

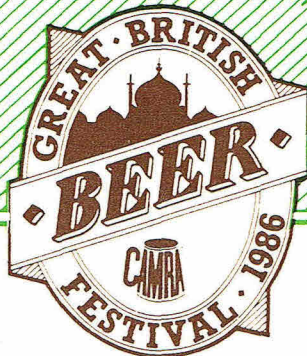
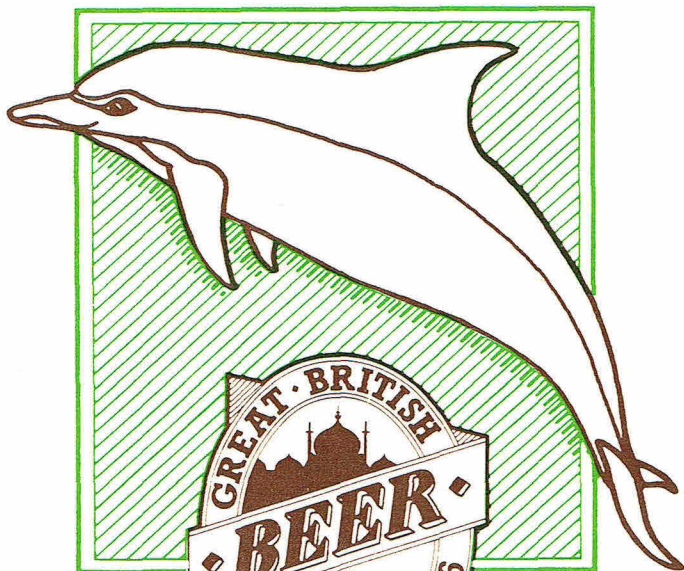
Aug
1986

LONDON



20p

DRINKER



BRIGHTON METROPOLE
AUGUST 5-9 1986

Vol 8

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

No 7

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned please ring the branch contact. Dates for August of which we have been notified are as follows. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson. Branch Contacts on Page 3

BEXLEY: Wed 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting. FORRESTER'S ARMS, Wickham Lane, Welling. Tue 26 (8.00) Social, 'Crayford Crawl'. Start LORD NELSON, 108 London Road, Crayford.

CROYDON & SUTTON (Greater London): Tue 19 (8.30) Branch Meeting, ALBERT TAVERN, London SE25. Thur 28 Sutton High St. Crawl, GREEN MAN (Dep. 8.30) DOLPHIN, RED LION, CROWN, CRICKETERS. Sat 9 Minibus - Trip to Great British Beer Festival, Brighton. £2 including admission. Wed 17 Sept Minibus trip to Ridley's Brewery.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 12 (8.00) Branch Meeting. PRINCESS ALICE, 329 Romford Road, E7 — Mon 18 Advertising PIG'S EAR Crawl. Start (7.30) LEA TAVERN, 90 Whitepost Lane, E9 — Sat 23 Advertising PIG'S EAR Crawl. Start (7.30) DOWNS HOTEL, Downs Road, E5.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun 3 (12.00) Joint Social with Isle of Wight Branch. VOLUNTEER, Ventnor — Mon 11 (8.30) Committee Meeting/Social. BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Kingston — Thur 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting. SWAN, Walton-on-Thames. — Sun 7 Sept (7.00) Social. BARLEY MOW Epsom — Mon 8 (8.30) Committee Meeting/Social. LAMB, Acre Road, Kingston.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thur 7 (8.30) Committee Meeting. SUN INN, Parkshot, Richmond — Mon 18 (8.30) Branch Meeting. CHARIOT, 34 High Street, Hounslow — Thur 28 Social. O'Riordan's Tavern (Formerly Royal Tar), 3 High Street, Brentford.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thur 28 (8.00) Branch/Social Meeting. FREEMASONS ARMS, 38 Ladywell Road, Lewisham, SE13 — Mon 1 Sept (8.00) Committee Meeting. ANCHOR TAVERN, 165 Lewisham Road, Lewisham, SE13.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX: Wed 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Bridge Road (off A126), Grays — Tue 19 (Evening) Out-of-Area Social. Hatfield Heath (Four pubs — Try them all!) — Thur 28 (8.30) Social., ALBION, Dovers Corner, Rainham Road (Junction A13/A125), Rainham.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tue 26 CAMRA Curry Night. Meet 7.00 at TOOTING TAVERN, Tooting High Street for 8.00 at SREE KRISHNA. Strictly advance bookings only via Branch Contact — Sun 31 (12.00) Social. DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham High Road, SW12 (Lounge Bar on raised section.)

WEST LONDON: Wed 13 (8.00) Riverside Ramble. Start BELL & CROWN (8.00), 72 Strand on the Green, W4; STEAM PACKET (9.00), 85 Strand on the Green; EXPRESS HOTEL (10.00), Kew Bridge Road, Brentford — Thur 21 (8.00) Branch Meeting. DEVONSHIRE ARMS, 21 Devonshire Street, W1 — Sun 31 (12.00) Sunday Social. BRITANNIA TAP, Warwick Road, W14.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Thur 14 (8.30) Two Pub Social. WILLOW TREE, Jolly's Lane (off Willow Tree Lane), Yeading then WALNUT TREE (9.45), Willow Tree Lane, Yeading — Sat 16 All Day Crawl near Wendover. Please phone Branch Contact for details — Wed 20 (8.30) Branch Meeting. STAR, Blenheim Parade, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon. Meet in garden if fine — Tue 2 Sept Two Pub Games Evening. Meet LAMB (8.00), Norwood Road, Southall then WOLF (9.30), Norwood Road (in Public Bar). Bring games.

Deadline for the September edition, 1st August. Material for October edition to arrive by 1st September. Please be sure to send diary material to Andy Pirson.

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

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Andy Pirson, 22 Fulwell Road, Teddington, Middx, TW11 0RA.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: (£1.70 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex. ADVERTISING: c/o Martin Smith, 64 Brailsford Road, SW2

EDITORIAL



The term Real Ale refers to ale or beer brewed of traditional ingredients and served without the use of extraneous Carbon Dioxide. As such it is an accepted definition, having become part of the English Language by its inclusion in Volume 3 of the Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary. Yet some pubs persist in announcing that real ale is on sale when there is no such substance on the premises. To quote one example, which directly prompted this piece: Passing a Charrington pub I had long known as a fizz-hole, I noted a new sign advertising among other things, real ale. A glance through the open door confirmed the presence of two handpumps, one bearing the appropriate clip for IPA. However, the order for a half (judicious, as it transpired) produced something which had me burping and wishing I hadn't bothered, as well as nine bob poorer. "What about the real ale on the sign?" I enquired of the barmaid, whom I had known for some time at a GBG pub. A male member of the staff interspersed: "It's all real ale". A lady being present, I confined my response to cold politeness.

Allowing for an error of tense, he was right. All beer *is* real up to a certain stage in its production. You couldn't make it and use the term otherwise.

Keg starts off as real ale, but there the similarity ends. By the same token prunes were once plums — and have a similar effect to fizz on my constitution. A fair comparison? At least they are marketed under different names! With all other foodstuffs, it is unlawful to give a false description. If soya beans are used instead of meat, for example, the fact has to be plainly stated. (Come to think of it, perhaps it's being substituted in beers, to judge from some of the less pleasant varieties). I could go on for ever, but just look around a supermarket for the amount of qualifications in trade descriptions, such as *processed* cheese. It's about time such qualifications were mandatory regarding alleged beers. That will give the Trading Standards people something to do.

Martin Smith.

PORTRAIT GALLERY No.9



Terry Hewitt, the Chairman of the London Branches Committee, is a softly spoken Ulsterman who needs a lot of front for the job he has to endure. Terry lives near Croydon and has a wonderful and tolerant wife.

BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 45716 (H)	Orpington 38321 x29 (W-Fri only)
BROMLEY	PAUL THOMAS	778-9324 (W)	
CROYDON & SUTTON	PAUL EVERITT	Lodge Hill (66) 46550(H)	
E.LONDON & CITY	ADRIAN HALL	471 5361 (H)	405 7686 x501 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440 2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944(W)
KINGSTON &	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2380 (W)
LEATHERHEAD			
NORTH LONDON	ANNE LODGE	888 5300 (H)	
RICHMOND			
& HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	977 1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	ANDREW CLIFTON	Romford (0708) 65150 (H)	
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	DAVE FOORD	690 5104 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	CHRIS COBBOLD	674 0556	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWS	723 2798 (H)	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423 1243 (H)	

PERSONAL VIEW

Recently a group of South West members and friends visited one of the last remaining “great” pubs: the Crooked Billet at Stoke Row in Oxfordshire, or as it is usually called “Nobby’s” after the well-known landlord.

Pubs like this are in danger of becoming extinct. Let me describe it for you. It is set on a remote road off an equally obscure road, so it does not attract a passing trade. It has three contrasting rooms but no bar as such, as the beer is served directly via the cellar steps and kitchen. There is a faded games room with a pool table; a living room type of area and finally a basic bar with huge open fireplace and wooden benches and chairs. This is the type of pub beloved by our parents and their parents and still holds a great appeal for us younger ones. Why, then, is this style of pub in danger of extinction? The answer in a nutshell is money. Pubs like this are no longer a commercial proposition in this day and age. Nobby’s does not attract as many people through his doors as in recent years. Being single and nearing retirement, Nobby does not serve food except the crisp variety. Most people today are accustomed to eating as they drink, so many people only visit in the evening after a meal. Also, a whole generation have been brought up to expect a ‘comfortable’ pub, i.e. button-backed seats and a plethora of plastic plants hanging from every available space, and all the comforts of home. They would not feel at Nobby’s, which belongs to a previous era of pub architecture.

Also, unfortunately, the Brewery (Brakspear’s) have for too long boasted of their traditional and picturesque pubs while transforming the interiors into identikit models for the “modern pub-goer!” In a good many of their pubs it is difficult to order a pint at lunchtimes because of the roaring food trade. Fine for the eater but not for the drinker (Brakspears are by no means alone in this respect). Unhappily the Brewery accountants seem to regard the few remaining pubs like Nobby’s as “problem” properties which are not realising their profit potential. Instead of being left alone to continue in the way they know best, the older generation of “character” landlords have been forced out by swingeing rent increases and have been told if they can’t pay the increase, to do food, or quit.

Nobby is due to retire this year and the future for the pub is in the hands of the Brewery, so do visit while you can.

The list of unspoilt pubs continues to dwindle, one of the latest casualties being the Blue Ship at the Haven in West Sussex, which is now an

unspoilt restaurant rather than a pub. The New Inn at Hadlow Down, East Sussex is another gem which remains excellent, at least for another 4 years until Gerald calls it a day.

Here are my remaining Southern favourites for your perusal, bearing in mind the personal nature of my criteria:

The Black Horse, Checkendon (Near Nobby’s), Oxon. The Old Hatch Gate, Cockpole Green (near Henley), Berks. The King’s Head, Laxfield, Suffolk. The Dun Cow, Northmoor, Oxon.

Happy hunting! —

Chris Cobbold.



RETURN VISIT

An unlikely short story

Fellow made a fool of himself the other day in the Saloon bar. Puts back a few pints of best — obviously thirsty. After a while he says he’s hungry. No grub left — pies probably in the museum and sandwiches sold second-hand to B.R. Mavis the barmaid — always a helpful — directs him to the nearest takeaway, and an hour later he comes back full of praise. From what he says, anything he didn’t order wasn’t on the menu. A few pints more and he’s looking decidedly off-colour. Then without warning he lets fly like the Dam Busters are giving a repeat performance — all over the gov’nor’s puppy, which looks up dejectedly from the mess. “S’funny” mumbles Matey as we help him into the fresh air: “I heard they use dog meat, but I thought they’d cook it first”.

200 REAL ALES
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over the U.K.

LOW PRICE BEER
Selected Regional Ales
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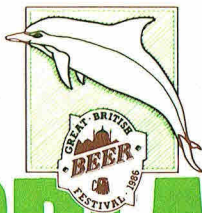
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AUGUST 5TH-9TH 1986

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Wed.-Sat. August 6th-9th: 11.00-2.30 5.00-11.00.

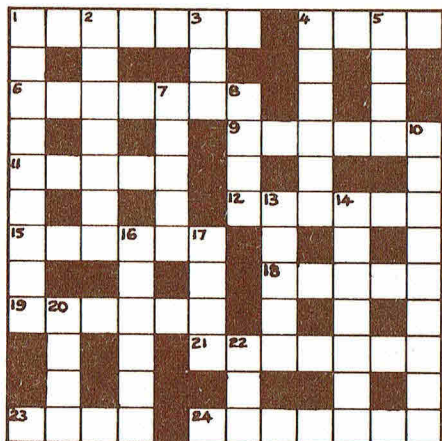
ADMISSION £1 after 6.00. Free all other times. Free for accompanied children.
Season Tickets (r. £2.50) and free admission details for groups of 12 or more are
available from **CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW**



LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON

£5 PRIZE TO BE WON



ACROSS

1. Pleading for 22 in live horse. (7)
4. 22 right in beam. (4)
6. Go West off 22 left in red. (7)
9. A rocket, a railway and a home for fliers. (6)
11. Sound of Number One, London. (5)
12. Back 22 off 125 Arabian? (6)
15. Bat off 22 set out. (6)
18. Fire off 22 after the French. (5)
19. 22 half German red. (6)
21. Intellectual with oval cape. (7)
23. Just Water. (4)
24. In Ely about small part made badly. (7)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 27th August will be entered into a draw for the prize.

