants for 23 years. The **Bunyan** is a welcoming cottage-style rural pub bedecked with interesting jugs and plates that are mounted around the walls and beams. Outside there is lots of seating for these summer months. Mac's beers will no longer be stocked so look out for beers from the nearby 3 Brewers of St.Albans. With a reputation for well-kept cask beer and locally-sourced food, this is a new chapter for the pub. Why not drop in for a pint? We wish Anthony and Faith the very best for the future.

**ELSTREE** A pub that closed seven years ago set for major refurbishments works. A £600,000 revamp project by Heineken-owned Star Pubs & Bars will see the pub's original name - the **Plough** - reinstated to mark it reverting to a proper pub. Located in Elstree high street, it has been closed for seven years. Before the pub closed, it had operated as an Italian restaurant called Kiss Kiss and as a Chinese restaurant called East. Significant refurbishment work is scheduled to start once a new licensee has been recruited for the only pub in the Herts village. The extensive plans would revitalise the boarded-up premises into a premium local pub with a reputation for food and cask ales.

**FLAMSTEAD** Good news: Stonegate found another tenant for the **Three Blackbirds** and it has reopened. Permanent beer is Landlord and it had Bass on too as we went to press.

**GREAT WYMONDLEY:** The **Green Man** tenancy available and being advertised on the loveyourpub website.

**HERTFORD** After a short period of closure, the **White Horse** in Castle Street re-opened in April, now in the hands of Fuller's tenant David Kirby who has previously worked behind the bar in the town's Old Cross Tavern and the Crafty Duck. London Pride, ESB and Dark Star Hophead are complemented by a changing guest ale. Upstairs you will find one of only a handful of pub bar billiards tables that remain in the county and in a neighbouring room is the pub's vinyl room - bring along an LP. The **Blackbirds** has re-opened following a significant refurbishment - three real ales are available. There have been minor adaptation works at the riverside **Woolpack** on Millbridge. Mac's range of real ales are available at the bar.

**HERTFORD HEATH** A belated welcome to Jay and Reanna, general managers at the **College Arms**. St.Austell's Tribute and Timothy Taylor Landlord are on handpump, the pub offering a varied menu with a gastro twist. Bring your darts if you are visiting the **Silver Fox**. Open from 4pm, Mon -Sat and noon on Sundays, the pub now has 5 dart boards attracting players from far and wide. Greene King IPA on handpump. The **Goat**, opposite the village green, is a hub of the community with four real ales. On the first Sunday of the month marvel at the vintage and veteran cars that meet. On the first Saturday it's the turn of the motorbikes.

**HEXTON** The freehold of the **Raven** is up for sale at £1.12 million. The pub continues to trade.

**MARKYATE** The Local micro-pub has closed. See article on page 13

**MUCH HADHAM** Plans for internal alterations at the grade II listed **Bull** have been given approval with conditions by East Herts District Council.

**ROYSTON** Historic pub located close to the Royse Stone in town centre, Re-opened in June following a year's closure. Name changed from the **Coach and Horses** to **King James** who has historic connections to the town. Tastefully



refurbished with sports TV and small outside drinking area. HSB, Ghost Ship and Landlord reportedly on sale in July.

**STEVENAGE** The **Boom Battle Bar** opened on the 30th of December on the site of the former **Bar & Beyond** in Stevenage Leisure Park, a game-orientated bar. Unfortunately, there is no real ale to add to the fun on offer. Following the report in the last edition, the **Emperors Head** pub reopened on 28th of March following a 2-week closure and refurbishment.

**TEA GREEN** Following on from the last edition of the newsletter when we reported that the **White Horse** was up for sale, it is now permanently closed.

**WHITWELL** Closed for a short while in March / April, the **Bull** has reopened. Farr Brewery did not renew their lease. The new managers, Caz & Jackie, advised us it is now run by Fisherman Inns (who also have the **Beehive**, St Albans, the **Rose and Crown** Welwyn and the **Engineer**, Harpenden). They also advised they would be opening for food from July, have installed some bike racks to encourage cyclists to ride to the pub and are hoping to reach out to lots

of community groups who previously used the pub before their ownership. Cask ales as of July 7th were Sidepocket, Ghost Ship and Doombar.

**WATFORD** The **Colombia Press** closed on Monday February 6th. As of late May the lease was still up for sale with Savills. Star Pubs & Bars is seeking a new manager for the **Oddfellows Arms**, which was closed and boarded up in April.

#### GLASS EMPTY

Les Middlewood reflects on the sad loss of rural pubs in one part of Hertfordshire, in CAMRA's 52 years and why the campaign needs to continue and embrace more than real ale, to deploy a CAMRA phrase supporting *Pubs. Pints. People.*

We can do our best in *Pints of View* land and nationally but people just aren't going out drinking as much - if at all. Maybe we need some more activity in the press. But the Mercury over here is hopeless, no reporters - a shadow of its former self.



## DYLAN'S ST ALBANS



Dylans St Albans is now on untappd.

Scan the QR code for today's beer list and events.

—

[dylanskingsarms.com](http://dylanskingsarms.com)

## No Goals for the Albion?

What dismay that the Grade II listed Albion in Crib Street, Ware remains closed and inactive. It is now some two years since it was sold to what we understood was a local buyer. The word, at the time, was that its future would probably be residential – its pub days over – but there has been little or no signs of life during that time. So, why couldn't it have continued trading?

At its closure, the Albion was a small roadside pub, single bar and with no garden or outside area. But there was potential. There's a whole closed-off interior area to the north-side that requires investment but could be brought into use and then there is the first-floor accommodation.

