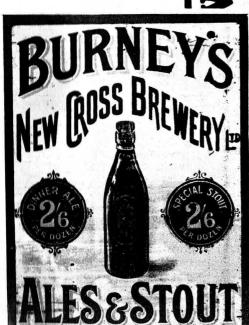
Vol.4 No.7 AUGUST 1982

LONDONS DRINKER

Produced by the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd







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Through the Roof-The Facts

For years we have said that the beer prices in London are far too high. Now we can prove it. Recently the West London branch of CAMRA carried out a price survey of pubs which they had checked previously in December 1979. What they found is analysed by Roger Warhurst.

A SAMPLE OF pubs was drawn from within a sector of West London from the West End through Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, Hammersmith and Chiswick to Acton. Tied and free trade, tenanted and managed pubs were all included. The majority of the pubs surveyed were those shortlisted for inclusion in the 1983

Good Beer Guide, with a number of random additions to provide a full cross section of brewers. Notoriously high priced pubs which may have distorted the picture have been excluded, so the prices quoted represent a reasonable average of those charged throughout the West London sector.

Tied Houses

The saloon bar prices charged in tied houses controlled by the 8 major London brewers (93% of Greater London pubs) were compared. Table 1 compares prices charged for cask conditioned beers in December 1979 with those charged in June 1982.

Table 1 Comparison of prices in tied houses Dec. '79 - June '82.					
BEERS	O.G.	Average price per pint (pence)		% increase	Price per O.G.
BLEKO		Dec. '79	June '82	mercase	(Pence)
2 E	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
MILDS (O.G. 1030 – 1032)					
Young BMA	1030	36	54	50	1.80
Truman Prize Mild	1034		69.5	750	2.04
ORDINARY BITTERS (O.G. 1035 – 1039)					
Fuller Chiswick Bitter Truman Bitter Young Bitter Wethered Bitter Allied Bitters (Benskin etc.) Watney London Bitter Courage Best Bitter Charrington IPA Average	1035.5 1036 1036 1036.6 1037 1037.5 1039 1039.5	39.3* 40.9 43.3 41.5* 45 42.6 42.5	61.6 72.3 62.6 67 64.8 68.7 67 67.4	56.7 53.1 54.7 56.1 52.7 48.9 58	1.74 2.01 1.74 1.83 1.75 1.83 1.72 1.70
PREMIUM BITTERS (O.G. 1040 – 1047) Fuller London Pride Bass Watney Stag Bitter Truman Best Bitter Courage Directors Fremlin Tusker Young Special Ind Coope Burton Ale	1041.5 1044 1044 1045 1046 1046 1047.5	42.8 44.8 48.5 50.6 47.5 44 48.3	67 74.2 75 73.7 74.7 72 69 71	56.6 65.6 54.6 - 47.6 56.5 56.8 47	1.61 1.69 1.70 1.64 1.62 1.56 1.50
Average	1045	46.6	72.1	54.7	1.60
STRONG BITTERS (O.G. 1048 – 56)					
Fuller ESB	1055.75	48.5	75.5	55.9	1.35
N.D. & D. C. E. H. Ditt. Cl I. Ditt.					

N.B. * Price for Fuller Bitter; Chiswick Bitter not available at the time.

Give us back our 9p!

As can be seen from the Table, the average price of a pint of ordinary bitter in the saloon bar of a West London tied house is now 66½p compared with 42½p just 2½ years ago. Premium bitter

now costs 72p on average, compared with 46½p two and a half years ago. Prices for ordinary and premium bitters have risen on average 56% over that period. This compares unfavourably with national figures showing price rises generally of

^{*} Price for Ind Coope (Romford) Bitter.

36% for all items and 47% for all alcoholic drinks over a similar period. Average earnings have increased by 43%, and manual workers wages by only 35% over the same period. (Source: *Monthly Digest of Statistics* – HMSO)

Putting it simply, if beer prices had merely kept pace with prices generally and basic wage rates, we would be paying on average 9p less per pint. Increased excise duty on beer imposed in three successive budgets over the period accounts for 5½p of this amount, which leaves 3½p per pint unexplained. It is hard to escape the conclusion that, as CAMRA has often pointed out, we are being asked to pay proportionally more for a pint today compared with 1979 in order to maintain the profit margins of the brewers and publicans at a time of falling beer consumption.

Value for money

Which beers offer the best value for money? The , relationship between retail price and strength of

beers is complex since the price of a pint also reflects various fixed costs such as labour, plant and transport which do not vary significantly according to how strong the beer is. Nevertheless a rough relationship can be derived by dividing the retail price by the alcoholic strength as represented by the original gravity of the beer — column (c) of Table 1 by Column (a).

The results are given in Column (e). In general the strong and premium bitters are better value than the ordinary bitters and milds. You pay on average 1.60p per O.G. for premium bitter as compared with 1.79p per O.G. for ordinary bitter. Best value of all is the extra strong Fuller's ESB at 1.35p. Best value amongst the premium bitters are Ind Coope Burton Ale at 1.49p and Young's Special at 1.50p. Top value ordinary bitters are Charrington's IPA at 1.70p and Courage Best Bitter at 1.72p. Young's Mild far outstrips the new Truman Mild in terms of value for money.

