vol.6 no.4 May 1984

LONDONS DRINKER

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



The New Inn at Ealing, see Pub Crawl page 12. Photo: John Elliott.

BRANCH DIARY

If your breach is not mentioned below please ring the branch contact. Events for May of which we have been notified are as follows. Branches please send details of events to Andy Pirson.

EAST LONDON: Tue. 1 (8.00) Branch Meeting BEDFORD HOTEL, 220 Victoria Park Road, E9 (until midnight but please arrive by 10.30). Thu. 3 (7.30 for 8.00) Very Special all Comers Social. BARKING BREWERY, 4 Riverside Works, Hertford Road, Barking (½ mile Barking Tube) - Thu. 10 (8.00) Social BRITISH PRINCE, 49 Bromley Street, E1 - Tue. 15 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting BLACK HORSE, 168 Mile End Road, E1 - Sat. 19 (7.30) Homerton to Hackney Crawl, start BRUNSWICK ARMS (Two Black Birds, Northumberland Arms, Horse & Groom, Cat & Mutton, Rose & Crown) E9 & E8 - Thu. 24 (8.00) Social DOWNS HOTEL, 75 Downs Road, E5 - Tue. 29 (8.00) Social & Darts v. Lord Brooke (return match). FISH & RING, 141a White Horse Rd, E1 - Sunday lunchtimes in May (noon - 2.00) 'alves at the APPROACH TAVERN, 47 Approach Rd, E2.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun. 6 (12.00) Lunchtime drink GLYN ARMS, Ewell - Thu. 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting, LINCOLN ARMS, Thames St. Weybridge - Wed. 23 (8.00) Darts Social, NEW INN, Rushett Road, Long Ditton.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Tue. 1 (8.30) Committee Meeting. ROYAL OAK, 13 Richmond Road, Twickenham - Thu. 10 (8.30) Social RIFLEMAN, 50 Hanworth Road, Hounslow - Mon. 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting. GRIFFIN, 57 Brook Road, Brentford - Thu. 31 (8.30) Social, HOLE IN THE WALL, 3 Park Rd, Richmond.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Tue 1 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting ANCHOR, SE13 - Mon. 14 (8.00) Branch Meeting. BEN TRUMAN, SE1 - Thu. 31 (8.30) Social Pub Crawl. Start NEPTUNE, SE16 - Fri/Sat. 8/9 June Greenwich Beer Festival (more details next month.)

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu.10 (8.00) Branch Meeting LORD RAGLAN, 392 Wandsworth Road, SW8 - Fri. 18 (8.00) Social HABERDASHERS ARMS, Culvert Rd, SW11.

WEST LONDON: Thu. 17 (8.00) Branch Meeting. WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 - Tue/Thu. 1-3 (all pub hours) extended May Days Social (Mini Beer Festival). CHISWICK EYOT, 122 High Rd, W4.



CAMRA - the Campaign for Real Ale is a consumer organisation run by beer drinkers for beer drinkers. We believe that beer brewed from traditional malt and hops, matured in casks in the pub and dispensed via handpumps, electric pumps or by gravity - without the use of gas pressure - is not only better tasting but usually cheaper than heavily advertised kegs and "lagers". We don't want to tell you what to drink (though we hope you'll give real ale a try!) but we hope that you believe in choice.



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 Limited.

LONDON DRINKER is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS (£1.40 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

June edition available end of May. Copy should reach editors by 5th May. Closing date for July edition 4th June.



Question - When is 2p not 2p?

Answer - When Nigel Lawson says that the increase in duty will raise the price of the

average pint of beer by 2p.

As I write this it is too early as yet to tell what the real effect of the budget will be on beer prices in the Capital. Fullers do not seem to have put up their prices yet certainly neither of the Fullers pubs I use regularly have done so yet. On the other hand, my local Charringtons pub has put a standard 3p on its three draught beers, M&B Springfield Bitters, IPA and Draught Bass. This is, I think, a bit of levelling off here Springfield, at an original gravity of 1037 hardly seems to be far enough above the national average strength to warrant an

increase in price 50% higher than Mr. Lawson's "average". Still, we have come to expect 2p a pint meaning at least 3p, haven't we?

More significant though, is the Courage pub only a few hundred yards from the above mentioned house which is reported to have increased the price of its Directors by no less than 7p a pint "because of the budget sir." Now I must admit at this point that I have not yet been into this pub to check for myself (Do you blame me?) but my source who lives midway between the two pubs is most reliable.

Talking of 7p a pint - this is, of course, what informed sources were suggesting as an average increase if Mr. Lawson had not cut the duty on wine by 18p a bottle to follow the ruling of the European Court. It is to his credit that he redressed the balance in the way that he did though I do not believe that he had any real alternative (Isn't hindsight wonderful) and I acknowledge that cigarette smokers may take a different view. I just shudder to think what the increase in some pubs would be if the "average" increase had been 7p a pint!

Cont. p. 19

CAMRA AND CHARRINGTONS PRESENT IN CENTRAL LONDON

3rd CAPITAL BEER NIGHT

An evening out with "London Drinker"

Wednesday 23rd May - 6.30 p.m. onwards Upstairs room, The George, 213 Strand, WC2.

(Opposite Law Courts)

Highgate Mild and Bass on Gravity — Cut price pints (whole stocks last)

FOOD, SPECIAL OFFER ON CAMRA PRODUCTS

* Labologists stall - Bottle Collection *

GUEST SPEAKER - 7.30 p.m.

Entry by coupon - fill out and tear off.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

The pub profile penned by Martin Smith in the March edition of London Drinker is, I believe, misleading as the Castle in no way comes under the definition of a "pub" as expounded in your pages from month to month. Lunchtime clientele differs greatly from evening clientele and as such the Castle would not have won the Pub of the Year Award if judged after 9 p.m.

The article states that the evenings attract a wide variety of customers with the accent on good music when in fact I doubt if more than 10% are under the age of 30 and the music becomes so loud as to be damaging to the hearing system. Many people, myself included, enjoy loud music at home but go to a pub for a drink and a chat. Conversation at the Castle is rendered nigh impossible. I also consider myself fortunate that I do not live near the pub and I bet Martin Smith would not wish to live near the pub either.

We all expect to enjoy ourselves within a pub not outside it at the annoyance of local residents. I have only been at the Castle at closing time on two occasions when car radios blared out due, no doubt, to the car occupants' deafness and tyre rubber has been left on the roads. The tenants have in my view brought about their own downfall.

D.L. Goodhew, Worchester Park.

Dear Sirs.

Regrettably, Muswell Hill (N10) does not have 100% real ale availability as your correspondent Tony Hunt claims. He has omitted the other Royal Oak in Sydney Road, a Watney house which has yet to see the light.

John Conen, Muswell Hill, N.10.

COURAGE PRICE RISES

As Andy points out in his Editorial, prices in some Courage pubs went up rather more than the Chancellor required after the Budget. In some cases the increase also went on with indecent haste. Pubs run by Imperial Inns & Taverns exhibited a notice saying that prices would rise - by the requisite amounts - only five days after the Budget. Duty is charged at the time of brewing, not at the time of sale which in many cases comes weeks later. At the time of going to press (April 9th) some beers, particularly those from small breweries, had not risen in prices. No further comment needed.

REAL ALE and REAL JAZZ

AT THE

Prince of Orange



118 LOWER ROAD ROTHERHITHE SE16 237 9181



LIVE JAZZ SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK PLUS

Saturday, Sunday lunchtime!

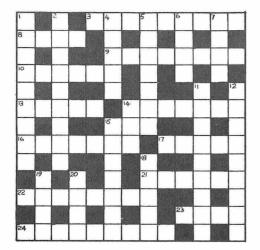
RESIDENT REAL ALES: TRUMANS MILD, BITTER, BEST BITTER & SAMPSON

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

Hot Food! - Cocktails! - Free Admission!

DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



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All correct entries received by first post on 29th May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Frize winner will be announced in the July London Drinker. Solution next month.

Last Month's Solution



£5 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

- 3. Sees newts about non-bitter state.
- 8. He's found with beer and cork tip.
 (4)
- 9. Duet stab wildly to find sense organ. (5,3)
- 10. Into warm drinks at the work place?
 (6)
- 13. Never upset? But you will be if you lose it. (5)
- 14. Burn gen about weapon. (4,3)
- 15. Sleep around with young leter? (3
- 16. Bats in a muddle give up. (7)
- 17. Cut up about endless cinema. (5)
- 21. Tea, up North, when split may be roasted. (6)
- 22. The way Jack becomes a tease? (8)
- 23. Fallen idol finds a watering place.
- 24. Thirties redhead in greater need of a drink? (9)

DOWN

- Baron also may drop into the pub room. (6,3)
- latest to come round on behalf of woodland. (3,6)
- 4. Tar we cough up and find liquid. (5)
- 5. Oriental String festival over Arctic? (7)
- Must have what's found in fine edition. (4)
- 7. Sticks up for the self-satisfied? (4)
- 11. Giant and I get together for a drink. (1,3,3,2)
- 12. Under canvas I only half find meaning. (9)
- 14. Catch up and throw out. (3)
- 15. Tip-top Netherlands capital may contain drink. (4,3)
- 18. Feers may go out on it. (5)
- 19. Be irritated in the dimly lit church. (4)
- 20. Rail about deceiver. (4)

All entries to be submitted to: London Drinker Crossword, 25 Valens House, Upper Tulse Hill, London SW 2.

