Vol.4 No.8 SEPT. 1982

LONDON DRINKER

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





BRANCH DIARY

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

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 21 (8.00). Branch. Crown Hotel, Old Ford Rd., E3.

NORTH LONDON: Thu 2 (8.00) Social. Shires and Stirrup Cup bars, St. Pancras Station, NW1 - Tue 7 Sep (8.00). Two-pub social. Dagmar and Prince of Wales, both in Cornwall Rd. N15 - Sun 19 (noon). Social. Malt & Hops, Caledonian Rd., N1. Thu 23 (8.00). WC1 Crawl. Start Harrison, Harrison St. - Tue 28 (8.00). Social. Alma Tavern, 59 Newington Green Rd., N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 9 (8.00). Social. Bell, Staines Rd., Hounslow - Mon 13 (8.00). Open committee. White Cross, Richmond - Mon 20 (8.00). Branch. Five Oaks, Staines Rd., Twickenham - Sat 25 (5.30). Trip to Oxfordshire. Ring for details.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon 13 (8.00). Branch. Sultan, 238 St. James's Rd., SE1 - Wed 22 (8.00). Social, Bugle Horn, 6 The village, SE7.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Thu 16 (8.00). Branch. Alma, York Rd., SW18 - Fri 24 (8.00). Three-pub social. Start Red Lion, Castlenau, SW13.

WEST LONDON: Sun 5 (noon). Social, Earl of Lonsdale, 281 Westbourne Grove, W11 - Thu 23 (8.00). Branch. Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherd's Bush Rd., W6 - Thu 30 (8.00). Pub of the month. Warwick Arms, 160 Warwick Rd., W14.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed 1 (8.30). Social. Old Wheatsheaf, Windmill Hill, Enfield Chase - Wed 15 (8.00). Branch. William IV, Fore St., N9 - Thu 23 (8.30). Joint social. King and Tinker, Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield.



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The Views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily the view of either the London Branches of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

News & Views

• PRICES - THE CRUCIAL PHASE

AT THE RISK of repeating ourselves, we state that the future trend of beer prices in London pubs should be decided in the next few weeks. We made a similar claim some months ago, since when little has happened. Some free houses have put prices up; others have actively promoted cheaper beer.

The crucial decisions will have to be taken by the major brewers, who own the vast number of our pubs. Omens are mixed. Several price increases have been announced in other parts of the country, even though the recession struck there before it started to take root in London. Against this, one of the Big Six subsidiaries has announced a price standstill until "well into 1983". And the index of retail prices for June showed that overall prices for alcoholic drink were down slightly from the previous month.

Pub-goers in the West Midlands have been hit particularly hard which is why the freeze announced by Ansell's is important. A spokesman for the Midland arm of Allied-Lyons told the Morning Advertiser: "We are holding our prices because we are aware of the depressed state of the trading area . . . we hope it will give our licencees and Free Trade customers an opportunity at least of keeping volume sales at their present levels and, perhaps a better chance of increasing them." He said that it would enable landlords to plan for the future with more confidence and he hoped that customers would benefit and perhaps be encouraged to drink an extra pint "because it won't cost them any more"

What is good for Ansell should, we trust, be good for Ind Coope, Friary Meux, Taylor Walker, Uncle Tom Benskin and any other branches of Allied's London empire. Not to mention Watney, Charrington, Whitbread, Courage and S&N. As our analysis of price increases last month revealed, brewers in London have had over the past 2½ years put over 3p on a pint over and above the cost of living increase. They now have the perfect excuse to give some of it back.

WELL DONE, WATNEY

THESE ARE early days, but it appears that the launch of Webster's Yorkshire bitter in London has gone exceedingly well. Watney now intend to put it into 1,000 of their pubs, about two-thirds of the total, and claim that pubs on average have been selling 90 gallons a week. From observation and experience, we confirm that people are drinking it and that it is generally kept in a condition that is at least acceptable.

We were invited to a presentation-cum-pubcrawl by Watney, who answered questions about Webster's and other things before taking the party on a tour of Covent Garden. Apparently, there is no chance of the supply of Webster drying up as the brewery in Halifax has a capacity sufficient to cope with London's needs. All the beer is brought down by tanker to London and then transferred to 'converted' kegs. All pubs should be serving it through handpumps and without any pressure.

With such a blanket coverage, one naturally wonders what effect this will have on Watney's other beers, 'real' and otherwise. They say that they now have the right mix for London, and we shall have to wait and see if they are right.



Our picture shows Jacky Dudley-Fletcher, head barmaid at the Marquis of Granby off Cambridge Circus, pulling a pint of Webster's no doubt for the benefit of one of the CAMRA people present.

News and Views 2

BERMAN BREW

TO ADD TO his pub and agency interests Roger Berman, one of the best-known figures on the London beer scene, has started a brewery. Built on his B&W Beer Company estate in Hayes, Middlesex, it is called the Union Brewery and should begin production this month.

There will be two beers. The weaker of them, weighing in at an original gravity of 1034, is called Union Bitter (UB), while the more potent one at 1050 O.G. is Union Extra Bitter, which abbreviates to a provocative UXB.

The plant has been constructed by Robert Morton DG Co. of Burton-on-Trent and is claimed to be the first production model designed specifically for a small brewer. The Brewer and Production Director is Vincent O'Rourke, who has worked both as a chemist for large brewers and as a publican. He was most recently associated with the Raven Brewery in Brighton, which is now being sold.

CHANGE AT GODSON?

PATRICK FITZPATRICK of Godson's Brewery in Bow is now Managing Director of Tisbury Brewery in Wiltshire and it appears more than likely that the two companies will merge, if they haven't done so already.

This will probably result in Godson no longer brewing. At present they are brewing for Tisbury while the Wiltshire brewery is being re-equipped. Once that is done, it seems that Godson will concentrate on distribution, which has always been the firm's main interest.

BODY CHASING

SOME TIME AGO we mentioned that CAMRA was opening up its membership to organisations, societies and the like, and we can now tell you that the scheme has been put into effect. Up to this time, only individuals have been able to join us as members.