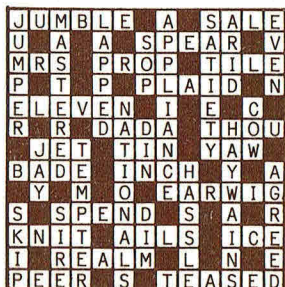
Prize winner will be announced in the November London Drinker.
Solution next month.

All entries to be submitted to:
London Drinker Crossword
25 Valens House
Upper Tulse Hill
London SW2 2RX

DOWN

1. Starting 22 not first in existence. (9)
2. Grand tier off 22 increasing. (7)
3. Look sister up and down. (3)
4. George 4th off 22 going soft. (6)
5. I turn right for Russian. (4)
7. Thoughts of Sadie. (5)
8. 22 round a win. (4)
10. You old saint unready for what is past. (9)
13. I see, you hear, off 22 covering. (5)
14. Smelliest on top. (7)
16. Motor East North East out of 22. (6)
17. Ran from the height to England's Capital. (4)
20. This is fair knitting. (4)
22. The spirit of the game? (3)

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



Winner of the prize for the June crossword:
Mr B.E.Bradley, 40 Cambridge Road, Anerley,
London SE20 7XL.

Other correct entries were received from:
P.J.Brown, Damien Farrell, B.H.Felton,
Eileen Graves, Alison Henley, D.J.Hilditch,
Mrs G.M.Lines, Eddie Sissons, P.Spires,
M.J.Trowell.

There were also two incorrect entries.

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ALE RIP-OFF IS DENIED

Southern beer drinkers are not being ripped off, despite a gulf between North-South ale prices.

Differences in rates and other overheads mean regional prices cannot be directly compared, claims the national Union of Licensed Victuallers.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries director David Thompson caused uproar when he suggested, while announcing his company's interim profits, that there was no excuse for Southerners to be paying up to £1 a pint.

He said: "Preserving the image of beer as an everyday item of expenditure is essential, and going to pubs should not be a treat. It is an everyday social matter and that is what pubs were designed for.

"Pubs make their money by appealing to as wide a clientele as possible, and I don't think making beer a very expensive item is in keeping with the philosophy of pubs and pub-going."

Boast

WDB boasts the fastest growing earnings per share rate in the country — up 29 per cent at the half-year stage. It trades in the West Midlands, which is the second highest structural

unemployment spot in the country and also the area of lowest beer prices.

Watney claimed that the Southern cost structure, with its inherent higher rates and overheads, meant comparison with the rest of the country was not possible.

NULV said: "Pricing policy is largely up to the licensee. Overheads vary which encourage licensees to put up the price of a pint.

"But if beer is too expensive customers will vote with their feet. There is no way you can standardise the price of a pint around the country."

From Morning Advertiser.

MILD DECLINE

Sales of Milds nationally are continuing to decline. Recent figures indicate a fall from 15.1% of all beer sales in 1982 to 12.5% in 1984. — and remember that this is at a time of generally falling beer sales, and that many of these Milds are keg. Nationally, Mild is nearing extinction in the South East, and sales are only really healthy in the West Midlands. The future of many Milds (particularly cask Milds) must be bleak unless something can be done to encourage more people to drink them.

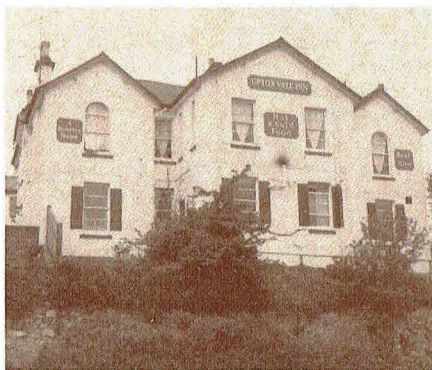
HOLIDAY PUB PROFILES



1) The Still, Cumbergate, Peterborough.

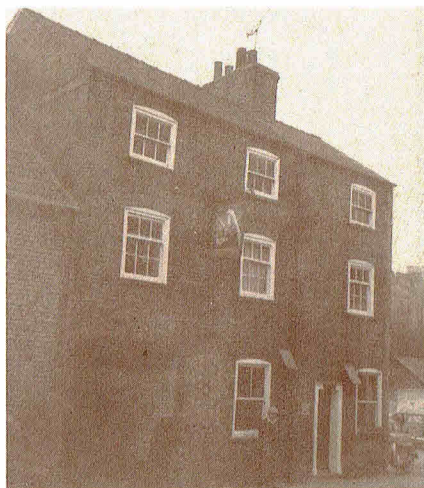
Trying to find a good pub in the centre of Peterborough is not the easiest of tasks, especially near the massive shopping arcades.

However, there exists one ideal resting place for those who want to forget about shopping for a moment and take the weight off their legs. Proprietor John Crisp owns the excellent Still and all beer is served by gravity from a back room. It is pointless to list the beers as they change weekly but you can guarantee an excellent pint of Elgoods Bitter from Wisbech, and usually Marston's and Greene King. Many thanks to John and all our Peterborough readers for supporting our humble magazine.



2) The Upton Vale Inn, Upton Road, Torquay.

There are very few good pubs in Torquay town centre and you have to travel some way before good pubs are found, which have not had the guts knocked out of them. Such a pub is the Upton Vale, which is very close to the Coach Station and not far from Torre B.R. The manager, Barry Hill, has obviously brought good Yorkshire habits with him as far as ale is concerned and serves a consistently fine pint of Bass and Flowers IPA. When you visit, see if you can spot our shy, retiring delivery man, Terry, having a peaceful pint at the bar.



3 QUEEN VICTORIA — Union Rd. Lincoln.

This excellent Free house is situated at the top of Lincoln round the back of the Castle and is well worth the climb with the tourists. The pub always carries a wide selection of beers which on our visits have been in excellent nick. Don't miss the more basic 'Strugglers' almost next door and sample the superb Draught Bass.

Brewer's new hotel

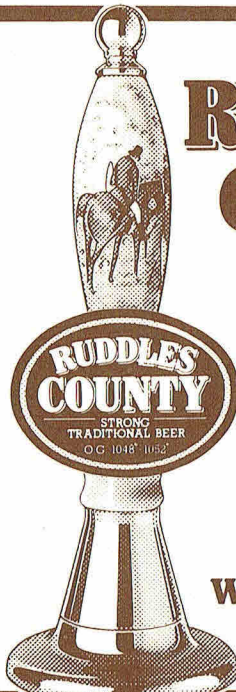
Chairman of the Chiswick-based brewing and hotel group, Fuller Smith & Turner received a silver trowel presented by Mr Cyril Lesser, chairman of the Lesser Group of Teddington at the 'topping out' of the new £900,000 complex at the Master Brewer Hotel, Hillingdon last week.

The extension, completed a month ahead of schedule and due to be opened by July 14th, has been designed to complement and enhance the motel's existing facilities. It will add 42 rooms, 32 double and 10 twin-bedded rooms, of which two have been specially designed for the disabled.

Mr Fuller, who laid the final concrete paving slab to complete the patio area outside the complex, said: "We are extremely pleased that Lesser Design & Build are completing the project one month ahead of schedule."

He added: "In commercial terms this represents an unexpected bonus, and there are not too many of those around to-day!"

Mr Cyril Lesser praised, the excellent co-operation, teamwork and working relationship which had been established between the two companies.



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NORTH LONDON NEWS

Amongst the new outlets for Real Ale reported recently are the Tricycle Theatre Bar in Kilburn High Road, with rather pricey Fullers Pride and ESB, and the Somers Town Coffee House in NW1 with Charrington IPA and Bass. Set against a recent price rise by Taylor Walker, there were still bargains to be had in Charrington pubs when this article was compiled in mid-June. One of our Wood Green correspondents reports IPA at 80p in both the Freemasons and the Seven Oaks, N22. Even better value is to be found at the Prince on Wales in Kynaston Road, Stoke Newington, where the IPA is only 79p. The Rugby Tavern in Bloomsbury is now a Nicholson's pub, and will presumably now be selling beers from outside the Allied stable. Campbell's in Hoxton at last has the 80/- beer of its new owners, Belhaven.

The Nightingale in Wood Green has just reopened after a long overdue refurbishment. There is a large pool room in which it will also be possible to play darts, and the lounge decor makes interesting use of stained glass. The plush interior of the Canonbury Tavern in N1 has given way to an overdone modern refurbishment. One of our members aptly described it as "ponced

up", and we were glad to retire to the large shady garden which is as unspoilt and unkempt as ever. Pubs with gardens are very welcome now that fine weather is with us again. Unfortunately some pretty tepid beer was being reported even before the weather turned very warm in Mid-June. Even if May was not noted for sunshine the temperature did rise and in the interest of good ale some licensees would have done well to turn on their cellar coolers, and in some cases turn off their central heating!

I recently received a multi-coloured leaflet from a local pub, which appeared to have been delivered to all homes in the vicinity, in which the new licensees described how they had just moved in and would love to meet me! Unfortunately this invitation was not matched by the indifferent welcome and beer.

By the time this article appears, Aubrey Meredith will be about to retire from the Empress of Russia, St. John Street, EC1. Aubrey has been a good friend of CAMRA for over 12 years and we wish him well for the future. The Empress itself is to receive a thorough refurbishment from Whitbread which will no doubt change the character of this very traditional pub.

JOHN CONEN.

SHOREDITCH SHUFFLE

Shoreditch is that decaying area of Inner City situated at the back of Liverpool Street station. It is where East London meets North, to the east is Spitalfields, famous for its fruit and vegetable market, and for the "Jack the Ripper" murders of 1888. There is the cosmopolitanism of Brick Lane, "Little India", and indeed the area recently featured in BBC2's "King of the Ghetto" drama; but to most "London Drinker" readers the region is best known for being the site of the Truman brewery. Surprisingly though, they do not totally dominate the local beer scene, for a remarkable number of Independent and Free houses exist in the area too. So it was that I set out to walk from Old Street to Aldgate East via Spitalfields, with a few very necessary diversions en route.

Starting point at Old Street was the GLUE POT (Watney) (1), a modern pub without much character, but serving Websters Yorkshire and Combes Bitter to the accompaniment of Irish records on the juke box. I appear to be conducting some sort of ritual dance with the bar maid, whereby I stand at one bar and she automatically goes to the other, but eventually succeed in getting served a half of Combes. From here I walk up to the Old Street roundabout, where deep below lies the Northern Line and British Rail stations. The booking hall is reached by a maze of sordid passages, and there are also a few shops peeking out an existence down below, as if a planned shopping mall never really took off.

I turn right into City Road, noting the old Leysian Mission across the road, built 1903. On the right I pass what appears to be an ex-Charrington pub, now reborn as some sort of wine bar. Ahead of me is a new red-brick office block, Heron House, occupying the site of the old Dawsons department store, one of many which succumbed in the 1960's and 70's. Before reaching it though, I turn right into Brunswick Place. A Courage pub on the corner appears not to be open, so I continue until arriving at the PRINCE ARTHUR (Shepherd Neame) (2). One of a number of pubs in London now owned by this Kent brewer, it was surprisingly full for early in the evening session. Master Brew Bitter is offered on pump, so I settle for this, whilst looking round.

