

1st Apr
1990

LONDON

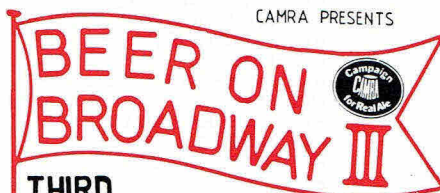


25p

DRINKER

(See p. 19
for details)

CAMRA PRESENTS

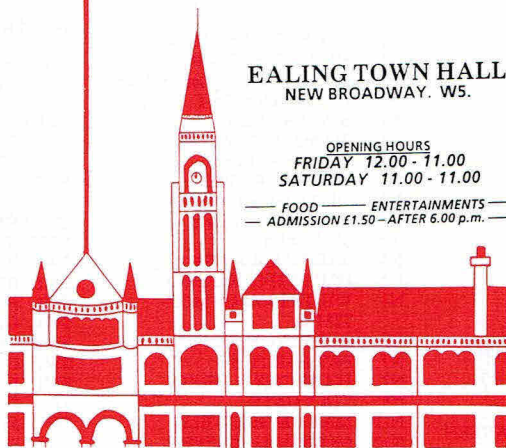


THIRD FESTIVAL OF REAL ALE

EALING TOWN HALL
NEW BROADWAY. W5.

OPENING HOURS
FRIDAY 12.00 - 11.00
SATURDAY 11.00 - 11.00

— FOOD — ENTERTAINMENTS —
— ADMISSION £1.50 — AFTER 6.00 p.m. —



Vol 14

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

No 3

Where to buy London Drinker

The following is a list of all of the current outlets for London Drinker. Where the full addresses of outlets are not given, these pubs are to be found in one of the local beer guides, covering the whole of Greater London.

OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH

EAST PUBS

EC1 ARTILLERY ARMS
EC1 CROWN
EC1 EAGLE
EC1 PHEASANT & FIRKIN
EC1 PRIDE OF SPITALFIELD
EC1 SEKFORDE ARMS
EC1 STICK & WEASEL
EC1 SUTTON ARMS
EC1 THOMAS WETHERED
EC2 FLEETWOOD
EC2 RAILWAY TAVERN
EC4 BLACKFRIAR
EC4 HATCHET
EC4 WILLIAMSON'S TAVERN
E1 FISH & RING
E2 APPROACH TAVERN
E2 MARKSMAN
E2 OWL & THE PUSSYCAT
E2 SHIP & BLUE BALL
E3 PEARLY KING
E8 LADY DIANA
E9 CHESHAM ARMS
E10 DRUM
E11 NORTHCOTE
E17 COLLEGE ARMS
SE1 ANCHOR & HOPE
SE1 BUNCH OF GRAPES
SE1 FOUNDERS ARMS
SE1 GEORGE INN
SE1 GOOSE & FIRKIN
SE1 HORNIMAN AT HAYS
SE1 KINGS ARMS
SE1 LEATHER EXCHANGE
SE1 SOUTHWARK TAVERN
SE1 SULTAN
SE1 WELLINGTON
SE3 BRITISH OAK
SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN
SE7 McDONNELLS
SE8 DOG & BELL
SE8 ROYAL GEORGE
SE9 PARK TAVERN
SE9 ROYAL ELTHAM
SE10 BRITISH SAILOR
SE10 FROG & RADIATOR
SE10 HARDY'S
SE13 FOX & FIRKIN
SE16 BLACKSMITHS ARMS
SE16 MANOR TAVERN
SE17 TANKARD
SE18 EARL OF CHATHAM
SE18 GATEHOUSE
SE18 MELBOURNE ARMS
SE18 PRINCESS OF WALES
SE18 VILLAGE BLACKSMITH
SE19 RAILWAY BELL
SE19 ROYAL ALBERT
SE20 HOP EXCHANGE
SE22 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE24 COMMERCIAL
SE24 PRINCE REGENT
SE25 GOAT HOUSE
SE25 PRINCE OF DENMARK

SE25 SHIP
SE27 HOPE
SE27 GIPSY QUEEN
BEXLEY, BLUE ANCHOR
CROYDON, LION
THORNTON HEATH, FOUNTAIN
HEAD
THORNTON HEATH, WHEAT
SHEAF

OFF TRADE

E4 Waltham Wines, 72 Seward-
stone Road.
SE3 Bitter Experience, 128 Lee
Road.
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
WC1 CITTIE OF YORKE
WC1 HANSLER ARMS
WC1 LAMB
WC1 MARLBOROUGH ARMS
WC1 MOON
WC1 PAKENHAM ARMS
WC1 PRINCESS LOUISE
WC1 RUGBY TAVERN
WC1 SUN
WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR
WC2 GEORGE IV
N1 COMPTON ARMS
N1 FLOUNDER & FIRKIN
N1 GEORGE IV
N1 GEORGE & VULTURE
N1 HEMINGFORD ARMS
N1 KINGS HEAD, 59 Essex Road.
N1 LORD WOLSELEY
N1 MALT & HOPS
N1 MARQUESS TAVERN
N1 PRINCE ALBERT
N1 PRINCE ARTHUR
N2 OLD WHITE LION
N2 WINDSOR CASTLE
N4 MARLERS
N4 MORTIMER ARMS
N4 OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH
N4 WHITE LION OF MOR-
TIMER
N7 ADMIRAL MANN
N7 FAT HARRY'S
N7 FLOUNDER & FIRKIN
N8 TOLL GATE
N10 MAID OF MUSWELL
N12 MOSS HALL TAVERN
N12 TILTED GLASS
N15 GOAT
N15 K. K. MCCOOLS

N16 ROSE & CROWN
N16 TANNERS HALL
N17 BOAR
N17 ELBOW ROOM
N17 NARROW BOAT
N19 DOG
N19 J. J. MOONS
N20 BULL & BUTCHER
N20 CAVALIER
N21 DOG & DUCK
N22 MOON UNDER WATER
N22 NELSON
BARNET, ALEXANDRA
BARNET, MOON UNDER WATER
BARNET, WEAVER
EAST BARNET, CAT & LANTERN
ENFIELD, JOLLY BUTCHERS
ENFIELD, KING & TINKER
ENFIELD, KINGS HEAD
ENFIELD, OLD WHEATSHEAF
NEW BARNET, BUILDER ARMS

OUTLETS - NORTH-WEST PUBS

NW1 DUCK INN
NW1 GLOUCESTER ARMS
NW1 VICTORIA
NW3 FLASK TAVERN
NW3 WELLS HOTEL
NW4 CHEQUERS
NW4 WHITE BEAR
NW7 RAILWAY TAVERN
NW8 CROCKERS
NW8 ORDNANCE
NW9 GEORGE
NW9 J. J. MOONS
NW10 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS
HAREFIELD, PLOUGH
HARROW, KINGSFIELD ARMS
WEALDSTONE, ROYAL OAK

OFF TRADE

N1 Beer Shop, Pitfield Street.
NW6 Grog Blossom, 235 West End
Lane.

CLUBS

WC1 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
UNION, Malet Street
WC2 L.S.E. Houghton Street

OUTLETS - SOUTH WEST and WEST PUBS

SW1 BARLEY MOW
SW1 BUCKINGHAM ARMS
SW1 FOX & HOUNDS
SW1 GROUSE & CLARET
SW1 MORPETH ARMS
SW1 ORANGE BREWERY
SW1 PAVIOURS ARMS
SW1 RED LION
SW1 ROYAL OAK
SW1 UNICORN, Victoria Place
(above Station Concourse)
SW2 HOPE & ANCHOR

Continued on p31

EDITORIAL

At the end of this month, well on 1st May actually, the Government's legislation concerning the availability of beer in pubs finally comes into force. As we are all no doubt sick of hearing by now, this legislation is based on a report into the brewing industry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC for short). When I say "based on" I mean that pretty loosely of course because we all know that the report's recommendations have been rather watered down since Lord Young was "minded to" enforce all of its provisions when it was published last April.

Now, as we all know, the requirement to allow one non-tied beer in every pub has been restricted to the major national brewers - those with more than 2,000 pubs in their estates. And have the big brewers been preparing for this competition? Why, they most certainly have!

First off the mark seems to have been Scottish and Newcastle, never the largest of the Big Six with about 2,400 pubs after taking over Matthew Brown of Blackburn (and getting Theakston's as part of the bargain). As recently as 1987 CAMRA's Good Beer Guide reported them as having less than 1,500 pubs though this had risen to over 1,800 by the time the 1988 Guide came out, following their takeover of the Home Brewery of Nottingham. So what has this champion of acquisition done to meet the challenge? It's sold pubs, that's what - enough to drop them below the 2,000 ceiling so that they are now a regional brewer, along with Greene King and others, rather than a national. Clever eh?

Grand Met. (Watneys et al.) and Courage (aka Elders IXL) seem to be doing something even more clever to avoid giving the customers what they want; they will cease to be national brewers without shedding any significant numbers of pubs at all! As I write this the details have not become totally clear but basically a deal between themselves whereby Watneys cease to be brewers (Okay - so we've all heard the jokes as to whether they ever were) and Courage cease to own any pubs. The pubs all go to Grant Met. and the breweries all end up with Courage. The second bit is quite clear - if they have no pubs at all then clearly Courage must have less than 2,000 of them - but the wrinkle comes from the fact that the new legislation is only aimed at BREWERS who own more than 2,000 pubs so if Grand Met. have no breweries then they can't be brewers can they? This seems to highlight an amazing oversight, not to say blunder, on the part of the Government; it is clear that there will be all kinds of gentlemen's (I use the term loosely) agreements whereby

Grand Met. pubs will effectively be tied to Courage beers.

I have been referring to the brewing company in this cosy relationship as Courage as this is the name under which it currently trades but I am personally unclear as to what will happen to the Courage name. I heard a second hand report the other day which indicated that the Elders bit would be called Fosters Brewing Plc which would suggest that the Courage name may well be transferred to Grand Met. with the pubs so they would keep their existing livery.

The next question that this deal raises in my mind is what will happen to all of the breweries that will fall under Elders' control. After all, the spare brewing capacity throughout the industry is well known. Currently real beer (of various qualities) is produced at Bristol and Tadcaster by Courage and Halifax, Oakham and Trowbridge under Grant Met. My personal suspicion is that Ushers' (Trowbridge) brewery will be the first to be "rationalised" - Truman Best Bitter was transferred down there when the Brick Lane brewery closed last year and that has gone by the board already. Furthermore, will the new combine want to be producing both John Smith's Yorkshire Bitter and Webster's Yorkshire Bitter in competition with each other? My honest opinion is that this deal can only lead to a further reduction in choice for the British public.

We must wait and see how free the "free houses" that the remaining national brewers have to produce will be. As an occasional user of Clifton Inns (Grand Met) free houses" I have rarely failed to find Ruddle's Best Bitter and County as well as Webster's Yorkshire Bitter forming a significant proportion of the range of beers on offer. Also the remainder of the pumps always seem to have a pretty predictable range of ales passing through them; or should I have written "seemed to have" as each month our Beer Guide Updates pages are reporting Clifton Inns pubs where the range of beers available has dropped to just those ubiquitous three - we are ceasing to describe them as free houses. Of course Grand Met. will be under no obligation to have any free houses in their estate if by 1st May they have ceased to be brewers.

