

JUNE  
1989

# LONDON



25p

# DRINKER



VOL 11

BEER IN HORSE-HAM, see p.16

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

NO 5

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- SE26 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE, 39 Sydenham Hill.
- SE27 HOPE, 49 West Norwood High Street.
- SE27 GIPSY QUEEN, West Norwood High Street.
- SE27 KINGS HEAD, 187 West Norwood High Street.
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- E4 Waltham Wines, 72 Sewardstone Road.
- SE3 Bitter Experience, 128 Lee Road.
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- BEXLEYHEATH, Bitter Experience, 216 Broadway.
- BROMLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill.

## CLUBS

- CROYDON, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road.

## OUTLETS

### WEST CENTRAL AND NORTH PUBS

- WC1 CALTHORPE ARMS, 252 Grays Inn Road,
- WC1 CITTIE OF YORKE, 22 High Holborn.
- WC1 HANSLER ARMS, Kings Cross Road.
- WC1 LAMB, Lamb's Conduit Street.
- WC1 MARLBOROUGH ARMS, 36 Torrington Place.
- WC1 MOON, 18 New North Street.
- WC1 PAKENHAM ARMS, 1 Pakenham Street.
- WC1 PRINCESS LOUISE, High Holborn
- WC1 SUN, 63 Lamb's Conduit Street.
- WC1 YORKSHIRE GREY, Theobalds Road.
- WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR, 22 Neal Street.
- WC2 GEORGE IV, 28 Portugal Street.
- N1 COMPTON ARMS, 4 Compton Avenue.
- N1 GEORGE & VULTURE, 63 Pitfield Street.
- N1 HEMINGFORD ARMS, 158 Hemingford Road.
- N1 KINGS HEAD, 59 Essex Road.
- N1 LORD WOLSELEY, 55 White Lion Street.
- N1 MALT & HOPS, 33 Caledonian Road.
- N1 MARQUESS TAVERN, 32 Canonbury Street.
- N1 MITRE TAVERN, 71 Downham Road.
- N1 PRINCE ALBERT, 16 Elia Street.
- N1 PRINCE ARTHUR, 49 Brunswick Place.
- N1 ROSEMARY BRANCH, 2 Shepperton Road.
- N1 ROYAL OAK, 140 Offord Road.
- N2 OLD WHITE LION, Great North Road.
- N2 WINDSOR CASTLE, The Walks, Church Lane.
- N4 MARLERS, 29 Crouch Hill.
- N4 MORTIMER ARMS, Green Lanes.
- N4 OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH, 10 Grand Parade, Green Lanes.
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- N7 FLOUNDER & FIRKIN, 54 Holloway Road.
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- N12 MOSS HALL TAVERN, 283 Ballards Lane.
- N12 TILTED GLASS, Ballards Lane, North Finchley.

Continued on p. 29



## EDITORIAL



Enough has been written already about the recent MMC report into the brewing industry and I do not profess to know what the Big Six brewers (I do not include Greenall Whitley here as their empire of 1700 pubs would not be affected directly.) will do to preserve their investments. What I would like to do, though, is to think about one possible effect of the relaxation of the tie to allow publicans to sell one "foreign" beer of their choice.

While many pubs will simply take the cut price lagers that they will inevitably be offered by the huge foreign combines trying to break into the U.K. market, some will think of their customers and try to get good quality real beers such as Fullers, Brakspears, King & Barnes and many others. This is likely to lead to huge increases in demand for the products from these breweries which are already fully stretched at certain times of the year. So what will these brewers do - turn trade away?

It must be remembered that even the best brewery you can name is in business primarily to make money so what are they to do to satisfy this increased demand? I fear that some of the small, popular breweries will resort to high gravity brewing in order to increase brewery capacity. Let us take the hypothetical case of a small brewery in the suburbs with about 150 pubs and a range of three real beers - all of excellent quality. Let us assume that Beer A has a gravity of 1035; Beer B, 1040 and Beer C, 1055 and

they brew them in the proportions of 25%/50%/25% respectively. [At this point I must emphasise that I know of no plans for the actual brewery on which I am basing this exercise to follow this path but it is a possibility.] At present the output of our brewery (in common with most) is limited by the capacity of its fermenting vessels and the fact that the beer in them takes seven days to ferment. I am assuming that the capacity of the brewing plant and racking lines etc. could be increased by shift working.

If all three beers were brewed (and fermented) as Beer C, being watered down just before racking into barrels then the brewery's capacity could be increased by 29% overnight. If on the other hand all the beers were produced at an original gravity of 1080, then the potential increase in capacity would be 88%. While it is of course totally illegal for landlords to water down their beer, the law does allow for breweries to brew at a higher gravity than they sell their beer. This could only mean a reduction in real choice as the light refreshing lunchtime tippie currently being produced by our favourite brewery would become a watered down version of its big brother and big brother himself would almost certainly undergo some fairly extensive change in character.

I am not personally aware of any beers which have been brewed at high gravity for sale to the public and so it is not possible for the average punter to know what the effect on quality would be. It is however quite well known that a number of breweries have tried high gravity brewing and it could present itself as an attractive proposition to a brewery already brewing to capacity which experienced a rapid and substantial increase in demand.

Andy Pirson



Editor's Address p.8

Branch Diary p.12

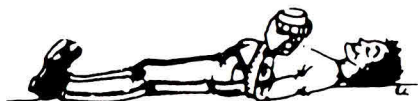
Branch Contacts p.13

## THE GREENWICH REAL ALE FESTIVAL

This year's beer festival at the Borough Hall in Greenwich will be later than usual. Now in its eleventh year it has had to move from early June to the last week in July. Normally the beer festival, organised by SE London CAMRA, is one of the most popular events in the Greenwich Festival but this year the Festival Committee wishes to promote minority interest events in the Borough Hall and cannot provide a booking for the beer festival.

The earliest dates the Borough Hall is available have now been booked and the beer festival will open in the evening of Thursday 27th and all day Friday 28th and Saturday 29th July.

SE London CAMRA hopes that the change of dates will not inconvenience their loyal patrons and suggests that you make a note in your diaries now, of the new dates. Again the festival will only feature beers from independent breweries, with the emphasis this year on brews from North West England. Full details in the July London Drinker.

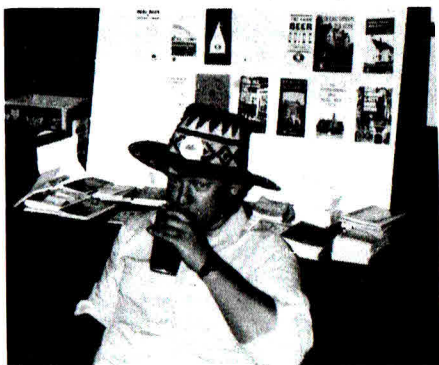


## THE NEPAL GOOD BEER GUIDE

South East London Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) has always been keen to explore new methods of recruiting members to the campaign but sending membership secretary Grant Cook to Nepal in search of real ale fans does seem a bit over the top. Grant is well known to visitors to beer festivals such as Greenwich and the Great British Beer Festival as the affable and overweight sandal-shod guy in the floppy trilby hats. However his latest communique from the Annupurna foothills, where he has been walking for eight days, suggests that he is now a leaner and hungrier searcher for new members. We are not certain if he intends heading northwest into Russia in search of his favourite tippie, Imperial Russian Stout, but rumour has it that his next stop is Kashgar, in the province of Xinjiang in China.


Preparing his own version of the Guide to World Beers, Grant tells us that the best beer he has sampled so far is "Kloster" of Thailand and the worst is "Star Beer" from Nepal itself. An exotic brew encountered by this poor man's Michael Jackson is the Tibetan "Chang" beer. Grant's description of this beer is "weird", which is not surprising, since he reports that its unique flavour is achieved by sparging millet grain with hot water.

We look forward to receiving further dispatches from Camberwell's own Marco Polo and will rush these to you along with the Guide to the Independent Beers of the Central Gobi Desert, which we understand Grant is presently finalising.



Grant Cook sampling another exotic brew at last year's Greenwich Beer Festival





# THE PUBS OF NORTH LAMBETH

*A guide to the pubs and  
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and Vauxhall today  
and yesterday*

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373 pubs, 156 beerhouses

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## IDLE MOMENTS

The very first thing I must do is acknowledge the author of last month's non-rhyming limerick. It was penned by Tom Finucane (otherwise known as Count Famine). I am afraid that I got a bit confused as I had also been given his name as the crossword winner in the same phone call and thought I must have got things mixed up when in fact I hadn't. Anyway they keep coming in and I have two more for you this month; the first is from Glyn Thomas of Hounslow:

I inspected my latest pint  
Which had an unusual tint.