The tiny bar is decorated with pictures of race horses, and a framed certificate proclaims it to have been North London CAMRA's pub of the month in November 1982. Perhaps not had they waited as long as I did, but to be fair there was only one member of staff on. Leaving here, I continue along Brunswick Place, through

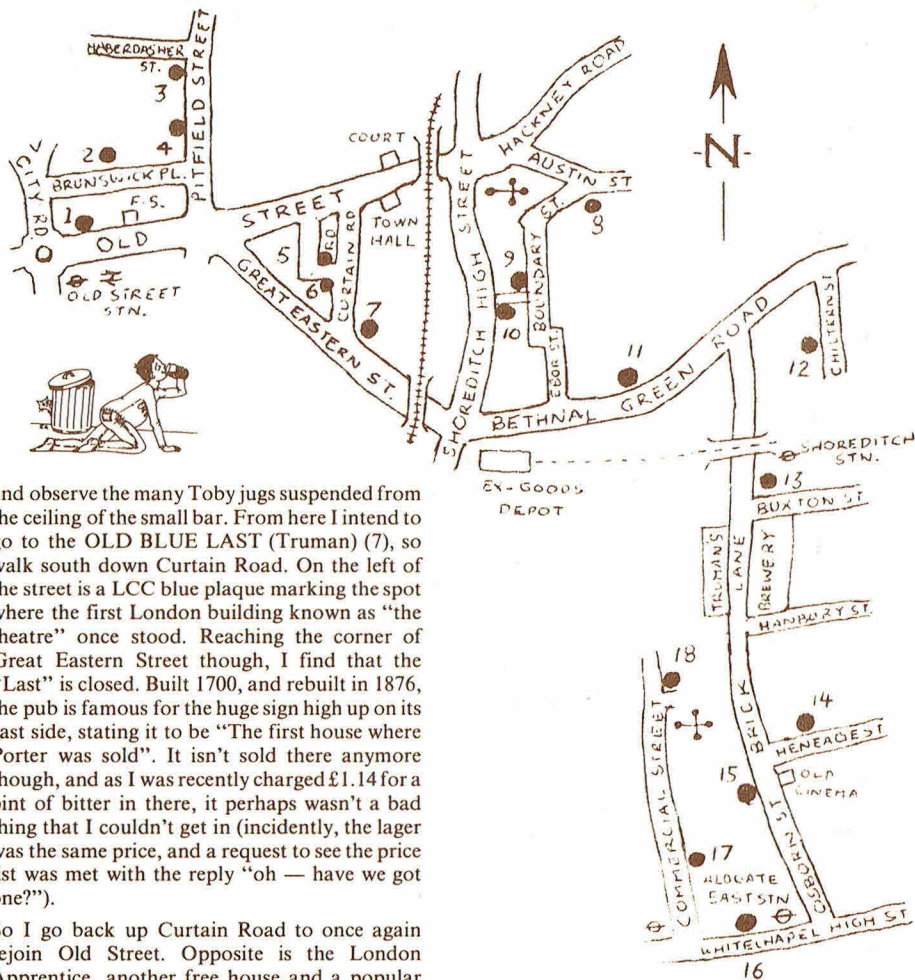
Charles Square to reach Pitfield Street. Opposite is a closed pub, the Hop Pole, which still retains a beautiful set of Truman's green tiling outside. I go north along Pitfield Street, passing on the left an old cinema. One of the earliest "fleapits", it survived to be operated by Rank and closed in 1956.

On the corner of Haberdasher Street is the GEORGE & VULTURE (Fuller) (3). The collection of pewter mentioned in the North London Beer Guide has departed with the previous landlord (P removed — confirmed), but Fullers excellent London Pride and ESB remain. After 1 pint of the former, I retrace my steps back to Old Street. On the way though, I decide to call in at the QUEENS HEAD (Free) (4), which I'd passed on the way up, the exterior of which is in Taylor Walker's livery. The smell of varnish from the bar fittings though showed it had recently re-opened after closure and refurbishment, and it now offered Greene King IPA and Abbot. I decide at this stage to go onto half pints, so as to be able to complete the evening with some sort of coherent set of notes having been taken.

I continue back to Old Street, with the old fire station across the road from me opposite, and turn left to head east. On the corner is the Pitfield Brewery shop, but the actual brewing is of course now done elsewhere. After walking a few hundred yards along Old Street, I cross the road and go down Charlotte Street. Here is the BRICKLAYERS ARMS (Free) (5), ex-Whitbread by the look of the maroon tankard sign on a door window. Inside no fewer than seven real ales are on offer: Wethered Bitter, Ward's Sheffield Best, Crouch Vale SAS, Youngs Bitter, Huntsman Royal Oak, Fremkins Bitter and a Felinfoel brew which did not otherwise distinguish itself on the pumpclip.

Behind the bar is an attractive engraved mirror promoting "Whitbreads sparkling ales and celebrated stout". The single bar is full, with a mixture of city gent types and others not so well dressed. A piano sits in one corner, something not seen that often in a London pub nowadays, and business appears to be booming, and deservedly so. A half of Youngs later, I leave and go left into Rivington Street.

On the junction with Curtain Road is the BARLEY MOW (Watney) (6). Outside there are still green signs on the windows which refer to Mann, Crossman & Paulin, whilst inside, Ruddles County and Stag are available, and the Websters Yorkshire is "off". I have the County



and observe the many Toby jugs suspended from the ceiling of the small bar. From here I intend to go to the OLD BLUE LAST (Truman) (7), so walk south down Curtain Road. On the left of the street is a LCC blue plaque marking the spot where the first London building known as "the theatre" once stood. Reaching the corner of Great Eastern Street though, I find that the "Last" is closed. Built 1700, and rebuilt in 1876, the pub is famous for the huge sign high up on its east side, stating it to be "The first house where Porter was sold". It isn't sold there anymore though, and as I was recently charged £1.14 for a pint of bitter in there, it perhaps wasn't a bad thing that I couldn't get in (incidentally, the lager was the same price, and a request to see the price list was met with the reply "oh — have we got one?").

So I go back up Curtain Road to once again rejoin Old Street. Opposite is the London Apprentice, another free house and a popular gay venue. Eleven handpumps on the bar but sadly only two or three ever used. It is not yet open so I pass by, but a variety of Brakspears and Flowers ales is usually offered. The pub also has the advantage of being open from 1 to 3 on a Sunday lunchtime.

I walk east, past the Magistrates' Court and the old Shoreditch Town Hall. The notice board still refers to the Metropolitan Borough of Shoreditch, even though it ceased to exist some twenty-one years earlier. The rail bridge spanning the road is still in use at the time of writing, but soon will become disused. There was once a station above on the North London Line, but it closed in the Blitz of 1940. The street level buildings are still there though on the corner of Kingsland Road, with the legend "LMS" and "1928" still proudly displayed above.

I cross the busy Shoreditch High Street and skirt the north side of Shoreditch church via Hackney Road and Austin Street. In the shadow of the church is THE CONQUEROR (Free) (8). Plainly ex-Charrington by its distinctive "Toby" windows, it has Everards Tiger and Pitfield Bitter on when I called. Another small pub, with a separate public/games room. The bar is pleasantly full and I sample the locally brewed bitter. Leaving I go south, past the back of the church and into Boundary Street, named after the border between Shoreditch and Bethnal Green (now Hackney and Tower Hamlets).

On the left is an old council estate, complete with the incongruous sight of a bandstand in the middle, half way down on the right is the SHIP &

Continued on next page

BLUE BALL (Watney) (9). A notice inside states that its name is unique, being derived from the blue ball signal which told ship's captains that it was safe to unload goods. Mock ship's lanterns above the bar add to the maritime touch, and Watney's standard Combes Bitter, Ruddles County and Websters Yorkshire are offered. I drink a swift half of Websters before walking down the narrow alley beside the pub to reach the High Street, and the BULL & PUMP (Taylor Walker (10) on the corner. A horseshoe-shaped bar with a set back dining area, the walls are decorated with pictures of stars of TV's "Dynasty" series. Burton and Taylor Walker bitter are stocked, and after finishing a half of the latter I go back up the alley, then turn right into Boundary Street again. Through the back doubles and Ebor Street, I come out onto the Bethnal Green Road. Opposite is all that remains of the old Bishopsgate goods depot, now used as a lorry park. It was once the terminus of the Eastern Counties Railway, but in 1875 was replaced by the more central Liverpool Street. Its goods role continued until 1964 when it was destroyed by fire, but some attractive iron gates remain.

On the corner of Ebor Street is what is quite obviously a closed pub, and indeed a white swan is picked out in stone near the roof. I turn left, walking east along Bethnal Green Road. I am now bordering on Spitalfields, an area which has seen generations of immigrants to London. From the Huguenot weavers, to the Jews of the 1880's, who have in turn given way to the Asians in the 1960's and 70's. I pass Bethnal Green synagogue, a modern building opened only in 1957, yet now barred and shuttered.

A little farther along is the KNAVE OF CLUBS (Taylor Walker) (11). Inside, the high-ceilinged bar is strangely divided. Things do not look good, but I ask the barman for a pint of whatever's on the handpump. "Burton" he replies before disappearing over to the other side of the bar and the solitary pump. A notice sternly announces that the sale of caged birds is prohibited, a legacy of the Sunday morning Club Row markets perhaps. On the wall is a superb set of three glass signs, "Hennessy's Pale & Brown Brandies, Knave of Clubs Family Wine & Spirit Stores" etc.

The next three pubs are all fizz, the Jolly Butchers at the top of Brick Lane (worth a quick look inside the door just to observe the hideous Truman logo carpet), the seedy looking Lyons Corner House and the Well & Bucket (Truman); the last two being along the Bethnal Green Road. I turn off the latter road and go right into Chiltern Street, a short way down is the

BRITANNIA (Truman) (12). Outside all is bliss, traditional Truman green tiling, and a complete set of etched glass windows "Truman's Burton Pale Ale, Truman's London Stout, Truman's Celebrated Porter, Truman's (Eagle Brand) Bottled beers, and Ben Truman Pale Ale". Inside alas all is different. American style plastic and chrome bar, Budweiser fridge and adverts everywhere. Still at least they've still got real ale, Truman Best and Websters Yorkshire, so I have the Best before retracing my steps to Brick Lane.

I pass the aforementioned Jolly Butchers; there is a 24-hour beigel shop next door, much frequented by taxi drivers. A bridge over the road once carried the rail lines to the closed goods depot. Just beyond it on the left, down a short pathway, is the LT Shoreditch station. One of the tiniest on the Underground, it now sees use only in the Monday to Friday peak hours, plus on Sunday mornings for the market.

The section of Brick Lane beyond here really is like little India. Countless Indian restaurants, and Asian food and dress shops. The "rag trade" too, flourishes around here, with the Bengalis having taken over from the Jews.

On the corner of the appropriately named Buxton Street is THE OLD TWO BREWERS (Truman) (13). In the very shadow of the Brick Lane brewery, yet what a dump! It seems inconceivable that the brewery have let it get into such a state! Truman Bitter and Best Bitter is the choice, and on a shelf behind the bar lies a Truman Mild pumpclip, unused following its demise. Country and Western tapes amuse the few customers, and I am surprised to see plastic glasses stacked above the bar. Though they would not have looked out of place in the bar of the Britannia, I find out they are used when a diner from a nearly Indian restaurant comes in for a 'carry out'. It seems it fails to possess a drinks licence! Some nice Trumans signs remain on the windows, including those for London Stout again. As I leave and continue south again, I am flanked on both sides by the brewery.

The architecture is a skilful mixture of old and new, and an old Morris Commercial lorry in period Truman, Hanbury & Buxton livery stands in the forecourt. Careful scrutiny of the brewery chimney reveals where the apostrophe and the letter 'S' has been removed from the word 'Truman'. The complex ends at Hanbury Street, yet there is no Truman street nearby to complete the trio of names. Many of the streets leading off on either side are unbelievably derelict and decrepit. The large white building on the corner of Fournier Street was once a synagogue; it now sees Asian religious use. I ignore the Seven Stars, no real ale, and follow the directions of a wooden sign at the end of

Heneage Street which points to the PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS (Free) (14). This was formerly the Romford Arms, but now lives up to its new name, with Fullers London Pride and ESB, Youngs Ordinary and Special, and Arkells BB. Recently redecorated, the name of the pub is set into the bar top in brass letters. A food section reveals appetising and reasonably priced fare, but I cannot stay long enough to sample it.

I walk the short way back to Brick Lane, and turn left, southbound still. On the right is Fashion Street, where a strange Moorish-looking building occupies most of one side. This was once the Jews' bazaar, where fifty-bladed penknives and penny nick-nacks could be bought. Now mostly closed it brings a strange touch to an East End street.

Almost opposite Fashion Street is the Naz cinema. It opened in 1935 as the Mayfair, having been built on the site of a much earlier establishment. It became an Odeon in 1950 before closure by them in 1967. It continued as the Naz though, showing Indian films until recently.

The last pub before Brick Lane runs into Osborn Street is the FRYING PAN (Truman) (15). It is considerably smarter than their previous establishment, and I wonder if this is used as a

'local' by the brewery managers from up the road. In spite of its proximity though, only one local brew is on sale, Trumans Bitter, and the other handpump dispenses the ubiquitous Websters Yorkshire. One wall of the L-shaped bar is decorated with a collection of frying pans, and the toilets are carefully hidden behind a door marked 'private'. Two clocks on the same wall show a time discrepancy of nearly ten minutes — one to open and one to close by? I sink a half of Trumans before walking the short way down Osborn Street to reach Whitechapel High Street. There is one pub on the way, the Archers (Whitbread) but the solitary pump is unmarked and unused and a request for real ale brings forth the reply "don't keep mate, have to throw half away".

I turn right in the High Street and soon call at the WHITE HART (Taylor Walker) (16). The pub seems to have been changed since my last visit, with the front and back bars being knocked into one. The clientele looks different too, less old 'uns and more student types. Unfortunately both the Taylor Walker and Burton bitters are "off", so after noting the collection of Double Diamond "DD" pint glasses hung behind the bar I leave unrefreshed.

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Continued

With one eye on my watch I hurry westward to Commercial Street. The Seven Stars (Taylor Walker) on the corner is closed, but a short distance along is the CITY DARTS (Truman) (17). Another pub which has been recently decorated, the theme is very much that of the sport mentioned in its title; although it does not of course stand in the City of London. It is the first Truman pub visited which stocks all three of the brewery's cask conditioned ales, Truman bitter, Truman Best and Sampson.