A good response could transform the impact made by real ale drinkers as a consumer group. At present, CAMRA can claim to speak only for its individual members, which leaves thousands of people who belong to bodies that are directly or indirectly involved with cask-conditioned beer without

national representation. Now this will be changed while, at the same time, affiliated bodies will be able to influence CAMRA policy.

We know of at least one affiliate member in London. This is the Hobby Computer Club of the North London Polytechnic, an example of a society for which beer is presumably a secondary interest. They combine pleasure with pleasure every Monday night during term time, when they mess about with computers until 9.15 p.m. and then repair to the Marquess Tavern, Canonbury Street, N1 for good food and Young's beer. Anyone interested in beer and computers, by then presumably in that order, is welcome to join them at the Marquess.

If you belong to a society that might consider affiliating, please drop us a line and we will send you the form. We can tell you that the affiliation fee is £20 a year and that this gives full membership rights to a representative of the affiliated organisation. Copies of CAMRA's monthly What's Brewing newspaper will be sent for circulation to members of the organisation.

• FLEXI FIGHT CONTINUES

DESPITE THE lack of interest shown by a Government supposedly in favour of enterprise, the campaign to introduce more flexible opening hours for pubs and other licensed establishments is growing. To the supporters mentioned in our previous issues we can add the English Tourist Board, the Justices' Clerks Society and, closer to home, the Managing Director of Chef & Brewer.

STOUT SUPPORTER

WE HAVE HAD a letter from a reader in Bermondsey who asks if we could consider giving information about draught Guinness, such as which pubs sell good pints of the stuff.

There are difficulties about this. As most people know, "draught" Guinness in London is a pasteurised beer and not real ale. Most of the people who provide *London Drinker* with information rarely drink it, so that we are not in a position to offer advice.

One of our main complaints about brewers is that they are reluctant to spend large sums promoting the beer we drink while throwing millions away on the beer we do not drink. In order to try and redress the balance, we

REAL ALE and REAL JAZZ

AT THE

Prince of Orange

118 LOWER ROAD ROTHERHITHE SE16 237 9181

LIVE JAZZ SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK PLUS SUNDAY LUNCHTIME

RESIDENT REAL ALES: TRUMANS MILD, BITTER AND BEST BITTER.

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

on London Drinker feel a duty to devote the magazine to draught beer because it does not otherwise get much publicity. Guinness, indeed, spend a far greater proportion of their turnover on advertising and promotion than do other brewers — though, to be fair, some of this must be allocated to their bottled Guinness which is regarded as a real ale.

However, if anyone knows of pubs which take particular care over their Guinness, please tell us and we shall mention them from time to time.

NOT SO GOOD, WATNEY

CAMRA have objected to the advertising campaign for the new canned version of Watney's Stag bitter, which we mentioned last month. It has since been confirmed that this is a pasteurised version of the draught bitter and CAMRA are complaining to the Advertising Standards Authority about the use of the term 'traditional ale'.

We agree that the term misleads. However, we stand by our previous comment that anything which promotes the drinking public's revulsion towards gassy beer cannot be all bad. If this indeed is going to be part of the message of the Stag adverts, it strikes us as a step forward.

CROSSWORD CHAOS

WE ARE STILL having problems with our Xword. Much of this is self-induced, because it follows our decision to put forward our publication date so that copies of the *Drinker* appeared at the end of the month prior to publication. One of the results has been that our printing of the solutions to prize Xwords has become hopelessly out of sync.

A few mistakes have also crept in among the clues. As a result, we have decided to suspend the 'prize' element for the time being until things get settled. We realise that the Xword is popular with many readers and we certainly intend to keep on publishing them provided our contributors keep sending them in.

Meanwhile, sorry for the confusion.

OLD BRINGING THE NEW

INSTEAD of bringing back the empties last



month, writes Louise Joselyn, Goliath and Hercules, two of Young's drays and show horses, brought back a new computer to the brewery.

Young's head horsekeeper, Harry Ranson, transported the ICL computer from the company's Putney headquarters back to Wandsworth.

The computer cost £110,000 and replaces a ten-year-old system. The new computer will be linked to Young's 30 managed houses via a viewdata tv set. The manager will be able to place orders with the brewery through the tv and also access information on pricing and special offers. The tv set, of course, provides customer entertainment during opening hours.

Young's believes that the managers will be pleased to have some administrative work taken off their hands. "Managers are salesmen, they prefer being in the bar talking to people," claims Peter Knox, Young's chief accountant!

However, keeping up with the times for this, one of the more traditional breweries, does not mean incorporating all the latest electronic gadgets and ideas. The brewery does not intend to invest more in 'new technology'. The systems that record every pint pulled and measure taken from the optics are certainly not for Young's.

Big Brother is not watching you yet, at least not in Young's houses!

A Minor's Dream of Home

THE LITTLE BOY sat awkwardly near the door of the public bar, dragging a foot aimlessly through the dust. A dog lay sleeping nearby. The boy watched the patrons enter and leave, nodding in recognition to some, exchanging a word or two of greeting with others.

A woman in a pinafore emerged from the pub and called the boy. From her pinafore pocket she produced a packet of crisps. The boy nudged the dog and carefully shared the crisps between the two of them.

Two old ladies passed by across the road as this sharing of spoils proceeded. "Such a pitiful sight, children left to hang about outside pubs while their parents whoop it up. Disgraceful!"

One of them gave the boy a sweet. The dog, alerted to the possibilities, rolled on his back, paws in the air in a rather half-hearted attempt to look fetching. One of the ladies stroked him, and he nuzzled her hand to suggest that some more material indulgence might be in order.

The old ladies went on their way, but others passed. The boy and dog chased each other a little, sat down again and shared the crisps,

peanuts and other morsels that passing acquaintances provided.

They seemed to be there every day. Passers-by were used to seeing them lingering at the door and wondered at the fate of such waifs. The social worker made a note. The pubgoers passed the titbits or merely ignored the pair, while the expense-account trade at the pub-restaurant pondered how the other half lived. Perhaps the Victorian gin-shop was not so far gone and children were still to be found pleading to a parent to come home. Who was it that left them there so long?

