

October  
1990

# LONDON



25p

# DRINKER



**'King Arms'**  
Hampton Court

Vol 12

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

No 9

# 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 CROWN TAVERN  
EC1 EAGLE  
EC1 HAND & SHEARS  
EC1 HORSESHOE  
EC1 PHEASANT & FIRKIN  
EC1 SEKFORDE ARMS  
EC1 THOMAS WETHERED  
EC2 FLEETWOOD  
E1 ARTFUL DODGER  
E1 FISH & RING  
E2 APPROACH TAVERN  
E2 NELSON'S HEAD  
E2 SHIP & BLUE BALL  
E8 LADY DIANA  
E9 ROYAL STANDARD  
E10 DRUM  
E11 NORTHCOTE  
E14 QUEENS HEAD  
E15 PRINCESS OF WALES  
E15 THEATRE ROYAL BAR  
E17 COLLEGE ARMS  
E17 COPPERMILL  
SE1 ANCHOR & HOPE  
SE1 FOUNDERS ARMS  
SE1 GOOSE & FIRKIN  
SE1 HORNIMAN AT HAYS  
SE1 KINGS ARMS  
SE1 LEATHER EXCHANGE  
SE1 MARKET PORTER  
SE1 WELLINGTON  
SE1 WHEATSHEAF  
SE3 BRITISH OAK  
SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN  
SE7 McDONNELLS  
SE8 DOG & BELL  
SE8 ROYAL GEORGE  
SE9 PARK TAVERN  
SE9 ROYAL ELTHAM  
SE10 ASHBURNHAM ARMS  
SE10 BRITISH SAILOR  
SE10 FROG & RADIATOR  
SE10 HARDY'S  
SE13 FOX & FIRKIN  
SE16 BLACKSMITHS ARMS  
SE16 MANOR TAVERN  
SE16 MOBY DICK  
SE17 CROWN  
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 ANERLEY ARMS  
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.  
E15 Bacchus's Bin  
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  
WC2 FREEMASONS ARMS  
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 MORTIMER  
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, OLD MITRE  
BARNET, TRENT TAVERN  
BARNET, WEAVER  
ENFIELD, KING & TINKER  
ENFIELD, MOON UNDER WATER  
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 WHITE LION OF MORTIMER  
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.  
N2 GROGBLOSSOM  
NW6 Grogblossom, 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 PAVIOURS ARMS  
SW1 RED LION

*Continued on p31*



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## EDITORIAL

Regular readers of London Drinker will have noticed the advertisement in recent months telling us not to drink Boddingtons Bitter because it is a Whitbread beer. I suspect that the discerning real ale drinker does not need to be reminded of this fact but it is possible that there are still some pub-goers who are not aware of the link. My own best outlet for sales of London Drinker was a Whitbread pub selling Boddingtons. It had been selling the beer long before Whitbread purchased the brewery last December and it was the most popular beer in the pub. As soon as the Drinker started to run the advert the manager of the pub told me - in a very friendly way I must emphasise - that he no longer wished to sell the magazine. He made it clear that he did not want his customers to be told that Boddingtons was a Whitbread beer "because it might put them off the beer". What a damning indictment of a company by one of its own employees!

It is an indictment which CAMRA must vigorously pursue. Whitbread must not be let off the hook. No company, however large, likes adverse publicity; it niggles and irritates and who knows what eventual effect it may have. Remember the campaign against Watney's Red Barrel nearly twenty years ago? Where is Red Barrel now?

At its AGM last April CAMRA passed various motions regarding Whitbread and its products but did not, in my opinion, go far enough. If one reads the small print of those motions, members are not called upon specifically to desist from entering Whitbread pubs (other than for campaigning) or from drinking Whitbread beers. I believe that we should all boycott all Whitbread pubs and all products sold in them. Let the general public know loudly and frequently what we are doing and why we are doing it. Let us proclaim our detestation of Whitbread and all it stands for at every opportunity. A couple of examples - I recently attended the Inland Waterways festival in Gloucester where the bar was advertising a "Festival Real Ale" with no other description. I asked the bar manager if it was a Whitbread beer and explained my reasons for wishing to know. He was very interested in what I had to say about Whitbread and insisted that I inspect

the cask behind the bar; it was Courage Best Bitter! Whilst in Gloucester I entered a pub, described outside as a free house, and was confronted with Marston's Pedigree. Was I in a dreaded Whitbread "Free House"? Explanatory enquiries of the bar staff revealed it to be a free house of another chain and I was able to drink there with a clear conscience. You may think I am paranoid about Whitbread. I must confess that I now understand how vegans feel when asking questions but paranoid I am not; call me a zealot if you wish, I won't mind.

I am not alone in my zeal. Readers of the Drinker will recall my all too brief article about our branch trip to Dorset. Knowing the county better than most others on the excursion I mentioned that two of the best pubs in Dorset, in terms of ambience and architecture, not beer, were undoubtedly the Square & Compass at Worth Matravers and the Fox at Corfe Castle and if the majority wished we would visit them, despite their both being Whitbread. Obviously I had no intention of patronizing them myself but I did not wish to deny others the chance to visit, for the first time, these two classic buildings. I am pleased to report that the verdict of my fellow members of SE London CAMRA was unanimous; we would not go near either establishment. That visit to Dorset was two months before the various anti-Whitbread motions at the CAMRA AGM so the campaign was already active at grass-roots level. What a pity that more senior members of CAMRA are apparently only paying lip service to the anti-Whitbread campaign.

I am referring to a letter in the September edition of What's Brewing (CAMRA's national news-paper) which alleges that members of the National Executive of CAMRA and the Brighton Beer Festival Working Party were seen patronizing a Whitbread pub, the Albion, in Brighton. If the letter is accurate I consider it to be disgraceful behaviour by CAMRA members who should know better. It is no excuse to say that one was drinking, say, Marston's or Greene King beers in a Whitbread pub; ultimately the profits from the pub go to Whitbread. Quite rightly all Whitbread beers

*Contd. on p. 30*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sir,

I seek assistance in a quest.

Some years ago some friends and I whiled away many a happy Saturday on jaunts known as "Rail Ale Rambles". But, as in all good thing, these seem to have become part of the past.

Can you or any of your readers inform me if these rambles still take place, and a contact number for the organisers.

My thanks in anticipation. Yours Hopefully

J. Clements  
London SE11

Dear Sir

If I was the proud owner of two slaving rottweilers I would be able to enjoy the joys of good English ales virtually anywhere.

Unfortunately, I suffer from an even greater social affliction - a four-year-old daughter.

While I accept that no one wants the atmosphere of a traditional English pub spoiled by hordes of screaming kids under people's feet, much more could be done to cater for families.

Not only would this de-mystify alcohol in the eyes of youngsters, it would also tap a large and thirsty market at a time when beer prices spiral upwards as pubs grow ever more empty.

On the subject of all day opening, this seems to have been a mixed blessing. All day drinking allows the drinker greater freedom to choose when he or she drinks, provided he or she can find anywhere open. Too many landlords seem to open and close on a whim. The system would work much better if landlords decided what hours suited their trade, displayed these times prominently and then stuck to them.

I seem to be using a lot of shoe leather trailing around to discover which landlord has finished his afternoon nap first.

Lastly, why no details of the GBBF in the July issue?

Bill Tod  
New Barnet, Herts

*Bill - regarding the GBBF, did you read the back page of the July edition?* Ed

Dear Editors,

I am currently working nights in central London which means that after work I can go drinking in the pubs with early morning licences. The ones of which I am aware are as follows:

### SE1 (Borough Market)

Globe  
Southwark Tavern

### E15 Stratford

Railway Tavern

### EC1 (Smithfield Market)

Cock  
Fox & Anchor  
Hope  
New Market Tavern  
Smithfield Past & Present  
Smithfield Tavern

### E1 (Spitalfields Market)

Golden Heart  
Gun

Spitalfields Market is moving to Temple Mills later in the autumn so the last two pubs may lose, or decide not to use, the licence.

If any of your readers are aware of any other pubs with early morning licences could they please let me know.

Yours  
Colin Price, Barking

### *Editor's comment:*

*I am not sure whether there is a comprehensive list of pubs with early morning licences anywhere in the London branches of CAMRA or whether it is kept up to date, but your list seems to give a pretty good start. If there is anyone out there who knows of others we should be pleased to put together a full list of all the ones we are told about*

AP

## NEW EDITORIAL ADDRESS

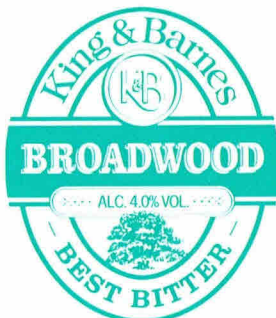
Andy Pirson wishes to announce a change of address. From 1st October will you please send correspondence to me at:

13 BELVEDERE CLOSE  
TEDDINGTON  
MIDDLESEX  
TW11 0NT

Will you please also note that my new home telephone number is (081) 943 5344.

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## WHERE TO FIND OUR BEERS IN LONDON

### THE ALBERT ARMS

82 High Street, Esher

### THE APPROACH TAVERN

47 Approach Road, London E2

### THE BARLEY MOW

Curtain Street, London EC2

### BOATERS

Lower Ham Road, Kingston

### THE BRICKLAYERS ARMS

63 Charlotte Road, London EC2

### CANBURY ARMS

Canbury Park Road, Kingston,  
Surrey

### THE CLARET WINE BAR

33 The Broadway, Cheam

### THE CLARET WINE BAR

5 Bingham Corner,  
Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon

### THE CRICKETERS

32 Rowtown, Addlestone, Surrey

### THE HOLE IN THE WALL

Mepham Street, Waterloo Station

### THE HOP EXCHANGE

149 Maple Road, Penge, London

### THE LION

182 Pawsons Road, Croydon

### THE LITTERN

118 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford

### THE NEW INN

Walton Road, East Molesey, Surrey

### THE ORCHARD

Orchard Road, Shirley

### THE OSTRICH

High Street, Colnbrook, Middlesex.