With the clock edging ever nearer to the magic 2300 hours, I have just time to finish my crawl in the JACK THE RIPPER (Truman) (18), which lies farther north up Commercial Street, adjacent to Christ Church, Spitalfields. The church was built by Hawksmoor, a student of Wren, and was actually threatened with demolition in the 1960's. Happily it survived, as do Hawksmoors other two East London churches, St. Georges in the East, and Limehouse.

DECLINE AND?

I note that once again there is serious talk of trying to attract tourists to this country ... This, it is said, will bring in a welcome trickle of foreign currency, but it is quite safe to prophesy that the attempt will be a failure. Apart from the many other difficulties, our licensing laws and the artificial price of drink are quite enough to keep foreigners away ... But even these prices are less dismaying to foreigners than the lunatic laws which permit you to buy a glass of beer at half past ten while forbidding you to buy it at twenty-five past, and which have done their best to turn pubs into mere boozing shops by excluding children from them.

How downtrodden we are in comparison with most other peoples is shown by the fact that even people who are far from being 'temperance' don't seriously imagine that our licensing laws could be altered. Whenever I suggest that pubs might be allowed to open in the afternoon, or to stay open till midnight, I always get the same answer: 'The first people to object would be the publicans. They don't want to have to stay open twelve hours a day.' People assume, you see, that opening hours, whether long or short, must be regulated by the law, even for one-man businesses. In France, and in various other countries, a cafe proprietor opens or shuts just as it suits him. He can keep open the whole twenty-four hours if he wants to; and, on the other hand, if he feels like shutting his cafe and going away for a week, he can do that too. In England we have had no such liberty for about a hundred years, and people are

The Jack the Ripper was renamed some time ago after the infamous Victorian murderer, and the walls inside bear copies of the "Illustrated London News" of the time. I seem to recall that the pub was keg only on a previous occasion, but real ale is now restored with Trumans Bitter and Websters Yorkshire. The latter wasn't available at the time though, so I celebrate the end of the crawl and treat myself to a pint, instead of half, of Yorkshire. Some nice tiling remains inside the pub, as well as pictures of Spitalfields in bygone days, the famous market being just across the road. (*Formerly the Eight Bells, it is said to be haunted by one of the Ripper's victims who once lived there - M.S.*)

It is but a short walk back to Whitechapel High Street, and the Aldgate East District and Hammersmith & City Line station. As can be seen, there is still much of historical interest in the area, whilst beer-wise, things are improving all the time.

EASTENDER.

hardly able to imagine it. England is a country that ought to be able to attract tourists. It has much beautiful scenery, an equable climate, innumerable attractive villages and medieval churches, good beer, and food-stuffs of excellent natural taste. If you could walk where you chose instead of being fenced in by barbed wire and 'Trespassers will be Prosecuted' boards, if speculative builders had not been allowed to ruin every pleasant view within ten miles of a big town, if an eatable meal in a country inn were a normal experience, and if Sunday were not artificially made into a day of misery, then foreign visitors might be expected to come here. But if those things were true England would no longer be England, and I fancy that we shall have to find some other way of acquiring foreign currency that is more in accord with our national character.

A quote from "What's Brewing", 1985 perhaps? Or maybe a recent report from the English Tourist Board?

No! ... George Orwell, writing in "Tribune", 18th August, 1944.

Nothing changes, does it!

Quotation from George Orwell published by kind permission of the Estate of the late Sonia Brownell Orwell and Secker and Warburg Limited.

Many thanks to Ralph Carpenter for bringing this to our attention, and for obtaining the appropriate permission to reproduce this piece. Ed.

NEW LOCAL GUIDE

The long-awaited guide to **Real Beer in South-West London** is due for issue at the beginning of August. Produced largely by the London Drinker team from research by members of 4 local branches, it covers all 850 plus pubs in the S.W. postal and outer districts, listing all beers and facilities of houses serving real ale. (An independent review will appear in due course uncensored! — Ed). Copies are available from local Branches, or from Martin Smith, 64 Brailsford Rd. SW2 2TF, price £2.50 post free — please make cheques and postal orders payable to **CAMRA S.W. London Guide**.

BARGAIN BEERS

E1 THE BRICKLAYER'S ARMS, 71 Redmans Road, has Ruddle's County at 95p a pint.

E1 THE OLD STAR, 14 Watts Street, Taylor Walker Bitter 80p.

NW4 — LONDON, MIDLAND & SCOTTISH, Church Road — Taylor Walker. Ind Coope Burton 92p in Public Bar.

SE23 THE MALT SHOVEL, Dartmouth Road, Greene King IPA at 85p and Wadworth 6X and Marston Pedigree, both at 86p.

SW1 — THE BUTTS, Elephant & Castle, all beers 80p all the time (Brixton Bitter & Best).

SW2 — TWO WOODCOCKS, 45 Tulse Hill. Nine Elms Mild 79p, Brixton Best 84p. Warrior 94p.

SW9 — CROWN & ANCHOR, 246 Brixton Road. Happy Hour 5.30—7pm Mon.-Wed. All beers 75p. Usually Brixton Best 80p, Anchor 90p, Courage Best 85p.

SW9 — WARRIOR, 242 Coldharbour Lane. Brixton Bitter 79p, Best 84p, Warrior 94p.

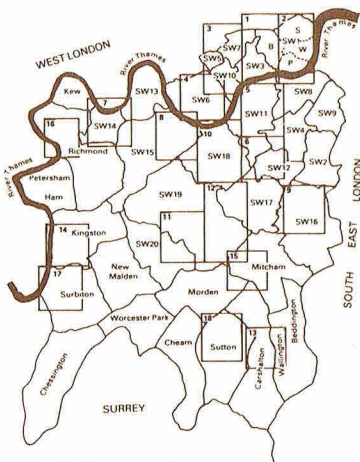
SW11 PRINCE OF WALES, Battersea Park Road (Battersea Brewery) Monday to Friday, 5.30-7pm, all draught beer at 75p.

SW17 — The Fountain (Sports) 862 Garratt Lane, Happy Hour: 5.30-6.30 Monday to Friday. Webster's Yorkshire at 70p.

WC2 — THE SHIP & SHOVEL, Craven Passage. 5.30—8.30 Mon., Wed., Fri. Ruddles Bitter 73p. Tues., Thurs. Ruddles County 94p. 10% discount on all real ales at weekends on production of CAMRA membership card.

CHEAM: The Bell, Ewell Road, has Charrington IPA at 84p, Bass at 90p and Grolsch at £1.22 a bottle.

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Crunch time for Allied

September looks like being the crunch month for Allied-Lyons on both the Hiram Walker and the Elders IXL fronts, chairman Sir Derrick Holden-Brown told the annual general meeting.

Sir Derrick said the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had until September 4 to deliver its report on the Elders bid for Allied to trade secretary Paul Channon.

"We must now look towards the end of September before we can expect the uncertainty to be resolved."

In Canada, the owners of Hiram Walker Resources had announced they would resolve the takeover situation by the end of September.

RIP OFFS

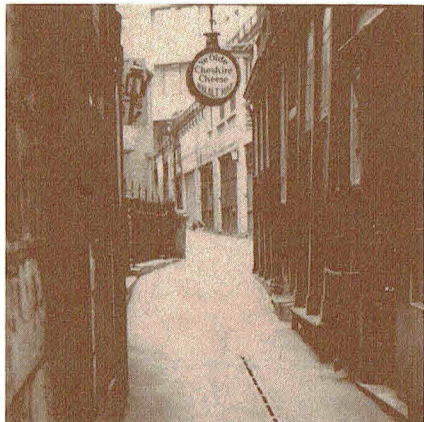
E1 SIR SIDNEY SMITH, 22 Dock Street, Webster's Yorkshire 98p.

EC3 EAST INDIA ARMS, 67 Fenchurch Street, Youngs Bitter £1.02.

WC2 FOOTLIGHTS REAL ALE BAR in the Waldorf Hotel, Courage Best, and one other real ale, both at £1.32 a pint!

PHOTOCRAWL OF FLEET STREET & LU

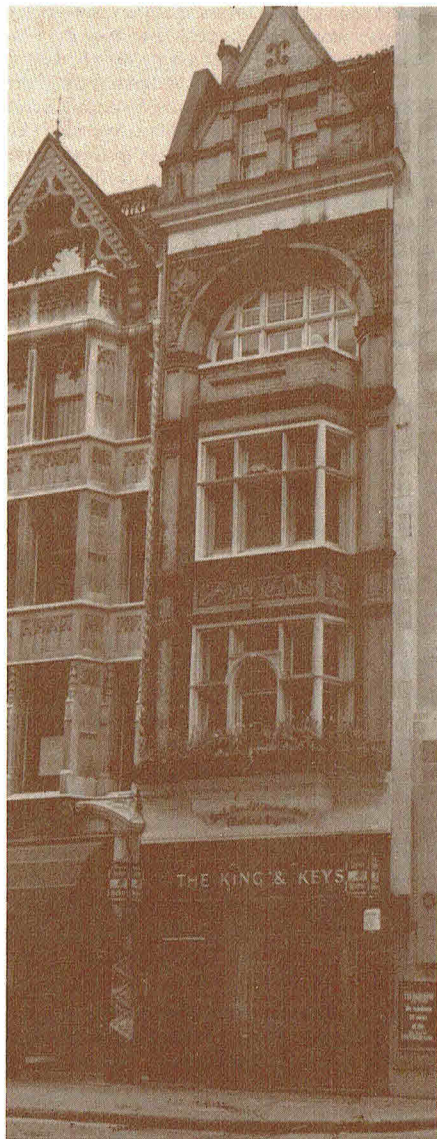
Fleet Street must have some of the most difficult to photograph pubs in London. Frontage space has always been at a premium, and a seemingly tall, narrow pub is often very spacious when you get inside the door. Here John Elliott has taken a selection running from west to east, in what was probably the most difficult assignment we have given him yet. No need for a map - just watch your step as you cross the road!



Apart from one lamp, the first port of call is invisible from the road. The OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE was rebuilt after the Great Fire. Your thirst can be quenched with Marston's Pedigree.



Just across the road, the TIPPERARY, also known if you crane your neck as the BOAR'S HEAD, serves Rayment 3BA and Greene King IPA & Abbot.



Back on the north side of Fleet Street, the KING AND KEYS widens out to form a wedge shape. Beers on sale are Taylor Walker and Friary Meux Bitter, and Ind Coope Burton Ale.



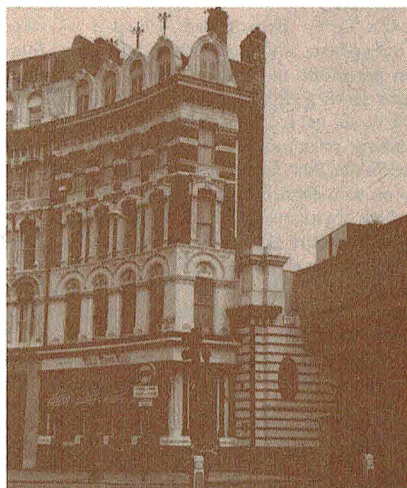
LUDGATE HILL — portrayed by John Elliott.



Further along the same side is the **POPEINJAY**, a modern pub on a very old site, bearing the ancient name for a parrot. Here the beers are Charrington IPA and Bass.



Back across the road, the **PUNCH TAVERN** looks deceptively small. However, this entrance leads to a large bar area which stretches behind both adjacent shops, and a good way back. This pub has the widest range on our crawl, selling Adnams Best and Mild, Boddington's, Tetley and Charrington I.P.A.



At the bottom of Fleet Street is Ludgate Circus, and directly across you will come to the **OLD KING LUD**. Claiming to be the birthplace of Welsh Rarebit, it sells Flower's Original, Greene King Abbot and Wethered Bitter.

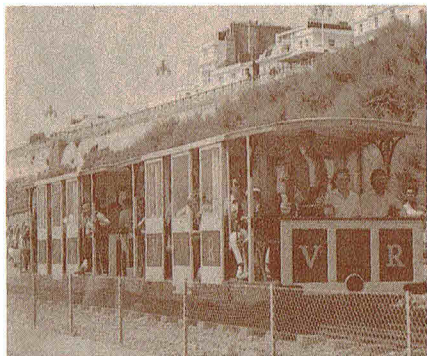


Half-way up Ludgate Hill and the last pub on our crawl, the recently re-opened **YE OLDE LONDON** has plenty of space indoors as well as a patio garden. The beers on sale are Younger's IPA, No.3 and Scotch Bitter.

Happy (if expensive) crawling!

HISTORICRAWL - Rottingdean, East Sussex

Three miles to the east of Brighton — venue of this year's Great British Beer Festival — stands Rottingdean, a village with more history than I am permitted to quote, as well as four real ale pubs serving eight different brews. At one time you could get from one place to the other by rail, starting your journey from the Aquarium near the Palace Pier. Even then a change was necessary — on to the world's only sea-going railway. Yes — I've got an even more obscure line than those featured in the May and June issues. And, at low tide, you can still see where it ran. However, that can come later. For proof of at least part of the above, you can still take a train from the Aquarium to the Marina. Volk's Electric Railway runs alongside Madeira Drive, the finishing point of many London to Brighton runs each year.