BEERS	O.G.	Price (p)
WEAK BITTERS (O.G. 1030	(27,17,170,17)	Title (p)
Ruddle Bitter Eldridge Pope Dorchester Bitt King & Barnes Sussex Bitter	1032	67 69 65
Average	1033.1	67
ORDINARY BITTERS (O.G.	1035 – 1039)	
Greene King IPA Wells Bitter Adnam Bitter Shepherd Neame Bitter Gale BBB Arkell BBB	1035 1035 1036 1036 1037 1038.5	69 70 68 69 68 69
Average	1036.3	68.8
PREMIUM BITTERS (O.G. 10	040 – 1047)	
Ringwood Bitter Felinfoel Double Dragon Sam Smith OBB Everard Tiger Fuller London Pride Devenish Wessex Bitter Brakspear Special Bitter Courage Directors Young Special Ind Coope Burton Ale	1040 1040 1040.9 1041 1041.5 1042 1042 1046 1046	69 73 74.3 72 68 74 70 75 77
Average	1042.8	72.7
STRONG BITTERS (O.G. 104	48 – 1056)	
Greene King Abbot Eldridge Pope Royal O.k Ruddle County Fuller ESB	1048 1048 1050 1055.75	78 75.5 82 78
Average	1050.4	40.4

Poorest value amongst the premium bitters is Bass at 1.69p and Watneys Stag bitter at 1.70p. Below average ratings amongst the ordinary bitters include Watney London bitter and Wethered bitter at 1.83p with Truman bitter the poorest value of all at 2.01p per O.G. Both Truman Mild and Bitter stand out as being substantially overpriced in relation to their strengths. This would appear to be a misguided policy for beers that are fighting to establish themselves amongst better-known rivals.

Free Trade

Comparisons are more difficult in the free trade because of the range of beers available and the fact that this is always changing. The number of comparisons that can be made indicates price increases over the $2\frac{1}{2}$ year period which are slightly higher than in the tied trade at 58% for premium bitters.

Table 2 provides an indication of prices currently being charged for various beers available in the free trade in West London. The small size of the sample however does not allow average prices for particular beers to be properly assessed. The figures merely indicate the run of prices. In general, strength for strength, prices tend to be 3 to 4p more than in tied houses. There are however instances of free houses charging well over this, and one particular free house surveyed was charging between 8p and 12p more for certain premium and strong bitters.

News & Views

■ ALL UP WITH THE AIR

YOU HAVE TO hand it to Watney's. When they do it, they do it properly. The dreaded DCL Air Pressure 'handpump' which has caused so much aggravation between the company and CAMRA is at last on its way out.

When it was introduced together with Watney's real ale, most of us regarded it as part of their sullen refusal to admit defeat. Now the more positive approach which they have shown in their withdrawal of the infamous Red Barrel and in the more recent introduction of Webster's Yorkshire bitter looks like winning again. Within a year, all cask-conditioned beer in Watney houses should be served by hand-pulled beer engine.

■ CAN IT BE DONE?

ANOTHER WATNEY breakthrough, it would seem. They claim to have introduced traditional beer, in this case London-brewed Stag bitter, into cans. "After extensive research and development, Watney Mann National Sales have perfected the process of capturing the traditional qualities of a draught ale — but in a can" they announce proudly.

They don't actually say that here is a living beer, kicking and screaming inside the can and waiting for the lucky drinker to slam it down his or her throat. What they do admit, which is something all of us have long recognised, is that gassy beer does no one any good. "The new TV commercial" they say "clearly illustrates the fact that Stag is not gassy like ordinary canned beers.

In a light-hearted way this will provide important reassurance to the high proportion of housewives buying beer on their husband's behalf'.

We doubt whether the Equal Opportunities Commission would go along with all of that, but it appears to us to be at least a step in the right direction. Has any one tasted the stuff?

■ TRUMAN NUMBER FOUR

TO ADD TO their new draught beers, Truman are testing a strong bitter. Called Samson and weighing in at 1055 O.G.—the same strength as Fuller's ESB—the beer is available until the end of the month in at least five pubs. These are the Alexandria in Wood Street, Barnet; the Railway Hotel, Station Road, Edgware; the Cock in Fleet Street; the George & Dragon, St. John Street, EC1 and the Wheelwrights Arms, a free house in Southbridge Road, Croydon.

As with the other Truman beers it is not cheap. At around 80p a pint, it compares unfavourably with the general price of ESB.

MAN'S BEER

MOTOR-CYCLE FREAKS in our experience tend to be young and to drink lager. We may be wrong. Anyway, the Isle of Man Tourist Board are taking a stand at the "Bike '82" exhibition at Earl's Court at which they will plug — alongside the TT race and the sunshine — the wares of the island's Okell Brewery.

The Isle of Man has long been highly regarded by many beer drinkers. The two local brewers have to conform to laws that prevent them putting additives into their beer. Also, the pubs do not

Continued over

News & Views continued

close during the day. The exhibition runs from August 20 — 30 and Okell's beer will be on sale.

■ SWEDEN LIVES!

AS IF TO prove that truth really is stranger than fiction, a couple of examples of the Swedish Message treatment have come to our attention. And in the pub industry, yet.

These are cases where the landlord is clebrating his birthday or wedding anniversary and his wife has arranged for him to receive a singing telegram. One such message was described in the *Morning Advertiser* as being 'delivered by a pretty "schoolgirl" in risque outfit'. No further comment is needed.

PRIZE BEER

THE VICTORIA BREWERY are bringing out a strong beer (1043 O.G.) to complement their Victoria Bitter. They are looking for a name and will give a polypin of Victoria Bitter to anyone

who comes up with something suitable.

If you think of a good name, write to the brewery at Broadmeads, Ware, Hertfordshire.

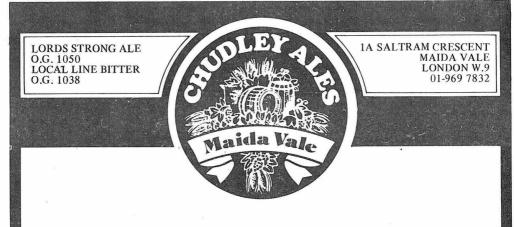
■ EASTER PARADE

THE CREDITS WERE omitted from our photo feature last month. The brewers' drays shown On Parade were taking part in this year's Easter Parade in Regent's Park. The photographer was Ian Bailey.

We have also twice given the wrong district number to the **Prince Albert**, Aston Street, which is in WC1.

■ MAINLINING

IT LOOKS AS if the long-awaited introduction of Taylor Walker Mainline may at last be on the way. The beer is being tested in some pubs at present, so keep an eye out for it.