### THE RACEHORSE

17 West Street, Carshalton, Surrey

### THE RAILWAY TAVERN

Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey

### REFUGE WINE BAR

Selsdon Road, Croydon, Surrey

### ROSE AND CROWN

333 London Road, Isleworth

### THE SHERGAR

Consort Road, Peckham SE15

### THE SUN

Lambs Conduit Street, London WC1

### 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 Storays Gate, London SW1

### THE WHEATSHEAF

34 Kingston Road, Ewell,  
Surrey

### WHEELWRIGHTS ARMS

Southbridge Road, Croydon,

### THE WHITE HART

70 High Street, Hampton,  
Middlesex

### WOODIES FREEHOUSE

Thetford Road, New Malden

### YE OLDE BRIDGE HOUSE

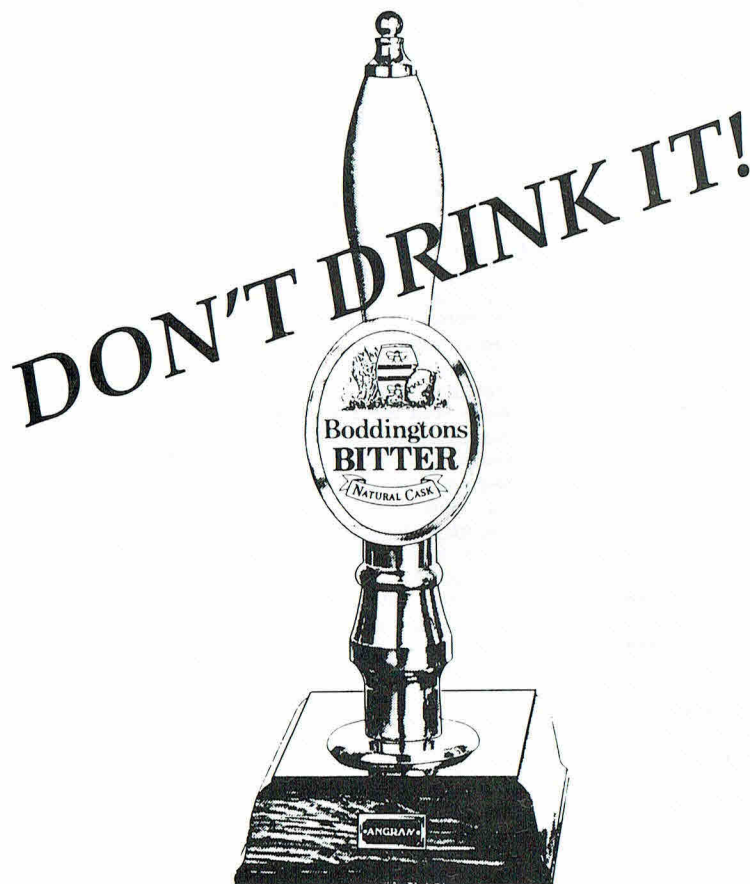
215 Tower Bridge Road, London  
SE1

# King & Barnes

## FINE SUSSEX ALES

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**IF YOU ASK FOR BODDIES,  
YOU'LL ONLY GET WHITBREAD**



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

*Your Local Ale Next?*

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## IDLE MOMENTS

When I was a little boy we used to have a riddle which went, "What goes up the chimney down but won't go down the chimney up?" Apart from the fact that we knew we would be severely chastised if we ever did poke things up the chimney, I was quite content to accept the logic of the statement without putting it to the test. (This is all rubbish to pad things out as one of my fellow editors commented that I didn't fill a page last month). Anyway, if you don't know the answer keep on reading; you'll find it at the end of the article.

Well here I am again staring out of the window over the top of my own little bit of the information technology explosion wondering what rubbish I can assail you with this month. I am thinking, "Should I contrive some fiendish new kind of puzzle to baffle and bamboozle the readership?" and then I think, "No. It's an idle moment for me to." So here we go with the usual rubbish and treading the well trod path, we kick off with the answers to last month's number puzzles:

1. 6 Sides on a Hexagon
2. 5 Pounds is the Value of the Special Coin for the Queen Mother's Ninetieth Birthday
3. 2 Heads of Zaphod Beeblebrox (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)
4. 1 is One and All Alone (and Ever More Shall Be So)
5. 7 Days in a Week
6. 1966 England won the World Cup
7. 10000 Square Metres in a Hectare
8. 4 Engines on a Boeing Seven-Four-Seven
9. 18 Millimetres is the Diameter of the New Five Pence Coin
10. 4 Suits in a Deck of Cards

I've been trying to come up with some more mundane number puzzles this month after receiving the odd comment about them getting too difficult recently. I hope you like this lot and don't have too much trouble with them:

1. 22 B on a ST
2. 1000 CC in a L
3. 126 MPH is the RS for a SHT
4. 13 A is the CR of a TPP (Domestic)\_
5. 1215 MCS at R
6. 42 is the A to the UQ
7. 1948 Y of the LLO
8. 4 I in a H
9. 60 M an H is the SL on a SCR
10. 1 E on a C

I've given up trying to solve beer anagrams, as

opposed to brewery ones. I thought I was getting short and would have to try something different but I pulled out my old Scrabble set and my Good Beer Guide and in the course of an hour or so came up with a fair number of new ones. I try so far as possible to keep to breweries that are still brewing (or at least listed in the current GBG), so although the solutions may not all be on the tip of everybody's tongue they are quite findable. Here are the answers to last month's:

1. PELE GROPED DI ELDRIDGE POPE
2. PIED LIFT PITFIELD
3. LES CAN'T TOW CASTLETOWN
4. RED LAY DARLEY
5. WORTH NOTING WORTHINGTON

I also received a number from regular correspondent, Denys Vernall. They have gone into the pot and will be popping up from time to time, though none are included in this month's as I had already sorted out these ones:

1. LES SHALL CREW
2. KEN GRAINS BAND
3. YES E.G. RUN
4. STALE LUST
5. TALL DAN HONKED PAINT

You'll be delighted to know (Well, some of you might be) that I've not run out of false negatives. Here are some more of them:

GUST: (n) Feeling of wellbeing. (v) To promote feeling of wellbeing; to banish feeling of nausea. [opp. disgust]

C: (n) a square [opp. disc]

ODLE: (n) A wise man [opp. noodle]

PLAY: (v) To conceal; (n) concealment. [opp. display]

MOTE: (v) To leave something where it is or immobilise an item [opp. either promote or demote]

The answer to the riddle is an umbrella, just in case you didn't know it already. Still, I suppose in these days of central heating people are less likely to know what a chimney is.

In case you've missed it elsewhere in the magazine, I just note again my new address. If you wish to send me any more rubbish like you've just read will you now please post it to: 13 Belvedere Close, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0NT.

*Don't forget to put your clocks back.*

**Andy Pirson**

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Dear London Drinker,

Last week I was waiting to meet a friend in the "Belsize Tavern", Belsize Lane, NW3. I had a pint of Courage Director's, which I have been drinking regularly for 25 years. The first pint I had was delicious.

My friend arrived and bought me a second. It had that strong metallic taste which means the end of the barrel. I took it back, the barman poured me another from the same pump. Of course, I said it was not much better.

The barman went away and the manager came up, gave me £1.32 and said "Bye, bye".

"What do you mean" I said.

"Bye, bye".

"Can I have a pint of Yorkshire, instead?"

"By, bye".

I was shaved, sober, polite and dressed OK. I think that this manager behaved capriciously and unreasonably. There is no other decent pub for a long way around the Tavern, it was 10.15pm. The evening was ruined. All the regulars were looking at me down their noses, it was humiliating and embarrassing, and the

first time in my 42 year old life that I had been banned or refused service.

Is there no protection or redress against this kind of treatment?

Yours sincerely

James Power

### FULLERS PLAN A MARKET LISTING

Having snapped up 44 pubs for £9m from Allied, London brewers Fullers are still looking for more - at least 30-40 over the next two years, according to chairman Anthony Fuller.

Fullers are currently gearing themselves up for a full Stock Market quotation later this year. With the company registering record trading results, shares look likely to be eagerly sought.

But there is little likelihood of the family losing its voting control of the brewery as it is unlikely to allow a dilution of its stake.

Fullers are also planning £3m investment over the next couple of years to meet expected rising demand and the Griffin brewery at Chiswick may soon be bursting at the seams.

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



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



**Prince Albert**  
11 Princess Road  
London  
NW1

**...at a**

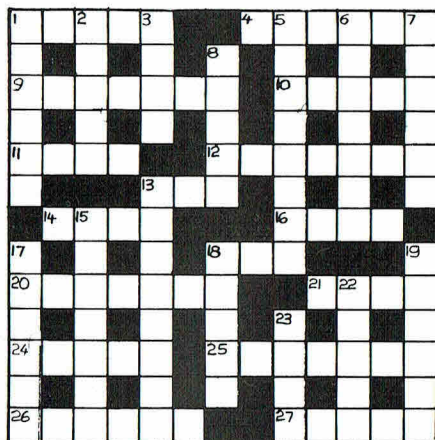
**CHARRINGTON**  
**house.**



# LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name.....

Address.....

.....