Winner of the prize for the March crossword:
G. Conoley, 22 Blake Hall Crescent, London E 11.

LONDON DRINKING

by Red Rover This month's crawl takes me into new territory as far as my 'London Drinking' articles are concerned, and finds me travelling on the Northern Line to Morden where I have to run (at my age too) to catch a 293 to what might loosely be termed Hackbridge I suppose.

The pub I am aiming for is called the St. Heliers Arms (on the sign) or the St. Helier Arms (on the pub itself) and is in the middle of a rather uninspiring swathe of South London housing estate, I notice that it is only 1720 so I proceed to loiter in a Butcher's shop doorway whilst awaiting the allotted hour. I also notice that the door of the pub seems to be open, despite the time, but I am not inclined to venture in as they may still be slopping out from lunchtime! However, 1730 soon arrives and I venture inside to find the guvnor standing behind the bar eagerly awaiting my custom. Regrettably I have to disappoint him, as neither the Wethereds or the Flowers Original are available. He does explain that he has only been here three weeks having just moved down from Birmingham, and that supplies will shortly be resumed.

Slightly disappointed, I walk back one bus stop in order to catch a 151, a new route which takes me down towards Sutton. I alight at the end of Sutton Common Road, which I then walk down to reach the Plough, a large roadhouse type pub which thinks it's a Steakhouse. Entering the saloon, I sample a pleasant drop of Charrington IPA in a very pleasant atmosphere not remotely like a Steakhouse.

Back outside, I am staggered to find that the 80 bus is supposed to run every ten minutes, but as two immediately turn up together, the actual service may be a little different.

I alight in Collingwood Road, at the back of Sutton Bus Garage, intending to visit the Sydney Arms. A building contractors skip full of bricks outside makes me a little apprehensive and indeed, although the exterior of the pub is intact, there is NOTHING inside whatsoever - I shall have to return here as well

Walking out to Sutton Green, I just miss a 154, which means I have a 20 minute wait until the next one. It arrives uneventfully and I alight just beyond Carshalton Beeches

Station. I then walk straight dov n Woodmansterne Road in search of a place called the Oaks, a sort of leisure centre I am told. After about 20 minutes walking, I am beginning to think that my informant was either winding me up - or just pissed as usual. However, on noticing several cars disappearing into an unmarked car park, I investigate. Sure enough, there is an uninspiring looking building labelled 'Oaks Squash Courts.' Within, however, is a pleasant enough bar dispensing an excellent drop of Courage Directors, Needless to say, there is an all-prevading essence of sweaty sportsmen (makes a change from sweaty beer bores I guess and a sort of holiday camp atmosphere in the loos! This certainly must be one of the most obscure Greater London real ale outlets I have ever visited.

As I am now in the middle of nowhere. I attempt to locate a couple of footpaths that are shown on my map without success. I therefore end up walking about another two miles to Woodcote Road where I am just in time to catch a 127 to Purley. I visit an establishment called the Bourne Tavern in the High Street, which, as you enter, appears not to be a pub at all, but a pool hall next to the cinema. Persevere, however, and you will find a bar down a few steps serving Truman Best Bitter and Sampson. The Best is pleasant but flat, though better than I would have expected in a carpeted pool palace. Exclusively for skarns, I would recommend this place for a good punch up on Friday and Saturday nights, but little else.

Outside I board a 166 to Coulsdon and investigate the recently refurbished Red Lion in the Brighton Road. The smell of food as I enter is absolutely devastating, but I resist (the prices helped) and request Websters Yorkshire Bitter, It's off, would I mind Ruddles County instead? Sensibly, I settle for Manns IPA, and find a quiet corner in which to read. The pub is all you would expect from an up-market roadhouse, but pleasant nonetheless, and is patronised by young people - about 50/50 skarns and humans. Having lost so much time walking down country lanes earlier on I leave quickly and catch the same 166 on its return journey (much to the driver's surprise) and alight at the Windsor Castle in South Croydon where Charrington IPA is available in the public bar. The beer matches the pub, uninteresting. The enthusiastic service is a delight to behold and the majority of the punters are crammed in one corner watching two skarns playing pool. I am delighted to leave.

Another short bus ride (any northbound bus) brings me to the Blue Anchor which, in my

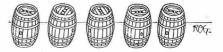
youth (don't all laugh) was always a good place to either get stabbed or pick up a nasty disease. Fortunately, it seems to have reformed from its former reputation. Further up the road towards Croydon is a wine bar now called the Barrell and Belly (congratulations Mr. Fahy, you are now famous) and which used to be the Red and White Wine Bar. It sells Eldbridge Pope Dorset IPA, Dorchester Bitter and Royal Oak as well as Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale. I opt for the Greene King IPA which is average. The place is a typical wine bar, very crowded and with a novel 'one at a time' loo in the cellar bar which provides some amusing cabaret from those queuing (with legs crossed) to use

Outside at the bus stop, I realise I have only another 45 minutes of this areas archaic licensing hours (Editors Note: As stated elsewhere, licensing hours in the Croydon area are now in line with Central London), so I board an approaching 194 bus and soon arrive outside the White Hart in West Wickham, which Sooty tells me is a nice pub. Sure enough, it is much improved since my last visit some years back. Charrington IPA and Bass are on offer and the IPA is excellent.

The pub is packed, but on surveying the clientele, I appear to be the only over 16 present (though at least they aren't all skarns) so what Sooty comes here for I'm not sure.

Feeling that this will be my last pub of the evening, I saunter out to the bus stop to head homewards. A 166 bus arrives instantly however, and the same driver as on the previous two occasions is now getting mighty suspicious. We make Croydon in about ten minutes flat and I realise I have time for another pub! I gasp into the Eagle at Reeves Corner just as a bell is being sounded (at 2228 I'm not really sure which one it is but I get served anyway so I don't really care maybe it was just my head ringing). The Wethereds in my glass tastes excellent and the pub seems to be a lively local serving the area well. A short walk and another short bus ride and I am at Tandoori Corner at Thornton Heath Pond drooling over my Crunchy Coachroach Curry and Rice delicious, and only 95 pence!

See you next month





Real Beer in London & Supplement Update 8

Updates to CAMRA London's comprehensive guide to Greater London's real ale pubs 'Real Beer in London' and its accompanying 'Real Beer in London Supplement' booklet are published monthly in 'London Drinker'. Information is included on additions, deletions and changes to real ale pubs listed in the Guide and Supplement.

Such information is not only of general interest but also enables CAMRA in London to monitor progress by the various brewers in terms of real ale availability.

If you know of any outlets for real ale not listed in 'Real Beer in London' and its supplement, or outlets where the details listed are incorrect or have changed, do not assume we know already but put pen to paper and write to: RBIL Update, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

ADDITIONS

EAST

E2 Prince of Wales, 76 Bishops Way. Mitchells & Butlers: Springfield Bitter.

E4 Royal Forest Hotel; Rangers Road. Younger: Scotch Bitter.

NORTH

N1 Talbot, 109 Mortiner Road. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

N16 Ebor Arms, 75 Howard Road. Watney: Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

NORTH WEST

NW1 Devonshire Arms, 33 Kentish Town Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors.

NW1 Dublin Castle, 94 Parkway, Watney: Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

SOUTH EAST

SE15 Sidmouth Arms, 102, Bird-in-Bush Rd. Fullers: London Pride, ESB.

SE16 Cliftonville Tavern, 128 Ilderton Road. Courage: Best Bitter.

SE16 Southwark Park Tavern, 395 Southwark Park Rd, Courage: Best Bitter, Directors.

SE19 Rising Sun, 23 Spa Hill, Charrington: IPA.

BIRCHWOOD Alma, Birchwood Corner, Charrington: IPA.

CROYDON Blue Anchor, South End, Ind Coope: Burton Ale.

CROYDON Eagle, 14 Reeves Corner, Wethered: Bitter.

CROYDON Fox & Hounds, 1 London Road. Charrington: IPA.

CROYDON Woolpack, 154 Gloucester Road. Ruddle: County. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

S. CROYDON Windsor Castle, 415 Brighton Road. Charrington: IPA.

SOUTH WEST

SW1 20's Bar, 39 Ranelagh Grove. Truman: Bitter, Best Bitter, Sampson.

SW4 FALCON, 33 Bedford Road, Charrington: IPA.

SW4 Sun, 47 Old Town, Charrington: IPA.

SW8 Bell, 274 Wandsworth Road, Courage: Directors (re-instatement.)

SW13 Edinburgh Castle, 73 White Hart Lane, Ind Coope: Burton Ale. Taylor Walker: Bitter.

WEST

W9 Prince of Wales, 351 Harrow Road,Truman: Best Bitter, Sampson.

ISLEWORTH Iron Bridge, 457 London Rd.
Watney: Stag Bitter, Webster: Yorkshire
Bitter.

ISLEWORTH Laboring Boys, 169 Worton Rd Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

ISLEWORTH Victoria, 56 Worple Road. Courage: Best Bitter (re-instatement)

SOUTHALL St. George & The Dragon, 33
High Street. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.
TEDDINGTON Masons Arms, 41 Walpole

Road. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.

