



<u>YOUR LOCAL CAMRA MAGAZINE, PACKED</u> <u>WITH LOCAL NEWS</u>

2 Teach

RECRUIT A FRIEND!

Branch membership has now reached 170 and our aim for 2005 is to increase this to 200. Quite an ambitious plan for a small branch, but one we are sure we can reach *with your help*. We are asking each branch member to recruit just one person within the remainder of this year, and that will more than see us past our objective.

Our socials are now well advertised, and are attracting more and more people from all ages and all walks of life. See back page for events coming in next few months, and where Tony says "please book early", then please do, as you may be disappointed!

NOT A MEMBER YET?

See page 10 for membership application, and don't forget, join by direct debit and **get three months free**! Send your application form to Alan Binnigton whose address is on page 15.

Membership by area: Arlesey: 11, Putnoe: 1, Broom: 1, Langford: 7, Stanford: 2, Upper Caldecote: 3, Lower Caldecote: 1, Biggleswade: 46, Upper Stondon: 1, Lower Stondon: 3, Henlow: 17, Stotfold: 21,

Potton: 17, Everton: 3, Tempsford: 1, Wrestlingworth: 1, Clifton: 3, Meppershall: 1, Cockayne Hatley: 1, Sandy: 5. With several others from around the area and "out of Branch"

You can see we have coverage in every Village/Town we represent. Just a few more from one or two areas and we will reach our target of 200 by the end of 2005

Our tenth birthday party

East Beds Camra celebrated our tenth year with a party at the Engineers Arms, Henlow in October.

Over 72 Camra members attended, including guests from other local branches, and our regional director, Mike Harvey and his wife, who came all the way from Southend –on -Sea to be with us. An excellent buffet was provided and entertainment from Steve Wilson and Paul.

Mike Harvey presented Kevin and Claire of the

Engineers with the certificate for the Bedfordshire Pub Of The Year for the third year in a row.

This was without doubt the best attended function the branch has ever had. We are finding more and more people now attending our socials, and having a good time. Trips out are almost always fully

subscribed now, so as soon as you see something you would like to attend on posters in Pubs, or on our website (www.eastbedscamra.org), book quickly or you may be disappointed!





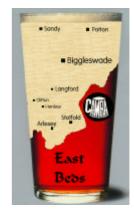


Music's good!



Presentation for Bedfordshire Pub of the Year





Idle chatter



A study in concentration



Where's me beer?

OUR TENTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Tudor Oaks

Astwick

Our annual dinner was combined in 2004 to also celebrate ten years of East Bedfordshire CAMRA.

The meal was held at the Tudor Oaks for the second year running and 18 members attended.

The Oaks usually serves around six Real Ales at any one time, a very varied range, mainly from micros.

The selection on the night did not



The Potton Brewery Co.

10 Shannon Place, Potton, Sandy, Beds. SG19 2PZ Tel:- 01767 261042 www.potton-brewery.co.uk

Suppliers of Real Ale' in Cask, Polypin or Bottle to the Licensed Trade and General Public.

For Product Details and Prices Consult our Website or Call the Above Number.

BREWERS OF BEDFORDSHIRE BEER OF THE YEAR 2003 THE VILLAGE BIKE Disappoint.

The food is always of exceptional quality here and some of the best sea food and fish anywhere! (The steaks are brilliant too!) All those attending had a very good night!

Quiz Answers

- 1) The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe
- 2) Canberra (yes it is)
- 3) Coronation Street
- 4) Eight
- 5) A fishing fly
- 6) Mussorgsky
- 7) It's a star (in the constellation of Orion)
- 8) Michael Caine
- 9) Trafalgar
- 10) A fish

Quiz compiled by Chris Bunyan

Find the Quiz on page 12



B & T Brewery trip

PLEASE MENTION THE "CASKET" WHEN REPLYING TO ADVERTISERS

Bedfordshire CAMRA 30th birthday celebrations

Charles Wells

As a further part of our 30th Birthday celebrations, Charles Wells invited us along to the Brewery in December for a party, along with a demonstration of beer flavours.

The evening was well attended with around 70 people from all three Bedfordshire branches.

We were treated to the usual excellent Wells beers, and also the Christmas special, which was extremely Moorish.

