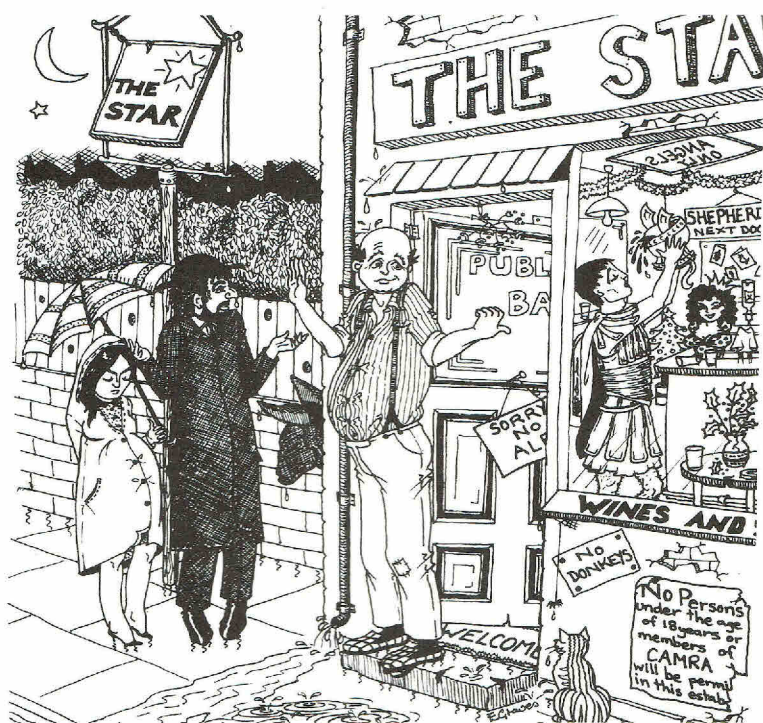


30p

DRINKER



Vol 19

No. 17

WHERE TO BUY LONDON DRINKER

The following is a list of all the current outlets for London Drinker of which the editors have been informed. Full addresses are only given where there are two pubs of the same name in the same postal district.

OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH EAST PUBS

EC1 ARTILLERY ARMS
EC1 BISHOPS FINGER
EC1 LEOPARD
EC1 MASQUE HAUNT
EC1 O'HANLONS
EC1 PHEASANT & FIRKIN
EC1 SEKFORDE ARMS
EC1 SHAKESPEARE
EC1 SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE
EC3 SWAN
EC4 BLACK FRIAR
E1 LORD RODNEYS HEAD
E2 CAMDENS HEAD
E2 CONQUEROR
E3 COBORN ARMS
E7 OLD SPOTTED DOG
E8 PRINCE ARTHUR
E9 FALCON & FIRKIN
E11 BIRKBECK TAVERN
E11 GEORGE
E15 GOLDEN GROVE
E17 COLLEGE ARMS
SE1 ANCHOR & HOPE
SE1 COPPER
SE1 GOOSE & FIRKIN
SE1 GLOBE
SE1 GRAPES
SE1 KINGS ARMS
SE1 LORD CLYDE
SE1 MARKET PORTER
SE1 PRINCE WILLIAM HENRY
SE1 ROYAL OAK
SE1 SHIP, 68 Borough Road
SE1 SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS
SE1 WHEATSHEAF
SE1 WHITE HART, Cornwall Street
SE1 WINDMILL, 44 Lambeth High Street
SE1 ZANZI BAR
SE3 BRITISH OAK
SE3 CROWN
SE3 FAIRWAY & FIRKIN
SE3 HARE & BILLET
SE5 PHOENIX & FIRKIN
SE6 BLACK HORSE & HARROW
SE6 TIGERS HEAD
SE7 ANTIGALLICAN
SE7 ROYAL OAK
SE7 VICTORIA
SE8 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE8 DOG & BELL
SE8 OLD MANOR HOUSE
SE9 BANKERS DRAFT
SE10 ADMIRAL HARDY
SE10 ASHBURNHAM ARMS
SE10 RICHARD I
SE13 FOX & FIRKIN
SE13 HOGS HEAD
SE13 QUAGGY DUCK
SE13 WATCH HOUSE

SE16 BLACKSMITHS ARMS
SE16 MOBY DICK
SE18 COOPERS ARMS (PLAISTEDS)
SE18 ROSE'S (PRINCE ALBERT)
SE20 MOON & STARS
SE22 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE24 LORD STANLEY
SE25 ALLIANCE
SE25 GOAT HOUSE
SE26 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE
BARKING, BARKING DOG
BARKINGSIDE, NEW FAIRLOP OAK
BEXLEY, BLUE ANCHOR
CROYDON, BUILDERS ARMS
CROYDON, CRICKETERS ARMS
CROYDON, DOG & BULL
CROYDON, GEORGE
CROYDON, PRINCESS ROYAL
CROYDON, ROYAL STANDARD
ILFORD, GREAT SPOON OF ILFORD
LOUGHTON, LAST POST
PURLEY, FOXLEY HATCH
WALLINGTON, WHISPERING MOON

CLUBS

SE3 ODDBINS
SE9 HOWERD CLUB
SE13 LEWISHAM LABOUR CLUB
SE18 PLUMSTEAD RADICAL CLUB
CROYDON, RUSKIN HOUSE
ORPINGTON, JUBILEE SPORTS BAR
E18 Gales Off Licence, 204 High Road, Woodford Green
SE3 Bitter Experience, 129 Lee Road
BROMLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill

OFF TRADE

E18 Gales Off Licence, 204 High Road, Woodford Green
SE3 Bitter Experience, 129 Lee Road
BROMLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons Hill
OUTLETS - WEST CENTRAL and NORTH PUBS
WC1 CALTHORPE ARMS
WC1 CITTIE OF YORKE
WC1 PAKENHAM ARMS
WC1 RUGBY TAVERN
WC1 SUN
WC1 THREE CUPS
WC1 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR
WC2 FULMAR & FIRKIN
WC2 GEORGE IV
WC2 HOGS HEAD
WC2 MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY
WC2 MOON & SIXPENCE
N1 179 UPPER STREET
N1 COMPTON ARMS
N1 EARL OF RADNOR
N1 GEORGE & VULTURE
N1 MALT & HOPS

N1 MARQUESS TAVERN
N1 PRINCE ARTHUR
N1 WENLOCK ARMS
N2 WELCH'S ALE HOUSE
N4 TAP & SPILE
N6 OLD GATE HOUSE
N7 TAPPIT HEN
N8 ELBOW ROOM
N8 TOLL GATE
N9 LAMB
N11 BANKERS DRAFT
N12 ELEPHANT
N12 TALLY HO
N13 WHOLE HOG
N16 EBOR ARMS
N16 ROCHESTER CASTLE
N17 ELBOW ROOM
N17 NEW MOON
N19 DOG
N21 HALF MOON
N21 ORANGE TREE
N22 STARTING GATE
BARNET, MOON UNDER WATER
BARNET, WHITE LION
BARNET, YE OLDE MITRE INN
EDGWARE, BLACKING BOTTLE
ENFIELD, FALLOW BUCK
ENFIELD, MOON UNDER WATER
ENFIELD, OLD WHEATSHEAF
NEW BARNET, BUILDERS ARMS
OUTLETS - NORTH WEST PUBS
NW1 HEAD OF STEAM
NW1 LORD NELSON
NW1 QUINNS
NW1 SPREAD EAGLE
NW2 BEATEN DOCKET
NW3 DUKE OF HAMILTON
NW3 FLASK TAVERN
NW3 THREE HORSESHOES
NW4 CHEQUERS
NW4 FOOTMAN & FIRKIN
NW8 PRINCESS ROYAL
NW9 J.J. MOONS
NW10 COLISEUM
NW10 GRAND JUNCTION ARMS
NW10 OUTSIDE INN
NW11 WHITE SWAN
HAREFIELD, WHITE HORSE
HARROW, MOON ON THE HILL
HARROW WEALD, SEVEN BALLS
HATCH END, MOON & SIXPENCE
KENTON, NEW MOON
NORTH HARROW, J.J. MOONS
RUISLIP, J.J. MOONS
SOUTH HARROW, J.J. MOONS
STANMORE, MALT HOUSE
WEALDSTONE, ROYAL OAK
WEALDSTONE, SARSEN STONE
WEMBLEY, J.J. MOONS
OFF TRADE
N1 Beer Shop, Pitfield Street
NW6 Grogblossoms, 235 West End Lane

Continued on page 47

EDITORIAL

So, it's that time of the year again and that being the case, I thought it was about time I did my regular review of the past twelve months. On leafing through my back numbers of the Drinker, we don't seem to have had quite so many scares about the closure and take overs of breweries, although there have been more than enough with news in October of Gibbs Mew of Salisbury being the latest to get out of brewing, presumably seeing retailing as the way to make money. I suppose that when you are selling beer to publicans you have to negotiate the price and trim your profits. Selling to the punters seems to be a totally different business - you hike your prices and they come flocking in to drink your beer. There must be some logic there somewhere - there is if you are a pub chain!

But of course, the big news on the brewery front was the refusal by the new Trade & Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett to allow Bass to take over half of Carlsberg Tetley. Mind you, it seems like it hasn't made a great deal of difference so far as the two companies are concerned, as Carlsberg Tetley announced the impending closure of their breweries in Wrexham and Alloa and the sale of the Ind Coope Burton brewery to (guess who) Bass who just happen to have their own brewery next door. On top of that, the financial pages on 4th November announced the forthcoming closure of two Bass owned breweries (unless they can sell them as going concerns - without pubs presumably!) - Stones Cannon Brewery in Sheffield at the start of 1999 and Hancocks of Cardiff in 2000.

On the pub front, we have had the ongoing saga of the will they, won't they closure of the Prince of Wales in Morden Road, South Wimbledon, for a car showroom. Ultimately the planners turned down that scheme and Youngs have now committed themselves to keeping the pub - Renamed the Princess of Wales. (A brief reminder here to get your votes in over this matter as we raised last month.)

Another loss (or as good as) of an historic pub, a one-time noted free house was first

announced in March and was finally confirmed as a fait accompli in November, with the Princess Louise in Holborn having been taken over by Sam Smith's and now selling just one cask beer. Yes, I have been going on about this pernicious practice for ever (well since July 1978 actually) when they did the same to the Tudor Close in Petersham Road, Richmond. At least it seems that real OBB will still be available at the Louise unlike too many of their other London pubs.

So what else has been occupying our minds this year. CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer for Youngs, Alan Bevan, kick started the debate about cask breathers once again with an article that confirmed that the brewery had made the device available to their tied houses for lower turnover beers. This is, of course, against the policy of CAMRA as agreed and reconfirmed at a number of national AGMs but still the subject will not go away. John Gilbert of Hop Back Brewery stirred things up again in his guest editorial in September. We got rapped knuckles for running it, although the view of another person in authority was that we had done wrong only in not making clear that it was a guest editorial. Funnily enough we have had several PS's to letters from readers strongly applauding John's words and no adverse reactions. Time to reopen the debate? Would we prefer nitrokeg Winter Warmer in Youngs pubs? (Time to drop that subject now, I think.)

And what else has happened? The Howerd Club in SE9 became CAMRA's National Club of the Year, as announced in June. The long awaited second edition of the South West London Pub Guide appeared in July, eleven years after the first and I can also reveal that a new West London guide is also being talked about again.

In August we announced that Dennis Turner, Labour MP for Wolverhampton South East had introduced a private member's bill on oversize glasses - funny that, we thought the new Government might introduce one; it was promised before the

Continued on page 46

CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN

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Sunday 7th - Sunday 14th December 97

BREWERY UPDATE FESTIVAL

Featuring a varied selection of ales from
these newish breweries:

MIGHTY OAK • FENLAND

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

ITCHEN VALLEY

MILLENIUM • BECKETT'S

BANBURY • ROCKINGHAM

HALE & HEARTY

FESTIVAL OPENING TIMES

Sunday: noon to 10.30pm

Monday-Thursday: noon to midnight

Friday & Saturday: noon to 2am

Live Music: 10pm - 1am Friday & Saturday evening

Basket Meals: 4pm to 8pm during the festival

Selected for the 1998 CAMRA Good Beer Guide

Nearest Station: New Cross (BR) Buses: 21, 36, 53, 136

IDLE MOMENTS

Well, we've reached the last Idle Moments of the year again so, remember, this on has to last you two months so don't go at it too early. I suggest that you save it to annoy the relatives after the turkey and pud (with apologies to any vegetarians among you). We'll start off in time honoured manner with last month's number puzzle solutions:

1. 10 Limbs on a Crab (Including Claws)
2. 373 Degrees Kelvin is the Boiling Point of Water
3. 40 Minutes is the Duration of each Half of a Rugby Match (Union or League)
4. 2 Blades on a Pair of Scissors
5. 225 Squares on a Scrabble Board
6. 10 Prime Ministers since the Accession of Queen Elizabeth the Second
7. 432 Pints in a Hogshead
8. 4 Percent is the Alcoholic Strength of Freeminer Bitter
9. 110 Cornets Followed the Seventy Six Trombones
10. 12 Eleanor Crosses Built by Edward the First

And continuing the resurgence of the genre, here are some more original number puzzles:

1. 3 P on the MS
2. 4 F on the T
3. 1 F in EC
4. 12 RUC in the ADPO
5. 2 S you FB
6. 4 LW
7. 64 TDQ
8. 2 J in a D of C
9. 8 O is TCC of the S
10. 3 S to the W

And heading right along, we come to the answers to last month's brewery anagrams:

1. "NOR BEER," WE SAY
BREWERY ON SEA
2. BRISK STEW HERE
WEST BERKSHIRE
3. CHEAP PLAID
ALDCHAPPIE
4. I SCOLD MY MEN
OLD CHIMNEYS
5. TAME THE ILL VAN
LITTLE AVENHAM

And still we come up with more of them. Actually, the brewery anagrams are the one bit that doesn't seem to get harder every year

- people keep opening new breweries for me to use. These are all in the 1997 Good Beer Guide as well as the 1998 one though:

1. FLOG SIR DAN
2. GOT COLD TEA
3. BOUND TO ROW
4. I WON BRA
5. NO GCSE, HUMS MATINS

You'll no doubt (?) be pleased that I've managed to squeeze out a few more cryptic Underground stations. Here are last month's:

1. Did this part of the East End move from Kent? - Bromley by Bow
2. If you don't speak clearly the taxi driver may take you to Scotland - Holborn
3. Pale place - Wanstead
4. This timber is immature - Wood Green
5. Groan! It's been messed about - Ongar

And here are this month's. Maybe I'll make a new year resolution to drop them (No, the cryptic stations, I mean):

1. Portal with a portcullis?
2. Annoyed Borough
3. I think the Crucifix is getting a bit burnt
4. Louis Armstrong's back end wrapped in bacon skin (You'll really hate this one!)
5.given half a chance

I thought I'd be "A Bit Beastly" with this month's 5BY4. Just match the artists with the records - answers at the end, as usual:

1. Don Partridge
 2. 3 Dog Night
 3. Samantha Fox
 4. Yardbirds
 5. Blue Mink
 6. Byrds
 7. Howlin' Wolf
 8. Animals
 9. Boomtown Rats
 10. Cat Stevens
-
- A. Good Morning Freedom
 - B. For Your Love
 - C. Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood
 - D. Chestnut Mare
 - E. Blue Eyes
 - F. I Love My Dog
 - G. I Don't Like Mondays
 - H. Mama Told Me Not To Come
 - I. Smokestack Lightnin'
 - J. Touch me (I Want Your Body)

Continued over the page

I wondered if I'd made those a bit too easy once I'd finished them; but what the heck, it's nearly Christmas. Anyway, let's have the answers to November's Trivial Knowledge:

1. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2. Middle Wallop
3. Terry Jones
4. Oliver Mellors
5. Tall Boy and Grand Slam
6. Edinburgh
7. Timothy West
8. Richard III
9. The FBI
10. Dwight D. Eisenhower

And to finish off with, here are some more questions to tax the grey matter:

1. What famous bombing raid of the Second World war took place on 16th May 1943
2. The Ross Dependency is the part of Antarctica administered by which country?
3. What is distinctive about the capybara, found in South America?
4. Into what sea does the River Volga flow?
5. When Wales won the Grand Slam in 1976, Phil Bennett, Ray Gravell and J.J. Williams played in all of their games. What single club did they all play for?
6. Who was famously arrested "by radio" when travelling to North America on the SS Montrose?
7. Which is older, the Beano or the Dandy?
8. What were introduced in 1796 to pay for the French Revolutionary war and abolished in 1988?
9. Who was the first winner of the BBC's Pot Black trophy?
10. Despite claims to the contrary the first practical one was invented by Thomas Savery and patented in 1698 - the first what?

And to finish off with here are the answers to 5BY4:

1-E, 2-H, 3-J, 4-B, 5-A, 6-D, 7-I, 8-C, 9-G, 10-F.

So now all it remains for me to do is to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Have a good one!

Andy Pirson

ENFIELD & BARNET PUB OF THE YEAR

Enfield & Barnet Branch Pub of the Year 1997 is the OLDE MITRE, 58 High Street, Barnet, an Allied Domecq Festival Ale House. A certificate of recognition was presented to the licensees, Ron and Jan Bishop on 16th October.

The "do" was well attended by both CAMRA members and regulars and photos were taken by the local press as well as the Allied Domecq in-house magazine. The latter were very "state of the art" but unfortunately the photographer said none of us would ever become models! However a good evening was had by all and a thoroughly deserved award went to a splendid historic pub.

