



# Members' Weekend handbook and beer list

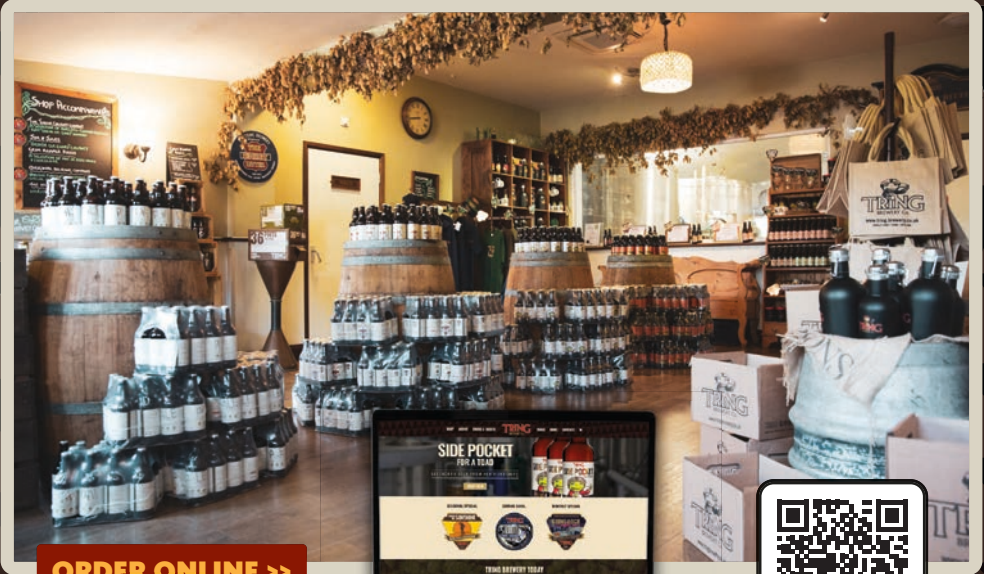
Alban Arena, St Albans

17-19 April 2026



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# Welcome to St Albans

**On behalf of the South Hertfordshire Branch and our local organising committee, I am delighted that you have joined us here for the Members' Weekend. We hope you enjoy your time in our historic city and that you take the opportunity to experience everything it has to offer.**

Firstly, a huge thank you to our fantastic local organising team who have taken on the challenge of hosting this event. Many of them are also busy planning our own St Albans Beer & Cider Festival later in the year (a cheeky plug here: 23–26 September is the date for your diaries). I would also like to thank the many other volunteers working behind the scenes this weekend. From planning logistics to staffing bars and supporting events, their hard work and dedication made this weekend possible.

St Albans has a proud history with the Campaign. Not only was CAMRA's Headquarters based here until recently, but the very first CAMRA branch meeting was held at the Farriers Arms in November 1972. If you make your way over there during your visit, look out for the brand new blue plaque organised by the branch, unveiled on Thursday 16 April, to celebrate this important moment in CAMRA's history.

You might notice that the Members' Bar out on the patio here at the Arena is not on the same scale as previous Members' Weekends. That is in part due to the constraints of the venue, but also because this year we wanted to try something new and different. So while you will find here a small but perfectly-formed range of excellent beers and ciders from across Hertfordshire – including the current Hertfordshire Beer of the Year winners – there is so, so much more waiting for you if you venture a little beyond the building.

One of the real highlights of St Albans is the pub scene. We're blessed with an incredible density of brilliant pubs, so on any visit here you will never need to walk far to find great beer and cider. But this weekend, things have been taken to a whole new level with the first ever St Albans City of Ale.

We have been genuinely blown away by the enthusiasm of local pubs and clubs. Across the



weekend there are over 50 special events taking place, from tap takeovers and meet the brewers to talks, live music and mini beer and cider festivals. The St Albans Museum has even kept its "Inns and Alehouses of Victorian St Albans" exhibition open especially for us.

You can explore everything that is happening through the St Albans City of Ale website, and we have also created a series of guided pub trails to help you discover the pubs and some of the city's other sights along the way.

I have promised our local publicans that Members' Weekend visitors will get out and make the most of what they have put on in true CAMRA style. Please do help me keep that promise!

**Emily Ryans**

Local Organising Committee Chair

**Scan for City of Ale  
special events and trails**

[stalbanscityofale.org.uk/events](http://stalbanscityofale.org.uk/events)





## **I am delighted to welcome everyone to St Albans for Members' Weekend 2026.**

Despite our recent move to Luton, St Albans will always hold a special place in CAMRA's history.

When one of our founders, Graham Lees, took up a position with the Hemel Hempstead Evening Echo he brought the Campaign here with him. We hired our first full time employee, John Green, and took up residence in a rented room above a bicycle shop at 94 Victoria Street. We then moved to 34 Alma Road in 1978, before moving to what was formerly a car showroom on Hatfield Road in 1995. St Albans has been our home for five decades and it is where we grew into the influential campaigning organisation we are today. This is a fitting setting for a year that also marks CAMRA's 55th birthday.

I would like to give a special shout out to the Local Organising Committee (LOC), led by Emily Ryans, and supported by members of our South Hertfordshire Branch. They've truly embraced their brief to deliver an exciting Members' Weekend.

And what a weekend it promises to be. The LOC has gone all out with their weekend-long City of Ale celebration, showcasing the very best that St Albans and the surrounding area has to offer.

We're spoilt for choice with events taking place across both the Arena and the brilliant pubs and clubs across the city. Take a look at what's on at: [stalbanscityofale.org.uk/events](http://stalbanscityofale.org.uk/events)

This venue will be familiar to many of you as it is the home of the long-standing St Albans Beer and Cider Festival. The 2026 edition has already been announced for 23–26 September, and I hope you'll join me here once again to drink great beer with great friends.

Without our branches, campaigning at grass roots level, organising and running festivals, celebrating pubs, pints and people through awards and the Good Beer Guide, we would not be the organisation we are today. I'm eternally grateful for your efforts.

Yet it has been a tough year. One of the most difficult in our history. But my colleagues and I, with the support of our excellent staff team, have put in place the building blocks to not only survive, but thrive. I have always said I want CAMRA to be around and fighting for pubs, pints and people in another 50 years. I remain committed to that and I am confident we are in a much more stable position to do so.

As your Chairman, I am looking forward to this year's Members' Weekend. Both the important business for CAMRA and, just as importantly, catching up with you, our members and valued volunteers. We're all members of the same fantastic Campaign and already share a passion for pubs and pints, but it's the people that truly make it worthwhile. And if you see me or any of my National Executive colleagues out and about, please grab us to say hello. Whether this is your first Members' Weekend, or your fiftieth, your input and enjoyment is equally important.

Meeting members is incredibly important and rewarding for me, so please do catch up with me over a pint. I want to talk to you and listen to ideas about our future and how we can achieve success together, using our strong and collective voices. Mine's a bitter.

**Ash Corbett-Collins**  
CAMRA Chairman

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**A WARM WELCOME TO CAMRA MEMBERS  
12 College Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 5ND  
01727 853656 [f](#) [@roystonclub](#)**

## Friday 17 April

- 4pm** Arena opens, registration opens, bar opens, shop opens
- 6pm** Conference Procedures Committee Meeting – Quakers Meeting House, Upper Lattimore Road
- 7pm** National Executive Meeting – Quakers Meeting House

- 8pm** Registration closes, shop closes
- 9pm** Bar closes
- 9:30pm** Arena closes

## Saturday 18 April

- 9.30am** Arena opens, registration opens, shop opens, breakfast servery opens
- 10:30am** AGM starts
- 10:45am** AGM on-site voting opens
- 11:45am** New Strategy presentation
- 12noon** AGM on-site voting closes
- 12:20pm** AGM results, AGM closes
- 12:30pm** Lunch, bar opens
- 1:30pm** Bar closes
- 1:45pm** Conference opens

- 2pm** Motions for debate
- 4:30pm** Conference closes
- 4:30pm** Bar opens
- 4:30pm** Digital drop-in session (upstairs)
- 4:30pm** Good Beer Guide drop-in (upstairs)
- 6pm** National Executive election results, registration closes, shop closes
- 7pm** Bar closes
- 7:30pm** Arena closes

## Sunday 19 April

- 9.30am** Arena opens, shop opens, breakfast servery opens
- 10:30am** Chairman's speech
- 10:45am** National Executive Q&A
- 11:15am** Disciplinary Review Group report back
- 11:30am** Industry panel – guest beer rights
- 12:15pm** Chairman's Award, magazine and website of the year awards

- 12:30pm** Marketing for growth presentation
- 12:45pm** Beer scoring review presentation
- 1pm** Campaigner of the Year
- 1:30pm** Conference closes, bar opens
- 2pm** Shop closes
- 3pm** Bar closes
- 3:15pm** Arena closes



Ian Hill   Joe Crawford   Nick Boley   Shelly Bentley   Catherine Tonry   Ash Corbett-Collins   Gillian Hough   Laura Emson   J Mark Dodds   Sarah Crawford   Dean Barrett   Gary Timmins

# REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL

SUPPORTING CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND



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REAL ALES  
&  
10  
CIDERS



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**THURSDAY 16TH TO  
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172 London Road  
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AL1 1PQ

**People at our Members' Weekend give up a great deal of their time for the Campaign. Similarly, most speakers take part in a voluntary capacity.**

Everyone at Members' Weekend, including people taking part in presentations and debates, deserve to be treated with respect.