A hot meal was supplied complete with Christmas pudding.

The biggest surprise was the Birthday cake that Charles Wells Had baked for us! An extremely Pleasant evening for which we thank them immensely.

B & T Brewery trip

Banks and Taylor played host to around 70 members in December from Bedfordshire to celebrate 30 years of CAMRA in the county.

As with all B & T hosted events the beer flowed generously and the food afterwards in the Brewery Tap was excellent.

One of the advantages of CAMRA

membership can be that you get to join us on these FREE trips!

As you can see from our photograph of some of the happy revelers from East Beds, the hospitality did not go to waste. Five of Banks and Taylors very popular Ales were available for us to taste, and all served "straight from the wood".

May we take this opportunity to publicly thank the management of B & T for an excellent evening

THE SIR WILLIAM PEEL HIGH STREET, SANDY

A VERY WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU

An ever changing range of Real Ales Supplemented by our own brew from the "OLD STABLES BREWERY"





PUB NEWS

Bricklayers Arms, Potton

The Bricklayers Arms, re-opened on the 8th December 2004 after extensive decoration work undertaken by the new landlords, Phil and Diana. The pub had been closed for a few months and

concern had been expressed because of Green King's policy of closing down pubs, happily this has been proven wrong in this case.

This is Phil and Diana's first pub. They were looking for a pub with a good friendly atmosphere and they feel they have succeeded in this as they were given a warm welcome from the locals. They are keen to keep the real ale flowing and have four handpumps at present dispensing Green King IPA, Abbott and Adnams' Broadside. They want to keep the traditional feel to the pub and have a dart board and will soon be looking for a darts team, they also intend to do quiz nights. Food is not yet available but they are looking to doing lunch time snacks evening meals.

The Lord Roberts, Sandy,

opened its doors for business, on Saturday 4th December, after a complete refurbishment. It is now a one bar pub with more room in what was the public bar.

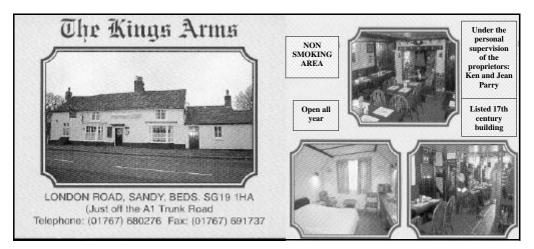
The new licensees are Bob and Pauline Wilkins. Bob has been in the trade for many years and a spell in North Bedfordshire at the White Horse, Wymington.

His last pub was the Crooked Billet, Berkhampstead.

Bob's passion for Real Ale was expressed in his disappointed at their being only two hand pumps, serving Charles Wells' Eagle and Skinner's Cornish Knockers, at the time of visit.

Grub could be limited as part of the kitchen was taken up to allow disabled access to the rear of the pub.

We wish Bob and Pauline the best of luck in their new venture.





Golden Pheasant, Biggleswade

John and

Dawn Mc Neil have now been here for 21 months.

Beers are Wells Eagle IPA and Bombardier.

Smoking is allowed throughout the premises, and children welcome to 7.30 pm. Food served lunchtimes and evenings and to 3.30 on Sundays.

Opening times are 11.00—11.00, 12 Noon to 10.30 pm Sundays.

Stratton House Hotel, Biggleswade

Hotel bars often leave a lot to be desired, deserts of nitro-keg and bottled Becks. The same cannot be said for the Stratton House in Biggleswade!

Now owned and run by the same family that own the Crown at

Northill, a lot of care has been put into the selection of Ales and food. The proprietor, Marion Hawkes-Blodau, takes a great pride in her

establishment and this is reflected in the smart décor and comfortable seating in the bar area-the restaurant is equally smart.

The Stratton is a Free House and stocks three well kept ales at any one time. Beers from the Potton Brewery are favourites with the regulars so you can usually find one on. Village bike when I popped in. The others ales at the time of my visit were Adnams Bitter and Wells Eagle IPA.

The Hotel offers 30 rooms, all en-suite, and so the Stratton has a decent sized car park attached if you are driving there, although it is only a three minute walk from the station.