MAIDAVAILABLE IN SOME OF THE BEST FREE HOUSES IN LONDON TAKE-AWAY DIRECT FROM THE BREWERY AND FROM:—

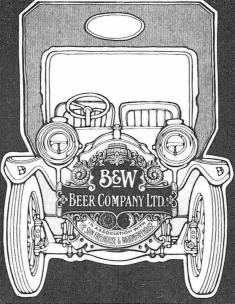
THE GROG BLOSSOM, WEST END LANE NW6

THE BITTER EXPERIENCE, 129 LEE ROAD SE3

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Hoare's and other Ghosts

Beginning a series on London's brewery history, Mostyn Lewis provides a note on Burney's and John Davis covers the takeover trail that relates to one of his favourite pubs.

THE ENAMEL PLATE in our picture is a rare relic of an almost forgotten brewer. Burney's were one of a series of companies which occupied the New Cross Brewery in Pomeroy Street, SE14. Burney's were incorporated in 1898 and lasted only until 1905, when the concern became the New Cross Brewery Co. Ltd. This company in turn was voluntarily wound up in 1925, the pubs being acquired by Hoare who were in turn acquired by Charrington in 1931.

There is no trace of the brewery now, the site having been developed as Council Housing.

(Our thanks to the Lewisham Local History Society for making the plate available to us.)

A drawing of the Leigham Arms in Streatham, which hangs on the wall inside the pub, dates from 1907. The sign shows that the pub was then owned by Crowley's. The firm of ACS and H Crowley brewed at the Croydon Brewery, 137/9 High Street, Croydon which they had built in 1908, although the Crowley family had been brewing in the Waddon area of Croydon for about 200 years previously.

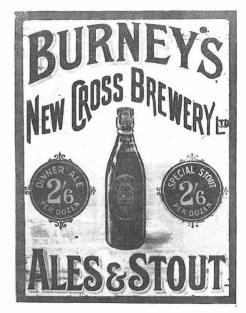
Crowley's, with their handful of pubs, were taken over by a fast-expanding brewer called Hoare & Co. who had the Red Lion Brewery (founded 1700) in East London, and Crowley's Brewery was shut down in 1929.

Meanwhile Hoare's, in their turn, were taken over by Charrington and their Red Lion Brewery was shut down in 1934.

Even the great Charrington complex could not resist the takeover craze and they fell victim in 1967, becoming part of the mighty Bass empire.

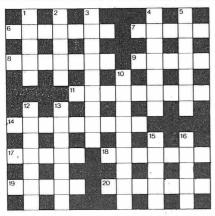
So the Leigham Arms reflects the changing pattern of pub ownership in the UK over the years.

(Note: this piece by John Davis now hangs next to the drawing to which he refers in the Leigham Arms.)





DRINKER XWORD 33



Compiled by Dave Quinton

DOWN

- Keeps in many cereals (5)
- Around for a whole fight (5)
- Lacks bite at formal gathering (5,4)
- Be brave and take it (7)
- Mistakenly adopt the French. You're stuck with a young frog (7)
- 10 Lon or gal may amount to this (4,5)
- 12 Right then two articles left in east, good to drink (4,3)
- 13 Slow drinker about fifty unlikely to be worn out (7)
- 15 Good man one follows and comes upon a fourteen pounder (5)
- 16 Only one leg? Get away with you! (3,2)

First correct solution wins £4 worth of Real Ale. Closing date August 26th.

Last month's Xword solution page 16.

ACROSS

- Horse and brave go after toy containing hollow centre and find brewer (7)
- Stop on the way back and find traveller (5)
- Shut can to form stem (7)
- Stare out redhead end up with growth on end of ravine (5)
- 11 Let Ron sag after a few pints of this (6,3)
- Bears reel wildly but are worth protecting (4,5)
- Cut into ship discover remains (5)
- 18 Tip-top Pole has breakdown and finds vessel (4,3)
- Strips back rest (5)
- Put up with buying your round (5,2)

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3 MINUTES FROM SURREY DOCKS UNDERGROUND BUSES 1, 17, 47 and 188 PASS THE PUB

The Linden Drunker Column

IS YOUNG'S going off? As the summer heat storms gather, this becomes an increasingly critical question for South Londoners such as myself. Is it the cellars? Is it the construction work in the brewery yard? Is it the change in head brewer of a year or so ago?

Whatever it is it is very worrying. Some of us moved to South London especially to drink John Young's special bitter. The thought of permanent decline is too appalling to contemplate. Besides we can't afford the move to King and Barnes or Wethered's territory.

One sad portent was observed the other week when black smoke could be seen emerging from the brewery chimney while the annual general meeting was taking place. Can they not decide on a successor to John Young? I think we should be told.

This column warned you months ago, of course. Whitbread have been on the closure trail again. Apparently their beers are so popular that they cannot afford to keep on brewing in two of the biggest cities in the country — Liverpool and Leeds. This makes six brewery closures in six years from Whitbread. In September CAMRA will hold the Great British Beer Festival in Leeds for the second time. Perhaps the occasion should be chosen for a massive campaign against Whitbread closures with a march on the brewery (which will close in January 1983). For those of us who believe CAMRA is going soft round the gills this would be an encouraging move.

My latest issue of What's Brewing, CAMRA's monthly newspaper, tells me that the CAMRA Investments Company has sold its 'northern outpost', the Duke of Wellington in Newcastle. What is this southern chauvenism? St. Albans, home of What's Brewing, and Cambridge, home of CAMRA Investments, are both rather further from the centre of Britain than Newcastle. It is the outpost which is selling the pub, not the other way round.

I have to report a most alarming brewing development. You may have heard of the

brewery which substitutes potato peelings for malt (if you have not I am afraid the libel laws prevent me from revealing its name). You may know about high-gravity fermenting — when they brew beer to a fiendish strength and then water it down. Now comes brewing by pressure cooker. The Brewing Research Foundation, which your friendly neighbourhood real ale brewery probably subscribes to, has come up with a dastardly new process designed to cut the energy costs involved in boiling wort — a crucial phase in the brewing process.