If you ask me the Government having recognised through the MMC Report that there is a lot wrong with the brewing industry has so watered down its proposed measures that I am tempted to suggest that things might have been better if they had left things as they were!

Andy Pirson

BRUCE'S BREWERY

72 PINTS FREE

SIMON AND THE BREWER
AT "THE FERRET & FIRKIN IN THE
BALLOON UP THE CREEK"

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Proudly announce a new Firkin Ale

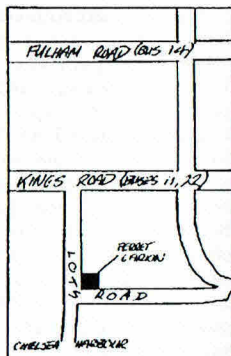
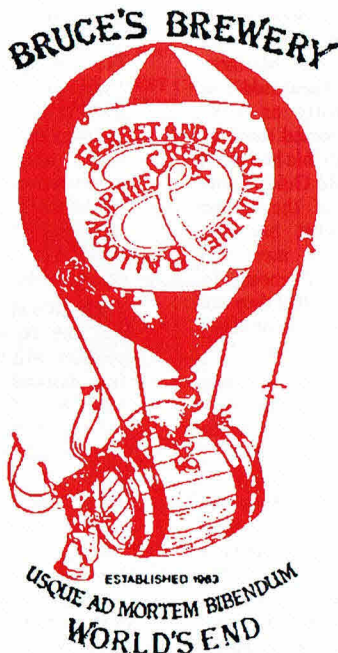
"GOLDEN GLORY"
O.G. 1047

To be officially launched on Thursday 12th April
at a special price of only £1.00 per pint

'Bruce's Beer - You'll PreFerret To Any Other'

A limited edition Green T-Shirt will be on sale on the day. Purchase gives exclusive entry to the competition*.

There are only going to be 100 of these on sale, so they will be in great demand.



Buses 11 & 22 run along the Kings Road.

Bus 14 runs along the Fulham Road.

Hoppa C3 runs from Earls Court to Chelsea Harbour.

Thamesline river bus sails to Chelsea Harbour from all points down river.

114 Lots Road, Chelsea Creek, London SW10
Tel: 01-352 6645

*The prize for the competition winner will be:

A day brewing, at the Ferret & Firkin, a house beer of your choice.
Plus - a FREE 9 gallons of your very own brewed beer!

Also - live music lunch times and evenings, superb home-cooked food and prize raffle.

LETTERS TOTHE EDITORS

Dear London Drinker

I sympathise with Chris Cobbold, (Feb), in his call for pure beer or at least a list of additives for the impure stuff.

As he suggests there is a danger that just raising the question makes you sound like a fanatical vegetarian, with the possible chance, (however unjustly), of being dismissed as a crank.

It was not always so. The question of adulteration of food and beer was a central issue of working class politics for much of the nineteenth century, when both were adulterated to a much greater extent even than now.

The campaign against adulteration was one of the impulses which led, on the one hand to the Cooperative Movement and, on the other, to pressure for legislation.

This twofold strategy still seems relevant today. As consumers we can brew beer ourselves, or a group of us can get together to brew for ourselves and others. We can also push hard for legislation, an area which from mad cows to irradiation is already very much in the public eye.

The pushing will have to be done, I would

suggest, in the public bar as well. When the ordinary person at the bar demands an unadulterated pint and do so in their thousands the big brewers will pay attention quickly enough. It is our job, as usual, to get the message across in the first place.

Yours etc.

Keith Flett
London N17

Dear Sirs

Your recent article 'Prague Pub Crawl' has proved helpful to me on my recent visit.

Pity almost everything else about your magazine is not worth the proverbial w***!

Cheers
Brian Sheridan

PS Nour Urquell is impossible to obtain - though Budvar is back.

(Well Mr S everyone is entitled to his opinion - but you are continuing to read us, which speaks volumes - Ed)

CORNISH ALES

NOW AVAILABLE IN LONDON

St. Austell: Bosun's Bitter · XXXX Mild · Tinnors Ale · HSD

Paradise Bitter & Artist Ale

Blue Anchor Spingo · Crippledick

Stallion Bitter · Barnstormer · Cornish Cider

For further information and delivery details ring:

ANDY WHITE
(020 882) 431

ROBIN HAMILTON
(0784) 248475

"I have absolutely no recollection of anything that happened after 9 p.m. last night. Thanks very much!"

B.K. Glasgow

"This morning I awoke with my head in the fridge, the kettle had melted on the stove and I have vomit in the turn-ups of my trousers. What a smashing beer!"

A.M. Newcastle

"I came around at about 8.30 a.m. in a police cell, I had dried blood on my shirt and my trousers were cold and damp with urine. I have been charged with Drunk and Disorderly. Cheers! I would recommend your fine beer to anyone!"

F.W. Birmingham

"I have appalling diarrhoea and my bottom lip has turned green. I am in hospital being treated for serious head injuries. Is your magnificent ale available in cans?"

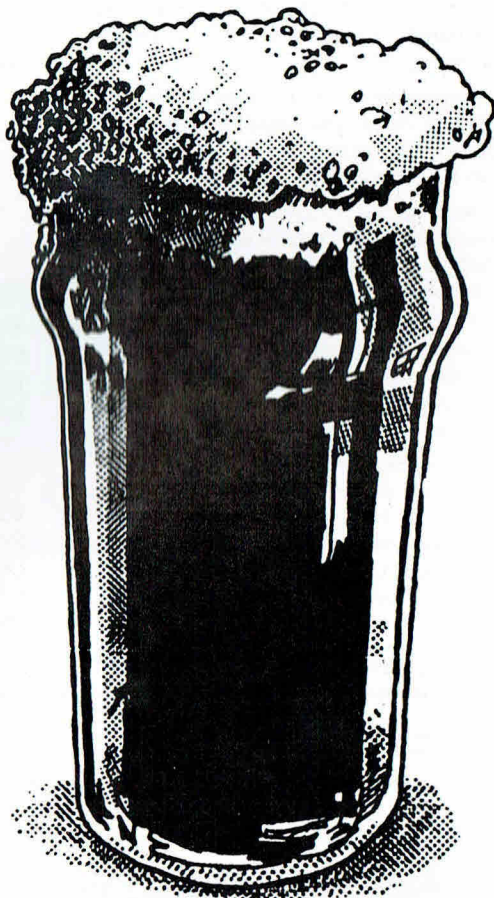
D.P. Manchester

"... I had locked my three children in the coal house and later awoke in my neighbour's dog's kennel with a galvanised steel bucket on my head. I have no money left. My wife has left me. Your beer is a winner!"

J.F. Stockport

"I cannot remember my own name. Where am I? God help me I think I'm dying. What a beer! What a beer! Thanks!"

Anon. Sunderland



**A Harmfully Strong
Traditional Ale**

DR. O'REILLY'S
Blitzkreig **ME 109**

Dr. O'Reilly's Beers and Agrochemicals Ltd, Unit 6, Purston Industrial Estate, West Yorks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs,

Some thoughts on beer additives, (Editorial, February 1990).

1. Don't shoot the Sturgeon!

Your Editorial gives the impression not only that finings are some new-fangled and 'chemical' additive, but also that they are the suspected origin of all thick heads (on us, not the ale!).

Isinglass (smacked botty for not mentioning the term) has been 'into' beer for a lot longer than we have. Ironically, fining must be popular precisely because we like our pint to be visibly free from anything alien - an additive to create the desirable illusion of nothing added.

Further, since the brewing process converts malt to alcohol via all sorts of nasty intermediate paint-strippers like pyruvic acid and acetaldehyde, and requires continuous expert attention to come out right, shouldn't we be blaming our dodgy heads on dodgy brewing, maturation and storage techniques, not dodgy sturgeons?

2. Don't shoot the Brewers ... yet!

In his book 'Brewing Beers Like Those You Buy', (Amateur Winemaker Publications, 1978), Dave Line expressed hearty thanks for "... information freely given by the (British commercial) breweries who are proud to divulge the quality of their ingredients and practices".

Exactly how much they divulged to him we cannot now tell, because as he explains, his recipes should not be taken as scaled-down versions of "the real thing", (and, sadly, Dave Line died not long after publication). However, it will be interesting to see whether, a decade on, the London Drinker will have cause to thank the brewers for again showing freedom and pride!

By the way, some 'home' (as in 'bucket in the airing cupboard') brewers replace fiddly isinglass with easy-to-handle gelatine. While many 'moral veggies' will tolerate fishy 'floaters', a pint of ground calf heels is surely beyond the pale for them. Do any small commercial outfits, eg brewpubs, use gelatine, one wonders?

3. DO shoot the Filter Corporation!

Some years ago, during a tour of A Certain Smallish Brewery, (at which Quixote might have tilted ...?), we saw in the kegging area a thing resembling a tiny stainless steel (not lead!) Zeppelin on wheels, through which the beer was passing. This, we were told, was The Filter.

The brewery man said that he had never opened one - indeed they were not supposed to do so - and he had no idea what was inside it, but it worked, and when it got gunged up "they" wheeled it away in exchange for a new one, so what the heck ...

Suddenly sturgeons' bladders look quite appealing, don't they?

4. Don't shoot the Elephants!

As for manning levels in hi-tech breweries, an 'eavesdropping' from a tour of the Carlsberg brewery, Copenhagen:

"How many people actually work here?"

"Oh, about half of them ..."

Typical bottom-fermenting humour ...?

With best wishes,

Steve Bremner
London SW1

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.

LONDON DRINKER is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Editors: Chris Cobbold, 25 Valens House, Upper Tulse Hill, London SW2 2RX.

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SUBSCRIPTION: (£6.00 for 1 year) should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

ADVERTISING: Barry Tillbrook. Tel: 403 7500 (W) or 989 7523 (after 7 pm).

Deadline for the May edition, 1st April. Material for June edition to arrive by 1st May.

Please be sure to send diary material to Andy Pirson.

Printed by Dasprint Limited, 53 Lydden Grove, Wandsworth, London SW18 4LW

REAL ALE ON BR - UPDATE

Five years ago we published a two-part Historicrawl entitled "A Terminal Case", in which Merton visited all 17 central London stations with real ale bars or outlets in close proximity. With the closure on 26th January and subsequent immediate demolition of Holborn Viaduct Station (which had no bar) there is now only one London BR terminus devoid of real ale - Blackfriars, where the deficiency is compensated by the existence across the road of the renowned Black Friar, a Nicholsons house with all that entails. This brief update will put the record straight regarding other changes which have come to our notice - we refer only to the availability of real beers, not the choice - which is constantly changing - nor the price, which is on an even more steeply upward spiral than in most other central London pubs.

Waterloo now has a second bar, Bonaparte's opposite Platform 16, serving Bass on handpump.

Victoria has a Greene King tied house - the Unicorn - in the top level of Victoria Place, the shopping precinct above the Gatwick Express

platforms, approached by escalator. Beers on sale there are Greene King Abbot and IPA, and Rayment's.