The Bar and Restaurant have

extensive no smoking areas and well behaved kids are welcome. The Restaurant serves lunch and evening meals all week which are of the same high standard as the Crown, Northill. The food is all home cooked and prepared by Frank and his daughter Anita.

The Stratton is a friendly, well looked after venue, definitely worth a visit, even if just for the chance to drink something other than Greene King or Wells in Biggleswade!

Geoff Mason

Crown, Stotfold.

Kathryn Taylor has now been "mine Host" at the Crown for a little over four months.

It is Kathryn's first pub, and she would like to expand the cask ale selection from the current Greene King IPA, to include other beers.

The Christmas period was

particularly successful, her first in her new Pub where, she says, the locals are very friendly. It does attract the younger set, but also Caters for all ages!

Pub News



Boot, Langford. The Boot has recently re-opened After re-furbishment

This Charles Wells Pub has seen a spate of different Landlords over the last few years, but is now run by the same

Landlord as the Golden Pheasant,

Biggleswade, so we look forward to a bit more stability. 3 Real Ales are served, Eagle, Bombardier plus one other. No restaurant any more, but bar snacks are readily available. Music once per month.



Plough, Langford Greene King IPA and Old Speckled Hen, with possibly

Abbot coming soon! Music monthly, Irish music on March 17th



Old Coach, House, Potton

Ian Standingford used to run a B&B in Scotland with his parents until they retired a couple of years ago and moved to Spain. Ian decided to "come out of the trade" altogether, and so he moved to Wooton near Bedford. In the middle of last year a friend

introduced him to The Old Coach House, they became business partners and bought the place.

Having been here for just over 6 months, Ian has kept the beer range, Potton,

Shannon IPA and Shambles, along with Adnams and a rotating guest. Tight

sparklers are used on the beers as that is how the regulars like it served, but Ian is happy to remove them if asked. On our visit the Adnams was excellent!

EARLY SPRING HALF PRICE SALE

Brand new weather treated 4, 6 or 8 seat "A" frame Picnic Benches and Tables Ideal for Pubs, Clubs, Patios, Lawns etc. Available fully assembled or flat packed



5 Year guarantee 4 x 2 timber in pine or dark oak finish Perfect for the summer! 4 seat Normally £80, Sale Price £40 6 seat Normally £100, Sale price £50 8 seat Normally £140, Sale price £70

(No VAT. Low price for a limited time only) Also available: Ronseal Varnish:2 litre can in redwood, light oak or clear, Half price at £15 Umbrellas: Small £20, Medium £30, Large £40 Umbrella base: £10 each Benches can be viewed at the Pig and Whistle Public House, Stotfold. Call 01462 734377, ask for Mr. Reece, or www.adrgardenpicnicbenches.co.uk

Where have my customers gone

On a wall at Jim O'Shea's at Borris in County Carlow are listed the Ten Commandments of Good Business.

- 1 A Customer is the most important person in any business.
- 2. A Customer is not dependant on us We are dependent on him.
- 3 A Customer is not an interruption of our work. He is the purpose of it.
- 4 A Customer does us a favour when he calls – we are not doing him a favour by serving him.
- 5 A Customer is part of our business, not an outsider.
- 6 A Customer is not a cold statistic he is flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.
- 7 A Customer is not someone to argue or match wits with.
- 8 A Customer is one who brings us his wants – it is our job to fill those wants.
- 9 A Customer is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give him.

How often have you been into a pub and wondered if you have been seen by the staff whilst they go on with their business or chatting with friends when a simple word of welcome is sufficient to show you have been noticed.

Good Ales, Food and Pleasant

Atmosphere are important to bringing back a visiting customer after his initial visit.

Luckily in our area we have many publicans who appreciate our custom but unfortunately there are exceptions. On a recent visit to a local pub I pointed out that a guest ale listed was not a guest ale for the pub whereas one listed in the ordinary list was in fact a guest ale. The

response from the landlord was it was of no concern of mine that he was deceiving the customer. He had already lost a regular party of visitors due to their being felt they were not wanted. Not a way of keeping customers.

As Real Ale drinkers we all

conditioned beer at reasonable prices and a comfortable pleasant atmosphere.