Apparently wort boiling accounts for 70% of the energy costs of brewing and takes two hours or more. Now the research foundation has come up with the idea of boiling the wort at five times the usual atmospheric pressure. At this pressure boiling takes only one minute.

Foundation director Bernard Atkinson is quoted in *New Scientist* magazine as saying that this process is the easiest way of reducing brewing costs so it is likely to be in action in the big breweries very soon. What nobody has been able to tell me is whether this affects the taste of the beer. I think we should be told.

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- 130 Beers
- 61 Breweries
- 48 Maps

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Devenish of Wessex by Paul Hathaway

"And here's your starter for ten... What's the connection between the Norman invasion of 1066 (BOO HISS) and the Weymouth Brewery of Devenish (HOORAY)?" Well read on and all will be revealed...

Dorset is fortunate to have four independant brewers, of which Devenish have been in existence the longest. The fact that Dorset has so many breweries, is in itself, not surprising since the lush farmlands have provided many bushels of barley and the springs fine, fresh water for many years. In fact, brewing has been going on here since the 13th Century (fact) and before (maybe).

The site of the present Devenish Brewery has been used since 1252 for brewing. Situated in Hope Square on the harbour front, it lies in the heart of the old brewing centre of the town. In the immediate vicinity, there have been several brewers in the distant and not-too-distant past. The Davis Brewery ceased to exist in the early part of the last century. The not-too-distant past is represented by the John Groves Brewery, which was next door, and we'll hear more of them later.

Devenish have been around since 1742 on the present site, though only becoming Devenish in 1824 when Mr. Devenish bought the brewery from the Flew family. The Flews were the descendants of the Fowlers, who originally founded the Brewery.

The name of Devenish had become well established around the West by the early 1900's, and they continued to expand through the usual way by buying up the opposition. They bought pubs in Falmouth and Penryn, supplying the beer by rail from Weymouth, and firmly established a bridgehead in Falmouth by buying the local brewery of W & EC Carnes, as well as buying the Truro brewers, Mallett's. By the outbreak of the Second War, the Redruth Brewery Company and the Treluswell Brewery had joined the empire, the latter being jointly purchased with the St. Austell Brewery. These were bought under one roof as the Devenish Redruth Brewery.

Devenish also bought up brewers in Devon. The company used the former Exeter brewery of Alwyn & Snowdens Well Park Brewery as a depot from 1925. This in turn was sold off, and the Vallances Brewery in Sidmouth was then used for this purpose. The Devenish Wessex

Best Bitter takes the name Wessex from the trade name of the old Vallances' bitter.

During the war, the Germans tried to bomb the Naval base at Portland. Often they missed, resulting in the hitting of the Brewery in 2 separate raids in 1940 and 1941. But with the goodwill of Groves and of the Dorchester brewers of Eldridge & Pope, Devenish continued to produce their own beers.

In the early Sixties in order to combat the threat of takeover, Devenish and Groves combined, trading under that name until 1965 when the name Groves was dropped. For many years, the railway employees got passes to go to Weymouth, where they enjoyed Groves' beers and often used to take home some beer with them. This is the reason that Groves decided to open the Swindon depot as well as buying several houses near the station.

So the Devenish lion, known as 'Herbert', has found his way to most parts of the south of England. They brew two real ales: Wessex Best Bitter (o.g. 1042.5), a splendidly smooth, hoppy brew, and Bitter (or Light Mild in some parts) with an o.g. of 1032, a thin and hoppy brew.

There are several outlets in and around London that serve real Devenish regularly:

Sun, Lamb's Conduit St., WC1 Moon, New North Street, WCl Sekforde Arms, Sekforde Street, EC1 Bricklayer's Arms, Charlotte Road, EC2 Truscott Arms, Shirland Road, W9 Welch Bros., E. Finchley High Road, N2 Martins, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 Southern Stars, New Cross Road, SE14 Tramshed, Woolwich New Road, SE18 Woodman, Battersea High Street, SW11 Railway Tavern, Sheen Lane, SW14 King's Arms, Lion Gate, Hampton Court Eel Pie, Church Street, Twickenham Barley Mow, Tonbridge Lobster Pot, West Malling Little Gem, Aylesford Rochester Real Ale Bar Minstrel Wine Bar, Maidstone Golden Hind, Hastings Sandgate, Sandgate Charlie Brown's Luton Blakes Wine Bar, Watford Fox and Hounds, Royston Salisbury Arms, Cambridge

Several more outlets take Devenish on an occasional basis.

So, look out for Herbert, and sample his wares. In them, you will find a taste of rural England and you might even wish to sample Devenish on their home territory in deepest Dorset (passports arranged at a moderate fee). I think you'll enjoy the beers, but be warned — Wessex is deceptively strong.

Your starter for ten? William Devenish's ancestors came over with the Normans and spread along the south coast from their lands in Sussex, to Weymouth. I always said that anybody who has red, white and blue as their colours can't be all bad... can they?

BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during August. For branches not mentioned, please ring Branch Contact.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Tue 3 (8.30). Social. Golden Hive, Green St., Enfield — Sat 7 (10.45). Ramble round 5 pubs. Start at Goat, Firty Hill.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu 12 (8.00). Branch. Brewery Inn, Ashtead.

NORTH LONDON: Thu 5 (8.00). *Two-pub social.* Carlton, Carlton Vale, NW6 and Queens Arms, Kilburn High Rd., NW6. — Tue 10 (8.00). *Social.* JJ Moons, Landseer Rd., N19. — Tue 17 (8.00). *Social.* Victoria, North Hill, N6 — Tue 24 (8.00). *Branch.* Victoria, Mornington Terrace, NW1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 12 (8.00). Social. Rose of York, Petersham Rd., Richmond — Mon 16 (8.00). Branch. White Bear, Kingsley Rd., Hounslow — Thu 26 (8.00). Social. Builders Arms, Field Lane, Teddington.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon 9 (8.00). Branch. North Pole, Greenwich High Rd., SE10 — Sat 21. Coach trip to Brighton. Cost approx. £2.50 — £3.00. Details from Branch Contact — Wed 25 (8.00). Games social. Blacksmiths Arms, 257 Rotherhithe St., SE16.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Thu 5 (8.30). Four-pub crawl. Start Raglan, Wandsworth Rd, SW8 — Tue 24 (8.30). Social. Country House, 4 Groton Rd., SW18.