CAMRA has a zero-tolerance approach to discriminatory or offensive language, and everyone attending should abide by the Members' Code of Conduct and Festival Code of Conduct.

Those Codes, and information on submitting feedback or complaints, are available at: [camra.org.uk/feedback-and-complaints](https://www.camra.org.uk/feedback-and-complaints)

We don't allow the consumption of alcohol in the main hall during AGM and Conference business.

## Reasonable adjustments

If you need us to make some adjustments to enable you to take part in our AGM or Conference debates, please email [membersweekend@camra.org.uk](mailto:membersweekend@camra.org.uk) in advance, or speak to a member of staff or volunteer working at the event.

## Taking part in AGM and conference

Mobile phones and other electronic devices should be switched off or put on silent once you come into the main hall.

While someone is speaking, please avoid walking around the main hall or holding private conversations, as this can be distracting.

If you intend to speak on a motion during Conference, or ask questions during AGM, please try and sit towards the front of the hall so that you can get to the lectern in good time if you are called. When speaking, please introduce yourself with your name and your CAMRA branch.

Please familiarise yourself with the Conference and AGM Standing Orders. These are printed in the Conference Booklet and online at: [camra.org.uk/members-weekend](https://www.camra.org.uk/members-weekend)

This helps you understand the procedures and language used at AGM and Conference, and the order that debates follow.

## Live streaming and video recordings

Sessions in the main hall will be recorded and live streamed, with voting for Conference motions taking place both in the main hall and online.

If you are speaking from the lectern, you will appear in the livestream, as may people sitting towards the front of the main hall.





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**Welcome to The Alban Arena in St Albans. We're delighted to bring everyone together for what promises to be an engaging and informative event.**

This page provides key information to help you make the most of your time here, including details on catering, drop-in sessions, and what to do if you need help on site.

## Catering on site

The following will be provided by the Portland Arms from the hatch within the Conference Hall:

- Tea and coffee
- Breakfast baps
- Lunchtime sandwiches and crisps
- Chicken or vegetable curry with rice

Cash and card accepted (except AMEX).

Times are:

### Friday 17 April

- Afternoon service: 16:00 – 21:00

### Saturday 18 April

- Breakfast service: 09:30 – 10:20
- Lunch service: 12:30 – 13:45
- Afternoon service: Conference end – 18:30

### Sunday 19 April

- Breakfast service: 09:30 – 10:20

## Elsewhere

There are numerous pubs, cafes, shops, and restaurants in the city centre. On Saturday, the famous St Albans Charter Market also has several 'street food' stalls – located towards the Clock Tower end of Market Place.

## Drop-in sessions

### Digital drop-in

- When: Saturday, 4.30pm to 6pm
- Where: Upstairs

If you have suggestions or feedback on any of our digital tools, please stop by and speak to the team behind the CAMRA website. Your views will help shape future development plans!

### Good Beer Guide drop-in

- When: Saturday, 4.30pm–6pm
- Where: Upstairs

A Q&A session with Emma Haines, Managing Editor, about anything GBG related.

### Beer scoring

- When: all weekend

Beer Scoring Advisory Group recently completed a review of our current scoring system.

They'll be presenting the changes on Sunday, and members of the group will be about all weekend to talk with members. Just look for the people wearing 'Ask me about beer scoring' T-shirts.

## Need help on site?

If you need help while you're on site at the Arena, please speak to our volunteers or a member of CAMRA staff, who should be able to find the right person to help you. They'll be wearing badges that identify them.

If you need to make contact in an emergency, email [campaigns@camra.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@camra.org.uk)

This will be monitored during times when the Arena is open.



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## QUEENS HEAD

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Pub of the Year 2024 - 2025  
Cider Pub of the Year 2022 - 2025

Hertfordshire County CAMRA  
Cider Pub of the Year 2023 - 2024

East Anglia Region CAMRA  
Cider Pub of the Year 2022

UK National CAMRA  
Cider Pub of the Year 2022  
(Top 4 finalist)



Bar - Mon-Fri: 5-11pm | Sat: 12-11pm | Sun: 12-10.30pm  
Meals - Wed-Fri: Flexible | Sat: 12-11pm | Sun: 12-10.30pm

Allens Green, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. CM21 OLS  
01279 723393 email [info@qhpub.co.uk](mailto:info@qhpub.co.uk)

# Getting around St Albans

## Buses

Every bus in St Albans stops in St Peter's Street, a couple of minutes from the Arena.

There is a network of buses from many parts of Hertfordshire to St Albans, plus local buses to get around the city. Details of the times of all buses to and from St Albans – and throughout Hertfordshire – can be found on the Intalink website at: [www.intalink.org.uk](http://www.intalink.org.uk)

The £3 maximum single fare applies to all buses.

There is also a range of Intalink Connect tickets which offer unlimited travel on all buses for the whole day, and these can be cheaper, especially for groups travelling together. Details of the range of Intalink Connect tickets are available at: [www.intalink.org.uk/connect](http://www.intalink.org.uk/connect)

In addition, Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with local operators to improve the bus services on key links across the county. The result is that there is now a frequency of at least 4 buses an hour (on weekday daytimes) on these main corridors to St Albans:

- Luton, Harpenden (route 321)
- Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield (routes 301, 302, 602, 653, 724, 725)
- Watford (routes 321, 724, 725)
- Hemel Hempstead (routes 300, 302)

For times of the last buses from St Peter's Street, see [stalbanscityofale.org.uk/travel](http://stalbanscityofale.org.uk/travel) or check apps such as Google Maps for timetables and live departures.

## Taxis

The main taxi rank is on St Peter's Street (come out of the Arena onto St Peter's Street and turn right – alongside Nationwide BS).

Note, CAMRA cannot recommend any one particular taxi firm so please check prices and ensure any taxi you take is licensed.

## Trains

The two railway stations (St Albans City and St Albans Abbey) are 12–15 minutes walk away.

St Albans City station is served by the Thameslink Railway, with a frequent service throughout the day to stations between Brighton and Bedford. Passengers from the East Midlands, Chesterfield and Sheffield can connect with Thameslink trains at Bedford, to avoid travelling into London.

St Albans Abbey station is served by London North Western Railway from Watford Junction, for connections to the West Midlands, the North West, North Wales, and Scotland.

If the East Coast Mainline is convenient for you, then you may wish to consider travelling by train to Hatfield then getting a bus to St Albans.

## South Hertfordshire CAMRA Pubs of the Year 2026

<b>Cask &amp; Stillage</b> , Potters Bar	
<b>Crooked Billet</b> , Ware	
<b>Great Northern</b> , St Albans	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>Green Man</b> , Sandridge	
<b>John Bunyan</b> , Coleman Green	
<b>Old Cross Tavern</b> , Hertford	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Robin Hood</b> , St Albans	<b>Silver</b>
<b>Woodman</b> , Wild Hill	

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Live Music	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Afternoon				Band (All)	Blues Session (1/mth)
Evening	Open Mic (2/mth)	New Band (1/mth)	Band (All)	Karaoke (2/mth)	Charity Quiz (1/mth)



01727 860535

134 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1PQ

[www.farmersboystalbans.co.uk](http://www.farmersboystalbans.co.uk)

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FRESH IPA

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**INTRODUCING DOUBLE STAR, BEDFORD BITTER**  
**TWO STARS, ONE STORY. ALE ROOTED IN WELLS BREWING LEGACY**

**In December 1972, *What's Brewing* reported that "Members in Hertfordshire, one of the staunchest CAMRA counties in Britain are to form a branch..."**

Local members had met a month earlier at the Farriers Arms in St Albans and set their objectives. The concept for the branch was two-fold – partly social, for people who like drinking with others and appreciating good cask beer but also to create a campaigning force to improve the brewing scene's dire situation in Hertfordshire and Britain.