DELETIONS

The following pubs should be deleted for the reasons given. The number in brackets after each entry refers to the page number in Real Beer in London* or the Supplement (S prefix), or to the London Drinker Update number (U prefix). H represents handpumps. The information provided is correct to the best of our knowledge. If any pubs have reverted to selling real ale the compilers would be pleased to receive details.

DELETIONS

CENTRAL

W1	Samuel Pepys	H Unused
	Charrington	(31)
TOI	DI C ID	O1 1

EC1 Blue Coat Boy Closed Taylor Walker (S10)

EC2 Stirling Castle Demolished Friary Meux (40)

EC3 Mandys Real Ale only in private club bar. Free House (S11) EC4 Two Brewers Renamed Dizzy's

EC4 Two Brewers Renamed Dizzy's Charrington H Removed (S12)

EAST

E1	Rose & Punchbowl	H Unused
	Watney	(S14)
E2	Hop Picker	H. Unused

E2 Hop Picker H. Unused
Charrington (46)
E3 Bombay Grab H. Unused

Taylor Walker (46)
E3 Bow Bells H. Unused

Taylor Walker (46)

E3 Duke of York H Unused Taylor Walker (S15)

E3 Kings Arms H Unused Taylor Walker (47)

E3 Milton Arms H. Unused Charrington (47)

cont.pg.21

8

A FRIENDLY, COMFORTABLE FREE HOUSE IN KENSAL TOWN, NORTH WEST LDN.

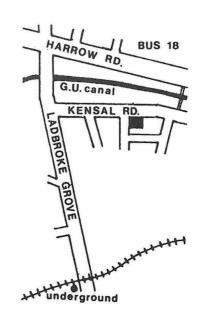
NUCTA GE OUE

KENSAL RD. W.10.

A Good Selection
Of Hot & Cold Food
Mon. to Fri. Lunchtimes

Live Entertainment At Weekends

Easy Parking



Youngs Special, Bass & IPA

Round the Houses



The Further adventures of a North London idiot on the Youngs passport.

By chance I found myself with a free evening to kill off so I set to 'mop up' a few of the Youngs houses around the City/West End. Leaving the Circle Line at Tower Hill I headed north through the back streets to Fenchurch Street Station. It was by the entrance drive to the station that I found the East India Arms and also received the biggest shock of the evening. The pub itself was empty (I am led to understand that this is unusual) and has a single wood panelled bar with a display of fishing hooks and unique handpump handles. The beer was in fairly good condition but then the shock, 10p more than one would pay in any other tied house. Deciding that my purse could not stretch to another pint I departed.

Leaving the pub I headed to the monument (which I admired for five minutes) and then crossed London Bridge. Continuing south I soon came across the George Inn of Borough High Street. The George Inn is probably the most amazing pub building in London. It is, I believe, the only galleried inn in London and is set in its own courtyard. The building itself is owned by the National Trust and leased to Whitbread, whose beer I found most acceptable. It is worth noting the very unusual 'cash register' handpumps in the bar.

From the George I ambled across Borough High Street and up Southwark Street. After about ten minutes I came to Hopton Street. By turning up here and around there I eventually came to the Founders Arms. This is the

Youngs Brewery show pub and is a very pleasant modern building. In the summer it is possible to sit outside and admire the view of the City (although this is spoilt during weekdays by the comings and goings of helicopters to the landing pad across the river). The beer was in good condition but my enthusiasm for the pub has been dampened somewhat by the landlords attitude. He seemed to have a 'don't bother me' and 'why should I sign this form' attitude. I have mentioned this to two work colleagues whom I know to have used the pub on several occasions and they said that this is always the landlord's attitude. It is a shame that the pub is ruined by this.

Disgruntled I left the Founders Arms and returned to Southwark Street. By turning right and then left at the lights one soon reached the Prince William Henry. This is another modern building and has just the single bar. The attitude of the staff was a complete contrast to the last pub being very friendly and the beer was also very good.

Continuing on along Blackfriars Road I passed under the railway bridge and turned right up the cut. A short distance along one comes to the Anchor and Hope which is a Charley Wells house. The Anchor and Hope has recently been enlarged and I found it to be clean and smart. The quality of the beer has also improved out of all recognition since my last visit (the poor quality on that occasion being more a problem at the brewery than the fault of the pub), and was in very good nick.

I continued along the cut and turned right at the lights. Continuing north I crossed Waterloo Bridge to the proper side of the River Thames (i.e. the north side) and negotiated my way across the Strand to the Lyceum Tavern. This is a Sam Smiths pub and has two bars (one being upstairs). The downstairs bar is wood panelled and has several alcoves around the wall. The beer is served (as in all Sam Smiths pubs) with a tight head and I think it does improve the quality of the ale. The beer was, of course, good but there is a drawback to the pub and it is something common to most pubs in this area, and that is it can get very packed.

Turning left from the Lyceum Tavern one turns left again at the lights and up Bow St. (past the real Lyceum). I find it a wise idea to cross Bow Street at the earliest opportunity as another chance may not occur for some while. Carry on up Bow Street until you reach the Marquess of Anglesey. This pub has recently been taken over by the landlord of the Buckingham Arms in Westminster and

how the quality of the beer has improved since then. The pub itself has recently been redecorated and something resembling propellers from a Sopwith Camel were placed upon the ceiling. They do, however, serve a useful purpose when the pub is smokey. The beer was excellent.

I decided that it was time to head for home and as there just happens to be a Macmullens pub by the tube station how could I not stick my head round the door. So I carried on up Bow Street and turned left by the Royal Opera House. A short walk and hey presto one is outside the Nags Head. The pub was packed solid and I had to fight my way to the bar to get served. I had a pint of AK mild (which contrary to popular belief is not dark but more resembles a light bitter) and it was delicious. The pub itself was pleasant (or what I could see of it anyway) with interesting artifacts spread about. After finishing my pint I decided to make a fight for the door and did eventually make it without losing too many limbs. A short walk and I am on the tube for home.

NEW BEERS FROM WATNEYS

Combe's Bitter - o.g. 1040-44 - was launched at the last Capital Beer Night. Opinions differ widely as to its flavour so we leave the reader to judge. There is a possibility that London Bitter, whose sales are declining, may be phased out in its favour. In a memorandum to managers of Thames Hosts, it was stated: "At current prices we would sell this product at 83p and realize a 50% GP (= Gross Profit, or mark-up over cost to the house) or 75p realizing a 45% GP.

The same memorandum announced the introduction of house conditioned, i.e. real, Antler Bitter, stating: "Its objective is simply in that it will provide the Traditional Ale drinker with a value for money fighting brand which combines good quality with a low price. Watneys are absolutely mandatory in the view that they will only install this product into houses which agree to sell at no more than 62p which will yield at 42% GP". Good news and bad in one bundle. I personally like the Combe Bitter - whose name. incidentally was originally established in the 18th Century. Real Antler I have yet to try, but on one occasion while wasting the time between trains I tried to sample a half of the fizz version. "We don't sell halves" said the barperson, "it's too cheap."

The Battersea Brewery

THE PRINCE of WALES

339 Battersea Park Road, Battersea SW11 Tel: 01-622 2112

Battersea Bitter - 69p

Best Bitter - 73p Power House - 83p

Now on sale

Powerhouse Tee Shirts £3.00

Powerhouse Sweat Shirts £6.95 all sizes

Every Monday Night:

Live Jazz with the Ron Juniper Trio

Polypins always available - Racked Bright at a reduced price.

Pub Profile



The New Inn, Ealing

Pub names come in many forms - long, short, unpronounceable and some downright unlikely. Now the chances are if you come across a New Inn, it's nothing of the sort. Now, every pub must be new at some stage of its existence — usually at the beginning but names tend to stick and that one above all others tends to become dated. Consequently whenever a New Inn is mentioned to me, what springs to mind is either a building of great antiquity, or a very old site. In the case of my present subject, I wasn't far wrong.

The first thing I noticed — before even going inside — was a plaque let into the wall by the door, commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The names inscribed on it are a reminder of a Britain far greater than it is now, to which the world owes much more than real ale, the English pub and the correct side of the road to drive; a debt our former Empire has done little to repay.



The previous building had occupied the site for well over two centuries when it was demolished in 1895 - as attested by Stuart coins and bottles of the period (1603-88), which was discovered in the walls. The stables remain and understandably this was a post house; at one time 4 coaches left here daily for the North-West, but by the middle of the last century the railways had ruined the stage coaches, and in 1860 there was only one coach service in the area. Luckily there were also connections with entertainment - in this case physically, as a corridor joined the New Inn to the Ealing Assembly Rooms, the main place of entertainment in the area until the Lyric Hall supplanted it in 1881. There are still connections with the live arts, in the form of a small 50-seat theatre on the premises. Professional actors of stage and TV take part in such performances as One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, with a cast of 16, which ran 5 nights a week for nine months to packed houses. It has one of these live atmospheres which make you think of ghosts, and indeed it seems to be haunted, although by what, no-one knows.