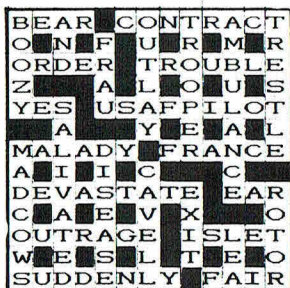
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All correct entries received by first post on 24th October will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The winner of the prize will be announced in the December 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. He stands up when he finds I pee in bed. [5]
4. It's a pain when birds return to church. [6]
9. One may provide both the hand and the ring. [7]
10. Expert in Rolls, he moves fast. [5]
11. Almost never drew back level. [4]
12. Owing to having a view. [7]
13. Dear mousse, I hear, produced in hotel kitchen. [3]
14. Double lives in river. [4]
16. I am unknown quantity, though animal. [4]
18. Cut back union organisation. [3]
20. Polish for example returned punishment. [7]
21. State Isle of Wight article. [4]
24. Taken into public school apparently. [5]
25. Prepare papers about officer commanding. [7]
26. Pitch then receive, that's the aim. [6]
27. Listen to the first organ. [5]

## DOWN

1. Supporter of second rate jazz band leader? [6]
2. China lies dead under Peking its capital. [5]
3. Grass exercise? [4]
5. The first to make a mistake if in charge is great. [8]
6. To perform in hat is touching. [7]
7. Northern horse troubled birds. [6]
8. Order about river water. [5]
13. It's established mountains cause separation. [8]
15. Southern owl, it might go off. [7]
17. .... while money may be going up. [6]
18. Met with platinum test. [5]
19. Gamble about fool getting dog. [6]
22. Work over time to make music. [5]
23. Mother has no hesitation in becoming material consumer. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August crossword:

Alison Henley, 26 St. Dunstan's Road, South Norwood, London SE25 6EU.

Other correct entries were received from:  
Geoff Clark, A.P. Comaish, Robert Day,  
Ian Fairweather, Elaine Glover, Eileen Graves,  
John Heekin, Hugh Jampton, Hugh Jarris, Odd John  
(Colchester), Mike Jolly, Sam Mathers, D. Oddy,  
B69 A/Sgt W. Priestley, B. Sheridan, Merwin Wass,  
Steve Webb, Martin Weedon, Chris Whithouse, Yak,  
There was also 1 incorrect entry.



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 October is:

Another Nicholson's Gem

Try **THE BLOOMSBURY TAVERN** for  
a Real Old Fashioned Welcome

Open 11am - 11 pm for:

Superb Ale -

**Wadworth 6x**

**Marston**

**Pedigree**

**Tetley Bitter**

Splendid sandwiches (everything you could ever  
expect from a sandwich and a bit more)

We look forward to seeing you at

**THE BLOOMSBURY TAVERN**

236 Shaftesbury Avenue  
WC2

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## THE EVACUATION TRAIN

Denys Vernal

I was stopping, having a few days holiday, at a small farmhouse in the wilds of Shropshire. I had decided to do some rambling in pursuit of "Real ale" and cider. Naturally my first stop was at an inn in a nearby village.

I ordered a pint and got chatting to some of the locals. "Where are you bound for?" they asked. "Just going for a stroll down to Burchester along that new nature walk. Thought I'd drop down to Mrs Smith's "Home Brew House" on the way.

"Ho, Ho!" laughed the landlord, "I should watch yourself there, the locals won't touch the stuff! They call it "The Devil's Own Brew". Appears it tastes like water but after a second pint you fall on your back! I laughed, but the locals shook their heads knowingly.

I finished my pint. "How do I get up to this 'nature walk'?" "Easy," answered one of the locals, "just walk down the road to where the old station used to be and you'll see the sign. Be careful, it's the old disused railway line and the track is still there."

"Why did they leave the track?" I inquired. "Well", interrupted the landlord, "they were hoping that one of those 'steam enthusiast' clubs would buy it, like they did at Bridgenorth, but when they heard about the curse on the line they changed their minds." "What curse?" I asked. "Never mind now, I don't want to put you off your walk." He laughed. "Don't leave it too late walking back though!"

I strolled off, chuckling to myself: these country people have some quaint little stories. I found the old station and set off along the disused railway. It was a lovely warm autumn day, just right for walking.

This line has quite a lot of interest about it. It was in great demand for carrying coal and steel when there was industry in Shropshire. One of the great attractions is a huge viaduct which spans a whole valley.

I strolled along aimlessly, enjoying nature. The birds were singing in the bushes alongside the track. All of a sudden a hare dived out of the bushes, it stopped and stared at me oblivious of danger, then ran off in a zigzag down the line.

At length I got to the great viaduct and strolled across. In the centre, I ventured to the edge and looked over. What a view! Down below one could see what seemed minute little cottages. This was the picturesque village of Serrington.

I had now only a mile to walk to my first turn off. I soon reached the spot and took the little path leading into the village of Mandley. I soon found Mrs Smith's "Home Brew House", a little thatched cottage with a large sign outside.

I was greeted by Mrs Smith on my arrival and she soon supplied me with a fine pint of her mild. There was no bar in the place, only a few forms around a large scrubbed table. Mrs Smith was dressed in a large white apron the front pocket of which she used as her till.

She prepared a Ploughman's Lunch for me, the largest I have seen. It consisted of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a loaf of bread, there must have been  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of cheese and a great handful of shallots. I must say it took me all my time to consume it all, but I managed.

I had another two pints and chatted aimlessly. Mrs Smith invited me to call back on my return. I suggested that I might be a little early but she poo-poo'd my excuse. "Nobody worries about time around here!"

I made my farewells and promised to call in on my way back. I made my way back up the path up to the disused railway line, onward to Burchester. It was only a mile and a half walk and I soon arrived in that fine Shropshire town.

It was market day and the town was a hive of activity. I had picked this day purposely as the pubs were open all day. I soon found myself propping up the bar in the "Crown".

"A pint of Scrumpy please". "Cider! Won't stock the stuff, sends folk mad," shouted the landlord. I settled for a pint of his best bitter, which was very fine.

After leaving the "Crown", I strolled down the road to the market place. I know, verily, of a cider house there. I soon found "The Exchange" (now long since closed) and ordered myself a pint.

There were great big vats behind the bar and the barmaid was forever filling a large ewer with the yellow liquid. Some of the men were

to get up from their seats, so she walked around and filled everybody's glass, charging a nominal amount.

I swallowed a couple of pints, then went off for a saunter around the town. I called into the tiny museum which I found most interesting, spending about an hour learning the rural and industrial history of Shropshire. I then went to St. Luke's church, that's the one with the huge spire, in the middle of town.

Inside I looked at the tombs of the crusaders with their huge swords lying across their bodies. Then I looked at the memorials on the walls. One in particular came to my notice.

### **Railway disaster - September 1941 Felled by the enemies' hands**

There were a great deal of names printed on the slab.

I thought the "Felled by the enemies' hand" a quaint way of describing a railway disaster. I thought I would inquire into the circumstances later, but strangely the episode went out of my mind. That is, until much later in the evening.

I left the church and made my acquaintance with the disused railway line once again. I soon got into my pace and reached Mrs Smith's "Home Brew House" by 5.30. It wasn't open so I tapped on the windows and was soon let in.

She went down into her cellar and brought me a pint. I ordered another 'Ploughman's Lunch' and ate it ravenously. Mrs Smith came and sat with me and we talked of mundane things.

After another pint, a few yokels came in and I soon fell into conversation with them. Others came in and the party was getting rather merry. One local then stated that it was getting dark, so I made my farewells and went on my way.

I climbed steadily up to the rail track again. There was a full moon and walking was easy. I felt warm inside with the ale and the cider of the day and was now looking forward to putting my feet up for the evening.

I walked along over the viaduct looking down as I went at the little lights from the village below. I was not more than a hundred yards past the viaduct when I thought I heard the sound of a train!

I laughed at myself "that Mrs Smith's is getting at you." I listened again, yes surely it was a train but that was impossible. This line had not been in use for years! Then I heard the sound of an aircraft in the sky.

I looked up and could just see the markings on the side of the plane. "My God!" It was a German Junkers 88. I pinched myself in disbelief but found I was still awake. Now I could see the train thundering towards me.

I stood to the side of the track in amazement. All at once the Junkers opened fire then dived in and dropped a bomb. There was a huge explosion as the plane flew off.

All I could see in front of me was a great cloud of smoke. Instinctively I ran to the scene of the bombing. I ran into the thick smoke but as soon as I did so the smoke cleared and all that there was in front of me was the track stretching out ahead.

I looked to the air but there was no sign of any aircraft. The sky was clear and all the stars were shining brightly. I stood shaking, looking around in disbelief.

I then started running. I must get away from this place. I ran for a mile or so then cut my pace down to a brisk walk. I was soon back safely in the village of that morning.

I ran into the pub. "What's up with you?" demanded the landlord. "You look as if you've seen a ghost." "I think that's what I have seen," said I, demanding a large whisky. I swilled the whisky down and ordered a pint.

"Go on man, tell us what's up!" I told them the tale of my journey home. The full bar was speechless. I saw many people cross themselves. The others just gazed in deep amazement.

When I finished the tale the bar was spellbound. Then an old man in the corner whispered, "Ah, it will be 49 years to the night . . . them poor, poor children." I supped at my pint waiting for somebody to volunteer the story but none would.

It was the next day before anybody wanted to talk. The landlord of the pub told me the story. First he remonstrated with me for coming home so late after being previously warned, but agreed it was too late to scold now.