The task ahead was daunting. Of the 1,000 pubs in Hertfordshire less than 90 were selling cask beer and further losses were sustained prior to the first excellent gains which then grew at a pace. Our branch handpump refurbishment scheme helped some pubs take their first steps into providing cask beer. Regular forays by members to town and rural pubs helped spread the word and convince breweries and landlords that this was no passing fad – cask beer was on its way back and soon to be in a prominent place on the bar.

The branch's strength of support was soon to be felt on the national CAMRA stage. Local campaigner John Hanscomb edited the first published Good Beer Guide in 1974, and that same year the branch held CAMRA's first ever Beer Exhibition, held in St Albans – a pre-runner to the many provincial festivals that have followed round Britain. An inaugural cask beer guide to Hertfordshire pubs immediately followed.

As the Campaign quickly took off, other branches were formed in the county leaving South Herts Branch to hold the original Hertfordshire torch. Our territory now stretches, east to west, from St Albans to Hertford and Ware and, north to south, from Potters Bar through Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield to Harpenden. We are proud to be the Campaign's oldest branch.

Interest in cask beer quickly grew during the 1970s and '80s and that 90 pubs soon blossomed to over 800 that were selling at least one cask beer, the branch promoting and exploiting the new national wave of interest through its monthly Hertfordshire Newsletter, the forefather of today's quarterly Hertfordshire Pints of View magazine,

and through local initiatives including cask beer – promoting beer mats, posters, T-shirts and badges, regular county beer guides plus annual festivals held at Hatfield Polytechnic College.

By the year 2000 our St Albans Beer & Cider Festival was well established, first held in 1996 and now flourishes as one of Britain's leading provincial festivals – every year providing something new for visitors to discover and enjoy.

But the last 25 years have required CAMRA to increasingly move into wider circles. The economic pressure on pubs has become overbearing. They have been closing at an alarming rate and Hertfordshire has not been immune. By supporting CAMRA initiatives, including producing our own, South Herts are trying to do our bit. In the last three years we have produced cask beer guides for Hertford and Ware, collaborated on three Rail Ale booklets to local branch lines and partnered on two real ale guides by bus. We have produced promotional posters for pubs and given advice to parish councils on the importance of Assets of Community Value. In the Arena lobby you can find copies of our latest material and read the branch timeline that is displayed. Come and have a chat.

It seems that local CAMRA campaigning in Hertfordshire is as necessary as it was back in 1972. We need to inspire new generations of beer drinkers to enjoy the importance of pubs, to support them and to learn about great beer, and particularly the joy of great cask beer.

## **Les Middlewood**

Local Campaigner, South Herts CAMRA



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Email your enquiry to: [distribution@pintsofview.camra.org.uk](mailto:distribution@pintsofview.camra.org.uk)

**In 1884, with a population half that of today, St Albans boasted almost 90 licensed premises. Their number has reduced to around 50, but St Albans is still thought to have more pubs per square mile than any other British town or city. Many of these serve real ale and stand as both witnesses and representatives of the city's long and fascinating history.**

Central St Albans and its environs are particularly rich with pub heritage and as part of CAMRA South Hertfordshire's on-going Local Inventory project we have taken the opportunity presented by the 2026 Members' Weekend's location in the city to focus on historic pubs in this area. In doing so we are drawing from a database of information on pubs or the buildings they occupy that have historic interiors, exteriors or associations and are more than 50 years old.

Brewing in what became St Albans predates the Romans' arrival in around CE 50 and then expanded to supply their garrisoned troops for the next 400 years. At an uncertain date in this period the execution of Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, triggered the development of St Albans' role as a centre for hospitality. Pilgrims visiting the Saint's shrine required accommodation and refreshment, as did later visitors to the Benedictine monastery established on the same site in the eighth century and survived to this day by the abbey church – now St Albans' cathedral. Two existing pubs in the vicinity of the latter – the White Hart Hotel and the Fleur de Lys – began life serving these needs, while the monastery was itself an important producer of beer.

Visitor numbers were later swelled by St Albans' position on the coaching route north of London, with several of our pubs having previously slaked the thirsts of weary travellers, including once again the White Hart Hotel, as well as the Peahen, Goat and Lower Red Lion. This trade declined as road improvements reduced journey times and was ended by the coming of the railways. But despite this and the best efforts of the temperance movement many of our historic pubs survived as the population increased with industrialisation and its commutable proximity to London.



*The bar in the Three Hammers at Chiswell Green*

All this has culminated in an extensive range of pubs that are of interest both architecturally and by association with events and individuals. Consequently, we have introduced a new sub-classification in our database to record information according to five categories. These are **Historic Interior (pub)** covering pub specific furniture, fittings, decorations etc., **Historic Interior (other)**, **Historic Exterior (pub)** covering pub specific building techniques, features, signage etc., **Historic Exterior (other)** covering general architectural interest, perhaps reflecting the original use of the building and **Historic Association** covering notable people and events with connections to the pub. See if you can spot which material has gone where in the inventory! And while we are on the subject the project would be very interested in readers' comments and/or suggested additions to the inventory initiative.

In due course the Local Inventory group will produce a comprehensive written document covering all historic pubs in the Branch area, but in anticipation of you taking some time to enjoy our local pubs, we've contributed to the pub trail notes starting on page 26, with more on the City of Ale website. Hopefully this will enhance your enjoyment at these pubs. We would also recommend St Albans' Museum's exhibition of "Inns and Alehouses in Victorian St Albans", the duration of which has kindly been extended to cover the period of the Members' Weekend.

**Nick Atkinson**  
South Herts CAMRA



**CAMRA**  
MEMBERS' WEEKEND  
2026 \* ST ALBANS



ST. ALBANS



- XT BREWERY TAP TAKEOVER ALL WEEKEND
- MEET THE BREWERS SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 4PM-6PM

- SPECIAL PRICE PUMP THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>
- ALE MONDAY
  - 25% OFF ALL REAL ALES
  - OPEN 12PM-10PM



**QUIZ NIGHT**

© THE BEEHIVE  
WITH YOUR HOST  
**Ollie**

**SUN 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

6.30pm Arrival 7pm Start  
£2 per person  
Max teams of 6

The Beehive 2 Keyfield Terrace  
St Albans AL1 1QL

2 KEYFIELD TERRACE, ST ALBANS, AL1 1QL



## THE BOOT

*One of St Albans oldest pubs:  
built in 1420.*

*Listed in the Guinness Harp Guide.*

*Home to Boot Cantina, serving authentic  
tacos from our kitchen.*

---

*25p off a pint of real ale for  
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## DYLAN'S AT THE KINGS ARMS

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# Beer and cider list

## 3 BREWERS OF ST ALBANS – Hatfield, Herts

### ● Copper – 3.9%

Light and sessionable copper ale with malty character and a dry, hoppy finish.

### ● Golden English Ale – 3.8%

Light golden ale with Cascade citrus, gentle Cara malt sweetness and a crisp, refreshing character.

### ● Grand Stout – 4.3%

Roasted malts deliver coffee, chocolate flavours with a clean dry finish. Landmark 1000th brew!

## BARON – Buntingford, Herts

### ● Fuzz (Keg, V) – 4.5%

Hazy pale packed with Mosaic and Strata hops. Dank, hoppy, endlessly drinkable.



## BOWTIE – Watford, Herts

### ● Nut Brown Bitter – 5.8%

Full-bodied strong ale with toffee, caramel malts, nutty notes and a bittersweet finish.

## BREWPOINT – Bedford, Beds

### ● Double Star – 3.4%

Balanced bitter with toffee and caramel notes, celebrating a 150 year brewing legacy.

### ● Homeward Bound – 4.6%

Floral, earthy ale with toasted bread, caramel, toffee and balanced bitterness.

## BUNTINGFORD – Royston, Herts

### ● Highwayman – 3.6%

Rebelliously dark copper ale with hints of toffee and a slightly fruity bitter-sweet aftertaste.

### ● Oatmeal Stout – 4.4%

Rich, satisfying stout brewed with oats that invites you to take one quaff after another.

### ● Single Hop Jarrylo – 4%

Light coloured pale ale with a hoppy, dry, fruity taste and refreshing crisp finish.

## CROSSOVER BLENDERY – Hitchin, Herts

### ● Persia 2023 (Keg, V) – 6.9%

Oak-aged golden ale blend, refermented on Kent nectarines.



## MAD SQUIRREL – Potten End, Herts

### ● Crimson Hart (Keg, V) – 5%

Collab with Hertford Brew Club; bold Red IPA with pine bitterness, citrus, tropical fruit and rich malt.

### ● Legally Blonde (V) – 4%

Smooth, hoppy session ale with citrus aroma, subtle pine, gentle malt and balanced bitter finish.

### ● London Porter (V) – 5%

Dark, complex ale with coffee, chocolate and smoke, rich and intriguingly layered throughout.

