

SEPT
1986

LONDON

20p



DRINKER

The Goat House, South Norwood – See page 4.
photo Dave Sullivan



Vol 8

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

No 8

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned please ring the branch contact. Dates for September of which we have been notified are given below. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson. Branch Contacts on Page 16

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 2 (8.00) Branch Meeting. CARPENTERS ARMS, 73 Cheshire Road, E2 (off Brick Lane) — Sat 6 (7.00) Mini-bus Mystery Tour. Starts CITY PRIDE, Farringdon Lane, EC1 — Wed 10 (7.30) Darts v Hassrale. UXBRIDGE ARMS, 29 Bath Terrace, SE1 (near Elephant & Castle) — Fri 12 (8.00) Promoting Pig's Ear. Start LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN, 176 Whitechapel Road, E1 — Mon 15 (7.30) Membership Liaison Meeting followed by Promoting Pig's Ear. Start BETSY, Farringdon Road, EC1 — Sat 20 (7.30) Mile End Station for Minibus Crawl of E17. Start WINDMILL, Grosvenor Park Road — Tue 23 (8.00) Committee Meeting. PEARLY KING, Bromley High Street, Bromley by Bow, E3 — Sat 26 Visit to National Brewery Museum AGM and Founders' Day. (Contact Christian Muteau: 791 2518) — Wed 15/Sat 18 Oct FIFTH PIG'S EAR BEER FESTIVAL, York Hall, Old Ford Road, E2. Two minutes walk from Bethnal Green Tube Station. For details contact Julian Farrow: 980 0564 (H & W). See Advert on Back Cover

ENFIELD & BARNET: Tue 2 (9.00) Social. SOUTHBURY HOTEL, Southbury Road, Enfield — Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BULL & BUTCHER, High Road, Whetstone, N20 — Weekend 12-14 Branch Trip to Burton on Trent. Ring contact for details — Tue 16 (8.00) Fun Folk & Ale, with Smiling Pete Hogman. GREEN DRAGON, Winchmore Hill, N21 (£1.50 to card carrying members — £2.00 to others) — Thur 25 (9.00) Social. LOAD OF HAY, Brent Street, NW4 — Tue 30 (9.00) Social. DUCK, Colney Hatch Lane, N11 (Barnet's newest pub — a free house near Friern Barnet Town Hall) — Mon 6 Oct (9.00) Social. JOLLY BUTCHERS, Baker Street, Enfield.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun 7 (7.00) Social. BARLEY MOW, Epsom — Mon 8 (8.30) Committee Meeting/Social. LAMB, Acre Road, Kingston — Thur 11 (8.30) Branch Meeting. EARL BEATTY, Motspur Park — Thur 25 (8.30) Social. PLOUGH, Downside — Tue 30 (8.00) Games Evening (provisional). NEW STREETS OF LONDON, East Molesey — Sun 5 Oct (12.00) Sunday Social. FIGHTING COCKS, London Road, Kingston — Mon 6 (8.30) Committee Meeting/Social. SPRING GROVE, Bloomfield Road, Kingston — Tue 9 Oct (8.30) Branch Meeting. TWO BREWERS, Wood Street, Kingston.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 2 (8.00) Two Pub Social. VICTORIA & ALBERT BAR, Marylebone Station then GLOUCESTER ARMS, Ivor Place, NW1 — Tue 9 (8.00) Two Pub Social. CANONBURY TAVERN, N1 then COMPTON ARMS, N1 — Tue 16 (8.00) Two Pub Social. BELSIZE TAVERN, NW3 then WASHINGTON, NW3 — Tue 23 (8.00) Two Pub Social. MABELS, Mabelton Place WC1 then SKINNERS ARMS, WC1 — Tue 30 (8.00) Two Pub Social. LORDSHIP ARMS, N22 then BOAR, Lordship Lane, N22 — Sunday Lunchtime Socials in September. HEMINGFORD ARMS, Hemingford Road, N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thur 11 (8.30) Committee Meeting. PRINCE BLUCHER, Twickenham Green, Twickenham — Mon 22 (8.30) Branch Meeting. DUKE'S HEAD, The Vineyard, Richmond.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX: Wed 3 (8.00) Darts Match Vs South East Essex. KINGS ARMS, Baker Street (B188), Orsett — Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. ROYAL OAK, North Road (B175), Havering-atte-Bower — Thur 18 (8.30) Social. HINDS HEAD, 2A Burnside Road, Dagenham (Actually the pub is just a few yards south of Chadwell Heath Station). — Tue 23 (8.30) Social. GREYHOUND, MAGPIE, Magpie Lane, Childerditch Common (OS: TQ 605905) — Wed 1 Oct (8.30) Social. HUNTSMAN & HOUNDS, Corbets Tey Road (B1421), Upminster.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thur 11 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. SURPRISE, Southville, SW8 — Fri 19 Stockwell Crawl. Start (8.00) RAILWAY, Clapham High Road, SW4; then BEDFORD ARMS, 409 Clapham Road; finish LANDOR, Landor Road, SW9 — Sun 21. (12.00) Social. PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS, Heneage Street, EC1 followed by CAMRA Curry at the Clifton.

EDITORIAL



When I got around to putting this edition together after the GBBF it became apparent that other writers had already stolen the thunder of my chosen theme — over-pricing and rough beer, which the licensed trade seems to think are no business of CAMRA. So let's say something different. In anyone's terms the Great British Beer Festival was a resounding success. The fact that we ran out of beer before the end shows there was no waste, and the prophets of doom who predicted a disaster to compound last year's loss were decidedly disproved. Obviously many of the customers had come specifically for the Festival, as conversations with local guv'nors revealed that local pubs had suffered no loss of trade. Well done everyone, and the Crynes in particular. How about Brighton against next year?

My bargain of the GBBF came not from the Festival itself, but from a charity shop nearby — a mint condition Real Beer in London, 1976: for

Branch Diary continued

WEST LONDON: Wed 10 (8.00) Kensington Crawl. CATHERINE WHEEL (8.00), 23 Kensington Church Street; ELEPHANT & CASTLE (9.00), 40 Holland Street; BRITANNIA (10.00), Allen Street — Thur 18 (8.00) Branch Meeting. WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 — Sun 28 (12.00) Sunday Social. DUKE OF CLARENCE, 203 Holland Park Avenue, W11.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Fri 12 Uxbridge Crawl. Meet LOAD OF HAY (8.00), Villiers Street; COWLEY BRICK (8.30), Chiltern View Road; CHILTERN VIEW (9.00), Cowley Road; LORD HILL (9.30), Cowley Mill Road; SPORTSMAN (10.00), Cowley Mill Road; PIPEMAKERS (10.30), St. John's Road — Wed 17 (8.30) Branch Meeting. ROYAL STANDARD, Coldharbour Lane, Hayes — Thur 25 (8.30) Social Meeting. KINGSFIELD ARMS, Bessborough Road, Harrow — Tue 30 (8.30) Games Evening. THE FORRESTER, Leighton Road, West Ealing, W13.

Deadline for the October edition, 1st September. Material for November edition to arrive by 1st October. 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

5p! Things have changed a bit in the past decade. The presence in my luggage of Real Beer in SW London prompted a comparison of the areas covered in both. Of the 223 entries shown 10 years ago (remember, fizz pubs were excluded), 18 have either closed or, in very few cases, ceased serving real beer. The new Guide lists over 740 real ale pubs, which shows the effect CAMRA has had in London. However, the battle goes on. Without pressure (dare I use the term?) on our part, things can so easily slip back the other way. In the words of the old song: **Up with the sale of it, down with a pail of it, Glorious, glorious beer!**

Martin Smith.