The Joint & Gem adjacent to Farringdon - not a terminus but now more important since the introduction of the Thameslink service, and just as relevant for the purpose of this article - has long since closed, but within a few paces are the Castle, Cowcross Street offering Bass and Charrington IPA (closed weekends) and the Three Compasses opposite, serving Ruddles Best and County, Trumans Best, Websters Yorkshire and Bulmers Traditional Cider, all on handpump. The sole remaining pub accessible only from the Underground system is Moriarty's on Baker Street, with Truman Sampson, which now originates from Usher's in Trowbridge, Wilts.

Broad Street has long since ceased to exist, along with the Free House beneath, and adjacent Liverpool Street is shortly to have real ale re-introduced to its bars following drastic rebuilding work.

STOP PRESS: See p.27 for news of outlets on St. Paul's Thameslink.

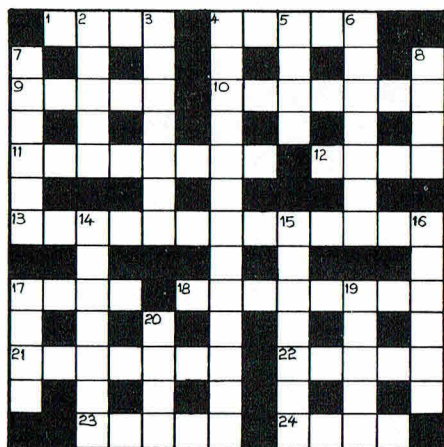


FULLERS

LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



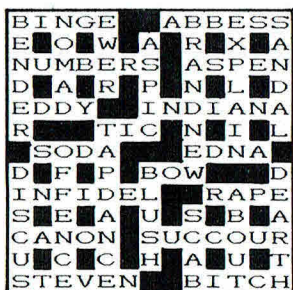
Name.....
Address.....
.....
.....

All correct entries received by first post on 25th April will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The winner of the prize will be announced in the June 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



ACROSS

1. It's a mistake to knock back drink. [4]
4. She's unwell in California. [5]
9. A realistic organisation. [5]
10. I haven't got a 10 across for it. [7]
11. I perform after great admirer. [8]
12. Tree from lupin enclosure. [4]
13. The last place to sit. [8,5]
17. Tame wild friend. [4]
18. Place that's hard on princess. [8]
21. Take centre of peach into sweet. [3,4]
22. Divine messenger found underground? [5]
23. Drunk somewhat anti-psychiatry. [5]
24. Squat oriental position. [4]

DOWN

2. A dance that's neither here nor there. [5]
3. Poor man almost gets the bird. [7]
4. It is trying to act like this. [13]
5. I thank you! Cry of successful submariner with this? [4]
6. Country morning girl. [7]
7. Keep it on the move. [6]
8. Untrue sounding instrument? [4]
14. Right landlord to be off acting 4 down. [7]
15. Shun girl with this? [7]
16. Baby's toy snake? [6]
17. Power, I hear, is really a small thing. [4]
19. To-ing and fro-ing for gold bar. [5]
20. Used to be quiet insect. [4]

Winner of the prize for the February crossword:

'Arry Hart, 24 Hamilton Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 1JF

Other correct entries were received from:

Blenheim, Ivor Boys, W.G. Bradley, Steve Brenner, Miss N. Canton, Brendan Casey, A.P. Comaish, Robert Day, Ian Fairweather, Elaine Glover, Eileen Graves, J.E. Green, D.J. Hilditch, Hugh Jampton, Odd John (Colchester), Mike Jolly, Tom Kemp, Phil Kempton, Myrddin ap Llundain, Maura Mullington, O. Oddy, Victoria Street, L.D. Suttercrap, C. Tinson, Martin Weedon, Tony Whitford, Yak. There were also 2 incorrect entries.



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 April is:

Globe Tavern

37 Bow Street
London · WC2

Sited on the edge of the Covent Garden development, just down from the Royal Opera House. The Globe remains a firm favourite with regulars, theatre goers and visitors. An impressive range of ales is complemented by hot & cold food on two floors. The upper bar can cater for parties on certain nights, just ask at the bar for details. Nearest tube station Covent Garden.

SIX WAYS TO A MORE SOCIAL PUB

In this article I want to look at the 'non beer' aspects of CAMRA's campaigning activities. In a sense, with the upheaval flowing from the MMC, this may soon become a luxury. Certainly were the London Drinker to be, say, the Teesside Drinker, it would be a luxury compared to the key task of getting more pubs to sell cask.

It remains the case, however, that in many parts of London there is an adequate supply of drinkable cask beer. Things could always be much better, but even in Tottenham where I live, (hardly the capital of cask I fear), there are a number of pubs which offer the real thing.

I want to concentrate then on the following points: opening hours, food, smoking, games, music and children. Quite an eclectic mixture! But a combination of these factors frequently determine whether it is possible to go to a pub for a relaxing pint and a chat or whether the experience is more akin to the Victoria Line at 8.30 in the morning. After all CAMRA is not just about the beer but about the pubs which sell it.

It is freely admitted that one drinker's ideal pub is another's sour pint. There is room for all types of pubs even those which only sell fizz and where you can't make your order heard above the music anyway. What follows is therefore a personal view, but one with wider applicability.

1. Opening Hours: It may be that the situation in London is better than elsewhere. But it is still bad enough to be frequently infuriating. Still very much a minority of pubs display their hours *outside* the premises. One would have thought it a basic courtesy to potential customers. Assuming that is, and sometimes I wonder, that the pub is actually interested in attracting custom.

2. Food: In a few cases extended hours has meant extended availability of food, particularly in Central London. In most it hasn't and it should have. Pub food has the considerable merit of being cheaper than that found in restaurants. Unfortunately it is frequently dull and uninteresting. Considering how much profit

is to be made from a thriving pub food operation I wonder why.

3. Smoking: I am not a health fascist, although I don't smoke myself. But I think there is at least a case for controlling smoking in pubs. A start would be to vanquish ceiling fans which have the effect of equally distributing whatever smoke there is throughout the pub.

4. Games: No, not darts and dominos. Rather the electronic variety. They represent the tawdry end of the pubs' attempt to be part of the 'leisure industry'. Public houses should be social venues not part of a grand marketing strategy.

5. Music: Again I quite like music in pubs. If it is kept to a noise level above which you can talk without shouting. Preferably also from a jukebox rather than the barperson's tape of disco favourites.

6. Children: We're starting to get really serious now. The number of London pubs which cater for children in any way is quite apallingly low. No profit in it eh? And what about all the dads and, most particularly, the organisation of society being what it is, mums who do not go in as a result either? I always thought that the Brewers favourite political party, (the Conservatives) claimed to be the party of the family. Some mistake perhaps?

All these points are really making one larger point. Not that the 'traditional' pub, (minus women's loo in many cases), must remain forever the same. But that the essence of the traditional pub, its social environment and role, must be retained. Retained against the marketing strategies of the breweries and their profit margins as well in some cases. It is worth fighting for every bit as much as the beer itself."

Keith Flett



A WARNING TO ALL LAGER DRINKERS

Eric Spiggot, while a lad,
Would go out drinking with his dad
Who, caring for his only child,
Brought him up to drink draught mild.
But at the age of seventeen
Young Eric hit the disco scene
And met new friends who made him think
That lager was the thing to drink.
He tried it once, he tried it twice,
Ignored his father's stern advice.
He shrugged it off, and with a laugh,
Drank lager at a pound a half.
His white haired mother begged in vain.
"Don't throw your money down the drain,
Oh give it up, it turn's you blind."
But he did nothing of the kind.
One night he took the fatal step
Of drinking with the Fosters rep.
All through the night and day they drank
And pints of lager Eric sank
Until, too late, he cried "Alas!
Oh woe is me, I'm full of gas!"
Indeed, his words were all too true,
Ten pounds per squ'Inch of CO2
Inflated him four times his size.
So listen as the poor lad cries
"Oh look my friends, behold my fate!
Give lager up, it's not too late.
Don't let me die to no avail,
Pledge yourselves to drink REAL ALE."
And then poor Eric staggered home
And blew up in a cloud of foam.
So learn a lesson from this song
Drink lager and you won't last long!

Origin Unknown

COULD CATCH ON

In an attempt to confirm his belief that some customers will buy any sort of drink if they think it is the "in" thing, the landlord of a Hampshire pub claims to have hung a sign in his saloon bar advertising "Our speciality: Brandy and chopped onion, £1". In four hours he sold seven, and one young customer complimented him on "the best brandy and onion I've ever tasted".

GUTTED PUB RE-OPENS WITH A NEW LOOK

A pub recently reopened its doors after a fire gutted the bar four months previously.

The Mailcoach, in Whitehorse Road, Croydon, has been completely renovated and new features include a cocktail bar and video screens in the bars.

Players from Crystal Palace Football Club were invited to the opening celebrations, which started at noon with a buffet meal available all day.

The pub was popular for its lunchtime entertainment with comedians and strip-tease artists.

Landlord Michael Bygraves, nephew of entertainer Max Bygraves, said there were no immediate plans to carry on with the striptease acts.

The fire, suspected arson, took place in the early hours of the morning after Guy Fawkes night celebrations.

The landlord and a barman had to jump for their lives.

In future the pub will serve over-21 customers only.

BEER VAT DEATH

The Walthamstow coroner, Dr Harold Price, recorded a verdict of death from natural causes on 20-stone Mr Ronald Fincham, aged 60, of Romford, Essex, who died after climbing naked into a vat of beer on the day he celebrated 25 years' service with Romford brewery.

NEW WINE LAW

The Labour peer, Lord Mason, withdrew his bill requiring pubs and restaurants to display the quantity and price of a glass of wine after Mr Eric Forth, the consumer affairs minister, said he would introduce similar regulations before summer.

BRANCH DIARY

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

ALL LONDON: Tue 10 (from 5.30) London Drinker Capital Beer Night. PLOUGH, 27 Museum Street, WC1. See advert for details.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Tue 3 (8.00) SE19 Social. ROYAL ALBERT, Weston Street, Crystal Palace - Tue 10 (8.00) North Croydon Crawl. LION, Pawsons Road (depart 9.15) then FISHERMANS and GLOUCESTER - Thu 10 (8.00) Branch Meeting. GREYHOUND, Carshalton (Back Bar) - Fri 4 May (8.00) Friday Social. PLOUGH, Beddington (Public Bar).