As an ex-chairman of the branch would say, the beers were "SHU-PURB!". These included Black Sheep Best Bitter, Adnams Bitter, Orkney Raven Ale and one for the "tickers" - Thwaites Golden Charmer (at 4.5% ABV).

Robin Forshaw-Wilson
Enfield & Barnet Branch Chairman

GOOD BEER IS GUARANTEED AT THE SURPRISE

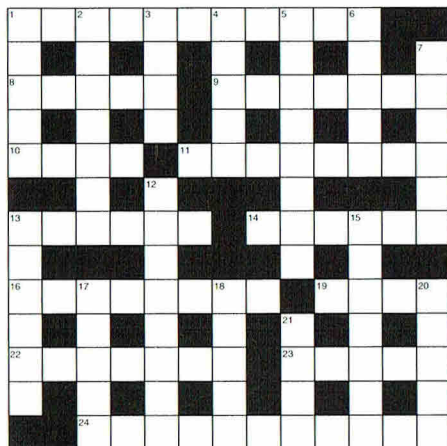
A tiny pub in a side street off Wandsworth Road, Lambeth, has been honoured for appearing in more editions of the annual Good Beer Guide than any other pub in south-west London. The Surprise, in Southville, has appeared in 22 issues of the guide because of the consistently high quality of its beers from Young's. Members of the South West London branch of CAMRA descended on the pub to present a certificate to managers Mark and Fiona Thompson.



Chris Cobbold (left) chairman of the South West London branch of CAMRA, presents the certificate to Fiona and Mark Thompson.

LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address

.....

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

Prize winner will be announced in the March 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

S	A	G	A		C	O	M	P	E	T	E	D
T	O			L	R	Y	E					
R	O	O	M		K	I	L	O	G	R	A	M
A		D		S		V		S		E		O
I	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E			
G	U		A		R		R	P		M		
H	A	B	I	T	S		P	I	R	A	T	E
T		S		I		A		B		N		A
				C	O	F	F	E	E	P	O	T
T		L		N		R		D		R		U
A	R	I	S	E	S	I	R		P	A	I	R
F		A		R		C				M		E
F	E	R	R	Y	M	A	N		M	A	I	D

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Now it's Christmas! [7,4]
8. One way to cook a chicken. Right in front of the oven. [5]
9. Rings again and cancels. [7]
10. You will shortly, I hear, be celebrating Christmas. [4]
11. Berries, apparently, cause disease. [8]
13. You may find one in your stocking. [6]
14. Secure accommodation for Christmas. [6]
16. Some go on outing to find animal. [8]
19. Nuts you find during Christmas time. [4]
22. Points to a load of camels. Get on! [7]
23. Picture the East after wise men's excursion. [5]
24. Parcel can be passable. [11]

DOWN

1. To some extent left out of the rave-up. [5]
2. Bleed an invalid. It's given power! [7]
3. Food from the East. [4]
4. There wanders a group of wise men. [5]
5. I am taking photo's of the marks in the snow. [8]
6. Compiler wrote up over point. et away! [5]
7. Hope to be a part of the church. [6]
12. Speak out. It's under a month to get ready for Christmas. [8]
13. Log or stick? [6]
15. Cute feature of the nativity. [3,4]
17. Still in bed, though dressed up. [3,2]
18. Candles, in general, only partially burn. [5]
20. Subject of the "Merry Christmas" poster. [5]
21. Present? Soldier gets short measure. [4]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:

Tony Watkins, West Norwood, SE27.

Other correct entries were received from:

A. Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Tommy Atkins, Geoff B. John Blundell, Robin Bolt, A. Bradbury, Alan Brooke, Martyn Brown, Ben Burlutt, Andy Camroux, Neil Chapman, A.P. Comaish, Charles Creasey, Sean Crook, Mike Farrelly, Brian Felton, Dudley Freeman, Gobbles The Dog, Lawrie Gordon, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, J.E. Green, Roger Hawes, Jonty Hawkes, Bill Hernon, Graham Hill, A. Hoare, Chris James, Doug Jamie & Lisa King, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Al Mountain, Rab Noolas, H.O'Connor, Stuart Osgood, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Kevin Reeve, Geoff S. Super Scooper, Bryan Smith & Penny Worth, Jim Smith, Old Smokey (Heart of Wessex), Stephen Tarnya & Jez, Bill Thackray, Fred Vere, Martin Weedon, Spud Whale, David Woodward, Yak, Jimmy Young.

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BRANCH BITS & PIECES

Welcome again to our expanded branch information page where we have details of Branch Contacts and events as well as general items of news from the various branch areas. This is another brief reminder to branches that this is your column where you can tell drinkers across London what is happening in your area that might be of interest to them. Branch events for December and January are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 0181-697 2147 (H), 0171-973 3274 (W).

DEC: Mon 15 (7.00) EC3 Crawl. Start LAMB TAVERN, 10/12 Leadenhall Market then (7.30) JAMAICA WINE HOUSE, St. Michaels Alley (Cornhill); (8.30) EAST INDIA ARMS, 67 Fenchurch Street; (9.00) SWAN, Ship Tavern Passage plus possible others.

JAN: Wed 14 (8.00) Business Meeting. ROYAL OAK, Tabard Street, SE1. Pub Records Officers of all London area branches and other interested persons welcome

CROYDON & SUTTON. Paul Everitt 0181-686 5053 (H & W).

DEC: Mon 1 (8.00) Social. FOXLEY HATCH, Russell Hill Road, Purley - Thu 4 (8.00) Old Town Pub Crawl: Meet in the ROSE & CROWN, 124 Church Street, Croydon - Wed 10 (8.00) Presentation of the Greater London Pub of the Year Award to the WINDSOR CASTLE, 378 Carshalton Road, Carshalton - Fri 12 (8.30) Christmas Social & Buffet. WINDSOR CASTLE (as above) in the Cottage Room - Tue 16 (8.30) Social. SANDROCK, 152 Upper Shirley Road, Shirley - Mon 29 (8.30) Social. CLARET FREE HOUSE, 5A Bingham Corner, Addiscombe.

JAN: Tue 6 (8.30) Social. DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, 7 Holmesdale Road, Croydon - Wed 14 (8.30) Social. RAILWAY TELEGRAPH, 19 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath - Thu 22 (8.00) Sutton Pub Crawl, meet in the COCK AND BULL, 26-30 High Street, Sutton - Thu 29 (8.30) Branch Meeting. WINDSOR CASTLE, 378 Carshalton Road, Carshalton.

EAST LONDON & CITY. Stephen Harris 0181-519 0163 (H) e-mail: steve@pigsear.org.uk.

NOV: Sun 30 (6.00) Social. GOLDENGROVE, The Grove, E15. If you are unable to be at Stratford Town Hall during the day to set up the Pig's Ear festival, come and join the workers for a pint or two in the early evening.

DEC: Tue 2-Sat 6 PIG'S EAR REAL ALE FESTIVAL, Old Town Hall, Stratford, E15. See details elsewhere in this issue - Mon 15 (8.00) Branch Meeting/Christmas Drink. OLD SPOTTED DOG, Upton Lane, E7

JAN: January Branch Meeting: date & venue to be advised. Please check January What's Brewing - Sun 18 (12.00) Social. MARKSMAN, Hackney Road, E2 then on to NELSON'S HEAD, Horatio Street, E2 and on again to BRITISH LION, Hackney Road, E2

ENFIELD & BARNET. Derek Smith 0181-805 1436 (H & W).

DEC: Wed 3 (9.00) Social and Good Beer Guide Roadshow. WILLIAM IV, 192 Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton, N9 - Tue 9 (9.00) Social and Good Beer Guide Roadshow. KING WILLIAM IV, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, EN5 - Sat 13 (9.00) Christmas Dinner. STAG, Enfield Town. Meet in bar from 8.00. £5 deposit required; bookings to Tony Roberts on 0181-482 9673 - Tue 16 (9.00) Social and Good Beer Guide Roadshow. WHITE SWAN, 243 Golders Green Road, Golders Green, NW11.

JAN: Thu 1 (12.00 noon) "Cobweb" Social. WHITE LION, 50 St. Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 - Tue 6 (9.00) Social. ORANGE TREE, 18 Highfield Road, Winchmore Hill, N21 - Wed 14 (9.00) Social. BLACKING BOTTLE, 122/126 High Street, Edgware, HA8 - Tue 20 (9.00) Social. BANKERS DRAFT, 36-38 Friern Barnet Road, New Southgate, N11 - Thu 29 (9.00) Social & London Drinker Pickup. BUILDERS ARMS, 3 Albert Road, New Barnet, EN4.

FEB: Wed 4 (9.00) Social. GREEN DRAGON, 889 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, N21.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Brian Bade 0181-549 7486 (H & Fax).

DEC: Tue 9 (8.30) Business Meeting. LAMB, Acre Road, Kingston - Thu 18 (8.30) Branch Christmas Dinner. BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hawks Road, Kingston (names to branch contact by 8th December at the latest).

JAN: Tue 6 (8.30) Twelfth Night Social. CORONATION HALL (Wetherspoons), St. Marks Hill, Surbiton - Thu 15 Crawl of Borough Market and SE1 area. Meet BARROW BOY & BANKER, London Bridge at 8.00pm then WHEATSHEAF, Stoney Street. Please note start time - Thu 29 (8.30) BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. WAGGON & HORSES, Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton (Green Room); to be preceded by a short business meeting starting at 8.00pm.

NORTH LONDON. Alison Cox 0181-742 0498 (H) 0181-746 8148 (W).

DEC: Tue 2 (8.00) Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1 - Tue 9 (8.00) Social. GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane, NW10 - Thu 18 (8.00) Christmas Social. DUKE OF HAMILTON, 23 New End, NW3. Ring Alison Cox for details - Wed 31 New Year's Eve Social. Ring Alison Cox for details.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Alistair Black 01932 780823 (H); from January Brian Kirton 0181-384 7284 (H).

DEC: Tue 9 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. CASTLE, 18 Upper Square, Isleworth - Fri 12 (7.30 for 8.00) Christmas Dinner. ORANGE TREE, 45 Kew Road, Richmond. Traditional menu; £15.95 per head. Bookings to

Alistair or Bernard (0181-890 6950)

JAN: Thu 8 (8.00) Open Committee Meeting. COACH & HORSES, Kew Green then (9.30) Social at FLOWER & FIRKIN, Kew Gardens Station - Thu 29 (8.00) South Twickenham Crawl. Start FULWELL ARMS (ex Cock & Bull), 241 Hampton Road then (8.45) PRINCE OF WALES, 136 Hampton Road; (9.15) RIFLEMAN, 7 Fourth Cross Road; (10.00) PRINCE ALBERT, 30 Hampton Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Andy Camroux 0181-333 2914 (H) 0181-331 8510 (W) e-mail: a.camroux@greenwich.ac.uk

Recent meetings have been very well supported, with attendances into double figures. We have had good turn outs to present our Pub of the Year award to the Red Lion in Bromley, and for a trip to Staplehurst, Kent to present the Cider of the 1997 Catford Beer Festival award to Double Vision. Success has also been gained by the Branch on the dartboard, having seen off the challenge from East London & City in the Wheatsheaf! Challenges from other branches will be welcome.

DEC: Mon 1 (7:30 for 8:00 start) Committee Meeting. DOG & BELL, 116 Prince Street, SE8. A regular visit to one of the best and most consistent pubs in our area - Fri 5 (from 6.00) Working social at PIGS EAR BEER FESTIVAL - Tue 9 Open Branch Meeting. HARVEST MOON, 141 High Street, Orpington. A chance for some of our remote members to take part in Branch activities. The meeting will be followed by a mini crawl to check out some potential Good Beer Guide pubs in the area that are rarely visited - Sat 13 (from 7:00) Branch Christmas Party at ROYAL OAK, 44 Tabard Street, SE1 (new Harvey's pub) - Tue 16 (7.30) ROYAL OAK, 54 Charlton Lane SE7 then to VICTORIA, 757 Woolwich Road, SE7. Social to visit a pub with a growing reputation for good beer - Mon 22 A pre-Christmas Beer'n'Noodles night in Greenwich. Start at Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, SE10, then on to Tai Won Mein at approx 9.30.

JAN: Mon 12 Committee Meeting. MAPLE TREE, 52-54 Maple Road, SE20. Sadly, the last remnant of the famed Maple Road crawl, which used to have 3 Good Beer Guide listed pubs within sight of each other - Fri 16 (7.30) Social crawl. Start RUTLAND, 55 Perry Hill, then crawl to Forest Hill. Venues to be determined on the night! - Tue 20 (7.30 for 8:00 prompt start) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS, 88 Tooley Street Come and hear what we have been doing all year, and submit your recommendations for next year's Good Beer Guide entries - Thu 22 (7.30) Good Beer Guide survey. Start KING'S ARMS, 25 Roupell Street, SE1 - Tue 27 (7.30 for 8:00 start) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN, 105 Tanners Hill, SE8. All welcome. Please come and put forward any suggestions you may have to make next year's Festival an even greater success.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H).

DEC: Mon 1 (8.30) Social and Presentation as Pub of the Year. WHITE HORSE, 173 Coxtie Green Road, Coxtie Green. At this meeting it is also proposed to approve the minutes of the 1997 AGM and to seek nominations for the 1999 Good Beer Guide. If you are unable to attend you can send nominations to Andrew Clifton, 46 Havering Drive, Romford, RM1 4BH or fax them to 01708-765150 - Thu 11 (8.30) Social. SWAN HOGSHEAD, 123 High Street (A123), Brentwood - Tue 16 (7.30) Social at the Cottage, McMullens Brewery, Hertford. Coach arranged; Details/bookings from Wendy Benson: 01708-723897 (H) - Tue 23 (8.30) Christmas Social. WOODMAN, London Road (A113), Stanford Rivers - Mon 29 (from 8.30) Mini-Crawl in Romford: finishing at MOON & STARS, South Street and featuring HOGSHEAD and YATES'S WINE LODGE in South Street and GOLDEN LION in High Street

JAN: Wed 7 (from 8.30) Mini-Crawl in Hornchurch, starting at FATLING & FIRKIN, (ex Bull), 109 High Street and finishing at PIT BAR, Queen's Theatre, Billet Lane - Thu 15 (8.30) Social. CRICKETERS, 299/301 High Road (A11), Woodford Green - Tue 20 (8.30) Social. OLDE DOGGE INN, Billericay Road (off A128), Herongate - Thu 29 (8.30) Social. VICTORIA ARMS, 50 Ongar Road (A128), Brentwood.

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 0181-540 9183 (H), 0171-438 7181 (W).

During October the Branch presented awards to two SW London pubs which had become established entries in the Good Beer Guide. The Princess Royal in Abbey Road, Merton has featured in the GBG for 16 consecutive years; the Surprise in Southville, South Lambeth has managed a total of 22 entries.

The Princess Royal is an Intreprenuer pub with a regular guest beer. It is described in CAMRA's South West London Pub Guide as a "compact early 19th Century corner house, sensitively preserved." The 1998 GBG calls it "a haven of tranquillity." About five minutes walk from South Wimbledon tube station, the Princess Royal can be found by turning right out of the station into Merton High Street and then right into Abbey Road.

The Surprise is a tiny and characterful Young's house, described in the SW London Guide as "a small gem" and "a peaceful haven." Southville is a short cul-de-sac off the busy Wandsworth Road (A3036), almost opposite South Bank University and adjacent to Larkhall Park. It is also only a few minutes walk from another branch favourite, the Priory Arms in Lansdowne Way.

DEC: Thu 11 Christmas Antisocial; Curry evening at Shree Krishna, Tooting. Meet 7.30-8.00 at FREEDOM & FIRKIN, 196 Tooting High Street, SW17. Numbers limited - names to Mark Bravery please by 4th December.

JAN: Mon 12 (7.30) Open Branch Committee (March meetings) and Open Festival Committee Meetings. GOOD BEER GUIDE SHORTLISTING; PUB DESIGN AWARD NOMINATIONS; NATIONAL AGM MOTIONS AND NATIONAL CLUB OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS. CASTLE, 38 Tooting High Street, SW17.

WATFORD & DISTRICT. Tony Smith 01923 221155 (H & W) Fax: 01923 218625.

WEST LONDON. Di Kehoe 0171-218 3141 (W).

This time of year pubs are busier than normal, so this is a time to use pubs we know well. The last Branch Meeting of 1997 will be in the WARWICK ARMS, 160 Warwick Road, W14 on Wednesday 3rd December. The meeting will include taking nominations for consideration for the 1999 Good Beer Guide. This Fullers pub, close to the centre of our branch is handy for many tube and bus routes. The meeting will start at 8.00.

Friday Social on Dec 19th from 8.30 at the WORCESTER ARMS, 89 George Street, W1. This GBG pub with a changing beer range is located to the north of Oxford Street on the corner with Gloucester Place. Handy for the last minute shopping; nearest tube is Marble Arch.

For after the festivities and before the parties, a New Years Eve EVE Social gathering will be held on Tuesday 30th at the CHURCHILL ARMS, 119 Kensington Church Street, W8 from 8.30 onwards to drink out the old year and look forward to the long evenings surveying for the 1999 Good Beer Guide. Tube Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate, buses 27, 28, 52 and 70 pass close by.

