

May
1990

LONDON



25p

DRINKER

**GUEST
BEERS
ARRIVE**

See P.3

See P.3
and 23

**BODDINGTON
UNDER
THREAT**

Vol 12

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

No 4

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 BETSY TROTWOOD
EC1 CITY PRIDE
EC1 EAGLE
EC1 HAND & SHEARS
EC1 HORSESHOE
EC1 PHEASANT & FIRKIN
EC1 SEKFORDE ARMS
EC1 THOMAS WETHERED
EC2 FLEETWOOD
E1 FISH & RING
E2 SHIP & BLUE BALL
E9 ROYAL STANDARD
E10 DRUM
E11 NORTHCOTE
E14 QUEENS HEAD
E17 COLLEGE ARMS
E17 COPPERMILL
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 PERCY ARMS
WC1 PAKENHAM ARMS
WC1 PRINCESS LOUISE
WC1 RUGBY TAVERN
WC1 SUN
WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR
WC2 GEORGE IV
WC2 LYCEUM
N1 COMPTON ARMS
N1 EARL OF RADNOR
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
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
NW9 GEORGE
NW9 J.J. MOONS
NW10 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS
HAREFIELD, PLOUGH
HARROW, KINGSFIELD ARMS

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 MORPETH ARMS
SW1 ORANGE BREWERY
SW1 PAVOURS ARMS
SW1 RED LION
SW1 UNICORN, Victoria Place
(above Station Concourse)
SW2 HOPE & ANCHOR
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

Continued on p31

EDITORIAL

By the time you read this the tenant of your Big Five pub should be free to choose one cask conditioned (real) beer from any supplier of his choosing. I covered this subject in some depth last month and so do not propose to say much more until we see just what the effect on the availability of different beers in our pubs is. I would just like to suggest, however, that if you drink in a pub owned by Allied (Benskins, Taylor Walker etc.), Charrington, Courage, Watney or Whitbread you have a chat with the landlord. If he is a tenant (i.e. self employed businessman who rents his pub from the brewery) rather than a manager (a brewery employee) it may be profitable to ask him whether he is intending to take a guest beer and whether he will be obtaining it from an independent source. The brewers themselves will almost certainly be quite happy to let their tenants believe that they can only buy in those "guest" beers that they themselves distribute.

Anyway, enough on that subject for now and on to something slightly different. At the National AGM of the Campaign for Real Ale, held at Norwich over the weekend before Easter, much discussion centred on two major subjects both of which are likely to have serious consequences for anybody interested in drinking the beer of his own choosing. The first was the proposed swap of pubs for breweries between Grand Metropolitan (Watney) and Elders IXL (Courage) about which I wrote at some length last month. CAMRA's National Executive has approached the Monopolies and Mergers Commission about this cynical move to try to evade the new laws affecting major breweries and is fairly hopeful that it will be blocked. After all when Elders tried to take over Scottish & Newcastle in 1988 the MMC blocked that move before going on to produce their famous report; the rest, as they say is history. The proposed Grand Met/Elders move would have a much more far reaching effect than the take over of S&N, after all.

The other topic was the impending closure of Higson's brewery in Liverpool by Whitbread following their buy out of the brewing side of Boddington's, who took over Higson's in 1985. Whitbread took over Boddies' breweries because they wanted a high profile brand to sell

throughout the country in a similar way to Watney with Ruddle's and Webster's; Courage with John Smith's and Allied with Tetley's. Boddington's, on the other hand, seemingly wanted more money to finance the expansion of their new interest - old peoples homes. (No jokes about a natural progression from the public bar please.)

At the same time Whitbread are closing the Fremlin's brewery at Faversham which was reported to be having yeast contamination problems last summer. This is the second time in a couple of years that Whitbread have closed two breweries in one go. In 1988 they closed both Wethered's of Marlow and Chester's of Manchester at the same time. If they don't want to keep the breweries they have why do they keep buying more?

"Why does all this concern London drinkers?" you may ask. Remember that if these closures go ahead without protest in the strongest terms there is no knowing where Whitbread may look next to increase their market share - and utilisation of their spare brewing capacity. Through their investments company, Whitbread own substantial proportions (between about 20 and 40 per cent) of many of the independent breweries in this country, among them are such favourites as Brakspear's and Marston's, not forgetting one of London's favourites down in the wilds of Chiswick, Messrs. Fuller, Smith and Turner. Where will they turn their beady eyes next?

The Merseyside Branch of CAMRA are up in arms over the loss of their local brewery and are circulating pledges to all and sundry for them (you) to sign and return to them stating that you will not drink any Whitbread beers especially Boddington's. We printed that in last month's London Drinker and we shall continue to support Merseyside Branch in their efforts. On a personal note, I was quite gratified to hear from a couple of them at the National AGM that Whitbread were quite taken aback at our support for them; it seems that what we write in London Drinker is read by some fairly senior people in the brewing industry.

Contd. on p 5

BRUCE'S BREWERY

David Bruce's second Brewpub will turn 10 years old on the 24th May and to celebrate we're having a party.

A T-shirt party, to be exact;
a Bruces T-Shirt Party:

The Firkin T Shirt or Sweat Shirt
judged on the night to be the oldest or
rarest wins 72 pints of the special
birthday brew!

Come along and be in it!

'For Fox Sake Buy Me A Firkin Pint'



Limited edition
birthday T-shirts
will be available
on the night.

316 Lewisham High Street, London SE13
Tel: 01-690 8925

Dog Bolter is
Ten Years
Old in
Lewisham

'FO 'X' YEARS THERE'S BEEN FIRKIN BEER HERE

Dear Mr Pirson

I have today received a copy of an article which appeared in The London Drinker - March 1990 issue.

The article, by Mick Lewis, claims that you used "very expensive private investigators" to track down a couple of East Anglian cidermakers.

Mick could have saved himself some cash and bought another pint or two if he had looked through some old back numbers of The London Drinker. The December 85/January 86 issue contained a full page write-up of our ciders. We have been making our "James White" Suffolk Cider and our "October Gold" Vintage Cider for over ten years. Each year we make more than the previous one. Each year we spread our wings a little further, though to be fair it is rather a well kept secret and only widely available throughout East Anglia. Our cider IS NOT BROWN, SWEET AND FIZZY, it is very dry, very still (looking and tasting more like dry white wine), it is matured in oak casks. Rather strangely for a cider it is made from apples; NOT A CONCOCTION OF IMPORTED CONCENTRATES AND CHEMICALS. We understand that this may be unfashionable but we work on the principle that if we do not sell it we would have to drink it ourselves and who would want to drink Woodpecker or Strongbow???

The strong tradition for cider in East Anglia is not dying, quite the reverse. People are finding that cider made from cooking and eating apples which has always been the East Anglian way is more pleasing. After all the West Country Ciders are only made from Cider Bitters because there is nothing else you can do with them!!! (Only joking, boys!). Like fine wines, we Brits have a choice of good quality drinks made from a different variety of fruit which varies from region to region. Apart from one or two small producers who have started recently there is of course Aspoll's, near Debenham.

I would suggest that Mick tries to claim a refund from his Private Eye as soon as possible. He obviously never crossed the M25 (who can blame him!!).

Michael G. Hall

The Suffolk Apple Juice and Cider Co. Ltd.

Mick Lewis replies:

Having managed the cider bar at Norwich Beer Festival in 1988, I was not happy with the general quality of the James White Cider. In my opinion only one of the nine barrels they supplied were in perfect condition. Seven, in my opinion, were on the verge of going hard, and one barrel was hard and was returned. The Festival was, of course, informed of the situation.

Subsequently, I have been unwilling to order James White at the Festivals at which I have been involved with the ordering, as I have been unable to guarantee the quality of the product. It seems that the company cannot guarantee it either, particularly worrying when they are supplying a CAMRA Festival where customers have come to expect the quality of the beers and ciders to at least be in reasonable condition. I also wonder what statistics can be shown to prove the statement, "People are finding that cider made from cooking and eating apples is more pleasing"?

Regarding the tradition of cider in East Anglia, it is certainly true to say that there are fewer producers than there were in the past, as apples equally to Hampshire and Wiltshire for example.

Lastly, our private investigators have so far discovered over 200 cidermakers, including James White, and a selection of these will be available at C.A.P.E. so I think that it was money well spent!

Cheers,

EDITORIAL *Contd.*

I intended writing something this month about facilities for families in pubs, and gardens in particular, as we are looking to the longer, and hopefully warmer, evenings around now. I seem to have run out of space, though, because of matters somewhat weightier, though not necessarily more important to the family man who likes to go out for a drink with his loved ones. If you have any points you would like to make on gardens, or maybe the odd bouquet to hand out, or perhaps even a brickbat or two - metaphorical in both cases, we should like to hear from you. For example do your children prefer swinging from a traditional wooden structure or sliding down the trunk of a fibreglass elephant?