## MCMULLEN'S – Hertford, Herts

### ● AK – 3.7%

An original Mild, brewed for over 185 years; balanced pale, crystal, chocolate malts.

### ● Country – 4.3%

Classic bitter, pear-led aroma with nutty toffee flavour and full-bodied richness.

### ● Stronghart – 7%

Rich, dark and exceptionally smooth. Winner of the first 'Best Festive Ale' award.

## NEW RIVER – Hoddesdon, Herts

### ● Blind Poet (V) – 4.5%

Smooth porter with gentle flavours of chocolate, vanilla and roasty smokiness.



### ● Chadwell (V) – 4.2%

Traditional session bitter with soft malt, dry-hopped bitterness and a smooth finish.

### ● Kaimata (V) – 3.6%

Light New Zealand pale ale with tropical fruit aromas, fresh pine and a crisp, refreshing finish.

GF – Gluten-free V – Vegan

### OAKHAM – Peterborough, Cambs

● **Ernest – 4%**

Pale ale showcasing Ernest hops; bright citrus, fruit and New World character.

● **Hell Bent – 5%**

Cask-aged porter with rich dark malt, roasted coffee and gentle spice.

● **Thunderhawk – 4.3%**

Punchy New World pale with tropical fruit, grape and smooth mouthfeel.

### RIVERTOWN – Hertford, Herts

● **Drift – 4.2%**

Light, bright spring pale ale with a refreshing, easy-drinking character and a soft, uplifting finish.

### SIX HILLS – Stevenage, Herts

● **Pining For The Fjords (Keg, GF, V) – 5.2%**

Piney, resinous pale ale with Mosaic hops, Norwegian Kveik Yeastery collab.



### TRING – Tring, Herts

● **Mansion Mild – 3.7%**

Classic ruby mild, smooth and velvety, with sweet, creamy chocolate-like richness.

● **Side Pocket For A Toad – 3.6%**

Straw-coloured ale with Cascade hops, citrus and floral notes, crisp dry finish.



● **Thirst Responder – 3.9%**

Session pale with mango, lychee, lime, tropical fruit and refreshing citrus finish.

### TWO BOB – Datchworth, Herts

● **Porter (V) – 4.2%**

Dark porter with chocolate, black malts, coffee, liquorice, blackcurrant and vanilla.



### VALE – Brill, Bucks

● **Black Beauty – 4.4%**

Porter with roasted malts, chocolate finish, five-malt depth and London heritage.

● **Brill Gold – 3.4%**

Easy-drinking golden ale offering silky smooth satisfaction with a fresh twist.

● **Red Kite – 4.3%**

Rich bitter with toasted malt, chestnut notes and autumnal spiced warmth.

### XT – Long Crendon, Bucks

● **10 Stout – 4.4%**

Full bodied black, heart-warming stout, brewed with rich roasted malts and fresh English hops.

● **Valances Best Bitter – 4.5%**

Dead Brewers Society revival; classic 1912 best bitter, malty, smooth and easy-drinking.

## Cider & Perry

### BARBOURNE – Worcestershire

● **Dabinett (D) – 7.4%**

● **Sweet Kernel (MS) – 4.5%**

● **Traditional (M) – 6%**

● **Perry (D) – 6.3%**

### DUNKERTONS – Gloucestershire

● **Craft (M) – 5%**

● **Dry – 6.8%**

● **Black Fox (M) – 6%**

### FOUR ACRES – Hertfordshire

● **Champenoise Sparkling (D) – 8.4%**

### GALTRES – Yorkshire

● **Gold (MD) – 5.5%**

● **Premium (MD) – 6.9%**

● **Katy (MS) – 5.5%**

● **Dry – 5.5%**



**Hertfordshire Beer of the Year  
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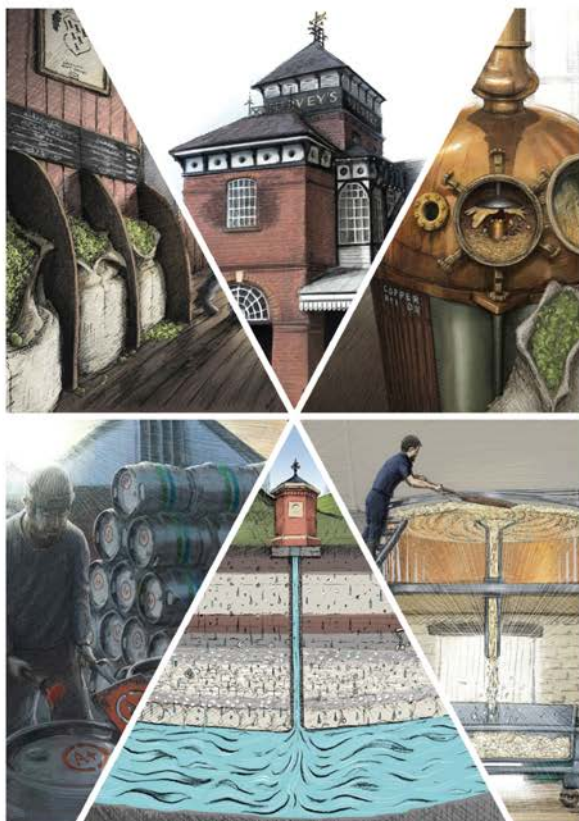
**FRESH SPRING WATER FROM  
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**23-26 SEPTEMBER  
THE ALBAN ARENA  
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**To mark the first ever CAMRA members' weekend to take place in St Albans, local publicans are staging an epic weekend of events celebrating all things beer, cider and pub culture. Welcome to the *City of Ale!***

We're blessed here with a large number of lively pubs and clubs, the majority of which serve great cask ale. It's a city worth exploring any day of the year. But this weekend is extra special, as our lively venues host their own beer festivals, tap takeovers, tastings, live talks, presentations, music events, and more.

You can sample fantastic beers and ciders from the local area and beyond, and meet the people

behind them. You can experience St Albans' celebrated food scene, some of the best of which happens within our pubs. And you can soak up some brilliant entertainment while you're at it.


We and our local publicans invite you to enjoy a weekend of discovery, flavour and fun in the setting of this beautiful historic city.

**Scan to see the full listing of special events**


[stalbanacityofale.org.uk/events](http://stalbanacityofale.org.uk/events)