I haven't yet mentioned beer. Well, this is a former Chef & Brewer House, now one of the Thames Hosts pubs of the 8 Host Group Companies, and off-shoot of Grand Met. Four real ales are on sale: Yorkshire Bitter, Ruddle's County, Mann's IPA and Stag. Yorkshire is the second highest seller in the house, close behind the Carlsberg, which is stored in 200 gallon tanks. There is a very large turnover of real ale and virtually no wastage due to the care taken in looking after it. Frank Moloney, the Licensee, is adamant that all his Real Ales must be in A1 condition before reaching the customer, and says: "Real Ale is like a lovely lady, they both need to be pampered and cajoled and the result is always worthwhile with the ale anyhow.

This is an immensely popular pub - so much so that on Friday and Saturday nights there are queues outside as fire regulations limit the number of customers on the premises.

The clientele are mainly local residents, students from the Ealing Polytechnic, and business people. The recent introduction of a happy hour - where Yorkshire is only 65p a pint - has enticed lots of homebound people, especially the ladies who can sample the wide range of exotic cocktails for £1 each. Frank insists on providing top class service and says "The most important person in the pub is always the customer. Without him I wouldn't have this job. I like it here so we

all try out hardest to give all our customers freindly, courteous and efficient service as well as good beer, of course." Frank only joined the company last August and took over the licence of the New Inn in November. He is an excellent chef, and trained in Ireland after graduating from Shannon School of Catering. He has run hotels and restaurants in the U.S.A., Canada and Africa and on joining Chef and Brewer attended an 8 week residential course at their Training College at Tadworth. The brains behind the accounts are provided by Frank's wife Frances, who is also an excellent hostess.

Inside the bars of the New Inn are lit by gas - there is a marvellous atmosphere, a juke box apparently being an integral part. Sawdust on the floor is not only decorative but also a positive help in cleaning. The building was extensively renovated in 1979, hence the extra "New" on the sign.

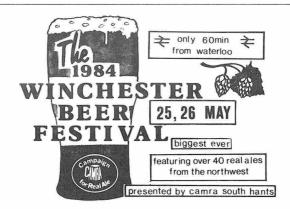
Outside during the summer there is a children's play area and picnic tables and it is planned also to have cook-your-own barbecues. A closed-in courtyard with space for eaters is also planned, and one stable is being converted into a pool room. Also in the foreseeable future is credit-card drinking, paid for in

advance on Access and Barclaycard. If you're in the area - it is on St. Mary's Road, almost opposite the church - why not give the New Inn a try? I think you will pay a second visit.

Martin Smith.

Editors's Note: Martin enjoys researching and writing such articles - if you have a suggestion - preferably where some historical information is available to make a start - please get in touch.





ENTERTAINMENT:

FRIDAY EVENING Hippo, Fried Sock - Skiffle Co. - £1.75 (7-11.30) SATURDAY AFTERNOON: City Morris Fulham Brass Band - £1.40 (12-4) SATURDAY EVENING: Fulham Brass Band, Real Ale and Thunder Band - £1.75 (7-11.30)

> Stalls - Raffles Yard of Ale etc.,

at the Recreation Centre, Gordon Road Tickets available from Ged Wallis 0962 54666 Camping available - Lots of good food.



A VISIT TO SOME MOTED HOSTELRIES OF THIS HISTORIC BOROUGH

New Lo

BALHAM

HERITAGE TRAIL

..... GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH

The traveller on the Brighton Railway, hurrying South to the pleasures of the Coast or to board a flying machine for some exotic, far off place at Catwick, should be forgiven if he gives little thought to Balham. But although small it has been part of history since the Romans thrust Stane Street through this 'Gateway to the South'. But we shall forsake the chariot for the more prosaic transport offered by today's Northern Line, taking the route immortalised by Mr Peter Sellers -

Broad bosomed, bold, becalmed, benign - Lies Balham, four square on the Northern Line

To savour fully the delights of the journey start from Clapham Common tube and go along the South Side of the Common, enjoying the open grassland, working up a good thirst and meditating on these words -

We enter Balham through the verdant grasslands of Clapham Common and at once we are aware that here is a land of happy content people who go about their daily tasks in a truly democratic spirit.

Balham Hill begins at Clapham South tube, agood place to start in heavy rain, Our first stop is the George, on the right as we go South.

FLYING BOMB

We are following the tracks of many of the travellers of history, the George having been a regular stop for the Portsmouth coaches before the Railway came. One more recent caller was a flying bomb which made a direct hit during the last war. The pub was then rebuilt but part of the previous structure can be seen on the left frontage, including a weather vane dated 1888. Inside Courage beers are dispensed at the island type bar.

RECORDS

Continue South the short distance to, on the right, Oldridge Road, in which lies Young's the Grove. Dating back to 1798 but rebuilt in 1858, the magnificence fo the saloon will recall better days. Nearby once stood Grove Stadium where many early cycling, athletic and other records were set.

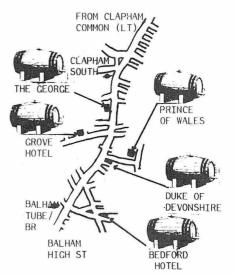
THE LIGHTS OF BALHAM

We continue down the main road and see that

The town is spread below us in a fairyland of glittering lights, changing all the time; From green, to amber, to red, to red with amber and back to green again.

Stop by one of these magnificent displays and use the chance to cross the busy High Road. Then aim for the Duke of Devonshire, (Youngs), built over 160 years ago, which is named after a one-time prominent local landowner. This noted high spot in the South London pub scene has recently been restored to its Victorian glory. Rightly, it is the local Good Beer Guide entry and the Youngs beers have been on sale since the last century. In fact, in 1857 it is reckoned that no less than 200,000 pints were drunk here.

Foreign visitors are also a feature of the Duke's more recent history, a fire bomb in 1940 being followed by a flying bomb in 1944. The latter probably accounted for the dance hall - nowadays our choice is from either the Public or Saloon bars.



cal Guide

DIVERSION

On leaving (or being dragged from) the Duke go down the side street, Balham New Road, to visit the Prince of Wales (Courage), a short distance away. The present building is postwar, the Luftwaffe having wrecked the previous structure in another of their unrelenting wartime attacks on the historic borough of Balham.

The Prince of Wales offers two contrasting bars in which can be enjoyed a pint which is much valued by local CAMRA afficienados.

TEA ROOMS

We return to the main road and visit

Busy High Street, focal point of the town's activities

Once we would have stopped at the Al-Maraco tea rooms to enjoy their famous fare of bread, bread, bread and bread, but now this has gone and their is nothing more exciting than a Wimpy to detain us as we pass on and turn right (before the bridge) up Bedford Hill to our final port of call, aptly named the Bedford in commemoration of a former Duke of the same ilk who was once large in local real estate.

The pub itself sells Watneys beers and an excellent range of food in two bars which were refurbished some three years ago. A remarkable circular function room at the rear has been restored to its former glory with galleries and domed roof.

The change in decor has extended to the clientele and readers who have heard horror stories of punch-ups, kerb crawlers and the red light district will be pleasently surprised at the change.

URGE

Our tour finishes at the Bedford, from where we head down Station Hill to rejoin the Northern Line back to Central London or wherever. Reflect en route that this began as one of the very first Tubes, the City and South London Railway - a tribute to the urge of the traveller towards the historic borough of Balham.

THE BEERS

Our selection includes pubs tied to three breweries. At both *The George and The Prince of Wales* the fare is Courage, with Best Bitter and Directors being on sale.

Youngs is to be had at *The Grove* and the *Duke of Devonshire* with both offering Bitter, Special Bitter and (in season) Winter Warmer.

Odd man out is the *Bedford Hotel*. Here one can sample London Bitter and Stag from Watneys at Mortlake, or Websters Yorkshire Bitter from Halifax.

FROM BALHAM'S OWN BARD

Broad Rosomed, Rold, Recalmed, Renign, Lies Balham, Loursquare on the Northern line Matched By no marvels save in Eastern seen A rose red city half as gold as green.

By country churchyard ferney fen and mere What quills mute inglorious lies buried here? O stands the church clock at ten to three And is there honey still for tea?

C Quill Smith

Some of the information used in this Heritage Trail has been taken from the London Drinker, CAMRA's monthly magazine produced by its London branches. Credit must in particular go to Martin Smith for original historical research.

These two pages show a half size reduction of the Balham Beer Guide, produced for limited private circulation in honour of the birthday of Balham's most memorable and mobile sight, Chris Cobbold. The information was plagiarized from the writings of Merton Park, Martin Smith and the late P. Sellers, another scoop for our magazine.

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BOOK REVIEW

(Editor's Note: Last month's quotation from Real Ale in Scotland seems to have been taken as a hoax in some cases. For technical reasons it had to be typeset instead of photographically reproduced as intended, hence any confusion. The next piece should correct any misapprehensions — M.S.)

At last! A Real Ale guide that gives honest down-to-earth comments about the pubs and their beer.

Real Ale in Scotland is a comprehensive list of all outlets in that fair land. This is no mean undertaking by the Scottish branches of CAMRA who have covered the 9 regions including the massive Highland Region which contains the grand total of 17 Real Ale outlets. However, since 1981 the country's outlets have increased from 346 to 924.

After an excellent introduction to the history of brewing in Scotland there follows a long section about pubs saved and lost. This includes a lengthy description of the Ranche in Hamilton, a great characterful pub. But it is the comments that make the guide very memorable and it is clear that the Editor, John Kelly, has had to edit out the more litigious comments, but the following gems still remain:

The quality of the beer is very good - almost good enough in fact to justify the prices being charged for it.