They never saw the late afternoon. After the pub had closed, the boy suddenly started as a familiar face appeared round the corner.

"Have you been here again? Hanging around all day with the mangy pub dog? Goodness knows what people think of us!"

The boy winked goodbye to the dog. Perhaps tomorrow would bring a few more spoils to share. If you cannot have a dog in a tower block, you can always borrow somebody else's.

ENFIELD & BARNET BRANCH

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM

AT A 40p A PINT

FOLK AND ALE EVENING

WITH THE RANTERS FOLK CLUB

ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29

AT THE QUEENS HEAD, STATION ROAD, N.21 (Opposite Winchmore Hill B.R. Station)
MANNS IPA AVAILABLE FROM 8.30 P.M.

ALAN GREENWOOD'S BEER AGENCY AND WINE SELECTION

NEW BEER DISPENSERS AT GREENWOOD'S

Alan Greenwoods Beer Agency, the original Real Ale Off-Licence Service have now installed the new Grundy Beer Dispensers at five of their shops; Wallington, Tolworth, Wimbledon, Kennsington and the new one at Clapham. The new equipment dispenses beer accurately from 1 pint upwards for jug sales and polypin refills.

The new equipment uses no pressure and the quality, flavour and palate of the beer is as pure as it would be served by gravity direct from the cask. Draught beer provides the best value take home beer, so whether you're watching TV, playing cards, having a party, gardening or decorating, why not drop in for your take home beer and see the new equipment in action for yourself.

Enjoy a really Traditional Home-Pint

Jugs & Homesize Casks of Beer. Fresher tastier and up to 20p a pint cheaper then cans.

Celebrate with a Home Pint or Party Cask you've been denied too long.



OPEN MON - SAT 10.30 - 1.30 5.45 - 9.30 SUN 12 - 2.00 7 - 9.00 p.m.



IT IS ALWAYS ADVISABLE TO ORDER BARRELS IN ADVANCE

BRING THIS AD. FOR SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

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TOLWORTH SURREY 120 The Broadway 01-390 3446

WALLINGTON SURREY 8 Butter Hill 01-669 5158

CLAPHAM SW4 215 Clapham Park Road 01-720 6999

REPRESENTING THE NATIONS BEERS
G THE WORLDS WINES

Home Cask and Wine Delivery Service 01-390 3446

Stane Street Stagger

A South London marathon described by Merton Park

EMANATING FROM the centre of the metropolis are a number of thoroughfares which thirsty travellers have passed for many hundreds of years. One such is Stane Street, a Roman military road which connected London Bridge with the East Gate of Noviomagus (now Chichester). For most of its first dozen miles it forms the basis of the A24, passing in an approximately straight line some of the most interesting pubs in South London.

This was a major coaching route from the capital to the South Coast between Brighton (via Reigate), which was convenient for the Prince Regent's Court, and Portsmouth, which was ideal for seafarers such as Nelson, who lived in Merton and who is commemorated by several pub names in the area. The entire route of the crawl is served by No. 155 bus and by the Northern Line and we begin at the southern end, which enables an evening toper to reach the civilized area of 11 p.m. closing.

Opposite South Wimbledon Tube Station is the Grove, a large Ind Coope house which serves Ind Coope bitter and Burton Ale from handpumps (all beers referred to are served in this way). This is situated on the crossroads and marks the point where the old coaching roads diverge.

Five minutes walk towards London on the right and we encounter the first maritime name, that of the Nelson Arms, almost on the late Admiral's doorstep. It is worth a call both for the beer, Charrington's IPA, and for the superb ceramic exterior. A few paces down Abbey Road alongside takes us to the Princess Royal, which sells Courage Best Bitter and Director's and would be a worthy entry for the 1983 Good Beer Guide.

Back on the main road and turn right towards London, which is to be the only direction from now on except for short diversions. We next come to the King's Head on the left. This large Youno's house stands on the site of a former coa ing inn while next door is the equivalent - the bus depot on the banks of the River Wandle.

On the same side of the road is the Royal Six Bells – Ind Coope bitter and Burton Ale –

on the edge of Wandle Park. Note the fine windows. Still on the left we come to the Victory opposite Collier's Wood Station, which sells Friary Meux. A few paces further on is the Royal Standard with its moulded and painted sign, and another 150 yards brings us to the Red Lion. Both pubs serve Charrington IPA.

The Red Lion is the last pub on our crawl which closes at 10.30 pm. In about 300 yards we come to Tooting Tavern, with 11 pm. closing and Friary Meux and Burton Ale. Next a passing reference — literally, as it does not sell Cask-conditioned beer — to the Trafalgar, with its superb exterior advertising Hodgsons Kingston Ale.

Look out for Tooting Grove a little further on your left. A few paces down this road lead to the Queen Victoria, a charming backstreet local that sells Charrington IPA. A few minutes' walk brings us to Tooting Broadway Station and a minute more to the Castle, a large Young's house mainly for those who favour loud music.



Kings Head, Tooting

We are now about 2 miles from our starting point. From here it is a matter of 8 minutes or so to the gem of the crawl, the King's Head, Tooting. Now selling the full range of

Jim and Jan Welcome you to the

LORD NELSON

262 OLD STREET EC1

Featuring:
WEBSTERS
YORKSHIRE BITTER
MANNS IPA
LONDON BITTER
62p pint
SUPER STAG
Pub Grub Lunchtime and Evenings
7 days a week

A La Carte Restaurant

Monday — Friday Lunch

Stane St. Stagger - cont.

Truman beers, this former coaching inn with still-existing stables was rebuilt in 1896 with all the grandeur the Victorian pub architects could muster. Its unique collection of glasswork and mirrors was fortunately removed during the war, as the area was very heavily bombed. A few errors were made when this was replaced but these do not detract from what, in my humble opinion, is the epitome of Victorian pub architecture at its most magnificent.

Five minutes on foot will take you to Tooting Bec Station. If you are travelling by bus, take any one passing the King's Head to the next port of call, the Duke of Devonshire in Balham High Road, past the station at the bottom of the hill on the right. This gap is the longest, and driest, mile on our route, as you pass only one 'fizz' pub on the way. The Duke is a Young's house, built on a grandiose scale about a century ago. It is currently undergoing renovation with new management.