WEST LONDON: Tue 10 (8.00). Pub of the month. Hollywood Arms, 45 Hollywood Rd., SW10 — Thu 19 (8.00). Branch. Brook Green Hotel, Shepherds Bush Rd., W6.

CAMRA Branch Contacts

	DES WARD	Erith 45716(H)	Erith 33020 x 4 (W)
	ROGER MASON	464 2909 (H)	407 4466 x 294 (W)
CROYDON & SUTTON	DAVE HAMER	647 0992 (H) Epsom	41511 x 66 (W)
E. LONDON & CITY	PETER ROBERTS	Upminster 23581	213-7374 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440-2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944 (W)
KINGSTON &	, a	, ,	E :
LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2659 (W)
NORTH LONDON	LAURIE GORDON	448 1692 (H)	359 1340 (W)
RICHMOND &		to men and an analysis of the second	, ,
HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	997 1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	CHRIS CASHMORE	Brentford 211703 (H)	283 1030 x 356 (W)
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	IVOR BLOOR	699-7335 (H)	934 4396 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JOHN DAVIS	670 0734 (H)	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWS	723 2798 (H)	
	KEITH WILDEY.	423 1243 (H)	965 7417 (W)

• LOCAL •

■ FINCH'S THINK AGAIN

A DETERMINED EFFORT by the regulars of a Finch's pub, supported by CAMRA, may save the pub from the worst effects of modernisation. The Kings Arms in Fulham Road, SW10, writes Roger Warhurst, is a rare example of a traditional Victorian pub which retains many of its original fittings: etched glass screens, tiles, wooden bar fittings and large mirrors among them. It has miraculously excaped 'improvement' over the years and is a real Chelsea local.

However, Finch's decided to change all this, inspired perhaps by the Watney pub opposite which was given the refurbishing treatment a few years ago. Their scheme would remove most of the screens and fittings, including public bar and porch, to create a one-bar mock Victorian interior. They had intended to close the pubs at the end of June and start the work.

The regulars quickly organised a petition and sent it to Finch's. They also received publicity in the media. CAMRA's West London branch wrote to Finch's, pointing out that whereas mock Victorian interiors are commonplace in London pubs with genuine traditional character are rare indeed. At national level, CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group has become involved and has mobilised support among influential groups such as the Victorian Society.

This activity may have produced some results. It is rumoured that a new scheme is being drawn up which will be more sensitive to the character of the pub. A letter from Finch's to the West London branch states that "any alterations will be made to ensure that as many as possible of the original fittings are retained and we shall create the right sort of atmosphere".

At the time of writing the pub is still open. We shall keep a close eye on developments and will report on progress in *London Drinker*.

m FALCON BREW

A PUB WHICH we believe has so far escaped the onset of real ale is likely to become the first home-brew pub in London owned by Grand Metropolitan. The Watney and Truman group's subsidiary, Falcon Catering, will be running the Orange in Pimlico Road, SWI when it re-opens in September.

Brewing equipment will be supplied by Peter Austin of the Ringwood Brewery, which suggests that there will be no cutting corners in the brewing process.

BARGAIN BEERS

OUR PLEA FOR pubs selling bitter at 60p a pint or below has produced a few entries, all Young's houses. This is not surprising, as the Public Bar price for Young's Ordinary bitter in managed houses is 60p. This is the price of a pint in the following pubs: The Crane, near the brewery in Armoury Way, SW18; the Grand Junction Arms in Acton Lane, NW10 and the Castle in Putney High Street, SW15.

J.J. Moons, the new free house in Landseer Road N19, sells one beer at 59p between 5.30 and 6.30 and between 11 and 12 noon. On Friday evening, the price drops to 58p.

The Ebury Arms in Pimlico Road, SW1 knocks 10p off a pint of Webster's Yorkshire bitter between 12.30 and 2 p.m.

We think that 61p for a pint of Fuller's London Pride, which is quite a strong beer at 1041.5 O.G., may qualify as a bargain. That is what you pay at the **Anchor & Hope** on the River Lea at High Hill Ferry, E5.

Our consolidated list seems to be holding up. Please let us know if any of the pubs should be removed and, of course, tell us about new ones that should be included. Next months we hope to provide more information about times but, in the meantime, please treat the divisions as non-exclusive. Some 'evening' pubs, for instance, also do early 'lunch' and 'Sunday' reductions.

All Day

The King of Beasts in Islington; the Pakenham Arms in Clerkenwell; the Clarence in South Kensington; the Hop Picker in Hackney; Dick's Bar in Hornsey; Welch Bros. in East Finchley; Sun in Carshalton; Royal George in Greenwich; Royal Albion in Hounslow; Pied Bull in Streatham; the Windsor Castle in Islington; the Ranelagh in Bounds Green and the Ironbridge Tavern in Poplar.

Early evening

Ship & Shovel in Charing Cross; Percy Arms, Clerkenwell; Moon in Holborn; Malt & Hops in Kings Cross; Marlers in Islington; Old Windmill, Hadley Highstone; Salisbury, Barnet; Wattenden Arms in Kenley and the King William IV in Hampstead.

Other evening

Leather Exchange Favern in Bermondsey; Worcester Arms, Marylebone; King's Head in

Local continued

Merton; Golden Lion in St. James's; King's Head in Acton; Cavalier, Wallington.

Lunchtime

Bricklayer's Arms in Shoreditch and the Edinburgh in Peckham.