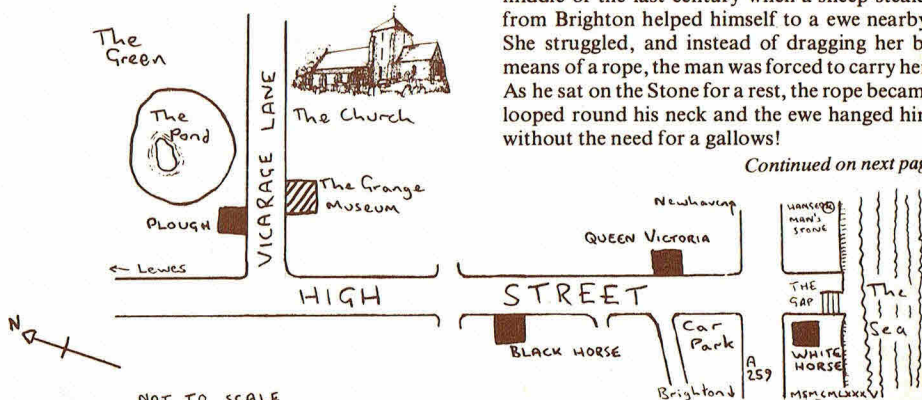
When local inventor Magnus Volk started work on the line, the local boatmen kept sabotaging it as it cut the beach off from the road. When, on 4th August 1883 it opened as the first electric railway in the country and one of the first in the world, nobody could work out how the hell it ran! There were no horses, engines or cables — and yet the

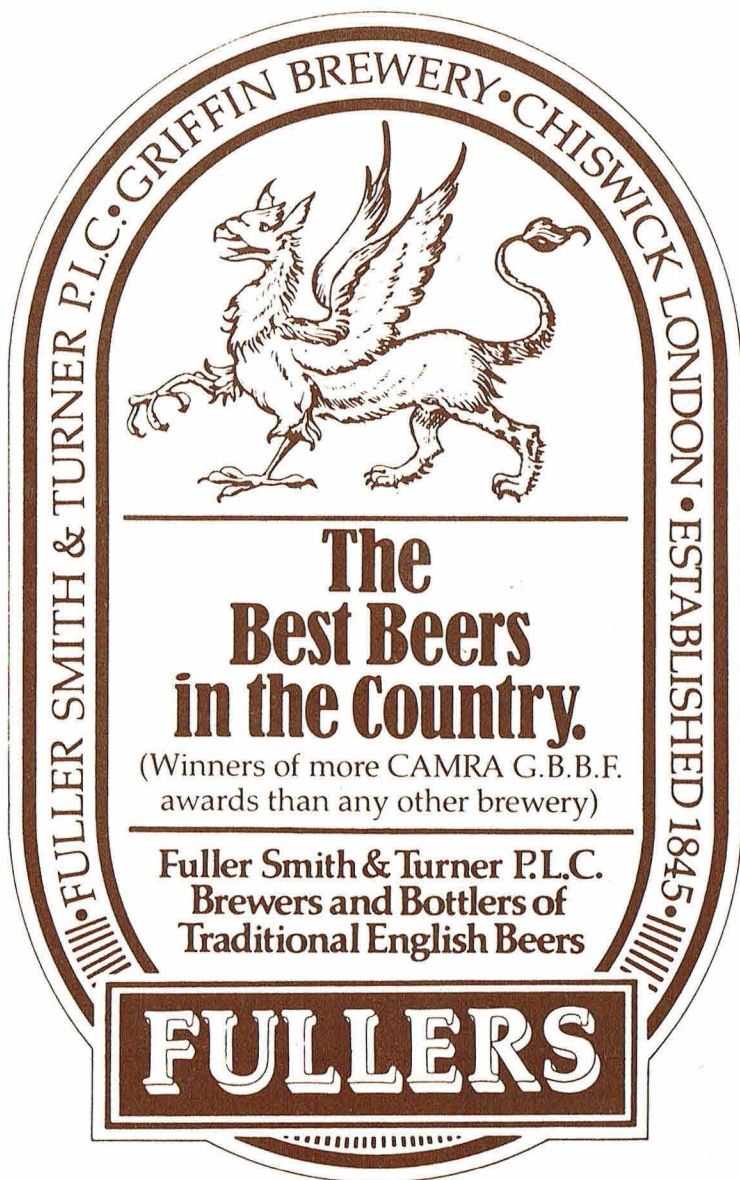
car was moving without visible means of propulsion. Nowadays the sight is not so strange, and "modern" multiple units carry passengers in the comfort (!) of a century ago at even higher rates than B.R. Still, it's unique — and antique — and won't get you to Rottingdean. You'll need a bus for that — any one from the stops opposite the landward side of the Aquarium. Get a return if you can — it saves a lot. (You can, alternatively, pick up a bus on the main road above Marina Station — formerly Black Rock.)

As you travel along you will see the Marina on the right. Having been built at vast expense, part of it is now being filled in to erect a building complex. Brighton has no natural harbour, and the two piers — plus one other which I shall mention later — were originally built to land passengers from paddle steamers. Note also, on your left, the windmill which will also feature in my narrative.

You can't miss Rottingdean; get off at the White Horse, the first pub after you leave Brighton, by the main crossroads. If you are driving, best leave the car in the car park and walk. Slake your thirst with Webster's Yorkshire Bitter or Truman's Sampson in the White Horse, which was built in 1934 to replace a 16th century building. The latter was once an important coaching inn when the coaches ran along the coastal road, which ran on the seaward side of the building. In due course a new main road was built some way inland — the present A27; the coastal road kept disappearing with large chunks of cliff. The coastline has receded a good half mile in the past thousand years, and the erosion was only halted earlier this century. To give one example, a rock known as "The Hanged Man's Stone" not far to the east of the White Horse now overlooks the sea, and yet in one photo taken in 1900 it was 100 yards inland. The origin of the gruesome title goes back to the middle of the last century when a sheep-stealer from Brighton helped himself to a ewe nearby. She struggled, and instead of dragging her by means of a rope, the man was forced to carry her. As he sat on the Stone for a rest, the rope became looped round his neck and the ewe hanged him without the need for a gallows!

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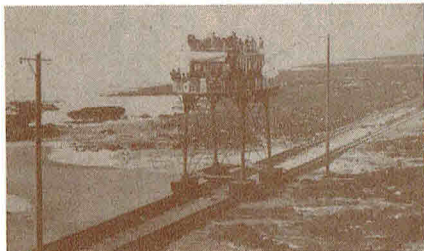




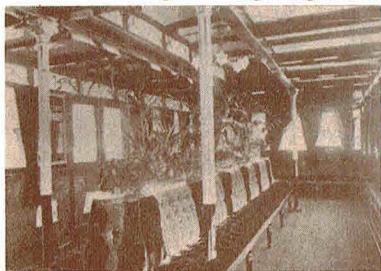
Rottingdean – Continued

Time for another beer. Diagonally over the crossroads is the Queen Victoria, serving Strong's Country and Pompey Royal. On the walls you will see old photographs of the area, including the short-lived pier. This metal structure stretched from behind the White Horse as a simple landing stage. It was a favourite fishing spot of the writer Rudyard Kipling, who for some while lived by the village green and wrote some of his best work there. A shy man, Kipling disliked being bothered by autograph hunters and avoided them by a very simple expedient handing a number of signatures to a member of the local Rifle Club, who sat at the entrance to the pier selling them on behalf of club funds, while the writer fished in peace.

This has never been a fishing village — the whole area is agricultural — but the pier served an extremely un-nautical purpose. For a brief period it served as the eastern terminus of the Brighton and Rottingdean Electric Seashore Railway, better known as the "Daddy Longlegs". It had a double track of 2'8½" gauge laid on concrete blocks many of which are still visible at low tide.



The outer rails were 18 feet apart, and since they only carried one vehicle, it had an effective gauge nearly four times that of your common-or-garden B.R. train. This extraordinary structure — described in a 1900 town guide as "a cross between a tramcar and a steamship saloon" — was one of Volk's most way-out and least successful inventions. It consisted of a saloon containing a plethora of pot plants with seats on an upper deck — like the trams and buses of the day — on four legs, each of which was mounted on a four wheeled bogie running along the tracks.



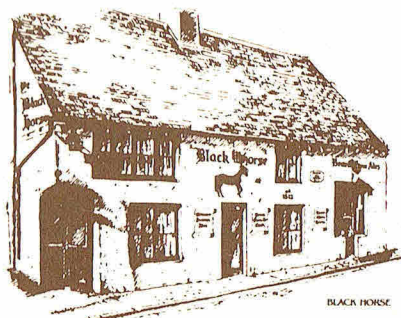
Room Inside!



The train on Page 18 was photographed just above where the figures on the beach to the far right of this picture are standing.

Two of these were powered — via shafts — by twin 25hp electric motors at deck level; the other two carried the brakes, which were hardly necessary, as the maximum speed — at low tide — was 8mph, and at high water the wheels were immersed to a depth of 16 feet. The line — to Banjo Groyne, by the halfway stage of the present Volk's Railway, was opened on Saturday 29th November 1896, and was put out of action within a week by a great storm which overturned Pioneer — as the car was officially named — and destroyed the Chain Pier — Brighton's first, and one of the earliest seaside piers, which resembled a suspension bridge going nowhere and at the time of its destruction had stood for more than 70 years — it was at the time closed and awaiting demolition. Five months after the storm, the line re-opened with a rebuilt Pioneer, licensed for 150 passengers and carrying lifebelts and a boat. This latter was really to preserve the nautical image — as was a binnacle for "steering" — and at all times the passengers' feet were at least 8 feet above water. The return journey cost a shilling, and the Prince of Wales — later King Edward VII — twice took this unique and, alas, never-to-be repeated trip. The seeming stray section of pier was under-powered and debris kept finding its way on to the track, and within four years the Corporation had decided to build groynes to curtail coastal erosion. The line ceased operation in 1901, and Pioneer languished for another decade lashed to the intermediate "station" at Roedean Gap, until sold for scrap to a German firm. Quite possibly it came back in slightly amended form during the Great War. As compensation for the closure, Volk was allowed to extend his first line along the coast to Black Rock. There is no likelihood of it going further.

Turning right out of the Queen Victoria, the walk up the High Street will take you past a number of interesting old buildings to the Black Horse on the left. Dating back to Tudor times, this former



blacksmith's forge, once known as the Black Hole, serves Beard's Best Bitter (i.e. Harvey's) and King & Barnes Festive. Many of the buildings on the High Street and the Green are interconnected by a network of tunnels which led to the beach; smuggling was a major local industry and even one local vicar was involved, so you can guess their use, and also the origin of many local ghost stories. Edward the Black Prince is said to be one of them — clambering across the roof of the Grange — now the Library and Museum — which was not even there when he MIGHT have stayed in the area in 1355! The position of the sails of the mill — which dates from about 1720 and has stood at the present site on the Downs since 1802 — was used as a signal when it was safe to land an illegal load. It was also the inspiration for the trademark of the Heinemann publishing company.

Carry on up the High Street and take the second right turn — Vicarage Lane — to the Plough. Situated next to the village pond, here you may sample Bass or Charrington IPA. In the 1850's when illegal barefist prize fighting was often staged hereabouts, local prizefighter Tom Sayers used the Plough as his headquarters. He was only ever beaten once, so the chances are there wasn't much bother when he was around.

That concludes the crawl, but not my history lesson. There is plenty to see outside opening times. The Grange, just over the road from the Plough, is a must for children of all ages with its superb toy museum. And just a short way up stands the fascinating and ancient church of St Margaret, which is largely Saxon in origin. It not only goes uphill, but also has two deviations of alignment. Space forbids a lecture on ecclesiastical architecture and an excellent guide book is available. However, let me draw your attention to one feature. Stand inside the tower, and you will notice a red discolouration of the stonework., Back in 1377 French pirates raided the village and the populace took refuge up the tower, pulling up the ladder. The pirates simply

set fire to the place — hence the discolouration. The village took hundreds of years to recover, and the church was only rebuilt properly after nearly five centuries. In the punch-up which followed this raid, that holy prelate the Prior of Lewes, John de Charlieu, was captured while leading a counter-attack. A case, perhaps of frog eat frog? His gesture wasn't one of charity though — the main object of the raid was Lewes itself. This is indeed an ancient village, and there is evidence of habitation around here for more than 3,000 years. The earliest recorded lord of the manor was Earl Godwin of Wessex, whose son King Harold II got an eyeful in 1066. The name of the village predates him somewhat, and has nothing to do with decaying vegetation, whatever impression you may get on the front in certain weather and tide conditions. It comes from the Saxon Rotyngesdene — or the Hollow (dene) of the tribe (yng) of Rota. One final bit of modern history — Editor Martin, accompanying me on a re-inspection tour of this village which he has known for 30 years, reminisced about times spent visiting relatives in the area — including getting a ducking by slipping off one of the blocks of the Seashore Railway as small boys have since it was put there — and briefly attending the village school, which in 1956 was still using slates and iron framed desks (Good old days! was his comment).



This is a fascinating area, and if you decide to pay a visit, may I recommend the well-written local history, "Smuggler's Village" by Henry Blyth, obtainable in the bookshop opposite the White Horse, price £2. A very good buy. And goodbye until my next Historicrawl.