ENFIELD & BARNET: Tue 3 (9.00) Two Pub Social in Southgate, N14. WOOLPACK, 52 High Street then OLD CHERRY TREE (10.00), 22 The Green - Wed 11 (8.30) Branch Meeting. PLOUGH, Crews Hill, Enfield - Mon 16 Keep free for Easter Ramble. Phone Branch Contact for details - Thu 19 (9.00) Two Pub Social in Mill Hill, NW7. THREE HAMMERS, Hammers Lane then RISING SUN (10.00), Highwood Hill - Thu 26 (9.00) Two Pub Social in Whetstone, N20. GRIFFIN, 1262 High Road then THREE HORSESHOES (10.00), 1166 High Road.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Sun 1 (11.58) Social. ROYAL CHARTER, Kingston followed by JOLLY BREWER then BOATERS - Thu 5 (8.30) Business Meeting. COCOANUT, Kingston - Mon 23 Joint Social with 135 Association. BUCKINGHAM ARMS, SW1 - Sun 29 (Noon) Social. KING WILLIAM IV, Mickleham - Mon 14 May (8.30) Business Meeting. NORTH STAR, Chessington - Mon 21 May (8.00 for 8.30) Inn Rally. COCOANUT, Kingston.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 5 (8.30) Committee Meeting. EXPRESS HOTEL, Kew Bridge Road, Brentford - Mon 23 (8.30) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. RED COW, 59 Sheen Road, Richmond.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mon 2 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. BRICKLAYERS ARMS, 189 Dartmouth Road, SE26 - Mon 9 (8.00) Branch Meeting. EARL OF CHATHAM, 15 Thomas Street, SE18 - Thu 26 (8.00) Branch Social. CROWN, 115 Brandon Street, SE17.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX: Thu 5 (8.30) Out of Area Social. COLLEGE ARMS, 807 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 - Thu 12 (2.15 at brewery) Brewery Trip to MORLANDS, Abingdon. Details/Bookings to Wendy Benson on Romford 723897 - Thu 19 to Sat 21) 12-3 Fri/Sat; 6-11 Thu - Sat) **SIXTH SOUTH ESSEX BEER FESTIVAL**, Civil Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays - Mon 23 (8.30) Social. CROWN & CROOKED BILLET, 13 Cross Road (B173), Woodford Bridge (convenient for Village Green & Claybury Hospital) - Wed 2 May (8.30) Social. FOXHOUND, 18 High Road (B188), Orsett.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Provisional - Please check with Branch Contact or What's Brewing. Wed 4 (7.30) Two Pub Social. SURPRISE 16 Southville, SW8 then PRIORY ARMS (9.00), 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8 - Mon 23 (8.00) Social. ROEBUCK, 84 Ashmole Street, SW8 (near The Oval) - Wed 2 May (8.00) Joint Social with West London Branch. BROOK GREEN HOTEL, 170 Shepherds Bush Road, Hammersmith, W6.

WEST LONDON: Thu 19 (8.00) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. WHITE HORSE, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 - Wed 11 (8.00) Hammersmith Social. CROSS KEYS, 57 Black Lion Lane, W6; RAVEN (9.00), 375 Goldhawk Road; QUEEN OF ENGLAND (10.00), 320 Goldhawk Road - Wed 2 May (8.00) Joint Social with South West London Branch. BROOK GREEN HOTEL, 170 Shepherds Bush Road, Hammersmith, W6.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Mon 2 (8.30) Social. FORESTER, 2 Leighton Road, West Ealing W13 - Thu 12 (7.30) Pre-Beerex Social/Poster Shot of Ealing Broadway. Start WHEATSHEAF, 41 Haven Lane, W5; disperse at around 8.15. Regroup ROSE & CROWN, Church Place, St. Mary's Road at around 10.40 - Fri 20 - Sat 21 BEER ON BROADWAY III. Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5. Open 12.00 to 11.00, Fri; 11.00 to 11.00, Sat - Wed 25 (8.30) Branch Meeting. RED LION & PINEAPPLE, 281 High Street, Acton, W3. - Thu 1 May (8.30) London Drinker Pick-up Social. WINDMILL, Park Way, Ruislip Manor - Wed 16 May (8.00) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. BEACONSFIELD ARMS, 63 West End Road, Southall. Please bring your membership cards.

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

PUB NEWS CROYDON & SUTTON

The Wheelwrights Southbridge Road, Croydon.

Youngs - Ordinary

Greene King Abbot & IPA

Wadworths 6X

Le Refuge Freehouse 15 Selsden Road, South Croydon.

King & Barnes Broadwood

Fullers London Pride

Shepherd Neame Master Brew

Ruddles County (Poor value)

Youngs Ordinary

The Mail Coach Whitehorse Road, Croydon, reopened after fire

A pint of lager costs £2.00 in the Blue Orchid, Park Lane, Croydon, which used to be the Greyhound, the bad news is that you only get ¾ of a pint, Ha Ha!

The Blackwater Tavern Sutton. Closed and is to be demolished to make way for a shopping centre.

Prince of Denmark South Norwood. Best Bitter still only £1.00.

Dukes Head 6 Manor Road, Wallington - to close and to become a hotel.

Kembers 282 High Street, Croydon

Green King IPA & Abbot

Orchard, Orchard Way, Shirley

Adnams Broadside

King & Barnes Old Sussex

Youngs Special

DEAR DIPSY



No B 's written

CLIFTON INNS

The Grand Met owned chain are to announce that keg beers and spirits will be decreased in price to the customer by 6p, following noisy protests by publicans that trade has been severely hit by recent outrageous price increases. As real beer produced by the group was only increased by 2p per pint, our readers will not enjoy this reduction, but a price list for draught beers has been passed to the Editorial Team which shows 100% disparity between Manchester prices and those charged in London.

It seems that London drinkers of this company's fine local beers are now to subsidise the output of the group's Megakeggaries.

PS The Greyhound at Streatham will again produce an Easter Beer, this year of 1065 o.g. strength!

BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 457156 (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 3377 (W)
NORTH LONDON	GARY WHITE	801 9513 (H)
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 x2229 (W)
WEST MIDDLESEX	TED BRADLEY	573 8144 (H) 997 8880 x2153 (W)

BLACK COUNTRY REAL ALE WEEKENDS

Probably the best Real Ale weekend in the world . . .

*** May 25th - 27th ***

(Includes Dudley Beer Festival)

*** June 15th - 17th ***

*** July 27th - 29th ***

*** September 14th - 16th ***

*** November 23rd - 25th ***

Sample a selection of Real Ale from Banks's, Bathams, Hansons, Holdens, Holts, Ma Pardoes, Premier, Sarah Hughes

For further details contact:

DUDLEY»
Leisure

Dudley Leisure Services, 5 Ednam Road,
Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1HL
Tel: Dudley (0384) 453551

LIONS IN PUBS

Millwall, the south London football club, has started the diversification promised at the time of its USM flotation last October by offering to buy another recently quoted company, pub operator Tavern Leisure. The deal, which will give Tavern shareholders two Millwall shares (unchanged at 19p) for each of their shares (trading before the announcement at 31½p) values Tavern at £10.2m.

Full acceptance of the offer, already approved by Tavern's directors, who hold a quarter of the shares, will involve the issue of 51.2m Millwall shares, representing a very substantial 44 per cent of the enlarged equity.

For Millwall, the acquisition is a move into uncharted waters, and with Tavern's 31 pubs situated in country towns around Oxford it will have no link with the football club, although Millwall's chairman Reg Burr hopes that the club's travelling supporters will drop in for a pint. Aimed as the pubs are at businessmen,

families and the over-25 age group, their customers may well beg to differ.

Tavern came to the third market in June, raising a record, for that market, of £5m. Its first results since then reveal an interim pre-tax loss of £199,000 on turn-over of £930,000 (£78,000), which it put down to the disruptive effects of rapid expansion and refurbishment which left only six of the pubs trading throughout the period. Millwall hopes that it will be able to double the number of sites in the next year.

Millwall made an operating profit in the year to July of £212,000 but after signing on fees this was transformed into a pre-tax loss of £717,000. With the soccer team languishing near the bottom of the first division there is no guarantee that gate receipts can be maintained (promotion to the top rank doubled takings last year to £1.25m) and with Tavern's expansion in its early stages the shares are for the time being best left to the fans.

IDLE MOMENTS

From the Outback of Mortlake
From the Polders of Gwent,
From the Midwest of Halifax
And the Alps of Kent

From Berkshire's Black Forest,
From Warrington's Great Lakes
And the Tropics of Bedford
Come the Great British Fakes

There, I hope you liked that bit of doggerel that I started with. It was given to me by our regular contributor, Robert McGowan at the recent and highly successful Battersea Beerex where he waylaid me on the CAMRA Products stand. He did not know who first penned it but if anybody can identify the author (It can't be that old). I should be delighted to give him or her the deserved credit.

Talking of Robert McGowan, here at long last is the solution to the one line number puzzle that first appeared incorrectly in the February edition. You will no doubt recall it; it was 168 PNU 100. Well of course you all knew that it stands for 168 Prime Numbers Under 1000, didn't you. Talking of number puzzles we might as well get on with them now. Firstly here are the answers to last months:

1. 13 Lunar Months in a Year
2. 192 Directory Enquiries
3. 186,000 Speed of Light (Miles Per Second)
4. 12 Good Men and True (on a Jury)
5. 1812 Overture (Tchaikovsky)
6. 1 Kelly's Eye
7. 2468 Who Do We Appreciate?
8. 212 Boiling Point of Water (Fahrenheit)
9. 1000 Kilogrammes in a Tonne
10. 4 Quadrants in a Circle

And this month's:

1. 366 D in a LY
2. 300,000 S of L (KPS)
3. 15 P for SCP
4. 2240 P in a T
5. 80 DA the W
6. 11 DS (OR of the C of the E)
7. 2001 ASO
8. 1956 Y of the MO
9. 29141 H of E (in F)
10. 6 W on a LTB (except No. 63)

Last month you will no doubt recall we had a bit of prose from Iain Cobb and Antony Whitehead, who wished to remain anonymous which contained twenty one brewery anagrams. In order to make sense of the solution I shall firstly reprint the piece with the anagrams printed in capitals and then list the answers. If you still want to try to solve the anagrams, I suggest that you cover the answers with some high-tech masking device (or failing that a piece of paper - or your hand) while doing so. Anyway, here we go.

[1] A MAD PROSE

[2] TURN MARTIN RED - HE'S FULL. Will he [3] SWELL and [4] BURST? There's no room for a [5] SAMPLER of a [6] SNEAKING BRAND or even the [7] BREWERS ALE YOU CRY BY. [8] NO GUYS [9] SHALL drink this now, not even [10] HARD IAN from [11] DARNALL (Sheffield). Here they have [12] NO TRAMS so no [13] BARE SPARKS. Hence we went by bus to a bar that [14] HOLDS FADED LION SKIN. Here, with jellied [15] EELS, we discuss brewing and the effect of [16] YEAST strains and so we propose a toast: [17] LOVER, HAND DOWN EMPTY LAUD to [18] WHAT I BRED so as to [19] ENGINEER K.G. and to ensure that [20] BINDS DON'T GO and the threat of closure [21] SIGHS ON.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. A MAD PROSE | MA PARDOES |
| 2. TURN MARTIN
RED - HE'S FULL | FULLER, SMITH
AND TURNER |
| 3. SWELL | WELLS |
| 4. BURST | BURTS |
| 5. SAMPLER | PALMERS |
| 6. SNEAKING BRAND | KING & BARNES |
| 7. BREWERS ALE
YOU CRY BY | AYLESBURY
BREWERY CO |
| 8. NO GUYS | YOUNGS |
| 9. SHALL | HALLS |
| 10. HARD IAN | HADRIAN |
| 11. DARNALL | RANDALL |
| 12. NO TRAMS | MARSTON |
| 13. BARE SPARKS | BRAKSPEARS |

14. HOLDS FADED
LION SKIN
 15. EELS
 16. YEAST
 17. LOVER, HAND
DOWN EMPTY
LAUD
 18. WHAT I BRED
 19. ENGINEER K.G.
 20. BINDS DON'T GO
 21. SIGHS ON
- HOSKINS AND
OLDFIELD
LEES
YATES
WOLVER-
HAMPTON AND
DUDLEY
WHITBREAD
GREENE KING
BODDINGTONS
HIGSONS

I have recieved some good stuff on beer (rather than brewery) anagrams (as well as some number puzzles) from Steve Bremner of Westminster but as this little lot has taken up rather a lot of space I shall hold this contribution over until next month - besides we have got another item from him on our letters page and we don't want to overexpose his talents. So here we go with some typically ordinary brewery anagrams:

1. REG PILED DOPE
2. YES, JOCK AND SATAN
3. KEN GAINS BRAND
4. TOWN ON GIRTH
5. RON'S MACE

That's all, folks!