Leave through the rear, Saloon door and take Balham New Road to the Prince of Wales, a comfortable post-war pub built to replace a blitzed predecessor which sells Courage Director's. It has two widely contrasting



Duke of Devonshire

bars and a beer garden.

Back on the main road, use the pedestrian crossing placed conveniently outside the Duke and walk the few yards to Oldridge Road where you will find another Young's pub the Grove, a coaching hotel built in 1798 and

Stane St. Stagger - cont.

rebuilt 60 years later. For magnificence, I strongly recommend the Saloon. Behind the building there once stood the Grove Stadium, an athletics and cycling track where several early records were set up.

Continue up the main road, Balham Hill, to the top where stands the George, which sells Courage Director's and Best Bitter. It was largely rebuilt after a direct hit by a flying bomb and has since been refurbished in open-plan style. Part of the previous structure, sporting a weather vane dated 1888, is visible on the left of the frontage.

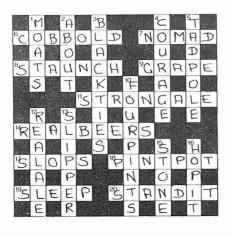
In the 18th Century, the hotel stood on the opposite side of the road. Inns usually (but not always) served coaches coming from their right, ie on the near side of the road, so that the southbound coaches stopped here. To illustrate the importance of the trade, 24 coaches passed this way daily to Portsmouth

alone, prior to 1859 when the first through railway was built.

Coaches travelling towards London would usually stop at our next pub, the Old Windmill, which is a quarter of a mile past Clapham South Station. Standing on the Common back from the road, this large and extremely popular Young's house is South London's equivalent of Hampstead's Old Bull & Bush. It used to be the terminus of the Clapham Omnibus, upon which the Mr. Everyman of 100 years ago was said to travel.

Next time I will guide you around Clapham and Stockwell from Clapham Common Station, taking in the Old Town. The station is five minutes walk north along the main road.

Last Month's Xword Solution 33





GOOD BEER GUIDE 1982

6,000 of the best pubs in the U.K.

Now in the Shops (and selected pubs) -£3.95

STOP PRESS

NEW CHAIN FOR ALLIED?

When reporting the takeover by Allied-Lyons of the Nicholson group of pubs, which include the famous Black Friars, we hoped that Allied would find some way of keeping them as free houses rather than absorb them into one of their existing tied chains such as Taylor Walker.

Now we hear that this might happen. Apparently, Allied are thinking of starting a chain of free houses, rather like Grand Metropolitan's Clifton Inns, which, which will consist of the Nicholson pubs plus others to be added from elsewhere in the Allied group. If true, excellent news indeed.

>/ Spot the new arrivals at Londons Largest Selection Real Ale JATES BREWERL SUMUN BORN OUTLES

Alan Greenwood's Beer Notes

THE WORD GLASS is thought to have derived from the ancient Celtic word 'glas' meaning, pure, crystal stream water. Although he may not always have had a glass from which to sip his 'glas', ever since man first came into existance he has had some sort of drinking vessel. In the million or so years between then an new one would have thought that the drinking vessel (basically a very simple invention) would have had all the snaps sorted out. But no.

In the first two parts of these notes on beer-drinking vessels there have been a number of highly -contentious aspects but they all pile into insignificane compared with the latest innovation. A development where opinion seems strong enough to even bring down governments. An indication of the strength of feeling was illustrated at an annual general meeting of the highly - influential Compaign for Real Ale where the debate became so vexed that the matter almost led to blows.

As we all know when a pint of beer is served it has to be a precise pint. Certainly it must not be less, and the way the Weights and Measures acts of 1963 is written, within quite close tolerances, it is just as illegal to overfill. For a long time it has been accepted that the best way to measure the beer is to use the end receptical - the drinking vessel. Englishmen have a passion for correctness which has been satisfied by using glasses which, when filled to the brim, are exactly one pint.

The problem is that some people like a head, sometimes as much as half an inch, on top of their pint; others like to add things like lime or blackcurrant and there are others who just want to take accuracy to levels of absurdity. All these groups wish to replace brim-fill glasses with ones that should be filled up to a plimsol line. Unfortunately if you're not a frothy person, and one must bear in mind that most real ales nowadays are relatively flat, you get an uncomfortable sensation of short measure. Quite frankly when I ask for a pint of beer I expect it full to the brim. Anything else is bad manners and poor etiquette.

In 1979, Parliament was expected to adopt a revised Weights and Measures act of which Section 19 stated that a legal pint should consist entirely of liquid, irrespective of any froth or foam on top of the drink. This would have made lined glasses compulsory and brim ones would

probably have disappeared. However before the final decision there was an election, a change of government and the new administration is still considering the matter.

In the meantime there has been a High Court case and ruling that has really set the cat amongst the pigeons, ratifying that the froth or head is an integral part of the pint. This in effect means that if a customer is happy and wishes for a large head it is quite legal to have the beer served up with as much as 90% froth. Although it should be stressed that if he does not want a head he is entitled to insist on 100% liquid. Most licensees are quite reputable and honest and will be pleased to oblige.

What publicans are not always so happy about is customers that wish to use their own pots. This is not them being inhospitable. Whether they are serving up a pint of liquid or a pint of froth it has to be measured and so they will need it to first be stamped by the local weights and measures office. The accurancy they will be looking for is to be nil short of a pint and not more than 1 fluid oz over (brimful) and ½ fluid oz over if lined.

Whether brimful or lined, I wonder if we will get the drinking vessel sorted out before George Orwell catches up with us, or will it really ever matter?

REAL BEER IN LONDON NEW EDITION NOW AVAILABLE

- 2375 Pubs
- 130 Beers
- 61 Breweries
- 48 Maps

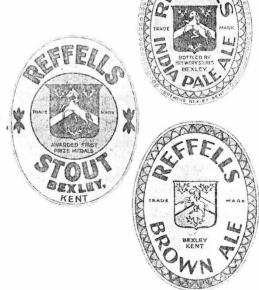
Price £1.95 plus 21p postage from RBIL 82 Cavendish Avenue, Harrow, Middx. enclose a 8"x6" SAE.