MERTON.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Dear Editors

Martin Smith's arguments regarding Kids in the Pub are wholly convincing in favour of letting kids in to the pub. My own strong objection is not to kids in pubs but to kids in the bar. His way, with a separate room, has much to recommend it: but I hope people who don't have any kids with them will not be allowed in.

The presence of kids in bars nowadays is open to three quite serious objections:

- (1) It is still illegal: and once we start picking and choosing which laws we observe the way is open to anarchy;
- (2) The racket the little dears can kick up, charging about and yapping at each other, and
- (3) The sort of language they are bound to hear. I for one consider the kind of talk often indulged in by me and my mates to be quite unsuitable for the ears of any kids — even those belonging to the same mates...

So hear hear! By all means let the toddlers in to the pub, but at all times **Keep Them Out Of The Bar!**

Cheers,
Ben Davis.

Dear Editors

I'm glad to see the July issue giving such prominence to what Ralph Carpenter so rightly identifies as "The big issue facing CAMRA today — sky-high prices". Everybody knows that virtually every pub in London is a rip-off, and the local breweries like Youngs and Fullers are every bit as guilty as the rest — in fact more so, since they don't even have the old "transport costs" excuse to fall back on. (Why *should* a pint of Youngs brewed in Wandsworth be in the same price bracket as a pint of IPA brought in from Burton...?) The fact is that the breweries charge what the market will stand, and they know they can get away with overcharging in London because in a city this size there will always be enough people who will cough up. No brewery is going to kill that kind of golden goose, and indeed one wonders whether there isn't a tacit agreement between them not to undercut each other by much in the Capital and thereby risk rocking the boat

for everybody. Imagine the consternation in the boardrooms if one brewery with a significant-size estate decided to cut its prices to Midlands or Lancashire levels! No, no — that would never do.

Then there's the other old excuse that gets trotted out — namely that of higher rents, rates, overheads etc., etc. My answer to that is that a can of beans, a pair of socks or a daily paper costs much the same (if not the same) in Manchester as it does in London, so why should beer be any different? No — when all's said and done, every drinker in London is being taken for a ride, and the reason is down to one word: GREED. And to add insult to injury, they don't even give us our over-priced beer in a lined glass so we at least get the full quantity we're being ripped off for...!

Graham Larkbey, SW20.

Dear Editors,

Over the past months there have been many letters published that have highlighted the scandalous prices some landlords charge which has seen the rise of the "rip-off" column. I too would like to vent my feelings regarding this thorny subject. I, like your previous correspondents, believe in good beer at reasonable prices and use the "Good Beer Guide" to aid me.

Using the above, my friend and I selected The Anglesea Arms in South Kensington as an ideal watering hole close to the Victoria and Albert Museum. I was amazed to find Adnam's Southwold at £1.02 and Boddingtons at £1.05. Indeed, the beer was good — inclusion in the "Good Beer Guide" is justified; but surely the criterion about prices should also be noted.

The "Good Beer Guide" has been quoted as being "the flagship of CAMRA"; yet when I am fleeced by a pub which has been carefully selected to uphold the CAMRA tradition of value for money, then I sometimes wonder whether selection is by the pin-in-the-map-method.

I am mystified as to why the Sun Free House in Lamb's Conduit Street has attained such notoriety. Their beers are generally kept in excellent condition; the two above beers sell for 80p each; and there is also a 10p reduction per pint to all card-carrying CAMRA members, bringing the cost down to 70p each — a difference of 32p and 35p respectively!

Surely this pub should be recognised; but alas it has not found its way on to the admirable pages of the "Good Beer Guide".

If The Anglesea Arms is representative of what makes a "Good Beer Guide" pub, then I would much rather that the Sun was **not** included.

D. Vickery, Barking.

Dear Editors,

I have seen the light! I am completely won over by Mr. Norman's unshakeable argument (Letters - June LD). Why did I not see it before? - High prices for beer in Surrey are not a rip off because he and I cannot find a job in those areas where beer is cheap.

Perhaps he should sell the idea to the breweries. I'm off to become a total abstainer!

Simon Brown, Basingstoke.

Dear Editors,

I can only assume that Paul Thomas on his return to Cheam Station from the Prince of Wales (July LD p27) discovered BR's ingenious off-peak arrangement whereby the upplatform is only reached via the down - side entrance (which involves traversing the very long subway twice and probably missing your train) and, thinking "Sod this for a game of soldiers!" revisited the Railway pub where, quivering with rage and frustration, he spilt Imperial Russian Stout over his restaurant notes.

The Chinese he mentions is really a French Brasserie and, though I have diligently searched the other side of the High Street from the undertakers to the record shop, I have failed to find the Indian at all. There is, incidentally, another French restaurant in the Broadway, on the same side as the Wine Bar and, whilst the three establishments on the other side are real enough, they are not in the position shown: the Fish & Chip shop is on the opposite corner from what is shown as the burger bar (actually the Baptist Church) and anyone turning right at the real burger bar, as directed in the text, will find himself not at the Red Lion but in Budgens car park.

A cautionary note about the Old Red Lion by the way - the shade of the noble and ancient walnut tree in the garden is best avoided in late summer, as you are liable to have bits of half-chewed nuts dropped into your IPA from a great height by the local squirrel population.

Yours from the a-fety of the bar,
John Thornton, Carshalton.

Grand Met. taste for beer cools?

Grand Metropolitan, Watney parent company last month sold off its Maes Brewery subsidiary in Belgium to a joint consortium including the management, for £28.5m. in cash. They assume ownership of the giant Maes Pils brewery near Brussels and the nearby Grimbergen sister brewery, which produces specialist ales.

The sale follows Grand Met's disposal of its Stern Brewery in West Germany earlier this year, for £14m. Maes had been bought direct by Watneys in 1969. Its departure now leaves all Grand Met brewing interests in the UK.

Grand Met. have denied City speculation that they are considering a merger with the Bond Corporatin of Australia, which includes the Swan brewery of Perth and Castlemaine. The option was described by a spokesman as "pure speculation". So too was any talk of selling off Watneys.

Brewery Closures

Latest in an increasing list is Darley's at Thorne in Humberside whose parent company Vaux are ridding themselves of two breweries; the other being Lorimer & Clark of Edinburgh. The

CASTLE REBORN

On June 23rd, just in time for the 1986 Wimbledon Tennis Championships down the hill, the CASTLE in Church Road, Wimbledon Village, SW19 reopened after almost two years' near-abandonment and then refurbishing.

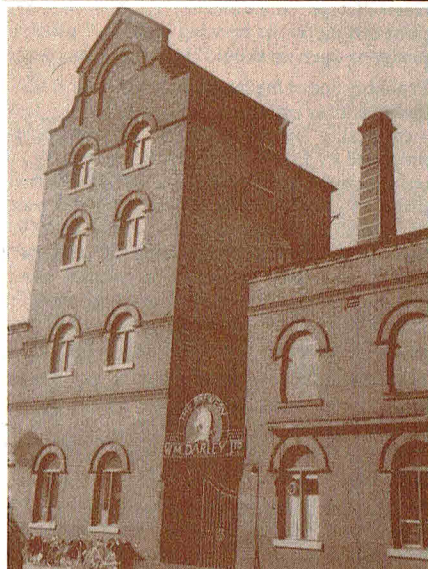
Allied have not adopted a strong exterior design based around the Taylor Walker or other logo, which is possibly because the old building is listed. Inside, I found Ind Coope Burton; Taylor Walker 'Best' (complete with new-style pump clip) and Benskins' Bitter. The latter had a temporary cardboard clip and is not available anywhere else in the S.W. London Branch area regularly, although the Horse and Groom, Haydon's Road, SW19 advertises it and occasionally sells it.

The Taylor Walker and Benskins' were both fine (average price 91p - no apparent price list) but I'll try the Burton on a less sticky evening. Sipping the beer right at the back of the remarkably empty pub, I could get an impression of the large amount of money Allied have spent on this previously ill-starred pub with a reputation for violence and drug dealing. All they have to do now is drag the hundreds of customers out of the over-crowded Young's houses round the corner and into the predominantly art-deco, cane furniture and antique surroundings.

Add an impressive food counter, open lunchtime and evening (vegetarian main courses and excellent-looking salads a feature), and it's a very comfortable addition to the village pub crawl.

Allied had previously wanted to build a vineyard and customers' patio at the back, but the absence of this suggests that the well-heeled residents backing on to the pub have won changes at the planning application stage.

P.H.



closure of Darley's will hit employment in this already depressed area. The beer is available in a few outlets, but it continuing future must be in doubt.

NATIONAL A.G.M. REPORT

CAMRA's National A.G.M. took place in Southampton in mid April and many issues pertinent to both CAMRA and non-CAMRA members were given an airing.

Jim Scanlon was chairing a National A.G.M. for the first time and, despite inevitably upsetting a few people he controlled the meeting well. Such was the high amount of business on the agenda, the proposed seminars for the Saturday afternoon were cancelled until further notice.

On Saturday, time was gladly set aside for two guest speakers who, while receiving widely different receptions, both entertained the meeting with amusing and informed comment before inviting questions. The first speaker was George Bateman who you may know is currently fighting to save the famous Bateman's brewery which (to put it very simply) is currently threatened by a family split and the resulting problems in his retention of control of the business. It would be a tremendous blow if this fine brewery did not continue, as it produces good beer and has been a fine employer with a record of no redundancies at all.

The second speaker was John Elliot, currently heading the takeover bid by Elders IXL for the Allied (Tetley) group. While some of his views were less in line with the assembled CAMRA members other comments were favourably received, especially when he referred to the "cosy price setting by the brewing industry" which he pledge to open up should their bid be successful.

Probably one of the most contentious motions of the Saturday morning was the one to raise membership by £2 to £9.00. An amendment proposed by Dave Goodwin (Wirral Branch) to only increase the fee to £8.00 was narrowly defeated after fierce argument with the result that the £2 rise was carried quite easily. CAMRA finances do not look too healthy at the moment and a rise was necessary. However, many members (especially of Northern Branches) felt that £2 was too much at one go and that membership levels could be badly hit.

In what should be another aid to the Campaign's finances a motion proposing the setting up of a separate publishing company was passed. This should allow CAMRA to react quicker to potential titles and realise more of the profits.

Motions proposed by the Campaigns Technical Committee calling for more information on what is added to beer (an example given was formaldehyde, used by some breweries as a head retention agent but more often seen preserving dead bodies) and condemning the practice of filtering beer back into casks were both carried.

One motion was passed and is likely to cause considerable interest when it gets started, was a proposal to set up a bi-ennial national beer tasting competition. Starting off with regional competitions it will culminate in a national final judged by a panel of CAMRA members, publicans, brewers and members of the public. It is hoped to create media interest and focus attention on beer which recently seems to be losing out to wine in both publicity and acceptability, especially in restaurants etc.

All in all Southampton was a lively A.G.M. with an extremely large amount of business got through. As usual the importance of this event to keep CAMRA as a united national campaign were clearly demonstrated. Next year's A.G.M. is to be held in Hull, as it makes its move back into the North. Here's hoping that there is a greater cause for optimism next year when CAMRA members meet again!

From Merseyside Drinker

Hanson switches Courage houses

Hanson Trust, who gained control of Courage through their recent acquisition of the Imperial Group, last month announced the first strategic reorganisation of the brewing network — all 1,350 pubs operated by Imperial Leisure and Retailing switching to the direct control of Courage.

The move means that Courage Ltd. has now reassumed control of Courage and John Smith's managed outlets, formerly under Imperial Taverns. All 5,000 pubs are now under one management.

Announcing the move, Courage managing director, Michael Cottrell, said: "This represents a strong vote of confidence by Hanson Trust in the future of Courage."

However, speculation abounds in the City that Courage is about to be placed up for sale. A spokesman for Hanson Trust said recently that: "None of the businesses are on the market for sale."

Courage, with 5,000 pubs and three breweries, would be expected to fetch a little over £1.2 billion if sold.

Hanson Trust has a track record of disposal after acquisition. They have just announced a 50 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £157.6m which included sales of properties and other companies of £155m.

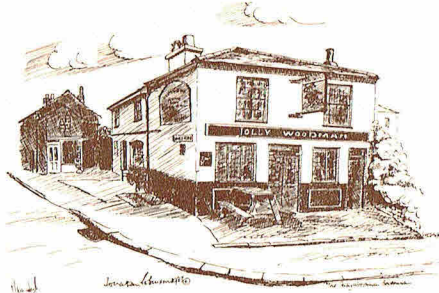
Former Imperial chairman Geoffrey Kent, has resigned from the company. Six others have left the Imps Board since the Hanson takeover including Courage chairman Michael Pickard.

PUB PROFILE — the Jolly Woodman, Beckenham

Frequently an urban pub has a title with no apparent local origin. One such is the JOLLY WOODMAN, in Chancery Lane, just off Bromley Road, Beckenham, which featured in Paul Thomas' crawl of the area in our February issue. There seems little call locally for woodmen, and yet those very people were the original customers when this was part of the Beckenham Forest Estate. The main building dates from 1836, and the front was built on specifically as a drinking-place for the workers. It was also a coaching station, and stables survive round the back.