Andy Pirson

Dear Editors,

I recently obtained a copy of CAMRA's recent leaflet for publicans, "The Guest Beer" which states that if you are a tenant of a brewer with more than 2,000 pubs, "You are free to buy one brand of cask conditioned beer (real ale) from whomsoever you choose. This is the guest beer of your choice and is in addition to any other guest beer you might choose to buy from your brewery price list."

However the Young's Brewery magazine, Ram News for March 1990 (No. 13) has an article about Young's policy and tactics to sell their beers in this manner:

"Directors of Youngs have already been holding talks with their counterparts at some of the Big Five companies about arrangements for distribution, warehousing and delivery.

"Management Director, Patrick Read, says 'We are encouraging tenants who want to take our beers to make their arrangements through their own breweries so that administration and other costs can be kept to a minimum on all sides.'"

Is such an arrangement within the letter (if not the spirit) of the law? When does a beer from another brewery cease to be a guest beer?

Colin Price
Linton Road, Barking

Editors' Reply:

The facts are as stated in the leaflet you have read - a tenant of a Big Five (no longer Big Six since S&N ducked out by selling some pubs) pub can buy one guest beer from anybody. There is, however, nothing in the new law to stop the breweries from expanding the range of beers they offer by taking beers from other brewers - some have been doing this for quite a while already. For example Allied pubs have been selling Young's Bitter; Whitbread pubs have been selling Brakspear's and Marston's Pedigree and, a long time ago, Watneys came to a similar arrangement with Ruddles before they bought them out.

What the new ruling will not allow is for the Big Five brewers to insist that their tenants take their guest beers from these expanded ranges. Of course some will do so, as this will save them the trouble of ordering their guest beer from a separate company. That way, however, they would only get the "guest beers" from those companies with whom their parent companies choose to make deals.

I can see Mr Read's point that he will only have to deliver his beer to a single point to serve a number of pubs, but on the other hand he will have to make the deal in the first place, no doubt at hefty discounts, and then he will have no direct contact with the tenants to see whether his beer will be being sold in the condition that he would wish.

Andy Pirson

**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**

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned, please ring the Branch Contact. Dates for May of which we have been notified are given below. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson. Branch Contacts page 21.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Fri 4 (8.00) Friday Social. **PLOUGH**, Beddington (Public Bar) - Thu 10 SE25 Crawl. Start **GOAT HOUSE** (dep. 9.00), 2 Penge Road then **SHIP**; **ALBION** and **PORT MANOR** - Thu 17 Carshalton Two Pub Social. **LORD PALMERSTON** (dep. 9.15), 31 Mill Lane then **RAILWAY TAVERN**, North Street - Tue 22 (8.00) Branch Meeting. **VICTORIA CROSS**, 228 Bensham Lane, Thornton Heath - Tue 5 Jun Crystal Palace Crawl. Start **WHITE HART** (dep. 9.00), 96 Church Road then **CAMBRIDGE** and **ROYAL ALBERT**.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 1 (8.00) Branch Meeting. **SEKFORDE ARMS**, 34 Sekforde Street, EC1. All welcome - Wed 9 (8.00) Plaistow Social. **BLACK LION**, 59 High Street, E13 - Tue 15 (8.00) Committee Meeting. **WHITE HORSE**, 40 White Horse Road, E1 - Mon 21 (5.30) City Crawl. Start **BLACK FRIAR**, 174 Queen Victoria Street then **HOOP & GRAPES** (6.30), 80 Farrington Street; **YEOLDE MITRE TAVERN** (7.30), Ely Court - June Branch Meeting will be at the **FOREST GATE**, 105 Godwin Road, E7. Date to be announced.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Tue 1 (9.00) Two Pub Social in Clay Hill, Enfield. **ROSE & CROWN** then **FALLOW BUCK** (10.00) - Wed 9 (8.30) Informal Branch Meeting. **MITRE**, 58 High Street, Barnet - Thu 17 (9.00) Two Pub Social in Finchley. **BALD FACED STAG**, 69 High Road then **WELCH BROTHERS**, 130 High Road - Wed 23 (9.00) Waterside Social. **GREYHOUND**, 425 Ordnance Road, Enfield Lock - Thu 31 (9.00) Two Pub Social. **WOODMAN**, 128 Bourne Hill, N14 then **DOG & DUCK**, 74 Hoppers Road, N21 - Tue 5 June (9.00) Joint Social with North London Branch. **NELSON**, High Road, Wood Green, N22 - Wed 13 Jun (8.30) **BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. **GREEN DRAGON**, 889 Green Lanes, N21.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Wed 9 (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Guildford start at **STAR** - Sat 12 (5.00) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Reigate start at **YEW TREE** - Mon 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting **NORTH STAR** Chessington - Wed 16 (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Redhill start **PLOUGH** - Mon 21 (8.00) Inn Rally start **COCOANUT KINGSTON** - Wed 30 (7.30) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Epsom start **KINGS ARMS** - Thur 31 (8.30) Social **LIVERPOOL ARMS** Kingston - Wed 6 June (6.30) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Leatherhead start **ROYAL OAK** - Sat 16 (6.30) Dorking Beer Festival Crawl of Dorking start **BUSH**.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 3 (8.30) Social. **JOLLY FARMER**, 177 Lampton Road, Hounslow - Thu 10 (8.30) Committee Meeting. **NEW INN**, 1 New Road, Brentford - Mon 21 (8.30) Branch Meeting. **GEORGE**, 32 King Street, Twickenham.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Fri 4 (6.15) Joint social/Pub Crawl with Aylesbury Vale & Wycombe Branch. Start **OLD THAMESIDE INN**, Clink Street, SE1 - Tue 8 (8.00) Committee/Branch Meeting. **RICHARD 1ST**, 52 Royal Hill, SE10 - Thu 31 (7.30) **GRAF '89** Charity Cheque Presentation to the Brook Hospital. **RED LION**, Red Lion Place, Shooters Hill, SE18.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX: Wed 2 (8.30) Branch Meeting. **FOXHOUND**, 18 High Street (B188), Orsett - Fri 4 to Mon 7 **ONGAR BEER FESTIVAL** - Wed 9 (8.30) Out of Area Social. **FOX**, Great Waltham Road, Mashbury (OS: TL650127) - Fri 18 (7.30 at Brewery) **BREWERY TRIP TO MORRELLS**, Oxford. Details/bookings: Wendy Benson, Tel: Romford 723897 - Thu 24 (8.30) Social. **ROEBUCK INN**, Roebuck Lane (Near A121) Buckhurst Hill - Wed 30 (8.30) Social. **NEW INN**, Squirrels Heath Lane (A118), Gidea Park.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tue 1 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting (AGM arrangements). **GARDENERS ARMS**, 268 Merton Road, SW18 - Wed 2 (8.00) Joint Social with West London Branch. **BROOK GREEN HOTEL**, Shepherds Bush Road, W6 - Thu 10 (8.00) **BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. **SPREAD EAGLE**, 71 Wandsworth High Street, SW18 - Sun 20 Cricket Match vs **SPBW**, Battersea Park. Meet at **DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE** (1.00), 228 Battersea Bridge Road, SW11. Phone Branch Contact or come to Committee Meeting if you wish to play - Tue 24 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting (To agree responsibilities). **PRINCE OF WALES**, 270 Cabendish Road, SW12.