## Beer Festivals



**The Great Northern Beer Festival**  
📅 16-19 April




**The Portland's "Best of British" Festival**  
📅 16-19 April




**The Mermaid Beer & Cider Festival**  
📅 16-20 April



**The Waterend Barn Cask Ale Showcase**  
📅 16-20 April



**The Lower Red Lion Beer Festival**  
📅 17-20 April



**The Boot's "Boot-iful" Beer Festival**  
📅 17-20 April

## Tap Takeovers



**Oakham Takeover**  
📍 Harpsfield Hall  
📅 13-19 April




**International Takeover**  
📍 Mad Squirrel Tap  
📅 16 April




**Deya Takeover**  
📍 Dylans @ Kings Arms  
📅 16-19 April




**Verdant Takeover**  
📍 Craft & Cleaver  
📅 16-19 April



**3 Brewers Takeover**  
📍 Lower Red Lion  
📅 16-20 April



**Beak Takeover**  
📍 Beer Shop  
📅 16-20 April




**Harvey's Takeover**  
📍 Robin Hood  
📅 16-20 April




**Tring Takeover**  
📍 White Hart Tap  
📅 16-20 April



**Two Flints Takeover**  
📍 Farmer's Boy  
📅 16-20 April



**XT Takeover**  
📍 Beehive  
📅 16-20 April

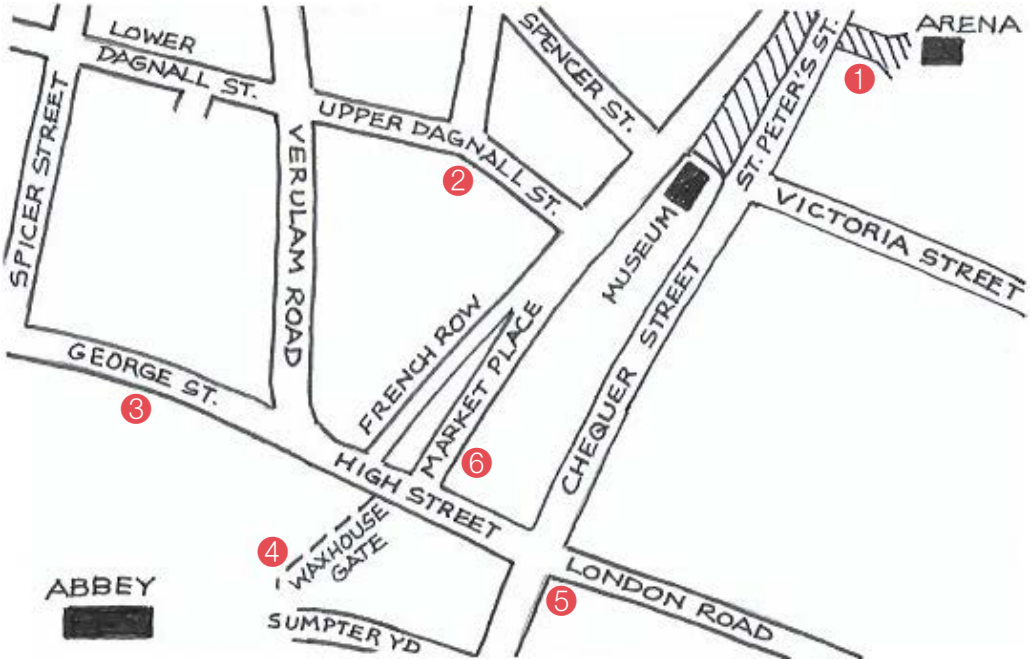


**Brains Takeover**  
📍 Hare & Hounds  
📅 17-20 April



**Vale Takeover**  
📍 Six Bells  
📅 17-20 April

# Pub trail: Charter Market Quarter



❶ **Distance from Alban Arena: 50 yards**

🚶 **Route length: 0.6 miles**

St Albans has been home to a market for over 1,000 years, originally controlled by the Abbey but, since 1553 controlled by the town (now city) under a Charter granted by King Edward VI. The market is held twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The original layout of the market place can still be seen today in the long funnel shaped space between the Abbey (cathedral) grounds and St Peter's church.

As well as at one time featuring 23 pubs in the area, the Charter Market Quarter has many historical links. It is the site of England's only remaining free-standing medieval civic clock tower and of the site of the First Battle of St Albans in 1455, which marked the commencement of the Wars of the Roses. Allegedly the Boot Inn

played host to soldiers fighting in the battle.

Starting in the **Waterend Barn** ❶ a pair of glorious 16th and 17th century barns moved to St Albans in the 1930s and 1960s for use as tea-rooms, and now a Wetherspoon's pub. There are several drinking areas and a wide range of cask ales on offer. A special *Cask Ale Showcase* starting on Thursday. Food is available all day with early morning breakfasts.



*Inside the Waterend Barn, St Albans*

**WALK 4 minutes.** Turn right out of the pub then immediately right again down a footpath. Turn right into Victoria Street and at the junction cross the road and walk with St Albans Museum on your left onto Market Place. Turn left, and then turn right into Upper Dagnall Street to find **The White Swan** ②, a market pub for over 250 years.

**WALK 3 minutes.** Through Christopher Place shopping centre, across Verulam Road and down the beautiful George Street and you'll find **Dylans @ The Kings Arms** ③ in a beautiful medieval building. Be sure to check out the *Deya Tap Takeover* starting on Thursday.

**WALK 1 minute.** Back up George Street, onto High Street, and then turn right down a pathway called Waxhouse Gate. You will see the cathedral in front of you and the next pub on your right. The **Mad Squirrel Tap** ④ is a modern pub showcasing local beers, with a great view of the Cathedral. Check out the *International Tap Takeover* on the Thursday.

**WALK 3 minutes.** Turn right as you leave the pub and follow the path around to your left until you reach Holywell Hill. Turn left and walk up Holywell Hill until you reach the Peahen Junction with **The Peahen** ⑤ on the corner.

Once a coaching inn and now one of the two McMullen's pubs in the City Centre, having been owned by the Hertford brewer since 1936. Refurbished in 2024, it is a stylish, food-oriented pub which tends to attract a younger clientele, particularly in the evenings. The interior is decorated in a modern style, while outside a pleasant upgraded yard features lots of seating and a table-tennis table. Alongside the selection of McMullen's cask ales, a number of the brewery's craft keg offerings are also available.

**WALK 2 minutes.** On leaving the Peahen, cross the road diagonally and walk a very short way up Chequer Street. On your left you will see a narrow walkway called Boot Alley – this will lead you to **The Boot** ⑥.

Possibly one of the best medieval market place pubs in Britain. City-centre, Grade II-listed, one-bar pub dating back to 1422. The Boot-iful Beer Festival starts on Friday and will run over the weekend, serving locally and nationally sourced cask ales. Home-made food is all locally sourced. Still ciders available on hand pump. The ancient grade I listed Clock Tower is outside the front door. The Abbey and Verulamium Park are nearby.

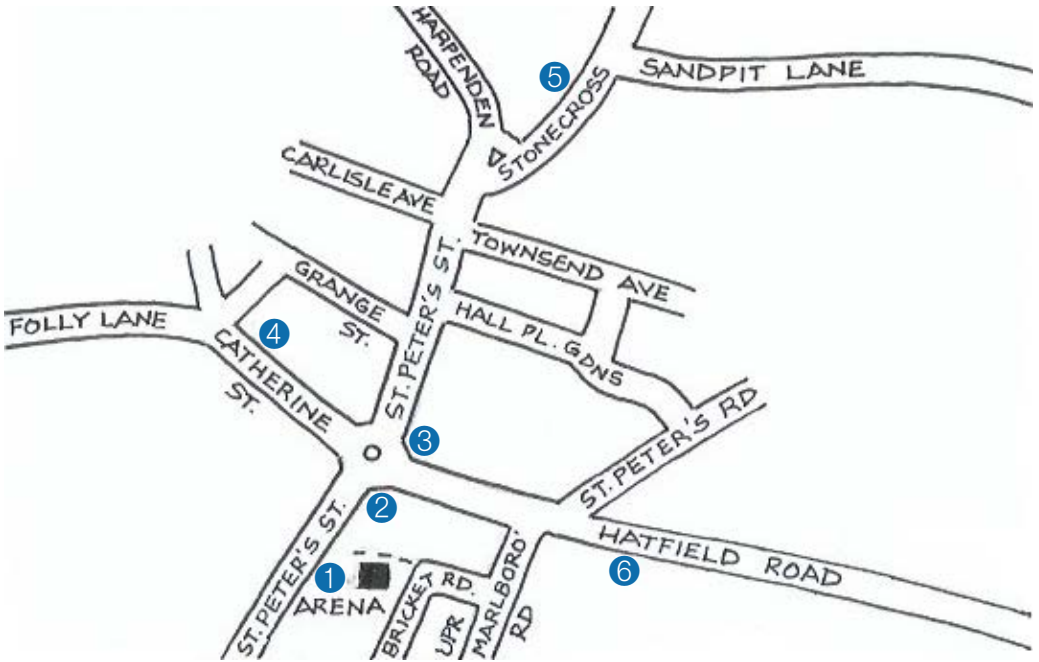


Inside The Peahen, St Albans



The Boot

# Pub trail: St Peter's Quarter



1 Distance from Alban Arena: 50 yards

🚶 Route length: 1 mile

The northern end of the Market is dominated by St Peter's church – one of the three churches originally built by the Saxons on the main pilgrim routes into St Albans, it was rebuilt in the Victorian era.

Just before St Peter's are some of the oldest cottages in St Albans (their facades are covered in render), and one of the original Parish Workhouses (now an estate agents). On St Peter's Street, on the way to the Jolly Sailor, is a fine row of almshouses from 1627, with another (from 1736) to be seen on Hatfield Road, on the way to the Mermaid.

The northern end of the Market Place saw some of the fiercest fighting in the First Battle of St Albans in 1455. The Bernards Heath area, just north of the Jolly Sailor, was the site of the defeat

of the Yorkist forces in the second battle, six years later.

Starting at the **Saint & Sinner** 1, recently converted into a pub by McMullens, this is a significant and careful 2023 conversion of a Grade II\* listed building. The grounds were once extensive, now being occupied by the nearby Alban Arena, the Magistrates' Court and Waterend Barn.



The Saint & Sinner in St Albans

There's a comfortable and modern feel with several dining areas and a wide menu which also features non-gluten and children's options. Brunches are available from 8am Mon-Sat and 9am on Sunday. Two McMullen cask ales are on handpump, sometimes including a Mac's seasonal brew. The bar opens at 10am. Weekend Live music and DJ events are being developed. Have a game of shuffleboard!

**WALK 2 minutes.** Turn right into St Peter's Street and stay on the same side of the road until you reach **The Cock** ②

A late 16th or early 17th century city centre pub, with musical connections to Donovan, Maddy Prior and Steelee Span. Now a modernised, busy and well-run pub with TV screens in the small bar area and a large restaurant at the rear offering excellent set and a la carte menus. There is an extensive range of bottled beers in addition to cask ales served from four hand pumps. Live music from *Dirty Dog Band* on Saturday night.