On Thursday 8th January we get the new year off to a start with a pub crawl in WC2, beginning at 8.00 at the GRIFFIN, 9 Villiers Street. This pub was refurbished early last year; the decor is light and bright. Then, slipping down Villiers Street (Well, it might be snowing) to the PRINCESS OF WALES at 8.35; the refurbishment here was done mid year and not quite so bright. At 9.20 we move on into Craven Passage and up the stairs to the SHIP & SHOVEL; closed for so many years, this should now have been opened by Hall & Woodhouse. The crawl may end here or we may continue to the LORD MOON OF THE MALL for a last bevvy. Please note that all times for this evening are subject to change.

Thursday 22nd for a social evening at the OLD PACK HORSE, 434 Chiswick High Road, one of our more westerly pubs, for some Fullers, meeting about 8.00. A short business meeting will be required to confirm which pubs we shall be surveying for the GBG on Thursday 29th. Tube Chiswick Park; loads of buses.

Thursday 29th we shall be doing a Good Beer Guide pub crawl; the pubs and the area will be confirmed at the social on the 22nd.

WEST MIDDLESEX. Dave O'Driscoll 0181-427 7498 (H) 0171-766 7498 (W).

Apologies for last month's social - this should have read The Load of Hay, Villier Street, Uxbridge.

DEC: Tue 2 (8.30) Two Pub Social on the Hill. WHITE HORSE then (9.45) CASTLE, both Middle Road, Harrow on the Hill - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. DRAYTON COURT, The Avenue, W13 - Sat 13 (7.13) Branch Christmas Party. BEACONSFIELD ARMS, West End Road, Southall. Usual frivolous behaviour, hot salad etc. - Thu 18 (8.30) Social. RED LION, St. Marys Road, W5.

JAN: Tue 6 (8.30) Happy New Year Winter Ale Social. J J MOONS, Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BEACONSFIELD ARMS, West End Road, Southall - Thu 22 (8.30) New Pub Social. THE VINTRY, Church Road, Stanmore - Wed 28 (9.00) London Drinker Pickup. RED LION, St. Marys Road, W5.

Deadline for the February edition, 2nd January. Material for March to arrive by 2nd February. Please be sure to send all diary material to Andy Pirson.

THE BEER DRINKERS COMPANION

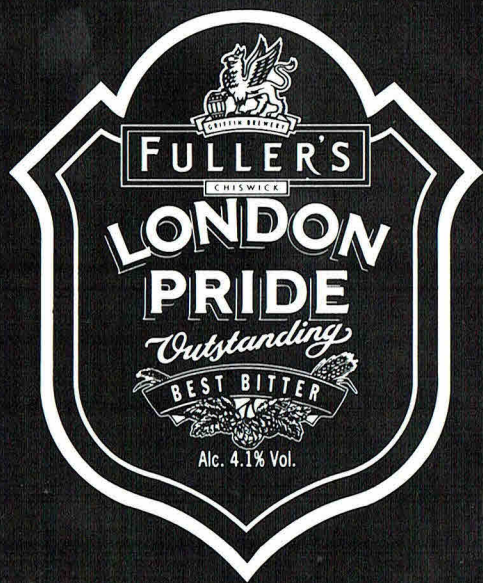
In the brewhouse at Youngs, Michael Hardman paid tribute to young Frank Baillie on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Frank was presented with a plaque to commemorate his lifetime's devotion to the cause of Real Ale. He was the first to write and have published the definitive guide to the beers of this great country of ours. He travelled so widely that he included all the beers produced in 1973. It was Frank's publication that inspired the fledgling CAMRA and, typically he generously gave his expertise to the first Good Beer Guide edited by John Hanscomb, who was

also present at the ceremony.

Frank has always been a witty but self-effacing character who is well liked and respected around the drinking world. It was certainly a great pleasure to sup a few with him and his wide circle of friends and admirers on this occasion. His like, along with the late Mr V. D. S. Fowler, whom I also had the privilege of meeting on the Isle of Wight, will rarely be seen again. I feel lucky that our paths crossed.

Chris Cobbold
SW London

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

**Re: Conditioning Time & Keith
Emmerson's Article**

I have discussed the issue of cask-conditioning with Iain Swanson, Quality Assurance brewer at Young's brewery. After racking (putting the beer in casks), Young's store the barrels in their thermostatically-controlled warehouse at cellar temperature for 24-48 hrs before distribution. Rapid local delivery to the pub ensures the beer is still cool when delivered. Publicans are recommended to tap & vent the cask (soft spile) 24hrs before needed, to work off excess pressure. Once the cask has stopped working it should be hard spiled until serving. (All very familiar to those of us who toil at Beer Festivals).

Therefore the standard conditioning time for Young's is 3 days minimum. Iain Swanson says good stock control should result in 3-10 days beer supply in a pub. Young's recommend their beer is drunk young and, as with most cask beers, should not be left lying around for weeks on end. Young's insist old beer is returned to the brewery rather than be served in poor condition.

I also discussed the issue with Gary Morris at the Priory Arms Freehouse, SW8. The Priory is the CAMRA Pub of the Year in Young's heartland (thrice in succession) and regularly stocks Young's Bitter and Special amongst six real ales. Gary agreed with the above regimen and had found by personal experience that Young's beer is best drunk "fresh". He pointed out the importance of ales being stored & transported properly from a brewery to the pub. This is a particular issue with beer distribution companies and gives regional brewers an obvious advantage if they choose to supply direct. If a beer has been spoiled in transit, no amount of "conditioning" will bring back flavour. Gary's experience is each beer has their individual "best conditioning period"..... some beers need a longer time on the stillage, others are best served young & fresh. This is where the expertise & experience of a good cellarperson tells....I keep on suggesting Gary makes notes but he protects his skill & practice by storing the information in his head. Interestingly, the night I visited the Priory, Gary had Fuller's London Pride on... 'twas

one of the best pints of Pride I'd had in a long, long time, ...not supplied direct from the brewery and after six days stillage!

Cheers,

Alan Bevan,

Brewery Liaison Officer to Young's Brewery

If you have any matters that you wish to be raised with Young's about their pubs or beers, Alan can be contacted at 58 Fenwick Place, London SW9 9NW. Or telephone on 0171-326 4257.

Dear Editors,

Wetherspoons have stated in their latest point of sale advertising, that customers can expect an extra 5% in their glass for pint measures. How is it then that providing lined glasses should give you extra beer? Did they, and are a large percentage of users of brim full glasses defrauding the customers by under serving by up to 5%?

I think we should be told.

Yours sincerely

Mike Moran

London SW12

Dear Editors

Further to the correspondence about the South Western at Wimbledon in your September and October issues, may I point out that your organ in March 1982 reported (p.23 RBIL Update 2) that it was no longer selling real ale. It appears in Kelly's Post Office London Directory for 1981, but not 1983 (I have not seen the 1982 edition), so closure may well be the reason for its ceasing to sell real ale.

Yours faithfully

Richard Graham

Dear Editors,

According to the 135 Association, a new Young's leaflet is to be made available. A new pub is listed at 69 Aldwych to open in late 1997. No name is available yet.

Hollands in E1 is no longer listed.

The Royal Oak, SW1 should reopen in November.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Price

Barking

MAGPIE & CROWN

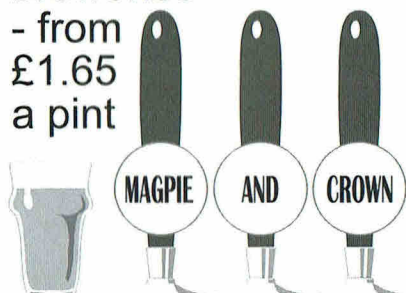
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* singing voice required Friday evenings

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

I did not see the original article on Irish real ales in September, but I would like to add a couple of comments to the reply in the October issue. Much as I would like to endorse the sentiments expressed I am afraid I have to disagree with them.

I attended the Irish festival on both nights and sampled most of the beers on offer; and though I would prefer to speak approvingly, I have to say that I found the event a disappointment. The beer was generally served by gravity dispense from casks mounted on the bar, which meant that it appeared unappetizingly flat when served - and it was much too cold. As a consequence the beers were thin tasting and mostly indistinguishable. I saw several drinkers pouring their beer into another glass to liven it up a bit, and some others who had simply settled for bottled lager instead.

The price of a pint varied between £2.20 and £2.50; the reason given for this was the high cost of transportation. Excise duty in the south of Ireland, however, is levied at a much steeper rate than here, from which casks of ale exported would surely have been exempt - would this not have made them cheaper? As for ales from the north - border farmers are well known for enjoying a good living from moving farm produce back and forth on unauthorised roads for the respective tax benefits, so running some beer over should not have presented a big problem!

If cask conditioned ale is to become a success in Ireland, it will be as the result of customer demand, and for that demand to be stimulated the product must be an attractive one.

On a different note, I have written to Wetherspoons asking them to encourage the Irish ale revival by bringing them in for St. Patrick's Day, which with their range of outlets would be an economic proposition. The reply was that it was something they have under consideration.

Yours sincerely,
John McPartlin
London N12

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

I received my London Drinker and sat down to have a good read. I scanned the pages looking to see what the London branches were doing to publicise national Mild day. Apart from some mentions in the branch bits and pieces by Croydon & Sutton, South East, South West and West London activities, there were no articles whatsoever, not even a mention in Chris Cobbold's editorial.

I instead found a complete page of APPLE propaganda, and to cap it all even the editorial, which had not been able to find room to mention Mild, had also launched a diatribe following CAMRA's Militant Tendency's line.

I believe that when Cider was first brought into the remit of CAMRA it was seen as a threatened drink "like Mild". This cuckoo now seems to have almost kicked Mild completely out the nest. "Making May a Mild Month" has been reduced to a day of action and APPLE cannot even allow that without still further marginalisation.

It seems that CAMRA should change its name to more accurately define what it actually campaigns for. I suggest the Campaign for Cider, Real Ale and Perry or CAM CRAP for short.

Yours

John Williams
Maidstone, Kent

PS. I love the Spice Pigs logo for the Pig's Ear Beer Festival, the best yet.

Dear Editors

Further to my letter to LD of 19 Oct., regarding the South Western, I foolishly left out a sentence which might perhaps be added should it be published, Viz:

Martin Smith refers to Bullied Pacifics passing underneath, but my recollection is that the sign showed a blue L.N.E.R. locomotive. Why can't inn sign painters get it right?

Yours sincerely

Richard Graham

Dear Editor

Examining the CAMRA survey into beer prices, (November) I note with interest that

while the average for a pint of decent beer in the North-West is £1.43 a pint, in London it is £1.79 a pint. If the market forces which every politician seems to love these days I suppose we'd all be off to live in Manchester - even if we did have to wait a bit for a Virgin train.

A more sensible alternative might be for the Government to look at beer duty so that prices in London and elsewhere are reduced to those in Manchester. It wouldn't be socialism but even social marketism would be better than the madness we have now.

Yours

Keith Flett

Dear Editors

In response to Martin Smith's last column, I must ask Dipsy why all my barmaids have suddenly become pregnant at the same time? Troubled of Stockwell.

'Suggest repair to machine in Gent's toilet.' - Dipsy

Dear Editors

I have just visited the Sky Lark (a recent Wetherspoons in Croydon) and was fascinated to see that table service is available in much of the pub (Note: pub as opposed to restaurant). My question is whether one is expected to leave a tip and, if so, how much?

Charles Pope-Martin

E17

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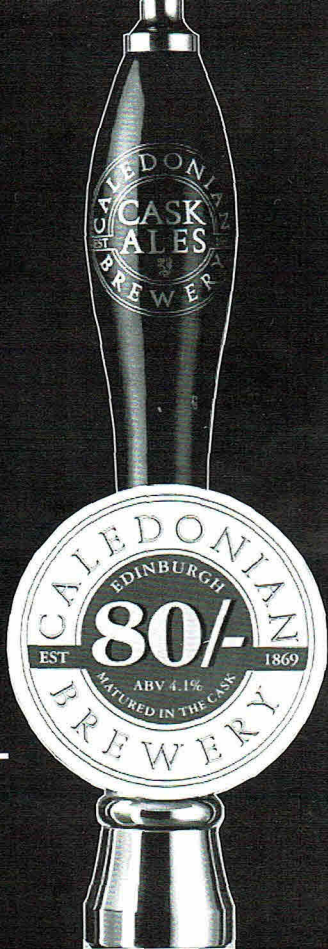
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THE BEST PUBS IN LONDON

As reported in last month's Drinker the WINDSOR CASTLE, Carshalton was recently chosen as Camra London Region pub of the year. Here one of the judges describes the nine finalists and some of the background to the selection process.

Each of the London Branches were invited to nominate a pub for judging and in the end nine were put forward, most, if not all, being the local Pub of the Year. I was one of seven judges appointed by the London Region. We had to mark each pub against certain set criteria e.g. beer quality, atmosphere, service and welcome. We avoided visiting as a group so we could see the pubs under different conditions. We met at the end so we could compare our different experiences.

The winner was the WINDSOR CASTLE, 378 Carshalton Road, Carshalton. I visited on a Friday evening when the pub was busy and lively but still managed to maintain a high standard of service from a staff who were clearly knowledgeable about the beers they were serving. A largish one bar pub but laid out carefully to give a good atmosphere. Six beers available (two nationals, one independent and three micros) in very good form. Also other beers available in four pint jugs from the cellar (for the price of three). Good campaigning with posters and pub guides and leaflets. *(from Carshalton Beeches station turn right - ten minutes walk or take the 154 bus).*

In second place came the RED LION, 10 North Road, Bromley. This pub was bought by Beards from Whitbread about a year ago and a great example of what a pub chain can do to a big brewer's pub. It has been sympathetically refurbished with original tiling restored. The Beard's Bitter (now brewed by Arundel) was good value (£1.50) and four other beers were available. *(Ten minutes walk Bromley North Station - come out of the side exit into Sherman Road and turn left. Where the road bends to the left carry straight on! You should see the White Horse, and then the Red Lion.)*

The other nominated pubs were -

PRIORY ARMS, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8. A grade II listed refurbished pub which is a genuine free house. It attracts both a local following and students from the local University and its upstairs room is frequently used by local groups for meetings. Bought from Watneys some years ago, it is an oasis in an area where most of the pubs leave something to be desired. *(Although if time permits do visit the other two GBG pubs in the area, the SURPRISE and the BRITISH LION). Usually six beers from the independents or micros. (About five minutes Stockwell tube. Left and immediately left into Binfield Road. Through the pedestrianised area across the zebra crossing then right for about ten yards and left into Lansdowne Way).*

WHITE CROSS HOTEL, Water Lane, Richmond. A Young's house selling the full range of their beers. By the Thames with excellent service and welcome, which I am told is maintained even when the pub becomes extremely busy at weekends in good weather. Single island bar with several drinking areas. *(Ten minutes Richmond Station - turn left and keep going. Water Lane is to the left of the Old Ship).*

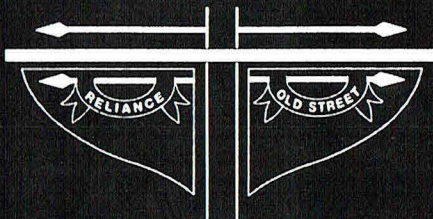
STAR, 6 Belgrave Mews West. A Fuller's pub doing the full range. Unspoilt mews pub with a strong local community focus, great atmosphere and welcome and service. In every edition of the Good Beer Guide. *(This can be difficult to find so take your A-Z if you have one. Ten minutes Hyde Park Corner Tube. Try and come out of the tube exit on the corner of Grosvenor Place and Grosvenor Crescent. Take the latter to Belgrave Square and walk along the side to your right. Carry on into Halkin Place and then first left).*

ALMA, 41 Spelman Street, E1. Very much a traditional back street pub with a main bar to match. Large back room is an amazing contrast with a Jack the Ripper theme. Welcoming staff and locals and four cask beers on my visit. *(From Aldgate East Station come out of the exit on the corner of Whitechapel High Street and Osborn Street*

Continued on page 19

THE RELIANCE

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Continued on page 17

Take the latter to Brick Lane. Third on the right is Heneage Street where you will find the GBG listed Pride of Spitalfields. Turn left at the end of the road and you should see the Alma. Again about ten minutes walk in total).

OLDE MITRE, 58 High Street, Barnet. 17th century listed building which was once a coaching inn. Very good service and welcome and used by a mixture of people and not just those using the shops. Only Tetley Bitter and a guest on my visit, although I am told normally about five beers available. (About seven minutes from High Barnet tube. Turn right out of the station and bare right at the top onto the main road, Barnet Hill which leads to the High Street). I can also recommend the other two GBG pubs in the area, the WHITE LION and KING WILLIAM IV (if navigating by the North London Pub Guide the latter is no. 26 on the map not 24 as shown in the text).

DUKE OF HAMILTON, 23-25 New End, NW3. A great locals pub with a good

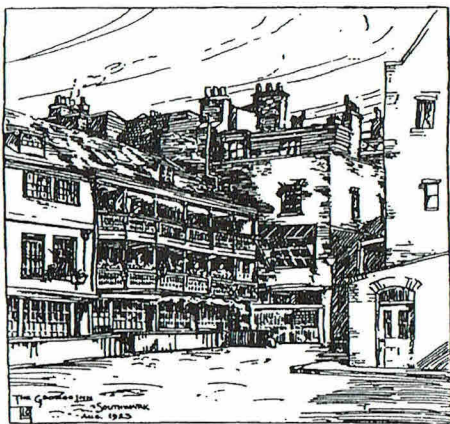
atmosphere. Although busy an attentive and interested landlord. Fuller's London Pride, ESB and normally a guest. (Turn right out of Hampstead Tube and up Heath Street. New End is about five minutes walk on your right). While in the area visit the HOLLY BUSH before Allied Domecq ruin it.