I asked as a joke  
"Is this pint OK?"

The barman said "No it ain't".

It's not bad but lines 3 and 4 don't really fit the formula; still we shall not decry a noble effort at real silliness, or a new art form as our other contributor this month describes it. He is Denys Vernall and he also comes from Hounslow. (I wonder if that is significant). Anyway he provided the following:

The darts scores we found rather vague  
But decided we would not argue.

We thought we had lost  
But our team had the most  
And now we are top of the league.

You will of course recall that last month all of our number puzzles came from Les Turland of Hastings: the first four of this month's also come from him. First though, here are last month's answers:

1. 58 Matches on a Pools Coupon.
2. 7 Deadly Sins.
3. 17 Counties in the County Cricket Championship.
4. 8 lanes on an Athletics Track.
5. 38 Teams in the Scottish League.
6. 3 Coins in the Fountain.
7. 24 Hours from Tulsa.
8. 6 Days in which God Created the World.
9. 75 Verses in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. (1st Edition).
10. 10 Year's of London Drinker.

And here are this month's:

1. 25 P for a C of LD.
2. 3 W of MW.
3. 4 B in the HHT.
4. 7 V in the D.
5. 12 S on a TB (pre 1971).
6. 2 EB (P & D).
7. 112 P in a H.
8. 76 TL the BP.
9. 50 W to LYL.
10. 63360 1 in a M.

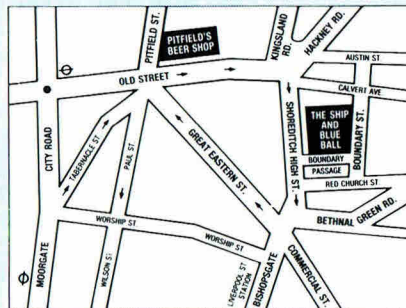
## PITFIELD'S THE SHIP AND BLUE BALL

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Now for the brewery anagram bit, and once again I have managed to elicit a response from a reader. This time it is Robert McGowan who, as well as being a reader of this column, is also Social Secretary of the West London Branch of CAMRA. First though, here are the answers to last month's puzzle:

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. RAM'S SNOT    | MARSTON    |
| 2. DON'T BIN GOD | BODDINGTON |
| 3. VERY ASH      | HARVEYS    |
| 4. COIN DOPE     | IND COOPE  |
| 5. LEN'S FIRM    | FREMLINS   |

I shall give you Robert's letter in full since, as well as being polite about the column, he has put the anagrams into a context which would be lost by a simple listing.

Dear Editors,

I was amused by your feature on anagrams in this month's London Drinker. Here are a few more, (1) BRASH, NOT SCARING; (2) OUR CAGE. In whose beer would you take a (3) WEIRD BATH?. Which brewery company made Friary Meux, Ramsdens and Blatch's, to name but a few (4) ALL DIE? While those who read about the takeover of Matthew Brown (5) SAW DISHONEST CELT CANT.

Yours Robert McGowan.

Continued on p. 6



# Traditional English Beers

## FULLERS

### Idle Moments—continued

When I started the mirror writing bit last month I didn't really expect any response but I have in fact received two replies. The first came from somebody in Peterborough called Bluey (Can't say I blame him for wishing to remain anonymous if he writes to this column.) who sent me two sentences of 62 and 63 letters respectively, as follows:

I YHTOMIT YTIOT-YTIOH TUO WAHT OT  
YM AIV MIH TA OTAMOT TOH TIMOV  
HTUOM THTOOT

and

MIA I XAT MUMIXAM OOTTAT YM HTIW  
TUOT OHW HTUOY ITIHAT TIWTUO OT  
XAW IXAT XAOH

The second entry came from Denys Vernall of Hounslow (yes, him again). His sentence was no less than 83 WORDS long—yes words, I made it 246 letters. I hope he will forgive me for not printing it this month (I may do if space permits next time), but he came up with a nice piece of verse in 16th Century style which I prefer. It goes as follows:

,YAH YM WOM I ,HTUOY A MA I  
,YAM TA XO YM HTIW IT WOM I  
,YAH YM HTIW TIMOV TI XO YM  
,YAM TA WOM OT HTYM HTIW TUO

Furthermore, Denys has personally offered a prize of £5 to the first person to send me a non-rhyming limerick which can be read in a mirror. Both he and I think his money is safe but I hope you will see this as the ultimate challenge. Go on, prove him wrong and let's see him stump up the cash.

Your response to all the silly bits of this column has been marvellous—do please keep it up, it saves me a lot of work in making up the things myself.

*Andy Pirson*

### BACK NUMBERS

To date 113 editions of London Drinker have been issued, back numbers of the following are available:

- 1979: April, May, September, December.
- 1980: Feb, March (1 copy only), April, Sept, Nov.
- 1981: April (1 copy only), June, July, Aug, Oct.
- 1982: Feb (1 copy only), May, July, Sept.
- 1983: Mar (1 copy only), June - Dec incl.
- 1984: March - Dec incl.
- 1985 to 1989: All issues.

If you need any of the above for your collection, they are available at 50 pence each, post free from:

Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.



**First question:** What are the best Free Houses in North London

**Answer:** *Those run by  
J. D. Wetherspoon Organisation*

**Second question:** Where are they?

**Answer:-**

HARRINGAY  
**OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH**  
10-12 Grand Parade N4

HARRINGAY  
**THE MORTIMER ARMS**  
405 Green Lanes N4

STROUD GREEN  
**WHITE LION OF  
MORTIMER**  
125/127 Stroud Green Road N4

WEST GREEN  
**THE GOAT**  
414-6 West Green Road N15

STOKE NEWINGTON  
**THE TANNERS HALL**  
145 High Street N16

TOTTENHAM  
**THE BOAR**  
413 Lordship Lane N17

BRUCE GROVE  
**THE ELBOW ROOM**  
503-505 High Road N17

TOTTENHAM  
**THE MOON UNDER  
WATER**  
423 Lordship Lane N17

RIVER LEA  
**THE NARROW BOAT**  
Reedham Close N17

ARCHWAY  
**THE DOG**  
17/19 Archway Road N19

HOLLOWAY  
**J J MOONS**  
37 Landseer Road N19

KINGSBURY  
**JJ MOON'S**  
553 Kingsbury Road NW9

WALTHAMSTOW  
**THE DRUM**  
557/9 Lea Bridge Road E10

WALTHAMSTOW  
**THE COLLEGE ARMS**  
807 Forest Road E17

BARNET  
**THE MOON UNDER  
WATER**  
148 High Street, Barnet

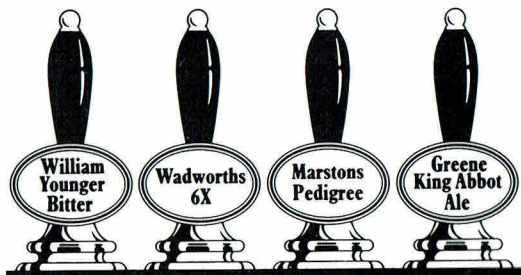
ENFIELD  
**THE MOON UNDER  
WATER**  
115/7 Chase Side Enfield

**Final (Vital) question:** What do they provide?

**The final answer:** *Traditional atmosphere (no music)  
Fine victorian decor  
Splendid Real Ales*



767 High Road Finchley  
London N12 8LB



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## BEER GUIDES

EAST LONDON & CITY: Pete Roberts, 34 Meadow Way, Upminster, Essex—£2.25 plus 38p postage.

ESSEX: Phil Cunnington, 4 Hilltop Close, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7TD. £2.50 inc. p&p, cheques payable to CAMRA Essex.

KENT: New edition. F.A. Green, 41 Clive Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3RZ, £1.95 payable to 'CAMRA in Kent', plus A5 s.a.e. with 40p in stamps affixed.

NORTH LONDON: Steve Barnes, 25 Old Kenton Lane, London NW9 9ND. £2.50. Cheques and Postal Orders payable to CAMRA North London.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Dave Sullivan, 22 Panmure Road, SE26. £3.95 inc. p&p. Members £3.35 on quoting membership number.