**WALK 1 minute.** Cross the road from the Cock and you'll be in the **Blacksmiths Arms** ③

An early 20th century mock Tudor building, outside of which Rod Argent and his friends formed The Zombies. Now a city centre pub with a lively, youthful vibe. The traditional interior is complemented by an impressive garden featuring heated beach huts and a garden room called The Forge which is available for hire for special occasions. There is live music on Saturdays, a quiz on Wednesdays and bingo on Fridays. Disabled access for those in wheelchairs is limited to the main bar. A ramp can be provided on request to access the main entrance and there is a key-operated disabled toilet on this level.

**WALK 2 minutes.** Cross the roundabout and head straight up Catherine Street to the **Craft & Cleaver** ④, a modern bar with an ever-changing range of craft beers with a BBQ-focussed food menu. A *Verdant Tap Takeover* starts on Thursday with a *Meet The Brewer* event on Thursday evening.

**WALK 8 minutes.** On leaving the Craft & Cleaver, head back to the roundabout and turn left on St Peter's Street and carry on along the road. After

you pass the Seventh Day Adventist Church on your left, turn right into Stonecross and follow the road until you reach the **Jolly Sailor** ⑤, a traditional two bar pub on the edge of Bernards Heath. Karaoke features on Friday and Saturday nights.

**WALK 9 minutes.** Retrace your steps back to the St Peter's Churchyard, but on entering take the path to your left with the church on your right. Follow this path until you come out onto Hatfield Road, turn left, and beyond two mini-roundabouts you will find the next pub, **The Mermaid** ⑥.

An excellent ale and cider pub, voted Best Pub in Hertfordshire by The Daily Telegraph in 2025. The pub interior is decorated with old mirrors, pub signs and other breweriana and there is an impressive and recently-enlarged covered garden. Stocks quality real ales, real ciders and perries with a special *Mermaid Beer Festival* starting on Thursday. Live music from *The Mighty Quinn* on Sunday evening. The pub is a previous winner of South Herts CAMRA's branch Pub of the Year award and regular winner of its Cider Pub of the Year award. Try the pies!

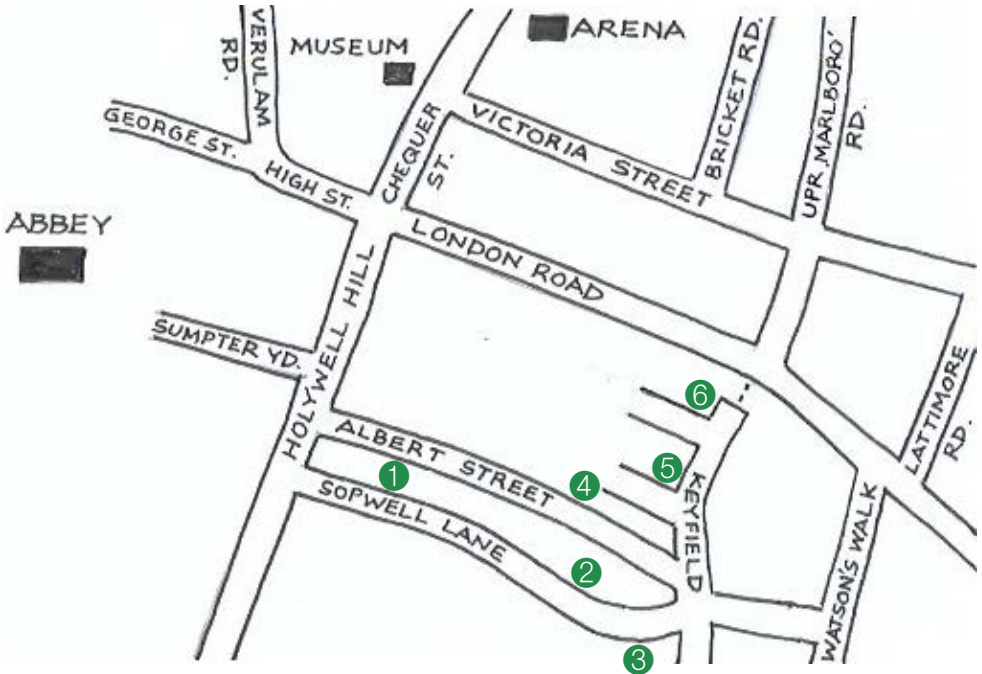


The Cock in St Albans



Inside The Mermaid, St Albans

# Pub trail: Medieval St Albans East



① **Distance from Alban Arena: 0.4 miles**

🚶 **Route length: 0.4 miles**

The area bounded by London Road, Holywell Hill, Sopwell Lane and Keyfield Terrace is one of the oldest areas of St Albans.

The route along Sopwell Lane and up Holywell Hill was once the main road from London to the Midlands and the North West – until it was replaced by London Road in the 1790s, and then by the M1. Until the M1 was opened the London Road / Holywell Hill junction was said to be the busiest road junction outside London. This area is packed with interesting pubs, some open and some no longer with us.

Starting at **The Goat** ①, a classic 16th century coaching inn, which once had stabling for over 70 horses, with a very interesting interior. Situated a short walk from the Abbey, the pub is comfortable and welcoming. The garden includes TV screens

for live sport. Food is served including Sunday roasts and there are occasional live bands. The pub is operated by Charles Wells but guest ales from other breweries are also usually available.

*WALK 2 minutes.* On leaving the pub, turn left and follow the road to **The White Lion** ②, a 16th century, two bar pub, with the tiny snug bar on the right of the entrance.



The Goat in St Albans



The Hare & Hounds in St Albans

*WALK 1 minute.* Turn left out of the front entrance of the pub and you will see the **Hare & Hounds** ③ in front of you, a listed 17th century pub opposite the White Lion. A special *Brains Tap Takeover* starts on Friday.

*WALK 1 minute.* On leaving the pub, cross Sopwell Lane and walk a very short way up Keyfield Terrace before turning left into Albert Street where you will find **The Garibaldi** ④.

A 19th century pub with Fuller's beers and a traditional interior; a fine example of a back-street local, situated in the heart of Sopwell. The landlord has previously won the Fuller's Master Cellarman award. Home cooked roasts on Sunday (booking advised). A genuine community pub, hosting various charity events. Three TVs showing sports events, one outside in the garden. Live music from *Kevin Clynes* on Saturday night.

*WALK 1 minute.* Turn left as you leave the pub, and turn left back into Keyfield Terrace. You will see the **White Hart Tap** ⑤ in front of you. First licensed in 1841 it was originally probably a 'tap' for the White Hart Hotel. Cosy one bar pub. A *Tring Tap Takeover* starts on Thursday with *Meet The Brewer* and *Herts Beer of the Year Presentation* events on Friday evening.

*WALK 1 minute.* Turn left as you leave the pub. Walk along Keyfield Terrace, continuing as the road becomes a pedestrianised path. You will find **The Beehive** ⑥ on your left, a late 18th century pub with a good selection of beers. Multiple special events are happening over the weekend, including an *XT Tap Takeover* starting on Thursday, live music from the *Maiden Vales* on Saturday night, *Quiz Night* on Sunday and their regular *25% Club* on Monday.