BLACK BOY, 19 Windmill Street, Bushy Heath, Hertfordshire. A backstreet pub with a good local following and welcoming staff. Five beers including Adnams Bitter and Chiltern Beechwood. (Take a 258 from Harrow and Wealdstone or a 142 from Stanmore. Ask for Windmill Lane, which is soon after the Devonshire Arms but on the opposite side of the road. Take Windmill Lane and after three for four minutes walk Windmill Street is on your left. N.B. just outside the travelcard area.)

All these pubs are listed in the 1998 Good beer Guide if you need further details.

The winner now goes into the super regional round as the next stage of the contest to find the National Pub of the Year. We wish them every success.

Justice Onemore



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HISTORY OF THE FLAGSHIP BREWERY

The Brewery, situated within the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, was started in February 1995 by Andrew Purcell and his Father-in-law, Tony Smith. Andrew, a former Local Government Officer, had been a home brewing enthusiast for the previous 10 years. His interest in Micro Brewing stemmed from reading various details about them in the CAMRA newsletter, "What's Brewing" after joining in 1991.

The current warehouse unit was found following an approach to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. It was ideal. It met with both size and location requirements; it was central to a catchment of potential customers; and it had good road connections including the new Medway Tunnel nearby.

Being sited in the Dockyard the name for the brewery had to have some connection. It wasn't hard to find. As the famous fighting ship the HMS Victory was built in the Dockyard and was the flag-ship of England's greatest seaman, Lord Nelson, then the name Flagship was chosen. After preparing the unit, the brewery, a

refurbished 5 barrel kit, was installed on the 9th February 1995 and following a period of testing, the first production brew was carried out on 25th February.

Production commenced with the popular ENSIGN (4.2%) brew followed by FUT-TOCK (5.2%), a dark ruby red ale. After these came CAPSTAN (3.8%), CROWS NEST (4.8%), a pale coloured ale, the style of which was requested by the Man of Kent, Rochester and finally GANG PLANK (5.8%), which was produced as a winter brew. Other additions to these have been SPRING PRIDE (4.0%) produced to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, NELSONS BLOOD (6.0%) and FRIGGIN IN THE RIGGIN (4.7%) which since its first appearance in August 1996 has become the brewery's best selling ale. More recently a stout named OLD SEA DOG STOUT (5.5%) and a mild named VICTORY MILD have been produced. The latest brew is a stronger version of the Friggin in the Riggin called FRIGGIN YULETIDE (5.5%).

The Brewery Tap

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for one week

featuring

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- Jazz piano Sunday lunchtimes
- Jazz every Tuesday, Friday and 3rd Saturday evening in the month
- Open all permitted hours

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PUB OF THE YEAR
1995 & 1996**

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London N1
0171 608 3406**

Nearest Tube stations are Old Street (exit 1) and Angel. Wenlock Road is off City Road via Windsor Terrace
<http://www.wenlock-arms.org.uk/>

A MILD OUTLOOK AHEAD?

I love milds. In fact I'm awkward enough to prefer the much-underrated and increasingly rare beer style to the pale ale, aka bitter. There's just something about the dark colour and "chewy" (my adjective) texture that I find completely irresistible. I love classic bitters too, but milds...well it's just one of those things.

So it was then, that I looked forward to celebrating the classic style on National Mild Day on 8th November. But loving such a style and having regular access to a great example of it are two very different things, especially down here in the murky depths of lager loving sarf-west London. Indeed finding a good cask mild in London is akin to searching for the Holy Grail of brewing outside mild's traditional heartland areas of the north-west, the Midlands and south Wales.

A while ago, I discussed this very point with a porter/stout loving friend and both of us expressed the same sentiment that, while there are vast amounts of cask beers around of varying quality and interest, a large proportion of these beers fall into the "session bitter" or "strong bitter" category. Finding another style outside of the usual is a fair bit more difficult, to say the least.

Chances are that venturing into a pub, I would find the guest beer to be...a bitter! Chances are too that I will drink it because, one: I like to try beers I haven't had before and, two: because it's invariably more interesting than the sad national brands that most places have as regulars. Oh to live close to a pub that has a broader, more diverse, range of not just beers but beer styles too...

So, whilst I looked for a place that sold cask mild on that day in November, my search was a fruitless one and I fear I was not the only southern based member that found the same. National Mild Day was a day to celebrate and highlight a proud and special style, but the style's geographic spread is far from national! Maybe next year, Tim "timeless hairdo" Martin and his minions will see our plight and decide to put on a great mild on the day itself, thereby making it a national style, if only for a day. I could suggest a few if it would help...

Al Ferrier

SOUTH EAST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

RED LION, NORTH ROAD, BROMLEY

The South East London branch of CAMRA are pleased to announce that the Red Lion in North Road, Bromley has been voted their Pub of the Year.



Dave Lee presents Chris & Siobhan Humphrey with the South East London Pub of the Year certificate

The managers Chris and Siobhan Humphrey were at first stunned then absolutely delighted that they had won, Chris said "we had no idea that we were even being considered so this is a fantastic surprise for both of us".

The Red Lion is owned by Beards of Sussex and they recently spent a lot of money completely refurbishing the pub, having purchased it from the former owner Whitbread. It is one of the best refurbishments the branch has seen in the area for a long while. It goes to prove you do not have to turn a pub into a theme bar to attract the customers. This is now a thriving local community pub that Beards, Chris and Siobhan can be proud of.

During the refurbishment work some of the pub's original tile work was discovered and so they incorporated it into the final design. The whole refurbishment is very sympathetic to the building and the surrounding area the pub is in.

Chris is an excellent cellarman and keeps his beer in very good condition, which is one of the main judging criteria, even during the hot summer when people were drinking less beer. Chris's excellent stock control and beer management meant there was always cool fresh real ale on tap for those who wanted it.

The pub is very much a locals pub, with a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere and it gave last years winner the Dog & Bell in

LEOPARD

**33 Seward Street, London EC1
0171 253 3587**

**We thank all East London &
City CAMRA branch members
in selecting the Leopard for
inclusion in the 1998 Good
Beer Guide**

**Watch press announcement
for our Beer Festival due at
the end of February 1998**

**A very Merry Christmas and
Prosperous New Year to all
our customers**



Deptford a very close race for the title but the votes just went the way of the Red Lion.



The presentation of the Pub of the Year certificate was on Wednesday 15th October and coincided with the launch of the 1998 Good Beer Guide for which the Red Lion is proud to be one of the forty four pubs from South East London to be nominated.

Congratulations to the Red Lion for getting into the Good Beer Guide and becoming South East London Pub of the Year, Chris & Siobhan will be pleased to see you next time you are in Bromley, you can find them at 10 North Road, Bromley, the nearest station is Bromley North.

Darren Porter



Wetherspoon has built on its success in Reading with a new pub in the heart of the town centre. The Hope Tap, named after a brewery of the same name that stood on part of the site in Friar Street, follows on from the success of The Monk's Retreat and Back of Beyond in the town and The Baron Cadogan in nearby Caversham.

It is run by Sian and Mike Davies, who moved from The Outside Inn at Neasden, north west London.

The pub has been built on the site of three empty shops at a cost of almost £800,000.

A new area for the company is Scarborough, where the first Wetherspoon pub has been built on the former Co-op site.

The Lord Rosebery, located in Westborough, near to the town's railway station, has two bars, on the ground and first floor.

The building was originally the headquarters for the Scarborough Liberal Party, whose local MP Lord Rosebery, became Prime Minister in 1894.

The pub is managed by Ian and Joanne Colls, who have run a number of Wetherspoon pubs during their time with the company.



▲ The Hope Tap, Reading



◀ The Lord Rosebery, Scarborough

OPENING SOON

- Unnamed, Crown Street, Ipswich (August 21)
- Unnamed, 11 Jewry Street, Winchester (August 21)
- The Coronation Hall, St Marks Hill, Surbiton (August 21)
- Unnamed, 58 Sheep Street, Bicester (September 24)
- Unnamed, 24 Cannon Street, Westminster (October 2)
- Unnamed, The Butts, Rochdale (October 18)
- The Leading Light, 20-22 Preston Street, Faversham (November 12)
- Unnamed, Darwell Street, Walsall (November 13)
- Unnamed, 30-34 High Street, Leatherhead (November 20)
- The Counting House, High Holborn, London (December 3)
- Unnamed, Swan Island, Hammersmith (December 3)
- Wetherspoons, 1 Poultry, Bank Station, London (December 11)
- Unnamed, 48 Botchergate, Carlisle (December 11)
- Unnamed, 1 Park Road North, Havant (December 15)
- Unnamed, Merrion Way, Leeds (December)
- Unnamed, High Street, Oldham (January 21, 1998)
- Unnamed, Unit two, Nelson Square, Bolton (March 1998)
- Unnamed, 104-106 High Street, Waltham Cross (March 1998)
- Unnamed, County Hotel, High Street, Ashford
- Unnamed, 5 St. Michael's Street, West Bromwich
- Unnamed, Trinity Square, London
- Unnamed, Fore Street, Edmonton
- Unnamed, Shawlands Arcade, Glasgow
- Unnamed, 62-64 Skinnergate, Darlington
- Unnamed, Fishponds Road, Fishponds, Bristol
- Unnamed, former Embassy cinema, Fairfield Road, Braintree

•The opening dates, in brackets, are only a guide and are subject to change

WETHERSPOON PUB GUIDE

BARKING AND DAGENHAM

THE BARKING DOG
61 Station Parade, Barking

THE LORD DENMAN
270-272 Heathway, Dagenham

BARNET

THE MOON UNDER WATER
148 High Street, Barnet

THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER
3 York Parade, West Hendon
Broadway NW9

THE RAILWAY BELL
13 East Barnet Road, New Barnet

THE MOON UNDER WATER
10 Varley Parade, Colindale NW9

***THE TALLY HO**
749 High Road, North Finchley N12

THE BLACKING BOTTLE
122-126 High Street, Edgware

BEXLEY

THE WRONG 'UN
234-236 The Broadway, Bexleyheath

BRENT

J J MOON'S
553 Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury NW9

THE OUTSIDE INN
312-314 Neasden Lane, Neasden
NW10

J J MOON'S
397 High Road, Wembley

THE COLISEUM
Manor Park Road, Harlesden NW10

BROMLEY

THE MOON AND STARS
164-166 High Street, Penge SE20

THE HARVEST MOON
141-143 High Street, Orpington

THE SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS
109-111 Queensway, Petts Wood

CAMDEN

THE MAN IN THE MOON
40-42 Chalk Farm Road, Camden NW1

THE SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE
29-35 Farringdon Road, Farringdon,
London EC1

THE BEATEN DOCKET
50-56 Cricklewood Broadway,
Cricklewood NW2

THE THREE HORSESHOES
28 Heath Street, Hampstead NW3

CITY OF LONDON

HAMILTON HALL
Liverpool Street Station EC2

CROYDON

THE GEORGE
17-21 George Street, Croydon

THE MOON UNDER WATER
1327 London Road, Norbury SW16

THE FOXLEY HATCH
8-9 Russell Hill Parade,
Russell Hill Road, Purley

THE POSTAL ORDER
33 Westow Street, Crystal Palace

EALING

THE RED LION AND PINEAPPLE
281 High Street, Acton W3

ENFIELD

THE MOON UNDER WATER
115-117 Chase Side, Enfield

THE WHOLE HOG
430-434 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13

THE HALF MOON
749 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21

THE BANKER'S DRAFT
36-38 Friern Barnet Road,
New Southgate N11

THE LAMB

52-54 Church Street, Edmonton N9

THE NEW CROWN
80-84 Chase Side, Southgate

EPPING FOREST

THE LAST POST
227 High Road, Loughton

GREENWICH

THE BANKER'S DRAFT
80 High Street, Eltham SE9

HACKNEY

THE ROCHESTER CASTLE
145 High Street, Stoke Newington N16

HAMMERSMITH

THE MOON ON THE GREEN
172-174 Uxbridge Road,
Shepherds Bush W12

HARINGEY

THE OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH
10-12 Grand Parade, Green Lanes,
Harringay N4

THE NEW MOON
413 Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17

THE ELBOW ROOM
503-505 High Road, Tottenham N17

THE TOLL GATE
26-30 Turnpike Lane, Hornsey N8

THE ELBOW ROOM
22 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham Lane,
Crouch End N8

THE GATE HOUSE
1 North Hill, Highgate N6

HARROW

J J MOON'S
3 Shaftesbury Parade,
Shaftesbury Circle, South Harrow

THE MOON ON THE HILL
373-375 Station Road, Harrow

THE NEW MOON
25-26 Kenton Park Parade,
Kenton Road, Harrow

NOW OPEN • NOW

THE ROBERT PEEL
5-10 Market Place, Bury

THE LORD ROSEBERY
85-87 Westborough,
Scarborough

THE WALNUT TREE
857-861 High Street, Leytonstone

THE SURREY DOCKS
185 Lower Road, Rotherhithe

THE YARBOROUGH HOTEL
29 Bethlehem Street, Grimsby

THE LONDON INN
15-16 The Strand, Torquay

THE LORD BURTON
154 High Street, Burton-on-Trent

THE RED LION
Roman Bank, Skegness

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
42 Midland Road, Bedford

THE STANDING ORDER
62-66 George Street, Edinburgh

THE MOON UNDER WATER
164-166 High Street, Cradley Heath

THE PERKIN WARBECK
22-23 East Street, Taunton

NOW OPEN • NOW

THE MOON AND SIXPENCE
250 Uxbridge Road, Pinner

THE SARSEN STONE
32 High Street, Wealdstone

J J MOON'S
20 The Broadwalk, Pinner Road,
North Harrow

THE VILLAGE INN
402-408 Rayners Lane, Pinner

THE MAN IN THE MOON
1 Buckingham Parade, Stanmore

HAVERING

J J MOON'S
46-62 High Street, Hornchurch

THE MOON AND STARS
99-103 South Street, Romford

HERTFORDSHIRE

THE HART AND SPOOL
148 Shenley Road, Borehamwood

THE MOON UNDER WATER
44, High Street, Watford

HILLINGDON

J J MOON'S
12 Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor

THE MOON UNDER WATER
10-11 Broadway Parade,
Coldharbour Lane, Hayes

OPEN • NOW OPEN**THE WATCH HOUSE**

198-204 High Street, Lewisham

THE HOPE TAP

99-105 Friar Street, Reading

THE ARCHIBALD SIMPSON

5 Castle Street, Aberdeen

THE COUNTING HOUSE

67-71 Reform Street, Dundee

THE KINGS TUN153-157 Clarence Street,
Kingston-Upon-Thames**THE MOON AND STARFISH**

1 Marine Parade East, Clacton-on-Sea

THE OXTED INNUnits 1-4, Station Road West,
Oxsted**THE JP JOULE**

Northenden Road, Sale

THE SKYLARK

34-36 Southend, Croydon

THE FELIX HOLT

3 Stratford Street, Nuneaton

THE LODESTAR

12 Brook Street, Neston

OPEN • NOW OPEN**JJ MOON'S**Terminal Four, (Airside),
Heathrow Airport, Hounslow**WETHERSPOONS**Terminal Four, (Landside),
Heathrow Airport, Hounslow**THE MOON AND SIXPENCE**1250-1256 Uxbridge Road,
Hayes End**THE SYLVAN MOON**

27 Green Lane, Northwood

THE GOOD YARN

132 High Street, Uxbridge

HOUNSLOW**THE MOON UNDER WATER**
84-86 Staines Road, Hounslow**JJ MOON'S**

80-82 Chiswick High Road, Chiswick W4

THE MOON ON THE SQUARE

Unit 30, The Centre, Feltham

ISLINGTON**THE CORONET**

338-346 Holloway Road, London N7

THE DOG

17-19 Archway Road, Archway N19

179 UPPER STREET

179 Upper Street, Islington N1

THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER125-127 Stroud Green Road,
Stroud Green N4**THE MASQUE HAUNT**

168-172 Old Street EC2

KENT**THE PAPER MOON**

55 High Street, Dartford

LAMBETH**THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE**

2a Streatham Hill SW2

THE BEEHIVE

407-409 Brixton Road, Brixton SW9

LEWISHAM**THE TIGER'S HEAD**

350 Bromley Road, Catford SE6

THE BIRD IN HAND

35 Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill SE23

MERTON**THE WHITE LION OF MORTIMER**

223 London Road, Mitcham

WETHERSPOONS

33 Aberconway Road, Morden

THE WIBBAS DOWN INN

6-12 Gladstone Road, Wimbledon

NEWHAM**THE MILLER'S WELL**

419-421 Barking Road, East Ham E6

THE GOLDENGROVE

146-148 The Grove, Stratford E15

REDBRIDGE**THE NEW FAIRLOP OAK**

Fencepiece Road, Barking

THE GEORGE

High Street, Wanstead E11

THE GREAT SPOON OF ILFORD

114-116 Cranbrook Road, Ilford

RICHMOND UPON THAMES**THE MOON UNDER WATER**

53-57 London Road, Twickenham

SOUTHWARK***THE FOX ON THE HILL**

149 Denmark Hill SE5

SPELTHORNE**THE GEORGE**

2-8 High Street, Staines

SURREY**THE REGENT**

19 Church Street, Walton-on-Thames

SUTTON**THE WHISPERING MOON**25 Ross Parade, Woodcote Road,
Wallington**THE MOON ON THE HILL**