# The Vine Inn

Torring High Street  
West Worthing

Presents a **Beer Festival** on **Saturday 13th October**  
**11 am - 11 pm**

**17 Real Ales**  
including

**Harveys Armarda & Sussex · Wadworth 6X**  
**Green King Abbot Ale · Batemans · Badgers**

Music, Pig Roast, Punch & Judy  
Glasses & 'T' Shirts

*Contd. from p. 12*

It appears that the line was cursed by a gypsy when it was being built and ever since that time, right until its closure, things had gone wrong. Nothing fatal at first: a few derailments, then cargoes disappearing but nothing fatal.

Then came that dreadful September day in 1941. A train of evacuees was coming from London to Burchester. At the spot which I had described a German Junkers 88 bombed that train, killing all on board. Where the plane came from, nobody knew.

It could have been that the pilot had lost his way flying to Bristol and spotting the train decided to bomb it, getting rid of his cargo. The other solution could have been that word had leaked out to Germany that arms were being carried on that line, which they were, and maybe that had been the reason for the attack. No one will ever know, all that is known was that hundreds of children were killed that day.

I left Shropshire the next day still bemused. Why was I shown that horrible vision that night? Was it my complacency whilst looking at the memorial in St. Luke's church? One thing I know for certain. I shall not be revisiting that place on the 50th Anniversary of that disaster!

DV

## WATFORD BRANCH AUCTION

The Watford and District Branch of CAMRA will be holding their annual Auction of Brewiana on Wednesday, 7th November 1990 at the West Herts Sports Club in Watford (the 1988 CAMRA Club of the Year).

As usual there will be plenty of rare and interesting items on offer, including bottles, beer mats, pump clips, trays, books etc. Anyone interested in beer and breweries will have lots to choose from.

The Club is in Park Avenue, Watford (off Rickmansworth Road) and is 10 minutes walk from either Watford Junction (BR) or Watford Metropolitan Line station (tube). The Auction starts at 7.30 pm and admission is free. See you there!

For further details, please contact Martin Few on Watford 52412.

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*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 Limited*

# THE J D WETHERSPOON ORGANISATION

# PEGGING THE PRICE OF A PINT

Despite price rises elsewhere,  
J D Wetherspoon pledges to hold  
these beer prices until  
31st October 1990.

Younger's Scotch Bitter **94p**

Greene King IPA **99p**

Eldridge Pope Royal Oak **120p**

Enjoy a good  
traditional pint  
at what is  
already a good  
old-fashioned price



Prices quoted in  
this advertisement  
apply to all  
J D Wetherspoon  
Free Houses  
shown below  
until  
31st October  
1990

HARRINGAY  
THE MORTIMER  
ARMS  
405 Green Lanes N4

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

HARRINGAY  
OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH  
10-12 Grand Parade N4

TURNPIKE LANE  
THE TOLLGATE  
26-30 Turnpike Lane N8

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

STOKE NEWINGTON  
THE TANNERS HALL  
145 High Street N16

WOOD GREEN/TOTTENHAM  
THE BOAR  
413 Lonslip Lane N17

TOTTENHAM  
THE ELBOW ROOM  
503-505 High Road N17

ON THE RIVER LEA  
THE NARROW BOAT  
Rexham Close N17

HOLLOWAY  
JJ MOONS  
37 Lonsker Road N19

ARCHWAY  
THE DOG  
17-19 Archway Road N19

WOOD GREEN  
THE MOON UNDER  
WATER  
423 Lonslip Lane N22

WALTHAMSTOW  
THE DRUM  
557-9 Lea Bridge Road E10

WALTHAMSTOW  
THE COLLEGE ARMS  
807 Forest Road E17



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## BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned, please ring the Branch Contact. Dates for October of which we have been notified are given below. Branches please send information to Andy Pirson. Branch Contacts page 30 .

**CROYDON & SUTTON:** Fri 5 Wallington/Carshalton Crawl. MELBOURNE, Manor Road, Wallington (dep. 8.30) then DUKES HEAD, COACH & HORSES, GREYHOUND - Thu 11 (8.00) Selhurst Social. TWO BREWERS, 221 Gloucester Road - Tue 16 (8.00) Social. LION, Pawsons Road, Croydon - Mon 22 (8.00) Branch Meeting. RAILWAY, 47 North Street, Carshalton - Thu 8 Nov Redhill Crawl. Details in November London Drinker.

**EAST LONDON & CITY:** Mon 1 (8.00) Branch Meeting. FISH & RING, 141 White Horse Road, E1 - Wed 10 (8.00) Forest Gate & Manor Park Mini-Crawl. Start LIVE & LET LIVE, 264 Romford Road, E7 then PRINCESS ALICE (9.00), 329 Romford Road and BLAKESLEY ARMS (10.00), 53 Station Road, E12 - Tue 16 Palmer's Brewery Visit - Wed 24 Marston's Brewery Visit - Mon 29 (8.00) Leyton Mini-Crawl. Start HOLLYBUSH, 32 Grange Road, E10 then TAP & SPILE (9.00), 596 Lea Bridge Road and DRUM (10.00), 559 Lea Bridge Road - Mon 5 Nov (8.00) Branch Meeting. Venue to be announced.

**ENFIELD & BARNET:** Tue 2 (9.00) Social. ROYAL OAK, 117 Finchley Road, NW11 - Mon 8 (8.30) Pub of the Year and Pub Games. OLD WHEATSHEAF, Windmill Hill, Enfield - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Call Branch Contact for Venue - Sat 20 (1.00 pm) Lunchtime Social. SEBRIGHT ARMS, 9 Alston Road, Barnet (Saloon Bar) - Thu 25 (8.00) Breweriana Auction. GREEN DRAGON, 889 Green Lanes, N21 - Tue 30 Evening Visit to Morrell's Brewery. For details/bookings contact L. Clarke on 081-205 2663 (h).

**KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD:** Sun 30 Sep (12.00) Social. SWAN, Martyrs Green - Tue 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. SWAN, Mill Street, Kingston - Wed 24 (7.00) Games Evening with Reigate & Redhill Branch. GREYHOUND, Redhill - Sun 4 Nov (12.00) Social. SPRING GROVE, Bloomfield Road, Kingston (Optional roast lunch).

**.RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW:** Thu 4 (8.30) Committee Meeting. RISING SUN, 29 High Street, Hampton Hill - Tue 16 (8.30) Social. OLD ANCHOR, 71 Richmond Road, Twickenham - Mon 22 (8.30) Branch Meeting. ROSE OF YORK, Petersham Road, Richmond.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Mon 1 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. FREELANDS TAVERN, 31 Freeland Road, Bromley - Mon 8 (8.00) Branch Meeting. RAILWAY TAVERN, 16 Blackheath Village, SE3 or SUN IN THE SANDS, 123 Shooters Hill Road, SE3. Ring branch contact to confirm - The 1 Nov. (8.00) GRAF Charity Cheque Presentation & Social. BULL, 151 Shooters Hill Road SE18.

**SOUTH WEST ESSEX:** Thu 4 (8.30) Woodford Green Pub Crawl. See why this area has produced so many Pub of the Year nominations. Ring Branch Contact for suggested routes - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. GEORGE & DRAGON, Princess Margaret Road, Linford (¼ mile from East Tilbury BR Station) - Fri-Sun 12-14 West Country Weekend. GEORGE, Middlezoy, Somerset. Details from Graham Platt on 081-599 2143 - Thu 18 (8.30) Social. HORN'S TAVERN, 134 Horns Road (near A12), Barkingside - Mon 22 (8.30) Social. ALEXANDRA, 114 Warley Hill (B186), Warley - Tue 30 to Sat 3 Nov (11-3 [not Tue] & 5-11) South East Essex Winter Beer Festival. FREIGHT HOUSE, Rochford (adjacent to Rochford BR Station). Admission by commemorative glass (£1.30).

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Thu 18 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. KINGS HEAD, Merton High Street, SW19 - Thu 1 Nov (7.30) Pub Crawl of Mitcham. Meet CRICKETERS, 340 London Road; finish KINGS ARMS (9.45), 268 London Road (Note change of date).

**WEST LONDON:** Thu 18 (8.00) Branch Meeting. HARCOURT ARMS, Harcourt Street, W1 - Wed 10 (8.00) George Street Junket. WESTMORELAND ARMS, 34 George Street, W1 then ARISTOCRAT, 88 George Street; WORCESTER ARMS, 89 George Street.

*Contd. on p.29*



## OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of one of North London CAMRA's members, Mr Steve Neale. He was just 31.

Known to his closest friends as "Steve-in-a-jug", he died tragically on his new motorcycle in an accident on 2nd August. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Neale family, especially to his mother Grace and sister Lesley.

Steve was a very active member of the Branch - he could always be seen working behind the bar at 'London Drinker Beer Festivals' and this year helped enthusiastically with the 'First National Cider & Perry Exhibition' at the Camden Centre.

Steve had completed the Young's trail and I believe he was contemplating a lap of honour and starting the Fullers trail; as always, insisting on drinking from a jug.

Steve was also a founder member of the Branch's famous 'Crawler's Club'. This was an unofficial organisation set up in St. Albans

some years back. The aim was pub crawls in various south-east towns, in order to experience different beers (up to 10) in one crawl.