Inside The Garibaldi, St Albans

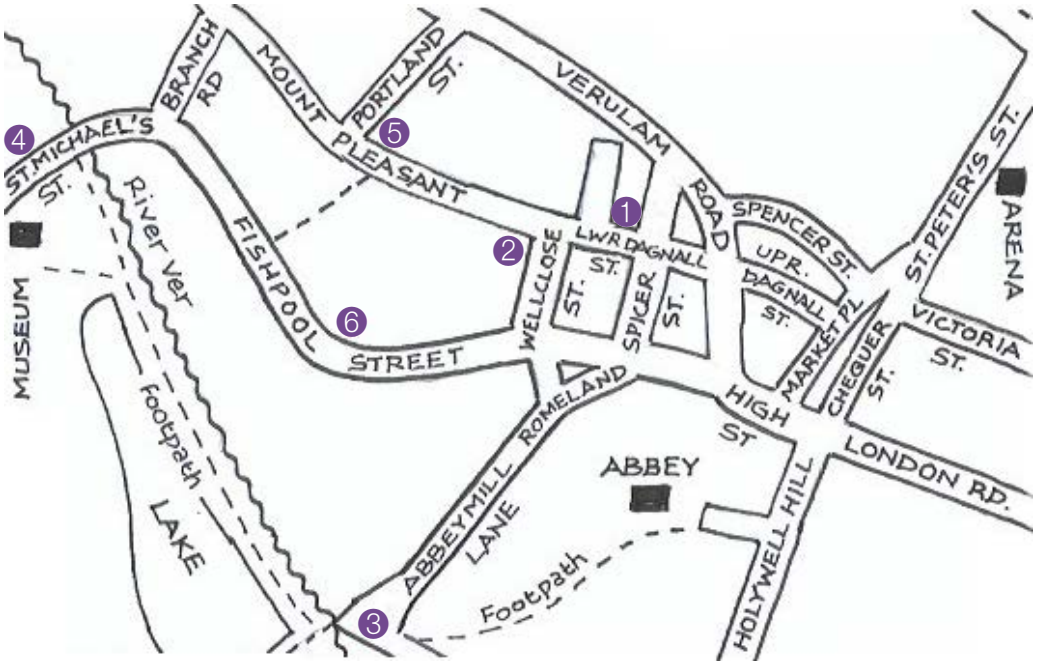


The White Hart Tap in St Albans



The Beehive in St Albans

# Pub trail: Medieval St Albans West



1 Distance from Alban Arena: 0.6 miles

🚶 Route length: 1.6 miles

The Saxons wanted to increase revenue for their Abbey. To achieve this, they diverted the Roman Watling Street from its original route through the old Roman city. Instead, the road was redirected down St Stephen's Hill, at what is now the King Harry junction. It then continued past the Abbey and along Fishpool Street, before rejoining the original route. Fishpool Street was part of the main road from London to the Midlands and the North West until 1800. It is full of medieval buildings which were nearly demolished in the 1970s.

Starting at the **Farriers Arms** 1, the site of the inaugural meeting of the Hertfordshire Branch of CAMRA in November 1972, and still a great traditional back street pub. Originally a grocer's and butcher's shop during the 19th century, the Farriers became a pub in the 1920s and has since achieved legendary status. A classic back-street

local, the pub was tied to McMullen's of Hertford for many years but became a free house in 2013. It is the only pub in the city never to have forsaken cask ale.

The split-level interior has a small area fronting the bar for stand-up drinking, darts and cards. The back room has more comfortable seating. Both bars are free of gaming machines but there is a TV for sports. Pizza and toasted sandwiches are available. The gents' toilets are outside, but the



The Farriers Arms in St Albans

ladies have recently been incorporated into the pub. Join us for a special *Heritage Plaque Unveiling Celebration* at 6pm on Thursday evening, where the local branch will be unveiling a new plaque in place of the former Blue Plaque.

**WALK 1 minute.** Turn right as you leave the public bar of the Farriers and you will see **The Verulam** ② in front of you, a 19th century, single bar pub just opposite the Farriers and Temperance Street! Be sure to check out *Cask Monday*, where all cask pints are £3.50.

**WALK 7 minutes.** Turn right as you leave the pub. At the end of Welclose Street, cross the road passing the boys' school on your right, go through the archway, and carry on down Abbey Mill Lane until you reach **Ye Olde Fighting Cocks** ③.

An amazing collection of 17th century component parts built around an even older relocated structure. Originally known as the Round House it was renamed circa 1800. The pub stakes a claim to be the oldest in England, dating (according to local legend and the pub's own website) from the late 8th century. Archaeological research though, indicates that its oldest elements began life as an early 15th century pigeon house relocated from the Abbey grounds in the early 17th century.

**WALK 12 minutes.** On leaving the Fighting Cocks, walk over the bridge into Verulamium Park, then bear right so the river is on your right and the lake on your left. Continue in a straight line until you reach St Michael's Street. Turn left and **The Six Bells** ④ is a short way along.

A beautiful 17th century pub on the site of an older Pilgrim Hostel, and before that a Roman Hotel. Possibly the oldest hospitality site in Britain, this characterful pub is in the attractive St Michael's area of St Albans. About 1km from the city centre and Abbey, it sits on the edge of Verulamium Park, close to the Verulamium Museum and the Roman Theatre. Usually three regular beers and three changing guests, with a *Vale Tap Takeover* starting on Friday. Real cider is also regularly available on hand-pull during the summer months. Good quality home-cooked food is served lunchtimes and evenings, and themed food evenings are run on Thursdays once or twice a

month. Outside there is a pleasant, covered patio area. Famously dog friendly.

**WALK 9 minutes.** Turn left as you leave the Six Bells and follow St Michael's Street. Continue into Branch Road and then turn right into Mount Pleasant. Continue along Mount Pleasant until you reach Portland Street on your left, where you'll find **The Portland Arms** ⑤.

An excellent 19th century local serving Fuller's beers. Be sure to also visit the 'Best of British' Beer & Food Festival starting on Thursday, featuring a range of excellent cask ales from breweries located across the country, along with delicious Yorkshire Pudding wraps and tempting cheese boards.

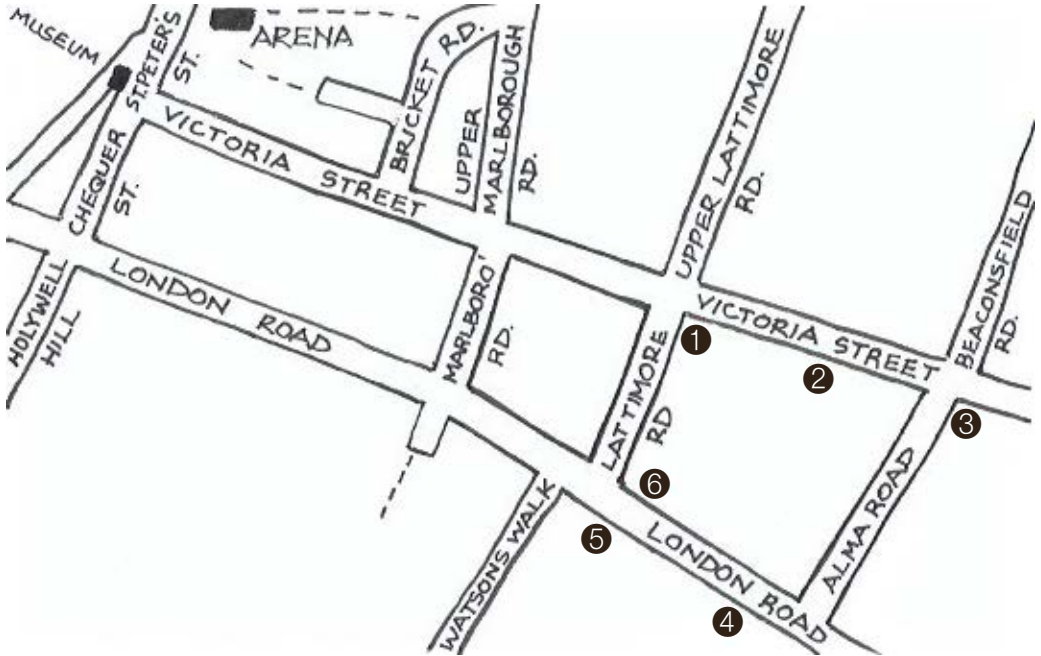
**WALK 5 minutes.** Turn left into Mount Pleasant, then right into Abbey View Road, then left into Ver Road, an unmade track. Follow this down the hill and you will reach the **Lower Red Lion** ⑥.

A listed 17th century two bar pub, with exposed woodwork. A CAMRA stalwart since the 1970s. Both bars have plenty of character and history. Located in an area between the city centre and the site of Roman Verulamium, the pub stands in one of St Albans' most picturesque streets. The Lower Red was an early champion of CAMRA's values in the cask ale revival movement, stocking quality cask beers. Home-made food is served lunchtimes and weekday evenings. There is a large beer garden, and over the weekend there are multiple special events including a *3 Brewers Tap Takeover* starting on Thursday, a *Meet The 3 Brewers* event on Thursday evening and the *Lower Red Beer Festival* starts on Friday.



Inside The Lower Red Lion, St Albans

# Pub trail: Victorian St Albans



❶ Distance from Alban Arena: 0.3 miles

🚶 Route length: 0.6 miles

Before the Midland Railway arrived in 1868 St Albans' development largely ran north, south and west from the Market Place. The city fought to get the Midland Railway to change their original route to come closer to St Albans (at the cost of demolishing the corner of the prison) and thereby created a new commercial centre with most subsequent development to the East of the old city centre. St Albans was also on the railway line that ran from Hatfield to Watford, so it was very well connected. This spurred on commercial development, including the business of Samuel Ryder, a seed merchant, who also founded the Ryder Cup.

Starting at **The Victoria** ❶, a 19th century pub with a strong sports bar theme, but no cask beer.