5-9 Hill Road, Sutton

WETHERSPOONS

553-556 London Road, North Cheam

TOWER HAMLETS**THE CAMDEN'S HEAD**456 Bethnal Green Road,
Bethnal Green E2**WALTHAM FOREST****THE DRUM**

557-559 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton E10

THE KING'S FORD250-252 Chingford Mount Road,
Chingford**WANDSWORTH****JJ MOON'S**

56a High Street, Tooting SW17

THE MOON UNDER WATER

194 Balham High Road, Balham W12

THE SPOTTED DOG72 Garratt Lane, Arndale Centre,
Wandsworth SW18**THE RAILWAY**

202 Upper Richmond Road, Putney SW15

THE GRID INN22 Replingham Road,
Southfields SW18**WESTMINSTER****THE MOON UNDER WATER**

28 Leicester Square WC2

WETHERSPOONS

Victoria Station SW1

THE MOON UNDER WATER

105-107 Charing Cross Road, London WC1

THE LORD MOON OF THE MALL

16-18 Whitehall SW1

THE MOON AND SIXPENCE

185 Wardour Street W1

OUTSIDE M25**AVON****THE COMMERCIAL ROOMS**

43-45 Corn Street, Bristol

THE BERKELEY

15-19 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol

THE DRAGON INN15 Meadow Street,
Weston - Super-Mare**BERKSHIRE*****THE OLD MANOR**

Church Road, Bracknell

THE MONK'S RETREAT

163 Friar Street, Reading

THE MOON AND SPOON

86-88 High Street, Slough

THE BACK OF BEYOND

104-108 Kings Road, Reading

THE BARON CADOGAN22-24 Prospect Street,
Caversham

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**THE LAST POST**

77 The Broadway, Chesham

THE FALCON

9 Commarket, High Wycombe

WETHERSPOONS

201 Midsummer Boulevard, Bouverie Square, Milton Keynes

CAMBRIDGESHIRE**THE COLLEGE ARMS**

40 The Broadway, Peterborough

CHESHIRE**WETHERSPOONS**

78-92 Foregate Street, Chester

CLEVELAND**THE ISAAC WILSON**

61 Wilson Street, Middlesbrough

DERBYSHIRE**THE STANDING ORDER**

28-32 Irongate, Derby

THE BABINGTON ARMS

11-13 Babington Lane, Derby

DEVON**THE IMPERIAL**

New North Road, Exeter

DORSET**THE MOON IN THE SQUARE**

4-8 Exeter Road, The Square, Bournemouth

EAST SUSSEX**CLIFTONVILLE INN**

98-101 George Street, Hove

ESSEX**THE ELMS**

1060 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea

THE LAST POST

Weston Road, Southend-on-Sea

THE PLAYHOUSE

4 St. John Street, Colchester

THE MOON ON THE SQUARE

1-15 Market Square, Basildon

GLASGOW**THE COUNTING HOUSE**

24 George Square, Glasgow

GLOUCESTERSHIRE**THE REGAL**

Kings Square, Gloucester

GREATER MANCHESTER**THE MOON UNDER WATER**

68-74 Deansgate, Manchester

THE MOON UNDER WATER

5-7A Market Place, Wigan

WETHERSPOONS

49 Piccadilly, Manchester

THE ASH TREE

Main Street, Wellingdon Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne

GWENT**WETHERSPOONS**

Unit 10-12 The Cambrian Centre, Newport

HAMPSHIRE**THE STANDING ORDER**

20 High Street, Southampton

WETHERSPOONS

2 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth

HERTFORDSHIRE**THE CROSS KEYS**

2 Chequer Street, St. Albans

THE THREE MAGNETS

18-20 Leys Avenue, Letchworth

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER**THE GOLDEN CROSS HOTEL**

20 High Street, Bromsgrove

THE POSTAL ORDER

18 Foregate Street, Worcester

KENT**THE MUGGLETON INN**

8-9 High Street, Maidstone

THE THOMAS INGOLDSBY

5-9 Burgate, Canterbury

THE OPERA HOUSE

48-60 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells

THE EIGHT BELLS

19 Cannon Street, Dover

LANCASHIRE**THE POSTAL ORDER**

15 Darwen Street, Blackburn

THE GREYFRIAR

114 Friargate, Preston

LEICESTERSHIRE**THE LAST PLANTAGENET**

107 Granby Street, Leicester

LINCOLNSHIRE**THE TOLLEMACHE INN**St. Peters Hill
28 Catherines Road, Grantham**MERSEYSIDE****WETHERSPOONS**

20 Lord Street, Southport

WETHERSPOONSUnits 1,2 & 3 Charlotte Row,
Great Charlotte Street, Liverpool**NORFOLK****THE BELL HOTEL**

5 Orford Hill, Norwich

THE TROLL CART

7-9 Regent Road, Great Yarmouth

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**THE MOON ON THE SQUARE**The Parade, Market Place,
Northampton**THE RED WELL**

16 Silver Street, Wellingborough

EARL OF DALKEITH

13-15 Dalkeith Place, Kettering

OXFORDSHIRE**THE EXCHANGE**

49-50 High Street, Banbury

STAFFORDSHIRE**THE PICTURE HOUSE**

Bridge Street, Stafford

SUFFOLK**THE WOLF**

88-89 St John Street, Bury St Edmunds

SURREY**WETHERSPOONS**

51-57 Chertsey Road, Woking

THE SUN

17 London Road, Redhill

TYNE & WEAR**THE WILLIAM JAMESON**

30-32 Fawcett Street, Sunderland

WARWICKSHIRE**THE BENJAMIN SATCHWELL**

112-114 The Parade, Leamington Spa

WEST GLAMORGAN**THE POTTER'S WHEEL**

86 The Kingsway, Swansea

WEST MIDLANDS**THE FIGURE OF EIGHT**

236-238 Broad Street, Birmingham

THE SQUARE PEGUnits 1, 2 & 3 Temple Court,
115 Corporation Street, Birmingham**THE FULL MOON**

58-60 High Street, Dudley

THE MOON UNDER WATER

53-55 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton

WEST SUSSEX**THE RED LION**North Terminal, International
Departures Lounge, Gatwick Airport
(Airside)**THE JUBILEE OAK**

6 Grand Parade, High Street, Crawley

***THE HATTERS INN**

2-10 Queensway, Bognor Regis

WILTSHIRE**THE SAVOY**

38-40 Regent Street, Swindon

YORKSHIRE**THE BANKERS DRAFT**

1-3 Market Place, Sheffield

THE RHINOCEROS

35-37 Bridgegate, Rotherham

For more information on any Wetherspoon pub or activity write to:

J D Wetherspoon plc, Wetherspoon House, Central Park, Reeds Crescent, Watford, Herts WD1 1QJL or Telephone (01923) 477774

** Children are allowed in these pubs at all times (denoted by asterisk) when accompanied by an adult and only when food is ordered.*

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Not all campaigning has to be hard work and no fun, and this year the National Day of Action on beer duty was one of those days, for the London Region at least. The London Regional event was held at the Wenlock Arms in N1. The afternoon was split into half hour time slots and beer prices were fixed for each half hour with the beer duty payable in various European countries. The idea was to highlight the differences in beer duty across the European 'Single Market'. Customers were some what dismayed when we left France where a pint of beer was only £1.59 to go to Finland where the a pint was £2.23 per pint, this on a beer that sells in the UK for £1.85 a pint, not a lot of beer was bought in the Finnish half hour. Luxembourg was the cheapest at £1.57 a pint, with Finland the most expensive. The turnout was not as good as it could have been especially since so many branches requested a regional day of action, still those who were there, including a number of members of CAMRA's National Executive, had a good time. We got some reasonable press coverage before the event and it is something the region can build upon in future years.

A smashing time was had by all, however, it also emphasised very clearly that we need to lobby hard for a reduction in beer duty in the UK and for harmonisation of duty across the European Union. The major reason we should lobby for a reduction in duty in the UK is prevent the tens of thousands of pints of cheap beer being imported into the UK from France every day. This illegal trade is damaging our brewing industry and licensed trade, and London is one of those regions being hit hardest. Pubs are starting to close at an alarming rate and those that remain open are fighting for trade, hence the reason for so many gimmicks and theme pubs at the moment. Trade in some local and rural pubs in the London area during the week has dropped to almost zero, putting them under real threat of closure. This also means that selling real ale for these pubs is a big problem, with no trade during the week it makes no sense to open a cask just to watch the beer go off before anyone drinks it.

Duty reduction in the UK, to give us parity

with France, would create jobs in the brewing industry and help put pubs back at the centre of their community. One estimate says that almost a million pints of beer are coming across the channel every day, that is the equivalent of sales from 4000 pubs and the output of a couple of good sized breweries. Harmonisation of duty throughout the European Union will allow Europe's licensed trade and brewing industry to work on a level playing field. CAMRA's campaigning days are far from over. Our tactics have to be different from the early days but the target is still the same. We want real ale to be available for everyone to drink at a reasonable price and we want the pubs to be there for people to drink in.

MCMULLEN'S 1997 STRONGHART BREW LAUNCHED

The 1997 brew of McMullen Stronghart Traditional Strong Ale which won the Barley Wines Class at this year's CAMRA National Winter Beers Festival, has been launched. It is available on draught and in 275ml bottles in McMullen's pubs and free trade outlets. A 500ml bottled version will soon be on the shelves of Tesco supermarkets throughout the country.

Already described by CAMRA at its launch as "liquid Christmas pudding", Stronghart is a rich dark and exceptionally smooth strong ale and is brewed by Production Director and Head Brewer Tony Skipper, the UK's first-ever Brewer of the Year.

The distinctive character of Stronghart, which has an alcohol content of seven per cent, is produced by the combination of the best quality malts with special Golding variety hops in a traditional brewing process at the Victorian brewery in Hertford.

The Golding hops give Stronghart a smoothness and hoppy aroma which is enhanced after the initial brewing process with the addition of further whole hops at the maturation stage. In fact, Stronghart is matured for three to four times longer than normal cask ales while the bottled brew is matured for up to one year.

VICTORIA BECOMES REAL

Right in the middle of roadworks, on top of a hill in Woolwich Road, sits The Victoria, 757 Woolwich Road, Charlton, London, SE7. It has had a rough time of it recently with all the demolition, road widening and re-surfacing work going on around it. The pub itself is completely on a tilt. If you stand back and look at it from afar, you would swear it was slipping down the hill and into the Thames. It's similar inside, everyone walks as if they're legless, due to the sloping floor.

In spite of all this, The Victoria, a typical laid back South London pub, has come shining through. The exterior of the pub is well worth viewing, with its outstanding Victorian tilework including the Truman Eagle. The interior needs some improvement. The landlord is working on this, but intends to keep it's character and warm, friendly, comfortable atmosphere.

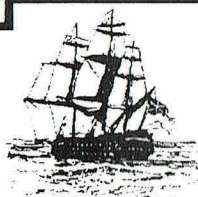
A husband and wife team, Jim and Rita Willox who purchased the pub three years ago, have recently expressed keen interest

in real ale. They had the first hand pump fitted in September and started serving cask ale again, a sight not seen for at least fifteen years. The first ale sold (the same as the day the pump was fitted as they were keen to get started) was Burtonwood, followed by Swale's Kentish Pride. Following the success of these new ales, the pub is now the proud owner of a second hand pump. At present they are dispensing Kentish Pride and Fuller's London Pride much to the delight of the customers.

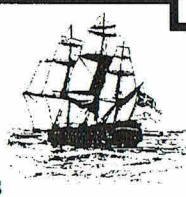
This friendly pub is well worth a visit. It has great potential and is even starting a bottle conditioned beer collection. The enthusiasm of the landlord and lady towards real ale is very encouraging. The pub has a small beer garden, children are welcome during daytime hours.

The South East London branch will be visiting the Victoria in December, see the list of future branch meetings.

Melanie Cooter



THE FLAGSHIP BREWERY



Traditionally crafted Kentish Ales

***A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all of our customers and drinkers.***

Available from November - **FRIGGIN YULETIDE** (5.5% ABV)

***For the Christmas/New Year festivities, take home a Polypin
or Firkin of one of our ales, racked bright ready to serve***

prices from: £42.30 (polypin of Capstan - 34 pints)

£72.85 (firkin of Capstan - 68 pints)

For that special Christmas present - Flagship Hop After Shave - £10.50

"T" Shirts - £7.00 Sweatshirts - £15.00

10% Discount for CAMRA members

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM KENT

Enquiries/Trade orders: - Telephone 01634 832828

VICTORY MILD - FRIGGIN IN THE RIGGIN - NELSON'S BLOOD

CAPSTAN - ENSIGN

CROW'S NEST - FUTTOCK

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the December 1982/January 1983 issue of London Drinker's yellow cover featured an outline map of the Greater London boroughs overprinted with the figure 54%. This celebrated the passing of the half-century mark for the availability of at least one real ale in London's pubs, compared to 43% a year before. The only postal district with no real ale was Abbey Wood SE2 (which now has three pubs filling the need). Compared to only two postal districts a year previously, the total with 100% real ale pubs was Kew, Shirley, Ham, Chislehurst, Kensington W8, Highgate N6 and Blackheath SE3. In a table breaking down the actual data, Roger Warhurst reported that of 5,480 pubs in Greater London, 2,983 were serving real ale - 54%.

Taylor Walker had just introduced draught Mainline Bitter. It was very palatable. The title originated, many years before, with a bottled beer. The older drinkers who said on trying it "This isn't like it used to be" may well have forgotten that they could never have drunk it in that form in the past, to say nothing of the old adage "absence makes the heart grow fonder". The superb pump clips were enamelled and bore a representation - with the usual artist's license - of a train hauled by a steam locomotive of the London, Midland & Scottish Railway. They have been collectors' items ever since, and sadly this better-than-average brew lasted less than two years.

Ruddle's County was available in 150 of London's Watney pubs; it was vastly overpriced, but this fact had not at the time become widely voiced.

Mostyn Lewis, a good Welshman, quoted a passage from George Borrow's "Wild Wales", published in 1862, mentioning Allsopp's beer, prefacing a brief history of the brewers whose business in due course became part of Allied. It didn't appear in the article, but a certain quotation comes to mind from Charles Stuart Calverly, a contemporary of Borrow:

"O Beer! O Hodgson, Guinness, Allsopp, Bass!

Names that should be on every infant's tongue."

Merton contributed the second part of his first article, "Stane Street Stagger". It covered Clapham Old Town and points east.

"Sir Rudolph to the Rescue" was the title of a lighthearted fictional story peppered with odd names such as the titled gentleman's surname of Clumping-Twatt, the Gurglepis Brewery, with its Fund for Disoriented Bar Staff, the Load of Cobblers pub and such like. Got the idea? I won't trouble you with the story-line except to say that real ale triumphed. What else?

At 28 pages, this was the largest edition to date, no doubt boosted by a total of 13½ pages of advertising which then, as now, covered a large proportion of production costs.

TEN YEARS AGO the 48 page Bumper December 1987/January 1988 issue was the most ambitious edition to be printed up to that time. Red and green were used throughout its pages, with black as a third colour used to advantage on both covers and 6 inside pages.

The cover cartoon featured a cuckoo-clock complete with inebriated bird, and its two lower doors occupied by an equally unabstemious Santa Claus and Father Time.

In his Editorial, Chris Cobbold picked up on comments in the Trade press following the launch of the 1988 Good Beer Guide, in which its Editor, Neil Hanson, had made a few telling remarks about the CAMRA policy over mass-media advertising aimed at the young drinker. One publication had stated "If ever the trade regarded the Campaign for Real Ale as a friend it should cease to do so from now on." "In particular" wrote Chris, "we are told off for moving away from our original aim (Real Ale) and poking our noses into affairs we know nothing about." Another publication was quoted: "Now they (CAMRA) are interfering in things they know little about. They seem to want to do more harm than good." Chris pointed out that CAMRA had a wealth of experience amongst its membership in all

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The Sultan

78 Norman Road, South Wimbledon, SW19

Telephone 0181 542 4532

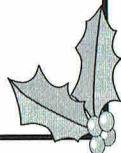
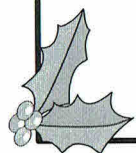
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Come and try our award winning beers:

GFB • Thunderstorm • Crop Circle • Entire Stout •
Summer Lightning (award winner Battersea '97)
plus bottled Thunderstorm & Summer Lightning
(gold winner at GBBF) also available by case £20

**Angie, Phil & staff wish all their
customers a very Happy
Christmas and New Year**



Beer orders for Christmas now being taken

36 pint polypins from £40 to £46

18 pint minipins from £20 to £23

(both require minimum 24 hours notice but 48
hours during the Christmas period please)
also 4 pint takeouts

quiz night every Tuesday at 8.30pm

nearest tubes: Colliers Wood or South Wimbledon

buses: 57, 155, 156, 200

Continued from page 29

aspects of the pub trade, and his final paragraph read: "Until there are more adequate controls at outlets for alcohol sales and a more responsible attitude by the big brewers in their advertising techniques, CAMRA will continue to press for further controls, and to hell with cosy friendships for the sake of it!" followed by a PS: "Seasonal greetings to all our FRIENDS in the Trade."

"Wetting the Baby's Head" was the unlikely title of a pub crawl penned by D J Powter and P M Brown. It was a reference not to child abuse but to their alcoholic christening of the recently-opened Docklands Light Railway, visiting each station and its nearest pubs, in one day. The three available colours were put to good use for a map (two routes converged as one) and Merton put in the historical and technical details. The trains (which were German-built articulated tramcars) were illustrated, as was a drawing of a London double-decker tram - scrapped with the last of the system in 1952 - which, thanks to a mistake in the printing department, was shown in green livery!