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SURREY: William Hill, Pendennis, Frimley Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants. £1.95 plus 25p s.a.e. 9" x 5".

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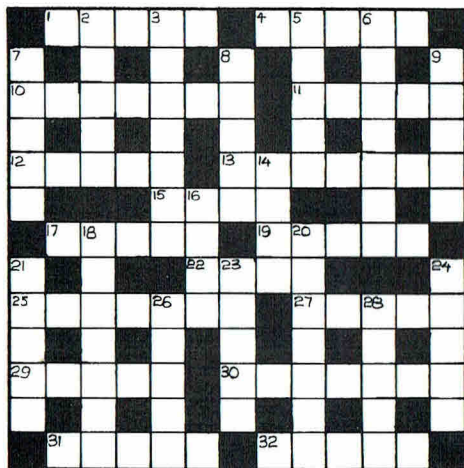
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# LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

1. Plan of church decoration. [5]
4. Tea lady, no lie. [5]
10. Swear after friend's talk. [7]
11. Shade of hesitation before supporter. [5]
12. Hen comes around early. [5]
13. Stop before opening. [7]
15. Teas out satisfy. [4]
17. The French against the Spanish? Result even. [5]
19. A long stay at sea. [5]
22. Therefore I object to a few. [4]
25. View of a prisoner. [7]
27. Cook while in decay. [5]
29. Awards Norfolk for producing fat. [5]
30. Hurting father in one no good production. [7]
31. Condition of south gallery? [5]
32. Scatter some vast reward. [5]

## DOWN

2. Left in sacred tree. [5]
3. Defeat over poetry. [7]
5. Way out of being almost totally defeated. [5]
6. Disturbing battles for medication. [7]
7. Knock over taper. [5]
8. Weep over exercise under church. [5]
9. Unpleasant. No way to go in. [5]
14. About the morning's paper. [4]
16. Alan's got nothing too. [4]
18. Beg to have outing after letter. [7]
20. Decision of clever dictator. [7]
21. It turns round and round and round. [5]
23. All right a pig is not quite this animal. [5]
24. Put on ticket in Kent. [5]
26. Open finished, Trevino's first. [5]
28. Animated Cassius Clay gained victory in Europe. [5]

Name.....

Address.....

.....

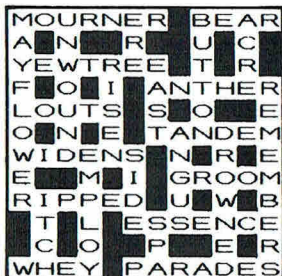
.....

All correct entries received by first post on 28th June will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The winner of the prize will be announced in the August London Drinker.  
Solution next month.

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

## Last Month's Solution

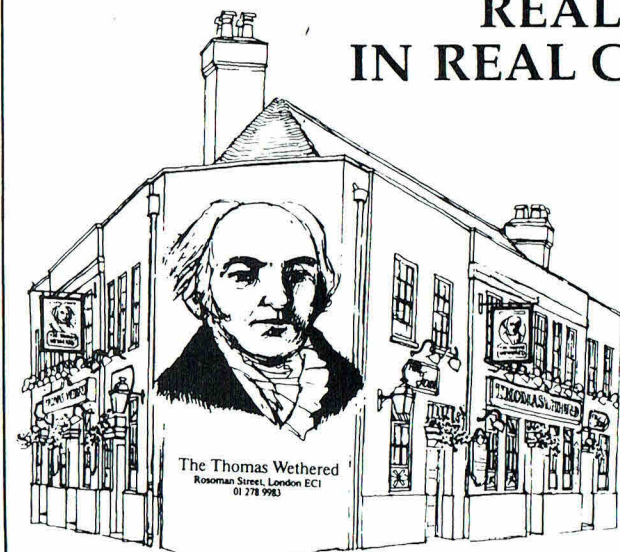


Winner of the prize for the April crossword:  
L.O.Chappis-Isme, 20A Bellamy Street,  
London SW12 8BU

Other correct entries were received from:  
Keith Birnie, Geoff Broadley,  
CAMRA Dengie 100, J.C-F, Camilla Evans,  
Ian Fairweather, Count Famine, I.P.Freely,  
Elaine Glover, Eileen Graves, John Heekin,  
Alison Henley, "Odd John" (Colchester),  
D.A.King, Mrs G.M.Lines, Northern Lyne,  
Rab Noolas, Robert Poxon, W.Priestley,  
R.Prince, Jim Skea, Jay Tamsitt, D.Woodward,  
Yak.  
There were also 4 incorrect entries.



# REAL ALE IN REAL COMFORT



Wethered Bitter · Wethered SPA  
Marston Pedigree  
McMullen Country Bitter  
Traditional Cider  
Monthly Guest Beer  
at 95p pint  
Hot & Cold food always available  
Full cold buffet  
Salted Beef Sandwiches  
Carvery roast · Sunday lunch  
Open all licensed hours  
Office parties/functions a speciality  
Happy hour 5.30 - 6.30pm  
All beers at £1 pint

## THE BUN SHOP

You will no doubt recall the article on the BUN SHOP in Surbiton which had been bought by a group of five regular customers two of whom, Ian and Elaine Mole, are the licensees. By the time you read this a new feature will have been added to the pub in the form of a skittle alley. This is being installed in what was formerly the club room, a function which has been combined with the function room.

To celebrate the opening of the skittle alley one of the first functions (though not the very first) will be an All London Skittles Night on Thursday 6th July when it is hoped to organise a friendly contest between members of all CAMRA branches in London, as many people are urged to attend as can make it as if enough people turn up no charge will be made for hiring the alley. If there are not enough a charge will be made which will be met by the local branch, Kingston and Leatherhead.

The BUN SHOP is in Berryland Road, Surbiton which is a turning off Ewell Road just South of the Railway Tavern and is a few minutes walk from Surbiton Station.

## THE THINGS THEY SAY

Some time back we mentioned the slates hanging up in the Glassblower, Glasshouse Street W1, bearing inscriptions quoting the sayings allegedly most frequently uttered in the bar. Those which have recently appeared are (in random order, as our informant took them down):

"A why you no serve Spanish air controllers?"

"Why am I being thrown out?"

"Why do so many Aussies and Kiwis work here?"

"Pleez, what is the best beer for someone from Bulgaria?"

"A pint of Geenayse pliss"

"Welsh bitter does not travel well in England."

"Are these gas lights genuine? (Yes—Ed)."

"Is this real sawdust on the floor?"

"What does sodoff mean?"

The Glassblower, formerly a Clifton Inn, has been taken over by Chef & Brewer (beer and cider range at present unaltered) and is under temporary management.

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## BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned, please ring the Branch Contact. Dates for June of which we have been notified are given below. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson Branch Contacts Page opposite.

**CROYDON & SUTTON:** Thu 1 North Croydon Crawl. Start PAWSONS ARMS (dep 8.30), Pawsons Road, then LION, FISHERMANS ARMS, GLOUCESTER—Tue 6 Marshilton Crawl. Start RACEHORSE (dep 9.00) North Street, then RAILWAY, SUN, COACH & HORSES—Thu 15 (8.00) Croydon Social, PITLAKE, Waddon Road, Old Town—Tue 20 (8.00) Branch Meeting, LORD NELSON, Lower Road, Sutton—Fri 23 Dorking Beerfest Mini-Coach Trip. Ring Branch Contact for details—Tue 4 July Independent Crawl of Sutton, start LORD NELSON (dep 9.00) then WINDSOR CASTLE and NEW TOWN.

**EAST LONDON & CITY:** Tue 6 (8.00) Branch Meeting. TIDAL BASIN TAVERN, E16—Mon 12 (8.00) Spitalfields Social, PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS, E1—Tue 20 (8.00) Committee Meeting, WHITE HORSE, E1—Mon 26 (8.00) Manor Park Social, BLAKESLEY ARMS, E12—Tue 4 July Branch Meeting. Venue to be Arranged.

**ENFIELD & BARNET:** Thu 1 (9.00) Social, RAILWAY TAVERN, 129 Hale Lane, NW7—Tue 6 (8.30) Three Pub Social in Barnet. Start ARKLEY, Barnet Road then LORD NELSON (9.20), West End Lane; ALEXANDRA (10.10), 135 Wood Street—Sat 10 TRAMDAY (Travelcard Real Ale Manoeuvre Day), New Barnet to Crews Hill via Kings Cross—Wed 14 (8.00) BRANCH AGM, GREEN DRAGON, 889 Green Lanes, N21.

**KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD:** Thu 1 (8.30) Business Meeting, BEAR, Esher—Wed 14 (8.30) Social, PLOUGH, West Ewell—Sun 18 (12.00) Joint Social with Reigate & Redhill Branch, KING WILLIAM IV Mickleham—Fri 23/Sat 24, Surrey Beer Festival, Dorking—Sun 2 July (12.00) Social, VICTORIA, Oxshott—Wed 5 July (8.30) Business Meeting, PARK TAVERN, Kingston—Thu 6 July (8.00) All London Skittles Night, BUN SHOP, Surbiton (AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE URGED TO ATTEND).

**NORTH LONDON:** Sunday Lunchtime Socials, MOON UNDER WATER, N22—Tue 6 (8.00 sharp) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RUGBY TAVERN, WC1 (Firkin of Fuller's London Pride provided for our purchase and extensive buffet).—Sat 10 London Skittles Competition, FREEMASONS ARMS, Downshire Hill, NW3—Tue 13 (8.00) Social, GEORGE, NW9—Tue 20 (8.00) Two Pub Social, JACK STRAWS CASTLE then SPANIARDS, both NW3—Tue 27 (8.00) Two Pub Social, FISHERMANS ARMS then GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, both NW10—Sunday Lunchtime Socials in July WATERSIDE INN, N1—Tue 4 July (8.00) Two Pub Social, NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS then CHEQUERS, both N17. (The former is not a misprint and you are advised not to travel alone! It was "GBG" 1975 (sic!))

**RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW:** Thu 8 (8.30) Committee Meeting, WARREN, 419 Hanworth Road, Hounslow—Mon 19 (8.30) Branch Meeting, WHITE HORSE, 14 Worple Way, Richmond—Thu 29 (8.30) Social, MILFORD ARMS, 574 London Road, Isleworth.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Mon 5 (8.00) Open Committee/Branch Meeting, LORD CLYDE, 27 Clenham Street, Southwark, SE1—Mon 12 (8.00) Greenwich Real Ale Working Party Meeting, ASHBURNHAM ARMS, 25 Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich, SE10 (All members interested in running this event welcome)—Thu 29 (8.00 to 9.00) Branch Social pub Crawl. Start DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, 32 Lewisham High Street, SE13—Thu 27 to Sat 30 July Greenwich Real Ale Festival, Greenwich Borough Halls.

**SOUTH WEST ESSEX:** Thu 1 (8.30) Social. PRINCE OF WALES, Roman Road (B1002), Mountnessing—Wed 7 (8.30) Darts Match v North West Essex. TOWER ARMS, Weald Road, South Weald (opposite church—OS TQ 572938)—Wed 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting. THEOBALDS ARMS, Kings Walk (near A126) Grays—Thu 22 (8.30) Out of Area Social, FOREST GATE INN, Bell Common (off B1393), Epping—Mon 26 (8.30) Social. THE RABBITS, 767 London Road, West Thurrock (our only Shepherd Neame outlet!)—Thu 6 July (8.30) Out of Area Social. Waltham Abbey—ADVANCE NOTICE: Brewery trip to BANKS & TAYLOR, one evening in July, Details/Bookings to Wendy Benson on Romford 23897.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Thu 8 (7.00) Pub Crawl of Barnes, Start RED LION, Castlenau then SUN (8.30), opposite Barnes Pond; COACH & HORSES (9.15)—Advance Notice: Sun 9 July Cricket Match v SPBW in Battersea Park, Names to Branch Contact please. See also p.13.

**WEST LONDON:** Thu 22 (8.00) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (REARRANGED), WHITE HORSE, 1 Parson Green, SW6—Tue 13 (8.00) Marylebone Meander, COACHMAKERS ARMS, Marylebone Lane, W1, then PRINCE ALFRED (8.40); ANGEL (9.20), Thayer Street; PRINCE REGENT (10.00), Marylebone High Street; DEVONSHIRE ARMS (10.30)—Sun 26 (8.00) Sunday Social, GROUSE & CLARET, Little Chester Street, SW1.

Continued opposite



## BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY.....	DES WARD.....	Erith 45716 (H)	Orpington 38321 x29 (Wed-Fri only)
BROMLEY.....	DAVE FOORD.....	0689 54798 (H)	
CROYDON & SUTTON.....	TERRY HEWITT.....	660 5931 (H)	
EAST LONDON & CITY.....	HUGH SMITH.....	519 1743 (E)	
ENFIELD & BARNET.....	LAURENCE FRYER.....	203 0710 (H)	
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD.....	ALLAN MARSHALL.....	942 9115 (H)	227 3376 (W)
NORTH LONDON.....	GARY WHITE.....	801 9513 (H)	405 7686 x2173/4 (W)
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW.....	ANDY PIRSON.....	977 1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX.....	ANDREW CLIFTON.....	Romford (0708) 765150 (H)	
SOUTH EAST LONDON.....	DAVE SULLIVAN.....	699 8476 (H & W)	
SOUTH WEST LONDON.....	CHRIS MORTON.....	499 8931 (W)	874 7661 (H)
WEST LONDON.....	ROBERT McGOWAN.....	691 8019 (H)	242 0262 x2348 (W)
WEST MIDDLESEX.....	TED BRADLEY.....	573 8144 (H)	997 0880 x2153 (W)

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**COURAGE BEST.....90p PINT**

**JOHN SMITH'S.....97p PINT**

**COURAGE DIRECTORS...£1.03p PINT**

**GOOD VALUE EXCELLENT HOME COOKED FOOD**

**INCLUDING DAILY ROAST DINNER.....£2.25**

Branch Diary-Continued

**WEST MIDDLESEX:** Thu 1 (8.30) Social (and London Drinker Pickup), FORESTERS, Leighton Road, West Ealing, W13—Wed 7 (8.00) Harrow Crawl. Start **KINGSFIELD ARMS**, 111 Desborough Road; **CASTLE** (8.35), 30 West Street; **KINGS HEAD HOTEL** (9.15), High Street; **WHITE HORSE** (9.45), 50 Middle Road; **HALF MOON** (10.20), Roxeth Hill—Wed 21 (8.30) Branch Meeting, **RED LION & PINEAPPLE**, High Street, Acton, W8—Thu 29 (8.30) Social (and London Drinker Pickup), **THREE HORSESHOES**, High Street, Southall—Tue 4 July (8.30) Social, **FOX & GOOSE**, Hanger Lane, Ealing, W5.

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

**Whatever your taste ....  
whatever your style ....**



**THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY  
41 ROMNEY STREET SW1**

*You can be sure  
of the perfect pint...*

... at a

**CHARRINGTON**  
house.

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,  
I was intrigued by your article in the latest London Drinker on Old English Pub Games. I thought you might be interested in a new (to me) Pub Game I recently witnessed whilst on holiday in Swanage.

The game is called **PURBECK SHOVE HA'PENNY** and is played on a highly polished mahogany or similar wood board about 3ft 6ins by 1ft 6ins. The remarkable feature is that the board is polished entirely by the players palm before each shot. No chalk is allowed and no drinks are permitted within spillable distance. The Coins are slightly larger than normal and I was not even allowed to touch them. At the end of the game they are carefully placed in a special wallet with a separate pocket for each coin. There is a very thriving League and I was told that the game is exclusive to the Isle of Purbeck, a very small area.

The board is marked entirely differently and the game is played as in Darts to finish exactly on 101. The tension when one or both players are in the upper 90's can be well imagined. Surprisingly I saw this at the famous Square and Compasses at Worth Matravers near Swanage and there were some very good lady players.

*George Platt  
SW18*

Hope this is of some interest.