FAMILY FACILITIES

Further to the article in the June London Drinker we have been informed of the following pubs in the Kingston area which cater for children:

BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hawks Road, Kingston.

A pleasant Courage pub serving good meals at lunchtimes, with a slide in the garden. There is also a back bar for accompanied children.

FOUNTAIN, Malden Road, New Malden.

This shabby one-bar Courage pub, due for extensive refurbishment, has a children's room at the rear with pinball machine etc.

ROYAL OAK, 261 Ewell Road, Surbiton.

A refurbished one-bar Courage pub with a slide and swings in the garden.

RAILWAY, 1 Ewell Road, Surbiton.

A popular free house with an indoor drinking area where children are admitted.

Mick & Sue Hunt welcome you to

THE GOAT HOUSE

2 Penge Road, South Norwood, SE25

(5 minutes from Norwood Junction Station)

Fullers Traditional Ales

Home-made bar food lunchtimes (not Sundays)

Beer Garden and large car park available

PUB PROFILE, The Goat House, SE25.

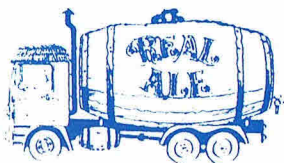
Fullers pubs in South East London are few and far between and therefore worth seeking out. The Goat House at 2 Penge Road, South Norwood, SE25 is particularly worth a visit since it has been a regular Good Beer Guide entry for the past five years. The present building was built on the site of a previous pub in 1936 and up to 1979 was a Charrington house.

Mick Hunt the popular guvnor and an ex-Grenadier Guardsman has been the tenant of Fullers since the change of tie. Mick is ably assisted in the cellar and bar by Cliff Preston who was with Youngs until 1975 and was in fact manager of the Pied Bull at Streatham when it was made Evening Standard Pub of the Year in 1973.

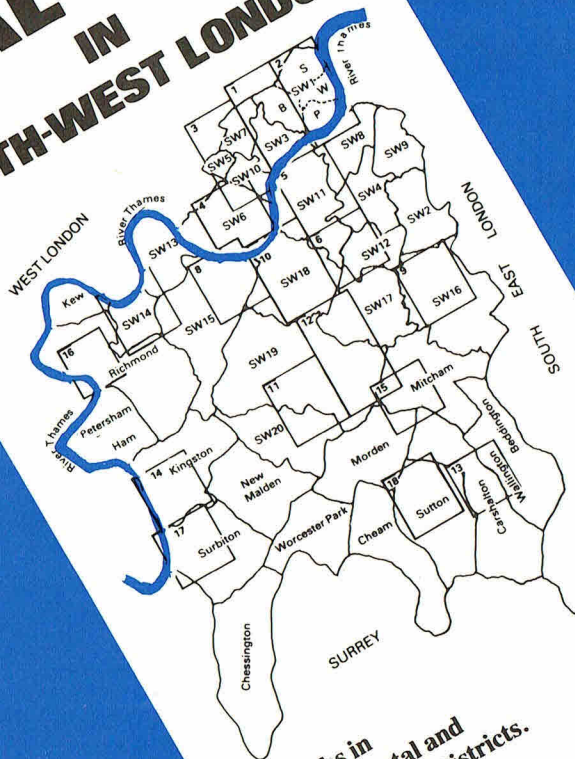
The Goat House is said to attribute its name to Goat Island, a local spot where many years ago an old lady kept goats. The pub, which was pleasantly refurbished about three years ago, but which kept the separate public bar, maintains the tradition by keeping its own two goats, Bubble and Squeak!

The bar features all three traditional Fuller's beers, plus a full range of lunchtime meals prepared by Mick's wife Sue. The Goat House has a real fire in the winter and an outdoor drinking area for the summer.

Dave Sullivan.



REAL BEER IN SOUTH-WEST LONDON



£2.50

850 pubs in
all S.W. postal and
Outer London Districts.
18 detailed maps.
80 pages —
Many illustrations

£2.50

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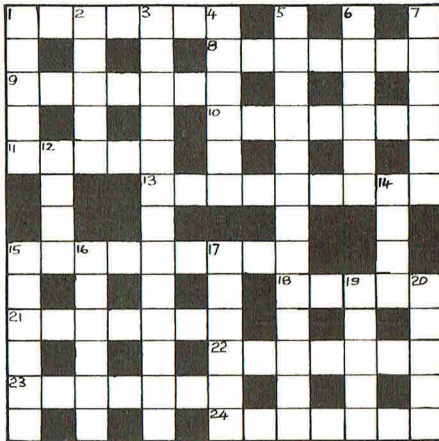
ON SALE NOW

From Martin Smith, 64 Brailsford Road London SW2 2TF
Cheques & Postal Orders for £2.50 per copy payable to CAMRA SW London Guide.

LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON

£5 PRIZE TO BE WON



ACROSS

1. Drink wine back. (7)
8. First male worker for the firm. (7)
9. Drugs I ate in works. (7)
10. You French race in Greek capital appear disapproving. (7)
11. It's a pleasure to lay about in rubbish. (5)
13. Circles boxes and stalls listeners. (9)
15. Princess Anne may pull it out and get going. (4,5)
18. Sounds like a temptation to go down. (5)
21. Nuts about dead Salmon. (7)
22. Man mountain in stone. (7)
23. Fine at golf, unacceptable in morals. (4,3)
24. A Good distance. (4,3)

DOWN

1. The game's up from 1 ac. (5)
2. Cost of piglet's first cereal. (5)
3. Very prominent adverbially. (13)
4. Thanks to Edward, used common sense. (6)
5. Where to find cow catchers. (6,7)
6. Mother, can I derange madman? (6)
7. Produces silver during upsets. (6)
12. Engineer in control. (4)
14. Way out old object. (4)
15. The fruit of William and Mary? (6)
16. Late African found in Devon. (6)
17. Good news when LP goes out. (6)
19. Let everyone shout in pain. (5)
20. Vain about my pet. (5)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 24th September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

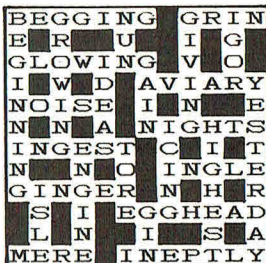
Prize winner will be announced in the November London Drinker.
Solution next month.

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

Winner of the prize for the July crossword:
Old Smokey, 54 Haven Green Court, Baling,
W5.

Other correct entries were received from:
A.J.Bovey, Steve Bremner, Brock,
Brendan Casey, Mick Daley, Ben Davis,
A.P.Comaish, Robert Day, Ian Fairweather,
Damien Farrell, Elaine Glover,
Eileen Graves, 'Arry Hart,
Melissa Heathcote, Alison Henley,
Gordon Hopkinson, Roger Jacobson,
Mrs G.M.Lines, David Parker, Mrs E.G.Roach,
B.Sheridan, Jay Tamsitt, Nigel Wheatley.
There were also ten incorrect entries.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



NEWS OF YOUNG'S

Despite sales up by over 10%, to almost £40 million, Young's performance slightly disappointed when its results for the year to March were announced. After a rise in profits of nearly a fifth in the first six months of the year there was virtually no increase in the second. The major cause seems to have been a fall in the volume sold.