A South-East London Branch weekend away was described in graphic detail - visiting Wainfleet, including Bateman's Brewery, and staying overnight in Manchester. Red was the unfortunate choice of colour for the photographs (black not being available on the relevant pages) - mea culpa, as Editor i/c production. We all make mistakes!

Pat Hanson contributed a resumé of the places to find good beer in SW8 - South Lambeth and East Battersea - and MacBadger described a real ale rail tour of Scotland, with useful tips on the Scottish beer scene.

The 1988 Good Beer Guide was reviewed; it was priced £5.95, or £3.95 to CAMRA members. There had been an increase in London entries to 362; 54 more than the previous edition.

Launched at the same time were the first Good Cider Guide and "Two Beers, My Friend Will Pay", the latter described itself as "a cracked glass of pub humour."

In a Letter to the Editor, the manager of a London Independent small brewery

complained - tongue in cheek I recall, as he dictated it to me over several pints of his wares - that the price of London Drinker had been raised by 25% without warning (5p - to 25p), a situation which in his line of business would have (in his words) "created a lot of moaning and groaning from the Editorial Page." The definitive reply was that advance warning had been omitted in error, and the rise had been due to price increases at the printer's, and generated no extra profit for CAMRA.

FIVE YEARS AGO the cover of the 40 page December 1992 issue (priced 30p) contained within its snow-bedecked title masthead, a cartoon showing elves preparing parcels, for the impending festivities - including an obvious wrapped cask - one colleague enjoying gravity-fed beer (straight into his mouth), and another a pint.

The colour appeared on 6 other pages including the back cover, advertising the 4th Battersea Beerex the following February.

Stan Tompkins penned the Editorial, which being at the end of CAMRA's 21st anniversary year dwelt on the then current pub and brewery scene. At that time any pint costing less than £1.50 in Greater London was considered a bargain.

39 pubs had been in every Good Beer Guide since its first issue in 1974. There are now 23.

Idle Moments came up with the usual crop of Numbers puzzles, Brewery anagrams, General Knowledge and Brain Teasers.

In "Sorry Sair" Andy apologised for an error on my part while compiling my column for October '92 by mistakenly stating that the Linfit brewery at the Sair Inn at Linthwaite was no longer functioning. Either forgetting or not knowing the former title I looked it up under "S" and drew a blank. Normally I do my homework better; that time was a rare and particularly busy period, coinciding with the Shrewsbury Beer Festival, among other attractions. Andy's last comment was "And Martin, stay in afterwards". I did, until opening time.

On the opposite page a letter of mine was kindly published, complaining, in a tongue in cheek way, of racial discrimination in a

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PRESSING BUSINESS

On Sunday 19th October the South East London Branch of CAMRA visited the Double Vision cider producers to present them with a certificate for best cider at the 1997 Catford Beer Festival. Double Vision is situated in Staplehurst, Kent and is easily accessible by train from London Bridge. Since we first discovered Double Vision at the 1994 Kent Cider Festival at Cobtree, their cider has been available each Catford festival and has always been popular. It is fitting that Double Vision won the first award for cider or perry that South East London CAMRA has awarded.

Ken Crump took over the cider making from his father and developed the cider into the clear crisp product it is today. The name of the company is rumoured to have resulted from the reason Ken was forced to retire from his day-job of electrical engineer. Ken had developed a detached retina, and following an operation suffered from, yes, double vision. Fact or fiction? Who knows, it's a good story.

The Catford award follows two others presented following the Kent Cider Festivals



The Catford Festival Organiser presents award to Double Vision while the cider manager looks on

in 1995 and 1996 and justly carries forward what is becoming an annual event for Ken and his protQgQ Simon. Simon has fine-tuned the cider to a consistent cider that always tastes so good you can't help but want to sit in the sunshine sipping another.

Next year at Catford we will hopefully have a dry version of the Double Vision, as well as the more common medium version. There should also be the red Italian cider, Scelsi, and possibly French or Belgian ciders. Maybe next year's presentation will involve a trip to Italy!

Kevin Reeve

Martin & Nicole Gale and family welcome you to this genuine family run
Free House

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Carpenters Lane, Thornwood Common, Epping, Essex

- about 1 mile from Epping town centre along the B1393 towards Harlow

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**Crouch Vale Best and S.A.S. • McMullen's AK • Adnams Broadside
Westons Old Rosie plus ever changing Guest Beers**

Mon to Thurs 11.00-3.00, 6.00-11.00; Fri & Sat 11.00-11.00; Sun 12.00-10.30

**Crouch Vale, Adnams, Youngs, Fullers, Mauldons & Shepherd Neame
available in 36 pint polypins. Order your Christmas polypins now -
10% discount with this ad during November and December**

New bar and beer courtyard open • Car parking at rear
Family patio area • Good home made food • Pub games
Cribbage night (1st Monday) & Darts (3rd Wednesday) in the month
Bright polypins and 2 & 4 pint takeaways always available
Outside functions catered for & hall available with licensed bar

PUB NEWS FROM EAST LONDON & CITY BRANCH

I mentioned in a recent column that the LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN, Whitechapel Road, E1 is now badged by Allied Domecq Inns as a "Festival Ale House". True to its name, a beer festival ran continuously throughout September and October featuring beers from around the UK. On the night I popped in there were two beers from Coach House Brewery, two from Orkney Brewery and one from Thwaites. A range not to be sniffed at, I thought. A glance through the window of this pub can reveal a line of bare-naked handpumps - but fear not, there is another, less visible, set where the beer can be found. Further along Whitechapel Road, the OLD BLUE ANCHOR is closed for refurbishment. We wait with fingers crossed that Charrington's will see a real ale future for this small pub.

One of the very best preserved pubs in all of London, and included on CAMRA's inventory of outstanding pub interiors, is HOLLAND'S, Brayford Square, Stepney, E1. A survivor, incongruously surrounded by modern tower blocks and just off the busy Commercial Road, this pub has apparently been the victim of a number of attacks by vandals in recent months. The East London Advertiser has reported that Young's are trying to sell the freehold and we notice that it is not listed in Young's recently reprinted guide to their tied estate. Meanwhile the pub is closed.

In E2, the APPROACH TAVERN has decreased its number of bars to one but increased its number of beers to five. The range appears to be London Pride, Wadworth 6X, Marston Pedigree, Adnams' Bitter and Taylor's Landlord (£2.00 a pint).

A recent visit to the PRINCE ARTHUR, Forest Road, E8 found guest beers from Hardy & Hanson and Bateman alongside the regulars from Greene King and Fullers at this long standing Good Beer Guide listed pub.

Right on the western border of the branch area, the once run down FERRY BOAT INN, Ferry Lane, N17 is now nicely restored and almost posh. The emphasis is on food but Fuller's London Pride (£2.00 a pint) and Draught Bass are also sold. Unfortunately sparklers are heavily used, even on the Pride. 200 yards up the road into N17, the HERON has for some months been advertising its "home brewed beers", although staff will tell

you that "it is not yet brewing." One to watch, though.

St. Peter's Brewery's London tied house, the JERUSALEM TAVERN, Britton Street, EC1 opened with a splash late last year but suffered from indifferent beer quality in its early days - most memorably on the night a 30 strong CAMRA social visited the pub last December. Since then things have considerably improved and it's a place well worth visiting. Six St. Peter's beers are sold, often including a very tasty mild (£2.05 a pint), and there is a range of distinctively bottled beers to take home (although these are not bottle conditioned). Five minutes walk away, the SEKFORDE ARMS, Sekforde Street, EC1 remains a reliable outlet for Young & Co's range of beers.

Some 10 yards or so on the City side of the City/E1 boundary (with prices to match) is Bass Taverns' HOOP & GRAPES, Aldgate High Street, EC3. This pub dates in part from the 11th Century and currently stocks Draught Bass, London Pride, Adnams Bitter and Wadworth 6X as its regular beers, the remaining pumps being used for guests. Recently the pub teamed up with the well known White Horse at Parsons Green in West London to present "Hopping Ahead" a festival of single varietal hopped beers. Fourteen special draught beers and two bottled specials were available in all, properly served and very tasty. Across the road at the junction with Goulston Street, E1, Thorley Taverns are developing a site which, when it opens, will be no more than a whelk's throw from Tubby Isaacs.

Stephen Harris



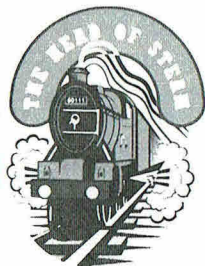
XMAS



GREETINGS

*The London Drinker team wish
the compliments of the season to all
readers, advertisers, contributors
and distributors*





THE HEAD OF STEAM

Euston Station, London NW1

Tel 0171 388 2221

CHEAPEST BEER IN BRITAIN

*During December, The Head of Steam will be selling 36 pint polypins of real ale (a **huge** range available) from only*

75p a pint !!

including Shepherd Neame Master Brew and B & T Shefford Mild & Bitter. Also mixed cases of bottled beers from Britain's Independent Brewers at under supermarket prices

*** SEND S.A.E FOR FULL LISTS**

*All Shepherd Neame and B & T ales through the pumps **discounted** (by voucher) in December !*

BEER FESTIVALS - Coming up

- 30 November **ST ANDREWS DAY** - Scottish Surprise
*bring Scottish bank notes and get a **discount***
- 11-24 December **SPECIAL WINTER BREWS**
lots of them
- 27 Dec - 3 Jan **DEEP MID-WINTER STRONG STUFF**
- 12-18 January **LINCOLNSHIRE BEER FESTIVAL**
we'll try for beers from every Lincolnshire brewery
- 25 January **BURNS NIGHT**- Scottish Beer Festival
*bring Scottish bank notes and get a **discount** again!*
- 14 February **VALENTINES DAY LUVVIES**
a mass(acre) of special brews

SOUTH WEST LONDON NEWS

First an update on the activities in Putney, SW15 reported in August's Drinker.

In Upper Richmond Road the NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS has reopened as JIM THOMPSON'S (ORIENTAL BAR, RESTAURANT & BAZAAR). Most of the saloon is now a restaurant with the remainder joined with the public to form one bar. Lavishly refurbished with oriental artefacts and furniture, the pub once again serves cask beers: Courage Best Bitter (£2), Directors (£2.35) and Theakston Best Bitter (£2). Not particularly busy when I visited early on a Saturday lunchtime but I was told the restaurant was fully booked for the evening.

The CAFE MORE (ex RED ROVER) has now been demolished. The pub was closed for some years and the loss of such a prominent building is to be regretted. I always thought it might make a good pub restaurant!

Back towards Putney the ARAB BOY has been reopened. Refurbished and expanded with pictures of rock stars and associated paraphernalia. Beers were Martha Greene's Brewery Ale (3.1% - nothing special but only 99p), IPA (£1.70), Abbot Ale and Courage Best Bitter. The occasional guest is also promised. The manager told me this was the only Arab Boy in the country, named in honour of the servant of a local aristocrat.

The RAILWAY has reopened. The major change is the installation of a staircase in the main bar to the upstairs room, the bar of which has been resited. Sadly the model train which used to run round the bar has been removed! Two guest beers plus the normal Wetherspoon's range. As with all their pubs now served in lined glasses.

Down by the river the PUTNEY BRIDGE now only has one handpump and that was not in use on my visit although I was told Wadworth 6X was normally available.

Back on the High Street the CAFE COAST, reported as a new pub in October's Beer Briefings has changed its name to BAR COAST, but still does not have real ale. Is this a new record for a name change?

In Wandsworth High Street, SW18, work

was in progress on a new pub opposite the King's Arms, the FOOTE & FIRKIN, which will probably be open by the time you read this. *[We are informed that this is indeed the case - it opened in early November with all the usual Firkin accoutrements. Ed.]*

At the end of October another ALL BAR ONE, opened in Northcote Road, Clapham Junction, SW11. Standard decor and facilities and beer; Bass and Fuller's London Pride, both at £2.10.

Martin Butler

WADWORTH 'ROLLS OUT THE BARREL' AGAIN!

Wadworth & Co in Devizes, Wiltshire - one of only a handful of British breweries which still employs a cooper - is producing new wooden casks for its famous 6X ale for the first time in 30 years.

The Wadworth cooper is Alastair Simms, a Yorkshireman, and the fourth generation of his family to work in the brewing industry. Until now he has been renovating and re-making the brewery's existing stock of wooden casks, which are delivered to Wadworth's own pubs every day.

His work is all carried out by eye using traditional tools, and he served a four and a half-year apprenticeship at a North Yorkshire Brewery before attaining the required level of craftsmanship.

With the care of a skilled cooper a well-made cask can last up to 60 years, and the remaining good wood is then made into a smaller cask which will last another 25 years - making it a very environmentally-friendly way to store and deliver beer.

Wadworth is proud to be keeping alive this age-old craft. Says Sales & Marketing Director, Fred West:

"Far from being a museum piece, the cooperage is an integral part of life at the Northgate Brewery, and the investment in new casks demonstrates our commitment to traditional beer supplied in the traditional way. Alastair has a lot of years left in him, so we should be rolling out the barrels for years to come!"

TRANSPORT 2000 - THREAT TO PUBS

Transport 2000 is the name of a plan to improve public transport through south east London by building new railway lines through London Bridge Station. This involves a major rebuilding of Borough Market and, it is believed, the closure of two pubs. The **Globe**, 8 Bedale Street, SE1 is expected to reopen after the building works have been completed but the Good Beer Guide listed **Wheatsheaf** at 6 Stoney Street is scheduled for demolition.

We have learnt from Southwark Council's Planning Department that the full proposals were due to be published on 19th November in the form of an Order under the Transport and Works Act. The Order will be available for Public Inspection at several sites - the most convenient for the pubs is John Harvard Library 211 Borough High Street, SE1. Opening times are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-7pm; Wednesday, Friday: 10am-6pm and Saturday: 10am-2pm.

If on seeing the Order, you wish to object to the proposals your objection should be addressed to: The Secretary of State, Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions Zone 2/22, Great Minster House,

76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR.

We are advised by a CAMRA member who is a planning officer in another London authority that personal letters carry more weight than petitions or 'standard' letters. Any CAMRA member who is familiar with either pub is urged to study the plans and to send any objection to the Secretary of State at the above address.

Andy Camroux

BREWERS' PRICING POLICIES

An American business acquaintance who runs a successful pub in the USA was astounded when he heard of Youngs undercutting their own pubs by selling cheaper beer to the free trade. Most of these anomalies have now been sorted.

Now, why is it that Summer Lightning is 55p cheaper in a pub in Tooting than in its rival The Sultan, which is a Hop Back tied house and is obviously not allowed to compete on prices for the same beer?

My American would continue to be astounded.

Chris Cobbold



Brakspear
wish a very
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
to all their Drinkers

Mild (abv 3%) • Bitter (abv 3.4%)
Old Ale (abv 4.3%) • Special (abv 4.3%)
OBJ (abv 5%) - Oh Be Joyful now being brewed for
Christmas and the New Year

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BREWERS OF AWARD WINNING TRADITIONAL ALES

FESTIVAL FORAYS

WATFORD BEER FESTIVAL

The new season of beer festivals kicked off, in the London area with the Watford Beer Festival. The biggest problem with Watford beer festival seem to be getting there; it took a good 45 minutes on the tube from Baker St. That said, the journey was worth while. The festival was held in a sports & social club and had about 48 casks set up ready to serve. As it is only a two day festival most of the beer is available from the word go so if you were looking for the widest range you had to get there early. I arrived on the first day on Friday night at around eight and the small hall was packed. Having collected my festival glass and beer menu I fought my way to the bar to be greeted by some familiar faces. The beer range was excellent. There were quite a lot beers I have not seen in London for sometime. The quality of the ale was generally very good and the weather had cooled down enough to ensure the damp bar towel cooling system worked well enough to keep the beer at the right temperature. All the beers on the CAMRA stillage were served by gravity with the bar of the club providing 5 hand pulled beers. Watford reminds me of how most CAMRA beer festivals were run a few years ago before a lot of them got so popular they had to move to larger venues. All the staff were very friendly and attentive to the customers, and those I talked to had learned a bit about the beers they were serving so they were informative as well. There are a few festivals around that should take note; CAMRA beer festivals are there to show the public what good beer is all about, not a members' drinking club. Our beer festivals are the shop window for CAMRA, and these days we have more competition and although CAMRA is still a volunteer organisation we have to learn from the commercial competition to ensure we continue to attract people into our festivals. Well done to the Watford organising team for a good festival.

Now for something completely different. I went to the Severn Valley Railway beer festival which has to have the longest distance between bars of any festival I've been to, starting with the southern beers in Kidderminster and the northern beers about 15 miles away in Bridgnorth. In effect it was two mini festivals, one at each end of the railway line. They were both set up in tents just off the platforms, and being at the end of September cooling was not a problem though some of the beer refused to condition properly. Maybe because the temperature swings between night and day were still quite big. You cannot fail to enjoy a festival set on a steam railway, such an unusual but by no means unique setting for a festival means you get something else to do rather than just talk about beer and it is something the whole family can join in. Despite the fact that the beer was only sold in halves, the Bridgnorth end of the festival sold out by Saturday night and emergency supplies of beer had to be brought in from nearby breweries and pubs for the Sunday to keep up with demand. All the ale was served on gravity, (a tap directly attached to the cask) with the Railwayman's Arms on Bridgnorth station doing a roaring trade with five hand pulled ales. Each tent had a selection of ciders served from mini tubs and some of the trains running up and down the line were serving some bottled beers and widgety cans of Tetley, but it was pot luck whether you got on a train with a working buffet car or not. Beer quality was reasonably good apart from those beers that would not condition properly. The beer range on the whole was made up of what I call festival standards though there one or two unusual beers. This is an excellent example of how CAMRA can co-operate with other groups or societies for mutual benefit.