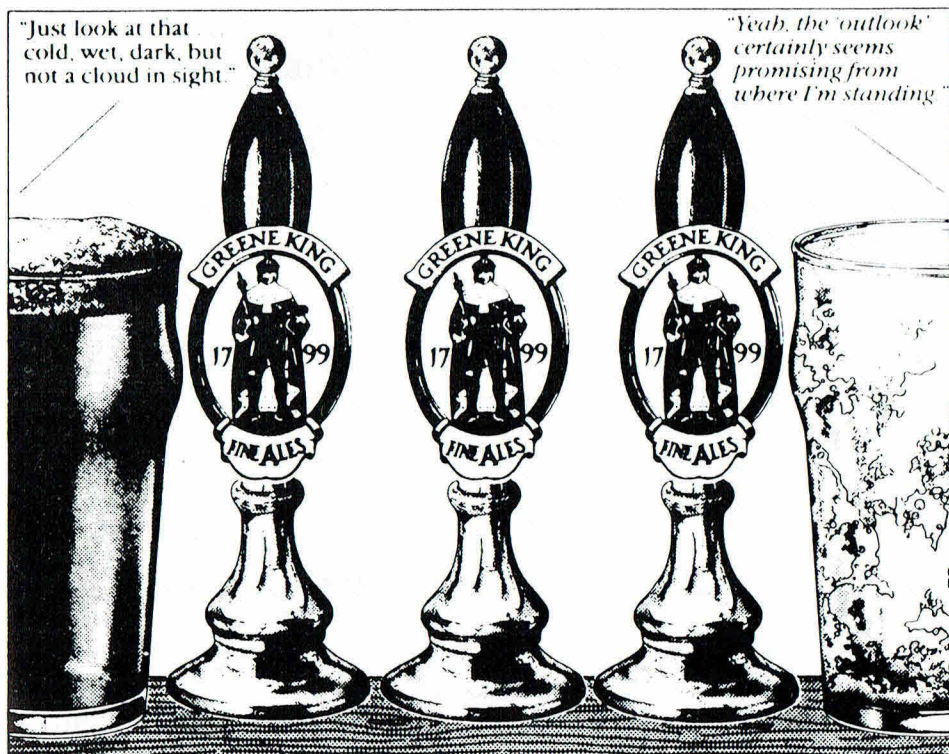
Andy Pirson

DRINKING UP

The tradition of basing rateable values of public houses on turnover is to end in April, the Department of the Environment has confirmed.

Instead they will be based - as for other commercial premises - on notional rented values, prompting fears in the licensed trade of big increases in rates in the more prosperous parts of the country.

The change follows recent moves by the brewers towards market rents.



JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE LIVERPOOL'S LAST BREWERY



**WHITBREAD CLOSED THEIR LIVERPOOL BREWERY IN 1979,
NOW THEY WANT HIGSONS . . .**

**HELP SAVE THE JOBS, THE BEERS AND THE BREWERY,
SIGN THE PLEDGE AND RETURN IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW**

I DON'T WANT HIGSONS BREWERY CLOSED DOWN BY WHITBREAD

**I WANT LIVERPOOL'S OWN BEERS TO BE BREWED IN LIVERPOOL, NOT
MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD OR ANYWHERE ELSE.**

*I declare that, should Whitbread close down Liverpool's last remaining brewery,
Higsons, I will not drink any Boddingtons Beer or any Whitbread National Brand.*

Signed:

Date:

**Send to:
'SAVE HIGSONS BREWERY', 44 ST. NICHOLAS ROAD, WALLASEY, L45 8NQ**

BEER ON BROADWAY III

20th - 21st April 1990

After venturing down to darkest Acton, the West Middlesex Branch Roadshow is back at its original home, Ealing Town Hall. Over twenty breweries will be represented by more than forty different beers plus ciders and foreign brews. As usual there will be one or two "unusual" brews available.

For the hip-hoppers and funky jive groovers there will be music each evening - well jazz and electric folk, actually. Parking is available to the rear of the venue (Friday evening and all day Saturday).

STOP PRESS

Guest appearance by Ed the Duck and his puppet, Andy Crane, has had to be cancelled - both were found to be under age.

BACK NUMBERS

To date 122 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 1990: 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.

1ST BATTERSEA BEEREX

As many loyal readers of London Drinker came to the highly successful Beer Festival at Battersea and voted for their favourite beers, I thought the results might be of interest.

Best London Beer:

- | | |
|-----|----------------------|
| 1st | Youngs Ordinary |
| 2nd | Orange Porter |
| 3rd | Fullers London Pride |

There were only 3 votes between these three beers

Best Out of Town Beer

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 1st | Hop Back Stout |
| 2nd | Hop Back Summer Lightning |
| 3rd | Exmoor Gold |

Beer of the Festival

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 1st | Hop Back Stout |
| 2nd | Timothy Taylor Landlord |
| 3rd | Sarah Hughes Ruby Mild |

There were 842 votes cast altogether.

Here's to next year

Chris Cobbold

**YES, WE HAVE
NO KEG BITTER -
ONLY THE REAL STUFF!**

ADNAMS BITTER
BODDINGTONS BITTER
RUDDLES BEST
WEBSTERS YORKSHIRE

T I L T E D G L A S S
TALLY-HO CORNER
359 BALLARDS LANE
FINCHLEY
LONDON N12

OPEN ALL DAY 11-11
PUB GRUB AVAILABLE
TUBE: WOODSIDE PARK
BUSES: 26, 125, 236

WEST MIDDLESEX NEWS

PUBS UNDER THREAT: Thanks to a multi-million pound shopping mall development scheme in Southall Town Centre, two of the most famous old pubs have been earmarked for demolition. The Three Horseshoes on the Broadway itself is a splendid example of Royal Brewery (Brentford) architecture, with much fine "mock-Tudor" detail both inside and out. The present building dates from 1922 and is certainly one of the most interesting specimens of architect, Noel Parr's work. This pub is also one of the very few around to have retained all three of its original bars and is probably one of the most attractive buildings still surviving in this part of town. It also sells a good pint of Courage Best.

The other threatened pub is the Railway Tavern, known locally as the "Glasshouse". This is much older and dates right back to the early days of the Railway Age. It is yet another corner site pub although not on the grand scale of the Horseshoes. This Charrington house can boast that it was one of only two pubs in Southall never to have stopped selling Real Ale.

The fight is now on to save these pubs and West Middlesex Branch along with the Thirties Society, The pub Preservation Group, plus lots of local residents and drinkers will be fighting this all the way. There are few enough Real Ale pubs in this part of Southall - to lose two more would be a disaster!

APPARITIONS IN ACTION! If you read my jottings last month, you may recall my cryptic message about the goings on in Acton. Local drinkers will be fully aware of what I meant - I was referring to what had once been the White Hart.

This is the sad tale of a former Truman pub of a certain dignity and bearing that once vied with the Red Lion (no Pineapple suffix then) in dominating the top of the High Street. Alas, no more. Since the decline of the Truman brewery (inevitable after getting involved with Watneys in the early 70's), this pub ceased to be of interest to beer drinkers. After several years in the doldrums as a "Sweetshop" (ie Fizz only), in the mid-80's it fell under the spell of one of the Host Group's stranger incarnations, as a

thing called "SPORTS". The "sports" apparently being - to see who could shove as many coins into flashing electronic wizardry the quickest before running out of money - or an unusual version of an obscure oriental "Martial Art", involving self defence with pool cues.

However, I digress. Following an enormously expensive refurbishment by Chef & Brewer, when Real Ale made a brief appearance, the place then shut down for a long time. Then something very odd happened. Almost overnight, this classic example of Twenties' Truman grey tile changed colour. Suddenly it had been transformed into a Royal Blue and Canary Yellow edifice with a flashing sign announcing the opening, very soon, of the Gin Palace. It's as well there is no more horse drawn traffic using the Uxbridge Road, otherwise the poor beasts would be quite likely to bolt with the shock of what sight they beheld. It is quite surprising that there haven't been any serious accidents, as any unwary driver may be so distracted and miss the traffic lights. Nursing mothers, the elderly, and those of a nervous disposition would be advised to find alternative routes. Even the younger generation may be affected - several young people have been seen vomiting outside on the pavement.

There is some good news though. The place does not open at all during the day and after 9pm there is a £3.00 charge to get in. But the best news of all is that it doesn't sell any Real Ale - so none of you lot will ever have to set foot inside it.

FOOTNOTE: "Gin Palace" became the term used to describe very large and ornate Victorian pubs - usually with one big island bar and several small partitioned drinking areas. Most of these pubs had extremely fine etched-glass windows and gaily coloured tiles. One of the finest examples is the Prince Alfred in W9. In the early Victorian era Gin was as popular a drink as beer. It was very cheap to buy and was of dubious quality most of the time. It was very popular with women and hence it got its nickname - "Mother's Ruin".

Bernie Peal

WETHERED BITTER ● MARSTON PEDIGREE ● CASTLE EDEN ALE

KINGS HEAD

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HOT AND COLD FOOD AVAILABLE ● CARVERY ROASTS

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LONDON DRINKER CAPITAL BEER NIGHT

on Tuesday 10th April from 5.30pm

at

the PLOUGH

27 Museum Street, London WC1

Guest Speakers

Taylor Walker Videos

Cut Price Beer

BRING THIS ADVERT WITH YOU TO GAIN ADMISSION

BEER BRIEFING

LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 52

The pub and real ale scene in London is constantly changing. The aim of this column is to keep "London Drinker" readers up to date with events as they happen and record confirmed changes to pubs and beers as they are reported.

The conversion of shop and commercial premises into pubs continues. This month we record four newly converted free houses, three in North London, all with real ale, and one fizz establishment in Earlsfield, South West London. Particularly in North London, the lead shown by the Wetherspoon and Liberty Inn chains is now being followed by others. Potentially these new free houses can offer more choice but unfortunately brewery loan ties often restrict the product range. In the same vein, more Clifton "free houses" are reported as reverting to Watney range beers only. All reference to Truman Best Bitter should be deleted from London pub guides. The beer is no longer brewed and the transfer of brewing to Ushers of Trowbridge following the closure of Brick Lane has predictably proved short lived.

The numbers in brackets after each entry are intended to make it easy to update your London beer guides. They refer to page numbers in the East London & City Beer Guide, 2nd edition (E prefix); the North London Beer Guide, 2nd edition (N prefix); the South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition (SE prefix); Real Beer in South West London (SW prefix); Real Beer in West London (W prefix); the Essex Beer Guide, 7th edition (X prefix) or previous updates (U prefix).