WEST LONDON: Thu 17 (NOTE REVISED DATE) (8.00) **BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. **WHITE HORSE**, 1 Parsons Green, SW6 - Wed 2 (8.00) Joint Social with South West

Contd. 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

WOODHOUSE FREEHOUSE
Thetford Road, New Malden

YE OLDE BRIDGE HOUSE
215 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1

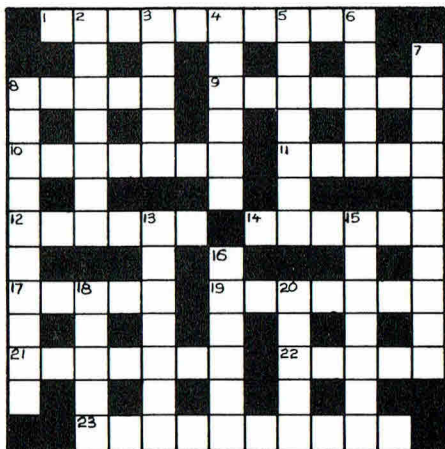
King & Barnes

FINE SUSSEX ALES

LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



ACROSS

1. Arrest a nut going berserk here? [10]
8. Find man quietly inside tree. [5]
9. He may receive corporal punishment though not public. [7]
10. Consumed in home becoming extremely tidy. [7]
11. Torrent or vanishing river? [5]
12. He sounds sincere but he's not. [6]
14. Southern élite making great noise. [6]
17. By way of having half tool or instrument. [5]
19. Cannot even provide eating place. [5]
21. Line egg up while half dressed? [7]
22. East European returns to nothing but shapes. [5]
23. Candle is near the Yorkshire beer. [5,5]

DOWN

2. I involved in previous plot? Give reasons. [7]
3. Three found scattered yonder. [5]
4. It's hard to control increased sympathy..... [6]
5. when I have a spasm from the east. [7]
6. At heart quite a sensitive irritation. [5]
7. Statements about good book sections. [10]
8. Worker in the Irish sea? [10]
13. Looking, apparently, for Neptune. [3,4]
15. Is one browbeaten by it? [7]
16. Stressed from having money on account. [6]
18. Could you play it by ear? [5]
20. She may be off in a mo. [5]

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 30th May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

All entries to be submitted to:

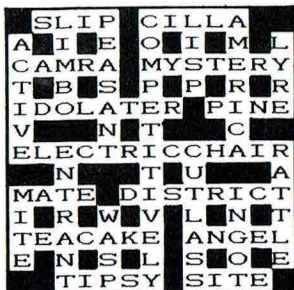
London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

Last Month's Solution



Winner of the prize for the March crossword:

Phil Kempton, 36 Avenue Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9TY.

Other correct entries were received from: Anagram, Geoff B., John Bonser, Ivor Boys, Brendan Casey, A.P. Comaish, John Edwards, Ian Fairweather, Elaine Glover, Eileen Graves, J.E. Green, 'Arry Hart, Alison Henley, Odd John (Colchester), John Lay, Mrs. G.M. Lines, Jim Mason, Daisy May, S. Monteath, Maura Mullington, Mr. D. Oddy, Tina O'Reilly, R. Prince, L.D. Schildish, Bryan Smith, Martin Smith, Glyn Thomas, Martin Weedon, P. & G. Tuhey, Nigel Wheatley, Chris Whithouse.

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

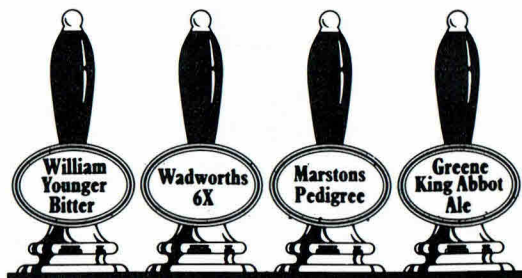
TURNPIKE LANE
THE TOLL GATE
26-30 Turnpike Lane N8

Final (Vital) question: What do they provide?

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



767 High Road Finchley
London N12 8LB



THE BREWERS DRAY

The above name may well be familiar to many of you as a joint venture set up a few years ago by a number of smaller breweries in order to make their distribution within London more economical. The founding members of the organisation were Adnams, Everards, Godsons and Ruddles.

The company worked quite efficiently for a while delivering these breweries' products to free houses but it did have some disadvantages. The main one was that although all the beers arrived on one dray, the publican had to order them separately from each brewery whose product he wished to receive - that could mean four orders for one delivery.

However, the organisation started to come apart at the seams when Tony Ruddle sold his company (and his soul, some say) to Grand Metropolitan to become a couple of Big Six brand names (albeit still brewed at Oakham - so far) and Patrick Fitzpatrick of Godsons disappeared in 1987 though his beers were brewed for a while by Gibbs Mew in Salisbury (they still brew Chudley Local Line Bitter - the last remnant of the Godson Chudley tie up).

This left just Adnams and Everards which was not really large enough to operate its own transport economically and the company went into decline. It did not disappear completely though, and Brewers Dray liveried trucks could be seen around London operated by other beers agencies under licence. This also led to some difficulties which were not fully overcome until a newly constituted Brewers Dray was set up.

So much for the history, what of Brewers Dray today? Well for a start it is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Adnams Plc where I recently spent a very pleasant day sampling the odd beer and finding out about the new setup from Sales Manager, Barry Hann. The main advantage to the customer is that there is a single ordering point for all of the beers available. This is based at Adnams' brewery in Southwold and operates through a free telephone number (0800 585582 for any interested landlords) so that customers do not have to pay for long distance telephone calls - or any calls, for that matter. The brewers whose products are currently available through Brewers Dray

(apart from Adnams of course) are Beamish, Cameron, Everard, Wadworth and Charles Wells. Negotiations are under way with two more brewers to join the scheme but that will then be about the lot; they do not want a portfolio that is too large to control properly. Although Brewers Dray is wholly owned by Adnams, other brewers who join in the organisation also provide salesmen who work as an overall team travelling round London obtaining custom so the organisation operates as something of a cooperative in this respect. The trading area of the company is basically the area bounded by the M25 though accounts just outside the motorway will not be turned down. Distribution is now handled through two wholesalers in both of which Adnams has a controlling interest. They are Manifold Group, based at Heathrow, who deliver to outlets north of the Thames and Pope and Hayward of Maidstone who delivery south of the river. Each maintains a lorry in Brewers Dray livery provided by Brewers Dray. Through other independent wholesalers Brewers Dray also deal with accounts in Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire and through reciprocal trading arrangements, based on Brewers Dray, Adnams beers reach outlets in the North, the Midlands and the South West.

Sales Manager, Barry Hann, sees the new legislation which will be in force by the time you read this as a great opportunity to expand the business done by the company as well as the choice of beers available to the drinking public by the access which will be granted to independent brewers by virtue of tenants of Big Six pubs being allowed to obtain one cask conditioned beer from any source they choose. He did, however, express some doubt over the effect of the "unholy alliance" between Elders IXL and Grand Metropolitan, the sole purpose of which seems to be to stop the drinking public from getting what they want in order to maximise their own profits. He stated, "We would like to see more national brewery tenants exercising their rights and taking cask ale of their choice from the supplier of their choice and not entering into any cosy reciprocal deals organised by their own breweries, which could be seen to be against the spirit of the MMC report."



We reproduce below another of the entries for the Writers' Competition

**CHAPPEL BEER FESTIVAL 7.9.89 OR
TWO RAILWAYMEN IN A TRAIN - APOLS TO JJK**

One of the great delights of the Colne Valley Railway beer festival is the leisurely, unhurried atmosphere; just sitting around in old railway carriages that are going nowhere and enjoying a glass of real ale. On the Thursday of the beer festival the only difference between Chappel & Wakes Colne station and Liverpool Street was that at Liverpool Street they serve SKOL!

Observing a passing engine driver we asked him if he was goking to Marks Tey. He replied 'I dunno, there's been a lineside fire at Colchester'. We asked him if he would take us to Marks Tey and passed him a shilling. 'Well' he said 'some trains got to go to Marks Tey and I may as well take you there'. So we joined the train and presently set off in fine style.

There have been many citations to the excellence of ale brewed at Romford and we were privileged to admire a concrete edifice with illuminated writing on the roof telling the passing traveller how to enjoy a 'long life'. During this 30 minute interregnum - signal failure at Gidea Park - we were able to observe the behaviour of our fellow travellers and the obvious comfort they gained from a green bottled physic labelled 'Messrs Gordons', truly a marvelous medicine

by all accounts. Eventually our trusty driver delivered us to the platform at Marks Tey. This came as quite a surprise to the Station Master as it seemed that at Liverpool Street there were many foreign persons enquiring the whereabouts of the Harwich Boat train. After some confusion the branch line train deposited us at Chappel only 3 hours after leaving London - a great improvement on the stage I'm sure you agree.

And so to one of the nicest local beer festivals we know. A good selection of reasonably priced beers catering for all tastes, Cider, Mild, Bitter and would you like something for the train home sir? Indeed while watching the moon rise over the Essex countryside drinking a glass of Abbot on a later summer evening you can almost feel the presence of Benjamin Greene. As the train pulled into Liverpool Street (45 minutes late) we can only attribute the strange sight that we noted to several glasses of Mauldens Blackadder - A person of the better class tearing a piece of metal from the wall and vandalizing it. On closer inspection we saw that the metal plate was inscribed - Thank you for travelling Network South East.

B.R. Mildanbitter

IDLE MOMENTS

Did you hear about the dyslexic agnostic with insomnia? Keep reading - it might even get a bit enlightening.