The total drop in the amount sold was 4%, which is in itself worrying since this is far worse than the industry as whole and the big brewers. What is more, the figure of 4% is made up of no drop in lager but a fall of some 7% in real ale sales. This apparently reflects the greatly increased competition in the real ale market but it is disturbing that Young's, having thrived in the seventies on their traditional image, should be losing out now to the newcomers.

Not that they seem keen to do a lot to keep their place. Following the designation of Premium Lager as their 'Jewel in the Crown' at the Annual General Meeting last year, this year the 'AGM banner' announced that a 'Celebration Lager' would be brewed for the Royal Wedding. A shareholder who complained about this, to loud applause, was told that over 40% of people drink lager. But in Youngs pubs the figure is only 25% so this line of argument seems a little odd to say the least.

The AGM itself took place at a new venue in Park Lane and over a third of the four and a half thousand shareholders were there. No doubt the 1045 with ten shares or less were well represented — but threats to exclude them from the free refreshments were not carried out — after all, this group must include quite a lot of good customers of the company.

With the meeting under way John Young was able to announce the purchase of another pub, the Three Lords in the City, with one more on the way. At two pubs, the Lamb in Lambs Conduit Street and its namesake in Leadenhall Market, top bars are to be introduced which will both be no-smoking areas. Exports to America were said to be going well for quantity, but there seemed to be worries about profitability.

Question Time kicked off with a couple of comments about the campaign for flexible pub hours. One speaker called for everyone to write to their MP about it and this was endorsed by the MP for Gillingham, a shareholder, who said that a lot of MPs were just not aware of the amount of public support for flexible pub hours. Also on the political front, John Young was asked if a few political donations might help keep beer taxes from rising — to loud applause he stressed

that the brewery did not make such donations and did not intend to start doing.

London Drinker also received a mention with a questioner asking for comments on an article in the July issue which mentioned the Queens Head in Stepney. Unfortunately the Chairman hadn't read it but promised to write later with his views. Perhaps he will let our editors know as well.

Some of the brewery's trade connections also got a mention. Beamish stout now accounts for one pint of stout in three sold in Young's pubs and draught Guinness has even been taken out in some of them. The Beamish, which comes from Cork, is also being supplied now to Bruces's pubs along with Youngs bitters.

Unlike this success story, the Trocadero (in which Youngs has a share) was reported to be something of a disaster area and now under discussion between the lawyers — although it should have some good potential in the longer term.

With the formal business over within half an hour the crowds started to grow around the bars and a jug service to the tables was set up — unfortunately not without problems as traditional beer drinkers found quantities of lager being passed to them. The beer itself was in excellent condition and better than it appeared last year, but if attendance at the AGM keeps growing then next year may see another new venue — the Albert Hall!

Badger

NEWS OF

***SHOCK** for CAMRA as Ruddles sold out to Watney. The £14 million deal could mean the end of real ale brewing at Mortlake, and possibly by Truman, since it is hard to see even Watney splashing out this much on a name that they could easily license. Instead the brewery could well be earmarked for a southern England real ale plant as part of the Watney Combe Reid reorganisations.

***ANGER** as Matthew Brown announced the closure of Theakstons brewery in Carlisle. CAMRA backed Browns fight against takeover by Big Six brewer Scottish and Newcastle partly because the bid put Browns breweries under threat. Now they have done the dirty work for the predators. Local jobs will go in the closure.

Badger

Why Bother?

“Why bother with CAMRA? Look at all the pubs that sell real ale now”. Why indeed? Well why not look at what the pubs are serving. This year is already set to be the worst for over a decade as far as choice of beer goes. Big breweries serving large areas are either closing or starting the process. Wilson, Lorimer, Darley, Theakston, Wem, Shipstone. Holyrood — all on the way out. Buckley, Burtonwood, Wethered — all under threat. Yes, some factory somewhere might churn out something with their names on the pump, but it’ll taste the same as anything else. Just look at Lancashire. You used to be able to get a fine beer called Yates and Jackson. Thwaites put paid to that. You used to be able to get a fine distinctive beer called Boddingtons. Now they’ve changed the recipe and the stuff sold in London is like orange squash by comparison.

Handpumps do of course continue to sprout on the bars in London and CAMRA continued to count them, but what they dispense is increasingly bland on the average and downright disgusting in a growing number of cases. This is not something unique to London but is more marked here. We might have irrigated the beer desert of the 70s but someone is now pouring salt water down some of the channels.

Availability of real ale is not the problem. CAMRA’s strength in getting the brewers to promote these products and stock real ale has instead contributed to the spread of bland beer as the marketing men demanded ‘universal’ beers. The result was brews like Charringtons IPA, Wethered, Websters or the Ind Coope 1037 family. Sometimes they can be found in excellent condition, more usually in average condition, and not so infrequently in mediocre condition. But even when good they are unexciting and few landlords can get a ‘superb’ pint from this material.

As the big brewers whittle away the choices in their pubs, the consumers are polarising. Unfortunately the mass market is being pushed by advertisers into ‘lifestyle’ living. What you do, where you go and what you are seen drinking matter as much as the labels on your clothes. You don’t drink something because of the taste but because it makes you feel like Paul Hogan.

Something similar is happening in London as far as the geographic distribution of real ale goes. Broadly speaking it is more likely to be drunk in suburbia than in the inner city/housing estate type area. Where you live also affects what you drink.

The most telling check on local tastes is to go into a pub and ask for a pint of bitter. If the barman reaches for the handpump then you are in ‘suburbia’ in the majority of cases — where the alternative is frequently wine not lager. Eastenders typifies some of the distinction since in most real East End pubs a request for ‘bitter’ would be met not by a pull at the pump but by a lunge for the John Bull tap. Up to a point the programme seems written about the inner city but by people from the outer city.

In so many pubs like the Queen Victoria, you can spend half an hour or more and be the only person to try the handpump beer. We only fool ourselves when we count the ‘real ale pubs’ on the basis of their dispense apparatus alone.

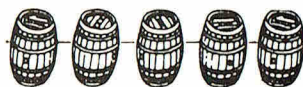
It is rarely the fault of the publican. Often the brewery has pushed the beer in, perhaps mindful of CAMRA, but hasn’t pushed in the drinkers for it. So when and if they do try it, it disappoints.

Promotion of real ale by the Big Brewers has recently come in waves. First Ind Coope had a go, then Watney made the running, then Truman joined in and now Courage seems to be ahead. But after each wave things have slipped back. But that is not necessarily bad news at all. If the pubs that can’t or won’t sell decent real ale stop trying to do so, then we will all be better off.

We need to have something like the ‘oases’ represented by Youngs pubs in the 70s, although in a more widespread way. We also need the beers to support these — distinctive and interesting brews though, not just National Yorkshire Bitter, National IPA and National Bland Bitter Ale. Neither do we need extortionate prices. You can drink superb London Pride in two East London free houses for under 90p. There is really no excuse for any non special beer to cost as much as £1 a pint. Wailing about ‘but its good quality’ is pathetic. Who would offer to pay more for bread if it isn’t mouldy?

CAMRA is needed now because 1990 is going to be like 1970 if nothing is done. Retreating behind a barrier of handpumps and computer printouts isn’t enough. We must start rejecting the bland rip offs now.