Clifford Luff



Brown Bear, Biggleswade

How the mighty have fallen! This once great Pub, serving 9 Real Ales had been reduced to just two on a recent visit. It just proves that A Landlord and Landlady can make or break a pub!

Queens Head, On a recent visit Sandy. to this Sandy Pub our researcher was very pleasantly surprised to find five Real Ales on. Unusual in itself, but even more unusual when the Queens Head is a Greene King Pub! All were very good too!

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Pitner Surname	Forename(s)	••••••	Date of Birth
Address			Postcode
Tel. no.(s)			

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

Applications will be processed within 21 days

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East Bedfordshire Campaign for Real Ale

East Bedfordshire Pub of the year The Engineers Arms, Henlow.

This Pub is winning awards everywhere and is known throughout the country for the variety and quality of its beers. As many as twenty a week are served, and the place is always busy, especially on a Friday evening or a Sunday tea time! To call the landlord a "character" would be an understatement. Constantly serving good quality and unusual Ales as well as standard bitters from micro breweries. Specialising in beers from new brewers, you will often find beers

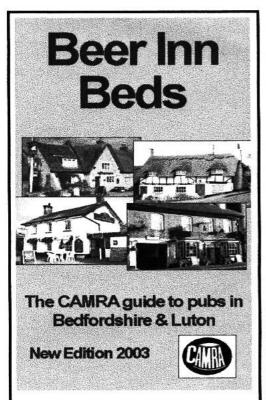
and breweries you never knew existed.

The constant awards are a reflection of the hard work put in by Kevin, Claire and all the staff.

Community Pub of the Year The Wheatsheaf, Biggleswade.

Situated in Lawrence road. behind the library and fire Station, the Wheatsheaf has been a Pub since 1873. The present Landlord and Landlady having been here for the past sixteen years, have a loyal following. Meat raffles still take place every Sunday, day trips to the races are organised. The Pub has darts, dominoes and crib teams. Serving the best pint of Green King mild anywhere! Go and visit the Wheatsheaf, it is a step back in time, and very Friendly, with a clientele from 18 to 90





OUT NOW

The new guide to every licensed house in Bedfordshire that is freely open to the Public.

Cover price of just £3.00

GUIDES MAY BE PURCHASED FROM YOUR LOCAL PUB, OR DIRECT (£3.50) FROM ALAN BINNINGTON 18 KINGSWAY STOTFOLD, HITCHIN, HERTS. SG5 4EL

THE QUIZ!

- 1) In what book does Asian the Lion appear?
- 2) What is the capital of Australia?
- Minnie Caldwell was an original member of the cast of characters in which longrunning TV soap?
- 4) How many legs does a spider have?
- 5) What is a Coch-y-bundhu?
- 6) Who wrote the musical "Pictures at an exhibition"?
- 7) What is "Beetlejuice?
- 8) What mega-star actor's first main role was as Lieutenant Bromhead in "Zulu"?
- 9) October 21st 2005 is the 200th anniversary of which battle?
- 10) What sort of creature is a Bombay Duck ?

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS, THEY MAKE THIS MAGAZINE POSSIBLE



Casket Deliveries.

Can you spare us a few hours four times a year to visit your favourite pubs and deliver the Casket?

We need help to cover Stotfold, Clifton and Langford.

We are not asking you to cover the lot, just two or three would be most helpful. We currently are able to deliver to these areas, but the people covering just have too many Pubs to deal with effectively.

All we ask is for you to take the Caskets into the Pubs and present to the Landlord/Landlady, you will find without exception that all the publicans look forward to receiving their copies, as do the customers. The Casket is presented free of charge, and whilst delivering it gives the Publicans the opportunity to give us any news they may wish us to include in the next issue.

If you can help please give John a ring on 01462 850979. The Caskets would normally be delivered direct to you, so you do not even have to collect from anywhere, easy isn't it!

And it is a lot of fun. Why not a pair delivering together to make it more of a "night out"?

Other areas are well covered, but if there is any areas you would like to help, let us know.