As I mentioned last month, I have received a sizeable contribution from Steve Bremner of Westminster. I shall reproduce his covering letter as it implies nice things about me (I think) and so as not to disrupt the cohesion of his work, I shall give you the answers to last month's puzzles first in one lump:

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 366 Days in a Leap Year
2. 300,000 Speed of Light (Kilometres Per Second)
3. 15 Pence for Second Class Postage
4. 2240 Pounds in a Ton
5. 80 Days Around the World
6. 11 Downing Street (Official Residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer)
7. 2001 A Space Odyssey
8. 1956 Year of the Melbourne Olympics
9. 29141 Height of Everest (in Feet)
10. 6 Wheels on a London Trolley Bus (except No. 63)

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. REG PILED DOPE | ELDRIDGE POPE |
| 2. YES, JOCK AND | YATES AND |
| SATAN | JACKSON |
| 3. KEN GAINS | KING AND |
| BRAND | BARNES |
| 4. TOWN ON GIRTH | WORTHINGTON |
| 5. RON'S MACE | CAMERONS |

Now for Steve Bremner's letter:

Dear Andy

1. Sag An Arm (anag.)

With breweries being monopolised and merged faster than you can find anagrams of them, I thought you must by now be getting close to exhausting the possibilities.

On the twin principles that beer names are longer and more "anagrammable" than brewery names, and that beers are more fun than brewers, how about some anagrams of the beers themselves. I attach a few anagrams to start the ball rolling - if indeed it's going to roll at all.

2. Number Puzzles

I also enclose a few "Andies", as these puzzles surely ought to be called by now (*Graham Dean*

might disagree - AP), in the hope that one or two might be useful to fill in on a duff month (*They all are*). If you think some of these are iffy, you should have seen the **really** silly ones! (*Yes please - AP*).

Apologies if there are any repetitions of ones already published (*I've sorted them out*) - a chap can't be expected to raise five shillings from his beer money **every** month, y'know! (*Why not? - AP*)

Anyway here are some of Steve's contributions:

BEER ANAGRAMS

The following are anagrams of the names of beers well known to real ale enthusiasts. Things like apostrophes are omitted (**Everyone** hates a drinker with an A-grade in O-level English, don't they?), and the names are not consistent as to whether the brewery name is included or whether 'Bitter' etc. goes on the end; but they are all familiar versions of the brewers' own names for their beers (i.e. no sordid nicknames!) which we would feel at home using when ordering a pint:

1. RED LION POND
2. I SIN FOR LOW LAGER
3. NEEDLES CAT
4. NEW RAM WRITER
5. REPAY MY POOL
6. ORDERLY BIB WETTER
7. IVY RATS
8. GLAD HIGH TIME
9. GREED PIE
10. DO A GROIN ILL

NUMBER PUZZLES

1. 1L on RLS's LJS
2. 2000 less than 20 YTG
3. 8 L (or T) on an O
4. 70 S is a SB, Jimmy
5. 86400 S in a D
6. 38 PPM (25 OP)
7. 3 L on a T (watch the B)
8. 1066 bad Y for E, good OG
9. 240 V of the EM
10. 70 SL on M

There will be more from Mr Bremner next month - you have been warned!

Oh yes! He lay awake all night wondering if there really was a dog.

Andy Pirson

FAR FROM THE LONDON CROWD

On a bright sunny Thursday, members of SE London CAMRA set off on their four day excursion to Dorset. The weather was surprisingly good after the heavy rains earlier in the week. However, extensive flooding was very evident when Dorset was reached. The first stop for lunch was the Milton Arms at Winterborne Whitechurch. Although listed in the current Good Beer Guide, the Cornish JD Dry Hop Bitter was disappointing being hazy and acidic. The Wessex Royal was not available: "it's still cloudy", which is how we would have described the JD bitter! Fortunately the quality of the food more than made up for the beer which everybody subsequently agreed was the only poor pint sampled during the four days.

Dorchester was reached with 40 minutes to spare before the scheduled visit to Eldridge Pope Brewery so quick halves of Dorset IPA were quaffed at the Station Master's House. This beer was excellent as one would hope and expect at a pub within the brewery grounds. The pub's name describes its former function precisely there having been a station adjacent to the brewery until Eldridge Pope arranged for it to be moved. The pub contains many artefacts of undoubted interest to railway enthusiasts.

On arrival at the brewery we were immediately invited to the sample room where we complained bitterly that we wanted to tour the brewery instead of having pints of beer forced down our throats! Eventually our guides Maria and Dorene relented and took us on an excellent one hour trip round the brewery. One of the highlights was an encounter with an employee removing broken shives from casks using a metal stick with a sharp point. This gentleman, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Arthur Askey, told us some very amusing anecdotes which cannot be repeated here.

WITHDRAWAL OF CASK BREATHERS

Whilst we were in the sample room we met Chris Knight, the Marketing Manager, who informed us that cask breathers were about to be removed from about 60 Eldridge Pope pubs. He explained that the breathers were used to maintain consistent quality but having reviewed the policy and, he accepted, listened

to CAMRA, it had been agreed to withdraw them from pubs with high turnover of cask-conditioned beers. These pubs will display special stickers. Chris said he hoped that CAMRA would publicise and welcome this move. In addition, 30 of these 60 pubs would in future be featuring a guest cask-conditioned beer from another brewery. These pubs will display a further sticker "guest ale club". On behalf of CAMRA we applauded the move and celebrated with another sample! When numerous trays of sandwiches and other goodies arrived neither of our guides knew what was happening but a phone call to the nearby Junction Head Hotel revealed that our good friend Paul Stringer, formerly of the Doggett's Coat & Badge at Waterloo, was well aware of our being at the brewery - thank you Paul and more of the Junction Head Hotel later.



The sample room at Eldridge Pope Brewery

After nearly three hours of superb hospitality at the brewery we very reluctantly bade our farewells to Dorene, Maria and Chris. Undoubtedly one of the best brewery trips enjoyed by branch members and thoroughly recommended to others. It was now time to book in at our accommodation; the White Hart, a Hall & Woodhouse pub, which well deserves its listing in the Good Beer Guide. Situated in the centre of Dorchester, with first class hospitality and accommodation provided by Lillian and Brian Slater, the pub is ideal for anybody wishing to stay overnight in historic Dorchester. As an added bonus Ben, a boxer, is one of the friendliest dogs you could wish to meet. The tour members were so captivated by him that he was granted the honour of being allowed to appear in the team photograph.



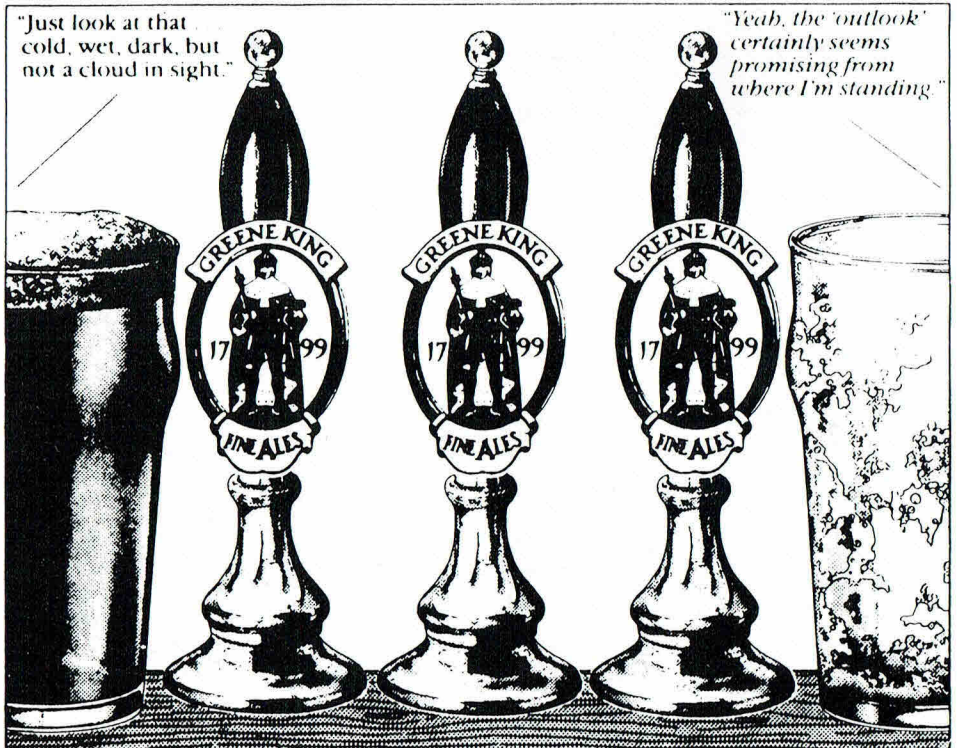
Photo-call with Ben at the White Hart, Dorchester

OH DEAR, OH DEAR! NOT ANOTHER BREWERY VISIT!