Badger



THE *TILTED* GLASS
(A FREE HOUSE)
TALLY-HO CORNER, 359 BALLARDS LANE
FINCHLEY, LONDON N12 8LJ
TELEPHONE 01-445-2556

A WIDE VARIETY OF REAL ALES.
PUB GRUB – MORNINGS & EVENINGS.
NO KEG BEERS IN THIS HOUSE.

CURRENTLY STOCKING:-
TRUMANS EXPORT
WEBSTERS YORKSHIRE — YOUNGS SPECIAL
GODSONS BLACK HORSE

BUSES 26, 125, 263
NEAREST UNDERGROUND — WOODSIDE PARK.

BATEMANS NOT ONLY “GOOD HONEST” — THE BEST (*Press release*)

At CAMRA Great British Beer Festival held in Brighton at the beginning of August Batemans XXX.B., a premium bitter, took top honours and was voted **BEER OF THE YEAR FOR 1986**. It followed a number of successes for Bateman's beers at previous festivals this year. In May at Tyneside Beer Festival Batemans mild was best mild of the festival and at Cambridge Beer Festival in July Batemans XXX.B. was voted best premium bitter and the mild was voted best mild and best beer of the festival.

“The honour” said Mr. George Bateman, “was worth more than anything the brewing ‘professionals’ could bestow on their Wainfleet ales. It was voted upon and judged by the people who really count — the beer drinkers themselves,” he explained. “It’s one of the finest honours I have ever known, and it has given us a real boost to consolidate and expand our outlets”.

This award has been a great morale booster for Batemans Brewery, based in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, and now selling beer to several outlets in London. For over a year George

Bateman has been engaged in a fight to preserve the 112 year old brewery from losing its independence. This result will provide further inspiration to continue the battle for independence and the brewery may yet be looking for further support in that direction.

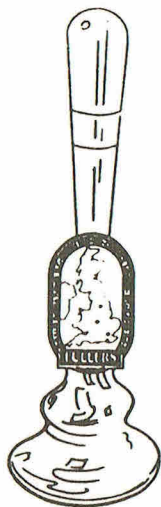
**“SO DON'T FORGET TO INVEST IN A PINT
OR TWO OF BATEMANS”**

Editor's Note: We understand Bateman's are seeking to increase their outlets in the London area. Good idea.

LIGHTWEIGHT ISSUE ?

Yes, we do have less pages this issue than usual. Although we have delayed the publication date by a week due to the holidays, not enough material is to hand to produce our regular 32-page content. Page numbers have to go in multiples of four, and although we COULD have justified 28 pages of the usual standard of content, it is more difficult from the technical angle at the printer's than either 32 or 24 pages and so, regretfully, for THIS ISSUE ONLY we have opted for the lesser figure. Normal service will be resumed in October L.D.

M.S.



E.S.B. – AGAIN VOTED BEST BEER IN BRITAIN

1985 – Brighton

Great British Beer Festival

E.S.B.

**Best Strong Ale and
Beer of the Year**

1983 – Birmingham

Great British Beer Festival

E.S.B.

Best Strong Ale

1981 – Leeds

Great British Beer Festival

E.S.B.

**Best Strong Ale and
Beer of the Year**

1979 – London

Great British Beer Festival

E.S.B.

Best Strong Ale

1979 – London

Great British Beer Festival

London Pride

Best Bitter Beer and

Best Overall Beer

1978 – London

Great British Beer Festival

E.S.B.

Best Strong Ale and

Joint Beer of the Year

FULLERS

You can work it out Government leaves 'froth' problem to Trade volunteers

The Government still wants to see if voluntary moves to end the long-running row over 'froth' on a pint of beer are successful before implementing legislation.

This was made clear in replies to Commons questions from Michael Colvin, the National Union of Licensed Victuallers' Parliamentary adviser and Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside.

The MP asked what was the Government's definition of the 'froth' on a glass of beer.

Consumer affairs minister Michael Howard told him: 'The term froth is not legally defined, but it is used to describe the mixture of gas and liquid which forms above the surface of the liquid when beer is poured into a container.'

The MP then asked what plans the Government had to implement section 43 of the Weights and Measures Act which would enable a pint to be legally defined as a pint of liquid excluding the head or froth.

Mr. Howard said consultations on Government proposals for changes to the regulations dealing with the construction and testing of beer glasses would not close until July 16.

Guidance

The Brewers' Society had still to make public its proposals for guidance notes aimed at overcoming problems on froth.

Mr. Howard said the Government would wish to see if this joint initiative proved to be successful before considering implementing section 43 of the Weights and Measures Act.

From 'Morning Advertiser'.

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

ONGAR ALE TRAIL

1) COCK TAVERN (Gray)

Greene King IPA, Greene King Abbot Ale (small unmodernised bar)

2) KINGS HEAD (Watney Combe Reid)

Stag Bitter, Ruddles County, Websters Yorkshire (Old coaching inn, restaurant at rear)

3) THE ONGAR BELL (Free)

Greene King Abbot Ale, Adnams Southwold Bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Mauldon Breakneck Bitter (recent refurbishment, young crowd)

4) ROYAL OAK (Whitbread)

Whethered Bitter (traditional 2-bar local)

5) TWO BREWERS (Ind Coope)

Ind Coope Bitter, Burton Ale

6) STAG (McMullen)

Country Bitter (beware fake handpumps on bar, so stress 'real')

HOW TO GET THERE:—

Bus 201 from Epping or Buckhurst Hill Central Line stations, Ongar Station open only during Monday to Friday peak hours.

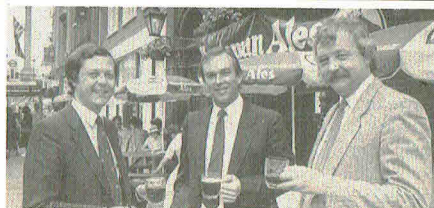
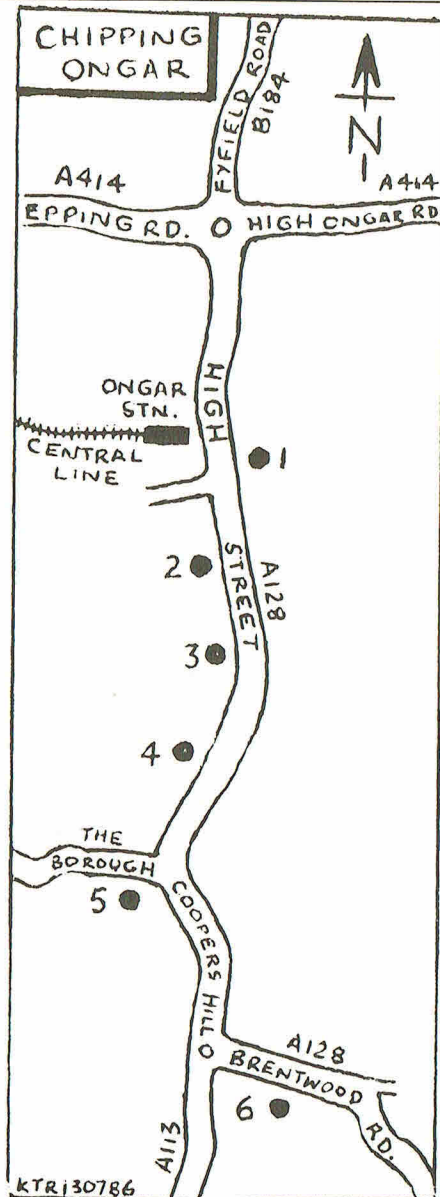
SUMMER FESTIVAL OF REAL ALES.