WALK 2 minutes. Turn right as you leave the

Victoria and follow the road along to **The Robin Hood** ❷. South Herts CAMRA Pub of the Year 2024 and 2025, famous locally for serving an excellent pint of Harvey's, and now selling quality pies. Recently acquired a bar billiards table – the only one in the city. Be sure to check out the *Harvey's Tap Takeover*, starting on Thursday.

WALK 2 minutes. Turn right as you leave the Robin Hood, follow the road toward the station and across the road you'll find **The Horn** ❸. Famous as



The Victoria in St Albans

an award-winning independent music venue, Kim Wilde worked behind the bar and U2 have played there – amongst many more! Check out the live music schedule, with something different on every evening this weekend.

**WALK 5 minutes.** Turn left as you leave the Horn and walk the length of Alma Road – halfway along, on the junction with Oswald Road, you will pass a former CAMRA HQ building that's now a residential property. At the end of Alma Road, turn right and you will see the **Great Northern** ④ across the road.

A pub that has improved dramatically over the past ten years. Now named after the Great Northern Railway, whose disused London Road Station is a few hundred metres up the road. The Great Northern reopened in 2015 after significant renovation, with a modern interior feel, plus a large garden, an ever-changing range of cask beers and two real ciders. The *Great Northern Beer Festival* starts on Thursday, which coincides with their regular *Thirsty Thursday* offering 10% off cask ales.

**WALK 2 minutes.** Turn left as you leave the Great Northern and follow the road back up towards town until you reach the **The Farmer's Boy** ⑤.

A small traditional pub, noted for its frequent bands and friendly atmosphere, offering a warm welcome and attracting a diverse mix of clientele. The recently-improved covered and heated outdoor seating area often hosts music events. As well as its regular range of cask ales and craft beers, the pub offers unusual canned and bottled beers and hosts occasional craft beer festivals utilising its outside bar. Major sports fixtures are shown indoors and outdoors (including games on BT Sport) and there is a free juke box on Monday evenings. The pub has an extended licence and is usually the latest pub to admit customers in St Albans on Friday and Saturday nights.

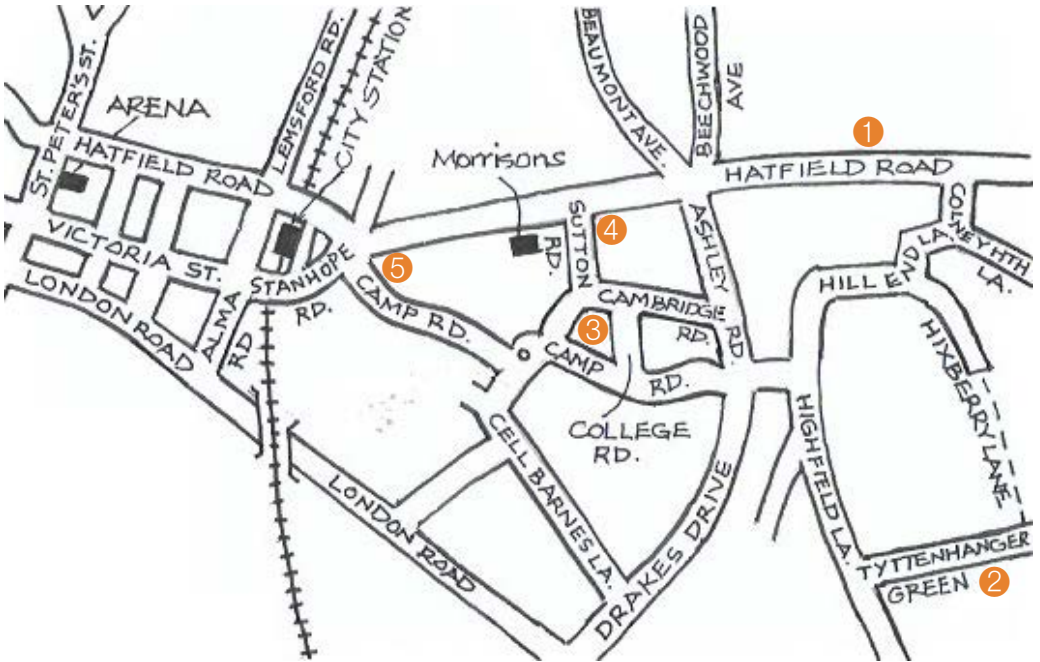
Multiple events taking place over the weekend, starting on Thursday with a *Two Flints Tap Takeover*, which continues all weekend, a *Meet The Two Flints Team* event on Thursday evening, live music from *The Imitation Zone* on Friday night, *The Bear Pit Band* on Saturday afternoon, and

following that their popular *Karaoke Night*.

**WALK 1 minute.** Cross the road and you'll fall into the **Beer Shop** ⑥. A relatively recent addition to the St Albans' scene the Beer Shop has a huge range of UK and International beers in bottles and cans plus 11 craft taps and one cask, as well as a great social buzz.



# Pub trail: Fleetville and Camp



① **Distance from Alban Arena: 1.9 miles**

🚶 **Route length: 3.5 miles**

This is a longer walk, taking in some countryside, for the more energetic pub explorers – but if you are less mobile, you could consider travelling some of the stops by taxi or bus instead.

To the east of the Midland Railway line, St Albans developed a wide variety of industrial activities in the 20th century. Aircraft manufacturing (driven by De Havilland in Hatfield and Handley Page in Radlett), electronics (Marconi), hosiery (Ballito), light engineering, ship design and a host of others including Sanders Orchid Nurseries. Fleetville is so called because the area was developed around the Fleet Print Works and The Camp from the military training camps held in the area. These developments overwhelmed what had been a rural area, but created and left some interesting pubs.

Starting at **The Speckled Hen** ①. Originally the Bunch of Cherries, it was first a Whitbread pub opened in 1948 and housed in two remodelled sheds. The current building replaced these in 1963 and is now owned by Greene King.

**WALK 25 minutes.** On leaving the Speckled Hen, turn left into Hatfield Road, right into Colney Heath Lane, then at the mini-roundabout right into Hill End Lane. At the next mini-roundabout bear left into Hixberry Lane with the school on your left. You



The Speckled Hen in St Albans

will find that the road soon becomes a track, and this leads all the way to the village of Tyttenhanger. At the end of this track, turn right and you will find **The Plough at Tyttenhanger** ②.

Worth visiting to see the large and amazing collection of over 1,600 bottled beers, pump clips, beer related posters and the idiosyncratic beer mats. Deservedly busy rural free house with an ever-changing range of guest beers, including several Fuller's regulars. Excellent value food is available on Saturdays and Sundays. The large garden, offering lovely views, and there is a conservatory room. There are bike racks provided for cyclists.

*WALK 25 minutes.* On leaving the pub turn left and walk through the village, then at the end of the road turn right into Highfield Lane. Continue in a straight line, keeping the football pitches on your right until you eventually reach a mini-roundabout. Cross the road here and follow a footpath leading to Drakes Drive. Turn right into Drakes Drive, then left into Camp Road. Just after you pass the Organ Theatre and Camp Primary School on your left, you will see College Road on your right, which is home to the **Royston Club** ③.

Situated in College Road, the club was established in 1936 as the College Club. Renamed The Royston Club it is a very popular CIU affiliated Social Club with a good range of cask beers. Regularly featured in the Good Beer Guide and multi-award winning South Herts CAMRA Club of the Year.

*WALK 7 minutes.* On leaving the club turn left, then left again into Cambridge Road. At the fish and chip shop, turn right into Sutton Road and follow this until you reach **The Old Toll House** ④.

Until recently the pub was known as The Rats Castle prior to a major refurbishment. The original name was said to have arisen when the previous building on the site - a toll house - was demolished and thousands of rats poured out around the workmen.

The Old Toll House is a large, lively and welcoming community local in a traditional saloon bar style - re-opened in 2025 after a brief closure, a significant refurbishment and a change of name.

With several TV screens, a pool table (which is free on Mondays), dart boards, juke box and fruit machines, this is one of few pubs left in St Albans that focus on the drinker and shun the food trade. The building has a later extension and internally it is decorated stylishly including many photographs of old St Albans. There is a small patio at the rear for outdoor drinking in warmer weather, complete with an exterior TV screen for sports matches. The pub is keen to stress its dog-friendliness and resident dog Ted has his own Instagram account! Located next to a large Morrisons supermarket, the pub is handy for a quick pint while waiting for a bus from the well-served stop just outside. Two real ales are typically available and there is a loyalty card scheme meaning every sixth pint purchased is free.

*WALK 12 minutes.* Walk along Hatfield Road with Morrisons on your left. You will then pass the former CAMRA HQ building and a cemetery (both on your left) before reaching **The Crown** ⑤. Once a hotel close to the Midland Station it is now a large and busy pub that would not look out of place in Liverpool or London.



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