The various members of the excursion were having a well earned rest in their bedrooms and thinking about a quiet evening pub crawl

round Dorchester when their indefatigable courier (Dave Sullivan) roused them from their slumbers to announce that an unscheduled trip to the Hall and Woodhouse Brewery at Blandford Forum had been organised - departure in 30 minutes! Brian Slater had arranged a coach trip to the brewery for his regulars, that very evening, and the CAMRA visitors were welcome to join the party, if they wished. Could groans be discerned? Possibly, but everybody was on the coach for the 16 mile journey to the birthplace of Badger Beers.

The group was accompanied around the brewery by retired employee Jim who proved to be a very informative guide. In the sample room Jim was ably assisted by Geoff Pelent, the area manager, in the dispensing of hospitality. It was good to see our own driver, Peter Foord, was taking full advantage of the chance to enjoy a few pints after a very abstemious day. About 2½ hours were spent at the brewery and very popular this unexpected visit proved to be. Then it was a quick return to the White Hart for last orders.



PALMERS BREWERY

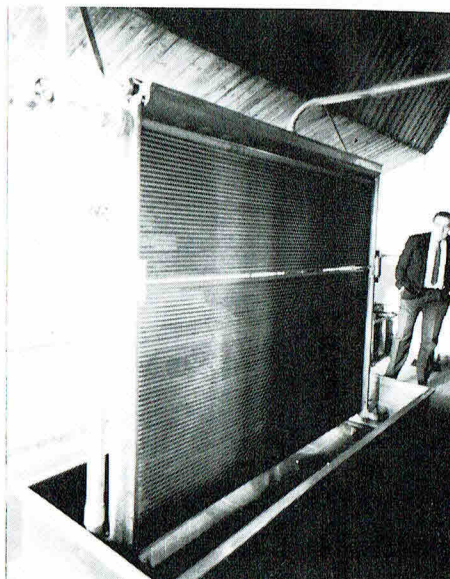
Friday dawned bright and breezy - which cannot be said for SE London CAMRA, but nevertheless a hearty breakfast was consumed with Ben in close attendance. Then off to Bridport for the 11.30 appointment at Palmers Brewery. This visit was undoubtedly the highlight of the excursion. Part of the brewery buildings are thatched, the recently retired head brewer still lives at the brewery house which has an immaculate walled garden and there is an undershot water wheel (now electrically powered following diversion of the R. Brit for flood prevention purposes). Four huge cognac casks where Palmers blend their own whisky, Golden Cap, and many more surprises at this comparatively small brewery. A visit to this brewery is a must for any self-respecting CAMRA member.



The former Cognac casks at Palmers Brewery, now used for whisky blending

Our guide was Tim Woodrow, sales manager, marketing manager and any other job which needs doing! Tim drew our attention to the oldest piece of brewing equipment, an open paraflow, consisting of a large sheet of corrugated copper for cooling the beer. Tim explained that as the beer imitates a waterfall it is well oxygenated and it is believed that this assists the very high attenuation which gives Palmer's beers their characteristic dry hoppy taste. Once more to the sample room, dear friends, for copious supplies of BB, an ideal morning session beer, light but well hopped and full of flavour.

Our final stop at the brewery was the newly built off-licence and products shop where everybody was presented with a large print of the brewery. Stocks of Golden Cap, named



The antique paraflow at Palmers Brewery

after a local landmark, and other items were purchased; the tombola stall at Greenwich this year will have a pronounced Dorset flavour. A short walk from the brewery led to the Crown where the food certainly lived up to Tim's recommendation. Portions were gargantuan and the venison pie was a special delight.

MERYL STREEP SLEPT HERE

The afternoon found the party walking the Cobb at Lyme Regis in search of the French Lieutenant's Woman. By now the weather had deteriorated with squalls and heavy seas; very evocative of local novelist's John Fowles, best-seller. What do you do on a wet afternoon in an English seaside town when the pubs are shut? Of course, you have a Cream Tea or browse round a second-hand bookshop. We did both. The cafe, full of out-of-season visitors, featured in the film of the book and had sepia photographs to prove it whilst the book shop enabled Cliff Cork to add the 1976 Good Beer Guide to his collection.

Meanwhile back in Bridport our fame had gone before us. On announcing ourselves at our overnight stop, the Bull Hotel, we were greeted with "Oh yes, we've heard you were in town". We were beginning to feel like

Millwall supporters. The Bull is a typical market town coaching inn with spacious bedrooms. Owned by the Pursey family, Wadworth's and Palmer's, both in excellent condition, were available - the latter in the guise of the house beer.



*On the Cobb at Lyme Regis in search of
Meryl Streep*

Saturday evening found us touring the Bridport pubs. Worthy of note was the George where the first Palmers Tally Ho of the new decade was sampled and the King's Arms where we were locked in at closing time. The George is well reputed for its food, having been well written up in the Times newspaper. Its choice of music was interesting; jazz and classical. This up-market description did not prevent our being allowed to have a session of double-nine dominoes adjacent to the dining area. Tim Lewis proved to be as lucky as usual, winning most of the games. At the King's Arms we were almost the only customers until about 10.30pm when the locals began to pile in. By closing time the pub was full and we were the first to leave at nearly midnight.



The Bull at Bridport

P.D.S. IN TROUBLE!

Kippers! The ideal breakfast pick-me-up after a heavy evening session. The weather, very damp and misty this morning, nevertheless we decided to make our way back to Dorchester via Chesil Beach and Portland Bill. As expected we could see very little of either and so drove on to Godmanstone, 5 miles north of Dorchester, to visit the Smith's Arms which is one of the claimants for the title of the smallest pub in Britain. On arrival Paul Streatfield immediately upset the landlord by announcing that it was not as small as the Nutshell at Bury St Edmunds. The landlord, John Foster, produced his complimentary copy of the latest edition of the Guinness Book of Records which confirms that whilst the Nutshell has a smaller drinking area the Smith's Arms is a far smaller building. Having apologised to John we were made very welcome and enjoyed some excellent Wessex Bitter served on gravity from stillage behind the bar. John is an ex-National Hunt jockey and at present faces major surgery for injuries sustained when a horse rolled on him - we all wish him the very best of luck.



*The full complement behind the bar of the Smith's
Arms, Godmanstone. Beers served on gravity
hence the absence of hand pumps!*

It was now time to pay our belated respects to Paul Stringer, guvnor of the Junction Head Hotel in Dorchester, and thank him for the food he had laid on during our visit to the Eldridge Pope Brewery. Paul explained to us that when he had moved to Eldridge Pope from the Doggett's Coat & Badge he immediately banned the cask breathers from the Junction Head. In addition to the full range of Eldridge Pope cask-conditioned beers the pub was also serving Everards Tiger under the guest ale

scheme. As one would expect from a licensee who was awarded SE London Pub of the Season whilst at the Doggett's, all the beers were in superb form - a pub for the local CAMRA branch to keep an eye on. The food was also in top form, the shark steak was terrific value at £4.25. One suspects that Paul may have been instrumental regarding Eldridge Pope's change of heart over cask breathers.

CREAM TEAS AND HOVIS

It's raining hard now as we head for our next overnight stop, the Fleur de Lys, a Hall & Woodhouse Good Beer Guide pub, at Cranborne. On the way we stop at Shaftesbury for cream teas and are surprised and delighted to discover that the Ship is still open. It's good to see that some pubs outside the major conurbations are taking advantage of flexible hours but such pubs are very few and far between. The Ship Inn, the building dates from 1605, has not been listed in the Good Beer Guide since 1987 but its Hall & Woodhouse beers were in very good form as they were on the writer's last call in July 1988. The pub is detailed in Neil Hanson's Classic Town Pubs book and is certainly worth a visit. Whilst in Shaftesbury we do the obligatory climb up Gold Hill which was used in the Hovis advert; very atmospheric in the pouring rain!



The malt store at Palmers Brewery

Cranborne is a very small village 10 miles north of Wimborne but it boasts two pubs in the Good Beer Guide, the Fleur de Lys and the Sheaf of Arrows. Both are former coaching inns so one can only assume that the village formerly stood at a busy cross roads. Having booked in at the Fleur de Lys we adjourned to its very cosy public bar, the entire area of the former lounge now being given over to a restaurant, to discover Simon, a member of E.