High above Trafalgar Square Lord Nelson, minus his right arm, looks down on the Clarence, Whitehall. A Clifton Inn hostelry, a recent venue for Eldridge Pope & Co., and its cask conditioned Dorset I.P.A.

The Clarence, within a stone's throw of Downing Street and in sight of Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey, has been holding a Real Ale Festival throughout the summer months. Recently 'beer of the week' was Dorset I.P.A. one of three cask conditioned ales brewed by Eldridge Pope, the others being Royal Oak, and Dorchester Bitter.

The Clarence gains maximum attention from the London tourist trade, its sawdust covered wooden floors, and wooden beams quickly attract the inquisitive tourist to the pub in search of the "Traditional British Pint".

Surveying the Whitehall scene from on high Lord Nelson would long for a glass of the Dorset I.P.A. cask conditioned ale being sampled by (Left to right) Russel Warren, area free trade manager, Eldridge Pope & Co. Roger Burston, manager for Clifton Inns of the Clarence, Whitehall. Mr. Mike Ballard, free trade general sales manager, Eldridge Pope & Co. Dorchester.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS



Dear Editors,

I feel *obliged* to recount the following sequence of events: and would be immensely grateful if you would publicise this, for reasons which will become apparent below.

On the evening of the 5th July, a friend and I entered the main ground floor bar of the 'Cittie of Yorke' pub in High Holborn, and ordered two pints of Samuel Smith's 'Old Brewery Bitter'. The pints produced were cloudy and rancid — and so we duly informed the barman. In reply to our complaint he announced: "It's Real Ale!" — and appeared to consider that sufficient response. We duly retired to a table.

About a minute and a half later the same barman, in the company of a colleague, approached our table and unceremoniously ordered us to "Drink up and leave as (he) could do without (our) custom"! We twice protested against this decision, but were insolently rebuffed.

On the following day I wrote an angry letter to the licensee of the 'Cittie of Yorke' demanding an apology from him — and threatening, if he did not apologise, both to report the matter to the Brewery and to seek to ensure, as a member of CAMRA that the 'Cittie of Yorke' was removed from the pages of the "Good Beer Guide" as quickly as possible!

On the following Saturday I received an extremely courteous and apologetic letter from the licensee of the 'Cittie of Yorke' — a Mr. Simon Fraser — informing me that the matter had been "appropriately dealt with" and that the barman in question would no longer be in the employ of the company as from the beginning of next month! Mr. Fraser even offered to show my friend and I around his cellar so as to assure us of the care with which he keeps his ales!

Now I must confess that I had not seriously entertained hopes of a reply to my letter: far less the prompt and decisive action taken over the matter by Mr. Fraser. As I wrote to him recently, *many* publicans would have filed my letter in the waste-paper basket. It is a proud reflection both upon Mr. Fraser's conscientiousness as a publican, and upon the care with which Samuel Smith's select their staff, that Mr. Fraser did *not* do so!

As I also wrote to Mr. Fraser: the 'Cittie of Yorke' is precisely the kind of pub and he is precisely the kind of publican — and Samuel Smith's are therefore precisely the kind of brewers — which CAMRA exists to protect. I therefore earnestly hope that many of your readers will duly repay all three with their custom! It is an ironic thought that if there were more brewers like Samuel Smith's, and more publicans like Simon Fraser, there would be no need for an organisation such as CAMRA!

Yours faithfully

David Morgan, Barking.



Dear Editors

As an avid royalist I found it disappointing to note that very few of the Nation's breweries saw fit to produce a commemorative beer (in bottle or cask) for the recent wedding of Prince Andrew to Miss Sarah Ferguson (or rather the Duke and Duchess of York as we should now call them). The only pubs in my area where I have noticed any such brew have been those of Young and Co.

Can you imagine my horror when I found that this august company, well noted (particularly by Mr Michael Hardman) for the quality and wide availability of its traditional beers should have produced, not a strong bitter as of yore, but a LAGER!?!?!?

Does this mean that Young's commitment to traditional beer is being watered down because they see their future in lager? I think we should be told.

Incidentally, does anybody know how many pubs called the Duke of York were giving away celebratory free beer on 23rd July?

Keep it up!

RON PETTIT, Hampton.

Continued opposite

Dear Editors,

I was very interested to Read 'Badger's' article 'One in a Thousand' in the July LD. I am sure we could all name one or two pubs which, to us, come into that category. However, I am afraid that I have to disappoint 'Badger' over the Big Brewers' pub he selects, namely the Red House at Redbridge. Alas, it is not unique.

About five years ago, a large and run-down but basically innocuous pub in Kenton (near Harrow) called The Rest Hotel got the same treatment as the Red House has received. The inside was ripped out, and in its place appeared lots of steep-gabled, half-timbered little houses — with an artificial tree in the middle. The whole thing looked so ridiculous that the pub soon gained a well deserved nickname — 'The Wendy House'.

BUT . . . drastic happenings were to come. Last Autumn the Wendy Houses were condemned as being unfit for human habitation, and all bar a couple were demolished. The pub's insides were ripped apart again to create a much more open-plan drinking area. The architectural style could perhaps best be described as schizophrenic — a touch of art deco in the lampshades, a bit Spanish/Mediterranean in the white plasterwork, perhaps a trifle mediaeval in places, all with rustic country farmhouse overtones. Oops, nearly forgot, plus those standbys without which no pub is complete — old (or at least dusty) books, agricultural instruments, and lots of artificial potted plants. I give it about five years, at which time another reincarnation will take place, I have no doubt.

The place does sell real ale — usually Wethered Bitter, Flowers Original and Brakspear Bitter — but at a price (£1.00+ a pint) and of a uniformly mediocre quality. The place can be summed up by the events of an evening a couple of weeks ago. Having waited twelve (yes, twelve!) minutes to be served, I was given a distinctly murky pint of Wethered's. On looking at it closely and mentioning it to the barman, I was told 'Oh, there's nothing wrong with it — I drink Wethered's all the time!' Surely, it's up to the customer to decide whether or not the beer he or she is given is up to the standard required — or have I got it all wrong?

At this point, you may ask why do I drink at the 'Traveller's Rest'? (for that is its current name). Only because it's about the least worst pub in that immediate locality.

There are, however, better pubs a little further afield, and one of my favourites is the 'Royal

Oak' in Peel Road, Wealdstone. This is a splendid back-street local. When it was redecorated earlier this year, I was very worried about what the results would look like, However, all was well — it looks very much the same now as it did before it was redecorated — complete with public bar! It's a Taylor Walker pub, serving Taylor Walker, Benskins, and Burton Ale, and has a good, friendly atmosphere (and fast service!). If only the 'Travellers Rest' could take a leaf out of this pub's book . . .

Roger Hedley, Harrow.

Dear Editors

Further to my letter about over-priced soft drinks, an update is called for.

On July 1 I returned to the London Polytechnic bar etc. in Bolsover Street for another Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council meeting. During conversation I mentioned my first letter to the (pro-CAMRA) guv'nor who pointed out that the Boddington's was bitter not mild, at 72p not 80p! (I did once have a memory — where did I leave it?) It will be only 75p next term, if you can get someone to sign you in (or be a delegate from your union branch to the Trade Council!) Post-meeting was again at the Yorkshire Grey (Langham St./Middleton Bldgs.) where I showed the letter to the young lady behind the bar, and asked why the guv'nor had not replied. He was not present; she agreed that the price was correct and was a rip-off, and that a letter to the brewery would be more appropriate. I'm now doing just that and will keep you informed.