Beyond category

Mitcham Mint in Streatham; Wellington in Waterloos and the Prohibition in Croydon.

■ VENUES FOR VICTORIA

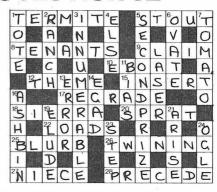
WE HAVE BEEN sent a list of current outlets for Victoria Bitter, brewed by the small Victoria Brewery of Ware in Hertfordshire. These are: Royal Tar in Brentford; Windsor Castle in East Finchley; Welch Bros. in East Finchley; Cross Keys in Edmonton; Old Park Heights in Enfield; Sun in Holborn; Frog & Firkin in Westbourne Park; Queen Victoria in Woolwich; Ship in Rotherhithe and the Malt & Hope in Kings Cross.

There are also two off licences: Barrels in Hampstead and the Bitter Experience in Blackheath.

■ JUBILEE STRIKES AGAIN

THERE IS JUST no keeping the Jubilee out of the news. This North Finchley real ale outpost in Ballards Lane has now added Mann's IPA and Watney's Stag to the Webster's Yorkshire bitter which we eventually established was being served from handpumps. Where will it end?

XWORD SOLUTION 32



Bitter Experience

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Enjoy a really Traditional Home-Pint

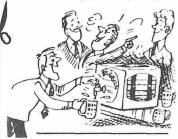
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Alan Greenwood's Beer Diary •



THE GLASS drinking vessel, for beer drinking anyway, is a fairly new invention. Until this century our forefathers were more likely to quench their thirst, whether for ale, beer or cider, from either pewter, earthenware or, for the chosen few, from silver or gold. For some unknown reason I've never drunk from gold or silver but I do have a fine eathenware and a pewter pot. They are very good and what I find particularly pleasing is that they somehow impart a refreshing coolness to the beer.

The phasing out of pewter and earthenware in favour of glass had major implications for the brewers of the day. Until that time, both brewers and publicans could get away with a multitude of sins in their beer. Who could tell if it were clear, hazy or downright muddy? With glass, people could see the state of it and, of course, they wanted clarity. New words appeared in advertisements: 'Brilliant Ales' (Brickwoods), 'Crystal Ales' (Eldridge Pope), 'Sparkling Ales' were descriptions used by many brewers. A lot of companies found the best, and sometimes the only, way to ensure clarity in their beers was to concentrate on bottled ones. This lead to such a boom in bottled beer that at its peak it accounted for 36% of all beer produced.

Whilst the brewers were gearing their products for the new standards, glass drinking vessels vere keeping pace. The glass manufacturers were ever conscious of producing the right glass for each beer so over the years there have been many different styles. One that started out as one of these specialist styles and is still in popular use today is also a constant tribute to a great beer: the Worthington White Shield. The pouring of this beer at eye level with a straight arm is an art for which only a Worthington Glass will do.

Having the right vessel to drink from may of course just be psychological. Drunk from a cup it has always tasted funny. Similarly, with a gaily-coloured glass, even if I know for certain it has not been used for flowers the previous week. Drinking from plastic however is another matter, as there are some cheap disposable types about which so taint beer that they should not be used.

At the same time it must be accepted that plastic technology has come a long way and there are now plastics on the market that do not taint, are non-toxic and are reasonably acceptable. Plastics will, because of many practical advantages, become more common. As long as there are imbeciles in any crowd gathering who exercise their stupidity by throwing glass about plastics will, in certain cases, become mandatory. Having said that, it is unlikely they will ever take over, for to achieve the satisfactory standard of purity they are very expensive, more so than even glass.

Whether you prefer to drink from glass, plastic, pewter, earthenware or of course gold or silver, they all have to be cleaned and no notes on drinking vessels would be complete without mention of the appalling way this is often done. In many pubs they are dunked just once into water, which is quite inadequate to remove possible infections. They are then dried with a tea-cloth that has probably also been used to dry up ash trays. It says a lot for British resilience that we are not continually plague-ridden. Apart from disease, there is the fact that as customers we are looking for a good pint. If it goes flat because the last chap using the glass was eating crisps or peanuts it's no good. A lot of science has gone into pub glass washing and special washing liquids have been developed that are both effective and do not spoil the beer. So there are no excuses.

In Scotland it is etiquette to be served with a fresh clean glass every time you are served with a pint. Down south, people prefer to re-use the same glass once it has been, as they say, broken in. Perhaps the best, certainly the homeliest and nicest situation is to find a pub that will let you use your own personal, favourite drinking vessel. There are problems if it is not accurate or stamped, which I shall go into next month, but there are many instances when it is acceptable and it can be a good sign when seeking out a new pub to see the special pots hanging up.

There is no finer gift to give a beer drinker as they reach that settled stage in their drinking career than their own special drinking pot, but with so many different preferences do make sure it's the right type.



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Monday - Friday Lunch

Real Beer in London~update 6 All beer served by handpump.