Apparently it is fashionable to pay inflated prices for poor quality beer and this is one of the most fashionable places in Glasgow.

The Esquire shares the common ownership with Partick Thistle F.C. The beer is equally erratic

Overrated pub. The beer is frequently over the hill agewise and invariably over the top pricewise.

Scottish Brewers describe this place as "recently refurbished, popular with the 'inn crowd" but this in no way brings out the full horror of this Disco Bar with its acres of copper effect wall cladding and dizzying lights.

The guide can be obtained for £1.30 plus SAE from John Kelly, 54 Motherwell Road, Carfin, Lanarkshire. Happy reading!

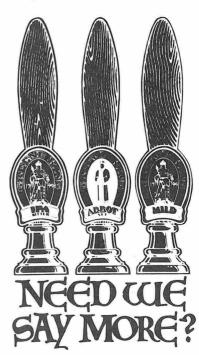
Chris Cobbold.

NEW SURREY GUIDE

A fair portion of London's county boundary is shared with Surrey and doubtless quite a few copies of London Drinker reach that county in the hands of residents who commute to the Metropolis. However, the Surrey branches of CAMRA do not enjoy great support from the membership. Thus the new Real Ale in Surrey guide is a masterpiece of research and co-ordination. Listing nearly 800 pubs, most with individual descriptions which add greatly to a simple list of facilities and useful street maps of main towns, this guide is well worth purchasing at £1.25. Understandably there have been a few oversights - I can think of three pubs which as far as I know are still selling Real Ale, and doubtless any others will be passed on to the Editors. Copies can be obtained from most branches, or from William Hill, Pendennis, Frimley Road. Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants please include large SAE.

Martin Smith.

EVERARDS, the Leicester independent brewery whose products are widely available in London are cutting back on beer output by 80% and turning the work over to other brewers. We look forward to our choice widening still further.



CAN YOU GUESS?

A newspaper cutting which surfaced recently (from under a carpet) told a stroy of a publican whose dog had disappeared. The reward to the finder was a free pint of beer a day for a minimum of ten years. See if you can work out how long ago that was from these figures quoted in the story:

That works out at about 3,650 pints, or £657 if the finder opts for the dearest pint in the pub...draught stout, at 18p. And it will cost £438 at today's prices if the finder chooses bitter.

Bitter at 12p a pint. Any idea when? Turn to p.18 and see how near your guess was.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? What do brewers and licensees expect to gain from changing the names of pubs?

Pubs around the Hackney Road / Bethnal Green Road E2 area started the name changing game early on and by the end of 1981 the Arabian Arms became Beachcombers, Queen Adelaide (Hop Picker), Albion (Boloha), Nags Head (Hackney Cab), Salmon & Ball (Tipples), Old Horns (RJ's now Warners), Gosset Arms (Knights now Battleys).

Could it be that it is more fashionable to say that "I went to Follies" than "I went to the Empress of India"? (This pub is in E9). The decoration to the exterior of these pubs also changes. Follies is all pink, Tipples is all bright blue whilst the Temple Street Tap, now Septembers, and the Queens (does this describe the clientele?) nee the Queens Hotel are both all black, except the door handles which are red (you have to find your way in the dark somehow).

A new crop of names now comes to the E1/2 area. Browns was the Bull & Mouth, Buskers was the Hope, RJ's the Westminster Arms, Sollys the Seebright Arms, Ivories was the Moorings and Sabres was the New Carpenters Arms. The lates is 5th Avenue. Conjuring up all the excitement of New York, Broadway, Manhattan and Stepney Green. Stepney Green??? The former Black Boy, now 5th Avenue is next to Stepney Green Station. It's got to be worth a miss.

Top of the name changes is the White Hart in E15 which went on to be the Spooky Lady, the Flamingo and the latest is Flappers. Anyone beat that?

Any one any good at names for pubs? The Van Tromp in Bethnal Green Road has recently been sold by Charrington to the free trade but so far no name is displayed. Any suggestions?

At the latest count only three of all pubs mentioned sell real ale. Though a further five did at one time. Meanwhile in SW1, Ye Kings Head (built 1886) in Buckingham Gate, laterly the Duke of Wellington is now Crackers, which just about describes the people who change the names of pubs, which is where we came in.

PS. You might have noticeed that RJ's features twice in the name changing stakes. This is because the licensee of the original RJ's moved to the Westminster Arms which he named RJ's.

The original RJ's, which was Warners and before that the Old Horns, had to revert to the Old Horns and then Warners. Is this now clear?

PUB NEWS

From East London comes news of a free house which does not include any keg bitters in its range of beers. Formerly an Ind Coope pub, the ROMFORD ARMS, 3 Heneage Street, E1 was recently purchased by Kerry Butler, a CAMRA member from Richmond, and started selling Fullers London Pride and ESB as well as Yongs Ordinary and Special Bitters through handpumps on 9th March.

Another ex Ind Coope pub, The MONUMENT, 60, King William Street, EC4 has now transferred to Fullers increasing their presence in the eastern half of London.

Last Month we reported that the NAGS HEAD in Hampstead was up for sale from Midsummer Inns (formerly CAMRA Real Ale Investments Ltd.). It was recently reported in the Morning Advertiser that it has found a buyer in the form of the Hertford brewers, McMullens who have been slowly building up their holding of pubs in London over the past few years. Should be good news for drinkers in Hampstead.

DRINKING FOR FITNESS

News was recently announced of a promotional scheme to raise money for Britain's Olympic athletes. The scheme, with the solgan "Drink for Gold" is being jointly run by Allied Breweries; Watney Mann and Whitbread and involves the production foa bottled Olympic Ale which will sell for 49p a bottle of which 2p will go the the Olympic Fund.

At the launch the breweries handed over a cheque, for £50,000 to the British Olympic Association in anticipation of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million bottles being drunk before the games start in Los Angeles.

Unfortunately we have no news of the beer itself (particularly its original gravity) to be able to judge whether the money will be being donated by the brewers or by the public being charged an extra 2p (or even more?) for an ordinary light ale. What also intrigues us is to know which of the three companies (who usually guard slaes of their own beers most jealously) will actually be

producing the beer to sell in the others' pubs - or will each company produce its own Olympic Ale for sale in its pubs?

DID YOU GUESS?

The story referred to in "Can you Guess?" was published on January 12th 1974. How close were you?

The Victoria Tavern, Buckingham Palace Road SW1, a Free House, is due to close at the end of April. The pub will be gutted, and it is not clear whether it will reopen as a public house.

From p.3

P.S. I have just learned that the price of London Pride went up by 4p a pint in my local Fullers pub. We shall soon be able to tell, I believe, which breweries have taken the opportunity to use the budget to conceal a price increase.

Andy Pirson.

OUR GLORIOUS HERITAGE

Any CAMRA publication which has an opening chapter entitled 'In praise of Watney's' must have plenty of originality going for it, and this is true of Time Gentlemen Please! A handsome glossy production of 64 A4 pages, including many excellent black and white photographs, it is a joint effort by CAMRA and SAVE Britain's Heritage. Its theme is the preservation of the British pub so that all who drink therein can do so in the most congenial surroundings. Terrible things have been done in the name of progress, but one hopes that the worst is over. In an article on the Victorian pubs of Birmingham, the author claims that those comparatively few who survived into the 1970s seem to have a reasonably secure future. One hopes that this is true in general and no doubt the organisations represented here - the Victorian Society, the Ancient Monuments Society, the National Trust as well as CAMRA and SAVE - deserve some of the credit for this.

There are twelve chapters covering various aspects of pubbery including those relating to licensing laws and planning laws.

cont.page 21

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CHELSEA RAM



The building which will later this year become the Chelsea Ram.

Youngs, the Wadsworth family brewers, have announced plans to turn a disused building in Chelsea into a pub - the original intention of its Edwardian architects.

The Chelsea Ram, as it will be known, has been granted a full licence on appeal by Knightsbridge Crown Court and Youngs are to spend £175,000 fitting it out as a one-bar local catering for all age groups.

The building, in Burnaby Street, in the Lots Road general improvement area, has at various times been a wine store, a laundry depository andbric-a-brac shop — but never a pub. Now it will become Young's 140th tied house and the brewery's first in Chelsea. Renovation work is to begin in two months' time, with the opening date planned for midsummer.

Youngs director Patrick Read, who is responsible for the company's pubs,

said after the licence had been granted: "We are very pleased that we've been given the go-ahead. We now hope to play a part in the local community and to make lots of new friends in the area."

Mr. Read said Youngs were now making a major drive to find new pubs in the London area. "We would be interested to hear of any suitable properties within the area bounded by the M25 motorway, or up to ten miles beyond," he added.

One of our staff had some time to waste while B.R. caught up with its timetable. The only open pub in sight was a Watney's fizz house, where he decided to sample half of Antler. "Oh, we don't serve halves - it's too cheap!" came the reply.

No Comment!!