Now to more appropriate and serious matters:

Firstly, I had a pint of Axe recently in The Moon, New North Street; tasty but not really worth the £1.10 demanded. Secondly, a regrettable attitude from a publican. 2 of us were on a central crawl on Saturday night, 12/7/86, and eventually went to the Red Lion in Whitehall. I ordered 2 pints of Taylor-Walker and my orange squash. While the guy fetched the latter, we tasted the beer and agreed it was not right. On his return, I said in my most apologetic manner, "Sorry, but I don't think the beer's quite right", inviting him to sample it himself. His reaction: he grabbed all 3 glasses, and said "Find another pub; go on, find another pub". At least no money had been passed over, but it was the first time I'd been told to leave a pub. In marked contrast was the attitude of the guv'nor at the George IV (Copenhagen St. near King's X) the next day. As I waited to be served, a customer brought 2 pints of bitter back to the bar

Continued over

THE LORD NELSON



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FULLERS REAL ALES

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HOME COOKED PUB GRUB AND

COUNTER LUNCHES MONDAY-SATURDAY

plus

PUB GAMES

Cribbage, Darts, Dominoes, Shove Ha Penny

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suggesting cloudiness. Without hesitation or demur, the beer was taken back and fresh pints supplied. Would that all could be as such.

We all recognise a publican's right to choose at any time who shall or shall not be in the pub (I have been a barman in the past) but I do not believe this should be used to get out of responsibilities under the various consumer protection legislation (e.g. the Food & Drinks Act of 1955), Brian (Byles) and I were barely consoled by Adnam's at 85p in the Clarence (special offer) and I am writing to What's Brewing and Taylor Walker on this. Again, I will let you know the outcome.

Yours against tyranny and profiteering,

Peter Wicks.

BENEFIT CORNER

The Prince of Wales, Morden Road SW19 recently held a raffle and buffet as part of the benefit year of Pat Pocock, the England and Surrey spinner. Pat, who was accompanied by his Surrey team mate Nick Faulkener, drew the winning ticket for a cricket bat signed by the Surrey and Middlesex teams. The lucky winners were the pub's cricket team. A number of smaller prizes were won and £100 was raised. A splendid buffet was provided by managers Debbie and Terry Urwin with the sponsorship of Young's Brewery, who are involved in a number of events for Pat's benefit year.

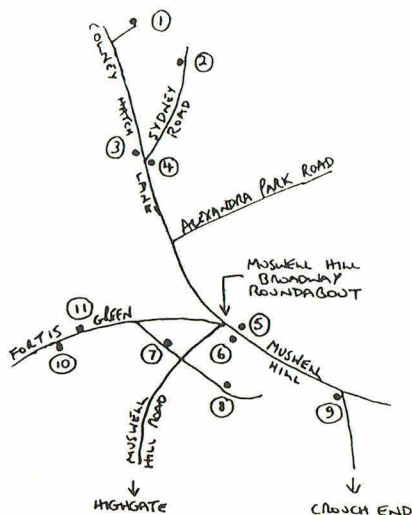
MUSWELL HILL PUBCRAWL

Muswell Hill is a hilltop suburb in North London which was once only a small settlement in the great Middlesex Forest. Its only claim to fame was the Mossy Well which became a place of pilgrimage because of its healing properties. Today's residents affectionately call it "Muzzy Hill". It is notable for its Edwardian architecture, but little has happened this century to put it on the map save the Kinks and Denis Nilsen.

Muswell Hill is underpubbed despite the fact that three pubs have been built since the last war. The building of the first of these, the John Baird, was strongly opposed by sedate local residents. The suburb has always had a somewhat genteel aspect although things have changed in recent years with the conversion of many of its big old houses into flats and bedsitters. With the nearest tube and British Rail stations over a mile away, Muswell Hill is still isolated from the point of view of public transport.

We start this crawl in that part of Muswell Hill lying in the borough of Barnet, in the triangle of land known as the Freehold — a term that apparently derives from the fact that it was never in the possession of the Church. This area, bounded by Colney Hatch Lane, the golf course and the North Circular Road, is a mixture of houses of differing periods and light industry. The bus garage is an important source of employment locally. The Alexandra in Cromwell Road is a thriving community local serving Wethereds and Flowers Original. Nearby is one of Muswell Hill's two pubs bearing the name Royal Oak. This is only a fairly recent conversion to Real Ale, and sells Websters and Coombe's bitter — although neither were available on my last visit. There is a betting shop conveniently sited next door, and facilities for tattooing and the purchase of locally-made ice cream only a few doors along the road.

Weatherspoons in Colney Hatch Lane is part of the history of Real Ale in London. When Andrew Marler obtained a licence to open a Free House in these premises in 1979, it began a trend which has revolutionised the pub scene in North London. Numerous pubs in former shop premises have now been opened in areas where no new pubs had appeared for centuries. Subsequently this pub was owned by Tim Martin, and it still bears the name of his free house organisation, although it now belongs to the Inn Leisure group. Greene King IPA and Abbot, Wadworth 6X and Marston's Pedigree can be enjoyed in somewhat noisy and smoky surrounds. The latter two beers are good value at 89p a pint. There is a garden at the rear. Opposite is the Minstrel Boy, another recently built pub (1965), named after one of the



MAP INDEX

1. Alexandra, Cromwell Road
2. Royal Oak, Sydney Road.
3. Wetherspoons.
4. Minstrel Boy.
5. Green Man.
6. Swiss Chalet.
7. John Baird.
8. Royal Oak, St. James' Lane.
9. Victoria Stakes.
10. Clissold Arms.
11. Alexandra, Fortis Green.

"Irish Melodies" of the poet Thomas Moore, who lived in Muswell Hill. This two-bar pub has recently been renovated and there are now two conservatories in addition to a patio, which means that the pub is particularly handy for drinkers with children. Webster's Yorkshire bitter and Ruddles County are available.

It is quite an uphill walk across the borough boundary into Haringey and to Muswell Hill Broadway. Here the Green Man and the Swiss Chalet stand opposite each other at the top of Muswell Hill itself. Both cater mainly for a younger clientele. There has been a pub on the site of the Green Man probably since 1552 although the present building is of this century and much modernised. Websters and Ruddles County are available.

Continued on Page 31

8th Greenwich Real Ale Festival



As a result of another successful Greenwich Real Ale Festival this year, South East London Branch presented a cheque for £2,500 to headquarters during the G.B.B.F. Iain Dobson of H.Q. and John Cryne of the N.E. are seen here receiving the big cheque from Jon Bailey, treasurer and Dave Foord chairman of the branch. Incidentally our photo was taken by the Greenwich Festival Organiser, Dave Sullivan.

Towards the end of the year S.E. London Branch intends arranging a coach trip to a brewery as a thank you for all those who worked at Greenwich this year and contributed to its success.



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 x2062 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440 2186 (H)	283 1000 x2944 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x2380 (W)
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)	

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.

THE ROSE & CROWN

**The friendly local (so our customers tell us!)
with the warm welcome. Be welcomed with**

20p OFF

Your first pint of DIRECTORS BITTER on production
of this advertisement.



THE ROSE & CROWN,

2 THE POLYGON, OLD TOWN, CLAPHAM, SW4 0JG. 01-720 8265.

RIP-OFFS.