A frequent entry in the Good Beer Guide, the beers on sale are Bass and Charrington IPA, with food at lunchtimes. This is very much a community pub with a welcome for all — as I discovered immediately on visiting to prepare this piece. It has a single bar without frills, or music, except live on Sundays, and a real fire when appropriate. Darts are in evidence, and there are pub football and cricket teams, and a Bowls Society. As would be expected in the circumstances, the pub is very charity orientated.

In 1984 a local PE teacher cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End, and this year's community effort was for St. Christopher's



Hospice. A number of customers are pleasure cyclists, as frequently evidenced by real cycles outside! Beckenham has a number of interesting pubs, but if you take the trouble to find the Jolly Woodman I don't think you will be disappointed.

M.S.

Another Firkin

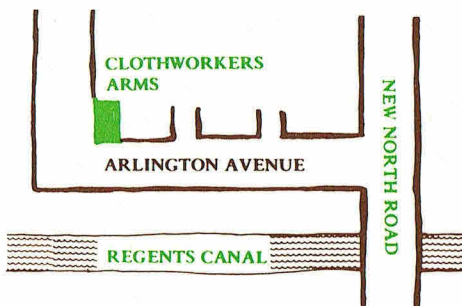
We hear that David Bruce has bought another pub, the RED LION in Plaistow. Formerly an Ind Coope house, its last licensee kept whippets and a donkey round the back. Any bets about the new title?

The Clothworkers Arms

Arlington Avenue, Islington, N1

Now the most stylish free house in Islington!

- * Abbot Ale.
- * Marstons Pedigree.
- * Rayments bitter.
- * Westons trad cider.
- * Opens 5.30 sharp.
- * Hot and cold lunchtime buffet.



NEWS — THE BREWERY RESULTS SEASON

May and June saw the declaration of profit figures from brewers right around the country. On top for the nationals, as least as far as shareholders were concerned, was ALLIED LYONS with a rise of 23% in profits before tax, mainly helped by their breweries which have doubled profits growth from previous years. A major factor is believed to have been significant price increases in newly refurbished outlets, over and above the annual beer price rise. Additionally 500 jobs out of 16000 (nationally) have gone, and lager sales rose during the year from 39% of the total to some 44%. More of the latter is yet to come since Castlemaine 4X has only been on full national distribution from June, and to date it has made little contribution due to massive promotional costs.

Next year could see ALLIED in a different league if their £1.25 billion purchase of Canadian international spirits company Hiram Walker goes through, but at the time of writing this was subject to the outcome of a major court case in Canada relating to the tactics of the deal. Meanwhile ELDERS IXL of Australia still seems keen to push its takeover bid through the Monopolies Commission, although it may be tempted elsewhere by the FOR SALE sign which seems to be going up outside COURAGE. New owners Hanson Trust are reported to be attracting offers, not least from the Barclay Brothers who already own Suffolk's Tolly Cobbold and Hartlepool's Camerons.

Over at BASS their results for the half year to April showed the expected rise in profits with a 17% increase being recorded at the trading level. Sales by volume were said to be unchanged, although in the same period the figure for the industry was down by nearly 1%. Lager now represents 48½% of sales, its rise implying a drop in sales of other products such as real ale. Bass has been successful for some years in churning out the profit growth and it is interesting that some commentators are now attributing part of the success to the slightly greater strength of their beers compared with the competition — such as in relation to Draught Bass.

WHITBREAD'S full year results to February showed more profit growth, up 18% overall despite sales having risen by only 6% by value. However, lager went up from 44% to 47% of sales showing substantial gains in market share. Whitbread are rumoured to be setting up a tie-up with American mega-fizzery Coors whose products are said to be every bit as bad as those of Budweiser and Miller, inflicted on this country by

Watney and Courage respectively. On the other hand, if the public will take rubbish then why try to sell proper beers?

On the pub front Whitbread now has four or five so-called 'bolt-on' catering packages which can transform a local into a restaurant with very little effort. Besides the relatively innocuous Pizza Hut it seems that yet more pubs will be transformed into Tudor-kitsch style Beefeaters, and there is a new concept being tried out in Birmingham called Thank Goodness (God?) Its Friday, or TGI Friday, which may be inflicted on selected London pubs in due course.

Over at WATNEY the results from their parent Grand Metropolitan showed another good profits increase for the half year to March with brewing profits in particular up 13% on sales up 5%. Watney claim to have captured market share in the period, with their sales volume increasing despite a slight industry downturn. There is now some speculation that Grand Met could be the subject of the next big takeover bid despite its market value of £3.35 billion, it being argued that this is less (!) than the sum of the parts. The brewing arm, for instance, has been given a value of £1.2 billion to a predator.

Of more concern to the consumer is the future of the group's breweries. The merger of Wilsons and Websters in northern England was followed by the closure of the former. Will the merger of Watneys and Trumans in London mean the closure of the latter? With all London racking and distribution being moved to Isleworth, space will be released at Mortlake to house extra brewing capacity if required. This might be good news for profits but would be bad news for the choice of beers in London.

Badger.

Curbs on pavement drinking

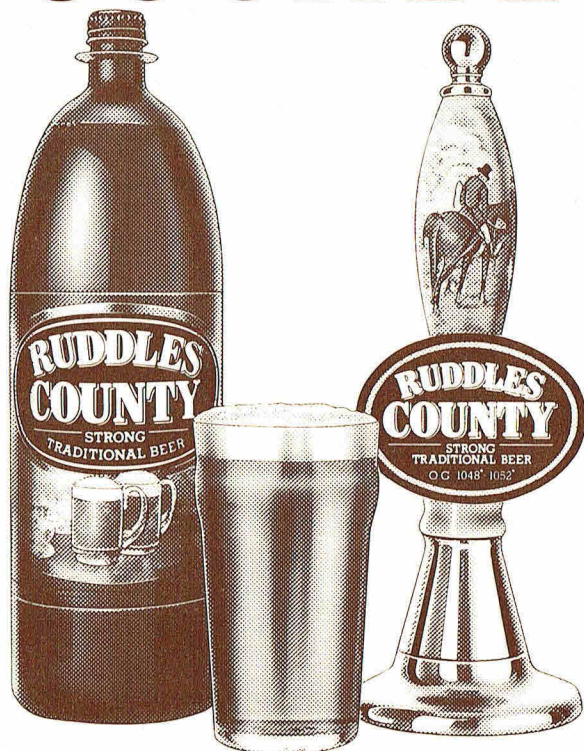
Pavement drinking in London's Covent Garden is to be restricted following a meeting between local police and licensees.

At an informal meeting police asked licensees to restrict the number of people drinking outside their pubs — with no outside drinking after 9pm.

Licensees are being asked to make sure the number of people drinking outside on the pavement is kept to a reasonable limit — and to co-operate if police ask for numbers outside a pub to be reduced.

From Morning Advertiser.

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*We can now also offer you 2 or more colours for your advert.
And special rates for 4-page centre/pull-out spread. Prices on request.*

Please send copy (Camera-ready if possible) to:

Martin Smith, 64 Brailsford Road, SW2

The deadline is the 1st of the preceding month

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

Dear Dipsy



DEAR DIPSY, Last night I bought a pint and began to feel extremely light-headed. I did a little dance on the table, sang the chorus of "Roll Me Over" and tried to chat up the contraceptive machine. I then had my pint, and over my second, did the SUN crossword in ten minutes. Over my third I engaged in a discussion on the relevance of the 1833 Anglo-Argentine Pact on the diplomatic nuances leading up to the Falklands War, and over my fourth wrote a thumbnail refutation of Hegel's Philosophy of Right. Over my fifth I quietly sat in the corner, and went home the short way via the tightrope over the waterfall. There's something odd about my life-style, but I can't quite put my finger on it.

BERTRAND, Southwark

DEAR BERTRAND, I think I've solved it – you're drinking backwards; it's quite a rare condition and the cure is fairly extreme: walking backwards into bars, buying rounds before it's your turn, and reading Page 3 of the SUN last etc., but it is a bit uncertain anyway. Some activities like travel cause great problems, and some of the sexual options may be a little too bizarre. I have heard of a short cut involving those upside-down Guinnesses that were all the rage a few years ago or reading party manifestos for the EEC elections, but the latter may be too much to ask.

DIPSY

P.S. Where's the waterfall in Southwark?



DEAR DIPSY, My friends don't appreciate my talents. I can play piano, harpsichord, viol-de-gamboys and sitar, run marathons in 2½ hours, make souffles rise, recite Wordsworth's Prelude in four and a half hours, space-walk without an airline, make love in an aeroplane at 10,000 feet without getting hiccoughs, and tell Benskins and Friary Meux bitters apart blindfold. But I feel nobody understands me or values me for a whole person, and hardly anyone buys me a drink either.

PORTNOY, Kensington

DEAR PORTNOY, Fate has been so unkind to you, and you so prone to hiding your light under a bushel. Perhaps with time, they will all Wait a minute you lying sod – Nobody can tell Benskins and Friary apart!

DIPSY

DEAR DIPSY, Why do we get no personal details of you and your fellow contributors? You have such a delicate, sensitive style and understanding tone that I am sure you must be a very nice person. Can you tell us something about yourself. I have appended a small questionnaire which would suffice to add to my collection from celebrities.

MRS. YOSSER MORGAN,
West Kirby

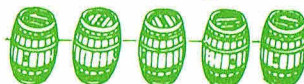
DEAR MRS. MORGAN, I really am a little touched by your interest but as you omitted your address I will have to summarize my answer through this column:

1. Seven and a half inches fully extended
2. Pratts Bottom (Kent)
3. The 14th Earl of Nome (once only)
4. 36B
5. 40A (Short working to Monument only)
6. Barry Manilow, Norman Tebbit, Sacha Distel, Julio Iglesias, Joan Collins and Chris Cobbold (but never more than one at a time)
7. Cocktail Sticks
8. Cameron's Strongarm
9. Stronger elastic
10. No, but I did try Watney's Starlight once.

11



12



DIPSY

Where to buy London Drinker

OUTLETS — EAST and SOUTH EAST PUBS

- EC1 ARTILLERY ARMS, 102 Bunhill Row.
- EC1 EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, 362 St. John's Street.
- EC1 HORSESHOE, Clerkenwell Road.
- EC1 STICK & WEASEL, 273 City Road.
- EC1 YORKSHIRE GREY, Greys Inn Road.
- EC2 FLEETWOOD, 36 Wilson Street.
- EC4 BLACKFRIAR, 174 Queen Victoria Street.
- EC4 DANDY ROLL, Gateway House, Bread Street.
- EC4 TIPPERARY, Fleet Street.
- EC4 WILLIAMSON'S TAVERN, Groveland Ct. Bow Lane.
- E1 FISH & RING, 141A White Horse Road.
- E1 PRIDE OF SPITALFIELD, 3 Heneage Street.
- E2 APPROACH TAVERN, 47 Approach Road.
- E2 MARKSMAN, 254 Hackney Road.
- E3 PEARLY KING, 94 Bromley High Street.
- E8 LADY DIANA, 95 Forest Road.
- E9 CHESHAM ARMS, 15 Mehetabel Road.
- E9 ROYAL STANDARD, 84 Victoria Park Road.
- E11 NORTHCOTE, 110 Grove Green Road.
- SE1 ANCHOR & HOPE, The Cut.
- SE1 DOGGETTS, Blackfriars Bridge.
- SE1 GOOSE & FIRKIN, 47 Borough Road.
- SE1 KINGS ARMS Roupell Street.
- SE1 WELLINGTON, Waterloo Place.
- SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN, Denmark Hill Station, Windsor Walk.
- SE5 WICK WOOD TAVERN, 58 Flaxman Road.
- SE7 McDONNELLS, 428 Woolwich Road.
- SE9 GREYHOUND, High Street.
- SE10 ROYAL GEORGE, Bisset Street.
- SE13 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, High Street.
- SE16 BLACKSMITH'S ARMS, 257 Rotherhithe Street.
- SE16 MANOR TAVERN, 78 Galleywall Road.
- SE16 MAYFLOWER, 117 Rotherhithe Street.
- SE16 SHIP, St. Marychurch Street.
- SE17 TANKARD, Walworth Road.
- SE18 MELBOURNE ARMS, 81 Sandy Hill Road.
- SE18 QUEEN VICTORIA, 118 Wellington Street.
- SE18 VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, Hillreach.
- SE19 ROYAL ALBERT, Westow Hill.
- SE20 ANERLEY ARMS, Ridsdale Road.
- SE20 GOLDEN LION, Maple Road.
- SE20 LONDON TAVERN, Maple Road.
- SE24 COMMERCIAL, 11 Raiton Road, Herne Hill.
- SE25 ALBERT, Harrington Road.
- SE25 GOAT HOUSE, 2 Penge Road.
- SE25 SHIP, 55 High Street.
- SE26 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE, 39 Sydenham Hill.
- SE26 GREYHOUND, 315 Kirkdale.
- SE27 GIPSY QUEEN, West Norwood High Street.
- SE27 HOPE, Norwood High Street.
- BECKENHAM JOLLY WOODMAN, Chancery Lane.
- BEXLEY BLUE ANCHOR, Bridden Road.
- CROYDON DOG & BULL, Surrey Street.
- CROYDON LION, Pawsons Road.
- CROYDON SHIP, 47 High Street.
- CROYDON TWO BREWERS, 221 Gloucester Road.
- SIDCUP JOLLY FENMAN, 66 Blackfen Road.