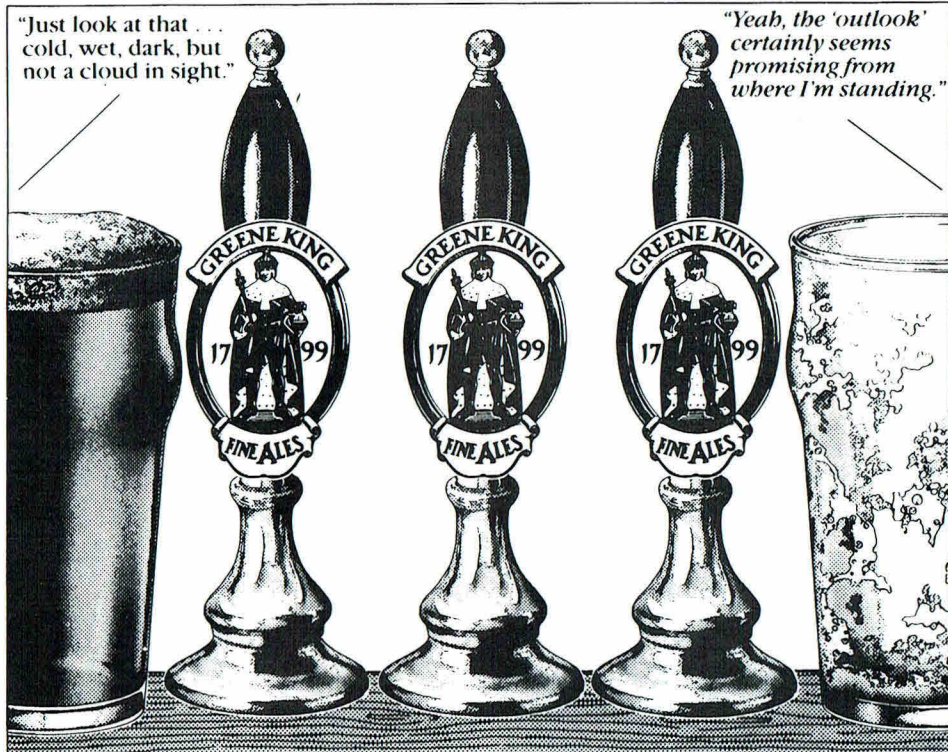
## LINGUISTIC GYMNASTICS

For those of you who were not taken in by H Oakes' piece on EEC 1489 in our April issue (yes, it was an April Fool offering), the majority of it was, of course, spurious. However, the bit about neuter hops in Continental beer is perfectly true. During one Great British Beer Festival at Brighton, Editor Martin was called upon as interpreter to explain the brewing process to two Italian ladies. Technical descriptions are difficult at the best of times, far more so in a language of which one only has the rudiments.

On reaching the bit about hops, vocabulary was running short, and as for **NEUTER**, nothing came to mind. Being something of a singer, MS thought what the musical equivalent was, since Italian is the language of most of its terms. Unfortunately (he had been on the perry), what came out was **CASTRATO**. (Check your history—they existed. They now call them Counter-Tenors, and no operation is necessary). Great was the mirth thereof. The term provided the inspiration for the name of the neutering chemical for hops which, of course, does not exist.



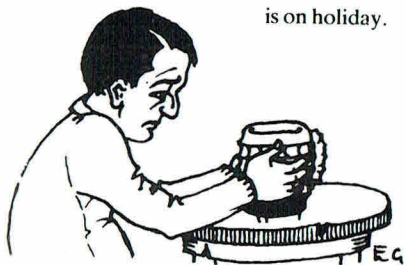




CAMRA—the Campaign for Real Ale—is a consumer organization run by beer drinkers for beer drinkers. We believe that beer brewed from traditional malt and hops, matured in casks in the

## Dear Dipsy .....

is on holiday.



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.

## WHAT IS OG?

We often quote the Original Gravity (OG) of a beer. But what is OG? The OG is a measure of the amount of the fermentable material (sugars) in the beer before it is fermented. Because the sugars, normally obtained from malted barley, are converted into alcohol during fermentation it gives an indication of the strength of the beer...ie, the higher the OG the stronger the beer. The OG also gives an indication to the price of a pint for two reasons:—

- i) More raw materials (mainly malted barley) have to be used to create a beer with a high OG.
- ii) Excise duty is paid on the OG—the higher the OG the higher the duty.

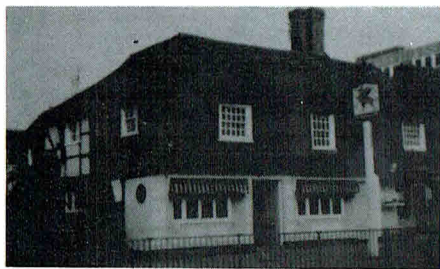
As a rough guide Mild Ales & Lagers have OG’s of 1030-1035, Ordinary Bitters around 1035, Best Bitters 1040 and Special Bitters 1045—1050.



## HISTORICRAWL—Horsham West Sussex—Part 3

Last time we ended at the point where West Street meets Worthing Road and becomes Bishopric, at the northerly end of the pedestrian precinct. The map (which is simply an extension of that published last time) will assist you to find the appropriate crossroads, marked by sites S and T, of the former Prince of Wales and Black Horse Hotel respectively. As before, I am retaining the numbering system for present-day pubs—letters indicating former sites or premises of such hosteleries—for the benefit of any reader attempting to follow the crawl in its entirety!

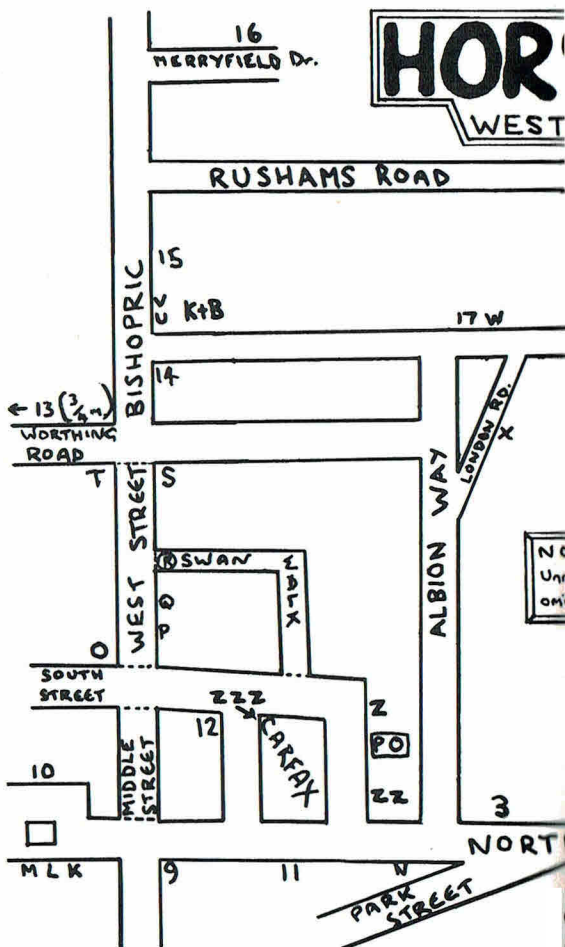
Bishopric was Horsham's principal cattle market, and a century ago boasted six pubs., of which two survive. We encounter the first of these, the Green Dragon (14), King & Barnes, at the junction with the modern Albion Way, whose construction led to all kinds of traffic chaos for some years, and has now left Horsham's former principal thoroughfare demotorised. The Green Dragon,



something over 650 years old, is a half-timbered building with a remarkable long saloon bar, as well as a comfy public. Its name was formerly borne by the establishment marked (M) on Market Square. Opening hours are: Mon-Thurs 11-2.30 and 5-11, Fri 11-3 and 5-11, Sat 11-3 and 6-11. Confused? (All times quoted were either indicated or informed, therefore presumably correct, on my last visit to touch-up the final details of this offering, on 25th April). Over the main road is the former Bricklayer's Arms (U), now a shop, and the site of the Jolly Plowboy (V) which more or less coincides with the entrance to King & Barnes' Brewery (K&B), whose history we shall consider later.