Dorset CAMRA completing a Good Beer Guide inspection form. Both Simon and the regulars in the Fleur strongly recommended a visit to the Sheaf of Arrows. Since it is only three minutes walk from the Fleur and serves Wadworth 6X we had intended going there anyway. We found it to be much more of a pub than the Fleur which was more food orientated.

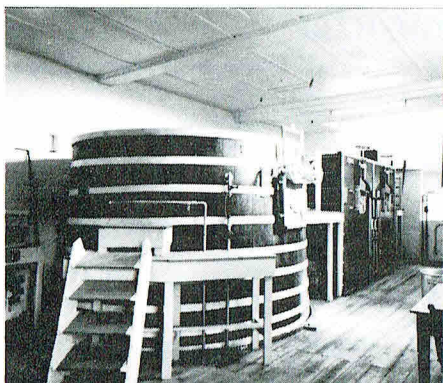
THE TRENCHERMAN BITES AGAIN

The first pint of 6X served to us had a slight haze but whilst we were wondering whether to query it, the barmaid quickly withdrew it. To avoid delay whilst the new cask was being connected to the hand pump she then served us beer on gravity from the cellar - and very nice it was too. Since the landlord was out, the cask was changed over by one David Edmund Jones, one of the pub regulars. We mention his name in full because he was obviously very proud of it, repeating it frequently in case we might have forgotten it. Mr Jones proved to be excellent and amusing company staying with us for over an hour after he should have returned home to his lady-wife. Then it was back to the Fleur de Lys for our, by now, very late evening meal.

The food at the Fleur was, to put it mildly, superb and the Egon Ronay recommendation is well warranted. The portions served to us were huge and most of the group were having difficulty in finishing their meal. It is at times like this that Dave Foord excels himself. Those who have never seen Dave in action cannot really appreciate his appetite, however graphically one may describe his prowess. As one of the group said "Until tonight I never believed the stories I'd heard about Dave's eating capacity!". Suffice it to say that whatever anybody left was eagerly mopped up by him; not a crumb or morsel was left on a table which had been groaning with enough food for fifteen people, never mind the ten who actually sat down.

SUNDAY'S ANOTHER BREWERY!

Sunday morning caused problems: the newsagents in the sleepy village of Cranborne did not open until 10 am and by that time Tim Lewis was suffering severe withdrawal symptoms. Tim, an avid newspaper reader, was finding it difficult to eat his breakfast without a paper propped up against the teapot and after breakfast was to be seen irritably



Fermenting vessels at Palmers Brewery

stomping about the village and peering through the newsagents window. To add to our problems great confusion was experienced in obtaining correct bills for our accommodation; Angie Smith and Eric Martin were given three bills all for different amounts before the hotel staff were able to arrive at the right amount. Eventually all was in order and we were able to listen to "The Archers" as we drove on to Salisbury with the rain pouring down again.

We arrived at the Wyndham Arms in Salisbury at 11.30 am which enabled us to have a quick look round its Hop Back Brewery before opening time. A ten minute walk from here took us to Salisbury's most famous landmark; the Haunch of Venison in Minster Street, not far from the cathedral which also attracts tourists. The Haunch of Venison is a must for any visitor. The building dates from 1320 and the pub has been listed in every Good Beer Guide since the first edition in 1974. On one of its windows it bears every GBG sticker since 1977. As ever the Courage beers were in perfect condition and the two front rooms remained unspoilt. The pub is well described

in Neil Hanson's Classic Town Pubs.

And so back to the Wyndham Arms for our final session of the four day tour. All the beers were in very good form. The Summer Lightning has a very pale colour which belies its strength of 1050. John Gilbert, the brewer/proprietor, told us he would be supplying beers to the Battersea Beerex and the writer can vouch that his Stout, subsequently drunk at Battersea was the best beer consumed at the Festival. Incidentally the Wyndham Arms provides very impressive free snacks Sunday lunch time.



The Wyndham Arms home brew pub at Salisbury

On the way home to London a necessary stop was made at Fleet Services where the last word must go to Matthew Smith who had been suffering for a couple of days with a persistent cough. When he started to cough again whilst at the urinal, somebody expressed sympathy at his affliction, whereupon Matthew, quite innocently and to the hysterical applause of everybody in the gents, agreed "Yeah - I just can't seem to shake this thing!".

Photos accompanying this article courtesy of Carol Sullivan. Any SE London CAMRA members interested in joining the next excursion should keep in touch by attending Branch Meetings.

Dave Sullivan

London Branch. BROOK GREEN HOTEL, Shepherds Bush Road, W6.

WEST MIDDLESEX: Thu 3 (8.30) Social. WINDMILL, Park Way, Ruislip Manor - Fri 11 (8.00) Absentees Birthday Crawl. Start ROSE & CROWN, Church Place, St. Mary's Road, W5 then CASTLE (9.15); RED LION (10.00) - Wed 16 (8.00) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. BEACONSFIELD ARMS, West End Road, Southall (Upstairs Room. Please bring membership cards) - Tue 22 (8.30) Out of Branch Crawl. BULLS HEAD; CITY BARGE (9.15); BELL & CROWN (10.00), all Strand on the Green, W4 - Thu 31 (8.30) London Drinker Pick-up. KINGS HEAD, High Street, Acton, W3.

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

BOOZERS BOOKSHELF

Make sure your liquid library serves full measure. Don't go short of the best of British books. Check this list and ask for a top-up now - at special CAMRA members prices.

BEER, BED & BREAKFAST: Where to sup and stay overnight in Britain's pubs. Edited by Roger Protz. Second edition. **£3.95.**

GOOD CIDER GUIDE: David Kitton's book on Britain's big apple - traditional farmhouse scrumpy. **£3.50.**

PUBS FOR FAMILIES: How to find good pubs that cater for children. Edited by Jill Adam and Neil Hanson. **£3.50.**

NEW BEER GUIDE: Brian Glover's guide to Britain's small brewery revolution, and where to find their beers. **£3.50.**

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TWO BEERS, MY FRIEND WILL PAY: If you've read this far, you'll need a drop of laughter. Try Brian Glover and Neil Hanson's book crammed with pub cartoons and anecdotes. **£2.25.**

*To order your copies, write to **Boozers Bookshelf, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW**, making your cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd. All prices include p & p.*



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I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S) _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

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I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for one year: **U.K.** **£9** ☐

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I/We would like to receive further information about CAMRA ☐

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:
THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, CAMRA LTD., 34 ALMA ROAD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS. AL1 3BW

THE BRIDGE, TOPSHAM

I notice from London Drinker (March 1990), that the best cellarman (cellarkeeper?) in Britain is Mrs Phyllis Cheffers of The Bridge in Topsham, Devon. I thought I'd describe The Bridge for the benefit of those who have not been lucky enough to go there.

The Bridge was my favourite haunt whilst at University in Exeter. It is an unusual pub, and had easily the best real ales in the district. I first saw it at night, and thought it a quaint 17th (?) century house; seen later in daylight, it is quite a shock to find that it is a bright, lurid pink.

The rambling building has a lot of character. There are lots of different rooms, which are opened up according to how busy it is. Some of the rooms have no bar, and getting served means going out into the passage way, and knocking at a door, which opens into the space behind the bar, where several of the residents appear to be drinking. There are no pumps or bar. A bartender will hand you a typed list of the beers, with their o.g.s, and prices. When you make your selection, the bar tender disappears down a short flight of stairs to, presumably the cellar, and returns a little while later with your drinks. You then have to work out some way of paying for the beers, whilst taking them from the bar tender; this involves proffering your ten pound note with your mouth, and having your change put in a convenient pocket for you. (This method of payment sounds quite entertaining - Ed)

No entertainment is provided, no music, no fruit machine or other distraction, but after a few pints of the many beers, there is a lively atmosphere, despite the fact that you feel like you're sitting in someone's front room, with just a few tables and chairs.

Beers on offer alway sincluded Owd Roger, Old Peculier, Old Devil, 6X and about 10 others, all, always, in excellent condition. I remember going there with a lager drinker, and him being disappointed that there was nothing for him to drink. I think they had cider in bottles. The Bridge also offered good food, and a surprising variety of snacks, including the elusive "Steak and Oyster" flavour crisps.

The only problem with The Bridge is that the beers are obviously kept in a cellar, and in the cold parts of winter they could get too cold, so that they were handed to you too cold to taste.

To get to The Bridge either find a teetotal friend with a car (straight through Topsham village and out the other side, over the level crossing) or by the trains which conveniently coincide with closing time (turn right out of Topsham station - ten minutes from Exeter Central - and keep going, past the second hand Skoda Garage, down to the bridge).