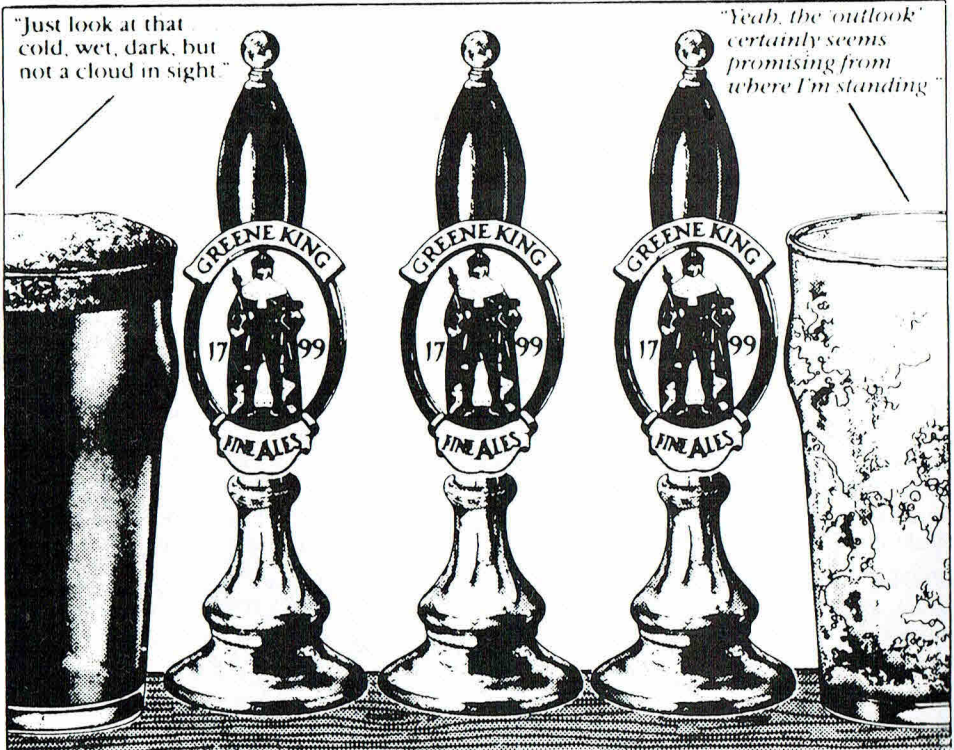
I hold fond memories of Steve on these crawls. He always had time for a laugh and a joke, on many occasions leaving me in tears with his silly antics.

Steve was also an avid supporter of Liverpool F.C. (he had been to Tokyo to see them play). Steve was buried in his beloved Liverpool strip on 14th August.

North London CAMRA was represented by Mr K Kent, Ms Anne Lodge and Mr Steve Dulieu, and myself Mr J Smith. A wreath, in the shape of a beer jug, was sent on behalf of North London CAMRA, and was buried with him.

Steve is now in the 'Great Pub in the Sky' - the 'Anfield Arms', with his jug of mild. Knowing Steve, he'll be spreading the word. He will be truly missed but never forgotten. Thank you Steve for being our friend.

Smiffy



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## ROGER'S RAMBLINGS

My first London local was the Old King Lud. It stands at the great crossroads where Fleet Street begins and where the road climbs steeply up to St Paul's Cathedral.

The pub used to stand beneath a bridge that brought the railway down from Holborn Viaduct to Blackfriars and the building would shake, rattle and roll every few minutes as a train clattered over. It must have been a hard job keeping the beer in good nick with all the jostling from the trains but the customers never complained.

The bridge has been demolished, affording a better view of the Cathedral from Ludgate Circus. The pub has gone through many changes since I was a lunchtime regular in the late 1950s. In my day it was a two-bar pub with lots of etched glass screens and windows.

It was knocked through many years ago. For some time it was more of a wine bar than a pub with the back room, once the saloon bar, given over entirely to a food counter. When I was last in Ludgate Circus I thought I would drop in for a nostalgic pint but the pub was closed and boarded up. No doubt Whitbread were planning yet another "refurb". I can't imagine them closing a pub in such a busy area, even though the Street of Shame has moved on to fresh pastures and gutters.

The Old King Lud was named after the Celtic God of Water, a curious choice for a pub. Perhaps Whitbread, with great prescience, knew they were going to get the contract to brew Heineken.

The beer in the 1950s came from that wonderful brewing cathedral in Chiswell Street. I drank a mixture of brown and mild. I haven't the faintest idea why. My father, I recall, was a bitter drinker. Perhaps, at an early age. I had had a sip and found it too mouth-puckeringly dry for my untutored tastebuds.

So brown and mild it was for me. I had probably gone nervously into the pub one day, had heard a more experienced drinker ask for it and had played safe and ordered the same.

I must have liked it, for I drank it for several years and usually most lunchtimes until my first editor took me aside and had a fatherly

word with me about my drinking. This was an unusual event in the Fleet Street of the time but the journo in question went on to edit a solemn Church of England or Methodist weekly and was not exactly typical of the breed.

Looking back I am bemused why I chose to drink a concoction that was a mix of the same thing, for bottled brown ale was just a filtered and pasteurised version of the handpumped mild. It probably cost a penny or two more than a simple pint of mild, an important consideration as I was earning the princely sum of £4 a week at the time. But, apeing the older punters in the bar, I no doubt thought that brown and mild was a manly thing to drink.

When I moved up a gear it was, of course, to light and bitter or, courtesy of the cockney glottal stop, "lie-tun-bit-er". There was some sense to this in the 1960s and early 70s, when keg was in its pomp. My great friend and mentor, Jim Higgins, who taught me about beer, women, socialist theory and life - not necessarily in that order but always over a pint - introduced me to light and bitter in a Watney's pub. It was necessary, he explained, to dump a bottle of light ale into a half of Watney's Red in order to give the keg some life and sparkle.

Fortunately both Him and I went off to work in Hackney a few yards from Young's Rose and Crown. I discovered the pleasures of *real* beer and from then on never found it necessary to dilute it with the fizzy bottled variety.

I still occasionally hear people ordering light and bitter, even in Young's pubs, but they are a dying breed. Mixing drinks seems now to be confined to that louche bunch, the lager drinkers. I can understand why they desperately attempt to introduce some taste and flavour into the noxious liquid with the aid of lime juice, blackcurrant and cider but they would be wiser, and richer, if they switched to beer.

Next time I'm in a mild drinking area I shall have a pint of brown and mild for old time's sake. I shall toast my long-departed youth and recall those happy times when the Old King Lud shook to the passing trains, Fleet Street thundered to a score of mighty printing presses and London was a great brewing city.

**Roger Protz**

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## HISTORIC REMAINS UNEARTHED IN FLASK

Historic remains uncovered at the famous Young's Flask pub in Hampstead, which conservationists feared would be lost forever, will now be preserved.

The find, believed to be the remains of walls from a late 17th century rest-house built for travellers taking the area's spa waters, was inspected by archaeologists from the Museum of London.

Builders unearthed the walls while working on a new conservatory for the pub, but neither Camden Council nor English Heritage were aware of their importance.

Ian Archer, architect for the owners of the Flask, said the brewery had now realised how significant the discovery was and would build around the walls.

Mark Barratt, senior archaeologist from the Museum of London, said that the find was of great interest.

"We know that there was a pub on that site which was open in 1701. It was called the Lower Flask and served travellers, many of whom came from all over the country to take the spa waters at Hampstead.

"It is a valuable find. We are in negotiations with the brewery for funding for archaeological work on the site. They would like to put some of the bricks on display in the pub for visitors."

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## NEW PUBS FOR WETHERSPOONS

The ever-growing J D Wetherspoon chain of free houses is set to expand rapidly in the coming months. Founder and managing director Tim Martin aims to have 30 taverns up and running by Christmas.

Latest to open are the Outside Inn in a former Woolworth store at the shopping centre in Neasden Lane, Neasden, and J J Moon's, a converted baker's shop at Shaftesbury Circle, South Harrow. As always, the company secured its licences and planning consent in the face of fierce opposition from brewers with pubs in those neighbourhoods.

Two existing hostelries were due to reopen under the JDW flag in September after refurbishment. They are the Rat & Parrot at

New Barnet and the Crown & Sceptre, Streatham.

In an effort to exert pressure on the major brewers, Wetherspoon has responded to recent extravagant price increases by undertaking to hold the price of house bitter below £1 a pint until the end of this year.

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## "A DICKY IN YOUR BOTTLE . . ."

*(East London & City News)*

Changes planned for Grade II listed pub.

The London Docklands Development Corporation has given its consent for Charrington Inns and Taverns to carry out alterations to the Grade II listed "Town of Ramsgate" 62, Wapping High Street London E1.

These alterations include the "erection of extensions at ground and first floor level together with internal alterations and partial demolition of a listed building in a conservations area."

According to the "East London & City Beer Guide" the pub achieved its Grade II listing because of its "Inside beamed ceiling, benches, plank panelling and engraved glass screen." At the time of writing it is not known exactly how many "alterations" Charrington intend to make to the interior, nor what they mean by "partial demolition". It might be a good idea to visit the pub (for a pint of draught Bass or Charrington IPA) while it remains unspoilt.

**"East Ender"**

P.S. Contrary to my remarks in the July edition, the "Princess of Wales" in Stratford **does** sell Young's Special after all - and very good it is too! The pumps were unlabelled at the time of my visit, pending delivery of the appropriate pump-clips, hence my mistake.





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## TIPSY TRIPPER NAILS HIMSELF TO BENCH

A holidaymaker nailed himself to a seafront bench early yesterday so that he would not fall off after a heavy drinking session.

Philip Pyne, aged 51, put six nails through each thigh and trouser-leg into the seat on the esplanade at Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr Pyne, from Romford, Essex, was found by police at 5 am. He told them he did it to draw attention to himself, and to prevent him falling off the bench through drink.

The officers summoned ambulancemen, who called the fire brigade to lift Mr Pyne, and the bench, into the ambulance. The nails were removed at the town's hospital.