real b	eer in London-	-upaate	All beer served by handpump.
Amendments		I	Table 1 to 1 t
WC2	Brewmaster. Delete Fremlin: Tusker	NW3	Stag. Add Courage: Best bitter.
EC2	Pump. Renamed Hand Pump.	NW5	Pineapple. Delete Ind Coope: bitter. Add Taylor Walker: bitter.
E1	Hayfield, Add Bass.	SE1	Horse & Groom. Add Younger: IPA.
E1	J.J.'s Free House. Add Bass; Godson:	SE1	Victory Bar. Delete Courage, Greene King,
	Black Horse; Young: Special bitter; Younger: No.3.		Ruddle and Young beers. Add Arkell: BBB
E2	Hop Picker. Add Courage: Directors;	000	Kingsdown; Young: bitter.
L.L	Green King: Abbot.	SE I SE 10	Wellington. Add Arkell: Kingsdown.
E2	Crown, Delete Charrington: IPA. Add	3610	Trafalgar Tavern. Delete Watney: Stag. Add Webster: Yorkshire bitter.
Toron or	Brakspear: Bitter; Young: Special bitter.	THORNTON	Prince of Wales. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.
E3	Queen Victoria. Add Ruddle: bitter.	HEATH	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.
E13	Duke of Edinburgh. Delete Charrington:	SW1	King William IV. Delete Ind Coope; bitter.
N4	IPA. Add Charrington: Crown. Beaconsfield. Add Courage: Directors.	10000	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.
N6	Victoria. Add Flower: Original bitter;	SW3	Moore Arms. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.
3339	Bulmer: Traditional cider.	w ₃	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.
N6	Flask. Add Taylor Walker: bitter.	WII	Red Lion, Renamed Red Lion & Pineapple. Duke of Norfolk, Add Tamplin: bitter;
N7	Duchess of Kent. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.		Webster: Yorkshire bitter.
N7	George. Add Watney: Stag.	W11	Frog & Firkin. Delete Bruce: Portobello
N17	Victoria. Delete Charrington: Crown.	177 300	porter; Ind Coope: Burton Ale. Add
NWI WI	Crown & Anchor. Renamed Drummonds.		Adnam: bitter; Bruce: Strong porter (OG
***	George (Gt. Portland St). Add Adnam: bitter; Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak;		1053); Pilgrim: Progress bitter.
	Felinfoel: Double Dragon; Green King:	W14	Radnor Arms. Delete Bass, Charrington:
	IPA; Wells: Bombardier.		Add Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak; Everard: Tiger; Godson: Best bitter; Ruddle: bitter.
WC2	Gilbert & Sullivan. Delete: Fremlin:	W14	Three Kings. Delete Hook Norton: bitter;
	Tusker.		Truman: Tap. Add Sam Smith: IPA;
WC2	Sherlock Holmes. Add Fremlin: Tusker.	TV.	Wadworth: Old Timer; Eldridge Pope:
WC2 EC1	White Horse, Add Fremlin: Tusker, Shakespeare, Add Ind Coope; bitter,	3)	Royal Oak; Studley: Stud bitter.
EC2	Dirty Dicks, Delete Charrington: IPA.	HAMPTON	Bell. Delete Ind Coope: bitter; Add Taylor
EC2	Jazz Bar, Add Tolly Cobbold: Original.	HAMPTON	Walker: bitter.
EC2	Magpie Hotel. Add Ind Coope: Burton Ale	HAMPTON	White Hart. Add King & Barnes: bitter, Festive, Old; Young: bitter, Special (choice
EC3	Mitre. Add Younger: IPA.		of 6 beers from overall range).
EC3	Ship, Talbot Ct. Add Ind Coope: Bitter.	TWICKENHAM	Cherry Tree. Add Friary Meux: bitter; Ind
E1 ,	Romford Arms. Delete: Ind Coope: Burton		Coope: bitter.
El	Ale. Add Ind Coope: bitter. Three Cranes, Add Ind Coope: Burton Ale.	SWI	Royal Court Tavern. Add Eldridge Pope:
E13	Duke of Edinburgh, Delete Charrington:	CONTO	IPA, Royal Oak; Ringwood: bitter.
	IPA. Add Charrington: Crown bitter.	SW3 SW6	Bunch of Grapes. Add Chudley: bitter, Wheatsheaf. Add Flower: Original bitter
E17	Lord Brooke. Delete Bass,	340	(and video juke box).
BARKING	Brewery Tap. Add Taylor Walker: bitter.	SW7	Anglesea Arms. Delete Wadworth. Add
CHADWELL HEATH	White Horse. Add Ind Coope: Burton Ale.	NOTE OF STREET	Greene King: Abbot.
DAGENHAM	Three Travellers. Delete Ind Coope:	SW7	Norfolk Arms. Add Fuller: London Pride.
Direction	Burton Ale. Add Romford: Brewers bitter.	SW10	Finborough Arms. Add Fremlin: Tusker.
GOODMAYES	Lord Napier. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.	SW10	Kings Arms. Add Courage: Best bitter, Directors.
HORNCHURCH	Bull. Delete Ind Coope: bitter. Add	SWII	Battersea Fair. Renamed Battersea Tavern.
u nonn	Romford: Brewers bitter.	SW16	Mitcham Mint. Delete Ind Coope: Bitter.
ILFORD RAINHAM	Red Cow. Add Ind Coope: bitter. Astronaut. Renamed: Friendly Hand.	TO ARREST NAME OF THE PARTY OF	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.
RAINHAM	Bell. Delete Ind Coope: Bitter. Add	NEW MALDEN	Fountain. Add Courage: Best bitter.
20000000000000000000000000000000000000	Romford: Brewers bitter.	NEW MALDEN	Railway Hotel. Add Taylor Walker: bitter. Kings Head. Delete Truman: Tap. Add
ROMFORD	Morland Arms. Delete Ind Coope: KK	W2	Truman; Best bitter.
29/27	Mild.	W14	Seven Stars. Delete Fuller: Chiswick bitter
N3	Joiners Arms. Delete Bass.		(bright bitter on (H))
N9 N15	Cock Tavern, Hartford Rd. Add Bass. Fountain. Delete Ind Coope: bitter. Add	W14	Warwick Arms. Add Fuller: Chiswick
1113	Taylor Walker: bitter.		bitter (Delete 'Bright').
N16	Robinson Crusoe. Add Charrington: IPA.	CORRECTION TO	O UPDATE 4
N20	Griffin. Add Ind Coope: bitter.	cwi	7 CL . ALIWI - V. L.C.
BARNET	Mitre. Add Benskins: KK Mild.	SWI	Two Chairman. Add Webster: Yorkshire bitter.
ENFIELD	Golden Hive. Delete Charrington: Crown.	Additions	onter.
ENFIELD	Add Bass; Charrington: IPA. Old Park Heights. Delete Greene King: KK		
and the same of	Mild. Add McMullens: Country bitter.	SW19	Nag's Head, 30 Morden Rd. Charrington
NWI	Caernavon Castle. Add Taylor Walker:		IPA.
	bitter.	SW19	Royal Standard, 180 High St., Colliers Wood. Charrington: IPA.
NWI	Gloucester Arms. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.	KINGSTON	Duke of Cambridge, Cambridge Rd.
NWI	Add Taylor Walker: bitter. Goat In Boots. Delete Ind Coope: bitter.		Courage: Directors.
ia m.i	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.	KINGSTON	Norbiton, 16 Clifton Rd. Mann: IPA;
NWI	Hope & Anchor. Delete Ind Coope; bitter.		Watney: London Bitter, Stag.
	Add Taylor Walker: bitter.		Continued