Don't miss an evening at The Bridge next time you're in Devon, it's a very special pub.

Piers Todd

.....and yes we've heard all the old Skoda jokes too!! -Ed

BRANCH CONTACTS

BEXLEY	DES WARD	Erith 457156 (H) Orpington 38321 x29 (Wed-Fri only)
BROMLEY	DAVE FOORD	0689 54798 (H)
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ENFIELD & BARNET	LAURENCE FRYER	(081) 203 0710 (H)
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house.

Thanks, Watney - it's the perfect book launch news!

The news that Grand Metropolitan is selling its Watney brewing division is the perfect launch for CAMRA's new guide, *Best Pubs in East Anglia*. Author Roger Protz, who grew up in the Norfolk village of Spooner Row, says that the damage done to pubs and brewing in East Anglia by Watney and the "Norwich Non-Brewing Company" is only now being repaired as independent brewers find new outlets for their beers in the region. Watney, which bought and closed the Norwich breweries of Bullards, Steward & Patteson and Morgans, has now sold its remaining UK breweries to the Australian Fosters lager/Courage group.

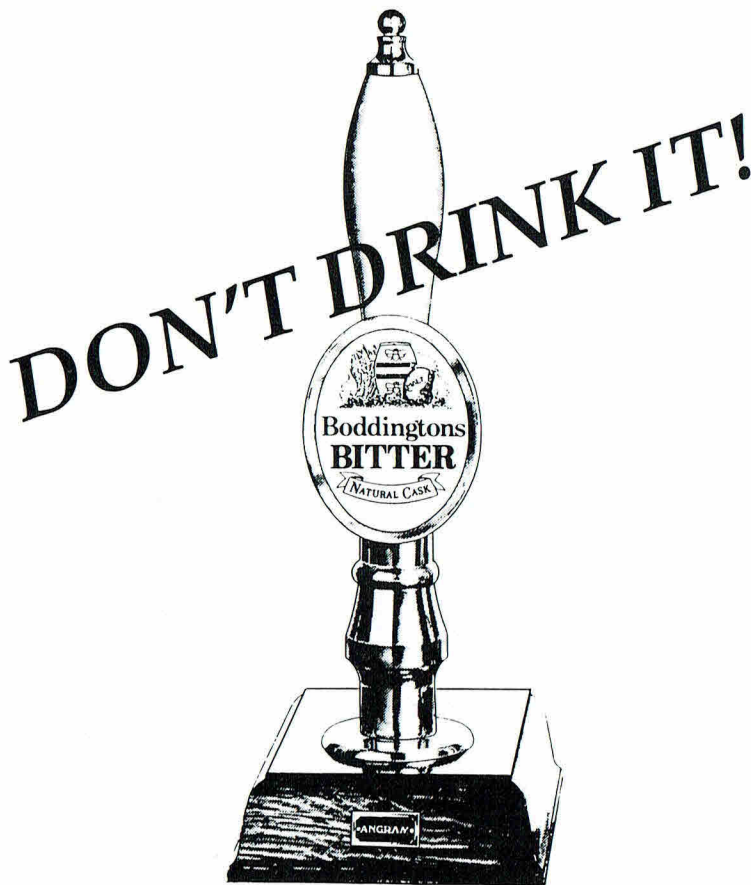
"There is only one Watney pub in the guide," Roger Protz said, "and many people may think that is one too many, given the group's locust-like record of closing village pubs and doing untold damage to rural communities." But *Best Pubs in East Anglia* is primarily about pleasure. Roger Protz, aided by CAMRA branches, spent many months last year in Norfolk, Suffolk and the bordering areas of Cambridgeshire and Essex, to choose some of the finest pubs in the region. There are pubs for all tastes, from the unspoilt country gem of the Lord Nelson at Burnham Thorpe - an ale house,

without food or smoking - to the plush and sumptuous surroundings of the Crown Hotel in Lowestoft.

"There are not only superb pubs in East Anglia - there is great beer, too, in the grain basket of England," Roger Protz said. "As well as the famous regional companies of Adnams and Greene King, there is now a clutch of smaller independents - Crouch Vale of South Woodham Ferrers, Forbes of Oulton, Mauldons of Sudbury, Nethergate of Clare, Reeceham, Scotties of Lowestoft, and Woodforde of Woodbastwick - who are producing beers of great quality and variety. East Anglian brewing can hold its head high again."

As well as giving full details of almost 150 pubs in the region, *Best Pubs in East Anglia* also has tasting notes for the local brewers' ales, a short but savage history of Watney's role in Norfolk, a wealth of historical and architectural information (including some rude remarks about Ipswich) and a short feature on how to understand the East Anglian dialect. Copies of *Best Pubs in East Anglia* and *Best Pubs for Families* are available from CAMRA HQ at £4.95 each including postage and packing.

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**Boddingtons Brewery, Taken Over By Whitbread,
December 1989.**

Your Local Ale Next?

"CATER FOR KIDS", NICK ROSS TELLS PUBLICANS

Nick Ross, TV presenter, real ale drinker and father of three children under five, says in a foreword to **BEST PUBS FOR FAMILIES**, "Having children is easy - until you try taking them out for lunch. But now a growing band of publicans is responding to family needs. By catering for drinkers as families, pubs can tap a whole new source of revenue. And even at their worst, children are less troublesome than lager louts."

An increasing number of British pubs now welcome young customers and offer them their own facilities - gardens, play areas, indoor rooms, special menus and changing rooms for parents.

The Campaign for Real Ale's **BEST PUBS FOR FAMILIES**, published on April 11, lists 450 of the most welcoming and comfortable family pubs in the country. You need never feel guilty again about leaving the children outside the pub with glasses of lemonade or end up in yet another boring burger bar.

Editor Jill Adam, the mother of two small sons, says: "Doors are opening for families - pub doors. Publicans and breweries realise they must use every area of a pub these days to attract customers, even small customers. Now

families can find pubs with adventure playgrounds, cosy family rooms for chill days, good value tasty meals with small portions for small appetites - even facilities for nursing mothers. And, of course, all the pubs in the guide sell fine pints of real ale - for grown-ups!"

Nick Ross outlines a series of suggestions for family facilities in pubs, including:

- * A room without a bar for families, with a few simple amusements
- * Staff willing to heat a baby's milk bottle
- * Provide somewhere to change a nappy: "You need a flat, clean baby-size surface, ideally with a basin and paper towels and a container for soiled nappies. And, incidentally, some men have babies too, so pubs should have baby-changing space in the gents as well."
- * And for kids of all ages, pub loos should be "sparkling and hygienic, not the shameful bogs that are the norm in British boozers."
- * Provide non-alcoholic drinks for youngsters - "and for grown-ups too, to stop them having one for the road and killing their kids or someone else's. Dead customers are bad for business."

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WEST LONDON PRIDE

At CAMRA's Annual General Meeting, held in Norwich over the weekend of 7th/8th April it was announced that **REAL BEER IN WEST LONDON** had been chosen as the "Local Guide of the Year" for 1989. A certificate to this effect was presented to Roger Warhurst, one of the editorial team, by Christine Cryne, CAMRA's Director of Strategy.

As one of the editorial team I was very gratified to have received this award and I should like to record here my own thanks to every body who

was associated with the production of the Guide.

If you have not yet bought a copy of this award winning book it is still available by sending a cheque for £3.75 (inc. p&p) to Real Beer in West London, 33 Priory Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2NS. Alternatively for a mere £5.25 you can have the above publication as well as Real Beer in South West London.

Andy Pirson

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.

Tel: (081) 674 0556. Andy Pirson, 22 Fulwell Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 0RA. (081) 977 1633. Ian Amy, 89 Woodfield Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0DS.

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

ADVERTISING: Barry Tillbrook. Tel: (071) 403 7500 (W) or (071) 989 7523 (after 7 pm).

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

Please be sure to send diary material to Andy Pirson.

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

SPONSORED PUB CRAWL

To publicise **Cask Mild** and to raise money for charity a sponsored Pub Crawl has been arranged covering 8 of the **Mild** outlets in the capital.

The arrangements are quite straightforward. Firstly arrange as much sponsorship as you can, and on Saturday 26th May present yourself at The Spaniards in NW3 between 11am and 12.30pm. You are then free to visit the Pubs in any order excepting that everyone will finish at the same Pub, which will be advised to you on the day.

Oh, there is just one other rule. Transportation between the Pubs, which are listed below, is **NOT** to include cars, vans, motorcycles, bicycles etc., in other words Public Transport is the order of the day, unless you roller skate!

