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CAMRA, Herts & Essex Borders Branch

Pubwatch, January 2009

Foreword

Up until now, **Pubwatch** has been distributed only to “active members.” From this issue, it is being sent to all Herts & Essex branch members. I hope that you will find it interesting and informative. Views and comments are individual offerings, published in good faith. Comments, updates and corrections will be appreciated. Note, you will only receive future editions if you remain a member; should you wish not to do so, please contact pubs@heb-camra.org.uk.

[Latest Pub News](#)

(Note, details on Hertfordshire pubs can be found at www.pubs.hertsale.org.uk. The Essex version will be available later this year).



The Rainbow & Dove at Hastingwood has been bought from Punch by the sitting tenants who are keen to improve the real ale range. On a recent visit, I found their Everard's Tiger in good form.

The Cottage Loaf, Debden has new lessees



The Fox & Hounds at Hunsdon, formerly a regular Good Beer Guide entry, was removed because members felt it was too much of a restaurant and not somewhere to go just for a drink. On a recent visit, I found the drinking area somewhat limited; whilst fine for small numbers, it could get a little crowded. The beer was good but a little expensive at £3.30 for a ping of Buntingford Highwayman.

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The Lord Louis at Stanstead Abbots has been freshened up by the new host, Kevin Verrent who is keen to promote real ale. There are four Fuller's ales on pump which, apart from London Pride, rotate. Kevin is no newcomer to the real ale scene as he also runs the successful North Star pub in Leytonstone which regularly has 7 ales on pump.



On the outskirts of our area, the White Horse at High Cross (on the old A10 north of Wadesmill) is worth a visit. Although food orientated (they do a very good "black rock" grill) there is a separate drinkers only bar and also room in front of the real fire to enjoy a warming pint. Guest beers vary and whilst on an unlucky winter day there may be only one on offer whilst lines are being cleaned, there are normally two available and three during the summer.



The Red Cow in Bishops Stortford, one of our LocAle pubs was serves Buntingford beers alongside GK Abbot and IPA. Recent surveys have confirmed all beers are top quality



The Essex Skipper in Harlow is closed.



In Hatfield Broad Oak, the Cock has changed hands. The new hosts are currently consulting the regulars on what changes and improvements can be made.



The Hoops at Perry Green, owned by the Henry Moore Foundation, is currently closed for refurbishment. A Spring re-opening is forecast.

Surveys- as a branch, we regularly survey pubs in the area and as a member you can take part in this. A simple on-line survey form is available on the branch web-site (heb-camra.org.uk) and all comments are welcome. Your information is vital in keeping track of what is happening in our area and in compiling the Good Beer Guide.

[Branch Meetings](#)

Monday 11th January 2010: Queen's Head, Churchgate Street

Monday 8th February 2010: Rising Sun, High Wych (Annual General Meeting). (Will include voting for new officers, selection of 2011 GBG entrants and voting for branch Pub of the Year).

To book the mini-bus for these meetings, contact Gavin on mini-bus@heb-camra-org.uk or call him on 0782 544 6586

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[Good Beer Guide 2011](#)

Just got your head round the 2010 edition? As a branch we are now coming up to our busiest quarter of the year. At our January meeting, we will be reviewing our short list of pubs for inclusion in the 2011 GBG. Extensive surveying is already being carried out and a final decision made at the AGM in February. As a cross-border branch, Herts & Essex Borders members are able to select pubs for both the Essex and Hertfordshire sections.

Our "allocation" is 8 for each county and the short-list is shown below. We would like to encourage all members to take part in the selection process and surveys from these pubs will be welcomed. And to cap it all, why don't you get along to the selection meeting to vote in person. And forget about drinking and driving- mini-bus transport is provided to all meetings for a small charge.

Essex Pubs

Axe & Compasses* Cock*	Aythorpe Roding Hatfield Broad Oak	CM6 1PP
	CM23 3TG	
Forest Gate*	Epping	CM16 4DZ
	SG12 7QY	
Forresters	High Ongar	CM5 9NH
	SG12 8NH	
Queen's Head*	Churchgate Street	CM17 0JT
	CM21 9JJ	
Queen's Head*	Fyfield	CM5 0RY
	CM23 2LD	
Moletrap*	Tawney Common	CM16 7PU
	CM23 3BQ	
Victoria*	Loughton	IG10 4BP
	SG12 8AG	
William Aylmer*	Harlow	CM20 1DG
	SG10 6DF	
Feathers	Pye Corner	CM20 2RD
	SG10 6JP	
	CM21 0LS	
	CM23 5HL	
	CM21 0HZ	

- Indicates 2010 entry.

Hertford Pubs

Castle*	Bishop's Stortford
Chequers*	Wareside
Fox & Hounds	Hunsdon
Gate*	Sawbridgeworth
Half Moon*	Bishop's Stortford
Jolly Brewers*	Bishop's Stortford
Lord Louis	Stanstead Abbots
Old Crown	Hadham Cross Plume of
Prince of Wales*	Green Tye
Queen's Head*	Allens Green
Red Cow	Bishop's Stortford
Rising Sun*	High Wych

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Forthcoming events

from 3 rd January	start using your new allocation of vouchers	JD Wetherspoon
21 st January	Hertfordshire Branches Liaison Meeting	Wenlock Arms Wenlock Rd, London, N1
	7TA	
21 st to 23 rd January	3 rd Colchester Winter Ale Festival	Colchester Arts Centre, CO1 1NF 12 noon to 11.00 pm.
26 th January	Essex Branches Liaison Meeting	Eagle & Child, Shenfield, CM15 8RG

Supermarket Shopping

As the fore-runner in action against binge drinking the Borough of Oldham is proposing that all supermarkets adopt the following measures:

- 1- The creation of an in-store designated alcohol zone (typically two aisles) with a clear 'gateway' to the zone
- 2- A ban on running cheap drinks promotions outside that zone
- 3- A ban on unaccompanied under 18's inside the zone
- 4- A requirement for a security officer to be on duty during trading hours inside the zone
- 5- A limit on the size of promotional material for cheap drinks promotions (maximum 20cm x 10cm)

I'm not sure what we sensible drinkers think but obviously the supermarket bosses don't like it- a spokesperson said "We are looking in to this matter and seeking an urgent meeting with council officials to discuss what they are proposing...we do not believe minimum pricing will address the issue of alcohol misuse. As we are making clear in Scotland minimum pricing punishes the poor and is illegal under UK and European law."

The action follows Oldham's recent purge on town centre pubs and clubs who faced similar license reviews and curbs on in-house drinks promotions including post office style queuing for drinks

We must be drinking more..

Marjoram Leisure Limited, which currently operates our Good Beer Guide listed pub, the Axe & Compasses at Aythorpe Roding, has bought the Angel & Harp in Dunmow and the King's Arms in Broomfield. Good luck to David and Sheila and it will be no bad thing if the beer in their two latest pubs comes up to the standard set at the Axe & Compasses.

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[And we wonder about safe streets](#)

Picture this. You are having a quiet drink in the local when a man walks in leading a woman with a yoke around her neck. He orders himself a drink, finishes it and then goes outside where he auctions off the woman to the highest bidder. Did someone call the police- you bet they did and the man was promptly arrested for selling goods without a license. This is a true story about the George & Dragon in Epping, albeit from 1830. Strangely, no-one recorded what happened to the woman.

February issue date is 19th January 2010. Comments and contributions welcome- [Ivan Bullerwell](#) - Branch Pubs Officer

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