E5	Glynn Arms	H Unused
	Taylor Walker	(48)
E6	Dukes Head	H (Unused)
	Charrington	(48)
E7	Albion Hotel	H Removed
10000	Watney	(U3)
E8	Bull Inn	H Unused
FO	Friary Meux	(50)
E8	Crown Truman	H Removed
E8	Hadley Manor Wine Bar	(S17) H Removed
Lo	Free House	(S17)
E8	Hustler	H Unused
20	Charrington	(U3)
E8	Warburton Arms	H Unused
	Taylor Walker	(50)
E9	Eagle	H Removed
	Watney	(S17)
E12	William the Conqueror	H Unused
440.0	Watney	(U2)
E14	Buccanneer	H Removed
E 14	Free House	(U2) Closed
E14	Plums Free House	(S18)
E15	Chatsworth Arms	H Removed
LIJ	Watney	(S18)
E15	Sparrows	H Removed
	Charrington	(S18)
E15	Telegraph	H Unused
	Watney	(S18)
E17	Chequers	H Unused
NOB	Taylor Walker	(S19)
	TH WEST	TT TT 3
SODI	BURY Sudbury Arms	H Used (78)
SOU	Courage FH EAST	(70)
	Red Bull	H Removed
5215	Taylor Walker	(S38)
SE16		H Removed
	Watney	(S38)
SE16	St. Georges Tavern	H Unused
CONTRACTOR OF THE	Courage	(S7)
SE18	C	H Unused
CEAC	Taylor Walker	(89)
SE25		H Unused
DECI	Ind Coope KENHAM Golden Arrow	(91) Renamed
DLCI	Drummonds	H Removed
	Charrington	(S40)
CRO	YDON Derby Arms	H Unused
	Courage	(S42)
Sideu	ip Iron Horse	H Removed
	Courage	(103)
	TH WEST	
SW4	Bulls Head	H Unused
CHIA	Taylor Walker	(S47)
SW4	North Pole Whitbread	H Removed (S47)
SW8	Nottingham Castle	H Unused
5110	Taylor Walker	(109)
		(10)

SW1	Battersea Tavern	H Removed
	Truman	(S49)
SW13	5 White Lion	Closed
	Watney	(S49)
WES	Γ	
W10	Brewster Arms	H Unused
	Watney	(S55)
W11	Crown	H Removed
	Watney	(S55)
HAY	ES Adam & Eve	H Unused
	Charrington	(U5)
SOU'	THALL Red Lion	H Unused
	Whitbread	(135)
SOU	THALL Three Horseshoes	H Unused
	Courage	(135)
	ection to Update 7	
NW5	Red House - should read I	√W8.
СНА	NGES	14
EAS'		
E1	TA	named Good
	Sam's	(S14)
E4	Fox & Hounds + Webste	ers: Yorkshire
	Bitter evening opening 6	
GIDI	EA PARK Squirrels Hea	
	Cardinals	(S21)
Woo	dford Green Woodman	- renamed
	Mr. Woods	(U1)
SOU	TH WEST	
SW1	8 Spotted Dog Renam	ed Dalmatian
		(115)

Correction to Update 7
SW13 Broleau Arms - Should read Boileau
Arms.

California - renamed Belmonts

SUTTON

Of equal interest are the appendices, notably where brewers themselves were asked to supply lists of those of their pubs which might be of special architectural interest. Plenty of answers from Allied, Bass and Watney; nothing from Courage or Whitbread.

If your interest in pubs extends beyond the immediately functional, this book is warmly recommended. The price is £3.50 and it is available from CAMRA at 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3BW.



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DUT MOM

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CZECH THIS!



Where can you get 7 pints for the price of one? Simple - in Czechoslovakia. As the 80 or so patrons of a recent CAMRA trip discovered, the beer there can easily be enjoyed for two Crowns or so a half litre - under 10p a pint at current tourist exchange rates.

BUT, isn't it all lager? No, because out 'lager' is a British brew which bears very little relation to the Czech (or the similar German) beers. The latter are produced in very much the same way as our own traditional brews, but allowed to ferment at low temperatures and for a much longer period which can be as long as six months. This process is known as 'lagering' but the product is beer, or in Czech, 'pivo'. In draught form, this is served under a slight gas pressure, but in no way to the extent found with keg beers in this country.

With 94 breweries supplying a population of only 15 million, the Czechs are well supplied. The local prices reflect beer's status as a staple commodity. "There would be a revolution if they were increased", we were told. The crowded bars testify to the popular appeal of 'pivo'.

Only the larger breweries appear to supply areas outside their own region, bnut there is still quite a variety available in most sizeable towns. The most often found beer is of the pale type pioneered in 1842 by Pilsener, the largest concern, but 'darks' can also be discovered. Often two strengths are produced, usually of 10° and 12° varieties which roughly correspond to our 'bitter' and 'best bitter' categories, although

usually slightly stronger. A 14° beer can be found occasionally and there is also a lighter 7° - but the locals seem to treat this level of strength with some derision.

The bars generally stock one type of beer, but some do two or more. Besides Pilsen (some of whose beer is imported here under the Pilsener Urquell name) other famous names to watch out for include Budvar (the original Budweiser, not the US imitation), Gambrinus (the other Pilsen brewery), Branick (which does a dark beer as well as a 12° pale) and Samson (from the same town as Budvar).

Where to drink it? It is difficult to go too far without coming across some sort of bar, but don't expect anything very plush outside the main tourist/upmarket areas. A tremendous variety of good basic drinking establishments does exist, basically falling into four categories -

- 1. supplying beer only if one takes a meal as well
- 2. mainly for beer, with seats
- 3. a 'stand up' boozer
- 4. basically a grocers shop with counters for drinking, or consuming soup, & c

These are classified into 'Skopiny' with a range from 1 to 4 which appears to be based on the level of facility, although it is very difficult to discern any patter in this system.

Important points to note are that the bars/pubs are distinguished by name, thus U Supa (the vulture), U Thomas (St Thomas), & c. Just watch out for the U prefix. But also keep a look out for the opening hours. Often you can start drinking in the suburbs at 9 in the moring, but equally so many places shut ndown by 9 in the evening and it is rare to find one which is still going at 11. The afternoon is the popular time, perhaps becuase a lot of Czechs working in industry seem to finish at 3.

Whatever the hour though, you will usually find a welcome and some very interesting beer if you choose to follow CAMRA's tracks in Czechoslovakia.

IPW

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE

A newcomer to the S.London pub scene is Theakston's XB in the Goose & Firkin, SE1. Dave the landlord tells us that it is supplied by Wholecellars, whose advert he saw in the March issue. Which shows that it pays to advertise in London Drinker.

Pint Sized Success

We received an unusual invitation recently which pressure of work meant that we were unfortunately unable to accept. (How nice it must be for professional journalists being paid for attending ****-ups.) The invitation arrived in the form of a message in a bottle an old fasioned screw stopper pint beer bottle and was from Tim Chudley to attend a celebration for the production of the millionth pint at the Maida Vale Brewery; that's 125,000 gallons or nearly 3500 barrels not bad for premises which would be hard pressed as a garage for three cars.

Tim was made redundant from Courage when they were preparing to close down the Horselydown Brewery at Tower Bridge, where he had been a brewer. Courage's loss was London's gain as one of your editors can testify, having had Chudley Local Line Bitter as his regular Christmas firkin for the last two years. Well worth a try for parties, Chudley beers are competitively priced and available in polypins as well as larger casks. The brewery is in Saltram Crescent, Maida Vale, W9 (off Shirland Road) and the telephone number for orders is 01-969 7832.

We'll make a special effort to get to the 10, 000,000th celebration, Tim - hope it won't be too long coming.

As it happens, one of our roving correspondents was able to accept the invitation, and gleaned the following information for us:

Tim brewed his first batch in the late July of 1981. On 20th March this year he drew the millionth pint in the presence of a distinguished gathering in the Crown Free House, NW8, for our enthusiastic and much-travelled supporter John Davis. Two bottles of the Millionth brew were signed by Willie Rushton and Tim, and about another hundred such bottles, with special labels, are available at £5 each, proceeds going to charity.

Tim's success is largely due to good management, plus, of course, a fine product. Many small brewers have failed, especially those without houses of their own. CAMRA members generally blame these failures on the Big Brewers' pricing or generally pressurising the small boys out of business. This is only partly true. A good product properly marketed, can mean success to a small brewer regardless of the enormous commercial problems they have to put up with. Tim Chudley has been one of the few successes - good luck to him.



Willie Rushton and Tim Chudley with the 1,000,000th pint.

A TASTE OF THE NEW JOHN SMITHS? A REAL ALE HOLIDAY IN BRADFORD

Anybody who thinks that a holiday in Bradford is a joke should contact the London branches of CAMRA who had representatives there last year, i.e. East London, Sutton & Croydon and West/North London. For those who would like to go between 30th June & 4th. July and are prepared to pay approximately £65 with accommodation or £35 for just the trips (by mini-bus) and find their own lodgings, (a list of accommodation will be sent on request), here is the itinerary

Friday 29th June: A crawl of Bradford. Unless anybody wants to stay in the Fighting Cocks which has upwards of 10 different beers all in good condition.

Saturday 30th June: Lunchtime in Doncaster with 15 different brews including a visit to the Stocks Home Brewery. Evening to be spent in Wakefield with 10 different beers plus a visit to Clarks Brewery.

Sunday 1st July. Lunchtime visit picturesque Holmfirth scene of the TV series 'Last of the Summer Wine' with 13 different beers. Evening; over the border into Lancs to sample the ales of the Red Rose county in Manchester.