First, an apology: A correspondent who reported a Rip-Off to us concerning the FOOTLIGHTS REAL ALE BAR at the Waldorf Hotel got it wrong on three counts. Firstly the bar is merely called the FOOTLIGHTS BAR. Secondly the beers on sale are Courage Best and Sam Smiths. Thirdly they are both priced 98p and not £1.32 as published. We would like to offer apologies to the Hotel for any embarrassment caused, and remind contributors of the need to verify the facts before submission. Despite its professional appearance, London Drinker is staffed entirely by volunteers who have full time jobs and no time to cross-check for every reference.

Our most recent information is as follows:

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

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

The SUSSEX, St Martins Lane WC2 sells
Youngers IP-A at £1.10.

The SALISBURY in the same street has Burton
at £1.11.

The ROSE & CROWN, Tooting Bec Road SW17
has Flowers at £1.08 and Wethereds at £1.00 — a
pity as this is the first we have heard of its selling
real ale. Bad show.

The BEDFORD HOTEL, Bedford Hill SW12
sells Websters Yorkshire at £1.02 and Combes at
£1.00.

The COOPERS ARMS, 164 Kilburn High Road,
NW6 prices Charrington IPA at 98p.

*In recent months there have been rumblings in the
licensed trade to the effect that CAMRA's role — to
bring back cask beer — has now been fulfilled, and
that it has no business meddling in such issues as
pricing and brewery policy. Until such a time as
another organisation comes forward to take over
the watchdog role on behalf of the ripped-off
drinker, this Campaign, and in particular this
magazine, will continue to criticise any moves
detrimental to the interests of its following, in
particular with regard to pricing, choice and
quality. Anyone not liking this situation knows
what to do about it.*

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The Wheat Beer of Hoegaarden in Brabant

Brabant to day is rich farming country between Brussels and Liege in Belgium. The province is mentioned by Julius Caesar, who records that its inhabitants were strong and warlike, and that they brewed a strong ale which the Roman Legionaries much preferred to the wine which was shipped up from the south for them.

Although there are no written records from the Dark Ages, we can assume that the tradition was not lost, and by 1318 we find that a brewery is recorded at the small village of Hoegaarden. Rather later, in 1450, a community of Begarden monks settled there and, since they liked a drink once in a while, (after morning and evening prayers) they soon began to brew for themselves. They used the same ingredients as are still used today: equal proportions of the wheat, barley and oats which were growing in the surrounding fields, with a light flavouring of hops. Perhaps it was during the Spanish occupation of the Sixteenth Century that they started to add the touch of orange and of coriander which makes this beer unique. The water came, and still comes, from a spring rich in minerals which rises under the village. The excellence of these ingredients, and the almost religious dedication

which was brought to their preparation, ensured that the tradition flourished and that the Wheat Beer of Hoegaarden became famous throughout the land.

In 1571 a Brewers Guild was formed, and a thriving export trade started to the less fortunate towns and village of the Low Countries. By 1745, Hoegaarden still had only 2,000 inhabitants, but could boast one tavern for every 10 of them. There were now thirty breweries, in addition to one hundred people known to brew at home. The small village exported over half a millin gallons of beer every year, in addition to a home consumption which is generally supposed to be quite considerable. There is no record of any reaching England at this time, so eagerly did the Belgians themselves wait for supplies.

The brewers of Hoegaarden have never had to advertise, which perhaps explains the fact that the Wheat Beer has never before reached England in its original draught form. Trappist Beer Imports have persuaded the Belgians to release small quantities for export, and it is currently available at 'The Sun' Free House, Lamb's Conduit Street, and at the Hilton, Park Lane.

NORTH LONDON NEWS

Another of North London's free houses has reverted to the tied trade. Charrington are reported to have acquired the Ferry Boat Inn on the River Lea in Tottenham. Parts of this pub date back to 1738 and it is hoped that Charrington will give it a well-deserved restoration, as it has been in a sadly run-down state for many years.

The latest pub from Tim Martin's J.D. Wetherspoon organisation is the Boar in Lordship Lane N17 (see the July edition) which opened its doors on 25th July. The usual reduced price house beer was on sale, prompting one local pub to reduce the price of one of its cask beers in retaliation. The benefits of competition! The Favourite in Queensland Road N7 is also offering a bargain (70-75p) beer of the month.

The Britannia in Belsize Lane, Kilburn, and the Wheatsheaf in Camden Town are the first pubs in North London to sell real John Smith's. John Smith's were the bad boys of the Courage group, having refused to brew Real Ale for many years following a decision in 1974 to keg their own range of beers and close the famous Barnsley brewery. John Smith's has been widely available in keg form throughout the South of England. After a cask conditioned version was reintroduced a few years ago the beer has appeared more frequently on handpump.

The quotation from George Orwell in the August edition is by no means his only expression of the state of pubs and beer in pre-war Britain. In his novel "Coming up for Air" the cynical George Bowling complains that "no English hops ever go into beer nowadays, they're all made into chemicals. Chemicals, on the other hand, are made into beer". This is after returning to his childhood town and discovering that his father's old local has been acquired by one of the big combines, has been "dolled up" and sells "sulphurous" beer!

A correction to my August article is that the Tricycle Theatre Bar in Kilburn sells Greene King IPA and Abbot, not Fullers.

JOHN CONEN



All 146 of our
pubs sell real ale

YOUNGS OF WANDSWORTH

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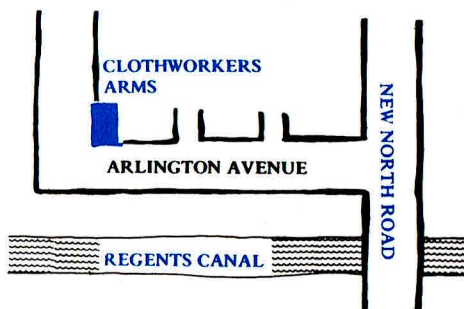


The **Clothworkers Arms**

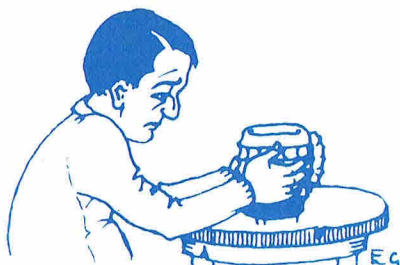
Arlington Avenue, Islington, N1

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.



DEAR DIPSY



DEAR DIPSY, After a couple of pints of beer my difficult medical condition (which runs its own life), forces me to turn to drinking Rum & Blackcurrant. This has the unfortunate effect of turning my feet and arms to flippers, my front goes white and the rest of me turns black. My friends keep throwing me fish! Also, I keep thinking of having children, but their parents always drag them away from me. Are the two connected?

F. ROTH, Gravesend

DEAR MR. ROTH, *No Children usually like penguins, and their parents often pay good money to take them to see some. Your condition seems more to do with the strange mixture of liquids you pour down yourself. Remember what happened to Dr. Jekyll? I suggest you lay off the Ribena, as it obviously takes you back to your youth, which may explain your second problem. Suggest to your youth that he stays out of the Chinese take-aways.* DIPSY.

DEAR DIPSY, Despite having almost completely given up drinking some years ago due to pressure of 'work', I still have an enormous beer gut. I also find that on the rare occasion that I do have a drink, the first few sips cause me to look at the ceiling, and I usually end up swinging from the light fittings and emitting strange gurgling sounds. I am usually ejected from the pub at this point and so never finish my beer. My closest friend says I am unsociable. Is he right?