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## TV TO ACT ON PUBS UNDER THREAT

Is a much-loved pub you know facing demolition or redevelopment? Are its traditional atmosphere and regular drinkers being chased away by new decor and "themed" interiors?

The Observer Film Company is producing a television series on local campaigning for Channel 4, and would like to hear from anyone who thinks that their local is under threat.

Write as soon as possible with full details to: The Observer Film Company, Chelsea Bridge

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## PIPPED AT THE POST IN THE PUB QUIZ

Former Wimbledon resident Lord Nelson once said "England expects every man on HMS Trafalgar to do his duty."

The tradition has been kept alive by members of the quiz team at The Trafalgar pub in High Path, Wimbledon.

Never failing in their duty, the teamsters fought their way to victory in their division of the first Independent South London Quiz League.

They then took on three other elite squads in the grand final and were narrowly beaten by The Manor Arms, from Clapham.

The Trafalgar received a plaque for its endeavours, and in the process the league raised £3,500 for Trinity Hospice, Clapham.

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## WHITBREAD T-SHIRT

CAMRA's latest T-shirt gives you the chance to proclaim Whitbread's "Tour of Destruction" since 1742 - a simple logo on the front in red and white print on the black T-shirt, with a list of ex-breweries closed by Whitbread. Only £4.95 (including P&P) from CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. State size required (L, XL, or XXL).



33 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, N1

10 Real Ales & 7 Lagers usually available  
BISHOPS TIPPLE ★ BURTON ALE ★ FLOWERS ORIGINAL  
WADWORTH 6X ★ CHUDLEY LOCAL LINE ★ GIBBS PREMIUM  
FELINFOEL and MALT & HOPS BITTER

On production of this advert your first  
pint of beer ONLY 60p

valid until 31st December 1990

MALT  
& HOPS

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## REAL 'COCK-UP' OVER PUB SIGN

A blunder by planning officers over a cockerel sign outside a pub has sent Wimbledon villagers into a frenzy.

The Fox and Grapes pub in Camp Road asked the council last year if they could change the cock for an illuminated 'Fosters' advert.

Officers has the power to say either "yes" or "no" but decided to go out to consultation and ask residents what they thought.

But then they gave approval for the new sign before the statutory 21 days for objections was up.

The ensuing row meant the future of the Fox and Grapes cockerel became the subject of a lengthy debate among councillors at the recent development Control Committee.

Tory Cllr. Allan Jones said, "A planning officer took it upon himself to go out to consultation when it was not necessary. A

decision could have been made using delegated powers.

"He then gave the approval before the statutory 21 days for objections were up.

"When the residents realised there had been a mistake, it opened up a whole can of worms."

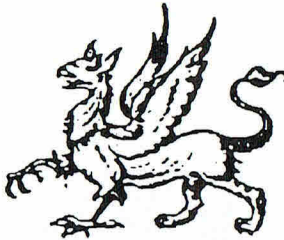
Two petitions were drawn up saying the 18th century pub would be spoilt by such signs and that they are too bright.

When the row flared up a further application was made to Merton council asking permission for two signs, one where the present cockerel is and the other high up on a dormer window.

The officers report said that such signs are not normally permitted in a conservation area.

In the end, permission for the one replacement sign was granted, which means the cockerel will be removed and a 'Fosters' sign put up in its place.

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### NEWS FROM FULLERS

**HAND PUMPS!**

**HAND PUMPS!**

Have arrived at:-

**THE VIADUCT**  
221 Uxbridge Road  
Hanwell, W7

SUPPORT OUR LATEST CONVERTS TO REAL ALE AND VISIT THEM SOON

**FULLERS**

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## TO HENLEY AND BEYOND

The latest excuse to visit Oxfordshire and its environs was a 'Stag' weekend. After the usual interesting day spent at the Wyndham Arms, Salisbury the Branch's regular minibus firm was contacted and twelve devoted imbibers took off for Henley.

The first port of call was 'The Black Horse' (In the Woods) at Checkendon. For reasons best known to themselves, this pub is never included in the Good Beer Guide by the local branch of CAMRA. The pub is an old Free House, just serving Brakspear Ordinary Bitter. It is run by a redoubtable retired lady of 86 years with help from her daughter and son-in-law. The building is part of Scotts Farm and can only be found with the aid of an Ordnance Survey Map. There have been no concessions made to the modern day fads; no draught lager, music or electronic games; just wooden chairs and tables in the bar area and comfortable arm chairs and settees in the two rooms further from the bar. The sight of twelve thirsty customers invading the bar at the same time could have put the fear of God into the landlady, but she calmly asked one of our number to act as barman, while she poured the pints from the barrel in the cold room. We soon settled down, while the acting barman, who is a farmer in Wales, inspected her flock of sheep with a trained eye. Here, indeed, is the perfect place to relax. Surely one of the best pubs in the country.

Reluctantly, we moved on, through Stoke Row and Newlands Lane, which leads to 'The Crooked Billet' the scene of many happy times spent with Nobby, when it was a wonderful unspoilt pub. Not wishing to spoil happy memories, we pass by and on to 'The Lamb' at Satwell. This thatched boozier used to be run by a young, prickly character, who bred fox terriers as a sideline. Over the years, the bar has been sensitively modernised to accommodate inside toilets and the private quarters opened out to provide a small restaurant. The massive inglenook fireplace remains, sporting a roaring log fire in winter and a display of fresh or dried flowers in summer. The barrels have been moved from sight into a cold room, only the taps remaining in view. As ever the beer, Brakspears, was in tip-top

condition and the surroundings immaculately clean. Here we learned the bad news, that the old landlord at 'The Old Hatch Gate', another great pub, had died recently and Brakspears had taken the decision to close it immediately. Sure enough, when driving past it was boarded up, the door firmly locked and the hanging sign taken down. One of the best that I will never get a chance to visit now!

Onwards into Berkshire to 'The Horns' at Crazies Hill another Brakspear's pub where we had booked in to eat. However, the attitude of the landlord and his wife could not have been worse "we're doing you a favour serving you and taking your money"; that we departed without a drink or eating. The alternative was quickly worked out and we sped to 'The Bull' at Wargrave, where the welcome was genuine and the food excellent. The Landlord here reported to us that he had phoned through to the 'Anchor' in Henley and that the landlord there had agreed to stay open during the afternoon for us. Apart from 'The Three Tuns' Henley is usually closed on Saturday afternoons so it was a welcome offer.

Henley used to be one of the best drinking towns in the country, but a series of pub closures and dreadful refurbishments have reduced the number of good pubs to a mere handful. The old characters have gone from behind the bar; Jack at 'The Bell' is sadly missed for instance. 'The Anchor' must have been a prime candidate for closure, run down and a musty air about the only bar remaining open. The new landlord is from London and seems determined to make a go of the pub. He made us very welcome and the Brakspear's Ordinary was in good form. The pub was quiet apart from our mob, but I have returned a couple of times since, and now the public bar is opened up and there now seems to be an optimistic air about the pub. The beer in the 'Three Tuns' (Brakspears) was very forgettable.

Leaving Henley for the evening session, we decided to visit the 'Flower Pots Hotel' at Aston, before heading into Bucks. This pub is approached from the little road that runs alongside the regatta site and is well worth a detour.

*Contd. on p.29*



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### HAMSTEAD'S ALLRIGHT WITH BARREL

Barrel the dray horse, more regularly seen pulling a brewery dray, for a change gets a customers' eye view of Hampstead's newest pub - Arkwright's Wheel, in West End Lane.

The 22-year-old Shire horse was delivering supplies for the opening of London brewer Taylor Walker's latest venture, described as "the real ale bar of the future". Traditional beers will be on offer with big brand names like Burton Ale, Greene King IPA, Arkells and Tetley Bitter as well as other surprise attractions.

Greeting Barrel with a welcoming pint is pub landlord John Murtur and customer Debbie Nunn before they rolled out the Barrel to get back to work!



## BEER BRIEFING

### LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 56

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.

This month we welcome no less than four brand new pubs in former shop premises in the generally underpubbed areas of North West London. Three predictably are new Wetherspoon Free Houses and one is a new Taylor Walker pub, albeit with several "guest beers" - the third Taylor Walker "shop conversion" in the recent past, the others being in W1 Soho and Merton.

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). ♦ indicates guest beers introduced into Big Brewers pubs following recent legislation.

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

#### NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

##### EAST

DAGENHAM, ADMIRAL VERNON, Broad Street.  
Courage: Best Bitter. (X37)

##### NORTH WEST

NW1, MAN IN THE MOON, 40-42 Chalk Farm Road. Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Marston: Pedigree. Younger: Scotch Bitter. Latest J D

Wetherspoon Free House in former shop premises; opened September 1990. Typical house style. Open all licensed hours.

NW6, ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL, 283/5 West End Lane. Adnams:Bitter♦. Arkell: BBB♦. Greene King: IPA♦. Ind Coope: Burton Ale. Marston: Pedigree♦. Tetley: Bitter. A new Taylor Walker corner pub in former shop and restaurant premises. Open all licensed hours. Non-Allied beers are guest beers.

NW10, OUTSIDE INN, 312/4 Neasden Lane. Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Marston: Pedigree. Theakston: XB. Younger: Scotch Bitter. Another new Wetherspoon Free House in former Woolworths premises, opened July 1990. Large & spacious. Open all licensed hours. At last a local for Sid & Doris?

HARROW, J J MOONS, 3 Shaftesbury Parade, Shaftesbury Ave, South Harrow. Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Marston: Pedigree. Theakston: XB. Younger: Scotch Bitter. Yet another Wetherspoon Free House in former shop premises, opened July 1990. Open all licensed hours.