Next month I hope to report on the Feltham and Edinburgh beer festivals.

Darren Porter



IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL



Young's - No Ordinary Beers
Want to be in the Special club? Call 0181 875 7000

LEWISHAM IMPROVEMENTS

Over the last few years, Lewisham town centre has been transformed by the 'Lewisham 2000' scheme of building and pedestrianisation works. In the wake of this several new pubs have been opened, giving a welcome boost to a town centre formerly dominated by standard, sometimes run down, Courage and Whitbread pubs.

The first sign of change was the refurbishment of the Jolly Farmers at the Ladywell end of the High Street, becoming part of Whitbread's 'Hogshead' chain. The pub had previously been noted for selling an interesting range of beers and cynical locals saw the change as heralding higher prices for the same beer. In the event, an enterprising licensee has turned the pub into a popular local with good beers, regular events and mini beer festivals. Last year this pub gained entry into the Good Beer Guide, the only Lewisham pub in the guide at the time.

Then, early in 1995, the first of a number of new pubs opened in a former pie and mash shop opposite the Lewisham Centre. Owned by Regent Inns, the pub was named the "Quaggy Duck", this being the winning entry in a competition held at the 1996 Catford Beer Festival. (The name refers to the river Quaggy which runs under the High Street a few yards from the pub.) The Quaggy introduced a range of ales into the main shopping area for the first time, with Adnams and gales being the current favourites.

The next addition was the huge Yates's in the former Co-op building. This has become a popular (but noisy!) young people's venue and usually serves Courage and Boddingtons beers. Around the same time, the Plough, next to the bus station, was done up with a sports theme and renamed "Pitchers Sports Bar" - satellite TV sport features along with well kept real ale (Boddingtons and Marstons Pedigree).

The latest pub to open is the Watch House, a Wetherspoons conversion of a row of shops, named after the Watch House green which used to be nearby. The usual J.D.Wetherspoon range of food and beer is available, with two guests normally on plus a number of bottled beers.

Five years ago, many locals chose to drink

in nearby Greenwich in preference to Lewisham with its unrelieved diet of Courage and Whitbread standard beers (the only variety being the Fox & Firkin, one of the original 'Firkin' pubs and one of the few with its own brewery). Variety and choice have improved to the extent that a very reasonable pub crawl down the High Street is now possible, from Lewisham to Ladywell.

Lewisham Pub Crawl: All the pubs mentioned can be visited in a simple crawl, starting at Lewisham bus/rail station and walking down Lewisham High Street. Total distance from the first to the last pub (the Hogshead) is about a mile and the route is served by a very frequent bus service (about six routes giving 20-30 buses per hour). Return by bus to Lewisham, or to Ladywell station which is in Ladywell Road (from the Hogshead, walk back up the High Street and turn left just before the Fox & Firkin).

Dave Lee

A MILD WAY IN SOUTH WEST LONDON

The local branch organised an all day social with their Pub of the Year, The Priory Arms in Landsdowne Way SW8. Milds from around the country were on for the day: - Holdens Mild from the West Midlands; Quakers Mild from the acclaimed new Church End Brewery from Warwickshire; the Worciold Brewery's Reynold's Redneck from Davenport's pub brewery in Shropshire and the Mild/Old Guy Fawkes Revenge from Weltons in Surrey.

The branch's Assistant Pubs Officer Martin Butler said, 'It is great that we can get such a variety of Mild from different breweries for a special event in SW London'. Mild is not usually featured at The Priory but licensees Gary and Nikki Morris said they would certainly respond to customer demand and the best selling brands would figure in future beer orders. Gary was 'pleasantly surprised how well they have sold today - particularly the Holdens'.

Mild in London is usually priced at the same price as bitter in spite of its lower alcoholic content.

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FOUNDED 1790

*Are proud to announce the long awaited
opening of their first London pub, after
extensive restoration*



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Borough, Southwark, London SE1

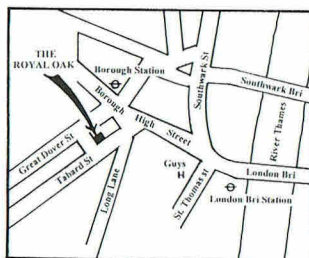
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*A range of Harvey's award winning ales
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BEER BRIEFING

LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 130

This month we catch up on a batch of brand new pubs opened by Regent Inns in recent months, those selling real ale being in EC1 Smithfield, E1 Whitechapel, E3 Bow, N4 Crouch Hill, N5 Highbury Corner and Wembley. Allied have opened a new non-brewing Firkin in SW18 wandsworth and converted one in Hornchurch. Eldridge Pope have opened another Bar Excellence in SW1 Westminster and Bass have a new All Bar One in SW11 Battersea and a stylish pub/restaurant in Bexleyheath. The Old Monk Pub Co have converted a restaurant to a pub in SW1 Westminster and opened another in E1 Wapping. Finally, the demise of the Princess Louise WC1 to a one beer pub following its acquisition by Sam Smiths is confirmed and we have lost the tap & Spile in N4 leaving Heathrow Airport as the only London outlet for the chain.

The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page number in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; K - 'Real Ale Drinkers Guide to Kent Pubs', 8th edition; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 8th edition. U refers to earlier updates.

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

CENTRAL

EC1, POETS CORNER, 6 Little Britain. Boddington: Bitter. Brakspear: Bitter. Flowers: Original Bitter. A Regent Inns Free House "Bar Dining Room" opened in late 1996 but not previously reported, in former commercial premises. The ground floor bar features cream walls, parquet flooring, dusty books, chandeliers and a clock. Pictures of poets with local connections, eg Benjamin Franklin adorn the walls. Stairs lead to a basement bar and large dining area open at lunchtimes only. TV. Music. Bar food 12-2.15, 6-8.30. Opens 12-9.60 Mon-Tues, 9-11 Wed-Fri (may close earlier dependent on trade), closed weekends.

EC3, BLARNEY ROCK BARS, 18-22 Houndsditch. No real ale. Basement Irish bar connected to Dukes Restaurant.

EC3, SIMPSONS, Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue. Renamed CITY MONK. Courage: Directors Bitter. Theakston: Best Bitter. Bar and dining area in basement of office block recently acquired by the Old Monk Pub Co. Carpeted bar area and basic dining area with screens and polished floor. Food until 9pm. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri. Note full address. (U99)

WC2, BANK, 1 Kingsway. No real ale. A bar-restaurant in former bank premises. Draught Belgian beers on fizz are De Koninck and Crystal Alken.

WC2, BAR ZOLAS, 33-35 Wellington Street. No real ale. A new Regent Inns Free House in former

restaurant premises.

EAST

E1, OLD DISPENSARY, 19A Loman Street. Boddington: Bitter. Greene King: Abbot Ale. Hancock: HB. Theakston: Best Bitter. Young: Bitter. Latest Regent Inns Free House, opened early November 1997 in former hospital premises erected originally in 1868 and believed to have been used more recently for garment manufacturing. The building has been sensitively converted, the entrance being up steps leading into the bar with tiled floor, bare boards, carpets, high ceiling, fans etc. A spiral staircase leads to a mezzanine seating area above the bar. A restored room upstairs is available for functions. Food 11-6. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends.

E1, OLD MONK, Thomas Moore Square, Nesham Street. Boddington: Bitter. Courage: Directors Bitter. Theakston: Best Bitter. Guest beer. New Old Monk Pub Co Free House opened in Summer 1997 in new development complex at rear of St. Katherine's Dock. Large spacious carpeted bar with seating alcoves at the sides. Outdoor drinking area. Food 11.30-10. Open all permitted hours.

E3, BAR-RISA, Bow Wharf, 221 Grove Road. Courage: Best Bitter. Theakston: XB. New Regent Inns Free House opened in late summer 1997 in former glue factory alongside Hertford Union Canal. Large high ceilinged bar with exposed brickwork walls and bare bricked floor. Stairs at far end climb to a mezzanine seating area overlooking main bar. Outside drinking area on patio overlooking public open space. Jongleurs

BEER BRIEFING
LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 130
 continued

Comedy Club is upstairs approached by a separate entrance, open Thu-Sun evenings. Food. Opens 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

DAGENHAM, SPOOFERS BAR, Dagenham Leisure Park, Cook Road. No real ale. Regent Inns cafe bar opened in November 1996.

NORTH

N4, OLD DAIRY, 1-3 Crouch Hill. Flowers: Original Bitter. Hancock: HB. Theakston: XB. Another new Regent Inns Free House opened earlier this year in former shop and workshop premises, originally a dairy. The attractive bas reliefs of various stages of milk and butter production on the exterior brick walls have been restored and internally the dairy theme has been 'milked' for all its worth with old butter churns, milk adverts and a mock-up of a cow being milked above the main bar area. The premises were originally owned by the Friern Manor Dairy Farm established in 1836. A small corner bar has been created in what was probably the dairy shop, retaining white tiled walls and ceiling. The main bar has a high ceiling, stone flagged floor, exposed ventilation, a large 'milking tube' clock and mock gas lighting. An eating area at the rear is adorned with prize cow pictures. Food available all day; disabled WC; recorded music; newspapers available; fruit gum dispensers etc. Opens 10am for breakfast on Sat and Sun and all permitted hours. A welcome attempt to create a theme pub with some local historic significance but the dismal selection of real ales rather lets it down.

N5, TRAMSHED, 2A Corsica Street (at Highbury Corner). Brakspear: Bitter. Greene King: IPA. Yet another Regent Inns Free House, opened in June 1997, this time in what reputedly was originally a tram shed although it has apparently been used as store rooms in recent years. A courtyard at the front leads into a large bar area with an island bar, stone flagged and pine wood flooring, pine wood panelled walls and a variety of seating areas including some in 'train compartment' style. London tram posters, maps and old photos cover the walls, but there is no local historical information on how or when the building was in use as a tram shed. Food; TV; recorded music. Open all permitted hours.

N7, COCK, 596 Holloway Road. Reopened and renamed BJ'S (SPORTS BAR & GRILL). H unused. Probably now free, ex Grand Met. (N86, U120)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CHESTERS, 87 Albany Street. Reverted to **CHESTER ARMS**. Flowers: IPA. (N163)

WEMBLEY, EDDIES, 412 High Road. No real

ale. An Irish run Free House.

WEMBLEY, MANNIONS, 313 Harrow Road. No real ale. An Irish run Free House.

WEMBLEY, OLD POST OFFICE, 397A High Road. Brakspear: Bitter. Gales: IPA. Greene King: IPA. Hancock: HB. A Regent Inns Free House, opened in early 1996 but not previously reported, in former post office. Light pine flooring, tiled around bar area; exposed brick walls; raised seating areas to the side and rear. Bric-a-brac and dusty books, sweet dispensers and large clock. A rather feeble attempt to reflect its former use with some post office related photos. Disabled WC. Big screen TV. Open all permitted hours.

SOUTH EAST

BEXLEYHEATH, DANSON STABLES, Danson Park, off Danson Road. Draught Bass. Worthington: Best Bitter. New Bass pub and restaurant created in old stable block approached by a driveway through Danson Park. The impressive stone building with wings on both sides was reputedly designed by Sir Robert Taylor, architect of the Bank of England, around 1800. The entrance leads into a bar area with limited seating for drinkers and a stone flagged floor. To the left and right are a number of rooms and seating areas given over primarily for eating. The upstairs is used for toilets, offices and the 'cellar'. Disabled toilet. Large car park and outdoor seating at front. Open all permitted hours.

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), BAR EXCELLENCE, 1 Abbey Orchard Street. Hardy: Country Bitter, Royal Oak. Latest outlet for this growing Eldridge Pope pub chain in basement of office block just off Victoria Street. Sort of upmarket 'All Bar One' with predominantly yellow and green pastel shades approached down a flight of stairs leading to a spacious basement bar. Illumination is provided by three large blue globes hanging from the ceiling, with wine growing areas of the World highlighted in red, and a large yellow 'sun' complete with sun-spots. The protruding semi-oval bar is stacked with wine bottles which reflect the emphasis on wine and 'deli' food. More stairs climb to a mezzanine dining area and small fizz bar. The choice of Royal Oak rather than Bass as at other outlets is welcome. Opens for food at 10 and bar 11-11 Mon-Sat, closed Sundays.

SW1(W), OLD MONK EXCHANGE, Morland: Old Speckled Hen. Theakston: Best Bitter. Formerly Simpsons Old Exchange restaurant and wine bar, acquired earlier this year by the Old Monk Pub Co and recently supplied with real ale. Basement bar approached from entrance in Strutton Ground. Predominantly dark wood panelling with screens, bric-a-brac and exposed brickwork. Tiled area around bar and parquet flooring elsewhere. Beer range may increase to include Adnams. Food available 12-9.

BEER BRIEFING LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 130 continued

Opens 11-11 Mon-Sat, closed Sundays.

SW11, ALL BAR ONE, 32-38 Northcote Road. Draught Bass. Fuller: London Pride. The onward march across London of this Bass owned chain continues apace. Opened October 1997 in former shop premises (at one time Liptons the grocers - remember them?). All the usual ABO attributes are included but the green decor looks a bit bluer! Board games. Over 21's only. Food. Disabled WC (key at bar). Open all permitted hours.

SW18, FOOTE & FIRKIN, 111-113 Wandsworth High Street. Firkin: Garrett Ale (3.5%), Foote Ale (4.3%), Wand' Ale (5.0%), Dogbolter (5.6%). Monthly Firkin guest beer. Latest non-brewing Firkin opened early november 1997 in former shop premises. Named after Samuel Foote who in 1743 wrote a play called "The Mayor of Garratt" which inspired protests against the land enclosures (See introduction to SW17 section in SW guide). Beers are cask conditioned and supplied by the Flag & Firkin, Watford (note incorrect spelling on pump clip of 3.5% beer). Typical Firkin decor with one large ground floor bar and upstairs seating area at the front. Rear entrance leads into Chapel Yard and outdoor seating area. Giant versions of kids games available. Live music Fri and/or Sat. Food; newspapers; disabled WC. Opens 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

WEST

W12, FLANAGANS, 286 Uxbridge Road. No real ale. Irish run Free House in former shop premises.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC4, BULL, BEAR & BROKER. Bass, renamed SPORTS ACADEMY. H removed. (E46)

EAST

E11, CROPPY ACRE. Free House, H unused. Formerly HALFWAY HOUSE. (E128, U108, U109, U125)

E15, AMELIA. Ex Phoenix, probably now free, renamed BRADYS. No real ale. Formerly PRINCESS AMELIA. (E151, U112)

E17, MONKEY BUSINESS. Free House (ex Wiltshire), renamed HARRISONS BAR. H unused. Formerly McCANNS, omitted from E guide (U71, U108)

NORTH

N1, STURT ARMS. Phoenix, converted to grocery shop. (N58, U112, U119)

NORTH WEST

NW1, ANCHOR. Whitbread, closed, future uncertain.