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers please write to: Beer Guides Updates, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

NEW PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE EAST

E3, PLAYWRIGHTS, 43 Morgan Street. Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Formerly **MORGAN ARMS**. (reinstatement E84, U48)

NORTH

N1, ALMA TAVERN, 59 Newington Green Road. Charrington: IPA. Smartly restored pub. (N45)

N1, BELINDA CASTLE, 63 Canonbury Road. Ind Coope: Burton Ale. Tetley: Bitter. 1930's decor local. (N45)

N1, NORTH ONE CAFE BAR, 2-6 Cloudsley Road (corner Tolpuddle Street). Fuller: London Pride. Theakston: Bitter. Younger: IPA. New Free House run by Gledhill Leisure in former bakery premises, opposite Sainsbury's superstore. Standard brewers' traditional decor. Food. Open weekdays 12 noon to 11 pm, Sundays normal hours.

N1, MYDDLETON ARMS, 52 Canonbury Road. Courage: Directors Bitter. Victorian pub beside the New River. (N46)

N1, SHAW'S FREEHOUSE, 178 Pentonville Road. Marston: Pedigree. Young: Bitter, Special. New Free House on site of former garage, owned by publisher of "What's On and Where To Go in London," based next door. Open Mon-Fri 12 noon to 11 pm, closed weekends.

N22, WELCOMER INN, 451 Lordship Lane. Adams: Bitter. Tetley: Bitter. Yet another new Free House in former shop premises.

SOUTH WEST

SW18, PUNTERS, 406 Garratt Lane. No Real Ale. New Free House in former shop premises.

WEST

W2, KINGS ARMS, 254 Edgware Road. Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (reinstatement W59, U45)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE NORTH

N1, MILDMAY TAVERN. Charrington, H unused. (N38)

N1, NORFOLK ARMS. Watney, H removed. (N39)

N1, SPECULATOR. Free House, H removed. Formerly JERSEY. (N35, U36)

N7, NEW QUEENS HEAD. Whitbread, H removed. Never included in updates. (N66)

N22, LORDSHIP. Watney, H removed. (N108)

SOUTH WEST

SW9, ROYAL OAK. Charrington (fizz), closed - future uncertain. (SW37)

SW11, PRODIGALS RETURN. Watney, renamed BRIDGE, H removed. (SW41)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES CENTRAL

W1 (F), CAMBRIDGE. - all beers listed except Greene King: IPA & Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. + Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. (W28)

W1 (F), HOLYROOD. - Wadworth: 6X. Note correct name. (W29)

NORTH

N1, FLYING SCOTSMAN. - Wadworth: 6X. + Ind Coope: Burton Ale. + Tetley: Bitter. + Wells: Bombardier. Range may vary. (N46, U43)

BEER BRIEFING

LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 52 Continued

N1, MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, 54/ Balls Pond Road. Renamed **BRADY'S IRISH HOUSE**, still fizz. (N46, U47)
N1, THREE JOHNS. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (N46, U36)
N1, TROLLEY STOP. - Ind Coope: Burton Ale. - Ruddle: Best Bitter. - Wadworth: 6X. + Whitbread: Winter Royal. Formerly **PIER 39**. (N46, U40)
N1, WATERSIDE INN. - beers listed. + Boddington: Bitter. + Greene King: Abbot Ale. + Whitbread: Castle Eden Ale. Now Whitbread, ex Hoskins of Leicester. (N44)
N1, YORK TAVERN. - Adnams: Bitter. - Samuel Smith: OBB. + Bass. (N34)
N7, CITY OF ROME. - beers listed. + Tetley: Bitter. (N64, U47)
N7, FOX & FIDDLE. - all beers listed except Tetley: Bitter. + Young: Special. Formerly **DUCHESS OF KENT**. (N69, U33)
N19, GOOD INTENT. Renamed **STEAMBOAT**. (N102)
N22, MOON UNDER WATER. - Boddington: Bitter. - Wadworth: 6X. + Theakston: XB. (U36)

NORTH WEST

NW1, EASTNOR CASTLE. - Young: Special. + Greene King: Abbot Ale. (N117)
NW1, PRINCE GEORGE OF CUMBERLAND. - all beers listed except Greene King: Abbot Ale. + Greene King: IPA. + Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (N125)
NW1, PRINCESS OF WALES. - beers listed. + Marston: Pedigree. (N125)
NW1, VICTORIA, 2 Mornington Crescent. - Adnams: Bitter. - Fuller: London Pride, ESB. - Hall & Woodhouse: Badger Best Bitter. (N127)
HAREFIELD, KINGS HEAD. - beers listed. + Flowers: IPA, Original Bitter. + mild beer (origin unknown). (W108)
HARROW, KINGS HEAD HOTEL. - all beers listed except Ruddle: County, Theakston: Old Peculier + Wadworth: 6X. (W113)

SOUTH EAST

CROYDON, BIRD IN HAND. + Tetley: Bitter. (SE236)
CROYDON, CARTOON. - beers listed. + Flowers: IPA, Original Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. + Wethered: Bitter, Winter Royal. Free House now with Whitbread product tie. (SE237)
CROYDON, CROWN, 90 Stanley Road. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (SE239)
CROYDON (Shirley), ORCHARD, 119 Orchard Way. + King & Barnes: Old. Note correct address. (SE246, U46)
CROYDON, QUEEN VICTORIA. - beers listed. + Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. A sad underuse of a magnificent bank of 12 handpumps. (SE248)

CROYDON, WESTSIDE. Renamed **KEMBERS**.

- beers listed. + Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. (SE251)

CROYDON, WHEELWRIGHTS ARMS. - all beers listed except Young: Bitter. + Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. + Wadworth: 6X. (SE252)

SOUTH CROYDON, CROHAM ARMS. - Gale: HSB. + Ind Coope: Burton Ale. (SE276, U46)

SOUTH CROYDON, LE REFUGE. - Ruddle: Best Bitter. - Young: Special. + King & Barnes: Broadwood. + Ruddle: County. (SE278, U46)

SOUTH WEST

SW1 (B), 20'S BAR. Renamed **CAFE FISH**, still fizz (SW11, U38)

SW2, TWO WOODCOCKS. - Truman: Best Bitter. + Courage: Directors Bitter. + Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW19, U46)

SW4, RAILWAY TAVERN. + Fuller: ESB. (SW25)

SW7, ZETLAND ARMS. - all beers listed except Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. + Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Another Clifton Inns Free House reverts to Watney range beers. Reclassify as Watney house. (SW32)

SW8, BELL. + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW33)

SW11, NORTHCOTE. + Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Refurbished. (SW41)

SW11, PRINCE OF WALES, 151 St. Johns Hill. - Bass. (SW41)

SW11, PUMP & RACKET. + Young: Winter Warmer. (U36)

SW14, LORD NAPIER. - Ruddle: County (SW45)
SW19, PRINCE OF WALES, 2 Hartfield Road.

- all beers listed except Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. + Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Yet another Clifton Inns Free House reverts to Watney range beers. Reclassify as Watney house. (SW56)

WEST

W3, KINGS ARMS. + Fuller: Chiswick Bitter. (W65)

W3, WHITE HART. Renamed **GIN PALACE**, still fizz. (W65)

BRENTFORD, NORTH STAR. + Courage: Directors Bitter. (W98)

BRENTFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS. Renamed **MARY O'RIORDAN'S**. - Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. + Adnams: Bitter. + Flowers: Original Bitter. + Wadworth: 6X. Now a Free House under the same ownership as O'RIORDAN'S Tavern, Brentford, ex Watney. (W98)

HOUNSLOW, BELL. - all beers listed except Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. + Ruddle: Best Bitter, County. Clifton Inns Free House reverting to Watney range beers. Reclassify as Watney house. (W126)

METROPOLITAN LINE DRINKING GUIDE

A personal view

Even the most enthusiastic lovers of cosmopolitan London with its Kulture, Kaotic Roads and Keg Beers do okkasionally long for the English Countryside. The rich close one's eyes, press one's foot hard on the accelerator pedal until the BMW runs out of fuel and then open one's eyes and buy all the land one can see. This explains why the Prince of Wales is the Duke of Cornwall and lives in Gloucestershire!

The less well-off have always had identical feelings, as that well-known Victorian Lionel T. Metropolitan realised when he planned his railway. Running from Baker Street, out through the wilds of Pinner and Ruislip to the Chiltern Hills, his vision was such a success that every property developer, builder and estate agent rushed after him and filled in most of the countryside with suburbia. The houses they built are fine, but their shops and especially their pubs are 'functional' (ie next to useless), so beware any pub less than 80 years old.

Oases of drinking pleasure do remain however, and, after 25 years of non-stop research, I present my Beer Drinkers' Guide to 'Metroland'.

For those of you who do not know the area, all Met. Line trains run from Baker Street out to Harrow-on-the-Hill (16 mins), where three possibilities occur: Watford (42 mins), Uxbridge (38 mins) and Amersham (40 mins).

Lesson One: Avoid Watford at all costs. It is a beer drinkers' nightmare. It used to be a quiet market town with 40 pubs in the High Street alone and four breweries. There are now about two pubs in the area and I wouldn't go into either of them. Benskins Brewery is now Allied's *nom de fizz* on 650 pubs in the south, but they closed the brewery in 1972, and even sold the *Sir Joseph Benskin* pub to a shoe shop company. Older readers may recall that Watford F.C. used to be called 'The Brewers' in 3rd Division South days, and you used to be able to buy 'Colne Spring' (a superb barley wine) brewed in Watford - all gone now. Even in the late 1960's the local Technical College had a good High Street pub crawl in Rag Week - no longer possible. One or two reasonable pubs can be found tucked away in back streets, but as they are nowhere near the Met. Station we'll forget

them. To be fair, many Benskins pubs do sell Real Ale: Benskins Best (O.G. 1037) is a bit soapy but Burton (O.G. 1047) is better, especially if a brass 'Guild of Cellarman' clip is on the tap.

Lesson Two: Uxbridge must be Prince Charles' nightmare. There are good pubs to be found amongst the Lego-land style of architecture but they are hard to find. I've always found the beer variable except for the very popular *Red Lion* out on Hillingdon Hill, a fair walk from the Met. Station but a gem of an old pub owned by Fullers and, as it is next to Brunel University (more awful architecture - so awful they filmed *'A Clockwork Orange'* there), usually filled with a good cross section of students, staff and locals. Staggering through the conservatory to the lavatory gets confusing after a few ESBs'! Most of the pubs in the town centre bomb-site are all that's left of old Uxbridge; most serve Real Ale (Courage, Benskins, Wethereds) and are quite interesting. It is best to go at night when you can't see the office blocks and shopping centres too well. The pubs I recommended are: *The Crown and Sceptre* (Courage), the *Crown and Old Treaty House* (Whitbread) and the *General Elliot* (Benskins).

The rest of the stops on the Uxbridge Met. Line are classic suburbia (Rayners Lane, Ruislip, Hillingdon) and not worth a special outing unless granny lives there and is buying the ale.

Having warned you of the dross, let's now concentrate on the good parts of the Met. Line.