##### SOUTH WEST

SW9, ROYAL OAK, 273A Clapham Road. Reopened but still no real ale. (SW37, U52)

#### PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

##### SOUTH EAST

CROYDON, NEWTON ARMS. Charrington, H unused. (SE245)

##### SOUTH WEST

SW9, DORSET ARMS. Taylor Walker, H unused. (SW36)

SW16, SUSSEX TAVERN. Whitbread, renamed SUSSEX (THE), H removed. (SW49)

SW17, ROSE & CROWN. Whitbread, H unused. (SW50, U28, U40)

SW19, JENNY LIND. Watney, H unused. (SW56)

##### WEST

W8, TAVERN ON THE PARK, Younger, H removed. (W83)

W11, COLONY. Whitbread, converted to Italian restaurant called PALIO but retaining full licence. (W87)

W12, WELLINGTON. Watney (fizz), converted to fast food restaurants. (W92)

NORTHOLT, TARGET. Charrington, closed - future uncertain. (W134)

WHITTON, WHITE HART. Watney, closed due to fire. (W162)

#### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

##### CENTRAL

EC1, SMITHFIELD TAVERN. + Bass. (E22)

EC1, THREE COMPASSES. - Beers listed.

+ Fuller: London Pride♦. + Ruddle: County. + Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (E22)

EC2, THROGMORTON RESTAURANT. Renamed ARBITRAGER (THE). Now a Regent Inns Free House. Ground floor bar is run as a private club. Traders Bar in cellar open to public. (E30)

EC3, UNDERWRITER. - Younger: No. 3.

+ Theakston: Best Bitter. (E38)

W1 (Mar), BARLEY MOW. - Arkell: BBB. + Bass. (W33)

W1 (Mar), DOVER CASTLE. + Adnams: Broadside. (W34)



## BEER BRIEFING

### LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 56 Continued

**W1 (May), MASONS ARMS**, 38 Maddox Street  
- Truman: Best Bitter. - Younger: Scotch  
Bitter. + Theakston: Best Bitter. (W39)  
**WC1, PRINCE ALBERT**. - Truman: Best Bitter.  
(W50)

**WC1, PRINCESS LOUISE**. + Prince Regent:  
Best Bitter (origin & strength unknown).  
Now owned by Regent Inns pub chain, ex  
Vaux. (N20, W50)

#### EAST

**E4, KINGS HEAD**. - Beers listed except Ind  
Coope: Burton Ale. + Tetley: Bitter.  
+ Young: Bitter. (E88)

**E4, PRINCE OF WALES**. + Bass. (E89)

**E18, FIRS**. Renamed **BOAR & THISTLE**,  
formerly **FIR TREES**. Still fizz, H unused.  
(E167, U15)

**BARKING, JOLLY FISHERMAN**. - Ruddle:  
County. (X14, U54)

**CREEKMOUTH (BARKING), CROOKED BILLET**.

+ Bass or Fuller: London Pride or Young:  
Special (beers rotate). (X37, U36)

**DAGENHAM, EASTBROOK**. + Courage: Directors  
Bitter. + Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London  
Pride, ESB. + Greene King: IPA. (X38)

#### NORTH

**N1, KING EDWARD VI**, 25 Bromfield Street.  
- Wethered: Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. A  
Free House with Whitbread tie. Omitted in  
error from N. guide. (RBIL 59, N Sup)

**N1, LORD WOLSELEY**. - Raymont: BBA. (N36,  
U43)

**N1, MARKET TAVERN**, 2 Essex Road.  
+ Theakston: Best Bitter. (N38)

**N1, PINT POT**. Current range is Bass.  
Charrington: IPA. Fuller: London Pride.  
Greene King: Abbot Ale. (N40)

**N1, RANDALLS**. Reverted to original name  
**QUEENS HEAD**. (N46)

**N1, SHAW'S FREE HOUSE**. Now has a monthly  
guest beer. (U52)

**NEW BARNET, RAT & PARROT**. Reverted to  
original name, **RAILWAY BELL**. Former Vaux  
Free House sold to Regent Inns and resold  
to J D Wetherspoon organisation. - Beers  
listed except Marston: Pedigree.  
+ Eldridge Pope: Royal Oak. + Greene King:  
IPA, Abbot Ale. + Younger: Scotch Bitter.  
(N175)

#### NORTH WEST

**NW3, DUKE OF HAMILTON**. + Fuller: London  
Pride. (N134)

**NW8, CROCKERS**. Now owned by Regent Inns  
pub chain, ex Vaux. (N155)

#### SOUTH EAST

**SE1, BRIEFS**. Renamed **INDIANNAS**. A wine  
bar/restaurant, still fizz. (SE18)

**SE1, CLAREMONT ARMS**. Now simply  
**CLAREMONT (THE)** and a Belhaven (fizz) pub,  
ex Truman. (SE19)

**SE1, GRANGE**. + Tetley: Bitter. (SE25, U46,  
U53)

**SE1, RED LION**, 172 Westminster Bridge  
Road. + King & Barnes: Sussex Bitter or  
Young: Bitter. + Wadworth: 6X or Young:  
Special. (SE36)

**SE8, MERRY CRICKETERS**. - Webster:  
Yorkshire Bitter + Friary Meux: Best  
Bitter. Now a Belhaven pub, ex Watney.  
(SE71)

**SE10, CROWN**. - Wethered: Bitter.  
+ Marston: Pedigree. (SE83, U53)

**SE10, GEORGE & DRAGON**. - Young: Special.  
+ Tetley: Bitter. (SE83, U54)

**SE14, CROWN & ANCHOR**. + Young: Bitter.  
(SE110)

**SE15, DUCHESS OF PECKHAM**. Reverted  
(almost) to original name **HEATON (THE)**.  
Formerly **HEATON ARMS**. (SE118)

**SE15, KELLIES**. Admission charge Fri/Sat  
nights. (SE120)

**SE15, SHERGAR**. - Young: Bitter. + King &  
Barnes: Sussex Bitter, Broadwood. (SE123)

**SE18, ANGLESEA ARMS**. - Shepherd Neame:  
Best Bitter. + Shepherd Neame: Spitfire  
Ale. (SE143)

**SE18, ARNOLDS**. - Guest beers. + Webster:  
Yorkshire Bitter. (SE143, U40)

**SE18, EARL OF CHATHAM**. + Young: Bitter.  
(SE145)

**SE18, GEORGE IV**. + King & Barnes:  
Broadwood. (SE146, U41, U53)

**SE19, ROYAL ALBERT**. + Guest beer.  
(SE156)

**SE25, CLIFTON ARMS**. + Young: Bitter.  
(SE184)

**SE25, SELHURST ARMS**. + John Smith:  
Yorkshire Bitter. (SE187)

**SE25, WHITE HORSE**. + Ruddle: Best Bitter.  
(SE188)

**CROYDON, CRESCENT ARMS**. - Courage:  
Directors Bitter. (SE238)

**THORNTON HEATH, GRANGE**. - Wethered:  
Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. + Whitbread:  
Best Bitter. (SE282)

**THORNTON HEATH, VICTORY**. - Ruddle: Best  
Bitter. + Varying monthly guest beer.  
(SE285)

**THORNTON HEATH, WILTON ARMS**. - Taylor  
Walker: Best Bitter. + Benskins: Best  
Bitter. (SE285)

#### SOUTH WEST

**SW3, BUNCH OF GRAPES**. - Beers listed  
except Everard: Tiger. + Ruddle: Best  
Bitter. + Webster: Yorkshire Bitter.  
+ Younger: IPA. (SW21)

**SW3, SURPRISE**. + Wadworth: 6X. (SW23)

**SW4, ROSE & CROWN**. + Wadworth: 6X.  
(SW25)

**SW6, GOLDEN LION**. + Young: Special (SW27)

**SW7, ENNISMORE ARMS**. - Beers listed  
except Ruddle: County & Webster: Yorkshire  
Bitter. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. Reclassify  
as Watney pub. (SW31)



---

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## BEER BRIEFING

### LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 56 Continued

**SW7, HEREFORD ARMS.** - Beers listed except Greene King: IPA. & Wadworth: 6X.

+ Brakspear: Bitter. + Ruddle: County.  
+ Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW31)

**SW7, MERRIE GO DOWN.** - Courage: Directors Bitter. - Fuller: London Pride. + Arkell: Kingsdown. (SW31)

**SW7, NORFOLK TAVERN.** - Beers listed except Boddington: Bitter & Flowers Original Bitter. + Bass. + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW32)

**SW8, OLD RED HOUSE.** + Wadworth: 6X. (SW34)

**SW8, ROYAL ALBERT.** - Brakspear: Bitter. - Fremlin: Bitter. + Boddington: Bitter. + Flowers: IPA. + Marston: Pedigree. (SW35)

**SW11, NAPIER ARMS.** + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (SW41)

**SW14, SHIP TAVERN.** + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (SW45)

**SW15, BRICKLAYERS ARMS.** + Ruddle: Best Bitter. + Young: Bitter. (SW46)

**SW15, COAT & BADGE.** - Courage: Directors Bitter. (SW46)

**SW15, STAR & GARTER.** + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW47)

**SW15, TELEGRAPH INN.** + Ruddle: Best Bitter. (SW47)

**SW15, WHITE LION.** Now owned by Regent Inns pub chain, ex Vaux. (SW48, U51)

**SW17, SURREY TAVERN.** - Wethered: Bitter. (SW50)

**SW18, COUNTRY HOUSE.** + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW51, U34)

**SW18, JOLLY GARDENERS.** + John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW51)

**SW18, LE GOTHIQUE.** + Guest beer. (U35, U50)

**SW18, PARK TAVERN.** + Bateman: XB. (SW53)

**SW18, ROUNDHOUSE.** + Fuller: London Pride. (SW54)

**SW19, BRITISH QUEEN.** - Beers listed. + Tetley: Bitter. + Young: Bitter. (SW54)

**SW19, HORSE & GROOM.** - Fremlin: Bitter. (SW56, U49)

**SW19, MARQUIS OF LORNE.** - Ruddle: County. + Hopback: GFB. (SW56)

**SW19, PRINCESS ROYAL.** + Wadworth: 6X. (SW56)

**SW19, ROYAL SIX BELLS.** - Young: Bitter. + Guest beer. (SW56, U29, 32, 34, 53)

**HAM, NEW INN.** - Boddington: Bitter.

+ Ruddle: Best Bitter. Reclassify as a Watney pub. (SW63)