Despite its closure, the Albion features in CAMRA's important list of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest and in its associated book "East of England – Real Heritage Pubs" where the entry reads "A very old timber-framed building that has been a pub since at least 1845. Now a cosy, one-roomed local, it appears little changed since the 1950's. The "Quality Flowers Ales" legend on the bar-back is certainly from that time (and note the glazed, leaded spirit cupboard at each end of the bar-back). The brick and timber-built counter is certainly a period piece as are the two fireplaces. The central ceiling beam is supposedly from the warship after which the pub is named. The entrance



vestibule has some adzed timber uprights that are no doubt 1950's vintage."

With these credentials, its micro-pub size and its situation so close to Ware High Street, surely the Albion could become a real ale paradise. Better than standing empty.

Maybe the Albion doesn't want to be a house – it wants to be a pub!

With next to no agricultural workers, drink-drive, cheap supermarket cans and bottles, taxation, VAT, high utility charges, pandemic, competing social activities, high beer prices, how can we get people off their sofas and back into the pubs?

I think we need some more ideas to rekindle or awaken the pub spirit in people. How about some more promotional stuff?

Here's the sad roll-call of rural pubs lost around and north of Hertford and Ware:

**Woodhall Arms**, Stapleford;  
**Prince of Wales**, Hertingfordbury;  
**Townshend Arms**, Hertford

Heath; **Huntsman**, Goose Green; **Waterford Arms**, Waterford; **Harts Horns**, Stoneyhills; **Waggon and Horses**, Watton; **Duck**, Burham Green; **Adam and Eve**, Hay Street; **Bell**, Benington; **Wagon and Horses**, Levens Green; **Windmill**, Thundridge; **Sow and Pigs**, Thundridge; **Angel**, Wadesmill; **White Horse**, High Cross; **Wellington**, Barwick Ford

**Les Middlewood**  
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**South Herts CAMRA Club of the Year 2022**

[facebook.com/NorthMymmsSocialClub/](https://facebook.com/NorthMymmsSocialClub/)

# 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 and for future months. Addresses can be found on page 39

## AUGUST

### Saturday 5th: **Hatfield Publicity Trail for St Albans Beer & Cider Festival (SAB&CF)**

Meet at **Red Lion**, 1PM

(For details of all SAB&CF Trails see <https://stalbansbf.org.uk/socials>)

### Wednesday 9th: **Ickleford Sports & Recreation Club**, Chambers Lane, Ickleford.

Presentation of Branch Club of the Year award, 8PM.

### Wednesday 9th: **Potters Bar Publicity Trail for SAB&CF**

Meet at **Admiral Byng**, 7PM

### Saturday 12th: **Pub Walk to Flaunden**,

starting at the **Plough**, Dunny Lane, Belsize, WD3 4NP, 1PM; **Bricklayer's Arms**, Hogpit's Bottom, Flaunden, HP3 0PH, 2PM; **Green Dragon**, Flaunden, HP3 0PP, 3PM; **Boot**, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6BL, 5PM.

### Monday 14th: **SH Committee Meeting** at **North Mymms Social Club** 7:45PM

### Monday 14th: **H&EB Branch Meeting and Social** at **Castle**, Castle St, Bishops Stortford 8:30PM

**Friday 18th: Lordship Arms, Bennington**, Presentation of the Branch Pub of the Year award and trophy. The **Lordship Arms** has also won the Hertfordshire Pub of the Year award. (NB North Herts are without a Social Secretary for the moment and are focusing on awards for the summer)

### Saturday 19th: **Watford Publicity Trail for SAB&CF**

Meet at **O'Neills** 1PM

### Monday 21st: **W&D Branch Meeting, Essex Arms**, Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG, 8PM.

### Saturday 27th: **'Abbey Flyer' Publicity Trail for SAB&CF**

Meet at St Albans Abbey Railway Station 12:30PM

## SEPTEMBER

**Friday 1st: Watford Social** starting at the **Market Tavern**, 28 Market St, WD18 0PY, 8PM; **Two Trees Micro**, 18 Vicarage Rd, WD18 0EH, 9:15PM; **Mad Squirrel Tap**, 3 King St, WD17 2EN, 10:30PM.

### Saturday 2nd: **Luton Publicity Trail for SAB&CF**

Meet at **Great Northern** 1PM

**Monday 4th: Goat, Codicote**. Presentation of the Branch Community Pub of the Year award from 7:30PM.

### Friday 8th: **NH SGM and Committee Meeting** **Garden City Brewery**, Letchworth 7:30PM.

### Monday 11th: **H&EB Branch Meeting and Social** at **Prince of Wales**, Green Tye, 8:30PM

### Wednesday 13th: **SH Branch Meeting** at **Black Horse**, Hertford, 8PM

### Saturday 16th: **2nd St Albans Publicity Trail for SAB&CF**

Meet at **Robin Hood**, 1PM

### Monday 18th: **W&D Branch Meeting, West Herts Sports Club**, 8 Park Avenue, WD18 7HP, 8PM.

**Wednesday 27th – Saturday 30th: St Albans Beer & Cider Festival 2023**, Alban Arena. See <https://stalbansbf.org.uk> for all details

## OCTOBER

### Wednesday 18th: **SH Branch Meeting**, **Harpenden Arms** 8PM

## NOVEMBER


### Monday 13th: **SH Committee Meeting**, **Radlett Club**, 7:45PM

**Saturday 25th: Hertford Ale Trail**. (Details TBC, see <https://southherts.camra.org.uk/diary/> closer to the date).



# Herts CAMRA Contacts


## NORTH HERTS CAMRA

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## SOUTH HERTS CAMRA

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## HERTS & ESSEX BORDERS CAMRA

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