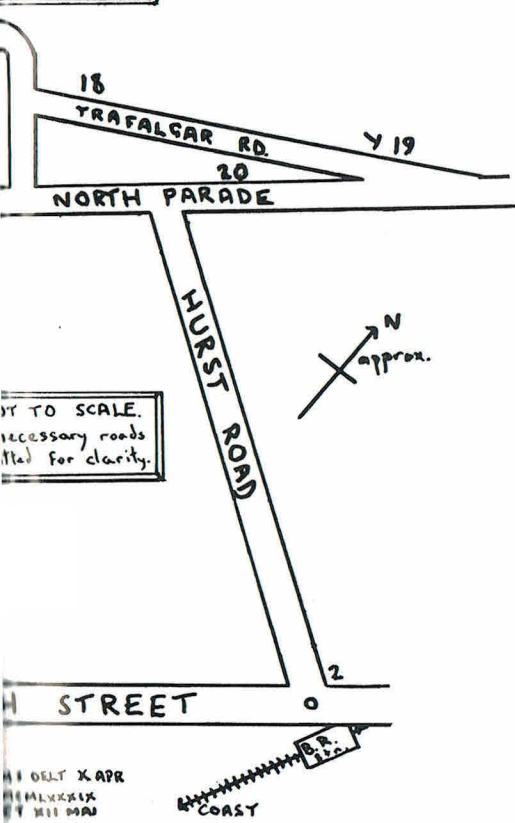
The King's Arms (15)



Further along Bishopric is the King's Arms (15), King & Barnes. A superb 16th century building, the beer and the welcome are invariably excellent. Pity they still close at 2.30. Carry on along what soon becomes Guildford Road, and take the second right—Merryfield Drive—to the Coot (16),



**SHAM**  
SUSSEX



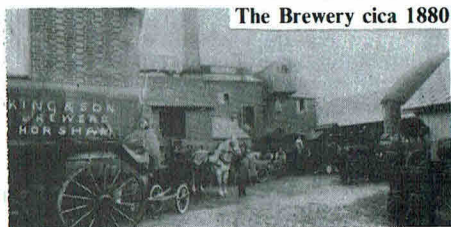
Charrington IPA. It is about 30 years old, and commendable not only for its beer (the only local outlet for that company) but also for the fact that it makes no attempt to ape older architectural styles. There is little passing trade—it's not easy to find by chance—but in my humble opinion it is the modern equivalent of the traditional pub, without pretending to be what it isn't—i.e. old. Unfortunately it also adheres to 2.30 afternoon closing. The photographs on the walls, depicting old Horsham, are worth any visitor's attention.

From here we need to back-track unless you care to trust the map in order to reach pubs 18 to 20, as I don't plan to confuse you at this stage with directions. For the purpose of this offering, we now return to the Brewery gates (K&B) for this month's history lesson.

There is no record of when brewing on a large scale was first practised in Horsham. It was originally very much a cottage industry, with most pubs (not to mention large households) brewing their own, eventually buying-in beer from their more successful rivals, who eventually bought them out and started the tied-house system.

There were several breweries in Horsham which pre-dated the present Horsham Brewery. One enterprising brewer at the beginning of the last century, a Mr Gates, made regular deliveries to London free houses—some 40 miles distant—with a 2-horse dray, over roads which were little better than farm tracks.

In 1850 James King, great-grandfather of the present chairman of King & Barnes, came to operate as a maltster on the present brewery site, forming a close trading relationship with Satchell's North Parade Brewery, in existence since about 1800. In 1870 the two businesses amalgamated. Brewing commenced at the present site on Bishopric, and the North Parade Brewery was closed. James King (who died in 1877) acquired sole ownership, after which the company traded



as King & Sons, adding "Limited" to the title in 1893. Fairly soon thereafter the Brewery became the first premises in Horsham to be lit by electricity, and the small steam engine which powered the generator is now on display in the Company's offices.

Continued on p.19





## WHERE TO FIND SUSSEX IN LONDON

### THE ALBERT ARMS

82 High Street, Esher.

### THE APPROACH TAVERN

47 Approach Road, London E2

### BOATERS

Lower Ham Road, Kingston

### THE BRICKLAYERS ARMS

63 Charlotte Road, London E2

### THE BRITISH OAK

Robin Hood Lane, Poplar, London

### BURTES FREE HOUSE

237 Wandsworth Road, London SW8

### THE CARTOON

177/181 London Road, W Croydon

### THE CLARET WINE BAR

33 The Broadway, Cheam

### THE CLARET WINE BAR

5 Bingham Corner

Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon

### THE CONQUEROR

2 Austin Street, London E2

### THE HOLE IN THE WALL

Mepham Street, Waterloo Station

### THE HOP EXCHANGE

149 Maple Road, Penge, London

### THE JOLLIFFE ARMS

London Road, North Mersham

### THE LION

182 Pawsons Road, Croydon

### THE LITTERN

118 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford

### THE ORLEANS

Orchard Road, Shirley

### THE RAILWAY TAVERN

Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey

### THE TWO BADGERS

High Elm Golf Course, Farnborough, Kent

### THE TRAFALGAR

High Path, Merton SW19

### THE TWO CHAIRMEN

39 Dartmouth Street, London SW

### THE VICTORIA

56 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW

### THE WELLINGTON TAVERN

81/83 Waterloo Road, London SE1

### THE WESTMINSTER ARMS

9 Storeys Gate, London SE1

### WOODIES FREEHOUSE

Thetford Road, New Malden

### YE OLDE BRIDGE HOUSE

215 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1

# King & Barnes

## FINE SUSSEX ALES



### Historicrawl—Continued

Wine and spirits interests were acquired from a Mr Holden around the turn of the century. His premises (see below, pictured around 1910) were in Carfax, on the site of Gates' brewery and formerly the third County Gaol, where the post office now stands (PO). It was flanked by the Lamb (Z) now King & Chasemore's estate agents and the Richmond Arms (ZZ), long since demolished. The name of the Lamb was transferred to other premises (ZZZ), now also an estate agent's. *(The use of that end of the alphabet out of sequence is to express sympathy with those of you who find history boring. I'm afraid I disagree.)* New maltings were built around 1900, and these supplied the brewery's needs until destroyed by fire in 1961, since when malt has been bought-in. Holden's former premises on Carfax were the company's Head Offices until 1964.



The second half of the company's name comes from GH Barnes & Co, who in about 1878 had acquired a brewery in East Street, which had been operating since about 1800, from Usher, Robins & Co. King & Co and GH Barnes merged in 1906, trading thereafter as King & Barnes Ltd. The title "The Horsham Brewery" was assumed in 1912 when the only surviving rival in the town, Michell's, closed—of this more anon. The four draught beers produced at Bishopric are: Sussex Mild(og 1034), Sussex Bitter(1034) Draught Festive(1050) and Old Ale(1046) in season. The latter is particularly suitable for mulling—Dickens was partial to such a drink. The beer is warmed, either in a conical cup on the end of a long handle in the fire or, more frequently, by the insertion of a red-hot poker down the MIDDLE of the glass, often with the addition of a little clove or nutmeg. The point about the middle is vital; the tip is cool by the time it reaches the bottom. However, be warned. I was present when Editor Martin carried out the procedure—a favourite trick of his—and someone touched his elbow at the crucial moment. The poker contacted the rim of the glass, there was a loud bang and a pint of old ale on the floor—fortunately flagstones. One pint goes a long way horizontally.

## THE TILTED GLASS

(A FREE HOUSE)

**TALLY-HO CORNER,  
359 BALLARDS LANE,  
FINCHLEY, LONDON N12 8LJ  
Telephone: 01-445 2556**

*A VARIETY OF REAL ALES*

*PUB GRUB—  
MORNINGS & EVENINGS*

**NO KEG BEERS IN THIS HOUSE**

**BODDINGTONS BITTER  
YOUNGS SPECIAL  
RUDDLES BEST  
WEBSTERS YORKSHIRE  
ADNAMS BITTER**

**BUSES 26, 125, 236**

**Nearest Underground—WOODSIDE PARK**



Following Albion Way around, we next come to the Michell Arms (17), Pompey Royal and Strong's. At the time of writing it is temporarily closed, undergoing apparently major internal rebuilding. It is an early 20th century building on the site of the former White Horse. The name derives from Henry Michell, a local brewer and businessman with fingers in several pies—his brickworks nearby provided half a million bricks for the building of the Crystal Palace. Michell's West Street Brewery was the last to close in Horsham, in 1912. Almost next door was the former Rising Sun (W) whose name is now borne by an out-of-town pub. If you now require the

Continued p. 21



**J & W Nicholson is a group of high quality London Inns which specialise in selling a range of English Country Ales. The pubs have an authentic London pub atmosphere and also sell a selection of traditional food.**

**Our recommendation for the Month of June is:**

## **THE COAL HOLE**

**91 THE STRAND  
LONDON  
WC2 0DW**

**Tel: 01-836 7503**

### **JENNIE MORGAN**

**The Coal Hole, next to the Savoy Hotel has recently been refurbished and now boasts a ground floor pub with a classic Victorian atmosphere and a basement wine lodge. Choose from two distinct types of food; pub food upstairs or more sophisticated cuisine in the basement.**