Please mention the "Casket" when replying to advertisements

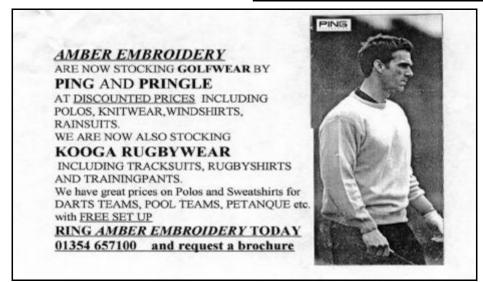
The Adnams Board planning for the future

Adnams has released plans for future changes to its Board following the announcement that Simon Loftus intends to retire as Chairman in August 2006. In the planned succession, Jonathan Adnams will become Executive Chairman of Adnams, and Andy Wood will be promoted to Managing Director from the position of Sales and Marketing Director. Both appointments will be effective from August 2006.

Jonathan Adnams, 48, joined the company in 1973 working in brewery engineering and has worked in all areas of the business.

He joined the board in 1988 and was appointed Managing Director in 1997. Andy Wood, 44, started at Adnams in 1994 having previously worked with Norwich Union. He joined the board of Adnams in 2000 with responsibility for Sales, marketing. Customer Services and the Adnams Wine business. In addition Steve Curzon, 42, is appointed to the Board as Marketing Director with immediate effect Steve joined Adnams last February as Head of Marketing, following senior marketing appointments at Lawn Nestle and the Tennis Association.





Champion winter beer of Britain 2005 THE ENGINEERS ARMS The champion beer was selected at the THE National winter Ales festival held in ENGINEERS Manchester recently. The overall champion was Old Tom from ARMS Robinson's in Stockport. Old Tom is an *HENLOW* 8.5% barley wine, a full bodied, dark beer, A Genuine it has malt, fruit and chocolate in the Free House aroma. A delightfully complex range of flavours including dark chocolate, full **Bedfordshire Pub of the Year** maltiness, Port and fruits lead to a long, 2002, 2003 and 2004 bitter-sweet aftertaste. East Anglia Pub of the The full results: Supreme champion: Year 2004 Old Tom, Robinson's Stockport. 1. Featured in CAMRA 2. Festivity, Bath Brewery, Somerset Up to 20 Good Beer Guide. Real Ales 3. Headcracker, Woodfordes, Norfolk **Open** Fire Weekly Category winners: Music Free Lounge Old Ales and strong mild, Open all day, every day! Bath Festival. Stouts and porters, Batemans www.engineersarms.co.uk Salem porter, Barley wines, Robinsons Old Tom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2004

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HELP CHARITY

We make no charge for the Casket, But if you enjoy reading it and/or take a copy home then please consider Putting a donation in the Pub's charity box

Trading Standards

If you have any complaints about short measure, lack of price lists or misleading promotion of products contact: Bedfordshire Trading Standards 23 Gadsby Street, Bedford MK40 3HP Tel: 01234 346101

The Casket

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always welcome.

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ADVERTISING RATES

1/6 Page:	£10
1/3 Page	£20
1/2 Page	£30
Full Page	£50

East Bedfordshire CAMRA – Social Events & Branch Meetings 2005

Feb

Wed 23rd Branch Meeting, 8pm Bricklayers Arms, Potton

Sat 26th National Pubs Week Event. E Beds branch intend to visit all eight of our Good Beer Guide Pubs in a day using only Public Transport.

We need your support for this one to generate maximum publicity. Join us for all or part of the day. Start in Biggleswade bus station at 11:00 for visits to Broom, Stotfold, Astwick, Henlow, then back to Biggleswade and onto Sutton, Potton, finishing in Sandy from where there are buses or trains back to Biggleswade, Potton area or Arlesey Full itinerary available from Tony. we may be able

to offer discounted travel.

March

 $\underline{\text{Thu } 17^{\text{th}} - \text{Sat } 19^{\text{th}}}$ Hitchin Beer Festival. See What's Brewing or CAMRA website for details

Wed 30th Branch Meeting, 8 pm Golden Pheasant, Biggleswade **April**

<u>Sun 10th</u> Branch Social to Greenwich which offers a wide variety of beers and historical pubs & sites in a compact area. It is intended to incorporate a river cruise from Greenwich to London Bridge. Details from Tony. Possibility of discounted train travel if there is a large enough group. Please book early.