G.O'RILL, Burgess Hill

DEAR MR. O'RILL, *He should know. Certainly your two problems seem connected. What IS the gestation period of a chimpanzee? Meanwhile, try staying at home and moping rather than go out and risk enjoying yourself – look what it's done for your friend. Oh, and mind how you go and don't drive too fast.* DIPSY.

DEAR DIPSY, I'd just like your opinion on the new CAMRA SW London Beer Guide; I'd say it's a terrific bargain at £2.50 with its neat little typeset layout and superb pub photoes but my friend Norman thinks it's too slim and slippery and should have been completely re-set to incorporate a vehement attack on Watney's takeover of Ruddles.

W.C. Reid, Clifton Inn, Yorkshire.

DEAR W.C.: *1. No free adverts here, chum!
2. Your friend Norman is a berk. Doesn't he know how long it's taken to produce this guide in the first place?
3. 57 words is far too long for a sentence anyway.* DIPSY.

P.S. Those interested, please see p.5.

DEAR DIPSY, At the age of 77, I've now been drinking 6 pints of good, English ale every night of my life for 60 years. I can remember, in those early days, waking up of a morning with a stiff willy. I couldn't even bend it. Nowadays I often still wake up with a stiff willy but find I can bend it. Is English beer getting stronger?

DEAR PERCY, *Actually English beer has got weaker since you were a virile young man. I think you're getting weaker too. You could always try an aphrodisiac. They say oysters are good, but I tried half a dozen last night and one of them didn't work!* DIPSY.

DEAR DIPSY, I am very worried. During the recent cold spell I came home from the pub one night to see my wife digging a hole in the garden with the cat under her arm. When she saw me, she shot back into the house. Do you think she is thinking of burying it alive just because it recently committed an indiscretion in the lodger's bedroom?

ANDY, West Bridgford.

DEAR ANDY, *What a terrible thing to think! Obviously pussy's indiscretion was excused by his inability to dig a suitable hole in the frozen earth. Your wife was merely helping out.* 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, 24, Clerkenwell Close.
 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 Road.
 SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN, Denmark Hill Station, Windsor Walk.
 SE5 WICKWOOD 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 St.
 SE27 HOPE, 49 West Norwood High St.
 BECKENHAM JOLLY WOODMAN, Chancery Lane.
 BEXLEY BLUE ANCHOR, Bridgen Road.
 CROYDON DOG & BULL, Surrey Street.
 CROYDON LION, Pawnsons 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, Cloudesley Road.
 N1 GEORGE IV, Copenhagen Street.
 N1 HEMINGFORD ARMS, 158 Hemingford Road.
 N1 MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Road.
 N1 PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place.
 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.
 N18 TWO BREWERS, 196 Silver Street.
 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.
 NW1 VICTORIA & ALBERT BARS, Marylebone Station.
 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.
 NW9 GEORGE, 234 Church Lane.
 NW10 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane.
 BARNET ALEXANDRA, Wood Street.
 BARNET SEBRIGHT ARMS, Alston Road.
 ENFIELD CRICKETERS ARMS, 19 Chse 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.
 NW6 Grogglossom, 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, Pimlico 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 Lots Road.
 SW11 ANCHOR, Holgate Avenue.
 SW11 BEEHIVE, 197 St John's Hill.
 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, Wimbledon High Street.
 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 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, Outlands
 Park.
 W1 ARGVLL 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, Infield 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.
 SOUTHAL 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
 STEVENAGE (Herts) RED LION, High Street, Old Town.
 SOUTHAMPTON JUNCTION TAVERN, St. Denys.
 STOCKPORT (Gtr.Manchester) NEW INN, Wellington Road
 South.
 TORQUAY UPTON VALE, Upton Road.
 WINCHESTER (Hants) GREEN MAN, Southgate Street.
 WORTHING (Sussex) WHEATSHEAF 22, Richmond Rd.

Muswell Hill crawl – continued

The Swiss Chalet started life in 1983 as Oscar's, and is situated in the former Express Dairies cafe. It is a single story gabled building in which considerable effort was expended during conversion to create an atmosphere. Disco at weekends. The emphasis is on lager and the only real ale is Marston's Pedigree from a handpump tucked away at the back of the pub. Off Muswell Hill Broadway is the John Baird, a popular shoppers' pub dating from 1959. Memorabilia commemorates the TV pioneer; the first TV broadcasts were made from nearby Alexandra Palace. Small public bar, a garden at the rear and a welcome absence of canned music.

Down St. James' Lane from the church is the other Royal Oak, one of the original pubs of the area. The previous quaint matchboarded pub was demolished in 1965 when it became unsafe, and the present structure with its interesting octagonal layout constructed. A Taylor Walker pub with good bitter at only 85p a pint and Burton Ale — Taylor Walker HQ is nearby. If you wish to continue downhill the Victoria Stakes is at the foot of Muswell Hill. Formerly just the Victoria,

the Stakes presumably commemorates the now defunct Alexandra Park racecourse. A Charrington house selling draught Bass only.

For the sake of completeness I should mention two pubs that technically lie in Muswell Hill — they are in the borough of Haringey but in the N2 postal district. The Clissold Arms and the Alexandra stand opposite each other in the conservation area of Fortis Green, halfway between Muswell Hill and East Finchley. The former is a traditional Courage house selling Best Bitter and Directors. There is a combined lounge and saloon bar, with nice panelling from the pre-war era, a thriving public bar, and no music at all. The latter is a more modernised establishment, a Taylor Walker pub with Benskins bitter in addition to Taylor Walker and Burton Ale. Both these pubs keep their beer to a high standard; unfortunately in several of the other pubs I have mentioned the beer can be below par. From the point of view of prices, the 90p pint is pretty standard throughout the area, and as previously mentioned Wetherspoons probably provides the best value.

Good drinking!

JOHN CONEN

WOULD YOU ADAM'n EVE IT?

HONEST, NO PORK PIES
THIS EAR FESTIVAL DOWN
BETHNAL GREEN HAS

GOT THE LOT FOR A
GREAT EAST END TREAT.

THERE'S CIDER'n REAL ALE
SERVED BY THOSE
LOVEABLE GEMS, THE
'CAMRA HEAVIES'-EVERYONE'S
A DIAMOND. WITH
SPARKLING ENTERTAINMENT
& SIDE STALLS GALORE, YOU'LL

GET IN FREE at lunchtimes

11 to 2:30pm and in the
evening it's a quid entry cost

5 till 11pm. It's only a short
trot from the CITY...

I'll button up here 'n see
YOU there, cheers!

PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM

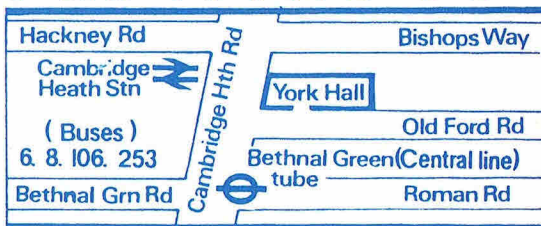
B. ESTHAM



CAMRA members:
free entry Wed eve.
50p entry Other eves.

**WED 15 - SAT 18
OCTOBER**

PIG'S EAR BEER FESTIVAL '86



**YORK HALL
OLD FORD RD
LONDON E2**