MITCHAM Gardeners Arms, 107 London Road. Truman: Mild, bitter, Best bitter. MITCHAM Bucks Head, Fair Green. Charrington: MORDEN Beverley, Lower Morden Lane, Webster: Yorkshire bitter. MORDEN Morden Tavern, 144 Central Rd. Truman: Bitter. Best bitter. RICHMOND Crown, 125 Lower Mortlake Rd. Truman: Mild, bitter, Best bitter. W2 Sir Alexander Fleming, 16 Bouverie Pl. Mann: IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter W6

Cambridge Arms, 54 Cambridge Grove. Webster: Yorkshire bitter.

W10 Caernavon Castle, 310 Portobello Rd. Truman: Best bitter.

W12 Pavilion, Wood Lane. Flowers: Original bitter; Wethered: bitter; Bulmer: Traditional cider.

FELTHAM Ale House, High St. Mann: IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire HANWORTH

Horse & Groom, The Mount. Watney: London bitter; Webster: Yorkshire bitter. HAYES Carpenters Arms, 1370 Uxbridge Rd. Truman: Best bitter.

HEATHROW Pilots Arms Bar, Terminal One. Wethered:

HOUNSLOW Red Lion, 210 High St. Watney: London bitter, Stag. ISLEWORTH

Rose & Crown, 333 London Rd. Watney: London bitter, Stag. Byron, Ruislip Rd. Truman: Best bitter. NORTHOLT

RUISLIP Deane Arms, Long Drive, Benskin; Bitter. TEDDINGTON Horse & Groom, 11 Waldegrave Rd. Watney: London bitter, Stag.

TWICKENHAM Ailsa Tavern, 263 Margarets Rd. Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire

TWICKENHAM Black Dog, 11 London Rd. Watney: London bitter, Stag. WEST DRAYTON Red Cow, High St. Truman: Bitter,

Rest bitter WEST DRAYTON Six Bells, 123 Station Rd. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter

If you know of any pub that has started selling draught beer or whose details in Real Beer In London, are incorrect the compilers would be very pleased to hear from you. Please write to: RBIL Update, 2 Sandtoft Rd., SE7.

The Pub **Information** Centre



Pubs with function rooms Or with restaurants Thames-side pubs Pubs with gardens and patios Pubs with live entertainment Or with discos Historic pubs Even haunted pubs!

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WILTON ARMS, 71 Kinnerton Street JOLLY GARDENERS, 115 St Alphonsus Road.

SW5 CLARENCE, 148 Old Brompton Road. SW6 WHEATSHEAF, 562 King's Road

SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS, 15 Selwood Terrace SW7 NORFOLK TAVERN, Harrington Rd.

SW8 PRINCE OF WALES, 99 Union Rd.

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SW16 LEIGHAM ARMS, Wellfield Road. SW16 MITCHAM MINT, Lillian Road.

SW16 PIED BULL, 418 Streatham High Road. SW17 KING'S HEAD, Upper Tooting Road.

SW19 ALEXANDRA, Wimbledon High Road. KING'S HEAD, Merton High Street. SW19

SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL, Abbey Road. WORCESTER ARMS, 89 George Street. WI

WI ANGEL, Thayer Street.

WI CARPENTER'S ARMS, Seymour Place

WI BRICKLAYER'S ARMS, Aybrook W5 RED LION, St Mary's Road.

W6 CROSS KEYS, 157 Black Lion Lane. W6 THATCHED HOUSE, 115 Dalling Road. W6 TRUSCOTT ARMS, Shirland Road

WII EARL LONSDALE, 281 Westbourne Rd.

W11 FROG & FIRKIN, Tavistock Crescent. W14 BRITANNIA TAP, 150 Warwick Road. RADNOR ARMS, 247 Warwick Road W14

BEDDINGTON PLOUGH, Croydon Road CARSHALTON FOX & HOUNDS, High Street CARSHALTON GREYHOUND, 2 High Street

CHEAM GREENFORD HAMPTON

PRINCE OF WALES, Morden Road BLACK HORSE, Oldfield Lane WINDMILL, Windmill Road.

HOUNSLOW EARL RUSSELL, Hanworth Road HOUNSLOW WHITE BEAR, 198 Kingsley Road. MITCHAM BULL, 32 Church Road

MITCHAM CRICKETERS, 340 London Road. MITCHAM KINGS ARMS, 260 London Road. MITCHAM QUEEN'S HEAD, Cricket Green. OSTERLEY

HARE & HOUNDS, Syon Park, Wyke BLACK HORSE, Harrow Road

Green, SUDBURY SURBITON RAILWAY TAVERN, Ewell Road. SURBITON VICTORIA, Victoria Road. SUTTON LORD NELSON, Lower Road SUTTON NEW INN, 18 Myrtle Road.

TWICKENHAM! OFF TRADE

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EEL PIE, 9 Church Street.

SWII Majestic Vintners, Hester Road. SW11 39er, Webbs Road.

SW19 Alan Greenwood's, 308 Haydon's Road. W14 Alan Greenwood's, 17 North End Rd. KINGSTON Alan Greenwood's, I Hawkes Rd. TOLWORTH Alan Greenwood's, 120 The Broadway. WALLINGTON Alan Greenwood's, 8 Butter Hill.

Grafton Tennis Club, Thorton Road.

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