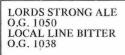
London Breweriania-2

In our second look backwards at London's brewing heritage, *Mostyn Lewis* remembers Reffell's.

The labels shown are from one of London's longer-lasting independent breweries. Reffell's brewery was in Bourne Road, Bexley, and was founded in 1874. In 1899 Reffell's bought the London pubs of Showell's (Oldbury, Birmingham), in 1910 took over Burrows' Crays Brewery of St Mary Cray, and in 1931 took over the Hampstead Brewery of Hampstead High Street NW3. Despite this steady expansion, the tied estate was a mere 19 pubs when taken over by Courage in 1956. The brewery was closed, but is still standing as a wine and spirit store, as in fact is the Hampstead premises.

(Our thanks to the Labologists Society for providing the labels. The society is keen to add to its collection and can be contacted via Keith Osborne, 211 Pinewood Close, Cove, Farnborough, Hants).







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

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THE BITTER EXPERIENCE, 129 LEE ROAD SE3

CARVIL WINES, 8 NORWOOD HIGH STREET SE27

Phone the Brewery for details

• LOCAL •

• PUBS FOR SALE

PUBS ARE BEING offered up for sale all over London and, according to the *Morning Advertiser*, are attracting quite a bit of interest. It seems there are still people crazy enough to want to run a pub, which is good news for the rest of us.

One of the pubs on the market is the King of Beasts, the former Duke of Bridgewater, which was one of the early home-brew pubs in London. Whatever happens to it, we can tell you that it has stopped brewing its own beer.

DRUM REFIT

THE DRUM BAR in Waterloo Station is being closed for alterations. Meanwhile, the nearby Wellington opposite the station has been expanded.

Travellers Fare are selling Ind Coope beers at 10p pint off. We believe that the scheme, which began in July, does not apply in September though it is due to operate in October and November. We may be wrong, so it is worth checking in the Wellington and in station bars to see what is happening.

TRUMAN TROUBLES?

WHILE THE Watney launch of Webster's proceeds smoothly, there seem to be a few hiccups with Truman's spread of their draught beers. While some pubs have accepted them an appear to be doing very well others, from our experience, have problems. We hope we are wrong, but we just wonder how many pubs who have had the beer installed will be selling it by the end of the year.

One that is doing very well by real ale is the Prince Albert in Acton Street near Kings's Cross. All three draught beers are sold and a mahogany board listing the beers now hangs over the handpumps. Clearly a landlord willing to give the beers this kind of boost is likely to do far better than those who seem almost embarrassed by them.

More cheerful and intriguing news about Truman is that they are apparantly using wooden casks in some cases. We do not know more than that a present, but we have been told of one pub in North London and one in the City

where mirrors have been placed so that the barrels are visible.

BARGAIN BEERS

A HAPPY NINETY minutes to the Red Lion, in Rosoman Street, EC1. Between 5.30 and 7.00 from Monday to Friday, the Wethered is reduced to 60p a pint.

Another Young's pub selling bitter at 60p (public bar) is the **Queen's Arms**, Kilburn High Road, NW6.

The Good Samaritan in Turner St., E1 lives up to its name with 10p off Truman and Godson beers. We have improved our consolidated list so that pubs can appear under more than one heading. Because many readers will have copies of *Real Beer In London*, where many of the pubs can be found, we now list pubs by postal district rather than by name of area and hope this makes it easier to identify them.

As we have found it impossible so far to arrive at a policy on bargains, we think that pubs which do offer exceptional value should be singled out. Those pubs which we believe sell a pint of bitter for not more than 57p are indicated by an asterisk. If any are included by mistake, or if we have left out deserving cases, please let us know.

Please not that the recommendation refers to price specifically. If the beer turns out to be excellent as well, that should be regarded as a bonus!

All Day

The Packenham Arms, WC1; the Clarence* in SW5; the Hop Picker in E2; Dick's Bar, N8; Welch Bros., N2; the Sun* in Carshalton; the Royal George in SE10; the Royal Albion in Hounslow; the Pied Bull in SW16; the Windsor Castle, N1; the Ranelagh, N11; the Ironbridge *in E14; the Crane, SW18; the Grand Junction Arms, NW10; the Castle, SW15 and the Anchor & Hope, E5.

Early Evening

Ship & Shovel* in WC2; Percy Arms, WC1; the Moon* in WC2; the Old Windmill in Hadley Highstone; the Salisbury in Barnet; the Wattenden Arms in Kenley; the King William IV in NW3; J.J. Moons in N19 and the Malt & Hops* in N1.

Other Evening

Leather Exchange Tavern* in SE1; Worcester Arms, W1; King's Head, SW19; the Golden Lion,

SW1; the King's Head, W3 and the Cavalier* in Wallington.

Lunchtime (part)

Bricklayer's Arms, EC2; Edinburgh, SE15; Ship & Shovel* in WC2; the Worcester Arms, W1; the King's Head W3; the Golden Lion, SW1; the Ebury Arms, SW1; J.J. Moons, N19; the Salisbury, Barnet and the King William IV, NW3.

Specials

The Malt & Hops* in N1 (Weekends and Tuesday); J.J. Moons in N19 (Fridays). and the King's Head, W3 (Sunday eve.)

Beyond Category

Mitcham Mint in SW16 and the Prohibition in Croydon.

IS THIS A RECORD?

AT THE END of July, only three weeks after it opened, Andrew Marler's new pub in the Archway Road had already dispensed a total of 65 beers from its fifteen handpumps.

Meanwhile, Marler's previous pub in Pentonville Road has been sold. It is still a free house but is now called the Pint Pot.

OFF-TRADE NEWS

A SECOND shop for the Grogblossom, whose first off-licence has been a big success in West Hampstead. The new one is further north in Shenley Road, Borehamwood and will be managed by Paul O'Connor, previously the Assistant Manager in Hampstead.

Another shop selling draught beer is the Corner Off Licence, on the corner of Calabria Road and Corsica Street in Highbury N5. One beer is on sale, selected from the likes of Greene King, Adnams and Everards.