Monday 2nd July. To the Dales and visiting Skipton whose opening hours are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Spend the evening in York.

Tuesday 3rd July. Spend the lunchtime session on the outskirts of Bradford before seeing the lads off home.

Those interested contact Richard Holden at 39 Kenley Mount, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorks. BD6 3JD. Sending a sac. Or phone him on 0274 574414.

MODEST EXPANSION FOR "REAL" LAGER

Allied Breweries are reported to have widened the distribution of their cask conditioned lager, "Gold Cross" which was launched last June in the Midlands. (No, it hardly struck us as a hotbed of trendy drinker, either.) However the expansion is modest as the brew is now available in over 100 pubs in London, Birmingham, Manchester and the North West - that will make it pretty thin on the ground.

Allied are hoping that Gold Cross will attract real ale drinkers with its "conformity to 'traditional' standards", being cask conditioned and served through handpumps. We would, however, like to point out that Gold Cross does NOT conform to CAMRA's definition of real beer as it is stored under a blanket pressure of carbon dioxide and is not served from a naturally vented cask. It will not, therefore, be listed in future editions of Real Beer in Lóndon or the Good Beer Guide unless, of course, the situation changes.

Allied appreciate that its market will be limited as Mike Ratcliffe, national marketing manager for Allied National Brands commented, "Gold Corss is certainly not what the average lager drinker expect. We are selling it at a premium price, and it is obviously not going to perform as well as Skol or Carling."

What we wonder is whether it will be dropped from the range as rapidly as Taylor Walker Mainline was.

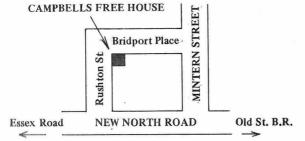
BARGAIN BEERS

John Davis is attempting to resuscitate the Bargain Beers section. He would like anyone interested, especially local branches, to contact him with the names of pubs considered to sell beer at a bargain or good value price, including Happy Hours and other regular cheap beer events. He will collate replies and publish them in London Drinker as a regular, updated feature. At the same time, perhaps you would pass on details of "rip-off" pubs and nominations for the most over-priced pub in London. John's address is: 19 Ivymount Road, London SE27 0NB.

SHEPHERD NEAME, the independent Kentish brewery, is introducing a strong ale in place of Best Bitter, which at 1039og is only 3 degrees stronger that Bitter, and far less available. The new brew, Invicta Best Bitter, has an o.g. of 1044, and is currently being sold in 50 tied houses at 72p a pint.

CAMPBELLS FREE HOUSE

21 BRIDPORT PLACE, ISLINGTON, N1



HOXTON HEAVY SAM SMITHS CHUDLEY

+ 1 Guest Beer

Happy Hour 5.30 to 7.00 At least 1 beer at 65p per Pint

Buses 141, 271, 76 pass close by 5 mins walk from Old Street and Essex Road

Stations

Lunchtime Pub Grub
Easy evening parking
Beer Garden

Dear Dipsy



Dear Dipsy, I am getting worried. (You should be! - Ed.) I think I am starting to leak from unnatural places. Every Morning, when I wake up on the front step of the Goat and Parson, I find that the whole of my back is soaking wet with beer. It seems to pass through my body unmodified. When I mention it to my friends they laugh uncontrollably - is it one of those diseases we don't talk about in pleasant company?

Soggy, Walthamstow

Dear Soggy, It is clear that you are suffering from Bibendens Automaticum, commonly known as "the Action"; it only affects people who drink standing at the bar. What happens is that when you pass out due to a surfeit of "amber nectar" your body remains propped up on the bar while your head slumps forward and your drinking arm carries on working automatically. The beer obviously then runs straight down your back.

There are only two proven ways of overcoming the symptoms and it must be said that neither is a cure to the root problem. They are as follows:

- 1. Shave your head (Don't bother if you are bald.) and have tattooed on your scalp the works. "I have had enough." On seeing this the barman will stop filling your empty glass, even when your automatic arm keeps waving to him. This will limit the beer you pour down your neck to a maximum of one pint.
- 2. Install a funnel with a long length of plastic hose in the back of your shirt collar with the bottom end of the hose discharging into a bucket. This will save the beer so that you can drink it later.

A third revolutionary method has been suggested but it has not yet undergone clinical trials - you may like to try it, though. The method is simply to change your drinking position - instead of standing at the bar, sit in a relaxed position in an easy chair. In this position, when you pass out your head will tip back and the beer will run down your front. The idea is that when the wetness reaches the sensitive parts of the abdomen you will wake up and either locate your mouth or go home.

Dipsy

Dear Dipsy, I have just found a photograph of what looks suspiciously like my best friend in one of my husband's pockets. Do you think I would be well advised to accompany my husband to future CAMRA meetings?

Mrs Baily, Home Counties

Dear Mrs. Baily, Your best friend must be extremely small if she can get into your husband's pocket. So I don't think you have anything to worry about.

Dipsy

Dear Dipsy, My husband works at the local brewery and since growing a Mexican moustache his workmates call him "Brewer's Droop". He seemed upset by this so, last week, I offered to shave it off for him. He doesn't come home any more. Did I do something wrong?

S. Todd, London

Dear S. Todd, London It might have been worse. You could have singed his tortillas as well.

Dipsy

Dear Dipsy, While attempting a spot of D.I.Y. in my house, I noticed the last screw I had to complete the job was rusty. I got my wife to nip round to the local builder's yard for a good one. She seems to have lost interest in the bar I built and anything else I manage to erect.

I.M.Shorte, Littlehampton

Dear I.M.Shorte, Littlehampton You're very much in the same boat as the husband of the woman who said to her chauffeur when the car broke down, "Do you want a screwdriver?" He did. She was given the tool.

Dipsy

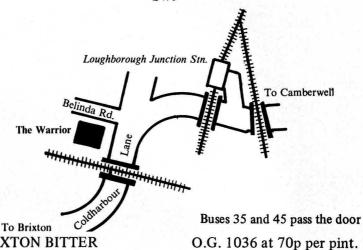
Don't forget DIPSY's latest venture, the newest home brew free house "Ms Lonelyheart" in the Ballspond Road, where the shorts are all well filled and Singles sold at the price of Doubles so you won't feel lonely. Beer is "Old Droopers Special" (1032 og) (99p a pint) and its fame has spread as far afield as Stoke Newington

LICENSING HOURS

Last month we reported that the hearing for extended opening hours in the Hounslow Licensing Area had been adjourned. We can now report that the application (which was supported by the local council as well as the West Middlesex LVA) has been successful. Hounslow, Chiswick, Brentford and Isleworth now share standard London licensing hours (11.00 am - 3.00 pm & 5.30 - 11.00 pm) with the Borough of Richmond which changed just over a year ago.

LONDON'S LATEST BREWERY THE BRIXTON BREWERY

in the Warrior. 242 Coldharbour Lane, Loughborough Junction,



BRIXTON BITTER

O.G. 1036 at 70p per pint.

BRIXTON BEST

O.G. 1040 at 75p per pint

WARRIOR

O.G. 1050 at 85p per pint

Brewed on the premises in a Hickey 15 Barrel plant

also selling

New this month:

AMBER KNIGHT LAGER - O.G. 1036

Ruddle's County - Manns IPA - Webster's Yorkshire Bitter.



Where to buy London Drinker

OUTLETS - East and South Est.

Pubs	
EC1	STICK & WEASEL, 273 City Road.
EC4	BLACK FRAIR, 174 Queen Victoria St.
EC4	WILLIAMSONS', TAVERN, Groveland
	CT Bow Lane.

MARKSMAN, 254 Hackney Road. E9 TIGER TAVERN, 245 Wick Road. E10 NORTHCOTE, 110 Grove Green Road. VULCAN, 140 West Ferry Road. E14 FLOWER POT, 128 Wood Street. E17

F17 LORD BROOKE, 47 Shernal Street. ONGAR KINGS HEAD, High Street. SEI BARKERS, Southwark St. SEI COPPER, 208 Tower Bridge Road.

SEL DOGGETTS, Blackfriars Bridge. GOOSE & FIRKIN, 47 Borough Road. SEL HORSESHOE, Mellior Street. SEL LEATHER EXCHANGE, Leather Market St. SEL

MUDLARK, Montague Close. PINEAPPLE, 53 Hercules Road. SPANISH PATRIOT, Lower Marsh. SEL SEI SEL TRIPS BAR, Waterloo Station. BRITISH OAK, 109 Old Dover Rd. SEL WICKHAM ARMS, Upper Brockley Rd. SF4

WICKWOOD TAVERN, 58 Flaxman Rd. SES NORTH POLE, 131 Greenwich High Rd. ROYAL GEORGE, Bissett Street. SE 10 SE 10 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, High Street. SE13

MAN OF KENT, Nunhead Green. **SE15** OLD NUN'S HEAD, Nunhead Green SE15 BLACKSMITHS ARMS, 257 Rotherhithe St. **SE16** SE16 PRINCE OF ORANGE, 118 Lower Road. **SE18** VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, Hillreach. **SE19** ROYAL ALBER, Westow Hill.