THORNTON HEATH FOUNTAIN HEAD, 114 Parchmore Road.

OFF TRADE

- E4 Waltham Wines, 72 Sewardstone Road.
- SE3 Bitter Experience, 128 Lee Road.
- SE23 2 Brewers, 97 Dartmouth Road.
- BEXLEYHEATH Bitter Experience, 216 Broadway.
- BROMLEY Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill.

OUTLETS —

WEST CENTRAL, AND NORTH PUBS

- WC1 CALTHORPE ARMS, 252 Grays Inn Road.
- WC1 HANSLER ARMS, Kings Cross Road.
- WC1 LAMB, Lamb's Conduit Street
- WC1 MABEL'S, 9 Mableton Place.
- WC1 MOON, 18 New North Street.
- WC1 PAKENHAM ARMS, 1 Pakenham Street.
- WC1 SUN, 63 Lamb's Conduit Street.
- WC2 CHANDOS, 29 St Martin's Lane.
- WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR, 22 Neal Street.
- WC2 FREEMASONS ARMS, 81 Longacre.
- WC2 GEORGE IV, 28 Portugal Street.
- WC2 MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY, 39 Bow Street.
- WC2 SHIP & SHOVEL, 2 Craven Passage.
- N1 CAMPBELLS, 21 Bridport Place.
- N1 CLOTHWORKER'S ARMS, 52 Arlington Avenue.
- N1 CROWN, Cloudestley Road.
- N1 GEORGE IV, Copenhagen Street.
- N1 MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Road.
- N1 PINT POT, 54 Pentonville Road.
- N1 PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place.
- N1 WINDSOR CASTLE, 211 Liverpool Road
- N2 OLD WHITE LION, Great North Road.
- N2 WINDSOR CASTLE, The Walks, Church Lane.
- N4 MARLERS, 29 Crouch Hill.
- N6 BLACK ROSE, Archway Road.
- N6 VICTORIA, 28 North Hill.
- N7 BALMORAL CASTLE, Caledonian Road.
- N7 FAT HARRY'S, 60 Isledon Road.
- N7 FAVOURITE, Queensland Road.
- N7 FLOUNDER & FIRKIN, 54 Holloway Road.
- N7 RAILWAY TAVERN, 10 Roman Way
- N12 MOSS HALL TAVERN, 283 Ballards Lane.
- N14 MERRYHILLS, Bramley Road.
- N19 DOG, 19 Archway Road.
- N20 BULL & BUTCHER, 1277 High Road, Whetstone.
- N20 CAVALIER, 67 Russell Lane.
- N22 NAGS HEAD, 203 High Street.
- N22 STARTING GATE, Buckingham Road.
- NW3 WELLS HOTEL, 30 Wells Walk.
- NW4 GREYHOUND, Church End, Greyhound Hill.
- NW4 MIDLAND HOTEL, Station Road.
- NW4 WHITE BEAR, 56 The Burroughs.
- NW6 QUEENS, 1 Kilburn High Road.
- NW7 RAILWAY TAVERN, Hale Lane.
- NW7 RISING SUN, Highwood Hill.
- NW8 CROCKERS, Aberdeen Place.
- NW10 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane.
- BARNET ALEXANDRA, Wood Street.
- BARNET SEBRIGHT ARMS, Alston Road.
- ENFIELD CRICKETERS ARMS, 19 Chase Side Place.
- ENFIELD KING & TINKER, Whitewebbs Road.
- ENFIELD KINGS HEAD, Market Place.
- ENFIELD OLD WHEATSHEAF, 3 Windmill Hill.
- ENFIELD WASH PRINCE ALBERT, 611 Hertford Road.
- NEW BARNET BUILDERS ARMS, 3 Albert Road.

OFF TRADE

- N1 Beer Shop, Pitfield Street
- N11 Originales, Friern Barnet Road.
- N13 Originales, 68 Aldermans Hill.
- NW3 Vinebins, 150 Haverstock Hill.
- NW6 Groghblossom, 253 West End Lane.

CLUBS

- N22 Wood Green Labour Club, Stuart Crescent.

OUTLETS — SOUTH-WEST/WEST

- SW1 BARLEY MOW, Horseferry Road.
- SW1 BUCKINGHAM ARMS, Petty France.
- SW1 FOX & HOUNDS, Passmore Street.
- SW1 MORPETH ARMS, Millbank.
- SW1 ORANGE BREWERY, Picnic Road.
- SW1 RED LION, 48 Parliament Street.
- SW2 HOPE & ANCHOR, 123 Acre Lane.
- SW2 TWO WOODCOCKS, 45 Tulse Hill.
- SW3 SURPRISE, 6 Christchurch Terrace.
- SW4 JOLLY GARDENERS, 115 St. Alphonsus Road.
- SW4 RAILWAY, Clapham High Road.
- SW4 ROSE & CROWN, The Polygon, Clapham Old Town.
- SW6 WHITE HORSE, 1 Parson's Green.
- SW8 SURPRISE, 16 Southville, 357 Wandsworth Road.
- SW8 NOTTINGHAM CASTLE, Wandsworth Road.

SW9 BEDFORD ARMS, 409 Clapham Road.
 SW9 CROWN & ANCHOR, 246 Brixton Road.
 SW9 WARRIOR (Brixton Brewery Co.) Coldharbour Lane.
 SW10 CHELSEA RAM 32 Burnaby Street.
 SW10 FERRET & FIRKIN, 110 Lotts Road.
 SW11 ANCHOR, Holgate Avenue.
 SW11 BEEHIVE, 197 St John's Hall.
 SW11 HABERDASHERS ARMS, Culvert Road.
 SW11 PRINCE OF WALES, Battersea Park Road.
 SW11 WOODMAN, 60 Battersea High Street.
 SW12 BEDFORD HOTEL, Bedford Hill.
 SW12 DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, Balham High Road.
 SW12 NIGHTINGALE, Nightingale Lane.
 SW12 PRINCE OF WALES, 270 Cavendish Road.
 SW14 RAILWAY TAVERN, Sheen Lane.
 SW15 ARAB BOY, 289 Upper Richmond Road.
 SW15 FOX & HOUNDS, Upper Richmond Road.
 SW15 RAILWAY, Upper Richmond Road.
 SW15 WHITE LION, 14 Putney High Street.
 SW16 GREYHOUND, Greyhound Lane.



SW18 BREWERY TAP, Wandsworth High Street.
 SW18 THE GRAPES, 39 Fairfield Street.
 SW18 SPREAD EAGLE, Wandsworth High Street.
 SW19 ALEXANDRA, Wimbledon Hill Road.
 SW19 BREWERY TAP, Wandsworth High Street.
 SW19 BRITISH QUEEN, 161 Haydons Road.
 SW19 KINGS HEAD, Merton High Street.
 SW19 LEATHER BOTTLE, Kingston Road.
 SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL, Abbey Road.
 SW19 PRINCE OF WALES, Morden Road.
 SW19 TRAFALGAR, High Path.
 CARSHALTON SUN INN, North Street.
 CHESSINGTON NORTH STAR, Hook Road.
 EAST MOLESEY BELL INN, Bell Road.
 EAST MOLESEY NEW STREETS OF LONDON, Bridge Road.
 KINGSTON GAZEBO, Thames Walk.
 KINGSTON WYCH ELM, Elm Road.
 MITCHAM CRICKETERS, 340 London Road.
 MITCHAM RAVENSBURY ARMS, Croydon Road.
 MOTSPUR PARK EARL BEATTY.
 RICHMOND WHITE CROSS, Riverside, Water Lane.
 SURBITON VICTORIA, Victoria Road.
 WESTON GREEN GREYHOUND.
 WEYBRIDGE PRINCE OF WALES, Anderson Road, Oatlands Park.
 W1 ARGYLL ARMS, 18 Argyll Street.
 W1 BRICKLAYERS, Aybrook Street.
 W1 COCK TAVERN, 27 Great Portland Street.
 W2 ARCHERY TAVERN, 4 Bathurst Street.

W3 RED LION & PINEAPPLE, 281 High St.
 W4 BELL & CROWN, Strand on the Green.
 W5 RED LION, St. Mary's Road.
 W5 ROSE & CROWN, Church Place, St., Mary's Road.
 W6 BLACK LION, Black Lion Lane.
 W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL, 170 Shepherds Bush Road.
 W6 RICHMOND ARMS, 54 Shepherds Bush Road.
 W9 TRUSCOTT ARMS, Shirland Road.
 W10 NARROW BOAT, 346 Ladbroke Grove.
 W10 VILLAGE INN, Kensal Road.
 W11 FROG & FIRKIN, Tavistock Crescent.
 W14 BRITANNIA TAP, 150 Warwick Road.
 W14 RADNOR ARMS, 247 Warwick Road.
 ASHFORD (Middx) SPELTHORNE, Kingston Road.
 BRENTFORD LORD NELSON, Enfield Road.
 CRANFORD QUEENS HEAD, 123 High Street.
 GREENFORD BLACKHORSE, Oldfield Lane.
 HAMPTON WINDMILL, Windmill Road.
 HAMPTON COURT KINGS ARMS, Lion Gate, Hampton Court Road.
 HILLINGDON RED LION, Hillingdon Hill.
 HILLINGDON STAR, Uxbridge Road.
 HOUNSLOW CHARIOT, 34 High Street.
 HOUNSLOW CROSS LANCES, Hanworth Road.
 HOUNSLOW EARL RUSSELL, Hanworth Road.
 SOUTHALE BEACONSFIELD ARMS, West End Road.
 SUDBURY BLACK HORSE, Harrow Road.
 TEDDINGTON QUEEN DOWAGER, North Lane.
 TWICKENHAM EEL PIE, 9 Church Street.
 TWICKENHAM OLD ANCHOR, 71 Richmond Road.
 TWICKENHAM POPE'S GROTTTO, Cross Deep.
 TWICKENHAM PRINCE ALBERT, 30 Hampton Road.
 WEALDSTONE ROYAL OAK, Peel Road.

CLUBS

SW4 R.A.O.B. CLUB, West Side, Clapham Common.
 SW19 WILLIAM MORRIS, 267 The Broadway, Wimbledon.
 W1 POLYTECHNIC of Central London S.U.Bar, 104 Bolsover Street.
 W3 L.T.District Line Social Club, Park Place.

OFF TRADE

SW11 Majestic Wine Warehouses, Hester Road.
 SW11 39er Webbs Road.
 KENTON Littlemore Wines, Kenton Road.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BRIGHTON BASKETMAKERS ARMS, Gloucester Road.
 BRIGHTON LORD NELSON, Trafalgar Road.
 BRIGHTON QUEENS HEAD, Opposite Station.
 GLASGOW ALLISON ARMS, 720-722 Pollockshaws Road.
 HADLOW DOWN (E.Sussex) NEW INN
 LEWES BREWERS ARMS, High Street.
 LINCOLN QUEEN VICTORIA.
 MANCHESTER JOLLY ANGLER, Ducie Street.
 MANCHESTER MARBLE ARCH, 73 Rochdale Road.
 PETERBOROUGH BOTOLPH ARMS, Oundle Road.
 PETERBOROUGH GLADSTONE ARMS.
 PETERBOROUGH STILL, Cumbergate.
 RUSPER (W.Sussex) PLOUGH.
 SEAFORD (Sussex) WHITE LION, Claremont Road.
 STEVENAGE (Herts) RED LION, High Street, Old Town.
 SOUTHAMPTON JUNCTION INN, Priory Road, St.Denys.
 STOCKPORT (Gtr.Manchester) NEW INN, Wellington Road South.
 TORQUAY UPTON VALE, Upton Road.
 WIMBORNE (Hants) GREEN MAN, Westgate Street.
 WORTHING (Sussex) WHEATSHEAF 22, Richmond Rd.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, EC1

The Empress of Russia, St John Street, London EC1 (a few minutes from Angel Underground and one minute from Sadler's Wells Theatre) is one of a dying breed — a two-bar London pub. It is a Whitbread tenancy, serves excellent Wethered's Bitter and, as a result of the "loose tie" policy, also serves Abbot Ale and occasionally Flower's or Strong's Country. The pub has been in the GBG more often than not.

The present tenant, Mr Aubrey Meredith, is due to retire in July. The pub will then close for six weeks while it is "modernised". It will be knocked

through into one bar: Mr Meredith is not privy to what further plans Whitbread have but I feel there is every possibility that the present cheery, slightly scruffy, lived-in local will be tarted up in the most hideous manner: the Angel will shortly go up-market when new HQs for British Telecom and the Royal Bank of Scotland open. A revamped Empress may attract trade in that direction but the loyal locals are likely to disappear.

ROGER PROTZ.

SUN FREEHOUSE