OUTLETS FOR BROWN

We understand that Matthew Brown's bitter from Blackburn is now available in the following pubs in London.

The Sun Lamb's Conduit St. WC1.
The Moon New North St. WC1.
The Southern Stars New Cross Road, SE14.
The Princess Louise High Holborn, WC1.

BARGAIN PROTEST

SOME LUCKY residents of Enfield have been getting beer at half price. Only on Sunday, and just between 9.30 and closing time in the evening. We discovered this through a story in the

Morning Advertiser which, as stories about reduced prices tend to be in that August journal, was all about protesting landlords. The Goat in Forty Hill, Enfield is the 'offending' pub and North London licensees were said to be "up in arms" over this disgraceful attempt to give customers a treat.

To be fair to the North London licensees, there could be more to it than a simple piece of landlord initiative. The **Goat** is a Truman managed house and the action of the pub was defended, not by the manager but by a Truman spokesman. He said "it is not our policy to expand this to other pubs. The manager felt he had to introduce it to bring back his customers, and we do not anticipate it will be a long-term situation."

There is a suggestion here that the brewery might be involved in this reduction to the extent of a subsidy, which if true might be termed provocative. It certainly worked, anyway, as one of the complainants said that "My trade has gone down on Sundays and I have been wondering why."

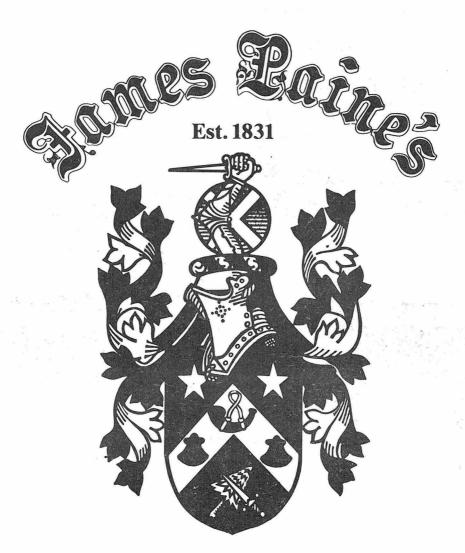
The simple answer to us would be for all the pubs in the area to knock their prices down on Sunday evening. Then we could see whether to total number of drinkers in them increases. Meanwhile, to get worked up over what happens during one hour of the week seems out of all proportion.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

AS ONE MIGHT have expected, the Falklands fighting has been commemorated in pub names. One of the first is the **Bull & Month** in Bloomsbury, which will be known henceforth as the **Falkland Arms**.

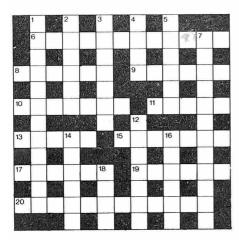
Pubs have traditionally been named after battles and campaigns. Our concern with this particular case is that an attractive, unusual and possibly significant name has been jettisoned in the process. Instead of picking on a Bull & Mouth, could not Chef & Brewer hire a pub with a more common name or, better still, build a new one?





FINE TRADITIONAL ALES FROM A COUNTRY BREWERY ST. NEOTS, CAMBS.

DRINKER XWORD 34



ACROSS

- 6. Voting intent leads to confusion.(5,7)
- 8. To ice and relax.(4,2)
- 9. Surface, thanks to Scot? (6)
- 10. Is a sage confused over weapon? (7)
- 11. All square last night in pounds. (5)
- 13. Figure with quiet copy. (5)
- 15. I leave bad judgement in a huff. (7)
- 17. Sound of a rise to agree. (6)
- 19. 'Ere, 'ere? I agree! (3,3)
- 20. Halt surrounds a ring-led muddle not for us! (5-3-4)

DOWN

- 1. I hear a symbol of the Pope's court? Ireland? (6,3,3)
- 2. Dog rest below hill. (6)
- 3. The waist as before. (2,2,3)
- 4. Bet with Irish money. (4)
- 5. Averages are thin when between points. (6)
- 7. Stagger inside a title reversed yet runs the show. (5-7)
- 12. Non-alcoholic version of 20? (7)
- 14. Arranged before pointless gift. (3-3)
- 16. When left below hill gets very warm. (6)
- 18. Very hard meat without bend. (4)

Bitter Experience

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After the Accolade

THE GOOD BEER GUIDE, which next year celebrates its tenth anniversary, has become one of the leading consumer publications in the country. As with all guides in which people who may be supposed to know something about a subject recommend their favourites, the Good Beer Guide is influential. A visitor to a strange town may decide to drink in one pub out of the five, ten or twenty available just because he or she has seen it in the GBG. Most landlords are keen to be honoured by selection, quite apart from seeking commercial benefit.

We have been thinking about this in recent months because London Drinker has been affected directly. Two pubs which sold substantial numbers of our magazine have now withdrawn it from their shelves: one, because the pub did not get into the current GBG; the other because it was taken out. We are naturally upset, as it is fair neither to us nor to those who drink in the pubs and who look forward to buying the Drinker. By pointing this out and by giving a brief account of the selection problems, we hope to dissuade pubs from doing this to us in the future.

A few words about the Good Beer Guide. It is unique because it combines complete independence — no pub can buy its way in and there is no advertising — with a system of quotas. Compare it with the Good Food Guide, for instance, where the only reason for choosing a restaurant appears to be the quality of the food and the cooking. This means that some areas of the country may have several entries while others have few or none.

By contrast the GBG aims for a regional spread. The final choice is made by CAMRA branches and each branch is allowed a number of entries which corresponds roughly to the number of real ale pubs in the area. A balance is preserved, however, so that a branch in Greater Manchester where real draught beer abounds may have proportionately fewer places in the GBG than a branch in Northumberland, where real ale is scarce.

When the first GBG came out in 1974, few pubs met even the primary qualification of serving cask-conditioned beer. CAMRA had yet to develop its country-wide expertise so that, in some areas, a pub needed only to sell the stuff to be chosen.