SE20 ANERLEY ARMS, Ridsdale Road. **SE20** GOLDEN LION, Maple Road. SE24 COMMERCIAL, 11 Railton Rd, Herne Hill.

SE25 GOAT HOUSE, 2 Penge Rd. SHIP, 55 High St.

HOPE, Norwood High Street BECKENHAM, JOLLY WOODMAN, Chancery Lane. BEXLEY. BLUE ANCHOR, Brigden Road.

CROYDON, CATHERINE WHEEL, High St. CROYDON, LION, Pawsons Road. CROYDON, ROYAL STANDARD, Sheldon St. CROYDON, SHIP, 47 High Street. SIDDCUP, QUEEN MARY'S HOSP' SOCIAL CLUB.

OFF TRADE

SE3

Bitter Experience, 128, Lee Road. Alan Greenwood's 226 Kennington Park Rd. SEII Majestic Wine Warehouses, Vauxhall Cross. SE11 Alan Greenwoods, 252 Lewisham High St. SE13 SE23

2 Brewers, 97 Dartmouth Road. Traders, 8 Norwood High St.

BEXLEY HEATH, Bitter Experience, 216 Broadway. BROMLEY Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill.

OUTLETS - SOUTH-WEST/WEST

BUCKINGHAM ARMS, Petty France. SWI SWI FOX & HOUNDS, Passmore St. ORANGE BREWERY, Pimlico Road. SWI RED LION, 48 Parliament Street. SWI SWI ROYAL COURT TAVERN, 8 Sloane Sq.

SWI WILTON ARMS, 71 Kinnerton Street. SW4 JOLLY GARDENERS, 115, St. Alphonsus Rd. SW4 OLDE WINDMILL, Clapham Common, Sth Side

S W6 WHITE HORSE, 1 Parson's Green. SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS, 15 Selwood Terrace. SW8 LORD RAGLAN, 392 Wandsworth Rd. SW9 CANTERBURY ARMS, Canterbury Grove. SW9 WARRIOR (Brixton Brewery Co.)

Coldharbour Lane. FERRET & FIRKIN, 110 Lotts Rd.

SW10 KINGS ARMS (Finch's), 190 Fulham Rd.

SW11 ANCHOR, Holgate Avenue. SW11 AABERDASHERS ARMS, Culvert Road.

PRINCE OF WALES, Battersea Park Road.

SW11 SOMERS ARMS, 96 Usk Rd. SWII WOODMAN, 60 Battersea High St. SW12 BEDFORD HOTEL, Bedford Hill.

SWID DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham High Rd. SW12 PRINCE OF WALES, 270 Cavendish Road. SW14 RAILWAY TAVERN, Sheen Lane.

SW15 FOX & HOUNDS, Upper Richmond Rd. SW15 JOLLY GARDENERS, Lacy Road. SW15 RAILWAY, Upper Richmond Road. SW16 LEIGHAM ARMS, Wellfield Road.

SW16 PIED BULL, 498 Streatham High Rd. SW18 THE GRAPES, 39 Fairfield Street. SW18 SPREAD EAGLE, 71 High Street. SWID ALEXANDRA, Wimbledon Hill Rd.

SW19 LEATHER BOTTLE, Kingston Rd. SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL, Abbey Road. SW19 TRAFALGAR, High Path. BEDDINGTON PLOUGH, Croydon Rd. CARSHALTON GREYHOUND, 2 High St. KINGSTON WYCH ELM, Elm Rd.

MITCHAM BULL, Church Rd. MITCHAM CRICKERS, 340 London Road.

MOTSPUR PK EARL BEATTY WESTON GREEN GREYHOUND

ANGEL, Thayer Street. ARGYLL ARMS, 18 Argyll St. BRICKLAYERS, Aybrook St. WI WI BRICKLAYERS, 31 Gresse St. WI

CAMBRIDGE, 48 Newman St. QUEENS RAILWAY TAVERN, 15 Chilworth St.

CHISWICK EYOT, 122 High Road. W4 PLOUGH, Northfields Avenue. W5 W5 RED LION, St. Mary's Road.

NEW INN, St. Mary's Road. CROSS KEYS, 157 Black Lion Lane. W5 W6

W6 CROSS KEYS, 157 Black Lion Lane.
RICHMOND ARMS, 54 Shepherds Bush Rd.
W10 NARROW BOAT, 346 Ladbroke Grove.
W11 FROG & FIRKIN, Tavistock Cres.
W14 BRITANNIA TAP, 150 Warwick Road.
W14 RADNOR ARMS, 247 Warwick Road.
W16 RADNOR ARMS, 247 Warwick Road.
BRENTFORD GRIFFIN, Brook Road.
BRENTFORD GRIFFIN, Brook Road.

CRANFORD QUEENS HEAD, 123 High St.

EAST MOLESEY STREETS OF LONDON, Bridge Rd NW4 GREENFORD BLACK HORSE, Oldfield Lane. HAMPTON WINDMILL, Windmill Road.

HILLINGDON RED STAR, Hillingdon Hill. HILLINGDON RED LION, Hillingdon Hill. HOUNSLOW CHARIOT, 34 High St. HOUNSLOW CROSS LANCES, Hanworth Road.

HOUNSLOW WINDMILL, Bell Road. HOUNSLOW EARL RUSSELL, Hanworth Road HOUNSLOW QUEEN VICTORIA, 121 Bath Road.

NORBITON THE NORBITON, Clifton Road. OSTERLEY HARE & HOUNDS, Windmill Lane, Wyke Green RICHMOND WHITE CROSS, Riverside.

SUDBURY BLACK HORSE, Harrow Road. SURBITON RAILWAY TAVERN, Ewell Road. SURBITON VICTORIA, Victoria Road. SUTTON JENNY LIND, 53, Carshalton Rd. TWICKENHAM EEL PIE, 9 Church St.

SUTTON NEW INN, 18 Myrtle Road. TWICKENHAM POPE'S GROTTO, Cross Deep. WESTON GREEN GREYHOUND

WEALDSTONE ROYAL OAK, Peel Rd.

OFF TRADE

SW11 Majestic Wine Warehouses, Hester Road

SW11 39er, Webbs Road

SW14 Alan Greenwood's 215 Clapham Park Rd. SW19 Alan Greenwood's 308 Haydon's Road. Alan Greenwood's 17 North End Road.

TOLWORTH Alan Greenwood's 120 The Broadway WALLINGTON Allan Greenwood's 8 Butter Hill.

OUTLETS - West Central and North PUBS

WCI LAMB, Lamb's Conduit St. WCI MOON, 18 New North St.

WCI PRINCE ALBERT, 2 Acton Street. WCI SUN, 63 Lamb's Conduit St.

WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR, 22 Neal St. WC2 GEORGE IVF 28 Portugal St.

CAMPBELLS, 21 Bridport Place. NI CLOTHWORKERS, 52 Arlington Ave. NI CROWN, Cloudesley Rd.

NI LORD WOLSELEY, White Lion St. NI MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Rd. NI PINT POT, 54 Pentonville Road. PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place

SWAN TAVERN, 125 Caledonian Road. TARMON, 270 Caledonian Rd. FIVE BELLS, East End Rd.

WELCH BROS. 130 East Finchley High Rd. WINDSOR CASTLE, The Walk Church St. MARLERS, 29 Crough Hill,

ANGEL, 37 Highgate High St. DUKES HEAD, 16 Highgate High St. N6 N6 VICTORIA, 28 North Hill. N8

DICK'S BAR, 61 Tottenham Lane. HARRINGAY ARMS, 153 Crough Hill. N8 PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, Park Rd. N8 N9 COCK, Hertford Rd.

N9 RISING SUN, Winchester Rd. MOSS HALL TAVERN, 283 Ballards Lnc. N12 MARLERS, 178 Stoke Newington High St. N16

N16 ROSE & CROWN, 199 Stoke Newington. Church Street N19

MARLERS, 19 Archway Road, J.J.MOONS, Landseer Road. N19 BULL & BUTCHER. N20

1277 High Road, Whetstone. NAGS HEAD, 203 High St. VICTORIA & ALBERT BARS N22 NWI

Marylehone Stn. NWI VICTORIA, 2 Mornington Terrace WELLS HOTEL, 30 Well Walk THE MANNINGS, Brent Street. NWI

COOPERS ARMS, 164 Kilburn High Rd. RAILWAY TAVERN, Hale Lane. NW6

NW19 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane. BARNET ALEXANDRA, Wood St. BARNET SEBRIGHT ARMS, Alston Road. EDWARE CORNERHOUSE HOTEL, Stonegrove

EDGWARE MASON'S ARMS, High St. EDGWARE RAILWAY HOTEL, Station Rd. ENFIELD CRICKETERS ARMS, 19 Chase Side Ph ENFIELD KING & TINKER, Whitewebbs Rd. ENFIELD KINGS HEAD, Market Place. ENFIELD OLD PARK HEIGHTS HOTEL,

Old Park Road, GLASGOW ALLISON ARMS, 720-722 Pollokshaws Rd.

N10 Finlay Wines, 393 Muswell Hill Bdwy. NII Originales, Friern Barnet Rd. N15 Majestic, Colina Mews Park Road. Greenwood's 150 Haverstock Hill. Grogblossom, 253 West End Lane. BOREHAMWOOD Grogblossom, Shenley Roac

Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Cres.