(N161, U109)

NW1, JUBILEE. Allied (Taylor Walker), closed early 1997, future uncertain. (N168)

NW1, KINGS HEAD. Whitbread, closed for some time, future uncertain. (N168)

NW1, PRINCE OF WALES. Allied (ex Taylor Walker), closed for about 3 years future uncertain. (N172)

SOUTH WEST

SW8, DEWDROP. Allied (ex Taylor Walker), H removed. (SW76)

SW8, LORD WESTBURY. Phoenix, closed and being converted to flats. (SW78)

SW15, CAFE MORE. Free House, now demolished. (SW100)

WEST

W12, BOTTOM LINE, 58 Shepherds Bush Green. Free House, formerly owned by Dixeys, now acquired by Regent Inns and converted to Aussie theme pub. H removed. Note full address. (U88)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC3, SHIP & TURTLE. Renamed VINO VERITAS (LEADENHALL). -John Smith: Bitter. +Theakston: Best Bitter. (E42, U64, U106)

WC1, PRINCESS LOUISE. -Beers listed. +Samuel Smith: OBB. Regent Inns Free House acquired by Samuel Smith in October. Incredibly the whole range of real ales have been removed from this famous Victorian masterpiece, renowned amongst beer lovers worldwide to be replaced by Sam Smith's sole remaining cask beer! Is this stubbornness, madness or both? (W50, U56, U89, N29)

EAST

E1, LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN. Now badged by Allied Domecq as a "Festival Ale House" with a range of 8 guest beers. (E69, U125)

E2, APPROACH TAVERN. -Beers listed except Adnams Bitter. +Fuller: London Pride. +Marston: Pedigree. +Taylor: Landlord. +Wadworth: 6X. (E77)

E8, PRINCE ARTHUR. -Adnams: Bitter. -Wadworth: 6X. +2 Guest beers. Formerly LADY DIANA. (E113, U98, U119)

E10, WILLIAM IV WINE BAR. +Guest beer. Formerly WILLIAM IV. (E125, U109)

E11, BIRKBECK TAVERN. +2 Guest beers. (E127, U69, U113, U125)

E15, KING HAROLD. -Draught Bass. +Guest beer. (E153, U85, U91, U96, U113)

E17, BELL. Now badged as a "Barras & Co" pub by S&N. -John Smith: Bitter. +Greene King: Abbot Ale. +Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (E165, U106, U110)

E17, VILLAGE (AT WALTHAMSTOW). -Beers listed. +5 Guest beers. (E169, U67, U100)

BEER BRIEFING
LONDON BEER GUIDES UPDATE 130
 continued

COLLIER ROW, PINEWOODS. Is a Regent Inns Free House. (X39, U83, U119)

HORNCHURCH, BULL. Renamed **FATLING & FIRKIN.** -Beers listed. +Bully: Bitter (3.5%), Fatling Ale (4.3%), Rodeo Ale (5.5%), Dogbolter (5.6%). Firkin guest beer. Another Allied Firkin conversion forced on a pub of some character. Beers supplied from other Firkin brewpubs. (X62, U67)

HORNCHURCH, COMPASSES. -Charrington: IPA. +Draught Bass. +Fuller: London Pride. Now a Harvester Pub & Restaurant with emphasis on food. Original name retained in small letters on Harvester pub sign and internally at entrance to small drinking area. (X62)

NORTH

N1, THREE JOHNS. Renamed **JAY CUBED** (j3). -Fuller: London Pride. Retains Ruddle beers. (N60)

N3, QUEENS HEAD. +Theakston: XB. +Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Now badged by S&N as part of the "Barras & Co" chain. (N70, U106)

N4, TAP & SPILE. Renamed **RACECOURSE.** -Beers listed. +Flowers: Original Bitter. +Greene King: IPA. Still owned by Pubmaster but no longer part of the Tap & Spile chain, with a consequent loss of interesting beers. This leaves the Tap & Spile at Heathrow Terminal 1 as the only one left in London. Surely there is a market in London for the Tap & Spile concept offering a choice of micro brewery products and popular in many towns and cities elsewhere in the UK. (N77)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CARRIAGE. Renamed **ROWLEYS.** -Adnams: Bitter. -Young: Special. +Flowers: Original Bitter. Now advertises itself as a cork & cask and sports bar. (N163)

NW1, LORD NELSON. Renamed **CAPT. CUTLERS.** Old name retained on elaborate hanging sign. (N169)

NW1, SOUTHAMPTON ARMS. Renamed **EDWARDS.** -Beers listed. +Fuller: London Pride. Opens 8am (10am Sundays) for breakfast. (N175)

NW11, WHITE SWAN. Now badged by Allied Domecq as a "Festival Ale House" with a range of guest beers. (N227)

WEMBLEY, GRAPEVINE. Is on first floor above shops and correct address is 428B High Road. (U61)

SOUTH EAST

SOUTH CROYDON, SPOOFERS BAR, 13-15 Selsdon Road. Is run by Regent Inns. Note correct address. Formerly **LA REFUGE.** (3SE278, U46, U52, U120)

WELLING, GUY, EARL OF WARWICK. -John

Smith: Bitter. +Courage: Directors Bitter. Now badged by S&N as a "Tanners Pub Co" pub. (3SE286, U47, K178, U107)

SOUTH WEST

SW15, ARAB BOY TAVERN. Now simply **ARAB BOY.** -Beers listed. +Courage: Best Bitter. +Greene King: Martha Greenes Brewery Ale (3.1%, 99p a pint), IPA, Abbot Ale. +Occasional guest beer. Refurbished and extended. Emphasis on food. Outdoor drinking area at front and reopened beer garden. Apparently the only pub of this name in Britain. (SW100)

SW15, CAFE COAST. Renamed **BAR COAST.** (U128)

SW15, NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS. Renamed **JIM THOMPSON'S (ORIENTAL BAR, RESTAURANT & BAZAAR).** -Ruddle: Best Bitter. +Courage: Directors Bitter. +Theakston: Best Bitter. Now operated by Taipan Taverns. Refurbished with a strong oriental theme and decor. Now only one bar with most of former saloon now operated as a restaurant. Food is Thai, Indonesian, Singaporean, Chinese, Malay and from the Spice Islands. (SW102)

CARSHALTON, FOX & HOUNDS. Now badged by Allied Domecq as a "Festival Ale House" with a range of guest beers. (SW129)

WEST

W5, HAVEN. Renamed **HARVEY FLOOR-BANGERS** by owners Regent Inns. -Beers listed except Greene King IPA. A change of emphasis away from real ale. (U93)

W14, ROYAL OAK. Renamed **SAM WORTHINGTON'S.** +Morland: Original Bitter. Now leased as a "bar and restaurant" from Morlands with an emphasis on food. (W95, U71, U92, U126)

HOUNSLOW, FRIEND IN HAND. -Beers listed. +Ushers: Best Bitter, Founders Ale, seasonal ale (currently Autumn Frenzy). Now owned by Ushers, formerly free (ex Courage) although still badged as a 'Free House'. (W126, U62, U63, U77, U82, U91, U99, U101)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 129

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

WC2, WALKABOUT INN. Is a Regent Inns Free House.

SW8, ALL BAR ONE. Should read **SW18.** Reference in introductory paragraph to Beer Briefing should have read **SW18 Wandsworth.**

SW11, BAR COAST. May have carried **CAFE COAST** name for a short period after opening.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

WC2, O'NEILLS. Former name was **P.J. MOLLOY & SON.**

E1, HOLLANDS. Refs should read (E67, U67, U70)

OLD STRONG IS BACK

Tolly's Old Strong, the famous winter ale was formally welcomed back for the season with a ceremonial "pulling of the first pint" at The Woolpack, Tuddenham Road, Ipswich on Wednesday, 29th October. It will also be featured at the Norwich Beer Festival, the biggest CAMRA Beer Festival outside London.

For East Anglian drinkers, the first sign of winter is not the ground frost or the cold, dark nights, but the arrival of Old Strong in the pubs and clubs. This year's brew is extra special - it has been brewed with a higher proportion of Chocolate Malt to give it that smokey "roasted malt" flavour, so reminiscent of "chestnuts round the glowing log fire". The strength is unchanged at 5% ABV.

The return of Old Strong also means the availability of those traditional Suffolk mixed drinks:

A Mother-in-Law: Old and Bitter

A Father-in-Law: Old and Mild

The recipe for Prime Old Casserole and Dumplings appears on the back page of the edition. A disk designed to fortify the inner person during the winter season.

This month's back page will be required reading for my wife - Ed.

CHEERS

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election, after all. It seems to have gone a long way down their list of priorities - as does reform of the duty on beer.

In October, the historic Holly Bush in Hampstead was under threat of being turned into a cafe bar by Carlsberg Tetley. We are still waiting to see what happens there after C-T withdrew their planning application. (Don't trust them, I say.) Also in October, it was announced that Harveys of Lewes had acquired their first London pub, the Royal Oak in Tabard Street SE1.

And finally from me for another year, to return to the issue of oversized glasses, we note that Wetherspoons have introduced them throughout their estate. This may give the greatest impetus to their general introduction, short of a legal requirement to do so.

Oh yes, just before I go, a brief mention of a piece from the Guardian of 28th October that a certain Mr. Raincoat sent me. It seems that Yates's Wine Lodges are doing their bit to dent the north/south divide pricewise by selling Boddingtons Bitter at £1.25 a pint in all their seventy-four outlets throughout the Country (and Carling Black Label at £1.40 if you are interested). With their recent expansion into the London market, this must be seen as a positive move. Let's hope it lasts.

Andy Pirson

WHEATSHEAF UPDATE

The Wheatsheaf has been given a stay of execution until the year 2000 when ThamesLink 2000 have applied to have the pub demolished along with several other buildings in the Borough Market area to make way for an additional rail viaduct. The branch has formally objected to these plans and we are currently trying to see the plans to find out what alternatives we could propose which would involve less damage to the area and in particular save the Wheatsheaf from demolition. Over the next few months we will be lobbying MP's, councillors and officials at the London Borough of Southwark as well as trying to talk with Thameslink 2000 themselves. We will keep you informed of all developments as they happen.

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London pub - where I was refused admission when wearing a red Welsh rugby shirt. My exact words were that, in the City, my shirt "happened to be not only comfortable for cycling but also ideal to make oneself seen by the most myopic or arrogant motorist".

Andrew Padgham wrote about the London Pubs Group, whose task is to compile a list of pubs in the Greater London area with either a historical, architectural or other special interest. His title was, significantly, "What are real ale pubs without real ale?"

Ian McLaren gave a run-down on the pubs of Brussels, five hours away in those pre-Tunnel days. The centre pages were taken up with the programme for the 11th Pigs Ear Ale Festival, in Stratford.

In "A Weekend Away" Chris Cobbold recounted a visit by 30 members of SW London Branch to Manchester and the Black Country as a "thank you" for working at the Battersea Beer Festival.

The issue bore seasonal greetings and I now present mine, and the sentiment from a song still popular around the joanna. "Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner, That I love London Town" - despite my last 8 years in Wales - (prices excluded). Cheers, me old chinass!

Martin Smith

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CLUBS

NW4 HENDON SOCIAL CLUB,
Middlesex University Bus. School

OUTLETS - SOUTH WEST and WEST PUBS

SW1 BARLEY MOW
SW1 BUCKINGHAM ARMS
SW1 FOX & HOUNDS
SW1 MOON ON THE MALL
SW1 MORPETH ARMS
SW1 ORANGE BREWERY
SW1 ROYAL OAK
SW2 CROWN & SCEPTRE
SW3 COOPERS ARMS
SW3 CROWN
SW3 SURPRISE
SW4 BREAD & ROSES
SW6 DUKE OF CUMBERLAND
SW6 WHITE HORSE
SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS
SW8 PRIORY ARMS
SW8 SURPRISE
SW10 FERRET & FIRKIN
SW11 BEEHIVE
SW11 EAGLE ALEHOUSE, Chatham
Road
SW11 WALSH'S
SW12 GROVE
SW12 NIGHTINGALE
SW12 PRINCE OF WALES
SW13 COACH & HORSES
SW13 RED LION
SW13 ROSE OF DENMARK
SW14 HALFWAY HOUSE
SW14 HARE & HOUNDS
SW15 FOX & HOUNDS
SW15 GREEN MAN
SW15 RAILWAY
SW16 PIED BULL
SW17 CASTLE
SW17 J.J. MOONS
SW18 OLD SERGEANT
SW18 SPOTTED DOG
SW18 SPREAD EAGLE
SW19 BREWERY TAP
SW19 KINGS HEAD
SW19 HAND & RACKET
SW19 PRINCE OF WALES, Morden
Road
SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL
SW19 SULTAN
SW19 TRAFALGAR
SW19 WIBBAS DOWN INN
CARSHALTON, GREYHOUND
CARSHALTON, RAILWAY
TAVERN
CARSHALTON, WINDSOR CASTLE
CHESSINGTON, NORTH STAR
CHEAM, RAILWAY
KEW, COACH & HORSES
KINGSTON, ARTFUL DODGER
KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS
KINGSTON, COCOANUT
KINGSTON, CRICKETERS
KINGSTON, FIGHTING COCKS
KINGSTON, HOG & STUMP
KINGSTON, KELLY ARMS

KINGSTON, NEWT & FERRET
KINGSTON, PARK TAVERN
KINGSTON, RAM
KINGSTON, TWO BREWERS
KINGSTON, WILLOUGHBY ARMS
KINGSTON, WYCH ELM
MITCHAM, WHITE LION OF
MORTIMER
NEW MALDEN, ROYAL OAK
RICHMOND, DYSARTS
RICHMOND, ORANGE TREE
RICHMOND, SHAFTESBURY ARMS
RICHMOND, TRIPLE CROWN
RICHMOND, WATERMANS ARMS
RICHMOND, WHITE CROSS
SURBITON, DENBY DALE
SURBITON, NEW PRINCE
SUTTON, FIELDER & FIRKIN
SUTTON, NEW TOWN
WALLINGTON, WHISPERING
MOON
W1 BEEHIVE, 7 Homer Street
W1 CLEVELAND ARMS
W1 MOON & SIXPENCE
W1 MORTIMER ARMS
W1 PRINCE ALFRED
W1 WINDMILL
W2 ARCHERY TAVERN
W2 ROYAL STANDARD
W3 KINGS HEAD
W5 DUFFY'S
W5 RED LION
W5 ROSE & CROWN
W5 WHEATSHAF
W6 ANDOVER ARMS
W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL
W10 VILLAGE INN
W11 FROG & FIRKIN
W12 CROWN & SCEPTRE
W12 MOON ON THE GREEN
W13 DRAYTON COURT
W13 THE FORESTER
W14 RADNOR ARMS
W14 WARWICK ARMS
BRENTFORD, MAGPIE & CROWN
CRANFORD, QUEENS HEAD
FELTHAM, MOON ON THE
SQUARE
HAMPTON, WHITE HART
HAMPTON COURT, KINGS ARMS
HAMPTON WICK, WHITE HART
HAYES, MOON UNDER WATER
HAYES END, MOON & SIXPENCE
HOUNSLOW, CROSS LANCES
HOUNSLOW, MOON UNDER
WATER
ISLEWORTH, COACH & HORSES
ISLEWORTH, COUNTY ARMS
ISLEWORTH, RED LION
ISLEWORTH, ROYAL OAK
ISLEWORTH, VICTORIA
SOUTHALL, BEACONSFIELD
ARMS
TEDDINGTON, HOGARTH
TEDDINGTON, QUEEN DOWAGER
TWICKENHAM, KINGS ARMS
UXBRIDGE, PRINCE OF WALES
WHITTON, ADMIRAL NELSON

WHITTON, WHITE HART

OFF TRADE

W11 Grogblossom

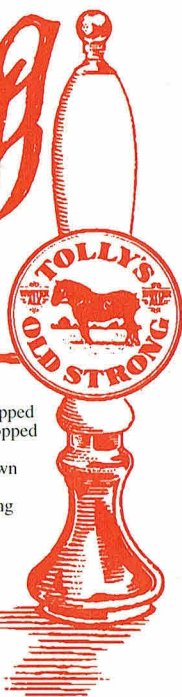
CLUBS

W1 Polytechnic of Central London
S.U. Bar, 104 Bolsover Street
ISLEWORTH, Western Atlas Social
Club

OUTSIDE LONDON

ADDLESTONE, CRICKETERS
ASCOT, CRANBOURNE TOWER
BRIGHTON, EVENING STAR
BRIGHTON, SUSSEX YEOMAN
CATERHAM ON THE HILL, KING
& QUEEN
CHERTSEY, CASTLE
CLAYGATE, FOLEY ARMS
COLCHESTER, ODD ONE OUT
CROXLEY GREEN, SPORTSMAN
DENHAM (Bucks), LAMBERT
ARMS
EAST MOLESEY, KINGS ARMS
EGHAM, JOLLY FARMERS
EGHAM, PRINCE OF WALES
EGHAM, WHITE LION
KNEBWORTH (Herts), LYTTON
ARMS
KNOWL HILL (Berks), OLD DEVIL
LALEHAM, FEATHERS
LEWES, GARDENERS ARMS
LONG DITTON (Surrey), NEW INN
MANCHESTER, JOLLY ANGLERS
MORTIMER WEST END (Hants),
RED LION
OUTWOOD (Surrey), DOG & DUCK
OXFORD, WHARF HOUSE
POTTERS BAR, CHEQUERS
READING, HOBGOBLIN
READING, HOP LEAF
READING, HORSE & JOCKEY
ROFFEY (Horsham), NORFOLK
ARMS
ROTHERWICK (Hants), COACH &
HORSES
SALISBURY, WYNDHAM ARMS
SHOREHAM BY SEA, CRAB TREE
STEVENAGE, RED LION
SOUTHAMPTON, WATERLOO
ARMS
STAFFORD, STAFFORD ARMS
STOW MARIES (Essex), PRINCE OF
WALES
STRATFIELD SAYE (Hants), NEW
INN
SUNBURY, FLOWER POT
SUNNINGDALE, ROYAL OAK
TILLINGHAM (Essex), CAP &
FEATHERS
WALTON ON THAMES, REGENT
WEST HORSLEY (Surrey), KING
WILLIAM IV
WEYBRIDGE, JOLLY FARMER
WORCESTER PARK, GAMECOCK
WORTHING, VINE
WRAYSBUURY, PERSEVERANCE
CLUBS
WATFORD, WEST HERTS SPORTS
CLUB

Prime Old Strong Casserole with Dumplings



INGREDIENTS

Casserole

1 1/2 lbs stewing steak
2 oz seasoned flour
2 oz lard
2 chopped onions
6 sliced carrots
8 oz chopped celery
8 oz chopped swede
8 oz chopped turnip
3 tablespoons tomato puree
pinch of grated nutmeg
1 bouquet garni
salt and pepper

Method

Cut Meat into bite sized pieces, trimming off any excess fat. Toss in seasoned flour. Fry onions gently in lard until soft, but not brown. Add meat and fry lightly until browned. Stir in tomato puree, seasonings and soft brown sugar. Add remaining vegetables. Stir in Tolly Cobbold Old Strong Ale and crumbled stock cube. Cover and cook gently in the oven at gas mark 3 (170°/325°F) for approximately 3 1/2 hours or until meat is tender.

Whilst the stew is cooking, prepare dumplings by combining all ingredients together. Bind with water to give an elastic dough. Divide into six equal dumplings. Half an hour before the casserole is cooked, remove lid and place dumplings on top to bake. Eat and Enjoy!

(Serves 4-6)

2 large tomatoes skinned and chopped
1 clove of garlic, skinned and chopped
1 beef stock cube
2 level dessert spoons of soft brown sugar
1 pint of Tolly Cobbold Old Strong Ale

Dumplings

4 oz self-raising flour
pinch of salt
2 oz shredded fresh suet from the butcher