**Open 11 — 11 Monday to Saturday  
12 — 3 and 7 — 10.30 Sunday  
Food available throughout**

**Ales: Arkells 3B, Boddingtons, Marstons Pedigree  
Wadworth 6X, Tetley Bitter**

**Addlestons cask conditioned Cider**



station, simply follow Albion Way then turn left along North Street. On the way you will pass on your left what remains of London Road, complete with the former Good Intent (X). Otherwise turn left along Springfield Road and North Parade. Rushams Road—the second on the left—will lead you via the 2nd right, Trafalgar Road, to the Nelson (18), King & Barnes including Mild, well worth finding. The decor is as one would expect to accompany the name. A number of roads nearby have related names. Following the same road, a few minutes' walk will bring you to the Dog & Bacon (19), King & Barnes, overlooking what remains of Horsham Common and built in 1901, to assume the function previously fulfilled by the two adjacent cottages (Y). Local legend suggests that the name is a corruption of "Dorking Beacon" which was once visible from here. That would certainly coincide with the local dialect of years ago. Another explanation is that the connection is with pigs once kept round the back and, presumably, the landlord's dog. The labrador depicted on the sign is still living. Lunches are served daily (except Sunday) from 12 to 2pm from an extensive menu, and evening meals are available Wednesday to Saturday, when booking is advised—telephone 52176.

Rejoining North Parade and heading southwards (!) we come to the final port of call White's (20),



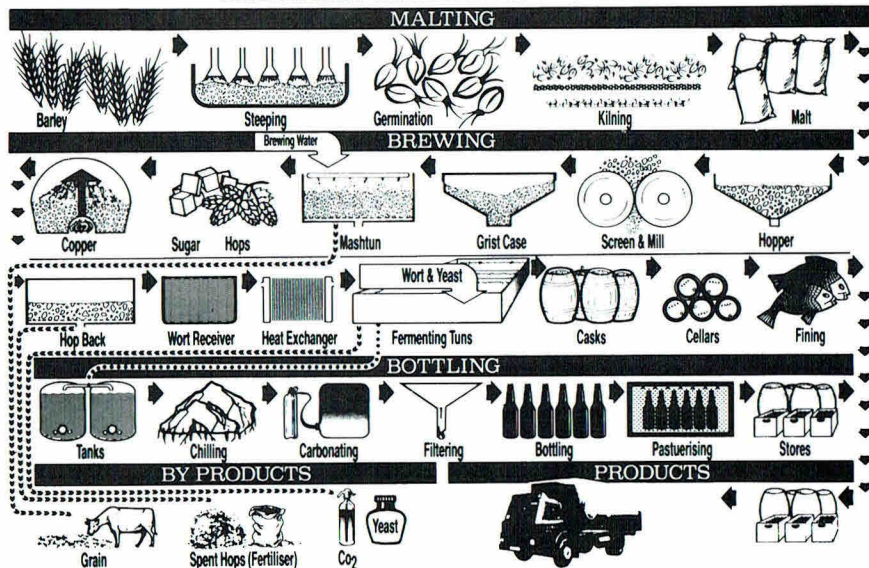
Flowers and Strong's, built on the site of the former White Hart. Another modern building, it is more original—and acceptable—than most, being the town's newest pub. Built about 20 years ago, as the Hop Picker, using approximately the lines of an oast house and following that theme until recently, it was constructed with brick and wooden beams. The latter have now disappeared behind a false ceiling during refurbishment, leaving it far less cavernous and more cosy than before. The attractive decor is in plush 1920s style. Lunches are available, and a patio in front has tables and seats. Two large signs facing the main road give the hours as 12-2.30 and 7-11 except Sunday, when normal hours apply. A smaller sign at the entrance gives weekday closing as 11.30pm.

From here it is a short walk to Hurst Road, which leads directly to the station. Perhaps at this stage

Continued on p.28

## King & Barnes Ltd.

### BREWING AT THE HORSHAM BREWERY





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## CAPITAL SHOW FROM FREE HOUSE GROUP

Most 'London Drinker' readers will be quite familiar with the name Nicholson's—the free house group with 33 pubs in the centre of the capital. And what a line up of pubs they are—including the spectacular Blackfriar at Blackfriar's Bridge and others like the Argyll Arms at Oxford Circus.

But behind the bars there is a quiet revolution going on. It's called retailing—or in more plain man's English—sharpening up everything that affects how you serve the customer.

Real Ale is playing a big part in this revolution, as Nicholson's director and General Manager Christopher Faulkner explains: "Beer volumes alone rose by 12 per cent over the last year. Real ales are doing especially well, and represent 52 per cent of our total draught volumes, against a central London industry average of 43 per cent. We are very much a bitter-led company."

Nicholson's operate through offering their managers a list of real ales from which they are free to choose. There is no minimum or maximum number of cask beers to be stocked. The choice is left up to the licensee.

The 'list' is eleven strong, but only three come from the Allied empire: Tetley Bitter, Benskins Bitter and Burton Ale. It includes Draught Bass, from a rival national, but the majority come from regional independents: Adnams, Boddingtons and Arkells bitters, Marstons Pedigree, Wadworth 6X and Youngs Special and Ordinary.

"These are the popular real ales that people in London demand most" says Christopher Faulkner. "The business is built on meeting consumer demand."

The list was expanded last month to include the full range of natural beers and lagers from the Newquay Steam stable. And it is expected that the names of a couple more famous regionals will be added to the draught line-up in the near future.

Nicholson's was founded in the 1880s as a beer, wine and spirits retailer/wholesaler. It built up a small estate of pubs and became famous for its Nicholson's Gin, which is still produced today. The company ran 30 pubs and maintained its wholesaling business when it passed from family ownership into Allied in 1982.

There then followed a period of re-structuring. The estate, which included some "less than desirable" premises, was reduced down to a solid rump of 18 and the wholesaling side of things disposed of. The company was for some time run by a fellow called Alan Hall, who won many friends in CAMRA by his enthusiastic backing of real ales. The pubs began to receive much investment—

and awards from CAMRA's Pub Preservation Group.

However, CAMRA hackles were raised in 1985 when Alan Hall's departure was followed by control of the business passing to Ind Coope and Nicholson's HQ moved from Hainault to Muswell Hill, home of Taylor Walker. Would the pubs be absorbed into Taylor Walker? Would the guest beers be withdrawn?

The answer on both accounts was a firm no. The estate has since expanded steadily to 33 houses, helped on by a new build, the remarkable Horniman at Hay's and transfers from the Taylor Walker estate into Nicholson's. And the real ales have increased in both sales and brands available.

In fact, the Nicholson's formula appears to be extra profitable. With just under five per cent of the London pubs of parent company Taylor Walker, Nicholson's produces eight per cent of the profits. Christopher Faulkner has no doubts about the turning point in the success story.

"It was becoming part of Taylor Walker. This meant we were able to call upon a range of professional services such as their personnel, security, training and retail systems departments. This freed Nicholson's to concentrate on sharpening up its retail skills—in short we are in receipt of all the benefits of being part of a national group—but at the same time free to concentrate on serving a very specific custom through top quality retail outlets.

So there we have it—more top notch pubs—greater choice of real ales—and better service at the bar. Nicholson's formula would appear to be an example a lot of the rest of the industry could do with following.

*(Press Release)*

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## BREWERS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

The Brewers Society has launched a campaign against the Monopolies Commission's proposals for a shake-up of the beer industry with an open letter to show the unanimity of smaller brewers' opposition to the MMC's measures.

Heads of 48 regional brewers have signed the letter to Lord Young, the Trade Secretary, saying the MMC measures "would mean the end of the pub as we now know it."

By excluding Britain's big six brewers the Brewers Society is trying to counter ideas that small brewers broadly support the MMC moves.

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## BREWERS DROOP THROUGH FATIGUE

It was a case of a long roll out of the barrel at the Flamingo Festival of Real Ale in Kingston in March. Brewers from Clifton Inns' four London brew-pubs had a harder than usual job with rolling out the opening kilderkins to open the event—for safety's sake, the casks were half-filled with water (to slow the movement down).

Clifton Inns ran the two-day festival at the Flamingo brew-pub, featuring beers from the Flamingo and their other three pub breweries: the Greyhound, Streatham, Yorkshire Grey, Holborn and the award-winning Orange Brewery, Pimlico. The festival offered 15 real ales from the four pubs, including the celebratory Brewers' Droop, a potent 1065og brew.