**KEW, PIG & PARROT.** - Beers listed in Update except Shepherd Neame: Bitter. + EAHQ (origin unknown). + Fuller: London Pride. + Old Swan: Ma Pardoe's Bitter. Formerly GARDEN BAR. (SW64, U42)

**MITCHAM, GOAT.** + John Smith: Magnet Ale. (SW68)

**MITCHAM, QUEENS HEAD,** 10 Mill Green Road. + Courage: Directors Bitter. (SW68)

**MITCHAM, RAVENSBURY TAVERN.** - Beers listed. + Tetley: Bitter. + Young: Special. (SW68)

**RICHMOND, BRITANNIA.** + Fuller: London Pride. (SW71)

**RICHMOND, COBWEBS.** Renamed **RACING PAGE.** (SW71)

**RICHMOND, ROEBUCK.** - Younger: Scotch Bitter. + Theakston: Best Bitter. (SW73)

**RICHMOND, THREE CROWNS.** Correct name is **TRIPLE CROWN.** - Beers listed in update.

+ Adnams: Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. + Tetley: Bitter. Formerly **TULIP TREE.** (SW73, U32)

#### WEST

**W4, JOHN BULL (ALE HOUSE).** - Truman: Best Bitter. + Marston: Pedigree. Expensive. (W69)

**W4, ROBIN HOOD & LITTLE JOHN.** + Fuller: London Pride. (W69)

**W5, EALING PARK TAVERN.** Renamed **PENNY FLY.** + Courage: Directors Bitter. Managed by Regent Inns. (W72)

**W8, GOAT.** - Younger: Scotch Bitter. + Younger: IPA. (W82)

**W8, GREYHOUND.** - Greene King: Abbot Ale. - Wells beers. + Ruddle: Best Bitter. Reclassify as Watney pub. (W82)

**W12, MAIL COACH INN.** + Fuller: London Pride. (W91)

**BRENTFORD, NEW INN.** - John Smith: Yorkshire Bitter. + Wadworth: 6X. (W98, U51)

**HAMPTON, RAILWAY BELL.** + Courage: Directors Bitter. (W103, U50)

**HOUNSLOW, BEAVER.** + Hall & Woodhouse: Badger Best Bitter. (W126)

**HOUNSLOW, HUSSAR.** + Fuller: London Pride. (W126)

**HOUNSLOW, SOUTH WESTERN HOTEL.** + Fuller: London Pride. (W128)

#### CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 53

**PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE**  
**SW15, DRUMMONDS.** Reference should read (SW47)

#### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

**SW6, WHEATSHEAF.** Address is 562 Kings Road.

**SW11, WOODMAN.** Add reference (U32).

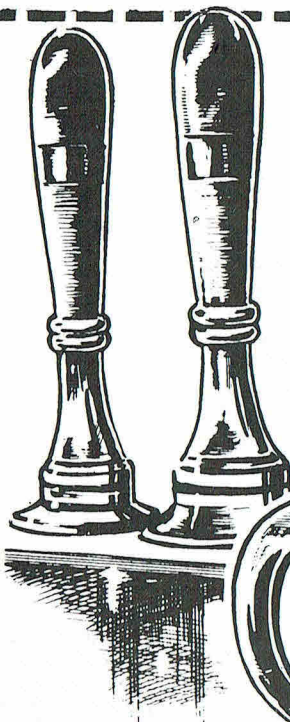
#### CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 54

**NEW PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE**  
**E6, ALPINE BAR** is a Free House.

**W13, SPINNING WHEEL** is a Free House.

**PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE**  
**E3, BIRD IN HAND** was a "fizz" pub.

**CROYDON, PARROTS WINE BAR** is in **CROYDON (SHIRLEY).**



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405 Green Lanes N4

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

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

TURNPIKE LANE  
**THE TOLLGATE**  
26-30 Turnpike Lane N8

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

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

WOOD GREEN/TOTTENHAM  
**THE BOAR**  
413 Lordship Lane N17

TOTTENHAM  
**THE ELBOW ROOM**  
503-505 High Road N17

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

HOLLOWAY  
**JJ MOONS**  
37 Landseer Road N19

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

WOOD GREEN  
**THE MOON UNDER  
WATER**  
423 Lordship Lane N22

KINGSBURY  
**JJ MOONS**  
553 Kingsbury Road NW7

WEST HENDON  
**THE WHITE LION OF  
MORTIMER**  
3 York Parade  
West Hendon Broadway  
London 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**  
115/117 Chase Side Enfield

anglers at other times, this imposing building contains two bars; the front bar is, particularly recommended as it also serves a good pint of mild as well as bitter. Now, we took the Marlow road out of Henley (A4155) then turned off on the Skirmett road and picked our way through country lanes to Cadmore End on the B482. 'The Old Ship' stands down from the road and is easily missed. As a pub it certainly should not be. The Bitter and Special are delivered direct from the cellar and our party split into two groups; one taking advantage of the tranquility of the main bar and the other taking over the basic tap room to play a very lively game of cards. We lingered here for a long time as the noise increased and the beers flowed.

Eventually we dragged ourselves away, thanked the landlord, who seemed totally unconcerned by our very noisy card players, and made a quiet entry into 'The Prince Albert' at Frieth. This Brakspears pub is out of the village just north of a remote crossroads and also proved most welcoming. A wide range of table games were available, shove-halfpenny, skittles and mazes, to keep the rowdier element busily engaged, while another good pint was slowly consumed, the mild again being pronounced good by those who know. The next scheduled halt was to be 'The Old Crown' at Skirmett. I was first through the door and the first to leave ten seconds later. I first knew this pub 15 years ago when it was a beauty run by a single minded landlady who also ran the VG store which used to be here as part of the pub. Since she was hounded out by the brewery this pub has been extensively altered and now even the marvellous tap room has been ruined and turned into an extension of the restaurant. We retired to the equally unmemorable free house across the road for our first mediocre pint of the trip.

However, 'The Stag and Huntsman' at

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Hambledon, the National Trust village, has undergone some changes of ownership, but has sensibly been left unaltered. This Free House has many different bars, but our favourite is the tiny front bar, and we had a real laugh with some of the locals while sampling a variety of well-kept beers and stoking up with red-hot chillis from the menu. Some of our number, including the bridegroom-to-be, were pretty legless when we left, but our young driver was amazed at how well behaved we were. I'm sure Joe and Betty were delighted to see us tip in the door at 'The Behive' in Clapham Junction at 10.40 pm after a long and memorable day out.

**Chris Cobbold**

*Contd. from p.15*

**WEST MIDDLESEX:** Tue 4 (8.30) Social & London Drinker Pick-up. **QUEENS HEAD**, 123 High Street, Cranford - Tue 9 (8.30) Games Evening. **CASTLE**, 30 West Street, harrow on the Hill (Public Bar) - Wed 17 (8.30) Branch Meeting. **KINGS HEAD**, 214 High Street, Acton, W3 - Fri 26 (8.00) Little Uxbridge Something. Meet at **THREE TUNS**, 24 High Street, then **METROPOLITAN** (8.30), 8 Windsor Street and onwards from there.

Deadline for the Nov edition, 1st Oct. Material for December edition to arrive by 1st Nov. **Please be sure to send diary material to Andy Pirson.**



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*Contd. from p.3*

were banned from the Brighton Beer Festival and as a result Whitbread received substantial adverse publicity in the Publican newspaper - widely read by licensees - and elsewhere. Let us hope that the allegations regarding certain patrons of the Albion, do not reach the national trade press!

So, come on everybody! Let us all take the pledge not to enter Whitbread pubs (other than for campaigning, like the Sally Army going into pubs to sell War Cry) and let us tell the public and Whitbread employees that we are doing and why we are doing it. As an older member of CAMRA I well recall the days when people were ashamed to admit that they worked for Watney. Eventually we will make Whitbread employees ashamed of the company for which they work; like the perceptive manager of the Whitbread pub I spoke of earlier.

**Dave Sullivan**

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## BACK NUMBERS

To date 128 editions of London Drinker have been issued: back numbers of the following are available:

1979: March, April, May, June, August, September, December.

1980: February, March, April, May, July, August, September, October, November, December.

1981: February, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, December.

1982: March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, December.

1983: February, April, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

1984: All issues (May 1 copy only)

1985 to date: 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.

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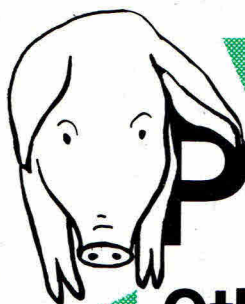
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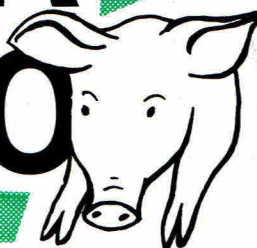




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