(a) Harrow-on-the-Hill. Exit the Met Station to the left and emerge at the rear of the station. (To the front is an impressive shopping centre but a Real Ale desert for miles so get this right.) Skirt the college and go up Grove Hill to Harrow School. If time permits, do some sight-seeing from St Mary's Church. (Pollution permitting, Windsor Castle, Heathrow and the Telecom Tower are all visible). Also note interesting gravestones. Continue along past Harrow School Tuck Shoppe to the *Kings Head*. It has an interesting old smoke-room and various Real Ales - but at various states of readiness and at constantly high prices. You may be lucky. If not, go back around the corner

Contd. on p.26

Vaux Freehouses in London



PRINCESS LOUISE P.H.
208 High Holborn,
London WC1V 7BW
01-405 8816



CROCKERS P.H.
24 Aberdeen Place,
Maida Vale,
London NW8 8JR
01-286 6608

**WARDS, VAUX & DARLEYS ALES
ALWAYS AVAILABLE.**

**OR SAMPLE ANY OF THE WIDE SELECTION
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WHICH ARE VARIED WEEKLY.**

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AVAILABLE EVERY SESSION
IN ALL OUR HOUSES.**

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GROUND FLOOR LEVEL
A TRADITIONAL PUBLIC HOUSE
OFFERING 8 REAL ALES
AT ANY ONE TIME

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Banquets, Wedding Receptions,
Birthday Parties, Dinner Dances,
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Luncheons, Anniversaries



RAT & PARROT P.H.
13 East Barnet Road,
New Barnet,
Herts EN4 8RR
01-449 1369

(down Waldron Road) to the *Castle*. Now Real, a Fullers 2-bar corner local with a good terraced garden. A consistently pleasant pub. Continue down Crown Street and Middle Road (gannets can try the Benskins in the dull *White Horse*) to the *Half Moon* (Courage), a good public bar with occasional jazz music. Turn right past the cricket ground (unless you choose the one fine day in June when Middlesex 2nd XI are playing and good cricket can be viewed) to the *Kingsfield* (Courage) for a pleasant pint of Directors. It is now only 10 minutes back to Harrow Met. Station or you could ask for directions to one of many decent Indian restaurants that can also be found in this area. History, views, cricket, Real Ale and curry - what else could you want?

(b) A village atmosphere perhaps? Two miles north of Harrow (on the Watford Met Line) is Pinner. One of London's classic old villages, it still holds a village fair and, despite the all-pervasive suburbia, has a charming church, small shoppes, cobblestones and several good pubs.

Sainsburys bought the small station car-park a few years ago and converted it into a mega-hyper-market for no apparent reason, but once past this monstrosity there is: the *Victory*, a Benskins pub with a young clientele, the *Hand in Hand*, which has a restaurant and serves Abbot and Wethereds, the *Queens Head*, expensive Benskins but good (both the last two are in the High Street), the *Oddfellows* an attractive Benskins local up Bridge Street, the *George*, a dull pub, but the Burton is often good, the *Whittington*, in Cannon Lane, a 1930's suburban Whitbread pub about 10 minutes walk from the station and the *Blackbirds* on Pinner Green which also does a decent pint of Burton.

(c) Rickmansworth. Although only 28 minutes from Baker Street, Ricky (as it is known locally) could market itself as a holiday resort as it is situated on the confluence of three rivers: the Chess, Colne and Gade, all of which are good for fishing (permits only) and the Grand Union Canal for boating. There is also an Aquadrome for water-skiing, a public golf course (£5 a round) and many good (albeit pricey) pubs.

The M25 is much maligned, but it gets my gold

medal for freeing Ricky from through traffic and it is now a pretty little, old, popular town. Small is beautiful and it is easy to do a pub crawl around Ricky's hosteleries.

Benskins' worst is featured directly opposite the station. The *Victoria* was converted to the *Long Island Exchange* (why, why, why?) and now offends all with garishly illuminated signs. There's room for all in a perfect world I philosophise. Turn left at the roundabout then right, and 100 yards along uxbridge Road is the *Halfway House*. Halfway to where I've no idea but this riverside Courage house sells excellent Directors.

Return across the roundabout into the High Street to the *Western*, a standard, quiet, two bar Benskins house, then the *Fox and Hounds*, Courage, with good food and popular with railwaymen. Divert down Church Street to see how Benskins have wrecked the *Feathers* (cotton wool necessary for the aurally sensitive), then into the *Coach and Horses*, a beautiful, small Greene King 2-bar pub with original beams, a real public bar, super fires but unfortunately suspect fizz beers.

(d) Amersham. "The gateway to the Chilterns" consists of two quite separate places. Old Amersham is a tourists dream of an old coaching stop. Amersham-on-the-Hill is typical of the new suburbia created by the Met. Line.

The Old Town is definitely worth a day out for the drinking masses. Turn left out of the station - the highest altitude you can reach on the underground - ignore the *Iron Horse* unless you're desperate for a reasonable pint of Charringtons IPA in dull surroundings - turn left down the hill. Half way down look for a signpost to a path to the 'Martyr's Memorial'. A stone marks the spot where the last people to vote Labour in Amersham were burned at the stake in 1635. Cross a beautiful corn-field by the footpath and you see Old Amersham beneath you. Lots of lovely old buildings and many good pubs. The star of the show is certainly the *Kings Arms*, Benskins, an expensive but classic coaching-inn. Other pubs include: the *Swan*, a 'Chef and Brewer' eatery, the *Elephant and Castle*, a pleasant Courage house, the *Griffin*, an ordinary hotel, the *Eagle*, which serves very good Benskins and the *Saracens Head*, a friendly Courage pub.

Contd. on p.29

CITY NEWS

NEW STATION - NEW BEERS

Work on the new subterranean St Paul's Thameslink station under the site of the former Holborn Viaduct Station, and its approach lines, has led to considerable inconvenience both to rail passengers and road users. Three real ale pubs have also been demolished on Farringdon Road as a result - the Metropolitan (free), the Queen Victoria (Allied) and the Old King Lud (Whitbread). When the new station opens on April 23rd passengers might well consider themselves compensated for this disruption by the Newgate Bar, a free house with its own brewery on the northbound platform No. 2. Apart from beers from out of London yet to be decided (at the time of going to press), three not available elsewhere for the foreseeable future will be on sale. The Newgate Bar will officially open (for one day only, pending the opening of the station for public use), on the 120th Anniversary of the opening of the first station on the site (1st April 1870). No access will be available from ground level until the booking hall is completed in time for the official re-opening ceremony 3 weeks later. Special arrangements have been made by British Rail to halt all trains between Purley and Farringdon at St Paul's Thameslink due to arrive from 11.30 am until closing time in both directions for the benefit of customers wishing to attend the opening. A second bar, the Ludgate Lounge, will open on No. 1 Platform (southbound) with the new station.

Apart from three "guest" beers at any one time, the two bars will, from their opening, serve three own brews from the newly refurbished Metropolitan District Brewery, disused since the turn of the century and located in a dead-end tunnel under Smithfield Market, and originally installed to cater for the needs of the meat porters. Using original recipes and water piped-in from the long-culverted River Fleet which still flows under nearby Farringdon Road, their new titles are:

Fleet Foot (o.g. 1047) - pale, bitter and distinctive

Thames Tipple (1060) - a sweetish stout with a touch of bitterness and

Newgate Knocker (1078) - dark and forboding

to the unwary.

A winter brew will appear in due course, with an o.g. thought from test runs to be about 1090 - as yet no name has been unveiled.

Unlike most public houses in the area, the Newgate Bar and Ludgate Lounge will open all permitted hours. They will, to some extent, replace the Old King Lud, and the Victoria, Farringdon Road, both demolished as part of the development.

The Brewery's history and make-up is unusual and typical of Victorian ingenuity, and in due course it will be able to be viewed by interested visitors. For further details see below.

CITY BREWERY REVIVED

Excavation work for the new St Paul's Thameslink Station among the former sidings which once accommodated trains for cattle and meat for delivery to Smithfield Meat Market revealed the long-abandoned tunnel in which is the Metropolitan District Brewery, now restored to full working order. When it goes on view to the general public, railway enthusiasts will be interested to inspect its chief source of power for electricity generation, pumping etc, and of boiling water - a former steam locomotive of the Metropolitan Railway superannuated from rail use after only a short active life due to its lack of power and erratic handling. Built to the unusual wheel arrangement of 4-0-4 for the line's original Broad Gauge of 7' 1/4", this Condensing Tank engine was subsequently converted to Standard Gauge giving it a squat, ungainly appearance as its girth is disproportionate to its height. Proving inadequate for passenger trains, it was transferred early on to departmental stock. Drivers described it as (in printable terms) "a pig to cope with", and because of its tendency to issue discordant noises at inopportune moments it was soon dubbed with the nickname of "The Pig & Whistle" (another explanation was a reference to early railway policemen, as the first signalmen were termed) but a politer and equally ironical soubriquet was accepted into the official stock register, and dignified by the still-existing nameplates engraved B. F. DANISHER, that being the name of a contemporary civil servant

Contd. on p.28

PUBS GOING WHOLESOME

Fried foods are out and wholesome home cooking is at the top of the menu, according to Guinness Brewing's pub survey.

The report reveals that since the extension of the licensing hours 18 months ago, more than 50 per cent of pub landlords are taking advantage and serving home cooked meals throughout the day.

Morning coffee and breakfast is now on the menu, along with lunch and evening meals.

And punters are demanding and getting more healthy and nutritious food, with 95 per cent of landlords questioned serving freshly prepared food.

Guinness Brewing has now announced its second Guinness Pure Genius Pub Food Awards, which will be organised into three regional heats, including the South East of England.

Publicans will be asked to enter for one of two dish sections - best traditional dish or best speciality dish.

The judges will be looking for food that is nutritious, wholesome and made from natural ingredients.

If you think your local deserves the top award ask the landlord for an entry form or ring 0279 411774.

If the pub wins and your nomination is drawn at random you too stand to win a holiday.

The closing date for entries is April 30, 1990.

CITY NEWS *Contd.*

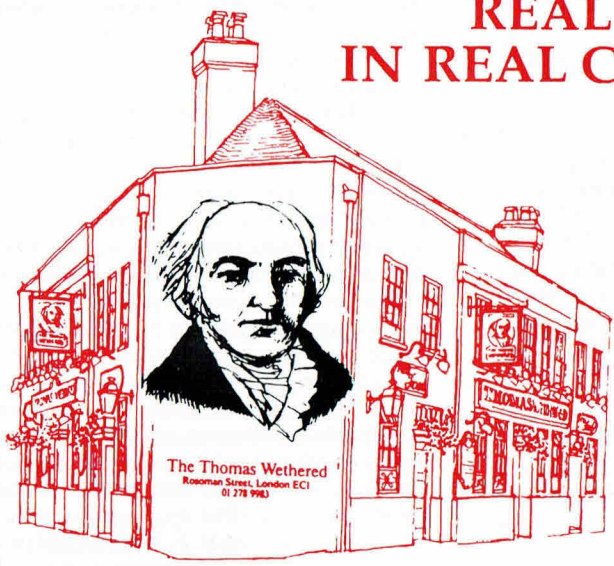
with political pretensions, once described by a knowledgeable detractor as "All hot air and bluster, without the slightest deference to facts".

Soon after installation on site, a permanent piped water connection was made to the fleet culvert, and the firebox was connected to gas-burning, which has now been adapted to take the modern supply. Apart from providing power for machinery, the boiler pre-heats water for the brewing process, and the exhaust provides extra heating as required for the mash tun.

Further details will be published when available. Meanwhile readers are referred to the date on the cover of this issue.

A Prilfull

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

If you are a rambler, take a walk out to Little Missenden for a pint of Hook Norton in the excellent *Crown*, or 1½ miles up the Wycombe road to one of Benskins' best country pubs, the *Queens Head* at Whielden Gate.