The Pubs to be visited, in any order except nominated starting and finishing points are:

Nags Head
10 James Street WC2

White Horse (11-3)
Parsons Green SW6

Greyhound
151 Greyhound Lane SW16

Duke of Norfolk
202 Westbourne Grove W11

Admiral Mann (11-4)
7 Hargrave Place N7

Blenheim (11-3)
21 Loudoun Road NW8

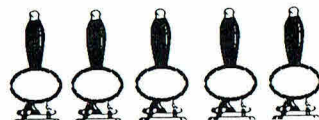
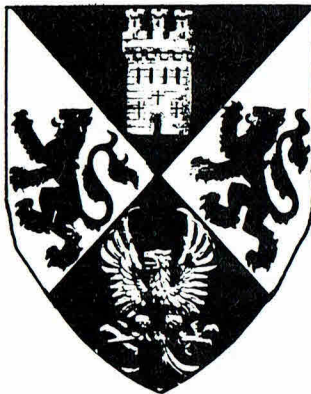
Nelsons Head
32 Horatio Street E2

Spaniards (Start)
Spaniards Road NW3

It is anticipated that the full crawl will take approx 6 hours from start to finish. Minimum of a half pint of **Mild** in each Pub listed above and get the Licensee or Barperson to sign next to the Pub name on your sponsorship form.

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LAST ORDERS FOR THE OLD IMPERIAL SPIRIT

The death of the traditional measure for spirits, a sixth of a gill, or in more generous establishments a fifth or even a quarter of a gill, was announced quietly in a written parliamentary reply in the Commons.

The old imperial measures will be phased out from the middle of this year and replaced by a standard metric measure of 25 millilitres, the junior trade minister, Mr Eric Forth, told Mr Tony Baldry (C. Banbury).

Most whisky drinkers will find they do well out of the change, as the old single in most pubs, a sixth of a gill, is the equivalent of only 23.7 millilitres, and the old double is 47.4 - though they may find it easier to ask for a

double than for 50 millilitres at that time of night.

In pubs that still sell by the more generous quarter (35.5 millilitres), they will have reason to regret the prohibition of their old imperial measures from New Year's Day 1995.

Mr Forth justified the measure on the grounds that it would enable consumers to compare prices and monitor their alcohol consumption more easily, help the instrument makers whose manufactured optics, and help landlords, because it was an exact fraction of a bottle.

In fact the old sixth of a gill was a 24th of a pint, and a 32nd of an imperial bottle of spirits, while the new measure will be exactly a 30th of the new and slightly smaller metric bottle (75 cl).



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.

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LONDON BREWER THAT "THINKS DISABLED"

London pub company Taylor Walker is making its pubs more accessible to the disabled by adding a range of facilities, whenever a new pub is built or an existing one regurbished.

The Middlesex Arms, Long Lane, South Ruislip is one of the growing list of Taylor Walker pubs which has installed facilities for disabled pub-goers.

Special ramps have been installed after a recent refurbishment to allow wheelchair access to all parts of the pub. There's also a designated disabled parking space, with transference area set aside for easy manoeuvre and separate disabled toilet.

Customers with disabilities are very appreciative of the new facilities in place, says Middlesex Arms landlord, Rory Liffen. "I don't think most able-bodied people realise the facilities are there, but our disabled customers certainly do. We think it is very important to make these customers feel as comfortable as possible".

Peter Dow, marketing director with Taylor Walker, outlined the thinking behind the move: "It is our policy to add disabled facilities to pubs wherever possible and we want to encourage all other businesses in the community to do the same," he commented.

"The Middlesex Arms is open all day with food on sale at all times. We added a large beer garden which is ideal for families and a function room for meetings and conferences. The disabled facilities are just a part of our catering for all the community."



Mike Wass of DASH (Disabled Association of Hillingdon) makes use of the disabled persons' parking space at the Middlesex Arms, the latest Taylor Walker house to add a range of special facilities for disabled customers.

Taylor Walker worked closely with the Hillingdon borough Council and the Disabled Association of Hillingdon to develop the added features for the disabled.

The pub designers were Maddocks of Manchester, whose project manager Mike Atkinson has spent three years working on disabled facilities in various settings. He said: "The Middlesex Arms is a prime example of what every pub should offer - an equal chance to all disabled people to come and enjoy a drink in a welcoming publ. The more pubs that become like it the better."



Landlord Rory Liffen (left) enjoys a beer and a chat with Julia and Mike Wass of DASH (Disabled Association of Hillingdon) in the Middlesex Arms, the latest Taylor Walker house to add a range of special facilities for disabled customers.

BACK NUMBERS To date 123 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.

25 YEARS NOT OUT

At the end of March RON COULSTON completed 25 years as "Guvnor" of the WATTENDEN ARMS (Charrington), Old Lodge, Kenley. The occasion was celebrated there on the evening of 29th March with the usual weekday happy "hour" extended from 7pm to 9pm, jazz band playing, lots of sandwiches and sausage rolls and the attendance of the "brass" from Charringtons. CROYDON & SUTTON branch CAMRA presented Ron with a CAMRA Traditional Mirror to mark the occasion. Ron modestly expressed his surprise that so many people had come along for the occasion.

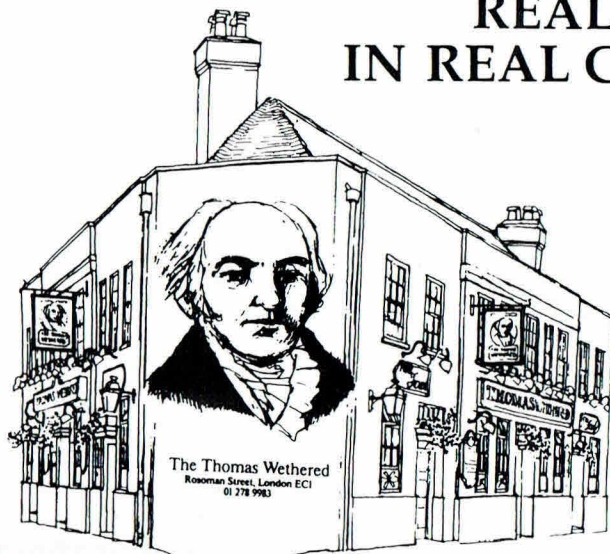
The Wattenden is at the top of Old Lodge Lane near its junction with Hayes Lane close to Kenley Aerodrome. A regular Good Beer Guide entrant, it serves IPA and Bass and offers excellent food both lunchtimes (Mon-Sat) and evenings (Mon-Thur).



No B.....'s written

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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 RICHMOND, SHAFESBURY
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 RICHMOND, WHITE HORSE
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 W2 ROYAL STANDARD
 W3 KINGS ARMS
 W3 KINGS HEAD
 W3 RED LION & PINEAPPLE
 W4 BELL & CROWN
 W4 WINDMILL

W5 PLOUGH
 W5 RED LION
 W6 BLACK LION
 W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL
 W6 RICHMOND ARMS
 W6 SALUTATION
 W7 VIADUCT
 W8 UXBRIDGE ARMS
 W10 NARROW BOAT
 W10 VILLAGE INN
 W11 FROG & FIRKIN
 W12 CROWN & SCEPTRE
 W13 THE FORESTER
 BRENTFORD, BREWERY TAP
 BRENTFORD, LORD NELSON
 BRENTFORD - NEW INN
 BRENTFORD - NORTH STAR
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 HILLINGDON, RED LION
 HILLINGDON, STAR
 HOUNSLOW, BEAVER
 HOUNSLOW, CHARIOT
 HOUNSLOW, CROSS LANCES
 HOUNSLOW, EARL RUSSELL
 SOUTHALE, BEACONSFIELD ARMS
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 SOUTHALE, THREE HORSESHOES
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 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,
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 READING, GROG SHOP (Off
 Licence), London Road
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 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
 WORCESTER, BREWERY TAP &
 BREWERY, 50 Lowesmoor
 WORTHING, VINE,
 Tarring High Street
 WORTHING (Sussex), WHEAT-
 SHEAF, Richmond Road.

Do you have difficulty in getting your copy of London Drinker? If so, please ask your local outlet to increase its order. It helps us greatly to know of increased orders before printing as we work to a tight budget. It also ensures that potential readers are not disappointed.



GREENWICH 1990 REAL ALE FESTIVAL

A red line-art illustration depicting various beer-related items. At the top, there are several tall, slender bottles and a glass. Below them, a row of items includes a glass with a flame (possibly a candle or a specific beer style), a bottle, a glass, a can labeled 'CAMRA', another bottle, a glass, and a bottle. At the bottom, a line of five wooden barrels is shown, each with an 'X' marked on its side.

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