Clifton Inns area manager Chris Walker organised the festival and reflected: "This was our first bash at a beer festival and it was a resounding success, with over 20 barrels sold in just two days. The CAMRA people who attended enjoyed it very much—it was so novel having 15 brews from four reputed brew pubs to sample at the one bar. Parents enjoyed having the Flamingo's sizeable family room at their disposal and the hungry enjoyed food on sale at all times.

"And those who campaigned for flexible licensing hours enjoyed the fact that the festival opened

from 11am till 11pm both days."

Meanwhile, Flamingo brewer Simon Bussell summed up the feeling from the brewers' point of view: "It was a hard enough job getting all the cask beer down there in tip-top condition. But some bright spark in our PR department thought it would be a good idea for the four of us to each roll a kil down to the pub from the BR station for the opening.

"It might be safer to roll a half full cask through the streets but it surely isn't any easier. That was more back-breaking than most things we have to do in the breweries."

Chris Walker meanwhile thought a little back-breaking did the four good and 'threatened': "The lads are brewing more real ale right now than ever. And if awards from CAMRA beer festivals are anything to go by they are doing it better than ever. Those fans of good, pure traditional ale therefore, can look forward to more such festivals of brew pub beer—even if it does break our brewers' backs!"

*Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial team or the Campaign for Real Ale.*



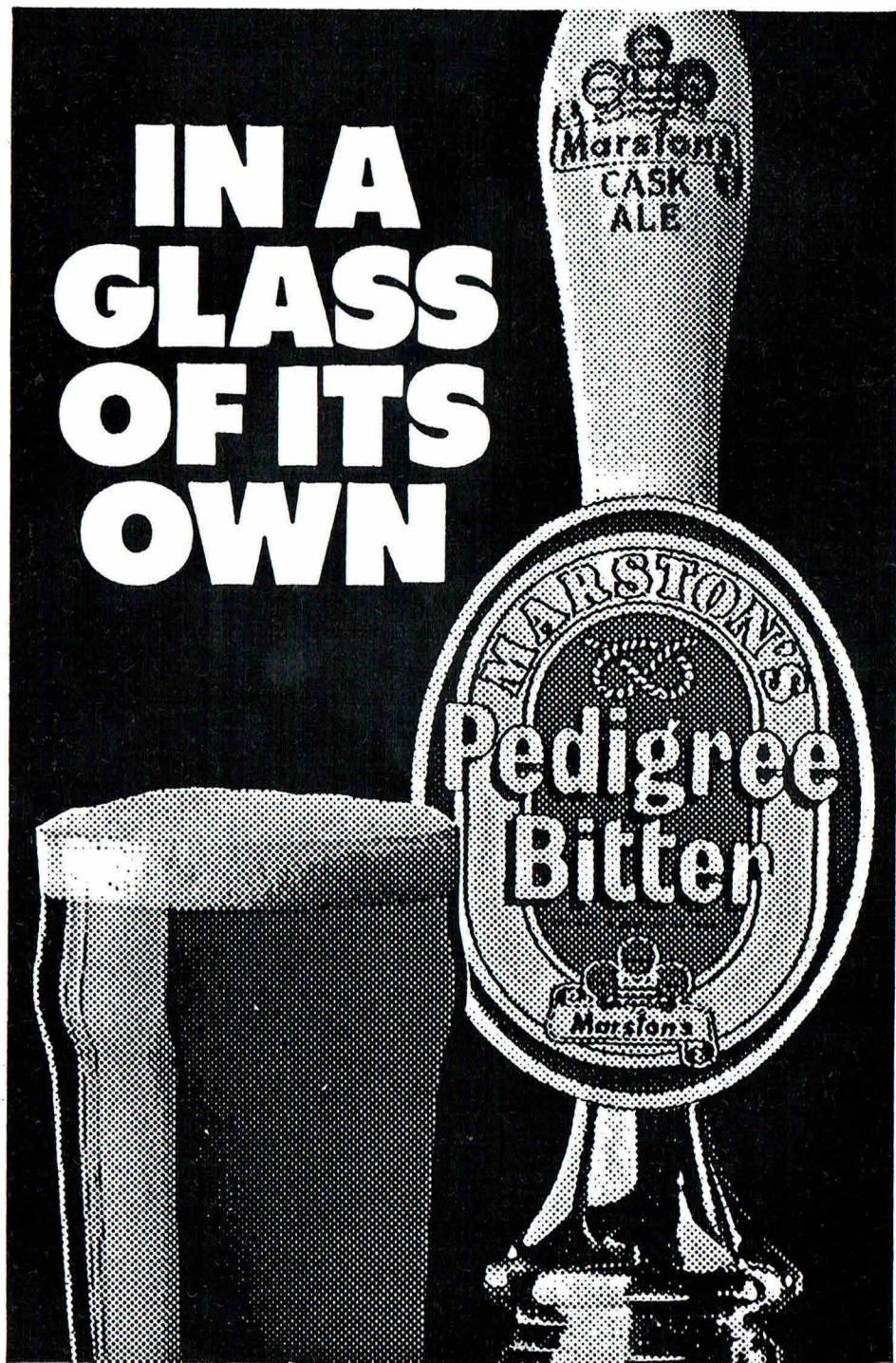
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## PLASTIC AND POP PUBS 'LEAVE BITTER TASTE

Noisy, pop-infested bars aimed at the lager generation are destroying the essential character of many British public houses, Roger Protz, author of a new CAMRA guide book, said.

The "neon and plastic monstrosities" were "a dreadful manifestation disgracing the name of the traditional pub", he added at the launch of the book, *The Best Pubs in London*.

In his introduction Roger says the "desecration" of the London public house is part of the threat to the capital's fine buildings and architecture.

"Scores of pleasant and inoffensive pubs have been torn apart as some mad marketing nightmare is visited on them.

"Builders, plumbers and decorators descend and after a week or two of whirlwind activity new 'theme' pubs or—to use the marketing jargon—'café-bars' appear in their place.

"Instead of the Fox or the Shakespeare or the George IV we get Drummonds, Le Dome or Presleys. In extremis we are even faced with the last word in insensitive bad taste, a bar called Blitz designed like a nuclear fall-out shelter."

The public house, by its very definition, should be open to all, regardless of age, class or income, says Roger.

"It may, occasionally, still have two bars that mirror London's and Britain's deeply-entrenched class system, but within those walls all should be made welcome.

"But the old and not so old, the less rich, and the quiet and undemanding people—Londoners all—are meanly excluded from these new, garish, neon and plastic monstrosities."

The book was one of three regional CAMRA guides launched recently.

## AND MORE.....

The Consumers' Association has come down, with very specific gravity, on the Campaign for Real Ale. It has taken grave exception to one of the titles CAMRA was due to launch in its spring book list. The Good Pub Food Guide. This was reckoned to look altogether too much like a companion volume to the Association's carefully-protected Good Food Guide. Not on. Out it goes—to reappear under a new title, Good Pub Food, in June.

Reviews  
next  
issue

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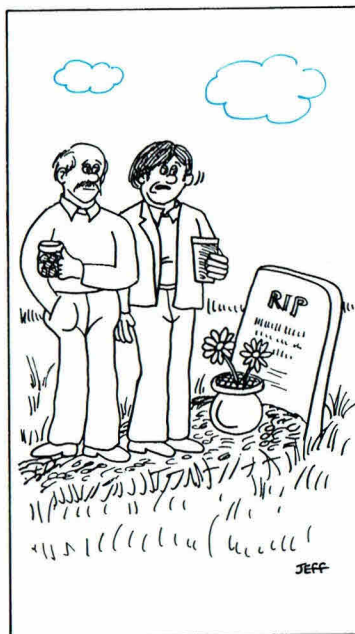
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Historicrawl—conclusion

I might record my thanks to Peter King, Managing Director of King & Barnes Brewery, for kindly reading and commenting upon my scripts, and for permitting me to plagiarise large parts of his company's handbook, including photographs.

Where my information is at variance with any previously published details—in particular with the official Town Guide and BBC's "Down Your Way" broadcast, a fortnight or so before last Christmas, my statements are based on personal research. Nobody likes to publish "non-history" to the confusion of later students so I hope I have managed to avoid doing so.

Happy drinking Merton



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