It is far harder today. The number of pubs eligible in Greater London has risen, as

readers will know, from about 500 in 1974 to over 2,300 at the time the recent *Real Beer In London* was published. It is now well over 2,500. Branches are restricted overall to picking one pub from every ten available: put another way, from every pub in London in the *GBG* there are about ten eager to take its place. Ten years ago, the chances were one in five.

Why are the pubs taken out? Three common reasons are:

- the standard has deteriorated:
- the local competition has improved;
- the landlord has left/will leave shortly.

Pubs do go downhill. Not necessarily from great to mediocre (we are talking, of course, about the beer) but from providing a consistently high quality pint to inconsistency. As often as not, human nature is to blame. Especially in a city like London with all the pressures, it would be very surprising if every landlord were able to maintain his standard year in and year out.

Even with the present ratios, some branches claim they have difficulty finding enough good pubs to fill their quota. More often, the number of pubs worth recommending outstrips the number of places in the GBG. What happens then? Branches may decide to spread the accolade around. We do not know whether they do this in London, but a careful reading of the entries for at least one village in England suggests that the locals rotate the pubs so that a different one gets into the GBG each year.

And why not, if they sell equally good beer?

A change of landlord generally means that the pub will be put on probation before the branch considers it again for selection. With so many chasing so few places, branches welcome this as an opportunity to make room for a new entrant.

CAMRA is at present looking at the GBG and may recommend changes in format. Whatever happens, there seems to be good reason why some sort of regional allocation should continue. The Good Food Guide approach is suited to people who pay the sort of price which good food invariably costs in this country. To select pubs on this basis would not meet the needs of beer drinkers, who prefer to know that there is a pub within reach wherever they may be. Despite the cost of a pint these days, the risks for the beer fancier in choosing a pub are still less daunting

INTRODUCING.....

J.J. MOON'S

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(ESTABLISHED JUNE 1982)

TRADITIONAL ALES

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financially than those facing the gournet who commits himself to at least £5 whenever he sits down in a restaurant.

There are bound to be changes in the 1983 Good Beer Guide. Some pubs will be dropped; others will take their place.

This must be so because the number allocated to London, as elsewhere, has not increased. In some cases, one pub selling good beer may simply make way for another. In others, the standard, in the branch's opinion, will have fallen away.

A landlord whose pub has been removed might ask himself some questions. Does he get as many compliments for his beer as before? Are customers becoming more stroppy? Is his draught beer selling as well as ever? Do any of his regulars now seem to spend at least as much time in the pub up the road?

Or is it all CAMRA's fault? Our pages are open to any landlord who feels that justice has not been done. All we ask is, please don's take it out on *London Drinker*.

Real Beer in London ~ Update 7

All beer served by handpump

Additions

- W1 Holyrood, 77 Wells St. Shepherd Neame: Bitter; Younger: IPA
- W1 Queen's Head, 93 Marylebone High St. Mann's: IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter.
- W1 *Valiant Trooper, 18 Goodge St. Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- WC1 Boot, 116 Cromer St. Charrington: IPA
- WC1 *Dolphin, 47 Tonbridge St. Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- WC2 Marquis of Granby, 142 Shaftesbury Ave. Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- WC2 Pullman Bar, Charing Cross Hotel, Strang. Bass; Courage: Directors
- EC1 Lord Nelson, 17 Mora St. Watney: London bitter
- EC1 Lord Nelson, 262 Old St. Mann: IPA; Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- E2 Conqueror, 2 Austin St. Charrington: IPA
- E2 Knights, 111 Gosset St. Young: Special
- E3 Duke of York, 129 Antil Rd. Taylor Walker: Bitter
- E4 Queen Elizabeth, 95 Forest Side. Truman: Mild, bitter, Best bitter.
- E5 Jubilee, 278 Millfields Rd. Truman: Best bitter
- E6 White Horse, 125 High St. South. Charrington: Crown, IPA
- E7 Wagon & Horses, 392 Romford Rd. Mann: IPA
- E11 North Star, 24 Browning Rd. Charrington: IPA
- E12 Blakesley Arms, 53 Station Rd. Charrington: IPA
- E13 Green Gate, 525 Barking Rd. Charrington: Crown, IPA
- E15 Green Man, 196 High St. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- E15 Theatre Royal Bar, Gerry Raffles Sq. Wells: Bitter, Bombardier
- E16 Graving Dock Tavern, 353 North Woolwich Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- K16 Ordnance Arms, 110 Barking Rd. Truman:
 Best bitter
 N1 Edinburgh Castle, 297 Caledonian Rd. Coura
- N1 Edinburgh Castle, 297 Caledonian Rd. Courage: Beat bitter, Directors
- N1 Gerrard Arms, 41 Gerrard Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors.
- Nt Mydleton Arms, 52 Canonbury Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors

- N1 Narrow Boat, 119 St. Peters St. Bass; Charrington: IPA
- N1 Prince Regent, 201 Liverpool Rd. Courage: Directors
- N3 Golden Eagle, 58 Regents Park Rd. Bass; Charrington: IPA
- N4 Arsenal Tavern, 175 Blackstock Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors
- N6 Olde Gate House, North Rd. Watney: London bitter, Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- N11 Arnos Arms, 338 Bowes Rd. Charrington: IPA
- N12 Tally Ho, 749 High Rd. Bass
- N12 Torrington Arms, 4 Lodge Lane, Wethered:
- N16 Howard Arms, 21 Howard Rd. (2 of 4 beers available) Courage: Directors; Fuller: London Pride; Tolly Cobbold: Original; Young: Special
- N16 Londesborough, 36 Barbauld Rd. Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- BARNET Green Man, 143 High St. McMullen: Country bitter
- BARNET Kings Arms, Stirling Corner, Bass; Charrington: IPA
- NW1 Chalk Farm Tavern, 89 Regents Park Rd. Charrington: IPA
- NW1 Prince Albert, 11 Princess Rd. Bass; Charrington: IPA
- NW1 Stirrup Cup Bar, St. Pancras Stn. Ruddle: Bitter, County; Samuel Smith: OBB
- NW5 Old Farm House, 289 Kentish Town Rd. Ruddle: Bitter
- NW8 Lords Tavern, St. Johns Wood Rd. Watney: Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- NW9 Kings Arms, 163 The Hyde. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- PINNER Bell, 1 Pinner Grn. Benskin: Bitter:
- Ind Coope, Burton Ale
 SE1 Old Bridge House, 218 Tower Bridge Rd.
 Tower: Bermondsey bitter, Special bitter
- SE1 Ship Aground, 33 Wolseley St. Courage: Best bitter, Directors
- SE5 Station, 296a Camberwell New Rd. Watney: London bitter, Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- SE7 Bugle Horn, 6 The Village, Charrington: Crown, IPA
- SE7 Rose of Denmark, 298 Woolwich Rd. Courage: Best bitter, Directors
- SE8 Crown & Sceptre, 92 Friendly St. Courage: Best bitter, Directors