(c) Chesham. If you think I've been rather rude about Benskins so far ... well you'd better divert your eyes because now I'm going to be very rude. The Benskins pubs in Chesham are crap, C.R.A.P., crap. They own virtually all the pubs in central Chesham. Most are very dull and boring, the *Cock* has been refurbished well, the *Waggon and Horses* has interesting and friendly people in it but the other six are ... crap. Take the *George and Dragon* for instance. An old coaching inn with a lovely exterior, an original sign and loads of low beams. "They" (who, I don't know) have decided to nail loudspeakers to the 400-year-old oak beams, and have completely ruined the character of the place.

The exception to the dross is a pub worth an hour's journey and the fare all on its own. The *Queens Head* in Old Chesham (near the church) is actually owned by Benskins but for some miraculous reason is leased to Brakspears. It is a joy to look at and to drink in. Two lovely distinct bars; the lounge has much brass and a unique collection of tickets over the bar and the public has a wonderful fireplace. Taped music and a fruit machine offend CAMRA's high-order, but they are usually reassured by the gentlemen's outside lavatory and the story of how the fruit machine once "walked" along the corridor and ended up in the River Chess outside.

(f) Chalfont and Latimer and Chorleywood. I'll include these two smaller stops for those who fancy a walk. Chalfont only has the totally neglected *Sugar Loaves* by the station, but Chorleywood has several good pubs. Come out of the back entrance and walk through the car park down to Chorleywood Bottom, and you have the excellent *Old Shepherd*, a friendly Benskins pub and Good Beer Guide regular. A lengthy walk across the common will take you to the *Black Horse*, another old Benskins house which also does guest beers. Also worth checking out is the *Rose and Crown* on the edge of the common.

If you take a decent map and walking gear with you, many country pubs are within a healthy stride. Between the two stations lies the pretty hamlet of Chenies, with a swanky hotel bar the *Bedford Arms* and a regulation Benskins pub, the GBG-listed *Red Lion*. Beyond lies the Chess Valley. There is now an 'official' walk along this lovely, open gentle valley and tiny lanes which lead up to the villages of Flaunden, Belsize and Sarratt. Flaunden has the *Green Dragon*, a free house with its tasteful redevelopment of the lounge and preserved tiny public bar. The *Bricklayers* is worth a visit, but has been extensively redeveloped recently.

Belsize has the *Plough*, a pleasant Benskins pub, and Sarratt has two of Benskins best pubs in the area - the unique three-bar *Cock*, by the church and the more modern (internally) *Boot* by the green. There is also the *Cricketers*, a local's pub which serves Courage ales.

So you can see that 'metroland' can offer a great variety of pubs and locations. It's just a pity that there isn't much choice in the beers available. However, there is certainly something for everyone. Happy Travelling!

John Garwell

TRAFALGAR

High Path
Wimbledon · SW19

2 mins S. Wimbledon
tube station

A small Freehouse with
traditional atmosphere
and no music

Regular beers include
**BASS, GALES,
FULLERS, YOUNGS,
KING & BARNES,**
plus guest Ales
also **HACKER-PSCHORR**

Try our famous
Steak Sandwich with
your pint

DRINKING IN OXTED

OXTED is a very interesting village in the Surrey stockbroker belt, Old Oxted has many old buildings and four of the five pubs in the village. It is easily reached by train - East Grinstead/Uckfield Line from London Bridge or Victoria.

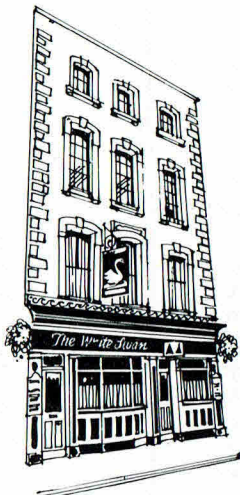
Coming out of the station turn left into Station Road West, which has the tudor cinema and other tudor buildings, at the roundabout go straight over, continue to the main, but now quiet A25, under the subway and you are in Old Oxted (or the village as locals call it) Continue to the Old Bell a Chef and Brewer pub, a very old building with traditional oak beams, Ruddles Best, County and Yorkshire are the beers on offer. I selected Ruddles Best, and it was in fine form; it has a carvery, there are no games played and it opens at 12 noon. Continue a few paces back and you come to the George Inn a three-interconnecting bar pub selling IPA and Bass, again the beer was in fine form. This is the oldest pub in the village and formerly a Good Beer Guide regular; Quizzes are held here on Tuesdays. Down the hill to The Crown, a freehouse selling Pilgrim Surrey and Progress, Young's Ordinary, Adnam's

Bitter and Ruddles Best. This is the best range in the area, and the current GBG entry is well deserved, the Pilgrim's was superb. There is a wine bar upstairs which also sells real ale, good grub at lunch times, definitely well worth visiting, a very friendly locals pub. If you can get away from here continue down the hill to the Wheatsheaf where Tetley's and Friary Meux Best are on offer. One of the most attractive pubs in Old Oxted, extensive menu, at lunch times, this is a very friendly local, pool and darts are available in the games area, like the other pubs the Friary Meux was again in fine fettle. From here go back towards the station passing the cricket ground on your left, until you reach the Hoskins a freehouse offering Harvey BB, Wadworth 6X, Young's Special and Ruddles County. A very modern building near both station and cinema, and with a split level bar. It is a keen darts pub opposite the cricket green, very noisy at times, one of busiest pubs in the area, the range often changes but Harvey's is always available. Opens 5pm evenings. The station is 2 minutes away and trains are 14 past the hour after nine back to London.

Eagle Eyed

**Whatever your taste
whatever your style**

The White Swan
14 New Road
London
WC2



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



...at a
CHARRINGTON
house.

Where to buy Continued

SW3 ROSE
SW3 SURPRISE
SW4 RAILWAY
SW4 ROSE & CROWN
SW6 DUKE OF CUMBERLAND
SW6 WHITE HORSE
SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS
SW8 SURPRISE
SW8 PLOUGH
SW8 PRIORY ARMS
SW10 FERRET & FIRKIN
SW11 BEEHIVE
SW11 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE
SW11 PRINCE OF WALES
SW11 WOODMAN
SW12 DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE
SW12 NIGHTINGALE
SW12 PRINCE OF WALES
SW14 HARE & HOUNDS
SW14 RAILWAY TAVERN
SW15 FOX & HOUNDS
SW15 JOLLY GARDENERS
SW15 WHITE LION
SW16 GENEVIEVE
SW16 GREYHOUND
SW16 PIED BULL
SW17 CASTLE
SW17 LEATHER BOTTLE
SW18 COUNTY ARMS
SW18 OLD SERGEANT
SW18 THE GRAPES
SW18 SPREAD EAGLE
SW19 ALEXANDRA
SW19 GROVE
SW19 KINGS HEAD
SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL
SW19 PRINCE OF WALES, 98
Morden Road, S. Wimbledon
SW19 TRAFALGAR
CHESSINGTON, NORTH STAR
KINGSTON, CARDINAL
KINGSTON, COCOANUT
KINGSTON, DRUIDS HEAD
KINGSTON, FLAMINGO
BREWERY COMPANY
KINGSTON, KELLY ARMS
KINGSTON, NEWT & FERRET
KINGSTON, WYCH ELM
MITCHAM, RAVENSBUARY ARMS
NEW MALDEN, RAILWAY
RICHMOND, ORANGE TREE
RICHMOND, RED COW
RICHMOND, SHAFESBURY
ARMS
RICHMOND, WHITE CROSS
RICHMOND, WHITE HORSE
SURBITON, BUN SHOP
SURBITON, VICTORIA
WEYBRIDGE, PRINCE OF WALES,

Oatlands Park
W1 ARGYLL ARMS
W1 RED LION Kingly Street
W2 ARCHERY TAVERN
W2 ROYAL STANDARD
W3 KINGS ARMS
W3 KINGS HEAD
W3 RED LION & PINEAPPLE
W4 BELL & CROWN
W4 WINDMILL
W5 FOX & GOOSE
W5 GREYSTOKE
W5 PLOUGH
W5 RED LION
W6 BLACK LION
W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL
W6 RICHMOND ARMS
W7 ROYAL VICTORIA
W7 VIADUCT
W9 TRUSCOTT ARMS
W10 NARROW BOAT
W10 VILLAGE INN
W11 FROG & FIRKIN
W12 CROWN & SCEPTRE
W13 THE FORESTER
W13 KENT HOTEL
BRENTFORD, LORD NELSON
BRENTFORD - NEW INN
BRENTFORD - NORTH STAR
CRANFORD, QUEENS HEAD
GREENFORD, BLACK HORSE
HAMPTON HILL, WINDMILL
HAMPTON COURT, KINGS ARMS
HARLINGTON, CROWN
HARMONDSWORTH, CROWN
HAYES, ROYAL STANDARD
HILLINGDON, RED LION
HILLINGDON, STAR
HOUNSLOW, BEAVER
HOUNSLOW, CHARIOT
HOUNSLOW, CROSS LANCES
HOUNSLOW, EARL RUSSELL
SOUTHALL, BEACONSFIELD ARMS
SOUTHALL, SCOTSMAN
SOUTHALL, THREE HORSESHOES
SUDBURY, BLACK HORSE
TEDDINGTON, QUEEN DOWAGER
TWICKENHAM, EEL PIE
TWICKENHAM, POPE'S GROTT
TWICKENHAM, PRINCE ALBERT
WHITTON, ADMIRAL NELSON

OFF TRADE

W11 GROGBLOSSOM

CLUBS

W1 Polytechnic of Central London
S.U. Bar, 104 Bolsolver Street
W3 LT District Line Social Club,
Park Place

OUTSIDE LONDON

BRIGHTON, NOBLES BAR, New
Road
BRIGHTON, HAND IN HAND,
Upper St James Street.
BRIGHTON, QUEENS HEAD,
Opposite Station.
COLCHESTER, ODD ONE OUT, 28
Mersea Road.
ELLAND (Yorks), BARGE &
BARREL.
HITCHIN (Herts), NEW FOUND
OUT INN, Stevenage Road.
LEWES, BREWERS ARMS, High
Street.
MANCHESTER, JOLLY ANGLER,
Ducie Street
PETERBOROUGH, BOGART'S,
North Street
POTTERS BAR (Herts), CHEQUERS,
Coopers Lane.
READING, GROG SHOP (Off
Licence), London Road
READING, WARWICK ARMS,
Kings Road
READING, HOOK & TACKLE,
Katesgrove Lane.
SALISBURY (Wilts), WYNDHAM
ARMS, Estcourt Road.
SHREWSBURY, ADMIRAL
BENBOW,
10 Swan Hill
STEVENAGE (Herts) RED LION,
High Street, Old Town.
SOUTHAMPTON, JUNCTION INN,
Priory Road, St Denys.
SUNBURY - HARE & HOUNDS, 132
Vicarage Road
TILLINGHAM (Essex), CAP &
FEATHERS, South Street.
WINCHESTER, BELL,
St. Cross Road
WORTHING (Sussex), WHEAT-
SHEAF, Richmond Road.
WORCESTER, BREWERY TAP &
BREWERY, 50 Lowesmoor
WORTHING, VINE,
Tarring High Street

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