· ANNOUNCEMENT ·

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- SE9 King & Queen, Kimmeridge Rd. Truman: Bitter
- SE10 Old Friends, 11 Woolwich Rd. Charrington, Crown
- SE15 Montpelier, 43 Choumert Rd. Watney: London
- SE17 Hampton Court Palace, 21 Crampton St. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- SE18 Albion, 74 Woolwich Church St. Courage: Best bitter, Directors
- SE18*Earl of Chatham, 15 Thomas St. Webster: Yorkshire
- SE18*Fox Under The Hill, 286 Shooters Hill Rd. Mann:
- SE22 Forest Hill Tavern, 108 Forest Hill Rd. Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- SE22 Lord Palmerston, 91 Lordship Lane, Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- SE22 Old Cherry Tree, 31 Grove Vale. Truman: Best bitter
- BROMLEY Bird in Hand, Bickley Rd. Bickley. Friary Meux: Bitter; Ind Coope: Burton Ale
- Oval Tavern, (reinstated). Fremlin: Tusker; CROYDON Webster: Yorkshire bitter; Wethered: Bitter; Yound: Special

- HAYES Pickhurst Tavern, Pickhurst Lane, Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- SW1 *Ebury Arms, 11 Pimlico Rd. Watney: Stag; Webster: Yorkshire bitter
- Hop Poles, 60 Upper Tulse Hill, Truman: Bitter, Best bitter
- SW2 White Horse, 94 Brixton Hill. Truman: Best
- SW3 *Enterprise, 35 Walton St. Webster: Yorkshire
- * At the time of checking, these pubs were selling some beers via DCL Air Pressure Pump. These should be replaced soon.

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



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8-12 SEPTEMBER 1982

Where to buy London Drinker

OUTLETS - East and South East

Pubs

- EC1 LORD NELSON, 262 Old Street
- SEKFORDE ARMS, Sekforde Street EC1
- EC1 STICK & WEASEL, 273 City Road
- BRICKLAYERS ARMS, 63 Charlotte Road EC2
- WINDMILL, 27 Tabernacle Street EC2
- EC3 LAMB TAVERN, 101 Leadenhall Market
- LUDGATE CELLARS, Apothecary Lane, EC4
- EC4 OLD BELL, 95 Fleet Street
- POPINJAY, Fleet Street EC4
- WILLIAMSON'S TAVERN, 1 Groveland Court EC4
- E1LORD NELSON, 230 Commercial Road
- MACKWORTH ARMS, 158 Commercial Road E1
- E2 HOP PICKER, 483 Hackney Road
- E2 MARKSMAN, Hackney Road

- E2 ROYAL STANDARD, 165 Kingsland Road
- E8 ROSE & CROWN, Mare Street
- E11 NORTHCOTE, 110 Grove Green Road
- E14 IRONBRIDGE TAVERN, 447 East India Dock Road
- SE₁ HORSESHOE, Melior Street
- SE₁ LEATHER EXCHANGE, Leather Market St.
- SE₁ MUDLARK, Montague Close
- SE₁ MARKET PORTER, Borough Market
- SE1 PINEAPPLE, 53 Hercules Road
- SE₁ VICTORY BAR, Waterloo Station
- SE₁ WELLINGTON TAVERN, Waterloo Road
- SE4 WICKHAM ARMS, Upper Brockley Road
- SE10 ROYAL GEORGE, Bissett Street

SeeO

WHERE TO GET LONDON DRINKER CONTINUED

SE13 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, High Street

SE15 OLD NUN'S HEAD, Nunhead Lane

SE16 PRINCE OF ORANGE, 118 Lower Road

SE18 QUEEN VICTORIA, 118 Wellington Street

SE18 MELPOURNE ARMS, Sandy Hill Road

SE18 GATEHOUSE, Leda Road

SE18 VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, Hillreach

SE19 ROYAL ALBERT, Westow Hill

SE20 LONDON TAVERN, Maple Road

SE27 HOPE, 49 Norwood High Street BEXLEY BLUE ANCHOR, Brigden Road

BROMLEY PRINCE FREDERICK, Nichol Lane

CROYDON BIRD IN HAND, Sydenham Road CROYDON CATHERINE WHEEL, High Street

CROYDON HORSE & GROOM,

Cherry Orchard Road

CROYDON LION, Pawsons Road

CROYDON ROYAL STANDARD, Sheldon Street

CROYDON SHIP, 47 High Street KENLEY WATTENDEN ARMS,

Old Lodge Lane

OFF TRADE

E4 Waltham Wines, 72 Sewardstone Road

E17 Bootlegger, Hoe Street

E17 Old Cellas, Pretoria Street

SE3 Bitter Experience, 128 Lee Road

SE11 Alan Greenwood's, 226 Kennington Park Rd.

SE13 Alan Greenwood's, 252 Lewisham High St.

SE23 2 Brewer's, 97 Dartmouth Park Rd.

SE27 Carval Wines, Norwood High Street

BEXLEY HEATH Bitter Experience,

216 Broadway

BROMLEY

Bitter End, Masons Hill

NEW OUTLETS

Pubs

WC1 GOLDEN LION, 2 Britannia Street

N19 MARLERS, 19 Archway Road

N19 J.J. MOON, Landseer Road

SE27 S.LONDON THEATRE, 1a Norwood Road

SW1 SPREAD EAGLE, Grosvenor Road

SW6 WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green SW12 GROVE, 39 Oldridge Road

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